



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

# Pressures & Priorities Workshops

30<sup>th</sup> January - 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## Verbatim report - pressures

## **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 [www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk](http://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk)

## **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. 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.

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 second session aimed to start to identify 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, the "priorities longlist" was formed. This longlist will go through a refinement process, using a criteria-based shortlisting approach, to create a proposed list of priorities for nature recovery in Kent and Medway.

This report is a verbatim report of the second session to identify the outcomes for the county's nature. An edited and summarised report will be made available in due course.

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

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Chilham**

Category	Specific pressure or threat
Agriculture practices & land management	Farming Monoculture
	Lack of community gardens for sustainable local food produce
	Intensive agriculture - low insect life, poor soil health - few invertebrates, hedge loss = less biodiversity
	Intensive agriculture - pollution run off = less biodiversity
	Commercial forestry practices are destructive - close linear planting, no understory, reduced species abundance, no standing deadwood
	Monocultures - reducing invertebrate diversity
	Intensive farming - use of chemicals, resulting in insect apocalypse, affects everything at the bottom of food chain. Soil health is fundamental, e.g. earthworms
	Agriculture disconnection with countryside has resulted in insect depopulation, meadow birds lost, we are not creating margins, need to engage farmers more.
	Herbicides and pesticide use, decline in species and soil health
	Poor land management leading to erosion, loss of soil and coastal areas.
	Pressure of food production = over intensive land use = less room for nature/less habitable areas
	New agricultures a) vineyards b) solar 'farms' c) new crop types
	Land use change from chalk grasslands to vineyards - increases use of water, specific issue for Kent
	Food security = more need for agriculture - could go either way for biodiversity - e.g regenerative vs intensive
	Pesticide and fertiliser on farmland = eutrophication of water ways and collapse of biodiversity in these areas
	Poor soil health
	Overmanagement of woodlands = old growth oak canopy woodlands are very scarce. Bats e.g. myotis rely on these. Non intervention woodlands needed to allow recovery
	Lack of management of ancient woodlands/greenspaces/woodlands
	Lack of management of habitats, across all semi-natural habitats - grasslands, bogs, chalk grassland, wetted woodland
	Loss of habitat from intensive farming practices - large fields, loss of complexity, no habitat mosaics, field margins lost, herbicides/pesticides/fertilisers entering food chain -affects species like dung beetles. Ecosystem processes disrupted.
	Decline in pollinators
	Decline in farmland birds like turtle doves
	Loss of hedgerows,
	Woodlands are managed poorly to extract wood for biomass - incentivises more industrial, less sensitive woodland management, degradation of woodlands
	Inadequate maintenance of sensitive habitats because volunteers are not enabled/allowed access on private sites. Loss of valuable habitat, especially on smaller sites
	Coppicing does not happen - degradation of woodlands
	Tree planting does not always focus on native and climate resilient species, planting schemes in urban areas are not ecologically appropriate
	Fragmentation of farmland habitats makes nature recovery even more difficult - no corridors
	Agricultural run-off from fertilisers etc
	Pollution due to pesticide and fertiliser run-off
	Need for agriculture --> runoff/pollution
	Nutrient runoff - on clay geology directly affects rivers; chalk affects groundwater
	Agricultural runoff from more intensive agricultural production if more land is given over to biomass crops --> pollution in rivers due to more intensive farming, --> loss of field margins and reduction of marginal habitats
	Energy distribution, solar farms, power lines - destruction of habitats, increased pressure on agricultural land as this gets used for energy related uses - lost opportunities for rewilding; concern especially coastal habitats would be lost/not restored, with implications for coastal flood risk management
	Biofuel incentivises more intensive farming - loss/intensification of agricultural land, loss of opportunities to restore
	Rising nutrient levels - affects all habitats, loss of low nutrient level habitat, not only in agricultural context
	Lack of connectivity in agricultural landscape - hedges, margins, meadows, woods
	Food poverty-Lack of education on food production/ use of fresh produce/ accessibility to low income households
	Food policies- Proportion of british produced sent abroad, not utilised in UK
	Food waste
Our lack of understanding in our underlying forces, geology	
Short-sighted government policy on food production and environment.	
Need to produce food via intensive farming	
Unsustainable economics of food production = no time/money to support nature (for farmers)	

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Chilham**

	Lack of funding/economics, leads to poor management and insufficient protection
	Lack of people resource to manage nature
	How to maintain traditional countryside ways and practices, traditions and skills
Alien & problematic species	Developments landscaping with non-native plants
	Alexander - invasive plant species
	Non-native oysters, Signal crayfish, Asian hornet, non native deer, American mink
	Floating penniwort, Crassulia
	Cotoneaster on chalk grassland
	Brambles in marshland, Himalayan Balsam in wet areas and rivers
	Japanese Knotweed/hog weed everywhere
	Too much nitrogen in soil, brambles going wild
	Lack of knowledge of nature friendly plants , introduction of damaging species
	Asian hornet
	Himalayan Balsam
	Invasive terrestrial and marine species - loss of native species - eg Pacific oyster
	Increase in invasive and non native species threatend native species and habitats
	Domestic pets (cats and dogs) - causing a decline in our wildlife through predation and disturbance
Exotic species, including garden escapees	
Vet checks in Ashford for imports [impact as inland]	
Climate change	Changing weather patterns- indigenous species die out
	Fast movement of pest species and diseases - Kent the frontline for this
	Water scarcity - linked also to water demand and pollution = incombination negative effect on aquatic ecosystems.
	Wetlands drying out
	Landslips due to coatal erosion
	Higher temperatures [need for] cooling measures
	Loss of street trees, increase effects of climage change and loss of habitat for birds, decline in nature corridors
	Drought - Kent and Medway is water stressed
	More abstraction - chalk streams - river levels changing impact on habitats e.g water voles, beavers.
	Ponds - become more important, should become more part of mitigation actions, temporary ponds. Loss of pond mosaic including different types of pond
	Weirs and revetments - river fragmentation & loss of natural river banks, flows impacted, climate change
	Flooding/drought - damaging to water dependent species
	Stormy weather - coastal damage
	Habitat fragmentation from sea level rise - coastal squeeze, habitat loss
	Rising water temperatures - reduces O2 levels, destructive to marine species
	Leading to storms, floods, extreme hot and cold, destroys natural habitats and species
	Drought [resulting in] plant and animal decline, loss of food
	Flooding impacts on wildlife hibernating e.g. dormice and water voles
	Temperature increasing - are native species adapted?
	Seasonality - flooding & droughts. Flood management impacting river flows as flood gates are shut on and off. Extremes are exacerbated by this. Coastal areas, tidal rivers, ponds.
	Increase in flood risk to people and wildlife, habitat loss
	Driver: climate change --> warmer, impact: water shortage, wet woodlands drying up, river levels reduced, higher impact of pollution
	Climate Change - heat/drought, or too much rain, flooding, pollution, species survival, habitat survival. Blean woodland degradation. More pollutants in rivers, many threatened.
	Intense hot summers and drought - water environment effected - concentrates pollutants
	Siltation of rivers due to run off in rain - light and oxygen depletion
	Wetland habitats can't cope with wetter winters and drier summers
Climate deniers	
Less rain - problems with less water available, need for reservoirs and desalination plants	

