



CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

LOCAL PLAN AND STRATEGY REVIEW

District priorities for nature and the wider environment from the local plan
and other strategies

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To note: The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023, Environmental goals, have been used to categorize the district's environmental targets in this review.



SECTION 1: THREATS AND PRESSURES ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

1.1 Development and recreational pressures

Trees and woodland make a valuable contribution to the landscape character of Canterbury district. However, pressure for development means there is potential for loss of woodland, including valuable semi-natural woodlands. (Landscape Character Assessment, 2020)

This plan responds to more recent changes to the NPPF, which further increase the rate of housebuilding the government expects to see in the district and sets out a long-term plan for growth and development to 2040. These levels of growth will undoubtedly place pressure on existing infrastructure, such as our roads, schools and water supply. (Draft Local Plan, 2024)

1.2 Flood Risk

Approximately 15% of the district lies within Flood Zone 3 and is considered to be at high risk of flooding from the sea and/or from watercourses, including river valleys associated with the Great Stour, Little Stour, Wingham, Nailbourne and Sarre Penn. (Landscape Character Assessment, 2020)

Many parts of the district are at risk of flooding, and the impacts of climate change are expected to increase this risk over the period of the Local Plan. (Draft Local Plan, 2024)

1.3 Water Demand and Quality

Low water quantity is an issue for both rivers and groundwater, with east Kent one of the driest parts of the country. Groundwater supplies 80% of drinking water, but also supplies water to rivers, needed to support the natural environment. Both water quantity and quality are important issues for the district. (GI Strategy, 2018)

1.5 Other pressures on biodiversity and habitats

A range of issues were identified as placing pressure on biodiversity habitats, including fragmentation of habitats, climate change vulnerability, lack of management and recreational pressures (an important issue for designated coastal sites).

Addressing many of these will require planning and action across the landscape to, for example, connect habitats and provide wildlife corridors, with farmed landscapes also playing an important role, e.g. through agri-environment schemes. It will also rely on organisations and individuals working together and the development of projects which cross local authority boundaries. (GI Strategy, 2018)



The ongoing decline in traditional woodland management practices is leading to under management of farm woodlands and copses resulting in the loss of species diversity. There is pressure on semi-natural woodlands (including ancient woodland) from a lack of management or inappropriate management, as well as from the spread of invasive non-native plants which can prevent regeneration of native woodland. (Landscape Character Assessment, 2020)

SECTION 2: TARGETS AND PRIORITIES FOR NATURE RECOVERY (GOAL 1)

Unless otherwise stated, the following information in section 2 came from the Canterbury Draft Local Plan, 2024.

2.1 PROTECTING HABITATS

2.1.1 Designated Sites (Landscape Character Assessment, 2020)

Nature Conservation Designations

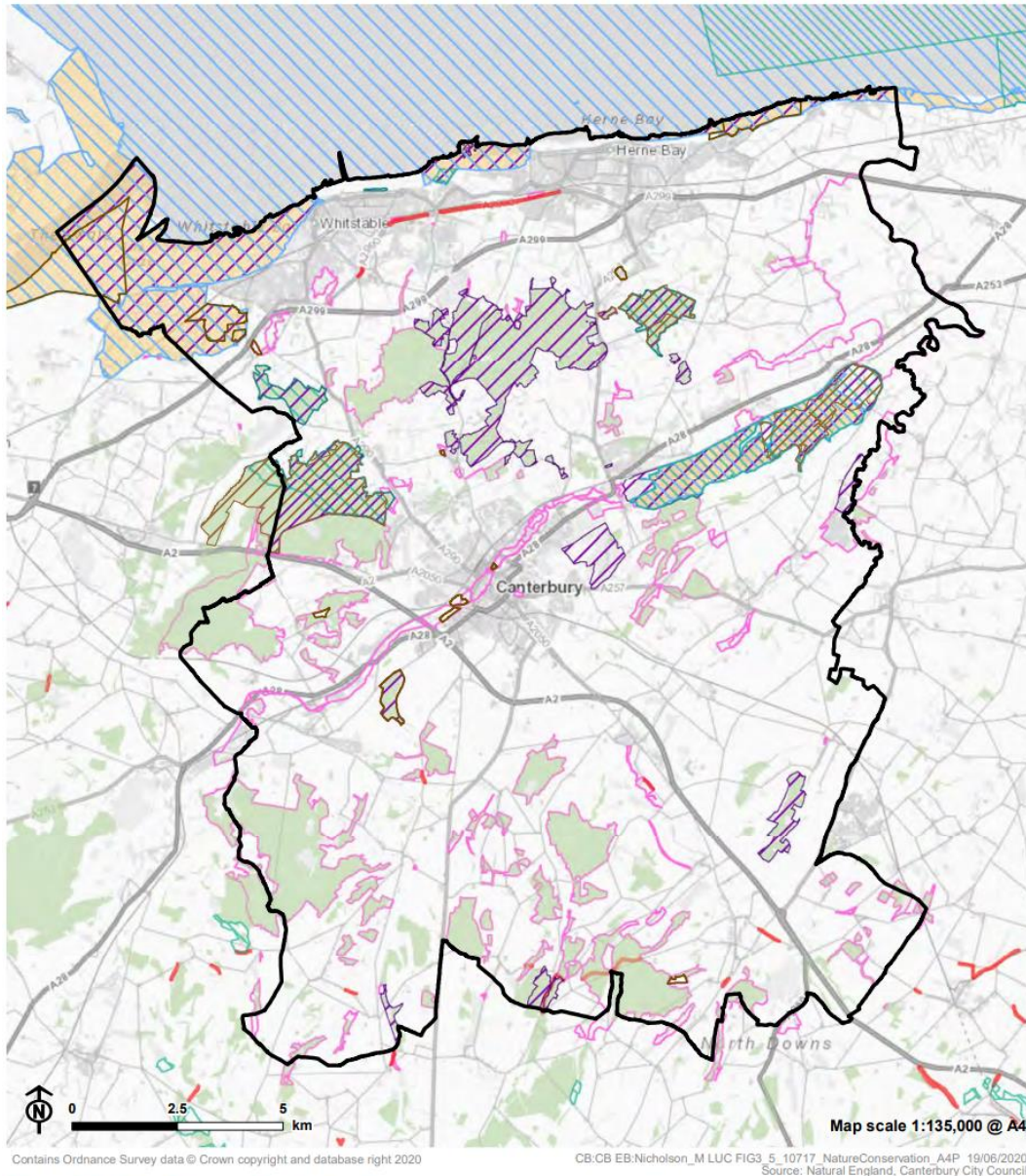
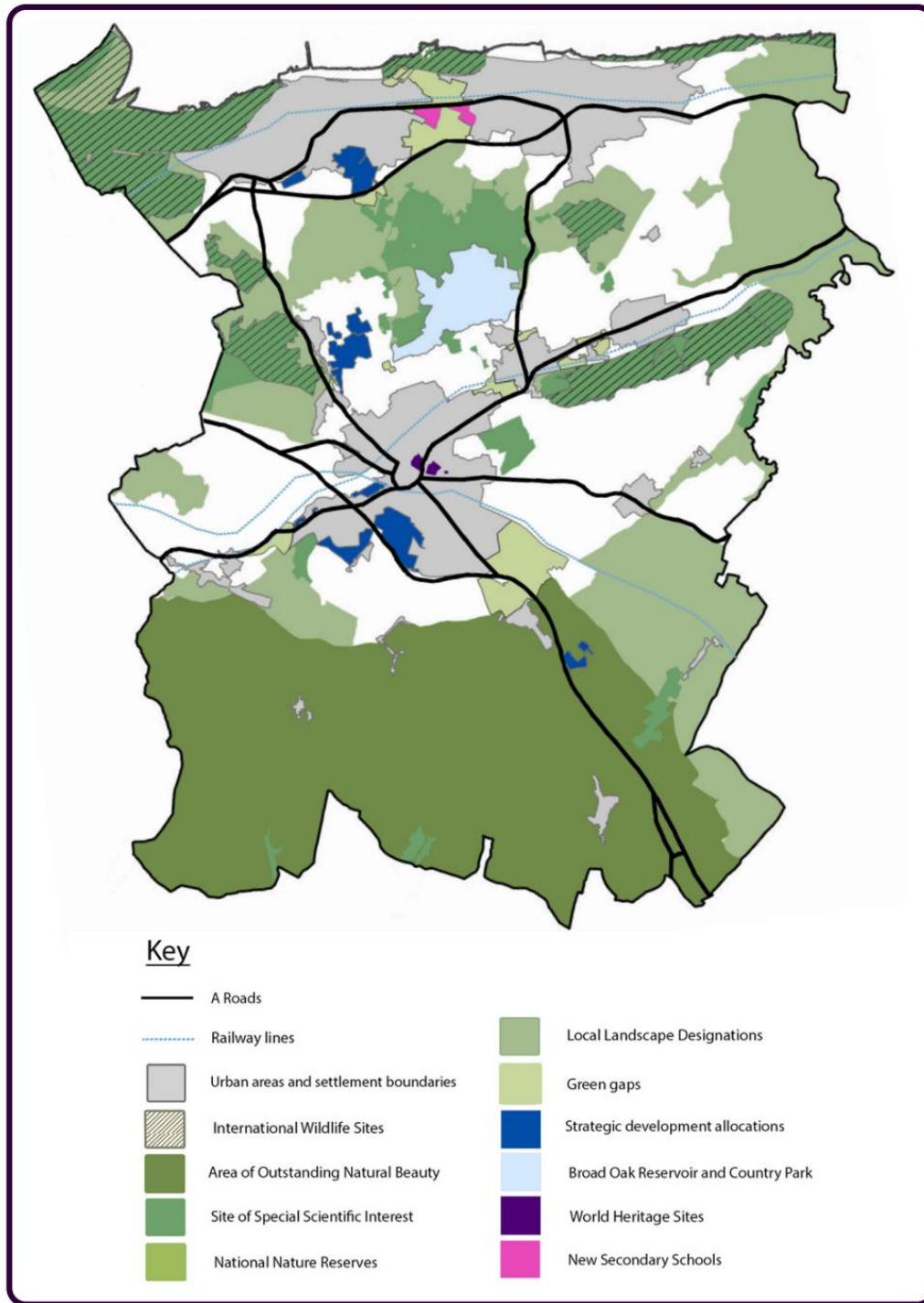


Figure 3.5: Nature Conservation Designations

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
|  Canterbury City Council boundary |  National nature reserve |  Local wildlife site |
|  Special Area of Conservation |  Ancient woodland | |
|  Special Protection Area |  Local nature reserve | |
|  Ramsar site |  Roadside nature reserve | |
|  Site of Special Scientific Interest | | |

District wide key diagram (Draft Local Plan, 2024):



Internationally Designated Sites

Policy DS17 - Habitats of international importance

1. Proposals for development (plan or project) which may have an adverse effect on the integrity of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special



Protection Area (SPA) or Ramsar site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, will not be permitted.

2. Where a plan or project's effects on a SAC, SPA or Ramsar site, alone or in combination, cannot be screened out during Habitat Regulations Assessment, an Appropriate Assessment in line with the Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended) will be required.

3. Any development (plan or project) considered likely to have a significant adverse effect on a SAC, SPA or Ramsar site will need early consultation with the council and any other appropriate statutory consultee or authority as to the likely impacts and to identify appropriate mitigation as necessary.

4. Where mitigation measures are agreed by the council, the development will be required to fund and/or implement such mitigation measures. Any residual impacts may still require in-combination assessment.

5. In the event that the council is unable to conclude that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of an internationally designated site, the plan, or project will be refused unless the tests of no alternative solutions and the imperative reasons of overriding public interest in accordance with Regulation 62 of the Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended) are proven.

6. Where there is the potential for a site to be functionally linked land with a SPA, SAC and/or RAMSAR, an assessment of the potential value of the site must be undertaken. Any development considered likely to have significant effects must follow the mitigation hierarchy. Where mitigation measures are agreed by the council, the development will be required to fund and/or implement such mitigation measures.

7. All proposals for new residential development within the two identified Zones of Influence (Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA 7.2km and the Swale SPA 6km) will be required to comply with the relevant Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy or Strategies (SAMMs) in order to mitigate against the likely in-combination effects of increased recreational disturbance from new development on the overwintering bird populations for which Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA and the Swale SPA are designated. A financial contribution will be required in line with the tariff(s) towards the in-perpetuity Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy or Strategies. This will be secured and collected via a S106 ahead of the commencement of the development. Developments for other uses that would increase recreational activity causing disturbance to qualifying species will be assessed on a case by case basis under the Habitat Regulations and may be required to make full or partial contributions towards one or both SAMMs if appropriate.



8. Proposed development for new overnight accommodation within the Stour Catchment, or where sewage from a development will be treated at a Wastewater Treatment Works that discharges into the River Stour or its tributaries will need to ensure that it will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of Stodmarsh SAC/SPA/Ramsar site. Applicants will be required to comply with the relevant Nutrient Mitigation Strategies and to demonstrate that the requirements of the Habitats Regulations will be met, such as by applying the advice on Nutrient Neutrality issued by Natural England. New development will be expected to meet the following requirements, unless alternative, suitable mitigation can be clearly evidenced and approved by the council:

(a) Proposals for more than 300 homes must provide high quality on-site regulated wastewater treatment facilities with permit levels set at Technically Achievable Limits (TAL), together with an on-site SUDS design which removes a minimum of 50% of P and N from the surface water;

(b) Proposals for between 150 and 300 homes must examine all available opportunities for integrating high quality on-site regulated wastewater treatment facilities within the site to minimise the levels of P and N associated with foul water from the site. These developments must integrate an on-site SUDS design which removes a minimum of 50% of P and N from the surface water;

(c) All other developments must integrate an on-site SUDS design which removes a minimum of 50% of P and N from the surface water, having regard for Policy DS20;

(d) All developments should examine opportunities to connect sewerage infrastructure to existing or planned high quality on-site wastewater treatment facilities within the locality; and

(e) The council will apply (a) and (b) flexibly where the proposal is for redevelopment or regeneration of a wholly brownfield site. In addition to the allocated wetland at Policy C20, land is safeguarded for the delivery of strategic wetlands to mitigate the residual P and N generated by development within this plan as part of the Canterbury District Nutrient Mitigation Strategy. Any proposals which would prejudice the delivery of wetlands within the safeguarded area, as identified on the policies map, will be refused.

The council will work with its partners including Natural England and the Environment Agency to develop and implement a mitigation credits scheme to enable development to proceed while ensuring no adverse impact on the integrity of Stodmarsh SAC/SPA/Ramsar site.



2.1.2 Nationally designated sites

Policy DS18 - Habitats and landscapes of national importance

1. *Proposals for major developments and proposals which conflict with the objective to conserve and enhance the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), or that endanger tranquillity, will not be permitted except in exceptional circumstances.*
2. *In considering proposals for development within the AONB, or its setting, the emphasis should be on proposals that are sustainably and appropriately located and designed to enhance and further the character of the AONB. The council will grant proposals which support the economy and social well being of the AONB and its communities, including affordable housing schemes, provided that they do not conflict with the aim of conserving and enhancing natural beauty by addressing location, scale, form, high quality design, materials and mitigation and have regard to the advice set out in the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan, and its supporting guidance.*
3. *Proposals which facilitate the delivery of the statutory Kent Downs AONB Management Plan and are desirable for the understanding and enjoyment of the area will be encouraged.*
4. *Proposals for development which would materially harm the scientific or nature conservation interest, either directly, indirectly or cumulatively, of sites designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) for their nature conservation, geological, or geomorphological value will not normally be permitted.*
5. *Development that affects a Site of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserve or Marine Conservation Zone must follow the mitigation hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and then compensation as a last resort. Having followed the mitigation hierarchy, proposals will only be permitted where an appraisal prepared by an appropriate specialist has demonstrated that:
 - (a) *The objectives and features of the designated area and overall integrity of the area would not be compromised; or*
 - (b) *Any adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated which cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts) or adequately mitigated, are clearly outweighed by social or economic benefits and a suitable compensation strategy is proposed.**
6. *Proposals for development which would result in the loss, or damage to, or threaten the future retention of, irreplaceable habitat such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees will be refused unless:
 - (a) *There are wholly exceptional reasons, where the need for, and public benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss or specifically provided for within this plan; and**



(b) Adequate mitigation and compensation measures and an implementation plan are agreed with the council. The council will use appropriate mechanisms to ensure any mitigation or compensation measures are secured and delivered.

7. Proposals which may affect protected and priority species, including great crested newts, or priority habitats must follow Natural England and other partners' advice and guidance and follow the mitigation hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation or compensation. If mitigation or compensation are agreed, these will be secured as part of the planning permission using planning conditions or planning obligations.

2.1.3 Locally designated sites

Policy DS19 - Habitats, landscapes and sites of local importance

1. Proposals for development likely to have an adverse effect, either directly or indirectly, on Local Wildlife Sites; Local Nature Reserves; or Regionally Important Geological / Geomorphological Sites will only be permitted where the justification for the proposals clearly outweighs any harm to the intrinsic nature conservation and/or scientific value of the site.

Where negative impact is unavoidable, measures should be taken to ensure that the impacts of the development on valued natural features and wildlife have been mitigated to their fullest practical extent. Where mitigation alone is not sufficient, adequate compensatory habitat enhancement or creation schemes will be required.

2. Proposals for development which do not detract from the unspoilt scenic quality or scientific value of the Undeveloped Coast, as shown on the policies map, will be permitted.

3. Within the Local Landscape Designation areas at Seasalter Marshes, North Downs, Blean Woods, Wantsum Channel and Stour Valley, as defined on the policies map, proposals for development will

only be permitted where they conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the special qualities of the landscape. Consideration will be given to (a) the extent to which the developments location, scale, design and materials would impact on, or protect, the local landscape character and its special qualities; (b) whether the proposal would enhance the future appearance of the designated landscape; and (c) whether there are significant impacts on the historic setting, archaeological or nature conservation interests.

4. Within the designated Local Green Spaces at Prospect Field, Joy Lane, Whitstable and Columbia Avenue Recreation Ground, Columbia Avenue, Whitstable, proposals for development that protects or enhances these Local Green Spaces will be permitted. Proposals for development that would



impact upon or change the character of the Local Green Space will only be permitted when the proposal is for: (a) The construction of a new building that is an essential facility for outdoor sport or recreation, allotment use or community uses that does not conflict with the purpose or character of the Local Green Space; or (b) A proportionate and essential extension or alteration of an existing

building which does not harm the character of the area; or (c) The re-use or replacement existing

buildings provided that uses do not conflict with the character of the Local Green Space and any replacement building is not materially larger; or (d) The carrying out of engineering or other operations required for public health and safety.

5. Within the designated Green Gaps, as defined on the policies map, only proposals for sports and recreation uses will be permitted, and only where the development: (a) Is kept to the minimum necessary to support the proposed use; and (b) Does not significantly affect the open character of the Green Gap, or affect the separating function leading to coalescence between existing settlements; and (c) Is sensitively designed, including in terms of form and lighting; and

(d) Is sensitively located and does not result in isolated and obtrusive development.

Proposals for development within the Herne Bay and Whitstable Green Gap will be subject to the criteria above, however education, outdoor leisure or allotments may also be considered as

suitable uses. Any proposal must not result in a material expansion of the built confines of the urban areas of Herne Bay or Whitstable.

6. Within the designated green infrastructure spaces, as defined on the policies map, or sites provided as biodiversity net gain or safeguarded for biodiversity net gain through a Local

Nature Recovery Strategy, only proposals that protect or enhance these spaces and their function will be permitted.

2.1.4 Green Gaps

Designated “Green Gaps” provide protection against coalescence between settlements, which would permanently harm the character and identity of individual settlements. These are important protections that should outlast the period of any individual Local Plan. The Canterbury District Green Gaps Review (2022) confirms that new Green Gaps should also be designated alongside the proposed development allocations within this plan. The following Green Gaps are therefore shown on the policies map:



- Between the urban areas of Herne Bay and Whitstable;
- Between Whitstable and Radfall;
- Between Hersden and Westbere;
- Between Canterbury and Sturry;
- Between Sturry and Westbere;
- Between Sturry and Hersden;
- Between Sturry and Broad Oak;
- Between Blean and Rough Common;
- Between Canterbury and Tyler Hill;
- Between Canterbury and Bridge; and
- Between Canterbury and Chartham.

Green Gap between Urban areas of Herne Bay and Whitstable (Green Gaps Review, 2021)

- Identifies that the Blean BOA extends into the green gap, and seeks green infrastructure improvements which improves biodiversity, access to relieve recreational pressure and address deficits.
- Identifies that the green gap includes a few small fragments of ancient woodland. ○ The action plan identifies an action to 'Tankerton Football Club – provision of football in Green Gap with biodiversity enhancements to the area'.

Green Gap between Canterbury and Sturry (Green Gaps Review, 2021)

Long term aspiration to 'maintain and enhance connectivity in eastern outskirts of the city – enhance linking of The Blean BOA across Barton Down/ Shelford Landfill site, through green gap to River Stour'.

Green Gap between Canterbury and Bridge (Green Gaps Review, 2021)

Seek to create connections to new open space at Stuppington Lane including links to the Green Gap, existing adjacent green spaces and tree belts.

2.1.5 Woodland

Woodland is a particularly important habitat in the district. Nearly two thirds of Kent's deciduous woodland is in Canterbury district. This woodland is of high importance, with nearly 28% of national importance and designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and an additional 46% designated as Local Wildlife Sites. Much of this is ancient woodland or 'priority' habitat (the most threatened habitats requiring conservation action)

The Blean is a particularly important area of woodland, which crosses into neighbouring local authority areas, where there remain large, relatively well-

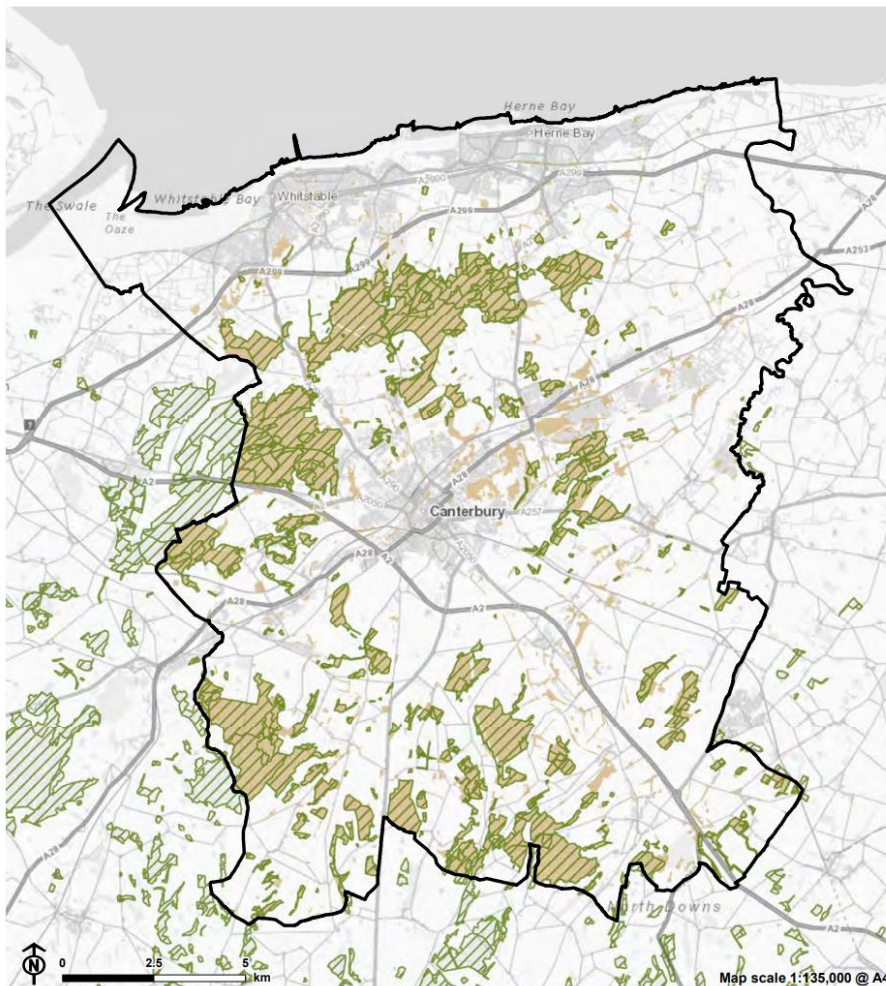
connected blocks of ancient and semi-natural woodland. These woodlands are rich in wildlife, with orchids and the nationally rare heath fritillary butterfly.

