



Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Health and Access Workshop

Wednesday, 10th July, Shorne Woods Country Park

Aims of the workshop

- To understand your respective priorities in relation to health and access and bring you into the project – particularly on accessible natural greenspace – encourage joint working.
- To capture health & access priorities for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) to support.
- To get your views on spatial datasets that can be used to pinpoint where action is needed.



Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy



Chris Drake, Making Space for Nature (MS4N) Project Officer

Introduction to MS4N and the workshop.

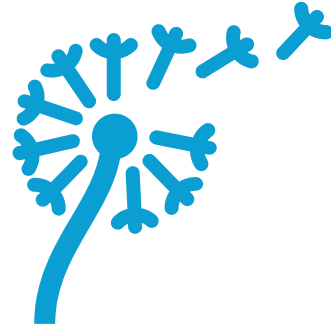
Katie Pattison, Making Space for Nature Local Government Officer

Kent & Medway plans and Green Infrastructure strategies in respect of health, access & nature.

What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies?



Legal requirement - Environment Act 2021.



48 across England – no gaps or overlaps.



Landscape-scale.



Locally developed by appointed Responsible Authority.



Collaboratively developed.

Will agree the local priorities and associated actions for nature recovery and wider environmental benefits, that collectively will deliver a nature recovery network for England, ending the decline of nature and supporting its recovery.

How will the LNRS deliver nature recovery?



Inform Local Plan making



Nature based solutions



Linked to Biodiversity Net Gain



Collaborative framework



Linked to ELMS



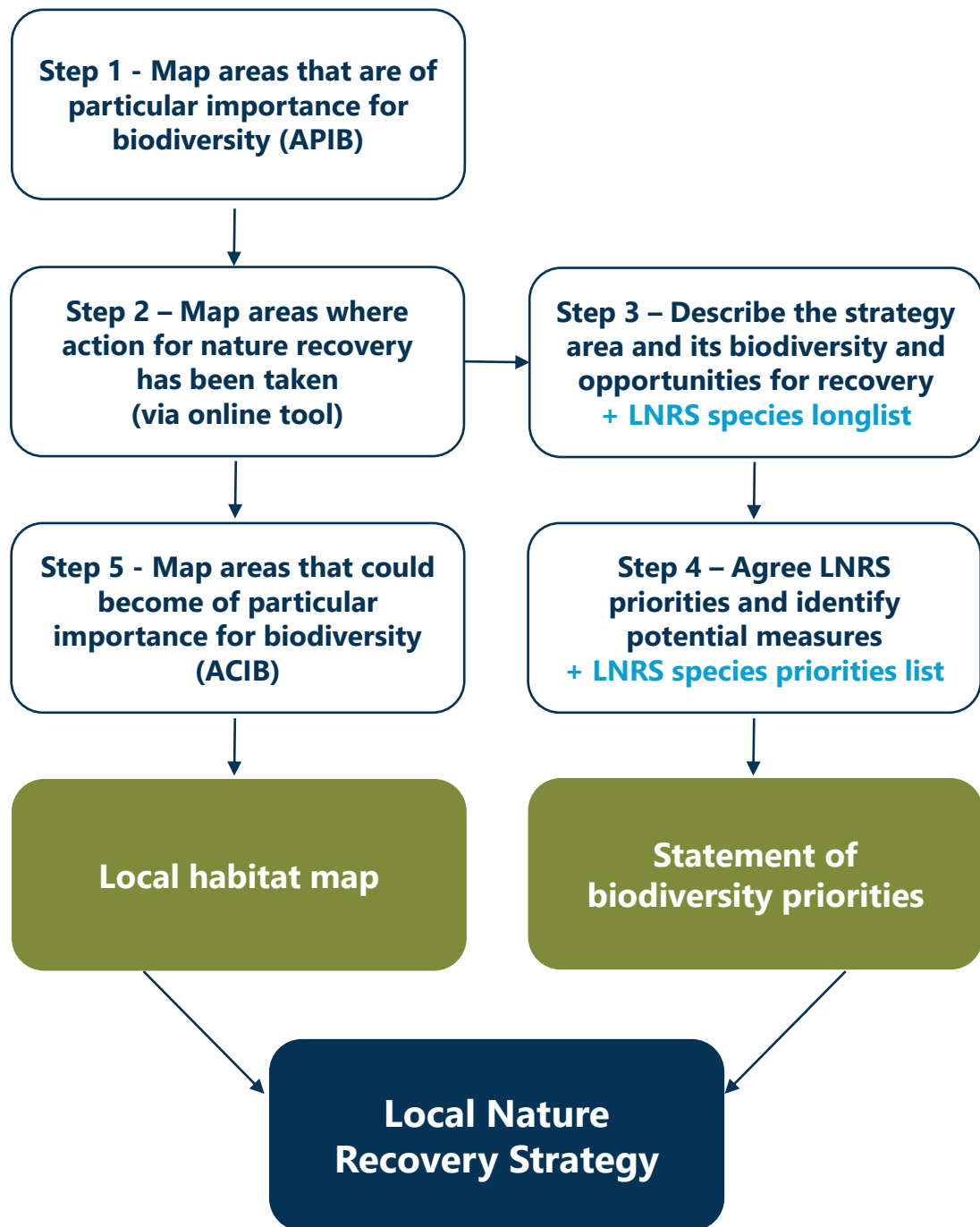
County-wide, mapped framework



Direct other grants and investment

✓ Action and investment directed to areas of greatest need and benefit.

✓ Losses and impacts directed away from most valuable assets.



How are they being developed?

- Locally led and collaborative.
- Must follow statutory guidance and meet LNRS regulations.
- Responsible authorities are not solely responsible for delivering the strategy – it will be a shared effort with public, private and voluntary sector all playing a role.

Project Team



**Making Space
for Nature
in Kent and Medway**

MS4N Project Manager
Liz Milne



MS4N Project Officer
Chris Drake



MS4N Support Officer
Rachel Boot



MS4N Landowner Officer
Alexa Murray Mujtaba



MS4N Local Government Officer
Katie Pattison



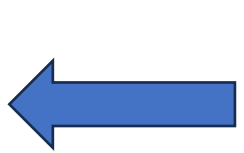
MS4N Coastal & Marine Officer
Louise Lawton



MS4N Rivers & Freshwater Officer
Kathi Bauer (1 day week)

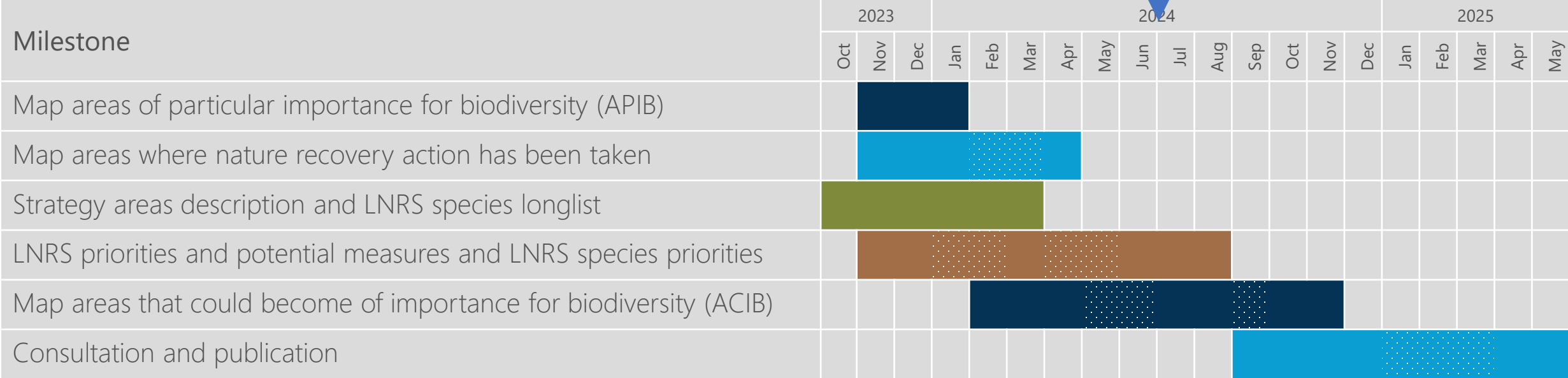
Responsible Authority for LNRS development
Kent County Council

Natural England LNRS Senior Advisor



Arms Length Bodies
Natural England
Forestry Commission,
Environment Agency

Project programme



 Stakeholder input



Pressures, Priorities and Measures Workshops

Draft Priorities Shortlist

[Give Us Your Thoughts on the Draft Priorities Shortlist!](#)
[| Making Space For Nature Kent](#)



Final draft priorities shortlist for the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy April 2024

- In top priorities scoring bracket (hatched green relates to a priority too general to be scored into this bracket but identified as critical to nature recovery)
- In middle priorities scoring bracket
- In lower priorities scoring bracket
- No score against criteria
- Additional priority to cover a pressure/habitat not addressed elsewhere (consequently not scored in original assessment)

Broad category	Theme	Priority bracket & LNRS priority ref	Proposed LNRS priority	Justification and notes if denoted by
Grassland	Chalk grassland	CG1	Chalk grasslands protected from loss, restored to better condition through conservation management and connected across the landscape, supporting a high diversity of species, including species tolerant to climate change.	
	Grazing marsh	GM1	Existing coastal and floodplain grazing marsh restored to better condition and retaining more freshwater, with sensitive areas and the breeding waders they support protected from land management and recreational disturbance. Opportunities taken to create and extend areas of this habitat and increase its climate resilience.	Potential m can be cre storage/pre naturally be
	Lowland meadow		Existing species-rich lowland meadow is protected from loss, restored to better condition and extended through sensitive land management practices to reduce soil	
	Acid grassland			

Woodland and trees	Ancient woodland	AW1	Ancient woodland, and ancient and veteran trees, are protected from loss, with damaged areas restored through management and the removal of non-native/invasive trees and plants.
		AW2	Areas of ancient woodland buffered and better connected for climate resilience.
	Wet woodland	WW1	Increase the extent of high quality wet woodland in the county and improve connectivity with the freshwater habitat network.
	Woodland and trees	WD1	An increase in native woodland, with diverse ecology, well connected and under appropriate management to support natural regeneration and extension.
		WD2	Appropriate deer and grey squirrel management in woodland (and connecting areas) to reduce impacts and support new planting and natural regeneration.
		WD3	Increase the average canopy cover of Kent through woodland and trees outside woodland to 19%.
		WD4	Restoration of native trees, once prolific in Kent, lost from the wider treescape as a result of disease, pest, climate change and drought (including poplar, ash and elm) to return the ecological functions these trees provided to the county's landscape.

Farmland	Farm & land management	FM1	Increase in number of farms employing nature friendly farming practices and sensitive land management, resulting in farmland across the county that is rich in wildlife.
		FM2	Farmland delivering targeted action for nature recovery.
	Hedgerow	HR1	The extent of species-rich hedgerows through the county is increased, with lost hedgerows replaced, gaps filled and management of existing hedgerows improving the quality as well as quantity.
		HR2	Improvements in quality and extent providing a coherent network of shelter, nesting and forage for wildlife across the landscape and allowing other habitats to be linked.
		HR3	Hedgerows protected from loss, aggressive management, neglect and chemicals.
	Soil health	SH1	Reverse the degradation of soil and improve its health throughout the county through enhanced and increased soil management so that it is better delivering for invertebrates, carbon sequestration, water retention and management and production/provisioning.
	Traditional orchard	TO1	More and thriving wildlife-rich traditional orchards in sensitive management, with heritage fruit trees.
	Ancient arable fields	AF1	Prevent the further loss of historic habitats - ancient arable fields.



Example of priority action & measure

Connectivity priority identified by MS4N:

Habitats are connected at both a county and local scale, delivering bigger, better, more and joined up with no important species populations left completely isolated.

Draft Action:

The county's highway, cycleway, pathway and PROW networks acting as functional networks

Draft Supporting measure:

Preserve ancient wildlife corridors – many of which are now footpaths.
Assess the role access routes are already playing for wildlife.

Example priority and draft measures

Protect and increase the extent of green space, trees and hedgerows within urban areas to not only provide more habitat for wildlife but also deliver other benefits including urban cooling, air and noise pollution regulation and surface water management.

- Targeted tree and hedgerow planting to deliver air quality, temperature regulation/cooling and surface water management benefits.
- Green walls and roofs to provide temperature regulation in settings most at risk from urban heat island effects.
- Increased green and blue infrastructure, and more natural space, is targeted to communities where it is most needed to deliver health and wellbeing benefits and greater connection with nature.

Example priorities and draft measures

Address habitat fragmentation of the urban environment, ensuring urban species can freely move about and developed areas and infrastructure does not impede passage.

Opportunities to improve human access throughout urban landscape taken alongside those for wildlife.

Publicly accessible open spaces managed for both wildlife and people

Protection of habitats and species sensitive to disturbance by employing site management, and other measures, which support connection to, and experience of, wildlife but ensures our most sensitive sites remain undisturbed.

LNRS regulations

Reg 56. “But recovering or enhancing biodiversity does not just benefit the natural environment. For example, improving biodiversity can help increase land value or **support people’s health and wellbeing and access to nature**. Whilst these co-benefits are different from the strategy priorities, responsible authorities and local partners can propose action for biodiversity in ways and in places that will achieve them.”

From Reg 70 “Responsible authorities may also shape potential measures so that they will deliver non-environmental co-benefits, for example **improving public access to green space** as well as helping biodiversity.”

But more guidance to follow from Defra on these aspects.



Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

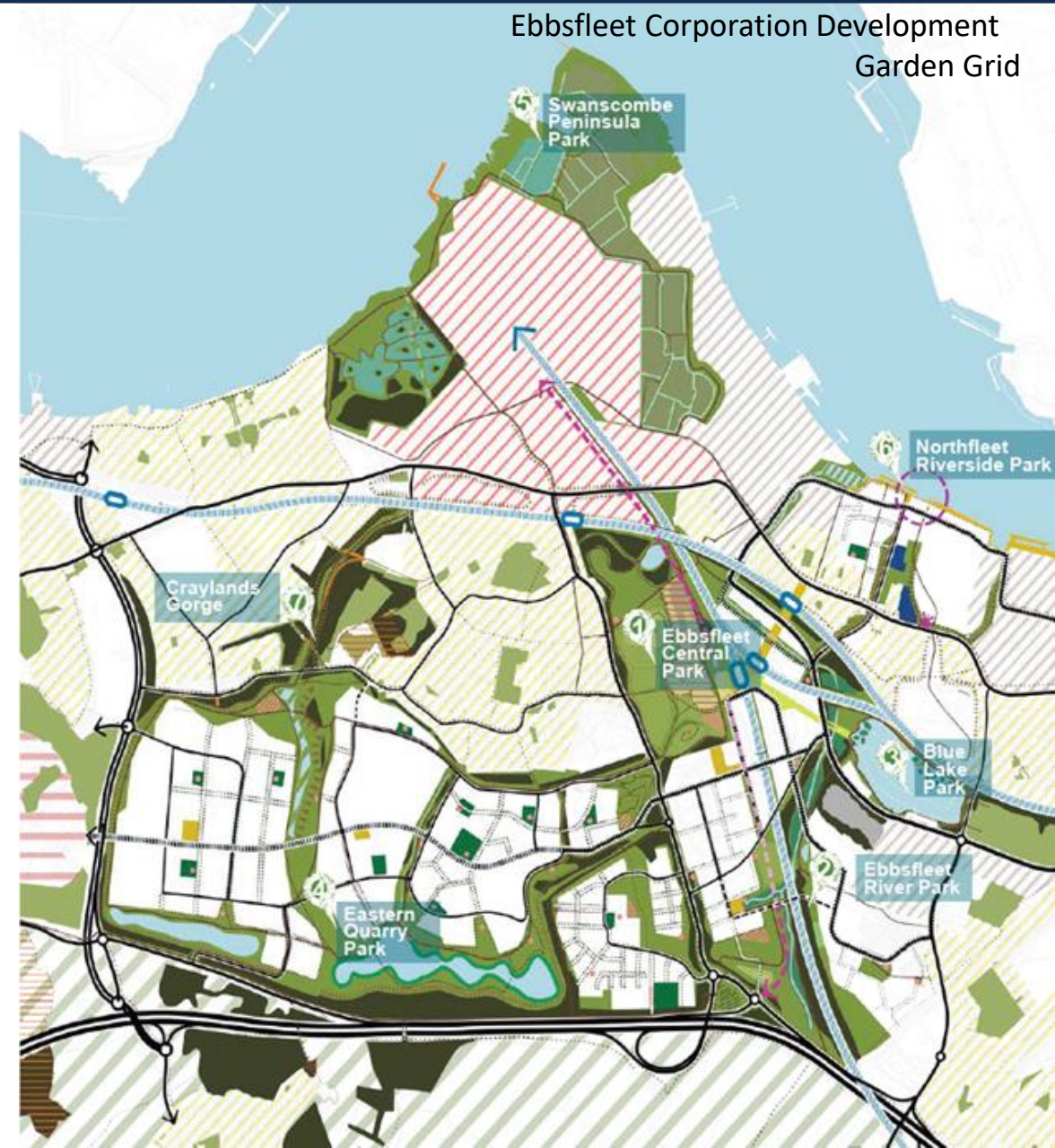
Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Local Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategies

GBI strategies across the districts

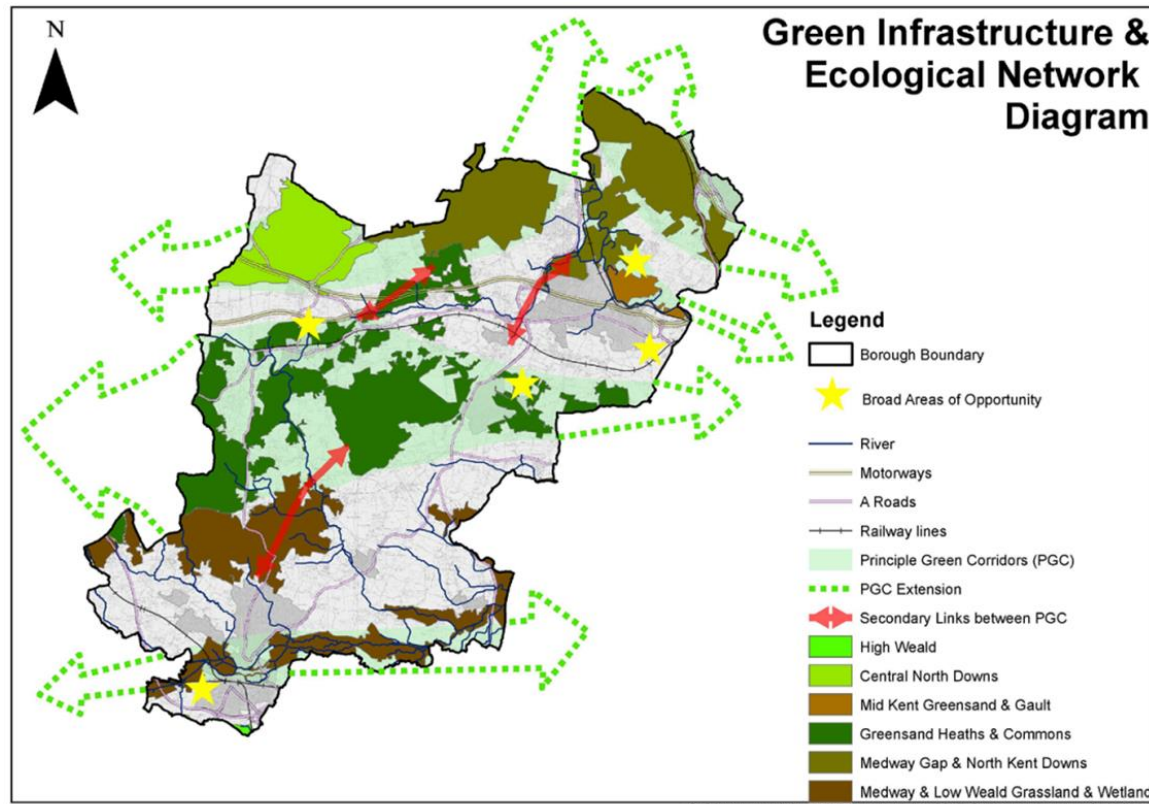
12 Kent districts, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, Medway Council and Kent County Council

- 9/12 districts and Medway Council have a form of dedicated Green and/or Blue Infrastructure Strategies. Ebbsfleet Development Corporation has a vision within its plan for the Garden Grid. KCC does not have a county GBI Strategy.
- Of those which don't have GBI Strategies- They have a map which shows the existing networks or interactive map where you can select all the assets to construct your own and includes general improvements in local plan policies. All reference Green and Blue Infrastructure.