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Chilham**

	Kent has more sun, more reason for solar
	Increased population as well as population migration across the country- increases pressure on resources- loss of wildlife and limited access to open space due to private land
	New developments on natural habitats/natural areas - habitat loss
	Unsustainable development
	Lack of appropriate land management on land of all sizes
	Leisure pressures - coastal zones/marine pressures through leisure activities
	Population growth and increasing developments in Kent
	New towns on greenbelt land - e.g. Otterpool
	Wrong sort of development - needs to be made with nature in mind and there's no money put into managing or maintaining the developments when there are green areas put into them
	Housing development - more family pets = 53 million wild animals killed by pets (cats)
	Population growth, high housing targets - change of land use -
	Increasing land value = industrial farming - negative impact e.g silt run off into ditches and river banks
	Lack of appreciation of the species living in urban areas - overlooked and threatened by development
	Energy infrastructure - loss of habitat and hazards for wildlife
	Poor planning and development - inappropriate design and location causes habitat destruction and fragmentation
	Increasing urbanisation with no consideration for wildlife displacement factored in.
	Lack of green space, destruction of established habitats, car reliant.
	Major developments destroying natural habitats as well as individual householders destroying gardens by paving stones/gravel/impermeable plastic layers. Results in loss of wildlife at all levels (insects, small mammals, birds, foxes, hedgehogs, no habitat to nest/breed, loss of wildlife corridors.
	Not enough green space in developments results in pressure from higher numbers [of people] on other areas, [which may be] fragile habitats.
	Use of green spaces for development = loss of habitat
	Development poorly planned, not factoring in enough green space.
	Erosion of village confines through planning expansion and development = 'urban' sprawl = loss of habitat
	Poor drainage due to not managing our water ways
	Competing demands for green space, e.g. playing pitches vs nature site
	Concern re agricultural land being lost and pressure intensifying on natural habitats
Development	Development - Increased impact on river environment due to: abstraction (low flows), pollution (sewage) - EA regs and sealing of surfaces, in particular floodplains, river banks
	Access: urban fringes - breeding birds, habitats, dog disturbances and river pesticides
	Stodmarsh - nutrient neutrality. Wider riverbank margins - especially in agricultural fields
	Urban areas - allotments can also be a pressure
	Loss of habitat to solar farms
	Destruction of habitat connectivity - mature hedgerows and edge habitats for insects.
	Creating "green spaces" for recreation, that are not actually biodiverse
	Broken connectivity in landscapes - no nature highways
	Roads fragment and prevent connection of habitats down the line, esp woodland, grassland
	Protected sites not in good management
	Housing development == more hard surface areas = water run off issues and pollution from roads = increased private car usage = poorer air quality
	Lack of trust in the planning system, process is too slow
	Mainstream culture of nature added as a nicety or to add value to property-not a priority
	Focus on economic growth as a measure of local development
	Developers don't pay the real price for their environmental damage
	Lack of experience in grounds maintenance within council contracts and residents home maintenance
	Badly carried out mitigation, e.g. displacement of water not effective
	Current protection isn't enough...drilling for oil in National Landscape (previous AONB).
	Lack of transparency/accountability/understanding of biodiversity net gain = inappropriate planning approval = loss of habitat & species
	Poor drainage (design of developments) leading to water pollution

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Chilham**

	Car parks on floodplains
	Water pollution - urban expansion, lack of water treatment facilities
	Water pollution - not material planning consideration
	Developers pushing to reduce treatment works need. Planning does not include water as a material consideration. New planning should account for this. Treatment plans on site need stricter standards.
	Combined sewage overflows and nutrients from sewage works - biodiversity death in water ways
	Lack of planning control on development
<b>Economic &amp; funding pressures</b>	Unlike past, new generations of farmers are not taking up use of land, hence it is sold, different career pathway. Farmers no longer thing of themselves as stewards of land.
	Economics of farming in Kent - Grade 1 land vs SE pressure on population because plenty of jobs [increasing population]
	Lack of funding
<b>Education &amp; connection</b>	Lack of nature studies in mainstream education, new generation don't understand links [nature & life/food]
	[Failure to make] nature recovery a Board level requirement
	Disconnect between humans and nature
	Not enough money for the current environmental jobs - let alone the future need = less action for nature
<b>Energy production</b>	Competing demand for land use - renewable energy
	Land use for energy production e.g. solar farms being built on high grade arable land
	Land and sea use for solar farms can be problematic
	Solar on farmland/countryside, changing the way countryside looks
	Land turbine impact on birds and insects
	Renewable energy production - land use + transportation needs (National Grid Expansion)
<b>Extraction of living resources (e.g. fishing, hunting etc)</b>	Lack of indigenous land management
<b>Extraction of resources</b>	Lack of investment in renewables and naturebased solutions
	Mineral extraction - habitat destruction like ancient woodland and irreplaceable habitats
	Subtidal dredging - port of Dover, Faversham Creek
	Dumping in subtidal habitats - Faversham estuary - contamination of shellfish
	Water abstraction from chalk streams, low flows, effect on wildlife
	SE Water water extraction - very dry valleys, no streams
	Water use for farming, depletion in stream = lack of habitat
	Extraction of sands from Goodwin Sands
	Removal of shingle from beach for industrial/housing development, kills local plant life, leads to erosion and local flooding
	Intensive management for game bird - impact native wildlife
	Marine Conservation zones affected by extraction - Godwin Sands
	Abstraction of water - ephemeral rivers drying out
	Loss of hedgerows,
	Mineral & waste strategy should be stricter and more wide ranging
	Waste reclamation/upcycling of waste = less taking of new resouces, more resources for nature
<b>Geological events, natural processes &amp; catastrophes</b>	
<b>Human induced changes in water regimes</b>	River pollution - litter and plastics, nutrification, river bank encroachment, dog treatments (ivermectin), farm runoff, vegetation/compost from domestic homes and allotments
	More abstraction - chalk streams - river levels changing impact on habitats e.g water voles, beavers.
	Rivers - overabstraction, encroachment by human activities on river banks, development of car parks on floodplains, invasive species
	More abstraction - chalk streams - river levels changing impact on habitats e.g water voles, beavers.
	Ponds - become more important, should become more part of mitigation actions, temporary ponds. Loss of pond mosaic including different types of pond
	Seasonality - flooding & droughts. Flood management impacting river flows as flood gates are shut on and off. Extremes are exacerbated by this. Coastal areas, tidal rivers, ponds.
	Promoting opportunities for local people to connect with nature from childhood to adulthood
	Wildlife disturbance from dogs and cats

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Chilham**

	Public behaviour - tensions between nature and public use of land
	Kent's unique position in SE, dense population & associated pressures, infrastructure/tourism/economy, proximity to London & Europe (Border Facilities)
	Human litter, plastics thrown in to fields, the sea, into food chain and suffocating species
	Rubbish dropped from cars and visitors, gets eaten/stuck on wildlife
	Human encroachment and uncontained access
	People's need to access nature - wellbeing, mental & physical
	Environmental crime- fly tipping, pollutants
	Nature reduced to ecosystem services
	Direct impacts of recreation activities - trampling & soil compaction, disturbance, particularly from dogs
	Recreational disturbances - woodland, coastal - problematic intersection of nature and people
	Pressure to remove street trees (and urban trees more generally)
	Light pollution, impact on bird flight
Human intrusions	Human and dog access to sites, including SSSI - habitat destruction, chasing away birds, pollution of sites. Especially urban fringes and beaches, but not habitat specific beyond this. Rivers also affected by dogs accessing. Migratory and ground nesting birds affected by dogs. waders, nightingales. trade off between right to roam and protection
	More tourist visits to coastal areas, pressure on particular sites like Dungeness & Thanet.
	Tourism and leisure, concept of right to roam
	Increased populations/increase people want to access nature
	Walkers, dogs and cyclists [intruding/disturbing]
	People and their dogs, insisting their dog must run free across a SSSI and chase birds
	Paving over gardens, loss of habitat/fragmentation, - no nature friendly fences and walls
	Humans destroying their garden for their own patios, decking, car parking
	Businesses put profit first over nature
	Lack of government prioritisation of nature
	Legislation limitations on biodiversity recovery
	Lack of joined up thinking, local-county- national level
	Materialism e.g. loss of habitat out the front of residential buidings for car parking
	Low salaries in environmental careers leads to lack of knowledge and expertise
	Lack of historic memory, what Kent's countryside once was
	Lack of care or connection with nature - poor decisions. Ecological ignorance
	Lack of sustainable living and education which should be in the national curriculum (litter, plastics, excess packaging)
	Better educating of the natural environemnt- especially secondary schools who are fixated on league tables
	Industrial humans - housing, farming, waste, resource production and use, drainage and sewerage
	Leisure time and work travel
	Diversification of farm revenue streams e.g. glamping, loss of space dedicated to food production
	Lack of food literacy, lack of knowledge about importance of farming
	Lack of public understanding re care for and protecting nature
Mixed source pollution	Flytipping and litter
	Nutrient over-enrichment of rivers (especially chalk streams including Stour)
	Use of neonicotinoids on sugarbeet crops = lack of bee species and moths etc = starving bats.
	Use of fertilisers on biodiverse grasslands
	Flytipping and litter
	Southern water sewage in seas
	Light pollution from industrial glasshouses - affects moths, bats and birds
	Pollution of water ways - eutrophication, poor water quality
	Novel chemicals in waterways, PFAs, microplastics - marine and soil environments affected
	Chemical run-off
Farmers pollute water and land, pesticides and fertilizer run off	