There is also extensive woodland in other parts of the district, for example Denge Woods in the south west of the district (partly owned by the Forestry Commission and the Woodland Trust), and the eastern edge of the City of Canterbury at Old Park.

Although some woodland is under good management which benefits wildlife, lack of management is a threat to some woodland in Canterbury district, as well as pests and diseases, including the current spread of ash die-back.




The ‘urban forest’ is also important. Street trees and other urban trees can have a positive effect on quality of life, can provide shading, increase the visual appeal of streets and can help support mitigation against air pollution. (GI Strategy, 2018)

Woodland in Canterbury (Landscape Character Assessment, 2020)



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Figure 3.6: Woodland

-  Canterbury City Council boundary
-  Ancient woodland
-  National Forest Inventory



Policy DS23 - The Blean Woodland Complex

3. Proposals for development that would result in the loss, deterioration or damage to the character, ecology, connectivity and integrity of the Blean Complex SAC will be refused.

4. Development affecting the Blean Woodland Complex should provide opportunities for biodiversity

improvement within the identified Biodiversity Opportunity Areas.

5. Proposals for development on land surrounding the Blean Woodland Complex, including Policy C12 - Land north of University of Kent and Policy R17 - Broad Oak Reservoir and Country Park, will need to ensure that development does not adversely affect the landscape, ecology or setting of the

Blean Woodland Complex and should be designed to provide the best outcomes for the Complex.

2.1.6 Natural Environment

Strategic objectives for the district:

Protect and enhance our rich environment and valued landscapes, creating a network of green spaces, protecting and enhancing green gaps between settlements, supporting nature's recovery and biodiversity and improving the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Green Infrastructure Strategy (2018):

Woodland: Canterbury district has extensive woodland, which is an important nature conservation habitat, amenity and forestry resource.

The Coast: The coast boasts many valuable habitats including grazing marsh, maritime cliffs and mudflats, and is also of European importance for over-wintering birds.

Heathlands: Canterbury district has around one-fifth of Kent's total of this nationally and internationally important habitat.

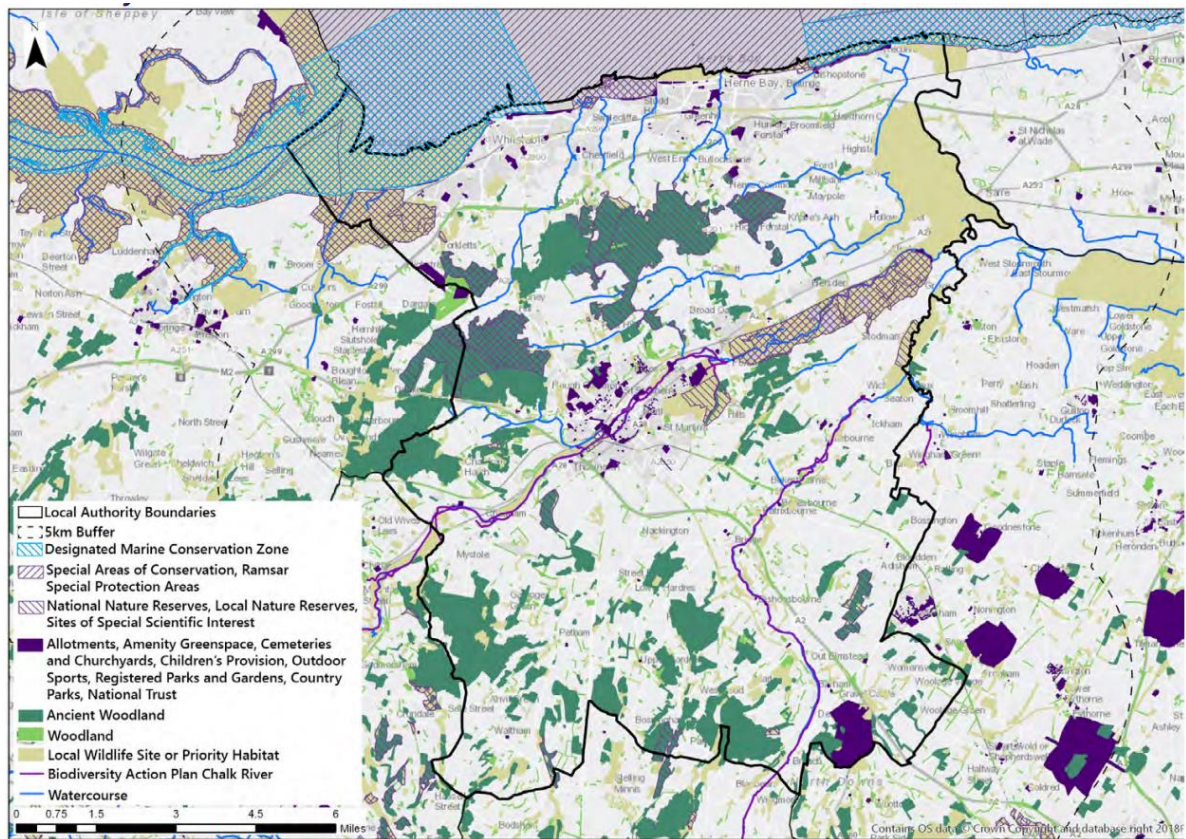
Wetlands and Rivers: The River Stour is an important chalk river and Stodmarsh is internationally important for wetland habitats and species. The district has more than a quarter of Kent's fen, marsh and swamp and two-fifths of Kent's reedbeds.

Grasslands and Meadows: In the north of the district are valuable acid grassland and heathland habitats and in the south are the orchid-rich chalk grasslands of the Kent Downs.

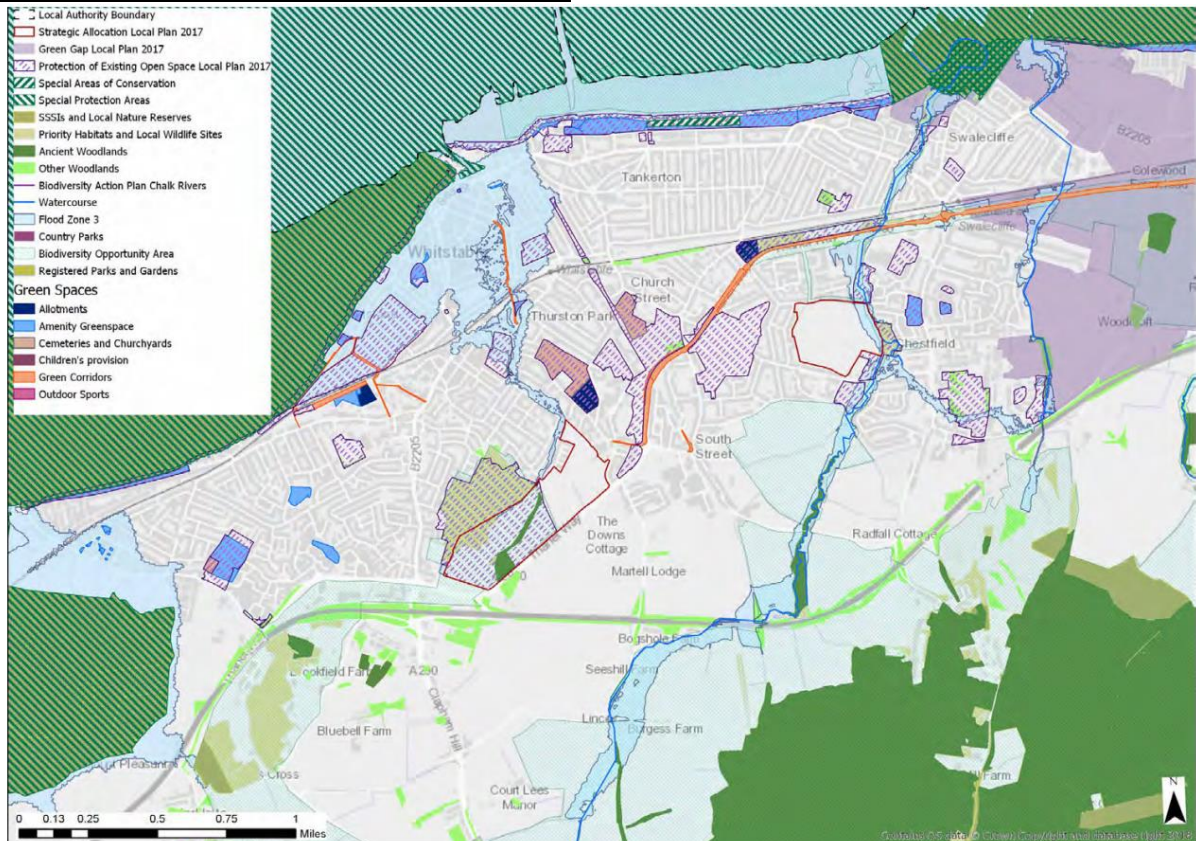
Traditional Orchards: These orchards, growing fruits such as apples and pears, or cobnuts, have widely spaced trees, permanent grassland and low intensity management, creating high biodiversity value

2.1.7 Green Infrastructure Network (GI Strategy, 2018)

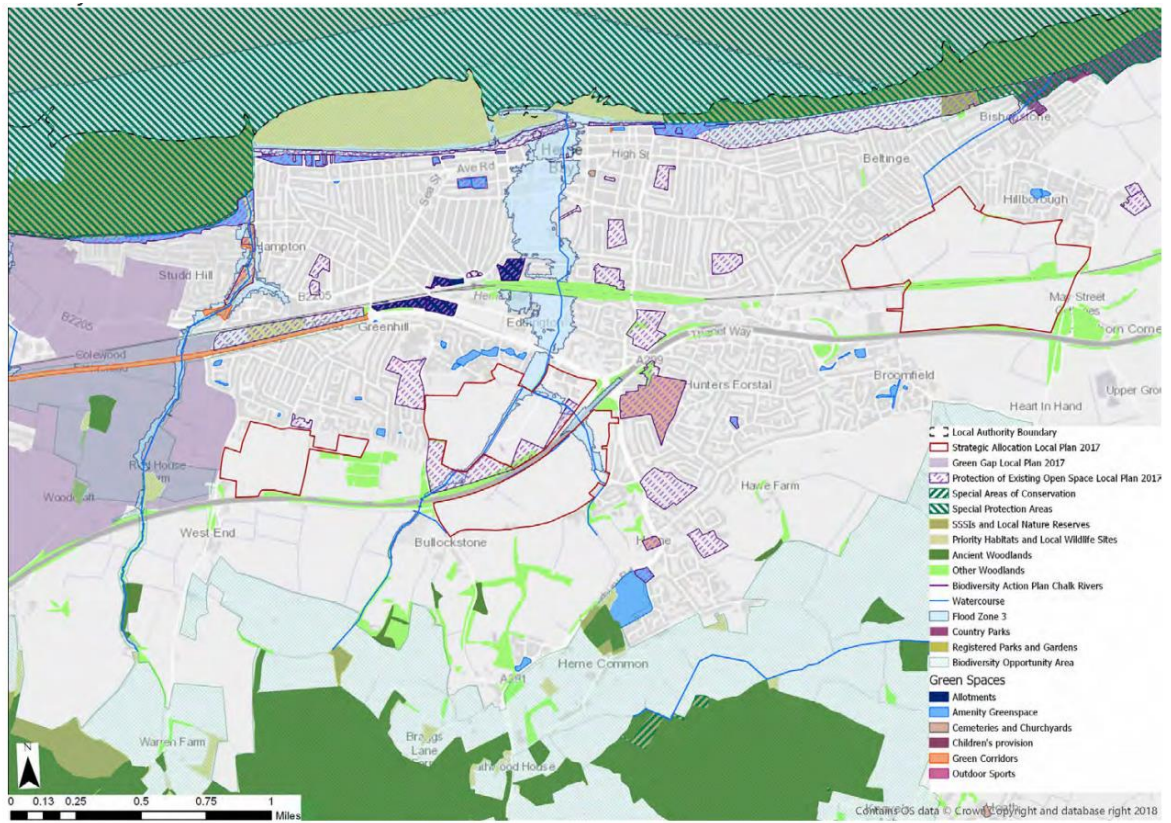
Canterbury District Green Infrastructure Network



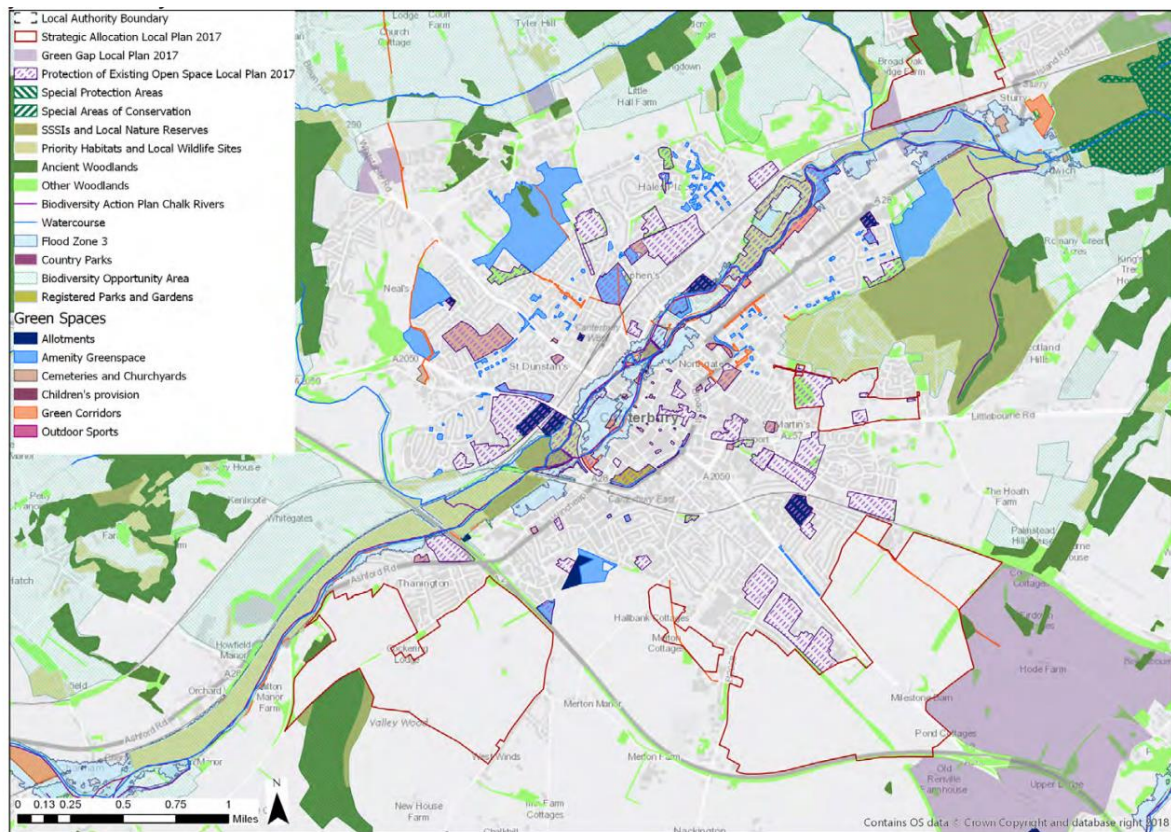
Whitstable's Green Infrastructure Network



Herne Bay's Green Infrastructure Network

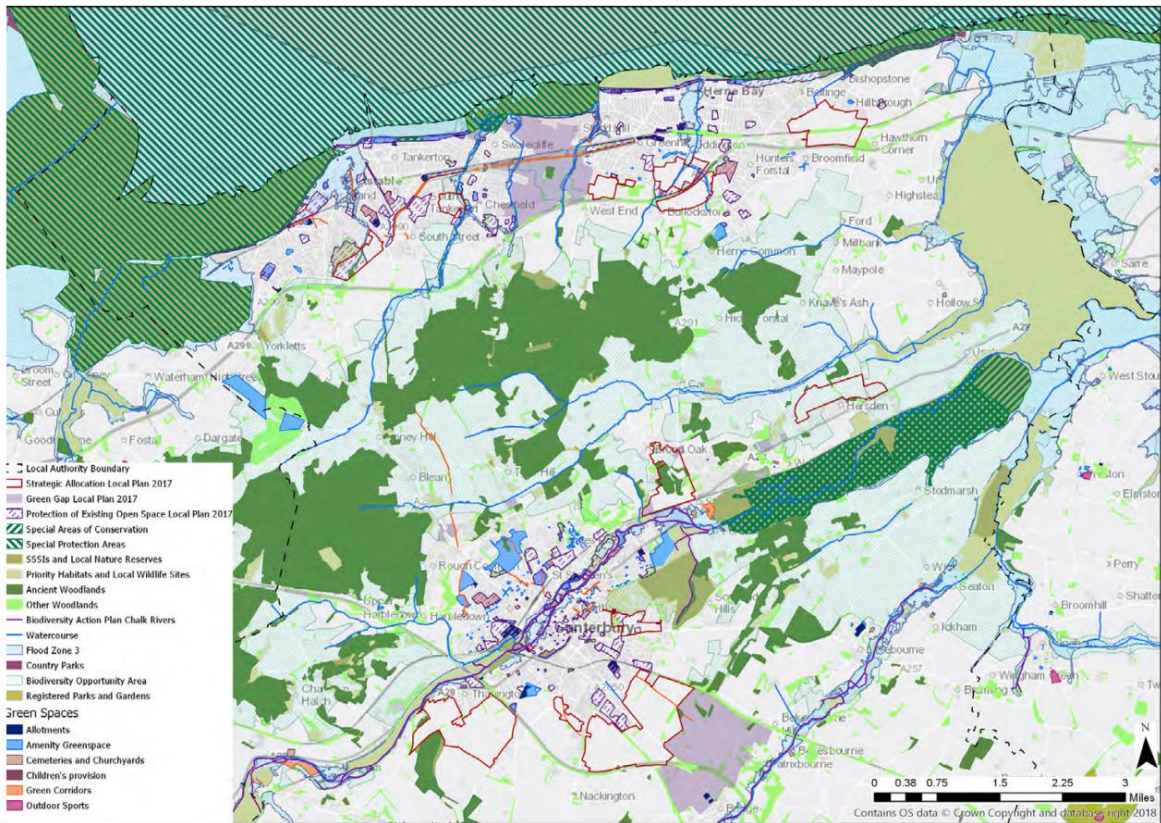


City of Canterbury's Green Infrastructure Network

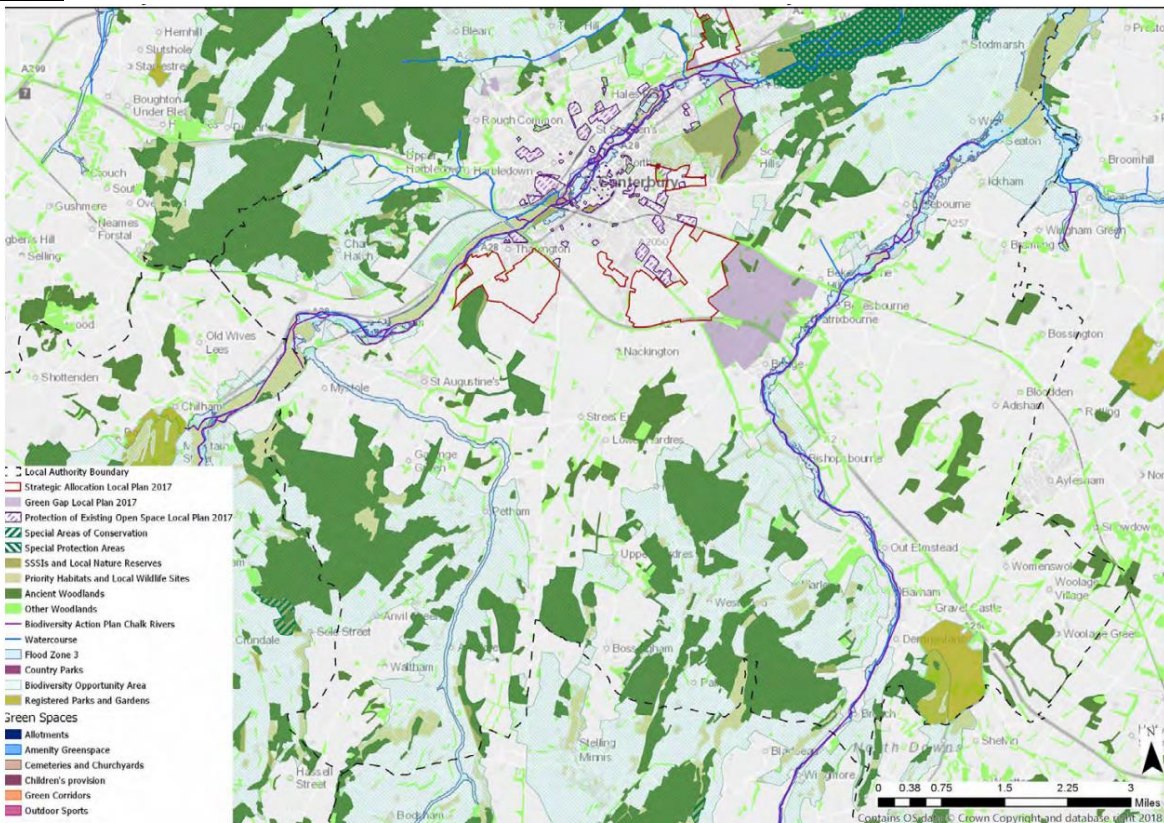




Rural Canterbury District's Green Infrastructure Network – The Blean and Northern Canterbury District



Rural Canterbury District's Green Infrastructure Network – Southern Canterbury District





2.1.8 Blue Infrastructure

Approximately 15% of the district lies within Flood Zone 3 and is considered to be at high risk of flooding from the sea and/or from watercourses, including river valleys associated with the Great Stour, Little Stour, Wingham, Nailbourne and Sarre Penn. Measures to provide river and coastal flood protection may lead to conflict between defences and wildlife value, particularly along coastlines as sea level rises threaten coastal towns and villages.

The Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan Review (2010) provides a strategic assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution and identifies spatial policies to manage the coastal flood and erosion risks.

The Shoreline Management Plan provides policies into the 22nd century, based on present day (0-20 years), medium-term (20-50 years) and long-term (50- 100 years).

Within Canterbury District the present day and medium-term strategies (up to the next 50 years) for the coast from Seasalter to Herne Bay is to maintain the present coastline.

At Reculver the strategy is for no active management of the coastline.

(Landscape Character Assessment, 2020)

Management within Riverside Strategy (Riverside Strategy, 2023):

Environmental Management:

- Planting of trees and shrubs of appropriate species in appropriate locations
- Balance of open and semi-enclosed spaces (grass and trees)
- Existing trees, hedges and shrubs to be managed to enable easy and comfortable use of the riverside path by walkers and cyclists
- Grass margins to be maintained to a maximum height of 50mm to indicate regular management
- Worn areas of grass (due to shade cast by trees, occasional winter flooding or desire lines following more direct routes) to be repaired at appropriate time of year using appropriate seed mix

Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage:

- Predominantly native tree and shrub species
- Pollinators
- Areas of longer grass/ vegetation
- Riverbank enhancement
- Access for people on one side of river and wildlife on the other
- Interpretation signage
- Identify and agree areas where grass and river bank vegetation can be left to grow longer
- Plant for pollinators



- Always maintain shorter grass margin to all paths (min. 1.0m wide) to indicate area is managed
- Discourage people to access certain areas through use of vegetation (nettles, bramble etc) or use fencing or railings
- Bank softening for benefit of river wildlife
- Where possible (particularly in urban areas) promote access for people on one side of the river leaving a 'quiet' riverbank on the other for wildlife
- Signage to educate on the natural green heritage and wildlife of the river, riverbank and and river corridor

Community Involvement:

- Canterbury Riverside Group
- Friends Groups
- Residents' Associations
- Partnership working with friends groups and Canterbury Riverside Group to deliver the action Plan
- Involve the community in making decisions about a site's development

2.1.9 Protection from the negative impacts of development and infrastructure

Policy DS22 - Landscape character

1. Proposals for development should demonstrate that they are informed by, and are sympathetic to, the landscape, and where appropriate seascape, character of the locality. Proposals will be expected to take every opportunity to reinforce, restore, conserve or improve, as appropriate, the

landscape character of the area in which development is proposed.

