













Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

# Pressures and priorities workshops report - Part 2 30<sup>th</sup> January - 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

# Priorities longlist for Kent and Medway's nature













#### Introduction to Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Making Space for Nature will work with partners and stakeholders to collaboratively developing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Kent & Medway (LNRS). These strategies have been created as a result of the 2021 Environment Act, with 48 to be created across England with no gaps or overlaps. Developed at a landscape scale by a Responsible Authority (Kent County Council), the LNRS will agree the local priorities and associated actions for nature recovery and wider environmental benefits. Collectively, the 48 LNRSs 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 at <u>www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk</u>

#### The MS4N Pressures and Priorities Workshops

Between 30th January and 20th February 2024, a series of workshops were held to identify the pressures and priorities for nature in Kent and Medway.

The purpose of the first session was to determine the "why" - identifying the key issues the LNRS needs to consider when setting its priorities of nature. Stakeholders were asked to identify the current, and future, pressures, threats and challenges. The outcomes of this can be found in part 1 of the *Pressures and priorities workshops report*.

Pressures will be used to inform the context setting for priorities and refinement of the long list. The workshop outputs will also be used to inform the pressures section of the "Strategy Area Description", as required by the LNRS regulations.

Pressures identified by the workshops but, on review, were considered outside the scope of the LNRS to address or influence can be found in part 3 of the *Pressures and priorities* workshops report.

The second session aimed to start the identification of the "what" - the priorities the LNRS might include. Stakeholders were asked to identify the outcomes they would like to see for nature - where they wanted to get to in terms of the county's habitats and species. From this, a "priorities longlist" would be formed. This longlist will go through a refinement process, using a <u>criteria-based shortlisting approach</u>, to create a proposed list of priorities for nature recovery in Kent and Medway.

Five full-day workshops were held at five different locations (Chilham, Ashford, Rainham, Gravesend and East Malling). In total, 200 people attended, representing 137 different

organisations, bodies, affiliations etc. For more details see the <u>attendance and feedback</u> <u>report</u>.

This report provides an edited version of what stakeholders told us were the outcomes they would like to see for nature – this provides us with the LNRS priorities longlist. During the workshop, some input strayed into potential measures (actions) rather than priorities (outcomes). These have been retained in the report but distinguished from the proposed priorities. These will feed into the potential measures work in May. The links indicated in this report are those identified at the workshops, rather than an exhaustive list of connections between potential priorities. These links will be further considered in due course.

Priorities have been ordered under the following themes:

#### 1. Habitats

- Ancient woodland - Hedgerows - Scrub
- Chalk grassland - Marine - Soil
- Chalk streams - Meadow - Woodland
- Coast - Mosaic habitats - Urban
- Freshwater - Open mosaic habitats on - Wetland

Grassland previously developed land - Habitats (general)

Grazing marsh - Orchards

- Heathland - Saltmarsh/grazing marsh

#### 2. Connectivity

#### 3. Species

- Amphibians - Mammals - Reptiles

- Birds - Marine species - Species (general)

Fish
 Invertebrates
 Plants and fungi
 Reintroductions

#### 4. Pest species and invasive non-native species

#### 5. Climate change

Climate resilience - Flood management - Nature based solutions

#### 6. Environmental quality

- Air quality - Light pollution - Other pollution

Chemicals - Water quality

#### 7. Farmland

#### 8. Managed greenspace

- Gardens - Land management - Planting

- Public greenspace

#### 9. Built environment

- Development - Infrastructure - Renewable energy

#### 10. People

- Access - Awareness

- 11. Supporting systems
   General approaches to planning and nature Data and monitoring planning and financing Wildlife crime

This report is a reflection of stakeholders' views and opinions. Views and opinions do not indicate fact. Analysis of these proposed priorities is still to be undertaken by the MS4N project, under the steer of the MS4N Delivery Group. No inference should be taken from the manner or order in which they are presented.

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

#### 1. HABITATS

#### 1.1 Ancient woodland

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
No loss of existing ancient woodland.	<ul> <li>Absolute protection from development.</li> <li>Better management.</li> <li>Joined up.</li> <li>Identification of ancient and veteran trees.</li> </ul>	
	- Removal of invasive tree species.	
Ancient woodland habitats connected for climate resilience.	<ul><li>Hedgerow planting.</li><li>Targeted planning and mapping.</li></ul>	Connectivity

# 1.2 Chalk grassland

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Chalk grasslands restored to high quality, supporting high diversity of species, including species tolerant to climate change.	<ul> <li>Correct grassland management.</li> <li>Restoration from scrub encroachment and scrub encroachments stopped.</li> <li>Grassland management to increase habitat/plants for pollinators.</li> </ul>	
More chalk grassland in conservation management.	- Installation of grazing fencing.	

#### 1.3 Chalk streams

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
High quality, healthy chalk streams.	- Chalk streams with the right ebb and flow and water quality to	
	flourish.	
	- Chalk streams restored.	
	- Management specifically for increased wildlife.	
	- Chalk stream protection without neglecting other water courses,	
	particularly those designated as SSSI.	

