



Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Nature Recovery Mapping Workshop Report Proposed additional sites 12th – 26th September 2024



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Making Space for Nature (MS4N) is working with partners and stakeholders to collaboratively develop the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Kent & Medway (LNRS). These strategies result from the 2021 Environment Act, with 48 to be created across England with no gaps or overlaps. Developed at a landscape scale by the Responsible Authority (with Kent County Council taking on this role for Kent and Medway), the LNRS will agree and map the local priorities and associated actions for nature recovery and wider environmental benefits, that collectively will deliver a nature recovery network for England, ending the decline of nature and supporting its recovery.

Making Space for Nature will develop:

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

More detail on the project can be found on the [Making Space for Nature website](#).

The MS4N Nature Recovery Mapping Workshops

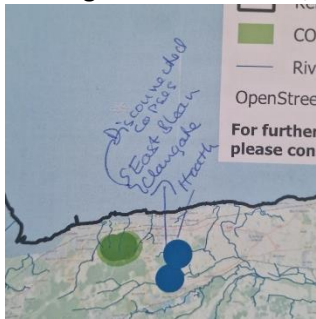

Between 12th and 26th September 2024, a series of workshops were held to get stakeholder input into the mapping of potential measures and initial thoughts on how this might shape the “areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity”.


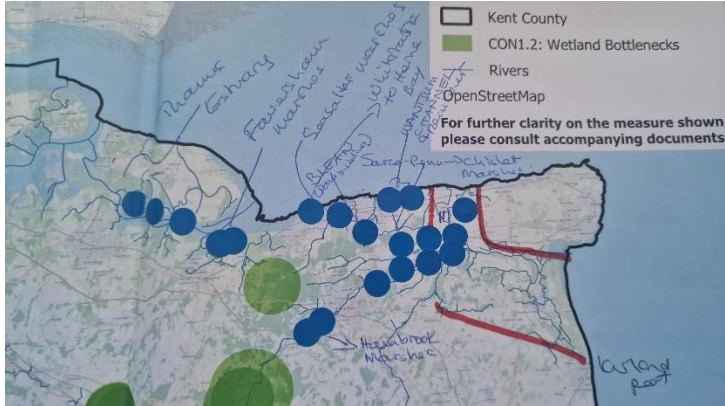
Five full-day workshops were held at five different locations (Folkestone, Birchington, Lenham, Rainham and East Malling).

The purpose of the workshops was to effectively ground truth the desk-based mapping work, with stakeholders having the opportunity to interrogate the mapped potential measures and the layers that would inform and make up the LNRS's Areas that Could become of Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB). The accuracy of the layers would be critical to ensuring the ACIB directed action and investment to where it will deliver the greatest gains for nature, and wider benefits, within the framework of the county's priorities for nature recovery.

This report is a reflection of stakeholders' views and opinions. Views and opinions do not indicate fact. No inference should be taken from the manner or order in which the priorities are presented.

The MS4N project team would like to thank all those that attended the workshops and so enthusiastically took part in the discussions.

Measure ref	Priority/ measure	Comment	Review of comment	Ref
Connectivity				
CON	Connectivity	Manston airport - can we create corridors either side of this to allow connectivity?	Would this solve or address any fragmentation if not linking?	B
CON1.1	Connectivity for APIB	More connectivity is needed between Sandwich/Worth/Ham Fen and Stodmarsh/Canterbury/Blean. We could have a "woodland to waves" corridor (see wealtdowaves.co.uk) this would be essential for birds, mammals and reptiles/amphibians.	Chalk to Coast (akin to Weald to Waves) is already under development. CON1.1 relates to areas of connectivity between APIB areas – to be considered under connectivity modelling review.	B
CON1.1	Connectivity for APIB	More connectivity around the Monkton Nature Reserve area to local villages etc.	CON1.1 relates to areas of connectivity between APIB areas – to be considered under connectivity modelling review.	B
CON1.1	Connectivity for APIB	Fragmented corridor from Hawkshill Walmer across Knights Bottom Kingsdown, the Lynch into AONB across to St Margaret's. Locally important – bisected by busy B road as enter Kingsdown.	Can we supplement connectivity analysis with local knowledge of fragmentation?	F
CON1.2 Woodland Bottlenecks	Fragmentation and bottlenecks	Missing areas: East Blean, Cleangate, Hoath 	To be picked up under connectivity modelling and bottleneck review.	L
CON1.2 Saltmarsh Bottlenecks	Fragmentation and bottlenecks	Missing areas: 	To be picked up under connectivity modelling and bottleneck review.	L
CON1.2	Fragmentation	Missing areas: Beltinge/Broomfield, Horsden, Wantsum	To be picked up under connectivity modelling and bottleneck	L

