

# Suffolk Coast & Heaths

Autumn/Winter 2019/2020

FREE

Suffolk Coast & Heaths



Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## Stunning images capture 'nature's value'

Communicating the many and varied benefits provided for us by the natural world – see centre pages

Also in this issue: volunteers find many ways to support the environment *pages 4, 12-14*; thoughts on the AONB 'energy coast' and a sneak preview of the 50th anniversary in 2020 *page 3*



Supporting biodiversity and celebrating successful breeding seasons at Minsmere, Trimley Marshes and more *page 13*



The AONB Network's response to the issues of Climate Change and Biodiversity Decline *page 9*



Natural and built heritage explored on the Deben, Shotley peninsula, Orford Ness and across the AONB *pages 5, 12, 14 & 15*

## A Message from Our Chair



There is much to celebrate and successes to recognise this year. A personal achievement has been the completion of my own fundraising walk of the Suffolk Coast Path in memory of my wife Rita, who died of a little known condition called Multiple System Atrophy (MSA). The walk with friends and colleagues to raise money for the MSA Trust, was completed in four days in September, and with money still coming in I hope to have raised over £3,000.

We give our thanks to Robert Erith, Chair of the Dedham Vale AONB Partnership since 2009, for his years of association with the AONBs and with the numerous organisations that seek to enhance the area (see the Dedham Vale newspaper). We'll miss his support.

We celebrate the progress of an application to National Grid's Landscape Enhancement Initiative. This fund helps local projects to reduce the landscape and visual impacts of existing electricity transmission lines across AONBs. Our project includes the very large metal pylons running south and west from Sizewell, and we are working in partnership with RSPB, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and a private landowner to apply for just over £250k. Although we won't hear a definite decision until December feedback so far has been very encouraging.

As one year ends and another begins it seems that a lot is happening in the AONB world, both locally and nationally. 2019 is the 70th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (page 10) and 2020 is the 50th anniversary of the designation of Suffolk Coast & Heaths as an

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (page 3). It is appropriate timing for the Government to be holding a Designated Landscapes Review, to ensure that AONBs and National Parks are fit for purpose for the next 70 years (page 10).

This coming year will see the boundary review of the southern part of the AONB be completed – at the time of writing the paperwork is sitting on the Secretary of State for the Environment's desk for agreement, after numerous consultations and many years of local support (more on this page).

As part of these various reassessments the AONB Network is looking ahead too and has drafted the 'Colchester Declaration'. This will recognise not just the current unprecedented concern for the future of the natural world that the country feels, but will embed nature recovery and stronger action into the forward planning of AONBs (page 10). We must make sure our plans are much more meaningful for conserving and enhancing our special landscapes, for my grandchildren and yours.

The 'Colchester Declaration' was a key outcome of the National Association for AONBs conference hosted locally in July, and attended by record numbers. The conference was a great success, and special thanks go to our own staff team for their hard work in surpassing previous success and setting a benchmark for future conferences!

**Councillor David Wood, Chairman Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership**

## Boundary Variation Awaiting Final Confirmation



The Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB boundary variation has reached a significant point. The Natural England led consultation process and considerations of representations made during the statutory consultation period having been completed and a designation variation draft Order written. The Natural England Board approved the making of the draft Order, without modification in June. It now sits with the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for confirmation.

### Welcoming Inclusion in the Reviewed AONB Boundary

Suffolk Food Hall has welcomed advice from the AONB team since starting the farm shop and restaurant business in 2007. The connected farm is inextricably linked to the landscape and the site underneath the Orwell bridge has become a key node from which to explore the area. Over the years, Suffolk Food Hall has helped create walk guides (see [suffolkfoodhall.co.uk/thingstodo#outside](http://suffolkfoodhall.co.uk/thingstodo#outside)) and installed information boards to make the landscape accessible.

Whilst much of the farm around the Food Hall has always been in the AONB, it is encouraging to know that the quality of more of the farm meets the Natural England criteria and that our contribution to agri-environment is

being recognised by inclusion in the reviewed AONB boundary. Our farm in a small hidden valley on the southern slopes of the Orwell estuary has "special qualities derived from the intimate scale and branching structure of the valley with small pastures, interlocking topography, and adjacent woodland and parkland planting, framing views." [Natural England report].

We rear local native-breed Red Poll cattle extensively on the meadows, having a low-input approach to grassland management to maintain biodiversity. We also have important coppiced SSSI woodlands, use the valley slopes as pasture rather than converting them to vegetable production and protect the watercourses.

Having the cattle for the Food Hall market provides motivation for broader integrated management of the landscape. For example, we use traditional chestnut stakes for fencing, plant-up hedges and replace veteran oaks, manage the farm to regulated Countryside Stewardship standards and share best ecological practice being a founding member of the Farm Facilitation group of east Suffolk. The extensive ancient semi-natural woodlands, parkland habitats, small meadows, streams and greenways, all underpin the farming system connected to the Suffolk Food Hall.

**Oliver Paul, Suffolk Food Hall**

## Graham Henderson: A Tribute

It was with great sadness that the AONB team heard of the death of Graham Henderson, Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership member, former vice chairman of the National Lottery Funded Touching the Tide project and so much more. Graham had been influential on the Suffolk coast for many reasons, his chairmanship of Suffolk Coast Against Retreat and his treasurer role at the Deben Estuary Partnership to name but two. He led a full life and was passionate about the coast, sailing and rugby. A force to be reckoned with, a razor sharp wit and a stalwart of the Suffolk coast community. He will be sorely missed.

**Simon Amstutz, AONB Manager**

## Sizewell C Stage 4 Consultation

The AONB Partnership has submitted its response to EDF Energy's fourth round of consultation on Sizewell C. EDF note that this stage of the consultation is an opportunity to provide comments on some updated information provided, and states that any comments made at the wider stage 3 consultation will still be considered.

For the stage 4 consultation the AONB Partnership has included comments on the proposals relating to the introduction of electricity pylons into the nationally designated landscape, impacts on Public Rights of Way and the proposed route of the England Coast Path. Furthermore, the AONB Partnership is not satisfied with how the consultation has paid regards to the AONB and its purpose to conserve and enhance natural beauty as required by legislation and planning law.

The AONB Partnership response is available on the AONB website, alongside responses to previous Sizewell C consultations.

**Simon Amstutz, AONB Manager**

# Suffolk Energy Coast: A Personal View

The current and proposed developments on and adjacent to the Suffolk coast will inevitably have an impact on the AONB. Indeed the Government's National Policy Statement on Nuclear Power, that identifies Sizewell as a nuclear site, notes in the Appraisal of Sustainability: *that there is the potential for some long lasting adverse direct and indirect effects on landscape character and visual impacts on the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, with limited potential for mitigation.*

If we add, and we must, the potential impacts of the many existing and proposed developments for offshore wind energy (with massive onshore substations) and interconnectors (delivering and supplying electricity between the UK and continental Europe) that also require massive onshore infrastructure, then the Suffolk Coast faces enormous development pressures.

