

### 1. £1.1m Funding Confirmed for Undergrounding Low Voltage Power Cables

Two schemes to bury unsightly low voltage power cables in the AONBs have been given final approval. The applications developed and submitted by the AONB team will lead to significant landscape gains and support security of supply. One, at the top of the Blyth estuary, will cost about £650,000, and the other in Shotley and will cost £530,000. Both will be paid for from a dedicated Ofgem fund and the work will be undertaken by UK Power Networks who own the lines. Confirmation means that all the landowners involved have agreed in principle to the changes to the network, and so the funding can now be released.

### 2. Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Boundary Review

The statutory consultation on Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Boundary Review runs to 20 April 2018. An opportunity to express your view on the proposals to increase the nationally designated landscape by 4,000 hectares can be made at: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-england/suffolk-coast-and-heaths-aonb>

### 3. Minimising Negative Impacts of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects on the AONBs

AONB Chairmen have written to the minister responsible for AONBs asking him to support work to coordinate development proposals that would impact upon both the Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONBs. The proposals for a new Nuclear Power Station at Sizewell, the infrastructure associated with offshore wind, the infrastructure associated with two new interconnectors and the potential of these developments to trigger the requirement to strengthen National Grid's transmission network between Bramford and Twinstead could be seen to impact the designated landscapes. While these developments will undoubtedly bring benefits, a coordinated approach to them could minimise the damage to the AONBs, local tourism businesses and quality of life for residents.

### 4. Staff changes at the AONB team

Bev McClean is due to start as the new AONB Planning Officer in April. As a qualified planner Bev brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge which we be utilised to influence decisions that impact on the duty to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast & Heaths.

Bill Jenman has secured a new role with a Landscape Partnership Scheme hosted at the Quantock Hills AONB. Bill's knowledge and experience will be greatly missed in the AONB team. We will seek to replace him in the role of AONB Projects Officer shortly.

### 5. State of the AONB Report

Following discussion at the AONB's Combined Advisory Committee (made up of the AONB's funding partners) a decision has been made to commission 'State of the AONB' reports. This work will identify the crucial elements of the AONBs, such as biodiversity, tourism indicators, landscape character etc. The information gathered will provide useful data for focusing work to conserve and enhance natural beauty and a useful snapshot of the condition of the AONBs.

### 6. Use of Colour in Design

Work is currently underway to determine the most suitable colours to use when development happens in the AONBs. The idea is that the use of colour will help development 'fit' the AONB and help both developers and those determining planning applications make the best possible decisions for the conservation and enhancement of the Suffolk Coast & Heaths and Dedham Vale AONBs.

### 7. Quick Bits

- An updated, locally sponsored, Shotley Walking Guide has been launched
- The popular Suffolk Walking Festival returns featuring some walks in the AONB. See: <http://www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk/>
- Colchester's Mayor walk returns by popular demand. Buses to Dedham via pub stop in Nayland. Saturday 9 June. Contact Simon for details.
- Suffolk Coast Against Retreat Annual General Meeting on Saturday 17 March. See: <http://suffolkbis.org.uk/node/793>
- National Trust Film on Coastal Change at <https://vimeo.com/254485828>
- A 'different' view on Constable's Haywain. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1ePMhrNrf0>

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