

1. **New Secretary of State responsible for AONBs**

Following changes in Government, a new Secretary of State with responsibility for AONBs has been appointed, the Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP. A transcript of her first public speech can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/environment-secretarys-speech-at-countryfile-live-2019> in which she celebrates the 25 Year Environment Plan, wishes to see the new environmental stewardship scheme support public goods for public money and gives a positive emphasis on the natural environment. Lord Gardiner, Under Secretary of State remains the minister responsible for AONBs.

2. **Volunteer Placement: Outstanding Opportunity. Proven benefits...**

Do you or someone you know want to gain experience in the environment sector? The AONB team is currently recruiting to its post as Volunteer Placement. This is the fifth year we have run the scheme and previous post holders have gone on to paid employment in the sector. Details at <https://www.environmentjob.co.uk/volunteering/74497-aonb-volunteer-placement>

3. **Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Chairman Walking the 60 mile Suffolk Coast Path for charity**

David Wood is walking the entire length of the Suffolk Coast Path to honour the memory of his late wife and to raise funds for the Multiple System Atrophy Trust. MSA is a rare disease with around 3,300 people in the UK and Ireland currently living with it. You can support David and the charity via a just giving page at https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/david-wood143?utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_content=David-Wood143&utm_medium=fundraisingpage&utm_source=Sharethis&utm_term=Qv44kpbAp

4. **Planning Inspectorate Examination of Suffolk Minerals and Waste Plan**

The inspector has released his initial findings in relation to the above plan. The AONB had raised concerns about the inclusion of a new minerals site within the nationally designated area. The inspector's initial findings concur with that view and concludes that the inclusion of the site at Wangford means the plan is unsound. He considers the inclusion of the site is not justified in terms of need and the allocation is inconsistent with national planning policy.

5. **Bid to National Lottery Heritage Fund for grant to celebrate 50 years of designation**

The AONB team has made a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for funds to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the designation of both the Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONBs. If successful the grant would fund exciting community, economic well-being and access projects.

6. **LEADER funded project to enhance visitor experience in Stour Valley starts delivery**

The £142,000 LEADER funded project has entered the delivery phase with projects to install new information boards, run numerous events; produce 15 new leaflets and replacing 18 stiles with gates.

7. **Sizewell Stage 4 Consultation**

The AONB Partnership is currently developing its response to the stage 4 consultation that closes on 27 September. It is likely the response, to this limited consultation, will focus on concerns relating to the introduction of new electricity pylons, the treatment and impact on the AONB and potential impacts on residents and visitor enjoyment of the AONB. The response will be posted on the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB website once it has been signed off by the Partnership.

8. **Stour + Orwell Forum**

Bookings for this excellent annual forum that is open to all is now open. Speakers on estuaries, wildlife, offshore wind, maritime trees etc. Info at <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/assets/Projects--Partnerships/Stour--Orwell/Forum/SO-Forum-6-Sept-2019-Programme.pdf>

9. **Volunteering News**

6 new volunteers have been inducted into the Coast & Estuary Warden scheme. Planning for the 2019 Marine Conservation Society (MCS) Great British Beach Clean which takes place on the 20th - 23rd September is well under way. 13 teams have signed up in the AONB area, which is fantastic! Last year's national event broke all records, with 15,000 volunteers (double the number in 2017) removing 8,550 kilos of litter from UK beaches. The MCS report can be viewed here, www.mcsuk.org/clean-seas/great-british-beach-clean-2018-report

10. **Glover Review of Designated Landscapes**

Following the release of the interim report in July, Julian Glover appeared on BBC Radio 4's Today programme on 28 Aug. Listen in at 1:52:44 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0007wd3>

Simon Amstutz, AONB Manager, 29 Aug 2019 simon.amstutz@suffolk.gov.uk

www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org

www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org