



User guide
to the online
mapping tool

1. Introduction

The Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy has identified the priorities for nature recovery in Kent and Medway, the potential measures that could be taken to support the delivery of these and where in the county these would be best delivered. The measures are focussed around ten ambitions:

Ambition theme	Potential measure prefix
Connectivity	CON
Nature based solutions	(not mapped)
Land management and land use	LM
Grassland habitats	GL
Successional habitats	SH
Woodland, trees and hedgerows	WTH
Freshwater habitats	FW
Urban environments	URB
Coastal habitats	CL

The potential measures have been mapped and these maps are available online at https://webapps.kwtg.uk/lnrs_measures_webmap/

The Strategy also presents the Kent and Medway Local Habitat Map. The Local Habitat Map for Kent and Medway is a key part of the LNRS, comprising of:

- “Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity” (APIB) - areas already afforded protection (national conservation sites, local nature reserves, local wildlife sites and areas of irreplaceable habitat).
- “Areas that Could become of particular Importance for Biodiversity” (ACIB) - the target areas identified by the LNRS as the focus for the delivery of the strategy’s potential measures.

For the purposes of the consultation, the mapping tool provides basic functions. When published, more user functions will be made available – however at the time of the consultation, exactly how the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will inform action, grants, funding and investment and be used within local planning is unknown. The development of a tool to support this is therefore paused until more is known and we can do our best to develop a platform that works for all uses. We are therefore not inviting feedback on the interim mapping platform – rather it is a tool to allow everyone to view and scrutinise the maps during the consultation.

2. Notes on the maps

The theoretical nature of map's development, based on available data and assumptions of what evidence might indicate, means they must be viewed as strategic level mapping and consequently:

- there may be localised anomalies and/or different interpretations when considered at local level.
- identified potential measures may not be applicable when considered at the very local level.
- the maps are indicative, and the relevance/appropriateness of the potential measures needs to be considered and determined for the specific location before implementation.

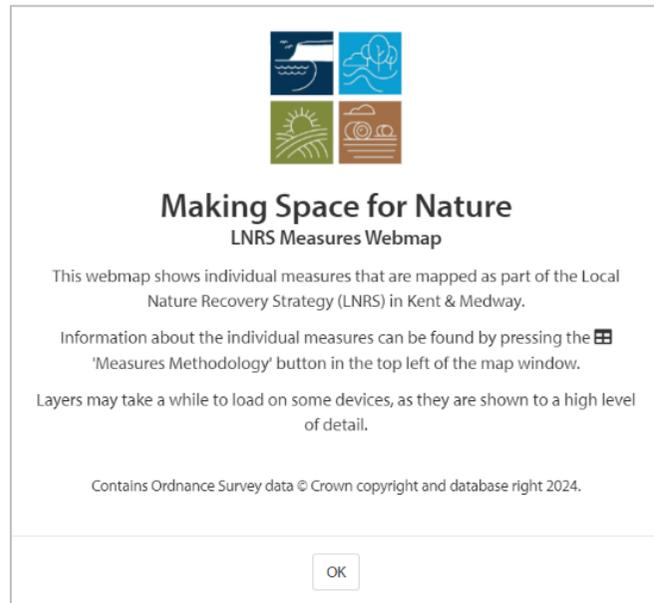
The element of prioritisation of the mapping exercise should not be misinterpreted. If a measure isn't included in the mapping, this does not mean the action does not have value at the local level.

Some of the mapped measures have different depths of colour within the maps – this does not indicate anything, and all coloured areas should be viewed as the same.

We are aware of some potential discrepancies and inaccuracies within the maps – the project team will be working with the county's planning authorities to find a resolution to these.

3. Accessing the online mapping tool and basic functions

https://webapps.kwtg.uk/lhrs_measures_webmap/



When you first launch the mapping tool, you will get the pop-up shown to the left.

Please read through the pop up and click ok.

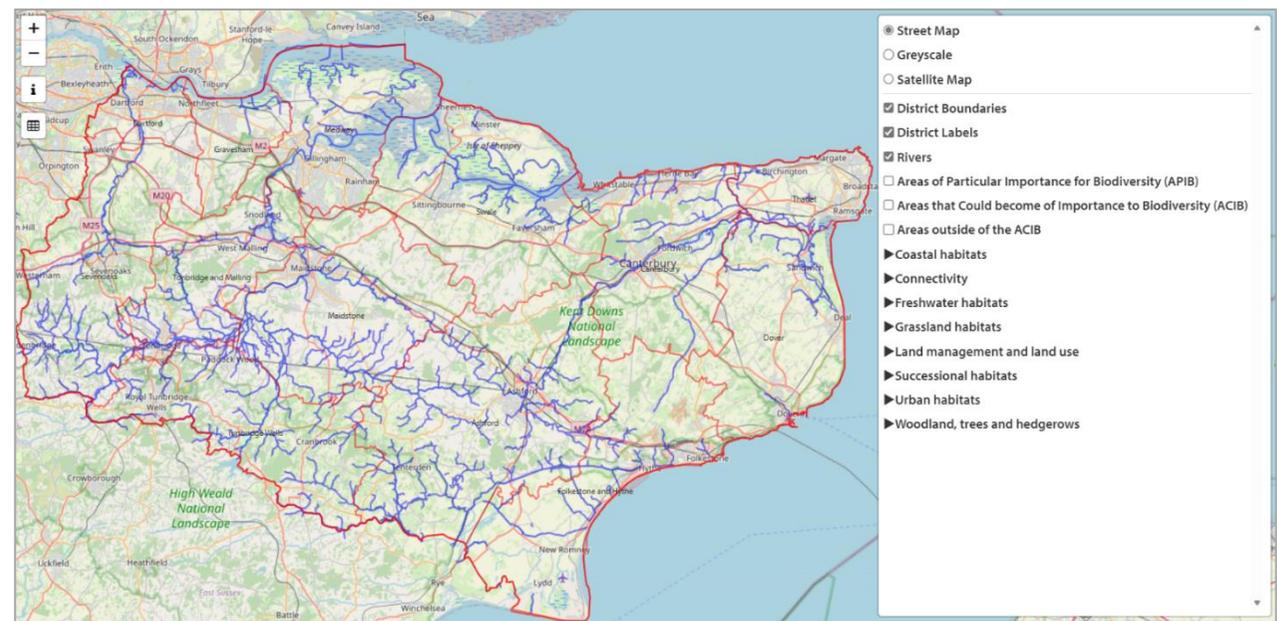
Please note that owing to the amount of data available to view in detail from this platform, layers may take some time to view – depending on internet speeds and computer specifications this could be up to 2 minutes, so please be patient. If it stretches over 2 minutes, it may be worth refreshing the page.