Measure ref	Priority/measure	Comment	Review of comment	Ref
Meadow Bottleneck	and bottlenecks	Channel 	review.	
CON1.2 Wetland Bottleneck	Fragmentation and bottlenecks	Thames Estuary, Faversham marshes, seasalter marshes, whistable to hernebay, blean, wantsum channel and reculver, Sarre-Penn to Chislet marshes, hambrook marshes 	To be picked up under connectivity modelling and bottleneck review.	L
CON1.2	Fragmentation and bottlenecks	Ash levels is a vital area for wildlife, Minster marshes and Stodmarsh too. Worth Marshes. Sandwich Bay and golf courses, St Margarets Bay, White Cliffs of Dover are not connected. North Downs from Canterbury to Ashford. Sheerness reserve is also not highlighted. Romney Marsh has lots of gaps	Gaps in connectivity layers to be reviewed.	B
CON1.2	Fragmentation and bottlenecks	Address severance between Shorne and Ashenbank ancient woodlands	Need to look at connectivity mapping for woodlands.	F
CON1.2	Fragmentation and bottlenecks	Reconnect Blean AW complex around Blean village and Honey Hill and University campus	Need to look at connectivity mapping for woodlands.	F
CON2	Infrastructure	Road Eco Bridge to cross the A2 between Church Wood and	LNRS identified priority areas for National Highways – can we	F

Measure ref	Priority/ measure	Comment	Review of comment	Ref
	fragmentation	South Blean – connecting two huge complexes	use this for mapping CON2.1? Can we look at other maps developed for connectivity measures across strategy and also use these where issues intersect with road network?	
Land management and land use				
LM2.1	Targeted action for nature recovery - connectivity	Horn Stree Farm (underpass) next to MOD land. May be an important habitat/area.	Can we supplement connectivity analysis with local knowledge of fragmentation?	F
LM2.1	Targeted action for nature recovery - connectivity	Blean Complex priority for habitat connectivity – woodland connectivity across farmland via hedgerows, shelterbelts and new woodland establishment (planting and natural colonisation) including agro-forestry.	Can we supplement connectivity analysis with local knowledge of fragmentation?	F
LM2.1	Targeted action for nature recovery – connectivity	Horn Street – Half way down there is a narrow turn into a lane (underhill?). This could be a good farm for swifts/swallows, bats. Shorncliffe Garrison buildings used by species were demolished.	Can we supplement connectivity analysis with local knowledge of fragmentation?	F
LM2.1	Targeted action for nature recovery - connectivity	Abbey Farm for connecting Pegwell and Sandwich Bay. All Stour Valley needs connecting (using railway lines).	Can we supplement connectivity analysis with local knowledge of fragmentation?	B
LM3.2	Climate resilience	Abbey Farm for connecting Pegwell and sandwich Bay. All Stour Valley needs connecting (using railway lines)	Can we supplement connectivity analysis with local knowledge of opportunities for connection?	B
Grassland				
GL2.1 (pink B on map)	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	Increased opportunities to store winter water within the Wantsum Channel – based on existing network of drainage ditches, with changing climate should be easier to establish e.g. wet winters	Was Wantsum not identified because there were no existing floodplain grazing marsh adjacent?	B
GL2.2	Grazing marsh restoration	Princes Parade land in Hythe, could be identified as site with potential for grazing marsh habitat restoration. FADC own site and have stopped development and are due to consult on future of site. Local opinion is that should remain undeveloped and managed in some way e.g. for nature/habitat	Does the site align with the specifics of this potential measure - offer the greatest gains to support the county's important grazing marsh flora and fauna, and is designed to minimise recreational disturbance.	F

