




Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

# Priorities shortlisting workshops report - Part 2
# 2nd – 9th May 2024

## Priorities voting activity






## 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

## The MS4N Priorities Shortlisting Workshops

Between 2nd and 9th May 2024, a series of workshops were held to consider the priorities shortlisting for nature in Kent and Medway. The purpose of these workshops was to get further stakeholder input into the refinement of the priorities for the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Three half-day workshops were held at three different locations (West Malling, Folkestone and Sevenoaks). In total, 82 people attended, representing 54 different organisations, bodies, businesses, affiliations etc. For more details see the attendance report.

This report outlines the outcomes of the priorities voting activity and considers what this may tell us as we work towards finalising the priorities for the county's nature recovery strategy.

This report is a reflection of stakeholders' views and opinions. Views and opinions do not indicate fact. The voting activity was used to frame a discussion around the priorities and how they may be shortlisted – part 1 of the workshop report outlines the specific outcomes of the workshop and discussion around the draft priorities. And how the priorities have been revised following stakeholder input is detailed in the Redrafted LNRS Priorities report.

At the very most, the analysis of the voting in this report will be an informative not definitive input – i.e. no priority will be excluded on the basis of the voting outcomes. No inference should be taken from the manner or order in which the priorities are presented.

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

## 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.

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.

## Overview of the workshop's voting activity

On arrival at the workshop, stakeholders were asked to give us their immediate thoughts on the priorities. This was done via a voting activity on the 69 draft priorities. In advance of the workshops, the priorities and planned voting activity was shared so that people were able to prepare should they wish to spend some time considering where their votes would be placed.

Stakeholders were provided with 30, 10 of each colour, and asked to allocate the stickers accordingly:

1. Blue stickers – these were placed on priorities that the stakeholder considered "must remain" as a priority for the county's LNRS. These were defined as a priority considered to be both critical and urgent to recovering our nature, and therefore must be retained in the LNRS. The urgency was defined as needing to be tackled now (within the next five years); the criticality defined as having outcomes that directly affect achieving the goals and long-term aspirations for nature recovery. And noted that without this action, there would be clear and immediate consequences.

2. Pink stickers – these were placed on priorities that the stakeholder considered "important but not urgent". These were defined as a priority considered important to recovering nature but perhaps could be addressed over a longer time period. So whilst this priority would still affect our goals and long-term aspirations for nature recovery, they could be tackled at a later stage, without consequence to our ambitions.

3. Orange stickers – there were placed on priorities that are the stakeholder considered "potentially unachievable or undeliverable". These were defined as a priority considered whilst necessary, were unlikely to be achievable or deliverable. This may be because of influences out of our control, such as climate change, because of the cost of the necessary action, the difficulty of interventions required or not having the right conditions (such as geology) to deliver. These would be the priorities that risked diverting focus and resources away from other more achievable priorities.

Stakeholders were asked to allocate all their blue and pink stickers (10 each) but did not have to allocate any orange stickers if they didn't think they applied (although they were encouraged to try to allocate some). Only one sticker could be allocated per priority. The votes cast against

each priority, at each workshop can be found in appendix 1. This also details the total votes across the workshops and the average.

The purpose of the activity was to encourage some critical thinking about how the strategy should focus attention to what is most needed and will deliver the most benefit. The outcomes of the activity were used to frame the discussions in the workshop about how the current draft shortlist could be further refined. For the discussion session, stakeholders were presented with a "top ten" (or nearest number) of the priorities for "must remain", "important but not urgent" and "potentially unachievable or undeliverable" and then asked to discuss whether or not they agreed and opportunities for refinement of the shortlist (see appendix 2 for the priorities discussed under each category at each of the three workshops). The outcomes of these discussions are detailed in X report.

Stakeholders were reassured that the voting on its own will not lead to the retention or removal of a priority. It was explained that any further refinement will be done in consideration of a number of different things and feedback from the workshops will be just one of these considerations.

## Note on validity of the voting results

Although there was good attendance of the workshops, with all sectors largely represented, it would be unwise to consider the voting results a true reflection of wide opinion and that there isn't some unconscious bias within the results.

Some stakeholders reflected that they didn't feel able to vote on habitats they were unfamiliar with or did not have sufficient knowledge to make a judgement. Therefore, it is likely there is some bias towards some of the habitats.

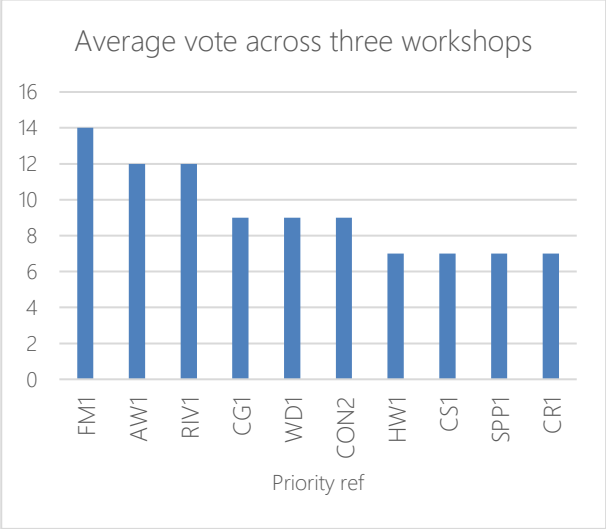
Further, the voting will be affected by who attended and where in the county. This is certainly the case for coastal and marine habitats, as attendance by stakeholders related to these habitats, or with the knowledge and understanding to make a judgement for the voting, had attended a dedicated workshop for these habitats the previous month and were largely not present at the priorities shortlisting workshop. An example of how location may have influenced can be seen with the clear steer towards deer management in the west of the county, compared to the east.

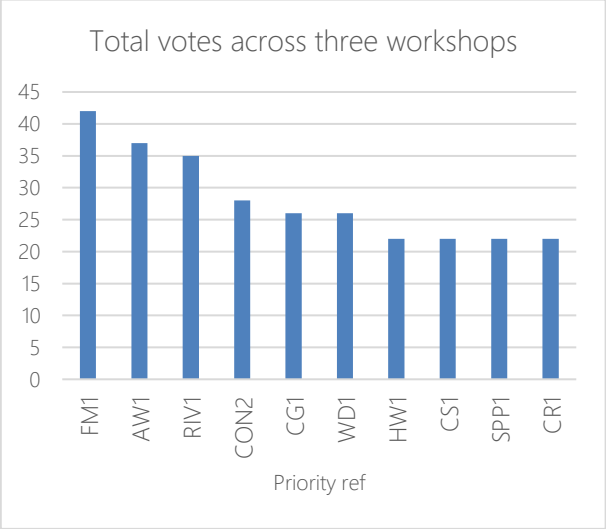
Whilst the voting exercise was a workshop exercise and cannot be considered a full reflection of our stakeholders' view, and despite the aforementioned constraints and considerations for the resulting data, it is still worth considering what the data might indicate and some basic analysis follows. Further, the voting outcomes can also be used to highlight some areas of the priorities for attention and consideration within the refinement process – these are discussed after the voting results.

## Summary of the voting results

Priorities identified as "must remain"

The "top ten" priorities identified as "must remain" were the same when either average vote or total votes were considered. The only difference between the two was that priority CON2 (management of habitats to deliver a connected mosaic of habitats at a large scale, where nature can flourish and species requirements are considered) was placed higher in the "top ten" when votes in total were considered.




Consequently, the priorities considered most critical and urgent to recovering our nature were identified as (based on average):

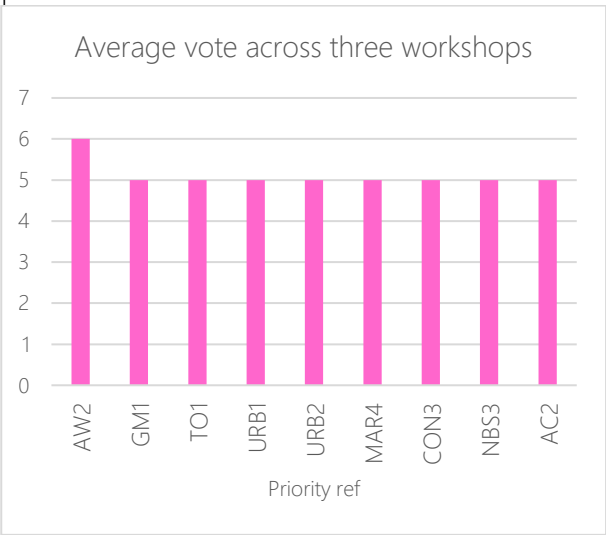
- FM1 - Increase in number of farms employing nature friendly farming practices and sensitive land management, resulting in farmland across the county that is rich in wildlife.
- AW1 - Ancient woodland, and ancient and veteran trees, are protected from loss, with damaged areas restored through management and the removal of non-native/invasive trees and plants.
- RIV1 - All rivers and streams in Kent achieve good ecological status or potential, with more naturally functioning rivers able to move dynamically, free from physical modifications and barriers, supporting more diverse habitats, flows and channel shapes, connecting with their floodplain and a mosaic of habitats including wet woodlands, wet grasslands and temporary wetlands.
- CG1 - Chalk grasslands protected from loss, restored to better condition through conservation management and connected across the landscape, supporting a high diversity of species, including species tolerant to climate change.
- WD1 - An increase in native woodland, with diverse ecology, well connected and under appropriate management to support natural regeneration and extension.
- CON2 - Management of habitats to deliver a connected mosaic of habitats at a large scale, where nature can flourish and species requirements are considered.