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Chilham**

	Developers pollute local brooks
Transport systems	Car parks - local council destroying the trees, undergrowth on perimeter of car park, destruction of habitat for birds, insects, small mammals.
	Habitat loss and fragmentation, not enough connectivity, populations will go extinct if not able to connect with each other, lack of resources, due to roads.
	Air pollution directly effecting habitats and species
	Severance by major roads and infrastructure - difficult to unpick this fragmentation of habitats
	Heavy traffic - Kent is the major transport hub to Europe, Dover port is heavily congested and the driver of poor air quality through pollution.
	Climate change - increased summer run off from roads after heavy rain - various pollutants and particulates
	Roads disrupting connectivity of habitats, create linear barriers, prevent species dispersal
	Brexit resulted in M20 becoming a car park - air pollution - national issue



**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Ashford**

Category	Specific pressure or threat
Agriculture practices & land management	Farming bodies with inadequate regulations-pollution of water bodies- nitrification of water bodies, reduced water quality and biodiversity
	Chemical use on farms
	Agricultural pollution due to pesticide and sediment runoff, phosphates, nitrates, BODS (?)
	Pesticide use impacts pollinators and other wildlife, affects the ecosystem through bioaccumulation
	Pollution/use of pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides, insecticides, water quality e.g. nitrates
	Plastic tubes around trees, left to die on roadside
	Synthetic chemicals - loss of insects, water pollution and soil degradation.
	Intensive large field farming - less hedgerows, more run off and less wildlife
	Limited forage for wildlife
	Habitat fragmentation and loss
	Under management of priority habitats e.g. heathland, woodland, due to insufficient funding
	Scrub encroachment leading to loss of chalk downland and associated native habitats and species
	Poor/lack of hedgerow management, loss of connectivity and fragmentation [of habitats]
	Loss and degradation or over management of hedgerows
	Over tidiness and poor perception of scrub and brownfield sites: hedgerows, mowing sea walls, verges, 'amenity' grasslands.
	Poor landowner education- better understand the worth of their land, sufficient guidance on retaining/improving their land. Better resources to help land owners, show them as torch barers, more opportunities to support/advise landowners.
	Not enough funding for land owners to be able to care for the habitats and species on their land, eg not enough grants/ private income
	Pheasant and other releases of non-natives, they eat inverts and reptiles, reduces food availability for other species, pens in woodland introduce other foods
Too many honey bee hives in a small area without the resources to support them (1 hive needs 2 acres of flower rich habitat)	
Lack of funding to support communities and farmer education to teach[train] about habitat	
Loss of local produce, pollution from importing food [GHC], no control on pesticides [used on imported food], no funding returned to community [fewer local jobs]	
Loss of grade 1 agricultural land - concern for food security/supply. Puts a stress on nature as the most productive agricultural land is lost.	
Lack of support for small scale agriculture driving food imports. Reduces small scale regenerative agriculture.	
Lack of understanding from landowners leads to a lack of uptake. Uncertainty of funding ultimately reduces habitat protection.	
	Rise of potentially serious invasive species cases, eg Asian Hornets soon to become nationwide issue
Alien & problematic species	
	Invasive species/loss of natives, increased competition and destruction of habitats, introduced via shipping, dumping of pets (e.g. Koi carp); illegal importing, ballast water, hulls of ships
	Biosecurity - unchecked species being planted/unregulated (disease etc). Eventually dominate native species. Councils still planting invasive species. Lack of knowledge and awareness, perhaps a funding issue as well.
	Poor biosecurity at ports allows nonnative disease and species to travel inadvertently
	Misinformation and lack of awareness when people think they are helping but are harming e.g. kept honey bees to help bees but [actually] creating more competition [for forage etc] for other bees
	Moving port biodiversity checks from Dover to Ashford - increased biosecurity risks - disease and INNS
Climate change	Extreme weather events- earlier nesting birds, outside of current regulations for hedge/ tree works disturbing nests
	Agricultural impact, forced to change crops due to temperature- impacts species around farmland
	Climate change = flooding - localised flooding (Lyminge - Littlebourne & Bridge) from rivers and streams breaking their banks. Land drains are not sufficient and increased surface run-off due to development is also heightening this.
	Droughts affecting flowering times and lengths, therefore affecting pollinator numbers
	[Failure to] look at other carbon sinks and thinking only of trees and woodland, which could lead to habitat loss
	Planting non-native e.g. forestry species to be climate change resilient, affecting native species and ecosystems
	Climate change - change of habitats/ecology, localised climate change = species not prepared for species shifting range, reduced habitat interconnectivity.
	Chalk streams have no protection = loss of globally important habitat
	Water Scarcity - exasperated by development = more concentrated pollutants - less biodiversity
	Change in standard environment, ie South East is becoming drier, hotter and increased flooding seen.
	Extreme weather flood/drought/high winds/extreme hot and cold = loss of species, habitat, food production
	Extreme weather and changing of seasons affecting flowering times, hibernation times, good availability of forage, leading to increased competition [for resources]

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Ashford**

Water scarcity due to over abstraction/unsustainable use, insufficient water left in the environment for priority habitats
Warming of coastal/intertidal areas leading to negative impacts on shellfish/inverts
Sea level rises, coastal defences, - habitat squeeze, loss of intertidal habitats
Less frost to break up clay soils, leading to poor soil management/over use
Hot urban areas, making summers hotter, health risk to people, animals and plants
New diseases and species
Diseases and epidemics, e.g. Avian flu. Kills a large area of a population, messes up trophic levels/food web
Algal blooms - climate change & pollution, kills off marine and aquatic species
Hibernating species, e.g. dormice affected by Climate change
Water Scarcity - high demand = loss of species.
Ambition of local plan policies on climate change checked by less ambitious national trgets
Innapropriate or excessive developement- damage and fragmentation of habitats-decline of species
Development increasing traffic on rural roads, resulting in further decreased habitat connectivity
Loss of good quality urban garden habitats; increase in concrete covering and use of plastic turf
Poor management of habitats on development sites after completion, eg hedgerows
Habitat fragmentation and habitat loss from 'over development' in some areas
Housing pressures - Building and over development - loss of countryside has a harmful impact on biodiversity
Covering over of front gardens - fake grass, concrete etc.
Urban sprawl into green belt
Light pollution - Dover docks and ports particularly bad. Impacts on birds and insects.
Light pollution in rural areas - lights from domestic properties and permanent lighting
Gardens turned into parking, increasing runoff/pollution, lack of foraging food for inverts and birds, lack of habitat and shelter
Solid fences negatively impacting hedgehogs
Loss of connected habitats, pollution, loss of species, change of landscape
Channelising (canalising?) of water courses, leading to lack of riparian habitat, loss of natural flood plains, weirs preventing fish passage
Pressure for flood and coastal defences, leading to habitat loss/squeeze, reducing ability to respond to climate change
Loss of 50% of ponds, less water and reduced connectivity of water
Underwater piling, sonar surveys, traffic, noise can kill and affects navigation abilitites of marine creatures
Population pressure = large housing developments - unsustainable, damage to protected sites, applications passed through due to pressure and demand. Light pollution (Bat/bird affected) & noise pollution.
BNG - enables large scale development, pushes nature out of high development areas and depleting species locally. Ultimately will lead to habitat isolation and lack of connectivity.
Solar farms- land use/food supply pressure. What is the impact on nature and loss of land?
Decentralisation of catchments - flooding, increased chemicals into water systems. Ultimately making the water table low in summer but flooding in winter.
Nature not considered in planning. Lack of access to nature = oversuse of key nature sites. Non-native species and low value of wildlife in planning. Loss of native species, connectivity, education and proper investment. Development on key habitats - extinction of species. Legal recognition of protecting species?
Losing flood plains to development - habitat loss (and species eg. wading birds) and increased flood risk to properties
Intensive development - habitat fragmentation
Light pollution - impacting on moths and bats in particularly
Developements not accounting for wildlife access into and through sites
Overall focus on creating new habitat sites- not enough funding to preserving and managing current habitat sites
Wrong type of BNG in wrong place, could reduce native species/resilience of habitats, loss of important habitats.
Water pollution due to silt and chemical [run off from developed areas]
Plans/ strategies put in place are never followed up, poorly planned and not implemented fully long term
No ecologists in each authority, talk of EAS needing to be bigger, not knowledge of this in the community
Lack of ongoing responsibility for mitigated lands from developers- no ongoing management or support for habitat created as part of developement- loss of species, habiat and fragmentation
Local surveyers/records not contacted regarding ecological consultations for local area.
Too much importance on desktop study and restricted view of employed ecological consultant

