

1. Outstanding Newspapers

For lots of news and views about issues relating to the Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast & Heaths Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty see the latest edition of the newspapers at:

www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/publications/aonb-newspaper/ and
www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/publications/dedham-vale-and-stour-valley-newspaper/

2. Himalayan Balsam Project

The River Stour Enhancement Project is working with an environmental research agency called CABI to develop a management solution for Himalayan Balsam. CABI have identified a species of rust fungus known to be a natural enemy to Himalayan balsam in its native range. The fungus underwent lengthy specificity testing within controlled laboratory conditions before it was approved for release in 2014. The AONB team is working with CABI looking for sites within the Dedham Vale as a trial site.

3. AONB Grants

i) The Suffolk Secrets sponsored grants are currently looking for good environmental projects to support within the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB. The deadline for applications is 15 November and more information at:

www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/grants-and-funding/suffolk-secrets-aonb-fund/

ii) Information on the Stour Valley Environment Fund for grants supporting economic, environmental and social projects in the Stour Valley can be viewed at:

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

4. House of Lords Select Committee

The AONB team provided evidence to National Association for AONBs staff to present at a House of Lords Select Committee. The information related to a recent discussion paper sent to DEFRA and local MPs on the AONB Boundary Review Process. The paper can be viewed at:

www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/assets/About-Us/Boundary-Review/Discussion-paper-on-speeding-up-landscape-designation-process.pdf

5. Community Tree Nursery

The first community tree nursery is nearing completion in the Suffolk Coast & Heaths. The AONB team is working to establish tree nurseries in the AONBs to enable local communities to grow on trees suitable for parish planting projects. Thanks to local and AONB volunteers for their excellent work.

6. Volunteers

It has been reported back to me us that our superb volunteers enjoy returning to a site they have previously worked on to see how things are shaping up. The Stour Valley Volunteers recently returned to undertake some further coppicing work at Cornard Mere. Great work achieved by all.

7. BeachWatch features on BBC Radio Suffolk

The outstanding work of many hundreds of BeachWatch volunteers and the issues relating to Marine litter were discussed on BBC Radio Suffolk, including an interview with the AONB's Lynn Allen whom was able to pass on the appreciation of Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Chairman.

8. National Association for AONBs: Advocacy for future targeting of Agri Environment Support

A grouping of AONB staff working with staff from the National Association are developing an 'AONB offer' relating to agri-environment support post Brexit. Detail to follow.

9. Points of Interest

- The National Association is negotiating with local partners with a view to the national Landscapes for Life conference to be in the East of England in 2019.
- The AONB team is investigating commissioning a report into the use of Colour in Design, to support development that contributes to the AONBs natural beauty
- Essex Wildlife Trust looking for support to purchase 4.2 acres of strategically important grazing land on the southern bank of the Stour Estuary.
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/ewt/wrabnessappeal>
- East Anglia TWO and East Anglia ONE North Public Information Days: Leiston 31/10: Lowestoft 1/11 and Orford 2/11 Info from eastangliatwo@scottishpower.com

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www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org