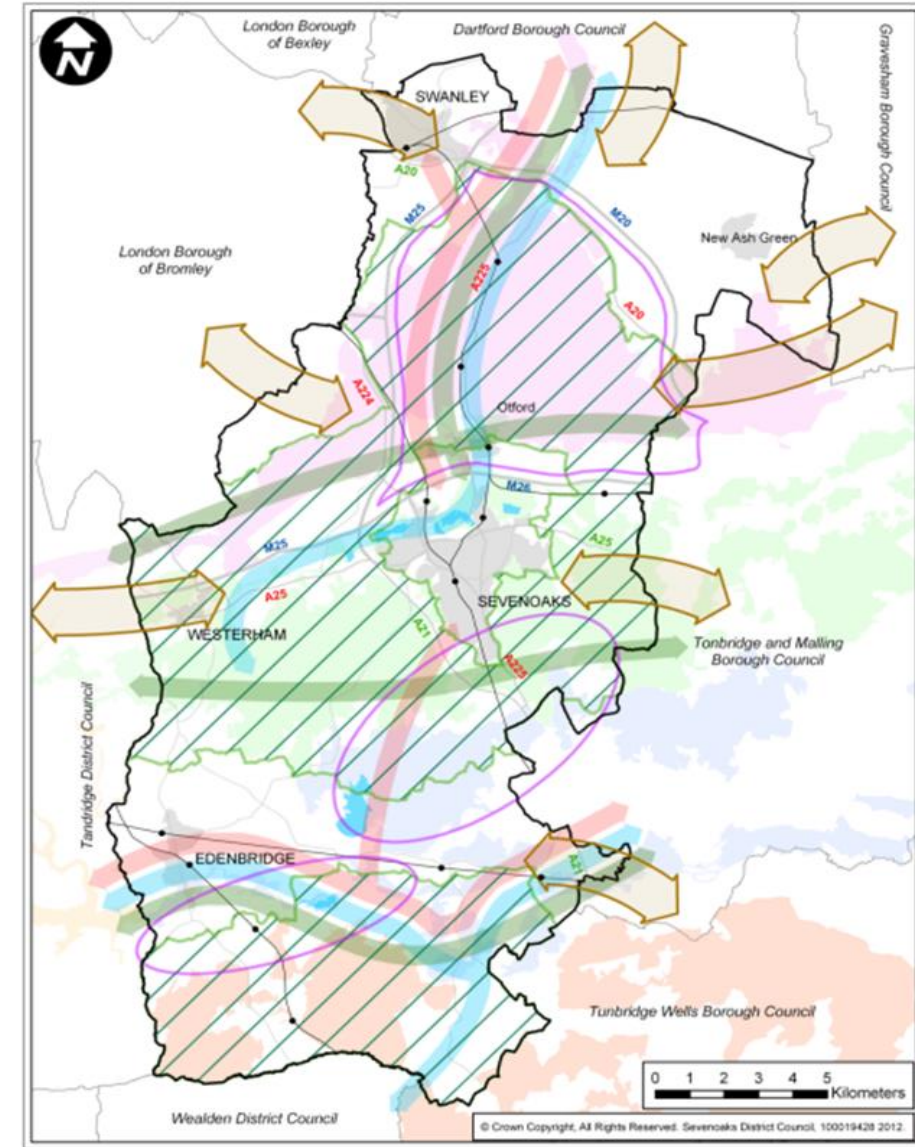


GBI strategies across the districts

- Of those with GBI Strategies, 8/9 include at least 1 network enhancement map
- Huge variety in ambition and commitment to improving GBI network with varied level of detail



Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Green Infrastructure and Ecological Networks Report 2018



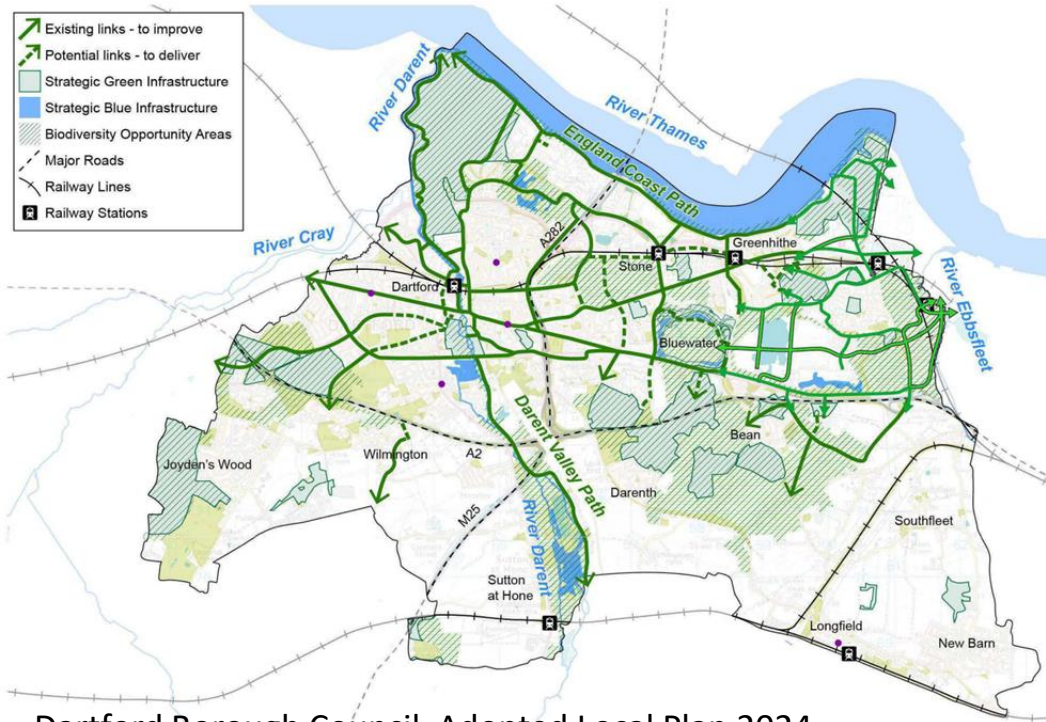
Sevenoaks Allocations and Development Management Plan 2013

GBI strategies across the districts

Splitting the district up into detailed maps and action plans for improvement

Improvements:

- Green corridor enhancements
- New or upgrades to Open Space



Dartford Borough Council Adopted Local Plan 2024



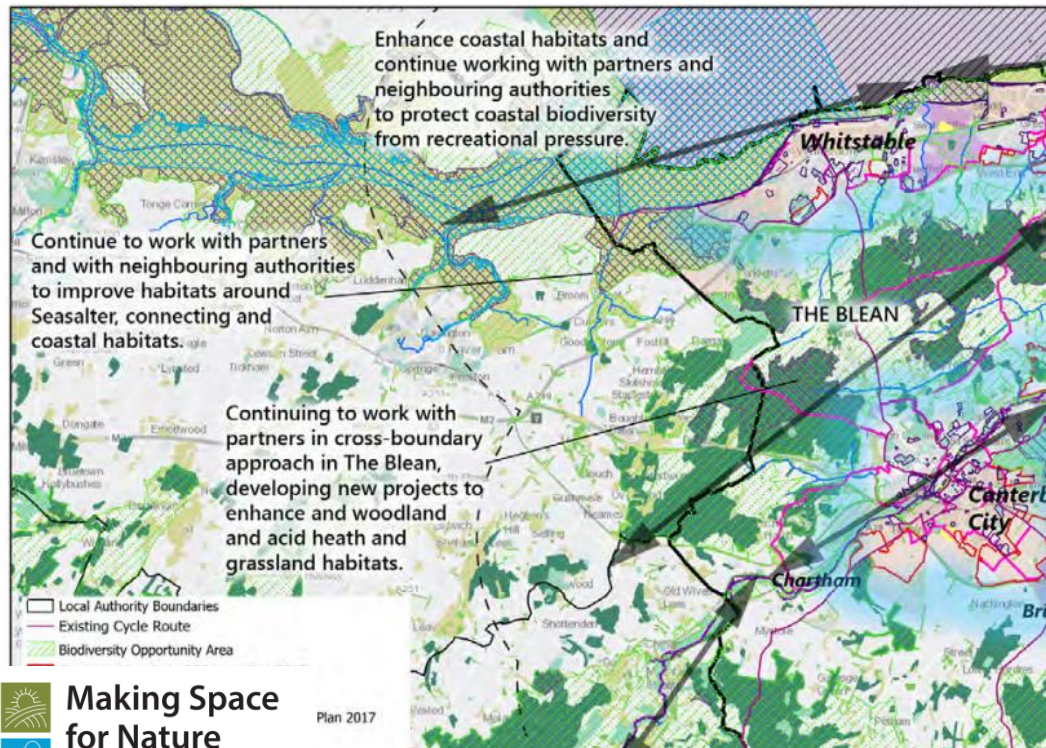
Gravesend Green and Blue Infrastructure Study 2022

GBI strategies across the districts

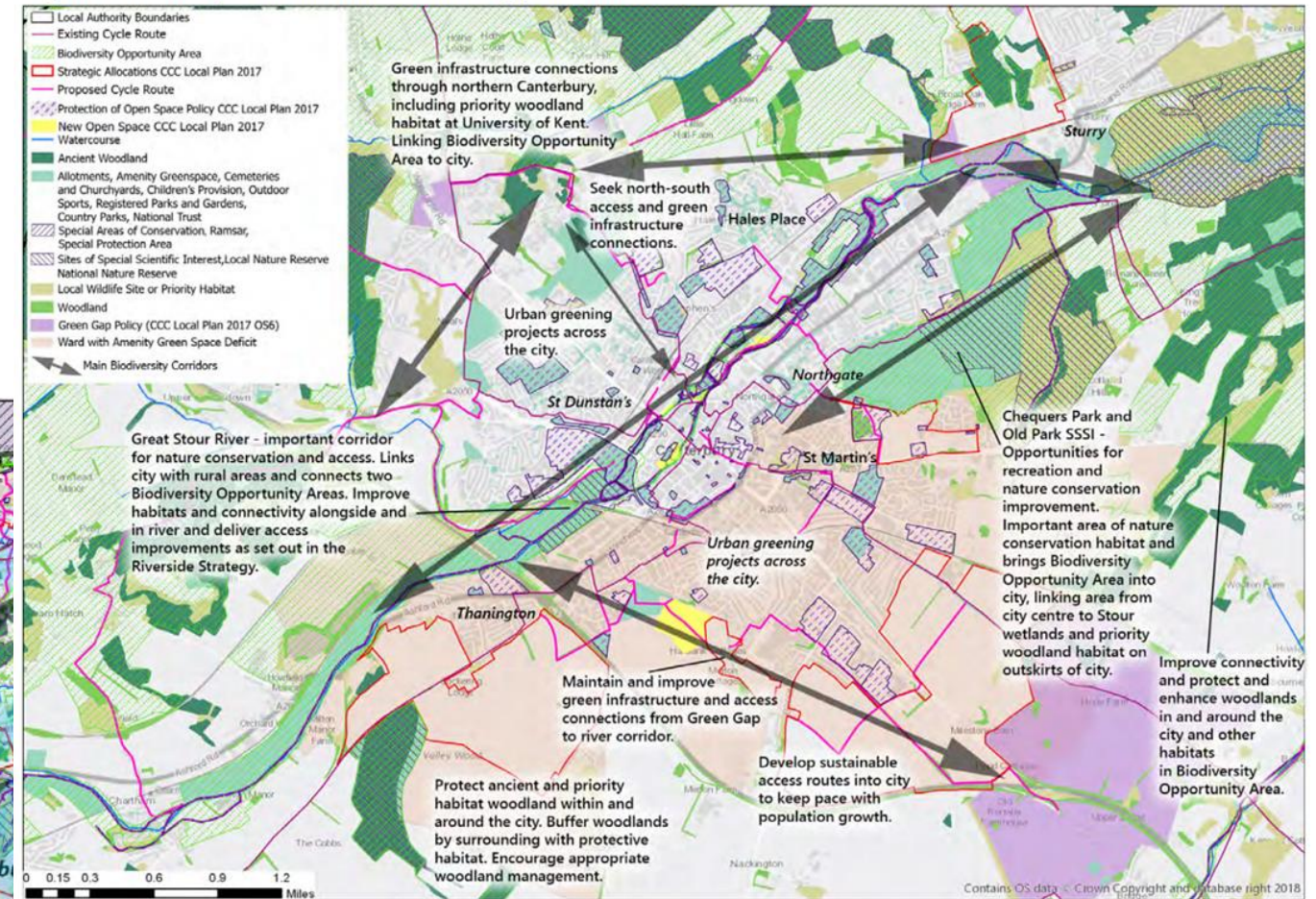
Show existing network alongside GI opportunities

- Multiple urban areas
- Rural areas

Rural Canterbury District's Green Infrastructure Opportunities



City of Canterbury's Green Infrastructure Opportunities



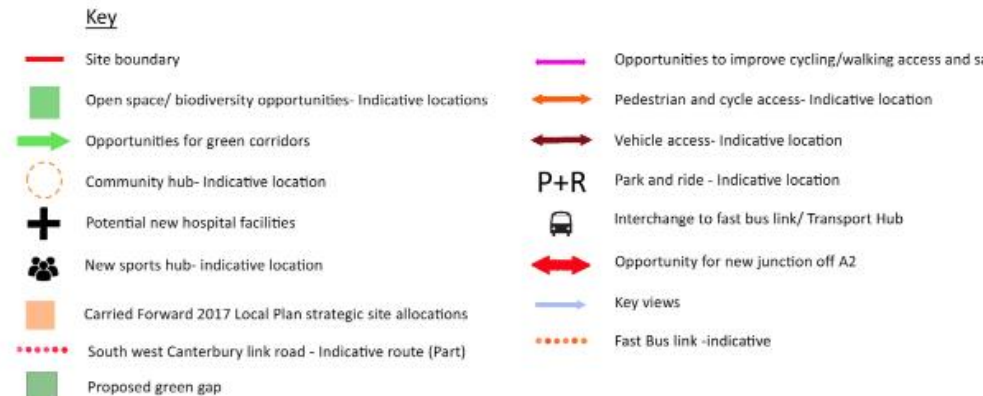
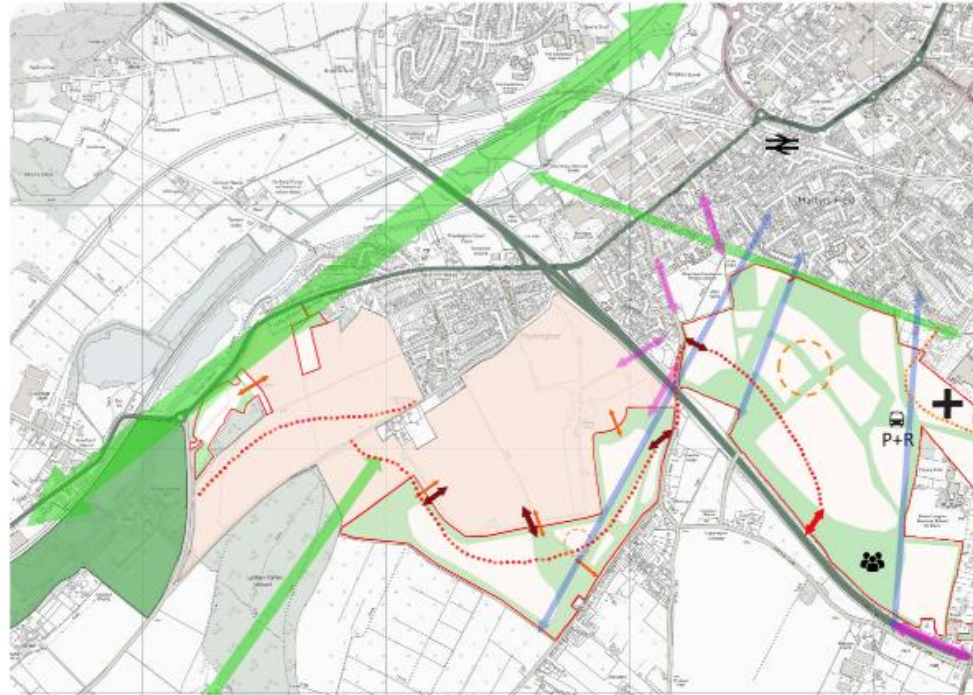
Canterbury Green Infrastructure Strategy 2018

GBI strategies across the districts

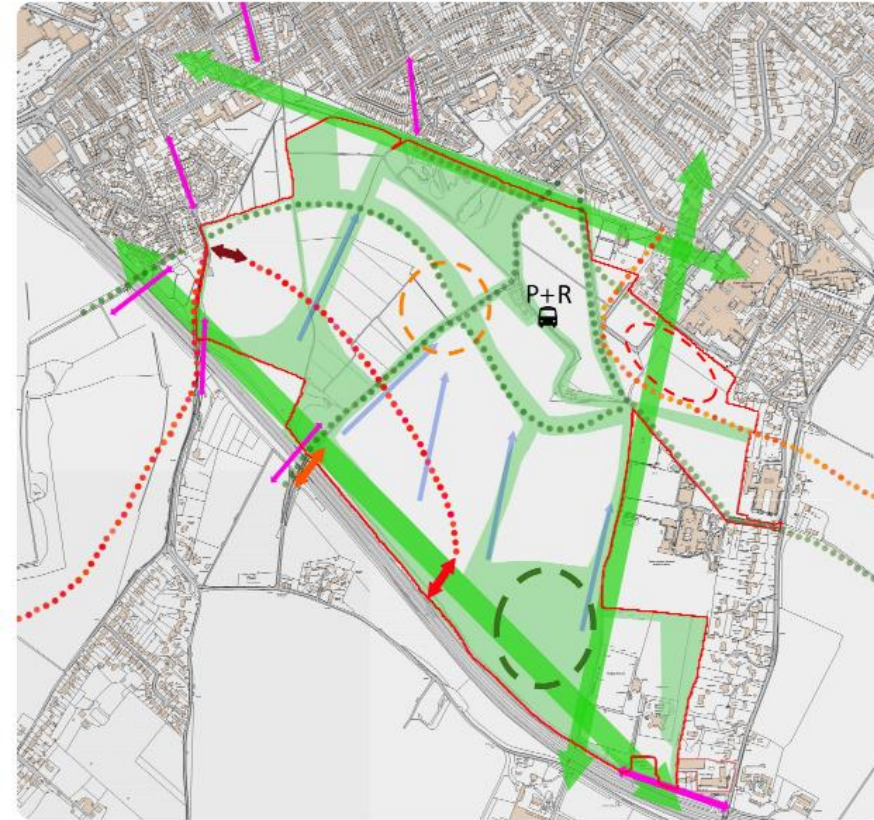
Even opportunities within developments put in local plans to consider GI alongside development

- Open space
- Biodiversity areas
- Green corridors
- Landscape Buffers
- Green Gaps
- Cycling and walking routes/access
- Long distance views

South West Canterbury Strategic Development Area - concept masterplan



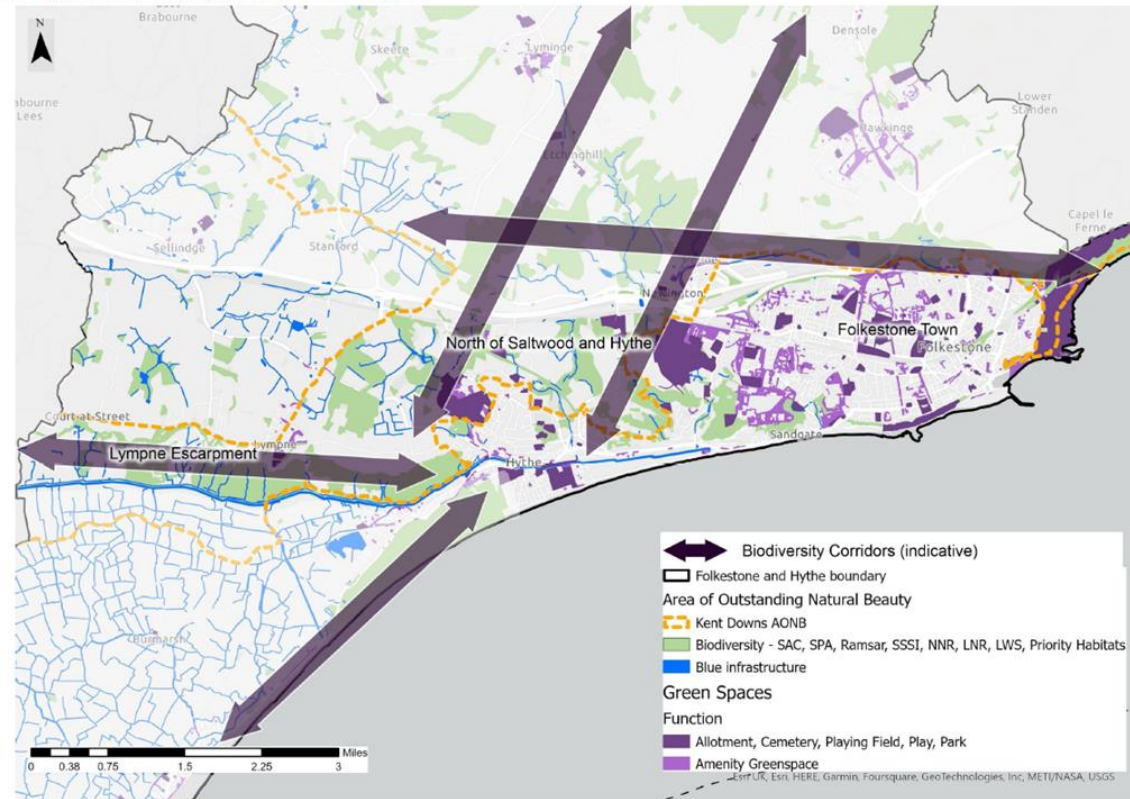
Merton Park - concept masterplan



Links to Nature Improvements

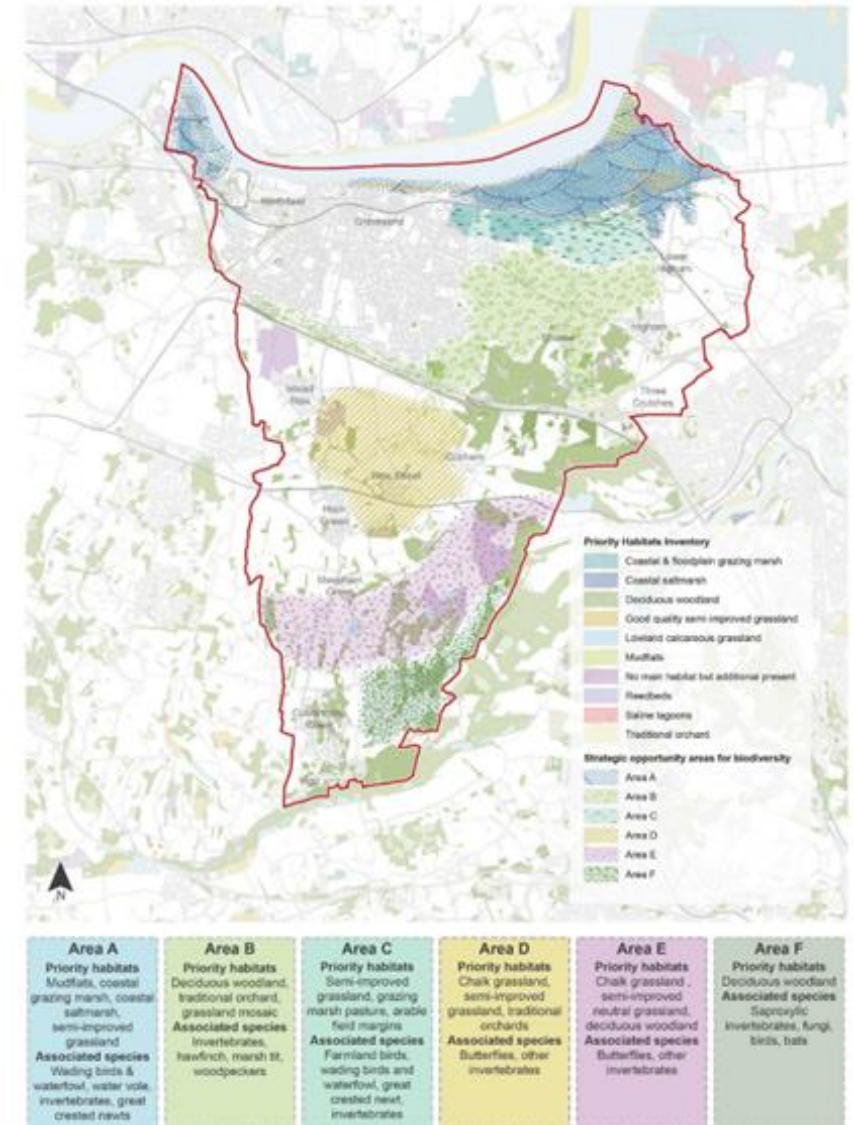
- Biodiversity Opportunity Areas/ corridors
- Nature Recovery Network
- Blue assets

