



Designated Sites in the Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley

Correct at Aug-20

Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar	<p>An estuary comprising extensive mudflats, low cliffs, saltmarsh, and areas of vegetated shingle on the lower river reaches. The site supports internationally and nationally important numbers of numerous species of wintering wildfowl and waders. Several nationally scarce plants and invertebrates occur.</p>
Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA	<p>Of European importance for breeding avocet, migratory numbers of redshank, overwintering numbers of dark-bellied brent goose, pintail, grey plover, knot, dunlin, black tailed godwit and redshank; and for its waterbird assemblage being used regularly by over 20,000 waterbirds.</p>
Stour Estuary SSSI	<p>The Stour Estuary is nationally important for 13 species of wintering waterfowl and three species on autumn passage. The estuary is also of national importance for coastal saltmarsh, sheltered muddy shores, two scarce marine invertebrates and a vascular scarce plant assemblage.</p> <p>The Stour Estuary includes three nationally important geological sites. These provide exposures of early Eocene sediments containing the volcanic ash formations between Harwich and Wrabness. The same rocks are also important for the fossil fruits and seeds that they contain.</p>
Arger Fen SSSI	<p>This site consists of two parts, both of which are sections of scarp slope on which sand and gravel overlie clay, with springs emerging at the junctions. Much of the site is woodland, with a wide range of stand types reflecting the range of soil conditions.</p> <p>Most of the woodland appears to be of ancient origin. The lower slopes contain areas of fen and wet grassland whilst the top of Tiger Hill supports dry, acidic grassland. The juxtaposition of several different habitats increases the value of the site for birds and insects.</p>
Arger Fen LNR	<p>This woodland is a fascinating mosaic of ancient coppice woodland, new naturally regenerating woodland alongside wet meadows. The interesting mix of trees includes oak, ash, field maple, holly, crab apple, superb large alder and hazel stools. This reserve is also one of only a few ancient woodlands in Suffolk with wild cherry. The reserves contrasting habitats of dry wooded hillside and damp valley floor create a rich environment for wildlife and visitors alike. Many rare and declining species find refuge here including the scarce hazel dormouse and barbastelle bat.</p>
Tiger Hill LNR	<p>Designated for a varied selection of habitats including the only heathland within south west Suffolk, wet meadows, hedgerow, streams, pond and woodland. This is an important habitat for dormice, supporting one of the largest populations in Suffolk.</p>