

LNRS Potential Measures Workshops May 2024

What you need to know - if you're short on time, you just need to read this page!

From this third series of workshops, we're looking for your:

- Proposed potential measures that will allow us to deliver on the priorities for nature recovery in the county.
- Suggestions for where delivery of these potential measures will result in the greatest gains for wildlife and deliver the wider benefits that come from a healthy and functioning natural environment.

The programme for each workshop will be the same – each of the first three 30 minute sessions will allow you to discuss potential measures for one of the habitats of your choice and then one of the other remaining priorities (for the detailed outline, see page 4).

	Morning workshops	Afternoon workshops
1. Registration and refreshments	9.30am	1.00pm
2. Welcome from chair and introduction to workshop	9.45am	1.15pm
3. Workshop session 1 – potential measures for habitat priorities	10.15am	1.45pm
4. Workshop session 2 – potential measures for habitat priorities	10.45am	2.15pm
5. Break	11.15am	2.45pm
6. Workshop session 3 – potential measures for habitat priorities	11.45am	3.15pm
7. Workshop session 4 – potential measures for other priorities	12.15pm	3.45pm
8. Review of potential measures	12.45pm	4.15pm
9. Close	1.00pm	4.30pm

There will be four workshops, held at different locations around the county; registration for the potential measures workshops is online at [MS4N workshops](#):

- 14th May – Sun Pier House, Chatham (9.30am-1.00pm)
- 16th May – Vestry Hall, Crannbrook (1.00pm-4.30pm)
- 21st May – Quex Barn, Birchington (9.30am-1.00pm)
- 23rd May – Lenham Community Centre, Lenham (9.30am-1.00pm)

Tea and coffee will be available at the start of the workshop and again at the break. There will not be a lunch provided for the half day workshops. If you have time, it may help your participation at the workshop to familiarise yourself with [the LNRS priorities shortlist](#) and [potential measures examples](#).

If you'd like to know more about the project and workshops, please read on – but you don't need to read this in order to take part in the workshops.

Introduction to Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Making Space for Nature is working with partners and stakeholders to collaboratively develop the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Kent & Medway (LNRS). These strategies result from the 2021 Environment Act, with 48 to be created across England with no gaps or overlaps. Developed at a landscape scale by the Responsible Authority (with Kent County Council taking on this role for Kent and Medway), the LNRS will agree and map the local priorities and associated actions for nature recovery and wider environmental benefits, that collectively will deliver a nature recovery network for England, ending the decline of nature and supporting its recovery.

Making Space for Nature will develop:

- Spatially framed strategy for nature – focussing action to where its most needed and/or where it will deliver the greatest benefits.
- Framework for joined-up action, developed with those that will be instrumental in its delivery.
- Set of agreed priorities for nature recovery, with measures to deliver.
- Shared vision for nature recovery and the use of nature-based solutions in Kent and Medway.
- Ambitious but realistic and deliverable plan, linked to supporting mechanisms and finance.

More detail on the project can be found on the [Making Space for Nature website](#).

Background to how we've got to the draft LNRS priorities shortlist

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) will set out the priorities, in terms of habitats and species, for recovering or enhancing biodiversity and consider the contribution that this may also make to addressing wider environmental issues with nature-based solutions. In addition to identifying the county's priorities for nature recovery and enhancement, the project will also define the potential practical actions necessary to progress towards achievement of the priorities.

This is an important stage of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy preparation, as it establishes what the strategy is seeking to achieve, and the potential measures needed to support the ambitions. Whilst working with partners and stakeholders is important to the whole process, it is during this part of the project that we particularly require meaningful engagement - the stakeholders will be the delivery partners for the Strategy's priorities and actions. We also want to ensure that the priorities reflect what's most important to the people and organisations in Kent – to ensure it really is a LOCAL Nature Recovery Strategy, reflecting our local nature and environmental needs.

At the end of January and throughout February 2024, a series of workshops were held across the county to identify with stakeholders the pressures facing nature and the priorities that needed to be the focus of action to tackle these pressures and recover nature.

These five workshops were attended by a total over 200 people, representing 137 different organisations, bodies, businesses, affiliations etc. All sectors identified as relevant to the development of the LNRS were represented at the workshop, with exception of the health sector - the project has subsequently followed up with this stakeholder grouping.

Input to this initial stage was also achieved via online surveys and self-led workshops, using a toolkit provided by the project.

The outputs of this stakeholder input were:

- Pressures, threats and challenges for Kent and Medway's nature - those identified at the workshop were reviewed to determine which were in scope for the LNRS to address or influence and then edited into a list to be used in the priorities shortlisting process. The list also served as a check towards the end of the priorities development work to ensure all pressures were being addressed. The pressures collated with also be used to inform the strategy area description.
- Priorities for Kent and Medway's nature - over 800 priorities that stakeholders identified they would like to see for the county. These form the starting foundation of the LNRS priorities development.

