

As beautiful as ever: Suffolk in black and white

Constable Country and the Dedham Vale have long been an inspiration to artists and photographers who have sought to capture its unchanging beauty in a myriad of different styles.

The one thing that most of these landscapes have had in common is that they have been realised in colour. Constable Country, with its big skies and unspoilt nature, is partly defined by its vivid colours – greens, blues and yellows. But a new exhibition at the National Trust's Flatford Mill is removing the colour from the images to allow visitors to take a different view of Dedham and East Anglia as a whole.

The exhibition, Images of East Anglia, is the creation of The Suffolk Monochrome Group, a photographic collective, who, as their name suggests, work in black and white.

Barry Freeman, one of the group's founders, said that the exhibition has taken nine months to pull

Constable country is famed for its glorious colours. But how would it look if those colours were taken away? A new exhibition explores our region in monochrome, reports **ANDREW CLARKE**

together and they have collected 24 landscapes which define Suffolk and the eastern region.

"The exhibition came about after one of our members David Kelly visited Flatford and saw their wonderful gallery there. He made inquiries about an exhibition and they said they would love something that showed Suffolk and Dedham in a new light.

"We have 12 members and we have each contributed two images. Some have been taken in Dedham and Flatford, others capture a new view of Suffolk while a couple celebrate wider East Anglia. The idea was to put this lovely part of the world into some sort of context.

"The Dedham Vale is beautiful but

it's not the only beautiful part of Suffolk."

He said that the group was founded in 2009 with the aim of promoting black and white photography in the digital age and they continue to stage exhibitions at Wingfield Barns and The Digby Gallery in Colchester.

"Hopefully this exhibition will give our work a wider audience.

"It will be on show until the end of February."

Images of East Anglia is at the National Trust's Boat House Gallery, Flatford Mill, during normal opening hours. You can view other works by the Suffolk Monochrome Group on their website at www.suffolkmonochrome.com