

An early AONB Monthly Update as I will be attending the Landscapes for Life Conference 2019

1. Residents share their views

Half of all residents say that the best thing about living in Suffolk is the beautiful countryside, its wildlife and the coast according to a survey in the East Anglian Daily Times. We agree with this analysis and suggest that the conservation and enhancement of the nationally designated AONBs is important to the people of Suffolk (and we hope that those from Essex agree about their bit of the AONBs too)

<http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/results-revealed-of-survey-into-life-in-suffolk-in-2018-1-5607947>

2. Beachwatch: Suffolk Results 2017

The results for the AONB facilitated Beachwatch activity are in. They show: 35 litter surveys were carried out on 24 beaches covering 7.5km of Suffolk coast and estuaries; 806 volunteers took part, 14,110 items of litter were recorded and removed and that 75% of litter collected was plastic.

3. National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) success

The NAAONB's application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Resilient Heritage grant scheme has been successful. The NAAONB have been awarded £164,300 towards the 'Futures Landscapes - building resilience and securing assets' project. Which will benefit all AONBs around the country

4. National Meadows Day Event at Melford Green

Magnificent Meadows partners celebrated with visitors the importance of meadows at Melford Green County Wildlife Site. Activities included: wildflower surveys, minibeast hunts and meadow craft activities, Pictures of what the Green used to look like were displayed and local school children made some wonderful artwork and poetry about the Green.

5. Do you want to know more about the AONBs?

If you miss the column called 'Outstanding Views' in the EADT published every other Saturday, the AONB team is now reproducing them on our website. See

<http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/home/news-and-blogs/> and

<http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/news-and-blogs/>

6. AONB Partnership response to the Submission Draft of the Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan

The two AONB Partnerships have expressed concern about the potential impact on the nationally designated landscapes of the plan and the potential impacts on the natural beauty of the AONBs. The response can be seen at:

<http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/planning-and-undergrounding/planning-and-development/>

7. Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Grants

The grants panels are delighted to be able to award further grants from the SDF pot. Hornstreetfield received £2,842 towards re-launching the group and focusing on environmental education and the RSPB received £2,900 towards installing infrastructure to control water levels at Cattawade to help the birdlife.

8. Stour and Orwell Forum success for information and debate. See report from EADT

<http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/housing-developers-stour-and-orwell-estuaries-1-5615387>

9. Quick Bits

- Otter Holt restored at Daws Hall with Suffolk County Council's Environmental Strategy team.
- Claire Cadman starts with AONB team as new Projects Officer, working on delivery.
- Natural England Update on Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Boundary Review at <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/about-us/aonb-boundary-review/>
- Snape Maltings have sponsored a reprint of the Snape Walk Explorer guide <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/about-us/aonb-boundary-review/>
- New top-quality destination signs in Constable Country installed to help visitors navigate AONB.
- State of AONB reports commissioned by each AONB. The reports will give a snapshot of the environmental features for each AONB and allow analysis of change over time.
- Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Forum 2019: Report on proceedings at: <http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/about-us/annual-forum-conference/>

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