These 800 priorities were then taken through a refinement process to create the draft LNRS priorities shortlist, that we will consider at the MS4N Priorities Workshops. This process, which resulted in 69 draft priorities for the LNRS, is summarised at the end of this document and the full report [Creating the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy draft priorities shortlist](#) can be viewed online.

Also at the end of the document are the 69 draft LNRS priorities. The full [final draft priorities shortlist for the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) document, and the [pressures](#) they aim to address, can both be viewed on line.

In viewing the draft priorities, you may wonder why there are seemingly no species priorities? This is because priority species for the LNRS will be identified through a dedicated LNRS species priorities work package, following guidance from Natural England. Therefore, the species priorities identified at the first series of workshops have been removed for the time being. Once the dedicated species prioritisation work has concluded, the species priorities removed from the long list will be reviewed. Any not

already picked up will be considered by the Species Recovery Technical Advisory Group. More information on the [species prioritisation work](#) can be found online.

The priorities have been reviewed at three stakeholder workshops at the beginning of May. Taking into account these workshops and other considerations, further work will be undertaken to refine the final priorities shortlist for the LNRS.

For the purposes of the potential measures workshop, we will be working from the same priorities shortlist reviewed at the workshops in early May.

Introduction to the workshops

This third series of stakeholder workshops is being held so you can assist us in identifying the potential measures necessary to deliver the LNRS priorities for nature recovery.

For the purposes of this workshop, the priorities have been grouped as follows:

	Group	Table lead
Habitat priorities	Grassland and heathland	Chris Drake
	Woodland and trees	Rachel Boot
	Freshwater and wetland	Kathi Bauer
	Coastal and marine	Louise Lawton
	Farmland (hedgerow, soil, traditional orchards, arable weeds)	Alexa Murray Mujtaba
	Urban	Katie Pattison
Other priorities	Connectivity	Chris Drake
	Nature based solutions	Kathi Bauer
	Climate change resilience	Louise Lawton
	Farm and land management	Alexa Murray Mujtaba
	Access and connection	Katie Pattison
	Overarching	Rachel Boot

Workshop sessions 1-3

There will be three 30 minute sessions where you will get the opportunity to sit on three of the six **habitat priority** focussed tables. You will be asked to:

- Propose potential measures for the priorities identified for that habitat type.
- Discuss with the table the measures proposed, and challenge where necessary (on the basis of appropriateness, applicability, feasibility and deliverability).
- Suggest potential locations where the delivery of these measures could be targeted.
- Identify where the potential measure may deliver against another priority.

After each 30 minute session you will be asked to move to another table.

Workshop session 4

For the final session, we ask you to join a table focussing on one of the **other priority** groups. The overarching group is there in case there are potential measures you'd like to discuss but feel they don't sit under a priority and/or are overarching measures needed.

Review of potential measures

The workshop will end with a 15 minute session for you to look at the potential measures suggested by the different groups and contribute your own suggestions to any priorities you may not have been able to contribute to during the four sessions.

Preparing for the workshop

If you have time, you may wish to familiarise yourself with the [final draft priorities shortlist for the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) and consider what potential measures you would like to see included alongside these priorities. This will also help you decide on which of the four tables you'd like to join during the workshop.

The project has compiled a document of [potential measures that could be relevant for the LNRS priorities](#), which may provide some useful background reading ahead of the workshop.

If possible, we ask that you discuss with colleagues and partners who may not be attending their views, so you can represent the views of your organisation and/or sector.

All discussions on the day will be facilitated by a member of the MS4N team, who will also have to hand the full list of draft priorities, pressures the LNRS is seeking to address and notes to aid the conversations.

If you have any questions in advance of the workshops, please contact makingspacefornature@kent.gov.uk

How will we use the workshop outcomes and next steps

The outcomes of the workshops will be collated into a workshop report, to ensure that there is a public record of the full findings.

Potential measures for each priority will be collated and combined where relevant to create a draft list of potential measures for the LNRS. These measures will then be

reviewed by relevant project partners with particular expertise in the habitat or field, to ensure they are appropriate, feasible and deliverable. This review will also continue to build information and evidence about where these measures might be best delivered. The outcomes of this review and the resulting revised LNRS potential measures will be considered by the Delivery Group and approved by the Board before publication. Publication of this, along with the associated LNRS priorities, is scheduled for mid-summer. Where necessary, the potential measures report will detail any decisions made in terms of which potential measures were considered appropriate for the LNRS.

The next step in the LNRS development is to identify where in the county the priorities and potential measures would be best targeted in order to achieve the greatest benefits for nature, whilst also contributing to wider environment goals and other co-benefits of a healthy natural environment. You can keep up to date with the development of this work on the website page [What we want – mapping areas of opportunity](#).

There will be an opportunity to map your priority areas using our online mapping tool – see www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/getinvolved/map-your-priorities-for-nature/