

TREE PLANTING IN A NATIONAL LANDSCAPE

The Isle of Wight AONB covers half of the land surface of the largest island off the English coast. As an island, land is at a premium for the many objectives that decision-makers and owners have for it, whether that is development, agriculture, forestry or recreation.

However the changes brought about by the recent Covid pandemic and the recognition of climate change and ecological crises have led to a number of economic considerations which will impact on future land use for ecosystem services including carbon storage and emission reductions, nature recovery, nutrient neutrality and health and well-being.

Farmers and landowners have their part to play in management of their land for the objectives above as well as for food and timber production in an increasingly competitive world. The withdrawal from the European Union has meant a radical change in farming incomes which may mean a diversification in land use to accommodate both climate change mitigation and nature recovery.

This will be brought about by making decisions on how these nature-based services might come about and include:

- Management of soils to retain carbon and reduce emissions including conservation of peat,
- Management of livestock to further reduce emissions,
- Management of land to reduce the need for nitrogen and phosphorous and
- Increase in tree cover to aid carbon storage



ISLE OF WIGHT AONB TREE PLANTING GUIDELINES

If tree planting is being considered on your farm, the IWAONB would like to recommend the following guidelines.

A survey of the area for the proposed planting should be undertaken to prevent environmental damage.

Consultation with Forestry Commission, Isle of Wight AONB and the IW Local Records Centre is strongly advised to ensure the 'right' tree is planted in the 'right' place.

The proposed tree planting should not adversely affect the current nature value of the land. Planting should be targeted on arable or improved (rye grass / clover) pasture. Tree planting should not be considered on (or adjacent to) species-rich grassland or wetland habitats or sites designated for these features as Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

<https://www.wildonwight.co.uk/lrc/information.php>

The proposed tree planting should avoid known above or below ground archaeological features

Tree planting in blocks should only be considered in areas north of the chalk ridge. To the south an alternative of widening or restoring hedgerows and creating links between existing woodland should be considered to conserve other landscape features

The species mix being considered should reflect the local woodland. Ash, alder and elm should not be considered for widespread planting due to their susceptibility to disease.

Proposed woodland planting adjacent to settlements should consider providing access.

Proposed tree planting should use trees of local provenance.

This should be trees that are grown on the Island or nearby counties

Sources of help :

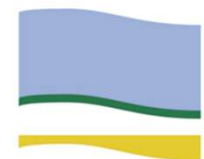
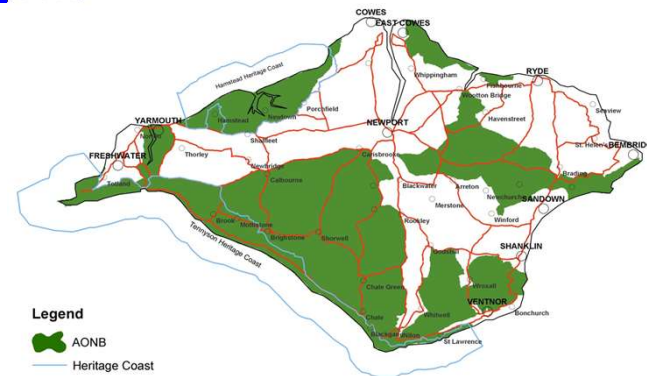
Forestry Commission: georgi.ennis@forestrycommission.gov.uk

Isle of Wight AONB: mark.simmons@iow.gov.uk

Isle of Wight Local Records Centre: lrc@iow.gov.uk

Aborigiculture Association: www.trees.org.uk

<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/ecological-site-classification-decision-support-system-esc-dss/>



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