Measure ref	Priority/ measure	Comment	Review of comment	Ref
GL3 BT yellow 5 on map	Lowland meadow	Good potential for grassland creation along eastern Stour – orchids present in areas and lowland meadow going through development mitigation at Feberry.	Can we supplement habitat maps with local knowledge?	F
GL4 BT yellow 1 on map	Acid grassland	The rare acidic grassland potential of the area around Mersham Deer park should be recognised. Lots of potential to restore acidic grassland on this sand/potential heathland. Really good project potential to connect acid grassland of Mersham Deer Park SSSI up to Wye Downs SSSI chalk grassland.	Does CON1.1 or CON 1.2 pick this site up? Does GL4.5 pick this up? Did mapping for GL4.5 consider location of existing? Can we supplement habitat maps with local knowledge?	F
GL4 grassland where wax caps occur BT yellow 2 on map	Acid grassland	Key wax cap grassland site at Tonbridge Wells cemetery. Potential for more waxcap grasslands along the grasslands of the High Weald. Natural England did 3 years of meadows survey in High Weald, mostly Sussex but may be some in Kent.	Is this too specific to map? Could High Weald and NE advise on any potential sites?	F
GL4	Acid grassland	Mapping has not picked up heathland / acid grasslands sites adjacent to Old Park SSSI. Note mosaic habitat acid grassland/ heathland and woodland.	Check mapping.	F
GL4 BT4 on map	Acid grassland	Rosemary Lane, Smarden. Site for Corn buttercup. Not really grassland but looking to support through agri-environment schemes.	Does this not more apply to GL5?	F
GL4.1 GL4.2 GL4.5	Acid grassland	Priortise Old Park & Chequers Wood as an area for the implementation of GL4.1, GL4.2 and GL4.5	Does GL4.5 pick this up? Can we supplement habitat maps with local knowledge?	F
GL5.3 Romney Marsh	Arable wild plants creation	Romney Marsh – not much of area identified in map - has a lot of arable in stewardships but more could be done with IDB to negotiate margins management. IDB need a certain amount of space to manage the ditch networks, Would be good to map opportunities for field margins and connectivity. Crown Estate is working on connectivity with their tenants. [Debbie Reynolds from FWAG developing plan – AM].	Can we supplement habitat maps with local knowledge?	F
GL 5.3	Arable wild plants creation	Why no arable plants mapped in areas in Weald area specifically Tenterden and Marsh area and high Weald? [they	Mapping methodology did not result in areas there - can we supplement habitat maps with local knowledge?	F

