

L4L19 SV6 Summary Sheet:

Site Visit Title:

Enhancing Special Qualities

Description:

The Suffolk-Essex border lowland landscape would be recognisable today as when painted by Constable and Gainsborough. Charming villages, fascinating attractions, interesting wildlife and beautiful countryside attract residents and visitors. However, a fine landscape at 'overview' still has elements that require improvement/investment.

This Visit explores challenges faced and how communities and organisations have sought to conserve and reinstate the 'fabric' of this working protected landscape.

Themes:

- Practical works to improve protected landscape's natural beauty & special qualities
- Community action and involvement
- Enhancing landscape features and engaging people with the natural environment
- Thriving biodiversity that supports residents and visitors

Outcomes and Outputs:

Output 1: A single sheet summary to be produced by the Leaders on what has been learnt.

Output 2: Delegates will have visited river restoration scheme and learnt about the practicalities of achieving catchment improvements in today's lowland river systems.

Outcome 1: Delegates will have increased understanding of managing land for key wildlife species and making that relevant to people in a protected landscape. This will be transferable to their own designated landscape-examples of how this could be applied will be sought.

Outcome 2: Delegates will gain an insight into how communities currently value protected landscapes and operate within them.

Lessons Learnt:

- Eurasian Beavers self-regulate the environmental quality of watercourses without the need for numerous interventions.
- If a tree or shrub falls into a watercourse do not rush to remove it.
- Look at the (relevant) Law in advance when planning tricky negotiations in order to know what each party will be allowed to do or not do.
- John Constable allowed 'permitted development' in his artworks in order to achieve great composition at the landscape scale. AONBs should invest heavily in getting landscape scale aesthetics right.
- Every protected landscape is under huge pressure from development.

Photos:



Quotes:

“It was great - thanks very much for organising such a varied, interesting (and eventful!) afternoon”. Dr Elaine King – Chair of Chilterns Conservation Board @DrElaineKing

“Country Pubs are dead in the winter” – Robert Erith, Chair DVSV

Where to find more info:

River Restoration

Will Akast will.akast@environment-agency.gov.uk

River Catchment Coordinator -Water for Wildlife Project (Essex)

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/beavers-to-return-to-essex-for-the-first-time-in-400-years>

<http://meteorcommunications.co.uk/?portfolio=spains-hall-flood-risk-management>

<file:///C:/Users/listn/Downloads/Spains-Hall-NFM-130918-v1.pdf>

<https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/14bf6b82/files/uploaded/Beaver%20Evening%20Pres.pdf>

Foxearth Meadows

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