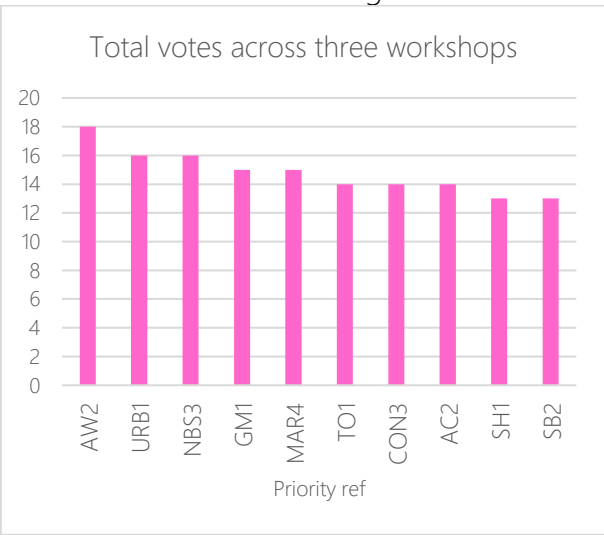
- HW1 - The extent of species-rich hedgerows through the county is increased, with lost hedgerows replaced, gaps filled and management of existing hedgerows improving the quality as well as quantity.
- CS1 - Chalk streams reaching good ecological status and providing high quality river habitat, with natural and uninterrupted flows along their permanent course and well managed ephemeral headwater streams, protected from pollution and with a more natural channel shape, supporting a characteristic flora and fauna.
- SPP1 - All management of Kent's priority habitats taking account of the needs of the priority species that both contribute to, and depend on, that particular habitat. With management utilising the role of species to help deliver more dynamic, natural, intact and climate resilient ecosystems.
- CR1 - Improve connectivity of the landscape, with dynamic habitats which evolve and change, to support climate change resilience, with particular attention paid to <<habitats>> and <<species>>.

<u>Priorities identified as "important but not urgent"</u>

The "top ten" priorities identified as "important but not urgent" were largely the same when either average vote or total votes were considered. However the order of the "top ten" was different when average was considered alongside total votes.

Priority URB2 did not feature in the "top ten" when total votes were considered. Whereas priorities SH1 and SB2 featured in the total votes but scored lower as an average.



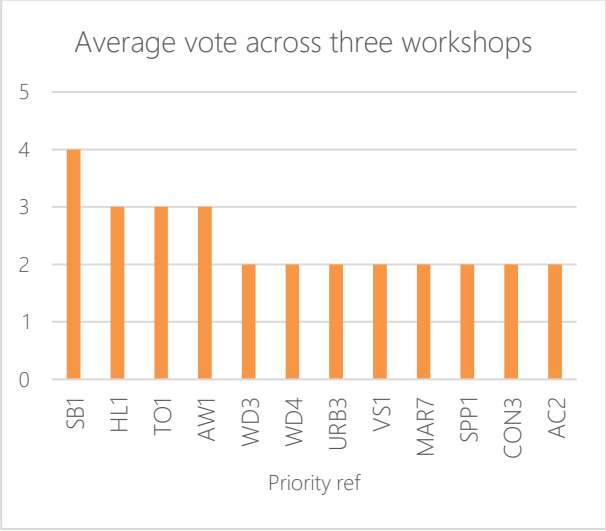

Consequently, the priorities considered important to recovering nature but could potentially be addressed over a longer time period were (based on average):

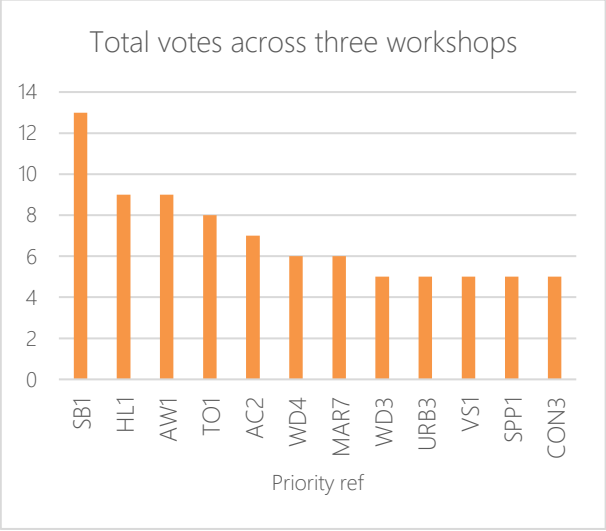
- AW2 - Areas of ancient woodland buffered and better connected for climate resilience.
- GM1 - Existing coastal and floodplain grazing marsh restored to better condition and retaining more freshwater, with sensitive areas and the breeding waders they support protected from land management and recreational disturbance. Opportunities taken to create and extend areas of this habitat and increase its climate resilience.

- TO1 - An increase in traditional orchards, under sensitive management, supporting an abundance and diversity of wildlife.
- URB1 - Increase the extent of green space, trees and hedgerows within urban areas to not only provide more habitat for wildlife and increase  but also deliver other benefits including urban cooling, air and noise pollution regulation and surface water management.
- URB2 - Address habitat fragmentation of the urban environment, ensuring urban species can freely move about and developed areas and infrastructure does not impede passage.
- MAR4 - Reverse the decline in seagrass off Kent's coast.
- CON3 - The county's highway, cycleway, pathway and PROW networks acting as functional networks for wildlife.
- NBS3 - Increase the extent of carbon sequestering habitats in the county, that are purposefully managed to function as a carbon store whilst prioritising a nature recovery function.
- AC2 - Kent's population have a greater connection, and increased engagement, with natural areas and nature; and are inspired to deliver benefits for nature.

<u>Priorities identified as "potentially unachievable or undeliverable"</u>

The "top ten" priorities identified as "potentially unachievable or undeliverable" were the same when either average vote or total votes were considered.  However the order of the "top ten" was different when average was considered alongside total votes.



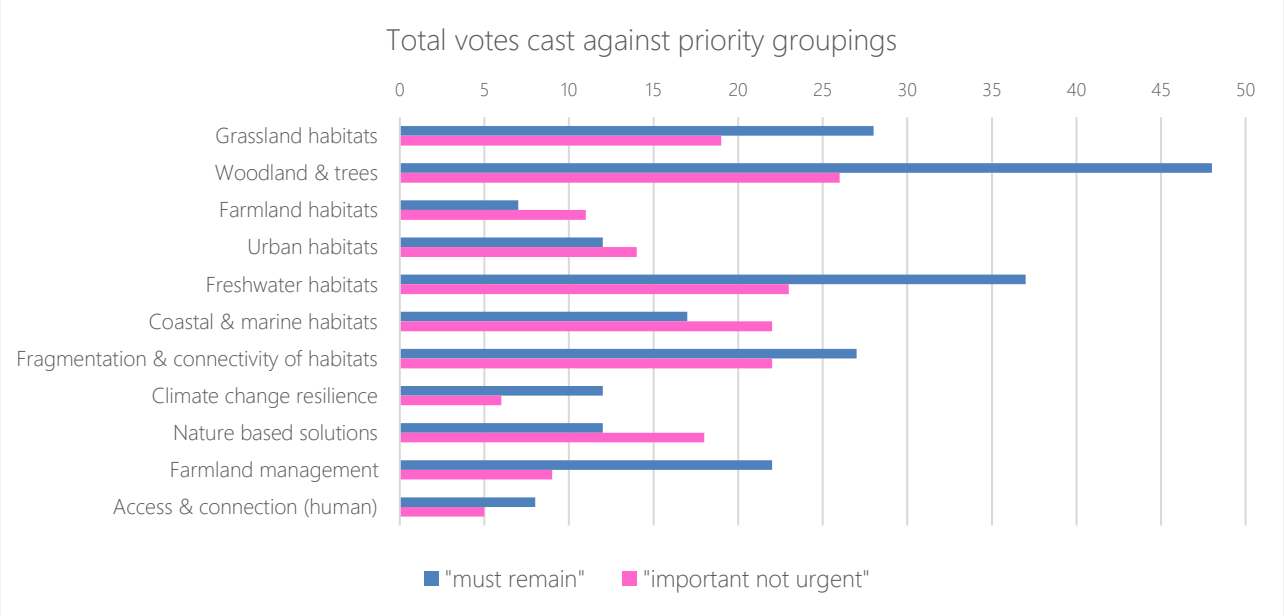

Consequently, the priorities considered whilst necessary, are unlikely to be achievable or deliverable and may divert focus and resources away for priorities which are were (based on average):

- SB1 - Reduce the amount of unmanaged scrub, and the loss of grassland and heathland from its encroachment.
- HL1 - Increase in extent of high quality lowland heathland.

