



Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy

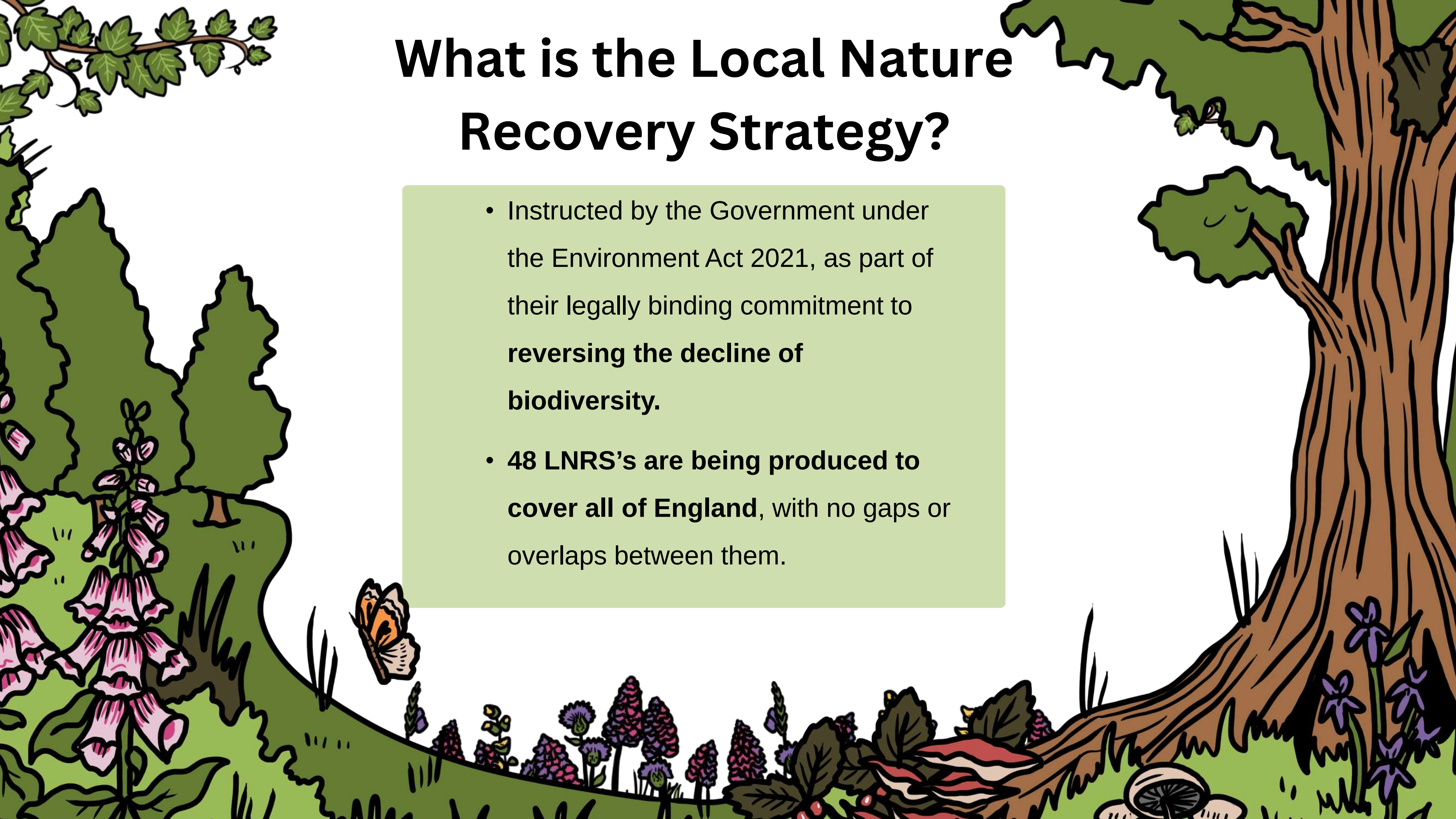
November 2025

Prepared by Kent County Council
on behalf of Defra



What is the Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

- Instructed by the Government under the Environment Act 2021, as part of their legally binding commitment to reversing the decline of biodiversity.
- 48 LNRS's are being produced to cover all of England, with no gaps or overlaps between them.



What is the Local Nature Recovery Strategy?



The Priorities and Measures

These set out the county's priorities for nature recovery and the recommended actions (or "measures") to deliver these

Maps

- Maps that show what we already have in the county in terms of designations, like SSSI's, LWS, irreplaceable habitat (APIB),
- Opportunity maps (ACIB) where measures could achieve the greatest gains for biodiversity.



What the LNRS Will Do



- Ensure all public authorities to **have regard** to relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategies, including within local plan development.
- Provide a **multiplier incentive within biodiversity net gain calculations**, to recognise the added impact of taking action where the Local Nature Recovery Strategy proposes.
- Be integrated into the planning system, so that areas of greatest potential for nature recovery can be better reflected in planning decisions
- Attract and steer funding and investment for specific activities in locations proposed by Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

What the LNRS Won't Do



- **Dictate actions** or instruct their implementation – instead it offers a framework, that identifies the potential measures that could be taken to support the recovery of nature.
- Force landowners and managers to make changes to the way they use and manage the land or their operations. It will not impact existing CS agreements already in place
- **Prevent development** – but it helps planning authorities to put nature at the heart of land use planning and development management decisions.



PRINCIPLES

OF THE LNRS

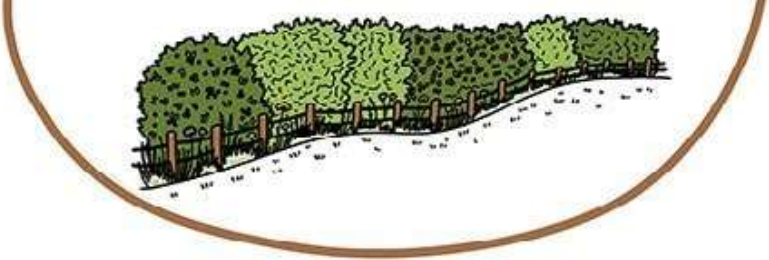
BETTER

IMPROVE THE *Quality* OF OUR EXISTING HABITATS & ENSURE THEY ARE IN A HEALTHY & FUNCTIONING STATE BY APPLYING + RESOURCING BETTER & APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT OF THEM. WE ALSO NEED TO BETTER CONSERVE & SAFEGUARD WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE



BIGGER

INCREASE THE **SIZE** OF OUR MOST *Valuable & IMPORTANT* HABITAT SITES, NOT ONLY EXTENDING BUT BUFFERING THEM, TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE PRESSURES OF **HUMAN INFLUENCES**