2. Proposals for development will be permitted if the following criteria are satisfied:

(a) The key sensitivities and values of the Landscape Character Areas, as identified in the Canterbury District Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal 2020 or Kent Downs AONB Landscape assessments (or subsequent updates), have demonstrably informed the design of the development;

(b) The location, layout, scale and design considers the sensitivity of a particular landscape to

accommodate change, and conserves and/or enhances what is special or distinctive about landscape character and where appropriate seascape. This includes considering and, where appropriate, incorporating relevant Landscape Guidelines and Key Habitat Opportunities as identified in the Canterbury District Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal 2020



or Kent Downs AONB Landscape assessments or the South East Marine Plan Seascape character

assessment (or subsequent updates);

(c) The development does not have an adverse impact on important long distance views, including from vantage points, the PROW network and National Trails;

(d) The development retains, integrates or enhances distinctive local natural, semi-natural, historic or cultural features;

(e) The development avoids harm to the landscape and takes appropriate opportunities to enhance landscape character;

(f) The development avoids or mitigates any impacts on the character and landscape context of the historic City of Canterbury including the World Heritage Site; and

(g) The development aims to protect tranquillity within the identified tranquil areas in the Landscape

Character Assessment and biodiversity Appraisal 2020 (or subsequent updates), minimising impacts and enhancing tranquillity where possible.

Open Space

Alongside the provision of new open spaces, it is important that existing publicly accessible open spaces are protected for future generations. The draft Canterbury District Open Spaces Strategy (2024) has recommended that the Local Plan seeks to secure the legal status of open space provided through new developments and this plan also sets out strict controls to prevent the loss of any existing designated open spaces and sports facilities, other than in exceptional circumstances.

The council will also consider the need for additional guidance to ensure that open spaces secured through the planning system are delivered and managed effectively for our communities.

Policy DM18 - Light pollution and dark skies

1. All proposals for development should be designed to minimise light pollution, both in external aspects and as a consequence of light leakage from the interior.

2. Proposals must minimise light pollution whilst still adhering to the requirements as set out by the Highways authority (Kent County Council) and National Highways.

3. Proposals for external lighting schemes will be permitted if they meet the following criteria:



(a) The lighting levels do not exceed the levels in the relevant environmental zone as recommended by The

Institute of Lighting Professionals ILP) in their guidance on the reduction of obtrusive light (or

equivalent up to date document);and

(b) It is demonstrated by illuminance contour diagrams that the minimum number, intensity and height and timing of lighting necessary to achieve its locationally appropriate purpose is proposed; and

(c) It has been designed to minimise light glare, light trespass, light spillage and sky glare, and would

not dazzle or distract drivers or pedestrians using nearby highways, through using the best available

technology to minimise light pollution and conserve energy; and

(d) The lighting scheme would not be visually detrimental to its immediate or wider setting or landscape, particularly intrinsically dark landscapes and would be of appropriate colour temperature for its location; and

(e) It does not adversely impact living conditions; and

(f) It does not have an adverse impact on long distance views or from vantage points; and

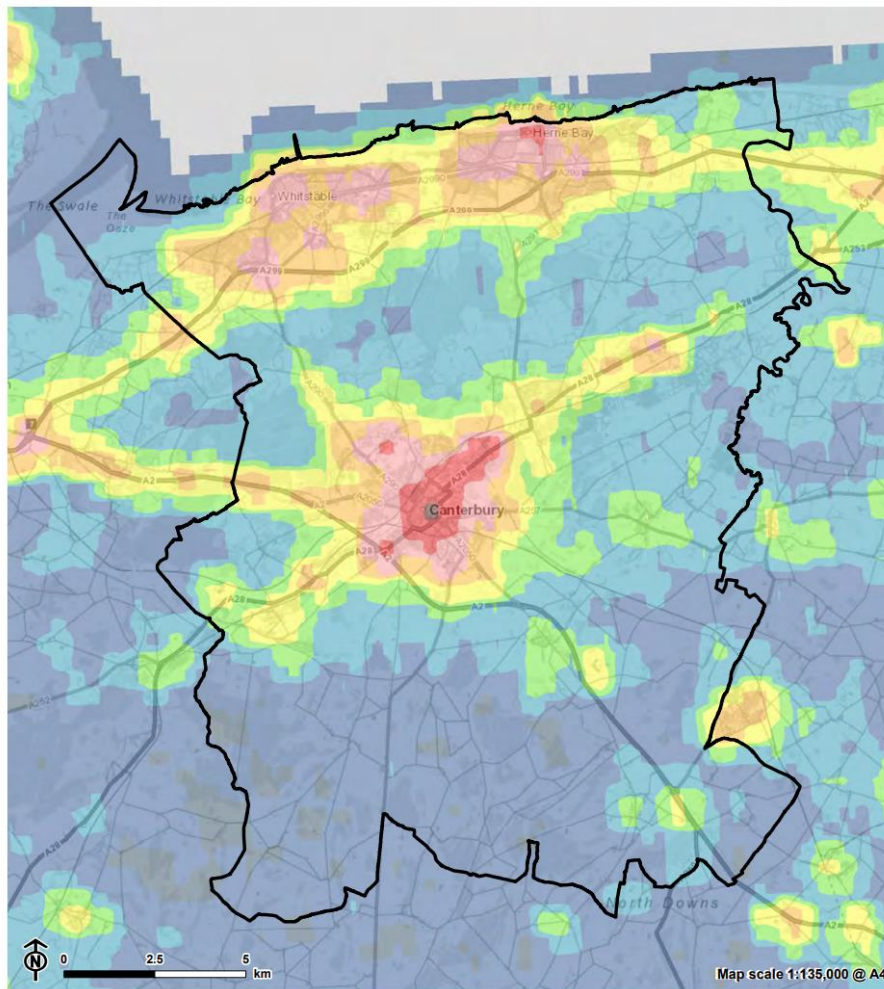
(g) It is designed to minimise disturbance to wildlife, biodiversity and their food sources; and

(h) Any development affecting protected species or habitats or in close proximity, follows relevant

specific guidance on lighting.

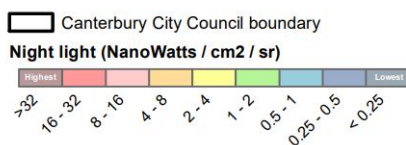
4. Proposals for external lighting within areas of dark skies as recognised within the Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal, will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

Light pollution and dark skies (Landscape Character Assessment, 2020):



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 Source: Campaign to Protect Rural England, LUC

Figure 3.10: Levels of Dark Skies and Light Pollution



Policy SS1 - Environmental strategy for the district

8. Proposals that increase the risk of flooding will be refused. New developments should aim to avoid Flood Zones 2 and 3, and provide appropriate flood risk management and sustainable drainage systems, in line with Policy DS20.

Policy DM14 - Flood risk

Proposals for development which require a site-specific flood risk assessment in line with Policy DS20 will only be supported where a flood risk assessment demonstrates that:

(a) It is located in areas at lowest risk of flooding (from all sources) and, where required the Sequential Test and the Exception Tests demonstrate that the site is appropriate for development and its intended use;



(b) A sequential approach to site layout is applied, directing the most vulnerable uses to the areas at lowest risk from all sources of flooding;

(c) It will be safe for the lifetime of the development, taking into consideration the implications of climate change, and will not increase flood risk elsewhere or result in a loss of floodplain storage capacity or impede flow paths. Off-site flood risk will not be created or exacerbated by new development and where possible the development will reduce the overall flood risk within and beyond the site boundary and will be effectively maintained over the lifetime of the development;

(d) Where any off-site flood risk is identified, measures should be identified and implemented, including passive measures to avoid flood risk off-site;

(e) Surface water runoff is managed effectively and robustly, in line with Policy DM15, giving priority to the use of SUDS, and discharge locations have capacity to receive all foul and surface

water flows from the development;

(f) The area of impermeable surface is minimised and porous and/or permeable surfaces are used wherever reasonably practicable;

(g) Building level flood avoidance, resilience and resistance measures are designed into the development where appropriate; and

(h) It provides opportunities to achieve multiple benefits, such as contributing to water efficiency, providing or enhancing biodiversity, landscapes and green infrastructure or general amenities are maximised.

Where necessary, planning permission will be conditional upon flood protection and/or runoff control measures being operational before other site works or occupation.

Policy DS20 - Flood risk and sustainable drainage

1. Proposals for development that would increase the risk of flooding on or off the development site, or would compromise the performance of flood defences will be refused.

2. Proposals for development within Flood Zones 2 and 3 and sites larger than 1 ha in Flood Zone 1 shall be subject to a site-specific flood risk assessment, which includes flood risk management measures in accordance with Policies DM14 and DM15, and the NPPF.

3. For new development on sites which have not been previously developed and are identified as requiring a site-specific flood risk assessment, the Sequential Test should be undertaken. Where required, the Exception Test should also be applied. The Sequential Test is considered to be passed for the City and Town Centres and the Commercial Areas, as identified on the



policies map, however qualifying developments within these areas should still be considered against the Exception Test.

In addition, the Sequential Test will not be required for the following types of development:

- (a) Sites that have been allocated within the Local Plan;*
- (b) Minor development and changes of use as defined in the NPPF;*
- (c) Development on previously developed land;*
- (d) Extensions to existing properties; and*
- (e) Replacement dwellings.*

All development in Flood Zones 2 and 3, and/or identified as being at risk of flooding from other sources as part of a site-specific flood risk assessment should incorporate flood mitigation.

4. All proposals for development should include identified drainage provision suitable for the proposal and its location, taking account of advice and guidance from Kent County Council, the Lead Local Flood Authority. All proposals should integrate sustainable drainage systems (SuDs), incorporating naturalistic solutions into the design and soft landscaping of the development adhering to the following hierarchy:

- (a) Discharge into the ground;*
- (b) Discharge to a surface water body;*
- (c) Discharge to a surface water sewer, highway drain or other drainage system;*
- (d) Discharge to a combined sewer where there are absolutely no other options, and only where agreed in advance with the relevant sewage undertaker. SuDs provision within open spaces provided as part of development will only be acceptable where the open space continues to meet the quality standards set out in Policy DS24.*

5. Proposals for development should not compromise Water Framework Directive objectives, and should ensure that the water environment does not deteriorate, both during construction and during the lifetime of the development. Where necessary, thorough risk assessments of the impact of proposals on surface and groundwater systems should be undertaken, considering appropriate avoidance measures before incorporating appropriate mitigation measures where required.

6. Proposals for new development within the Coastal Protection Zones and Overtopping Hazard Zone, as defined on the policies map will be refused.

7. Proposals for new or replacement dwellings at the Coastal Change Area at Seasalter, as defined on the policies map, will not be permitted. Within this area, the extension of existing dwellings will only be permitted where there is an exceptional justification. Any proposals for development in this area must appropriately consider possible coastal change, flood risk, impact on future wetland habitat enhancements and public safety.



8. The Council will work with partners, including Thanet District Council, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England and landowners to investigate and define (if necessary) a Coastal Change Management Area at Reculver, to include the potential extent of coastal retreat. Any proposals for development in this area must appropriately consider possible coastal change, flood risk, impact on future wetland habitat enhancements and public safety.

Policy DM15 - Sustainable drainage

1. All proposals for development should include identified drainage provision suitable for the proposal and its location. Taking account of advice from Kent county Council, the Lead Local Flood

Authority, proposals must demonstrate, as a minimum, how they have:

(a) Achieved to the City Council's stipulated greenfield runoff rates, mimic natural flows and drainage pathways and ensure that surface water run-off is managed as close to its source as possible. In exceptional circumstances, evidence will be required to justify why the stipulated greenfield runoff rates cannot be achieved and that appropriate measures have been undertaken to achieve as close as possible;

(b) Managed all sources of surface water, including exceedance flows and surface flows from offsite, provide for emergency ingress and egress and ensure adequate drainage connectivity;

(c) Included sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) and prioritise, as appropriate, naturalistic solutions incorporated into the soft landscape of the development. Where SuDS are not appropriate evidence must be provided to demonstrate why. Where the cost of providing SuDS is cited as the main constraint for delivery, the council will require a full cost comparison against standard system, so that the cost implications can be clearly understood;

(d) Designed the scheme in accordance with Kent County Council's Guidance for master planning sustainable drainage into developments document, or equivalent up date or district specific guidance;

(e) Ensured measures proposed maintain public safety;

(f) Ensured that there is adequate treatment of surface water flows, such that there is no diminution in quality of any receiving watercourse;

(g) Ensured protection of groundwater. This may include undertaking a Groundwater Risk Assessment;

(h) Considered the risk of contamination, including any Land Contamination Studies where available;



(i) Considered and, where appropriate, provided multiple benefits, such as providing or enhancing wetland habitat, biodiversity, landscapes, and improving amenity, access, open space and water quality;

(j) Made an appropriate allowance for climate change;

(k) Identify the maintenance responsibilities for the entirety of the surface water drainage system and provide a management and maintenance plan, which shall include arrangements during the construction phase and the arrangements for adoption by any public authority or statutory undertaker and any other arrangements to secure the operation of the drainage scheme throughout its lifetime; and

(l) On major and strategic developments it should be shown how this infrastructure will be delivered over the different building phases to ensure that schemes are delivered as envisaged and that ongoing and future flood risk is managed. This information should include clear details of the various designed allocations, in terms of discharge rates, discharge volumes and impermeable areas for those future building phases.

2.2 RESTORING AND ENHANCING HABITATS

2.2.1 District Vision

A thriving environment

Significant new areas of accessible, high-quality open space will be created across the district and both new and existing valued open spaces enjoyed by the district's residents will be protected for future generations, ensuring continued access beyond the period of the plan. Our important habitats and landscapes will be restored and enhanced, supporting the recovery of nature, improving environmental resilience and providing significant increases in biodiversity. Opportunities for nature-based responses to climate change and other environmental challenges will be maximised and our urban areas will be greener and healthier. Significant investment in our water environment and infrastructure will improve river and coastal water quality, provide a resilient water supply and minimise flood risk.

Improved connectivity

High-quality public transport infrastructure, comprehensive walking and cycling networks and accessible community facilities will help to improve air quality, respond to the challenges of climate change and enhance the quality of life for our residents.

The Draft Local Plan provides very detailed strategic development areas with opportunity for open space/ biodiversity opportunities, green corridors, buffers, landscape improvements and green gaps. Focused on Urban/peri urban Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay.

2.2.2 Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) (Landscape Character Assessment, 2020)

The BOAs within the Canterbury District are listed below and shown on Figure 3.7:

- Thanet Cliffs and Shore;
- Lower Stour Wetlands;
- The Blean;
- East Kent Woodlands and Downs;
- North Kent Marshes.

The areas outside the identified BOAs still have substantial biodiversity interest, and include a number of nature reserves, Local Wildlife Sites, ancient woodlands and other areas. In fact, substantial gains for biodiversity can be made in these areas where opportunities arise for habitat creation or better management. Their omission from the opportunity network only indicates that they are not as great a strategic priority for improving district- and county-wide habitat connectivity.

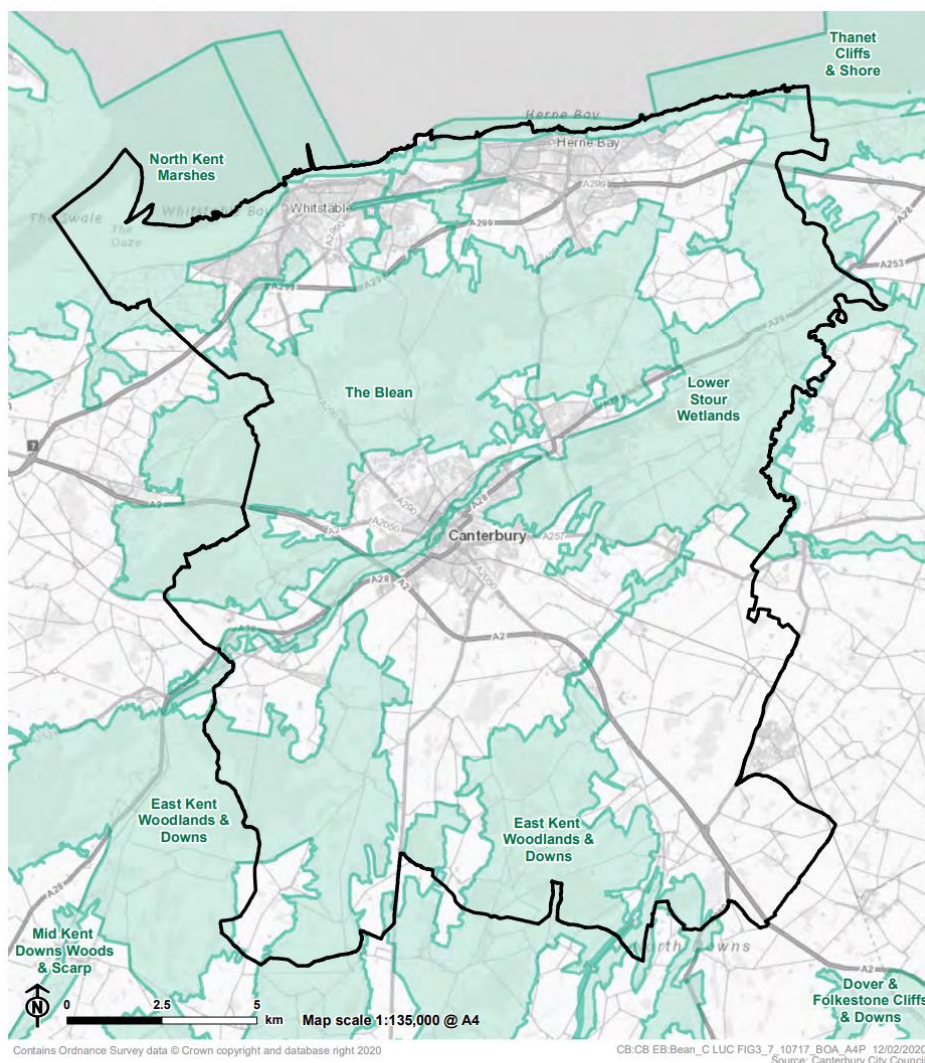




Figure 3.7: Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

-  Canterbury City Council boundary
-  Biodiversity Opportunity Area



2.2.3 Canterbury District Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's)

Conditions of SSSI's in Canterbury District (Landscape Character Assessment 2020)

Table 3.1: Condition of SSSIs within Canterbury District

SSSI name	% of SSSI in Favourable condition	% of SSSI in Unfavourable Recovering condition	% of SSSI in Unfavourable No Change condition	% of SSSI in Unfavourable Declining condition
Chequer's Wood and Old Park	68	32		
Church Woods, Blean	69	8		
East Blean Woods	99	1		
Ellenden Wood	100			
Ileden and Oxenden Woods	34	3		
Larkey Valley Wood	100			
Preston Marshes		100		
Stodmarsh	61	21	18	
Sturry Pit		100		
Thanet Coast	14			
The Swale	6		3	
West Blean and Thornden Woods	49	42	3	6

2.2.4 Biodiversity (GI Strategy, 2018)

Needs across district:

- To protect, enhance and restore biodiversity, particularly biodiversity for which Canterbury district is important internationally, nationally and in Kent.
- To develop a coherent and resilient ecological network through ensuring the core network of biodiversity sites are in good condition and through reducing fragmentation and increasing connectivity.
- To strengthen links between urban and rural biodiversity and bring more wildlife into urban areas. Support pollinators.

To encourage co-ordinated and partnership working across many sectors to improve delivery and secure funding.

Canterbury Biodiversity Diversity Strategy, 2024

Canterbury are in the process of writing the Canterbury District Biodiversity Strategy- An Action Plan for Nature Recovery. This is due to be published in 2024 and is being worked on alongside the LNRS process, creating a more localised version of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the district.



2.2.5 Tree and Woodland Strategy (Tree Strategy 2024)

Policy DS23 - The Blean Woodland Complex

1. The council will support projects that restore, enhance, expand and connect the valued woodland habitat of the Blean Woodland Complex, as defined on the policies map, and will work

with partners to help achieve these objectives including rewilding, natural regeneration and wider landscape restoration, where appropriate.

2. Projects that support the landscape and nature recovery through informed, sensitive and traditional woodland practices will be encouraged as will those which support the timber market and wider local economy provided there is no conflict with the primary conservation goals of the Complex.

2.2.6 Pollinator Strategy (Pollinator Strategy, 2023)

OBJECTIVE 1 Canterbury City Council to promote/support strategic-level actions to protect, enhance and expand pollinator habitat

OBJECTIVE 2 Canterbury City Council to manage the land it owns, controls or can influence for the benefit of pollinators

OBJECTIVE 3 Canterbury City Council to use the planning system to better protect pollinators and to increase suitable habitat and connectivity between existing habitat

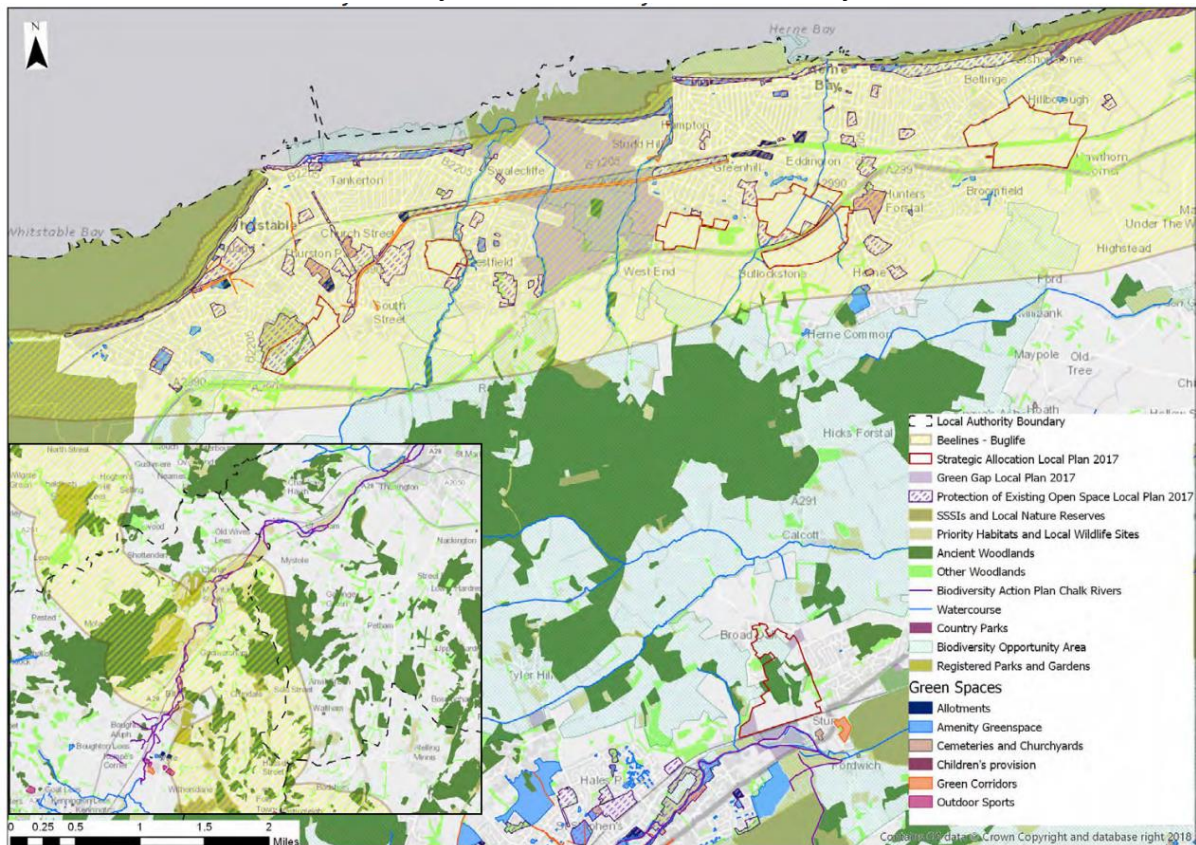
OBJECTIVE 4 All partners to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and encourage people to take action themselves

OBJECTIVE 5 Monitor actions and outcomes and report on progress

B-Lines (GI Strategy, 2018)

B-Lines are Buglife's imaginative solution to the problem of the loss of flowers and pollinators. The B-Lines are a series of 'insect pathways' running through the countryside and towns, along which restoring and creating wildflower-rich habitats to act as stepping stones is a priority. They link existing wildlife areas together, creating a network across the British landscape. They will provide large areas of brand-new habitat benefiting bees and butterflies and a host of other wildlife. The main B-Line in Canterbury district crosses Whitstable and Herne Bay, with potential to develop many pollinator friendly projects in these urban areas, with a second on the border with Ashford district.