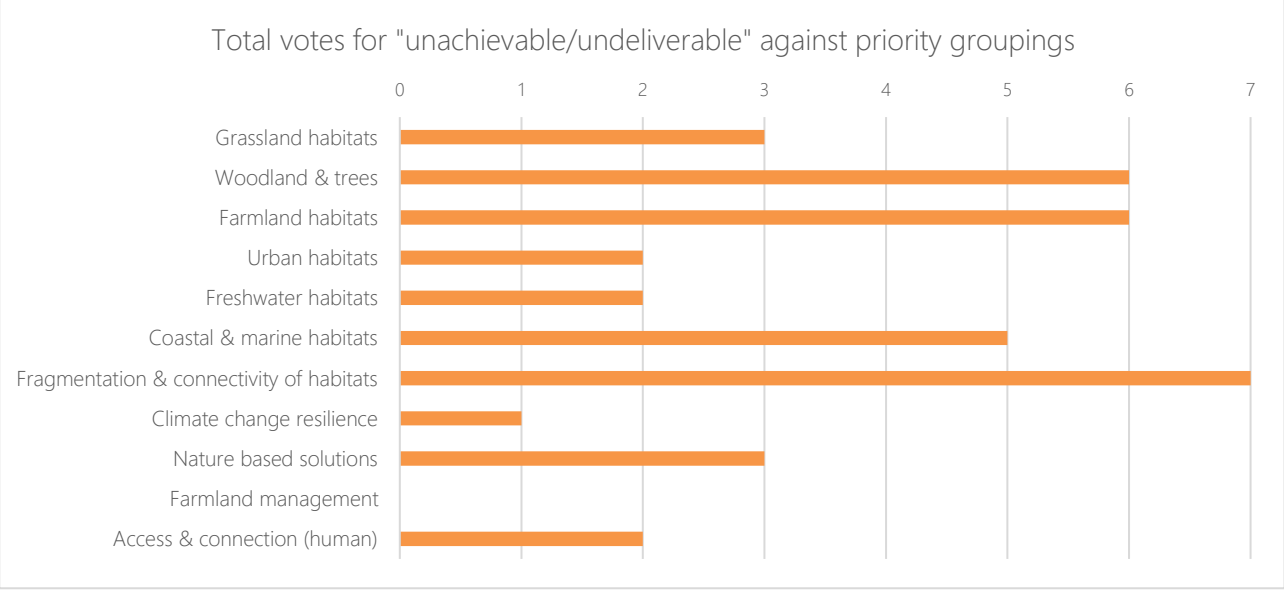
- TO1 - An increase in traditional orchards, under sensitive management, supporting an abundance and diversity of wildlife.
- AW1 - Restoration of arable fields with a diversity and abundance of arable weeds.
- WD3 - Increase the average canopy cover of Kent through woodland and trees outside woodland to 19%.
- WD4 - Restoration of native trees, once prolific in Kent, lost from the wider treescape as a result of disease, pest, climate change and drought (including poplar, ash and elm) to return the ecological functions these trees provided to the county's landscape.
- URB3 - Public greenspace and land management delivering wildlife benefits.
- VS1 - Protect and restore vegetated shingle, ensuring there is no unavoidable loss and areas remain in, or are returned to, a favourable condition.
- MAR7 - Priority relating to fish nursery areas?
- SPP1 - All management of Kent's priority habitats taking account of the needs of the priority species that both contribute to, and depend on, that particular habitat.  With management utilising the role of species to help deliver more dynamic, natural, intact  and climate resilient ecosystems.
- CON3 - The county's highway, cycleway, pathway and PROW networks acting as functional networks for wildlife.
- AC2 - Kent's population have a greater connection, and increased engagement, with natural areas and nature; and are inspired to deliver benefits for nature.

## Voting results considered within priority groupings

Review of the voting cast against priority groups as a whole suggests that there is potentially more priority placed on woodland and trees, freshwater habitats, grassland habitats and fragmentation and connectivity. It also suggests that potentially there is opportunity to refine the shortlist within the priority groupings of farmland habitats, urban habitats, coastal & marine habitats and nature based solutions, as these priorities are indicated to be more weighted towards important but not urgent.




Voting for priorities potentially unachievable/undeliverable has not been compared to the other categories, as there was not the same number of votes cast to this category. Looking at these vote independently suggests that the priority groupings considered most important and urgent may also pose some deliverability challenges and therefore close scrutiny of all priorities is required whilst refining the shortlist. The voting also suggests that all the farmland management priorities are achievable as no votes were cast at all for this grouping.



In looking to refine the priorities shortlist, it may be useful to consider whether there was any preference given to specific priorities within the groupings they fall under:

- Grassland habitats
- Woodland and trees
- Farmland habitats
- Urban habitats
- Freshwater habitats
- Coastal and marine habitats
- Species (there was just one general priority)
- Fragmentation and connectivity of habitats
- Climate change resilience
- Nature based solutions
- Farmland management
- Access and connection (human)

In the table overleaf, the average vote score rather than total vote score is reviewed – the percentage figure denotes how many of the votes cast for the priority category, were given against that particular priority. Priorities have only been included in the "potentially unachievable or undeliverable" category if the average/total number of votes was equal to or more than received in the other two categories.

There were some conflicting results between priorities being "top" for more than one priority category. These included:

- Priority CG1 (Chalk grasslands protected from loss, restored and connected) was considered as both a priority that must remain and one that could be considered whilst important, less urgent. However when the actual vote numbers rather than percentage share are assessed, more than double the number of people considered it important and urgent than just important. Consequently in the table overleaf, it is only shown in the former column.
- Priority CR1 (Improve connectivity of the landscape, with dynamic habitats) was considered as both a priority that must remain and one that could be considered whilst important, less urgent. However when the actual vote numbers rather than percentage share are assessed, more than double the number of people considered it important and urgent than just important. Consequently in the table overleaf, it is only shown in the former column.
- Priority NBS2 (Work with nature to restore river catchments' functions) was considered as both a priority that must remain and one that could be considered whilst important, less urgent. However when the actual votes rather than percentage share are assessed, it got a higher average vote score and more votes for important and urgent than just important. Consequently in the table overleaf, it is only shown in the former column.
- Priority FM1 (Increase in number of farms employing nature friendly farming practices and sensitive land management) was considered as both a priority that must remain and one that could be considered whilst important, less urgent. However when the actual vote numbers rather than percentage share are assessed, more than four times the number of

people considered it important and urgent than just important. Consequently in the table overleaf, it is only shown in the former column.

- Priority AC2 (Kent's population have a greater connection, and increased engagement, with natural areas and nature) was considered as both a priority that could be considered whilst important, less urgent and unachievable/undeliverable. However when the actual vote numbers rather than percentage share are assessed, double the number of people considered it important, less urgent than unachievable/undeliverable. Consequently in the table overleaf, it is only shown in the former column.

