Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway
Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

LNRS Species Workshop

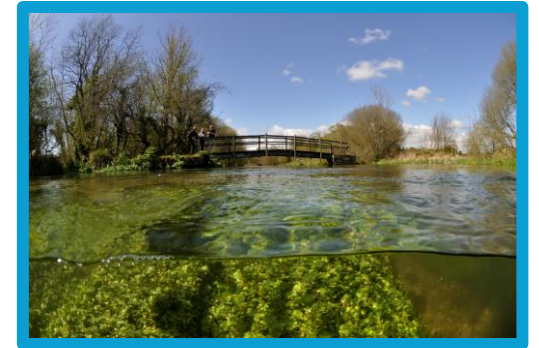| 9.30am	Refreshments
10.00am	Welcome and introductions
10.30am	Session 1 – Reviewing the shortlisted species
11.30am	Session 2 – Flagship species nominations (in coffee break)
12.00pm	Session 3 – Reviewing the habitat assemblages
1.00pm	Next steps and close

All photos © Jim Higham
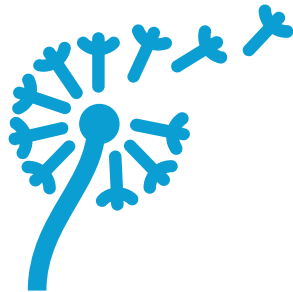
What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies?

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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- 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.

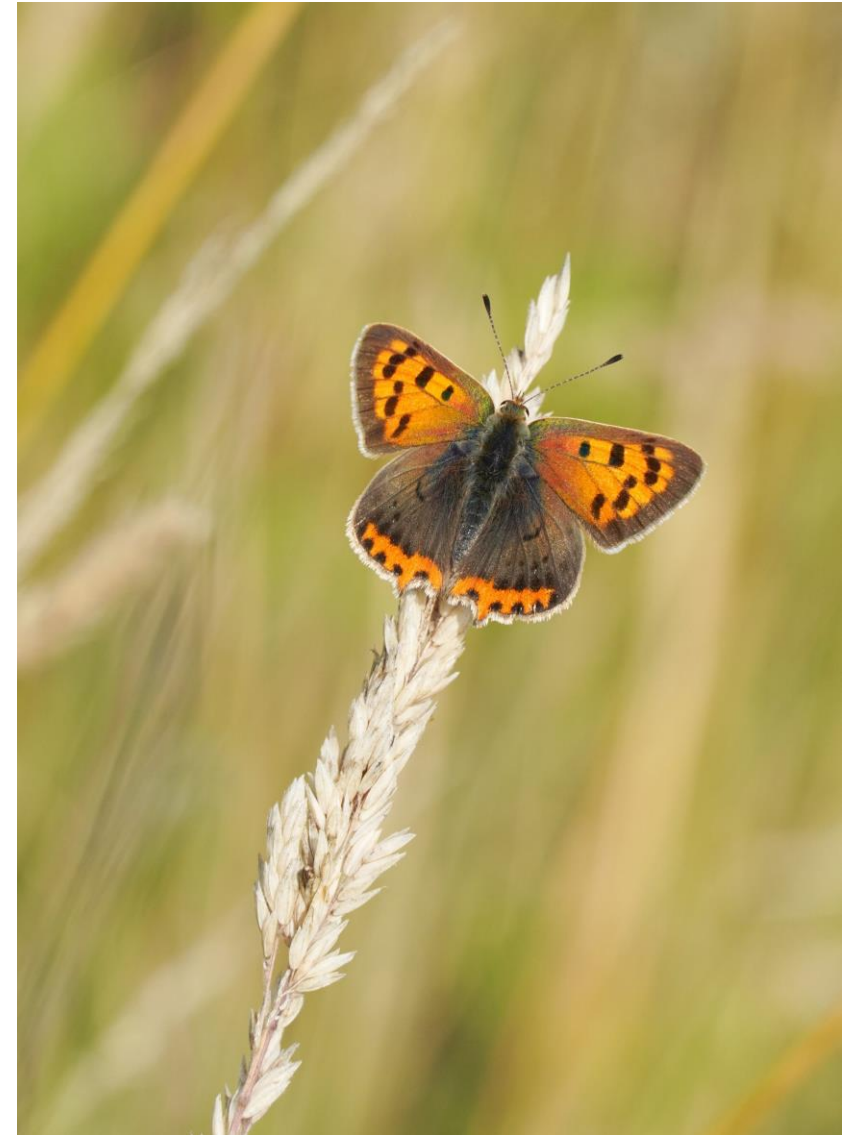**Making Space for Nature**
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National species ambitions

Legally binding targets:

- Halt the decline in species abundance by the end of 2030.
- Increase species abundance by the end of 2042 so that is greater than in 2022 and at least 10% greater than in 2030.
- Reduce the risk of species' extinction by 2042, when compared to the risk of species' extinction in 2022.

"Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a critical new tool for driving the nation ambition to increase species abundance and reduce risk of species extinctions"

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✓**Targeted actions to recover our most threatened species.**

✓**Species-specific measures needed to reduce risk of extinction.**

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Development of species shortlist for Kent and Medway LNRS

- Followed Natural England guided process.

- Similar approach to LNRS habitat priorities, with creation of longlist and refinement of this against criteria to provide focussed shortlist.

- KMBRC leading work, under steer of Species Recovery Technical Advisory Group, 35+ of the county's species experts.

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With huge thanks to

Nominated species leads for shortlisting work:
Lee Brady, Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group
Sue Buckingham, Kent Botanical Recording Group
Alison Debney, ZSL
Nikki Gammans, Bumblebee Conservation Trust
Chris Gardner, South East Rivers Trust
Ian Hunter, Kent Moths
Geoffrey Kitchener, Kent Botanical Recording Group
Steven Lofting, Butterfly Conservation
Lesley Mason, Kent Mammal Group
Richard Moyse, Kent Field Club
Murray Orchard, Kent Ornithological Society
Clair Thackray, Kent Bat Group
Tony Witts, KMBRC

Additional technical advisory group members:
Geoff Allen, Kent Field Club
Lorraine Boast-Millar, Natural England
David Carey, Kent Tree and Pond Partnership
Ken Chapman, Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory
Tom Cook, Environment Agency
Thea Cox, ZSL
Vicky Ellis, CPRE
Kate Fidczuk-Sterry, Natural England
Laura Gardner, Wildwood
Alfie Gay, Countryside Management Partnerships
Sherece Kesner, Adonis Blue Environmental Consultants
Rebecca Levey, Butterfly Conservation
Will Maiden, Forestry Commission
Tom Reid, Environment Agency
Heather Richards, RSPB
Jamie Robins, Buglife
Ben Sweeney, Plantlife
Kirsty Swinnerton, Kent Wildlife Trust
Ben Thompson, Natural England
Ian Titley, North East Kent Coastal Science Advisory Group
Becca Turley, Natural England

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Process

1. Create **species longlist**:
   - Any species Red Listed at England scale.
   - Species listed under s41 of the NERC Act as being of principal importance for conservation.
   - Priority species identified under the Kent Biodiversity Strategy.
   - Axiophytes identified by BSBI county groups.
   - Other species considered by local recorders or other experts to be in decline or under threat nationally or in Kent and Medway, regardless of whether strong statistical evidence can be provided to back this up.

2. Assign species **habitat assemblages** - applied at earlier stage than suggested by NE guidance – allows better coverage of species and also identifies all habitats of importance to the county's species to ensure we have suitably covering these within our habitat priorities and associated mapping.