B-Lines – Whistable, Herne Bay and South West Canterbury District



2.2.7 General Green and Blue Infrastructure

Policy SS1 - Environmental strategy for the district

2. The network of green and blue infrastructure - including rivers, streams and ponds - in the district,

which provides important habitats, valued landscapes and spaces for recreation and which supports our health and wellbeing, will be protected, maintained and enhanced in line with Policy DS19. Developments should provide multi-benefit connections or corridors between habitats, considering ecological connectivity and pollinators, as well as accessibility and usability by people.

10. The council will continue to work with partners to explore the promotion of a Stour Valley Regional Park, to support the extension and improved connectivity of the Blean Woodland Complex and to enable the improvement of the Old Park and Chequer's Wood habitat.



GI Strategic priorities (GI Strategy, 2018):

Supporting a prosperous district: Well-planned, high quality green infrastructure promotes economic prosperity in many ways. Urban greening creates places people want to live and where business wants to locate. The actions in this strategy are critical to the delivery of Canterbury City Council's aspiration for a green economy. The strategy will support economic growth and sustainable development, regeneration, business growth and retention and the visitor economy.

Creating stronger connections: The need for better connections crosses many areas. Biodiversity needs to be better connected and less fragmented. Sustainable transport and access links need to be better connected to serve Canterbury district's growing population and to provide recreation opportunities. Green infrastructure planning needs to cross many different sectors and also cross local authority boundaries, fulfilling Duty to Cooperate requirements.

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and the landscape: Canterbury district has outstanding biodiversity and a rich and varied landscape. The quality of the district's biodiversity, landscape and ecosystem services underpins its future prosperity. The biodiversity of Canterbury district, particularly that which is important internationally, nationally and in Kent, needs to be protected and enhanced, including ancient woodland, chalk streams and the internationally important coastal habitats, woodlands and wetlands.

Supporting healthy and active communities: Green infrastructure can directly support better health and wellbeing. It is important that everyone, including those in areas with more people in poorer health, and in both urban and rural areas, have access to green space for healthy exercise and recreation and to experience nature. To maximise use this must be high quality and well maintained. Major new development must build communities and be planned in line with Canterbury City Council's 'Garden City Principles'.

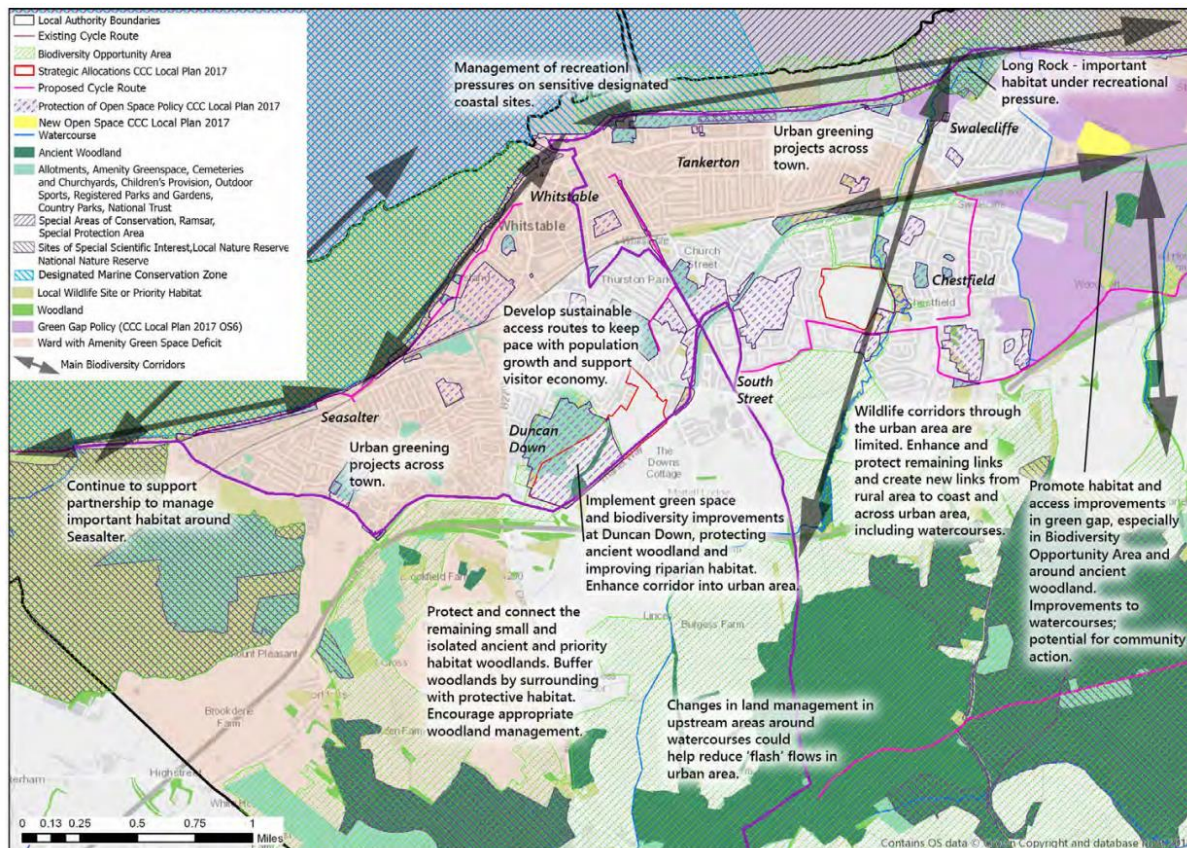
Being fit for the future: The district needs to build resilience. Climate change will create many pressures; reduced summer rainfall will put water resources under more strain, whereas in winter there is likely to be more flooding. Urban areas will become hotter. Trees will be at greater risk of pests and diseases and biodiversity, particularly vulnerable and isolated fragments of habitats, will be at risk. Canterbury City Council must also ensure that delivery and maintenance of green infrastructure is in place in a time of reduced resources.

Call to action: Delivering the ambition of this green infrastructure strategy cannot be achieved by Canterbury City Council alone. It will require action by a range of partners and organisations. Developers will need to deliver green infrastructure on site and contribute to wider projects. Action by communities will also be critical, with great opportunities for local people.



2.2.8 Green and Blue Infrastructure Opportunities

Whitstable GI Opportunities (GI Strategy, 2018):



Whitstable - Canterbury City Council Objectives		Strategic Priorities	Whitstable - Longer Term and Partnership Objectives		Strategic Priorities
W1	Continue positive management of nature conservation sites owned by Canterbury City Council and incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services enhancements into other council sites.	3, 5	W12	Develop an urban greening project to bring green infrastructure into urban areas, including on green space sites not owned by the council and to support pollinators, e.g. playing fields, school grounds, industrial and commercial sites, road verges, street trees and pedestrian and cycling routes, working with communities and fostering local action.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
W2	Ensure effective delivery of both the Swale SPA and Thanet Coast SAMM actions with neighbouring local authorities, including wardening and education.	1, 3, 5	W13	Promote the full range of access opportunities, including public rights of way, encourage healthy walking groups and walking to school.	4, 6
W3	Ensure all new development provides sufficient green space to meet adopted standards for the increase in population ('no net loss' of green space) and delivers biodiversity 'net gain'.	1, 2, 3, 4	W14	Consider management options at Long Rock if SAMM measures do not fully address the need to relieve pressure on this sensitive site.	3, 5
W4	Due to limited provision, ensure all green space is high quality and provides a range of facilities, as well as providing biodiversity and ecosystem services benefits.	3, 4	W15	Seek biodiversity improvements in the Biodiversity Opportunity Area which extends into the green gap, to also provide access to address deficits, relieve pressure on sensitive biodiversity sites and improve links to the countryside.	2, 3, 5
W5	Develop new open space in wards with green space deficits, to meet adopted standards and to relieve pressure on sensitive biodiversity sites.	3, 4, 5	W16	Seek improvements to Oyster Coast Brooks watercourses for water quality and biodiversity connectivity, including community engagement and local action to improve those not within the Water Framework Directive.	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
W6	Ensure that a range of benefits for people and wildlife are provided in the delivery of the new playing field east of Swalecliffe (LP Policy OS4).	2, 3, 4, 5	W17	Develop good infrastructure, interpretation and management at high value biodiversity sites with high recreational use and utilise public rights of way to increase access choices.	3, 4, 5
W7	Implement new cycle routes in accordance with Transport Strategy, seeking green infrastructure gains in implementation.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	W18	Support measures to reduce industrial and domestic water consumption and measures to improve water quality.	1, 2, 3, 5
W8	Improve and expand Duncan Down as part of new development, maximise biodiversity connectivity, protect Gorrell Wood ancient woodland and support community engagement.	2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
W9	New development should retain and, where appropriate plant, trees, hedgerows and woodland of amenity and wildlife value and seek biodiversity 'net gain'.	2, 3, 4, 5			
W10	Protect remaining ancient woodland and 'priority habitat' woodland, seeking to implement sensitive management around these sites and increase connectivity.	2, 3, 5			
W11	Deliver new play facilities and enhancements, deliver new allotment site and new mini and junior football in accordance with the Open Spaces Strategy.	4, 5			



The coastline of Whitstable has outstanding nature conservation value. The coast and inland waters are of international importance, especially for birds and, at Tankerton Slopes, for the nationally important hog's fennel. Duncan Down is also a valuable site for both wildlife and local people, and is being extended through neighbouring development. The seas are also protected, being within The Swale Estuary Marine Conservation Zone. The coast is very accessible, with walking permitted along the entire length. There are also many cycling routes, many of them traffic-free, including the Oyster Bay Trail and the Crab and Winkle Way. Additional cycling routes are planned through the Transport Strategy.

Most of the nature conservation sites, including those managed by Canterbury City Council, are in good condition. However, there is concern that some of the over-wintering birds species which make the coast of international importance are declining, and that recreational pressure may be a contributory factor. For this reason, Whitstable falls within the area requiring mitigation measures for development for both The Swale SPA and the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA through the Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategies (SAMMs), requiring developer contributions and the implementation of wardening, education and other measures.

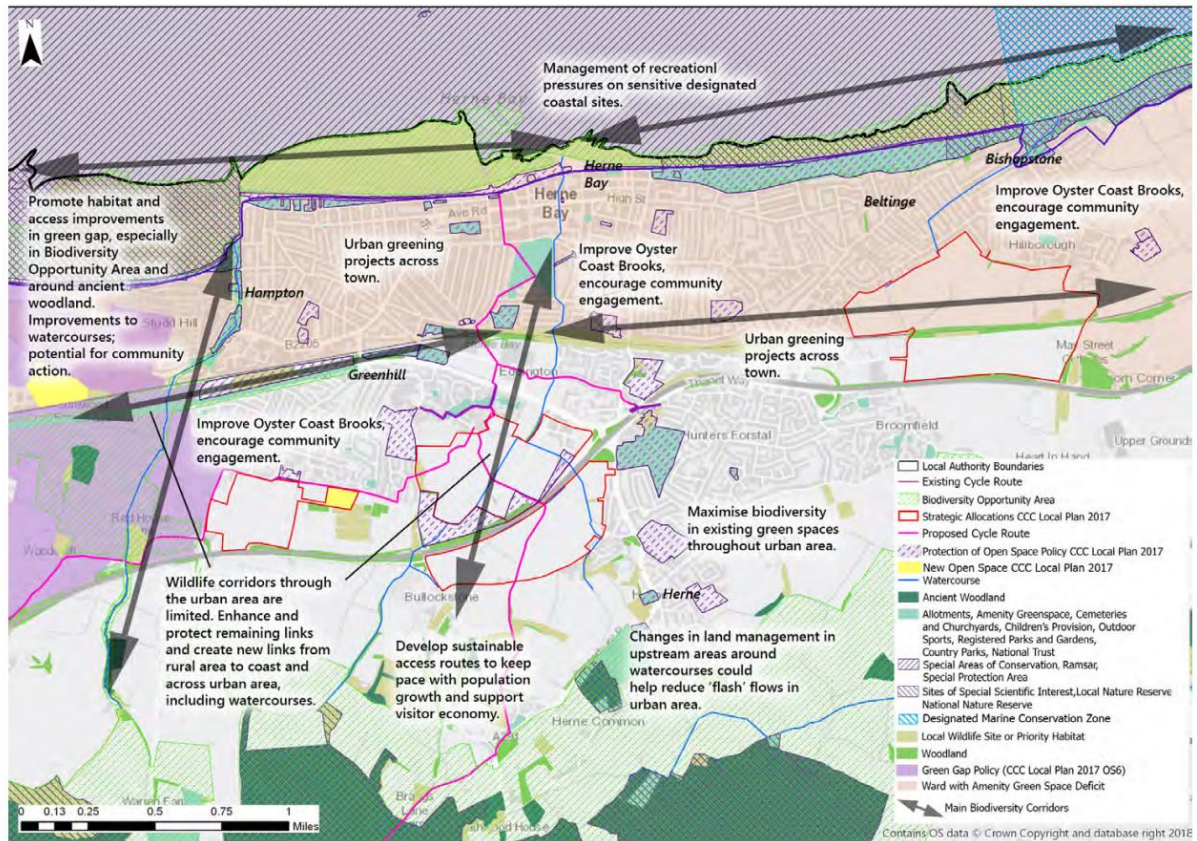
There is little green space within the urban area and sites here and around the edge of Whitstable are small and not well-connected, with barriers created by roads and railways. These sites are highly vulnerable to climate change effects.

The Blean Biodiversity Opportunity Area extends into urban Whitstable, with opportunities to increase connections between green space sites. There are also some small ancient woodlands remaining, and it is important these are protected.

All of Whitstable falls within a 'B-Line' - a target area to improve habitat for pollinators. The Oyster Coast Brooks flow north into the sea. Lengths of these are highly modified and culverted and it is important that these are kept clear to prevent flooding. Only the Swalecliffe Brook is of sufficient length to benefit from Water Framework Directive measures and funding; the others are also very important local brooks, but receive no funding for enhancement works. They are also important in ensuring the good quality of the north coast shellfish fisheries. Protection and enhancement of these brooks is an area which would benefit from community involvement.

There is a deficit of accessible green space in some areas, particularly in Swalecliffe, Harbour, Seasalter and Tankerton, which creates a further reliance on sensitive biodiversity sites for public access. It is difficult to find new green space sites within the dense urban areas, but opportunities to create new green space is a long-term ambition. There is also a deficit in allotments, junior and mini football and, in some areas, play space. Some of these deficits also occur in areas which have poorer health than the rest of Canterbury district.

Herne Bay GI Opportunities (GI Strategy, 2018):



Herne Bay - Canterbury City Council Objectives		Strategic Priorities	Herne Bay - Longer Term and Partnership Objectives		Strategic Priorities
HB1	Continue positive management of nature conservation sites owned by Canterbury City Council and incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services enhancements into other council sites.	3, 5	HB12	Develop an urban greening project to bring green infrastructure into urban areas, including on green space sites not owned by the council and to support pollinators, e.g. playing fields, school grounds, industrial and commercial sites, road verges, street trees and pedestrian and cycling routes, working with communities and fostering local action.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
HB2	Ensure effective delivery of both the Swale SPA and Thanet Coast SAMM actions with neighbouring local authorities, including wardening and education.	1, 3, 5	HB13	Promote the full range of access opportunities, including public rights of way; encourage healthy walking groups and walking to school.	4, 6
HB3	Ensure all new development provides sufficient green space to meet adopted standards for the increase in population ('no net loss' of green space) and delivers biodiversity 'net gain'.	1, 2, 3, 4	HB14	Seek improvements to Oyster Coast Brooks watercourses for water quality and biodiversity connectivity, including community engagement and local action to improve those not within the Water Framework Directive.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
HB4	Due to limited provision, ensure all green space is high quality and provides a range of facilities, as well as providing biodiversity and ecosystem services benefits.	3, 4	HB15	Ensure links into the urban area from the countryside are retained.	2, 3, 5
HB5	Develop new open space in wards with green space deficits, to meet adopted standards and to relieve pressure on sensitive biodiversity sites.	3, 4, 5	HB16	Support measures to reduce industrial and domestic water consumption and measures to improve water quality.	1, 2, 3, 5
HB6	Maximise biodiversity in existing green spaces; implement recommendations in Herne Bay Coastal Park Management Plan and improve biodiversity in Memorial Park.	2, 3, 4, 5	HB17	Develop good infrastructure, interpretation and management at high value biodiversity sites with high recreational use and utilise public rights of way to increase access choices.	3, 4, 5
HB7	Implement new cycle routes in accordance with Transport Strategy, seeking green infrastructure gains in implementation.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5			
HB8	Ensure corridor routes are maintained and enhanced through the strategic allocations around Herne Bay.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5			
HB9	New development should retain and, where appropriate plant, trees, hedgerows and woodland of amenity and wildlife value and seek biodiversity 'net gain'.	2, 3, 4, 5			
HB10	Deliver Reculver Masterplan and longer term ambitions for the country park and surrounding area.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
HB11	Deliver new play facilities and enhancements, deliver new allotment site and new mini and junior football in accordance with the Open Spaces Strategy.	4, 5			



The coastline and inland waters of Herne Bay has outstanding nature conservation value, being of international importance for over-wintering birds. The seas are also protected, being within the Thanet Coast Marine Conservation Zone. The coast is very accessible, with walking permitted along the entire length. There are also many cycling routes, many of them traffic-free, including the Oyster Bay Trail which links to the Viking Coastal Trail at Reculver Country Park and onwards into Thanet. Additional cycling routes are planned through the Transport Strategy. The QEII Coastal Park is a valuable resource, stretching along the coastline from Hampton to Reculver, protecting many coastal sites for recreation in perpetuity. Reculver Country Park to the east of Herne Bay is a regionally important country park and is important both for residents and visitors, as well as supporting the tourism economy.

Most nature conservation sites, including those managed by Canterbury City Council, are in good condition. However, there is concern that some of the over-wintering birds species for which the coast is of international importance are declining, and that recreational pressure is contributing. Herne Bay therefore falls within the areas requiring mitigation measures for development for Thanet Coast and Pegwell Bay SPA and the Swale SPA, requiring developer contributions and the implementation of wardening, education and other measures. All of Herne Bay falls within a 'B-Line' - a target area to improve habitat for pollinators (see 'Delivery' section later).

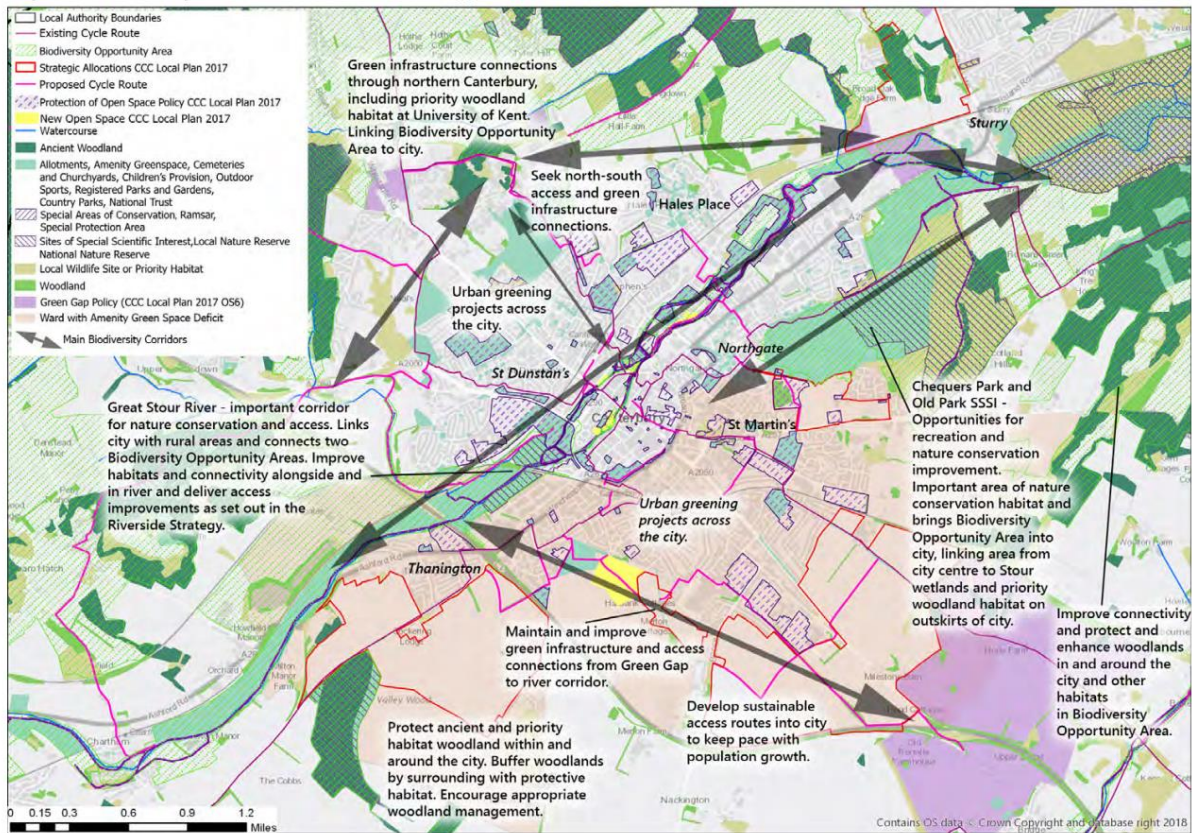
There is little green space within the urban area with a deficit of amenity greenspace in all coastal wards; areas where there is also poorer health. This is compounded by a poor public rights of way network and deficits in allotments, in sports and in play provision in some areas. Memorial Park, as well as being much-loved by residents, is therefore an important site. The lack of green space creates a further reliance on sensitive biodiversity sites for public access. It is difficult to find new green space sites within the dense urban area, but creating new green space is a long-term ambition.

The coast is the main area of biodiversity interest, with very few other sites in and around the urban area. Woodland is also very sparse. This increases the importance of the coast, cliff top grasslands and Reculver Country Park. It also means that any remaining nature conservation sites are highly vulnerable, especially to climate change effects.

Two of the Oyster Coast Brooks flow north into the sea, some parts of which are highly modified. It is important that these are kept clear to prevent flooding. None of these benefit from Water Framework Directive measures and funding; the others are also very important local brooks, but receive no funding for enhancement works. They are also important in ensuring the good quality of the north coast shellfish fisheries. Protection and enhancement of these brooks is an area which would benefit from community involvement.