#### 1.4 Coast

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Sensitive coastal habitat not subject to recreational disturbance.	- Areas of coast protected from human/dog disturbance.	Access
Coastal habitats not lost.	- Coastal management addressing coastal squeeze, resulting from sealevel rise and hard sea defences.	
Healthier coastal ecosystems.	<ul><li>Reduction in disturbance, waste and water pollution.</li><li>Creation of new coastal habitats.</li></ul>	
Increased intertidal habitat (saltmarsh, seagrass, mudflats, oyster beds, fish nursery areas) resilient to climate change.	- Managed realignment.	
Improved coastal habitats for wildlife.		
Restoration of coastal habitats (saltmarsh and coastal marshes) and estuaries.		
Vegetative shingle habitat increased.		

#### 1.5 Freshwater

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Improvements in ditch management.	- Better ditch management and farming practices.	(Romney Marsh specifically mentioned)
Improved watercourses (quality) across the landscape.	<ul> <li>County level join up, landscape scale and riparian corridors.</li> <li>County-wide, strategic approach for beaver reintroduction and protection for natural management of waterways and improved resilience of riverside habitats.</li> </ul>	
Fully functioning, clean and thriving rivers, brooks, streams and ponds with regular and sufficient supply of water.	<ul> <li>Control pollution of rivers.</li> <li>Better river management.</li> <li>Preventing/minimising/mitigating nutrient run off into rivers.</li> <li>Deliver WFD targets and natural flood management priorities.</li> <li>Improved sewage treatment operations.</li> </ul>	

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
	- Engagement with drainage boards and farmers.	
Clean water for freshwater species and invertebrates.		Fish Mammals Invertebrates Amphibians
Healthy, cleaner and plentiful rivers with more wildlife features.	<ul> <li>Softer landscaping.</li> <li>Wide margins/buffer strips along the entire length of rivers.</li> <li>Creation of complex habitats along rivers - mosaics, deadwood, scrub, lightwells, beaver ponds, buffers agri-chemicals.</li> <li>Riverbanks protected from livestock.</li> <li>Trees along riverbanks.</li> </ul>	(River Stour & Ashford river corridor specifically mentioned)
Freshwater marshes – get more water on the land.	<ul> <li>Improved natural management of river systems for wetland habitats.</li> <li>Beavers.</li> <li>Leaky dams.</li> <li>Re-profiling.</li> </ul>	Bittern Rails Lapwing Marsh harrier Grey wagtail Snipe True fox sedge Breeding waders
More ponds, including dew ponds	- Incentives to install ponds for amphibians in gardens ponds.	Amphibians Invertebrates
Reedbeds resilient to climate change.	- Long term management to stop them drying out.	

# 1.6 Grassland

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Increase in well-managed, species-rich	Higher proportion of species-rich grassland in permanent pasture	Pollinators
grassland.		
Continuity of large scale grasslands.		
Grassland edges and roadside verges		

# 1.7 Grazing marsh

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
More, better quality and climate resilient	- Protection and restoration of grazing marsh.	Lapwing
grazing marsh, benefiting breeding waders.		Curlew
		Wading birds
		Migratory birds

#### 1.8 Heathland

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Increase in extent of lowland heathland	<ul> <li>Increase in management.</li> <li>Restore and lime up heathlands and bogs.</li> </ul>	Adder Common lizard Slow worm Woodcock Stonechat Nightjar Dartford warbler Cotton sedge
		Sundew

# 1.9 Hedgerows

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Increase in large, wide, species rich hedgerows.	- Care for deteriorating hedgerows.	
	- Improve unmanaged boundary lines of trees.	
Increased quality and connectivity of	- Increased planting of hedgerows and trees	
hedgerows.	- Infilling and maintaining hedges (more traditionally) as well as	
	planting new ones.	
	- Hedge Pledges to fill in gaps.	
Native hedgerows with fruits.		
High quality scrub and hedgerow mosaic.		

#### 1.10 Marine

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Marine Protected Areas in good management.	<ul> <li>Active restoration of marine habitats.</li> <li>Mobile Marine Protected Areas, for key lifecycle events, recognising dynamic nature of marine environment.</li> </ul>	
Greater protection to marine environment.	<ul> <li>Expand Marine Conservation Zones.</li> <li>Quantify species in MCZ.</li> <li>Monitor movement.</li> <li>Coastal reefs identified and protected.</li> </ul>	Sabellaria reefs Blue mussell
Intertidal/near shore marine environments restored and protected.	- Population increase of marine species.	Sea grasses Oysters Kelp
Preserve and enhance coastal and marine biodiversity characteristic of Kent.		
Clean waters.		
Chalk reefs and rocky foreshore.		

#### 1.11 Meadow

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Every community has its own wildflower		
meadow.		
Wildflower meadows for bees, insects, moths.		Invertebrates

#### 1.12 Mosaic habitats

Links
ces. Invertebrates Ground nesting birds
pi

# 1.13 Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Greater use of brownfield sites for development.		
Greater protection of open mosaic habitat on previously developed land from loss.	<ul> <li>Identify and record habitat and species on brownfield sites to create an opportunity map.</li> <li>Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land being recognised as high wildlife value.</li> <li>Brownfield sites better recognised by planners and politicians.</li> </ul>	

#### 1.14 Orchards

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
More and thriving wildlife-rich traditional	- Protect ancient and mature orchards.	
orchards, with heritage fruit trees.	- Orchards of traditional varieties.	

