

Coast and Estuaries



In Suffolk there are five rivers that enter the North Sea as estuaries; the Blyth, Alde-Ore, Deben, Orwell and Stour.

The Suffolk coast and estuaries are very important worldwide because many birds fly thousands of miles to visit them to raise their chicks in the summer time. Others come here to feed in winter when it is warmer here than in the colder countries where they live in summer. See the Estuaries fact sheet for more information.



The Alde & Ore estuary

Things to do:

Where do birds migrate?
Use the internet to research where birds fly from to reach the UK when migrating.

How do we look after the landscape?



Volunteers doing scrub clearance at Sutton Heath

Lots of people help care for the area. Our Coast and Estuary Wardens look after our coast and five estuaries by reporting problems and helping us to solve them. We also have volunteers who look after our heaths and woodlands by clearing unwanted plants and putting up footpath signs.

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Photographs by Mike Page, Countryside Agency, Tony Pick, Natural England and Forestry Commission.

Cartoon: Landscape Man © Simon Reid



Landscape



"Hi, I'm Landscape Man and I'm here to tell you all about the beautiful landscapes of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and how you can help to look after them!"

The Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a very special place because of its landscape. Landscape is what you see in front of you and all around you. It's normally a mixture of nature and what man has made.

Landscapes can be seen in paintings in art galleries.

Landscapes can include farmed land, woodlands, beaches, rivers and buildings.



Snape Warren

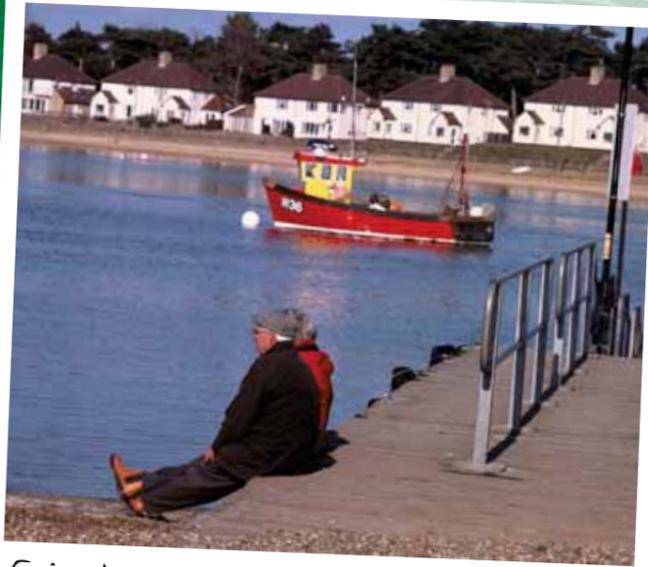


Seascape of Orford Ness Lighthouse

Out and about:

Make a model
Go out and collect items like leaves, sticks, boxes or shells and as a class you could make a landscape model "Our landscape".

People and landscape



Enjoying a day at Felixstowe Ferry

36,000 people live in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Many of them work in farming and tourism. Lots of people come here for holidays and to visit Aldeburgh and Southwold as they are by the seaside and because of the wonderful landscapes. Other popular small towns that people visit are Orford, Dunwich, Bawdsey, Felixstowe Ferry and Walberswick – famous for crabbing!

Restoring landscapes

There are only 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the UK so we need to make sure they are kept special.

To do this we are working on projects to put electric cables under the ground where wires and poles spoil beautiful views. Look at these photos of Blythburgh before and after we put the cables under ground.



After wires have been put underground



Wires at Blythburgh before works

Out and about:

Walking in the AONB

There are 3 lovely long walks and many short ones you can do in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB. Visit our website for information www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org, why not let us know how you get on?

Heaths

Suffolk's countryside contains some of England's few remaining areas of ancient heathland, known as the Sandlings because of the sandy soil. Heathland is found on poor quality soil where man has cut down trees so animals can graze. This first happened thousands of years ago. Heaths are home to rare bird species, such as a Nightjar and Woodlark, and also rare butterflies such as Silver-studded Blue.



Dunwich Heath



Nightjar - basking in the sun

Ancient heathland

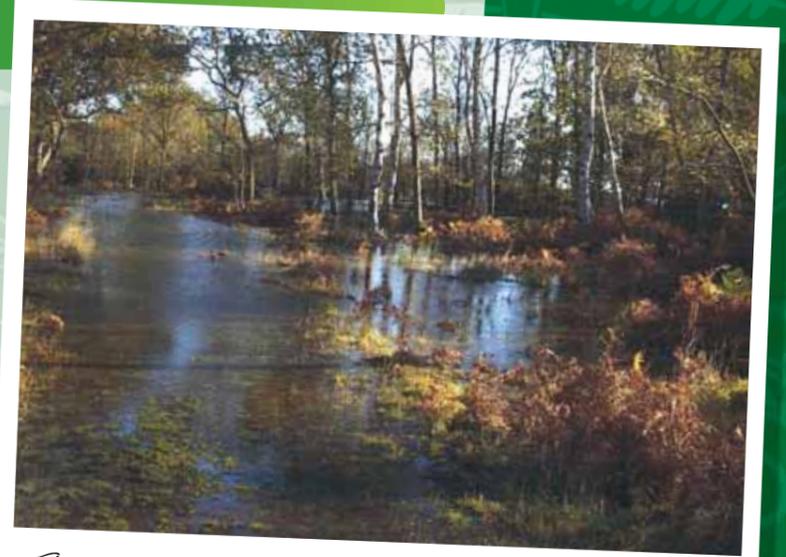
Out and about:

Explore the forest

If you go to Rendlesham Forest see if you can find the Giant Nightjar!

Forests

There are also three large forests in the AONB; Rendlesham, Tunstall and Dunwich and many smaller woodlands. Rendlesham has an activity centre and many walks. The Phoenix Trail was named to commemorate the great storm of 1987 where thousands of trees fell in the storm and new ones have now been replanted.



Flooded Dunwich Forest

“Do you think the landscape looks better with or without the electric cables why not have a class vote?”

