




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

LNRS Species Shortlist Workshop Report

Flagship species nominations

1st October 2024



Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

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 Priority Species Workshops

On 1st October 2024, a half-day workshop was held in Marden to review the draft priority species shortlist, from which the LNRS priority species would be selected.

The purpose of the workshop was to allow a wider stakeholder group to review and input to the LNRS priority species identification. Up until this point, this work had been delivered by Kent and Medway Biological Record Centre with the input of a Technical Advisory Group comprising 36 of the county's species experts. The selection followed the process set out by Natural England for the identification of LNRS priority species. More detail can be found at: [Defining Our Priorities and Actions for Species Recovery | Making Space For Nature Kent](#)

The workshop invited participants to review, challenge and propose additions to the priority species shortlist. They were also asked to review the species identified under habitat assemblages, and nominate species from the groupings they felt best represented the habitat assemblage, with action for that species benefiting a wider range. There was also an exercise to identify iconic species of Kent, that could be used as flagship species to inspire, engage and be easily identifiable as a sign of healthy and recovering habitats.

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 workshop and so enthusiastically took part in the discussions.

Nominations for flagship species for grassland habitats

Species	Notes	Votes <small>(if suggested more than once)</small>
Amphibians and reptiles		
Adder		2
Birds		
Barn owl		
Chough		
Corn bunting		2
Lapwing		3
Nightingale		2
Redshank		3
Skylark		5
Turtle dove		3
Yellowhammer		4
Invertebrates		
<i>Bees, wasps and ants</i>		
Red bartsia bee		
Red shanked carder bee		
Shrill carder bumblebee		
Tormentil mining bee		
<i>Beetles</i>		
Black oil beetle		
Kentish clown beetle		
Long horned beetle		
Maid of Kent beetle		2
<i>Butterflies</i>		
Adonis blue		
Chalkhill blue		
Common blue		
Marbled white		
Small blue		
<i>Grasshoppers/crickets</i>		
Rufus grasshopper	Flagship engaging for kids	
Wart-biter cricket		
<i>Spiders</i>		
Wasp spider		
Mammals		
Brown hare		3
Vascular plants		
Adders tongue fern		
Common rockrose		
Cowslip		
Dyes greenweed		
Grass vetchling		
Green winged orchid		
Harebell		
Kentish milkwort		

Lesser centaury		
Man orchid		
Tormentil		2
Yellow rattle		

Nominations for flagship species for woodland, trees & hedgerows

Species	Notes	Votes <small>(if suggested more than once)</small>
Amphibians and reptiles		
Palmate newt		
Birds		
Barn owl		3
Marsh tit		
Nightingale		
Nightjar		
Turtle dove		2
Invertebrates		
<i>Bees, wasps and ants</i>		
European hornet		
Narrow-headed ant		
Red shanked carder bee		
<i>Beetles</i>		
Horned dung beetle		
Stag beetle		
<i>Butterflies</i>		
Duke of burgundy		
Heath fritillary		
Purple emperor		
White admiral		
White letter hairstreak		3
<i>Spider</i>		
Green huntsman spider		
Mammals		
Barbastelle bat	Woodland indicator	2
Brown horseshoe bat		
Hazel dormouse		9
Long-eared bat		
Trees		
English oak	Iconic tree, amber risk, climate change	4
Wild service tree	Locally important and culturally important	5
Vascular plants		
Betony		
Bluebell	AW/LEW indicator	
Cow wheat		2
Devils bit scabious		
Dog violet		2
Dogs mercury		
Elongated sedge		
Figwort		
Francis rose		
Lady orchid		
Primrose		
Purple orchid		

Small leaved lime		
T. Filmy fern (crab apple)	6+ AWVP abundance on the corridor list	
Wild daffodil		
Wild strawberry		
Wood anemone		2
Wood spurge		

