

1. Suffolk and Essex MPs meet AONB Partnerships

MPs representing Suffolk and Essex were welcomed to a meeting from the AONB Chairman to hear about and discuss issues relating to AONBs. Topics included land management, boundary review, economic value of AONBs, volunteer works, developing externally funded projects and the potential impacts of Brexit.

2. Suffolk Secrets invests £25,000 in Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB

The AONB team is delighted to facilitate a new grant funded by Suffolk Secrets that will see communities, businesses and charities undertake projects that seek the enhancement of, protection of and education about the landscape features of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths. The fund will also support activities that engage families, particularly those that promote out of season tourism and projects that support local food producers. See <https://www.suffolk-secrets.co.uk/about-us/aonb-suffolk-secrets-fund>

3. Welcome to Volunteer Placements in AONB team

Following a competitive selection process we welcome not one but two volunteer placements with the AONB team. Following the success of the scheme last year Danny Thorington joins us as a Volunteer officer and Sam Weir joins us as a volunteer graduate placement. They will develop their skill set while at the same time contributing to the conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of our AONBs.

4. We want your ideas for an exciting 2 Rivers project proposal

The Stour and Orwell rivers and associated hinterland are internationally recognised as an important wildlife and landscape. We are looking to develop a significant project to conserve and enhance this area with a bid to the National Lottery's Landscape Partnership Scheme. We would welcome your input at one of these events. Let us know if you plan to attend, they will all run from 7:00 to 9:00pm:

- **19 October:** Ramsey War Memorial Hall, Wix Road, Ramsey CO12 5HP
- **20 October:** Kirton & Falkenham Village Hall, 65 Falkenham Road, Kirton, Ipswich IP10 0QW
- **26 October:** Room at the Top @ Felixstowe library Crescent Rd, Felixstowe IP11 7BY

5. Funding bid enquiry Form submitted

A bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to undertake some exciting archaeology in Dunwich with the local community and academic interests has been submitted. Watch this space for updates on bid process.

6. Outstanding Landscapes Week

Lord Gardiner, the minister responsible for AONBs said: Outstanding Landscapes Week was a real showcase of the activities on offer in these unique landscapes. Locally we had a fantastic fund raising walk in aid of the Stour Valley Environment Fund courtesy of Rivers Hall Farm looking at the Grey Partridge and attended the Aldeburgh Food and Drink Festival where we celebrated our fantastic coast.

7. State of Nature Report 2016

AONBs can play an important part in addressing some of the issues raised in this report that records 56% of UK species in decline but that over 7,500,000 volunteer hours spent monitoring our wildlife. Info at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/the-state-of-nature-report-2016>

8. Local News

- There is an expected very high (and low) tides 16-18 October
- River Stour enhancement works due to start in Wiston area from 3 Oct
- River Stour bank repairs due to start in Flatford area on 10 Oct
- Woodland Communications day on 11 Nov details from: gary.battell@suffolk.gov.uk
- The Brantham water intake on the Stour will shortly be compliant with the Eel regulations

9. Volunteering

Beachwatch 2016 in Suffolk: 22 teams took part in the 2016 Marine Conservation Society Great British Beach Clean! Great weather (Despite the original forecast!), but even the rain on Friday didn't put teams off! Adnams provided vouchers for a free bottle of beer for all adults.

Stour Valley Volunteers: worked in Bulmer and Nayland on grassland management.

Suffolk Coast & Heaths Volunteers: almost completed upgrading waymarking of Suffolk Coast Path.

10. Info from National Association for AONBs shows, nationally AONBs:

Contribute 457,000 volunteer days a year. Turn every £1 of public money invested into £10. Visited by 156M people a year spending £2BN. Cost less than 20p per person per year. See infographic at: <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/about-us/the-national-association-for-aonbs/>

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www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org