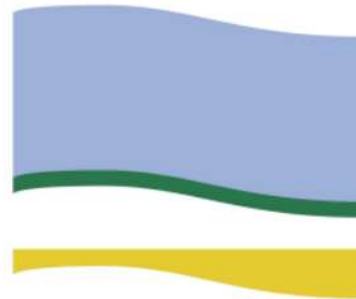


**Isle of Wight
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership
Annual Report 2022**



Isle of Wight
area of outstanding
natural beauty

Isle of Wight AONB



Legend

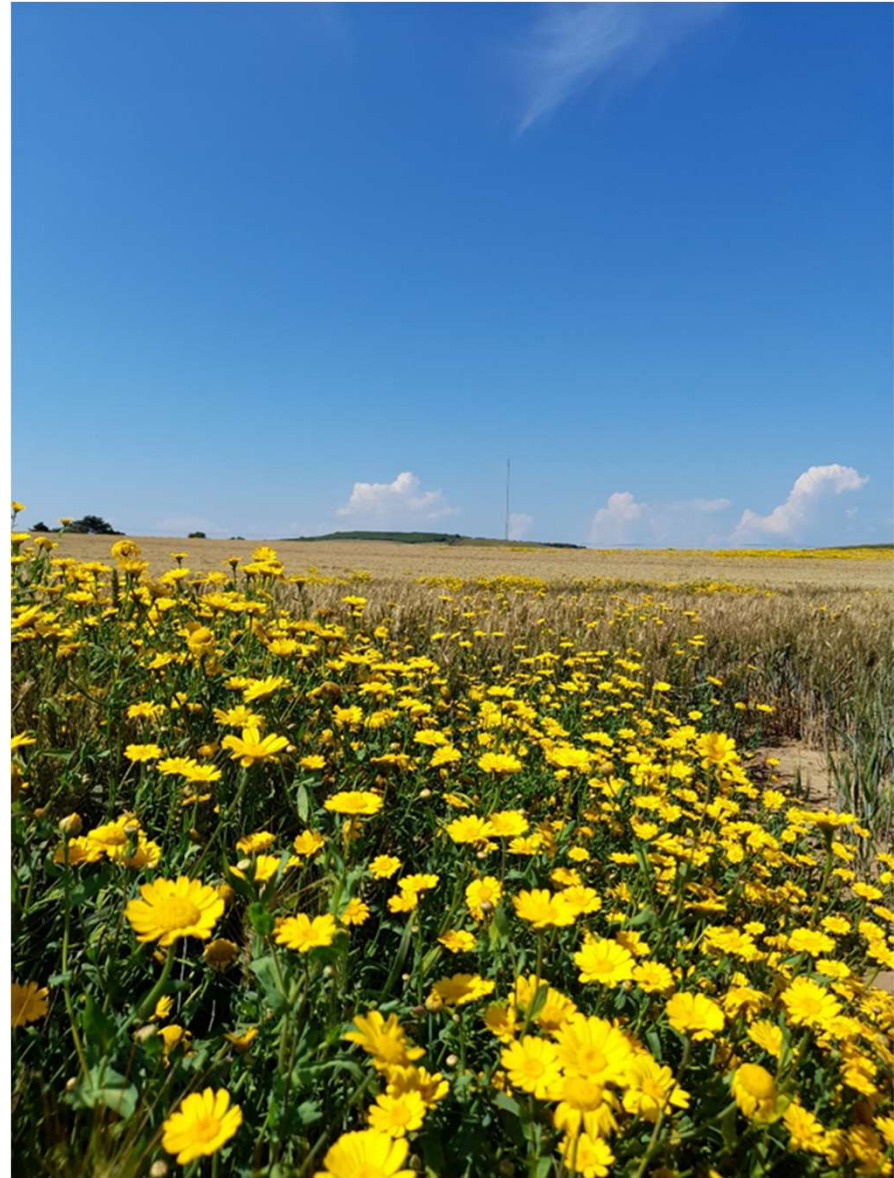
-  AONB
-  Heritage Coast

Primary Purpose of AONB designation

To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape:

Also – as long as they do not compromise the ability to achieve the primary purpose :

- meet the need for quiet enjoyment of the countryside; and,
- have regard for the interests of those who live and work there.



