

1. Planning in a Designated Landscape: Guides, Rules and Tools

Around 150 delegates packed a lecture theatre at the University of Suffolk to hear speakers on AONB Legislation, Natural Beauty, Tranquillity and the Use of Colour in Design. The Dedham Vale AONB Advisory Committee chairman, Cllr Chapman described the event as 'stunning'. A report of proceedings will be uploaded to the AONBs websites in February.

2. Grants for Communities, Groups and Businesses to support AONB Objectives

Around £100,000 is available for projects to support the environmental, social and economic wellbeing of the Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONBs. Grants are awarded by a panel representing the AONB Partnerships, Environmental Organisations and Business interests. If you have an idea that you think would support AONB objectives, then please get in contact or view information at:

<http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/grants-and-funding/sustainable-development-fund/>
<http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/grants-and-funding/>

3. Wonderful Volunteers

Volunteers that work in the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley were thanked for their outstanding efforts at a celebration evening held at the fantastic Gainsborough House museum in Sudbury. Volunteers were treated to a light supper and heard about work being undertaken to conserve and enhance the area. It was followed by a competitive quiz which tested the knowledge of many of the AONB staffers...

4. Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects

- **Sizewell C:** The AONB Partnership is currently developing its response to the proposals put forward by EDF Energy in its stage 3 consultation proposals. Initial thoughts on the consultation include grave concern about the impact of the proposed development on the nationally designated Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB. We encourage everyone to engage in the consultation process. Details at: <https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects/sizewell-c/proposals/stage-3>
- **Offshore Wind and Associated Onshore Infrastructure (EA1N and EA2):** The AONB Partnership welcomed ScottishPower Renewable's decision to locate its substation outside the nationally designated AONB but has continuing concerns about the cable route and off shore array and their impacts on the designated landscape. The AONB Partnership will submit a response to the stage 4 consultation. Details of consultation at: https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/ea_one_north_phase_4_consultation.aspx
- **Bramford to Twinstead?** The developments associated with major electricity generation on and off the Suffolk Coast, and the proposals for at least two interconnectors mean that it is highly likely that the Bramford to Twinstead project is restarted. The Bramford to Twinstead project will see a strengthening of National Grid's transmission network that crosses the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley. National Grid will outline any proposals as a Network Options Assessment on 31 Jan 2019. See <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/events-calendar/network-options-assessment-noa-published>

5. National Landscapes for Life 2019 Conference coming to the East of England

The AONB team is delighted that the national conference is coming to the east of England (9-11 July) and is supporting the National Association for AONBs in its development. Outstanding national speakers have agreed to present at the conference. It will include an exciting array of field visits, workshops and proposals for a commitment from designated landscapes to improve environmental sustainability. More details available soon.

6. Landscape Enhancement Initiative

The AONB team is preparing applications to a £24 million grant scheme that offers awards of up to £200,000 for projects to enhance landscapes containing or impacted by National Grid's existing electricity transmission infrastructure. The AONB team would welcome suggestions from partners and residents for further project ideas. An overview of the scope of the scheme can be found at: <http://lei.nationalgrid.com/>

7. Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Position on the England Coast Path

The AONB Partnership endorsed a position on the England Coast Path at its December 2018 meeting. The position can be summarised as welcoming the enhanced access where it does not detract from the purposes of the AONB, to conserve and enhance natural beauty. See

<http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/assets/Publications/Position-Statements/SCH-AONB-Position-Statement-England-Coast-Path-Dec-2018.pdf>

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