Plan 23: Folkestone Town, Hythe and Saltwood Area



Folkestone & Hythe Green Blue Infrastructure Main Report 2023

Figure 3.1: Areas of strategic opportunity for biodiversity

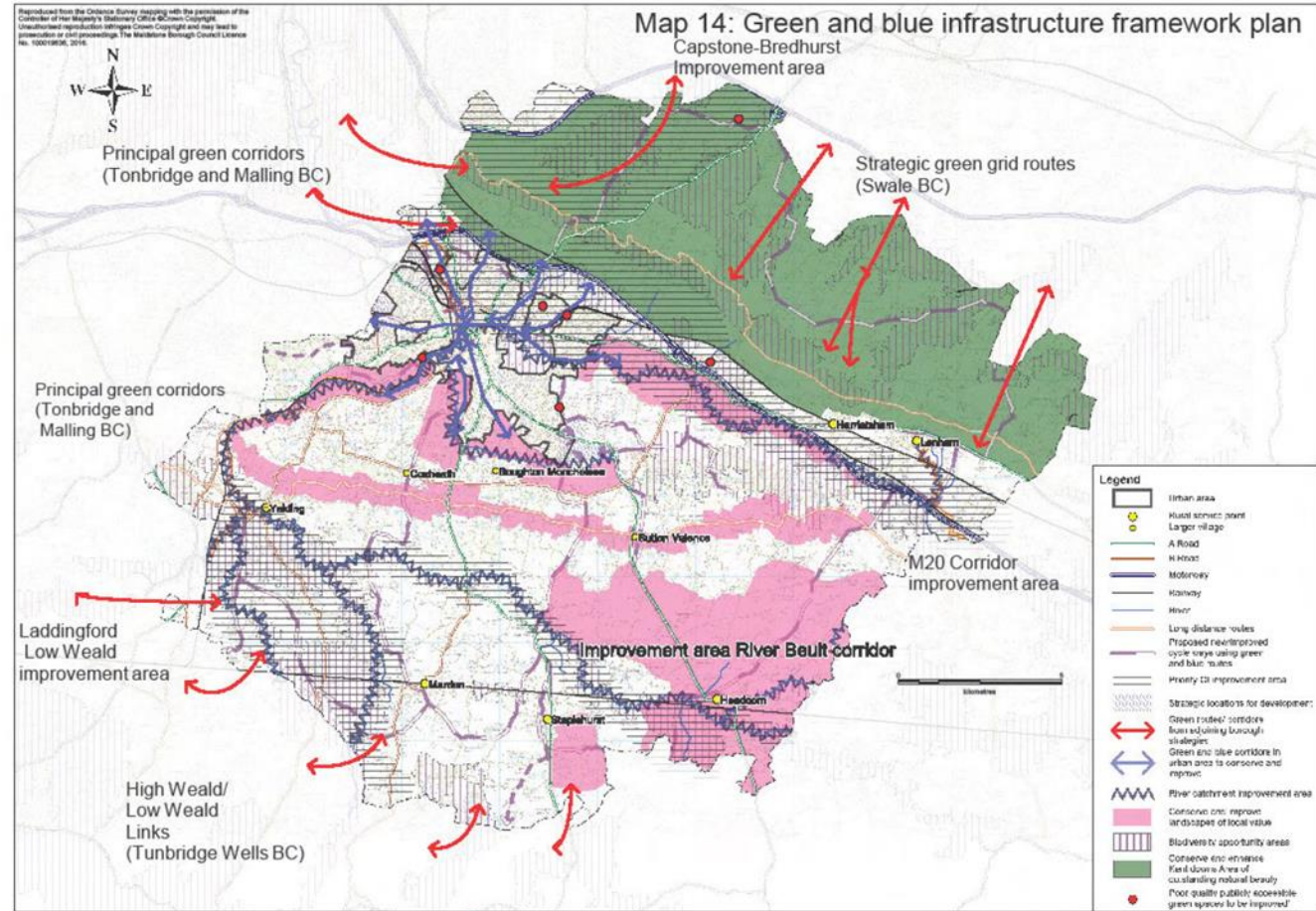
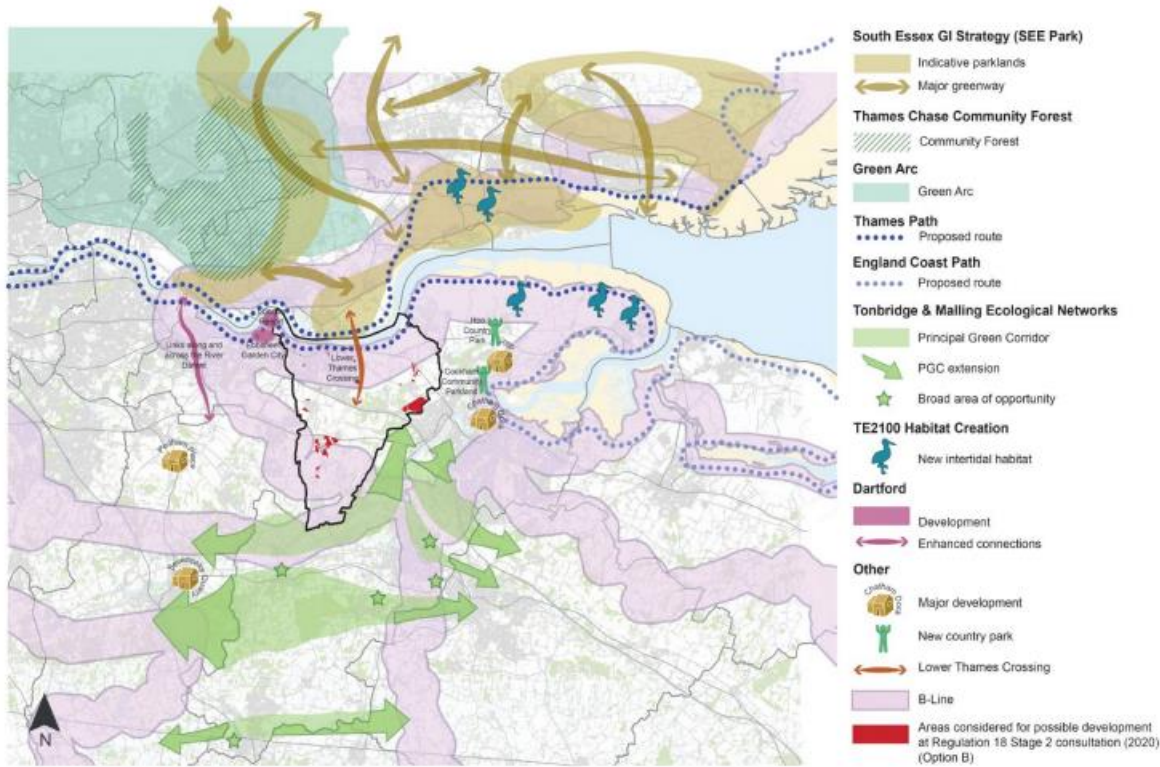


Gravesham Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy 2020

Cross-border considerations

- Between districts
- Over county borders

Figure 3.2: Proposals in neighbouring areas

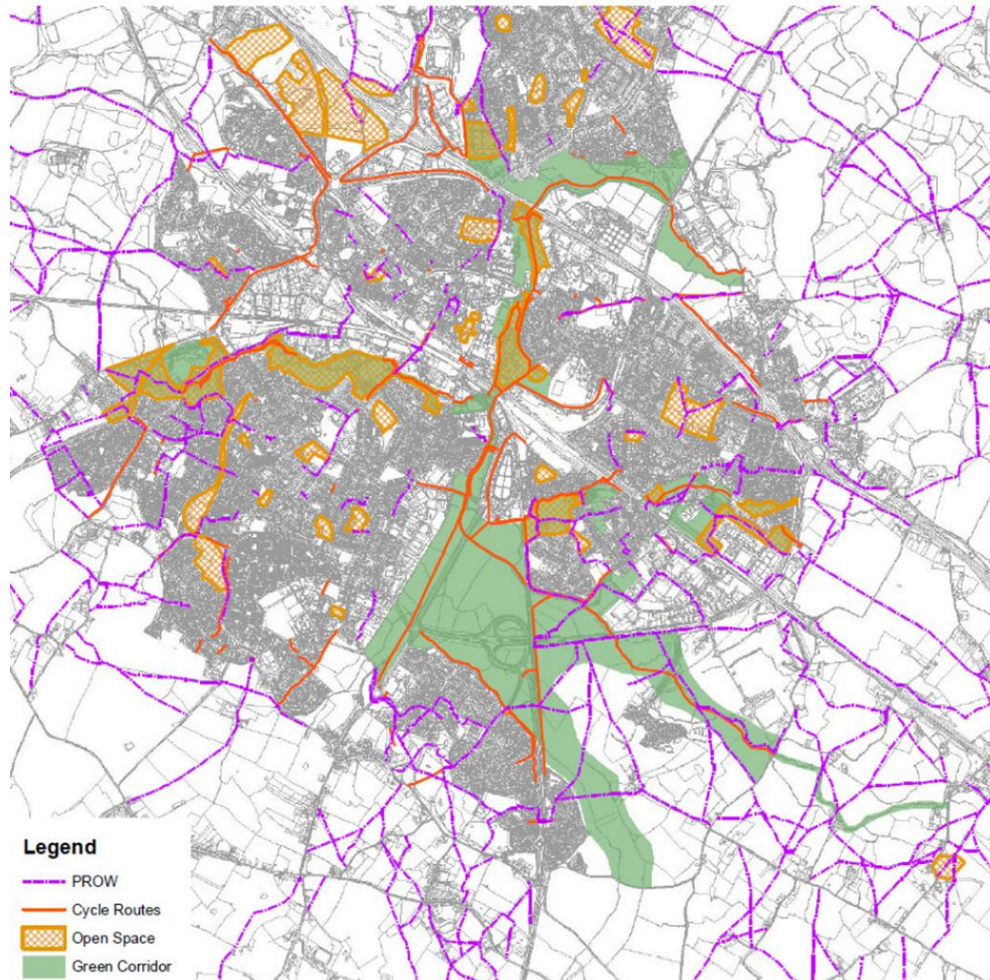


Maidstone Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy 2016

Folkstone & Hythe Green & Blue Infrastructure Main Report 2023

Links to Access

Public Rights of Way



Cycle and walking Routes



Fig 3.1: Walking and cycling



Links to Access

Accessible Greenspace

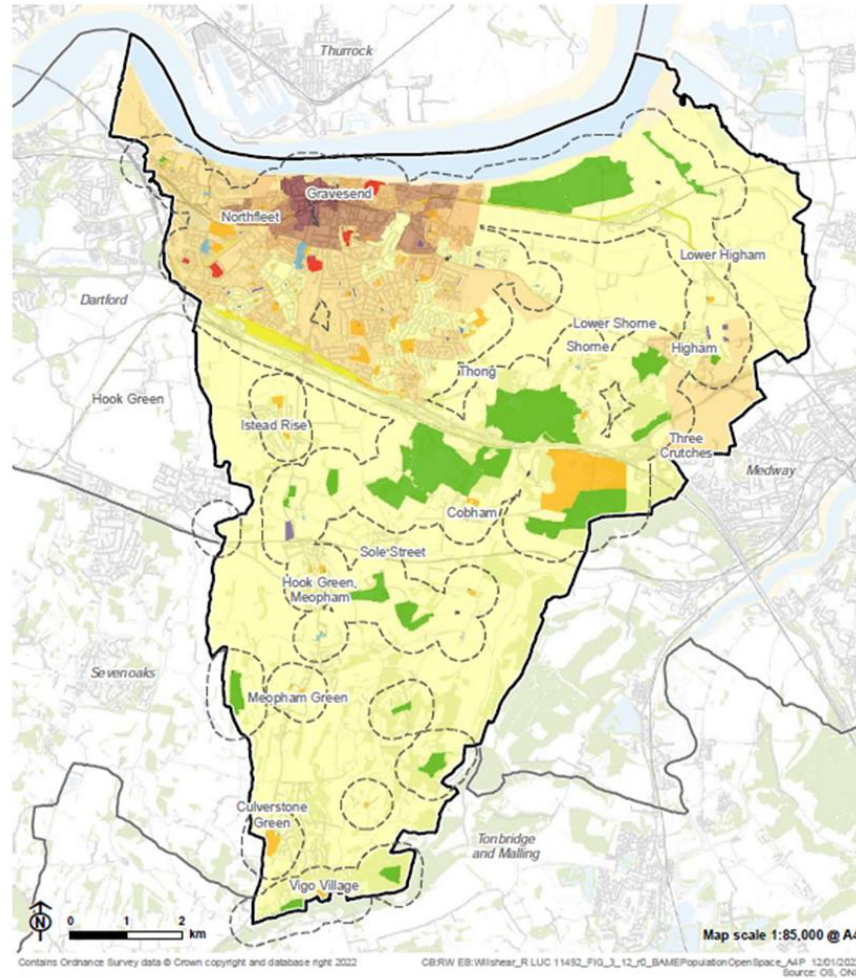


Fig 3.12: Ethnicity and access to open space (borough)

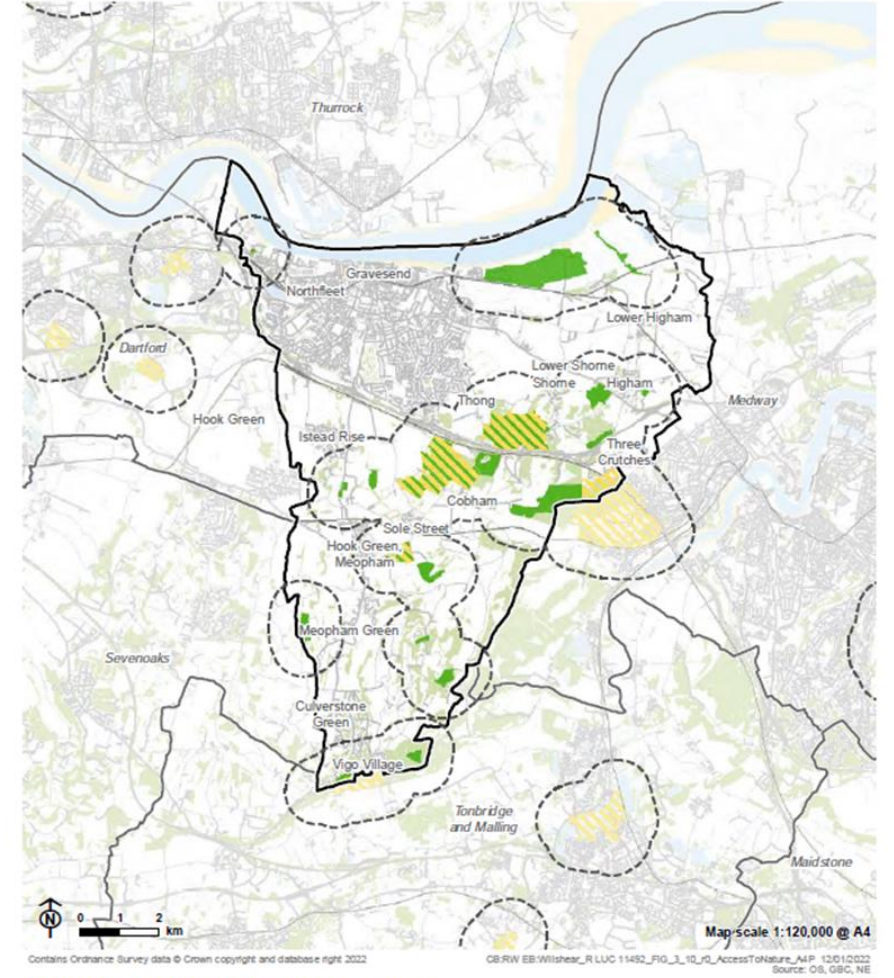
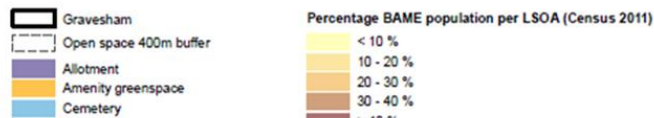
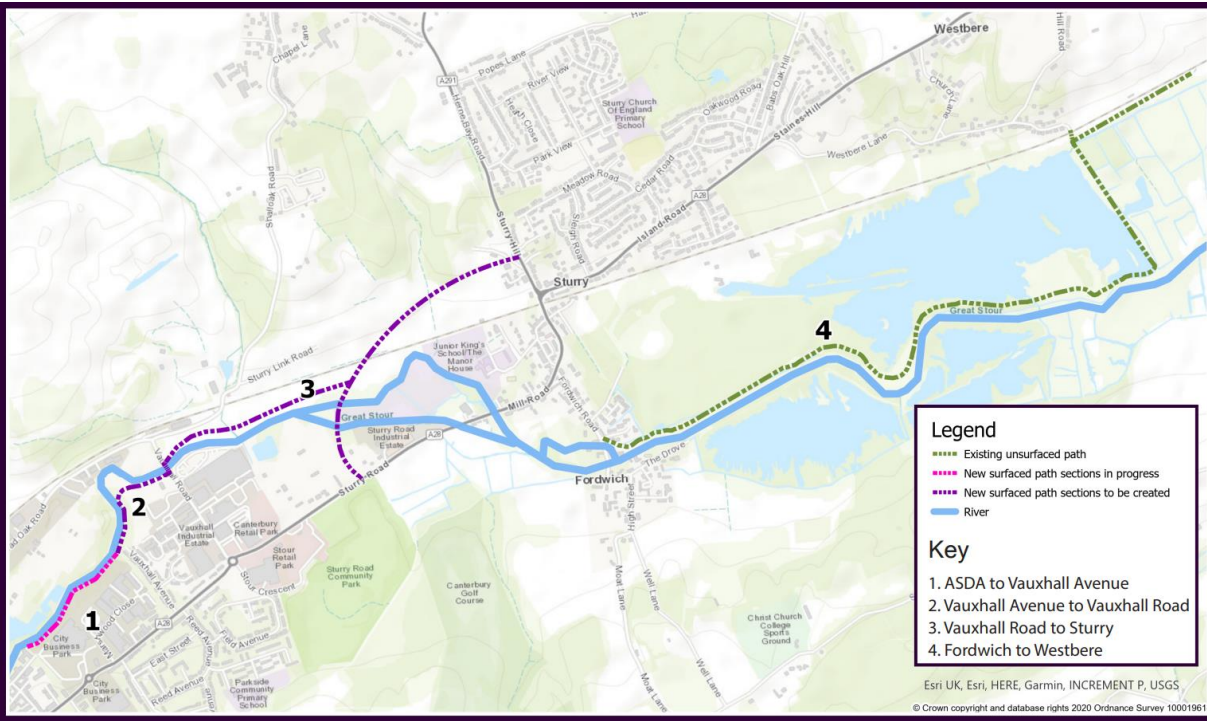