Measure ref	Priority/ measure	Comment	Review of comment	Ref
		have TDs which feed on arable weeds so must be some there].		
GL1.2		Lack of chalk grassland in the Boughton Lees, Westwall (?) area. Chalk grassland in these area could improve connectivity to grassland habitats. This area is chalk so possible data may need to be re-examined [see map initial TP].	Check habitat survey	L
GL1.4		Lack of chalk grassland in the Boughton Lees, Westwall (?) area. Chalk grassland in these area could improve connectivity to grassland habitats. This area is chalk so possible data may need to be re-examined [see map initial TP].	Check habitat survey	L
GL1.4		Chalk downland connectivity through the Shorne, Jeskyns, Beacon Wood M2/A2 Corridor. Why is this mapped as a priority for chalk grassland connectivity instead of woodland or succession habitat connectivity which feels like better fit.	Connectivity mapping to be reviewed.	L
GL5.3		TP x 2 dots on map Arable plants not showing up on Low Weald in the mapping but they have been found by farmers doing agri environment schemes in this area. Suspect map may be showing lack of data. Romney marsh area which is arable focused may be an area of great potential for arable plants (weeds) if field margins allowed to develop.	Could Plantlife offer any advice?	L
GL 3.1		Red dot as GL3.1. Good quality lowland meadows. Well managed in Shadoxhurst (south of Ashford). There is a need to show best practice and prioritise extending/enlarging as part of GL3.2 both to maximise/connect spaces and buffers and to protect the village as a whole. This area is also nightingale rich in a well managed part of the County.	Need to look at mapping options for GL3.1 and GL3.2.	L
Successional habitats				
SH	Successional habitats	The key population of nightingales using successional habitat along the Eastern Stour at Finberry/ Waterbrook. It needs to be preserved and expanded along the river. 4-5 territories with a nice urban, residential connection	Can we use species data (important areas for inverts and other species that scrub/OMH is vital for – e.g. turtle dove zones, nightingales etc) to identify areas.	F
SH1	OMHPDL	Marked 2 successional habitat sites on the map. Betteshanger Country Park and Snowden Colliery – it doesn't appear that these have been included in the ACIB? Wondered why this was, as both are areas of OMH of high biodiversity.	For successional habitats can we include known large sites? And ratify them with important areas for inverts and other associated species data?	B

Measure ref	Priority/ measure	Comment	Review of comment	Ref
		Other successional habitats – Lodge Hill and Swanscombe.		
SH1	OMHPDL	Pegwell Bay Hover Port site is very much an area which should be classes as a key site is has corncrakes nesting in the adjacent reed beds for example	For successional habitats can we include known large sites? And ratify them with important areas for inverts and other associated species data?	B
SH1	OMHPDL	North Downs in Dover District (Coombe Down, Whinless Down, St Radigunds) - Also, there are 'brownfield' areas east of West Houghman. These are ex-arable and industrial, with diverse wildlife and connectivity.	There is a potential measure to map these – not within scope of LNRS to map all these within the timeframe.	F
SH2	Scrub	North Downs in Dover District (Coombe Down, Whinless Down, St Radigunds) - Scrubland corridors are on-site at North Downs in Dover District (Coombe Down, Whinless Down, St Radigunds), a space at the edge of developments.	Difficult to map scrub habitats because of successional nature – but can we map important areas for scrub creation based on species that use them?	F
SH2	Scrub	East of Mersham - Areas of farmland margin that are scrubland are used for livestock movement but not for grazing, which is transient in habitat and essential space for a variety of plant and insect life (especially Butterflies). Scrubland acts as a corridor for surrounding habitats. This suggests that farmers could be vital in identifying these habitats.	Can we build this in and map – farmland overlaid with data of species related to scrub habitat?	F
SH2	Scrub	Area above Newington Peene – towards the top of the hill - It was an area of grass, shrubland, / One marble white butterfly restoration area.	Too localised for mapping.	F
SH2	Successional habitat creation	Thanet Inland from Joss Bay successional from grassland strips along clifftops. Manston airport could be encouraged to include more successional habitats. Protecting strips of agricultural land such as areas along road to QEQM and encouraging successional habitats. Rewilding Thanet very much needed.	Can we use anecdotal suggestions?	B
Woodland, trees and hedgerows				
WTH1		Tivoli Woods requires management and improvement	Not mapping – management measure to be applied across strategy area.	

