Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

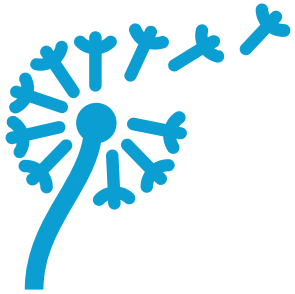
Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

LNRS Mapping Workshop

9.30am	Refreshments
10.00am	Welcome and introductions
10.15am	Session 1 – "Areas that Could become of Importance for Biodiversity"
11.00am	Session 2 – Review of mapped potential measures for habitat priorities
12.30pm	Lunch
1.15pm	Session 3 – Review of mapped potential measures for overarching priorities
2.15pm	Session 4 – Revisiting the "Areas that could become of Importance for Biodiversity"
2.35pm	Plenary session
2.55pm	Next steps
3.00pm	Close

What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies?

Legal requirement - Environment Act 2021.



48 across England – no gaps or overlaps.

Led by regulations and statutory guidance, a developed with Defra grant.

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.

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Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

- Set of agreed priorities for nature recovery, with measures to deliver.
- Shared vision for nature recovery and the use of nature-based solutions in Kent and Medway.
- Framework for joined-up action, developed with those that will be instrumental in its delivery.
- Ambitious but realistic and deliverable plan, linked to supporting mechanisms and finance.
- **Spatially framed strategy for nature – focussing action to where its most needed and will deliver the greatest benefits.**

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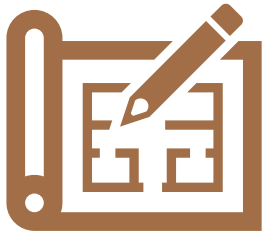
How will LNRS inform nature recovery?

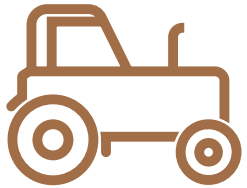


Statutory role in forward planning

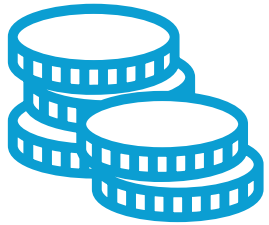
Spatially identify the most value existing, and potential, areas for nature – land use planning

Functional strategy in development management

Biodiversity net gain strategic significance (delivery)



Link to Environment Land Management schemes and other grants



Direct investment, financing and funding

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

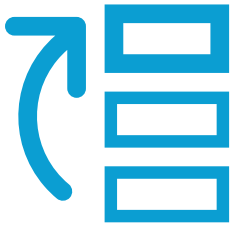
Losses and impacts directed away from most valuable assets.

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Words you'll hear today

Local nature recovery strategy (LNRS)

Set of agreed priorities for nature recovery, with measures to deliver



Priority

Outcome we want to see for nature in Kent and Medway

Potential measure

Proposed action to deliver the priority

Areas of particular importance for biodiversity (APIB)

Mapped national conservation sites, local nature reserves, local wildlife sites & irreplicable habitat

Areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity (ACIB)

Mapped opportunity and target areas.

Local habitat map

The APIB and ACIB combined, with no overlaps.

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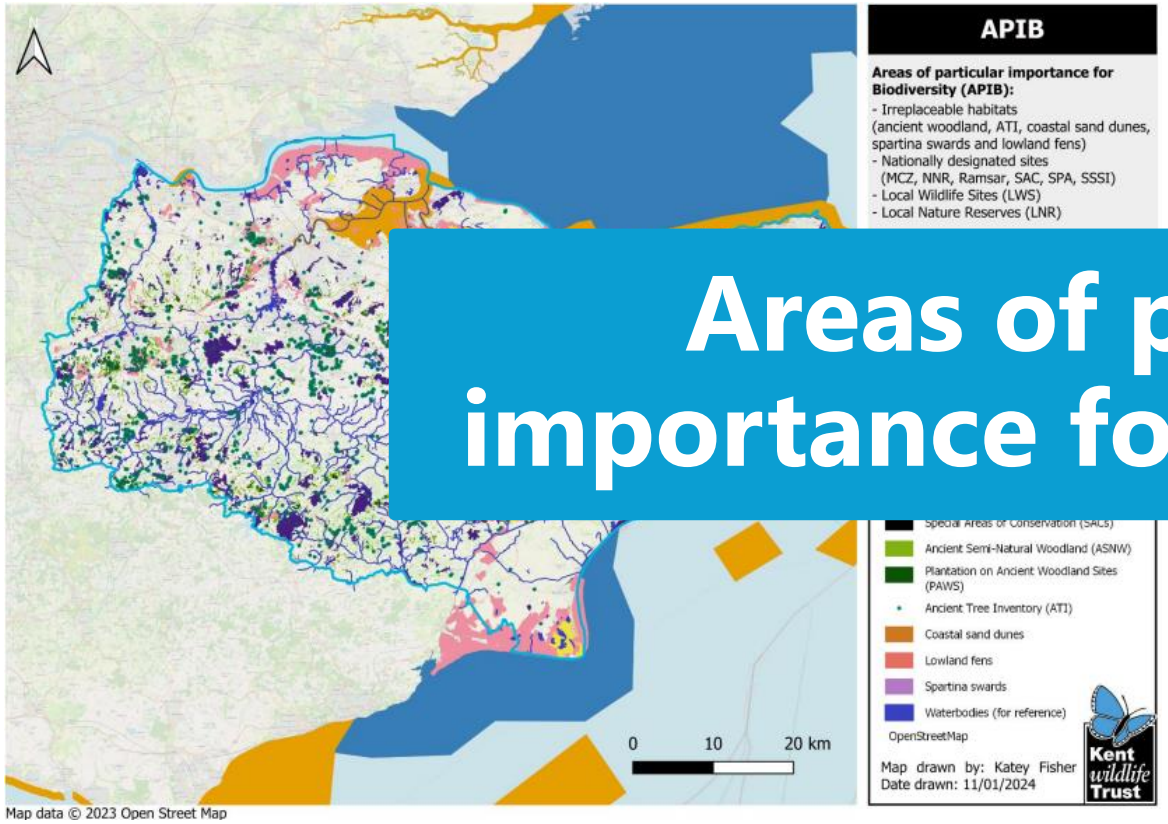
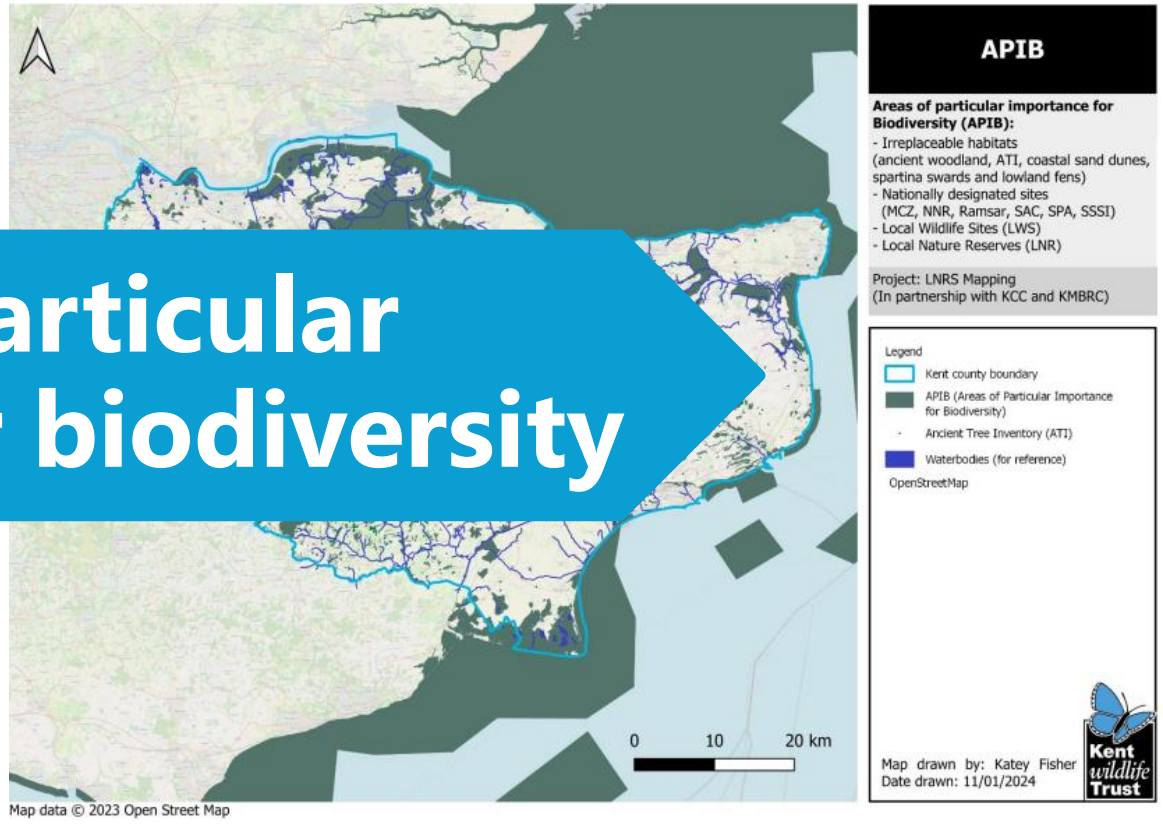
Work to date





Areas of particular importance for biodiversity

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Work to date

Pressures & priorities longlist

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Work to date

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Shortlisting approach for Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy priorities

March 2024

Introduction

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy statutory guidance (2023), requires responsible authorities to gather possible priorities from existing published plans and strategies, and from engaging create a longlist of suggestions. They should then priorities that the responsible authorities consider

These will be the priorities, in terms of habitats and recovering or enhancing biodiversity can also mak can include 'nature-based solutions' to address wid must only be habitat or species focussed.

The Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

- A series of stakeholder workshops throughout
- Supporting tools for groups to host self-led wo
- An online survey on priorities for nature recove
- A review of local plans, neighbourhood plans a

4. Priorities shortlisting step 2 - assess the remaining long list of priorities, taking account of whether or not they meet the qualifying criteria.
96 priorities

5a. LNRS priorities shortlist drafting - review and refine the emerging list to create first draft of LNRS priorities shortlist.
61 priorities

5b. MS4N Board and Delivery Group review & sign off of draft LNRS priorities shortlist
69 priorities

6. Publication of draft LNRS priorities shortlist.
69 priorities

Theme	Proposed priority	Local and national significance	Contribution to national targets	Contribution to purposes of Kent's protected landscapes	Urgency	Climate change impacts	Maximising benefits	Total score
Grassland	Continuity of large scale grasslands.			3				3
Grazing marsh	More, better quality and climate resilient grazing marsh, benefiting breeding waders.	3	3		3	3		12
Grazing marsh	Protection, restoration, enhancement and creation of saltmarsh/grazing marsh habitat.	3	3		3	3		12
Hedgerow	Improve hedgerow management	3	3	3	3			12
Hedgerow	Increase in large, wide, species rich hedgerows.	3	3	3	3			12
Hedgerow	Increased quality and connectivity of hedgerows.	3	3	3	3			12
Hedgerow	Native hedgerows with fruits.	3	3	3	3			12
Intertidal	Chalk reefs and rocky foreshore.	3	3	3	3			12
Intertidal	Improve connectivity of intertidal, subtidal and transitional habitats.	3	3		3	3	2	14
Intertidal	Increased intertidal habitat (saltmarsh, seagrass, mudflats, oyster beds, fish nursery areas) resilient to climate change.	3	3		3	3	2	14
Light pollution	Combat light pollution - return of dark skies.			3			2	5
Lowland heath	Increase in extent of lowland heathland	3	3	3	3	3		15
Marine	Greater protection to marine environment.		3					3
Marine	Intertidal/near shore marine environments restored and protected.	3	3	3	3			12
Marine	Marine Protected Areas in good management.		3					3
Meadow	Every community has its own wildflower meadow.	3	3	3		3		12
Meadow	Wildflower meadows for bees, insects, moths.	3	3	3		3		12
Mosaic	Increased mosaics of habitat.			3				3
NBS	Better utilise habitats to deliver cleaner water.	3	3				2	8
NBS	Greater use of nature based solution to manage flood risk and deliver nature benefits.	3					2	5
NBS	More carbon sequestering habitats.						2	2
NBS	Nature-based solutions used for flood management.	3					2	5
NBS	Protection of areas delivering ecosystem services.						2	2
NBS	Restore natural processes to the landscape.						2	2
NBS	Whole river systems - nature-based solutions to improve water courses (flood risk, water quality, biodiversity).	3	3				2	8
OMH	Greater protection of op							

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Kent and Medway
Nature Recovery Strategy

dway Local Nature Recovery Strategy

ed as critical to nature recovery)

al assessment)

Broad cat	Theme	Priority bracket & LNRS priority ref	Proposed LNRS priority	Justification / further development needed (amendments and notes following Coastal and Marine Workshop 25th April denoted by blue text)
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 measures to consider how land behind grazing marsh can be created with areas of deeper water for water storage/preserve fresh water for when grazing marshes naturally become inundated with seawater as sea levels rise.
	Lowland meadow	LM1	Existing species-rich lowland meadow is protected from loss, restored to better condition and extended through sensitive land management practices to reduce soil nutrient levels. Through the extension of lowland meadow, this habitat is better connected, reducing the risk of isolated meadow species and declines in species richness.	
	Acid grassland	AG1	Restore to better condition and retain acid grassland through increasing low-intensity grazing/mowing practices. identify areas where removal of scrub or secondary woodland may present opportunities for further restoration, extension and creation.	

Initial priorities shortlist

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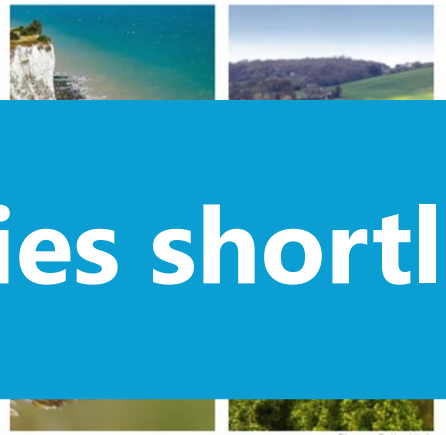
Work to date

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery – Redrafted LNRS Priorities report

July 2024



Photos © Jim Higham

- Farmland responding to climate change induced pressures with the help of nature.
- Publicly accessible open spaces managed for both wildlife and people. (Created to address open space that sits outside urban areas – stately homes, parks and gardens, golf courses, cricket fields etc).

- All "farm habitats" now moved to relevant habitat grouping.

The draft document also outlines the overarching principles delivered by the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy. These are:

Better – improve the quality of our existing habitats and ensure they are in a healthy and functioning state, by applying and resourcing better and appropriate management. We also need to better conserve and protect what we already have.

Bigger – increase the size of our most valuable and important habitat sites, not only extending but buffering, to protect them from the pressures of human influences.

More – through habitat restoration and creation, establish new, nature-rich sites that not only provide more space for nature but also provide connectivity between existing core sites.

– enhance connections between, and join up, sites, through improving the quality of the land that exists between, creating new, ecological corridors and establishing 'stepping stones.

Nature based solutions – the strategy also considers how we can work with nature and use natural processes to tackle some of the socio-economic challenges our county faces, maximising the benefits of nature recovery.

Land management and land use – critical to this landscape scale approach to nature recovery are private landowners, land managers and farmers, who all have a crucial role to play in delivering a better, and more coherent and resilient wildlife network.

Revised priorities shortlist

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Work to date

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy Priorities and Potential Measures

Draft 1.2 July 2024

Potential measures

Sub priority GL2 - 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.

	GL2.1 – Increase opportunities to store winter water on land adjacent to grazing marsh to increase opportunities for "wetting" during spring/summer.
	GL2.2 – Design grazing marsh habitat restoration, extension and creation where it will offer the greatest gains to support the county's breeding wader populations.
	GL2.3– Reconnect rivers with their former natural floodplain and improve the water storage ability of floodplain, in order to protect against climate change impacts and drought.
	- Protect floodplains from developments. - Development of grazing programme to match graziers with landowners.
	<Priority species to be added in once LNRS species are finalised>

Sub priority GL3 - Existing species-rich lowland meadow is protected from loss, ed to better condition and extended through sensitive land management n reduce soil nutrient levels. Through the extension of lowland meadow, s better connected, reducing the risk of isolated meadow species and declines in species richness.

	ain core, good condition lowland meadow sites through the application of egimes sensitive to the existing and potential flora and fauna of the site.
	tent of high quality, connected lowland meadow by creating new s, in close proximity to core/good condition sites, using green haylage eadows. e the extent of lowland meadow opportunity areas through the use of yellow
	increase connectivity of, and provision for wildlife in, lowland meadows by leaving margins uncut, hedgerows well-connected and integrate some bare patches or banks hin the grassland site.
	GL3.4 – Establish neutral grasslands on floodplains, to create resilience to flooding and drought and protect water quality.
	- Minimise land management practices of ploughing, re-seeding, fertiliser/slurry application, winter tilling, and drainage[1]. - Appropriate and flexible grazing management plans with conservation-led stocking densities and timing of grazing, avoiding poaching and under-grazing. Where possible, reduce the number of animals or remove grazing between April and August[1]. - If site management requires cutting, stagger cutting times, leaving some areas in flower at all times and creating a varied structural diversity across the site[1].