City of Canterbury GI Opportunities (GI Strategy, 2018):



Canterbury City - Canterbury City Council Objectives	Strategic Priorities	Canterbury City - Longer Term and Partnership Objectives	Strategic Priorities
CC1 Continue positive management of nature conservation sites owned by Canterbury City Council and incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services enhancements into other council sites.	3, 5	CC11 Develop an urban greening project to bring green infrastructure into urban areas, including on green space sites not owned by the council, e.g. playing fields, school grounds, industrial and commercial sites, road verges, street trees and pedestrian and cycling routes, working with communities and fostering local action.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
CC2 Implement actions for wildlife and access in the Riverside Strategy to improve and strengthen the river corridor through the city centre.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	CC12 Promote the full range of access opportunities, including public rights of way; encourage healthy walking groups and walking to school.	4, 6
CC3 Ensure all new development provides sufficient green space to meet adopted standards for the increase in population ('no net loss' of green space) and delivers biodiversity 'net gain'.	1, 2, 3, 4	CC13 Work with partners to maximise the range of public and wildlife benefits for the area around Old Park.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
CC4 Where there is limited provision, ensure all green space is high quality and provides a range of facilities, as well as providing biodiversity and ecosystem services benefits.	3, 4	CC14 Ensure wildlife and access corridor links into the urban area from the countryside are maintained and enhanced.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
CC5 Develop new open space in wards with green space deficits, to meet adopted standards and to relieve pressure on sensitive biodiversity sites.	3, 4, 5	CC15 Support measures to reduce industrial and domestic water consumption and measures to improve water quality.	1, 2, 3, 5
CC6 Ensure that the wider countryside is linked to the city centre through strategic allocations and that corridor linkages across and into the city are retained in the future.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	CC16 Expand and connect woodlands, seeking to implement sensitive management around these sites, connect and protect woodlands at the University of Kent and around the urban area and promote increased woodland management.	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
CC7 Implement new cycle routes in accordance with Transport Strategy, seeking green infrastructure gains in implementation.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	CC17 Continue to develop a strategic active travel network to accommodate future increases in population.	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
CC8 New development should retain and, where appropriate plant, trees, hedgerows and woodland of amenity and wildlife value and seek biodiversity 'net gain'.	2, 3, 4, 5	CC18 Promote SUDS schemes, support measures to naturalise the River Stour, reduce water consumption and encourage local communities to take an active role in improving watercourses.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
CC9 Deliver new play facilities and enhancements, deliver new allotment site and new mini and junior football in accordance with the Open Spaces Strategy.	4, 5		
CC10 Protect ancient woodland and 'priority habitat' woodland, seeking to implement sensitive management around these sites and increase connectivity.			



The Great Stour River is undoubtedly one of the most significant green infrastructure assets of the City of Canterbury. Not only is it of outstanding nature conservation value, it forms an important linking corridor for recreation and wildlife through the centre of the city, and links with the countryside and other Biodiversity Opportunity Areas. Improving the river corridor for wildlife and access has been a long-term ambition for the council, with many improvements already implemented and others being taken forward through the Riverside Strategy and Local Plan.

To the east of the city, Old Park SSSI, Chequers Wood and the land to the north of the former Howe Barracks also bring green infrastructure into the city centre, and this area is the highest designated wildlife site in the city. There is great unfulfilled potential for this area to be even more valuable for both recreation and nature.

The city is surrounded by large areas of ancient woodland, with sites in the urban area at the University of Kent and other important woodland in the Stour corridor and at Old Park SSSI. However, some sites are small and fragmented which make them vulnerable to pests and diseases and climate change effects.

It will be important in the future to maintain and enhance the existing links from the countryside to the city centre, both for wildlife connectivity and for access, for example around Rough Common and to the south of the city.

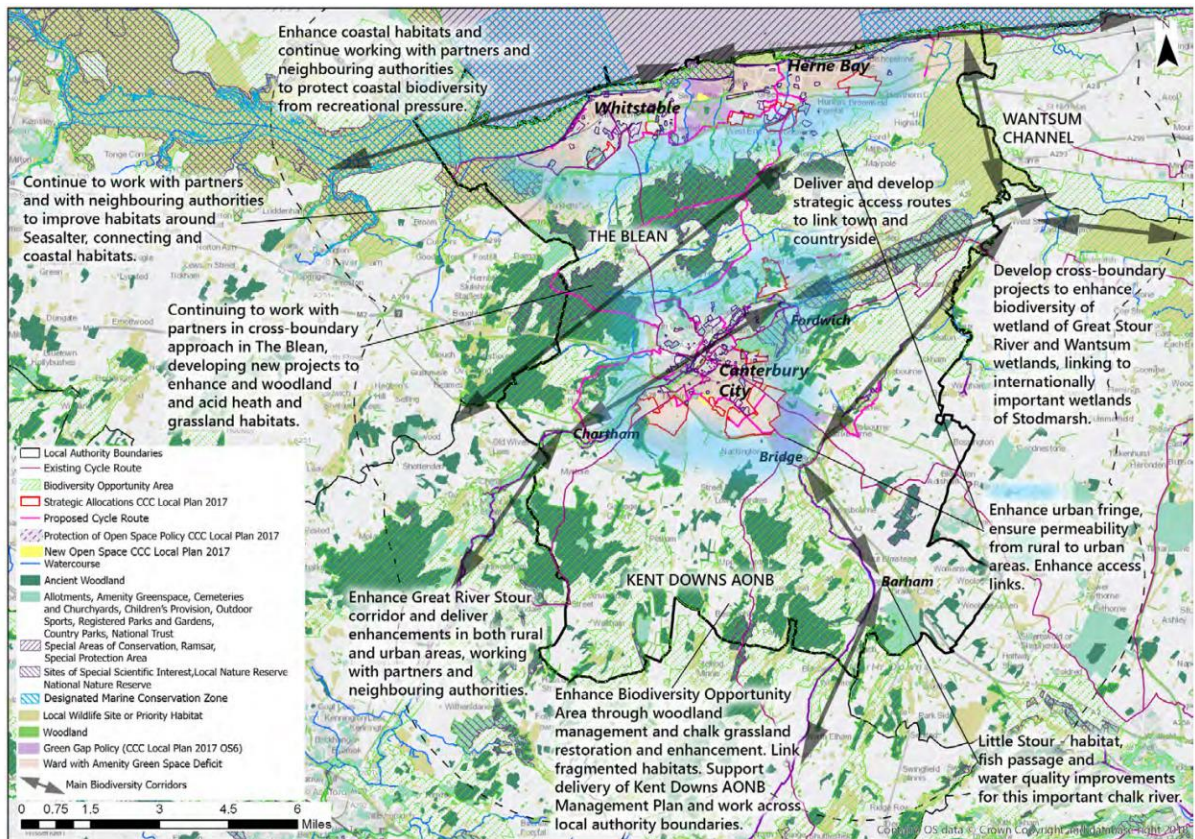
There are many cycle routes, including many traffic-free routes such as the Crab and Winkle Way, with more planned in the Transport Strategy, including a green route from south of the city.

Whilst northern areas of the City of Canterbury meet standards for accessible green space, there are deficits in central and southern parts of the city. There is also a deficit in allotments and in play spaces and pitches in some areas. Opportunities to create new green space in these areas will be sought. Although health in the City of Canterbury is generally good, some of those areas where health is poorer also have deficits in accessible green space.

Green infrastructure can be used to support existing measures to address air pollution, primarily through making the city an attractive place to walk and cycle thereby reducing the number of people travelling by motorised vehicle.



Canterbury Rural Opportunities (GI Strategy, 2018):



Rural Canterbury District - Canterbury City Council Objectives	Strategic Priorities	Rural Canterbury District - Longer Term and Partnership Objectives	Strategic Priorities
RC1 Continue cross-boundary working with neighbouring districts to further nature conservation across the landscape.	2, 3, 5	RC11 Support delivery of Biodiversity Opportunity Area* targets and the delivery of the Kent Biodiversity Strategy and encourage a 'more, bigger, better and joined' approach for nature conservation, taking a landscape-scale and cross-boundary approach (*East Kent Woodlands and Downs, Thanet Cliffs and Shore, Lower Stour Wetlands, The Blean, North Kent Marshes).	2, 3, 5,
RC2 Support community initiatives to improve nature conservation sites.	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	RC12 Supporting partnerships in developing and gaining funding for more ambitious landscape-scale projects for nature conservation and for strategic access routes.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
RC3 Take forward landscape and conservation projects in partnership with the Kent Downs AONB Unit and support delivery of the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan.	2, 3, 5	RC13 Protect, connect and implement sensitive management around ancient woodland and 'priority habitat' woodland and promote the need for woodland management.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
RC4 Ensure that the countryside is linked to the city centre through strategic allocations and that corridor linkages across and into the city are retained in the future.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	RC14 Continue to seek new strategic routes to link town and country, e.g. from east of the City of Canterbury.	1, 2, 3, 5
RC5 Continue to ensure those sites managed by Canterbury City Council are in good condition for wildlife and access.	2, 3, 5	RC15 Support promotion of the public rights of way network for health and wellbeing and tourism benefits.	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
RC6 Implement new cycle routes in accordance with Transport Strategy, seeking green infrastructure gains in implementation.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	RC16 Support measures to improve water resources, as set out in the Waterbody Improvement Plans, encouraging communities to take an active role in improving watercourses and supporting reductions in water use and improvements in water quality.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
RC7 New development should retain and, where appropriate plant, trees, hedgerows and woodland of amenity and wildlife value and seek biodiversity 'net gain'.	2, 3, 4, 5		
RC8 Deliver new play facilities and enhancements, deliver new allotment site and new mini and junior football in accordance with the Open Spaces Strategy.	4, 5		
RC9 Ensure that the countryside is linked to urban areas.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5		
RC10 Continue to work in partnership to deliver cross-boundary projects for The Blean and Seasalter.	2, 3, 5, 6		



To the north of the City of Canterbury lies The Blean woodland, an outstanding area of woodland of national and international importance. This woodland is important for the rare heath fritillary butterfly, as well as for orchids and other flora. A management partnership between the many landowners is progressing positive management for nature conservation, with plans for further access improvements, including new strategic routes linking the coastal towns through to the City of Canterbury.

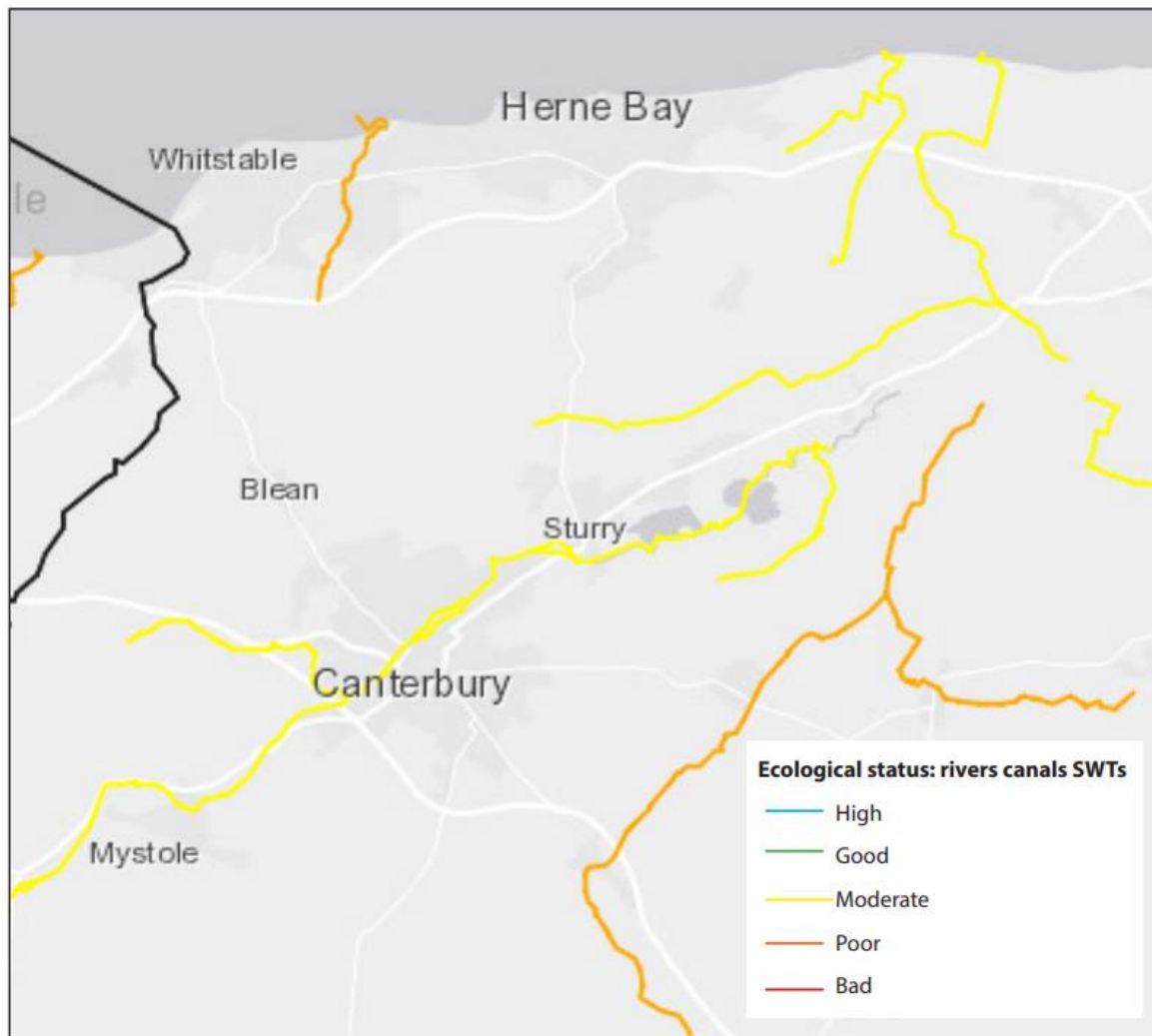
To the south of the district is the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This area is important for chalk grassland, with extensive woodland in this area as well.

Although there have been increases in heathland and acid grassland due to positive work in The Blean, there has been a loss of grassland sites, especially neutral grassland. Fragmentation of habitats is an issue, especially to the south of the coastal towns and in the south east of the district, and areas of woodland, especially smaller woodland, are not managed. Funding for larger-scale and more ambitious projects to address biodiversity loss remains an issue, requiring cross-boundary and partnership working. Most of the district's public rights of way are in the rural areas, with many promoted routes. New cycle routes are also planned through the Transport Strategy. There is a perception that due to this the rural area is well-served for access, but it is important to remember that these access resources do not provide all the facilities which rural communities require and which are provided through accessible green space sites. Public rights of way may also not be as accessible to those with mobility issues.

The rural area is important for water courses, with many green infrastructure actions identified in the Environment Agency's Waterbody Improvement Plan. These include promoting winter storage, enhancing riparian habitats, pollution prevention, controlling non-native species, removing obstructions to fish passage and re-naturalising watercourses.

Riverside Strategy (Riverside Strategy, 2023):

Map showing ecological classification (identifiable by colour) of the Great Stour within localised Stour Catchment Map



Source: Experience Arcgis (2022) 'River Basin Management Plan: maps' Classification.
Available at: experience.arcgis.com/experience/73ed24b6d30441648f24f043e75ebed2/page/Classification/

The vision for the Canterbury Riverside is as follows:

Canterbury's riverside will be a clean, safe, accessible and coherent place – a joy to wander, a sustainable transport corridor for walkers and cyclists – a confident place that reflects the city's proud heritage and complements its important and diverse biodiversity. Residents, business owners and the council will have positive and open conversations about maintaining the riverside's status as an asset to all who live and visit the area. A thoroughfare linking attractive and well managed green spaces, with viable business etc – it will be a draw/attraction for visitors in its own right as well as doubling up as an important corridor for people and wildlife. It will be a gateway to the Stour Valley, and to a possible Stour Valley Regional Park. Key benefits to be delivered:



- Encourage more people to walk and cycle off road thereby reducing traffic congestion and air pollution
- Enable people to be more active to improve their health and well being
- A welcoming, connected, legible and accessible network of shared routes and spaces for everyone to use
- A well-managed, clean and safe environment presentable at all times of the year
- Provide numerous opportunities for people to have contact with the natural environment and wildlife; foster public respect for the riverside environment and the importance of looking after it
- Facilitate and encourage wildlife's recovery along the river corridor
- The continued involvement of local people in developing and managing the riverside and riverside open spaces
- Optimise the potential multi-functional benefits of well-designed and managed riverside open space, for example, flood storage, pollution filter
- Increase the interest of the city as a destination for visitors and businesses to encourage and support economic growth and tourism. The riverside corridor provides access to a range of attractive parks and gardens within the city and offers a safe, certain, high quality and accessible gateway to the wider countryside.
- Promotion of a possible Stour Valley Regional Park for Canterbury

Design Policies :

Policy RS1: Wherever possible a minimum corridor width of 13.0m shall be reserved for new riverside access routes

Policy RS2: Where land adjacent to the river is developed the developer will be encouraged to transfer ownership and management of the riverside corridor (approximately 13m wide access corridor measured from river edge) together with an agreed commuted sum to cover future management to the city council. In addition, the developer will be expected to fund the construction of the new path, furniture, signage and planting in accordance with the city council's design and specification.

Policy RS3: Hard surfaced riverside path routes shall be shared by pedestrians and cyclists without segregation wherever possible.

Policy RS4: Shared surface path widths shall be a minimum of 2.5m in width with 1.0m wide cut grass margins either side to present a managed appearance.

Policy RS5: The preferred choice of material for new path surface construction in both urban and rural areas, shall be bitumen macadam.

Policy RS6: As and when existing lights are replaced, these will conform with agreed best practice for Canterbury in order to mitigate adverse impact on bats and the night



sky. New lighting to be designed to conform with best practice. It is not expected that routes other than principle routes in the urban centre will need to be illuminated.

Policy RS7: To strengthen route identity a standard seat type has been selected for both urban and rural settings. Occasional well-sited sculptural 'landmark' seats will be installed to add interest and aid navigation.

Policy RS8: A standardised litter bin type is used for the riverside.

Policy RS9: New walls, railings and bridges represent important infrastructure elements and need to be appropriately designed in sympathy with local context to enhance local distinctiveness.

Policy RS10: Welcome and information signs should be designed to incorporate riverside branding wherever possible to provide a consistency and sense of place. The style and size of the sign should be appropriate to the location and accessible to the user. Wherever possible these signs should be fixed to existing walls and railings to minimise 'clutter'. Two different types of directional signs shall be used: stainless steel post with metal finger signs for urban centres and timber marker posts for open countryside.

Policy RS11: New planting should be composed of native species. River corridor vegetation should be managed to create an attractive, safe environment maximising variation of habitat for wildlife. In certain instances in urban areas it may be appropriate to consider planting individual non-native 'landmark' trees, but rural areas should prioritise native species planting.

Policy RS12: The environment of the river and river corridor provides a range of very important habitats and safe movement corridor for wildlife, particularly through the urban centre of Canterbury. Wherever possible new design and landscape management decisions shall promote biodiversity. The in-channel river passing through Canterbury shall be enhanced as a linear movement route for wildlife

Policy RS13: Maintain licenced boating and punting activities on the river at sustainable levels. Consider capacity of the river in given location before approving any new water-based interests

Policy RS14: The city council shall work in partnership with the Environment Agency, the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, and local friends groups to develop a policy to educate anglers and to manage unrestricted fishing between Canterbury and Sturry to avoid fish stocks being further depleted.



No	Subject	Action	Lead	End date	Possible funding sources	Priority	Workshop notes
6.0 Wildlife habitat enhancement							
6.1	In-channel river enhancement works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue working on riverside restoration projects Agree a programme of prioritised works, EA's consent to be obtained Funding to be obtained Implement works 	KSCP & Environment Agency	On-going	s.106/CIL/KCC/ external funding	M	1.8
6.2	Land at Canterbury North substations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities to improve the Local Wildlife Site that surrounds the site Consider adding some crossing over the River Stour to the green areas to the south Consider protecting the site's current lack of access and the benefits for wildlife 	Environment Team	By June 2025	s.106/CIL/KCC/ external funding	L	
6.3	Riverside wildlife enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange a walk with the Riverside group and create a list with priority areas Incorporate habitat connectivity, pollinators and local nature recovery schemes Obtain funding Work with stakeholders in order to deliver the schemes Continue considering and working towards biodiversity and pollinator benefits 	Environment Team	On-going	s.106/CIL/KCC/ external funding	M	1.6, 3.2
6.4	Wincheap Meadow new area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liase with Natural England to determine Local Nature Reserve position for the 6.65ha site. Work with the Canterbury Riverside Group and Defra family to develop a new LNR Management Plan. Liase with Natural England and Planning on contributions to Stodmarsh Mitigations. Seek funds to implement capital works and management costs. Implement works 	Environment Team	By June 2027	s.106/CIL/KCC/ external funding	H	
6.5	Invasive Plant Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission invasive plant species survey in the riverside area Review survey results and create a programme of prioritised works 	Environment Team and EA	On-going	s.106/CIL/KCC/ external funding	H	
6.6	Riverside through Sollys/Abbots Mill to Kingsmead Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £25k (in conjunction with 5.5) of funding secured for improvements to wildlife enhancement 	Environment Team	by end 2023	s.106/CIL/KCC/ external funding	H	
6.7	Fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop media to educate anglers and to manage unrestricted fishing between Canterbury and Sturry to avoid fish stocks being further depleted. 	Environment Team Environment Agency Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership		s.106/CIL/KCC/ external funding		
8.0 Community Involvement							
8.1	Antisocial behaviour reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite CCC's community safety unit and Kent police to attend future riverside strategy meetings Create a plan that will help reduce ASB on CCC riverside sites 	Environment Team	On-going		H	2.1, 3.23
8.2	Public education and awareness of the river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide media on CCC's open spaces that surround the river Promote the riverside strategy through CCC's website and social media platforms Engage with local residents through new and existing Friends' groups 	Environment Team & KCSP	On-going	BID/s.106/CIL/ KCC/external funding	M	2.5, 2.8, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7



8.5	Open Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Open Space Strategy quality assessments Engage the Canterbury Riverside Group Explore funding opportunities Implement enhancement 	Environment Team	By June 2027	From existing resources/s.106/CIL/KCC/external funding	H	1.10
8.6	New developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The environment team will organise meetings with the Riverside group to raise their awareness of large developments in the riverside area (e.g. Wincheap development) 	Environment Team	On-going	From existing resources	M	1.12, 3.14, 3.25
10.0 Climate Change Mitigation							
10.1	Climate change mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue using the riverside area for climate change effect mitigation Organise a stakeholder workshop to explore further opportunities for climate change mitigation linked to the riverside area 	Environment Team and Planning Policy Team	On-going	From existing resources	H	1.13
11.0 CCC Strategies							
11.1	Strategies	Where appropriate, CCC to ensure that key CCC strategies that can have an impact on the environment (e.g. pollinator strategy) make specific recommendations about the riverside area	Environment Team	On-going	From existing resources	H	3.1

2.2.9 Within development and infrastructure

Development of GI Strategy (GI Strategy, 2018):

Canterbury City Council expects all development to support the priorities and objectives of this Green Infrastructure Strategy. Canterbury City Council intends to utilise both s106 and CIL contributions to take forward the priorities, objectives and actions of this strategy and to deliver the green infrastructure projects identified in the Action Plan and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

The adopted Local Plan sets out the need for those developers taking forward strategic sites to adopt Canterbury City Council's 'Garden City Principles' and master planning in the design of their development. This will include provision of public space and green infrastructure which will support the delivery of this strategy and its supporting strategies.

Smaller development will also be required to contribute to the priorities, objectives and actions of this strategy and its supporting strategies and, potentially, to contribute to specific projects identified in the Action Plan and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to ensure that all development is sustainable.

Development should also aim to deliver biodiversity 'net gain'. Biodiversity Net Gain is development that leaves biodiversity in a measurably better state than before. It is an approach where developers work with local governments, wildlife groups, land owners and other stakeholders in order to support their priorities for nature conservation. Ten good practice principles have been set out.

Natural England is developing revised methods for mitigating the impacts of development on great crested newts, due to be implemented in 2018. Under District Level Licensing, developers will pay an up-front fee to contribute to the creation of new habitat. Areas around Stodmarsh and The Blean are important pond creation or restoration area.



