

2018 - 2023

Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan

Addendum October 2020

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Background:

Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires local authorities with at least part of their area designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to produce a Management Plan and review that plan every five years.

The Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB was extended by a Designation Variation Order signed by the authority of the Secretary of State on 7th July 2020 to add an area of approximately 38 square kilometres in Essex and Suffolk to the existing Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB.

This addendum is provided to ensure the extension area added in 2020 is included within the aspirations of the existing Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Management Plan 2018-2023.

This addendum should be read in conjunction with the existing Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Management Plan 2018-23. Future reviews of the plan will include the recent additional AONB area.

Much of the extended Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB brings an area of Essex, in the Tendring district, into this nationally designated area. For the avoidance of confusion for visitors and residents alike, the AONB is referred to in this document as the Coast & Heaths AONB. However, where legal or quasi legal comment is required, such as commenting on planning applications, the name as used in the Designation Order; Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, will be retained.



The additional area:

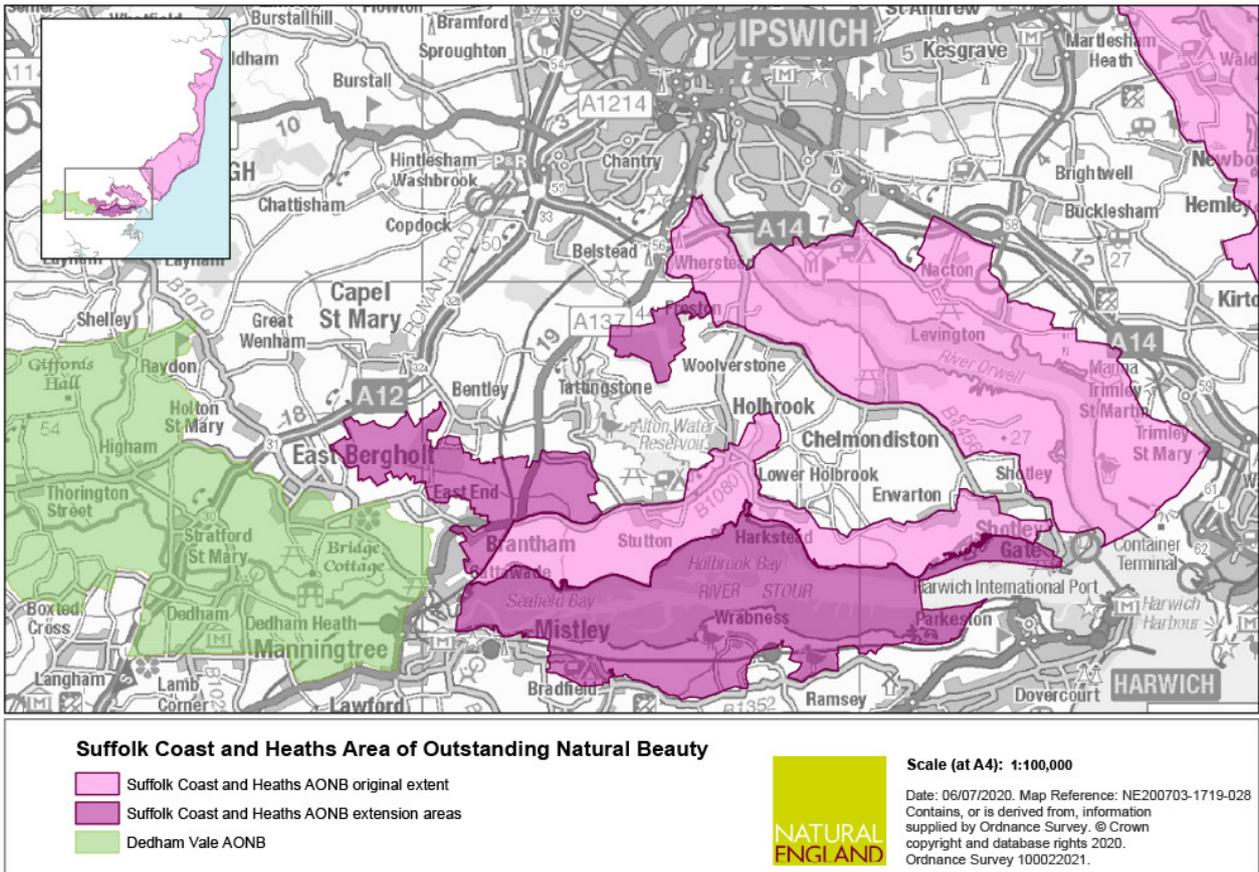
The recently designated area includes the wildlife-rich tidal expanse of the Stour estuary, the southern shore of the Stour estuary and two beautiful river valleys, the Samford Valley and Freston Brook.