[1] Buglife - https://www.buglife.org.uk/resources/planning-hub/local-nature-recovery-strategy-guidance-in-england/

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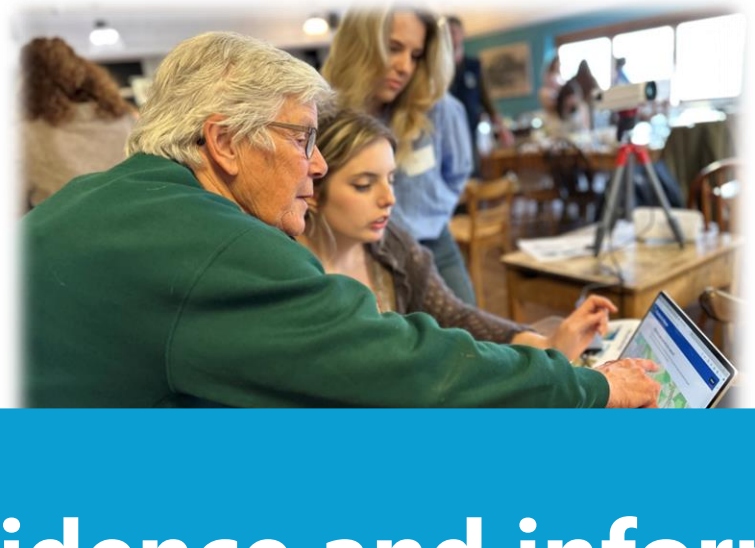
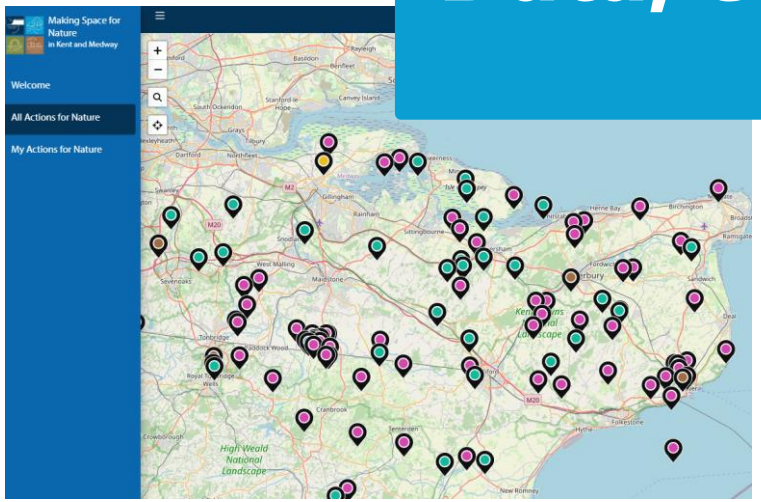
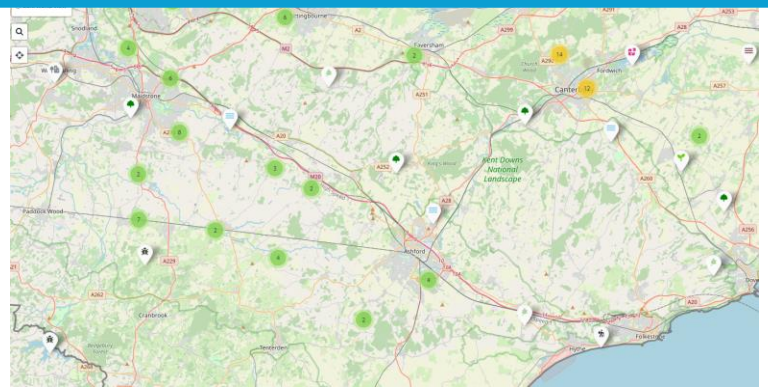
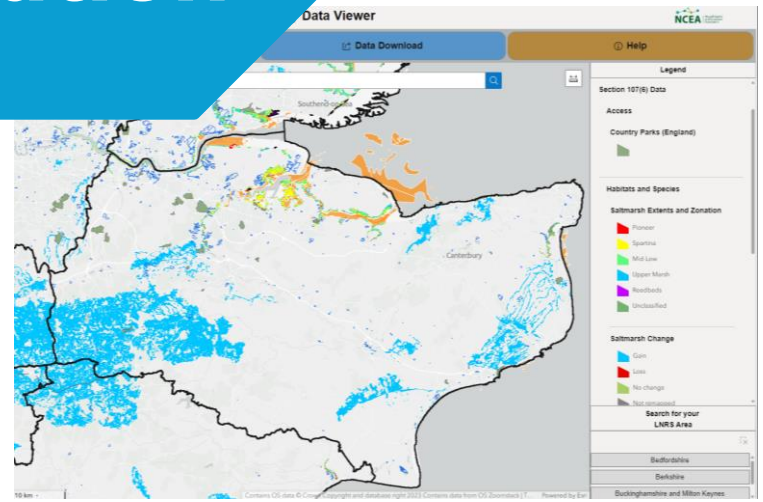
Work to date



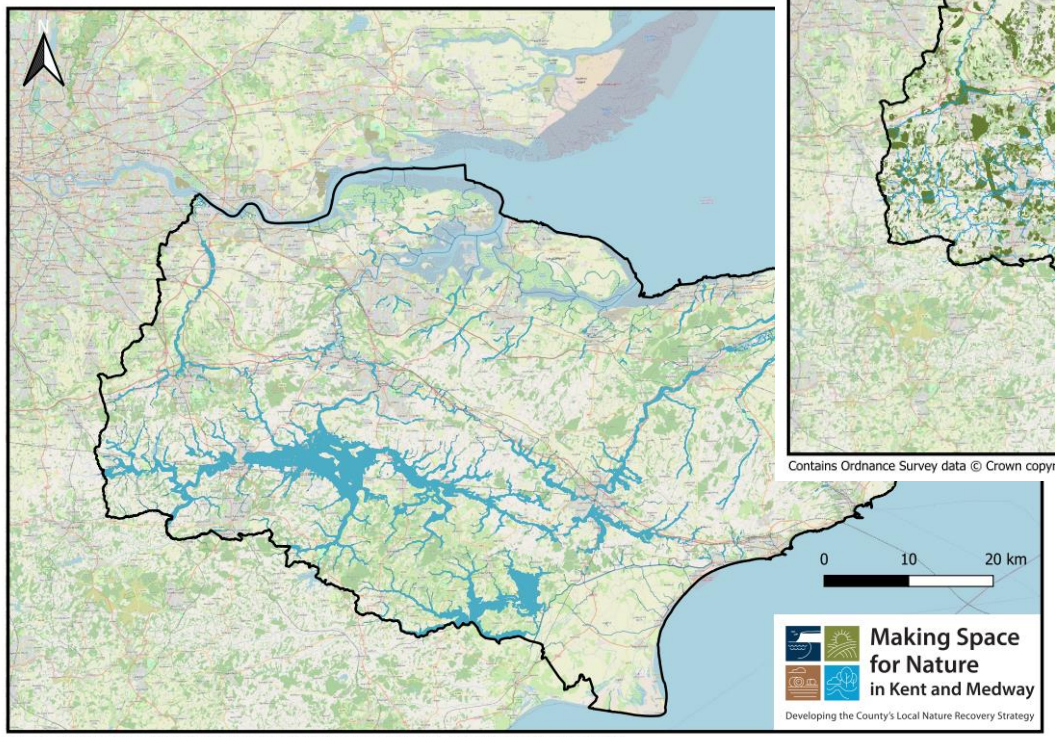
Data, evidence and information







Which bring us to maps!



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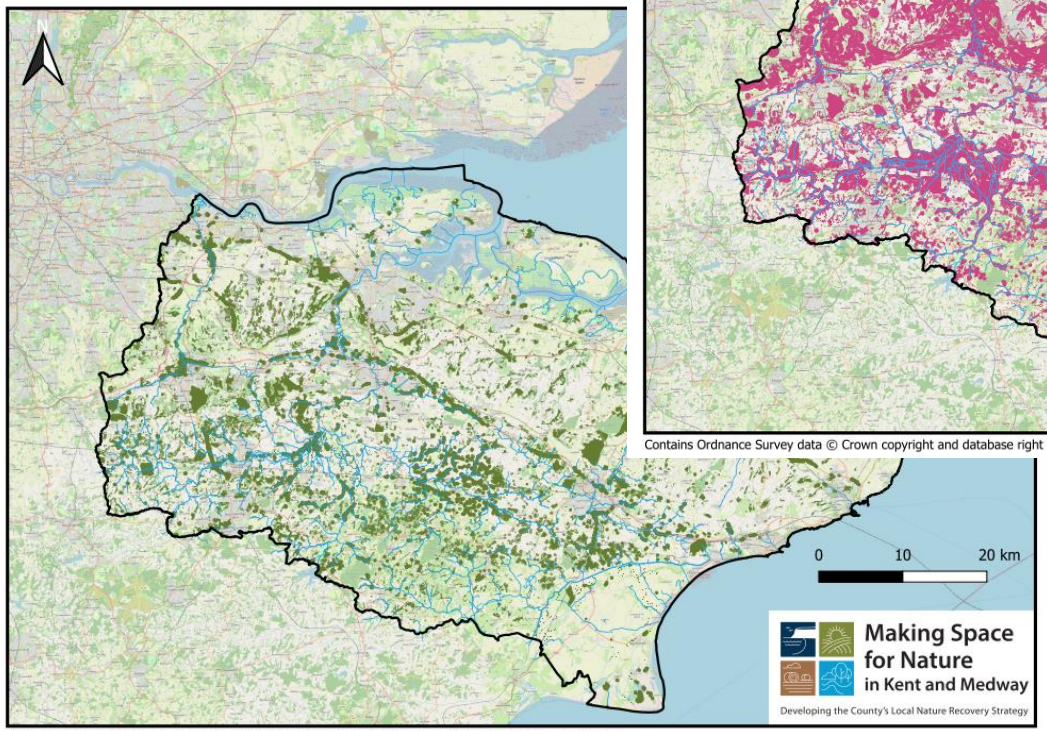

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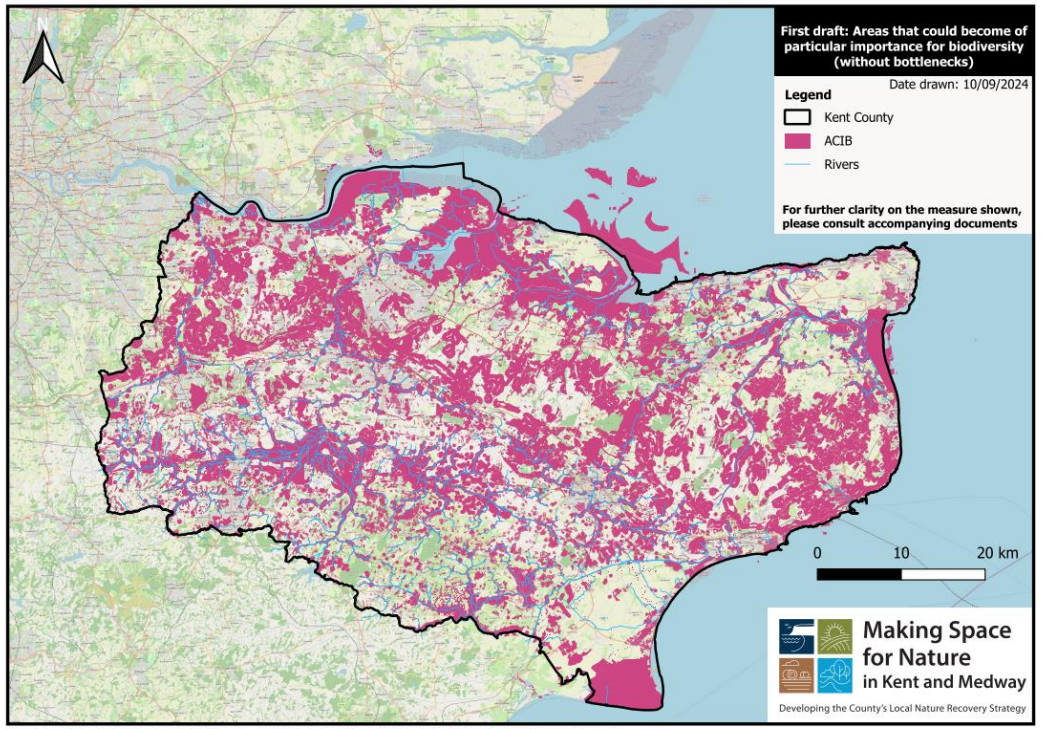

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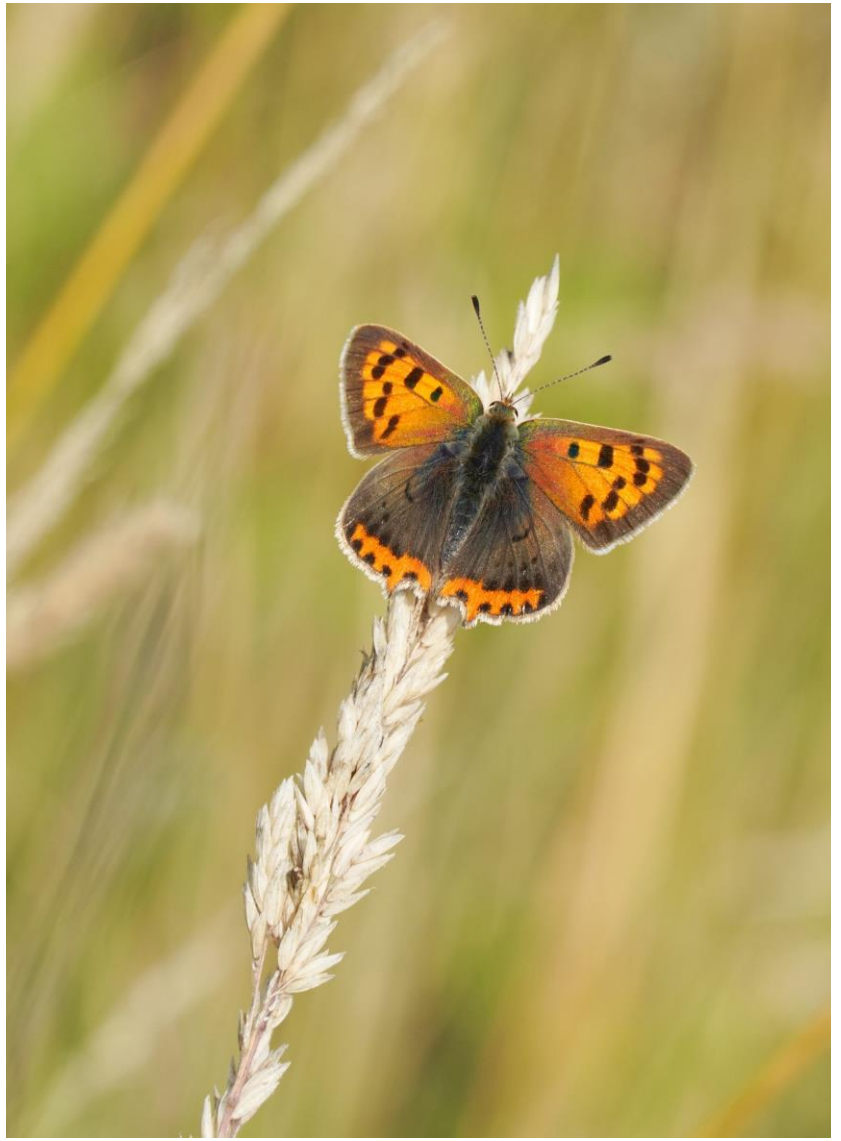
Where are the species priorities?

- Species priorities are being identified following a Natural England guided process.
- Similar approach of creating longlist and refining this down against criteria to provide focussed shortlist.
- Will be based on individual species and groups, based on habitat assemblages.
- KMBRC leading work, under steer of 35+ of the county's species experts (Species Recovery Technical Advisory Group).
- Workshop 1st October in Marden.



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Any questions?

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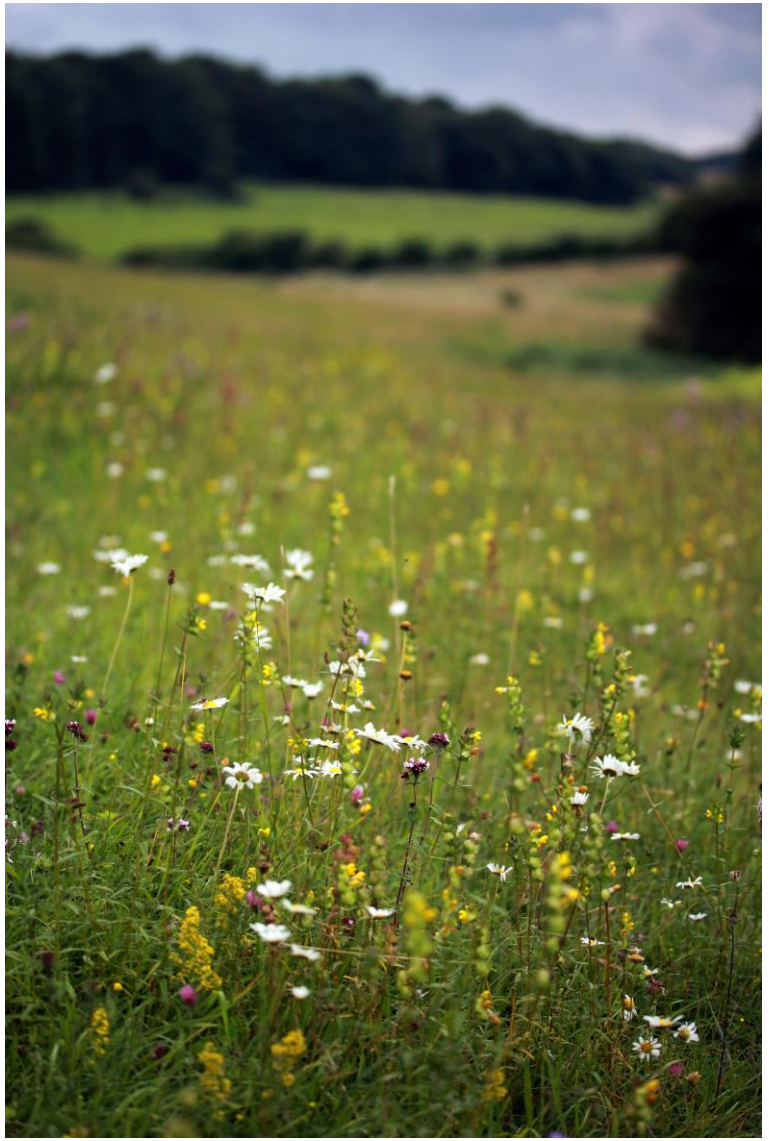
Session one

“Areas that Could become of Importance to Biodiversity”

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

What are “Areas that Could become of Importance to Biodiversity”?

- Main purpose of the LNRS.
- Identifies **locations** to recover or enhance nature.
- Where action will deliver:
  - **greatest gains** for nature; and
  - **greatest benefits** from healthy, functioning environment.
- Areas where the county proposes **effort should be targeted**.
- Provides the **spatial framework** to influence and inform planning, land use, funding and investment.