Development will be expected to contribute to the delivery of this strategy, potentially including (GI Strategy, 2018):

- Wildlife corridors and semi-natural green space
- Enhancement of biodiversity features
- Access corridors for pedestrians and cyclists
- Accessible green space
- Contribution to biodiversity and deliver of biodiversity 'net gain'
- Provision to ensure ongoing maintenance of green infrastructure
- Tree planting and retention of existing trees and woodland
- Sustainable drainage schemes
- Improvements to watercourses
- Green infrastructure network improvements which link to features beyond the development boundary
- Specific objectives and projects contained in this strategy and the Action Plan

Canterbury City Council Garden City Principles (GI Strategy, 2018):

- Mixed-tenure homes and housing types that are genuinely affordable for everyone
- A wide range of employment opportunities including local jobs within easy commuting distance of homes
- Well-designed quality homes with gardens, combining the best of town and country to create healthy communities including opportunities to grow food
- Development that enhances the natural environment, providing public open space and a comprehensive green infrastructure network and net biodiversity gains and energy positive technology to ensure climate resilience
- Strong cultural, recreational and shopping facilities in walkable, vibrant, sociable neighbourhoods.
- Integrated and accessible transport systems, with walking, cycling and public transport designed to be the most attractive forms of local transport



GI Strategic Priorities (GI Strategy, 2018):

Supporting healthy and active communities

Major new development must build communities and be planned in line with Canterbury City Council's 'Garden City Principles'.

Call to action:

Delivering the ambition of this green infrastructure strategy cannot be achieved by Canterbury City Council alone. It will require action by a range of partners and organisations. Developers will need to deliver green infrastructure on site and contribute to wider projects. Action by communities will also be critical, with great opportunities for local people to take forward the actions in this strategy.

Pollinator Strategy (Pollinator Strategy, 2023):

The Draft Canterbury District Local Plan To 2045 includes two measures to benefit pollinators. Firstly, developers must demonstrate how the needs of pollinators have been met – for example, through planting schemes. Secondly, walking and cycling routes should provide for ecological connectivity and pollinators wherever possible.

Policy SS1 - Environmental strategy for the district

2. Developments should provide multi-benefit connections or corridors between habitats, considering

ecological connectivity and pollinators, as well as accessibility and usability by people.

5. Development across the district will need to incorporate measures to deliver a minimum 20% biodiversity net gain in line with Policy DS21, having regard to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and/or

Nature Recovery Networks.

6. New developments of over 300 homes should incorporate a minimum of 20%

tree cover across the site, in line with Policy DS21, and all developments should incorporate new trees and hedgerows in areas of appropriate landscape character, to help restore and enhance degraded landscapes, screen noise and pollution, provide recreational opportunities, help mitigate climate

change and contribute to floodplain management.

7. New developments should provide and sustain a multifunctional and coherent green and, where appropriate, blue infrastructure network, which maximises the ecological potential of existing



assets, new open space provision, tree planting and other features of the development such as sustainable drainage systems and landscape buffers.

8. Proposals that increase the risk of flooding will be refused. New developments should aim to avoid Flood Zones 2 and 3, and provide appropriate flood risk management and sustainable

drainage systems, in line with Policy DS20.

Policy DS21 - Supporting biodiversity recovery

1. All proposals for major development must be accompanied by a Green and, where appropriate, Blue Infrastructure Strategy which demonstrates:

(a) On new developments of over 300 homes, a minimum of 20% tree cover (existing and new) across the site, in line with the council's Tree Strategy. Where ecologically appropriate, the tree cover can contribute to SUDS, open space and Biodiversity Net Gain contributions. All new developments should incorporate woodlands, trees and/ or street trees in keeping with the landscape character and to complement the intrinsic ecological interests of the development area;

(b) That existing open space, notable ecological features, and green and blue infrastructure, including ancient woodland, species rich or non improved grassland, hedgerows, trees, wetlands and river corridors, are conserved, enhanced, connected, and, where possible, extended;

(c) How the development will mitigate for and adapt to the effects of climate change and how this is reflected in the planting species mix and site management and maintenance regimes;

(d) An appropriate mix of green and blue infrastructure which conserves and enhances the distinctive character and special qualities of rural and urban landscapes, and the identity of settlements;

(e) That publicly accessible open space has been designed and integrated as part of the overall strategy, taking full advantage of the potential for balanced multiple benefits including increased physical activity, enhanced play, wildlife habitat, sustainable urban drainage, tree planting and landscape provision;

(f) How the development will provide for the needs of pollinators, such as through the selection and planting of pollinator friendly species, and the implementation of pollinators friendly management prescriptions;

(g) That the fragmentation of existing and proposed habitats and open spaces, within and adjacent to the site, has been avoided by maintaining, creating, extending or enhancing ecologically functioning networks, green corridors, and Public Rights of Way, including green bridges and tunnels where appropriate. These habitat connections should be managed over the long term as natural havens for wildlife and, where appropriate, multifunctional



for leisure, amenity and recreational use supporting pedestrian and cycle movement; and

(h) Consideration, and inclusion where appropriate, of opportunities for improving connectivity of habitats in strategically important Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy; and

(i) Provision for the funded, resourced and monitored long-term maintenance and management of all new and existing natural and semi natural assets, including landscape character, associated with the development. This includes consideration of the multi-benefits of the green and blue infrastructure such as:

(i) Promoting and encouraging the economic use of woodlands and wood resources, including wood fuel as a renewable energy source;

(ii) Promoting the growth and procurement of sustainable timber products;

(iii) Providing opportunities for outdoor education; and

(iv) Promoting species rich grassland that are typical of the local area and are managed by either grazing or hay cuts.

2. Proposals for non-major development will be expected to incorporate green and, where appropriate, blue infrastructure proportionately to the size and location of the proposed development and its impacts. As a minimum proposals must:

(a) Retain existing trees and hedgerows, and where possible increase tree cover and hedgerows;

(b) Ensure green and infrastructure provision is in-keeping with the local landscape character of the area;

(c) Consider opportunities for the multi-benefits of any proposed green or blue infrastructure;

(d) Mitigate for and adapt to the effects of climate change;

(e) Mitigate, and wherever possible avoid, any habitat fragmentation; and

(f) Conserve and where possible enhance, connect or extend Public Rights of Way networks;

(g) Retain, protect and enhance notable ecological features of conservation value such as ancient woodland, semi improved grassland, hedgerows, trees, wetlands, river corridors and other water bodies, and habitats that offer breeding or feeding sites of local importance to populations of protected or targeted species; and

(h) Provide details on the funded, resourced and monitored long-term maintenance and management plans of the green and blue infrastructure.



3. All proposals for development, other than those exempt through national legislation, will be required to demonstrate and deliver a minimum of 20% biodiversity net gain calculated using the latest Natural England biodiversity metric (or an alternative metric set out in legislation), and taking consideration of any national or local guidance on what values / multipliers should be used.

A biodiversity net gain plan, demonstrating how 20% ecologically functioning net gain will be achieved, will be required to be submitted to the council for approval. This should include information on:

(a) The pre and post development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat;

(b) How the hierarchy has been followed, including the subsequent values within the metric:

(i) Avoid or minimise biodiversity impacts;

(ii) On-site net gain provision;

(iii) Off-site net gain provision, within the district;

(iv) Purchased biodiversity credits for proposals within the district;

(v) In exceptional circumstances, complaint to national BNG policy, off-site provision or purchased biodiversity credits for outside of the district.

(c) Should provision not be secured entirely on-site it must be demonstrated that on site biodiversity opportunities have been maximised, including consideration of whether the amount of development proposed is appropriate;

(d) Ensuring the provision of ecologically functioning biodiversity net gain does not hinder the delivery of publicly accessible open space in accordance with the accessibility, quality and quantity standards set out in Policy DS24;

(e) Both on and off-site biodiversity net gain proposals must demonstrate how they align with government policy and any subsequent local guidance or strategies. Biodiversity net gain plans should incorporate appropriate opportunities identified within local strategies, such as Green Infrastructure Strategy, Ollinator Action Plan, Tree Strategy (Priority Creation Areas), Biodiversity Opportunity Areas, Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan;

(f) The monitoring and reporting mechanisms to be applied, and the frequency, to ensure the biodiversity net gain survives over its lifetime (as set out in national guidance, or subsequent local guidance);

(g) Biological data must be shared with Kent and Medway Biological Record Centre in a format suitable for the Record Centre; and



(h) Where ecologically appropriate, the provision of SuDS, the tree cover requirements and semi-natural habitat required as part of the open space typology provision, can contribute to biodiversity net gain above 10%.

4. Proposals for development which would result in the loss of, or damage to, or threaten the future retention of trees, hedgerows, woodland that make an important contribution to the amenity of the site and the surrounding area and which are important to wild flora and fauna, will only be granted where:

(a) The need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss; and

(b) Adequate mitigation and compensation measures and an implementation plan are agreed with the council. Where trees are unavoidably lost, ensure they are replaced with appropriate native species to a ratio of three new trees to every lost tree, and planting takes place within the first winter season and mechanisms are agreed to ensure the trees are maintained for two summers and replaced if they fail within three years.

Policy SS4 - Movement and Transportation Strategy for the district

7. New development should be designed to help improve the air quality of the district as a whole.

Sustainable transport measures, such as the provision of electric charging infrastructure, shared transport initiatives, improved active travel connectivity as well as green infrastructure such as green roofs and walls, hedges and street trees will help to reduce air pollution and exposure in line with Policy DS16.

Policy DS6 - Sustainable design

8. Reflecting other policies in this plan, including site allocation policies where relevant, masterplans for proposals of over 300 homes should:

(a) Be based on garden city principles;

(b) Set out a vision, and a statement of aims and objectives which considers a wider strategic context and forms a brief for the spatial masterplan;

(c) Set out strategies for: (i) Community engagement; (ii) Development mix including affordable housing; (iii) Community services, facilities and infrastructure; (iv) Health, culture and heritage;

(v) Economic development; (vi) Energy, water, resources and waste and recycling; (vii) Open space, and green and blue infrastructure; (viii) Sustainable transport and active travel; (ix) Implementation, phasing and infrastructure delivery; and (x) Long term management and community stewardship, including governance arrangements.



(d) Provide a framework for the use of a design code.

10. All proposals for development should:

(b) Promote social interaction and foster a sense of place, through legible public spaces and tree-lined streets accessible local facilities and, where appropriate, incorporating a mix of uses, contributing towards well-being, inclusion and cohesion;

(c) Integrate new public realm and open spaces with existing movement and networks and permeability, incorporating appropriate seating, shade and shelter, and improving the quality and function and legibility of existing routes where possible;

(d) Promote healthy lifestyles by making walking, cycling and low-carbon travel modes easy, safe and accessible, with wide footways and dedicated cycleways where possible which link to the off site walking and cycling network including PROW;

(e) Provide or contribute towards a comprehensive green and blue infrastructure network, incorporating existing and new natural features and open spaces into a multifunctional network

that supports quality of place, biodiversity and water management, and provides climate change mitigation and resilience;

f) Provide or contribute towards an appropriate hierarchy of openspaces, including parks, squares, greens and pocket parks, to provide accessible and inclusive open spaces for play, food production, recreation and sport to encourage physical activity and promote well-being and social inclusion;

(g) Be designed based on an understanding of the site and its context, and integrate with and positively respond to the local character, heritage and existing communities, including in terms of its connectivity and its landscape and visual impact;

Strategic objectives for the district

Positively exploit the delivery of infrastructure needed to support growth to maximise the benefits for existing residents and businesses while ensuring critical infrastructure is delivered at the right time to support development.

Provide affordable high-quality housing for people at every stage in their lives, as part of mixed, sustainable communities.

Ensure housing is of high-quality design, is low-carbon and energy and water efficient as part of healthy communities with easy access to community facilities and open space.



Take advantage of and improve our links to and from London and the Continent, while creating a transport network which enables most residents, particularly those in the urban areas, to access their day-to-day needs locally through healthy, environmentally-friendly journeys.

Positively exploit the delivery of infrastructure needed to support growth to maximise the benefits for existing residents and businesses while ensuring critical infrastructure is delivered at the right time to support development.

2.3 HABITAT CREATION

2.3.1 Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure Policy SS1 - Environmental strategy for the district

1. Provision is made for a range of new open spaces and sports and recreation facilities including a minimum of:

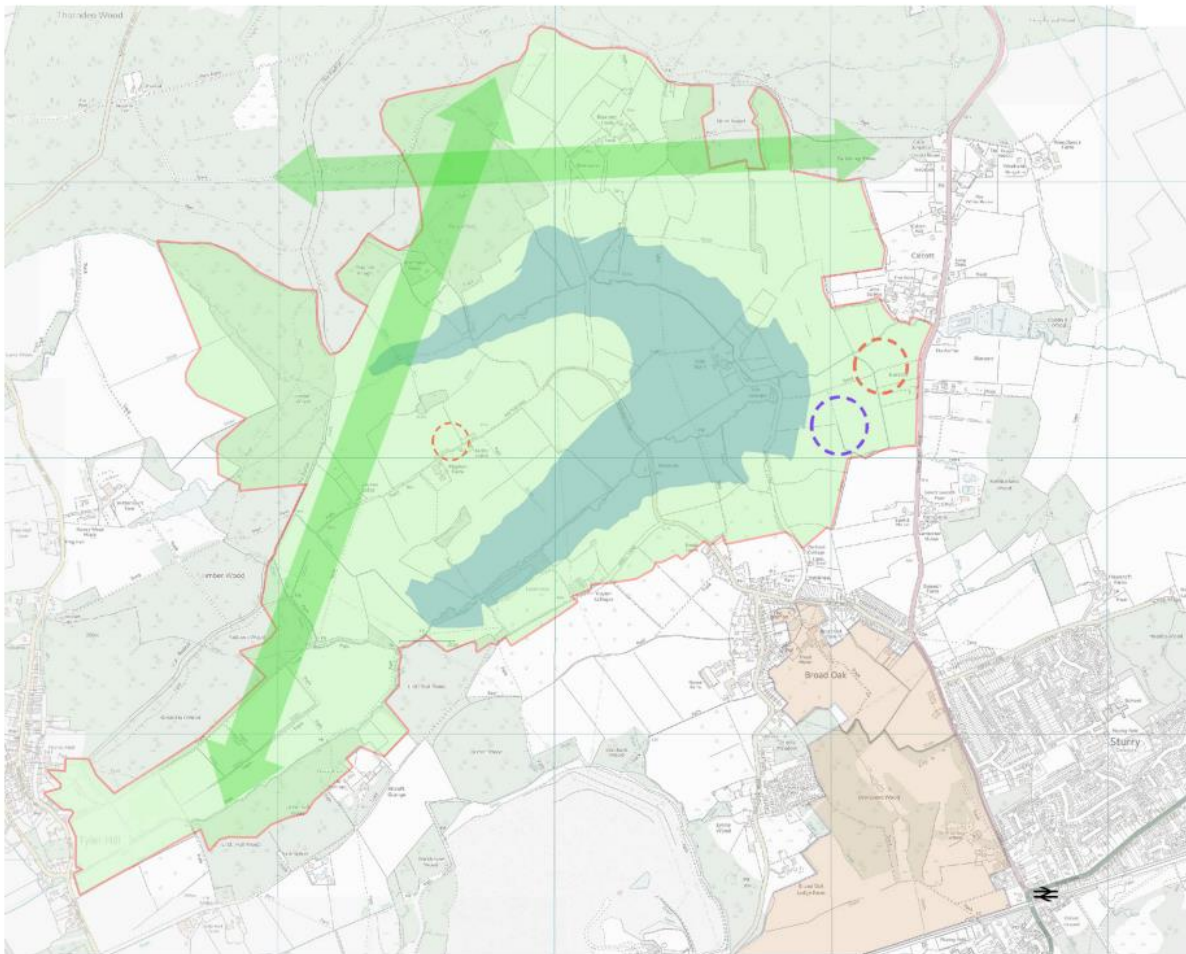
- (a) 75ha of natural and semi natural open space
- (b) 46ha of amenity open space (including green corridors)
- (c) 15ha of parks and gardens
- (d) 10ha of play facilities
- (e) 279 allotment plots covering 7ha
- (f) 16ha of accessible outdoor sports
- (g) sports facilities to support new education provision
- (h) Broad Oak Reservoir Country Park covering some 440ha.

Broad Oak Reservoir and Country Park

Policy R17 - Broad Oak Reservoir and Country Park

Site R17 is allocated for a new reservoir and country park. The site presents a key opportunity for water infrastructure to support development in the district and wider area - as outlined in South East Water's adopted Business Plan. The provision of leisure facilities on the site is a unique offering for the district and allows the site to deliver both functional and recreational benefits for local communities.

Broad Oak Reservoir and Country Park – concept masterplan



Key

-  Site boundary
-  Indicative extent of country park
-  Indicative extent of reservoir
-  Carried Forward 2017 Local Plan strategic site allocations
-  Visitor centres- Indicative locations
-  Water treatment works -Indicative location
-  Opportunities for green corridors

3. Landscape and green infrastructure

The green and blue infrastructure strategy for the site should:

- (a) Provide sustainable urban drainage which makes use of the existing topography and natural features of the site where appropriate;*
- (b) Provide 20% biodiversity net gain, in line with Policy DS21;*
- (c) Assess the site’s potential to be functionally linked land for golden plover, in line with Policy DS17;*



- (d) Incorporate opportunities for landscape and biodiversity enhancements identified within the Local Character Area E2: Sarre Penn Valley set out in Canterbury Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal;*
- (e) Retain and where appropriate enhance the ancient woodland and West Blean & Thornden Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest;*
- (f) Ensure a substantial buffer between any development and the West Blean & Thornden Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest, ancient woodland and Little Hall and Kemberland Woods and Pasture Local Wildlife Site;*
- (g) Aim to retain as much priority habitat as possible, and provide adequate mitigation where this is not possible;*
- (h) Provide habitat, pollinator and ecological connectivity across the site and with the surrounding landscape, including with fragment woodland, ancient woodland and priority habitats; and*
- (i) Conserve or enhance the PRoW network across the site ensuring key views from the network are protected and that the network provides multiple benefits such as being designed as part of green corridors.*

2.3.2 Biodiversity

Canterbury are in the process of writing the Canterbury District Biodiversity Strategy- An Action Plan for Nature Recovery. This is due to be published in 2024 and is being worked on alongside the LNRS process, creating a more localised version of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the district.

2.4 SPECIES SPECIFIC

2.4.1 Blue Infrastructure (Riverside Strategy, 2023):

The river and its associated drainage channels are key habitat features supporting a range of fish, mammals, birds and invertebrates. Chalk rivers are characterised by clear water of shallow depths, an abundance of river gravels, good assemblages of plants and relatively stable water flows. Through good water catchment management the environment of the Great Stour should be supporting trout, eels, water voles, otter, our native crayfish, bats and a wide range of birds in good numbers.



SECTION 3: WIDER ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

3.1 GOAL 2: AIR QUALITY (Draft Local Plan, 2024)

The main source of air pollution in the district is road traffic emissions from major roads in the City of Canterbury, notably the A2, A28 and A290. The plans to increase active travel in the Transport Strategy aim to ensure that the increased population of the district does not adversely affect air quality. Green infrastructure may also support other measures to improve air quality, for example through urban greening measures in the centre of the City of Canterbury, which will also create a more attractive environment for walking and cycling. However, urban tree and landscape planting cannot eliminate air pollution, as more pollutants are produced by traffic than can be absorbed.

[Air Quality \(arcqis.com\)](https://arcqis.com)- Air Quality Management Areas Map

Strategic objectives for the district:

Create a transport network with a focus on district-wide public transport and low-carbon travel to improve air quality and people's health while ensuring excellent access to city and town centres on foot, cycle and by public transport.

Policy SS4 - Movement and Transportation Strategy for the district

7. New development should be designed to help improve the air quality of the district as a whole.

Policy DS16 - Air quality

1. Proposals for major development in the district will be required to undertake an emissions mitigation assessment and cost calculation in line with the council's air quality guidance to demonstrate that the development will be air quality neutral and will not lead to a net increase in emissions.

2. Proposals for major development within, or which would impact upon, designated Air Quality Management Areas will also be required to undertake an air quality assessment, in accordance with the council's air quality guidance.



3.2 GOAL 3: CLEAN AND PLENTIFUL WATER

The water environment is essential in providing water to drink and for industry, as well as bringing a host of biodiversity and amenity benefits. Green infrastructure can be effective in improving the water environment, supporting improvements in water quality, quantity, biodiversity, flooding and amenity benefits. (GI Strategy, 2018)

District needs (GI Strategy, 2018):

For high quality water resources, in water courses, aquifers and coastal waters. For management of water flows, flood alleviation and control and infiltration into aquifers. To protect and enhance high quality biodiversity, including chalk streams.

Policy DM16 - Water pollution (Draft Local Plan, 2024):

- 1. Proposals to enhance existing aquatic environments and ecosystems will be supported.*
- 2. Any new development should not compromise Water Framework Directive objectives, and will ensure that the water environment does not deteriorate, both during construction and during the lifetime of the development.*
- 3. Developers shall undertake thorough risk assessments of the impact of proposals on surface and groundwater systems considering appropriate avoidance measures before incorporating appropriate mitigation measures where necessary.*
- 4. Development will not be permitted where it would:*
 - (a) Prejudice the quality or quantity of surface or groundwater; or*
 - (b) Have an adverse impact on groundwater protection zones or drinking water safeguard zones; or*
 - (c) Have an adverse impact on water dependent protected sites or species.*
- 5. Agricultural development or changes in land use will also need to demonstrate how they are taking account of, and minimising, any harm to nitrate vulnerable zones.*

3.3 GOAL 4: MANAGING EXPOSURE TO CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES



3.4 GOAL 5: MAXIMISE OUR RESOURCES, MINIMISE OUR WASTE (Draft Local Plan, 2024)

Policy DM4 - Reducing waste and supporting the circular economy

- 1. Proposals for development should demonstrate the use of recycled or secondary materials.*
- 2. Proposals for major development shall demonstrate how waste from the construction and lifecycle of the development has been minimised through a Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP) at full application or reserved matters stage.*
- 3. As a minimum the CEMP should include an outline of the approach to site waste management including dust and vehicle movements, and how construction waste will be addressed following the waste hierarchy such as through the on-site re-use of materials such as soils.*
- 4. Proposals for major development should also submit a Circular Economy Statement, either as a standalone document or as part of the CEMP, setting out:
 - (a) How materials arising from demolition and remediation works will be reused and/or recycled; and*
 - (b) How the design and construction of the development will reduce material demands and enable building materials, components and products to be disassembled and re-used at the end of their useful life, following design for disassembly principles.**
- 5. Relevant development at all scales must provide adequate, flexible and easily accessible waste management storage space and collection systems in line with the requirements of the Kent Design Guide (or successor documents). Proposals that meet these requirements or propose innovative approaches to waste management will be supported.*

3.5 GOAL 6: USING RESOURCES FROM NATURE SUSTAINABLY (Draft Local Plan, 2024)

Policy SS1 - Environmental strategy for the district

- 9. Opportunities for carbon sequestration and for the development of renewable and low-carbon sources of energy will be actively supported within all new developments. Large scale carbon sequestration and renewable power generation applications will be encouraged, in line with Policy DS25.*



3.6 GOAL 7: MITIGATING AND ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Strategic objectives for the district (Draft Local Plan, 2024):

Reduce the causes of climate change and adapt to ensure all district developments enable the carbon emissions reduction and increased resilience as quickly as possible.