# 1.15 Saltmarsh/grazing marsh

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Protection, restoration, enhancement and creation of saltmarsh/grazing marsh habitat.	<ul> <li>Delivered at a scale to provide biodiversity and flood management benefit.</li> <li>Restoration of saltmarsh islands.</li> </ul>	

#### 1.16 Scrub

sures	Links
. '	Nightingale
1	alued and protected as important habitat.  anaged.

### 1.17 Soil

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Improved soil health		Farmland Invertebrates Carbon storage

# 1.18 Woodland

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Increase standing and fallen deadwood.	- Change attitudes.	Saphophytes
Large areas of native woodland, with increased	- Habitat connectivity.	
resilience to climate change.	- More standard trees.	
	- More woodland planting.	
	- More wood pasture.	
	- Planting trees and woodland resilient to pest, disease, climate change.	
More wetland woodland.	- Recognised as a rare and unique habitat of national importance.	Freshwater
	- Ghyll woodland.	
	- Alder, willow, poplar planting.	
Woodland management increasing	- Designed to deliver for wildlife.	
biodiversity.	- Enabled through economic return on management e.g. coppicing.	
	- Mosaic and species-rich ancient/semi-natural woodland.	
	- Protection from deer grazing - deer management.	
Increased connectivity of woodland.	- Woodland edge habitats – rides and different heights.	
Better protection and management.	- Guidance, advice and support.	Dormouse
	- Buffer zones.	
A more diverse ecology of woodlands.	- Native tree planting.	
	- Species diversity.	
	- Consider resilience and suitability to location.	

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
	<ul> <li>No planting monoculture woodlands.</li> <li>Restoration of oak canopy woodlands and elm.</li> <li>Restoration of bilberry, wild cranberry and wildservice tree.</li> </ul>	
More coppiced woodland/continuation of the coppice cycle.	- Encourage chestnut and hazel coppice.	Nightingales Heath fritillary
Improve management of private woodlands		
Increase canopy cover and areas of woodland in Kent.	<ul> <li>Go beyond the national 16.5% canopy cover targets.</li> <li>Kent Plan Tree aim of 19% met by 2030.</li> <li>Silvo pasture.</li> <li>More wood pasture.</li> <li>Increase canopy cover in villages and towns (trees outside woodlands).</li> <li>Land set aside for woodland creation.</li> </ul>	

### 1.19 Urban

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
A greater focus on providing for and increasing	- More trees – urban forestry.	Development
biodiversity in urban spaces.	- More hedgerows.	Swift
	- Hedges in residential areas, instead of fences. Could there be a grant	Swallow
	for planting urban hedges.	Bats
	- More green spaces.	Green space
	- Wildflower meadows.	Land management
	- Provide more habitats – brambles, nettles, log piles, bee-banks, scrub.	
	- Integrate nature into development.	
	- Urban and peri-urban agriculture.	
	- More wild areas in urban parks.	
	- Green bridges.	
	- Better management of urban and suburban greenspace.	
	- Connect people to these green spaces and generate volunteers to	
	help manage their own local green space.	
	- Connect people to wildlife – education.	
	- More allotments.	
	- Swift, swallow and bat boxes/bricks.	
	- Hedgehog highways.	
	- Better utilisation of spaces for more urban greening and more nature	
	friendly spaces e.g. wildflowers on roundabouts/central reservations.	
	- Appropriate, native planting.	
	- Soil and nutrient management.	
Connected urban spaces.	- Green roof tops.	
	- Hedgehog highways.	
	- Urban planning to allow movement of wildlife.	
Greening used to make urban areas climate	- Trees on streets for shading and cooling.	Climate change
resilient/adaptive.	- Green in urban areas for permeability.	NBS

#### 1.20 Wetland

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Increase in suitable wetlands e.g. grassland,	- Use of SUDS.	
reedbed, wet woods.		

# 1.21 Habitats (general)

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Restoration of species-specific habitat that's been lost from Kent.		
More recognition of our man-made heritage and the habitats it provides.	- Maintain industrial ponds.	
Dynamic habitats which evolve and change.	<ul> <li>Long term management of intermediate habitats such as scrub, disturbed ground etc.</li> <li>Natural regeneration of habitats</li> </ul>	
Expansion of habitats through land-use change.		

#### 2. CONNECTIVITY

(Note – connectivity, and associated potential measures, was the most common priority across all the workshops).

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
A network of connected habitats at a landscape scale.	<ul> <li>Address existing barriers of roads and railways.</li> <li>Reduce future fragmentation from roads and railways by designing in connectivity from start.</li> <li>Woodlands.</li> <li>Hedgerows.</li> <li>Ditches.</li> <li>Wildlife corridors.</li> <li>Green bridges.</li> <li>Wildlife tunnels.</li> <li>Improved habitat corridor matrix.</li> <li>Integrated blue and green infrastructure emulating the natural succession of habitats across land and water.</li> <li>Wildlife corridors/stepping stones across the county, working in partnership with landowners.</li> </ul>	Infrastructure
A network of connected habitats at a local scale.	<ul> <li>Address existing barriers housing.</li> <li>Reduce future fragmentation from housing by designing in connectivity from start.</li> <li>Wildlife highways in new developments.</li> <li>Improved habitat corridor matrix.</li> <li>Green corridors connecting existing habitats in urban areas.</li> <li>Green corridors that also allow active travel.</li> <li>Wildlife corridors in and out of towns.</li> <li>Increased wildlife corridors along road verges and roundabouts.</li> <li>Joined up thinking and connectivity, rather than individual approaches, in urban planning.</li> </ul>	Development