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with the authority of the Secretary of State, indicated that the statutory requirements for the designation of an AONB had been met for the area as shown in the map on the next page and described as:

- The majority of the Stour Estuary, estuary valley slopes at Brantham and from east of Mistley to Parkeston Quay (in Tendring and Babergh Districts).
- The tributary valley land extending inland from the existing Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB boundary westwards along Freston Brook (in Babergh District).
- The Samford Valley from the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB boundary at Stutton Bridge, running north, then largely west towards the A12, (in Babergh District).



A map of the additional AONB is provided below:



It is worth noting that the assessment undertaken by Natural England has demonstrated that the extended area meets AONB criteria in terms of the boundary justification, desirability for designation and natural beauty.

The AONB team continues to operate within a defined Project Area outside of the AONB boundary.

This Project Area includes much of the inland landscape of the Shotley peninsula.

The map on the next page represents the full extent of the AONB and Project Area. Detailed maps showing the AONB boundary can be found on our website at

www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/managing.



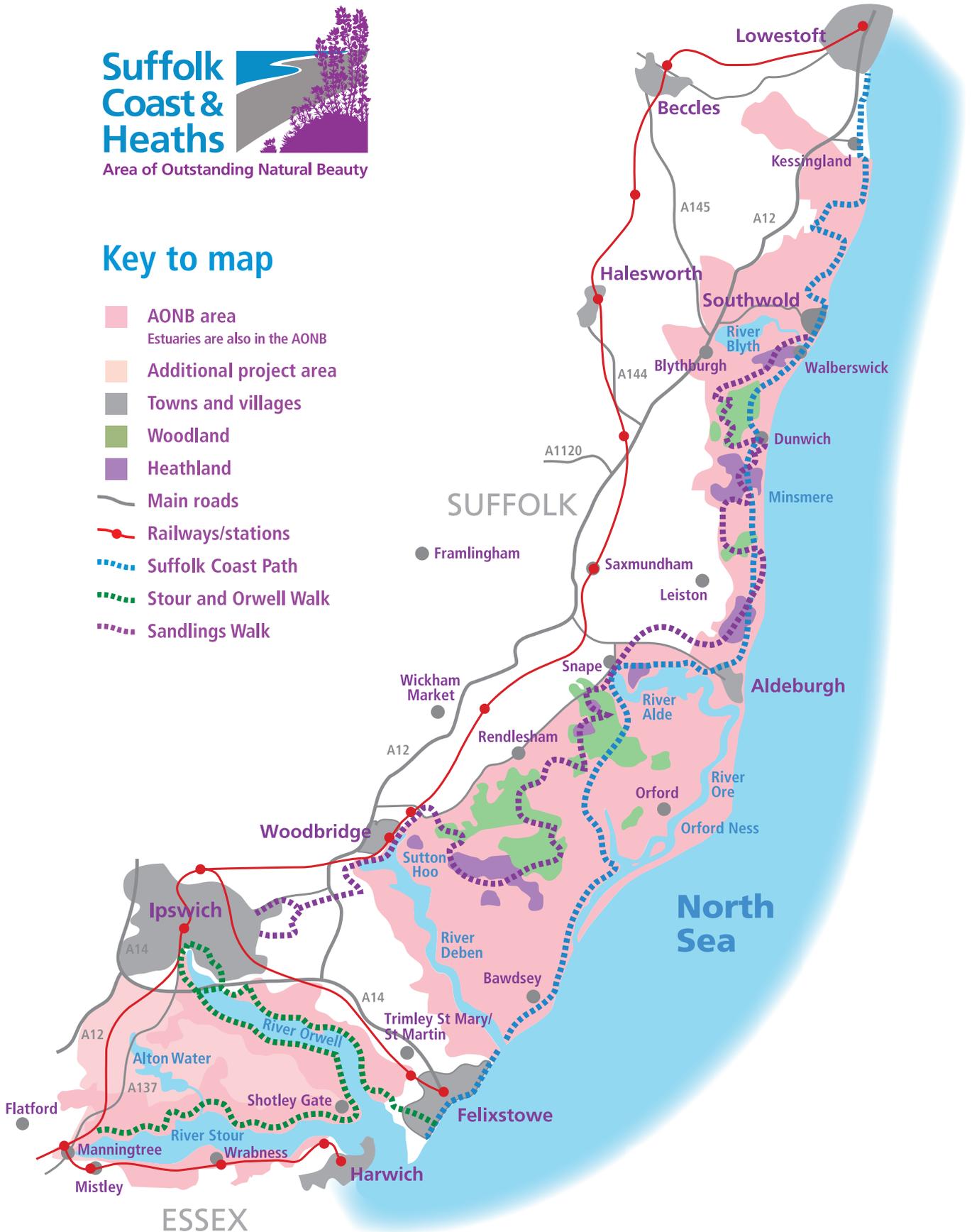
Suffolk Coast & Heaths



Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Key to map

- AONB area
Estuaries are also in the AONB
- Additional project area
- Towns and villages
- Woodland
- Heathland
- Main roads
- Railways/stations
- Suffolk Coast Path
- Stour and Orwell Walk
- Sandlings Walk



Purpose of the AONB designation:

The purposes of the AONB designation are set out in the current Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Management Plan 2018-23. Statutory bodies and statutory undertakers are now required to pay regard to the purpose of the nationally designated landscape in their day-to-day decision making in the extended AONB area. The primary purpose, as described by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Natural beauty is defined using six characteristics:

- Landscape quality
- Scenic quality
- Relative wildness
- Relative tranquillity
- Natural heritage features
- Cultural heritage

In pursuing the primary purpose of the designation, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, and other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.

Recreation is not an objective of the designation, but the demand for recreation should be met insofar as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