MORE

THROUGH **HABITAT RESTORATION & Creation**, ESTABLISH NEW, NATURE-RICH SITES THAT NOT ONLY PROVIDE MORE SPACE FOR NATURE BUT ALSO PROVIDE CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN EXISTING CORE SITES



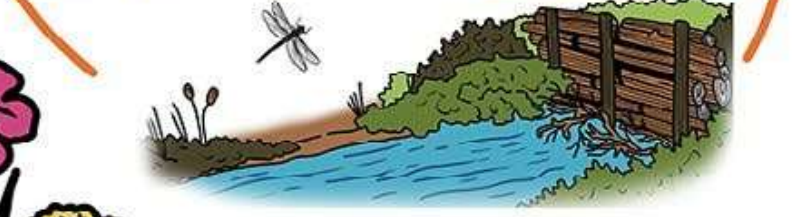
JOINED UP

ENHANCE **CONNECTIONS** BETWEEN, AND JOIN UP, SITES BY IMPROVING THE *Quality* OF LAND BETWEEN THEM, CREATING NEW PHYSICAL CORRIDORS & ESTABLISHING **STEPPING STONES**



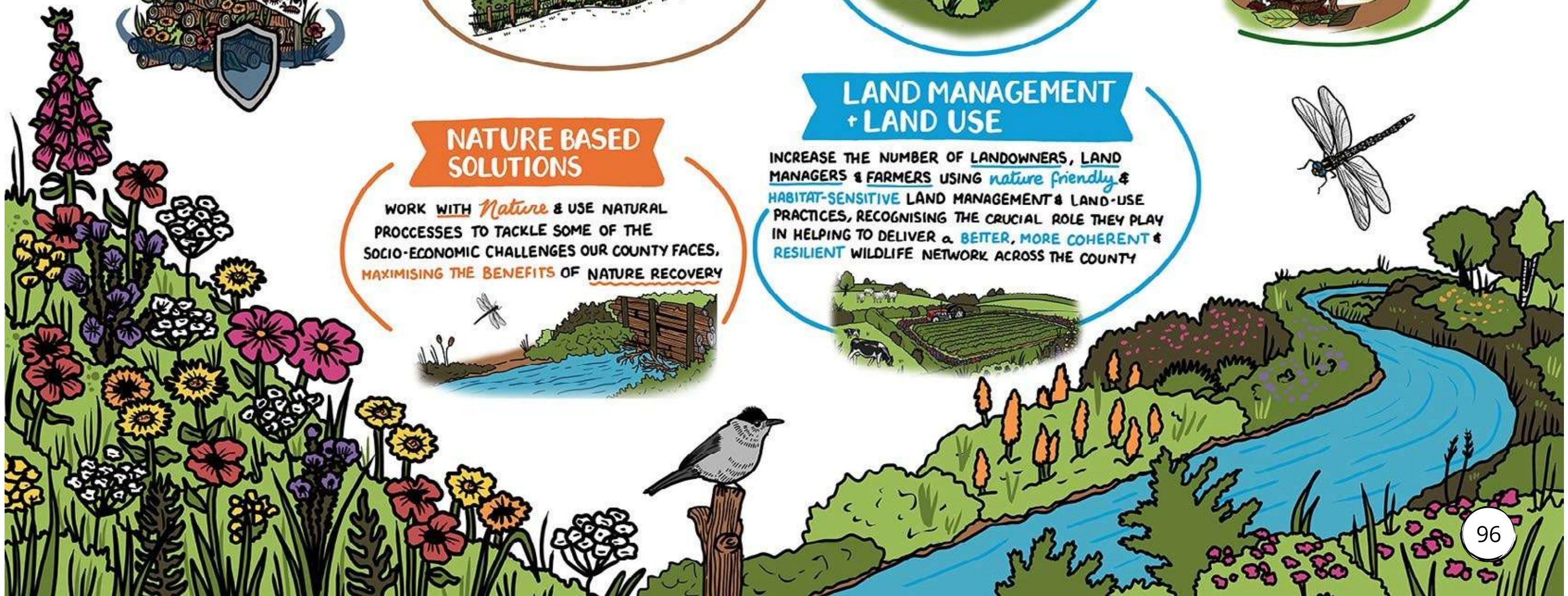
NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

WORK WITH Nature & USE NATURAL PROCESSES TO TACKLE SOME OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES OUR COUNTY FACES, MAXIMISING THE BENEFITS OF NATURE RECOVERY



LAND MANAGEMENT + LAND USE

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LANDOWNERS, LAND MANAGERS & FARMERS USING *nature friendly* & **HABITAT-SENSITIVE** LAND MANAGEMENT & LAND-USE PRACTICES, RECOGNISING THE CRUCIAL ROLE THEY PLAY IN HELPING TO DELIVER a **BETTER, MORE COHERENT & RESILIENT** WILDLIFE NETWORK ACROSS THE COUNTY



AMBITIONS + PRIORITIES

AMBITION FOR CONNECTIVITY IN KENT + MEDWAY

HIGH QUALITY HABITATS are CONNECTED at BOTH a COUNTY + LOCAL SCALE, PROVIDING MORE LINKED NATURAL SPACE for NATURE to THRIVE in a LANDSCAPE that WILDLIFE can MOVE THROUGH + ADAPT to CHANGE IN



PRIORITY CON 1

County's key wildlife sites better connected by addressing the fragmentation + barriers preventing movement of species



PRIORITY CON 2

Fragmentation caused by arterial roads, railway + other major infrastructure retrospectively addressed, reconnecting habitats + wildlife pathways



PRIORITY CON 3

Habitat management + wilding approaches delivering a mosaic of habitats at a large scale, that are functionally connected: nature can flourish, with no important habitats or species population left completely isolated

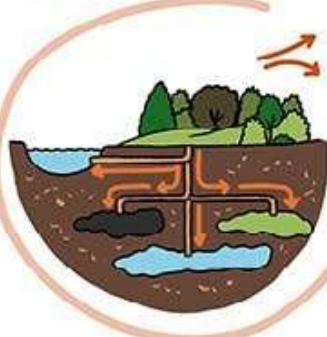


PRIORITY CON 4

Landscape-scale management, with partners beyond the county, to address habitat change + species migration as a result of climate change

AMBITION FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN KENT + MEDWAY

THROUGH SAFEGUARDING, MANAGEMENT + RESTORATION OF THE COUNTY'S ECOSYSTEMS, WE ENHANCE OUR RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE, DELIVER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS, ADDRESS HEALTH + SOCIETAL INEQUALITIES + PROMOTE WELLBEING, WHILE ADVANCING NATURE RECOVERY