Landscape scale initiatives to improve connectivity for climate resilience, allowing for migration to warmer/colder and wetter/drier places.	- Improved habitat corridor matrix.	
Connect larger populations of species.	<ul><li>Improved habitat corridor matrix.</li><li>Network of invertebrate corridors.</li></ul>	Invertebrates
Improve connectivity of rivers.	<ul><li>Eel pass.</li><li>Fish pass.</li><li>Otter pass.</li><li>Riparian corridors.</li></ul>	Freshwater
Improve connectivity of intertidal, subtidal and transitional habitats.		Coast
Ensure no important wildlife habitats are completely isolated. Improved connectivity between key wildlife sites	<ul> <li>Establish biodiversity corridors.</li> <li>Hedgerows.</li> <li>Ditches.</li> <li>Meadows.</li> <li>Buffer strips.</li> <li>Improved habitat corridor matrix.</li> <li>Lowland meadow connectivity.</li> <li>Reconnection of floodplains.</li> <li>Protected habitat in a favourable condition with linked buffer habitat.</li> </ul>	

#### 3. SPECIES

(Note that priority species and associated measures will be developed through the LNRS priority species work, as determined by Natural England guidance; the below will be reviewed by the Species Recovery Technical Advisory Group overseeing this work).

#### 3.1 Amphibians

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Great crested newt		
Slow worm		
Better habitat/ponds for amphibians.		Freshwater
Safeguard amphibians against climate change risk of drying up of wet areas.		Freshwater Climate change

#### 3.2 Birds

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Barn owls		
Blue tits		Urban
Choughs	- Invertebrate rich grassland.	Invertebrates
		Grassland
House martins		
House sparrows		Urban
Lapwing		
Nightingales		Woodland
Nightjars		
Ring collar doves		Urban
Ringed plovers	- Reduced disturbance from human (and dog) activity.	Coast
Skylarks		
Starlings		Urban
Storks	- Nesting opportunities.	

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Swifts		
Turtle doves	<ul><li>More and improved feeding and breeding habitat.</li><li>Mixed mosaic habitats - grassland, tree, scrub.</li></ul>	Farmland
Breeding seabird population restored.		Marine Coast
Evidenced and positive change of UK red and		
amber listed bird species		
Increase of farmland bird species.		Farmland
Increase in breeding birds.	- More nest boxes on public buildings.	Urban
More migratory birds.		
Climate resilient bird habitats	<ul> <li>New and expanded saline and fresh water coastal lagoons to provide breeding and high tide roost opportunities for waders and shore birds.</li> </ul>	Coast
Increase in wintering coastal birds.	- Protection of coastal mud and grazing marsh.	Coast
Reverse decline in woodland birds.		Woodland

# 3.3 Fish

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Brown trout	- Fish passes to open migratory pathways.	Freshwater
Eels	<ul> <li>Eel passes to open migratory pathways.</li> <li>Eel friendly sluices.</li> <li>Weir removal.</li> </ul>	Freshwater
Native fish species		
Improved fish passage.	<ul> <li>Fish/eel passes to open migratory pathways.</li> <li>Eel friendly sluices.</li> <li>Weir removal.</li> </ul>	Freshwater

#### 3.4 Invertebrates

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Adonis blue		
Brown hairstreak		
Bumblebees		
Fiery clearwing month		
Glow worms		
Grizzled skipper		
Hoverflies		
Small blue		
Solitary bees		
Stag beetle		
Wart-biter crickets		
White letter hairstreak		
All rare bumble bees in Kent have stable	- Bee lines along roadsides to increase connectivity.	
population, plenty of forage and expanded	- Make Kent the bee tourism capital of the UK.	
ranges.	- Champion them so it makes Kent residents proud.	
Increase in invertebrate diversity and	- Better management of grassland for invertebrate overwintering.	Freshwater
abundance, recognising key role in the food	- More water bodies, ponds, log stacks etc.	
chain.		
Greater density/profusion and diversity of	- Butterfly scrapes	
butterflies and moths, native and naturalised		
(number and species).		
Increase in bee and pollinator species.		

#### 3.5 Mammals

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Alcathoe bat		
Badger	- No badger cull for Kent.	
	- Badgers vaccinated against TB.	
Barbistrel bat		
Bats	- Bat bricks in new developments.	Development
Beaver	- Leaky dams for beavers.	Freshwater
(increased numbers of beaver in other		
catchments)		
Bechsteins bat		
Hazel dormouse		
Hedgehog	- Awareness and conservation.	Urban
(populations back to pre-1950 scale)	- Better garden access (better planning).	Connectivity
	- Habitat connectivity between urban and suburban areas to enable	Development
	movement.	
	- Hedgehog routes between gardens and new developments.	
	- Hedgehog highways.	
Otter		Freshwater
Water vole	- Protection of water vole habitat.	
Better connectivity for the movement of small	- Access for the movement of small mammals.	
mammals.		