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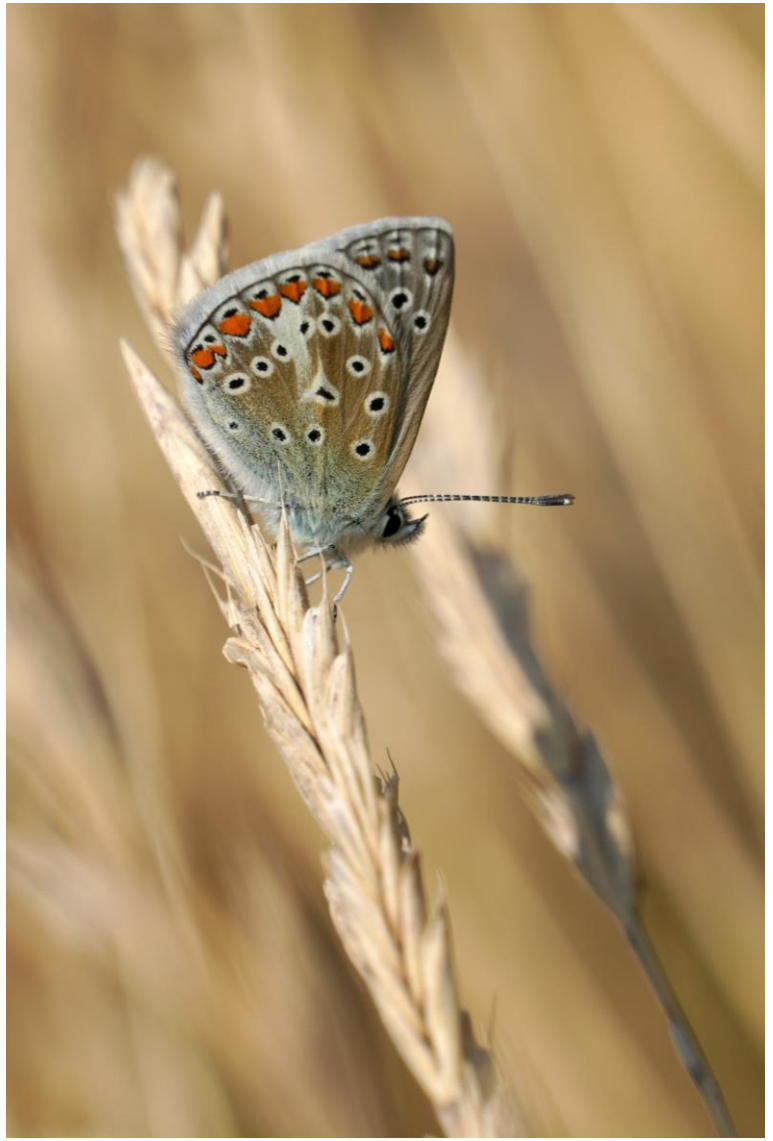
How has the mapping been created?

- Mapping work undertaken by Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre.
- Advised by a Data, Evidence and Mapping Technical Advisory Group.
- Data from LNRS Data Viewer and other local sources.
- Following Defra guidance.



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How has the mapping been created?

1. Identify **defining data and evidence** for mapping potential measures - focussing on data that will enable identification of the areas most in need of action or where action will be most beneficial.

2. Map **potential measures**.

3. Determine if mapping criteria for potential measure provides sufficient focus or is it better included as a county-wide measure – **remove those that aren't sufficiently discrete**.

4. Use potential measures mapping to **create wider focus areas** for delivery of habitat-based priority.

5. **Combine these focus areas** to create initial draft ACIB layer.

6. Edit ACIB layer so that there is **no overlap with APIB**.

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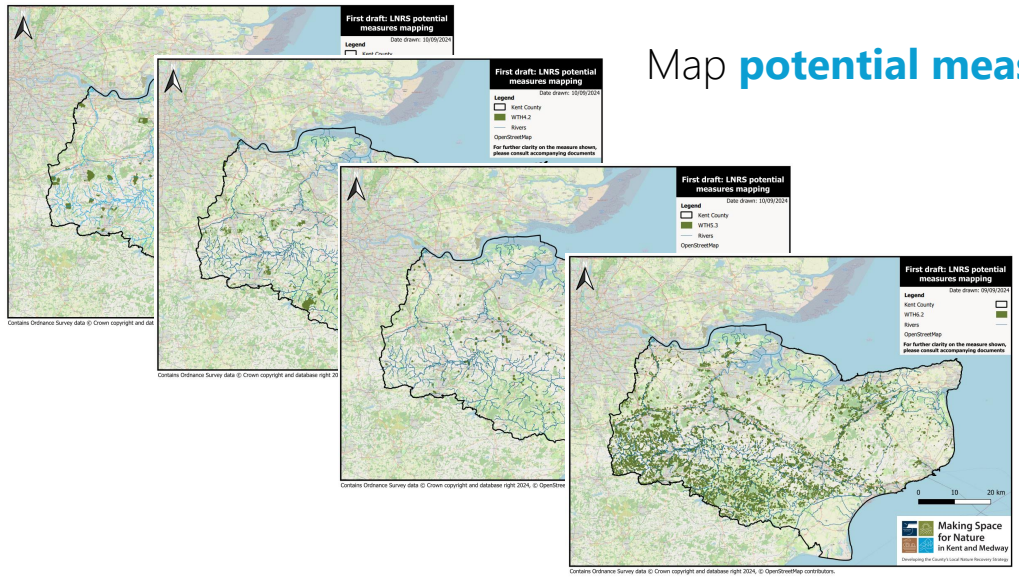
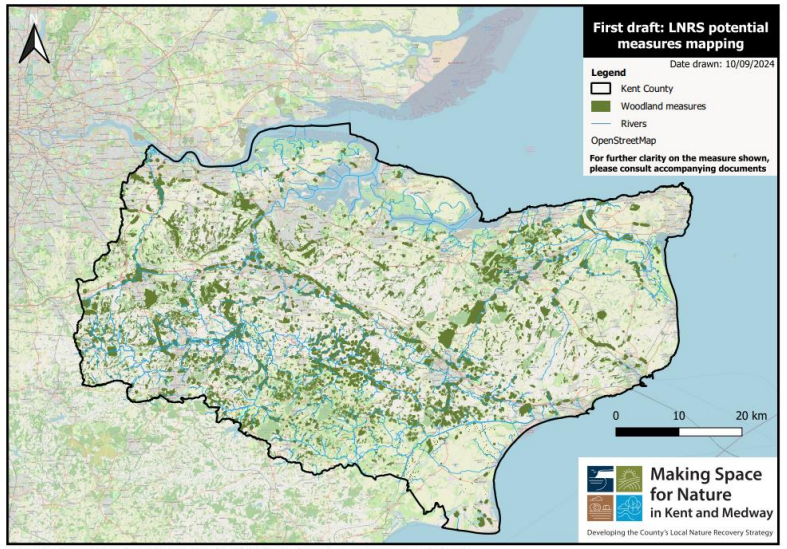
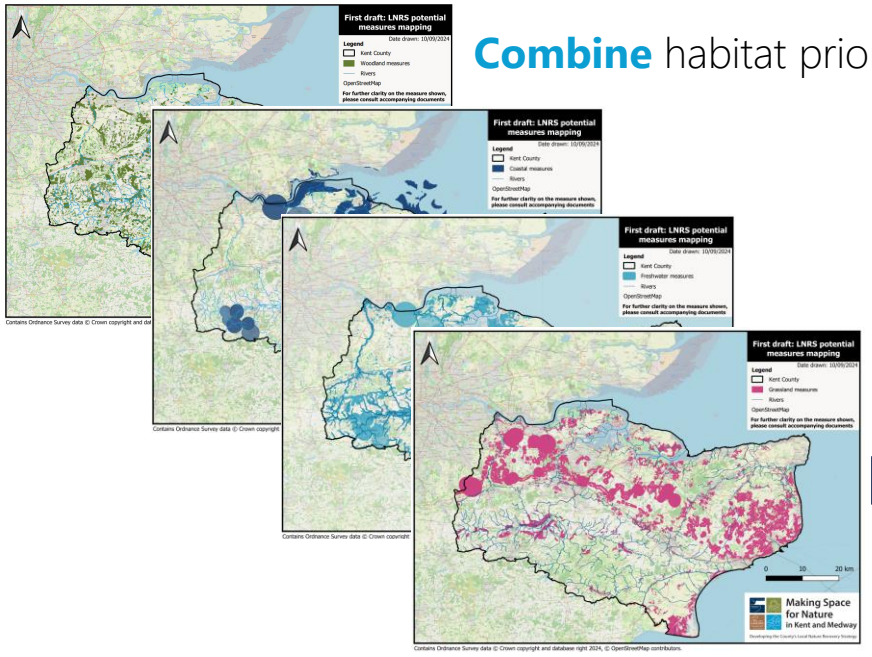


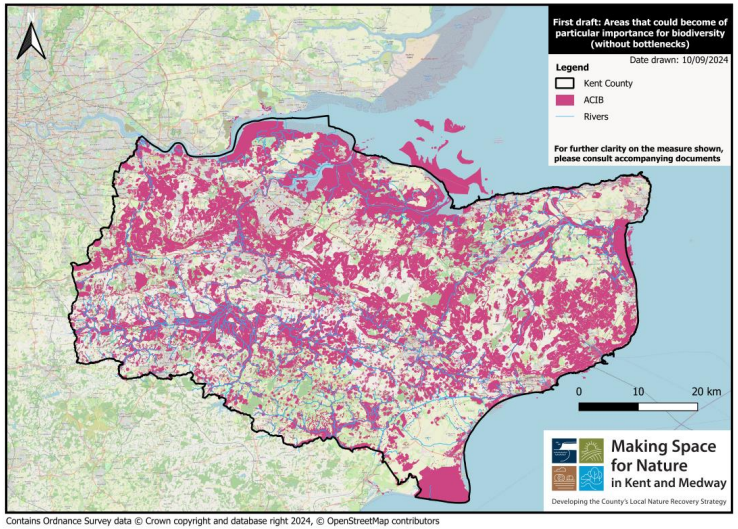
Map **potential measures**.

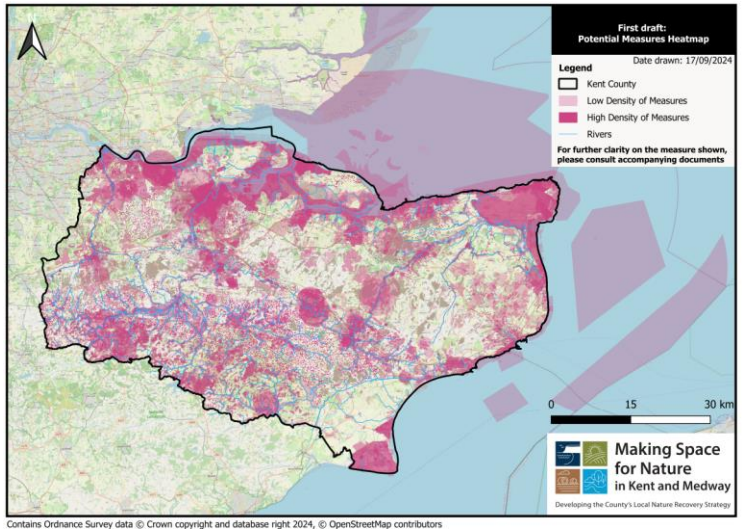


Combine potential measures maps to create opportunity layer for habitat group, removing those that are not sufficiently defined.

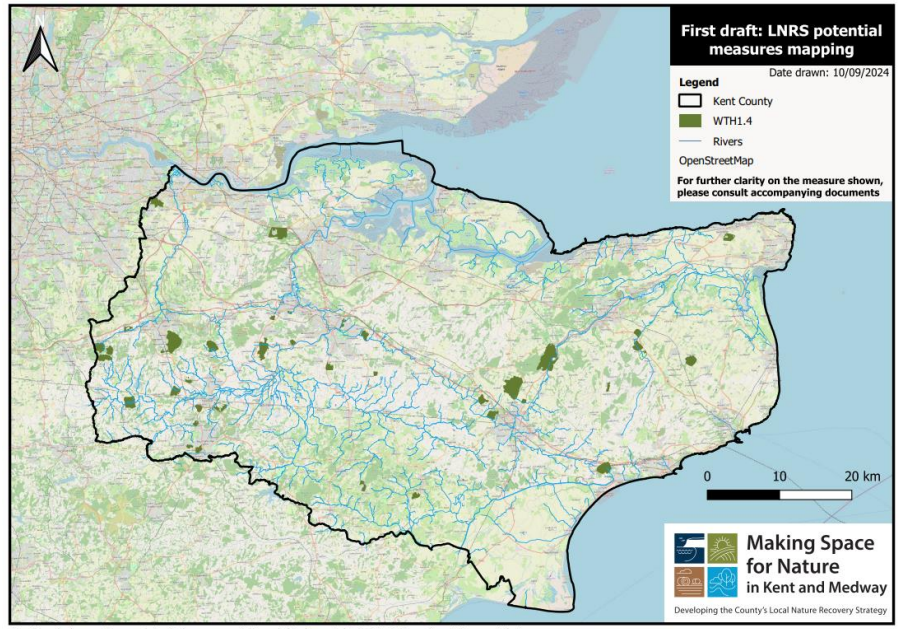


Combine habitat priority maps





Initial draft **"areas that could become of importance for biodiversity" mapping**



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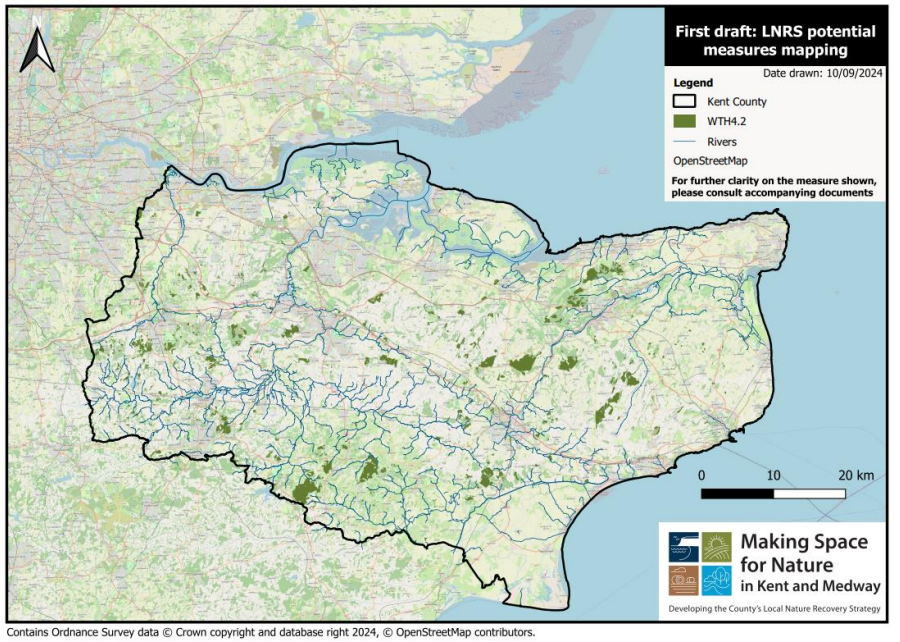

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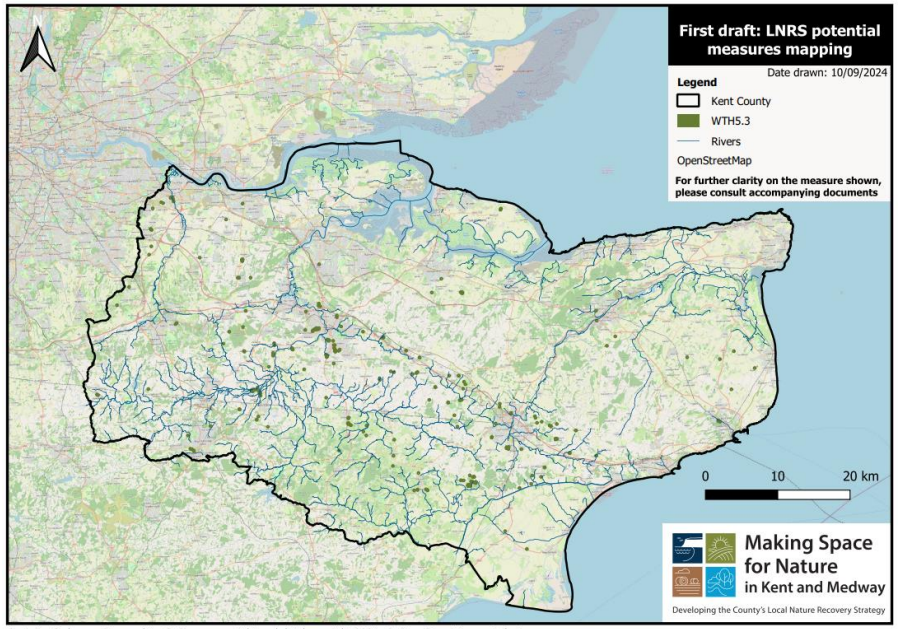

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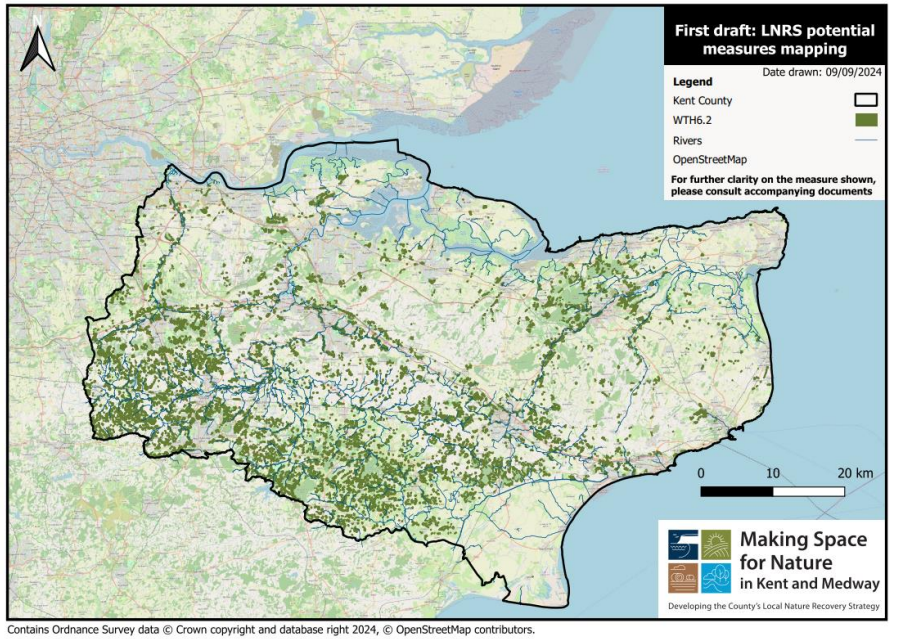

