**Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty : Farming in Protected Landscapes**

**Our Priorities**

The Isle of Wight AONB is a landscape protected by law under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and reaffirmed in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The designation seeks to conserve and enhance the natural beauty (including wildlife and cultural heritage as well as scenery) of the designated area. As part of our statutory duties a Management Plan is produced every five years which states how the designation can be conserved and enhanced and informs the annual budget and business plans.

**Farming in Protected Landscapes**

DEFRA, as part of their role in supporting farmers through financial support and grants, and as a response to the Glover Review of landscape designations, has launched a grant programme targeted at protected landscapes in England – National Parks and AONBs

The grants will be used by applicants to further the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty through four themes :

Nature; Climate Change; Access; Place

And applications will be expected to help achieve AONB priorities in these themes.

**Advice and guidance**

AONB staff will be on hand to provide advice and guidance to applicants and AONB priorities are listed below, following the AONB Management Plan 2019 – 2024 [aonb management plan web.pdf (peppercreative.net)](https://www.peppercreative.net/wightaonb.org.uk/uploads/aonb%20management%20plan%20web.pdf)

**Isle of Wight AONB Priorities**

**Nature** : Support the development of targeted programmes through a landscape-scale approach using ecological network mapping (08 Wildlife : p47)

**Farming** : Support initiative that encourage young entrants into farming that encourage innovation, enterprise and add value to land based products; that provide progressive career paths fr those actively involved in agriculture; and share good farming practice, taking into account the impact of climate change (09 Farming : p52)

**Forestry** : Support activity that encourages the sustainability of local wood fuel markets where this benefits woodland management for landscape and biodiversity (10 Forestry : p55)

**Historic Environment**: Support viable uses for historic buildings and sites to help secure their future survival (11 Historic Environment p 60)

**Tourism** : Help businesses and organisations to fully realise the potential of the IWAONB as part of their sustainable tourism offer (16 Tourism p78)

**Access and recreation** : Encourage access to the Isle of Wight AONB for recreational activities and educational activities that improve skills, confidence and health and well-being (17 Access and Recreation p83)