

This position statement does not include reference to measures to combat Coronavirus 19 and any events planned should conform to local and Government guidance in place at the time of the event.

Position Statement of the Dedham Vale Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Stour Valley

Introduction

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are designated by Government to ensure that the natural beauty of the nationally designated landscapes in England and Wales is conserved and enhanced.

Each year organised events follow AONB promoted long distance routes and other routes promoted by the AONBs as well as on public and private land. These events provide an excellent opportunity for people to visit and enjoy the National Landscapes. Many events use public rights of way and there is a legal right for users access them, no event can be given exclusive use to such facilities.

Successful events enrich people's experience of these landscapes and boost the local economy. Careful event management ensures negative impacts are minimised.

Purpose

This purpose of this Position Statement, which has been endorsed by both AONBs, provides clarity for organisers of large-scale events about expected behaviours to avoid any significant negative impact on the designated landscapes, other users and the resident populations.

Organisers of large-scale events should:

Plan the event to achieve zero negative impact on landscape, people and wildlife.

- Ensure the event leaves no trace afterwards, take all litter, materials and waste away.
- Ensure event signage is:
 - easily removable but fixed securely to not create litter;
 - does not obscure permanent signage.
 - will not damage trail signposts
 - has relevant permissions, etc.
- Signage put up and removed at appropriate times.
- Work to support participants to travel to event in most sustainable way possible. If private vehicles are used seek a vehicle sharing scheme.
- Ensure that participants stay to permitted and legal areas, use marshals as appropriate to prevent inappropriate behaviours/access.
- Ensure a sensible number of participants to guard against overcrowding and other detrimental impacts. Consider staggered starts and set a maximum number of participants.
- Ensure all necessary checks and permissions are granted before the event.
- Work with those with an interest in the area before the event to avoid negative outcomes.
- Acknowledge the significance of the nationally designated landscape the event is taking place in promotional materials
- Ensure event respects the purposes of the national landscape

Further information and advice:

Advice regarding health & safety and risk assessments can be found on the Managing Visitor Safety in the Countryside at: <https://vscg.org/publications/>

Plan for the following items:

- Availability of drinking water taps
- Drop off and Collection points and if required and parking locations
- Emergency vehicle access points
- Scheduled diversions, maintenance activities and other issues
- Other events taking place
- To report any unsuitable/unsafe structures and/or surfaces
- Consideration of sensitive sites, e.g. areas designated for wildlife/archaeology. Use www.magic.gov.uk to see a map showing locations of Statutorily Designated Sites. Liaise with Natural England/Historic England if activities likely to impact such sites
- Good public transport links
- Access legislation, ensure your event does not promote inappropriate use of rights of way
- Support local businesses/attractions, using local suppliers
- Participants wishing to stay overnight
- Consider a budget that allows for a donation towards the relevant AONB
- Severe weather

Contact for AONB team:

For further information contact AONB team on 01394 445225 or email: dedhamvale.project@suffolk.gov.uk