

- 1. AONB's worth over £250M to Tourism Industry (and Upper Stour tourism worth a further £41M)**

New research commissioned by the AONB team and undertaken by Destination Research has identified the value of the Suffolk Coast & Heaths and Dedham Vale AONBs to the local tourism economy. Tourism is worth £198M pa on the coast and £55M pa in the Vale. In addition, the tourism industry supports 5,576 jobs across the two AONBs. When the health and well-being benefits are factored in it demonstrates the importance of these outstanding landscapes.

For the first time the value of tourism in the upper Stour has been assessed and it has been discovered that it is worth £41M pa and supports 1,201 jobs. Reports available from AONB team.
- 2. AONB Partnership response to Sizewell C Stage 2 Consultation**

The AONB Partnership has responded to the Sizewell C stage 2 consultation. The Partnership considered the consultation downplayed the significance of the AONB, despite the acknowledgement of the AONB in National Policy Statements on new nuclear generation. The Partnership also considered that the consultation seriously downplayed the impact upon the AONB and its Natural Beauty and Special Qualities. The Partnership's response can be seen at: <http://j.tinyurl.com/jooy53b>

The *East Anglian Daily Times* covered the AONB Partnership's response, see <http://j.tinyurl.com/juqj48d>
- 3. Join the chairman of the Dedham Vale AONB on a walk for charity**

If you would like to join the chairman of the Dedham Vale AONB and the Colchester Mayor for a charity walk through the Dedham Vale AONB on 22 April, then sign up at: <http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/about-us/events/stour-valley-walk-with-the-aonb-chair-and-mayor-of-colchester/>
- 4. Survey on AONB Partnership aspiration for Boundary Review**

The Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Partnership has had an aspiration since 2009 for a boundary review. The Partnership would like to understand if this view is shared by others and invites you to undertake a very short (3 questions) survey at <http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/planning-and-projects/aonb-boundary-review/>
- 5. Beachwatch collections make consumer products.....**

Rigid plastics collected from the Beachwatch surveys have been sent to TerraCycle www.terracycle.co.uk, a global leader recycling hard items. TerraCycle has recently announced that Proctor & Gamble have become their first consumer product partner in beach plastics, and will be launching the world's first shampoo bottle made from 25% recycled plastic this summer.
- 6. BBC Wildlife Magazine**

Conservation holidays within the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB featured in the BBC's Wildlife Magazine. The holidays have been facilitated by a partnership between the AONB team and Wild Days Conservation and supported by the Coastal Communities Fund. Those taking part had a great experience and at the same time contributed to the natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB.
- 7. The Natural Capital Committee's fourth state of natural capital report**

Published this week and available at: <http://j.tinyurl.com/z3hsv8e> This report sets out the work done by the committee since March 2016. It also makes a series of recommendations to government on developing the 25-year environment plan and acknowledges the role of AONBs.
- 8. Fish Refuge Project**

The River Stour Enhancement Project, funded by the Environment Agency and Essex and Suffolk Water grants, has developed plans to deliver a fish refuge project on the Stour tributaries designed to improve conditions for fish and therefore help improve the environmental condition of the river.
- 9. Network Rail proposals to close footpath crossings**

Network Rail have: *decided to remove this* [Kings Farm crossing at Lamarsh on Sudbury branch line] *crossing from the scope of the project*, although they suggest they may progress a closure in the future. The AONB Partnership, who engaged in two rounds of public consultation, acknowledge the need to protect people's safety, especially on the main line, but consider many proposals on branch lines to be disproportionate and unacceptable. Network Rail have not, to our knowledge, announced other decisions.
- 10. Coastal Communities Funded works worth c£200,000 successfully completed.**

The new walking guides, access improvements, conservation holidays and 'Join In' projects, funded by the Dept of Communities and Local Government have been successfully delivered.

Simon Amstutz, AONB Manager, 27 January 2017 simon.amstutz@suffolk.gov.uk
www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org