Development

## Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures Ashford

	Nature protection policies currently in place being manipulated or avoided by developers through loopholes
	Developers need to be held accountable for loss of wildlife
	Lack of strategic planning - review how construction is at the centre of economic system
	Lack of enforcement for development mitigation - due to lack of funding
	Runoff [pollution] due to misconnects
	Water companies poor infrastructure, leading to loss of habitats/biodiversity and recreational areas [e.g. swimming in rivers and sea]
	No ongoing monitoring of nature-based solutions = loss of nature
	Lack of data collection - lack of resources and trained ecologists to carry out surveys onsite. Not an accurate representation of what nature exists on a particular site potentially leads to undervaluing nature. = loss of habitat and nature.
	Channels of investment for nature goes to more affluent areas, rather than deprived areas. = polarisation of nature, and disconnection of nature for major towns as they have no protected landscapes.
	Lack of education, knowledge and awareness within planning. Little knowledge of locally important species and habitats. I.e. Protected Areas Planning - Increasing pressure on sites leading to unfavorable conditions. Not thought about on a landscape scale or interconnectivity.
	Brexit - resulting in motorways (M20) used as car parks - air pollution - species and habitat impacts + human health (e.g. impact Folkstone - Etchingill SPA)
	Badly planned growth - for future jobs - where jobs and development are needed - nature not factored in
	Policy change - use of 5 year housing land supply rule
	Power on the side of the developer - poor outcomes for nature
Energy production	Solar farms - removal of land that could have been used for growing food and/or natural spaces
	The need for green energy and space for solar and wind farms
Extraction of living resources (e.g. fishing, hunting etc)	Fungi [and other] collection foraging for sale
	Wood Lotting - often on protected sites
	Economic pressures - taking trees and deadwood for fuel
Extraction of resources	Mineral extraction in protected sites
Geological events, natural processes & catastrophes	
Human induced changes in water regimes	Over managed water bodies by EA and IDB- poor water body management. Historic water control works- clearing ditches etc which is no longer appropriate. increases flood risk and reduced biodiversity.
	Increase rural road use; chemical runoff into soil, sewers and waterways
	Sewage being routinely pumped into Hythe Bay - reduced biodiversity
	Inappropriate development - increased waste water- nitrification of water bodies
	Development on flood plains leads to pollution of water ways and reduced farmland
	Schools and council land for example could do more with their land
	Loss of traditional land management techniques, ie ditch management
	Loss of traditional practices and skills, hedgelaying, coppicing, land management, leads to loss of valuable habitat for specific species
	Criminal activity, illegal waste disposal/sites [fly tipping], soil contamination
	Hare coursing and other poaching
	Small local important sites that have no protection
	Increase in dog ownership and irresponsible behaviour in habitats, eg, disturbance to grazers and ground birds, dog faeces build up
	Stealing orchids and rare plants
	Vandalism/removal or destruction of trees [newly planted]
	Fungi [and other] collection - foraging for sale
	Increased housing development leading to increased recreation pressure on priority habitats and species disturbance
	Fly tipping - loss of protected sites and priority habitats.
	Human disturbance of nature- unbalanced access, unsettling wildlife and habitats. Dog worrying. Crime in protected areas reduces the safety and accessibility.
	Loss of human social connectivity from their local environment has led to apathy
	Lack of connection to nature, plant blindness and fear of nature, e.g. creepy crawlies, bats etc
Human intrusions	No interest [in nature] or not sure how to do right thing, no understanding of what is around them, or [potential] mental health/well being advantages
	Noise impacts on marine areas/piling, sonar surveys, traffic can kill fish/cetaceans, affects navigation

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Ashford**

	Light and noise pollution [on land]
	Loss of habitat for bats e.g. due to trees being felled
	Apathy towards nature from big sections of the public - less chance of getting things done
	People/organisations who want to help nature don't know how to contact organisations
	Lack of knowledge shared between organisations with data- kwt, records centre
	Lack of skills and knowledge in local authorities to implement strategies
	Environmental issues should be even bigger part of a business model
	Lack of wide access to ELMs and other funding opportunities.
	Negative public perception of healthy habitats, ie mowing 'untidy' pollinator flower banks themselves
	Local authorities need better networks and knowledge of land within their authority, lack of "Joined up thinking"
	"It's pointless" attitude [so take no action]
	Economic pressures - taking trees and deadwood for fuel
	Pet ownership/lack of awareness, predation of birds, amphibians, small mammals
	Shifting baseline syndrome - so lack of ambition for nature recovery low
	Behaviours - car to school work - pollution and extension of road networks - negative biodiversity impact
<b>Mixed source pollution</b>	Increased HGV and commuter road use in rural roads; damage to underground sewer pipes resulting in sewage leaks and increased light pollution
<b>Transport systems</b>	Traffic around high use areas creates area wide biodiversity loss, ie Dover Port
	Traffic congestion and noise pollution

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Gillingham**

Category	Specific pressure or threat
Agriculture practices & land management	Monocultures - interrupting natural processes, lack of complexity in ecosystems, overtidy, reduces food sources for biodiversity.
	Run-off from fertilisers impacting freshwater habitats
	Chemical use impacting pollinators
	Loss of field margins and hedgerows - single species hedgerows not providing enough complexity
	Lack of woodland creation
	Lack of woodland management - loss of understory, producing lack of food sources and a reduction in species complexity
	Lack of wildlife corridors - lack of movement for species - woodland, grassland, wetlands, saltmarsh
	Loss of soil fertility due to intensive practices
	Agricultural run off-pollution-loss of top soil and increased pressure on remaining areas of fertile/suitable agricultural land
	Smallest number of farmer/landowners per capita. less landworkers and land based jobs- no economic support
	Lack of shared ownership or 'common' land
	Opportunities arising from increasing coverage of vineyards
	Soil erosion from maize fields
	Reduction in available graziers - resulting in scrub encroachment on chalk grassland
Species once found on farmland (e.g lapwing) now pushed to coastal margins	
Removal of orchards	
Alien & problematic species	Loss of native species because of invasives eg grey squirrels
	sargassum- can we utilise it in food before it starts overtaking
	Lack of resources to properly tackle INNS
	Mink, himilayan balsam, floating pennywort
	Increase of artificial predation of native species
	Loss of habitat for native species
	Disease spread to natives from alien species
Lack of long term funding to control invasive non-natives.	
Climate change	Sea level rise - loss of habitat, coastal squeeze, saltmarsh loss, species displacement
	Shuttering in of rivers and estuary banks as part of sea-defences, removing natural processes
	Lack of species resilience to climate change - vulnerable to pest and diseases
	Increase of flooding risks in urban areas due to increase of urbanisation and increased rainfall
	Biodiversity vulnerable to drought in summer and flooding in winter
	Sea level rise- coastal squeeze-habitat reduction- proliferation of things like coastal grazing marsh and loss of saltmarsh
	Increased land temperatures- risk to food security, use of overheating in buildings, increased air con- increased carbon emissions,decrease in biodiveristy with temps higher than optimum conditions, migration of species,increased mortality rates amongst the most vulnerable,potential displacement and migration of rich people out, poor people in
	Increased water temperatures- loss of biodiversity fauna and flora aquatic and terrestrial, migration of species effecting the livelihoods e.g. fisheries, impacts food security, local enonomies and culture, extinction of species iconic and natives, loss of benefits such as cooling effect
	Impact on water quality (temperature/dissolved oxygen/run off)
	Increased storminess- coastal erosion and tidal flooding, loss of developable land, loss of homes and relocation of families, loss of intertidal habitat (carbon sink loss,biodiveristy loss,fisheries), decrease in biodiversity,salination of freshwater habitat, may decrease interest in NBS for flood defence, disruption to amenities and economies
	Increased storminess- increased surface water- flooding-homes at risk,new development making more grey,transport disruption,impact on farmland economy and fluvial flooding
	Periods of drought increasing- SE very dry means drinking water resources increase, conflict with hydration of freshwater habitats including reserves and protected areas, increased in purchasing bottled water and therefore plastic pollution
	Policies undermine climate change action, we know what we need to do but are not doing it- we need long term big system thinking
	Change mindset, be real about climate change (no other context)
	Species distribution change making protected areas not as effective as they should be
Spatial management for biodiversity offshore	
Race to net zero not joined up with nature recovery - e.g cabling coming ashore	