Action Plan (Climate Change Action Plan, 2021):

Through this plan, the Council commits to achieving:

- Net zero emissions by 2030 from the council's operations and assets
- Net zero emissions by 2050 across the full range of activities needed to support the council's work
- Climate resilience in the services, public buildings and infrastructure that supports the district

Across the district we will:

- Work with all stakeholder groups to accelerate the transition to net zero
- Support residents, business, institutions and communities to reach net zero
- Invest in making the district more resilient to extreme weather and flooding
Canterbury City

Council will do this through enabling major investment in:

- Improving energy efficiency at our council buildings and properties
- Enhancing carbon removal in our open spaces
- Protecting our shared natural resources
- Driving net zero through our supply chain
- Integrating climate considerations into all our decisions

Actions to build climate resilience:

- Embed resilience measures into our upgrade plans for our owned and operated buildings.
- Upskill our workforce on climate resilience
- Embed a climate resilience focus into all our decision-making
- Incorporate resilient design into the council's work in the public realm, natural and open spaces



Climate resilience actions				
Reference	Action	Responsibility	Target	Timescale
CR1	District adaptation plan	Climate Change Officer	With KCC, develop a district adaptation plan (building on the Kent Climate Change Risk and Impact Assessment)	2021

District climate actions				
Reference	Action	Responsibility	Target	Timescale
DCA1	Make climate action a priority in the revised Local Plan 2021-2040	Planning	Put in place a new plan that prioritises measures to reduce district emissions and create climate resilience	For public consultation in mid 2021
DCA2	District level carbon budgets	Climate Change Partnership Board	Working with KCC and district partners, agree district level carbon budgets and secure pan-district buy-in	2021-22
DCA3	Energy Innovation Area	Climate Change Officer	With KCC and other strategic partners, develop an Energy Innovation Area in the district to enable Energy and Low Emissions Strategy projects	2022
DCA4	District engagement	Corporate Communications / Climate Change Officer	Communicate climate change action broadcast of opportunities for residents and businesses and engagement and consultation on council plans.	Ongoing
DCA5	Clean Air Zone	Climate Change Officer (with Transport Team and Air Quality)	Develop Clean Air Zone feasibility options	2021
DCA6	Transport strategy	Climate Change Officer (with Transport Team and Air Quality)	Include evaluation of carbon emissions reduction for the actions within the transport strategy.	2021-22

Green Infrastructure priorities (GI Strategy, 2018):

Being fit for the future:

The district needs to build resilience. Climate change will create many pressures; reduced summer rainfall will put water resources under more strain, whereas in winter there is likely to be more flooding. Urban areas will become hotter. Trees will be at greater risk of pests and diseases and biodiversity, particularly vulnerable and isolated fragments of habitats, will be at risk. Canterbury City Council must also ensure that delivery and maintenance of green infrastructure is in place in a time of reduced resources.

Riverside Strategy Action Plan (Riverside Strategy, 2023):

No	Subject	Action	Lead	End date	Possible funding sources	Priority	Workshop notes
10.0 Climate Change Mitigation							
10.1	Climate change mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue using the riverside area for climate change effect mitigation Organise a stakeholder workshop to explore further opportunities for climate change mitigation linked to the riverside area 	Environment Team and Planning Policy Team	On-going	From existing resources	H	1.13



3.7 GOAL 8: REDUCE RISK OF HARM FROM ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Policy DM19 - Contamination and unstable land (Draft Local Plan, 2024):

Proposals for development on sites which may have or are suspected to have contamination or at risk due to land instability, or involve hazardous installations or substances, will only be approved, where:

(a) In the case of land contamination, a Land Contamination Report is provided. Appropriate investigation and assessment should be undertaken to identify the nature, extent and risks associated with the contamination, and evidence has been provided that remediation can be undertaken to reduce any risk to an acceptable level for its proposed use; and

(b) In the case of development involving the erection of buildings or structures on suspected unstable land, a stability report is undertaken, and where instability is present, acceptable remedial measures are proposed before or as part of the development; and

(c) The proposal involves the use, production, storage or management of hazardous substances and there is no unacceptable risk to public health or safety, the general amenity of the area or environmental interests. Where the above criteria are satisfied conditions may be attached to any permission to ensure that appropriate monitoring is carried out, remediation measures are completed (through submission of a completion certificate) and the site is made suitable for use before development starts.

3.8 GOAL 9: ENHANCE BIOSECURITY

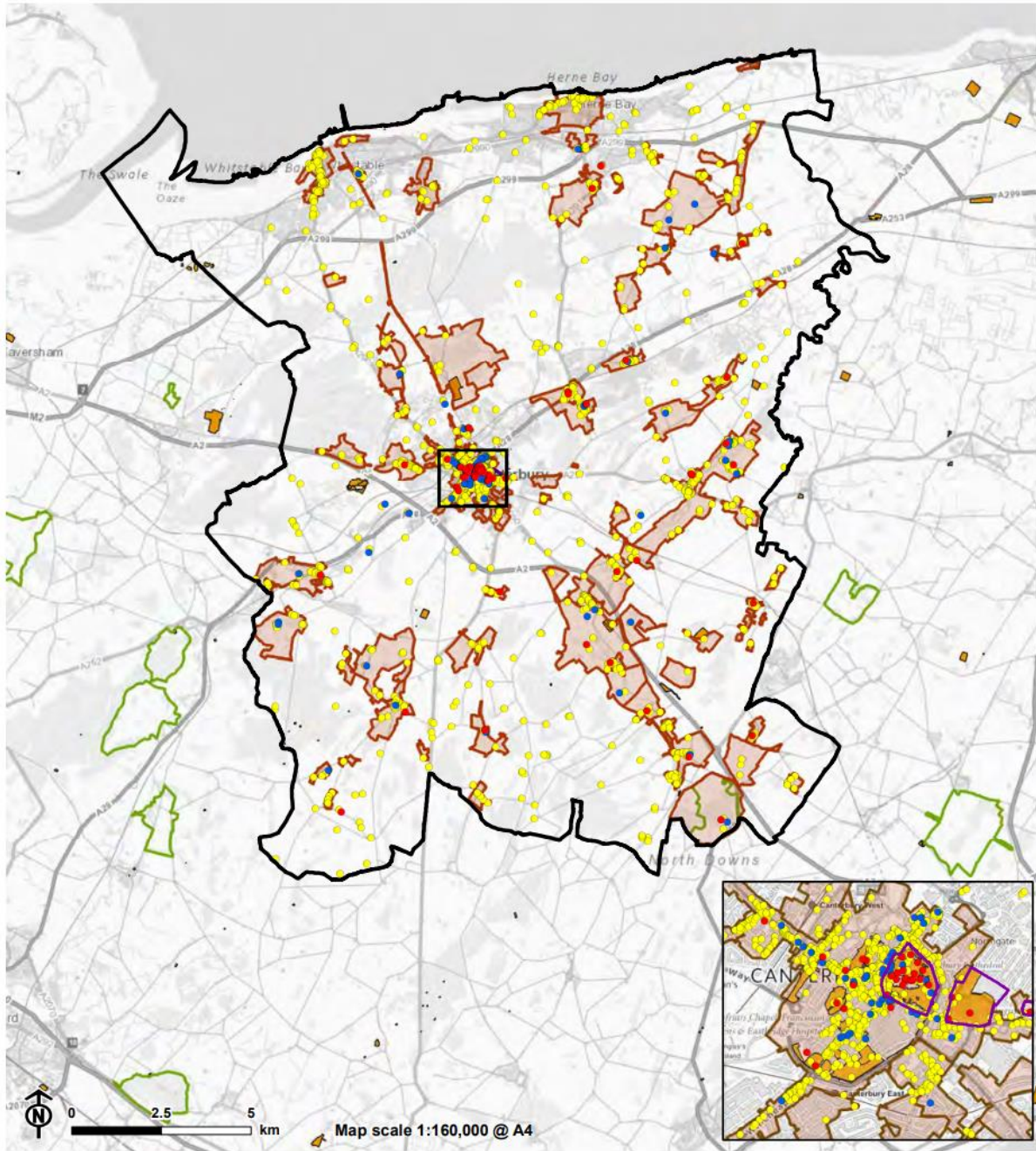
3.9 GOAL 10: ENHANCE BEAUTY, HERITAGE AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

3.9.1 Heritage

Policy SS1 - Environmental strategy for the district (Draft Local Plan, 2024):









4. The district's heritage assets, which make a significant contribution to the local economy, culture and quality of life in the district, will be preserved and enhanced in line with Policy DS26. The council will continue to work with partners to ensure the UNESCO Canterbury World Heritage Site is protected and its accessibility and connectivity are improved.

Cultural Heritage destinations (Landscape Character Assessment, 2020):



CB:CB EB:Bean C:LUC FIG3_9_10717_CulturalHeritage_A4P 12/02/2020
 Source: Historic England, Canterbury City Council

Figure 3.8: Cultural Heritage Designations

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Canterbury City Council boundary |  Scheduled monument |
|  World Heritage Site |  Registered parks and gardens |
|  Listed building grade I |  Conservation area |
|  Listed building grade II* | |
|  Listed building grade II | |



3.9.2 Health and wellbeing

Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2018:

Although health in Canterbury district is generally good and is at or above the England average, there is variation across the district, with a large discrepancy between those areas in the best and the poorest health. Some of the areas of poorest health also coincide with areas which lack accessible green infrastructure.

District needs:

- That green space and the natural environment support the improvement of health and wellbeing, particularly those with poorer health, and to tackle those health inequalities which can be improved through green infrastructure.
- To support strategies and actions to improve air quality.

GI Strategic priorities:

Supporting healthy and active communities

Green infrastructure can directly support better health and wellbeing. It is important that everyone, including those in areas with more people in poorer health, and in both urban and rural areas, have access to green space for healthy exercise and recreation and to experience nature. To maximise use this must be high quality and well maintained. Major new development must build communities and be planned in line with Canterbury City Council's 'Garden City Principles'.

Tranquillity (Landscape Character Assessment, 2020):

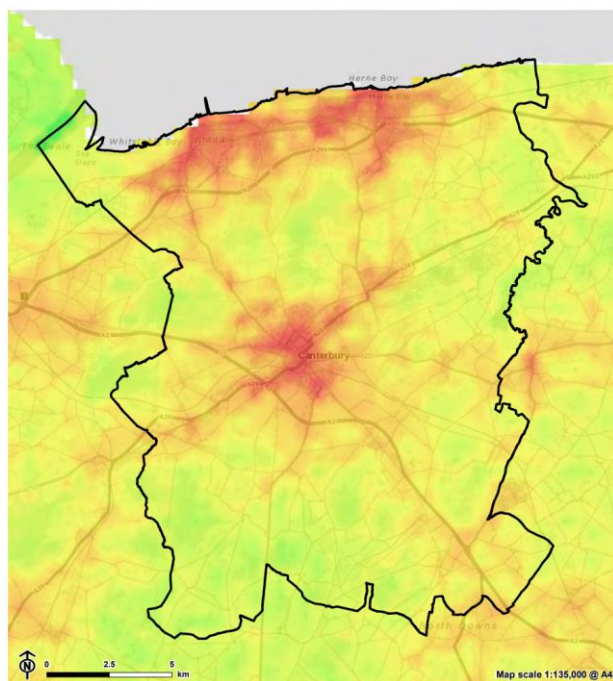


Figure 3.9: Tranquillity
Canterbury City Council Boundary
Most Level of tranquillity Least



Policy DM17 - Noise, odour and dust pollution

- 1. Where appropriate, new developments should integrate adequate noise insulation for future residents to ensure the ongoing viability of existing surrounding uses is not compromised.*
- 2. Developments in close proximity to existing uses which produce significant noise, such as roads, commercial or leisure uses, will provide a noise survey to determine if any necessary measures are required. If any measures are identified, the applicant must demonstrate how these have been included within the scheme.*
- 3. Developments which will increase noise pollution for existing communities and uses will need to demonstrate how they will avoid, or minimise and mitigate their impacts.*
- 4. Where any significant noise pollution cannot be adequately mitigated a proposal will be refused.*
- 5. For developments recognised to produce significant noise, noise management is required throughout development. For developments which have determined necessary measures to mitigate noise pollution, management is required to ensure noise is appropriately minimised and mitigation is maintained.*
- 6. Developments which produce significant odour or are in close proximity to existing uses which produce significant odour, will provide an Odour Management Plan. Where odour effects are assessed as significant, details of appropriate mitigation measures will be required.*
- 7. Where appropriate, new developments will provide a Construction Environmental Management Plan to set out how noise, odour and dust produced during construction, will be mitigated and how management will be maintained throughout the course of construction.*

3.9.3 Access to nature

Strategic objectives for the district (Draft Local Plan, 2024):

Create a transport network with a focus on district-wide public transport and low-carbon travel to improve air quality and people's health while ensuring excellent access to city and town centres on foot, cycle and by public transport.



Policy SS4 - Movement and Transportation Strategy for the district (Draft Local Plan, 2024):

3. Improvements to connectivity and public realm at the coastal towns, including the provision of a park and bus facility and new A299 access at Whitstable, completion of the Crab and Winkle Way cycle and pedestrian path to the harbour and improvements to traffic management will reduce congestion and help to improve the town centre environments.

The delivery of a coastal network of segregated cycle lanes and cycle parking infrastructure will support an increase in active travel journeys, with improved connectivity to the city and rural areas.

4. The council will continue to work with partners to improve public transport connectivity in the rural areas and to maximise opportunities to improve walking and cycling routes to connect rural settlements with each other and to the urban areas within the district.

5. The council will promote the use of Park and Ride sites as transport hubs with links to alternative modes of transport and as centres for sustainable last-mile delivery solutions.

6. New development should ensure easy and safe pedestrian and cycle connectivity is available, including segregated cycle lanes where achievable, with high levels of connectivity to the wider network, including within and between neighbourhoods. Public spaces, streets and movement networks provided through new developments should be accessible for all ages and levels of mobility and promote healthy lifestyles. Walking, cycling and active, low carbon, sustainable transport modes (such as public transport stops) should be prioritised in line with Policy DS13, over private cars with traffic speeds limited within new neighbourhoods.

Policy DS14 - Active and sustainable travel (Draft Local Plan, 2024):

1. Proposals for development must demonstrate how they will maximise high quality walking and cycling connectivity both within the site and to local facilities, open spaces and public transport networks including bus and rail. Existing Public Rights of Way should be retained or, where necessary and where the need outweighs the harm, rerouted and upgraded to avoid development, providing a publicly accessible, high quality route, subject to KCC statutory processes. Developments will be expected to improve off-site routes to ensure high quality connectivity and accessibility where necessary. Proposals within settlement boundaries should be designed to ensure that walking and cycling routes from the development are more convenient than vehicular routes. Routes and access should be designed to be safe and inclusive and meet the needs of all pedestrians and cyclists, including disabled people and the mobility impaired.

There are many public rights of way, promoted routes and cycle routes in the district. Canterbury City Council's Transport Strategy aims to improve access and promote sustainable modes of transport, achieving reliable vehicle journey times and supporting sustainable development. An important component of this is an increase in active travel through walking and cycling. Canterbury City Council will make these routes accessible to all wherever possible. (Draft Local Plan, 2024)

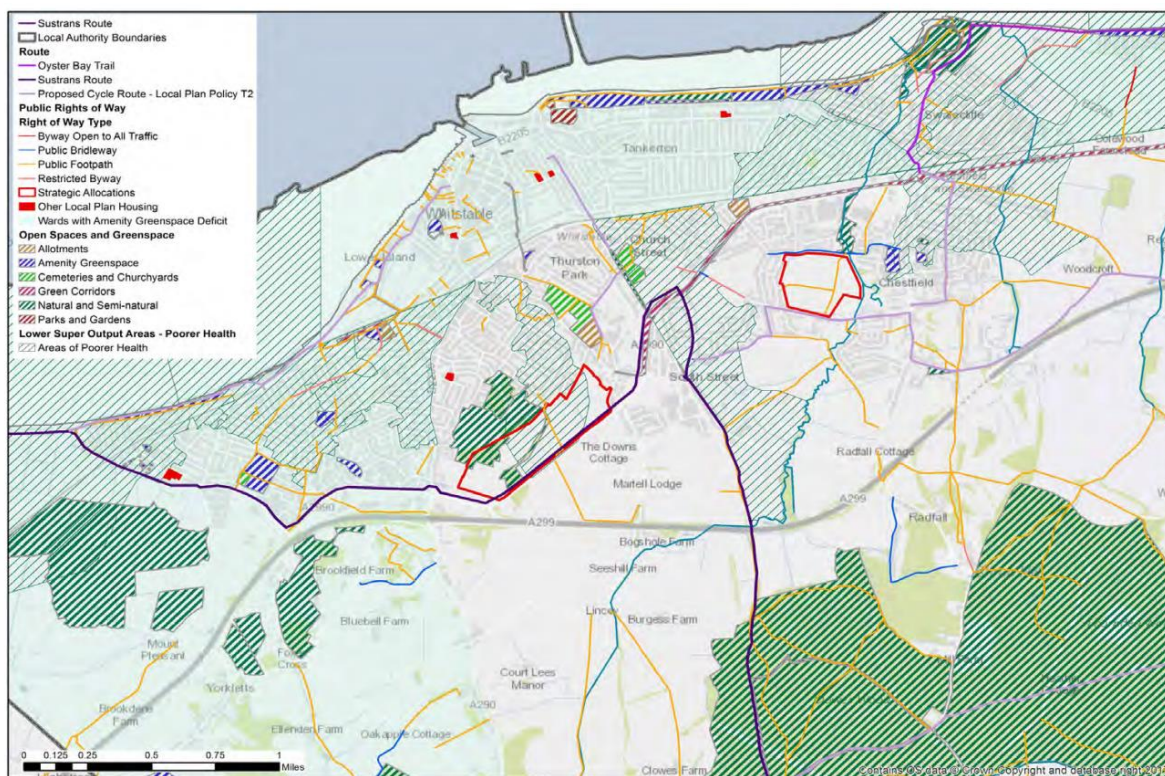
Green Infrastructure Needs (GI Strategy, 2018):

- That the provision of accessible open space and greenspace meets Canterbury City Council's standards now and in the future.
- To continue to develop a sustainable travel network to accommodate Canterbury district's growing population, improving connectivity and creating new links in areas of high demand.
- That access, active travel and amenity provision are integrated with green infrastructure to maximise multiple benefits.

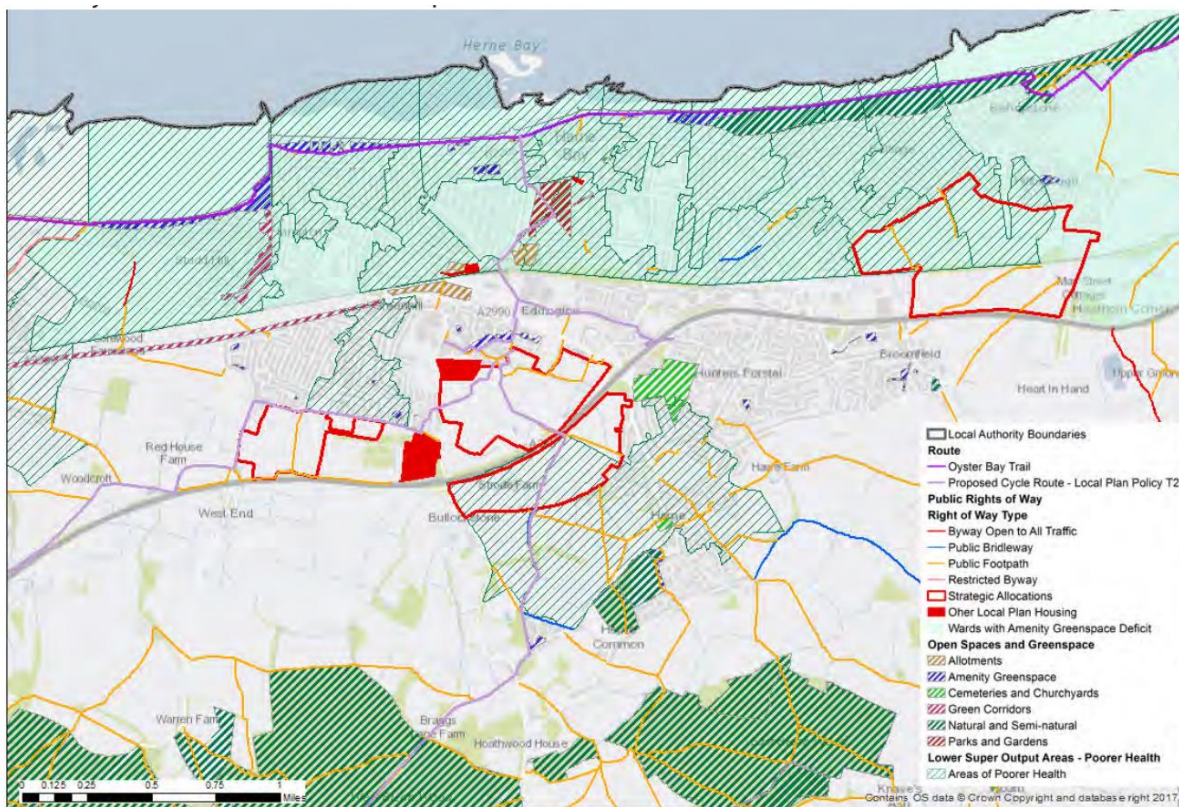
To effectively promote access opportunities to promote health and wellbeing and support the visitor economy.

Accessible Green Space Network (GI Strategy, 2018):

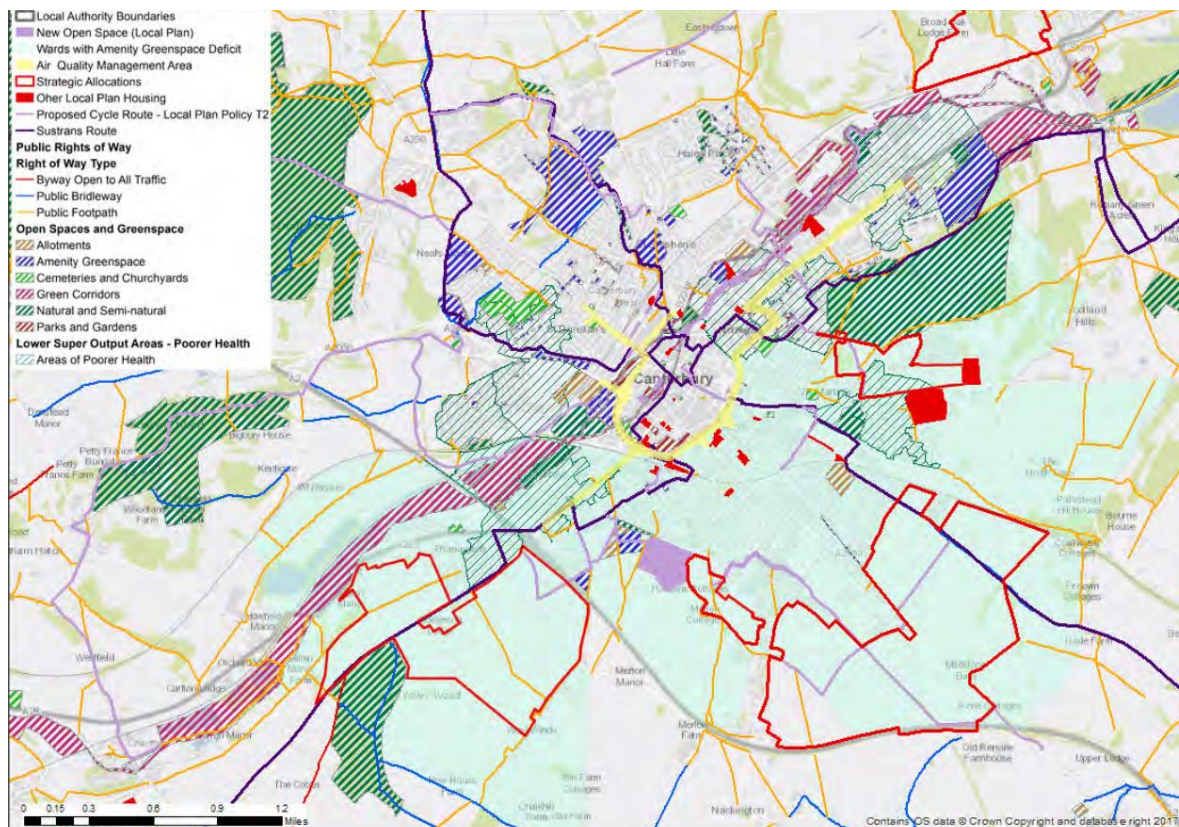
Whitstable's Access and Accessible Green Space Network:



Herne Bay's Access and Accessible Green Space Network:



City of Canterbury's Access and Accessible Green Space Network:



Accessible Blue Infrastructure Network (Riverside Strategy, 2023):

Enhancing Existing Sections:

The Action Plan in chapter 9.0 sets out a detailed list of improvements to existing sections of the riverside to explore. These include:

- Widening of existing paths to provide improved shared space for walking and cycling
- Improve existing pathway surfacing where required
- Upgrade lighting to LED (bat friendly) where required
- Upgrade of existing furniture and identifying new furniture required, including seating, railings and litter bins
- Improve signage along the riverside route including signage at key entrance points and interpretation signage
- Wildlife and habitat enhancement at key locations
- Continued control of invasive species
- In-channel river and riverbank enhancements
- Monitoring and responding to litter and fly tipping
- Condition surveys will be carried out by the council and CRG to determine and prioritise investment opportunities.