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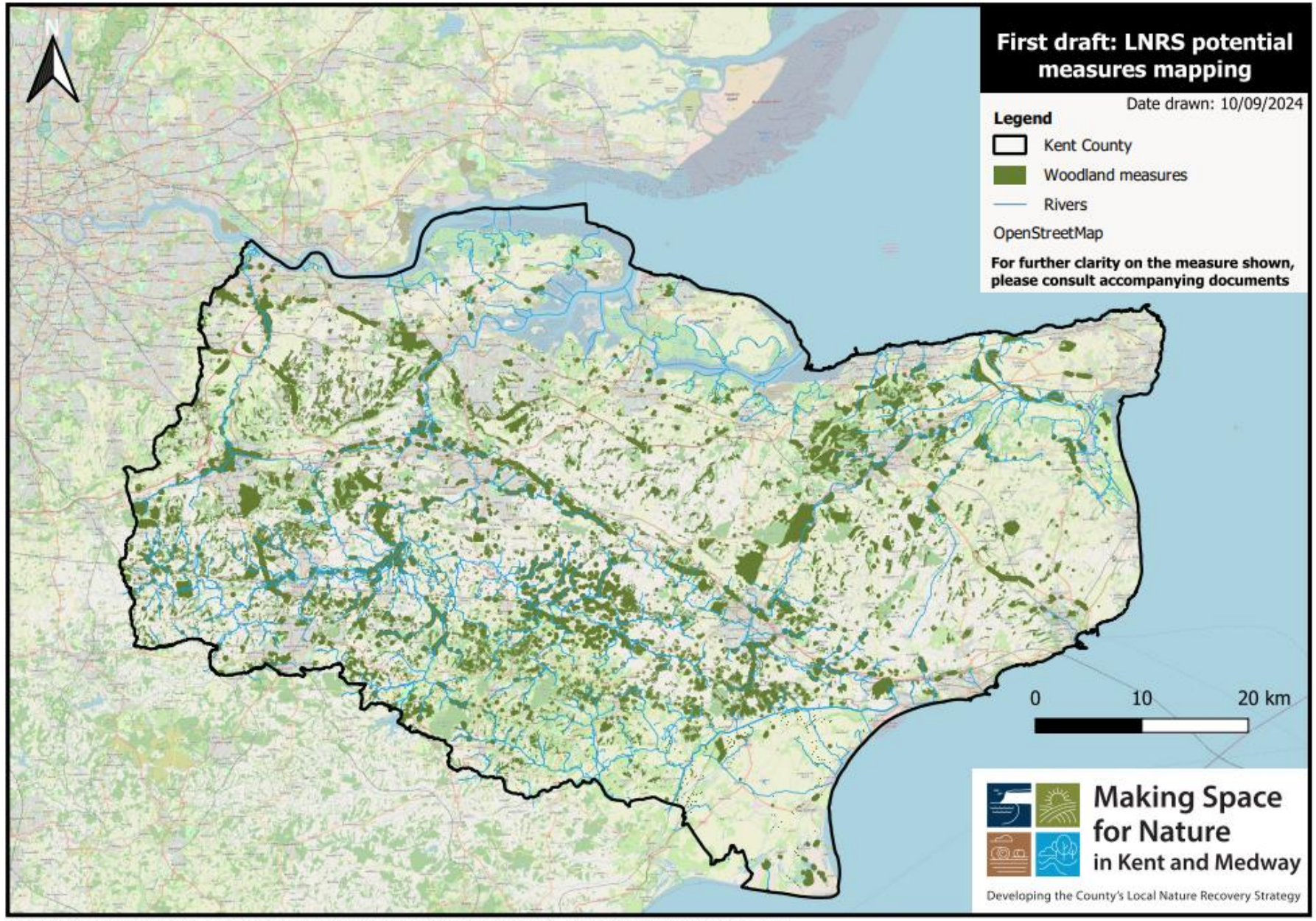

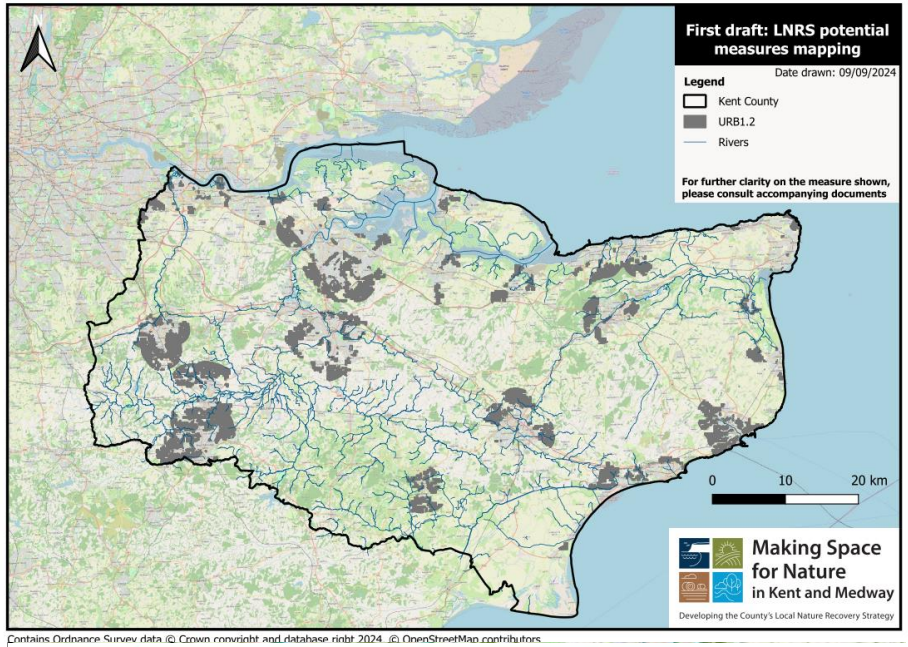

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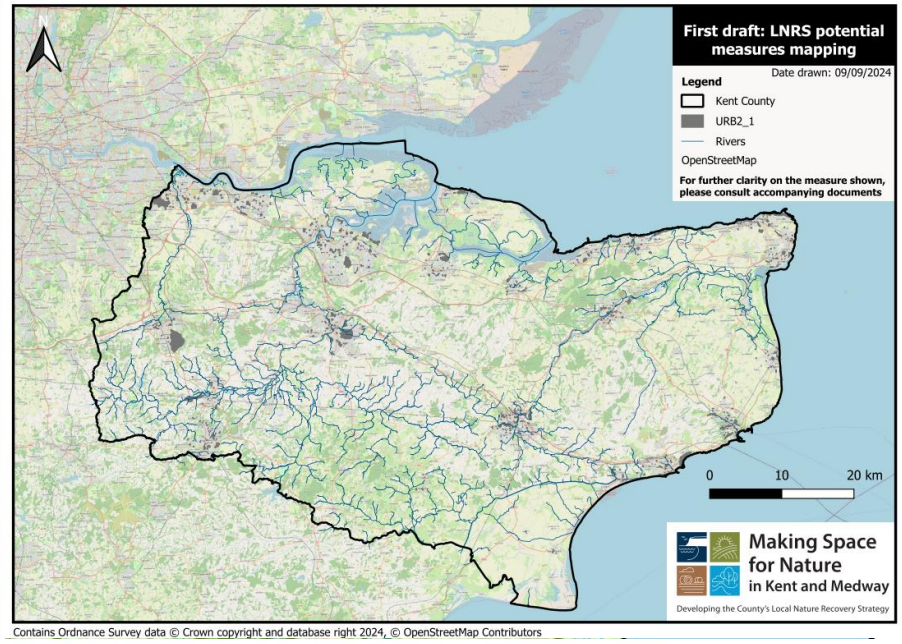

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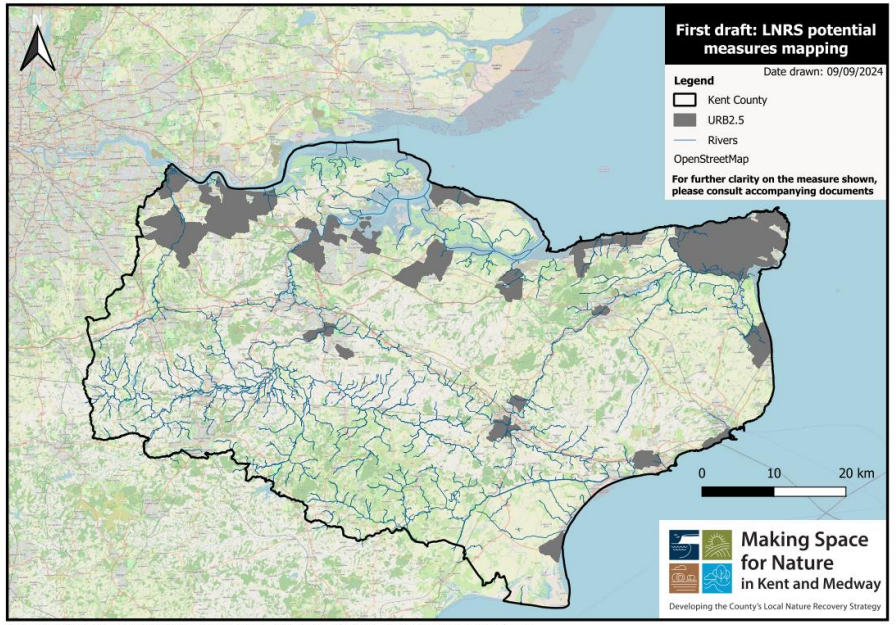

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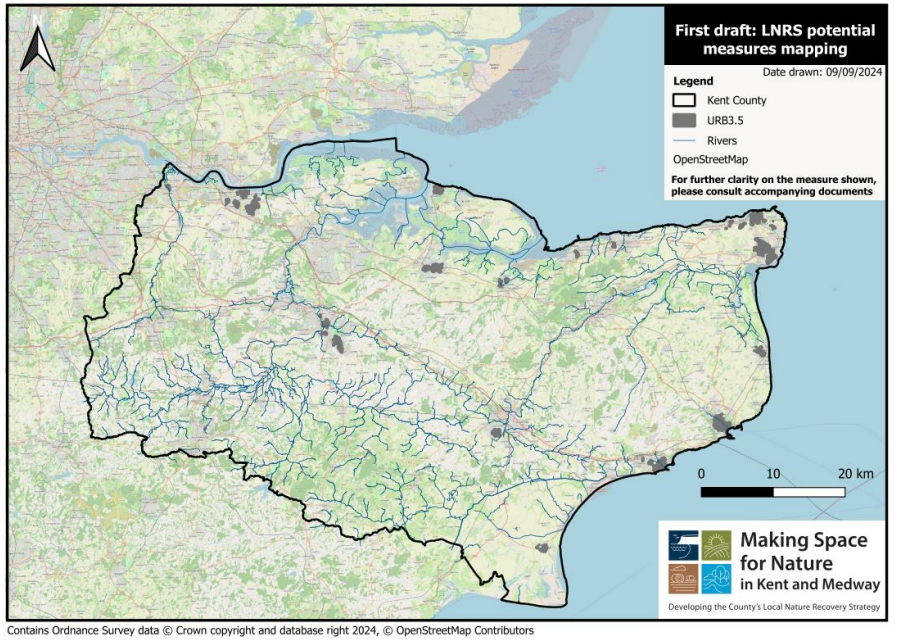

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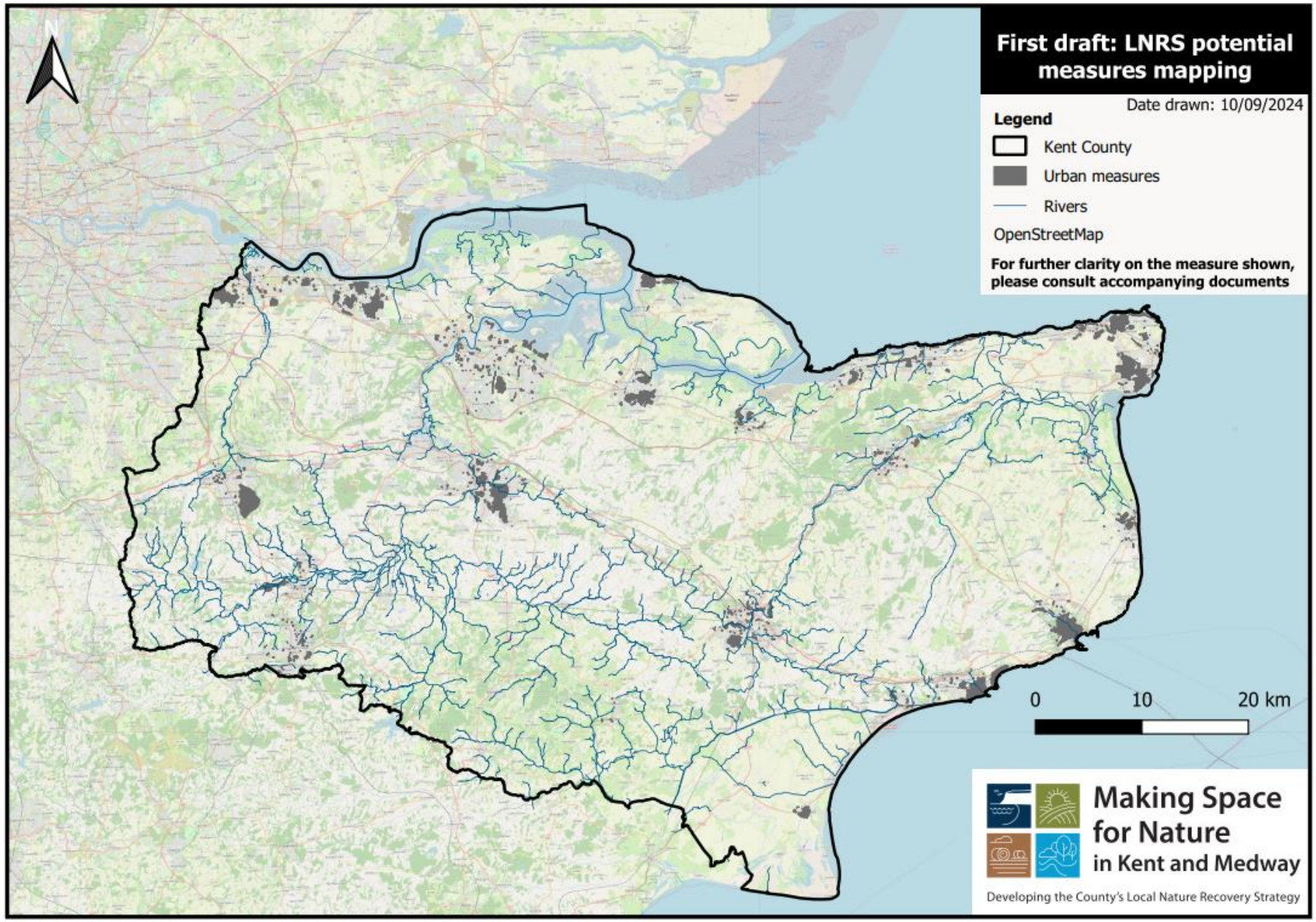

