

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, December 2017

The officers' recommendation for a proposed variation to the SC&H AONB boundary was presented to the Natural England Board at its meeting of 13th September 2017.

The Natural England Board Decision

The Board approved the proposed extension to the AONB subject to statutory and public consultation. The minutes of the meeting are available via this link: : [13 September 2017](#)

The following areas are included within the proposed extension:

- the Stour estuary and valley slopes to the north of the estuary at Brantham and to the south of the estuary, which together are contiguous with the existing AONB.
- land along the Samford valley which is contiguous with the existing AONB.
- land along the Freston Brook valley which is contiguous with the existing AONB.

The Board considered the detailed assessments presented to it and agreed

- that the areas proposed have sufficient natural beauty to merit AONB designation;
- that it is desirable for these areas to be designated as a variation to the SC&H AONB for the purpose of conserving and enhancing their natural beauty; and
- that the proposed boundary is appropriate.

Full details including maps indicating the proposed revision to the AONB boundary will be available at the start of the consultation.

Statutory and Public Consultation

Natural England is currently preparing to undertake a 12 week consultation with the statutory Local Authorities and others. This consultation is being extended to everybody with an interest in the area as a matter of good practice and is planned to start on 26th January. The consultation will seek opinions and evidence in relation to the area proposed as an extension to the AONB and to the proposed new boundary.

Detailed information about the proposed extensions to the SC&H AONB will be made available during the consultation and responses can be submitted to Natural England either online or by completing the response form in a Consultation Pack which we will make available during the consultation period.

Briefing meetings will held as follows:

Monday 12 th February	Morning: Parish/town Councils Afternoon: Stat Consultees /LA members
Tuesday 13 th February	Morning: Special interest groups (rec/conservation) Afternoon: Local businesses/ landowners

We will also hold 'drop-in' events on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st February for anyone wishing to discuss the proposed extensions directly with a Natural England officer.

Further details about the meetings as well as how to respond to the consultation will be made available at the start of the consultation.

David Vose
Project Manager
Natural England