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WTH1		Very little woodland management or hedgerow restoration between Ashford and Canterbury. Stour Valley Walk, Floodplain especially between Ashford and Wye village.	Mapping of woodland management will not be undertaken.	L
WTH1		The Scarp of the Kentish Greensand Ridge retains significant tree cover (including woods, wood pasture and many veteran trees). As a linear feature running east-west the Sylvan Greensand Ridge Scarp has a significant ecological role. The historic limited agricultural value of this land has preserved tree cover, but agricultural change is now eroding this treescape. The scarp woodland should be mapped.	Could we identify significant woods, wood pasture etc to map under WTH1.1 – even if not refined enough to be included in ACIB?	
WTH1.4	Lowland and upland wood pasture and parkland	Woodland suggested for Knole Park - would benefit from greater biodiversity, but would require collaboration with National Trust.	Alexa to consider – approach NT?	B
WTH1.4	Lowland and upland wood pasture and parkland	Woodland suggested for Hall Place (Leigh nr. Tonbridge). Hall Place is a private estate. Engagement and permissions would be required.	Alexa to consider – approach Hall Place?	B
WTH1.5		W3W: folks.eyelash.garages : location of potential bottleneck between Oakenpole and Limekiln and Ancient woodland towards Wichling/Doddington	Review as part of connectivity review.	L
WTH4.3	Resilience through connectivity	A key area for increasing connectivity between woodland habitats is between the Chequers Wood SSSI and the ancient woodland habitat of Hospital Wood and Trenley Park woodland Local Nature Reserve (east of Canterbury) This is also a key area for the implementation of WTH 5.2	Is this is a SSSI and ancient woodland, this area should have been picked up under CON1.1 – is there a way we can use this mapping to inform the connectivity measures for WTH4?	F
WTH4.3 and 4.4	Resilience through connectivity	Land immediately adjacent to the Blean Woodland Complex is vital for improved connectivity but also very vulnerable to development. Canterbury City Council's current draft Local Plan encapsulates the conflict, especially policy DS23 for the Blean Complex. KWT's "Wilder Blean" project identifies the great potential for the area, including not just the existing woodland but also the wider landscape. There needs to be an ACIB which reflects this.	Can we identify key woodland sites in the county to apply this measure to?	F

Measure ref	Priority/ measure	Comment	Review of comment	Ref
WTH6.1		Furnace Farm wet woodland management and creation plans from intensive farmland W3W: stealthier.fire.harvest Hotspots.smiled.verve		L
WTH6.1	Wet woodland	Area of wet woodland in Smeeth/Brabourne not shown on map	Can we supplement habitat maps with local knowledge?	F
Urban				
URB1.2	Urban habitat fragmentation	Prospect Field, Whitstable		B
URB1.2	Urban habitat fragmentation	Gorrell Valley Nature Reserve (Village Green) Whitstable		B
URB1.3	Enhance green space	Enhance Lacton Green/Heritage conservation to increase biodiversity and street biodiversity to connect with wider hedgerow/farmland/woodland and hospital	Can we supplement habitat maps with individual requests?	F
URB2.1	Greenspace delivering for nature	West Cliff Bank Village green, Whitstable		B
URB2.1	Greenspace delivering for nature	Village Green – Lower Herne Road, Herne. Large building all around roads being used more and more traffic. Very small area grasses over with a tree. Valuable for nature and also focus for locals		B
URB2.1	Greenspace delivering for nature	West Cliff Bank, Village green managed by volunteers to protect biodiversity and limit human impact (Westcliff, Whitstable)		B
URB3.5		Realmwood, Timpson Wood and Old Park and Chequers Wood on edge of Northgate and Barton Wards – 2 of the most deprived in East Kent. Landscape blank to Fordwich and Stodmarsh – deliver health and wellbeing as on edge of density built estates (Canterbury).	Need to check deprivation data being used as mapping seems to be missing areas based on feedback.	F
URB3.5	Target greenspace to where its most needed	Use fingertips.phe.org.uk and look at the most deprived wards in a district.		F
URB3.5	Target	Murston & Milton Regis are areas of significant deprivation		F