# 3.6 Marine species

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Blue mussel		Coastal & marine
Kelp		Coastal & marine
Native oyster	- Hatchery.	Coastal & marine
Sabellaria		Coastal & marine
Sea grass		Coastal & marine
Seahorses returned to Kent.		Coastal & marine

# 3.7 Plants and fungi

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Curled dock		
Orchids		
Vulnerable orchid species unique to Kent	- A landscape scale vision for restoration.	
restored.	- Extend and interconnect island habitats.	
Watercress		Freshwater
Waxcup		
Grassland fungi		

#### 3.8 Reintroductions

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Beaver		Freshwater
Pine marten		Woodland
Red squirrel		Woodland

# 3.9 Reptiles

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Adder		
Sand lizard	- Establish a second population.	

# 3.10 Species (general)

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Increase in all species diversity and abundance.	<ul><li>Key populations to be recognised in the LNRS and protected.</li><li>Species assemblages intact and functioning.</li></ul>	
Increase in priority species.		
Increase in native species / native species thriving.	<ul><li>Increase recognition for underrepresented species and groups.</li><li>Natural colonisation.</li></ul>	
Recovery of Kent's threatened species and missing species restored (UK extinct and Kent extirpated).		
Better outcomes from species translocations.	- All species translocations carried out using translocation best practises with adequate post-translocation survival rates.	
No biodiversity deserts.		

#### 4. PEST SPECIES AND INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Deer population managed to reduce impacts.	- Deer control.	Woodland
County approach for invasive species removal, reducing invasive species abundance and the	- H.balsam. - Floating pennywort.	
areas covered or impacted by invasive species.	<ul><li>Giant hogsweed.</li><li>Signal crayfish.</li><li>Pacific oysters.</li></ul>	
Landscape-scale management of mink for benefit of freshwater species.		Water voles
Landscape-scale management of grey squirrel for benefit woodland.		Woodland
Reduction of carp in freshwater lakes.		Freshwater
Restrict imported plants and food to control entry of invasive species.		

#### 5. CLIMATE CHANGE

#### 5.1 Climate resilience

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Climate resilient, connected landscapes.	<ul> <li>Adapting/allowing for climate change.</li> <li>Targets beaten rather than questionably met - a REAL sense of emergency.</li> <li>Introduction of climate resilience plant species.</li> <li>Climate change considerations for new planting schemes - drought tolerant and disease resistance etc.</li> </ul>	
Increased biodiversity to improve resilience.	<ul> <li>Spaces for wilder habitats to allow and facilitate diversification and new species to thrive as a result of changing climates.</li> <li>Future proofing for what species may be coming our way.</li> </ul>	

### 5.2 Flood management

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Greater use of nature based solution to manage flood risk and deliver nature benefits.	<ul> <li>Wetland creation especially in the headwaters on less productive land.</li> <li>Hold water in the landscape (infiltration) – more floodplains, wet grassland, ponds, scrapes, meanders, woody dams etc.</li> <li>Floodplain grassland – hold water in landscape.</li> <li>Vegetation around water courses to mitigate flooding (upstream of settlement).</li> <li>Improvement in upstream catchments - infilling ditches, slowing down rainfall run off, increased suitable wet woodland.</li> </ul>	Floodplain Grassland Freshwater

### 5.3 Nature based solutions (NBS)

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Better utilise habitats to deliver cleaner water.	<ul> <li>Reedbeds at outfall areas - to absorb nitrates.</li> <li>Effective nature-based solutions to capture clean water from urban areas.</li> </ul>	
Increase biodiversity through nature-based		
solutions.		
More carbon sequestering habitats.		
Nature-based solutions used for flood		
management.		
Protection of areas delivering ecosystem		
services.		
Restore natural processes to the landscape.	- Wetlands and peatlands for nutrient neutrality.	
Whole river systems - nature-based solutions		Freshwater
to improve water courses (flood risk, water		
quality, biodiversity).		

# 6. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

# 6.1 Air quality

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Improved air quality		Lichens (as air
		quality indicators)

### 6.2 Chemicals

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Pesticide free Kent.	<ul> <li>Pesticides banned from use in public areas. Tighter regulation of pesticides to limit use as much as possible.</li> <li>More integrated pest management.</li> </ul>	Invertebrates
Reduction of synthetic chemicals.	- Adopt more conservation management practices in agri industry.	Pollinators

# 6.3 Light pollution

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Combat light pollution - return of dark skies.	- Avoidance and reduction of external lighting (particularly highways).	Nocturnal/diurnal
	- Dark skies policies in all villages.	species

# 6.4 Water quality

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Reduced water pollution.	<ul> <li>Buffering - pollution filtering nutrients before reaching sensitive sites.</li> <li>Reduction in roadside runoff.</li> <li>Educate people on what can and can't be flushed down the toilet.</li> <li>Improved filtration in water treatment.</li> <li>Increased water treatment capacity.</li> <li>Increased investment in sewage infrastructure.</li> </ul>	Freshwater Awareness
Reduced abstraction.	- Sustainable abstraction.	Freshwater

# 6.5 Other pollution

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Reduce plastics/litter pollution.	- Educate school children about the importance of not leaving litter.	

