

Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. They are treasured places in England and Wales, where the landscape is considered worthy of protection by law for future generations.

The primary purpose of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation is the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty (which includes wildlife and cultural heritage as well as scenery). However, the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and the social and economic needs of the local communities are also important considerations. Management of the AONB is overseen by a Partnership comprising key stakeholders with a direct management role or interest in the AONB. The AONB Partnership is jointly funded by Natural England and the Isle of Wight Council.

The Sustainable Development Fund seeks to foster projects which help deliver the AONB Management Plan and our aim of conserving and enhancing all aspects of the natural beauty of the Area.

The AONB Management Plan

The AONB Management Plan outlines the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership policies, actions and objectives for the management of the Island's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is a legal requirement and also an opportunity to draw together all interested parties to generate long-term visions for the area. The overall aim of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan is to ensure continuity and consistency of management over time, to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

The special qualities of the Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are many, contrasting, varied and inspiring. They contribute greatly to the quality of life and well-being of local communities and visitors.

The components that form and shape the landscape fall into nine broad themes:

- Landscape Character
- Earth Heritage
- Wildlife
- Historic Environment
- Climate Change
- Living and Working - Communities and Development
- Living and Working - Rural Economy
- Traffic and Transport
- Visiting and Enjoying

Further information about the Isle of Wight AONB Management Plan is available from www.wightaonb.org.uk.



Natural England

Natural England is the national government organisation that advises on the natural environment overseeing conservation, enhancement and management for the benefit of present and future generations. The Sustainable Development Fund has a part to play in the delivery of Natural England's objectives and outcomes. As a result potential applicants are recommended to be mindful of Natural England's objectives and outcomes.

Natural England's document "Our Strategic Direction 2008–2013" describes the outcomes they want to achieve for the natural environment over the next five years, including:

- A healthy natural environment.
- People are inspired to value and conserve the natural environment.
- Sustainable use of the natural environment.
- Secure the natural environment for the future.

More information about Natural England's Objectives and Outcomes are available from www.NaturalEngland.org.uk or the AONB Website www.wightaonb.org.uk

Sustainable Development

There are many definitions of sustainable development. For the purposes of the Sustainable Development Fund, sustainable development will promote and enhance the environmental, economic and community well-being of the Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and ensure a better quality of life for everyone now, and for generations to come.

According to the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, achieving sustainable development requires working towards four main goals at the same time:

- Social progress which meets the needs of everyone
- Effective protection of the environment
- Ensuring a diverse and prosperous rural economy
- Prudent use of natural resources

Sustainable Development Fund

The Sustainable Development Fund is a grant scheme to support projects that help deliver the Management Plan and Natural England's objectives and outcomes to ensure continuity and consistency of management of the AONB over time, and to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape for the use and enjoyment of future generations. The Fund is one of the main delivery mechanisms of the nine themes of the AONB Management Plan.

The Fund will provide grants to organisations, businesses, community groups and individuals who wish to explore and develop practical projects that help in the delivery of the Management Plan.



Eligibility

Core Criteria

Successful projects must demonstrate that they will:

- Help deliver the Isle of Wight AONB Management Plan
- Further the purposes of the IW AONB
- Be sustainable for the longer term
- Have the support or involvement of local communities
- Be complementary to key local, regional and national strategies and plans

Additional Criteria

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Involve young people
- Combat social exclusion
- Promote diversity
- Bring organisations and people together
- Encourage links between urban groups and residents in the AONB
- Demonstrate innovation or best practice
- For use with other match funds
- Add value or new dimensions to existing sustainability projects

Grants can be used for the following:

- Practical work
- Feasibility studies or research projects
- Group or partnership development
- Awareness raising and training about sustainability

Examples of projects/project aspects you could include:

- Renewable / green energy schemes
- Sustainable transport
- Environmental building design
- Awareness campaigns
- Innovative products or initiatives
- Community youth schemes
- Conservation activities

Who can apply

- Public sector
- Private sector
- Voluntary sector
- Individuals
- Businesses
- Community groups

Please note individuals or businesses can only be beneficiaries, where the project shows a clear benefit to the wider community.

The Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND



You don't have to live or work within the AONB to apply. You must simply demonstrate that your project will have a positive impact upon the AONB and satisfy the core criteria of the grant.

How we assess your application

The final decision to grant an award is given by the Isle of Wight AONB Sustainable Development Fund Panel. The panel meets regularly and is made up of representatives from a range of interests including community, business and heritage.

Before you submit an application, please speak to us. The AONB team can guide and support the development of your application where appropriate.

Grants

Grants will normally be in the range of £1,000 - £10,000. In exceptional circumstances a greater award may be made.

The scheme can provide up to 75% funding for a project. However, match funding against Local Authority led projects is set at a maximum of 50%.

In all cases, an agreement setting out what is required for satisfactory completion of the project will be signed prior to receipt of the grant.

For match funding purposes, volunteer time can be included. It will usually be calculated at £50/day (£6.25/hr) for general volunteers and £100/day (£12.50/hr) for specialist, technical or professional volunteers.

The SDF is delivered locally by your AONB Unit and co-ordinated by Natural England on behalf of DEFRA.