Responsibilities for the AONB:

The Order to designate an additional area as AONB within Essex County Council and Tendring District Council jurisdiction means those authorities have now become AONB authorities alongside Babergh District Council, which already held part of the originally designated AONB within its boundaries. They are required to consider the purposes of the AONB in their decision making. This is a requirement of all public bodies.

In addition to public bodies, those organisations defined as statutory undertakers, bodies that have responsibilities in relation to public good (such as some of those in the communication, transport, and energy sectors) have the same requirement to consider the purposes of the AONB when making decisions.

The AONB team, funded by The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and local authorities, undertake activity to deliver the purposes of the AONB. In due course, data which is available for the originally designated part of the AONB will be extended to include the additional area.

This data covers several environmental and economic factors relevant to the management of the AONB. The AONB team will also deliver a series of projects in the first year of designation to ensure that information about the existence and purpose of the designation is widely available.

Management Plan objectives:

The existing Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Management Plan 2018-2023 includes several Management Plan objectives that cover the following topics:

- Landscape
- Coast and estuaries
- Land use and wildlife
- Enjoying the area
- Working together

These Management Plan objectives will also apply to the newly designated area. The one exception is objective Enjoying the Area 2 (EtA2) that is replaced by:

EtA2 (i) Tourism planning in the AONB recognises the purposes of the nationally designated landscape.

Potential changes for the newly designated area:

- Conserved and enhanced natural beauty
- Access to AONB grants
- Branding potential for tourism and visitor businesses
- Awareness of designation in new Environmental Land Management scheme
- Development reaching higher standard
- Facilitated countryside management
- Access to volunteer teams
- Presumption against inappropriate major development

Endorsement of this addendum: This addendum has been endorsed by the existing Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB local authority partners, new Coast & Heaths AONB local authorities and existing members of the AONB Partnership.





To find out more about the Coast & Heaths AONB and detailed maps and information about the new extension area, visit www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/managing.
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