Fig 3.10: Access to natural and semi-natural greenspace



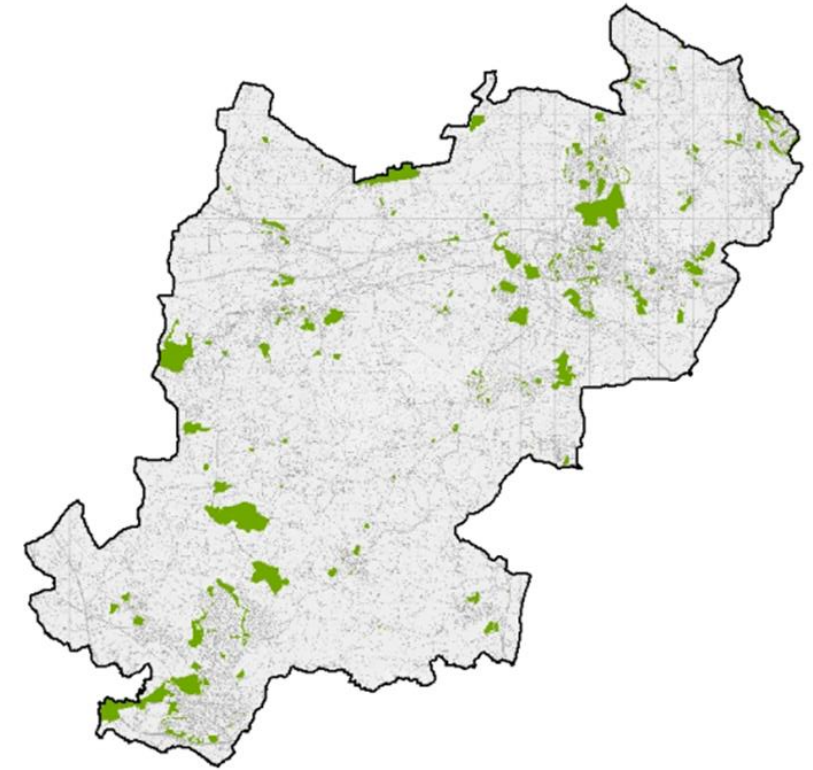
Links to Access

Accessible Blue space



Canterbury City Council Riverside Strategy 2023

Accessible Open Space

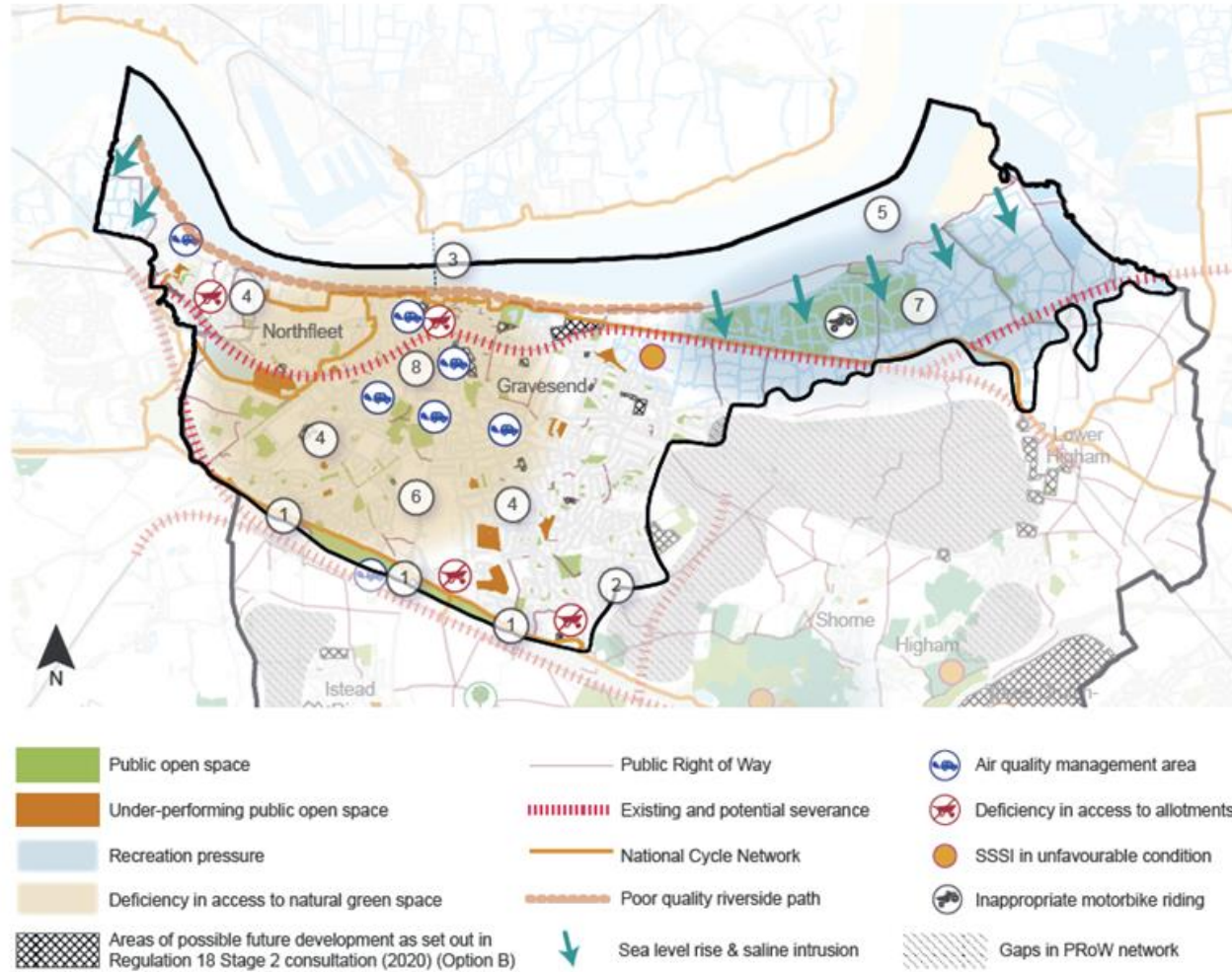


Publicly Accessible Open Space



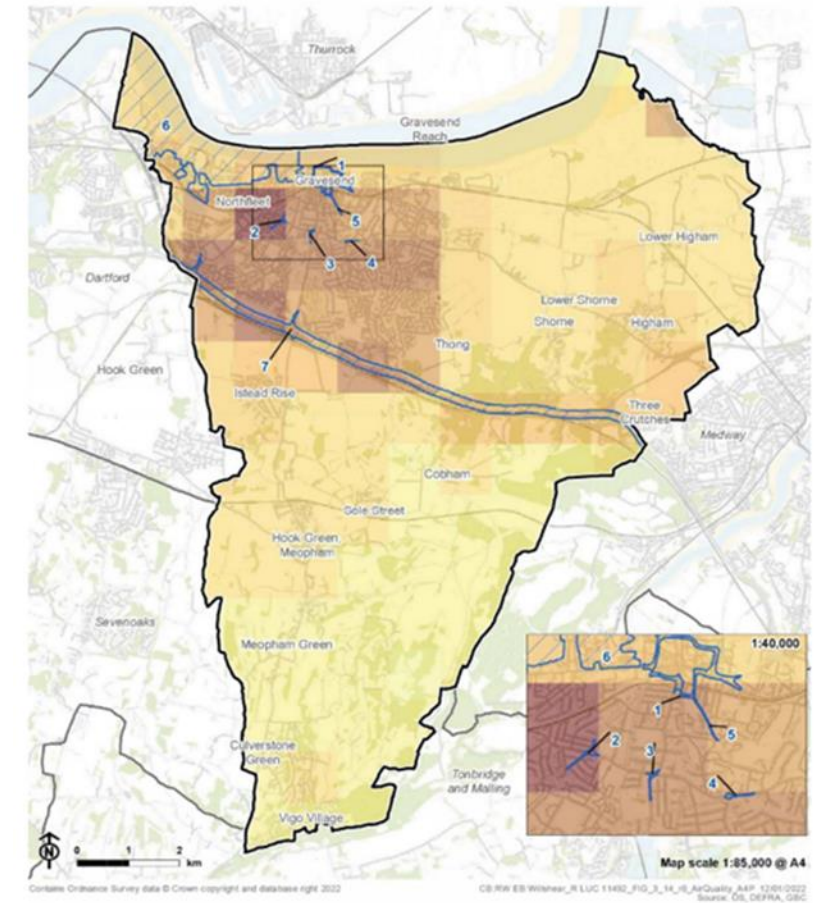
Links to Health

Community needs/ vulnerabilities



Air quality

Figure A.14: Air quality management areas

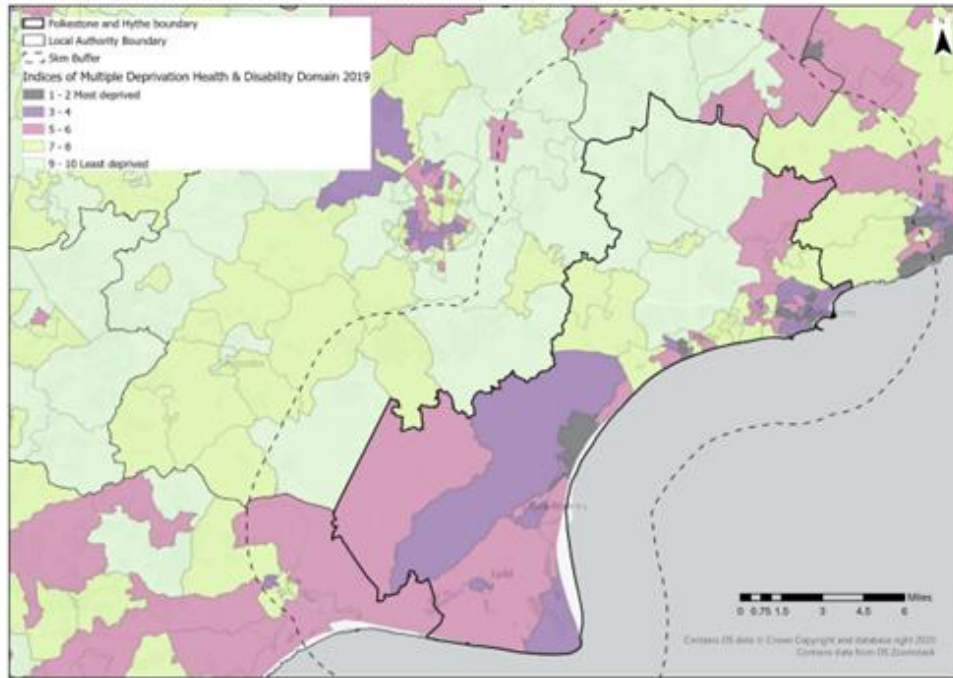


Gravesham Green and Blue Infrastructure Study 2022

Links to Health

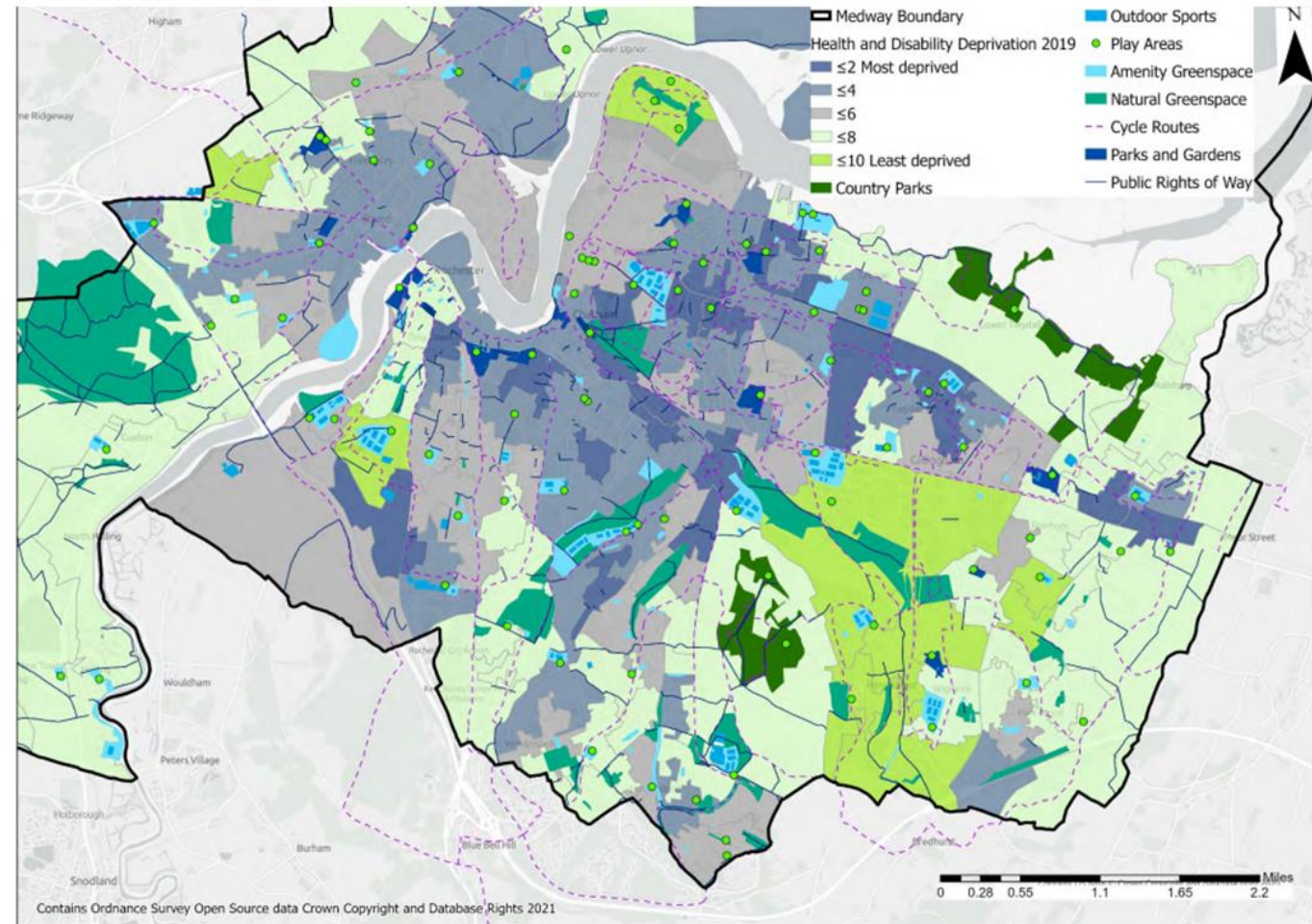
Health deprivation

Plan 16: Indices of Multiple Deprivation Health and Disability Domain 2019 National Rank



Folkstone & Hythe Green & Blue Infrastructure Main Report 2023

Plan 11: Health and Disability Deprivation and Access - Urban Medway



Medway Green and Blue Infrastructure Framework 2021

Key Points



Various takes on a GBI Strategy across Kent & Medway



Newer strategies 2020 onwards generally have more ambition and actions



What informed these GBI Networks- was health and access a factor?



Linking with the work of Natural England



Strategy updates since publication



Delivering GBI Action Plans



How the LNRS can support this action





Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy



Paul Clarke, Public Health Specialist, Kent County Council

Sirina Blankson, Head of Sustainability & Environment, Kent & Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership

Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy and the Wider Determinants of Health



Source: www.health.org.uk/what-makes-us-healthy

Paul Clarke, Public Health Specialist

Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy

Produced by NHS Kent and Medway, Kent County Council and Medway Council



supported by District Councils, Healthwatch organisations and the voluntary sector.

Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy

Our vision:

We will work together to make health and wellbeing better than any partner can do alone

Together we will...

Give children and young people the best start in life

Tackle the wider determinants to prevent ill health

Support happy and healthy living for all

Empower patients and carers

Improve health and care services

Support and grow our workforce

What we need to achieve

- Support families and communities so children thrive
- Strive for children and young people to be physically and emotionally healthy
- Help preschool and school-age children and young people achieve their potential

- Address the social, economic and environmental determinants that enable people to choose to live mentally and physically healthy lives
- Address inequalities

- Support people to adopt positive mental and physical health
- Deliver personalised care and support centred on individuals providing them with choice and control
- Support people to live and age well, be resilient and

- Empower those with multiple or long-term conditions through multidisciplinary teams
- Provide high quality primary care
- Support carers

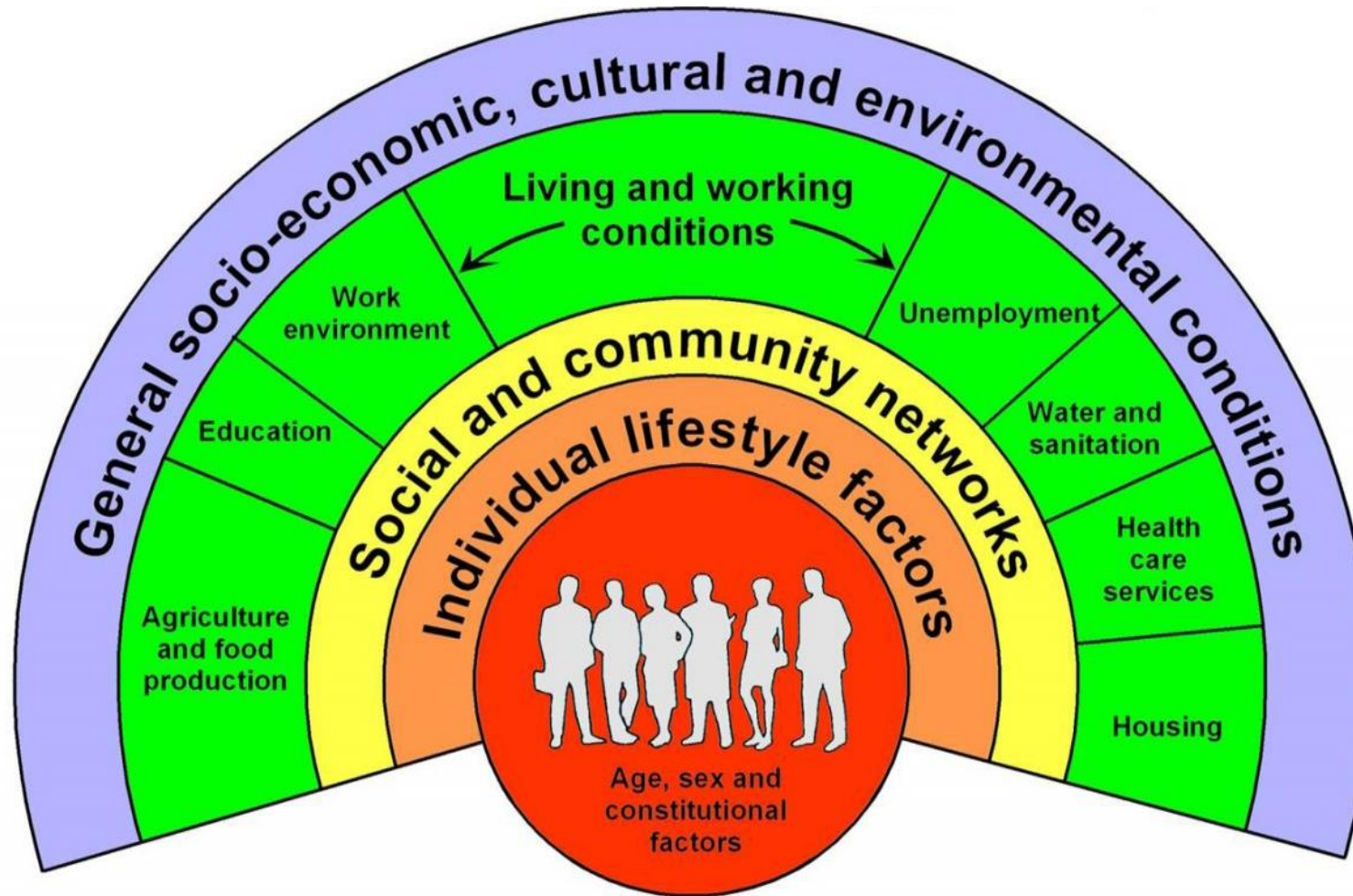
- Improve equity of access to services
- Communicate better between our partners when changing care settings
- Tackle mental health issues with the same priority as physical illness
- Provide high-quality care to all

- Grow our skills and workforce
- Build 'one' workforce
- Look after our people
- Champion inclusive teams

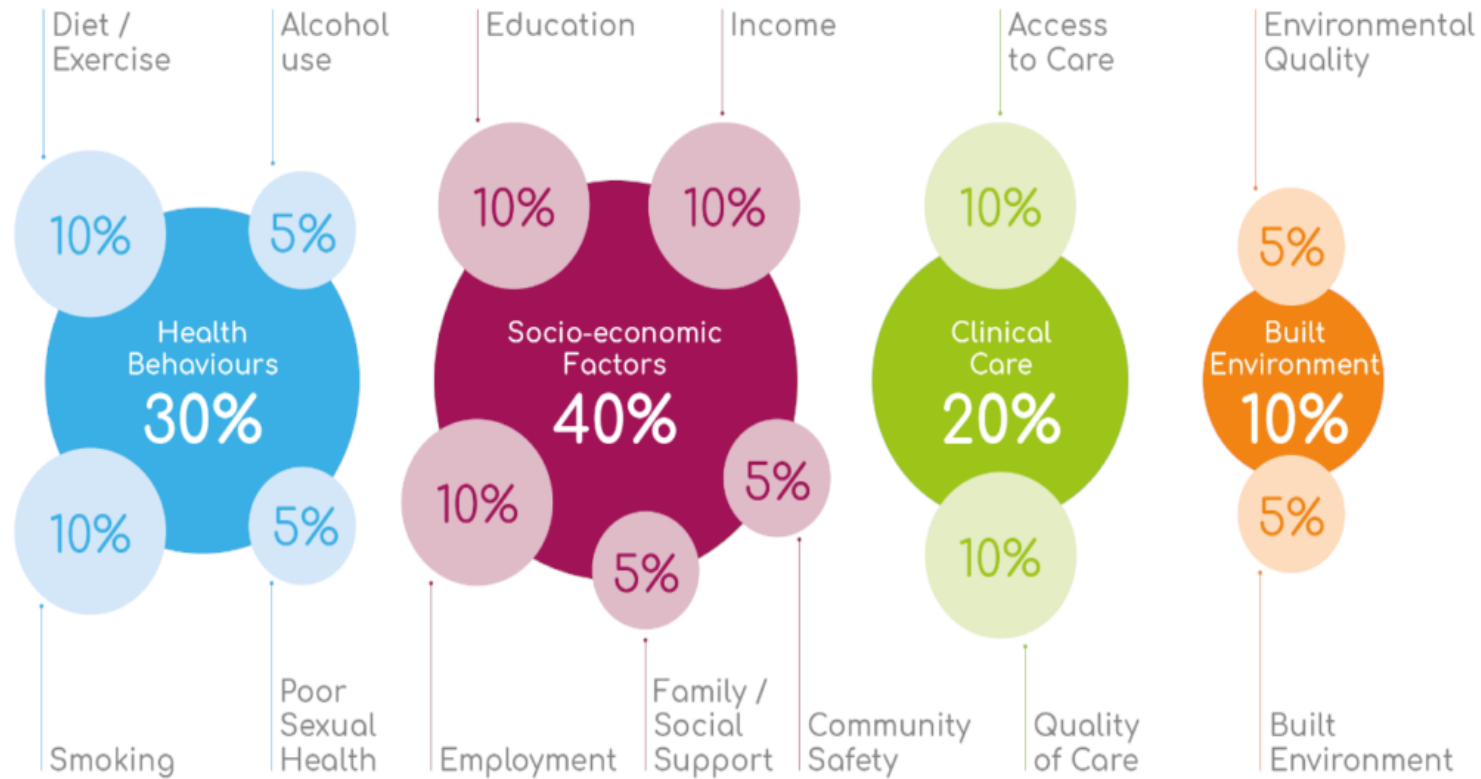
Enablers:

- We will drive research, innovation and improvement across the system
- We will provide system leadership and make the most of our collective resources including our estate
- We will engage our communities on our strategy and in co-designing services

What are the Wider Determinants of Health?



What are the Wider Determinants of Health?



Based on: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, US County health rankings model 2014
https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/sites/default/files/media/document/CHRR_2014_Key_Findings.pdf

What are the Wider Determinants of Health?



What does this mean in terms of access to nature and health?

- There is increasing and growing evidence on the health benefits (physical, mental and wider) of access to good quality green spaces
- The most economically deprived areas often have less available public greenspace, meaning people in those communities have fewer opportunities to reap the health benefits.
- Increasing the use of good quality green space for all social groups is likely to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities
- Local Government plays a vital role in protecting, maintaining and improving local green spaces (including access to and connecting active travel routes) and can create new areas of green space. Such efforts require joint working across different parts of the local government and beyond particularly public health, planning, transport, parks and leisure



Delivering the Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy

Each place and neighbourhood is different and delivery of the priorities will need to respond to specific needs and circumstances.

Local partners, including District Councils have developed local alliances and networks that will deliver actions to tackle their key local health issues and which increasingly both recognise the challenges the local system faces and the need to tackle the wider determinants of health.

Kent & Medway Plans and Green Infrastructure strategies in respect of health, access & nature.