PRIORITY NBS1

Increase the extent of carbon sequestering habitats in the county (woodlands, saltmarshes, heathlands + grasslands), which are purposefully managed to function as a carbon store while prioritising a nature recovery function



PRIORITY NBS2

Safeguard from loss + increase the functionality + extent of, habitats delivering critical ecosystem services in the county



PRIORITY NBS3

Improve soil health + structure by enhanced + increased soil management, so that it is delivering better for invertebrates carbon sequestration, water retention + management + production + provisioning services

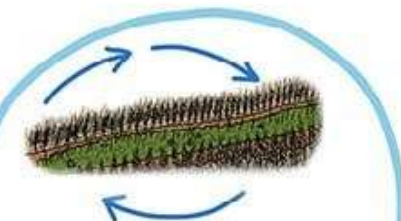
AMBITION FOR LAND MANAGEMENT + LAND USE IN KENT + MEDWAY

LAND MANAGEMENT + LAND USE THROUGHOUT KENT + MEDWAY NOT ONLY MEETS the ECONOMIC + SOCIAL NEEDS of the COUNTY, but ALSO SEEKS OPPORTUNITIES to DELIVER NATURE RECOVERY GAINS ACROSS a WIDE RANGE of LAND USES, from COMMERCIAL to RECREATIONAL



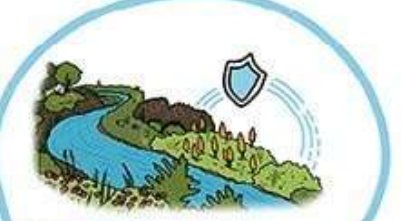
PRIORITY LM1

Increase the number of farms employing nature friendly farming practices, sensitive land management + delivering targeted action for nature recovery, resulting in farmland across the county that is rich in wildlife



PRIORITY LM2

Farmland responding to climate change-induced pressures with the help of nature



PRIORITY LM3

Prevent agricultural diffuse pollution of freshwater habitats + groundwater bodies in farmland, as a result of soil, nutrient or livestock management practices + physical modifications



PRIORITY LM4

Publicly accessible open spaces managed to deliver benefits for wildlife, as well as the people that use them

AMBITIONS + PRIORITIES

AMBIITION FOR GRASSLANDS IN KENT + MEDWAY

OUR EXISTING GRASSLANDS are CONSERVED, with APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT RETURNED to RESTORE, CONNECT + EXTEND these HABITATS to DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY, SPECIES-RICH AREAS ACROSS the COUNTY



PRIORITY GL1

Chalk grasslands are safeguarded from land-use changes + other threats + restored to a better + species-rich condition. They are connected + buffered across the landscape to promote ecological integrity + resilience, particularly for facilitating species movement in response to climate change



PRIORITY GL2

Existing coastal + floodplain grazing marsh restored to better condition + to retain more freshwater, with sensitive areas + the breeding waders they support, protected from land management + recreational disturbance. Opportunities taken to create + extend areas of this habitat + increase its climate resilience



PRIORITY GL3

Existing species-rich lowland meadow is safeguarded from loss, restored to better condition + extended through sensitive land management practices to reduce soil nutrient levels. Through the extension of lowland meadow, this habitat is better connected, reducing the risk of isolated meadow species + declines in species richness



PRIORITY GL4

Retain, restore + extend the county's acid grassland + heathland habitat mosaics, to improve the species diversity that these habitats, with limited extent in Kent + Medway, support



PRIORITY GL5

Safeguard, restore + increase fields with a diversity + abundance of arable wild plants

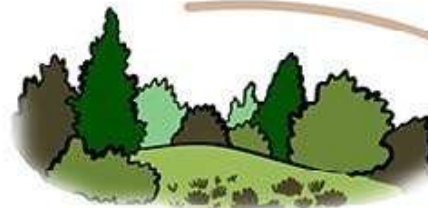
AMBIITION FOR SUCCESSIONAL HABITATS IN KENT + MEDWAY

THE STRUCTURAL DIVERSITY of OPEN MOSAIC HABITAT FOUND on PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED LAND (BROWNFIELD) + LOW-LEVEL SCRUB is SAFEGUARDED from LOSS + DAMAGE, for the BENEFIT of SPECIES that RELY ON EARLY SUCCESSIONAL HABITATS



PRIORITY SH1

Safeguard from loss + damage, open mosaic habitats found on previously developed land (brownfield), that support priority species which rely on early successional habitats



PRIORITY SH2

Increase the extent of low level, scrub/successional habitat, providing a mix of young + mature scrub to enable structural diversity + to support a wide range of species. Link this scrub habitat with hedgerows, woodland + other habitats to support wildlife corridors

AMBIITION FOR WOODLAND, TREES + HEDGEROWS in KENT + MEDWAY

KENT + MEDWAY'S NATIVE WOODLAND, TREES + HEDGEROWS are SAFEGUARDED from LOSS + UNDER APPROPRIATE + ACTIVE MANAGEMENT, DELIVERING ROBUST GROUND FLORA + SOIL STRUCTURES. A MIXTURE of NATURAL REGENERATION + NEW ESTABLISHMENT IMPROVES CONNECTIVITY + PROVIDES an EVEN GREATER CONTRIBUTION to CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION + RESILIENCE



PRIORITY WTH1

Retain the extent + improve the condition of existing woodland + trees outside woodland through active management, improving habitat provision for woodland species



PRIORITY WTH2

Increase the average canopy cover of Kent through woodland + trees outside woodland



PRIORITY WTH3

Return the ecological function provided by native trees previously prolific in Kent, by restoring those lost to disease, pests, climate change + drought



PRIORITY WTH4

Ensure the resilience of the county's woodlands



PRIORITY WTH5

Ancient woodland + ancient + veteran trees, are safeguarded from loss, with damaged areas restored through natural processes, management + the removal of invasive trees + plants. Areas of ancient woodland are buffered + better connected



PRIORITY WTH6

Increase the extent of high-quality wet woodland in the county + improve connectivity with the freshwater habitat network



PRIORITY WTH7

Retain + safeguard the High Weald's unique gill woodland, the plant species they support + the functions they provide for wider river catchment



PRIORITY WTH8

The extent of species-rich hedgerows throughout the county is increased, with lost hedgerows replaced, gaps filled + existing hedgerows managed to improve the quantity as well as quality. Hedgerows provide a coherent network of shelter, nesting + forage for wildlife across the landscape, allowing other habitats to be linked