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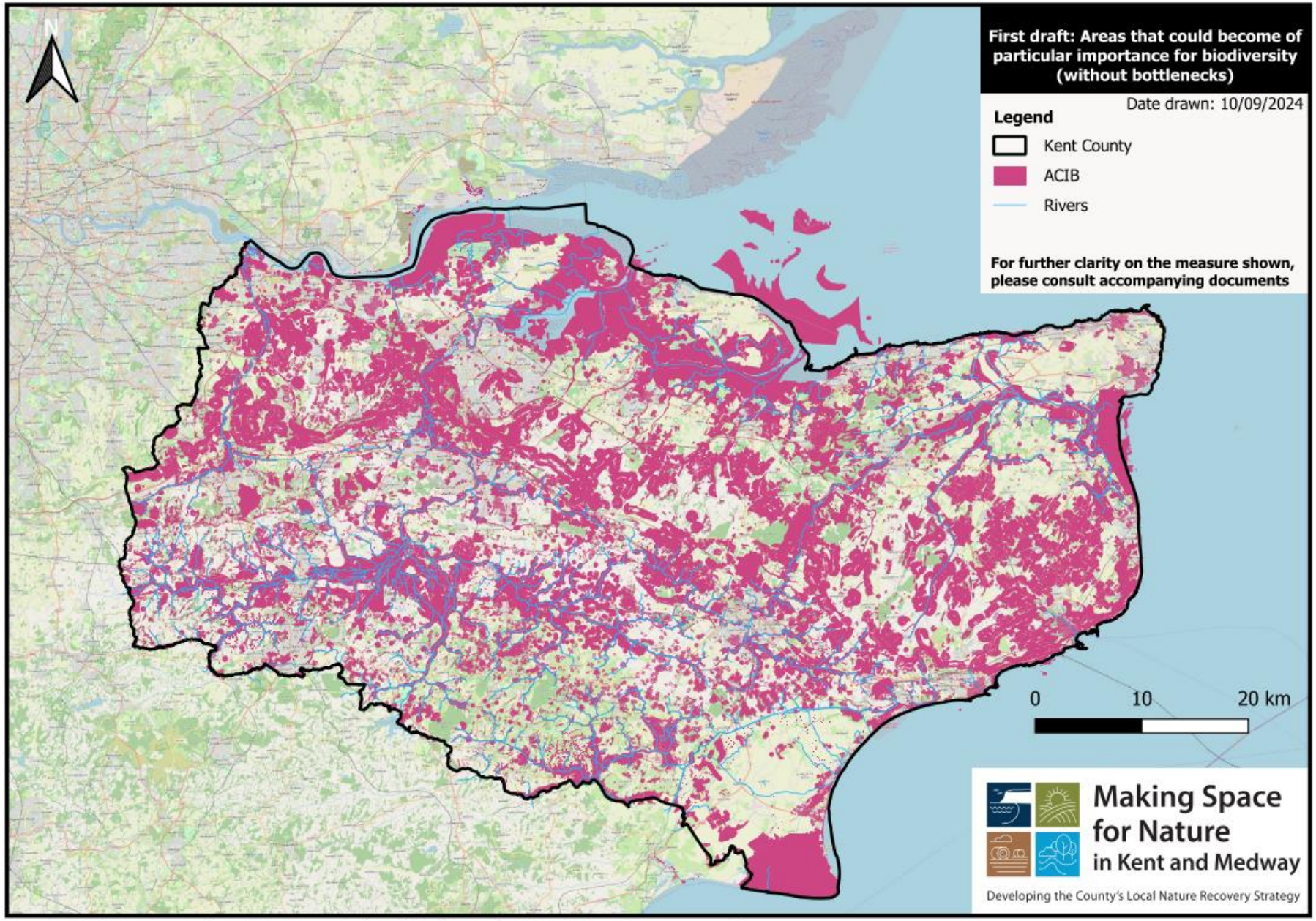
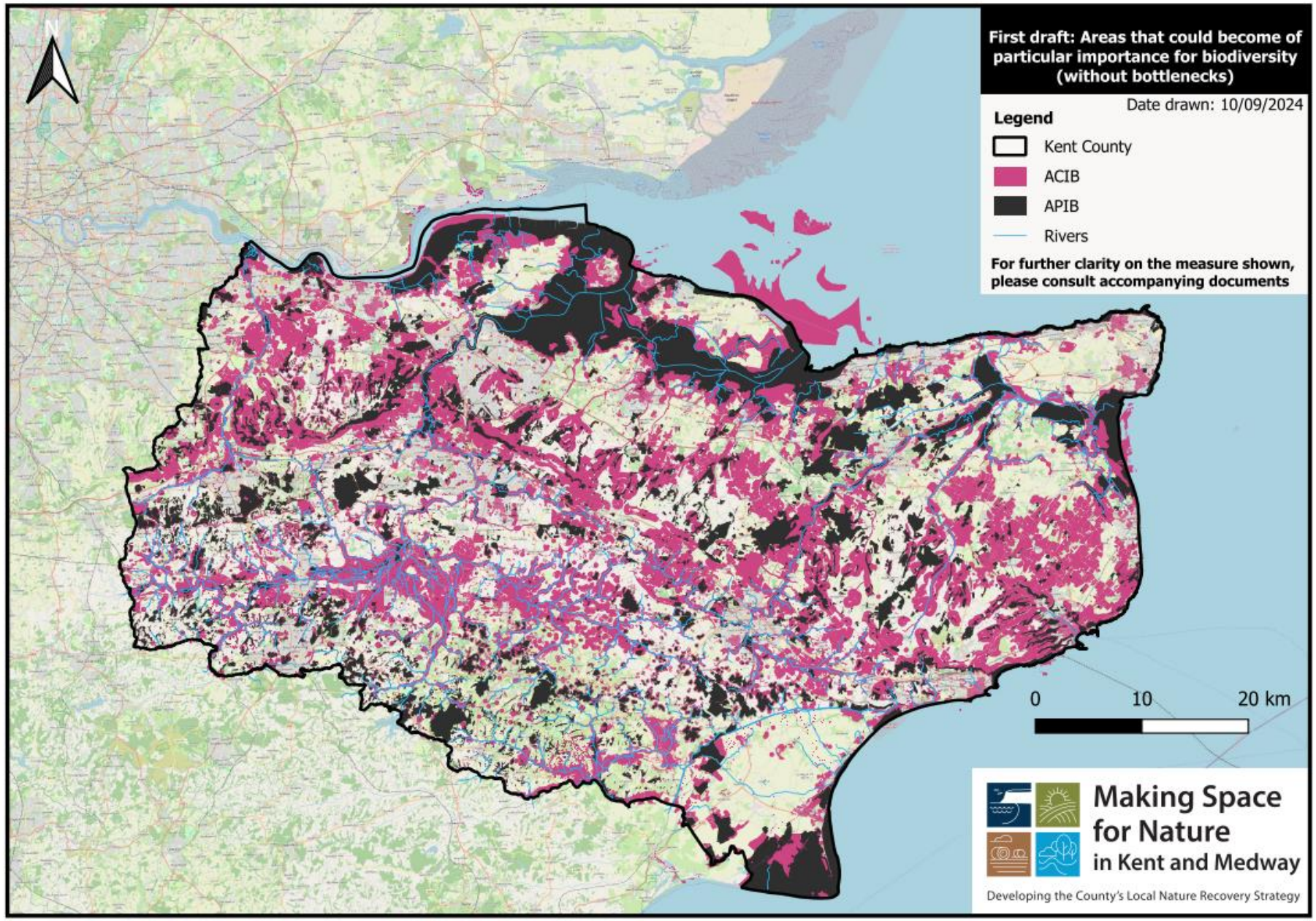
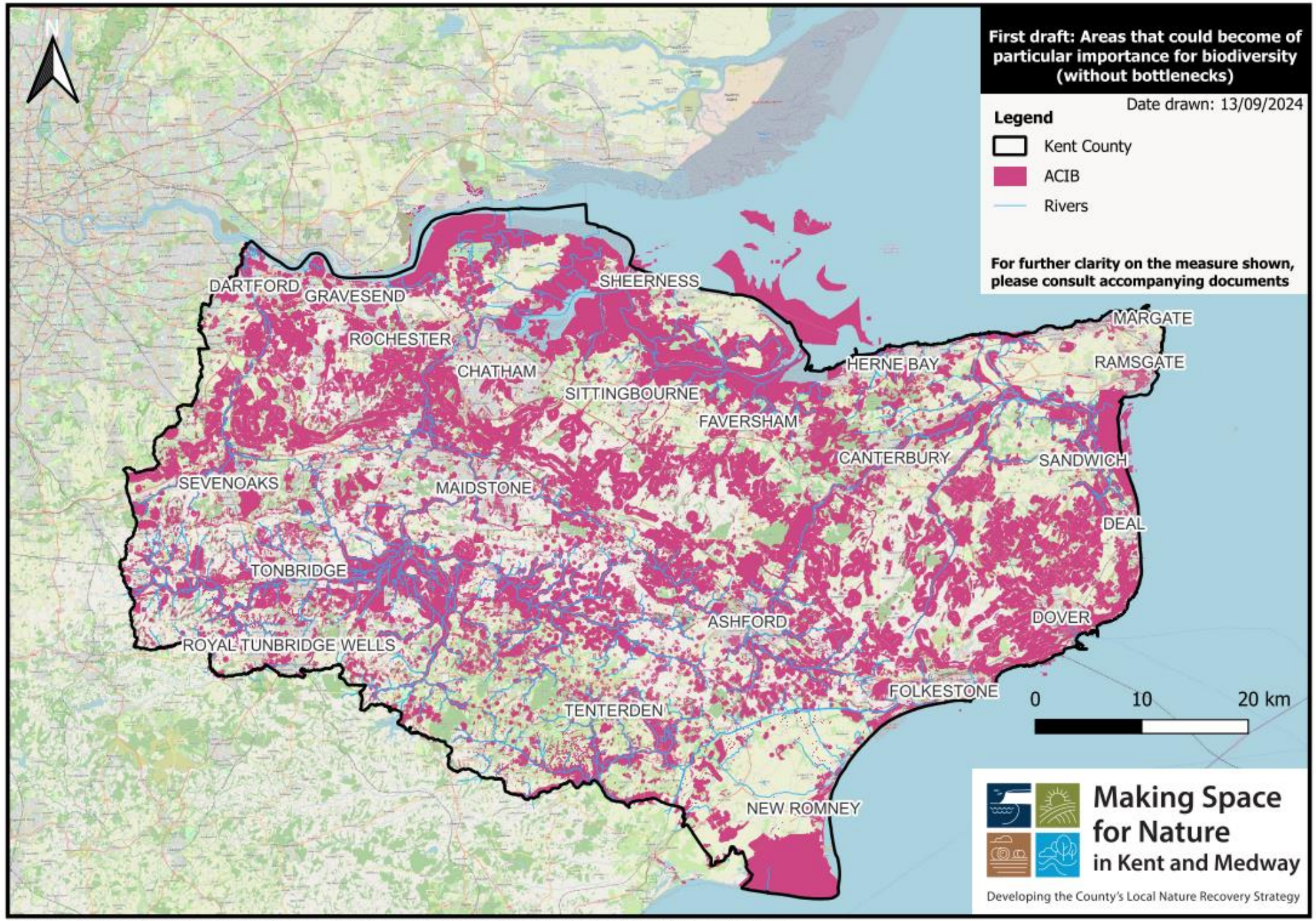




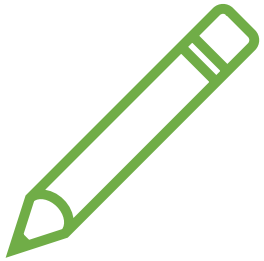


Further input to refining maps

- 4 other workshops.
- Detailed review with county's local planning authorities and National Landscape teams.
- Sessions with farmers and landowners.
- Actions for nature outputs.
- Priorities for nature outputs.
- Using potential for habitat to deliver wider environmental benefits – focussing on areas where such benefits are most needed.
- Unmapped potential measures.

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Things to note about the “Areas that Could become of Importance to Biodiversity” mapping



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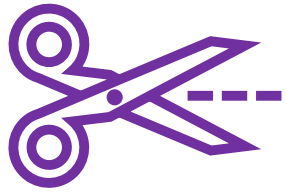

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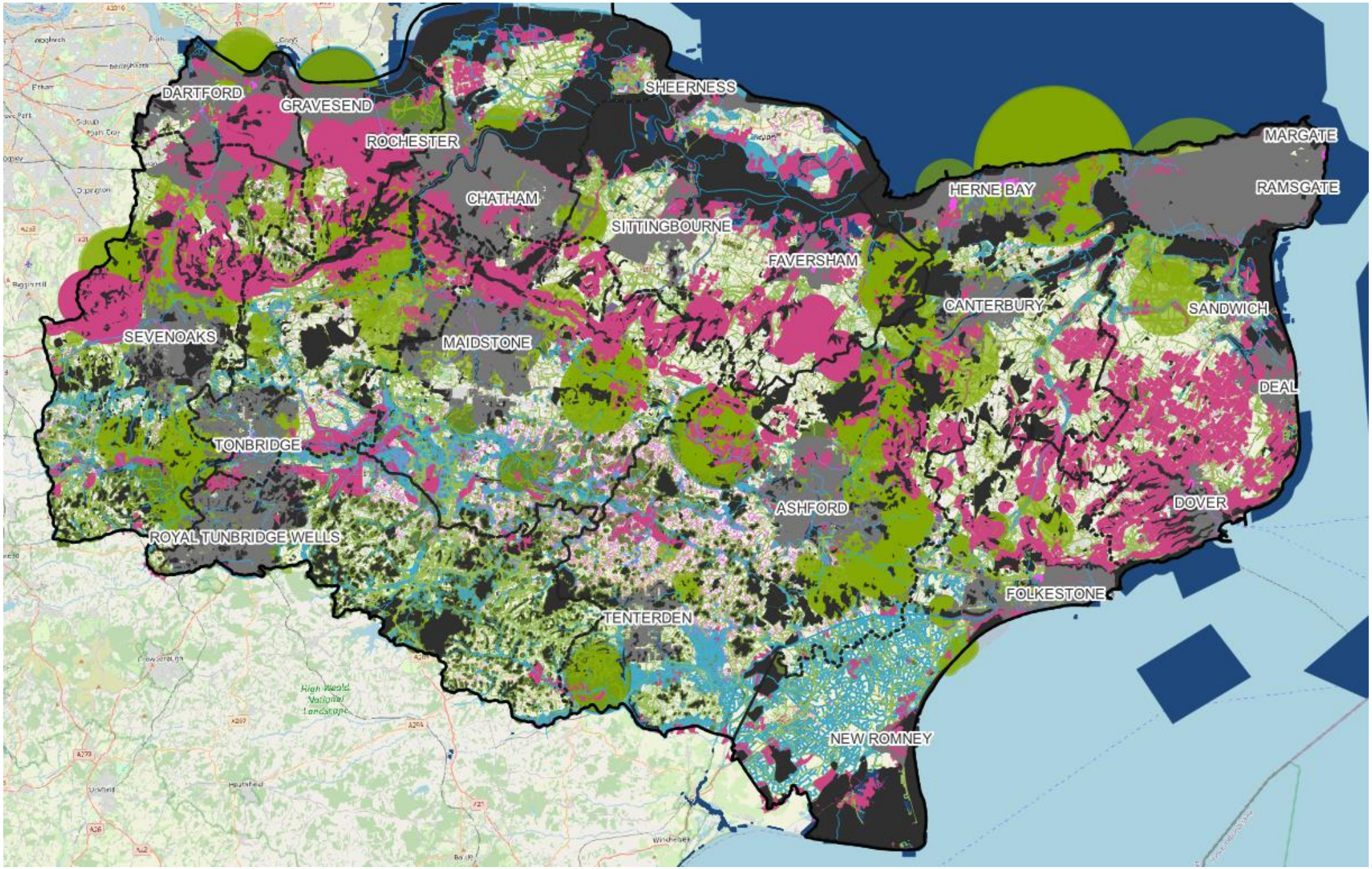
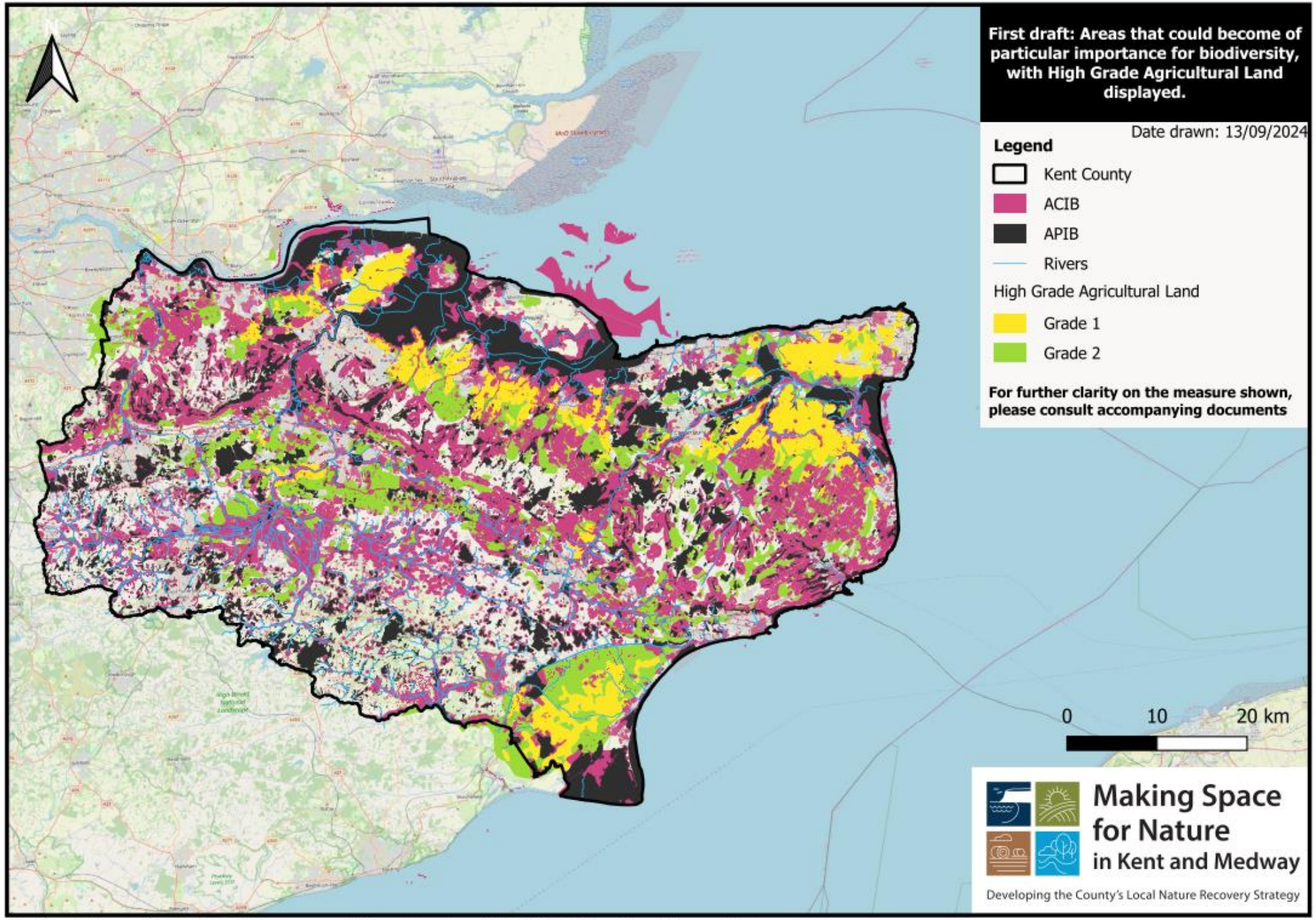
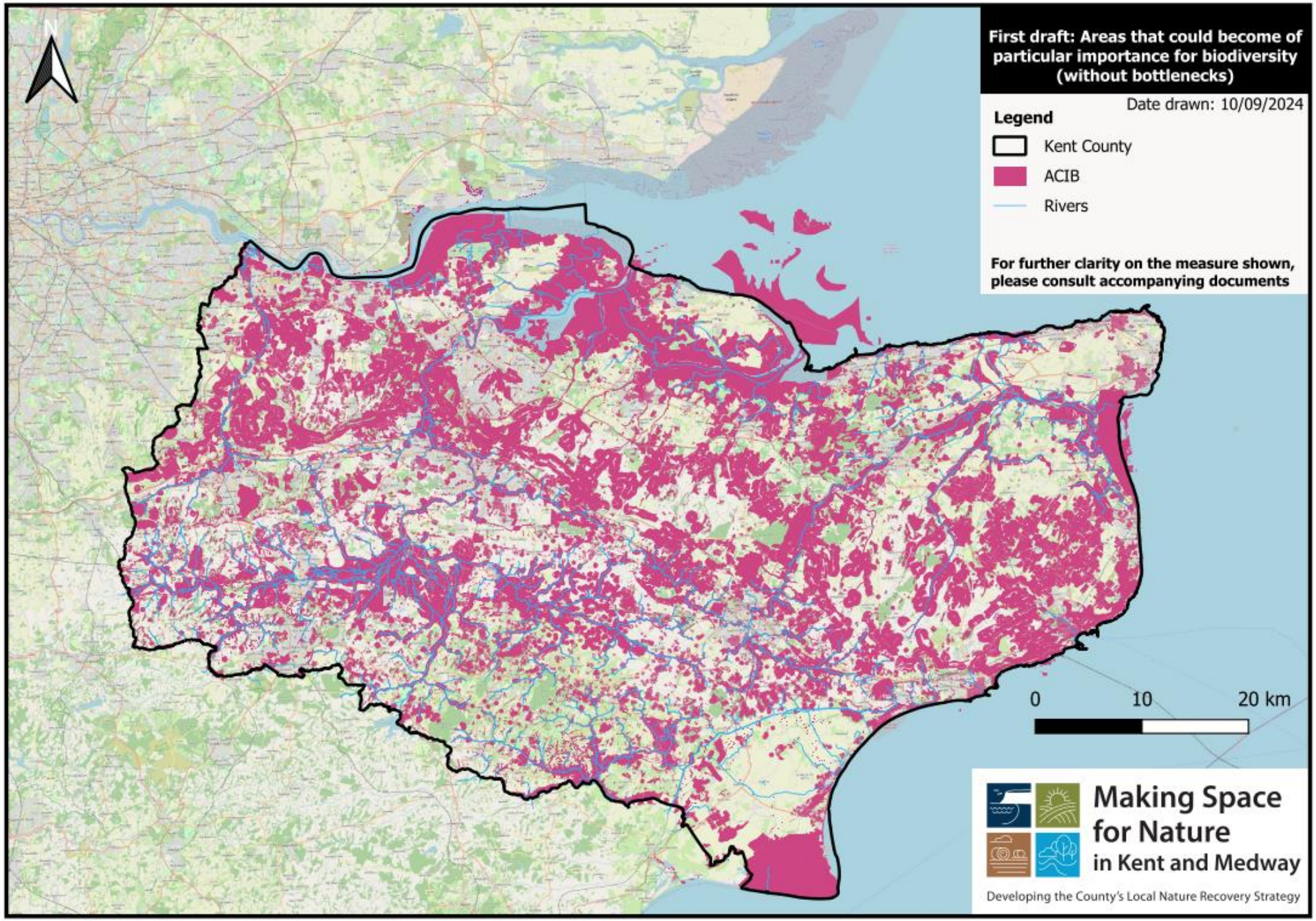
Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway


DARTFORD
GRAVESEND
ROCHESTER
SHEERNESS
MARGATE
RAMSGATE
HERNE BAY
CHATHAM
SITTINGBOURNE
FAVERSHAM
CANTERBURY
SANDWICH
SEVENOAKS
MAIDSTONE
DEAL
TONBRIDGE
ASHFORD
DOVER
ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
FOLKESTONE
TENTERDEN
NEW ROMNEY





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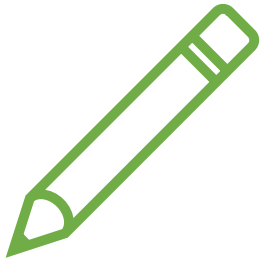

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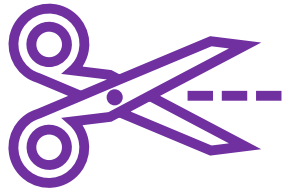

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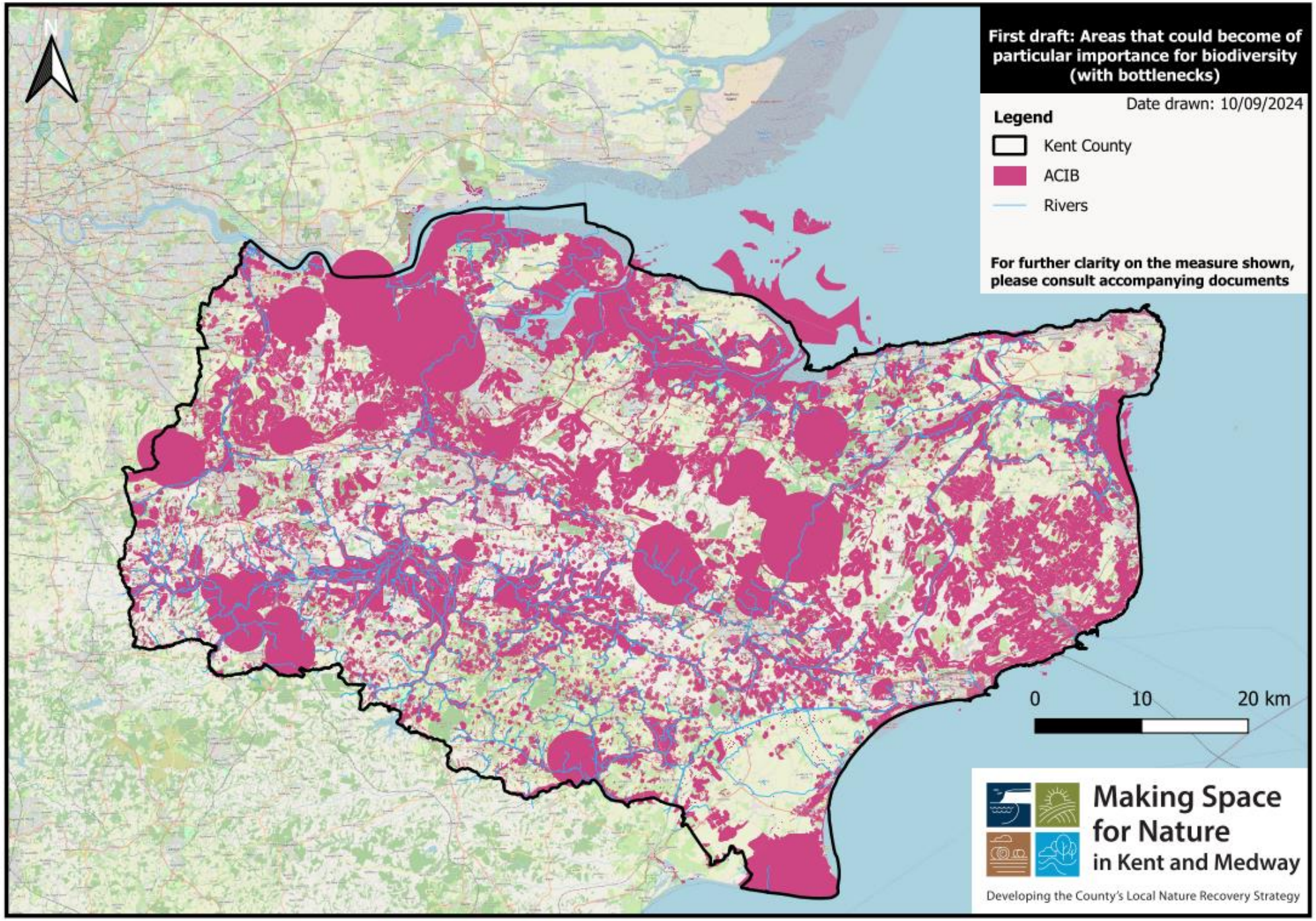
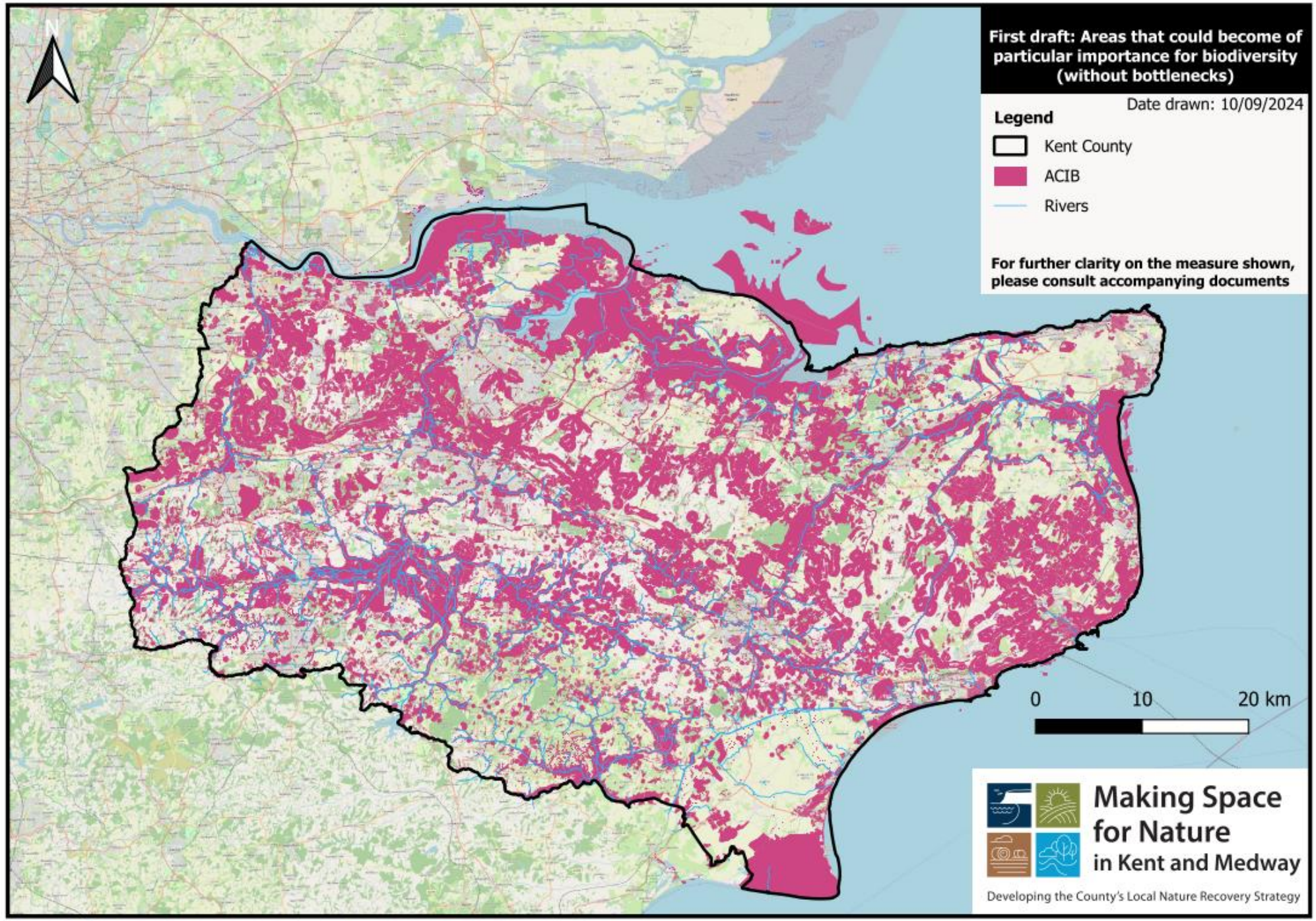
Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway





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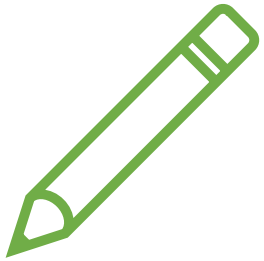

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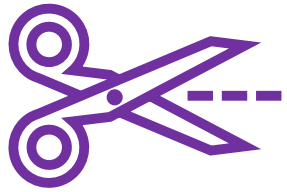

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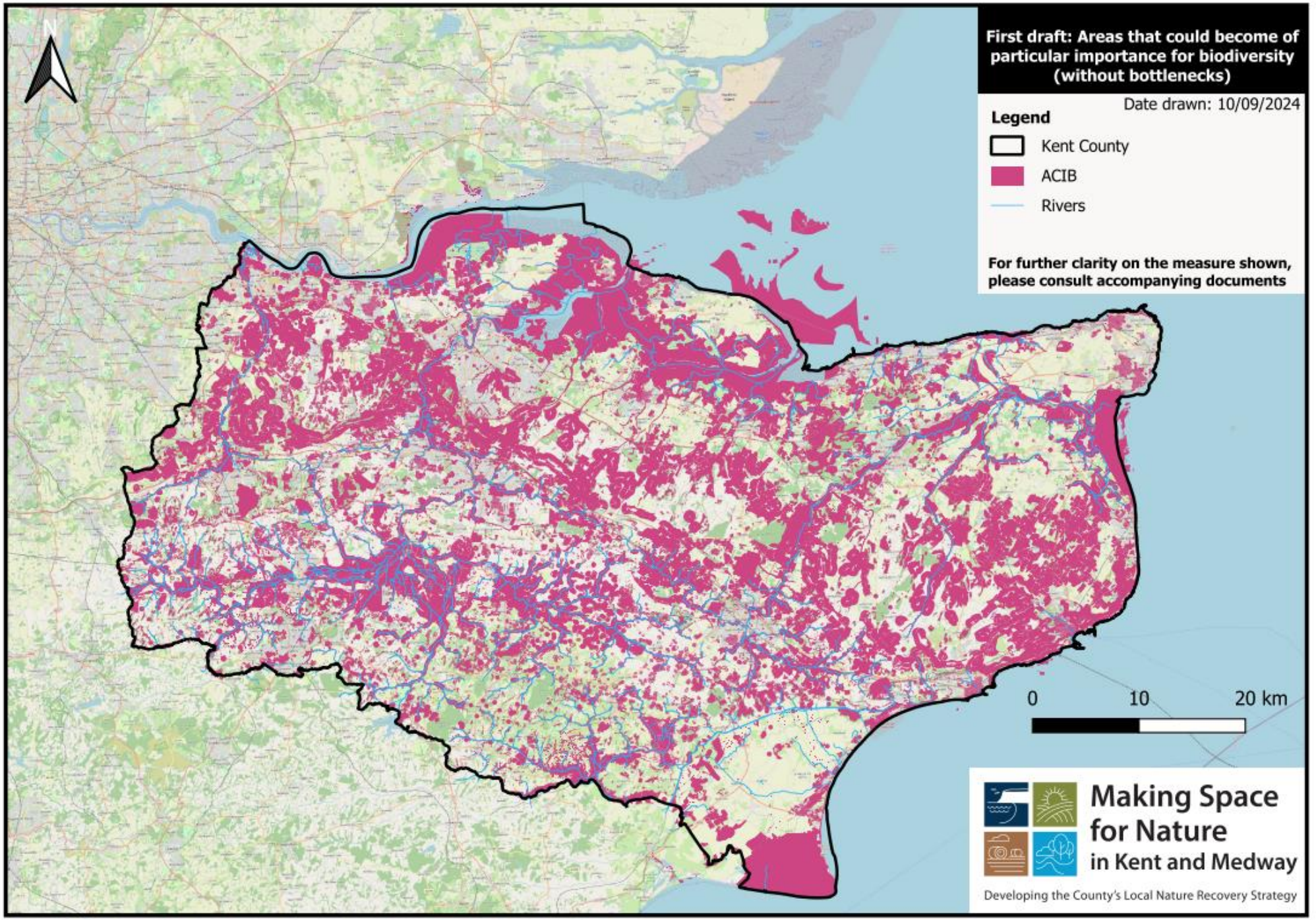
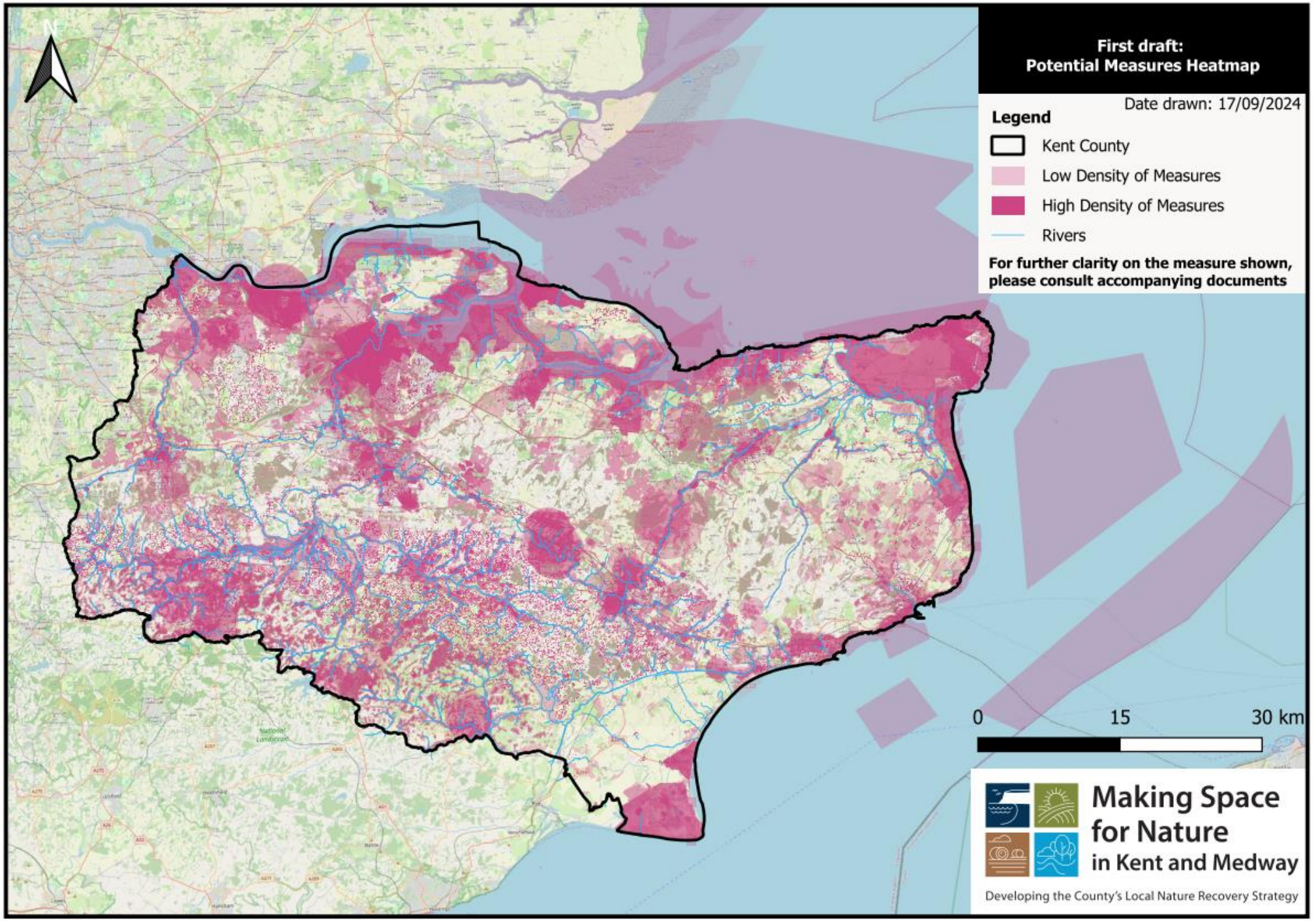
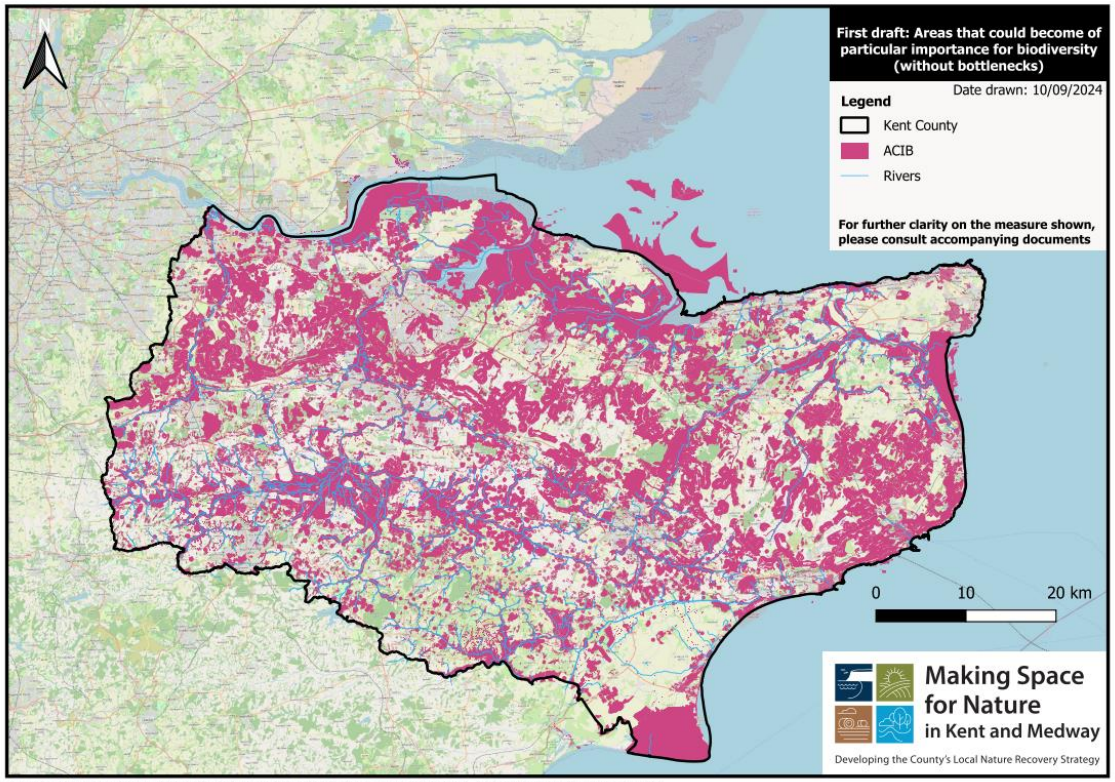
Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

"Areas that Could Become of Importance for Biodiversity" based on overlay of **mapped measures** results in noticeable gaps



Would mapping of "Areas that Could Become of Importance for Biodiversity" based on **density of measures** be more appropriate?