SIRINA BLANKSON

*HEAD OF SUSTAINABILITY &
ENVIIRONMENT - KMPT*

Delivering the KMPT Green Plan



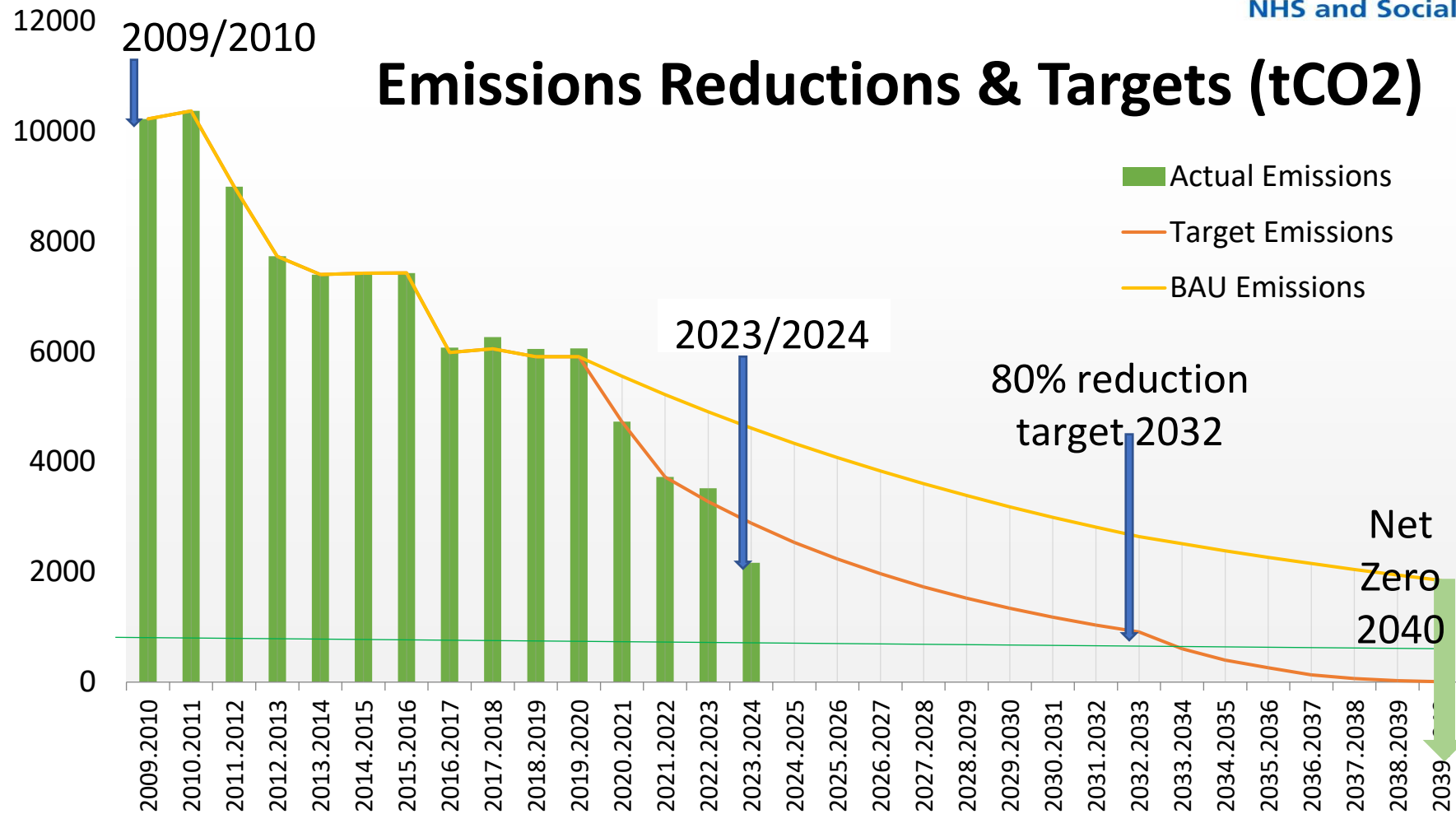
Brilliant care through brilliant people



Carbon Reduction Journey



Kent and Medway
NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust



Brilliant care through brilliant people



Green Spaces Project

The KMPT green spaces improvement project group was set up in 2022 following CQC, board and staff concerns around the tidiness of our Green Spaces and how best to make use of the areas to enhance the well being of both staff and patients.

The project is also part of meeting commitments in the Green plan including the “Green Space and biodiversity Project plan” It aims to help meet the Trust’s objectives:

- Having a welcoming, calm, modern, clean looking buildings and sites to improve patients and staff experience.
- Having safe, accessible, sensory spaces which have a positive impact on recovery and overall patient and staff experience.
- Providing facilities and spaces that are safe spaces for staff to enjoy so that they may also benefit from positive wellbeing effects of the outside and being immersed in nature
- Helping to improve and support local wildlife

Brilliant care through brilliant people



“I think encouraging a love of nature in our patients can be used to promote wellbeing in a broader sense and something patients can take with them once discharged into the community.” - KMPT staff survey respondent

KMPT GREEN SPACES PROJECT



Brilliant care through brilliant people



KMPT Approach



Brilliant care through brilliant people



Health Access Nature: Coleman House

Priorities for improving outside spaces at this site

Priority 1:

- Access for community. Volunteer services, links, social prescribing, community groups
- Sheltered spaces for meetings. Private, functional, permissive. Disability-friendly 1-1 spaces outdoors
- Path ways to care. Access around the site that is safe and low maintenance. Nature walk. A place to go for a walk around the site.
- Improve maintenance generally to build the sense of care and attention
- Meadow management. Cared for spaces. Low maintenance, easy to look after.
- Garden as a de-escalation point - current space is good as it's open and easy to keep an eye on people.

Priority 2:

- Revive the secret garden (former allotment) - interest from community partners including Kent & Medway green prescribing group. Places to plant flowers and vegetables
- Make it easy to notice nature - taking pictures, Water, seeing Nature just doing its thing, Buds are hope. Nature as an indicator of time - 'it will pass'. 'Sight survey' - what wildlife is here to see and notice?
- Seats - around trees, dry bums.
- Pond - enhance it for people and the pond life.
- Security and access - keys to the secret garden

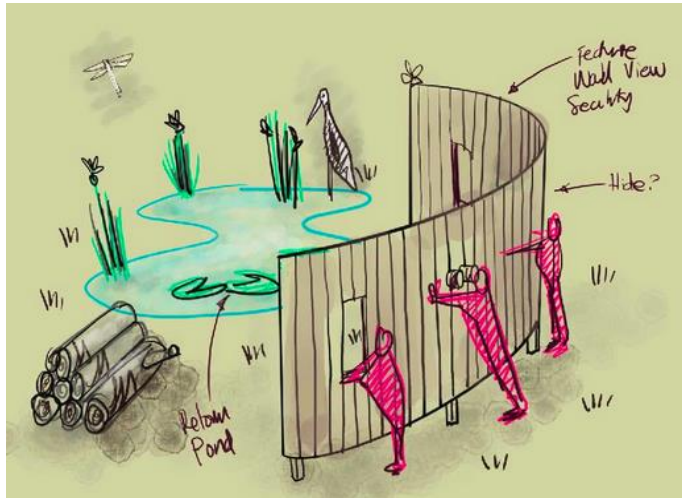
Priority 3:

- Open up the balconies as a place to view the nature - are they safe, could they be places to bridge the indoors and out, great quiet views.

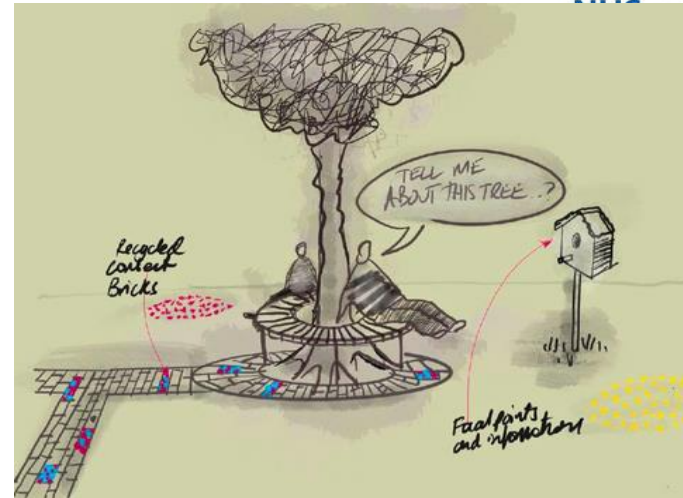
Brilliant care through brilliant people



Coleman House - Illustrations



A simple screen for pondering the pond



Ring seats around the trees, accessed by safe pathways of meaning



Access and invitations to connect with nature



A quiet place to sit and reflect with nature

Brilliant care through brilliant people



Exa

1 YEAR ON!

3 ecological surveys completed

15m of new hedgerow planted

2 sustainability volunteer's recruited

40 moss panels installed

collaborative working with Canterbury Christchurch University on Nature Connectiveness Photography

Access improvements made to Webb's garden

Almost £10,000 has been donated by League of Friends to improve outside spaces at Oakwood

NHS Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust

IHS Medway Partnership Trust

- Collaborative working with Canterbury Christchurch University on Nature Connectiveness Photography
- Actively participated in No Mow May
- Recruited 2 Sustainability Volunteer's
- Access improvements made to Webb's garden
- Willow Garden clearance and improvement plan underway
- Almost £10,000 has been donated by League of Friends to improve outside spaces at Oakwood.
- Growing Herb Tea gardens by patients and staff

Brilliant care through brilliant people



How are we funding these?

- Grants
- Partnership Schemes
- Social Value contracts
- Volunteering staff and community
- Including with building fabric upgrades
- Capital investments

Brilliant care through brilliant people



THANK YOU



Let's Get Growing!

Fancy trying your hand at growing some veggies this year?
Would you like to run a staff / service user project that involves growing produce?
Are you keen to start a kitchen garden where you work?

Here's £50 to help you get started

Funded by our FM provider **MEARS**, KMPT have been awarded
20 x £50 National Garden Centre Vouchers.



Apologies for the weeds....



...we're leaving them for the
butterflies and the bees.



Brilliant care through brilliant people

Brilliant care through brilliant people



Public Rights of Way & Access Service

The Public Rights of Way (PROW) network in Kent extends to 6900Km and provides unparalleled access to Kent's countryside and coast.

It is a statutory service that is heavily used and has an excellent national reputation for highly cost-effective service delivery.

A flavour of the breadth of the work of the Service and the outcomes that it delivers may be found in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan: [Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Kent County Council](#)



A coastal landscape featuring a sandy beach, dunes with green grass, and a blue sky with white clouds. The foreground shows a sandy dune with clumps of green grass. The middle ground is a wide, flat sandy beach leading to the ocean. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds.

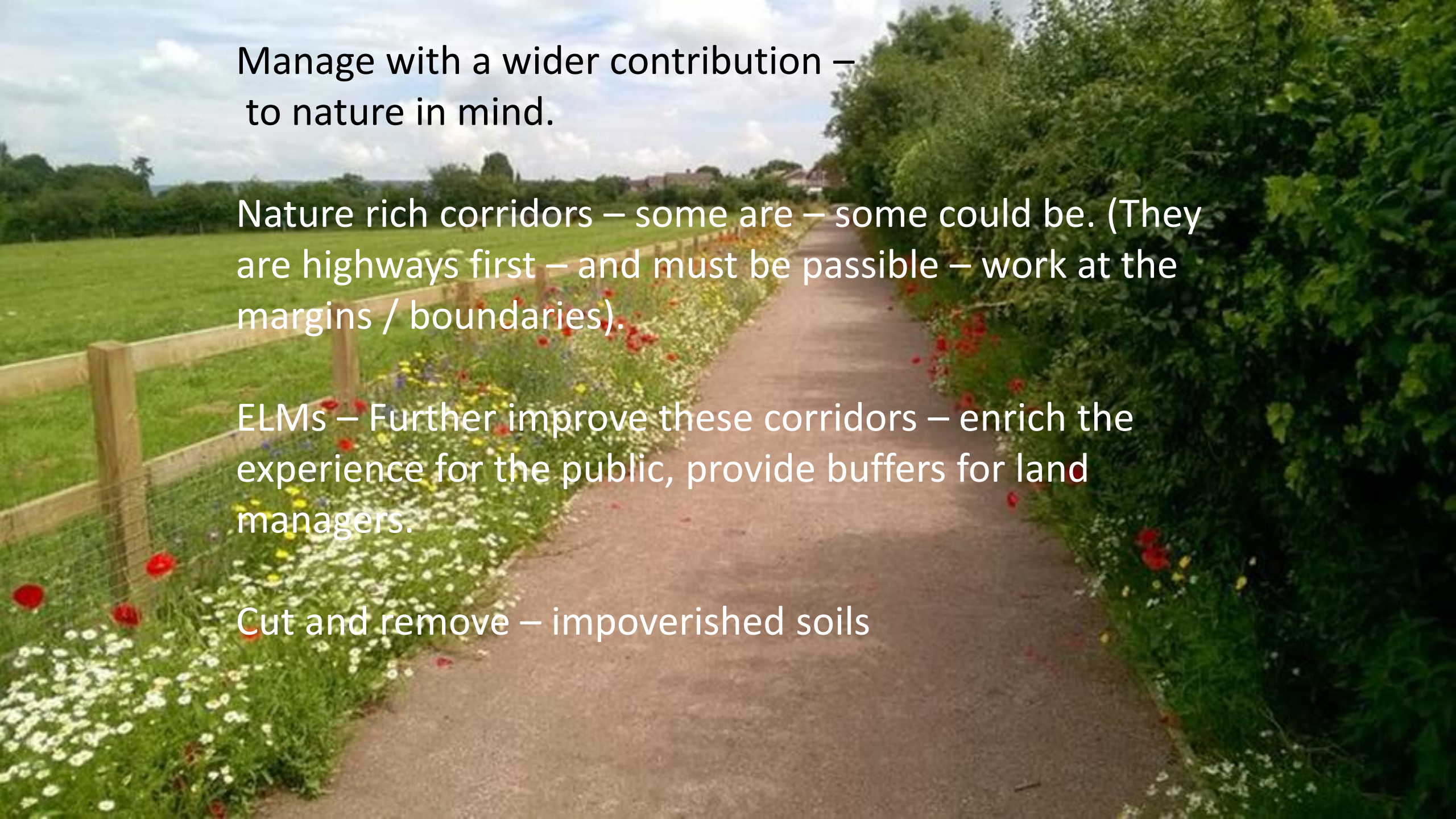
Blue space and coastal margin.

Access to nature and greenspace – KCIII ECP and coastal access margin - passes through some of the communities with the poorest health outcomes – multiple indices of deprivation.

Access to nature and greenspace. Network around home 1 in 3 don't have access within 15 minutes – Importance – has to be near to people

Woodland and unimproved/ poor grassland – wildlife rich – not seemingly captured in the Accessible Greenspace Mapping.

High quality access experience without over interpretation or manicuring.

A paved path runs through a lush green landscape. To the left, a wooden fence separates the path from a grassy field. The path is bordered by a dense strip of greenery, including various flowers like red poppies and white daisies. In the background, there are trees and some buildings under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

Manage with a wider contribution –
to nature in mind.

Nature rich corridors – some are – some could be. (They are highways first – and must be passible – work at the margins / boundaries).

ELMs – Further improve these corridors – enrich the experience for the public, provide buffers for land managers.

Cut and remove – impoverished soils

Rights of Way of Way Improvement Plan

Good design

Access from new
housing/ development

New links permissive/
PRoW

Woodland Access

Improvement Plan – WAIP

– creation of woodlands –
where they deliver
greatest benefit.



Graham Rusling

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03000 413449

The 15- minute commitment

Hayley Dillon, Senior Officer, Connecting people with nature.



“to ensure that anyone can reach green or blue space within 15 minutes from their front door” and to “reduce other barriers which prevent people from accessing green and blue spaces, such as physical challenges, lack of confidence and lack of information”.

Environmental Improvement Plan 2023

*UK population is predicted to grow by **four million by 2050**, with an increased proportion of people living in towns and cities. Population changes mean more houses and increasing demand to access nature close to where people live.*

Key Outcomes

Green in 15

More people accessing quality green and blue spaces within 15 minutes of home

Improve outcomes for health and well being

Increase Community Engagement

Remove the barriers to access

Join up networks of green and blue spaces

Children spending more time outdoors

Greater support for nature/nature recovery

Climate resilience

Low carbon travel

Food Production

Improve air quality

Green Infrastructure Framework



What is the Green Infrastructure Framework?

The Green Infrastructure Framework **supports the greening of our towns and cities as part of the Nature Recovery Network**. It sets out what good looks like for local planning authorities, developers, parks and greenspace managers and communities. It provides tools to help plan and design green infrastructure networks that deliver multiple benefits. The five main products in the Framework are:

Green Infrastructure Principles

Why, What and How of good green infrastructure

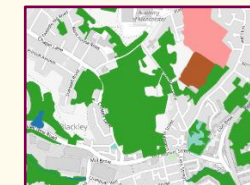
Why	1. Nature 2. Health 3. Economy 4. Water 5. Climate
What	1. Multifunctional 2. Varied 3. Connected 4. Accessible 5. Responds to Character
How	1. Partnership and Vision 2. Evidence 3. Plan Strategically 4. Design 5. Manage, Value and Evaluate

Green Infrastructure Standards

National standards for green infrastructure quantity and quality.
See overleaf for more details

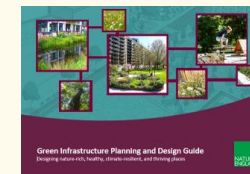
Green Infrastructure Mapping

Mapped datasets to support the standards



Green Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide

How to design good quality green infrastructure



Process Journeys

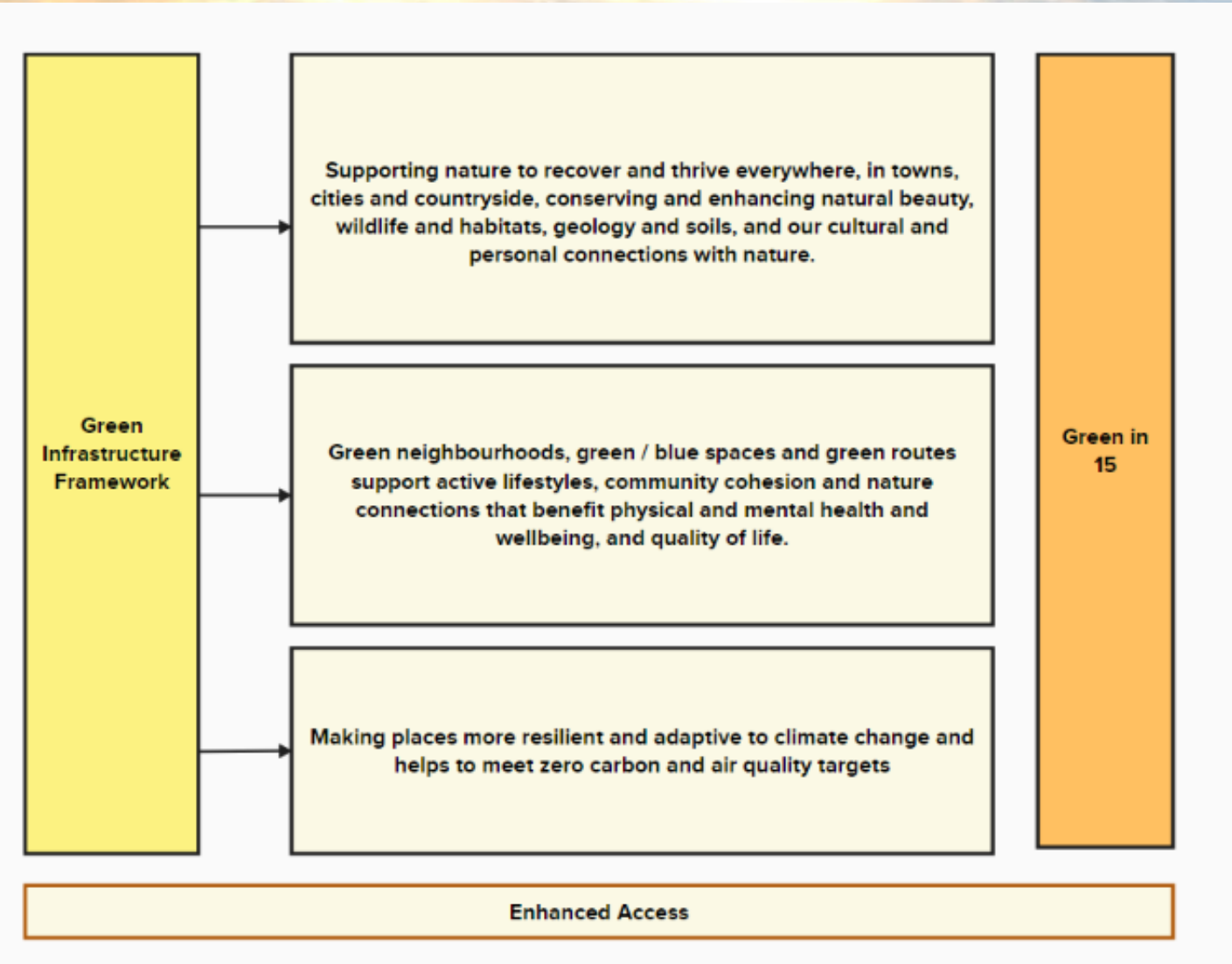
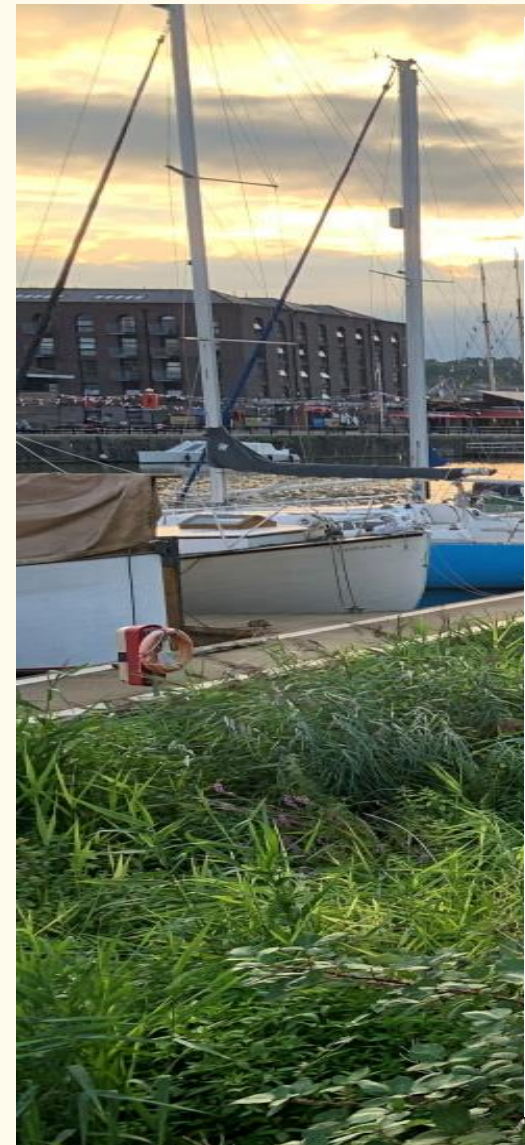
How to apply the products in the Framework for Planners, Developers and Neighbourhood Planners



For more information scan the QR code or copy the link:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx>

The Green Infrastructure Framework and Green in 15



Key Partnerships



We are collaborating with various NGOs who can help us deliver initiatives and influence policy through their voices and actions.