3. Initial refinement of species longlist by applying criteria to **determine species that the LNRS can best support**.

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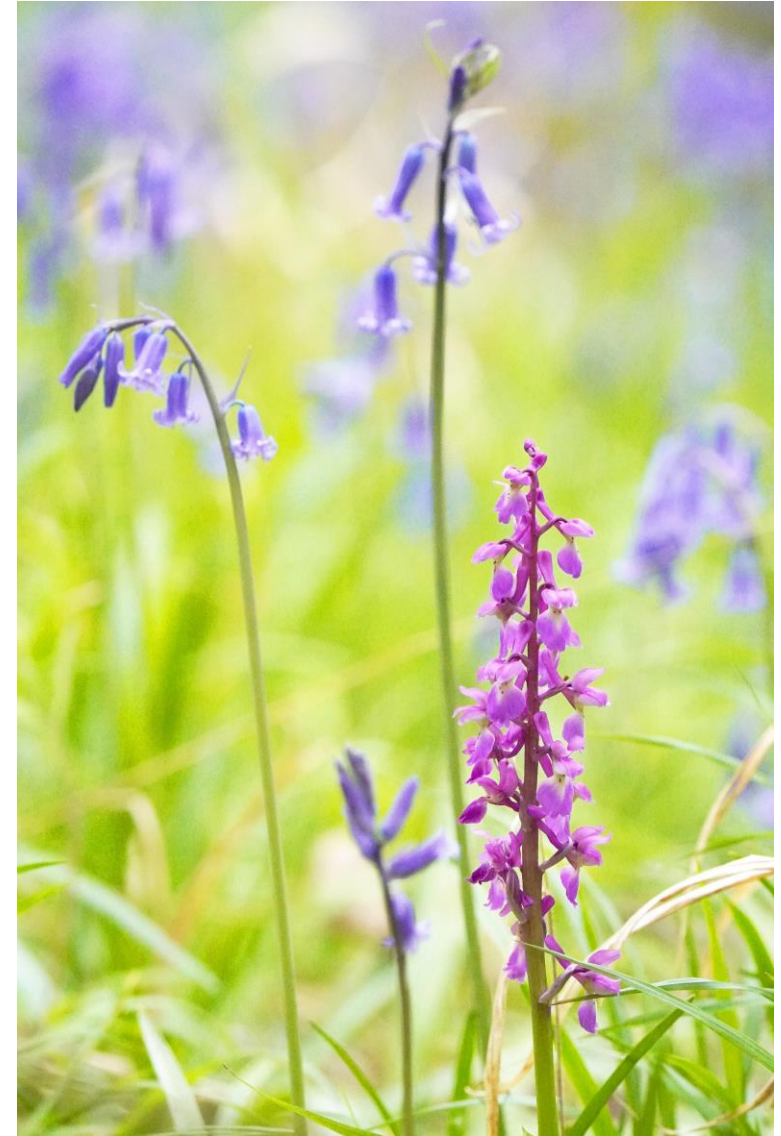| Category	Description of species	Benefit from LNRS?	Suitable species priority?
A - Needs more/bigger/ better-connected habitat	Likely to markedly benefit from general creation, expansion, and improved connectivity. High recovery potential that do not require specific or targeted recovery measures.	Yes	Probably not
B - Needs targeted habitat management	Specific requirements for habitat above and beyond category A. May require specific configurations or complexes of connected or nearby habitats. Causes of decline can be addressed with new or improved management practices	Yes	Yes
C – Needs improvements in environmental quality	Primarily limited by one or more pressures beyond site level that can be mitigated at LNRS, or wider, scales.	Yes	Yes
D - Needs bespoke conservation action/s	Requiring additional, tailored measures which can be spatially indicated on the local habitat map. Need multiple coordinated actions.	Yes	Yes
E - Needs better evidence base/on-the-ground action is not a priority	Insufficient evidence or understanding regarding drivers of decline, required recovery actions, and range/population levels. Current priority is other than on-the-ground action, for example research or ex-situ conservation.	Not known	No
F - Needs action outside England (see new advice note)	Low (or very low) recovery potential due to factors constraining recovery beyond English borders. Evidence shows that action here is highly unlikely to improve species' prospects. Likely to apply only to migratory species affected by, for example, hunting.	No	No
G – Vagrants/ occasional visitors	Currently outside their normal breeding or wintering range or normal migration route, without an extant population in the strategy area and not suitable for translocation.	No	No

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Next stage of shortlisting

Process

4. Create **species shortlist** by applying locally defined selection criteria to create shortlist – and identifying specific measures needed for these species.

5. Group shortlisted species by **habitat assemblages**.

6. Species specialist review of species under habitat assemblages to **determine priority species**, wider assemblage species and flagship species.