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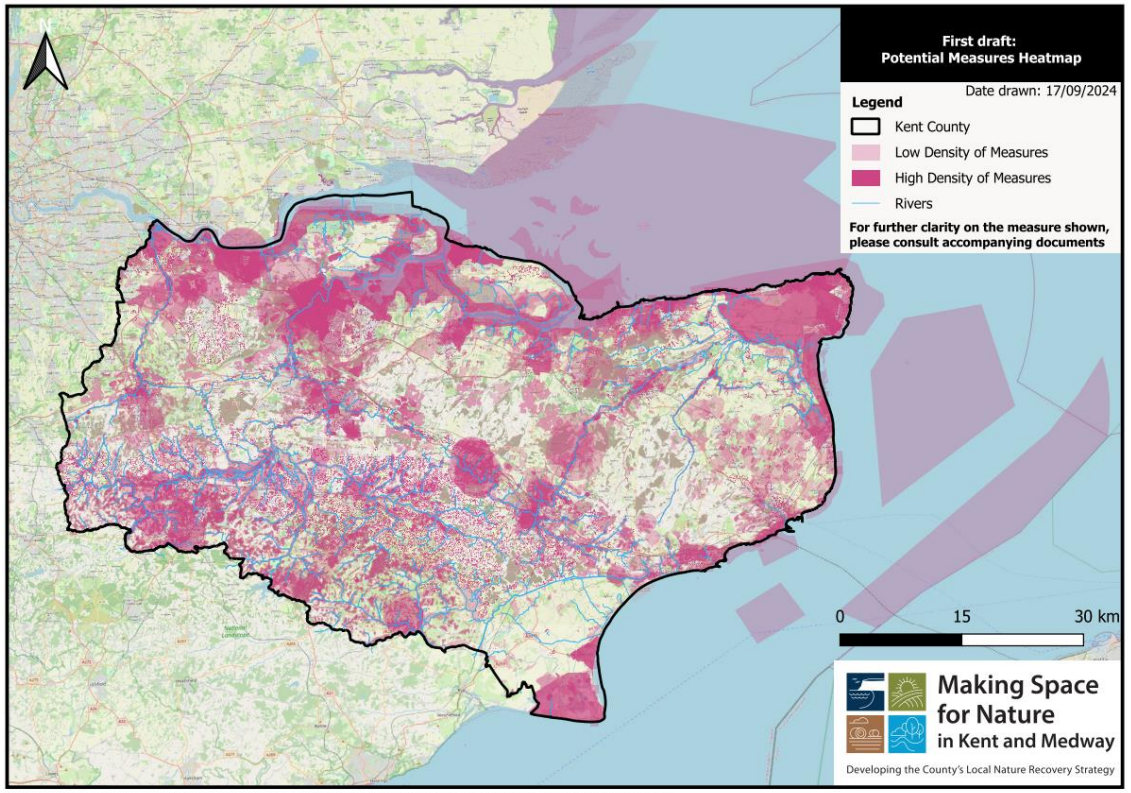

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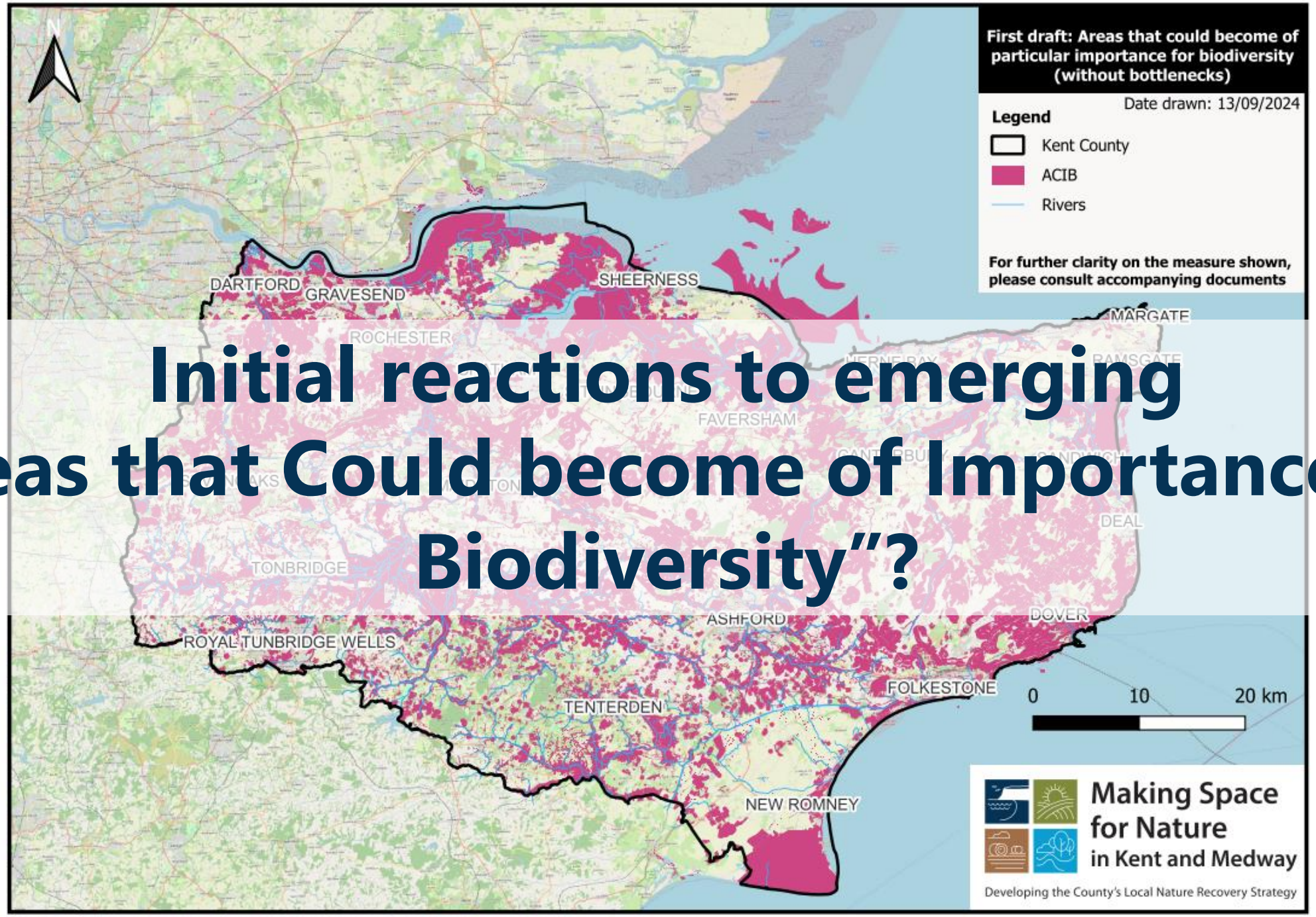
Will not know which is best approach for determining "Areas that Could become of Importance for Biodiversity" until all underpinning layers of potential measures mapping is finalised and all possible refinement of these is complete.

Any questions?

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway



Initial reactions to emerging "Areas that Could become of Importance for Biodiversity"?

Initial reactions

Coverage – too much, too little or about right?

Any areas of county that concern?

Distribution of areas across county?

Any questions?

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Session two

Review of mapped potential measures for habitat priorities

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Habitat priorities

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Our existing **grasslands** are conserved, with appropriate management returned to restore, connect and extend these habitats to deliver high quality, species-rich areas across the county.

The structural diversity of open mosaic habitat found on previously developed land and low level scrub is safeguarded from loss and damage, for the benefit of species that rely on early **successional habitats**.

Kent and Medway's native **woodland, trees and hedgerows** are safeguarded from loss and under appropriate and active management, delivering robust ground flora and soil structures. A mixture of natural regeneration and new establishment, improves connectivity and provides an even greater contribution to climate change mitigation and resilience.

Habitat priorities

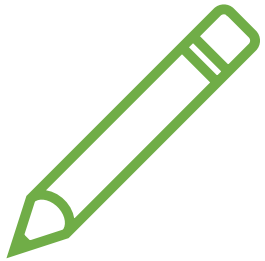
Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Our **freshwater** habitats are clean, sufficient and stable, in a healthy and good ecological state that supports an abundance and diversity of species. Catchments' functions are restored to deliver a connected mosaic of wet habitats, improving water quality and managing flood risk across the county.

Nature plays a central role in shaping the county's built-up environments, with wildlife provided for in a network of connected green and blue spaces, which are also designed and managed to provide nature based solutions to the challenges facing those living in **urban** areas.

Coastal and estuarine areas are allowed to evolve, with natural processes and progression restored, to enable adaption and resilience to climate change. Management of habitat succession is delivered strategically and holistically, to minimise loss and support a range of high functioning, connected **coastal** habitats.

Things to note about the potential measures' maps



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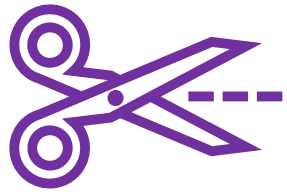
May be errors.



More editing to be done

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Unmapped potential measures

Maintenance or management.

Eligible area too broad to map.

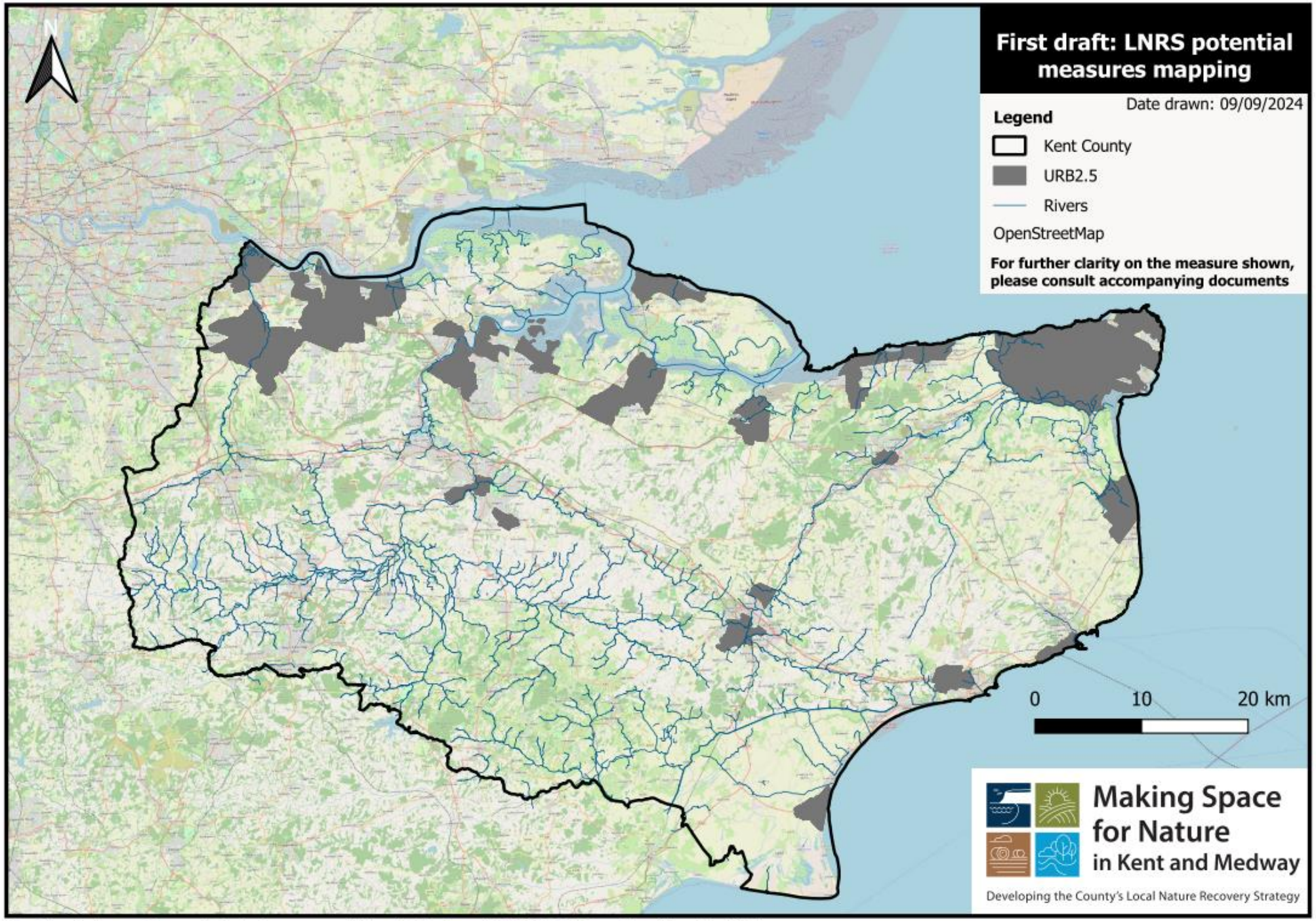
No data or evidence.

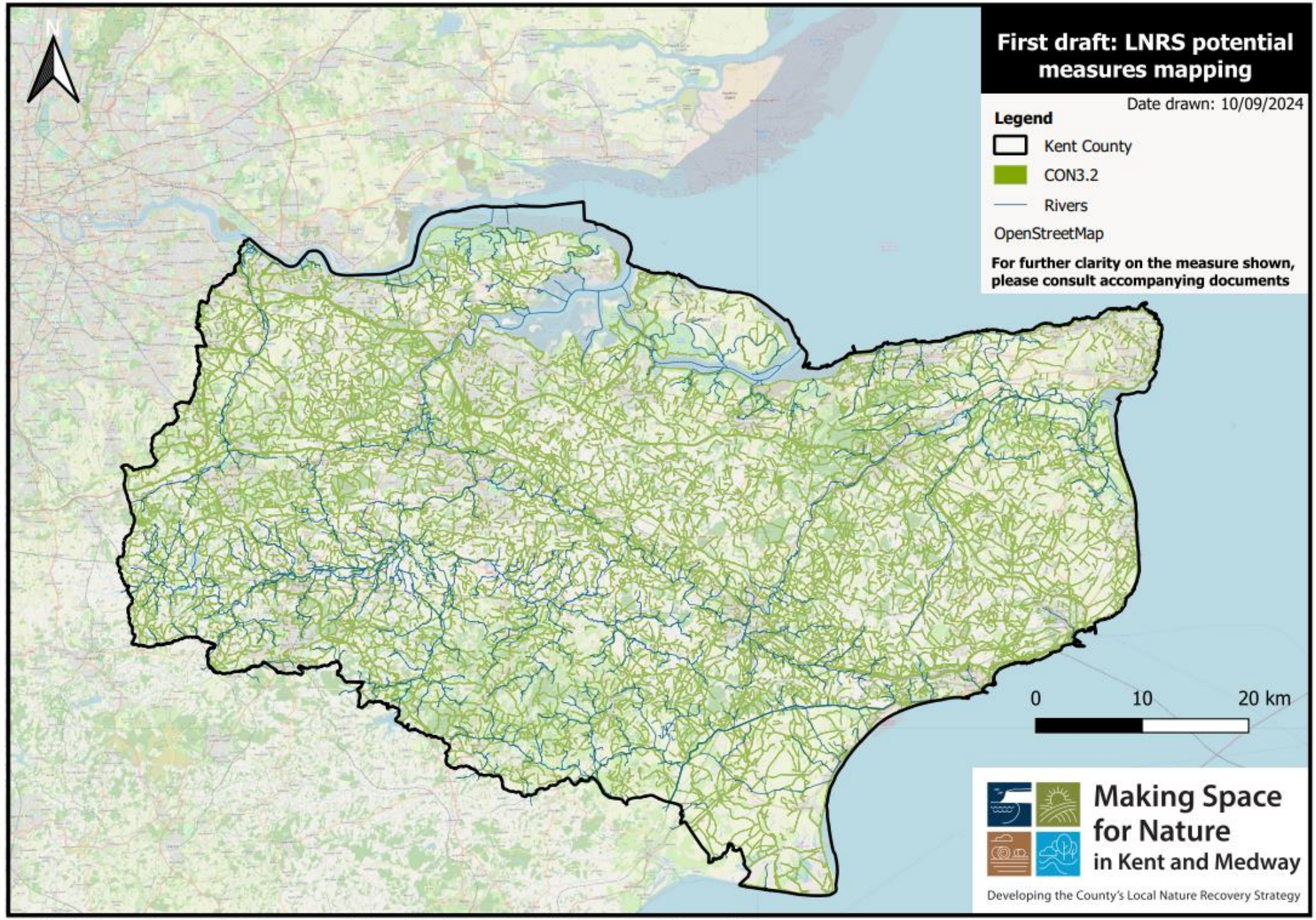
No quick way of modelling.