#### 7. FARMLAND

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Increased areas of farming delivering for nature recovery.	<ul> <li>Better use &amp; adoption of field margins.</li> <li>Buffer strips along every field.</li> <li>Large field boundaries.</li> <li>Water course buffers.</li> <li>Increase, gap up and maintain hedgerows.</li> <li>Year-round supply of resources for birds and pollinators in mixed hedgerow.</li> <li>Greater join up through farm clusters.</li> <li>Pond creation.</li> <li>Copses.</li> <li>Winter crops for bird feed.</li> </ul>	Hedgerows Freshwater
Increased nature friendly farming practices and sensitive land management, with a greater acreage of farmland under ELMS.	<ul> <li>Compassionate farming.</li> <li>Rotational management with farmland birds in mind.</li> <li>Incentives for farms to use environmentally friendly fertilisers.</li> <li>Targeted stewardship.</li> <li>Reduced pesticide, herbicide and fungicide use.</li> <li>Reduced fertiliser use.</li> <li>Permaculture.</li> <li>Seasonal farmland that rests up for periods.</li> </ul>	Turtle dove Curlew Lapwing
Farmland rich in wildlife.	<ul> <li>Increase protection of priority farmland species.</li> <li>Increase populations of farmland birds.</li> <li>Protected areas of species-rich farmland (containing birds of conservation concern).</li> <li>Undisturbed arable wildflowers.</li> </ul>	Turtle dove Curlew Lapwing
Improved soil management, benefiting invertebrates and providing carbon sequestration services.	<ul><li>Cover crops.</li><li>Nitrogen fixing.</li></ul>	Invertebrates

Landontimication	Crow food on good high guality grable land	
Land optimisation.	- Grow food on good high quality arable land.	
	- Reduce agriculture on unsuitable arable land and set aside for nature.	
	- Landscape diversity in farming - polycultures, mixed farming, small	
	scale to allow for thriving nature.	
	- Less unsustainable agriculture on floodplain.	
	- More agroforestry.	
	- More silvopasturé.	
	- Preservation of farmland for crop production not development.	
	- More land based work, with businesses, farmers and foresters taking	
	care of smaller plots of land in contrast to large scale agriculture.	
Increased in angagement of landowners and	- Provide farmers with enthusiastic feedback from the public to	
Increased in engagement of landowners and		
farmers in nature recovery.	ultimately create a better relationship between landowner and public.	
	- Support farmers to find alternative methods.	
	- Provide knowledge and education.	
	- Farmer understanding that promotion and adoption of biodiversity	
	methods are a benefit.	
	- Network of advisors and support or landowners working to improve	
	their land for wildlife.	
	- Encourage and support communication between farmers.	
	- Encourage and support uptake in farmer clusters.	
	- Work with farmers to understand the problems they face in farming	
	more sustainably.	
	,	
	- Working with farmers and vineyards to ensure nature friendly	
	sustainable practices are used.	
Local agriculture connected with the	- Increase network of farms providing educational access and target	
community	urban schools.	

#### 8. MANAGED GREENSPACE

#### 8.1 Gardens

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Wildlife friendly gardens.	<ul> <li>Encourage wildlife features in gardens.</li> <li>Provide education/advice on wildlife friendly gardening.</li> <li>Encourage everyone to plant a fruit tree.</li> <li>Enforce wildlife friendly gardens.</li> </ul>	
Less garden greenspace lost to paving over/fake grass.	<ul> <li>Better education on why it is important to keep small greenspaces for increased permeability.</li> <li>Legislation to prevent hard core/gravel/pebble/fake grass.</li> </ul>	

# 8.2 Public greenspace

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Public greenspace delivering wildlife benefits.	<ul> <li>Amenity value of a green space not placed be above wildlife value.</li> <li>More connectivity between greenspace.</li> <li>Public spaces/parks allowed to grow more wild.</li> <li>More amenity grass to be turned into rough grass and meadow.</li> <li>Training for contractors about habitats and importance.</li> <li>Well managed and diverse urban grassland and corridors.</li> </ul>	
	- Prioritise native species in planting schemes.	
Increase in public greenspace.	- Quality greenspace provision through development.	

#### 8.3 Land management

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Land use management.	- Better thought into extraction/quarry restoration.	
Road network.	<ul> <li>Better road verge management.</li> <li>Management of verges to aid flood control etc.</li> <li>Training for contractors about biodiversity, habitats and importance.</li> <li>Well managed and diverse urban verges.</li> <li>Well managed hedgerows.</li> <li>Wildflowers on road verges.</li> </ul>	
Water management.	- Better surface water drainage.	
Increased nature friendly land management.	<ul> <li>Conservation grazing to create habitat mosaics and restore ecosystem functioning.</li> <li>Considered planting for winter food sources for migratory birds.</li> <li>Habitat management/enhancement for targeted species.</li> <li>Increased use of natural processes in land management.</li> <li>Less intensive mowing, more coverage of wild flower meadows.</li> <li>Management of laurels and rhododendron.</li> <li>More recognition of importance of traditional management techniques e.g. coppicing, in providing habitat.</li> <li>More sites with management plans for nature.</li> <li>Well managed and diverse urban grassland, corridors and verges.</li> <li>Prioritise native species in planting schemes.</li> </ul>	
Improve hedgerow management.	<ul> <li>Regulations on heights and widths of hedgerows.</li> <li>Cut at right time.</li> <li>Cut to right width and height.</li> <li>Include buffer strips with hedgerows.</li> <li>Replacing fences with hedges.</li> </ul>	

# 8.4 Planting

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Planting delivering for nature.	- Native species.	
	- Pollinator friendly plant varieties.	
	- Diversifying planting in urban areas and on new developments.	
Right tree, planted in the right place.		
Climate change resilient planting.	- Considerations for new planting schemes - drought tolerant and	
	disease resistant plants.	

