

# January 2012

## Monthly update



1. Welcome to the first monthly update of 2012. It's been a busy start to the year.
2. We have held two volunteer work parties involving 27 of our volunteers, working with the RSPB at the Haven, Thorpeness. We also held a Beachwatch event at Bawdsey, involving over 20 people. Some great work to start the year off. Anyone who would like AONB volunteers to help with work, please contact [nick.marsh@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:nick.marsh@suffolk.gov.uk)
3. We welcome Bill Jenman, the new Development Manager for our HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme "Touching the Tide". Bill has settled in extremely quickly, has met many of his key stakeholders and has also put the project's Participation and Learning Plan contract out to tender. The project's Landscape Character work is progressing well with draft Landscape Character Areas already proposed. If anyone would like to know more about Touching the Tide please contact [bill.jenman@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:bill.jenman@suffolk.gov.uk)
4. The Explorer walking guide contract, as part of our EU BALANCE project, is also out to tender. Ongoing interpretation board and tourism strategy contracts are now well underway. If you'd like to know proposed locations for AONB interpretation boards and Explorer walking guides please contact [neil.lister@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:neil.lister@suffolk.gov.uk)
5. The [Norfolk & Suffolk LEP](#) (Local Enterprise Partnership) has been granted pathfinder status for the green economy by central Government. As part of this process case studies are being collated which show how the natural environment is a vital component of a green economy. The [AONB/Adnams pub walks](#) have been submitted as one of the case studies.
6. The new Amenity and Accessibility Fund will be launched on 30<sup>th</sup> January. This new fund, which will be administered by the AONB, is a result of a section 106 planning agreement between EDF Energy, Suffolk County and Suffolk Coastal District Councils. The fund is mitigation for the impact a new Dry Fuel Store at Sizewell B may have on the AONB. For more information [follow this link](#)
7. We have now received a preview copy of the Cicerone walking guide for our three long distance walks. This will retail at £12.95 and we [are taking pre-orders](#) for this beautifully presented, pocket-sized book.
8. We have been briefed by Natural England that they are now inviting formal quotations from consultants to undertake the desk work to assess our case for the AONB boundary extension into Tendring District in north Essex (Mistley-Parkeston). This is good progress and the assessment will be done by the end of March. Mention of AONB extensions has been made [on Hansard](#)
9. Lynn Allen, Countryside Officer at the AONB Unit and Beachwatch organiser for Suffolk was interviewed on Radio Suffolk as part of their 2012 campaign launch of "Don't Be a Tosser". You can hear the interview by [following this link](#) and scrolling forward to 2hrs 37mins into the show.
10. The AONB is pleased to be part of the new Suffolk Coast Forum that will take forward collective governance for Suffolk's coast. The Forum will include statutory agencies, local authorities, estuary and community representatives as well as the AONB. The intention is to collectively consider the wide range of issues associated principally with flood and coastal erosion risk management.
11. We have responded to the [Marine Management Organisation's](#) (MMO) recent consultation associated with the East Area Marine Plan. This Plan will be a strategic plan for the marine environment off Suffolk and much of eastern England. It is the country's first marine plan. Our comments focussed on the need for much more detailed consideration of seascape character and how developments offshore can have a considerable visual impact.
12. We are now well underway with our review of the 2008-2013 AONB Management Plan and preparation for its next iteration for 2013-2018. More on this as we continue progress through the year. There will be a public consultation from May-July, following an AONB Partnership workshop in March.

Nick Collinson,  
27<sup>th</sup> January 2012