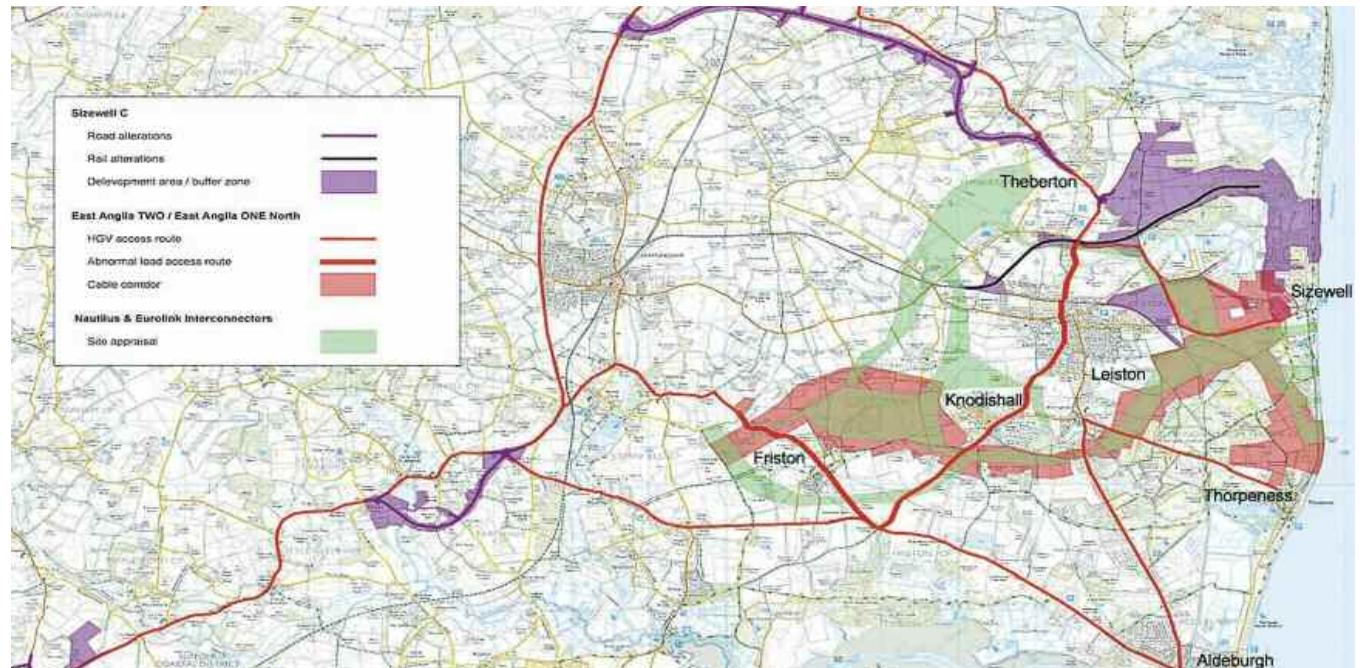
Some have estimated that over 30% of the UK's power could be generated on or pass through the nationally designated landscape.

Nationally designated landscapes, such as the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, have been designated for the nation to conserve and enhance natural beauty that encompasses its landscapes, wildlife and relative tranquillity. How does this square with the development pressures we are seeing today?

The nation needs the energy to maintain the lifestyles many people enjoy. Wind power in particular has been identified as a more sustainable method of delivering the energy as is being encouraged by many. However, the cost to residents, in terms of loss of amenity and the 'natural capital' of the AONB is huge.

Society, through its democratic processes, has deemed the Suffolk coast as a place to generate and transmit electricity. Many organisations have enthusiastically supported this ambition and re-branded the area as the 'energy coast', a movement away from the term 'nature coast' that many once used.

It should be noted that legislation and rules apply to the designation and the purpose of the AONB to seek to maintain the natural beauty of the area. There is a balance to be struck by those who will take these decisions with a need to consider the requirement for electricity



Proposed coverage of area by energy related buildings and cable routes: Sizewell C, East Anglia TWO/East Anglia ONE North, and Nautilus & Eurolink interconnectors

generation and transmission with the needs of the AONB. It is worth noting the AONB supports 4,655 jobs in a tourism industry that is worth over £210M per year (2017 figures).

The AONB team and its associated Partnership has sought to push the requirements of the nationally designated landscape at each round of consultation for the various projects. Once the natural beauty, character and relative tranquillity of the AONB has been lost it cannot be recovered. I would urge those that will take those decisions to not forget the importance of the AONB, the potential impacts on residents and the currently thriving tourism industry.

**Simon Amstutz, AONB Manager**

## Celebrating 50 Years of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Wednesday 4 March 2020 will mark the 50th anniversary of Suffolk Coast & Heaths designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. To mark this significant milestone the AONB will be inviting key partners, stakeholders and volunteers to promote the work that has taken place over the last 50 years to conserve and enhance our landscapes. Throughout the year we would like to invite you to join in the celebrations and we are keen to hear about:



- Anniversaries your organisation, club or group are celebrating in 2020, especially other 50th anniversaries, birthdays and milestones, within the AONB
- Projects or activities you are organising that showcase the special qualities of the AONB, and bring people together to explore the landscape, learn more about the environment or support an individual species
- Historic photographs or film that you have of the AONB, and about your memories of the Suffolk coast. Please share your photographs and film with us to help build picture of how the AONB has changed over the last 50 years.

Throughout 2020 we will celebrate our anniversary by showcasing the work of the AONB team, thanking all our wonderful volunteers who make an invaluable contribution and creating a legacy of the area for generations to come. We will be sharing more details about our plans in the Spring 2020 newspaper or email [SCHAonb@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:SCHAonb@suffolk.gov.uk). Keep an eye out to see how you can get involved.

**Jacqueline French, 50th Anniversary Officer**

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# Conserving the Environment

## Year of Green Action, Suffolk Style

2019 is Defra's Year of Green Action (YoGA). It is all about connecting people to nature and showing how we can all make a positive impact to our environment. YoGA is part of the Government's 25-Year Environment Plan, seeking to leave the environment in a better state than we found it – quite a task!

The YoGA website [www.yearofgreenaction.org/green-actions](http://www.yearofgreenaction.org/green-actions) lists events and campaigns that anyone can get involved with and ideas for green action in their local area. One of the actions being promoted by YoGA is to organise or take part in a beach clean.

Interest in plastic pollution has become mainstream and Beachwatch is the Marine Conservation Society's (MCS) initiative to involve people in caring for their local marine environment. Not only does it involve picking up the litter but also recording the items that they find. This data is fed back to MCS who can target the worst marine offenders and even change government legislation and policy, such as the introduction of the plastic bag levy in England in 2015.

This year the AONB has supported over 10 organisations that have taken part in a Beachwatch survey. Organisations that have taken part to date in 2019 have included; Donald's Volvo, the Environment Agency, Realise Futures, Kier, Suffolk County Council, Johnson and Johnson, The Vegan Network, Crafted, Fred Olsen Travel and Yorkshire Building Society.

Taking part in Beachwatch is easy, whether you want to organise regular events open to the public or hold a one-off event for your organisation. Everything you need to know is on the Beachwatch website [www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch](http://www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch).

The AONB offers advice on possible Beachwatch locations on the Suffolk and Essex coast, loan litter picking equipment and provide support to make your event a success. See [www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/volunteering/volunteering-learn-more/beachwatch](http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/volunteering/volunteering-learn-more/beachwatch) or contact Lynn Allen.

Make 2019 your Year of Green Action and make a difference to your local area and the wider marine environment.

**Eleanor Redgrave, AONB Green Action Officer**



Scottish Power Renewables doing a beach clean at Bawdsey

© East Anglia One – part of Scottish Power Renewables

## A Volunteers View: Paul Kingham



Paul Kingham, third from right, with volunteers and a 'rubbish man'

Having lived in Suffolk for almost all my life, I've come to enjoy the great balance of coastal and forestry areas that surround Suffolk all year round. This encompasses being a regular sea fisherman and a keen forager, making full use of the fantastic natural habitat we are blessed with in Suffolk and surrounding areas.

Part of my enjoyment of all things countryside led me to become a volunteer with the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB to help be the eyes and ears on the ground. I mainly

volunteer for the beach cleaning events at various sites: Bawdsey, Shingle Street, Hollesley Bay and Orford Ness areas. There are normally a dozen or so other volunteers ranging in age, as well as the local Countryside Project Officers, and we clean a section of beach that has either been reported as requiring some effort or ones we know that need a regular clear up, or after adverse weather.

I enjoy being outside especially at the coast, meeting new people and checking out new areas of beach that we clear. I'm also lucky that I only work four days a week and with growing up children I have the time to be able to devote to such a good cause.

I volunteer because I feel I'm giving something back to nature. Too many times I have sat on a beach fishing, or walking through woodland areas, and seen rubbish that has either been dumped there illegally or washed up, and thought "I wish this wasn't here as it spoils the natural area", so doing something proactive about it gives me a lot of pleasure.

**Paul Kingham, AONB Volunteer**

## Going "Plastic Clever" in East Suffolk!



Plastic Action trainer Jason Alexander (UK Rubbish Walks), far right, with volunteers

The Greenprint Forum's Plastic Action Champion volunteers have been busy furthering the plastic action cause in East Suffolk in 2019. The level of awareness amongst the general public and the desire to know how to do their bit, has been very encouraging. Champions have been busy raising awareness of how we as consumers make small easy changes to our everyday purchasing habits by opting for low- or zero-plastic goods which seem small individually but really add up, and engaging with event organisers to help them run their events sustainably.