	Cross Government drivers
DEFRA	EIP priorities for 15 mins, urban accreditation, GSP, GCHs, LNRS to support biodiversity and wider benefits,
DLUHC	Levelling Up Missions - Pride in Place and Health missions include the importance of access to nature/green space, and GSP. -Levelling Up Parks Fund of £9m for 100 local authorities, green flag award.
DofT	-Active Transport, creating healthy neighbourhoods -Low carbon, green travel routes
DCMS	10 year Mental Health Plan and GSP is an opportunity to build Accessible Greenspace into our long term strategy for preventing and treating poor mental health
DofE	National Education Nature Park and Climate Action Awards

Green Community Hubs

- a social-nature space within a neighbourhood- 15 mins from home max.
- communities see it as safer and welcoming to all
- It's local/close to home, accessible and cared for
- It can provide a signposting function to other services
- Delivers nature-based activities that are co-developed with communities
- Those activities are social, varied (reflecting their interests and needs), engaging and evolving
- We are growing our understanding of what is required to develop sustainably



Urban accreditation

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Who is it for?

A place that puts nature at the heart of its communities to grow their health, prosperity, connection and resilience.

A place at the forefront of using nature recovery and nature-based solutions to tackle health inequalities and climate change, leading with communities and partner organisations.



The role of Local Nature Recovery Strategies



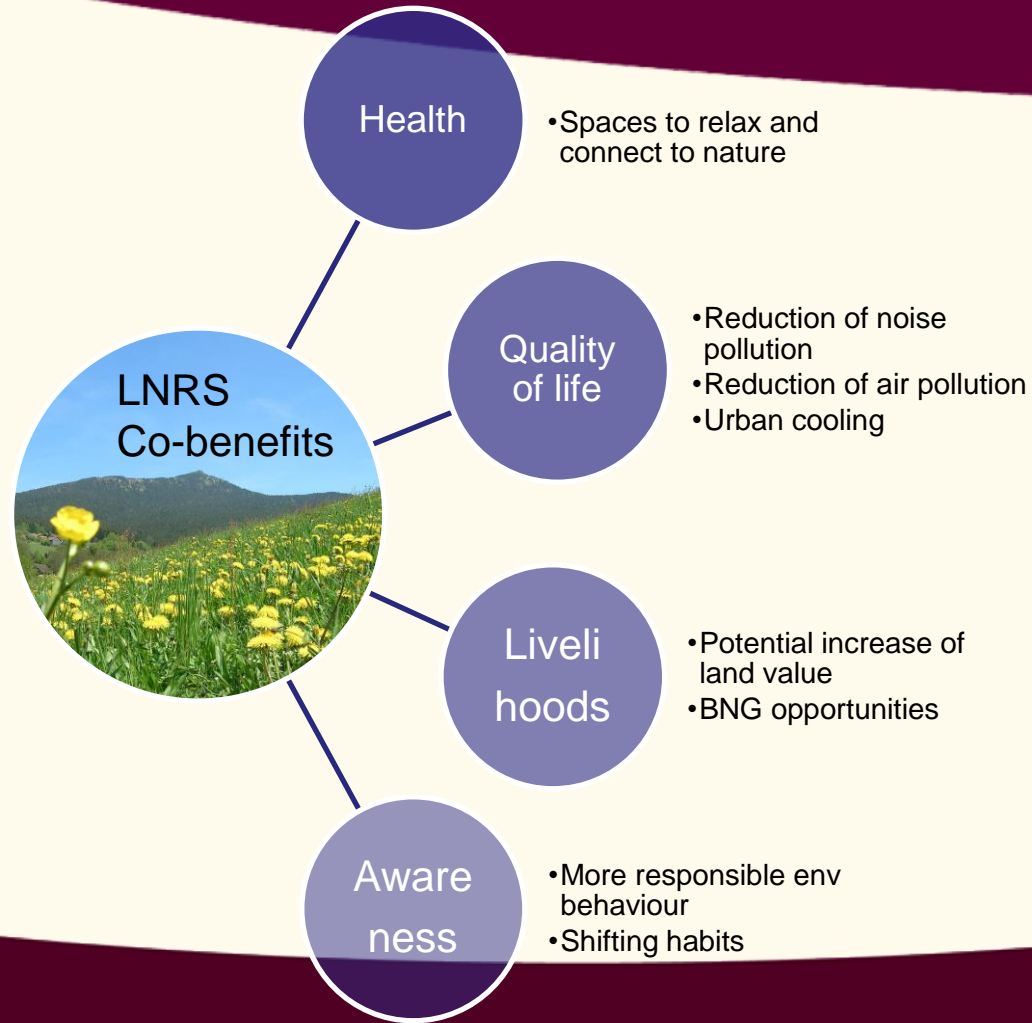
LNRS are a cornerstone policy for nature recovery in England. They are a system of spatial strategies for nature helping map out the action needed to restore nature, working closely with local stakeholders, including farmers and land managers.

Recovering or enhancing biodiversity does not just benefit the natural environment.

Responsible authorities may also shape potential measures so that they will deliver **non-environmental (societal) co-benefits**



Examples of LNRS co-benefits



The 15- minute commitment

Hayley.Dillon@naturalengland.org.uk, Senior Officer, Connecting people with nature.



Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Use of data and mapping for accessible natural green and blue space



Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy



Joshua Stroud, Kent Public Health Observatory

Jane Houghton, Senior Officer – Strategy,

Connecting People and Nature Team

Public Health Data

Kent Public Health Observatory

Produced by

Josh Stroud, Public Health Analyst

Public Health England (now Office for Health Improvement and Disparities) review of access to greenspace, 2020:



People who have greater exposure to greenspace have a range of more favourable physiological outcomes.

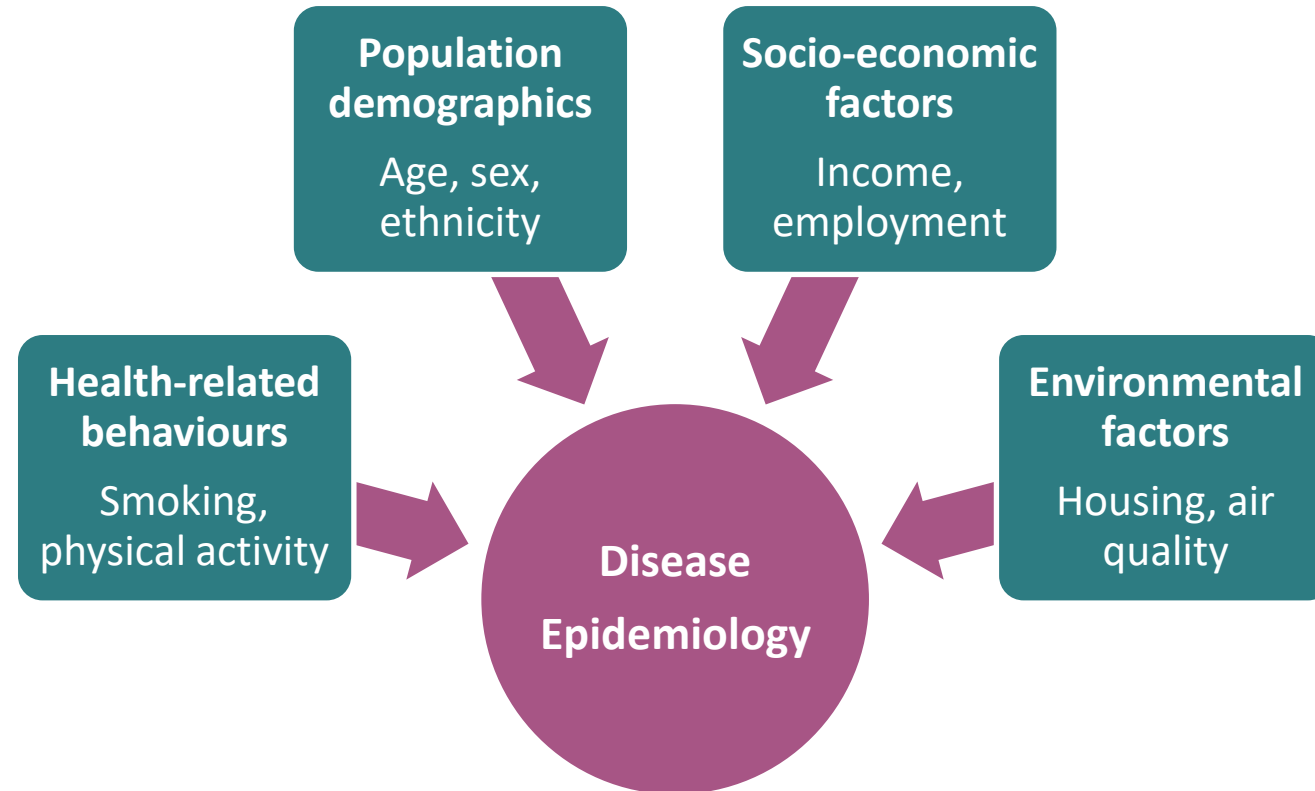


Greener environments are associated with better mental health and wellbeing outcomes including reduced levels of depression, anxiety, and fatigue



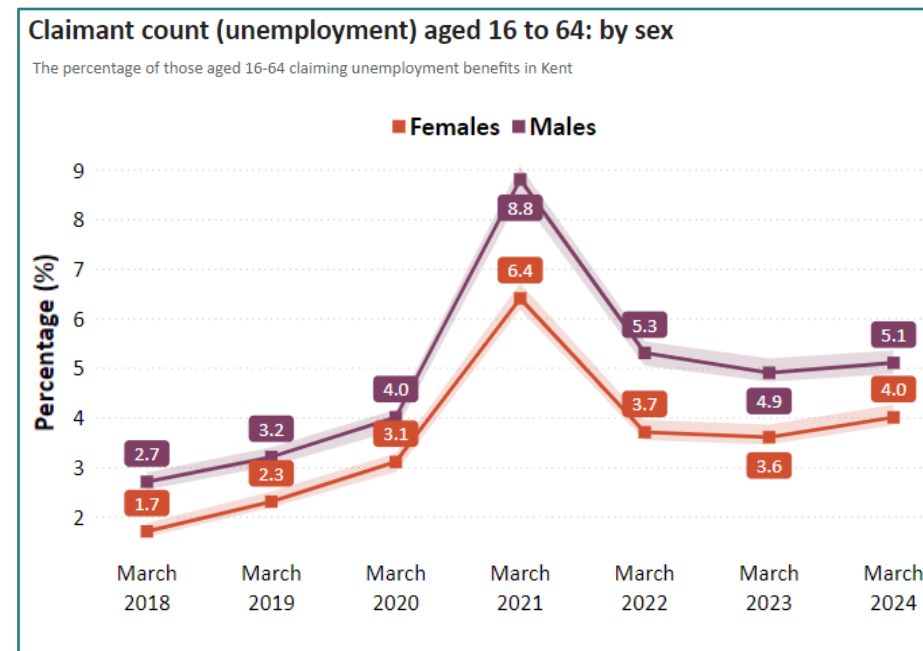
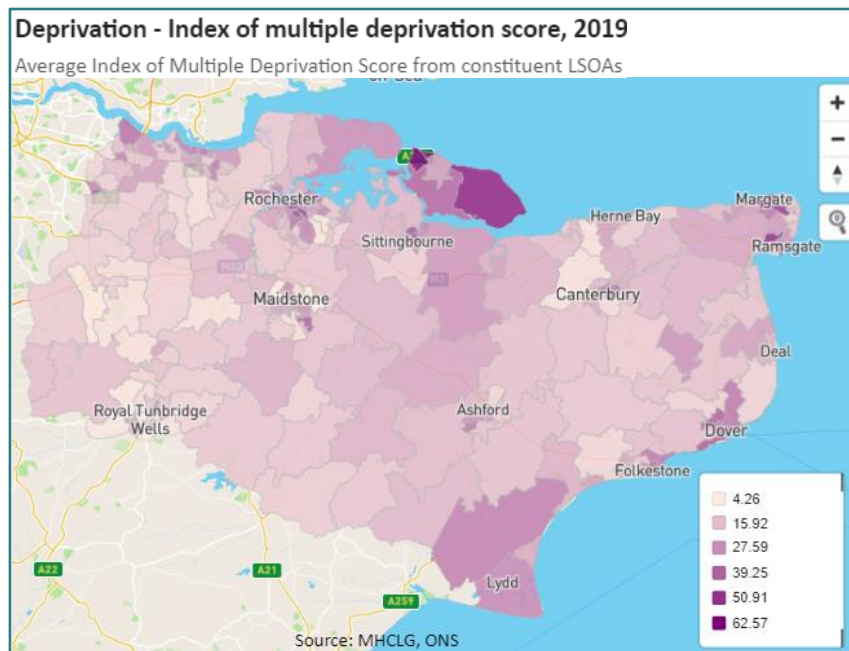
Disadvantaged groups appear to gain a larger health benefit and have reduced socioeconomic-related inequalities in health when living in greener communities

Public Health Surveillance



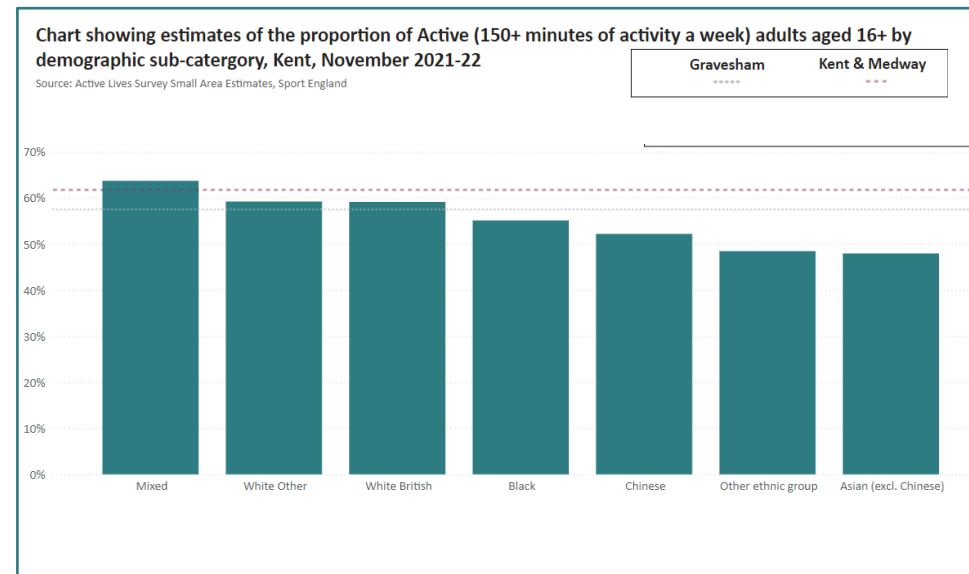
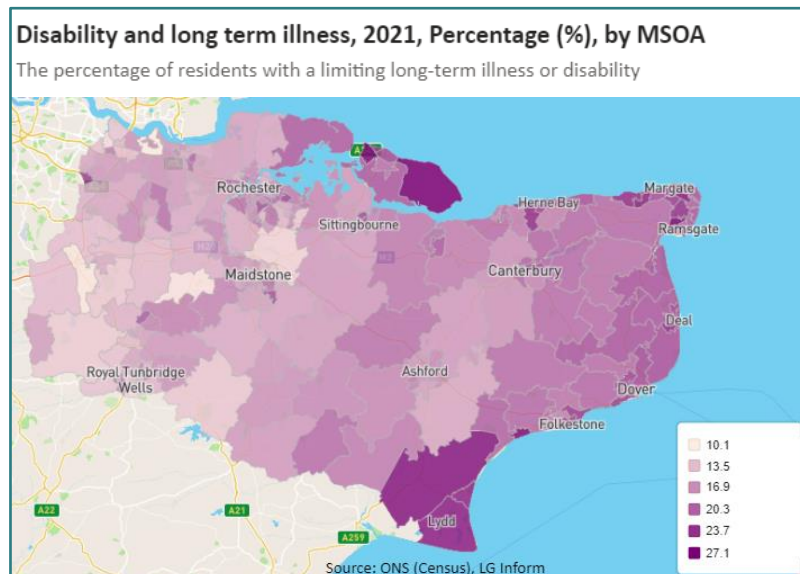
Inequality of circumstances

🍏 How socio-economic and environmental factors vary geographically and demographically

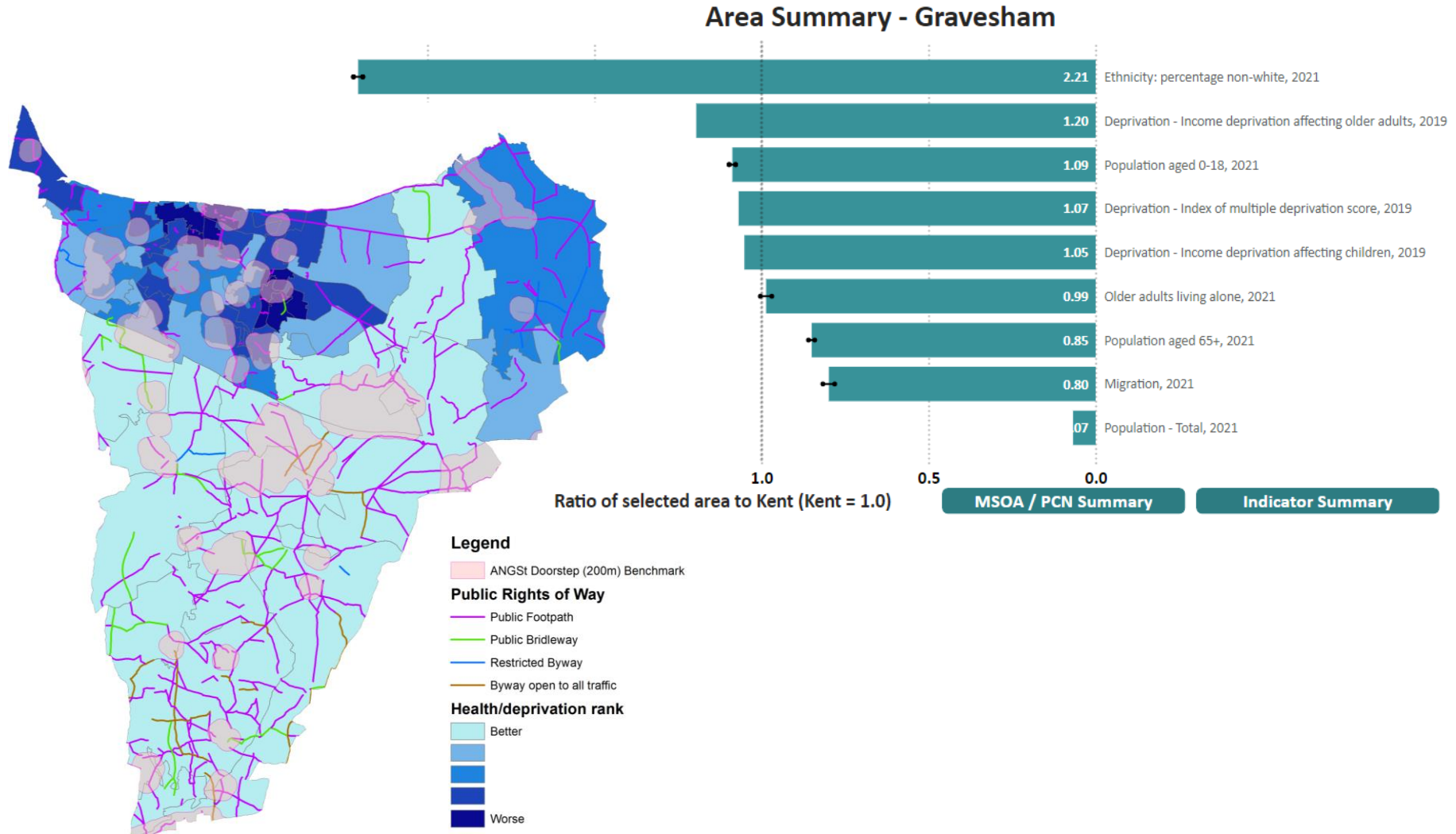


Inequality of outcomes

🍏 How disease and health-related behaviours vary geographically and demographically

