

Project to Consider Variations to the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Boundary: Natural England's Briefing Note for SC&H AONB Partnership meeting December 2016

Introduction

This note is to update the AONB Partnership about the project.

Informal Consultation

The informal consultation took place between July and September 2016. We supported the consultation with two meetings, one for Parish Councils and one for Partnership members. We also provided Partnership members with the opportunity to visit some of the areas being proposed for designation as extensions to the SC&H AONB. Following the informal consultation, we received written responses from five Parish Councils and four members of the Partnership.

Following the informal consultation we also attended a separate meeting organised by the CLA for their members with land in the areas under review.

Technical Assessment

The responses that we have received are proving to be very helpful in our assessment of natural beauty, the desirability of designation and in reviewing the boundaries on which we consulted. We want to ensure that we have considered all the evidence, prior to starting the next stage of the project.

Statutory Consultation

It remains our intention to undertake the statutory and public consultation in the early part of 2017 and we will provide our written assessments and justification for the revised boundaries along with advice about how to respond as part of this process. As soon as we are able to do so, we will provide the Partnership with a more specific indication of the timescale for this; however we wish to ensure that we have fully assessed the areas concerned before doing so. Our priority is to ensure that we have been as rigorous as possible in undertaking these assessments prior to seeking formal responses from statutory and other consultees.

Jonathan Dix

Natural England