To help Champions in their efforts to help others to make positive changes and reduce dependency on single-use plastics, the

Greenprint Forum provide training, a handbook, support and also loan out demo materials to take to show other people how they can go "plastic clever".

If you are trying to do your best to take a more sustainable approach to plastic and – crucially – want to help others to do the same, find out about becoming a Plastic Action Champion, by contacting [greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk). Our Plastic Action campaign is resourced by East Suffolk Council and funded by the AONB, the East Suffolk Partnership, Sea Changers and the Alfred Williams Charitable Trust.

To join the Greenprint Forum and receive updates on initiatives and events go to [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum).

**Daniel Wareing, East Suffolk Council & Secretary of East Suffolk Greenprint Forum**

## Only Rain Down The Drain!



Groundwork Suffolk and East Suffolk Council are working together to engage the community and inspire awareness of the local natural heritage of the Rivers Orwell, Deben and Waveney under the 'Yellow Fish' project.

Following a successful pilot of the work in early 2019, the project is continuing to provide information and practical advice to residents, businesses, and schools in Woodbridge, Felixstowe and Lowestoft, on the existence and status of local waterway habitats and the indigenous species that depend upon them. Information will also be provided on how local human behaviour is threatening their existence through litter pollution and plastic waste entering surface water drains found on streets and roads.

The campaign has a clear message of 'Only Rain Down The Drain!' so you will see public drains marked with a temporary water-based yellow fish symbol in your area. This is a reminder that all litter or pollution entering the system can cause direct contamination of our rivers and streams.

To find out more and how you can get involved, please visit [groundwork.org.uk/yellow-fish](http://groundwork.org.uk/yellow-fish) or email [yellowfish@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:yellowfish@groundwork.org.uk). The project is funded by the East Suffolk Partnership, the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, Sea Changers and Alfred Williams Charitable Trust.

**Chloe RobisonSmith, Groundwork Suffolk and Norfolk**



Green Champion, Zoe Austin, engaging a resident on the Yellow Fish project

## Sustainable Approaches in Woodbridge

Busy as ever, Transition Woodbridge are really excited to have two new projects this Autumn/Winter 2019/20. We will be planting 20 apple trees around Woodbridge and Melton, donated to us by Woodbridge Rotary. They will add to the 53 trees already planted around the two towns. We are going to need some extra help so if you're up for planting the trees or watering them during the 2020 summer months, let us know.



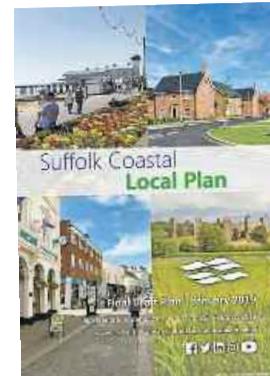
We have started a Repair Café with St Johns' volunteers and funding from Woodbridge Lions. Volunteers will be at St Johns Church on the first Monday of the month to tackle repairing those items that you would otherwise bin so they can be reused: repairs include sewing hems/buttons, gluing ornaments/furniture, mending broken lamp switches, and much more.

If you would like to get involved contact us: [ttwoodbridge@gmail.com](mailto:ttwoodbridge@gmail.com) or [www.transitionwoodbridge.org.uk](http://www.transitionwoodbridge.org.uk).

Jane Healey, Transition Woodbridge



## Suffolk Coastal Local Plan



As well as trying to keep up with the endless round of planning applications my work recently focused on the policy side of things. East Suffolk Council (ESC) is taking its new Local Plan to examination (started August 2019), and throughout the development of the Plan I submitted representations on behalf of the AONB Partnership to secure policy changes to better conserve and enhance the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB.

In the lead up to the examination in July I worked directly with the policy team at ESC on a Statement of Common Ground (SOCG), to enable modifications to policies in the Local Plan to be agreed, which the AONB team considered were necessary to conserve and enhance the AONB.

This involved agreeing changes to the Local Plan policy covering the AONB. The changes agreed have strengthened the policy framework which will be used to assess future planning applications. This is positive and should help ensure that the Natural Beauty of the fantastic Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB is adequately considered, conserved and enhanced as part of future planning decisions.

The Statement of Common Ground will form part of a suite of documents assessed by the Planning Inspector conducting the Local Plan examination. It is anticipated that the plan will be adopted before the end of 2019.

Beverley McClean, AONB Planning Officer

## Alde & Ore Partnership Update

The East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board (ESIDB) as the Risk Management Authority, will be submitting the draft business case for Snape (both village and Snape Maltings), Aldeburgh and Iken to the Environment Agency imminently. This is the first stage in applying for consents to upgrade the Alde & Ore river walls.

In readiness for the delivery phase, the Partnership is discussing a governance restructure of the committees as the ESIDB will be project managing the delivery of the upgrade. A Key Stakeholder Group has been set up with representatives from all parish councils in the Alde and Ore Estuary boundary

and local businesses will be asked to attend via their Business Associations. This is a crucial group acting as the communications between the community and a new Strategic Board.

These new arrangements will be discussed by the Partnership and the Key Stakeholder Group in autumn 2019 and will be published on [www.aldeandore.org](http://www.aldeandore.org) when they are agreed.

Amanda Bettinson, Alde & Ore Association



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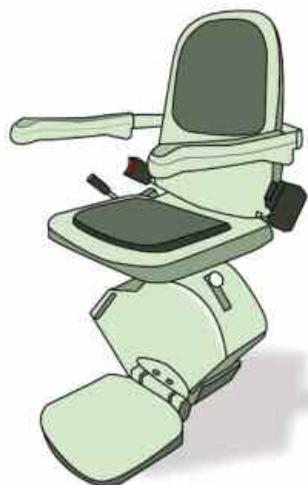
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## 70@70: AONB Nature Recovery Solutions

2019 is the 70th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (NPACA), and in recognition of this significant milestone the National Association for AONBs has collected together 70 examples of nature recovery from across England and Wales. See all the projects at [landscapesforlife.org.uk/about-aonbs/nature-recovery-solutions](https://landscapesforlife.org.uk/about-aonbs/nature-recovery-solutions).



Over 100 delegates at the Landscapes for Life Conference creating a heart for the landscapes they represent

These achievements are the combined effort of thousands of farmers, landowners, conservation charities and volunteers, as well as the AONB teams themselves. These projects show that, with the right tools, capacity, expertise and resources, we can have significant impact on nature recovery across our landscapes and beyond.

Howard Davies, National Association for AONBs

## Glover Review of Designated Landscapes

As part of Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan the Government, in this 70th anniversary year since the NPACA, is holding a Designated Landscapes Review chaired by Julian Glover, to ensure that AONBs and National Parks are relevant for the next 70 years. This review is one of many (including the Agriculture Bill) and will result in changes to the working practices of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

In July 2019, soon after his attendance at the Landscapes for Life Conference, Julian Glover and the then Secretary of State, Michael Gove, exchanged letters about the interim findings of the landscapes review, see [www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/about-us/the-national-association-for-aonbs](https://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/about-us/the-national-association-for-aonbs). We await the full report and official response, and will provide an update on the expected changes in our next newspaper.