#### 9. BUILT ENVIRONMENT

# 9.1 Development

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Meaningful introduction of habitat in	- Connecting people to nature.	
developments.	- Minimum biodiversity standards for new builds.	
	- New housing estates must provide habitat, one for one for each	
	house built.	
	- Open Spaces in development for hedgerows, wildlife corridors.	
Compulsory wildlife features in new builds.	- Bee bricks.	
	- Bat bricks/boxes.	
	- Swift bricks/boxes.	
	- Green roofs.	
	- Edible and living walls.	
	- Living, multi-species hedges.	
	- Increased tree canopy.	
More emphasis on sustainable development	- Any new development to be demonstrably carbon neutral,	
	biodiversity positive, connecting people and nature.	
	- New housing must have solar and green areas/gardens.	
	- Compulsory energy saving measures in new builds.	

#### 9.2 Infrastructure

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Infrastructure with nature at its heart.	<ul> <li>Minimise concreting over,</li> <li>Green space in design.</li> <li>Road/kerb designed to prevent/mitigate wildlife falling down drains.</li> <li>Traffic speed management in protected areas.</li> </ul>	
Investment in water infrastructure.	- Increased use of nature based solutions for water treatment.	Reed beds
Habitat reconnected where fragmented by Kent's major arterial routes.	<ul><li>Retrofit green bridges.</li><li>Retrofit tunnels.</li></ul>	

# 9.3 Renewable energy

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Reduce loss of natural space to solar energy	- Industrial areas to be used for solar.	
infrastructure.	- Solar panels of all new builds.	
	- Solar panels down central reservation of motorway.	
	- Solar panels on buildings and roofs.	

### 10. PEOPLE

#### 10.1 Access

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Increase public access to wildlife in appropriate areas with appropriate measures.	- Defined zonation of areas where protected habitats and recreational space overlap.	
Reduced disturbance of wildlife and habitats from human recreational activity.	<ul> <li>Carefully placed Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space.</li> <li>Developments creating sufficient recreational space to reduce pressure on nature reserves.</li> <li>Fenced areas where dogs can run loose, so that they don't need to run loose in wildlife-rich areas or farmland.</li> <li>No disturbance zone - people and pets.</li> <li>Change perceptions of how and where to encounter nature – i.e. not just on nature reserves.</li> <li>Motorbikes stopped from destroyed woodlands.</li> </ul>	
Undisturbed areas of nature	<ul> <li>No public access to some places for benefit of wildlife.</li> <li>Use of physical barriers.</li> <li>People/dog free zones on coast all year round.</li> </ul>	Birds – protection of waders and ground nesting birds
Better access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders to connect with nature.		
Reconnect people with nature.	<ul> <li>Better education to encourage reconnect with nature.</li> <li>Every child to see a kingfisher.</li> <li>People coming back into deep relationship with land through revival of land based culture.</li> </ul>	
Nature accessible to all	<ul><li>Disability access.</li><li>Use inclusive language - avoid acronyms and jargon.</li></ul>	
People should have easy access to nature and green spaces for their health and wellbeing.	<ul> <li>Green social prescribing.</li> <li>Pay landowners for this public good, where access is delivered.</li> <li>More public community orchards.</li> </ul>	

#### 10.2 Awareness

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Appreciation of the mutuality of the living system, and all it does for you.	- Education on why nature matters.	
Changing understanding of, attitudes and behaviours towards, nature and its protection; increased value.	<ul> <li>Education on importance of protection and enhancement of biodiversity.</li> <li>Improved knowledge of native wildlife and habitats.</li> <li>Increase awareness of biodiversity challenges.</li> <li>Education of children in school on biodiversity.</li> <li>Explain climate change in understandable terms.</li> </ul>	
Better understanding of purpose/role of habitat management in helping wildlife.	<ul> <li>Information explaining why land is being managed a certain way, e.g. coppicing, areas not being mown etc.</li> <li>Education on what good biodiversity is - doesn't always have to be evergreen all the time.</li> </ul>	Woodland management
A greater understanding and emphasis on landscape scale conservation and mitigation - increase landscape scale connectivity, biodiversity and abundance by applying the correct methods that support the specific habitat.		
Encourage careers in environment and sustainability.	<ul> <li>Better knowledge and advice on potential careers.</li> <li>Transferrable skills in the environmental sector.</li> </ul>	
Greater understanding of food production.	- More practical education about growing food.	Farmland

#### 11. SUPPORTING SYSTEMS

# 11.1 Data and monitoring

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Better data availability.	- Wildlife records fed to KMBRC.	
	- Data available to decision makers.	
	- Better sharing of data to landowners for free.	
More organised surveying to identify	- Map out migration routes.	Protection
biodiverse areas so they can be better	- Map out breeding sites.	
protected.	- Baseline surveys of vulnerable brownfield sites to determine value	
	before planning consent.	
	- Better knowledge of niche/unique habitats in Kent.	
	- Collaborative work with academic, volunteer, educational work in	
	surveying the changes.	
	- Improvement of baseline data prior to developments.	
	- Increased citizen science to support monitoring.	
Monitor rare and threatened species, to	- Tracking app to see what habitats rare species are using,	
understand loss and where they are thriving.		
Robust monitoring of delivery, restoration,	- Greater monitoring of development promises.	
maintenance.	- Monitored 20-30 years plans for all mitigation methods.	
	- Monitoring of action outcomes.	
Better understanding of nature-based solution	- More research into the capacity of native intertidal seagrass to	
opportunities.	sequester carbon.	
Monitor habitat conditions.	- Use indicator species (for the specific habitat) as a guide to a 'healthy'	
	habitat.	
	- Apex predators as an indicator of thriving habitats.	
	- Ground truthing ecosystem improvement.	