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Gillingham**

	Sea level rise - ensuring both coastal and freshwater habitats flourish - lack of space
	Inappropriate structures in water courses preventing migration e.g eels
	North Kent Marshes drying up - ongong battle to keep water on in spring/summer
	More extreme weather events e.g. heatwaves
Development	Private gardens - not offering habitats - plastic lawns, hard paving
	Amenity spaces not managed well - overmown, plant species not allowed to flower
	Lack of sustainable planning in developments - reduces habitats
	Lack of potential/funding to remediate poor planning, to integrate considerations for biodiversity into existing developments
	Infrastructure designed around car use - increases pollution
	cc+ development -mental health and environmental stress
	Lack of investment in infrastructure leads to more water pollution and lower water quality
	Development- habitat loss and habitat connectivity/fragmentation- biodiversity loss and disturbance
	High population/migration to Kent from London- pressure on resources
	Lack of checking for building impact in the building process, not just final product
	Loss of gardens and quality green areas around residential areas- paved for cars, fences instead of hedges, sterile grassy verges
	Development-more pollution, poorer quality habitats, pressure on infrastructure- waste water treatment works pressure, flooding
	Loss of connectivity - hedgerows, ponds, wetlands, meadows from development
	Habitat loss due to coastal squeeze -loss of intertidal habitat, encroachment into freshwater (protected and privately owned), water resources decreasing as fresh water reserves are hydrated by drinking water
	Lack of connection/safe access to local greenspace
	Brownfield land being developed
	Lack of ecological knowledge re value of brownfield land
	Loss of mature orchards from development
	Connectivity between natural areas
	KCC/Medway not working together to consider industrial history of Medway
	Housing developments with no enhancements/mitigations for biodiversity
	Greenwashing in developments, trees dying on new developments
	Freight travelling by roads instead of railways, threat posed by Lower Thames Crossing
	Big businesses influencing planning decisions
	SUDs good for biodiversity - but not enough resources to maintain into the future
	Grey water harvesting should be #1 for SUDs not infiltration
Policy change around development and industry - nature first or at least work out what nature needs and fit around it	
Development on greenfield sites (should not be prioritised)	
Lower Thames Crossing	
Noise, dust, runoff pollution from new building sites	
Light pollution	
Economic & funding pressures	Lack of access to suitable and sustainable funding
	Investment in green jobs and careers - currently poorly paid and/or temporary
	Changes in policy and lack of consistency
	Lack of commitment/statutory obligation on larger companies
	Political intransigence
	Lack of local targets of measures to reduce loss of species
	Lack of long-term funding
Lack of law and legislation enforcement	
Education & connection	Mindset
	People spending less time outdoors - children growing up without the love of nature, won't protect what they don't love
	Access to nature - inequalities
	Disconnect

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Gillingham**

	Limited walks of interest - lack of knowledge about nature
Energy production	Integration of solar panels into new developments on roofs, not fields
	Badly-located solar farms
Extraction of resources	Aggregate extraction - eg gravels/sands/limestone - impacts marine environments and terrestrial like woodlands
	Resource overuse
Geological events, natural processes & catastrophes	Bottom trawling fishing/dredging
	Climate change will bring new biodiversity as well as losing it
Human induced changes in water regimes	Coastal erosion
	Development-abstraction pressures-water quality and quantity
	Runoff from farms and expanding road networks
	Grey water systems in new housing developments
	Drought (no other context)
	Lack of water level management for "wet fence" marshland across North Kent (i.e. EA/farmers not maintaining weirs/slucices)
	Saline inundation to freshwater grazing marsh - due to faulty/damaged sluices
	Reduced river morphology - not enough physical variation to support life cycles
Flood risk - habitat change -> biodiversity change and soil changes	
Human intrusions	Disturbance of wildlife from cat/dogs - lack of awareness, lack of valuing wildlife
	Loss of connection between urban populations and wildlife
	Lack of genetic variation in species which have gone through a bottle neck in the past-increased susceptibility to disease e.g. seagrass meadow to be unexpectedly wiped out even after conservation efforts
	Lack of interest in nature or significance of nature
	Lack of motivation to take personal responsibility for your local natural area
	Volunteer surveys on vulnerable but ecologically rich land
	Fly tipping (no other context)
	Disturbance to estuary wildlife from recreation
	Resilient and well paid conservation industry
	Migratory barriers - structures in rivers - eels, but other fish eg smelt. Barriers impact wildlife movement and water levels and flow
	Loss of previously suitable areas for habitats eg. changes to substrate (more mud in some areas could limit ability for nature to recover naturally - e.g oysters)
	Coastal squeeze
	Human (and dog) disturbance on coastal, marshland and intertidal areas
	Human disturbance - trampling
Human disturbance - moorings bottom out on intertidal / impact on subtidal too e.g chains (encroachment)	
No enforcement of wildlife law	
Mixed source pollution	Commercial dumping in woodland - resulting in species loss, contaminated ground water- impacts River Medway
	Littering
	Cars idling - reduces air quality
	Noise pollution from urban areas - causes disturbances for wildlife
	Light pollution - affects nocturnal species
	Light/ noise pollution - affects birds
	The use of plastic/pastic waste- plastic pollution
	Land contamination/discharge
	Air pollution
	Increased pollution from road-building and widening
	Excess pollution in freshwater causing dead zones
	High potasium and phosphate levels in IDB adopted watercourses
	Algal blooms on seagrass beds as a result of pollution
	To be able to swim in rivers and seas without getting ill
Plastic pollution	

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Gillingham**

	Poor air quality
	Marine noise pollution
	Sewage and storm runoff outflow - water pollution
Transport systems	New roads cause loss of habitat, habitat fragmentation, air pollution and impacts to human health
	Run off from roads affects soil health, and fresh water habitats
	Transport networks not considered in developments
	Lower Thames Crossing
	Poor public transport/cuts = increase use of domestic vehicles = increase pollution