## Valued Landscape Assessment

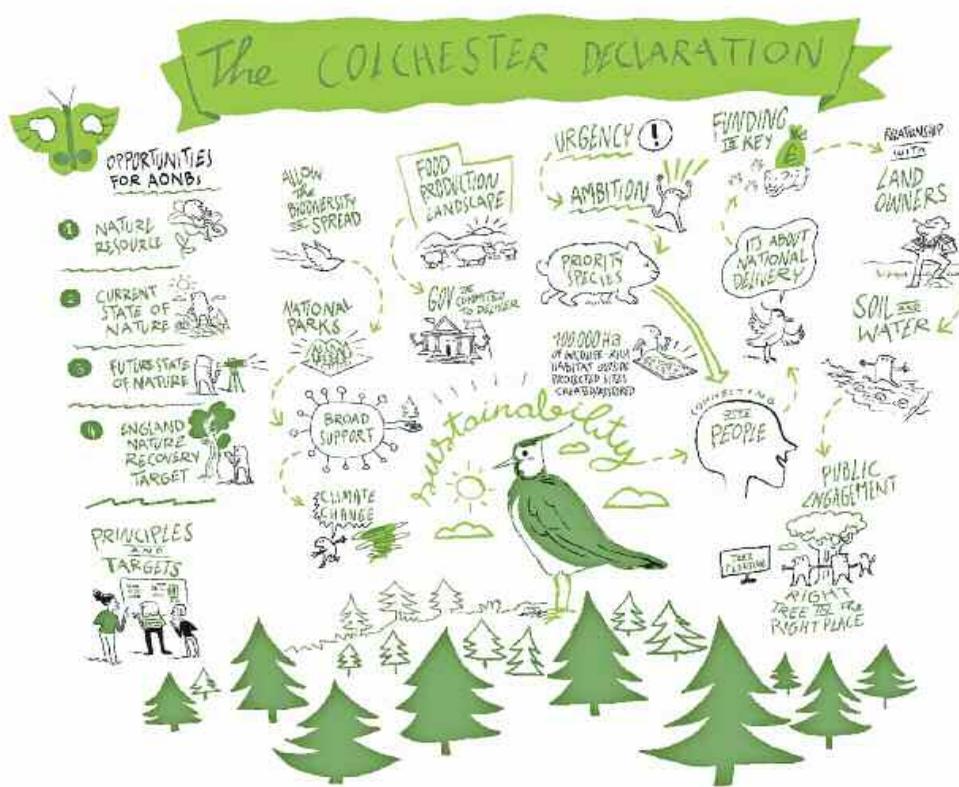
As part of AONB planning support we have commissioned Valued Landscape Assessments for the Project Areas to the Dedham Vale and the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Project Areas are those that extend beyond the designated landscapes, into adjacent district and borough council areas, who we work closely with and who provide financial support. We do much the same activity within those areas as we do within the designated AONBs, where funding allows. The Dedham Vale Project Area covers 302 sq kms from east of Bures up to the Cambridgeshire border where the River Stour begins, while the Suffolk Coast & Heaths additional area is much smaller at 44 sq kms and includes the Shotley peninsula and the southern banks of the Stour estuary in north Essex. While the Project Areas broadly share similar characteristics as the AONBs they do not benefit from the same level of statutory protection as the AONBs they abut. These Assessments will develop our knowledge and understanding about why the Project Areas should be considered Valued Landscapes. In July 2019 the project got underway with the appointment of Alison Farmer Associates and is scheduled to be completed by the end of October 2019.

Once completed, the two studies will provide invaluable evidence for responding to planning applications and appeals, informing emerging Local Plan policies and future AONB Management Plan reviews. As part of the project, existing baseline evidence will be reviewed and Alison will also be out in the field assessing various landscape, ecological and heritage qualities.

I'm really pleased that this work is underway as we are aware that Project Areas present some planning challenges. While they might not be designated like the AONBs, large parts of the Project Areas are high quality in landscape terms. The assessments will provide us with important evidence to support this, which in turn, will protect them against unsuitable development.

Beverley McClean, AONB Planning Officer



## The Colchester Declaration

### The AONB Network's Response to the Issues of Climate Crisis and Biodiversity Decline

Using its unique network and partnership model the national AONB Network has set out its offer to meet the challenges of the Climate Crisis and Biodiversity Decline. The collective pledge – known as the Colchester Declaration – was drawn up at the July 2019 Landscapes for Life Conference and is set to be ratified at the AONB Chairman's Conference in November 2019.

Set against a backdrop of unprecedented concern for the future of the natural world, and intergovernmental reports that the current global response to the effects of human impact on nature is insufficient, the AONB Network will significantly increase the scale and pace of nature conservation activity in the 46 AONBs.

With many AONB host authorities having taken the step of declaring a Climate Emergency we are demonstrating our readiness to act to redress declines in species and habitats within the context of a wider response to climate change.

### The AONB Network believes:

- Natural Beauty has intrinsic value and means so much to people
- AONBs should be places of rich, diverse and abundant wildlife
- Nature recovery is central to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty
- Climate change is the biggest threat to humanity and one of the greatest threats to biodiversity. Designated landscapes offer some of the most powerful solutions to the challenges of climate change
- The network of AONBs and National Parks, their teams, partnerships, authorities and stakeholders offer a unique solution to tackling environmental challenges

### The AONB Network pledges:

#### By July 2020

- To enable an approach that creates opportunities within AONBs for people to make an emotional connection with nature
- To prepare a Nature Recovery Plan for each AONB

#### By 2024

- To embed an ecosystems services approach into all AONB Management Plans
- To ensure all AONB Management Plans include meaningful measures around climate change mitigation and adaptation, including clear, measurable targets to support Net Zero

#### By 2030

- That at least 200,000 ha of SSSIs in AONBs will be in favourable condition
- That at least 100,000 ha of wildlife-rich habitat outside of protected sites will have been created/ restored in AONBs to further support the natural movement of plants and animals
- That at least 36,000 ha of new woodland will have been planted or allowed to regenerate in AONBs following the principle of the right tree in the right place
- That, by each AONB immediately adopting a species on the threatened list and by preparing and delivering a Species Action Plan, at least thirty species relevant to AONBs will be taken off the list by 2030

The AONB Network calls on the Westminster and Welsh Governments to provide the power and resources to make these targets achievable. Updates at [landscapesforlife.org.uk/news/latest-news](https://landscapesforlife.org.uk/news/latest-news).

Simon Amstutz, AONB Manager (providing the introductory paragraph)

## Photographing Nature's Value

In spring 2019 the Marine Pioneer invited the people of East Anglia to capture 'nature's value' through photography. The competition was intended to communicate the many and varied benefits provided for us by the natural world. Illustrating the value of nature to a wider audience is critical if we are to turn the tide on environmental decline that has been witnessed over the past 70 years.



It would be a challenge to show all the wonders nature provides in a single photograph, so we chose four competition categories based on the types of benefits the natural world offers. These benefits are known as 'ecosystem services' and some are trickier to comprehend and photograph because they don't necessarily give a benefit that can be seen or felt. It is this very reason that mankind has degraded the natural environment, only recognising that we have done so when we feel the knock on effects.

More than 65 photographers picked up their cameras to take over 220 images of 'nature's value' as part of the 2019 competition. Here are some of our favourite photos, accompanied by a brief explanation of how we thought each demonstrated the value of nature. More about the competition can be found online at [www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/marine-pioneer/communicating-nature-s-value](http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/marine-pioneer/communicating-nature-s-value).

If we are to reach the aim of improving the environment within 25 years, as set by the Government in 2018, then we need to look closer to home and see the value on our doorstep. We hope these wonderful pictures from the AONBs do just this!



### Rob Coleman: Nature's Recycling Centre Category – Supporting Services

Supporting Services are perhaps the hardest of all the ecosystem services to relate to. This is because they don't offer direct benefits to humans, but instead underpin other types of natural service. When walking through the woods, our attention is often drawn upwards by the trees that physically define a woodland. Yet the fungi beneath our feet are the real stars that we should focus on.

Rob Coleman captioned his photograph 'Nature's Recycling Centre' which sums up the tireless work fungi do in balancing woodland ecosystem by processing nutrients so that they can be used again by other organisms. Being at ground level refocuses our attention to understand that the trees and everything else in the wood is built from the ground up. At a time when plastic pollution is hitting the headlines, we are reminded that nature has been recycling for many years.

### Supporting Services



© Trevor Boyd

Supporting ecosystem services underpin all of the goods and services we get from the natural world. They are hard to recognise in day-to-day life but include:

- Biodiversity
- Nutrient Recycling
- Primary production
- Soil formation

### Cultural Services



© Natacha Bines

Cultural services can be considered as the non-material benefits we get from nature, things like;

- Wellbeing
- Heritage
- Sense of place
- Ecotourism

### Regulatory Services



© Liz Inwards

Regulatory ecosystem services are the processes that help bring stability and predictability to our lives;

- Flood prevention
- Climate regulation
- Erosion control
- Pest Control

### Provisional Services



© Robyn Bartlett

Provisional services are the physical goods we get from the natural world;

- Building and clothing materials
- Food and water
- Transport (rivers)
- Herbs and medicines



### Adam Billiald: Mighty Oak Category – Supporting Services

A sturdy tree trunk is a cliched metaphor for support. This isn't the imagery that defines this 'Mighty Oak' though. It is the vibrant green of the chloroplasts – the tiny cellular engines of green plants – that so brilliantly illustrates supporting ecosystem services. As we peer skywards, out of the dense woodland, we are reminded that we are just a small component of the wider ecosystem in which we inhabit.



