

1. AONB Partnership submits Relevant Representations on Sizewell C proposals

The AONB Partnership has submitted its Relevant Representations to the Planning Inspectorate. The submission concludes that it cannot support the proposals due to the significant negative impact on the purposes of the AONB designation, to conserve and enhance of natural beauty.

The AONB Partnership concur with the National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation (EN-6), Annex II, para C.8.73 that states: *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.* The full AONB Partnership relevant representations can be downloaded from:

<https://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Suffolk-Coast-and-Heaths-AONB-Partnership-Rel-Reps-SZC.pdf>

2. National AONB network bid to Green Recovery Fund

The two local AONBs are part of a national £4M bid to the Green Recovery Fund being run by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The bid is for the AONBs' work on nature recovery. In addition, several charities and other organisations have submitted bids that if funded would benefit the AONB's natural environment.

3. Redshank and Hazel Dormouse voted as AONB Iconic Species

As part of the AONB work to address wildlife decline there is a national programme of developing AONB Nature Recovery Plans, following proposals in the Government's review of AONBs. Following discussion, debate and voting the Coast & Heaths AONB have adopted the Redshank and the Dedham Vale have adopted the Hazel Dormouse as flagship species.

4. Grant bids and funding update

- £353,717 of funding for the removal of 2.7km of low voltage overhead power cables in the Brett Valley has received confirmation via a stage 2 pass. Final consents will now be sought before work begins.
- £2,500 has been bid for the removal of Non-Native invasive Himalayan Balsam in the Stour Valley from the Northumbrian Water Branch Out Fund.
- The organisers of the Stour Valley Path 100 have made a donation of £250 to the Stour Valley Environment Fund following their recent event.
- Cllr Peter Stevens has offered £500 for work to improve the accessibility of the Stour Valley Path.

5. Online talks on a nationally significant Anglo-Saxon Royal Settlement

A series of 10 talks on Rendlesham of different themes from money and metal working to landscapes and place names. See <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/rendlesham-behind-the-scenes>

6. AONB Prospectus for Government's Spending Review

The national AONB network has delivered a prospectus to Government outlining costed proposals for work to deliver the Glover Review, (a Government commissioned review of National Parks and AONBs). It includes proposals on nature recovery, conserving landscapes, connecting people and nature, strengthening economic recovery. Copy available, contact details below.

7. For your Information...

- The AONB team supported 18 groups during a restricted Great British Beach Clean, events were in line with Covid guidance. Adnams donated a bottle of its new beer, Kobold, to each volunteer aged 18+.
- National Grid Ventures have announced that alongside their existing proposal for the Nautilus interconnector that are looking to investigate a Multi Purpose Interconnector known as EuroLink.
- Government has announced its desire to increase the amount of 'protected land' in the UK from 26% to 30%. See BBC report at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54320030>
- East Suffolk Council has published its Local Plan that includes policy on AONB and tourism.
- Natural England have launched its Nature Recovery Network Delivery Partnership.
- The AONB and SCC have commissioned a seascape sensitivity study see <https://www.whiteconsultants.co.uk/suffolk-seascape-sensitivity/>
- Sam Fairbrother joins staff team as new AONB Comms Officer.
- The Crown estate has concluded its offshore wind farm extension leasing process. Rights have been awarded to extend arrays off the Suffolk coast including Galloper and Greater Gabbard.

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