



Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway Delivery Group

Terms of Reference – October 2023

The 2021 Environment Act established the requirement for a system of spatial strategies for nature and environmental improvement, developed at the local level as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Together, the strategies will cover the whole of England with no gaps and no overlaps.

Kent County Council is the Responsible Authority for the development of the Kent and Medway LNRS, which will be undertaken by the project Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway.

The main purpose of the strategy is to identify locations to create or improve habitat most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and provide other environmental benefits, such as carbon sequestration, flood and water management and nature-rich places that support improved health and wellbeing.

The development of the LNRS is underpinned by regulations and guidance, which stipulate that the Strategy must:

- Agree priorities for nature's recovery.
- Map the most valuable existing areas for nature.
- Map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals.

The Strategy's development must be evidence-led and collaborative, with wide involvement of public, private and voluntary sectors. The work should be transparent and inclusive, with clear communications.

A governance and delivery structure (illustrated at end of document) has been created to ensure that the Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy:

- meets the requirements of the regulations and statutory guidance;
- benefits from the knowledge and expertise within the county, to ensure it is technically sound; and
- engages all stakeholders along the way, so there is the support and buy-in that will be required to see the successful delivery of the Strategy's priorities.

Terms of Reference

Purpose of the Delivery Group: To provide the technical and sectoral advice required to steer the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The Delivery Group is not designed to enable broad stakeholder engagement. Through representatives of key stakeholder groups, the Delivery Group will act as a steering group for the LNRS development, providing oversight and guidance in order to:

- Ensure that the development of the Strategy is based on the widest and most inclusive stakeholder engagement feasible.
- Ensure that the Strategy meets the needs of the county's biodiversity and wider environment.
- Ensure that the Strategy is evidence-led and developed with technical expertise and scrutiny.

Specific tasks for the Delivery Group will include:

1. Review and sign off the LNRS development plan.
2. Review and sign off stakeholder engagement and communication plans.
3. Review and sign off key milestones in the LNRS development.
4. Advise on stakeholder engagement approaches relevant to their specific sector and support activities to connect with stakeholders across the Strategy area.
5. Assist in resolving barriers and challenges to stakeholder engagement.
6. Provide information and expertise to support the development of the Strategy.
7. Review and advise on approaches taken to develop the various outputs and requirements of the Strategy.
8. Assist in the development of definitions and criteria to be used in the Strategy development.
9. Review and refine draft Strategy outputs.

The Delivery Group membership will comprise:

Countryside Management Partnership (nominated representative)
Country Land and Business Association Kent
Environment Agency
Forestry Commission
High Weald AONB
Kent County Council
Kent Downs AONB
Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre
Kent Public Health
Kent Wildlife Trust
Medway Council
National Farmers Union Kent
Natural England
RSPB
Supporting Authorities (nominated representative)
South East Rivers Trust

Provisional meeting schedule:

Milestone	Indicative timeframe
Project commencement and agreement of work programme and approach to Strategy development.	September 2023
Mid milestone review	November 2023
Completion of local habitat map of “areas of particular importance for biodiversity” and the strategy area description and opportunities for nature recovery.	January/February 2024
Mid milestone review	March/April 2024
Completion of the statement of biodiversity priorities and potential measures.	July/August 2024
Mid milestone review	August/September 2024
Completion of the Local habitat map of “areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity”.	November/December 2024
Agree consultation draft	November/December 2024
Consultation feedback and resolution	March/April 2025
Sign off final LNRS	April/May 2025

The MS4N officer responsible for the Delivery Group will be the MS4N Project Officer.

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway Board

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway
Supporting Authorities

Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway
Delivery Group

Data,
evidence &
mapping

Species
recovery

Stakeholder
engagement

Land advice
network

Climate
change &
NBS

Habitats &
species

Access &
connection

Utilities

Transport

Developers
& business

Landowners,
farmers &
managers

Terrestrial

Rivers & freshwater

Coastal & marine

Priority & threatened
species

Political and
strategic
oversight and
governance

Steering groups
– support,
oversight and
guidance

Technical
Advisory Groups

Stakeholder
Engagement
Groups



**Making Space
for Nature
in Kent and Medway**

Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

**Governance and
delivery structure**