## Andrew Bailey: Gamekeeper's Dog

Category – Provisional Services

Nature photography is often universally appealing. This might not be the case with Andrew's image 'Gamekeeper's Dog'. Despite the grisly image, the photo brilliantly conveys provisioning services. The innocence expressed through the eyes of this young spaniel is juxtaposed with the game bird hanging from his mouth. However, it isn't the provision of the game bird we should focus on, it is the relationship between humans and dogs that is important in ecosystem services terms, demonstrating that working together has a greater gain for our planet. N.B. The bird was roadkill that the dog picked up whilst out on a family walk.



## Natacha Bines: Enjoy it Your Way

Category – Cultural Services

The silhouetted figures in Natacha's 'Enjoy it your way!' photo each focus on different elements of the same landscape. This scene beautifully illustrates the diversity of the natural world. The fact that each of us relates to our environment in different ways is one factor that makes any attempt to value nature so difficult. This image brilliantly shows us that it is important to consider everyone's perspective when asking the question "What is the value of the natural world?"



## Rob Coleman: Mason Bee

Category – Supporting Services

Rob's photo of a mason bee making a home in a man-made habitat was the overall competition winner. It appealed to the judges because it illustrates the importance of making small concessions to give nature a home. It works on many levels and acts to prompt a conversation, not least because at first glance the background is dominated by the brick wall which is about as far from natural as you can get! It's exactly this ability to start discussion, accompanied by a take-home message of working with nature that made this a winner!

With so many different perspectives on what nature's value is, it was incredibly difficult to judge what the best images were. The judges primarily looked for photos which could be used to start a conversation about nature's value.

## Judging is a difficult job!

Take a minute to consider for yourself which ecosystem services (if any!) these pictures convey.



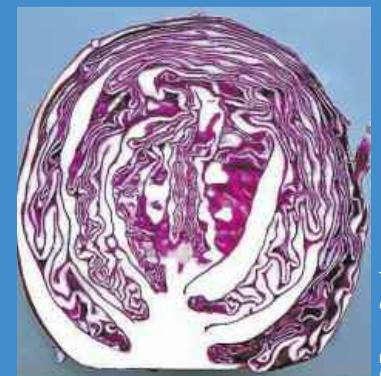
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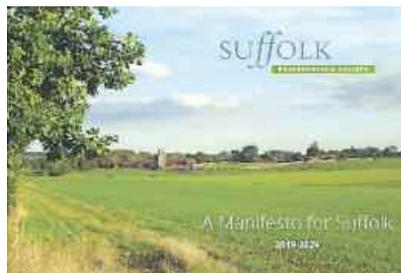
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## Manifesto for Local Distinctiveness

To mark our 90th anniversary the Suffolk Preservation Society launched a 10-year Manifesto to help direct our activities – and those of others – to ensure the longer-term future of the county's iconic landscapes, towns and villages. The Society is not against change – far from it. However, we do believe that Suffolk faces unprecedented pressure which, unless directed and moderated, will result in a county that is no longer the one residents love, nor the one tourists come to see. The Manifesto highlights the key issue of the explosion of housing to accommodate population growth and the government's housing targets. While good growth is something to be embraced, the Society focuses on combatting the tide of monotonous and insipid housing often delivered by the big housebuilders; housing that fails to respond to local distinctiveness. The Manifesto also raises the huge challenges for the Suffolk coast from the damaging impacts of future nationally important energy projects in the renewables and nuclear sectors. But the Manifesto is not a defeatist response to these massive challenges.



Suffolk Preservation Society board and guests launching the Manifesto at Lavenham



SPS President Geoffrey Probert explains: "The worst excesses can be avoided if we and the local communities fight to enhance Suffolk's villages, towns and landscapes for decades to come."

Details on the SPS website [www.suffolksociety.org](http://www.suffolksociety.org).

**Bethany Philbidge, Suffolk Preservation Society**

## Green Light Trust at 30

What has changed since Nigel Hughes and Ric Edelman were inspired to set up the Green Light Trust? The trust began after seeing Brazilian rainforest being cut down at a rate of one football pitch a minute, as reported in a 1987 newspaper article that sat alongside an announcement of a footballer signing of £250k. 30 years later a recent footballer exchange was for over £100million. As I clumsily reach for changes in football as an analogy, why does it feel like groundhog day for the world's rainforest?



The desire then as now was to assist those who not only required the most support, but in many cases had the least access to the natural environment. Today we support those marginalised or disadvantaged in society. This includes adults and children with mental health issues, specific educational needs, are in recovery from substance misuse, are under probations services, at the point of exclusion or have already been excluded from education, or are just struggling to engage in education. See [www.greenlighttrust.org](http://www.greenlighttrust.org) to find out how we use nature to re-engage these people.

**Tom Brown, Green Light Trust**

## Bee Kind

One third of the UK bee population has disappeared in the last decade. Given that bees are responsible for pollinating a third of the world's food crops, their decline is not only sad, it has serious consequences for the global food chain. Initiatives like the AONBs Pollinator Patches are important and the good news is, you can do your bit at home too.

Gardens and allotments can be 'pollinator hotspots', sometimes attracting more than 10 times the number of bees found in parks or nature reserves. Even weedy corners of the garden, with everyday buttercups and dandelions, can be attractive.



Make your garden bee-friendly to appeal to a broad variety of the c270 bee species in the UK, by planting different shapes of flower in your garden, and vary their flowering period so that there's always something in bloom.

Be the host with the most with a shallow dish of water, always a welcome sight for thirsty bees, as are places to shelter from the wind such as bug hotels.

Finally, avoid using pesticides in your garden and try to buy organic seeds, bulbs and plants where possible.

Britain's bees face tough conditions. We can make our back gardens bee-friendly without having to spend too much time or money, and involving children helps teach them about conservation. It would be wonderful if every garden could be a little kinder to the great British bee.

**Karoline Gore, freelance writer**

## Active County is Good for Your Health

The AONBs provide the perfect environment to improve your health and wellbeing. From walks in the countryside to cycling through the forest, to taking part in a local Parkrun or Great Run Local, there are plenty of ways to get active that don't cost a penny. What's more, while structured gym classes can be challenging for beginners, these free activities in the great outdoors allow you to workout at your own pace, ease into new exercises and find what suits you best.

Benefits of being active outside: improved mood; you burn more calories, because varied terrains and weather put different demands on your body than indoors; you stay in shape and improve the health of your heart more; energy levels are boosted; you sleep better; you get more vitamin D, helping to prevent osteoporosis, or thinning of the bones; and you to enjoy different scenery and get to know your local area.

It's a fact that people who exercise regularly also have a lower risk of developing many long-term conditions, such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers, as well as reducing your risk of stress, depression, dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Parkruns, see [www.greatrunlocal.org](http://www.greatrunlocal.org), are a great way to increase your fitness, your general health and to make friends. If your community is interested in establishing a run please contact: [colin.grogan@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:colin.grogan@suffolk.gov.uk).

**Colin Grogan, Most Active County, Suffolk County Council**



## What Goes in your Recycling Bin?

Suffolk will soon have a state-of-the-art facility as part of a new contract for kerbside recycling services. The Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), where recycling from Suffolk's household bins is sorted, is undergoing a major refurbishment to provide the latest mechanical and optical sorting equipment, producing better quality sorting and recycling. During the renovation period, your kerbside recycling will be delivered to other UK sorting facilities.

Residents will continue to be able to place a wide range of materials in a household recycling bin: paper, card and books, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, steel and aluminium cans, empty aerosols and clean aluminium foil. You can no longer recycle food and drink cartons (e.g. Tetra Pak) or metal pots, pans and trays, because there is no mechanical way to separate cartons from the other recycled material at the MRF and it is no longer cost effective to

selectively sort by hand. Pots, pans and trays can cause blockages at the MRF, causing further problems. Please use the eleven Suffolk Recycling Centres for these items.

The Markets that take household recycling for further use are demanding better and better quality, so please make sure that your recycling is clean, dry and loose and only put in the items listed as acceptable. Contamination levels are around 12% which costs us all and can spoil good recycling.

Explore [www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk](http://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk), especially My Bins and Recycling Centres for more information, or if in Essex see [www.lovesessex.org](http://www.lovesessex.org).

