



Natural & Historic Environment Monthly update



Natural & Historic Environment - changes

As many of you will be aware Nick Collinson left the County Council on 8th December for a role at the National Trust. We are very sad to see Nick leave as he has made a huge contribution to the Council and to Suffolk's natural environment. Nick has been a very strong advocate for the natural and historic environment inside the Council and amongst its partners. He has also been a very strong advocate for the work of the Council and in particular his teams in the wider world of Suffolk. Personally I will miss Nick's very positive contribution and I'd like to thank Nick and wish him all the very best for the future.

We will not be filling Nick's post in the short term. Instead we will be putting new arrangements in place on a temporary basis and will be reviewing after six months what permanent arrangements need to be made, therefore for the next six months;

- Archaeology will join with Environment Strategy to be managed by Matt Hullis
- Suffolk Biological Information Service will join with the Suffolk Record Office to be managed by Jai Raithatha
- Landscape and Ecology will move to the Planning Team to be managed by John Pitchford
- The AONB manager Simon Amstutz and the Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers manager, Nick Dickson will report to me.

Sue Roper
Assistant Director – Strategic Development

The Brecks – out with the old and in with the new

The Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership celebrated the end of the Heritage Lottery Funded Scheme in November with a successful conference at the Carnegie Rooms on Thetford. The event generated two double page articles in the EADT over successive weekends. Further details of the projects and scheme evaluation summary can be found at www.breakingnewground.org.uk



The new landscape partnership scheme 'The Brecks: Fen Edge and Rivers' LP will start its 18 month development phase in the new year, and everyone with an interest in landscape, biodiversity, heritage, communities and health in the Brecks is encouraged to take part in this process. Meetings, workshops and consultation events will begin to be organised in January. For more information contact Nick.Dickson@suffolk.gov.uk, and keep an eye on Breaking New Ground social media and this newsletter for details of the new scheme's web address and social media once they are set up.

Planning and Biodiversity

The construction Industry, Local Authorities NGO's and Natural England came together for the East Anglian Planning and Biodiversity Seminar 2017, on 24th November. The event was attended by 100 planners and ecological consultants. The agenda included; *Brexit and the future of the natural environment* and progress on *district level licencing of great crested newts* both from Natural England, and expert advice on Good Practice Principles for Biodiversity Net Gain (Balfour Beatty).



Our keynote speaker, Dusty Gedge, gave his presentation - *Nature-based solutions - green roofs and rain gardens* - with such energy and enthusiasm that everyone went away uplifted and inspired. Dusty demonstrated what could be achieved for biodiversity on the roofs and walls of developments, often for low expense.

Ipswich Borough Council, Natural England and Mid Suffolk and Babergh Councils described the excellent progress (and lessons learnt) on the ground-breaking Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS).

Practical advice for species level actions is always popular and was provided with enthusiasm and authority for farmland birds by the RSPB and for dormice by Suffolk Wildlife Trust. We are grateful to our excellent speakers and to East Suffolk Councils for hosting the event.

The seminar was organised by Suffolk Biodiversity Planning Group, Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service, Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership, ALGE and Place Services, Essex County Council.



AONBs



Marine Conservation Society's Great British Beach Clean 2017 results are in! In Suffolk there were 23 surveys 547 volunteers. This means Suffolk had nearly 8% of all volunteers and 7% of beaches nationally.

Nationally nearly 7,000 volunteer beach cleaners picked up 255, 209 individual pieces of litter from 339 beaches. That's a staggering 718 bits of rubbish for every 100 metres cleaned!

It's a huge number and sadly a 10% rise on the amount of litter picked up in 2016 [Read the report here](#). For information about beach cleans in Suffolk, which are organised by the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, contact lynn.allen@suffolk.gov.uk.



In an effort to combat the problem of waste plastic in the environment Suffolk County Council has asked if the County can be part of the pilot for the proposed deposit scheme for plastic bottles. More information about this story can be found here in the EADT; [suffolk-aims-to-be-pilot-for-plastic-bottle-deposit-scheme](#)

1. In 2017 the AONBs facilitated 1,975 volunteer days, equivalent to 10 members of staff. Volunteers have worked across a range of work areas including: Conservation; Walking route surveys; Beachwatch, Greeters; River Restoration; Footpath Work; Wardening; Rangering and as Work Placements. This is just the volunteers facilitated by the AONB team, it does not include huge numbers that volunteer for charities, community groups and those on corporate social responsibility work. The AONBs and associated Project Areas benefit hugely from this effort.
2. Suffolk Secrets and Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB is pleased to confirm that six grant awards have been made to projects in east Suffolk to carry out conservation and awareness projects to benefit the environment. Details of the Suffolk Secrets AONB Fund and the project beneficiaries can be seen on the AONB website: <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/grants-and-funding/suffolk-secrets-aonb-fund/>



The two AONBs will open up other grant programmes for applications in January, with deadlines of early March – details available in early January.

3. Follow the AONBs on Twitter. Suffolk Coast & Heaths [@SuffolkAONB](https://twitter.com/SuffolkAONB) and Dedham Vale [@DedhamValeSVP](https://twitter.com/DedhamValeSVP).

Historic Environment

We give a warm welcome to Matt Hullis as our new manager, as we say a sad farewell to Nick Collinson and wish him well in his new post at the National Trust.

New display at Endeavour House and December's - From the Vaults



A new display has gone into our case at Endeavour House, showcasing pottery from Long Melford Primary School, previously on loan to Long Melford Heritage Centre. The amazingly complete pots were recovered from a group of burials excavated at the site. In addition to the burials, the site produced evidence of a small-scale settlement where craft production and crop cultivation were taking place. The pots are types of Roman tableware, and date to the 1st-2nd Century BC. More can be read about the pottery, on this month's From the Vaults:

<https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/from-the-vaults-december-2017>

PAS Recent Finds

December's featured PAS recent find is an appropriate one for the Christmas period, a copper-alloy gilt figurine of the Virgin Mary, dating c. 1380-1500 and probably originating from a processional crucifix. It was found in the Diss area. More can be read about this object here:

<https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/pas-recent-finds-dec-17>

Follow the Archaeology team on Twitter. SCC Archaeology are at <https://twitter.com/SCCArchaeology> @SCCArchaeology.



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