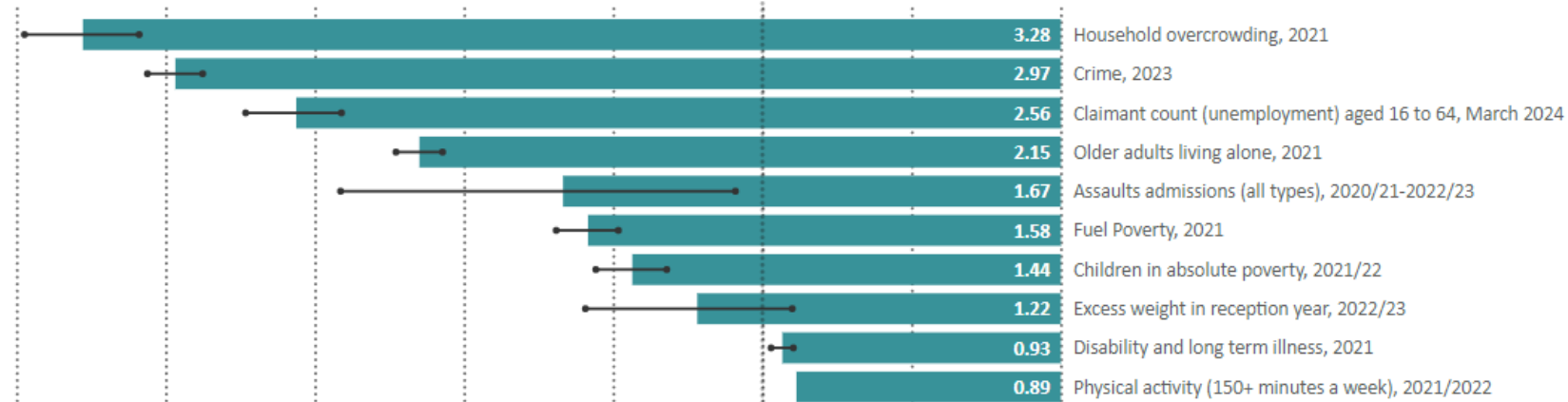


Gravesham

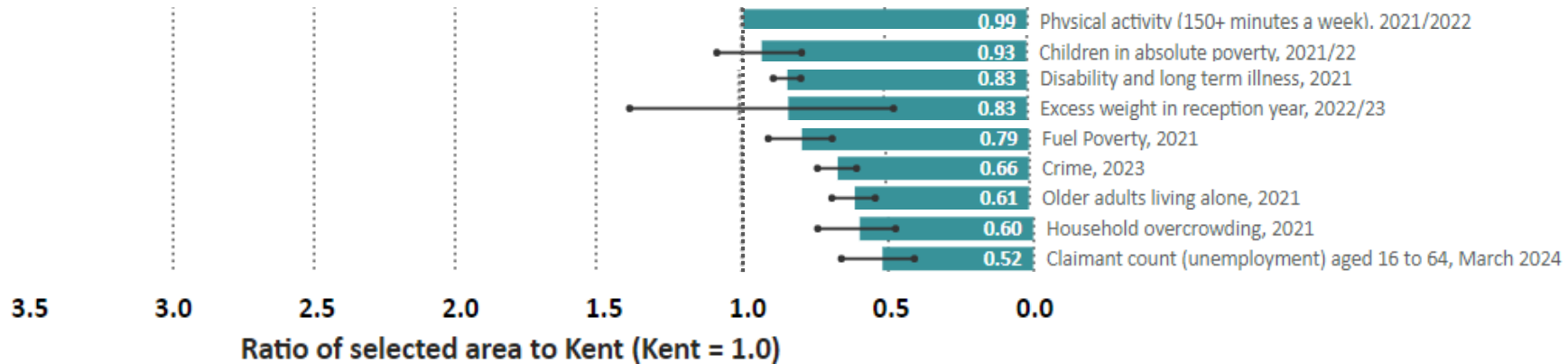


Small area analysis

MSOA Summary - Gravesend Town



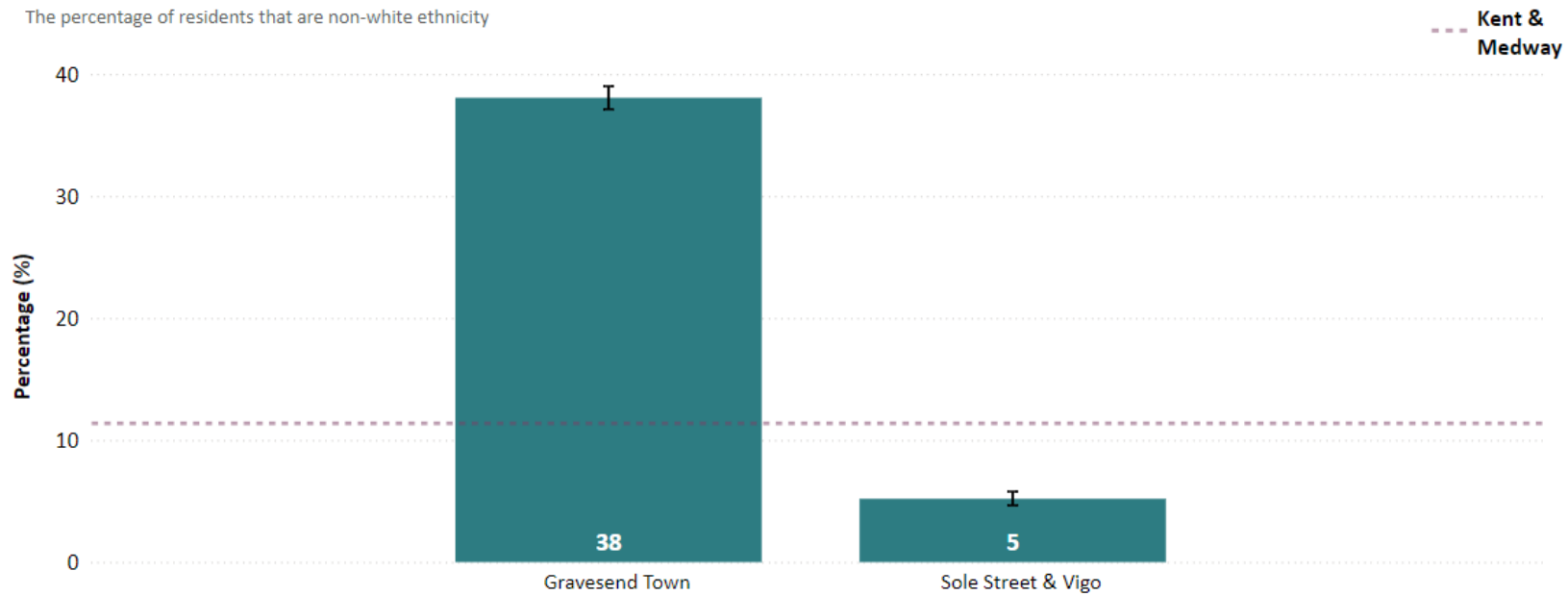
MSOA Summary - Sole Street & Vigo



Small area analysis

Ethnicity: percentage non-white, 2021

The percentage of residents that are non-white ethnicity

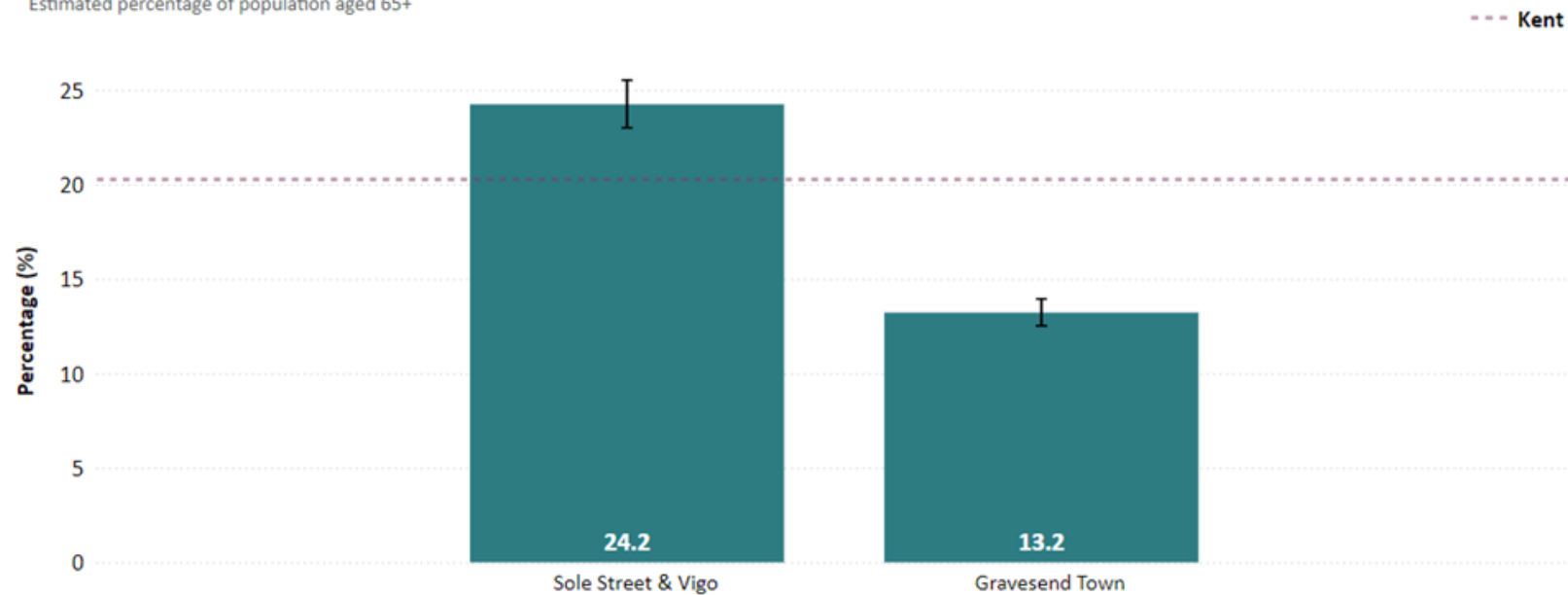


Source: NOMIS, ONS

Small area analysis

Population aged 65+, 2021

Estimated percentage of population aged 65+

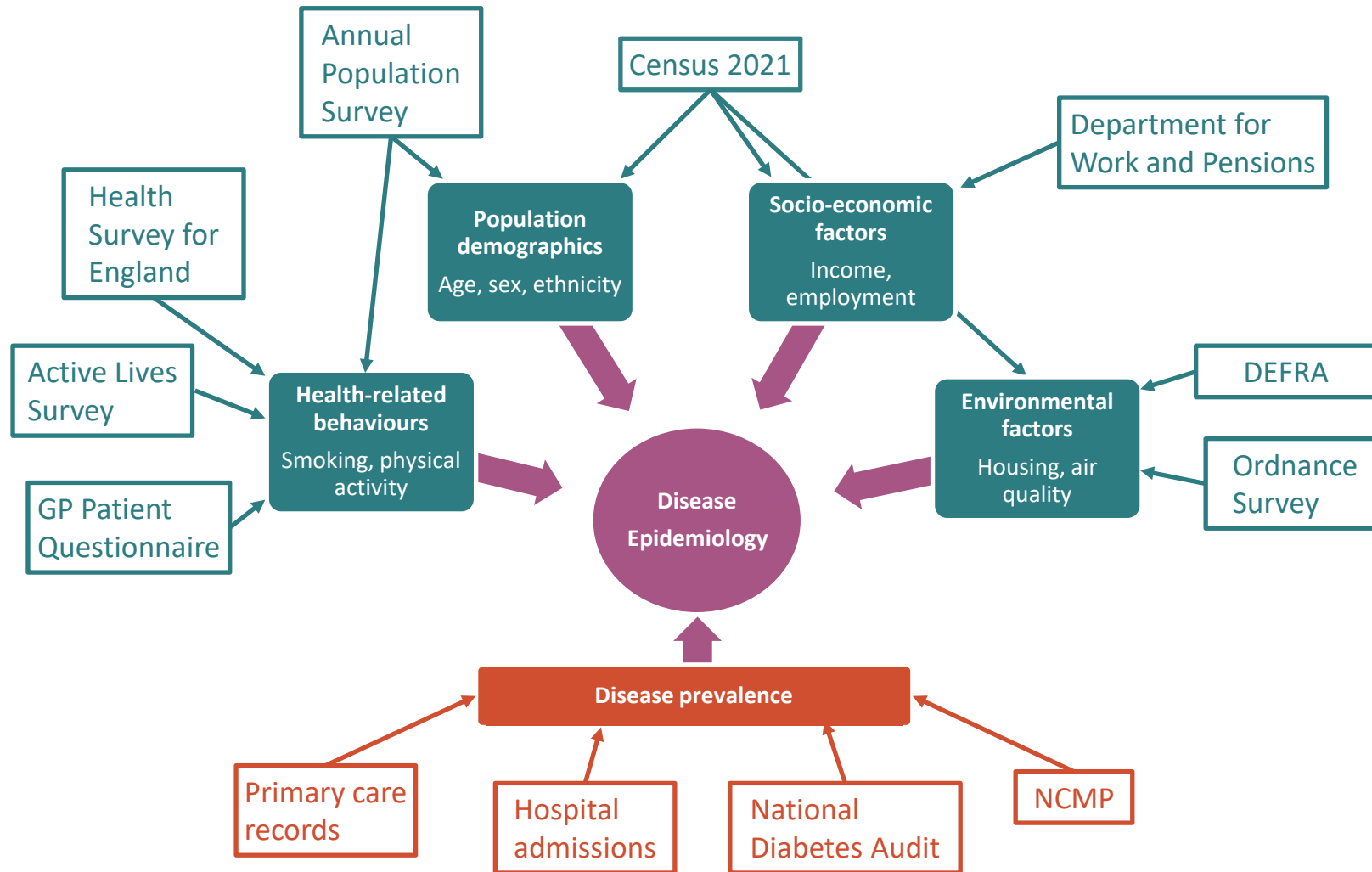


Source: ONS

Aims of the analysis

- 🍏 Understand the population
- 🍏 Identify the needs
- 🍏 Design appropriate interventions

Datasets



Datasets

- Most datasets are publicly available
- Not all data is available for small areas
- Primary care records, hospital admissions and NCMP data are not publicly available but summary statistics are published
- A range of tools for accessing and analysing data:
 - fingertips.phe.org.uk
 - nomisweb.co.uk
 - ons.gov.uk
 - Quality and Outcomes Framework dashboard
 - shapeatlas.net

Green Infrastructure Framework for England - Accessible Nature Mapping

Jane Houghton, Senior Officer – Strategy, Connecting People and Nature Team
Natural England, July 2024





Aims



- Improve existing and create more good quality green infrastructure for all its benefits
- Everyone has access to good quality green infrastructure, particularly in areas of low income and health inequalities
- Support Local Authorities in refresh of local plans
- Mainstream Green Infrastructure as a key asset in creating and maintaining sustainable places

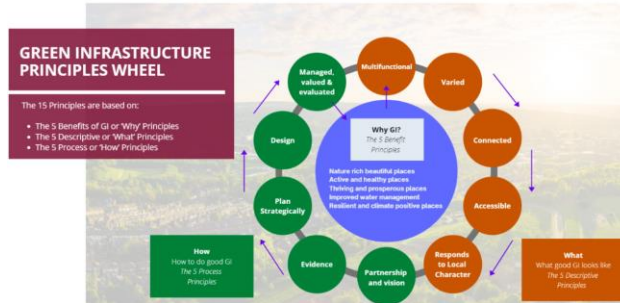
Green Infrastructure Framework

- Principles and Standards for England



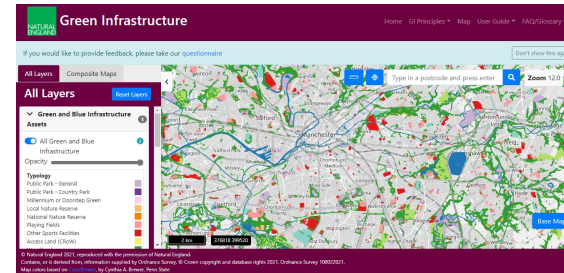
Green Infrastructure Principles

Why, What and How of good green infrastructure



Green Infrastructure Mapping

Mapped datasets to support the standards



Green Infrastructure Standards

National standards for green infrastructure quantity and quality.

See overleaf for more details



The Green Infrastructure Standards

Green Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide

How to design good quality green infrastructure



Process Journeys

How to apply the products in the Framework for Planners, Developers and Neighbourhood Planners



For more information scan the QR code or copy the link:
<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx>

THE PRINCIPLES

The 15 Principles are based on:

- The 5 Benefits of GI or 'Why' Principles
- The 5 Descriptive or 'What' Principles
- The 5 Process or 'How' Principles

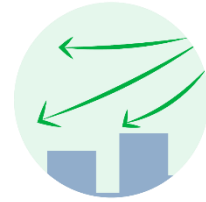
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How
How to do good GI
The 5 Process Principles

What
What good GI looks like
The 5 Descriptive Principles

5 Headline Green Infrastructure Standards



1. Green Infrastructure Strategy Standard



2. Accessible Greenspace Standards



3. Urban Nature Recovery Standard



4. Urban Greening Factor Standard



5. Urban Tree Canopy Cover Standard

Accessible Greenspace Standards



Headline Standard 2

Area-wide

- Everyone has access to good quality greenspaces within 15 minutes walk from home.
- At least 3 hectares per 1000 population of publicly accessible greenspace
- Accessible greenspace meets the Green Flag Award Criteria and best practice in accessibility for all

Major development

- The local authority specifies the quantity, size and distance for accessible greenspace to be provided, based on the Accessible Greenspace Standards.



Everyone has access to good quality greenspace within 15 minutes from home

Accessible Greenspace Standards size and distance criteria

Minimum
size

Maximum
distance

Sub-regional Greenspace

500 ha

10 km

District Greenspace

100 ha

5 km

Wider Neighbourhood Greenspace

20 ha

2 km

Neighbourhood Greenspace

10 ha

1 km

Local Greenspace
or

Doorstep Greenspace

2 ha

300 m

0.5 ha

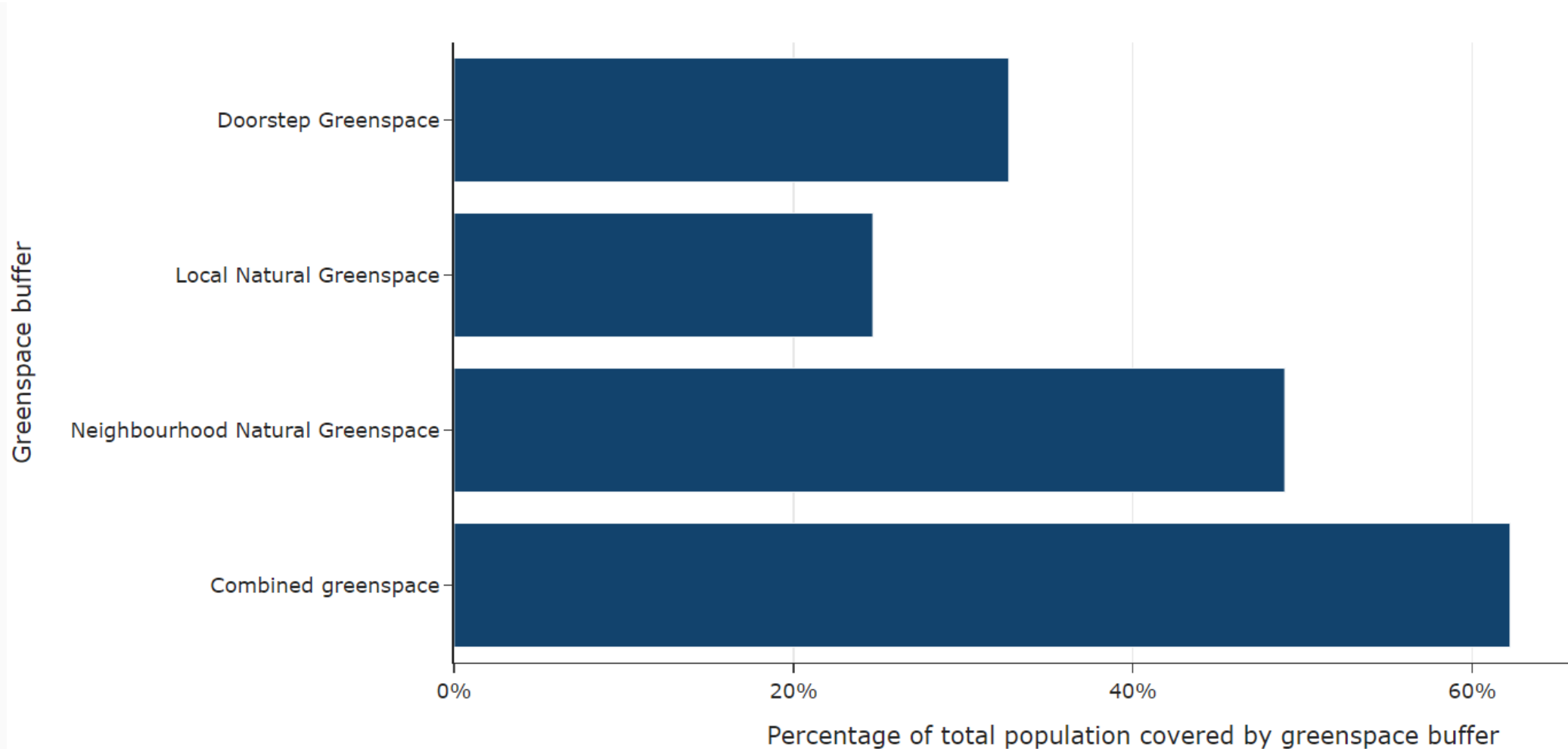
200 m



All greenspaces should be accessible by public transport
or safe active travel routes

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Percentage of the total population in England living in close proximity to greenspace, 2021



Urban Greening Factor Standard



Headline Standard 4

Area-wide

- At least 40% average green cover in urban residential neighbourhoods.
- No net loss of green cover in urban neighbourhoods

Major development

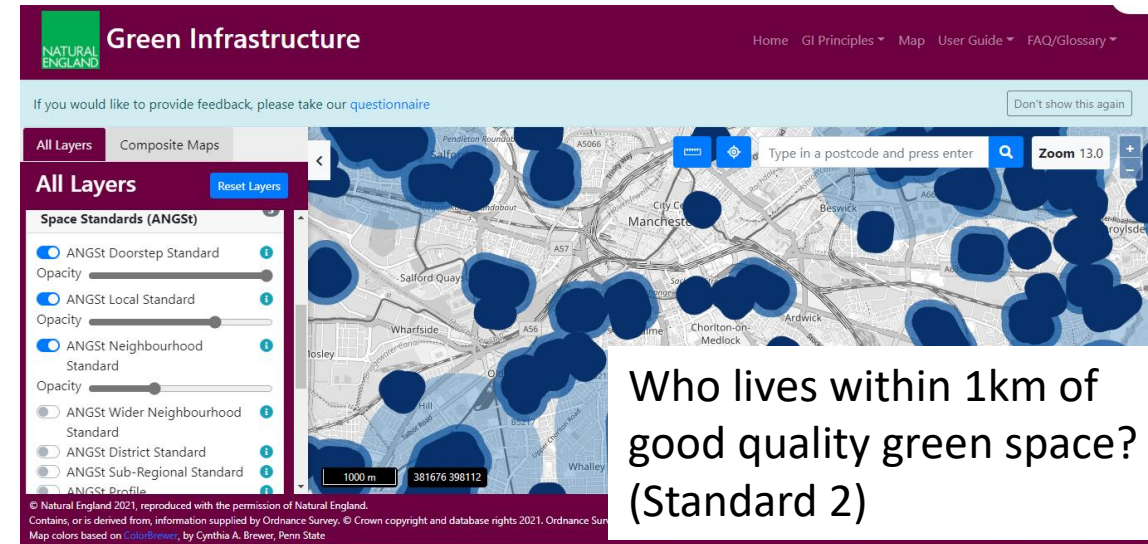
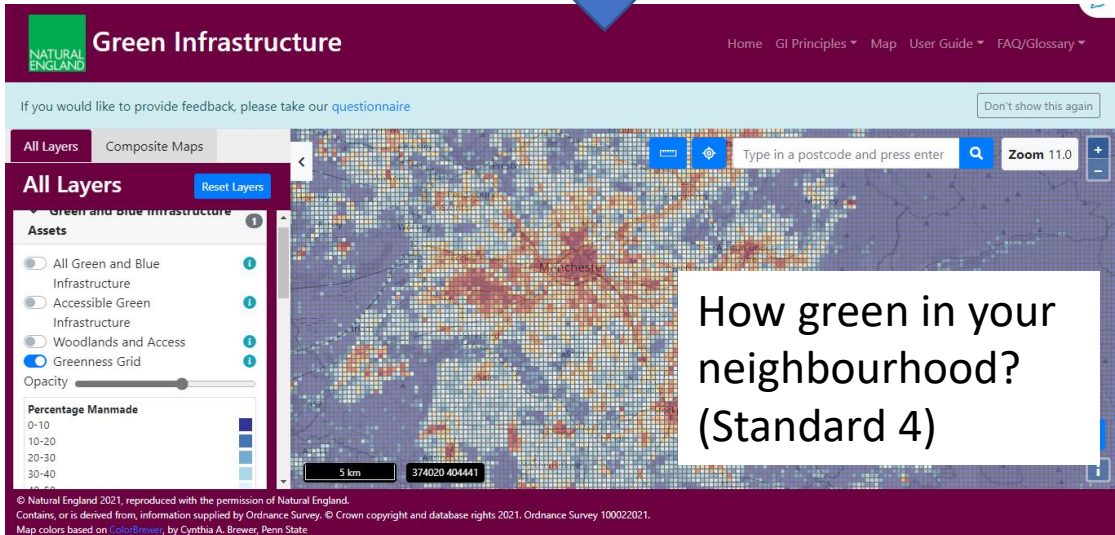
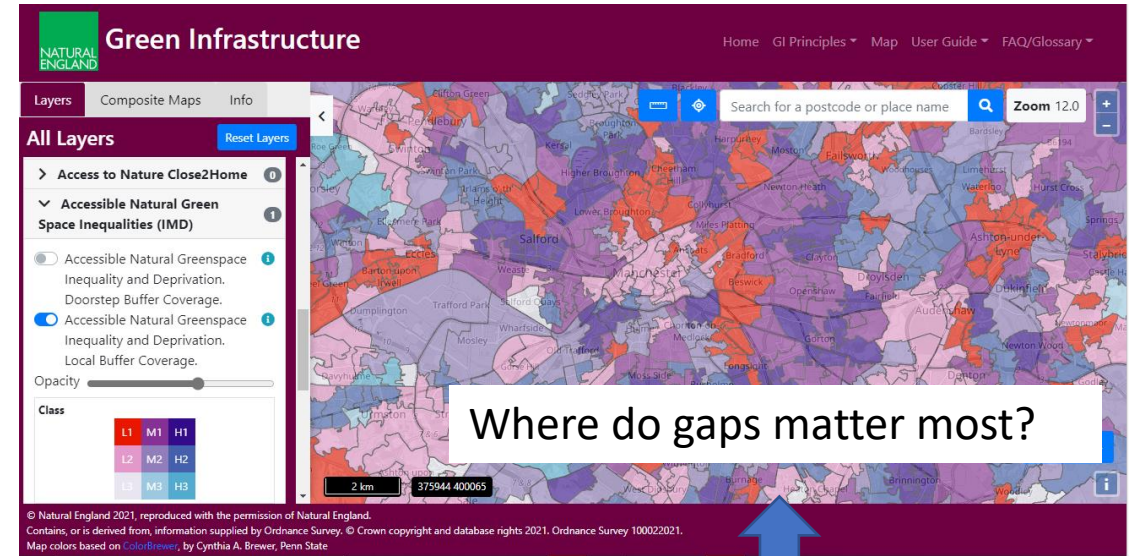
- Urban Greening Factors of
 - 0.4 for residential
 - 0.3 for commercial
 - 0.5 for residential greenfield