**Caroline Fish, Suffolk Waste Partnership**



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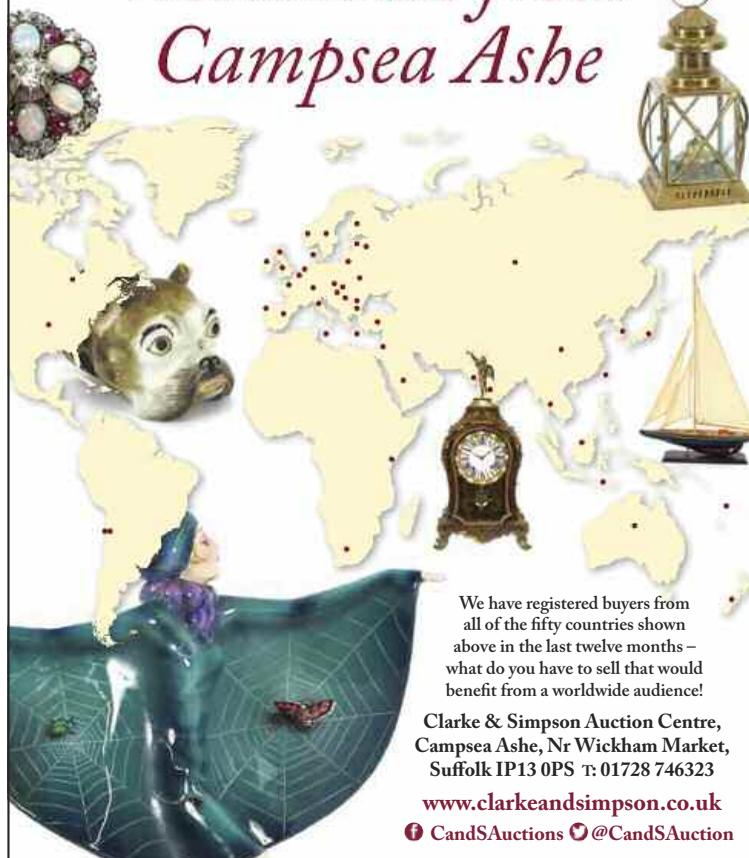
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## Wheels Go Round at Minsmere

Approaching East Hide at RSPB Minsmere was a challenge. One of our group was severely disabled and reliant upon a mobility scooter. Currently access is along the beach, then up and over steps. It was un navigable. We raised the issue with the RSPB and they agreed that sadly East Hide was not easily accessible to all, but a lack of funds prevented the improvement. They were however very supportive when we suggested that Waveney Bird Club (WBC) would like to raise the funds to have an all access path built, and the "Access for all Path Project" was born.

WBC members made donations, continually raise funds and, with the help of monies from AONB grants (AAF, GWFF and SDF), we were able to complete phases 1 & 2, including land surveys, designs and drawings. The project took a sizeable step recently when it received a large legacy from an RSPB Life Fellow in loving memory of his sister. Phase 3 is next, and WBC has with RSPB applied to a further grant provider for the remaining funds needed to complete the construction. If successful, our aim would be to begin building in Sept 2020.

We have received tremendous support from AONB grant providers and how fitting it is that we'll hopefully commence our build in the same year that they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Kathy Piotrowski, Waveney Bird Club



## Fun For All Families

The Shotley Peninsula, between the Orwell and Stour rivers, attracts year-round visitors. The tourism group – members include volunteer groups, local businesses, district & county council officers and local agencies – is keen to highlight attractions for visitors and residents and to recommend the splendid natural attributes of the Peninsula.



Local mum Alex Rawlings and her daughter Eve looking at the Fun For All map before doing some of the suggested activities

During 2019 the Shotley Open Spaces team, working with the tourism group, produced a Fun for All, family activities leaflet, specially written to stimulate children between the ages of 4 to 12 years, and supported by grant funding from Babergh and Suffolk County Councils, the AONB SDF and local fundraising efforts. The leaflet provides inspiration on what families can do, often for free, and features two circular walks in Shotley Village and details of village adventure play areas, as well as information on helping protect and preserve our valuable natural spaces. Copies of the leaflet can be found across the AONB or download a copy from [www.shotleyopenspaces.co.uk](http://www.shotleyopenspaces.co.uk).

Gary Richens, Shotley Open Spaces

## Which Way is the Sea?

The River Deben is tidal, sometimes mostly mud and sometimes full of water. Most people know about tides on beaches, but have you thought about the impact tides have in rivers, sometimes miles away from the sea? The large volume of salt water that comes in and out of the river on the tide every twelve or so hours is much more important in shaping the Deben landscape than the much smaller flow of water down the river to the sea.



The Deben near Kyson point, taken at low tide during the spring tides in July 2019.

© Tim Curtis, Video East

"Going with the flow – tides and the Deben Estuary", explores these questions in an ambitious project, see [www.woodbridgeriversidetrust.org/event](http://www.woodbridgeriversidetrust.org/event). We worked with nine local organisations and had funding support from the AONB SDF, DanceEast, the Arts Society Woodbridge, the Institute of Physics, Draindoctor and Suffolk Cottage Holidays.

available to schools and other organisations after the end of October, covering astronomy to tidal energy, nautical terms to birds on mudflats, tidal surges to saltmarshes. Email [woodbridgeriversidetrust@gmail.com](mailto:woodbridgeriversidetrust@gmail.com).

Andrea Leech, Woodbridge Riverside Trust

## GreenSnape News

GreenSnape Community Group was formed two years ago, and we were delighted in August to have reached a whopping 100 members from our small village! We were honoured in July 2019 to receive the Greenest Community Award at the Creating the Greenest County Awards at Snape Maltings, acknowledging the efforts of our enthusiastic volunteers.

Two projects that would not have been possible without the help of grants from the AONB have been our renovation of Snape village green and the installation of 30 swift boxes. We've also improved an unsightly spoil heap on the playing field by planting 1,000 *rosa rugosa* and are supporting Suffolk Wildlife Trust work parties on Snape Marshes.

Derek Walduck, GreenSnape

## Trimley Marshes Breeding Wader Successes

Trimley Marshes have had one of the most successful breeding wader results for several years. 23 pairs of Lapwings produced 19 fledged juveniles, 13 pairs of Redshanks have successfully fledged at least 12 juveniles, and 11 pairs of Avocets nested in 2019, with an excellent 17 juveniles making it to the flying stage.

With continued significant national declines in breeding Lapwing and Redshank in particular, having any successes at all can be a real challenge to achieve, so I'm grateful for the reasonable weather this season, and to the reserve volunteers for their extra vigilance. The continued combination of managing protective predator fences, finely tuning water levels around the site at critical times, getting a good grassland structure through grazing and mowing, and no doubt having a bit of luck thrown in too, has helped these three conservation priority target wader species produce excellent fledging numbers.



Redshank on hide screen at Trimley Marsh

Trimley Marshes is one of several reserves on the Suffolk coast which are part of the Suffolk Wader Strategy (SWS), formed in 2015. Suffolk has nationally important numbers of breeding lapwing, redshank and avocet, and the SWS consists of a core group of organisations who have come together to arrest and reverse the decline in these wader populations in Suffolk, see [www.suffolkwad.org](http://www.suffolkwad.org).

Andrew Excell, Suffolk Wildlife Trust



In other news, this is the fourth successful breeding year for marsh harriers on site, and a booming male bittern has been an unexpected bonus and demonstrates the suitability of reedbeds onsite for potential breeding attempts in future years. Details and regular sighting reports are found on our Facebook page: [TrimleyMarshesSWT](https://www.facebook.com/TrimleyMarshesSWT).

## A Trio of Rare Moths and a Successful Breeding Season



When RSPB Minsmere's moth experts opened the moth trap on 29 July, Minsmere became the first site in the UK to record all three British species of crimson underwing moths. In fact, the dark crimson underwing *Catocala sponsa* that they found was probably the first one ever recorded on any RSPB nature reserve.

Fifteen years earlier, on 14 September 2004, Minsmere hosted the first UK record of *Catocala conjuncta*, which was subsequently given the English name of Minsmere crimson underwing – the only animal named after an RSPB nature reserve. The third species, light crimson underwing *Catocala promissa*, was caught at Minsmere on 22 July 2017. All three are scarce migrants in Suffolk.