Statutory requirements

- **Formulate, publish and review 5 year Management Plan**
- The current Plan runs from 2019 – 2024
- A new plan following new Natural England guidelines will be prepared from July 2023 to be adopted by Isle of Wight Council end of 2024 to start April 2025
- **Duty of regard on all public bodies to consider the purposes of the AONB designation when carrying out their function**



Duty of Regard

Planning applications within or affecting AONB in 2022/23

- 208 applications received for review
- 78 (38%) requiring formal comment; of which
- 21 applications asked for pre-app advice
- 12 other enquiries and site visits were made
- Comments were made on Norris Castle and developments on the Military Road
- We are working with IWC on Tree Preservation Orders and their effect on the landscape
- We await the adoption of the emerging Island Planning Strategy



As development in the AONB can be acceptable, we strive to enable development where appropriate but continue to resist development when we consider it harmful to the landscape of the AONB. We continue to have significant success with applications that are refused based on our objections and which get subsequently dismissed at appeal.

Joel Bateman



Photo: Claire Hector

All at the Isle of Wight AONB Partnership would like to wish Joel a bright new future and thank him for his 14 years service with the Isle of Wight AONB

Working with Farmers and Landowners

Farming in Protected Landscapes

This scheme is in its second year of a four year programme.

A Local Assessment Panel is drawn from the farming community on the Island and twenty-two grants were awarded totalling over £ 198,000

Projects this year included funds for hedge-planting, hedge-laying, fencing, bespoke machinery, restoration of ponds, woods and heritage assets

Around 11,500 hedge plants / trees have been planted; over 2km hedgerow restored and 11ha of habitat enhanced under this scheme



Photo: Lucy Temple

Working with Farmers and Landowners

Farmer Clusters

Farmer clusters now operate on the Island, in the eastern Yar catchment and the south Wight involving 35 farmers and landowners. Regular meetings are coordinated by the AONB with talks on a variety of issues emerging including environmental compliance (in partnership with Environment Agency)

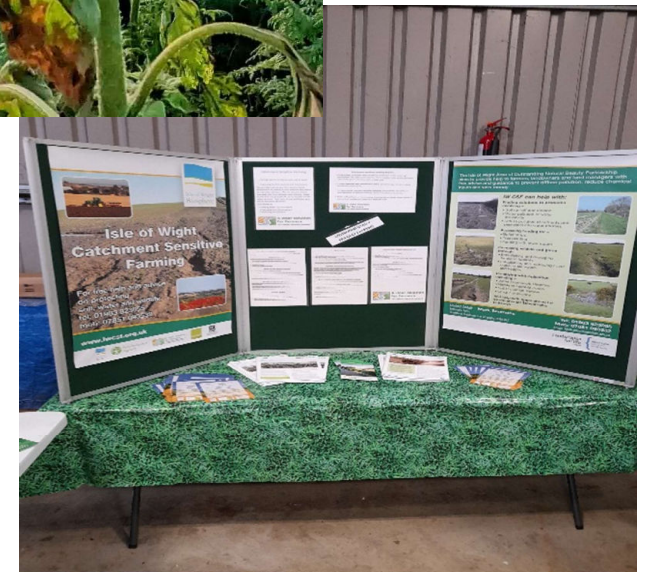
A third cluster is in development in the south-west of the Island

Catchment Sensitive Farming

Work continues to promote environmentally-sensitive farming across the Island. Workshops on maize and pasture management were held in partnership with Southern Water as well as over 50 visits to farmers to talk about a wide range of subjects and grant –aid available. This work is done in partnership with Environment Agency and Natural England



Photo: Caroline Knox



Access Projects

Photo: IW Rights of Way

Welcome Back Walks

Two programmes of forty walks were conducted by five partners from June / July and November 22 to February 2023. Subjects included local history, landscape and wildlife for both children and adults alike. Over 425 people attended the walks with good feedback being received. A digital audience of over 10,000 was recorded

Crossing the Bar

IWAONB was pleased to sponsor this autumn celebration of the accessible coast with the New Carnival Company and IW Ramblers. Fourteen walks were arranged in six heritage locations with 294 participants and six schools (70 students). A digital audience of 25,552 was recorded.

Access for All

DEFRA awarded the Isle of Wight AONB over £ 56,000 to help improve access across the designated landscape. IWAONB has worked with IW Council Rights of Way and landowners on 10 projects including 1.6km of path improvements, steps, gates and provision for the less abled.