| Priority grouping | Priorities identified as "must remain" | Priorities identified as "important but not urgent" | Priorities identified as "potentially unachievable or undeliverable" |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grassland habitats (6 priorities in total) | • CG1 - Chalk grasslands protected from loss, restored to better condition through conservation management and connected across the landscape, supporting a high diversity of species, including species tolerant to climate change (32%).<br>• LM1 - Existing species-rich lowland meadow is protected from loss, restored to better condition and extended through sensitive land management practices to reduce soil nutrient levels. Through the extension of lowland meadow, this habitat is better connected, reducing the risk of isolated meadow species and declines in species richness (21%). | • GM1 - Existing coastal and floodplain grazing marsh restored to better condition and retaining more freshwater, with sensitive areas and the breeding waders they support protected from land management and recreational disturbance. Opportunities taken to create and extend areas of this habitat and increase its climate resilience (26%). | • HL1 - Increase in extent of high quality lowland heathland (100%). Worth noting that although this was the only priority in the grassland group to receive votes under this category, the number of votes it received for this category was the same as the number it received for "important but not urgent" (both average and total). |
| Woodland and trees (10 priorities in total) | • AW1 - Ancient woodland, and ancient and veteran trees, are protected from loss, with damaged areas restored through management and the removal of non-native/invasive trees and plants (25%).<br>• WD1 - An increase in native woodland, with diverse ecology, | • AW2 - Areas of ancient woodland buffered and better connected for climate resilience (23%).<br>• WD4 - Restoration of native trees, once prolific in Kent, lost from the wider treescape as a result of disease, pest, climate change and drought (including poplar, ash and elm) to return the ecological | |

| Priority grouping | Priorities identified as "must remain" | Priorities identified as "important but not urgent" | Priorities identified as "potentially unachievable or undeliverable" |
|---|---|---|---|
| | well connected and under appropriate management to support natural regeneration and extension (19%). | functions these trees provided to the county's landscape (15%). | |
| Farmland habitats (3 priorities in total) | • SH1 - Improve soil and structure throughout the county by enhanced and increased soil management so that it is better delivering for invertebrates, carbon sequestration, water retention and management and production/provisioning (57%). | • TO1 - An increase in traditional orchards, under sensitive management, supporting an abundance and diversity of wildlife (45%). | • AW1 - Restoration of arable fields with a diversity and abundance of arable weeds (50%). |
| Urban habitats (4 priorities in total) | • OHM1 - Protection from loss and damage of open mosaic habitats found on previously developed land for the benefit of species which rely on the early successional habitats (33%). | • URB1 - Increase the extent of green space, trees and hedgerows within urban areas to not only provide more habitat for wildlife and increase but also deliver other benefits including urban cooling, air and noise pollution regulation and surface water management (36%).<br>• URB2 - Address habitat fragmentation of the urban environment, ensuring urban species can freely move about and developed areas and infrastructure does not impede passage (36%). | |
| Freshwater habitats | • RIV1 - All rivers and streams in Kent | • PD1 - Restore ponds with high | |

| Priority grouping | Priorities identified as "must remain" | Priorities identified as "important but not urgent" | Priorities identified as "potentially unachievable or undeliverable" |
|---|---|---|---|
| (11 priorities in total) | achieve good ecological status or potential, with more naturally functioning rivers able to move dynamically, free from physical modifications and barriers, supporting more diverse habitats, flows and channel shapes, connecting with their floodplain and a mosaic of habitats including wet woodlands, wet grasslands and temporary wetlands (32%).<br>• CS1 - Chalk streams reaching good ecological status and providing high quality river habitat, with natural and uninterrupted flows along their permanent course and well managed ephemeral headwater streams, protected from pollution and with a more natural channel shape, supporting a characteristic flora and fauna (19%). | ecological value and creation of new ponds especially as part of a mosaic of habitats, protecting all ponds habitats from run-off pollutants and invasive species, while allowing successional habitats to develop where appropriate (17%).<br>• RB1 - Increase the extent of high quality reedbeds across Kent and ensure existing reedbeds are in appropriate management (17%). | |
| Coastal and marine habitats<br>(12 priorities in total) | • CL1 - Coastal habitats are allowed evolve, with natural dynamic processes and progression restored, to enable adaption and resilience to climate change and minimise the loss of intertidal habitats (24%). | • MAR4 - Reverse the decline in seagrass off Kent's coast (23%). | • MAR7 - Priority relating to fish nursery areas (40%). |

| Priority grouping | Priorities identified as "must remain" | Priorities identified as "important but not urgent" | Priorities identified as "potentially unachievable or undeliverable" |
|---|---|---|---|
| | • CL2 - Sustainable management of estuaries and open coast to be promoted, allowing a range of high functioning coastal habitats such as saltmarsh and mudflats to develop (24%). | | |
| Fragmentation and connectivity of habitats<br>(7 priorities) | • CON2 - Management of habitats to deliver a connected mosaic of habitats at a large scale, where nature can flourish and species requirements are considered (26%).<br>• FRG1 - County's key wildlife sites better connected by addressing the fragmentation and barriers preventing movement of species (15%).<br>• CON1 - Habitats connected at both a county and local scale, delivering bigger, better and more joined up with no important wildlife habitats, or species populations, left completely isolated (15%). | • CON3 - The county's highway, cycleway, pathway and PROW networks acting as functional networks for wildlife (20%).<br>• FRG2 - Fragmentation caused by arterial roads, railway and other major infrastructure retrospectively addressed, reconnecting habitats and wildlife pathways (16%).<br>• SB2 - Increase the extent of low level, scrub/successional habitat, providing a mix of young and mature scrub to enable structural diversity and the support of a wide range of species. Link this scrub habitat with hedgerows, woodland and other habitats to support wildlife corridors (16%). | • SB1 - Reduce the amount of unmanaged scrub, and the loss of grassland and heathland from its encroachment (44%). |
| Climate change resilience<br>(3 priorities) | • CR1 - Improve connectivity of the landscape, with dynamic habitats which evolve and change, to support climate change resilience, | • CR2 - Proactively address the migration of new species into the county as a result of a changing climate, with strategies for both | |

| Priority grouping | Priorities identified as "must remain" | Priorities identified as "important but not urgent" | Priorities identified as "potentially unachievable or undeliverable" |
|---|---|---|---|
| | with particular attention paid to <<habitats>> and <<species>> (58%). | naturalised species and invasive/pests (33%). | |
| Nature based solutions (5 priorities) | • NBS2 - Work with nature to restore river catchments' functions to improve water quality, manage flood risk and deliver enhanced biodiversity (42%).<br>• NBS4 - Protect habitats delivering critical ecosystem services in the county (25%). | • NBS3 - Increase the extent of carbon sequestering habitats in the county, that are purposefully managed to function as a carbon store whilst prioritising a nature recovery function (28%).<br>• NBS5 - Protect and restore wildlife-rich and functioning freshwater wetlands across the county, providing not only shelter, nurseries and breeding grounds but also carbon sinks and water management (22%). | |
| Farmland management (3 priorities) | • FM1 - Increase in number of farms employing nature friendly farming practices and sensitive land management, resulting in farmland across the county that is rich in wildlife (64%). | • FM2 - Farmland delivering targeted action for nature recovery (33%). | |
| Access and connection (human) (2 priorities) | • AC1 - Protection of habitats and species sensitive to disturbance by employing site management, and other measures, which support connection to, and experience of, wildlife but ensures our most | • AC2 - Kent's population have a greater connection, and increased engagement, with natural areas and nature; and are inspired to deliver benefits for nature (100%). | |

| Priority grouping | Priorities identified as “must remain” | Priorities identified as “important but not urgent” | Priorities identified as “potentially unachievable or undeliverable” |
|---|---|---|---|
| | sensitive sites remain undisturbed (75%). | | |

## Using the voting outcomes in refinement of the LNRS priorities

The voting activity was a useful and effective approach within the workshop to get stakeholders thinking about the need to refine the priorities shortlist and to frame the discussion around how this might be done.

However these votes cannot be considered in isolation and the resulting discussion needs to be reviewed alongside the statistics. Also, arguably the sample is not large enough and margins are too narrow to place any major significance in terms of opinion.

But the voting outcomes can be used to highlight some areas of the priorities for attention and consideration within the refinement process. These include:

- Highlighting which of the priorities will need notable justification if not featured in the priorities shortlist, given the degree to which they were considered "important and urgent" and therefore "must remain".
- Highlighting which of the priorities might present an opportunity for refining the list by removing priorities considered not urgent. This will need careful consideration in terms of ensuring that delaying action will not result in a bigger or even irreversible challenge by the time the priority is considered urgent.
- Highlighting which of the priorities need further consideration as to whether they really are achievable and/or deliverable within the framework of delivery offered by the LNRS supporting mechanisms and/or within the local context of other challenges/
- Suggesting that certain groupings of priorities might warrant greater detail and attention (i.e. number of priorities) than others which can perhaps be covered by one general priority.
- If looking to streamline within the priority groupings, which priorities may present opportunities for this and those which are critical and should remain.