Nominations for flagship species for freshwater habitats

Species	Notes	Votes <small>(if suggested more than once)</small>
Amphibians and reptiles		
Common frog		
Common toad	Priority for pond habitat. GEN meta-population	3
Great crested newt		3
Birds		
Bearded tit		
Bittern		
Grey wagtail		
Kingfisher		2
Marsh harrier		
Swallow		
Turtle dove	Standing water, ponds and puddles	
Fish		
European eel		
Invertebrates		
<i>Bees, wasps and ants</i>		
Yellow loosestrife bee		
<i>Dragonflies and damselflies</i>		
Brilliant emerald dragonfly		
Willow emerald		
Mammals		
Beaver	But there were also 3 votes against beaver...	3
Water Vole	Much loved species – “Ratty”. It’s a mini Ecosystem engineer. Benefits multiple species through habitat creation and mink control	7
Vascular plants		
Tubular water dropwort		
Water violet		
Yellow loosestrife		

Nominations for flagship species for coastal habitats

Species	Notes	Votes (if suggested more than once)
Birds		
Brent goose		
Common tern		
Curlew		2
Little tern		3
Oystercatcher		
Ringed plover		
Sandwich tern		5
Turnstone		2
Invertebrates		
<i>Bees, wasps and ants</i>		
Moss carder bee		2
Sea aster mining bee		
Shrill carder bee		2
<i>Moths</i>		
Fiery clearwing moth		2
Fisher's estuarine moth		
Marine mammals		
Grey seal		
Harbour porpoise		
Harbour seal		
Marine molluscs		
Native oyster		
Vascular plants		
Nottingham catchfly		
Slender hare's-ear	(& rust)	2

Nominations for flagship species for urban habitats

Species	Notes	Votes <small>(if suggested more than once)</small>
Birds		
Dunnock		
House martin		2
House sparrow		2
Starling		
Swift		6
Amphibians and reptiles		
Common frog		
Grass snake	Urban ponds and natural SUDs	
Slow worm		5
Invertebrates		
<i>Bees, wasps and ants</i>		
Shrill carder		
<i>Beetles</i>		
Stag beetle		3
Mammals		
Dormouse		
Hedgehog		4

Nominations for flagship species for Successional habitats

Species	Notes	Votes <small>(if suggested more than once)</small>
Amphibians and reptiles		
Adder		
Birds		
Linnet		
Nightingale		4
Skylark		
Turtle dove		5
Woodlark		
Invertebrates		
<i>Bees, wasps and ants</i>		
Dune tiger beetle		
Moss carder bee		
Shrill carder bee		
<i>Grasshoppers/crickets</i>		
Mottled grasshopper		
<i>Spiders</i>		
Distinguished jumping spider		4
Vascular plants		
Bee orchid		
Carline thistle		
Lizard orchid		3

Nominations for flagship species for land under nature-friendly management

Species	Notes	Votes <small>(if suggested more than once)</small>
Birds		
Corn bunting		
Grey partridge		
Turtle dove		4
Yellow wagtail		
Yellowhammer		5
Invertebrates		
<i>Bees, wasps and ants</i>		
Brown-banded carder bee		
Grey-backed mining bee (<i>Andrena vaga</i>)		
Moss carder bee		
Red-shanked bumblebee		
Shrill carder bee		
<i>Beetles</i>		
Dung beetle		
Swollen-thighed beetle		
<i>Butterflies</i>		
Common blue		
Vascular plants		
Dandelion		
Orchids		

Nominations for flagship species for a connected landscape

Species	Notes	Votes (if suggested more than once)
Amphibians and reptiles		
Adder		
Great crested newt		
Birds		
Swallow		
Fish		
Sea trout		
European eel		
Invertebrates		
<i>Bees, wasps and ants</i>		
Moss carder bee		
<i>Butterflies</i>		
Brown hairstreak		
Duke of burgundy		
Mammals		
Beaver		2
Daubenton's bat	Bat core sustenance zones (CSZ) 1.1.A invert areas	
Natterers bat		
Otter		

Notes made on connected landscape

- B-Lines map corridor and GIS layers
- Weald to Waves
- Important Invert Areas