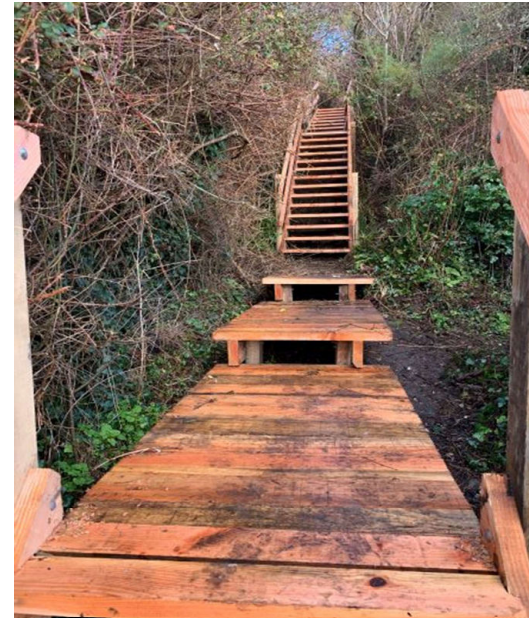


Photo: New Carnival Company

UNESCO Sites Across the Channel (USAC) Project

Following the success of the Biosphere designation, the IWAONB worked with partners both in the UK and in France to promote sustainable tourism on the Island and the IWAONB

The Project has:

- Produced a series of maps and other literature
- Supported the Welcome Back Walks and Crossing the Bar access projects
- Supported the training of IW Tourism Ambassadors with VisitIW
- Sponsored public events including Branstone Day; Fort Victoria Foray; Dark Skies at Brighstone and Hullabaloo in Sandown. These attracted audiences of 5000 people to celebrate the IW Biosphere with talks, exhibitions and activities for both young and old



Photo: Chris Slann



Working with Arts and Culture

Creative Biosphere

Following an award from Arts Council England and the adoption of the National AONB 'Art in the Landscape' policies, the IWAONB continued its Creative Biosphere Project.

Working with the Island Collection and Isle of Wight Cultural Education Partnership, five partners have employed six artists to work with six of the Island's high schools. These year-long collaborations increased awareness of the importance of the Island's landscape, culture and wildlife through the strong creative industry on the Island.

Partners on this project are: Brading Roman Villa, Independent Arts, New Carnival Company, Quay Arts and Ventnor Exchange.

The results of the Project were displayed at Quay Arts in the winter of 2022 / 23 and attracted an audience of over 2,000 people.



Working for Nature Recovery

Compton Bay Project

The IWAONB is working closely with the National Trust on its work in and around Compton Bay. This landscape scale project includes reducing the impact of arable farming on a 165ha of land , as well as creating new wetlands, restoring and maintaining species-rich grasslands and introducing less intensive management techniques.



Photo: Kathy Grogan

Reddish Buff Moth

The IWAONB continues to support species recovery including work with the Reddish Buff Management Group, conserving this rare moth and its habitat in its only native site in the British Isles. Partners include Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation, Forestry Commission and volunteers from Wildheart Animal Sanctuary and Amazon World.



(Photo: J Marsh/HIWWT)

Working for Nature Recovery

Local Records Centre

The IWAONB co-ordinates the Local Records Centre in partnership with the IWNHAS, providing 78 responses to enquiries from developers, planners, landowners and interested businesses

The Centre holds 836,726 records of 9,425 species

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The IWAONB has been working with the local authority and Natural England on their emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy. We await the new LNRS guidelines from DEFRA / Natural England and will use our own Nature Recovery Plan to inform the process

iWatchWildlife

The IWAONB supports the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society's iWatchWildlife initiative which encourages volunteers and the general public to become more engaged with species recording and thus heighten awareness of the natural world



Working for Nature Recovery

Swift conservation

IWAONB has been working with the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society with their Swift Box Project. 13 swift boxes have been installed this year and a further 40 will be installed in spring 2023. These boxes will increase the breeding success of these increasingly rare summer visitors to the Island

Thorness Bay

The IWAONB are working with local landowners, Arc Consultants and Environment Agency on the managed realignment project at Thorness Marshes to allow sea water flooding of wetland habitats previously protected by an old sea wall. Investigations into the changes in vegetation will lead to positive changes in management to allow managed retreat across the marshes with implications for carbon storage and adaptation to relative sea level rise