## APPENDIX 1 – VOTES CAST AGAINST EACH PRIORITY ACROSS THE THREE WORKSHOPS

| Theme | Ref | Proposed LNRS priority | Workshop 1 West Malling | Workshop 2 Folkestone | Workshop 3 Sevenoaks | Average across three workshops | Total of three workshop |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Chalk grassland** | CG1 | Chalk grasslands protected from loss, restored to better condition through conservation management and connected across the landscape, supporting a high diversity of species, including species tolerant to climate change. | 9 blue<br>4 pink | 10 blue<br>4 pink | 7 blue | 9 blue<br>4 pink | 26 blue<br>8 pink |
| **Grazing marsh** | GM1 | Existing coastal and floodplain grazing marsh restored to better condition and retaining more freshwater, with sensitive areas and the breeding waders they support protected from land management and recreational disturbance. Opportunities taken to create and extend areas of this habitat and increase its climate resilience. | 1 blue<br>8 pink | 8 blue<br>3 pink | 1 blue<br>4 pink | 3 blue<br>5 pink | 10 blue<br>15 pink |
| **Lowland meadow** | LM1 | Existing species-rich lowland meadow is protected from loss, restored to better condition and extended through sensitive land management practices to reduce soil nutrient levels. Through the extension of lowland meadow, this habitat is better connected, reducing the risk of isolated meadow species and declines in species richness. | 8 blue<br>1 pink | 5 blue<br>2 pink | 4 blue<br>4 pink | 6 blue<br>2 pink | 17 blue<br>7 pink |
| **Acid grassland** | AG1 | Restore to better condition and retain acid grassland through increasing low-intensity grazing/mowing practices. identify areas where removal of scrub or secondary woodland may present opportunities for further restoration, extension and creation. | 5 blue<br>2 pink | 8 blue<br>4 pink | 1 pink<br>1 orange | 4 blue<br>2 pink | 13 blue<br>7 pink<br>1 orange |
| **Species rich grassland** | SRG1 | Protect existing extent, and connect and extend resource, of all species-rich grassland by returning appropriate, wildlife friendly and traditional | 8 blue<br>2 pink | 2 blue<br>7 pink | 6 blue<br>1 pink | 5 blue<br>3 pink | 16 blue<br>10 pink |

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| | | management techniques to these habitats. | | | | | |
| **Heathland** | HL1 | Increase in extent of high quality lowland heathland. | 1 blue<br>4 pink<br>4 orange | 2 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange | 3 pink<br>4 orange | 1 blue<br>3 pink<br>3 orange | 3 blue<br>9 pink<br>9 orange |
| **Ancient woodland** | AW1 | Ancient woodland, and ancient and veteran trees, are protected from loss, with damaged areas restored through management and the removal of non-native/invasive trees and plants. | 19 blue | 12 blue | 6 blue | 12 blue | 37 blue |
| | AW2 | Areas of ancient woodland buffered and better connected for climate resilience. | 9 pink<br>2 orange | 8 blue<br>7 pink | 4 blue<br>2 pink | 4 blue<br>6 pink | 12 blue<br>18 pink<br>2 orange |
| **Wet woodland** | WW1 | Increase the extent of high quality wet woodland in the county and improve connectivity with the freshwater habitat network. | 3 blue<br>6 pink<br>2 orange | 6 blue<br>3 pink | 1 pink | 3 blue<br>3 pink | 9 blue<br>10 pink<br>2 orange |
| **Woodland and trees** | WD1 | An increase in native woodland, with diverse ecology, well connected and under appropriate management to support natural regeneration and extension. | 10 blue<br>2 pink | 10 blue<br>2 pink<br>2 orange | 6 blue<br>2 pink | 9 blue<br>2 pink | 26 blue<br>6 pink<br>2 orange |
| | WD2 | Appropriate deer and grey squirrel management in woodland (and connecting areas) to reduce impacts and support new planting and natural regeneration. | 1 blue<br>3 pink<br>2 orange | 2 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange | 6 blue | 3 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange | 9 blue<br>5 pink<br>3 orange |
| | WD3 | Increase the average canopy cover of Kent through woodland and trees outside woodland to 19%. | 1 blue<br>5 pink<br>2 orange | 3 pink<br>2 orange | 1 blue<br>1 pink<br>1 orange | 3 pink<br>2 orange | 2 blue<br>9 pink<br>5 orange |
| | WD4 | Restoration of native trees, once prolific in Kent, lost from the wider treescape as a result of disease, pest, climate change and drought (including poplar, ash and elm) to return the ecological functions these trees provided to the county's landscape. | 7 blue<br>2 pink<br>2 orange | 4 blue<br>4 pink<br>2 orange | 5 pink<br>2 orange | 4 blue<br>4 pink<br>2 orange | 11 blue<br>11 pink<br>6 orange |
| **Hedgerow** | HW1 | The extent of species-rich hedgerows through the county is increased, with lost hedgerows replaced, gaps filled and management of existing hedgerows | 9 blue<br>1 orange | 12 blue<br>2 pink | 1 blue<br>2 pink | 7 blue<br>1 pink | 22 blue<br>4 pink<br>1 orange |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | improving the quality as well as quantity. | | | | | |
| | HW2 | Improvements in hedgerow quality and extent providing a coherent network of shelter, nesting and forage for wildlife across the landscape and allowing other habitats to be linked. | 4 blue<br>3 pink<br>2 orange | 3 blue<br>3 pink | 4 pink | 2 blue<br>3 pink | 7 blue<br>10 pink<br>2 orange |
| | HW3 | Hedgerows protected from loss, aggressive management, neglect and chemicals. | 4 blue<br>3 pink<br>3 orange | 2 blue<br>5 pink | 5 blue<br>1 pink | 4 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange | 11 blue<br>7 pink<br>3 orange |
| **Soil health** | SH1 | Improve soil and structure throughout the county by enhanced and increased soil management so that it is better delivering for invertebrates, carbon sequestration, water retention and management and production/provisioning. | 5 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange | 1 blue<br>9 pink<br>1 orange | 5 blue<br>2 pink | 4 blue<br>4 pink | 11 blue<br>13 pink<br>2 orange |
| **Traditional orchard** | TO1 | An increase in traditional orchards, under sensitive management, supporting an abundance and diversity of wildlife. | 2 blue<br>10 pink<br>4 orange | 3 blue<br>4 pink<br>4 orange | 2 blue | 2 blue<br>5 pink<br>3 orange | 7 blue<br>14 pink<br>8 orange |
| **Arable weeds** | AW1 | Restoration of arable fields with a diversity and abundance of arable weeds. | 4 blue<br>1 pink<br>2 orange | 4 pink<br>4 orange | 3 orange | 1 blue<br>2 pink<br>3 orange | 4 blue<br>5 pink<br>9 orange |
| **Scrub** | SB1 | Reduce the amount of unmanaged scrub, and the loss of grassland and heathland from its encroachment. | 2 pink<br>6 orange | 5 pink<br>4 orange | 3 orange | 2 pink<br>4 orange | 7 pink<br>13 orange |
| | SB2 | Increase the extent of low level, scrub/successional habitat, providing a mix of young and mature scrub to enable structural diversity and the support of a wide range of species. Link this scrub habitat with hedgerows, woodland and other habitats to support wildlife corridors. | 2 blue<br>9 pink | 8 blue<br>1 pink | 3 pink | 3 blue<br>4 pink | 10 blue<br>13 pink |
| **Urban** | OHM1 | Protection from loss and damage of open mosaic habitats found on previously developed land for the benefit of species which rely on the early successional | 4 blue<br>3 pink | 8 blue<br><br>1 orange | | 4 blue<br>1 pink | 12 blue<br>3 pink<br>1 orange |

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| | | habitats. | | | | | |
| | URB1 | Increase the extent of green space, trees and hedgerows within urban areas to not only provide more habitat for wildlife and increase but also deliver other benefits including urban cooling, air and noise pollution regulation and surface water management. | 6 blue<br>6 pink<br>1 orange | 11 blue<br>5 pink<br>1 orange | 2 blue<br>5 pink | 3 blue<br>5 pink | 10 blue<br>16 pink<br>2 orange |
| | URB2 | Address habitat fragmentation of the urban environment, ensuring urban species can freely move about and developed areas and infrastructure does not impede passage. | 2 blue<br>2 pink | 6 blue<br>5 pink | 1 blue<br>4 pink | 3 blue<br>4 pink | 9 blue<br>11 pink |
| | URB3 | Public greenspace and land management delivering wildlife benefits. | 3 blue<br>2 pink<br>4 orange | 1 blue<br>5 pink | 1 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange | 2 blue<br>3 pink<br>2 orange | 5 blue<br>9 pink<br>5 orange |
| **Chalk streams** | CS1 | Chalk streams reaching good ecological status and providing high quality river habitat, with natural and uninterrupted flows along their permanent course and well managed ephemeral headwater streams, protected from pollution and with a more natural channel shape, supporting a characteristic flora and fauna. | 5 blue | 12 blue | 5 blue | 7 blue | 22 blue |
| | CS2 | Protect the quality and quantity of the groundwater body on which chalk streams and associated habitats rely. | 2 blue<br>1 pink | 4 blue<br>1 pink | 1 orange | 2 blue | 6 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange |
| **Ponds** | PD1 | Restore ponds with high ecological value and creation of new ponds especially as part of a mosaic of habitats, protecting all ponds habitats from run-off pollutants and invasive species, while allowing successional habitats to develop where appropriate. | 4 blue<br>4 pink | 5 blue<br>4 pink<br>1 orange | 2 blue<br>4 pink | 4 blue<br>4 pink | 11 blue<br>12 pink<br>1 orange |
| **Rivers** | RIV1 | All rivers and streams in Kent achieve good ecological status or potential, with more naturally functioning rivers able to move dynamically, free from physical | 16 blue | 14 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange | 5 blue | 12 blue | 35 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange |

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| | | modifications and barriers, supporting more diverse habitats, flows and channel shapes, connecting with their floodplain and a mosaic of habitats including wet woodlands, wet grasslands and temporary wetlands. | | | | | |
| | RIV2 | Clean, sufficient, stable and passable freshwater environments to support an increase in freshwater species abundance and diversity. | 6 pink<br>2 orange | 1 blue | 1 blue | 2 pink | 2 blue<br>6 pink<br>2 orange |
| | RIV3 | Establish wide, more natural buffer strips with a diverse vegetation structure along rivers, streams and springs, providing a balance of light and shade, supporting wetland habitats and protection from pollution. | 6 pink | 7 blue | 4 blue<br>2 pink | 4 blue<br>3 pink | 11 blue<br>8 pink |
| | RIV4 | Protect headwater streams and restore a natural channel shape, allowing them to function as part of a mosaic of seasonally wet habitats including grasslands and woodlands, providing resilient flows to rivers and supporting a wide range of wildlife. | 3 blue<br>2 pink | 2 blue<br>1 pink | 2 blue<br>3 pink<br>1 orange | 2 blue<br>2 pink | 7 blue<br>6 pink<br>1 orange |
| | RIV5 | Restore clay rivers to a more natural channel shape, removing physical modifications and the impacts of historic alterations and restoring a mosaic of connected wetland habitats along the floodplain and headwater streams. | 3 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange | 4 blue<br>2 pink | 1 pink | 2 blue<br>2 pink | 7 blue<br>5 pink<br>1 orange |
| **Groundwater** | GW1 | Improve the health of groundwater bodies by protecting them from pollution and over-abstraction, in turn protecting and supporting groundwater-dependent terrestrial and wetland ecosystems. | 2 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange | 2 blue<br>5 pink | 2 blue<br>2 pink<br>2 orange | 2 blue<br>3 pink<br>1 orange | 6 blue<br>9 pink<br>3 orange |
| **Lowland mire sites** | LM1 | Restoration of lowland mire sites (fen and raised bog), with the provision of buffers to allow the habitat extent to increase. | 1 blue<br>4 pink<br>1 orange | 1 blue<br>6 pink<br>1 orange | 1 pink | 1 blue<br>3 pink | 3 blue<br>10 pink<br>2 orange |
| **Reedbeds** | RB1 | Increase the extent of high quality reedbeds across Kent and ensure existing reedbeds are in appropriate management. | 5 pink<br>3 orange | 2 blue<br>3 pink | 1 blue<br>3 pink | 1 blue<br>4 pink<br>1 orange | 3 blue<br>11 pink<br>3 orange |

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| **Coastal habitats** | CL1 | Coastal habitats are allowed evolve, with natural dynamic processes and progression restored, to enable adaption and resilience to climate change and minimise the loss of intertidal habitats. | 4 blue<br>1 pink | 4 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange | 3 blue | 4 blue<br>1 pink | 11 blue<br>3 pink<br>1 orange |
| | CL2 | Sustainable management of estuaries and open coast to be promoted, allowing a range of high functioning coastal habitats such as saltmarsh and mudflats to develop. | 5 blue<br>1 pink | 4 pink | 2 blue<br>3 pink | 4 blue<br>1 pink | 11 blue<br>4 pink |
| | CL3 | Improved condition of saltmarsh and mudflats, with functioning ecosystems supporting wildlife. | 6 pink<br>1 orange | 2 blue<br>1 pink<br>1 orange | 2 pink | 3 blue<br>1 pink | 8 blue<br>3 pink<br>2 orange |
| **Saline lagoons** | SL1 | Saline lagoons are appropriately protected and managed to increase their resilience and adaptation to climate change and secure their ecological functions, including the role they will play as transitional habitats. | 1 blue<br>5 pink<br>1 orange | 1 orange | 1 blue | 2 pink | 2 blue<br>5 pink<br>2 orange |
| **Vegetated shingle** | VS1 | Protect and restore vegetated shingle, ensuring there is no unavoidable loss and areas remain in, or are returned to, a favourable condition. | 1 blue<br>4 pink<br>1 orange | 5 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange | 3 orange | 2 blue<br>2 pink<br>2 orange | 6 blue<br>6 pink<br>5 orange |
| **Marine** | MAR1 | Reducing small scale loss and increasing connectivity and functionality of intertidal mud for foraging birds. | 1 blue<br>5 pink | 4 blue<br>2 pink | 1 blue<br>2 pink | 2 blue<br>3 pink | 6 blue<br>9 pink |
| | MAR3 | Rocky and biogenic reefs nurtured and protected from erosion and marine development. In particular, ross worm and blue mussel reefs recovered and acting as functional habitat. | 2 pink | 2 blue | | | 2 blue<br>2 pink |
| | MAR4 | Reverse the decline in seagrass off Kent's coast. | 5 pink | 1 blue<br>4 pink<br>2 orange | 6 pink | 5 pink | 1 blue<br>15 pink<br>2 orange |
| | MAR5 | Chalk reefs nurtured and protected from erosion and damage from marine development. | 4 pink | 1 blue<br>3 pink<br>1 orange | 1 orange | 2 pink | 1 blue<br>7 pink<br>2 orange |

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| | MAR6 | Sustainable management of oyster beds to allow them to reach their habitat building potential. | 3 pink | 4 pink<br>1 orange | 1 pink | 3 pink | 8 pink<br>1 orange |
| | MAR7 | Priority relating to fish nursery areas? | 2 pink<br>3 orange | 1 pink<br>1 orange | 2 orange | 1 pink<br>2 orange | 3 pink<br>6 orange |
| | MAR8 | Reduction in marine life disturbance resulting from leisure pressures on coastal zones and marine environment. | 1 blue<br>1 pink<br>4 orange | 5 blue | 2 pink | 2 blue<br>1 pink<br>1 orange | 6 blue<br>3 pink<br>4 orange |
| **Species** | SPP1 | All management of Kent's priority habitats taking account of the needs of the priority species that both contribute to, and depend on, that particular habitat. With management utilising the role of species to help deliver more dynamic, natural, intact and climate resilient ecosystems. | 15 blue<br>4 pink<br>2 orange | 7 blue<br>2 pink | 2 pink<br>3 orange | 7 blue<br>3 pink<br>2 orange | 22 blue<br>8 pink<br>5 orange |
| **Fragmentation and connectivity** | FRG1 | County's key wildlife sites better connected by addressing the fragmentation and barriers preventing movement of species. | 14 blue<br>3 pink | 1 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange | 2 blue<br>2 pink | 5 blue<br>2 pink | 16 blue<br>7 pink<br>1 orange |
| | FRG2 | Fragmentation caused by arterial roads, railway and other major infrastructure retrospectively addressed, reconnecting habitats and wildlife pathways. | 3 blue<br>4 pink<br>1 orange | 9 blue<br>1 pink<br>2 orange | 6 pink | 4 blue<br>4 pink<br>1 orange | 12 blue<br>11 pink<br>3 orange |
| | CON1 | Habitats connected at both a county and local scale, delivering bigger, better and more joined up with no important wildlife habitats, or species populations, left completely isolated. | 6 blue<br>4 pink<br>1 orange | 8 blue<br>1 pink | 3 pink<br>1 orange | 5 blue<br>3 pink | 14 blue<br>8 pink<br>2 orange |
| | CON2 | Management of habitats to deliver a connected mosaic of habitats at a large scale, where nature can flourish and species requirements are considered. | 9 blue<br>3 pink | 10 blue<br>4 pink | 9 blue | 9 blue<br>2 pink | 28 blue<br>7 pink |
| | CON3 | The county's highway, cycleway, pathway and PROW networks acting as functional networks for wildlife. | 4 blue<br>4 pink<br>2 orange | 9 pink | 1 pink<br>3 orange | 1 blue<br>5 pink<br>2 orange | 4 blue<br>14 pink<br>5 orange |

