



December 2017 AONB Monthly update



1. Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Boundary Review

Natural England staff updated the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership in December and confirmed:

- A 12-week consultation on proposals will start on 26 Jan 2018 (to finish on 20 April 2018)
- A consultation pack, paper copies available for inspection and an on-line system will allow those with an interest to comment on natural England's proposals for AONB boundary variation
- Local Authority members and Parish and Town Councils information events on 12 Feb 2018
- Special Interest Groups, Businesses and Land-owning Groups information event on 13 Feb 2018
- Public drop in events on 20 and 21 Feb 2018

Natural England will be providing full details on consultation as soon as they can.

2. AONB Planning Officer

In early 2018 the AONB team will be advertising for an AONB planning Officer to lead and provide expertise on all planning matters for the team working across the Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONBs and associated project areas. This will include development management issues, development of AONB Partnership positions and influencing strategic planning.

If you are interested in this role or know someone that might be then please look out for the advert or contact Simon Amstutz at the AONB team directly-contact details below.

3. Stour Valley Environment Fund

The AONB team was recently able to donate £2,300 to the fund that supports projects that environmental projects in the Stour Valley. The money has accrued over the past 12 months from donations at events and sales walking and riding guides. The Stour Valley Environment Fund is an excellent way to support conservation in the area. See information at:

<http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/grants-and-funding/stour-valley-environment-fund/>

4. Planning Matters

- The AONB team has felt it necessary to object parts of Suffolk's Minerals and Waste Plan due to the impact upon the natural beauty of the AONB
- The AONB team is concerned about the cumulative impact upon the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB in the Sizewell area from Sizewell C, the onshore infrastructure associated with East Anglia One North and East Anglian Two wind farms and the infrastructure associated with Nautilus, a new interconnector between England and continental Europe. There is further concern that the new energy generation capacity and need to distribute to other parts of the UK will require the revival of the Bramford to Twinstead proposals in the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley
- The Secretary of State has requested a public inquiry into the Felixstowe Branch Line Improvements Transport and Works Act Order which will be held early in 2018

5. 'Tis the season to say thank you to all volunteers

The AONB benefit hugely from volunteer activity. The AONBs facilitated 1,975 volunteer days in 2016/17, equivalent to 10 members of staff. Volunteers have worked across a range of work areas including: Conservation; Walking route surveys; Beachwatch; Greeters; River Restoration; Footpath Work; Wardening; Rangering and as Work Placements. This is just the volunteers facilitated by the AONB team, it does not include huge numbers that volunteer for charities, community groups and those on corporate social responsibility work. The AONBs and associated Project Areas benefit hugely from this effort.

6. Suffolk Coast & Heaths Management Plan 2018-2023

The Partnership draft has been written and currently being considered by its members. There will be a public consultation on the plan that is intended to co-ordinate activity in the AONB for the purposes of conserving and enhancing natural beauty in one of England's outstanding landscapes

7. AONB Grants

Suffolk Secrets and Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB is pleased to confirm that six grant awards have been made to projects in east Suffolk to carry out conservation and awareness projects to benefit the environment. For details of the Suffolk Secrets AONB Fund and the project beneficiaries go to:

<http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/grants-and-funding/suffolk-secrets-aonb-fund/>

The two AONBs will open up other grant programmes for applications in January, with deadlines of early March – details available in early January.

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www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org