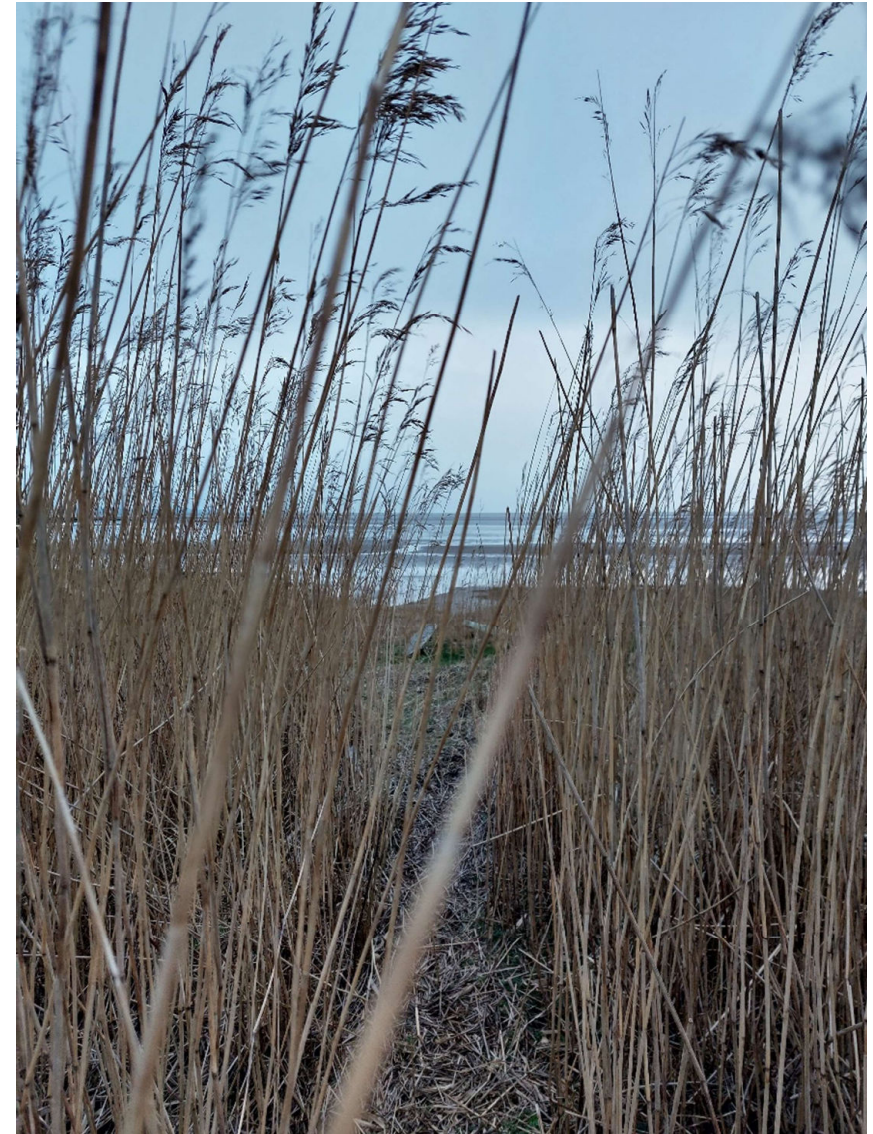


Photo: Kathy Grogan

Working with Historic Environment and Communities

Community Projects

Other events and activities celebrating community involvement in the AONB included

- Annual sponsorship of the Wolverton Garden Fair Conservation tent with Age UK
- Sponsorship of the 'Yarmouth and Shalfleet' Book with Yarmouth Town Council and Wight Nature Fund
- Sponsorship of the celebratory publication on the anniversary of the Carisbrooke Castle Museum
- Sponsorship of the Isle of Wight Cultural Partnership conference in October
- Sponsorship of Medina College GCSE in Agriculture
- Sponsorship of outdoor education activities with the Learning Zone (home educated) students. Six session attracted 150 parents and students.