**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Shorne**

Category	Specific pressure or threat
Agriculture practices & land management	Loss of farmland hedgerows, loss of connectivity
	Lack of joined up thinking/efforts between neighbours for the management and connectivity of hedgerows
	Loss of hedge upkeep/ maintenance to landowner
	Lack of land use schemes and advice
	Degradation of soil health-agricultural loss of productivity/income generation
	Limited budgets for stewardship schemes/land management make them untenable
	Loss of hedgerows - decreasing importance in farming systems, so fall out of management
	Less spring cropping, leading to lack of overwintering stubble
	Changing land use - biofuels/maize replacing cereals
	Loss of farmland to energy production (solar farms, windfarms)
	Loss of habitat complexity - higher level animals affected like adders and hedgehogs
	Loss of woodland management practices such as coppicing - results in loss of habitat
	Lack of protection for historic semi-managed habitats - eg orchards and ancient arable fields
	Introduction of vineyards affecting farmland species
	Agricultural intensification - agrochemicals
	Pesticide run-off, as new ones developed may be increasingly hard to detect in water
	Surface water runoff from agricultural fields, leading to soil depletion, pesticides affecting ground water
	Nutrient enrichment of both terrestrial and water habitats, leading to loss of species due to competition from more vigorous species e.g. species rich road verges impacted by field fertilizer run off
	Hedgerow removal, leading to loss of habitat and removal of 'stepping stones' [connectivity between habitats]
	Lack of deer management, leading to destruction of woodland habitats, stopping regeneration and loss of woodland
	Lack of education of the public regarding native/non-native species, false reports of species to databases
	Skills/knowledge base of field skills, leading to very few people having ability to survey certain species and habitats.
	Lack of resources/people willing to enter ecology/habitat creation careers, resulting in no resource available to deliver what is required in terms of nature recovery
	Public interest in more charismatic species, forgetting that lower species such as invertebrates affect the higher taxonomic species.
	Financial pressure on agriculture, due to Brexit
	Lack of funding for monitoring of nature reserves (wardens etc) to prevent disturbance, damage etc
	Food security - how can nature survive whilst we feed a growing population
	Private land ownership - how to incentivise farmers
	Soil health - key foundation for everything else!
	Autumn cereals more common - then heavy rain washing nutrients into rivers
	Nutrient excess - eutrophication = fish and biodiversity death
	Poor soil health = poor biodiversity and can't hold water, so increased flood risk
	Policies and funding driving over cutting of hedgerows - less biodiversity. Conversely, wide hedgerows can eat into field margins for nature.
Soil - trampling, glyphosate, erosion = low biodiversity	
Need for high protein bread - driving over use of pesticides.	
Move towards bigger farms - loss of patchwork of habitats, plus monoculture more likely.	
New owners of farmland need to have influence to preserve nature friendly aspects previously used	
Population pressure for increased food production	
Lack of best practice in land management	
Habitat fragmentation - loss of birds, insects, pollinators	
	High deer population- have to cull over half the population a year to keep a stable population, over grazing, bark stripping, eating saplings in woodlands (lack of regeneration)
	Invasive species taking over our native species
	Biosecurity - being so close to Europe - colorado beetle, blue tongue etc
	Deer - lack of management
	Deer over-population - no management results in loss of habitat - woodland understorey, scrub etc
	Mink over-population

## Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures Shorne

Alien & problematic species	Asian hornets
	Kent is first stop for influx of invasive species and disease
	IPS beetle - resulting in felling of spruce woodland
	Changes in species assemblages due to novel species settling
	Non native species outcompeting natives (land, freshwater and marine)
	Economic impact of diseases e.g. ash die back, asiatic long horn beetle, blue tongue (which is spread by midges migrating from Europe)
	Global trade/biosecurity risks of non-native species introduction high in Kent as gateway for most trade
	Asian hornets outcompeting native wasps
	Invasives- grey squirrel, OPM, Asian hornet
	Deer - high population that isn't managed
Tree health is at risk due to disease, deer populations	
Climate change	Flooding and soil health impact on water quality, NBS requiring the positive impact on local environment, lack of collaboration from farmer clusters/land owners
	Flooding- damage to habitats, infrastructure, agriculture, soil erosion lack of grazing fields and access
	Species movement- loss of or decline of key local species, influx of new species (invasive or beneficial)
	Solar 'farms'- loss of BMV, loss of field margins, differing views on impact to wildlife , disruption of movement through fencing
	Invasive species- risk to coastal areas of county (ports and natural migration), close to the continent (e.g. 8 tooth spruce bark beetle,OPM)
	Extreme floods - loss of Kingfisher nesting holes
	Increase of disease - tree/aquatic/bird/mammalian eg avian flu or blue tongue, ash dieback
	Pollinators affected by climate change impacts
	Extreme weather events means increase repair and rebuild costs - diverts funding away from biodiversity improvements - eg earth embankments on railway
	Flagship habitats like chalk downland vulnerable to climate change
	Coastal squeeze due to rising sea levels - loss of habitat
	Rate of change to habitat conditions due to climate impacts leave species incapable to keeping up with change
	Change of crops due to climate change - has species impact
	Increased flooding risks - lack of planting of riparian native trees - willow, birch, alder
	Changes in rainfall/temps/rising sea levels - producing unpredictability in water sources
	Decline in native species that hibernate, wake up early due to higher temperatures, when there is not enough food for them
	Pests around for longer due to temps not going low enough to kill them/put into hibernation, results in effects on crops and native species due to competition
	Increased flood risk/flooding on Thames Estuary, impact on flyway
	Changes in water use [due to heat] e.g. filling swimming and paddling pools, watering gardens in summer
	Changing agricultural practices e.g. vineyards
	Loss of existing ecosystem eg veteran trees
	Heavy rainfall - flooding
	Hotter drier summers - cumulative
	Climate sustainability - sustainable flood management needed - need for wetlands
	Drought stress - aquifer recharge issues, extraction
	Temperature increase and drier summers
	More storms
	Winter and summer floods
	Unpredictable weather
	Wetter weather -> increased flooding -> poor water quality from runoff and CSO spills
	Wetter weather = soil erosion and crop failures and habitat and land use change
	Extreme droughts -> habitat change, less resilient water supply, pressures on reservoirs, ground water extraction
	Increased risk of fire - habitat devastation
Development encroachment/urbanisation-loss of connectivity	
Gardens/green patches removed for driveways and hedges removed for fencing around houses	
Lack/reduction in field margins and hedgerows- lack of resources for pollinators-impacts floral diversity as well as agriculture- need more provision to support pollinator populations	

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Shorne**

Development	General encroachment from infrastructure
	Changing demographic, urban to rural
	Increasing population- increased need for access to the countryside (disturb nature), increased demand for water (abstraction management, impact on river flows and river restoration)
	Net migration of people from London/across seas put pressure on resources
	Infrastructure - both onshore and offshore - less space for nature
	Lower Thames Crossing - variable results for wildlife
	Fragmentation of landownership leading to lack of joined up vision
	Poorly located development, greater reliance on car use, resulting in more pollution
	Fragmentation caused by urban creep - puts pressure on isolated populations of species - increased risk of local extinctions
	Major infrastructure plans in Kent mean loss of habitat and disturbance
	Species populations isolated due to fragmentation - produces genetic vulnerability, lack of resilience
	Less absorption of rainwater - impacting aquifer recharge and water course flows
	Pressure on green infrastructure due to increased population demands - loss of habitat, habitat disturbance, loss of brownfield habitats.
	Layering of green space use means that leisure pressure can be overly high on nature reserves
	Increasing population - greater need for housing development - loss of habitat
	Loss of rural areas, increasing disturbance of nature
	Loss of greenfield sites to development and associated habitat
	Increased urban sprawl leading to [more] fragmented landscape
	Development pressure on coastal species due to disturbance, leads to loss of species (lower breeding success).
	Population adding to water stress - in combination with pollution etc
	Farmers giving up and selling land for development - housing, solar farms etc
	Proximity to London and Europe means large infrastructure projects - less space for nature
	Lack of joined up thinking with housing developments
	Housing isnt considered in terms of right house, right place
	Increasing urbanisation - loss of "night"
	General planning weighted to 'yes'
Shorne village is in danger of overdevelopment - increasing populations in this area	
Economic & funding pressures	Economic pressures reducing resources [financial] available for nature
	Tenant farmers, if receive payment for SFI, owners raise prices of rent, so tenant farmer ends up with no extra money so won't take part in schemes as takes more time and no monetary gain.
	High land prices - difficult to acquire land for low input, nature friendly uses.
	Lack of long term funding for nature projects
Education & connection	People not working in partnership
	Access to Land Registry
Energy production	Use of language - COUNTRYSIDE - be careful using this word, we need to refer to Kent as a whole - it's relevant to everyone. Some people think just because they don't live in the 'countryside', then it's not important to them.
Extraction of living resources (e.g. fishing, hunting etc)	Overfishing - reducing food supplies
Extraction of resources	Increased water abstraction resulting in less water, changes in habitat, less sustainable e.g. wetlands, chalk streams
	Lack of water, resulting in difficulties in getting abstraction licenses for conservation projects/habitats (people and livestock inevitably prioritised over nature)
	Existing protections ignored, so aggregate extraction is prioritised
Geological events, natural processes & catastrophes	
Human induced changes in water regimes	Low water flows into chalk streams leading to deoxygenation and biodiversity-loss
	Loss of wetlands due to drainage
	Ponds and ditches being drained, filled in or built over