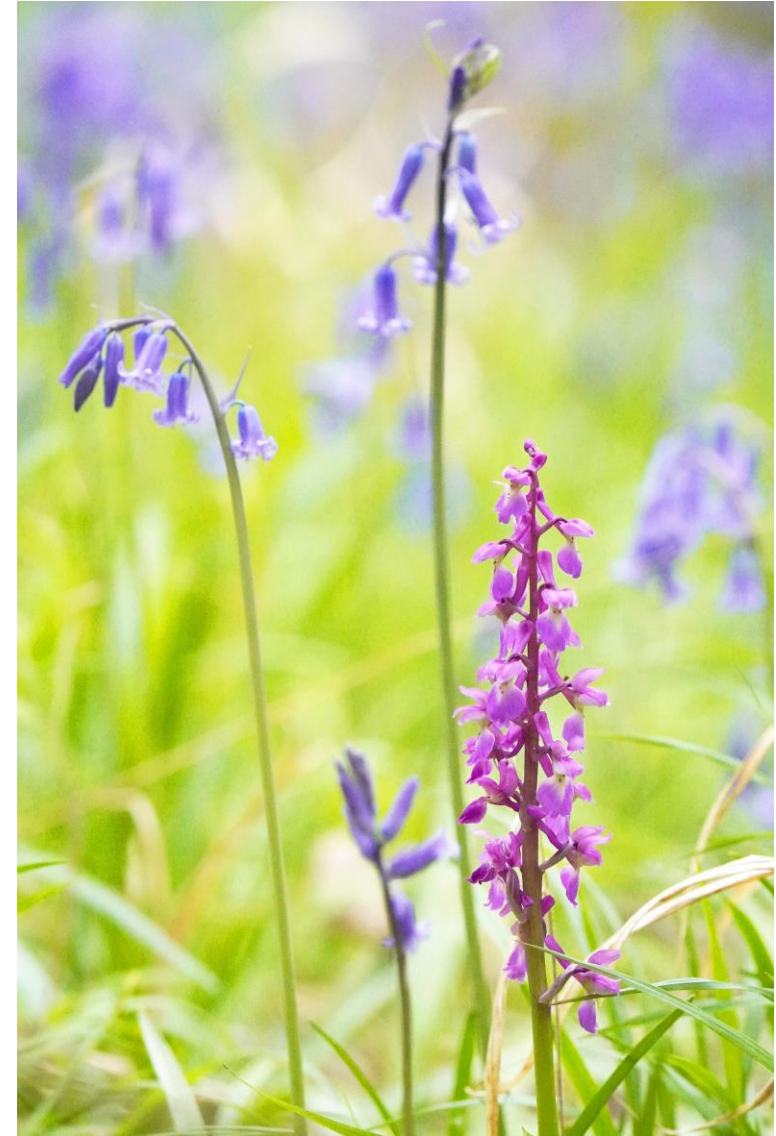7. Confirm additional **potential measures** (actions) for species recovery.

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Selection criteria	Description of species	Suitable species priority
Urgency	Has particularly urgent recovery requirements – required action within the next <how many> years.	Yes
Contributions to national species recovery	Strategy area has been identified as nationally and internationally significant for the conservation of the species and the habitats they rely on. Guided by Important Bird Areas, Important Plant Areas, and Important Invertebrate Areas; and Natural England advice.	Yes
	Species is only found in this strategy area.	Yes
Cross-boundary considerations	Species requires a regional and/or catchment scale effort and is identified by neighbouring LNRS.	Yes
Maximising benefits	Recovery of the species is likely to bring about other biodiversity and environmental benefits (for instance, positively affecting other species, or providing nature-based solutions)?	Yes
Climate change impacts	Species is vulnerable to climate change [Research on the assessment of risks & opportunities for species in England as a result of climate change - NECR175 (naturalengland.org.uk)](#)	Yes
	Species need to track climate change (requires interventions that promote directional (south-north, altitudinal) habitat connectivity).	Yes
	Species needs support to adapt to climate change – to allows them to persist and expand (e.g. habitats buffered from climate change).	Yes
Pre-existing initiatives	Species is subject of a pre-existing local, regional, or national initiatives?	Yes
Expert view outside of criteria	*Applied when the local expert considered there were other reasons outside of the selection criteria or in addition to that qualified species for shortlisting as a potential priority species.*	*Potentially*

