



Association of River Deben Fairway Committees

Kyson (River Deben) Fairway Committee
Knoll Fairway Committee
Waldringfield Fairway Committee
Ramsholt Fairway Committee
Felixstowe Ferry Fairway Committee

Boatyard members

Martlesham Creek Boatyard
Robertsons Boatyard
Eversons/Woodbridge Boatyard
Waldringfield Boatyard

Position Statement – June 2014

The Association of River Deben Fairway Committees is an informal grouping of organisations that lease areas of the River from its owner, The Crown Estate largely for the purpose of administering blocks of moorings. Its members meet periodically to discuss issues of mutual interest, to share best practice and where appropriate agree policies that should be implemented across the estuary as a whole.

1) Background to Fairway Committees

Fairway Committees were first established on the river in the late 1950's in response to problems presented to navigation by the proliferation of moorings. With no harbour authority individuals could lay moorings at will. As the name suggests, the principle aim of a fairway committee was and remains to preserve a fairway for navigation by controlling the position of moorings.

In order to do this each committee entered into a lease with The Crown Estate as owner of the foreshore and bed of the river. The lease gives the committee the right to grant licences allowing boat owners to lay moorings.

2) Crown Estate encourages local management by local informed people

In common with its other policies to manage tidal land, The Crown Estate seeks local management by local people and organisations ensuring that those who are in the best position to enjoy the benefits of the correct management of the area, become responsible for it. Hence a fairway committee, being established from a range of local organisations (typically sailing clubs, boatyards, RYA, riparian owners etc) is an ideal body for this purpose.

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Morley Riches & Ablewhite manages the tidal land of The Crown Estate in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and London.

3) Structure including publicly elected member – properly constituted bodies

The structure for a fairway committee was first established by Department of Transport. It is intended to be broadly representative as indicated above. In particular, and to ensure public accountability, a committee must include a member who is publicly elected either to the relevant parish or district council

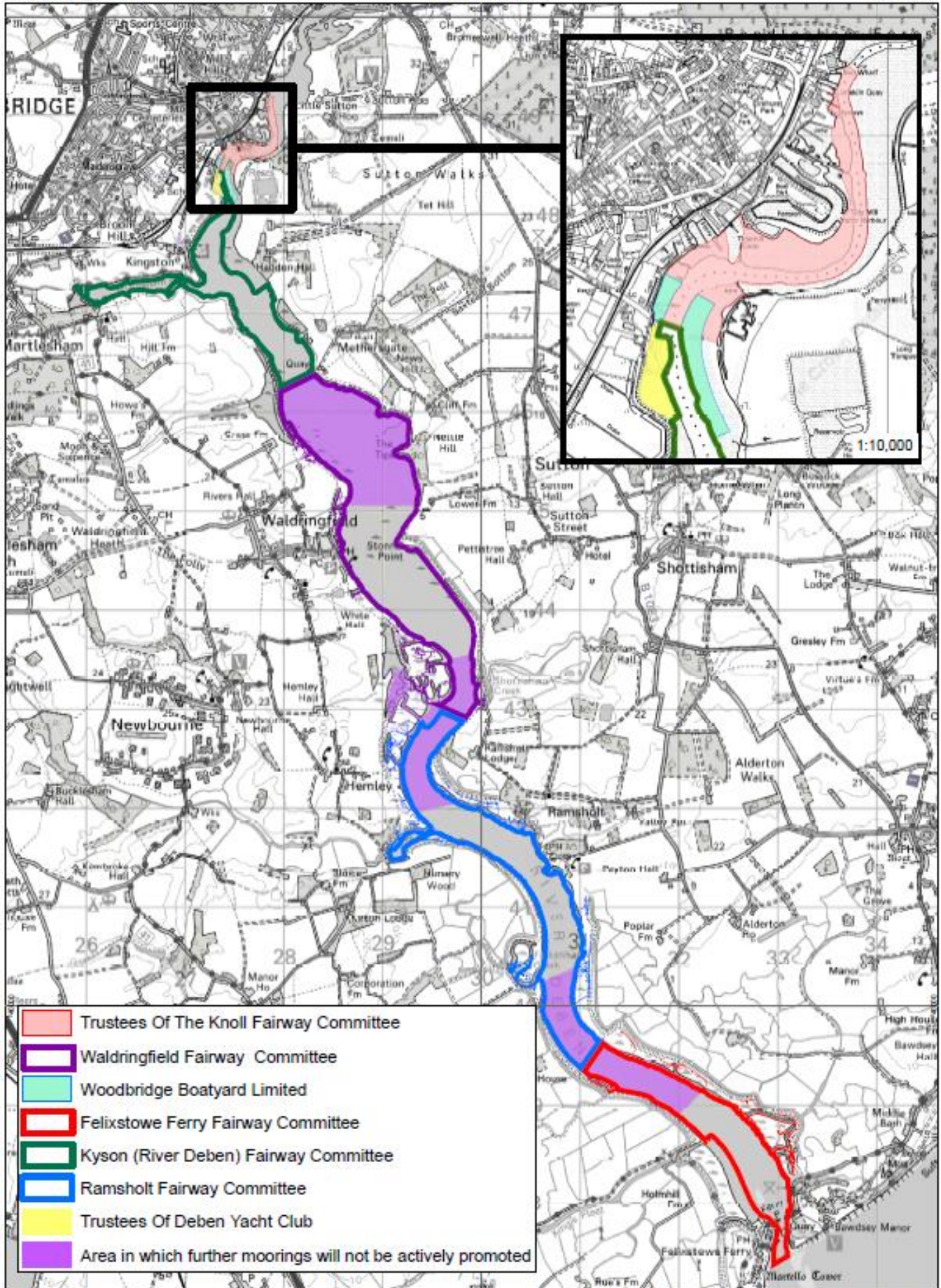
4) Compliance with Trinity House requirements to mark and maintain the fairway

A fairway committee is required to make regular returns to Trinity House to confirm the maintenance and position of channel markers and other Aids to Navigation.

5) Mooring trends

There are approximately 1000 swinging and drying moorings on the River Deben that are licenced by the 5 fairway committees. Some of these are sub-let to the boatyards. There are a small number of moorings let directly to boat yards and also some areas on the estuary that are not owned by The Crown Estate.

Over the last 25 years, the number of moorings has remained largely static. The positioning has altered slightly in response to physical changes caused by erosion and accretion. Beyond this it is not anticipated that mooring numbers or positions will alter significantly in the near future. The Crown Estate and other members of the Association do not actively promote the laying of moorings or the creation of additional access points to the river in the areas coloured in purple on the following plan thereby encouraging the unrestricted enjoyment and use of these parts of the estuary by all sectors of the community.



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Scale 1:35,000 at A3

0 250 500 750 1,000 1,250 1,500 1,750 2,000 2,250 2,500 Metres

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