In addition, there have also been several records of two other *Catocala* species at Minsmere, the Clifden nonpareil *Catocala fraxini* and red underwing *Catocala nupta*.

The dark crimson underwing is the sixth new moth for the reserve in 2019 and brings Minsmere's moth list to an impressive 1122.

It's been the most successful season for breeding terns at Minsmere for more than 40 years. Ten pairs of little terns nested on the Scrape for the first time, fledging seven chicks, while numbers of nesting Sandwich and common terns were the highest since the 1970s. Even more unusually, three pairs of kittiwakes built nests on the Scrape, behaviour that is almost unknown for these cliff-nesting gulls. Sadly, they were not successful this year.

Ian Barthorpe, RSPB Minsmere

## Cobbles and Coprolites

Have you ever wondered about the origin of the large pebbles (cobbles) underlying the heathlands and exposed in the cliffs in the Dunwich area? GeoSuffolk, with a contribution from Suffolk Naturalists' Society, has created an explanatory panel about this 1.5 - 2 million-year-old marine deposit which has a long history of research by geologists, starting with Sir Joseph Prestwich of Oxford University in 1871. Prestwich named these gravels the 'Westleton sands and shingle' and so we chose Westleton Common as the location for the new panel. The distinctive Westleton 'cobbles' are almost entirely flint - grey with a brown interior and well-rounded with 'chattermarks' (small curved fractures) on their surface.



Further south in the AONB an older deposit, the Red Crag, contains phosphate nodules sometimes called coprolites. The study of these also has Victorian origins – they were discovered in the Felixstowe cliffs by John Stevens Henslow of Cambridge University while he was holidaying there in 1843. An initial thought was that they were coprolites (fossil animal poo – possibly some are!) and so the name stuck. At any rate, Henslow found that they were rich in phosphate and this led to the coprolite workings in the area around the Deben estuary and the start of Packards and later Fisons fertiliser industry in Ipswich. Find out more in GeoSuffolk's new leaflet 'Suffolk's Crag Coprolites' which is available free, with thanks to the Ipswich Institute and the Ipswich Society, at Ipswich Museum and other outlets in Ipswich, Woodbridge and Felixstowe.

They can both be viewed on our website [www.geosuffolk.co.uk](http://www.geosuffolk.co.uk).

Caroline Markham, GeoSuffolk

## The Life of an Oystercatcher

Oystercatchers are wading birds found along coasts around the world. This unique species can be identified by its black and white plumage and its long orange bill, used to feed on intertidal prey such as shellfish and worms. The Eurasian Oystercatcher exclusively lives in Europe, Asia and North Africa and along the Suffolk coast, migrating south during winter. They have a wide variety of coastal habitats including salt marshes, coastal sand and shingle beaches as well as river estuaries.



The Oystercatchers diet differs depending on its habitat. In rocky coastal regions they feed on molluscs and crustaceans, whereas in river estuaries and reservoirs, they feed on worms and other invertebrates. With the heaviest bill of all the wading birds, oystercatchers can successfully prey on mussels and other shellfish. Despite its name, oysters are not usually part of their diet.

They have many features which allow them to survive up to 35 years in the wild. The bright orange bill is the Oystercatchers most recognisable feature. Strengthened with a bony core, its hard bill can break shellfish. It's also used to defend its territory and fend off any predators. Body length varies between 16-18 inches and wingspan around 32-34 inches, with females being slightly larger than the males. The Eurasian Oystercatcher has a black and white plumage with a bold white wing patch. The best time to see the chicks is during the breeding season between April and July. To view the full photo story, please visit: [felixalred.com/photo-stories](http://felixalred.com/photo-stories).

Felix Alred, freelance writer

# Community Heritage in the AONB

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## 70 Years of Dragonflys on the Deben

2019 marks 70 years since twenty Suffolk sailors drew lots to own one of the first Dragonfly racing dinghies. Based on the IDRA14 boat from Ireland it was the first one-design class at Waldringfield Sailing Club. Committing to spending one and a half times the average annual wage in 1949 these local sailors were intent on owning a piece of Suffolk history.



Just forty-five fourteen-foot, clinker-built wooden Dragonflys were built through the 1940s and 50s for the Deben, and the first four took to the water on 11 June 1949, completed by local boat builders Nunn Bros and Robertsons. However wooden boats require hard work to maintain seaworthiness and gradually boats began to disappear, decaying beyond repair, and numbers on moorings dropped to a handful. Today, through their love for the Dragonfly and determination for this piece of Suffolk history to live on, many current club members have spent hours in workshops restoring boats and the first new Dragonfly for 65 years was built by the grandson of the original owner of No. 18.

The 70th Anniversary was marked with racing and celebrations in September and it was wonderful to see all fourteen remaining Dragonflys joined by three IDRA14 boats on the water for some hard racing and friendly rivalry between the British and Irish sailors. With one restoration completed just before the anniversary and fund raising on-going to restore another, the class are working hard to have even more Dragonflys on the water for the 80th Anniversary. You are invited to support the restorations at [www.gofundme.com/dragonfly-sailing-boat-restoration](http://www.gofundme.com/dragonfly-sailing-boat-restoration).

David Rowland, Dragonfly No 42

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## Dream to Reality

Since the Thorpeness and Aldringham Heritage Group (TAHG) was formed 5 years ago it had dreamed of building a visitor centre. The villages of Thorpeness and Aldringham have a long history and we wanted to capture some of its past and display it for all to see. We needed our own display space and a place where we could meet and talk with people, share memories and hopefully show some of them not only pictorially but audibly as well.

The 'Heritage Hut', as we refer to it, is now nearly completed and is situated on a piece of land between the car park and the beach in Thorpeness, adjacent to some of the original fisherman's huts. From spring 2020 we hope you will all come and visit us and enjoy learning about this special place.

Our grateful thanks go to our local parish and district councils who enabled us to lease this small piece of scrubland. Along with all the fundraising from within our membership we have also been busy applying for grants and were awarded £1,000 by our County Councillor Russ Rainger for fitting out the interior of the hut.

More members are welcome, email us [info@tahg.org.uk](mailto:info@tahg.org.uk).

Sue Atkinson, Thorpeness and Aldringham Heritage Group



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## 2020 Vision for Creative Arts in the Landscape



The two river valleys, Waveney and Blyth, flow through and to the north of the AONB. Subtle landscapes they may be but they provide a corridor for nature and culture, where Waveney & Blyth Arts has been organising exciting arts projects such as the Doggerland celebration, Famous Five Birds, and our annual creative walks, including sketchbook walks at Walberswick and our Blyth Valley Trail exploration. In 2020 we celebrate ten years of our voluntary run programme, building connections between people and places.

The natural world and local landscapes are an important focus for us and in 2019, continuing into 2020, we launched Bugs & Blossoms, an initiative across all the creative arts, celebrating the wild flowers and insects that are part of our lives. We want the arts to draw attention to the plight of these species and to encourage people to be inspired by them and to take action, however small and local, to conserve them.

We will be celebrating our achievements and looking forward to Bugs & Blossoms 2020 with the help of Richard Mabey, at our AGM in November. With his new book, *Turning the Boat for Home*, Richard reflects on a life writing about nature and our place within it. He believes a sense of "neighbourliness" may be the best model for our relationship with the rest of the living world. The creative arts have a role to play in building that relationship, and you can find out more at [www.waveneyandblytharts.com](http://www.waveneyandblytharts.com).

Melinda Appleby, Bugs & Blossoms Coordinator

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## Island of Secrets

2020 is going to be a special year for National Trust Orford Ness. Not only does it mark the 125th anniversary of the National Trust being formed, on a more local level we will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of Orford Ness being open to the public.

A lot has changed over those 25 years, but the site remains a unique property in the National Trust portfolio, a mixture of an internationally important National Nature Reserve with an extensive background as a former top-secret military test site.

In 2019 we opened a brand-new exhibition Island of Secrets on Orford Ness looking at the top-secret work carried out here.



As we close our visitor operation down for the winter at the end of October, we move our flock of rare breed sheep off the Ness to their winter grazing, to be replaced by migrant birds dropping into the Ness on their way to warmer climates. Our exposed coastal location means that there is always

maintenance to do, and the buildings, machinery and vehicles all need preparing for the winter. Before we know it, it will be Friday 12 April 2020 and time to open the doors to the Ness again for our 25th anniversary season!