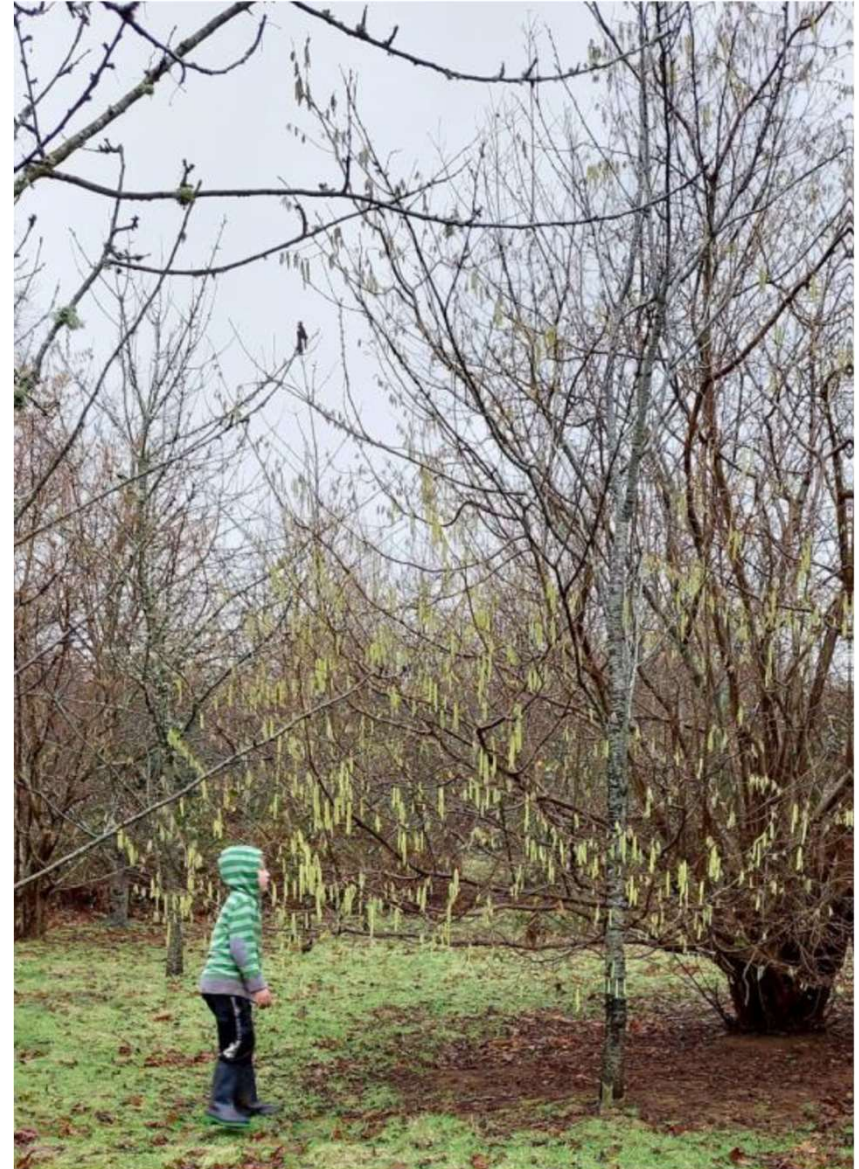
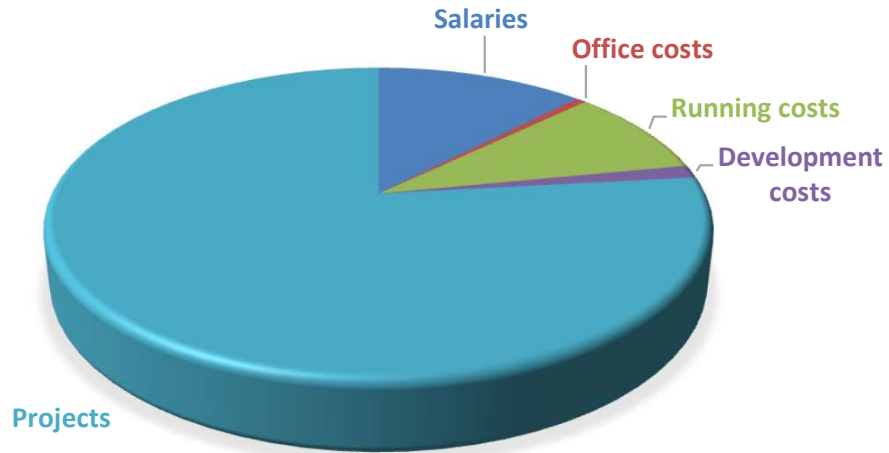


Photo: Kathy Grogan

Isle of Wight AONB Budget 2022/23 = £ 935,182

IWAONB EXPENDITURE 2022/23



IWAONB INCOME 2022/23