PRIORITY WTH9

An increase in traditional orchards, under sensitive management, supporting an abundance + diversity of wildlife



PRIORITY WTH10

Appropriate + co-ordinated Deer management in woodland + connecting areas, on a landscape scale, to reduce their impacts + to support new planting + natural regeneration



AMBITIONS + PRIORITIES

AMBITION FOR FRESHWATER HABITAT IN KENT + MEDWAY

OUR FRESHWATER HABITATS ARE CLEAN, SUFFICIENT + STABLE, in a HEALTHY + GOOD ECOLOGICAL STATE that SUPPORTS an ABUNDANCE + DIVERSITY of SPECIES. CATCHMENTS' FUNCTIONS ARE RESTORED to DELIVER a CONNECTED MOSAIC of WET HABITATS, IMPROVING WATER QUALITY + MANAGING FLOOD RISK ACROSS the COUNTY



PRIORITY FW1
All rivers, streams + associated floodplains have a more natural form, free from physical modifications + barriers, allowing them to achieve at minimum good ecological status or potential + supporting natural processes. All freshwater habitats support a diverse native flora.



PRIORITY FW2
Ensure freshwater habitats + groundwater bodies are supplied with clean water, safeguarded from, + able to withstand the impacts of pollution



PRIORITY FW3
Freshwater habitats + groundwater bodies are supplied with sufficient water + resilient flows, supporting their natural hydrological + hydrogeological regime



PRIORITY FW4
Rivers, streams + springs + associated waterbodies have wide, more natural buffer strips with a diverse vegetation structure, which allow natural processes, provide a balance of light + shade, create mosaics of wetland habitats + safeguard from pollution + drought



PRIORITY FW5
Headwater streams have a natural form + natural processes, functioning as part of a mosaic of (seasonally) wet habitats including grasslands + woodlands, providing resilient flows to rivers + supporting a wide range of wildlife



PRIORITY FW6
Maintain + enhance ponds with high ecological value + restore those that have been lost or degraded. Enhance lake habitats + create new ponds, especially as part of a mosaic of habitats. Safeguard all pond habitats from runoff pollutants + invasive species, while allowing successional habitats to develop where appropriate



PRIORITY FW7
Lowland mire sites (fern + valley mires) + lowland peat habitats are well managed + enhanced, with the provision of buffers to allow the habitat extent to increase



PRIORITY FW8
High quality natural reedbeds across Kent are increased + existing reedbeds are in appropriate management



PRIORITY FW9
Enhance + restore wildlife-rich + functioning freshwater wetlands across the county, providing not only shelter, nurseries + breeding grounds but also carbon sinks + water management



PRIORITY FW10
Restore + enhance semi-natural lowland drains + associated marshlands through integrated water-level management + habitat restoration to reduce flood risk, mitigate drought impacts + promote biodiversity

AMBITION FOR URBAN HABITAT IN KENT + MEDWAY


NATURE PLAYS a CENTRAL ROLE in SHAPING the COUNTY'S BUILT-UP ENVIRONMENTS, with WILDLIFE BENEFITING FROM a NETWORK of CONNECTED GREEN, BLUE + GREY SPACES, WHICH ALSO PROVIDE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS to the ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES of URBAN AREAS



PRIORITY URB1
Address habitat fragmentation in the urban + built environment, ensuring urban species can freely move about + developed areas + infrastructure does not impede passage



PRIORITY URB2
Deliver benefits for wildlife + support its recovery + growth in the urban environment through green space, building + land management



PRIORITY URB3
Safeguard + increase the extent of greenspace, trees + hedgerows within urban areas to not only provide more habitat for wildlife but also to deliver other benefits, including urban cooling, air + noise pollution regulation + surface water management

AMBITION FOR COASTAL HABITAT IN KENT + MEDWAY


COASTAL + ESTUARINE AREAS ARE ALLOWED to EVOLVE, with NATURAL PROCESSES + PROGRESSION RESTORED, to ENABLE THEM to ADAPT + be RESILIENT to CLIMATE CHANGE. HABITAT SUCCESSION is MANAGED STRATEGICALLY + HOLISTICALLY, to MINIMISE LOSS + SUPPORT a RANGE of HIGH-FUNCTIONING, CONNECTED COASTAL HABITATS



PRIORITY CL1
Sustainable + strategic management of estuaries + open coast to create functionally linked coastal habitats that are allowed to evolve, creating areas for wildlife to thrive. Natural dynamic processes + progression is restored, to enable adaptation + resilience to climate change + minimise the loss of intertidal habitats



PRIORITY CL2
Reduce small-scale loss, improve condition + increase connectivity of saltmarsh mudflats, providing functioning ecosystems that are safeguarded from recreational disturbance



PRIORITY CL3
Reverse the decline in seagrass off Kent's coast to safeguard this important habitat for marine species + their breeding grounds + nurseries, + to preserve its vital function as a blue carbon store



PRIORITY CL4
Chalk cliffs + reef communities thrive in their natural state + are safeguarded from damage from recreational leisure activities, development + bottom fishing methods



PRIORITY CL5
Sustainable management of native reed building shellfish to allow them to reach their habitat-reaching potential



PRIORITY CL6
Saline lagoons are appropriately safeguarded + managed to increase their resilience + adaptation to climate change + to secure their ecological functions, including the role they will play as transitional habitats



PRIORITY CL7
Safeguard + restore vegetated shingle, ensuring there is no unavoidable loss + areas remain in, or are returned to, a favourable condition



PRIORITY CL8
Restore sand dunes, enabling, where possible, the natural mobile function of the dune system to be reinstated or use management to maintain a full range of successional stages of sand stabilisation across the dune system



PRIORITY CL9
Reduction in coastal wildlife disturbance, resulting from leisure pressures at the coast