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Shorne**

Human intrusions	Lack of funds for woodland management - eg coppicing
	BNG is not very habitat based
	Better funding for hedgerow/ploughing management schemes
	Balancing the need of community and nature - access pressures, urbanising greenspaces, lack of understanding
	Better engagement with the public - more than just forest school.
	There is a disconnect with nature and sustainable living/ food security leading to poor health
	Increased footfall and dog disturbance
	Damage to nature through recreation pressures, eg. North Kent Marshes
	Increased utilisation of foot paths, leading to ground compaction [and erosion]
	Foraging - mushrooms, samphire etc for commercial and personal use
	Habitat fragmentation - because of land use change, and road infrastructure - create physical barriers to movement
	Increased disturbance from recreational activities
	Changes in social norms such as increase in dog ownership, changing pressures on biodiversity in unexpected ways
	Population growth - spatial constraints
	Population pressures - habitat loss, fragmentation, litter and pollution, development, removal of natural resources, water scarcity, water quality, concreting gardens, wildlife disturbance and deaths (from pets), recreation pressures in natural environments
Woodland loss and fragmentation	
Access pressures - footfall impacts	
Social pressures from countryside users - social disconnect with nature.	
Mixed source pollution	Greater inappropriate use of countryside- flytipping and antisocial vehicle use
	Costs of getting rid of waste (building materials, large household waste, asbestos) - pollution of countryside through flytipping
	Pollution of water from sewage/agricultural run off/dog flea treatment/industrial
	Pollution of air from traffic/industry/aircraft
	Increase of pollution events because of development/adverse weather events eg caused by water companies
	Increased waste water discharge, resulting in nutrient loading and endocrine disruptors entering water, changes in volumetric flows
	Pollution pressure which will increase with population
	Pollution like Flytipping
	Air pollution from traffic
Pollution of our rivers and sea	
Outflows into lakes	
Transport systems	Increased traffic, large roads without safe crossings for wildlife
	Habitat fragmentation due to roads being created through natural sites.

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
West Malling**

Category	Specific pressure or threat
Agriculture practices & land management	Food production- agri-intensification - loss of species and less space for nature
	Huge popularity in British sparkling wine production- changing the character of Kents formally horticultural landscape and the types of wildlife that are supported
	Cost pressures on farmers
	Pressures on high quality agricultural land from mitigation schemes, housing, SANG, open access, country park creation, solar farms
	Solar farms in higher grade agricultural land- removes farmland from production, does it actually allow wildlife and crops underneath?- need higher panels
	Losing linked habitats due to farming changes over decades- hops, apples, vines, poly tunnels, what is next?
	Chicken farms aren't being positioned best for nature- away from water and run-off
	Pressure for cheap food
	Agricultural pressure - monocultures, spread of vineyards = loss of biodiversity
	Soil degradation of soil quality and structure = loss of biodiversity
	Loss of hedgerows, impacts roads e.g. snow blows on to road in winter, more water flows off after rain
	Pressure to produce food, leading to removal of hedges to enable economies of scale for larger equipment.
	Inappropriate use of resources e.g. using treated water for gardens and sports fields/pitches
	Expectations for how sports facilities should be managed e.g. kill weeds, in turn kills worms
	Changes in crop types, e.g. apples to grapes, may result in less food in the landscape for nature
	Agricultural run-off - pollution into wider landscape and water sources
	Food production (self-sufficiency) - efficiencies of farming larger areas (increased input costs) - declines as area is managed for nature instead
	Depleted topsoil
	Lack of woodland management - results in loss of understory. Specific species need specific conditions
	Conservation efforts that don't consider the wider environmental context - right thing in the right place.
	Loss of hedgerows
	Lack of protections for designated sites - lack of enforcement of protections
	Ash dieback
Lack of professional skills	
Political cycle and government policies	
Decline in ancient and semi-natural woodland	
Loss of ancient woodland for quarrying - results in habitat loss	
Alien & problematic species	Pest microorganisms
	Avian flu, bue tongue etc- impact on wildlife as well as farm livestock- potential to cross over and impact human population too?
	Invasive weeds in waterways and airbourne diseases and bugs
	Increase in alien species - wrong trees planted in developments
	Migration of species as climate warms
	Deer populations are problematic
	Alien species like Asian Hornets, Mitten Crabs
	Spruce bark beetle outbreaks
	Grey squirrels impacting tree growth
	Reintroduction of keystone species - predation/unintended consequences
	Rhododendron invasion in woodlands
	Hemlock species benefiting from low-input / less intense managment of margins
	Asian hornet, SWD, BMSB, EFB
Alien species has negative impact on native species - increasing amount becomes unmanageable.	
	Extreme weather events
	Increasing carbon levels
	Extreme temperatures & drought (Reduced production to both natural habitats and agriculture). Other extreme of heavier rainfall, increasing flooding in urban and rural areas which increases contamination of waterways.
	Loss of coastal land due to sea level rises/loss of sea defences, loss of annual vegetative drift line (vegetative shingle)
Loss of coastal heathland through wildfires	

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
West Malling**

Climate change	Coastal squeeze
	Flooding and hotter summers, changing what will grow
	Low rainfall and higher temperatures than other parts of the country - concentration of housing required in the county
	Impact of extreme weather
	Species movement and loss due to climate change
	Drought - sources of water for wildlife are depleting. Difficulty in establishing newly planted trees. Species unable to adapt to increased temperatures. Associated pests and diseases.
	Warming water - species change and coastal change - loss of saltmarsh and intertidal habitat
	Warmer, wetter winters. Drier, hotter summers. More intense rainfall events (erosion and flooding) and more drought events.
	Sea level rise and coastal erosion
	Drought
	Migratory patterns disrupted
	Erosion
	Invasive species
	Different crops needed to be grown to keep up with rate of change - species unable to keep up with rate of habitat change
	Sea level rises - coastal squeeze
	Climate extremes - putting pressure on rare habitats, and increasing pests and diseases
	Development
Species and habitat loss due to population growth	
Too many flats and less family homes being built	
Development- human intrusion and disturbance - species disturbance and fragmentation	
increased pop- increased need for food production- lack of incentive for domestic food production which would prevent fragmented landscape in this climate change	
Poor development choices - locations chosen encourages London workers to relocate in Kent increasing commuters and therefore the amount of cars on the road. Increasing car dependency (due to lack of public transport), increase in water quality pressure, and loss of space in turn affects wildlife and biodiversity. Tyre plastics - toxic to water courses. Local plan issues.	
Loss of ancient woodland due to poor development choices. Loss of green spaces and general biodiversity due to lack of thought from developers.	
Development in arable areas that are in or near to a farming cluster, or land managers that farm sustainably are broken by housing developments. Pressure on these groups, reduces the connectivity of larger conservation actions.	
Pressures on farming on the urban fringe due to mass development. Results in losing wildlife corridors	
Habitat island & loss of connectivity - degradation around the development and loss of habitats due to human disturbance	
Lack of drive from central governance to protect the landscape and educate people.	
Traffic - noise, pollution, loss of habitat, fragmentation, reduction in biodiversity.	
Public ignore footpaths & disrespect private land. Lack of education on why there are specific rights of ways. No respect of the natural environment and why wandering off Public Right Of Way does more harm than good.	
Lack of recording - lack of skills to truly understand what wildlife is there on a site.	
Increasing demand for infrastructure to support vehicle traffic, roads and associated services.	
Loss of green space in urban areas due to car parking, paving over driveways and gardens, fragmenting habitat and leading to more run-off	
Increasing demands for recreation land, leading to loss of space for nature/habitats.	
Demands for housing and holiday accommodation.	
Lack of water for agriculture due to demands from housing/people.	
Kent is a transitive county, pressures arise from disease, transport impacts, tourism impacts (en route to Europe).	
Fragmentation of habitats and biodiversity loss	
Demand for housing and associated infrastructure in Kent - loss of habitat e.g. ancient woodland, brownfield sites, wildlife corridors etc.	
Land required for solar and wind farms	
Water demand and supply pressures	
Poor quality of 'nature' replacement areas.	
Much of housing development being built is unaffordable. London housing associations buying land/sites here in Kent. Encouraging urban sprawl.	
Mineral extraction	