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| **Climate change resilience** | CR1 | Improve connectivity of the landscape, with dynamic habitats which evolve and change, to support climate change resilience, with particular attention paid to <<habitats>> and <<species>>. | 11 blue<br>6 pink | 4 blue<br>4 pink | 7 blue | 7 blue<br>3 pink | 22 blue<br>10 pink |
| | CR2 | Proactively address the migration of new species into the county as a result of a changing climate, with strategies for both naturalised species and invasive/pests. | 7 pink | 1 blue<br>6 pink<br>2 orange | 1 blue<br>1 pink | 3 blue<br>2 pink | 9 blue<br>7 pink<br>2 orange |
| | CR3 | Landscape scale management, with partners beyond the county, to address habitat change and species migration as a result of climate change. | 6 pink<br>3 orange | 2 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange | 5 blue<br>1 pink | 2 blue<br>1 pink<br>1 orange | 7 blue<br>3 pink<br>4 orange |
| **Nature based solutions** | NBS1 | Increase of woodland and trees outside woodland to deliver air quality improvements. | 1 blue<br>7 pink | 3 pink<br>2 orange | 1 blue<br>1 orange | 3 pink<br>1 orange | 2 blue<br>10 pink<br>3 orange |
| | NBS2 | Work with nature to restore river catchments' functions to improve water quality, manage flood risk and deliver enhanced biodiversity. | 5 blue<br>4 pink | 6 blue<br>5 pink | 3 blue<br>3 pink | 5 blue<br>4 pink | 14 blue<br>12 pink |
| | NBS3 | Increase the extent of carbon sequestering habitats in the county, that are purposefully managed to function as a carbon store whilst prioritising a nature recovery function. | 6 blue<br>6 pink<br>2 orange | 6 pink<br>2 orange | 4 pink | 2 blue<br>5 pink<br>1 orange | 6 blue<br>16 pink<br>4 orange |
| | NBS4 | Protect habitats delivering critical ecosystem services in the county. | 5 blue<br>2 pink<br>2 orange | 2 blue<br>1 pink<br>1 orange | 3 blue<br>2 pink | 3 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange | 10 blue<br>5 pink<br>3 orange |
| | NBS5 | Protect and restore wildlife-rich and functioning freshwater wetlands across the county, providing not only shelter, nurseries and breeding grounds but also carbon sinks and water management. | 1 blue<br>6 pink | 5 blue<br>5 pink | | 2 blue<br>4 pink | 6 blue<br>11 pink |
| **Farm & land management** | FM1 | Increase in number of farms employing nature friendly farming practices and sensitive land management, resulting in farmland across the county that is rich in wildlife. | 18 blue<br>4 pink | 19 blue<br>1 pink | 5 blue<br>4 pink | 14 blue<br>3 pink | 42 blue<br>9 pink |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | FM2 | Farmland delivering targeted action for nature recovery. | 7 blue<br>4 pink | 3 pink<br>2 orange | 2 pink | 2 blue<br>3 pink | 7 blue<br>9 pink<br>2 orange |
| | FM3 | Protect freshwater habitats and groundwater bodies in farmland from agricultural diffuse pollution (caused for example by soil, nutrient or livestock management practices and physical modifications) and the impacts of over-abstraction. | 8 blue<br>2 pink | 9 blue<br>4 pink | 4 pink | 6 blue<br>3 pink | 17 blue<br>10 pink |
| **Access and connection** | AC1 | Protection of habitats and species sensitive to disturbance by employing site management, and other measures, which support connection to, and experience of, wildlife but ensures our most sensitive sites remain undisturbed. | 8 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange | 10 blue | | 6 blue | 18 blue<br>2 pink<br>1 orange |
| | AC2 | Kent's population have a greater connection, and increased engagement, with natural areas and nature; and are inspired to deliver benefits for nature. | 2 blue<br>6 pink<br>4 orange | 3 blue<br>8 pink<br>2 orange | 1 orange | 2 blue<br>5 pink<br>2 orange | 5 blue<br>14 pink<br>7 orange |

## APPENDIX 2 – "TOP TEN" PRIORITIES DISCUSSED AT EACH WORKSHOP

### West Malling

| Priorities identified as "must remain" by voting and discussed by stakeholders at the workshop | |
|---|---|
| CG1 | Chalk grasslands protected from loss, restored to better condition through conservation management and connected across the landscape, supporting a high diversity of species, including species tolerant to climate change. |
| LM1 | Existing species-rich lowland meadow is protected from loss, restored to better condition and extended through sensitive land management practices to reduce soil nutrient levels. Through the extension of lowland meadow, this habitat is better connected, reducing the risk of isolated meadow species and declines in species richness. |
| AW1 | Ancient woodland, and ancient and veteran trees, are protected from loss, with damaged areas restored through management and the removal of non-native/invasive trees and plants. |
| WD1 | An increase in native woodland, with diverse ecology, well connected and under appropriate management to support natural regeneration and extension. |
| HW1 | The extent of species-rich hedgerows through the county is increased, with lost hedgerows replaced, gaps filled and management of existing hedgerows improving the quality as well as quantity. |
| RIV1 | All rivers and streams in Kent achieve good ecological status or potential, with more naturally functioning rivers able to move dynamically, free from physical modifications and barriers, supporting more diverse habitats, flows and channel shapes, connecting with their floodplain and a mosaic of habitats including wet woodlands, wet grasslands and temporary wetlands. |
| SPP1 | All management of Kent's priority habitats taking account of the needs of the priority species that both contribute to, and depend on, that particular habitat. With management utilising the role of species to help deliver more dynamic, natural, intact and climate resilient ecosystems. |
| CR1 | Improve connectivity of the landscape, with dynamic habitats which evolve and change, to support climate change resilience, with particular attention paid to <<habitats>> and <<species>>. |
| FRG1 | County's key wildlife sites better connected by addressing the fragmentation and barriers preventing movement of species. |
| CON2 | Management of habitats to deliver a connected mosaic of habitats at a large scale, where nature can flourish and species requirements are considered. |
| FM1 | Increase in number of farms employing nature friendly farming practices and sensitive land management, resulting in farmland across the county that is rich in wildlife. |

| Priorities identified as "important but not urgent" by voting and discussed by stakeholders at the workshop | |
|---|---|
| GM1 | Existing coastal and floodplain grazing marsh restored to better condition and retaining more freshwater, with sensitive areas and the breeding waders they support protected from land management and recreational disturbance. Opportunities taken to create and extend areas of this habitat and increase its climate resilience. |
| AW2 | Areas of ancient woodland buffered and better connected for climate resilience. |
| WD3 | Increase the average canopy cover of Kent through woodland and trees outside woodland to 19%. |
| TO1 | An increase in traditional orchards, under sensitive management, supporting an abundance and diversity of wildlife. |
| SB2 | Increase the extent of low level, scrub/successional habitat, providing a mix of young and mature scrub to enable structural diversity and the support of a wide range of species. Link this scrub habitat with hedgerows, woodland and other habitats to support wildlife corridors. |
| RIV2 | Clean, sufficient, stable and passable freshwater environments to support an increase in freshwater species abundance and diversity. |
| RIV3 | Establish wide, more natural buffer strips with a diverse vegetation structure along rivers, streams and springs, providing a balance of light and shade, supporting wetland habitats and protection from pollution. |
| CL3 | Improved condition of saltmarsh and mudflats, with functioning ecosystems supporting wildlife. |
| CR2 | Proactively address the migration of new species into the county as a result of a changing climate, with strategies for both naturalised species and invasive/pests. |
| CR3 | Landscape scale management, with partners beyond the county, to address habitat change and species migration as a result of climate change. |
| NBS1 | Increase of woodland and trees outside woodland to deliver air quality improvements. |

| Priorities identified as "potentially unachievable or undeliverable" by voting and discussed by stakeholders at the workshop | |
|---|---|
| HL1 | Increase in extent of high quality lowland heathland. |
| SB1 | Reduce the amount of unmanaged scrub, and the loss of grassland and heathland from its encroachment. |
| RB1 | Increase the extent of high quality reedbeds across Kent and ensure existing reedbeds are in appropriate management. |
| MAR8 | Reduction in marine life disturbance resulting from leisure pressures on coastal zones and marine environment. |

