

Natural & Historic Environment Monthly update

AONBs



1. Once again the 3rd weekend in September saw the [Great British Beach Clean](#). This is a national event organised by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) with events in Suffolk co-ordinated by the AONB team. At least 21 teams of volunteers, of which 8 were new teams, took part along the Suffolk coast and estuaries, involving over 600 people. Plastic remains a massive problem, comprising between 70-90% of all the litter found. The summary report will be published by MCS later this year. The weekend's events in Suffolk were featured in Saturday's EADT Environment supplement [here](#).
2. Once a year the AONB Family gathers together in celebration of our outstanding landscapes. We call it 'Outstanding Week' and it is just that. This year it took place from Saturday 16th to Sunday 24th September. The Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB ran events locally to celebrate the nationally designated landscapes. See <http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/events/outstanding-week/>
3. Going Underground: Our AONBs have received a stage 1 pass for Ofgem landscape enhancements projects to underground 11kV powerlines. Three approvals for projects to underground low voltage power cables in Shotley North, Shotley South, and Blythburgh, worth around £1.5m, have been agreed following submissions by the AONB team.
4. Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Boundary Review - Natural England's board have finally approved the technical assessment undertaken by Natural England staff and have therefore approved progress to public consultation on proposals to review the AONB boundary at the southern end of the AONB. We wait for information of when the consultation will take place.
5. Follow the AONBs on Twitter. Suffolk Coast & Heaths <https://twitter.com/SuffolkAONB> @SuffolkAONB and Dedham Vale <https://twitter.com/DedhamValeSVP> @DedhamValeSVP.



Natural Environment

6. Notes from Defra
 - a. Last year Defra committed to banning the manufacture and sale of cosmetics and personal care products containing microbeads which may harm the marine environment. We would like to thank the many of you who responded to our UK-wide public consultation on the topic earlier this year. We have used your responses to draft legislation for England and we plan to bring this ban into force at the end of 2017, with the **ban on manufacture beginning on 1st January 2018** and the **ban on sale beginning on 30th June 2018**. This has now been formally notified in the London Gazette (<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/all-notices/London/notice>) and the draft legislation is available to view here until 15th October 2017:

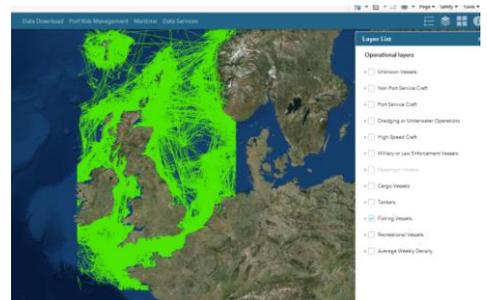
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/banning-the-use-of-microbeads-in-cosmetics-and-personal-care-products>.

- b. Defra are carrying out a Consolidation of the Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (England and Wales) and also the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats and c.) Regulations 2007 through separate pieces of legislation and prior to making them operable following EU exit. It is Parliamentary convention that legislation is consolidated after three amendments. The Habitats Regulations have been amended ten times since they were last consolidated in 2010 and the Offshore Marine Regulations twelve times since being introduced in 2007. It is good practice to consolidate each of them to aid usability and clarity especially now as we bring EU legislation into the UK law. The Regulations are being consolidated. There are no policy changes, changes in burdens or protection involved. Defra plan to carry out the consolidation as soon as possible with a coming in force date towards the end of October. As there is no change to implementation policy no public consultation is required.

7. Keep a look out for Ivy Bees. The Ivy Bee (*Colletes hederæ*) is a relative newcomer to Suffolk and has actually only been in the UK since 2001. It is a species whose distribution is gradually expanding northwards and can probably now be readily found throughout Suffolk. It is a fairly easy bee to identify with its boldly-banded abdomen and can be found, at this time of year, foraging on Ivy flowers. The bees are solitary in terms of their nesting habits, but nesting aggregations are often quite dense in loose, friable soil – this could be your lawn or a warm south-facing bank. An FAQ on Ivy Bees can be found here <http://www.bwars.com/content/colletes-hederæ-fags> and we would welcome any sightings you have to ben.heather@suffolk.gov.uk or via our online recording site www.suffolkbis.org.uk/ivybeesurvey.



8. ABPmer has produced a fascinating dataset showing all the logged shipping movements around the UK. The interactive map on the link below gives a startling reminder of just how busy our seas are, and the sea off Suffolk is no exception. [You can access the dataset here](#).