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	Amphibians	Annelid	Bees, wasps & ants	Beetles	Birds	Butterflies	Caddisflies	Crustacean	Dragonflies & damselflies	Fish	Fungi	Grasshoppers, crickets & allies	Lichens	Mammals (not marine)	Marine (incl. seaweed)	Mayflies	Millipedes	Molluscs	Moths (macro and micro)	Reptiles	Spiders	True bugs	Vascular plants	Total
Longlist	3	2	21	152	115	15	4	1	7	4	161	9	30	24	87	2	3	7	29	6	42	24	463	**1211**
Removed- benefits from general measures	-	-	2	35	12	1	-	-	6	-	16	1	-	7	7	1	1	1	4	3	8	2	368	**477**
Removed - needs better evidence or actions outside of LNRS influence	-	-	10	34	59	1	3	-	-	-	17	3	16	7	20 + 45*	1	-	4	8	1	12	14	18	**273**
Shortlist 2 Potential priority species	3	2	9	83	44	13	1	1	1	4	128	5	14	10	15	0	2	2	17	2	22	8	77	**461**

*Seaweed not assessed and therefore removed for lack of evidence

Species that don't make short list

- Will still be recorded as significant for county and noted against the wider listing for the habitat assemblage.

- Any that didn't make shortlist because of insufficient evidence or understanding regarding drivers of decline, required recovery actions, and/or range/population levels will be noted as needing attention in this regard.

- Will consider if there are any wider actions within the LNRS that could enable or support future species recovery work.

- Will consider circumstances or conditions that could or would make it a LNRS priority species in the future.
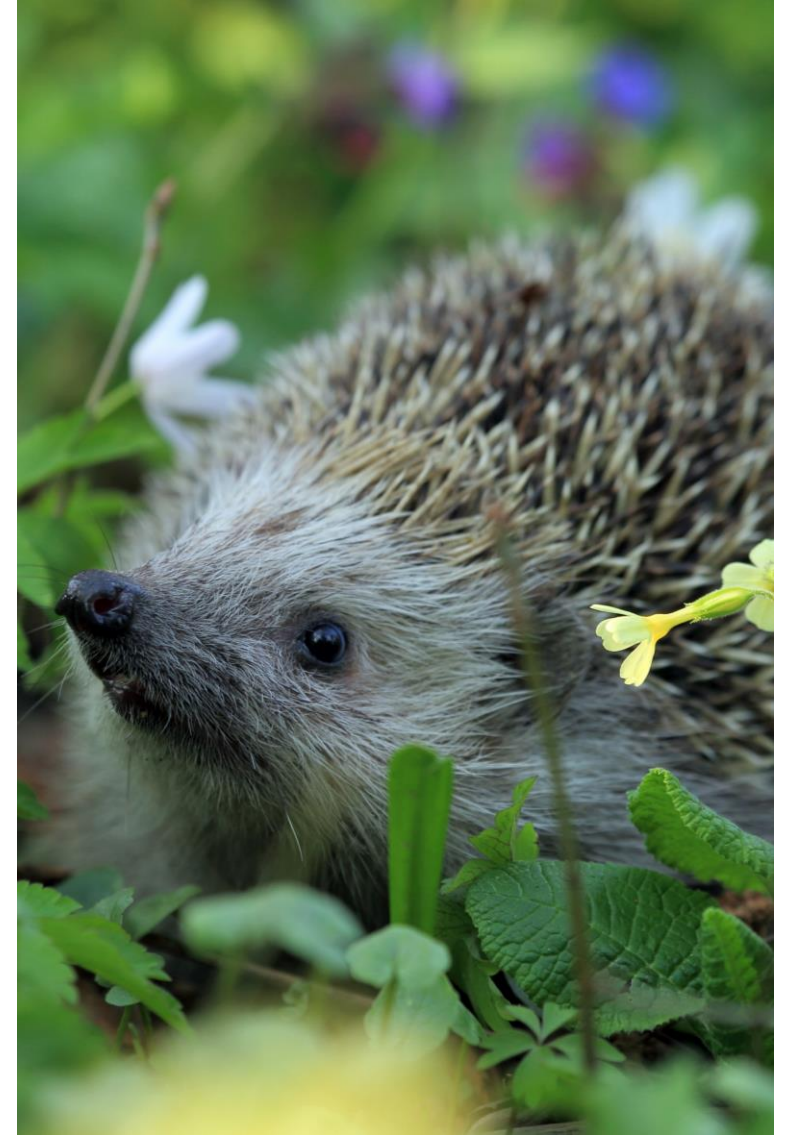