**Folkestone**

| Priorities identified as "must remain" by voting and discussed by stakeholders at the workshop | |
|---|---|
| CG1 | Chalk grasslands protected from loss, restored to better condition through conservation management and connected across the landscape, supporting a high diversity of species, including species tolerant to climate change. |
| AW1 | Ancient woodland, and ancient and veteran trees, are protected from loss, with damaged areas restored through management and the removal of non-native/invasive trees and plants. |
| WD1 | An increase in native woodland, with diverse ecology, well connected and under appropriate management to support natural regeneration and extension. |
| HW1 | The extent of species-rich hedgerows through the county is increased, with lost hedgerows replaced, gaps filled and management of existing hedgerows improving the quality as well as quantity. |
| URB1 | Increase the extent of green space, trees and hedgerows within urban areas to not only provide more habitat for wildlife and increase but also deliver other benefits including urban cooling, air and noise pollution regulation and surface water management. |
| CS1 | Chalk streams reaching good ecological status and providing high quality river habitat, with natural and uninterrupted flows along their permanent course and well managed ephemeral headwater streams, protected from pollution and with a more natural channel shape, supporting a characteristic flora and fauna. |
| RIV1 | All rivers and streams in Kent achieve good ecological status or potential, with more naturally functioning rivers able to move dynamically, free from physical modifications and barriers, supporting more diverse habitats, flows and channel shapes, connecting with their floodplain and a mosaic of habitats including wet woodlands, wet grasslands and temporary wetlands. |
| CON2 | Management of habitats to deliver a connected mosaic of habitats at a large scale, where nature can flourish and species requirements are considered. |
| FRG2 | Fragmentation caused by arterial roads, railway and other major infrastructure retrospectively addressed, reconnecting habitats and wildlife pathways. |
| FM1 | Increase in number of farms employing nature friendly farming practices and sensitive land management, resulting in farmland across the county that is rich in wildlife. |
| FM3 | Protect freshwater habitats and groundwater bodies in farmland from agricultural diffuse pollution (caused for example by soil, nutrient or livestock management practices and physical modifications) and the impacts of over-abstraction. |
| AC1 | Protection of habitats and species sensitive to disturbance by employing site management, and other measures, which support connection to, and experience of, wildlife but ensures our most sensitive sites remain undisturbed. |

| Priorities identified as "important but not urgent" by voting and discussed by stakeholders at the workshop | |
|---|---|
| SRG1 | Protect existing extent, and connect and extend resource, of all species-rich grassland by returning appropriate, wildlife friendly and traditional management techniques to these habitats. |
| LM1 | Existing species-rich lowland meadow is protected from loss, restored to better condition and extended through sensitive land management practices to reduce soil nutrient levels. Through the extension of lowland meadow, this habitat is better connected, reducing the risk of isolated meadow species and declines in species richness. |
| AW2 | Areas of ancient woodland buffered and better connected for climate resilience. |
| CON3 | The county's highway, cycleway, pathway and PROW networks acting as functional networks for wildlife. |
| CR2 | Proactively address the migration of new species into the county as a result of a changing climate, with strategies for both naturalised species and invasive/pests. |
| NBS3 | Increase the extent of carbon sequestering habitats in the county, that are purposefully managed to function as a carbon store whilst prioritising a nature recovery function. |
| AC2 | Kent's population have a greater connection, and increased engagement, with natural areas and nature; and are inspired to deliver benefits for nature. |

| Priorities identified as "potentially unachievable or undeliverable" by voting and discussed by stakeholders at the workshop | |
|---|---|
| WD3 | Increase the average canopy cover of Kent through woodland and trees outside woodland to 19%. |
| TO1 | An increase in traditional orchards, under sensitive management, supporting an abundance and diversity of wildlife. |
| AW1 | Restoration of arable fields with a diversity and abundance of arable weeds. |
| SB1 | Reduce the amount of unmanaged scrub, and the loss of grassland and heathland from its encroachment. |
| MAR4 | Reverse the decline in seagrass off Kent's coast. |

## Sevenoaks

| Priorities identified as "must remain" by voting and discussed by stakeholders at the workshop | |
|---|---|
| CG1 | Chalk grasslands protected from loss, restored to better condition through conservation management and connected across the landscape, supporting a high diversity of species, including species tolerant to climate change. |
| SRG1 | Protect existing extent, and connect and extend resource, of all species-rich grassland by returning appropriate, wildlife friendly and traditional management techniques to these habitats. |
| AW1 | Ancient woodland, and ancient and veteran trees, are protected from loss, with damaged areas restored through management and the removal of non-native/invasive trees and plants. |
| WD1 | An increase in native woodland, with diverse ecology, well connected and under appropriate management to support natural regeneration and extension. |
| WD2 | Appropriate deer and grey squirrel management in woodland (and connecting areas) to reduce impacts and support new planting and natural regeneration. |
| HW2 | Hedgerows protected from loss, aggressive management, neglect and chemicals. |
| CS1 | Chalk streams reaching good ecological status and providing high quality river habitat, with natural and uninterrupted flows along their permanent course and well managed ephemeral headwater streams, protected from pollution and with a more natural channel shape, supporting a characteristic flora and fauna. |
| RIV1 | All rivers and streams in Kent achieve good ecological status or potential, with more naturally functioning rivers able to move dynamically, free from physical modifications and barriers, supporting more diverse habitats, flows and channel shapes, connecting with their floodplain and a mosaic of habitats including wet woodlands, wet grasslands and temporary wetlands. |
| CON2 | Management of habitats to deliver a connected mosaic of habitats at a large scale, where nature can flourish and species requirements are considered. |
| CR1 | Improve connectivity of the landscape, with dynamic habitats which evolve and change, to support climate change resilience, with particular attention paid to <<habitats>> and <<species>>. |
| CR3 | Landscape scale management, with partners beyond the county, to address habitat change and species migration as a result of climate change. |
| FM1 | Increase in number of farms employing nature friendly farming practices and sensitive land management, resulting in farmland across the county that is rich in wildlife. |

| Priorities identified as "important but not urgent" by voting and discussed by stakeholders at the workshop | |
|---|---|
| GM1 | Existing coastal and floodplain grazing marsh restored to better condition and retaining more freshwater, with sensitive areas and the breeding waders they support protected from land management and recreational disturbance. Opportunities taken to create and extend areas of this habitat and increase its climate resilience. |
| LM1 | Existing species-rich lowland meadow is protected from loss, restored to better condition and extended through sensitive land management practices to reduce soil nutrient levels. Through the extension of lowland meadow, this habitat is better connected, reducing the risk of isolated meadow species and declines in species richness. |
| WD4 | Restoration of native trees, once prolific in Kent, lost from the wider treescape as a result of disease, pest, climate change and drought (including poplar, ash and elm) to return the ecological functions these trees provided to the county's landscape. |
| HW2 | Improvements in hedgerow quality and extent providing a coherent network of shelter, nesting and forage for wildlife across the landscape and allowing other habitats to be linked. |
| SH1 | Improve soil and structure throughout the county by enhanced and increased soil management so that it is better delivering for invertebrates, carbon sequestration, water retention and management and production/provisioning. |
| PD1 | Restore ponds with high ecological value and creation of new ponds especially as part of a mosaic of habitats, protecting all ponds habitats from run-off pollutants and invasive species, while allowing successional habitats to develop where appropriate. |
| MAR4 | Reverse the decline in seagrass off Kent's coast. |
| FRG2 | Fragmentation caused by arterial roads, railway and other major infrastructure retrospectively addressed, reconnecting habitats and wildlife pathways. |
| NBS2 | Increase the extent of carbon sequestering habitats in the county, that are purposefully managed to function as a carbon store whilst prioritising a nature recovery function. |
| FM3 | Protect freshwater habitats and groundwater bodies in farmland from agricultural diffuse pollution (caused for example by soil, nutrient or livestock management practices and physical modifications) and the impacts of over-abstraction. |

| | |
|---|---|
| URB1 | Increase the extent of green space, trees and hedgerows within urban areas to not only provide more habitat for wildlife and increase but also deliver other benefits including urban cooling, air and noise pollution regulation and surface water management. |
| URB2 | Address habitat fragmentation of the urban environment, ensuring urban species can freely move about and developed areas and infrastructure does not impede passage. |
| AC1 | Protection of habitats and species sensitive to disturbance by employing site management, and other measures, which support connection to, and experience of, wildlife but ensures our most sensitive sites remain undisturbed. |

| **Priorities identified as "potentially unachievable or undeliverable" by voting and discussed by stakeholders at the workshop** | |
|---|---|
| HL1 | Increase in extent of high quality lowland heathland. |
| AW1 | Restoration of arable fields with a diversity and abundance of arable weeds. |
| SB1 | Reduce the amount of unmanaged scrub, and the loss of grassland and heathland from its encroachment. |
| VS1 | Protect and restore vegetated shingle, ensuring there is no unavoidable loss and areas remain in, or are returned to, a favourable condition. |
| SPP1 | All management of Kent's priority habitats taking account of the needs of the priority species that both contribute to, and depend on, that particular habitat. With management utilising the role of species to help deliver more dynamic, natural, intact and climate resilient ecosystems. |
| CON3 | The county's highway, cycleway, pathway and PROW networks acting as functional networks for wildlife. |

## APPENDIX 3 – XXX

To be added in - priorities that fell under each grouping and their respective share of the votes within that group