**Glen Pearce, Orford Ness National Nature Reserve**

## Southwold Railway Trust



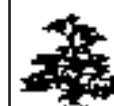
2019 marks the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Southwold Railway Trust, originally the Southwold Railway Society. The charity has 500 members with enthusiasts locally, across the country and

some abroad. The Trust exists to commemorate, and hopefully rebuild, the Southwold Railway, an unusual narrow gauge branch line which plied between mainline Halesworth and Southwold nine miles to the east, calling at the villages of Wenhaston, Blythburgh and Walberswick on the way.

The Trust, aided financially by its members and other well-wishers, has acquired two sites. The land at Wenhaston, by Blyford Lane, has a quarter mile of actual trackbed and another quarter mile close to the old line. There is also a one acre site in Blyth Road, Southwold where 80 yards of track will run alongside the line of the old track as it approached the town. Here the Trust has built a Station and Engine Shed, with workshops, cafe, toilets and archive as part of a complex called *Steamworks*, a visitor attraction containing the *Blyth Valley Light Railway*, a miniature, 7 1/4 inch gauge passenger-bearing steam railway running through a new nature reserve and designed to produce revenue for furthering the projects.

To find out about exhibits and opening times, and to join the Trust see [www.southwoldrailway.co.uk](http://www.southwoldrailway.co.uk).

**Dominic Knight, Southwold Railway Trust**



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## Exploring the Suffolk Coast, Heaths, Estuaries and Forests



A 'family' of guides are produced by the AONB team to encourage people to explore the Suffolk coast, estuaries, forests and heaths! The area is fantastic at all times of year, and experiencing the changing seasons and discovering the different outstanding landscapes and villages are more than enough reason to return again and again...

Using the historic Foot Ferries across the estuaries adds a different perspective to your explorations, and they take people, cycles and dogs!

There are many Walk Explorer guides free to download from the AONB website, from Kessingland down to Wrabness. Or buy the Cicerone guide to the Suffolk Coast Path, the Stour and Orwell Walk and the Sandlings Walk for £12.95 (plus P&P) from the AONB, for a longer challenge.

If cycling is your preferred outdoor experience, then we also have five Cycling Explorer Guides, also free to download. They range in distance from about 7 to 24 miles, with some short cuts for a more leisurely ride, or to take you on a longer ride of discovery there is the Suffolk Coast Cycle Route (£2.50 plus P&P).

## Free the Trees!

Tree guards, plastic tubes, and mulch mats can be invaluable in helping to get plants established, but once they've done their job all too often they end up as plastic litter, often splitting off as unsightly fragments. The AONBs believe it is time to remove and collect these redundant items from our landscape, returning it to its best.



Do you own a piece of land with old tree guards which need removing? Are you involved with community-owned land that could benefit from the clearing of these plastics? We would love to hear from you to discuss if your land is suitable for this or other conservation projects.

## Contacting the Team

Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, Dock Lane, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1PE

Telephone: 01394 445225

Email: [schaonb@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:schaonb@suffolk.gov.uk)

Website: [www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org](http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org)

Twitter: @SuffolkAONB

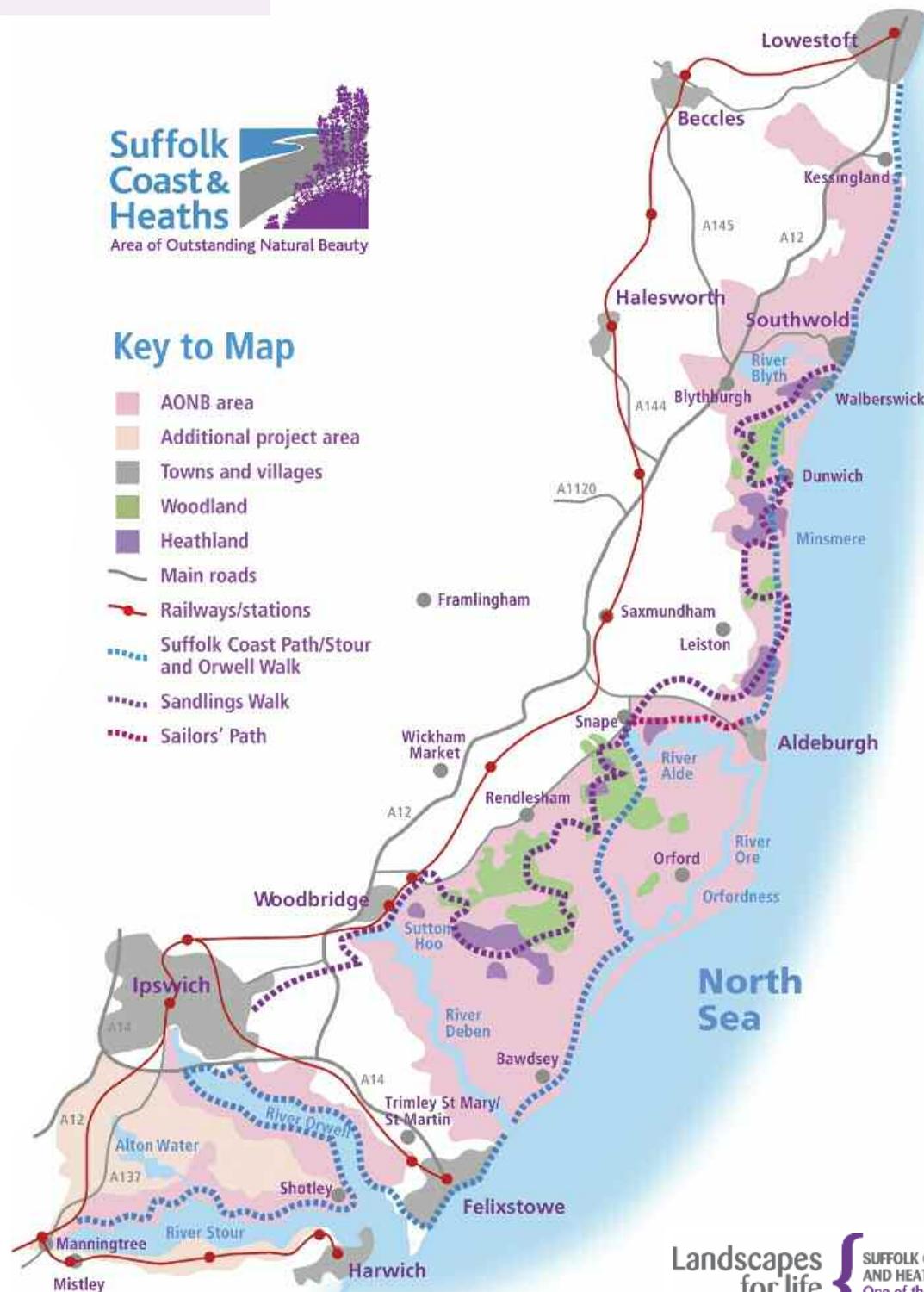
### The AONB Team:

Simon Amstutz - AONB Manager  
 Alex Hewitt - Stour Valley Path 25th Anniversary Officer (temporary)  
 Alex Moore da Luz - River Stour Project Officer  
 Beverley McClean - Planning Officer  
 Cathy Smith - Communications, Funding and Development Officer  
 Claire Cadman - Projects Officer  
 Deborah Sage - AONB Officer  
 Eleanor Redgrave - Green Action Project Officer (temporary)  
 Emma Black - Countryside Project Officer Dedham Vale  
 Jacqueline French - 50th Anniversary Project Officer (temporary)  
 Katherine Davies - Stour Valley Visitor Development Officer  
 Lucy Oldham - Partnership Officer  
 Lynn Allen - Countryside Project Officer Suffolk Coast & Heaths  
 Neil Lister - Countryside Project Officer Dedham Vale/Suffolk Coast & Heaths  
 Nick Dickson - AONB Officer (temporary)  
 Oka Last - Stour Valley Visitor Development Officer  
 Paula Booth - AONB Officer  
 Pete Cosgrove - Marine Pioneer Manager  
 Stephen Winsor - River Stour Project Voluntary Officer



### Key to Map

- AONB area
- Additional project area
- Towns and villages
- Woodland
- Heathland
- Main roads
- Railways/stations
- Suffolk Coast Path/Stour and Orwell Walk
- Sandlings Walk
- Sailors' Path



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