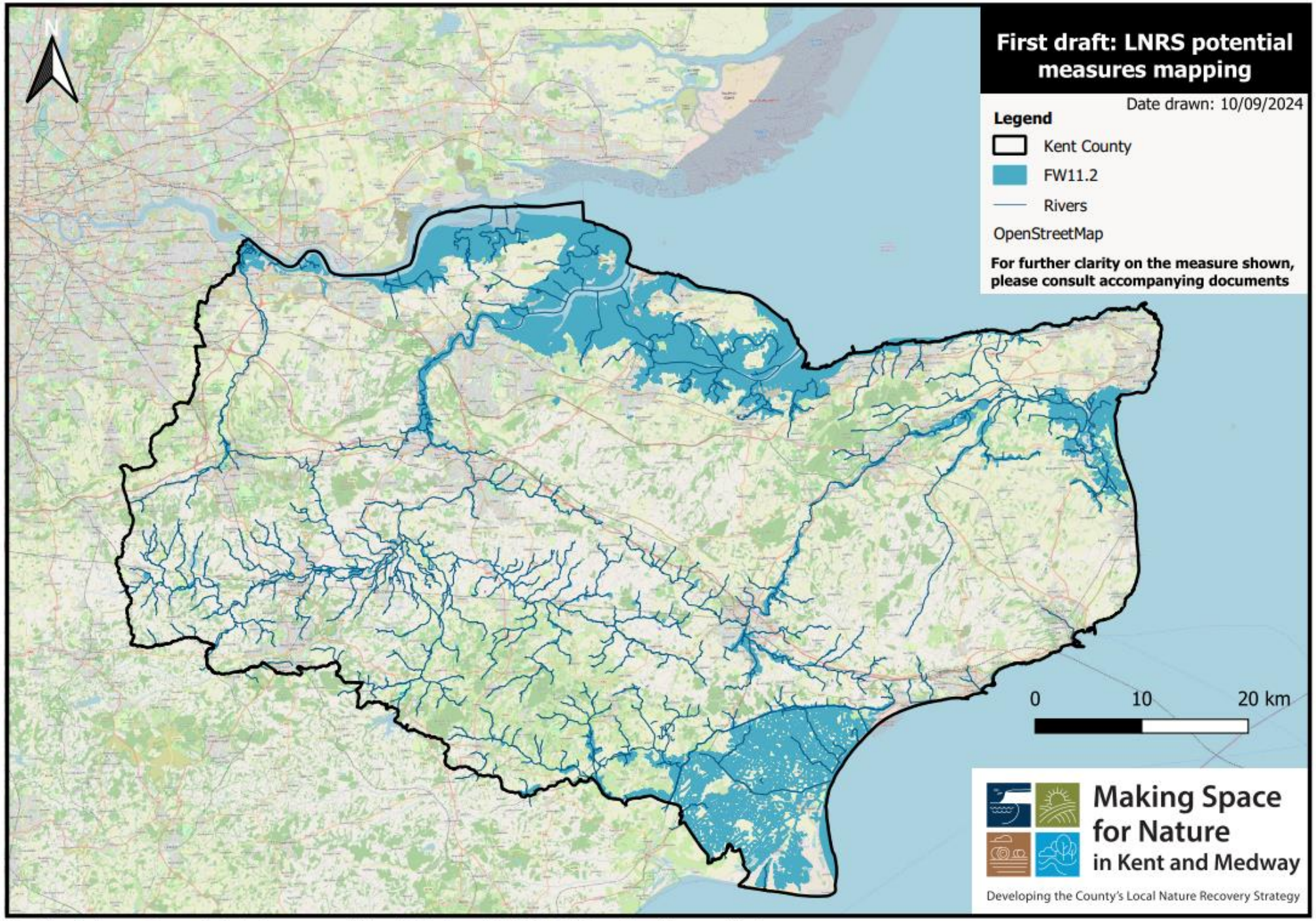
Broad coverage

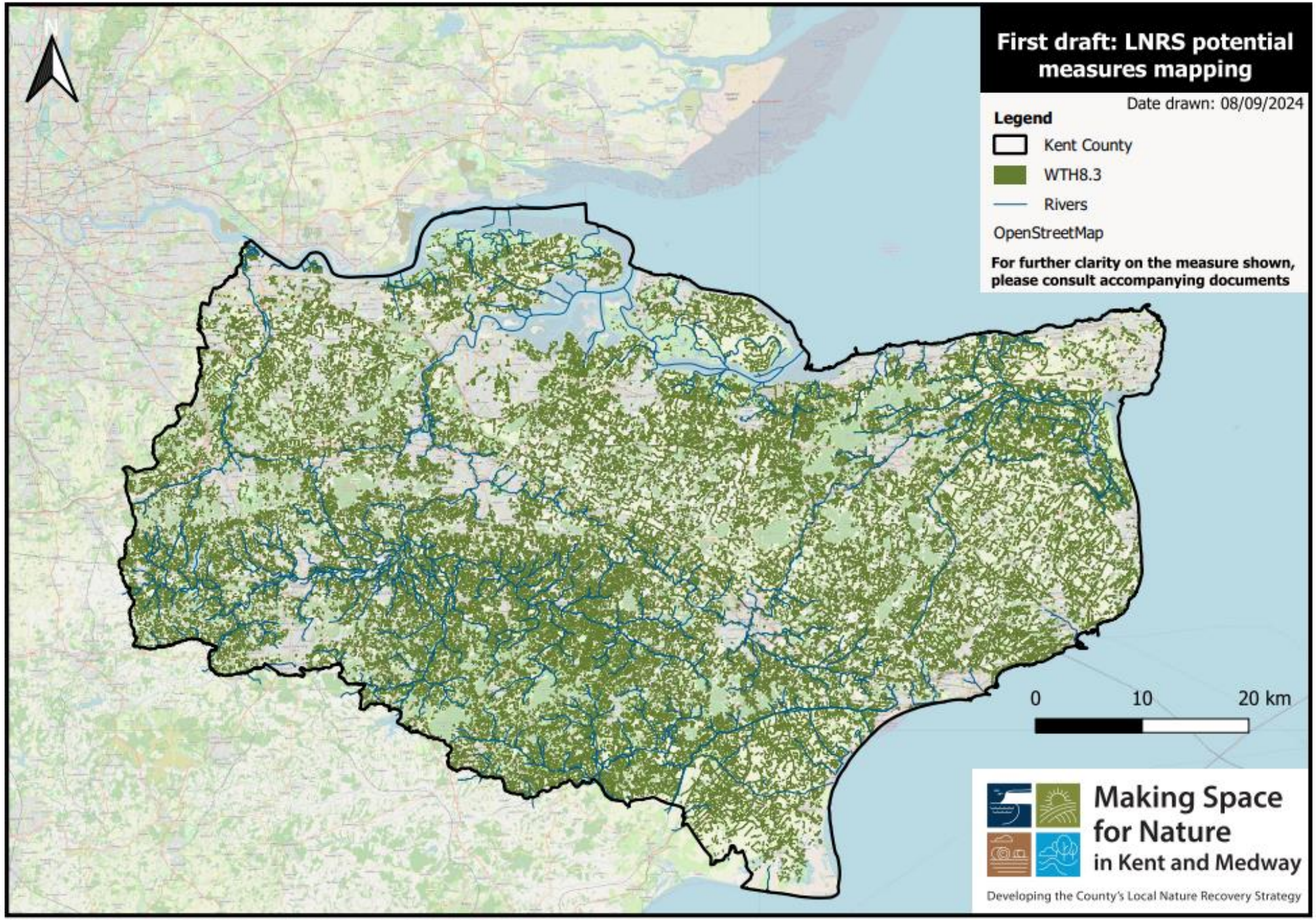
A number of the potential measures, when mapped, produce extensive opportunities across county – these need refinement if they are to be used as layer in ACIB.

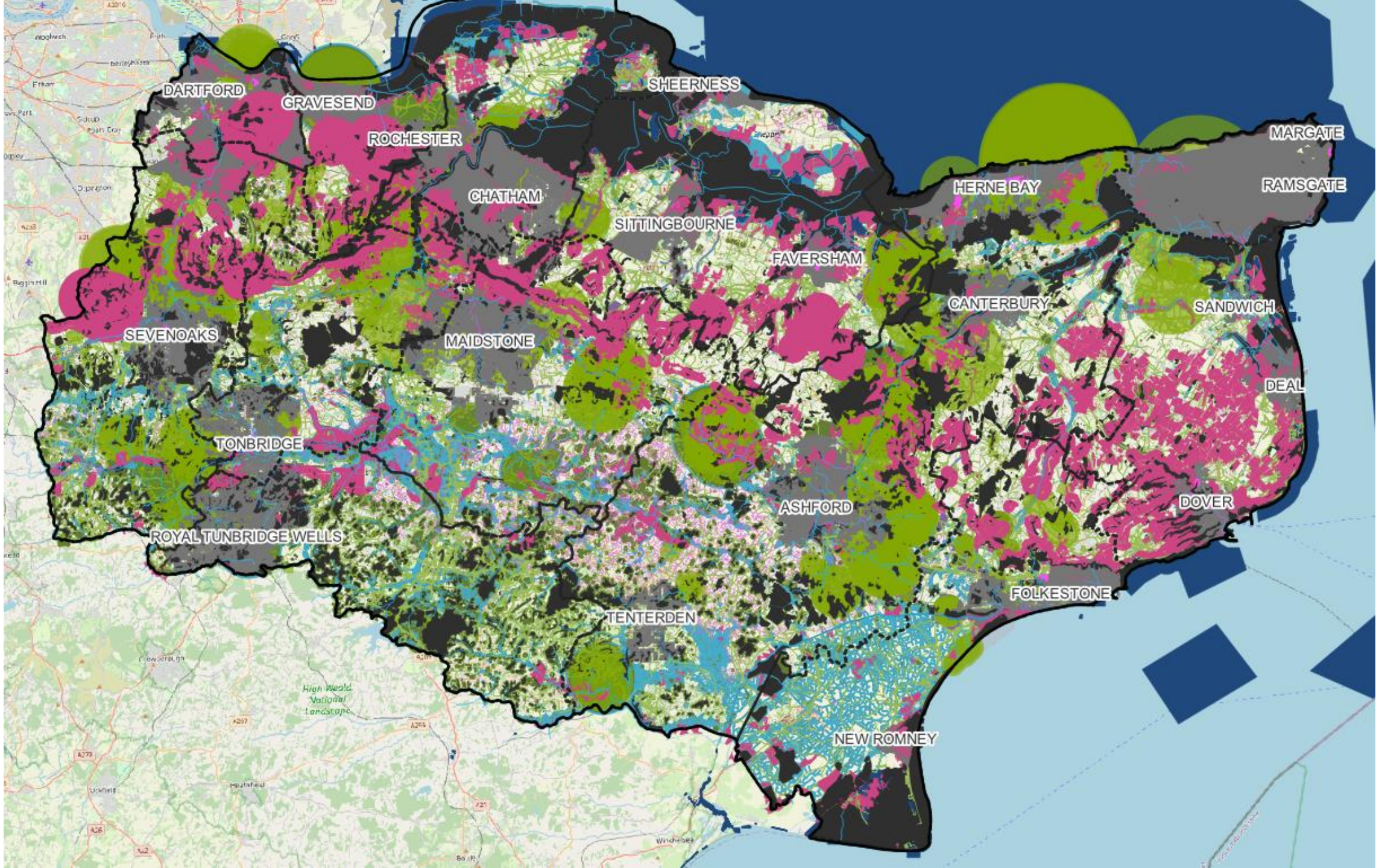
Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway










DARTFORD
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ROCHESTER
SHEERNESS
CHATHAM
SITTINGBOURNE
FAVERSHAM
HERNE BAY
MARGATE
RAMSGATE
CANTERBURY
SANDWICH
DEAL
SEVENOAKS
MAIDSTONE
TONBRIDGE
ASHFORD
DOVER
ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
FOLKESTONE
TENTERDEN
NEW ROMNEY
High Weald National Landscape

Any questions?

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Aims of session

Ground truth the maps

- Does the mapping pick up the areas of Kent where delivery of this measure is most needed and/or would result in the greatest gains and benefits?
- Does it direct to any areas it shouldn't?

Focus the mapped measures not currently included in ACIB

- How might we refine these mapped potential measures, so we can better target the action and include them in the ACIB?

Enhance the maps

- Can any of the currently potential unmapped measures be mapped? What data or evidence can be used to inform the mapping?

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Session three

Review of mapped potential measures for overarching priorities

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Overarching priorities

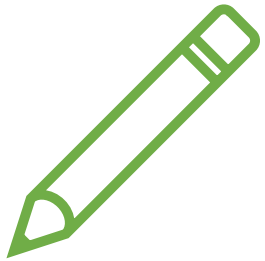
Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Connectivity – High quality habitats are connected at both a county and local scale, providing more linked natural space for nature to thrive in and a landscape that wildlife can move through and adapt to change in.

Nature based solutions – Through actions to protect, manage and restore the county's ecosystems we maximise our resilience to the challenges of climate change, tackle health and societal inequality and deliver well-being benefits, whilst simultaneously recovering nature.

Land management and land use – Land management and land use throughout Kent and Medway county not only meets the economic and social needs of the county, but also delivers nature recovery gains.

Things to note about the potential measures' maps



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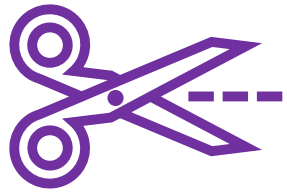

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All nature based solution priorities.

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Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Any questions?

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Aims of session

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

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Focus the mapped measures not currently included in ACIB

- How might we refine these mapped potential measures, so we can better target the action and include them in the ACIB?

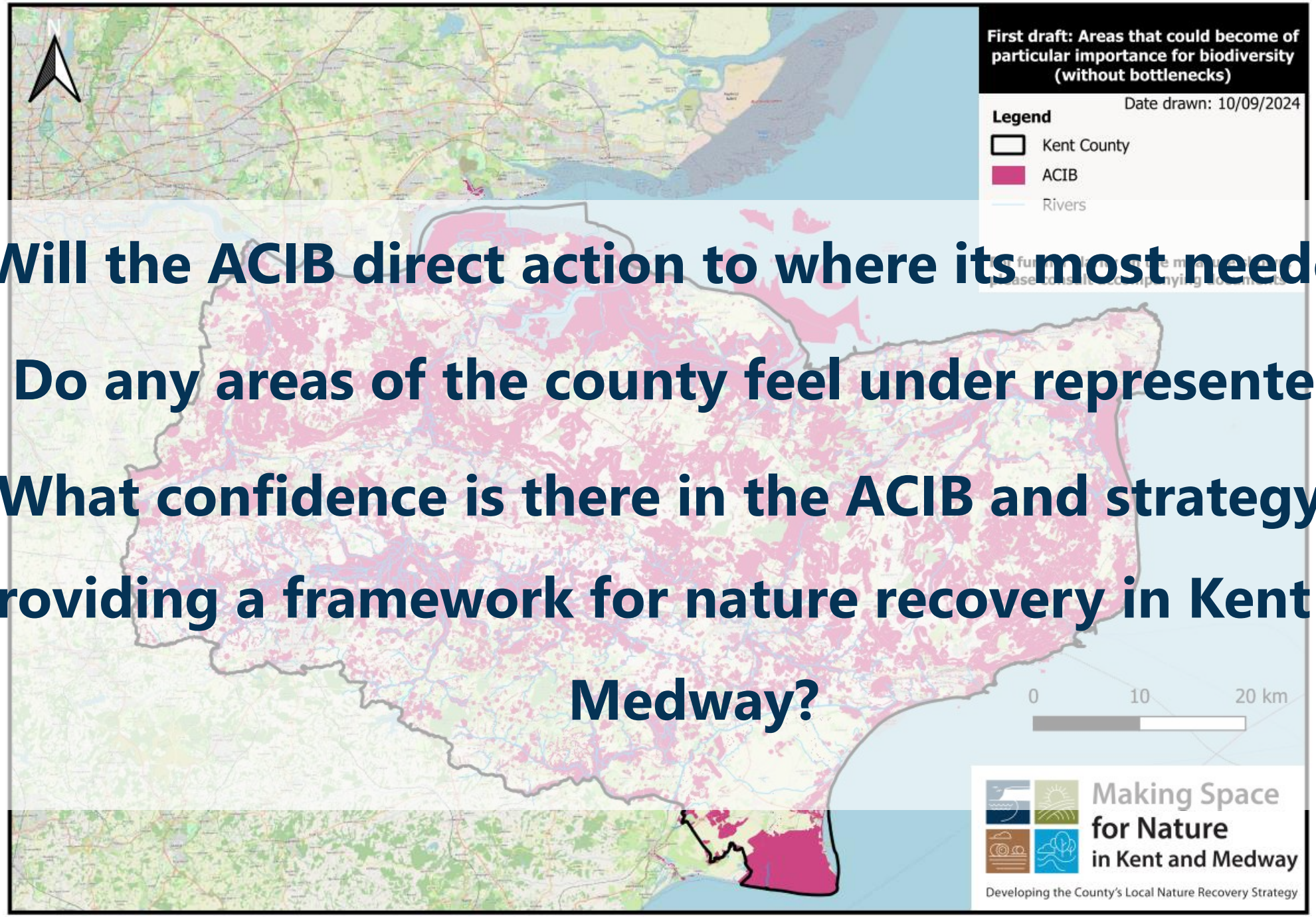
Enhance the maps

- Can any of the currently potential unmapped measures be mapped? What data or evidence can be used to inform the mapping?
- Could we instead use these to inform or further focus the habitat-based potential measures' mapping?

Session four

Revisiting the "Areas that could become of importance for biodiversity"

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway



- Will the ACIB direct action to where its most needed?
- Do any areas of the county feel under represented?
- What confidence is there in the ACIB and strategy in providing a framework for nature recovery in Kent and Medway?