User Guide: [Urban Greening Factor for England User Guide.pdf \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://www.naturalengland.org.uk/urban-greening-factor-for-england-user-guide)



Green Infrastructure Mapping: How it can be used

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/map.aspx>



Where is the Green Infrastructure? (Standard 1)



Green Infrastructure

Geography in Government Award 2022 Excellence in Geo-visualisation winner

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Layers

Composite Maps

Info

All Layers

Reset Layers

- Public Park - General
- Public Park - Country Park
- Millennium or Doorstep Green
- Local Nature Reserve
- National Nature Reserve
- Playing Fields
- Other Sports Facilities
- Access Land (CRoW)
- Woodland
- Water Courses and Surface Water Features
- Allotments and Community Growing Spaces
- Activity Spaces Provision
- Cemeteries and Religious Grounds
- Golf Courses
- Play Space Provision

Accessible Green Infrastructure



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How green in your neighbourhood? (Standard 4)



Green Infrastructure

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Layers Composite Maps Info

All Layers

Reset Layers

Greenness Grid

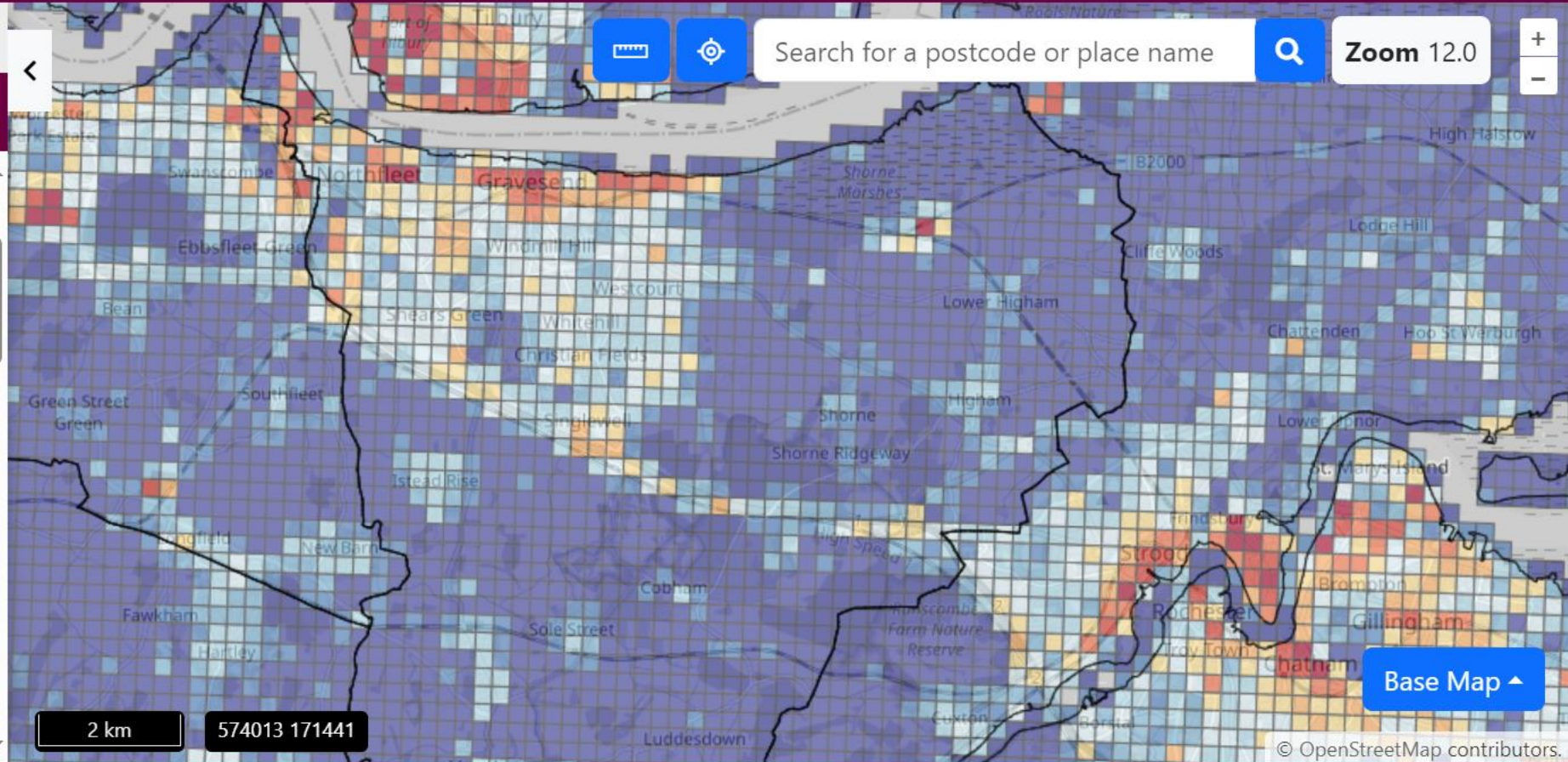
Opacity

Percentage Manmade

- 0-10
- 10-20
- 20-30
- 30-40
- 40-50
- 50-60
- 60-70
- 70-80
- 80-90
- 90-100

Private Gardens in Urban Areas per Thousand People

Access Points



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Who lives within 1km of good quality green space?



Green Infrastructure

Geography in Government Award 2022 Excellence in Geo-visualisation winner

Home Green Infrastructure ▾ Map Mapping Guide ▾ Resources ▾ Contact Us

Layers

Composite Maps

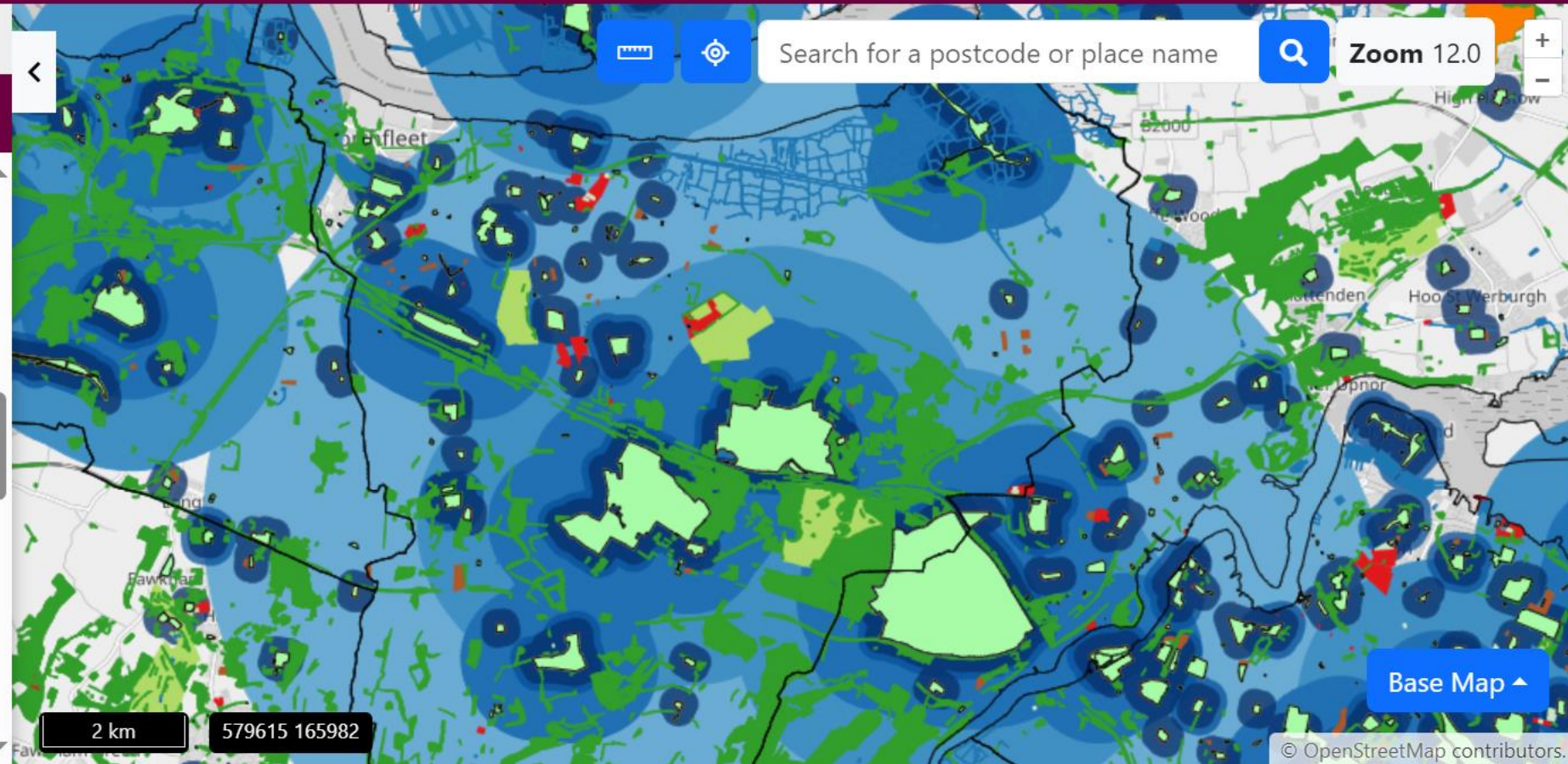
Info

All Layers

Reset Layers

Standards (ANGSt)

- ANGSt Doorstep Standard ⓘ
Opacity
- ANGSt Local Standard ⓘ
Opacity
- ANGSt Neighbourhood Standard ⓘ
Opacity
- ANGSt Wider Neighbourhood Standard ⓘ
Opacity
- ANGSt District Standard ⓘ
Opacity
- ANGSt Sub-Regional Standard ⓘ
Opacity
- ANGSt Profile ⓘ



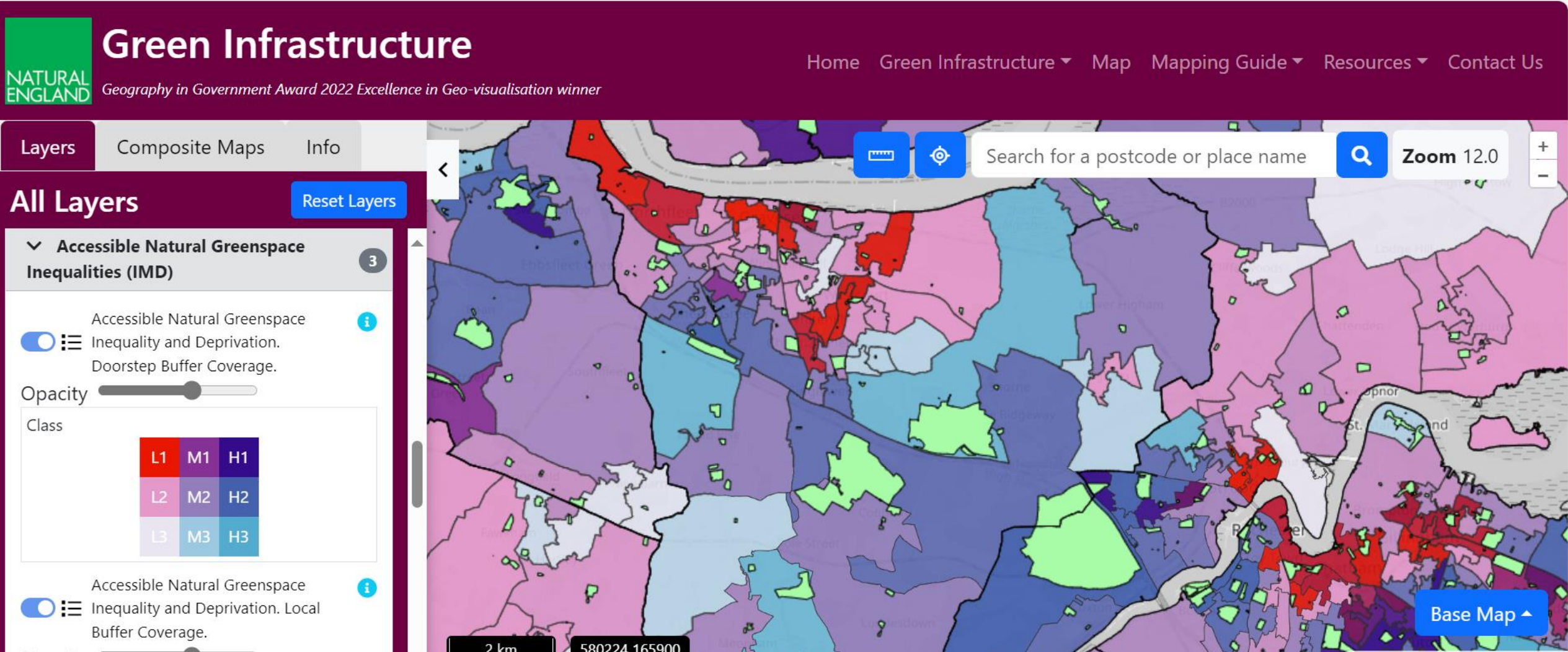
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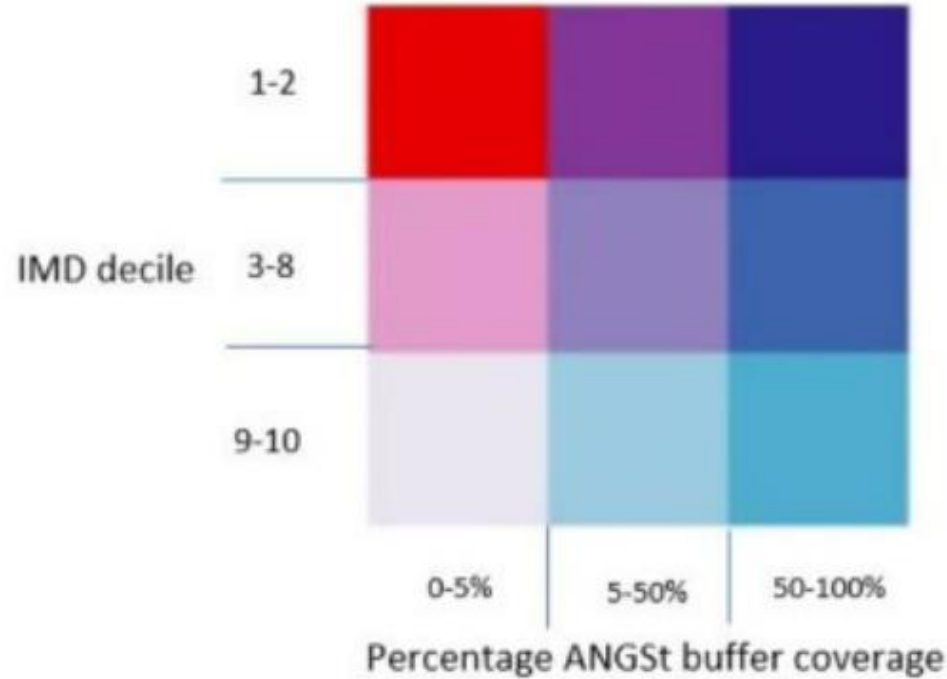
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Where do gaps matter most?



Bivariate analysis grid for the "Accessible Natural Green Spaces Inequalities" assessment



Bivariate analysis grid for the "Accessible Natural Green Spaces Inequalities" assessment showing the 9 Inequalities categories and their respective alphanumeric codes from L1 to H3.

Local Plan Policy

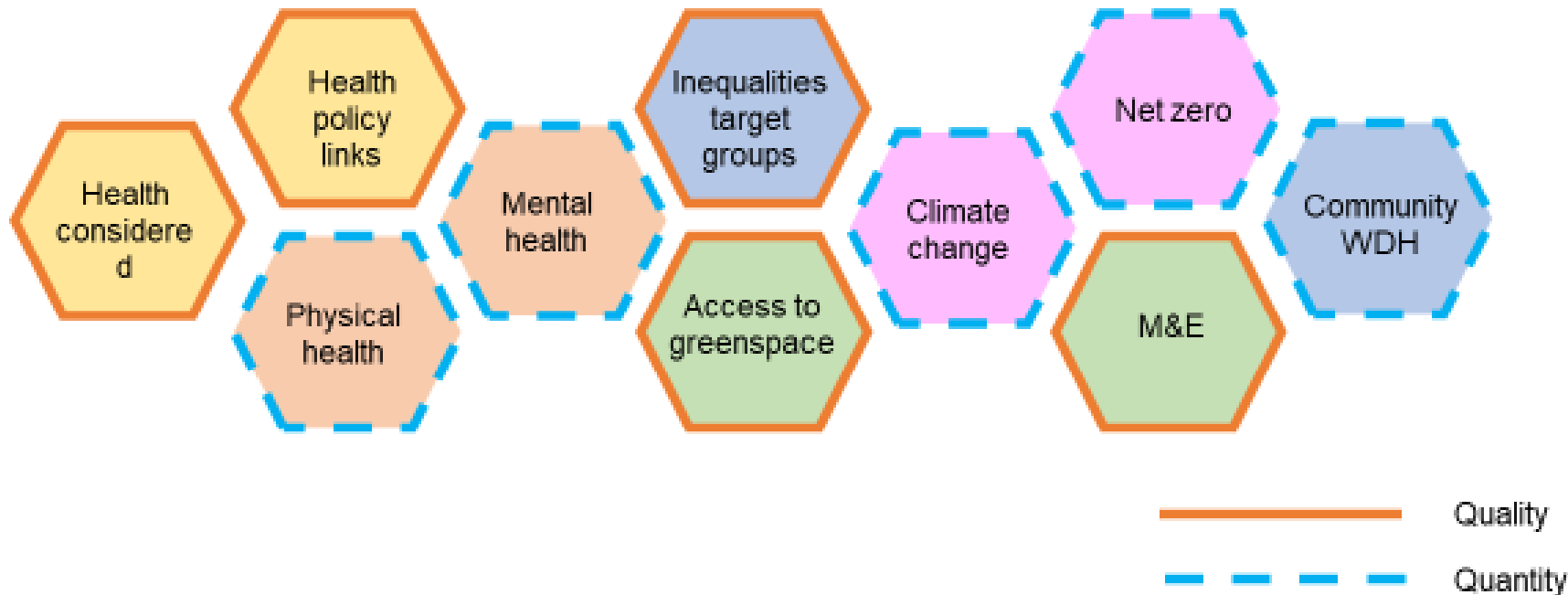


- At an area wide level, standards can provide the overall framework and context for decisions
- Use the Strategy Standard and the other Headline Standards as the starting point for developing local GI Policies for the Local Plan.
- Standards can give developers certainty over the GI and the benefits needed in a development ie include site-specific GI requirements in site allocation policies.
- Include Green Infrastructure Standards in Local Design Guides and Codes
- Set requirements for GI information within planning validation checklists

Policy score



- Developed scoring system to evaluate each strategy against
- Score between 0-3 for each of 10 categories (max 30)



Assessing Health and Climate Change Policies in Local Plans

Make links to GI benefits across all the Local Plan policy areas



Thank you

[Green Infrastructure Framework](#)

Jane.Houghton@naturalengland.org.uk

Development Management



On large developments eg urban extensions - think about the means for delivering and maintaining the GI – so that maintenance is considered and embedded from the outset.

Engage with developers at an early stage continue to engage

Benefits of having a masterplan -use it to justify the GI that's proposed for the development. And if the GI has been looked at in the EIP and then assessed as viable at EIP, it can ensure that viability issues won't become a barrier at a later stage,.

Next Steps

Processing of information – actions and measures, co benefits, nature-based solutions

Mapping workshops

12th September: Three Hills Sports Park, Folkestone

17th September: Quex Barn, Birchington

19th September: Lenham Community Centre, Lenham

24th September: St Margarets Millenium Centre, Rainham

26th September: NIAB, East Malling

www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk

makingspacefornature@kent.gov.uk

