

1. 'You are through to the next round'

The AONB team is delighted to report that its Expression of Interest to the Wool Towns Rural Development Programme for England has been endorsed by the LEADER team. We have been invited to submit a full application. This is great news and if successful the bid for c£170,000 will enhance the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley area for visitors and tourists and support economic activity,

2. Review of Designated Landscapes

Staff from the National Association for AONBs met with Julian Glover, whom will lead the review of designated landscapes. Early reports from the meeting suggest:

- There appears a real appetite to positively stretch the potential and impact of designated landscapes.
- There is a genuine curiosity about the world of designated landscapes and the AONB family needs to articulate the range, diversity, impact and business model of AONBs.
- The discussion included an exploration around what 'national' really means in the AONB context, and how AONBs might better deliver for the nation. This clearly reflects the political ambition set out in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.
- Discussion included why AONBs are not always understood as 'special'; something with which the National Parks don't have an issue with.
- The conversation built on the value that established, trusted, partnerships have in local delivery.

3. Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley (DVSV) Forum 15 June 2018

60 delegates. Excellent speakers. Super Site Visits. Engaging debate.

EADT report at <http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/dedham-vale-aonb-forum-1-5574479>

4. Stour Valley Environment Fund.

This outstanding fund that supports environmental projects in the Stour Valley seeks to build on recent contributions from a local landowner, sponsorship from the recent Mayor's walk and donations at the recent DVSV Forum. More is needed. If you can help contact the AONB team. More details at

<http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/grants-and-funding/stour-valley-environment-fund/>

5. Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) Site Selection Process

The AONB Chairmen have written to SPR to acknowledge their recognition of the nationally designated AONB in the site selection process for on-shore infrastructure associated with the developments. Phase 3 of consultation has started. See

https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/east_anglia_one_north.aspx

https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/east_anglia_two.aspx

6. National (*fantastic*) Volunteers Week: AONB team provided terrific support to:

Dedham Vale Youth Rangers; A Stour Valley Volunteer task; 7 volunteers helping at an event. A work experience student from Ipswich. Plus our fab student placement.

7. Wild in the Stour Valley family event, at the Mill Acre Sudbury, 1 June 2018

The event was attended by 300 plus people and the Mayor of Sudbury. The day was a great success for Stour Valley Education Network, who ran lots of outdoor learning activities, such as kayaking, pond dipping, minibeast ID, environmental art/crafts and lots more.

8. Magnificent Meadows

Trained volunteers are out surveying Suffolk County Wildlife Sites and Essex Local Wildlife sites. Lavenham Natural History Group are supporting the scheme and are visiting the sites as part of their summer field work surveys. An event on 7th July at Melford Green will celebrate National Meadows Day.

9. Quick Bits

- 13,658 dangerous Giant Hogweed Plants removed
- £750 to support Wildlife Site near Foxearth
- Grant of £300 to help Swifts in Stutton from Community Conservation Fund
- Environment Agency support River Stour Enhancement Project hosted at AONB with £40,000 grant
- Marine Conservation Zones Tranche 3 Consultation Launch. (including Orford Inshore) See <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/consultation-on-the-third-tranche-of-marine-conser/>
- Booking open for Stour and Orwell Forum on 17 July see <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/estuaries/stour-and-orwell-estuaries-management-group/events/>

Simon Amstutz, AONB Manager, 28 June 2018 simon.amstutz@suffolk.gov.uk

www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org

www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org