

- 1. £635,000 funding confirmed for low voltage undergrounding for 'Orford North'**

The AONB led project has received a stage 2 pass for undergrounding low voltage power cables in the Orford area. The project will see the removal of 68 poles over a 6.1km stretch of the AONB with obvious visual benefits and enhanced service reliability. This follows the successful completion of a £520,000 project in Shotley that saw the removal of 5km of overhead line in December.
- 2. Great British Beach Clean 2019: The results are in...**

Another fantastic year and a fitting tribute to the 386 outstanding volunteers working in the AONBs. Between them they cleaned 21 beaches, filled 90 bags containing 9,582 items. National picture at <https://www.mcsuk.org/clean-seas/great-british-beach-clean-2019-report>
- 3. LEADER project to enhance the visitor experience in the Stour Valley**

The £142,000 European funded project is starting to deliver its projects to enhance the visitor experience in the Stour valley area. Latest news: [https://mailchi.mp/bace3eb94c72/connect-stour-valley?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/bace3eb94c72/connect-stour-valley?e=[UNIQID])
- 4. River Stour Enhancement Project**

300 trees in Borley and 100 in Nayland have been planted so far this year. It is hoped to match the 5,000 trees planted by the project in last years tree planting season.
- 5. Free the Trees...**

Volunteers from the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project and A Rocha's Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve removed 5 dumpy bags worth of tubes from a hedgerow at Glemsford Pits. *We are looking for teams wishing to undertake Corporate Social Responsibility projects to help us with the 'Free the Trees' projects to remove redundant tree tubes. If you can help us get in touch....*
- 6. Sizewell C: Update from AONB perspective.**

The AONB Partnership has written to EDF Energy and East Suffolk Council requesting to be consulted on the use of external materials at Sizewell C. The AONB Partnership consider that choice of external materials will be a significant factor in the mitigation of the visual impact of the development during operational phase. STOP PRESS: At the recent Community Forum, EDF Energy committed to assessing the impacts of Sizewell C against the defined natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB.
- 7. Suffolk Secrets (self-catering holiday cottages) provide £4,166 AONB project funding**

Collecting donations from their customers Suffolk Secrets has distributed over £25,000 for AONB projects over recent years. Although Suffolk Secrets are ending their association with the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB we are delighted to hear that they will continue to support the areas environment through a commitment of £24,000 to Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Carlton Marshes. See <https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/news/suffolk-secrets-pledge-ps24000-over-two-years-support-suffolk-wildlife-trust>
- 8. Get funding for your AONB project...**

The AONB's grant programmes are OPEN for applications, with varying deadlines in March. We are particularly interested in supporting projects that improve and promote conservation and assess for all. <http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/grants-and-funding/sustainable-development-fund/>
<http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/grants-and-funding/>
- 9. Do you have an AONB story?**

We are looking for stories for our outstanding AONB Newspapers? We are particularly looking for stories relating to the 50th anniversary of the designation of each AONB in 2020. Be quick deadlines are 19 Jan for Coast & Heaths and 9 Feb for Dedham Vale and Stour Valley.
- 10. Quick Bits:**
 - It is Natural England's expectation that that an area subject to an AONB Variation Order will be treated as a material consideration by the relevant planning authority before the Order is confirmed.
 - All three members of staff taken on by the AONB on short fixed term contracts in 2019 have gone on to secure new roles, benefiting from their experience with the AONB team.
 - Beach Bonkers, part funded by AONB grants, spoke to 2,198 people about shingle beaches in 2019.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org

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