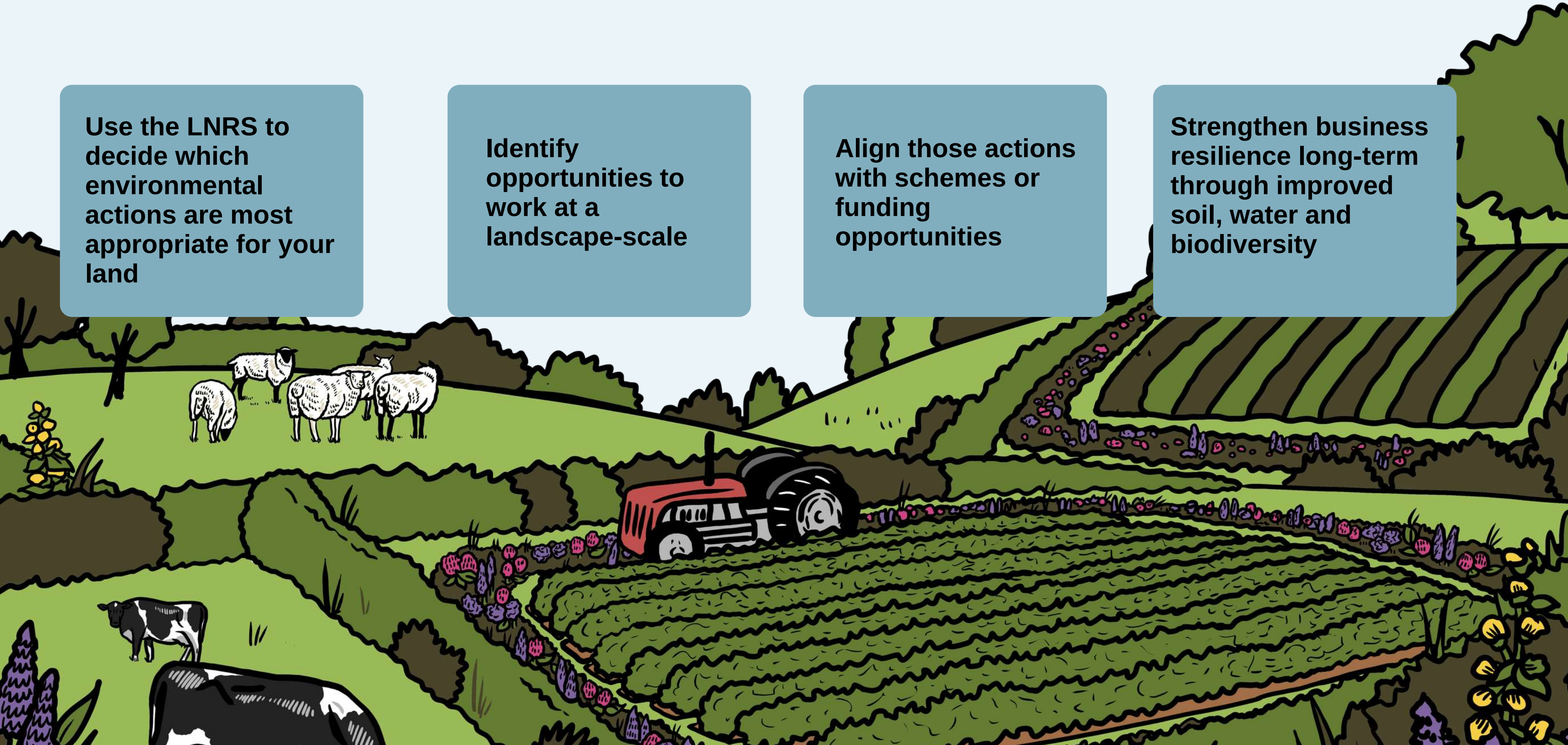
So How Can You Use the LNRS?

Use the LNRS to decide which environmental actions are most appropriate for your land

Identify opportunities to work at a landscape-scale

Align those actions with schemes or funding opportunities

Strengthen business resilience long-term through improved soil, water and biodiversity

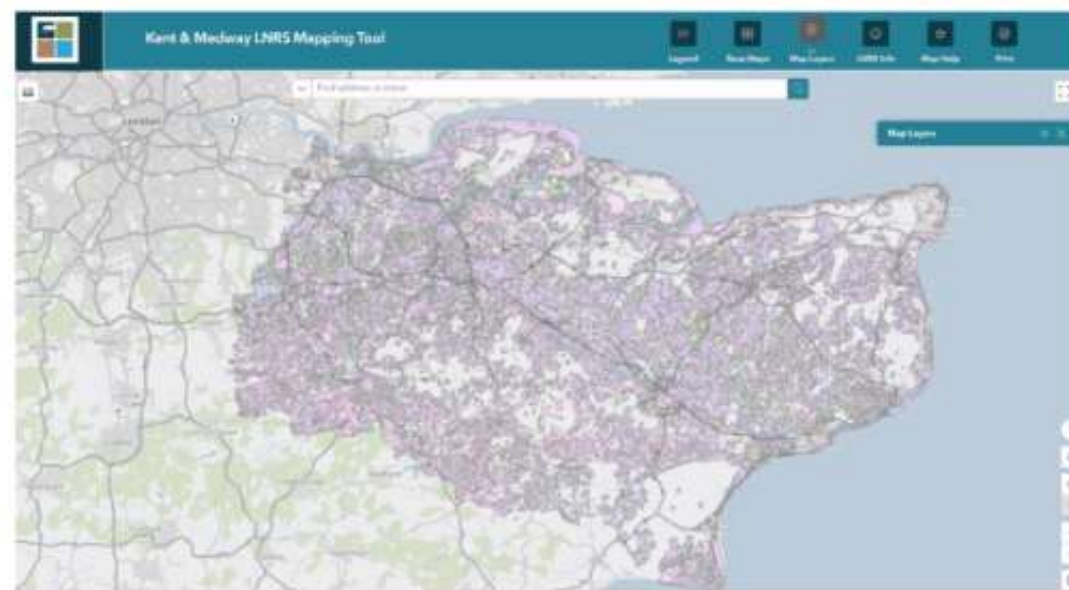


Local Nature Recovery Strategy mapping portal

The Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy is spatially framed, mapping areas which are, or could become, of particular importance for nature recovery.

Home Local Nature Recovery Strategy mapping portal

Share



Click here to launch the online mapping tool

The Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy mapping tool allows you to view online

- **Areas of particular importance for biodiversity** are the Strategy area's national conservation sites (National Nature Reserve, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Marine Conservation Zones and Ramsar), Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites and irreplaceable habitat. The areas eligible for inclusion in this map is tightly defined by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy regulations.

In this section

Local Nature Recovery Strategy mapping portal

How to use the online mapping tool

A note on the Strategy's potential measures mapping and its limitations

Mapping approach

Mapping methodology and data

Help on u

Mapping tool tutorial: [How to use the](#)

Widgets/Tools on t



Legend: Here you can view the symbology of the acti clicking on the corners and dragging.

Base Maps: Click here to change the base mapping t

Map Layers: Open a list of mapping layers here. Click view the measures inside the habitat groupings. As w potential measures box must be ticked in order for th resized and repositioned by clicking on the corners a You can click on the mapp

LNRS info: Click here for LNRS terminology explanatio

Draw: Use the draw function to draw around an area of interest and insert text boxes.