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
West Malling**

	Developer costs/inflation/need for profits and housing numbers
	Over-development, coupled with lack of infrastructure to support it - specifically water companies' lack of investment, leading to pollution
	Over-population, resulting in too much housing development and traffic.
	Lack of investment in green infrastructure
<b>Economic &amp; funding pressures</b>	Lack of funding to deliver nature-focussed projects - many conservation projects are better funded elsewhere and so restoration is harder to plan without a private funder
	Lack of funding /investment in technologies/innovation - for solutions re. alien invasives, reduction of pesticides - negative impacts: delays in addressing issues in agriculture which could be handled with more environmentally friendly alternatives
	Geopolitical - economic production and trade
<b>Education &amp; connection</b>	Loss of nature - people don't see nature anymore as it's not there, so negative loop of disconnection
	Social disconnect and lack of knowledge/empathy - lack of public support. Incorporate connection to nature/access to green space into strategy
<b>Energy production</b>	A need for huge electrical infrastructure upgrades in due course and more renewables linking into the grid- impact on farming and habitats
	No movement to sustainable energy - just increasing fossil fuel consumption and polluting. Talks of a requirement for new builds to have solar pannels.
	Offshore windfarms
<b>Extraction of living resources (e.g. fishing, hunting etc)</b>	Lack of market for timber, means lack of management of woodland
	Increasing demand for homegrown (domestic) resources
<b>Extraction of resources</b>	Due to quarrying at Oakham woods, loss of habitat (woodland and grassland), release of carbon
	Increased traffic, associated noise and pollution.
	Impact on sea floor, habitats and species, of dredging for gravel.
	Extraction of stone - habitat destruction and disturbance
<b>Geological events, natural processes &amp; catastrophes</b>	Ash dieback
<b>Human induced changes in water regimes</b>	River quality-impacted by water companies, lack of regulation and enforcement
	Nutricification of waterways- impact on ecosystems and fish,shrimp,algae etc
	Lack of riparian zones - reduction in water quality, river can't act in natural way, loss of biodiversity, loss of habitat connection
	Drought - over abstraction/not enough water for crops, wildlife suffers as plantlife can't survive
	Water quality from all sources - reduction in biodiversity and kills wildlife
	River modification - drains water from catchment too quickly, not enough flow variation for wildlife to spawn, travel, rest etc. reduces species breeding
	Water extraction from rivers and chalk streams
	Siltation of rivers
Water scarcity	
<b>Human intrusions</b>	Lack of connection with nature and environment
	Patchy use of green prescribing- missed opportunities
	Impact of recreation on nitrate impact and disturbance of livestock and ground nesting birds from people and dogs
	Difficulty in justifying spending on nature when councils are going bankrupt and need to meet basic social obligations
	Population growth vs climate change delivering of water regulation
	Public ignorance of nature -covid encourage people outdoors and 'trashed' countryside, hostility to landowners and visitors, no respect of private land.
	Public lack of understanding of what farmers and conservation actions do/are. Creates tension between land owner and public.
	Human disturbance of wildlife and habitats (veering off of footpaths etc), dog worrying, litter and hunting
	Education - Poor gardening practices, no wildlife corridors, ultimately reducing wildlife in urban environments.
	Destruction of riparian habitats - water pollution, hard landscaping, litter
	Lack of education about the countryside, lack of understanding of impacts of dog walking, rubbish on animals and waterways.
	Over use of spaces, causing damage to land. e.g. compaction, erosion
	Increases in public pressure/use, causing disturbance e.g. ground nesting birds
	Fly tipping
	Homeowners wanting gardens designed to Chelsea flower show standards, with emphasis on hard landscaping - high carbon footprint, particularly if materials aren't locally sourced. Flood risk from hard standings if impermeable. Less emphasis on wildlife friendly planting.
	Nationwide increase on people using plastic grass. Interrupting wildlife corridors, contains chemicals, gets extremely hot, production of it has high carbon footprint. Inhospitable to wildlife and bad for soil. Difficult to dispose of.

**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
West Malling**

	Culturally brainwashed into thinking manicured lawns and formal flower beds are good and long grass and wildflowers (weeds) are a mess.
	Interests misplaced - e.g. trees in the wrong landscape - unsuitable species.
	Public access - people trespassing off Public Rights Of Ways
	Footfall - disturbance to species and habitats, dogs (wildlife disturbance and livestock deaths), rubbish and vandalism
	Reduction of insects - negative effect on many other species eg swifts
	Lack of awareness from people about impacts they have on habitats - dogs in rivers (pesticide pollution), and disturbing ground nesting birds
	Public perceptions are that under-managed areas are wild - public conditioned to expecting neatness
	War
	Behaviour change and education needed- lack of British environmental and land management skills from an early age
	Competing priorities of decision makers - nature isn't prioritised.
	Loss of more local areas for wildlife - not necessarily protected reserves. Loss of recreational space with detrimental effect of wellbeing. Loss of habitats for plants, fungi, bats and other wildlife.
Mixed source pollution	Water pollution and lack of management - inefficient regulation- takes too long to know there is a problem before wildlife has gone
	Water pollution- effect on our varied landscape coastal and inland
	Air pollution
	Lack of litter enforcement
	Increased population, increase in litter, plastic pollution that breaks down into soil and surrounding environment (Floods worsen contamination of soil and water ways.
	Food consumption - mass produced plastic wrapping ends up in the surrounding environment as microplastics (concern for human health, environment and animal health) in water courses etc.
	Waste/ pollution e.g. coast paths (Hoo Peninsula) with debris and rubbish damaging surrounding habitat
	Water pollution - large % of waterways are sewage waste. Reducing fish populations.
	Litter = contamination of soil, foodchain and waterways.
	Water and air pollution; fossil fuels; transportation strategies (air travel and economic drivers); poor decision making from central governance.
	Water pollution - disrupts ecosystem processes, species loss, habitat loss, poor water supplies, recreational loss
	Dog flea treatments and pesticides
	Landfill and flytipping
	Pesticides vs natural deterrents - targeting particular fruit diseases, optiroll, scientific assistance.
	Recycling - motivation lacking - are things really being recycled properly? Contaminants in recycling systems voiding all efforts. Businesses should be under more pressure to reduce packaging/one-use, oil-based items for packaging and transportation. Reduce the waste in the first instance.
	Closure of recycling centres, charging for disposing of materials e.g. soil, rubble - leads to flytipping. Booking systems put people off using their sites.
	Lack of dilution of pollutants
Water pollution - algal blooms	
Light pollution	
Transport systems	



**Making Space for Nature workshop - pressures  
Self Led Workshops**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Specific pressure or threat</b>
Agriculture practices & land management	Farming practices - Impact on farmland birds and insects – destroying the food chain.
	Farming practices - Impact on water pollution – factory farming
	Concern over amount of suitably trained people to deliver the strategy over such a large area
	National planning policy not strong enough to protect wildlife – not seen as a priority
	Wildlife not sufficiently protected. No one checking if BNG is being delivered, potential for it to be a 'box ticking' exercise.
	Nature recovery does not have sufficient priority. Insufficient resources to deliver LNRS
	Changing governments - Policy that is never delivered on the ground
Alien & problematic species	Kent being in South East -
	Potentially more prone to pests and disease coming over from continent.
	Potential pests and diseases coming through the ports
Climate change	More extreme weather – Flooding, storms, and increased temperatures. Less defined seasons.
	Extreme heat and dry – no worms, slugs, snails available for mammals and amphibians / reptiles to eat.
	Extreme weather patterns affect reproductive success of wildlife. if conditions poor in autumn, amphibians and reptiles may not breed the following spring.
	Impact on insects for feeding young, food sources not being available.
	Places stress on all wildlife
	Loss of dew ponds
Development	Land classified as a carbon sink should not be at the expense of wildlife.
	Pressure on all resources and land, more development. which puts pressure on wildlife
	High population - pressure on land
	Drive for more housing development - biodiverse rich areas being destroyed
Energy production	
Extraction of living resources (e.g. fishing, hunting etc)	Shooting - Bringing non-native species into the country. Pheasants predate on amphibians.
	Destroying species such as bird of prey and corvids to support shoots.
	Pressure on certain wildlife e.g. badger (badger cull and for sport), fox (hunts and shot by landowners)
Extraction of resources	
Geological events, natural processes & catastrophes	
Human induced changes in water regimes	
Human intrusions	
Mixed source pollution	Water industry - lack of regulation - Destroying water courses and wildlife that rely on them
Transport systems	