

Message from Eleanor Redgrave, Project Officer – AONB Green Action

Firstly, please let me introduce myself. My name is Eleanor and I have just started working for the Suffolk Coast & Heaths and Dedham Vale AONB teams on a project to help reduce plastic. Part of my role involves working on the project 'Free the trees'. As many of you might be aware, the AONB has decided to start working on the removal of these redundant tree guards and shelters from sites within both AONB's. I have attached a photo of the redundant tree guards we are looking for.

In line with conservation best practise, we will not remove these plastic tree guards until the end of the bird nesting season in the Autumn. Therefore, over the next few months, I am aiming to map as many of these sites as possible across both AONB's.

This is where you come in! I wondered whether you could help me with the recording of these sites? Whilst you are out and about (in both Suffolk Coast & Heaths or Dedham Vale AONB's) and if you see an area of hedging or tree planting with these redundant tree guards or shelters, it would be great if you could get in touch to let me know the location of the site. I will then conduct a site visit to assess its suitability to be part of this project. If you happen to know the landowner and are happy to pass on these details, that would also be really useful. Please note, that I am not asking any of you to go out on purpose looking for these sites but if you happen to be out for a walk or a bike ride and see an area of trees which you think would benefit from this project, that you get in touch and let me know. As you can imagine, the AONB's cover a large area and there are potentially hundreds of sites to find so all help mapping these sites would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to register your interest in volunteering to help us remove the tree guards (from the Autumn onwards), please do get in touch and I will put your name down.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Eleanor

**Eleanor Redgrave**

Project Officer – AONB Green Action

t: 01473 265572 m: 07542 228955

**Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB**

[suffolkcoastandheaths.org](http://suffolkcoastandheaths.org)