# 11.2 Funding and financing

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Funding to back a coordinated approach.	- Long term planning, with continuity of funding for projects over the long term.	
Adaptable funding for ecosystem improvements.	<ul> <li>Identify key species where efforts for them will lever in resources for other species.</li> <li>Think big to attract investment</li> </ul>	
Funding and financing to support nature recovery actions.	<ul> <li>Better funding for recorder groups.</li> <li>Easily accessible financial incentives to homeowners and landowners for ecological improvements.</li> <li>Financially viable nature friendly farming.</li> <li>Investing in farmers and landowners - sponsorship/marketing.</li> <li>More investment into urban and per-urban environments.</li> <li>Funding to establish better baselines.</li> <li>Spread resources on all areas of Kent and not just AONBs.</li> </ul>	
Better funding for already established habitats (seems emphasis for funding is for new habitats).		
Environment Agency staffing levels restored.		

# 11.3 General approaches to planning and nature recovery

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Better balance of land use for the long term	- Spatial prioritisation to deliver multi-outcome habitat restoration -	
(agriculture, housing, renewables).	climate resilience, water supply/quality, biodiversity	
Coordination between stakeholders.	- Buy in at all levels for LNRS – high profile champion.	
	- Better coordination between statutory organisations and other	
	organisations.	
	- Community involvement increased – Friends groups, Toad Patrols etc.	
	- Support/partner with industry and business that are committed to	
	nature solutions, green transition and sustainable credentials.	
	- Project planning including connection with education institutions,	
	from pre-school to life-long learning, to develop long-term culture of	
	care for nature.	
	- Every project creating a forum for local people and interest groups to	
	voice their questions, ideas, concerns and suggestions.	
Bigger, better, more joined up.	- Reach out to retired ecologists to support the LNRS.	
Biodiversity net gain having a positive impact	- Set the precedent high in Kent for everyone else to follow.	
on nature recovery.	- Set the precedent riight in Kent for everyone else to follow. - Aim high, do it well and set the standard.	
Local planning authorities delivering nature	- More detail in local plans about ecological conservation.	
recovery.	- More resources to enable enforcement to make sure mitigation sites	
recovery.	are of high quality.	
	- More local involvement with Local Plans.	
	- Priority given to health of waterways in planning decisions.	
	- Stricter conditions in planning.	
	- Sympathetic planning in peri-urban/suburban to mitigate habitat loss	
	and fragmentation.	
	- Bigger value placed on habitats and wildlife in decision making.	
	- Enforcement of regulation.	
	- Good planning policy to support nature recovery.	
	- Wildlife corridors are highlighted and protected in local plans.	

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Holistic approach to policy and legislation. Increased employment in relevant sectors.	<ul> <li>Planning stage needs to consider green corridor – open spaces in development, hedgerows, wildlife corridors, tree planting, highway verges, small scale green habitats.</li> <li>Planning that integrates nature into developments - is nature sensitive.</li> <li>Reduced loss of biodiversity due to development.</li> <li>LPA officers that input into development/planning are educated on ecological needs etc.</li> <li>Projects better planned for local area.</li> <li>Any carbon/biodiversity offsetting should remain in Kent.</li> <li>Central government understanding rural life.</li> <li>Increased job security, tied to longer term project approach, to attract young people to conservation/green jobs.</li> <li>More support for local and circular economy e.g. using coppiced poles locally for fencing.</li> </ul>	
Less focus on 'reintroducing' and more focus on what we have.	poster recently restricting.	
Make sure focus on priority species and habitats in the Kent Biodiversity Strategy is not to the detriment of other wildlife and habitats.		
More sustainable as a county.	<ul> <li>Composting</li> <li>Rainwater harvesting and other water collection.</li> <li>Reduced carbon emissions.</li> </ul>	

#### 11.4 Protection

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Better protection of migration routes and breeding sites.		
Wildlife areas to be safe from disturbance.	- Areas with less access – set aside for nature and biodiversity.	Access Ground nesting birds
Better protection for established habitats.		
Full protection of National Nature Reserves,	- Better protection and harsher consequences.	
SSSI, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites.	- Protected from development.	
	- In favourable condition.	
	- Review of SSSI boundaries and extend where needed.	
Extend protection measures.	- Greater protection measures for hedgerows and trees.	
	- Greater protection of moth species.	
	- Protected status for the low weald – S.England's largest flood plain.	
	- Protection of habitats with internationally important species numbers.	
	- Stronger protections to preserve what we've got.	
No pollution.	- Action taken when pollution incidents occur.	
Better protection from development impacts.	- New, and embraced, policies and laws for all development with	Development
	proper and meaningful wildlife surveys.	
	- Policy change around development and industry – nature first (or at	
	least work out what nature needs and fit around it).	

#### 11.5 Wildlife crime

Proposed priorities	Potential measures	Links
Reduce wildlife crime.	- Lampers.	Hare
	- Hare coursing.	