Print: Here you can print a map of the selected view window on the Application for export as a file type such as PDF.

Other Mapping Functions



Welcome to the Kent & Medway LNRS Mapping Tool

The Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy sets out the priorities for the county's nature and identifies the potential measures (actions) that will deliver these.

Mapping Tool Tutorial:

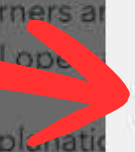
[How to use the online mapping tool](#) | [Making Space for Nature Kent](#)

This Mapping Tool presents the Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy's Local Habitat map. This comprises the following three statutory mapped elements:

1. **Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB)** - the Strategy area's national conservation sites, Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites and irreplaceable habitat. This mapped area is tightly defined by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy regulations.
2. **Areas that Could become of particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB)** - comprise the extent of the

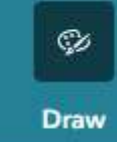
I have read the important Information

OK





Kent & Medway LNRs Mapping Tool



Legend

Base Maps

Map Layers

LNRS Info

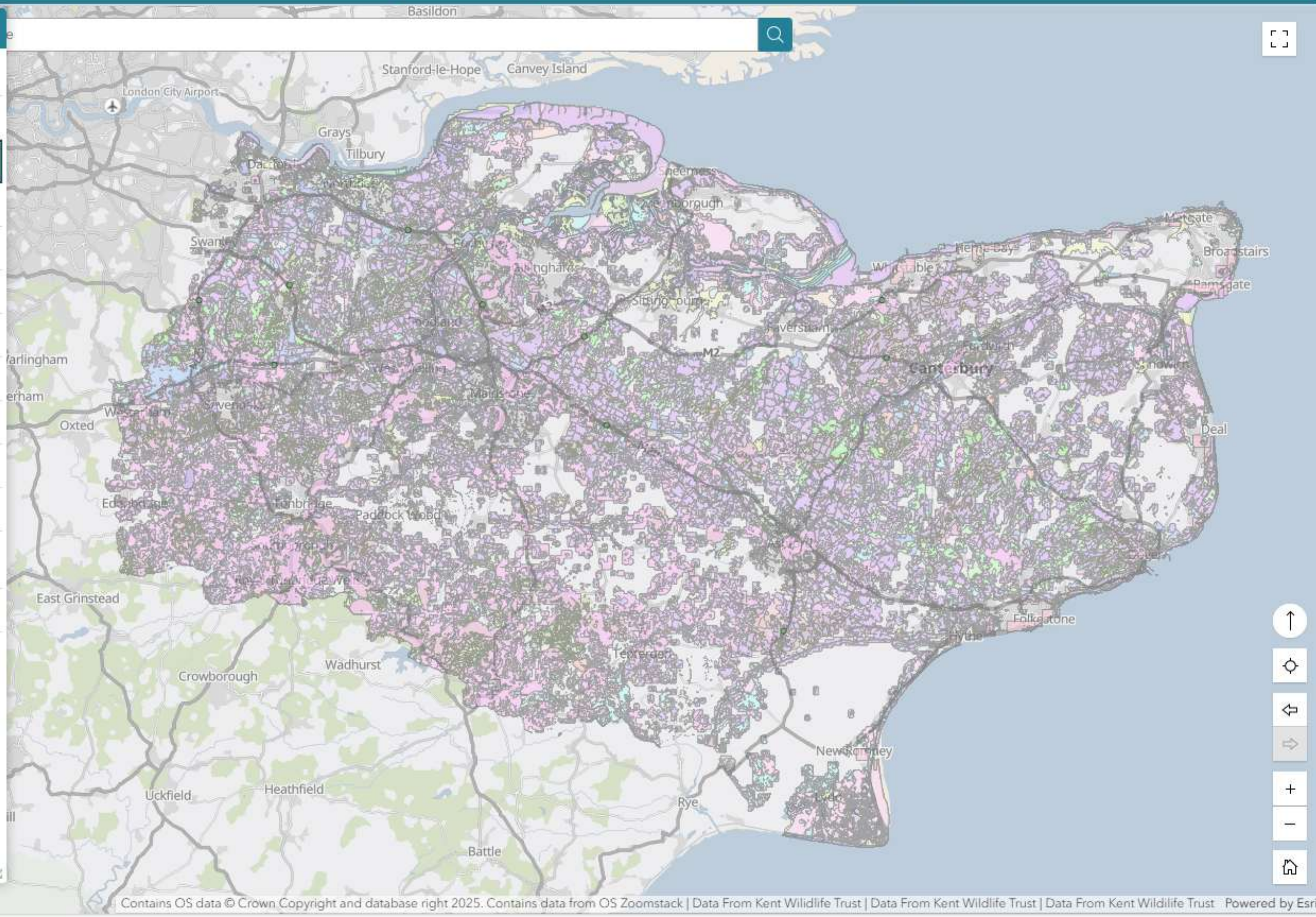
Draw

Map Help

Print

Map Layers

- LNRS Local Habitat Map
- APIB - Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity
- Potential Measures
 - Connectivity
 - Land Management and Land Use
 - Species Rich Grasslands
 - Successional Habitats
 - Woodland Trees and Hedgerow
 - Freshwater Habitats
 - Urban
 - Coastal Habitats
- ACIB - Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity
- Additional (non-statutory) LNRS mapping
- Other Map Layers - OS