Creating missing sections of riverside paths

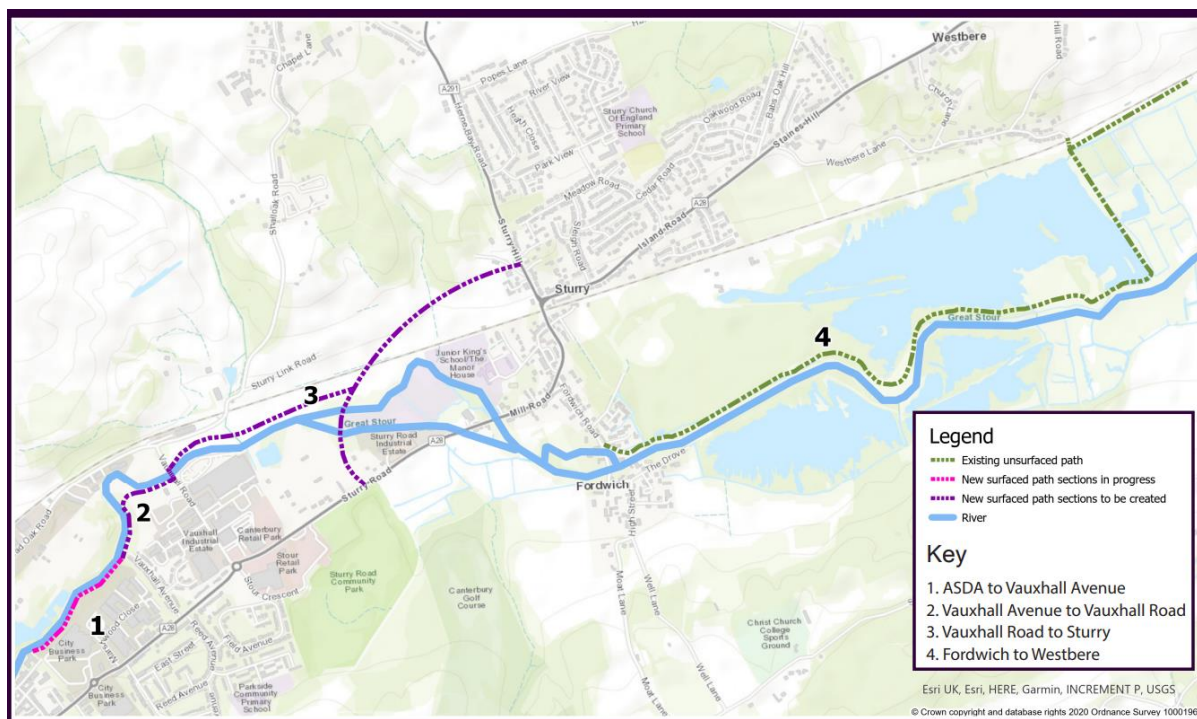




Table 3: Missing sections of access path

Number	Name	Landowner	Approximate length of new path	Construction cost estimate May 2023	Funding Source(s)
1.0	ASDA to Vauxhall Avenue Path to Asda from city was completed 2021	CCC	480m	£160,000 - completion programmed for 2023	s.106
2.0	Vauxhall Avenue to Vauxhall Road including bridge to northern bank	CCC	460m	£450,000 estimated 2025 completion subject to funding	Active Travel England
3.0	Vauxhall Road to Sturry Note: alignment of route changed to link to the footway/ cycleway that will be constructed as part of Sturry link road Not sure that the mapping is correct here. It ought to show Sturry link road	South Eastern Power Networks Plc TBC - change of route may mean that landowners have changed.	1,350m	£350,000 - to be considered when Sturry link road is completed in 2025	s.106 and IDP or future bid to Active Travel England

Note: estimated construction costs include path construction, furniture, signage, planting and bridges where identified.

In some cases implementation will involve land purchase or legal agreements with landowners. These potential costs, unknown at the time of writing this strategy, have not been included in the above table.

Policy SS1 - Environmental strategy for the district (Draft Local Plan, 2024):

1. Provision is made for a range of new open spaces and sports and recreation facilities including a minimum of:

- (a) 75ha of natural and semi natural open space***
- (b) 46ha of amenity open space (including green corridors)***
- (c) 15ha of parks and gardens***
- (d) 10ha of play facilities***
- (e) 279 allotment plots covering 7ha***
- (f) 16ha of accessible outdoor sports***
- (g) sports facilities to support new education provision***
- (h) Broad Oak Reservoir Country Park covering some 440ha.***

3.9.4 Recreation

Open Space

The council’s Playing Pitch Strategy (2020) and the draft Canterbury District Open Spaces Strategy (2024) clearly identify the need for new and improved open spaces and sports facilities over the period of the Local Plan to respond to the pressures that additional growth will place on existing provision, including in areas of the district which already experience deficits in specific typologies of open space.

Alongside the provision of new open spaces, it is important that existing publicly accessible open spaces are protected for future generations. The draft Canterbury

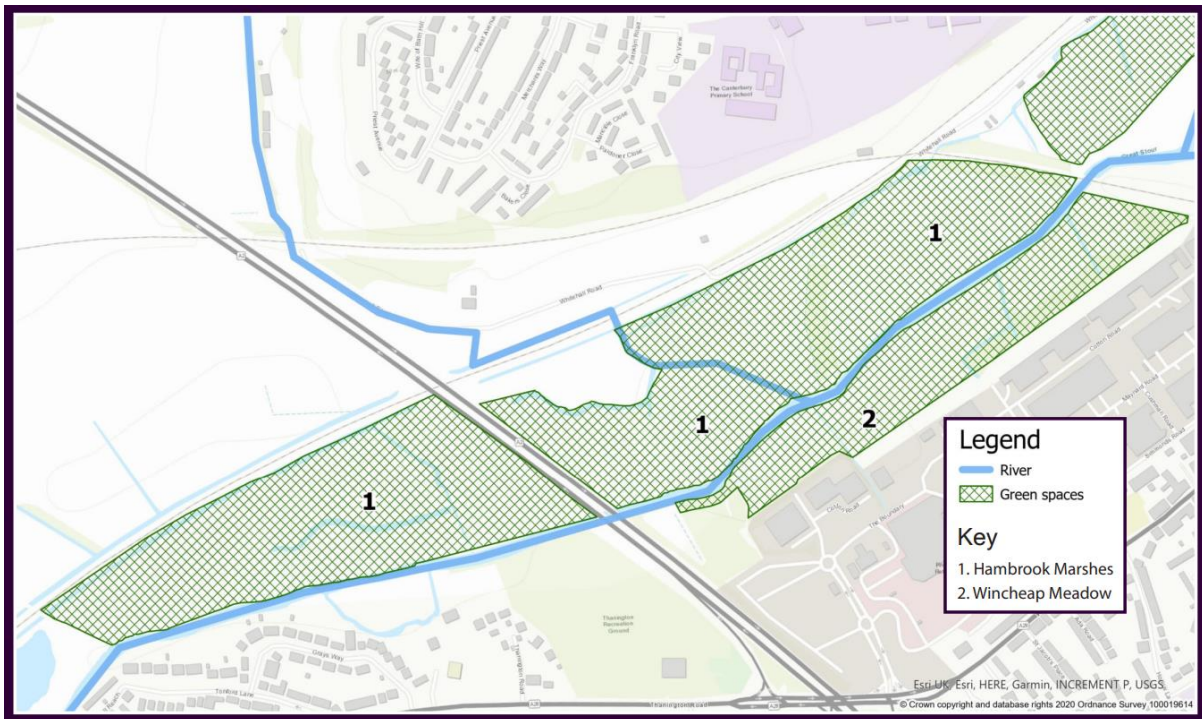


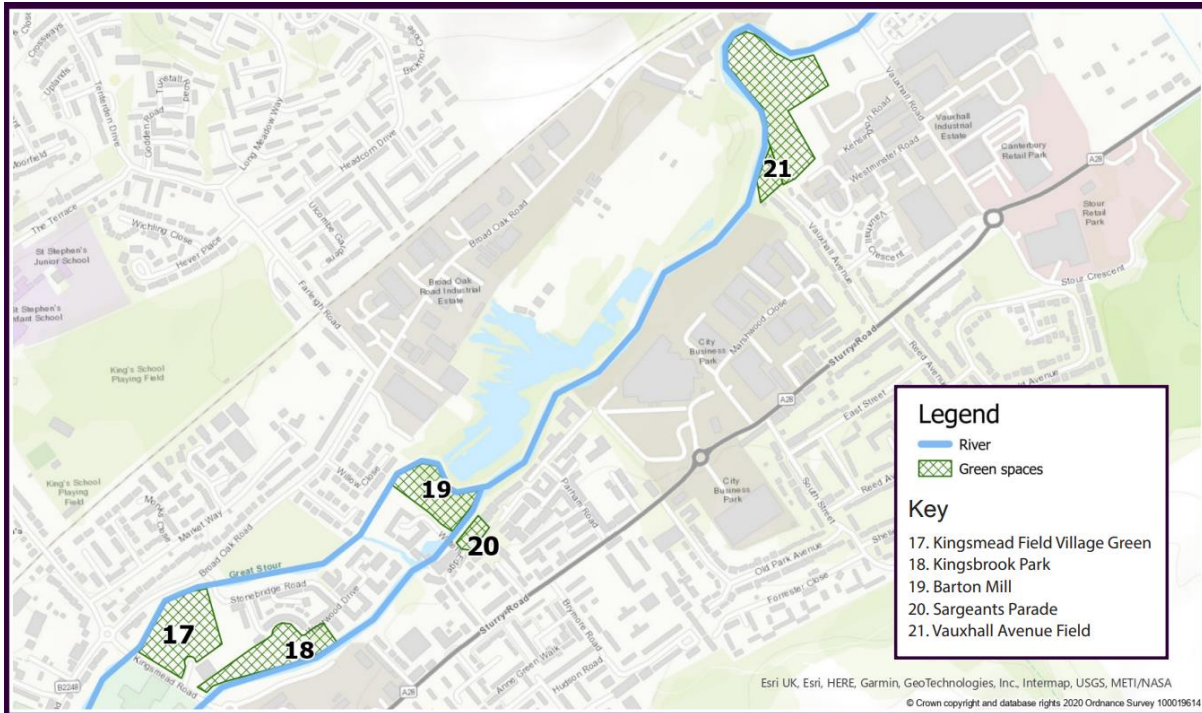
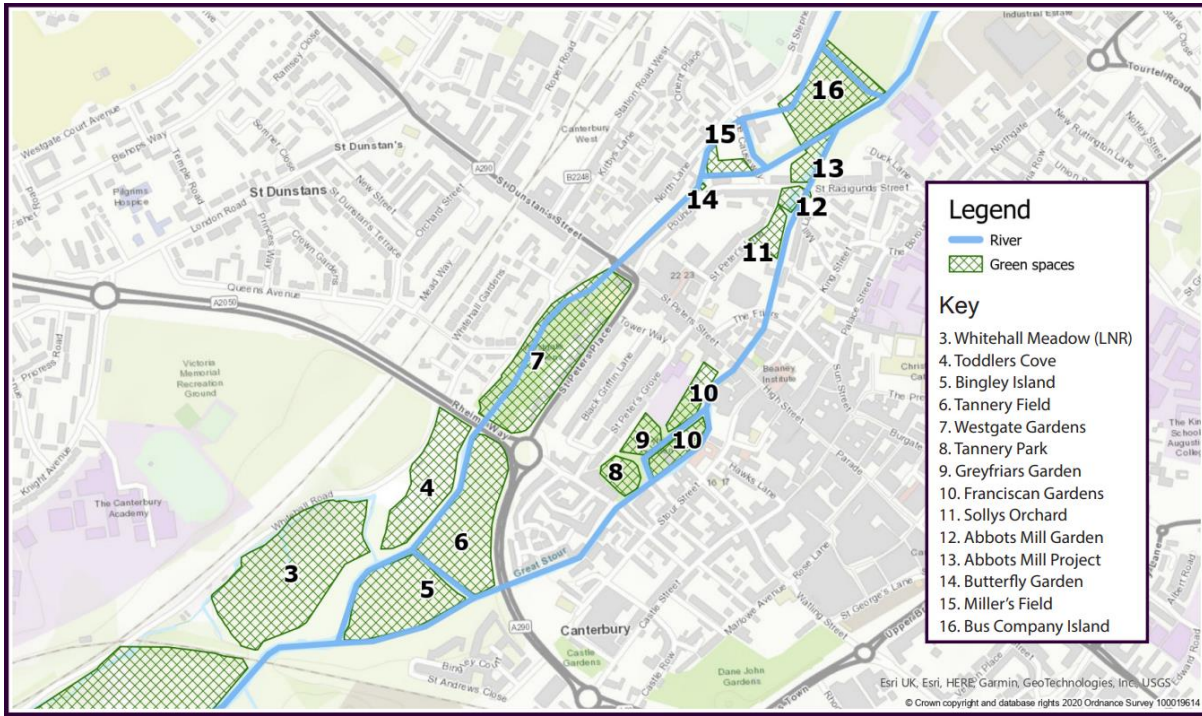
District Open Spaces Strategy (2024) has recommended that the Local Plan seeks to secure the legal status of open space provided through new developments and this plan also sets out strict controls to prevent the loss of any existing designated open spaces and sports facilities, other than in exceptional circumstances.

The council will also consider the need for additional guidance to ensure that open spaces secured through the planning system are delivered and managed effectively for our communities.

Most of Canterbury district meets Canterbury City Council's set standards for levels of access to amenity open spaces and parks, play and allotments. However, some areas do not reach these standards, including areas of Whitstable, Herne Bay and central areas of the City of Canterbury. The Open Spaces Strategy sets out the improvements required to ensure that residents have access to good quality open spaces.

Key riverside open spaces (Riverside Strategy, 2023):







Action Plan (Riverside Strategy, 2023):

No	Subject	Action	Lead	End date	Possible funding sources	Priority	Workshop notes
8.0 Community Involvement							
8.1	Antisocial behaviour reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite CCC's community safety unit and Kent police to attend future riverside strategy meetings Create a plan that will help reduce ASB on CCC riverside sites 	Environment Team	On-going		H	2.1, 3.23
8.2	Public education and awareness of the river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide media on CCC's open spaces that surround the river Promote the riverside strategy through CCC's website and social media platforms Engage with local residents through new and existing Friends' groups 	Environment Team & KCSP	On-going	BID/s.106/CIL/KCC/external funding	M	2.5, 2.8, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7
8.5	Open Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Open Space Strategy quality assessments Engage the Canterbury Riverside Group Explore funding opportunities Implement enhancement 	Environment Team	By June 2027	From existing resources/s.106/CIL/KCC/external funding	H	1.10

The two main recreational activities associated with the river are the managed use of watercraft (boats, punts and canoes), and fishing, which is unmanaged between Toddlers Cove and Sturry. Well-managed recreational use of the river can make a valuable contribution to making Canterbury's riverside a more popular and attractive place. In recent years paddle boarding has become a popular leisure activity on the river and continues to increase in popularity. Paddle boarding can cause conflict with other users of the river particularly along stretches that are used by licensed watercraft operators. The impact of paddle boarding on the existing river users and wildlife needs to be considered. There is a need to establish and define what public navigation rights exist (if any) and in the longer term an assessment of the river's carrying capacity for leisure craft is recommended (Riverside Strategy, 2023).



SECTION 4: DISTRICT PROJECTS TO NOTE

4.1 Pollinator Projects (Pollinator Strategy, 2023)

Franciscan Gardens: Hidden in the centre of Canterbury, this garden honours the Franciscan Monks' connection to nature. A wildflower meadow of annuals and perennials, heritage fruit tree varieties, and a native hedge with flowering shrubs attract 11 species of solitary bee and many common butterfly species.

World Heritage Sites: Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church A new approach has recently been adopted for managing the Cathedral gardens sensitively for wildlife. Measures benefitting pollinators include choosing plants with long flowering periods and creating 'dead hedges' as overwintering habitat for insects and other wildlife. Flowers and shrubs have been planted at St Martin's to provide year-round nectar. Areas of grass at the Abbey are left unmown until late summer to allow wildflowers to grow.

Churches and Burial Grounds: Many churchyards and burial grounds in the district are managed with pollinators in mind. These include St Alphege in Seasalter, The Catholic Church of St Joseph Chestfield, St Dunstan's in Canterbury, and Canterbury cemetery.

Small Gardens: The Butterfly Garden Next to the river in central Canterbury, the Butterfly Garden demonstrates what can be achieved for pollinators in a small area. Garden-friendly varieties of perennials, herbs, climbers and shrubs have been carefully chosen to provide year-round nectar and refuge.

Privately Owned Gardens Some residents in the district plant their gardens to attract a range of pollinators, like this bijou front garden in Whitstable.

Canterbury in Bloom: Christchurch University Grounds Canterbury has been awarded gold in the South and Southeast in Bloom regional competition every year but one since 2015. The grounds of Canterbury Christchurch University have played a central part in this success. Guided by the Bumblebee Trust, recent changes include new wildflower meadows, planting fruit trees and allowing dead trees to remain in place as insect habitat. A recent project has been the renovation of the Wellbeing Garden, where a lowintervention approach has been taken. Wildflowers such as Comfrey and Wild Garlic are common here.

Council-Owned Parks and Nature Reserves: The Council has managed its parks and nature reserves to help wildlife for many years. Much of this work will have specifically benefited pollinators. Working in partnership with Kent Wildlife Trust, coppicing at Larkey Valley Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest near Chartham has allowed woodland plants to flourish. Prospect Field in Whitstable is mown only twice a year to encourage native plants and insects. Whitehall Meadows in Canterbury, managed with support from the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, supports many species of flowering wetland plant.

Community-Managed Sites: Many parks and nature reserves across the district are owned or managed by Friends Groups, charitable organisations and Parish



Councils. Local residents give up their time to help to manage these sites. One such example is Jumping Down, a Local Nature Reserve owned by a Charitable Trust. This small patch of chalk grassland is managed through grazing by sheep, with scrub control carried out by volunteer parties organised by the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership.

Roadside Nature Reserves Kent Wildlife Trust monitors and manages several Roadside Nature Reserves in the District, with funding from Kent County Council and help from volunteer 8 wardens. One example consists of several sections of verge alongside the Old Thanet Way between Whitstable and Herne Bay. Neutral and chalk meadow plant communities here support many common species of butterfly. The verges are mown once a year in October, with cuttings removed to preserve the array of wildflowers.

Gorrell Valley Nature Reserve: Salsify seed heads on former arable field at Gorrell Valley Nature Reserve In 2016 a planning agreement was reached over the development of land on the outskirts of Whitstable, next to the former Duncan Downs Park. In return for building 400 homes, the developer agreed to a land exchange which resulted in the total area of the park, now renamed Gorrell Valley Nature Reserve, more than doubling. Land added to the original park includes woods and former arable fields which have been converted to wildflower meadows.

Allotments: Some allotment holders in the district are now sowing pollinator mixes on part of their allotments instead of growing vegetables and fruit or cut flowers.

Tree planting in Whitstable: A recent community-led tree planting initiative in Whitstable resulted in 14 new street trees in a residential area. Trees were planted by local volunteers organised led by the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and included native flowering species such as Small-leaved Lime and Bird Cherry, which are good sources of nectar for pollinators.

4.2 Levelling Up Fund

We've been awarded almost £20 million as part of the government's Levelling Up Fund. The project is designed to make the most of the city's history and heritage and revitalise its public spaces.

The plans include:

- Investing in electric vehicle charging in the car parks at Castle Row, St Radigunds and Longport
- Docked cycle hire to encourage greener travel
- Planting more trees
- The use of solar panels in public buildings

(Connected Canterbury)

Riverside Strategy, 2023:



In 2022 the council submitted a bid for Levelling Up funding for a Canterbury City scheme entitled – Connected Canterbury: Unlocking the Tales of England. The bid was successful and the council has been awarded £20 million to deliver the scheme. The scheme aims to bring tangible, visible improvements in the city through a variety of regenerative projects. In Canterbury, the bid centres around three key strands totalling £22 million:

Heritage assets and spaces – targeting sites which are either hidden and at risk, such as the Poor Priests’ Hospital and Canterbury Castle, or are underutilised, like the Westgate Square and Clock Tower Square, for investment to breathe a new lease of life to these areas and buildings.

Green arrival – targeting prominent arrival spaces to radically improve public spaces and navigation around the city, providing opportunities for electric car charging and cycle hire.

Connecting our heritage – providing a new visitor draw with a series of story gardens, linking the gardens’ heritage assets, commercial spaces and arrival points with a series of trails around the city, providing an app to promote all of these including the cycle hire docking and electric vehicle charging locations.

The investment: Hard and soft landscaping, accessibility and lighting improvements, seating and play equipment, interpretation and wayfinding, augmented reality trigger points, CCTV, cycle parking and the designing out of anti-social behaviour.

Why invest?: Many of the gardens are anonymous and little known and all require improvement. Some are degraded but they all present an opportunity to make improvements for biodiversity and local people.

Impacts of investment: Increased pride of place, opportunity to galvanise local people, a coherent visitor offer with a series of gardens linked to routes, enhancements for biodiversity, security and public realm, flexible events spaces created and an enhanced, educational offer created.

The project will be delivered by mid 2025.

4.3 Air Pollution Sensors (Air Quality Management Areas)

DEFRA are funding a project to install a small network of air pollution sensors in Canterbury’s Air Quality Management Area, which covers the main ring road where all traffic passes around and through Canterbury. The sensors will operate 24 hours a day. The network will operate for a period of five years starting in September 2023. We will report the data at Kent Air to identify any trends and monitor outcomes of any interventions that we put in place in the city centre, as well as focus on reducing the emissions the city centre produces.



SECTION 5: SPECIFIC PRIORITIES WITHIN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

5.1 Available Plans

[Bridge Neighbourhood Plan, 2022](#)

5.2 Plans in Preparation (Neighbourhood Plans)

Chartham, Fordwich, Hoath, Thannington, Upper Hardres

SECTION 6: DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AND REFERENCED

Document reference	Link
Draft Local Plan 2024	Draft Canterbury district Local Plan (2040)
GI Strategy, 2018	Green infrastructure strategy.pdf (canterbury.gov.uk)
Tree Strategy, 2024	Canterbury District Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy 2024.pdf
Green Gaps, 2021	Final Green Gaps & LGS Review - 28.04.2021 (canterbury.gov.uk)
Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan, 2022	Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan 0.pdf (canterbury.gov.uk)
Climate Change Action Plan, 2021.	Climate change action plan (canterbury.gov.uk)
Levelling Up Fund	Connected Canterbury: our Levelling Up Fund project Canterbury City Council
Air Quality Management Areas	How we monitor air quality Canterbury City Council
Riverside Strategy, 2023	Canterbury Riverside Strategy 2023 - 2028 0.pdf Riverside planning strategy (canterbury.gov.uk)
Landscape Character Assessment, 2020	Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal 2020.pdf (canterbury.gov.uk)
Pollinator Action Plan, 2023	Canterbury District Pollinator Action Plan 2023.pdf
Bridge Neighbourhood Plan, 2022	Bridge Neighbourhood Plan (canterbury.gov.uk)
Neighbourhood Plans	Neighbourhood planning Canterbury City Council