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	greenspace to where its most needed	which require more nature recovery. (Murston 20.1% and Milton Regis 17.8.5 deprivation – Swale average 14.9%)		
URB3.5	Target greenspace to where its most needed	Medway is missing? Very little green space in Strood/Rochester/Chatham conurbation. Needs to be accessible. Wards requiring attention- Luton/Chatham Central/Gillingham North/ Gillingham South/Rochester East/Strood South/Twydall/River.		F
URB3.5	Target greenspace to where its most needed	Canterbury City centre, particular wards- Barton/Northgate/Wincheap which are areas of deprivation and nature deprivation.		F
URB3.5	Target greenspace to where its most needed	Ashford North, again areas of deprivation for humans and nature deprivation. (Stanhope 29.9%/ Beaver 21.9%/ Bockhanger 18%/ Norman 16.5%/Aylesford and East Stour 16.11% - Ashford average 11% deprivation)		F
URB3.5	Target greenspace to where its most needed	Faversham – parts of Faversham have deprivation and need nature spaces		F
URB3.5	Target greenspace to where its most needed	Herne Bay, particular Heron ward- area of deprivation		F
UR 3.5	Target greenspace to where its most needed	Dartford. Wards-Swanscombe/Temple Hill/Princes/Darenth. These areas are all significant areas of deprivation (15.2-16.7%- Dartford average 9.5%)		F
URB3.5	Target greenspace to where its most needed	Tunbridge Wells. In particular Sherwood Ward, area of significant deprivation (14.8%- TW average 7.3%)		F
URB3.5	Target greenspace to	Queenbrough and halfway areas of deprivation. 17.9%, Swale average 14.9%.		F

Measure ref	Priority/ measure	Comment	Review of comment	Ref
	where its most needed			
URB3.5	Target greenspace to where its most needed	Tonbridge and Malling. Snodland East and Ham Hill, East Malling and Trench are significant areas of deprivation, need more nature restoration.		F
URB3.5	Target greenspace to where its most needed	Sevenoaks. Swainley, St Marys and Swanley White Oak wards are significant areas of deprivation. Will need more nature restoration.		F
URB3.5	Target greenspace to where its most needed	W3W skims.stiff.recorders	No context given – but check when URB3.5 is remapped.	B
URB	All	Manston Airport - Large area of greenspace that has huge potential. Currently looks to be underrepresented as area for potential. Would like a lot more done to rewild this area. Prevent destructive development. Currently Thanet has very very limited greenspaces. This area links to a large number of your priorities and potential measures – not just these listed above. Seems to have been missed out in your list of priority areas. Please address this.	Can we map large infrastructure sites as area of potential areas for URB1 and URB2?	B
Coastal				
CL2.1	Maintain nesting sites	Hythe Ranges ///sunroof.witty.basic can be included on this map, for roosting/nesting sites.	Was beach nesting sites data from RSPB – can we check with them?	L
CL2.5	Connectivity of coastal wetland habitat	Wantsum Channel has huge potential see KWT Wantsum wetlands project.	Wantsum not currently identified. Need to review connectivity analysis and data used for connectivity measures across whole of strategy mapping.	
CL6	Saline lagoons	Plum pudding and Coldharbour should be mapped, as well as the garage pool (Cliffsend).	Can we supplement habitat data with local knowledge?	B
General				
Isle of Grain National Grid area	Ben Thompson	– key site for Thames estuary invertebrates focus...	Is this already picked up by IIA maps?	F

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North of Conyer	Ben Thompson	– key wild scrubby site for nightingale and turtle dove	Do we have mapped areas for nightingale and turtle dove? If yes, are these included? Could this be used in anyway for scrub potential measures mapping? Both birds are in species shortlist – credible mapping layer for scrub?	F
Crayford Marsh	Ben Thompson	– key site ½ in Kent – rare birds and access to nature potential	Is there an important areas for birds data layer – think Murray was going to provide this.	F
River Beult SSSI improvement plan	Ben Thompson	On shelf since 2018 – put in LNRS?	Not eligible for inclusion if SSSI?	F
Thanet beaches - Turnstones	Cllr Peter Findley	The wintering Turnstone population (internationally important) has declined dramatically. Increasing numbers of dogs on beaches at high tide prevent the turnstones from roosting. We need suitable dog-free beaches and refuges.	If identified as priority species, this can be included as a potential measure.	B