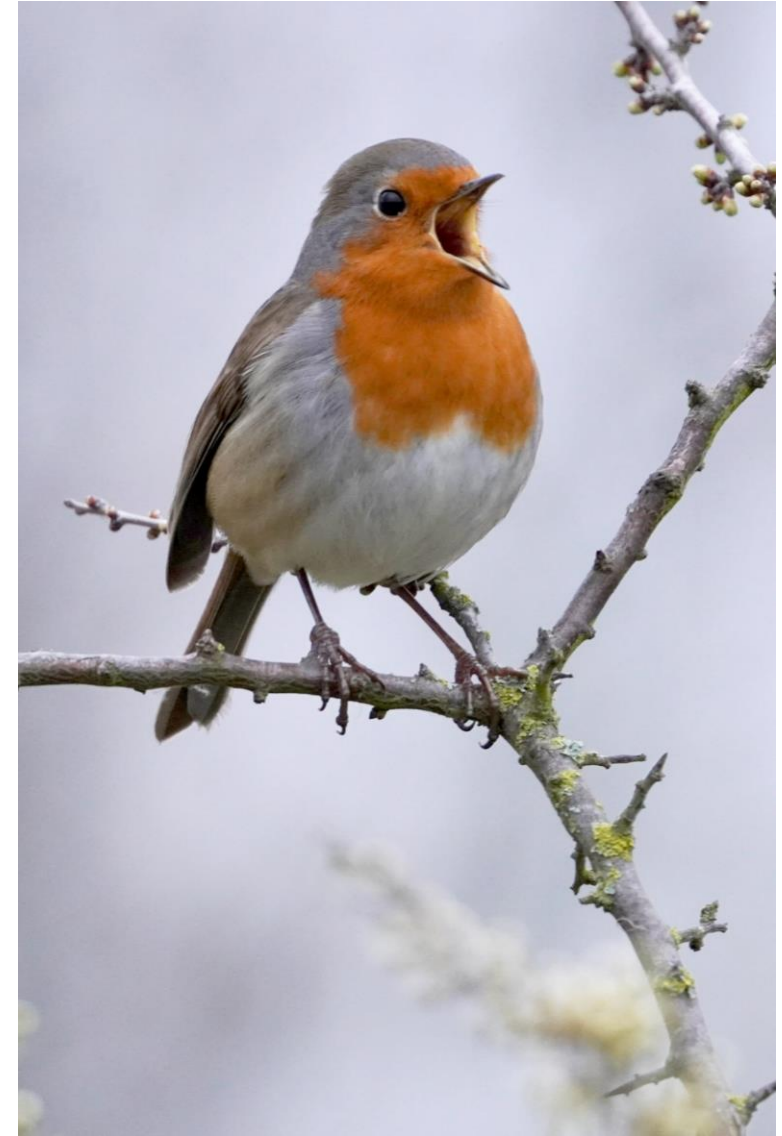Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Session 1 – reviewing the shortlisted species

- Identified shortlisted species.

- Note **questions and challenges** to the shortlisted species.

- Note potential **actions** for that species.

- Tables will be focussed on:
  - Birds
  - Vascular plants, lichen and fungi
  - Invertebrates (not marine)
  - Mammals (not marine)
  - Freshwater fish, amphibians and reptiles
  - Marine species

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Session 2 – flagship species

- What are our **iconic** species?

- Perhaps **not ones which require focus or specific action**.

- But instead **inspire and engage**.

- Have **historic or specific ties** to Kent and Medway.

- And will be **easily spottable and recognisable** to all the people of Kent and Medway.

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Session 3 – reviewing the habitat assemblages

- Identify the species under that grouping that **best represent the habitat type/assemblage**.

- And/or should be a **priority species** for that habitat type.

- Note **questions and challenges** to the species under the assemblage.

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- **Grasslands and farmland**
  - neutral meadows and coastal & floodplain grazing marsh
  - calcareous grassland
  - heath and acid grassland
  - arable and horticulture.
- **Woodland, trees & hedgerows and successional habitats**
  - scrub and hedgerows
  - coniferous woodland
  - broad leaved and mixed woodland.
- **Freshwater**
  - standing water
  - running water
  - fen marsh and swamp
- **Urban**
  - built-up areas and gardens.
- **Coastal**
  - sand dunes and vegetated shingle
  - sea cliffs and slopes
  - littoral habitats.

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