10 km



Kent & Medway LNRs Mapping Tool

Legend

Base Maps

Map Layers

LNRs Info

Draw

Map Help

Print

Find address or place

LM4.1 Land management and land use - access

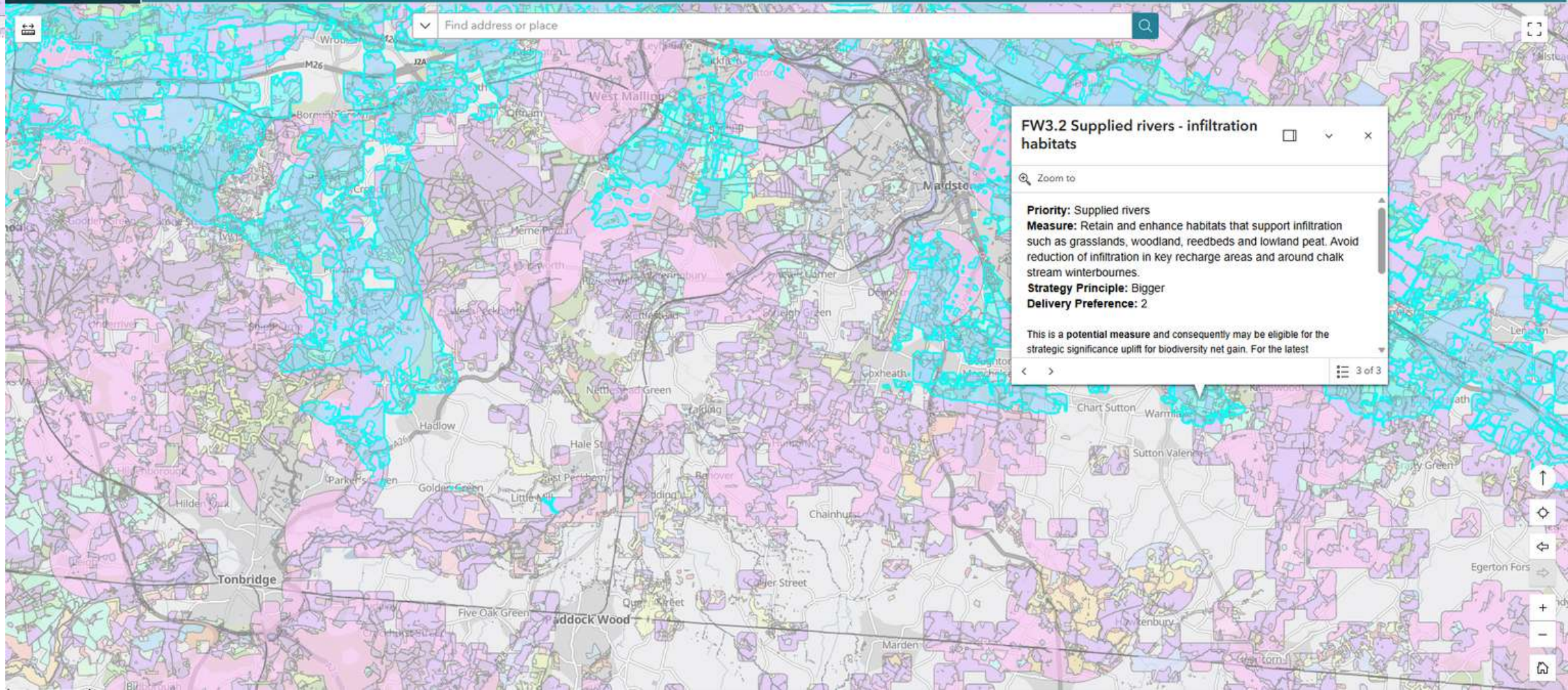
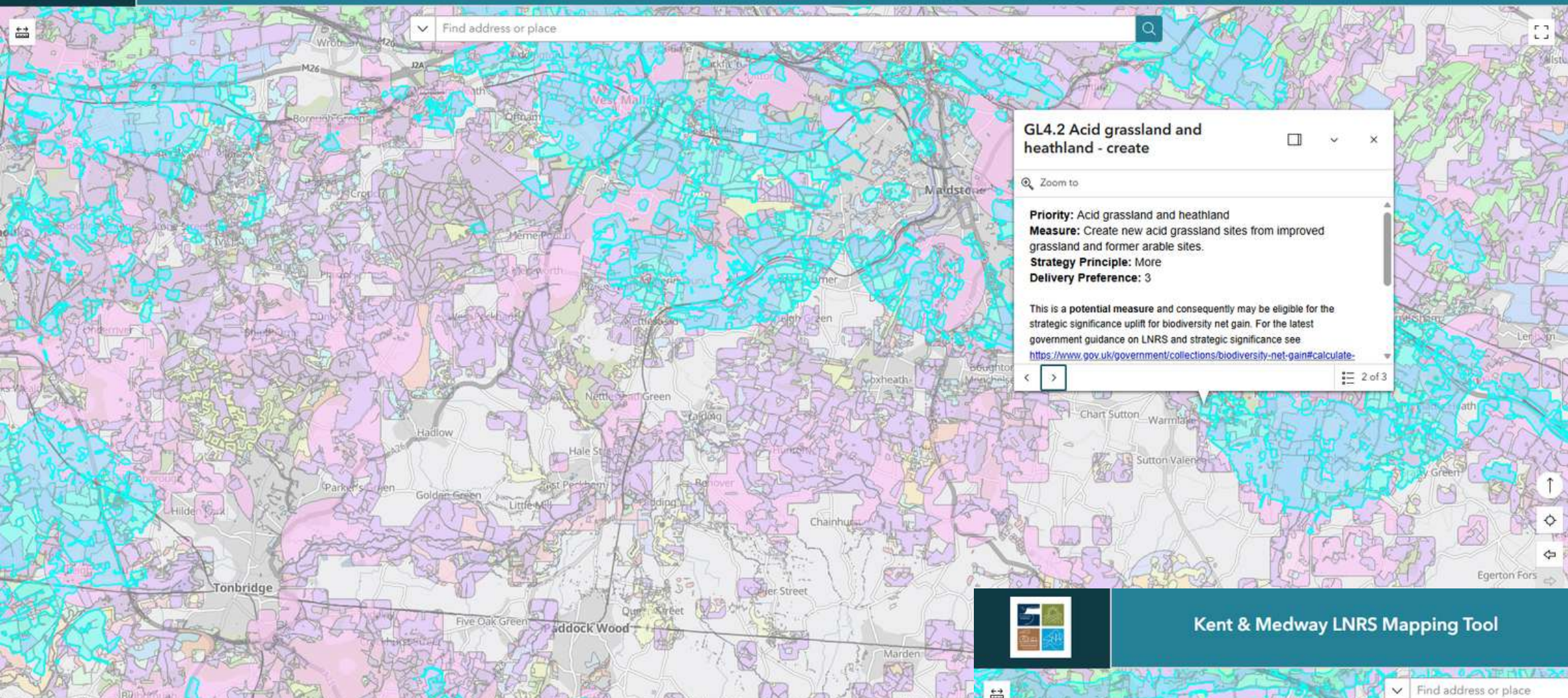
Zoom to

Priority: Land management and land use
Measure: Protection of habitats and species sensitive to disturbance by employing site management, and other measures, which support connection to, and experience of, wildlife but ensures our most sensitive sites remain undisturbed.
Strategy Principle: Better
Delivery Preference: 1

This is a **potential measure** and consequently may be eligible for the strategic significance uplift for biodiversity net gain. For the latest

1 of 3





Map Layers

- ArcGIS World Geocoding Service
- OS Open Names locator
- OS Code-Point Open postcode locator
- LNRS Local Habitat Map
- APiB - Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity
- Potential Measures
 - Connectivity
 - Land Management and Land Use
 - Species Rich Grasslands
 - Successional Habitats
 - Woodland Trees and Hedgerow
 - Freshwater Habitats
 - Urban
 - Coastal Habitats
- ACiB - Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity

Legend Base Maps Map Layers LNRS Info Draw Map Help Print

Search result

GL3.2 Lowland meadow - create

Zoom to

Priority: Lowland meadow
Measure: Increase the extent of high quality, connected lowland meadow by creating new lowland meadow sites, in close proximity to core/good condition sites.
Strategy Principle: More
Delivery Preference: 3

This is a **potential measure** and consequently may be eligible for the strategic significance uplift for biodiversity net gain. For the latest government guidance on LNRs and strategic significance see <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/biodiversity-net-gain#calculate->

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- ArcGIS World Geocoding Service
- OS Open Names locator
- OS Code-Point Open postcode locator
- > LNRS Local Habitat Map
- Additional LNRS Mapping
- ▼ Wider Measures
 - > Connectivity
 - > Land Management and Land Use
 - > Species Rich Grasslands
 - > Woodland Trees and Hedgerow
 - > Freshwater Habitats
 - > Urban
 - > Coastal Habitats
 - > Priority Species Mapping
- > Other Map Layers - OS



Search result

WTH8.3 Species-rich hedgerows - connect

Zoom to

Priority: Species-rich hedgerows
Measure: Strategic siting of new and extended hedgerows to aid habitat connectivity and support species forage, shelter and movement; restore links to copse and woodland.
Strategy Principle: Connected
Delivery Preference: 4

This is a **wider measure** – it identifies areas of opportunity for nature

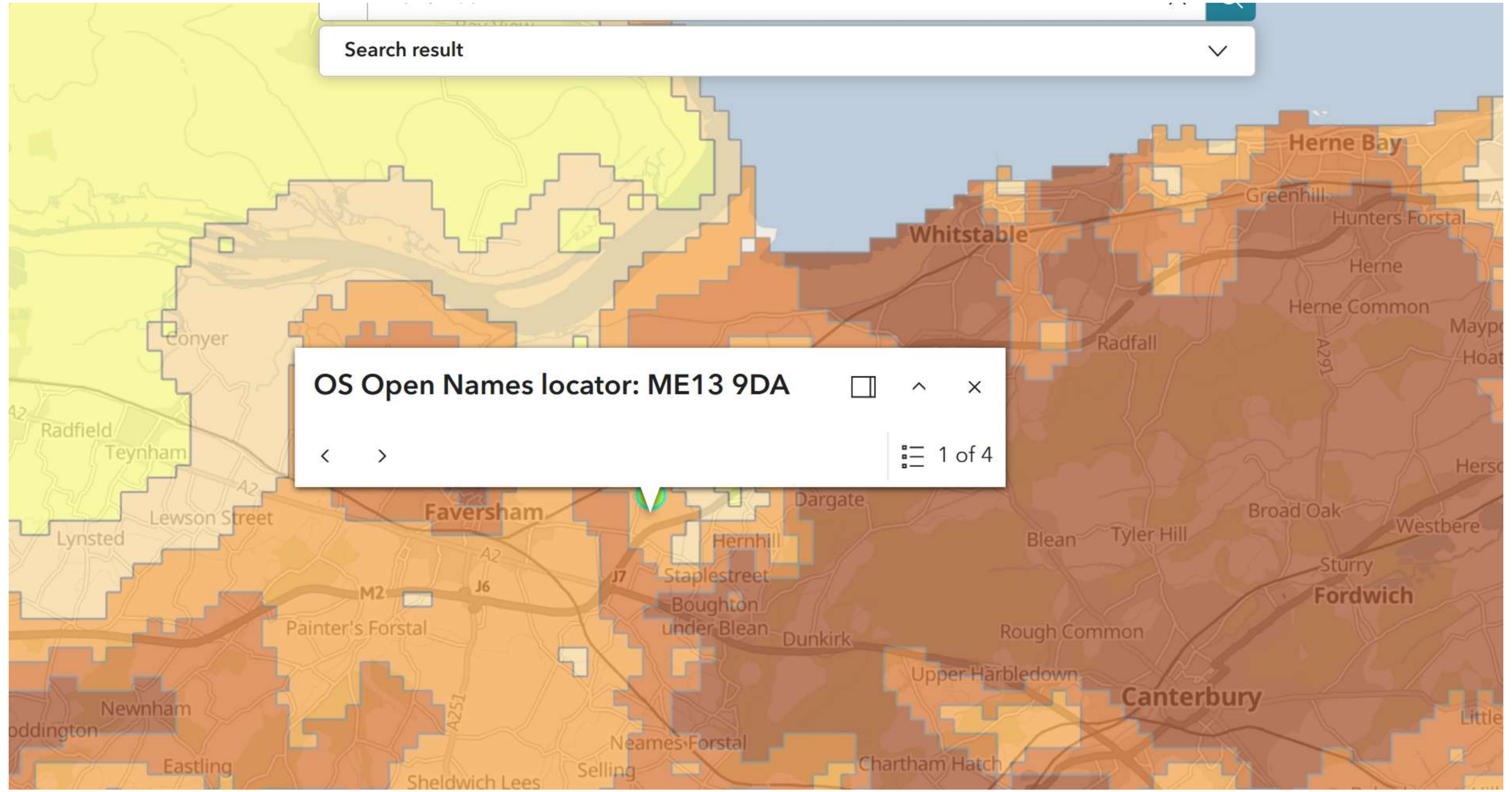
Search result

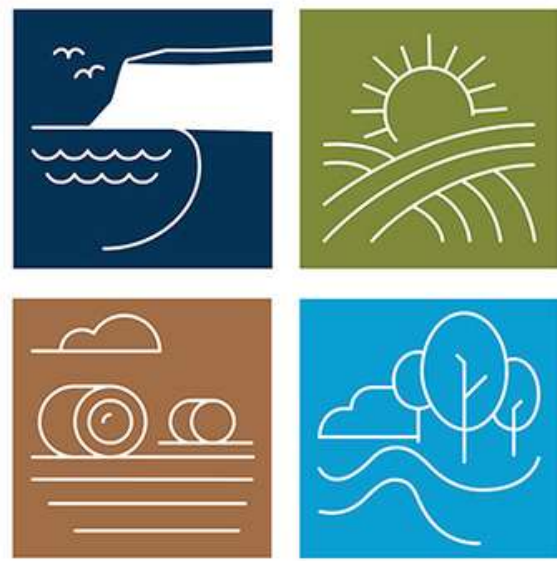


OS Open Names locator: ME13 9DA



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Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Making space for the county's nature

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