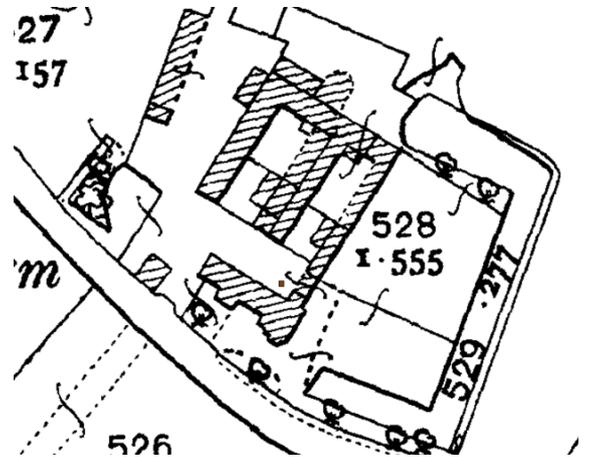
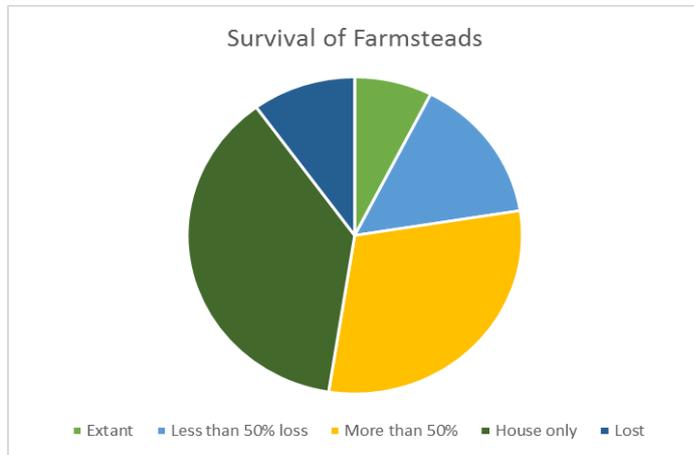


9. Brandon Country Park held its largest event to date on 25th August. “[Enchanted Forest](#)” saw the park full, with 1500 visitors enjoying a wide range of activities. The day celebrated the forest environment, with natural crafts, storytelling, tree dressing and forest drumming just a few of the activities on offer. Suffolk Public Health provided step counters to measure distances walked, Suffolk Wildlife Trust promoted the wildlife of the Brecks and local community groups provided fun events. The park’s next large event is Pumpkin Fest, on 25th October, a community partnership-led event involving IES Breckland School, The Brandon Centre, Shoestring Theatre and Tesco’s store in Brandon.
10. Follow Brandon Country Park on Twitter <https://twitter.com/BCountryPark> @BCountryPark to find out everything that’s going on, or to get involved in volunteering.
 11. Follow Suffolk’s Fab 40 adventures, a range of seasonal activities designed to help families get outdoors and active, on Twitter <https://twitter.com/suffolkfab40> @suffolkfab40.



Historic Environment

12. The team are undertaking a pilot study to assess historic farmsteads across Suffolk to better understand survival and loss, and to inform future planning advice regarding these heritage assets. Pictured is an example of a 19th century E-shaped courtyard with attached farmhouse. This is an unusual site as the 19th century range is still intact today, with later buildings added on. The graph shows the survival rates of farmsteads in a single parish in Mid Suffolk.



13. The 7 flint panel masterpieces made by Master flint-knapper William Carter (1857–1904) of the Gun & Building Flint Manufacturers, in Brandon, and donated to SCC's Brandon Library by five of his descendants, have now found a new home at the Brandon Heritage Centre where they will help tell the fascinating story of flint in the Brecks. Rescued from the Brandon library, which was to be demolished, by the Breaking New Ground HLF scheme, the panels have been in the care of SCC's archaeological archive, but have now been moved back to Brandon.



14. This month's *'From the Vaults'* features a community excavation at Barbers Point, Friston (on the Alde-Ore Estuary), which revealed a burial belonging to a 16 year old Anglo-Saxon woman. The burial, dating to AD 600, is part of a cemetery that was discovered at the site. What is remarkable about this particular grave was the deposition of an unusual assemblage of grave goods, including preserved textiles, placed inside a wooden box. The excavation formed part of the Touching the Tide HLF project. For more on the archive see here <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/from-the-vaults-september-2017>



15. This month's *Recent Find of the Month* features a stunning Middle Bronze Age 'Picardy' type pin. Within the British Middle Bronze Age, it has been suggested that from around 1400 BC there was

a sharp increase in terms of the different type of personal ornamental items present both within hoards and encountered as single finds. Christened the 'ornament horizon', though now the nature of the mechanics behind this are somewhat in question, it is nevertheless true that the Middle Bronze Age saw the rise of a more diverse material culture insofar as items of adornment and jewellery are concerned. Penannular rings, bracelets, neck rings and beads all emerge within their own right or in greater numbers during this period, in addition to the growing utilisation of other materials in combination with these items, such as jet and amber. One such artefact that emerges during this period in addition to those listed above is the dress pin, likely used (as in later periods) to fasten items of clothing together. This month's find recorded from Mildenhall represents one of the finest examples known, and at least the third example found in Suffolk. For more information see here <https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/863815>



16. Another incredibly busy year for the team, providing Historic Environment advice to Natural England's assessment of agri-environment schemes. The team provided advice on 176 Historic Environment Farm Environment Records covering 34,000ha of the county.
17. In October, the team will be hosting a month-long placement supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Peter Brown is a doctoral researcher at Durham University, and he will be reviewing the unpublished archaeological information from medieval sites in Suffolk that have been excavated through planning-led work. His aim, over the month, is to reflect on the contributions of development-funded archaeology to various themes in our understandings of the county in medieval times.
18. Follow the Archaeology team on Twitter. SCC Archaeology are at <https://twitter.com/SCCArchaeology> @SCCArchaeology.

For information on any of these stories, or to be added to the mailing list please contact:
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