Any problems accessing the tool, please email makingspacefornature@kent.gov.uk

Once you have clicked ok, you will get through to the mapping platform.

By using the various mapping functions, as detailed in this guide, you will be able to use the online platform to view:

- All the mapped potential measures.
- Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB).
- Areas that Could become of particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB).
- The area which constitutes the LNRS local habitat map.
- Locations for potential measures which fall within areas of strategic significance.



The tool includes the following functions:

- The mapping platform allows you to select your **preferred baseline map** (Street Map, greyscale or satellite map – Street Map is the default view).
- You can also select **map features** of district boundaries, district labels and the rivers network.
- From the platform you can find **full details of all the mapped potential measures** by clicking on the mapping table button  on the left of the screen.
- If you want to know **what a potential measure reference number relates to**, click the table button  on the left of the screen and enter the reference number into the search box under PotMeasRef. This will bring up what the measure is, whether it was used to inform the Areas that Could become of particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB) and a brief description of the mapping methodology. More detail on the mapping method and the data sources can be found in appendix 2.1a and 2.1b.
- The map also includes a **zoom function** – use the + and – buttons on the left of the screen.
- You can bring the initial **information pop-up box** back at any time by pressing the information button  on the left of the screen.

PotMeasRef	Measure	ACIB	Method
GL2.2	All	All	All
GL2.2	GL2.2 Deliver grazing marsh habitat restoration, extension and creation where it will offer the greatest gains to support the county's important grazing marsh flora and fauna, and is designed to minimise recreational disturbance and reduce risk from predation.	Yes	Mapped waders population data, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, coastal saltmarsh, lowland meadows, purple moor grass and rush pastures; 30m away from current woodland. Additional RSPB suggested areas have been included.

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries (filtered from 128 total entries) Previous 1 Next

This document explains how to use the various functions in order to view the different mapping elements of the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy – and how these can be used to inform your action for nature recovery action. Overleaf are quick links, which will take you directly to the “how to” guide to view specific information using the map.

Quick links to the “how to” guides

[To view where delivery of a potential measure has been mapped for a specific habitat type or type of action](#)

[To view whether a particular location for the proposed measure is within the Areas that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity \(ACIB\)](#)

[To view whether a particular location for the proposed measure is within the Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity \(APIB\)](#)

[To view the proposed LNRS local habitat map which denotes the areas of strategic significance, comprising the Areas that Could become of Particular Importance to Biodiversity \(ACIB\) and the Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity \(APIB\)](#)

[To view the proposed areas of strategic significance – just focusing on those within the Areas that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity \(ACIB\)](#)

[To view the proposed areas of strategic significance – just focusing on those within the Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity](#)

[To view the land outside of the Areas that Could become of Particular Importance to Biodiversity \(ACIB\)](#)

[To identify whether a particular location for a proposed measure is within an area of strategic significance, as denoted by the LNRS local habitat map](#)

[To identify whether a particular location for a proposed measure is within an area of strategic significance within the Areas that Could become of particular Importance for Biodiversity \(ACIB\)](#)

[To identify whether a particular location for a proposed measure is within an area of strategic significance within the Areas of particular Importance for Biodiversity \(APIB\)](#)

4. Using the LNRS mapping to inform the delivery of potential measures

The strategy mapping indicates all areas where the potential measures could be delivered. In some instances, these are wide ranging areas, in others they are specific areas depending on the mapping capability. In all cases, the mapped areas are indicative.

The strategic nature of this document means that some measures may not be relevant or appropriate when considered in detail at the local level. It should also be noted that a potential measure may have value locally, that is not reflected when considered strategically at a county scale – therefore its exclusion from the mapping does not indicate that the action is not applicable.

The Strategy recommends a number of management measures to increase the functionality or biodiversity of a habitat – some mapped, some not. These apply to all the county and although mapping indicates where this management may be most needed or result in the greatest gains, the introduction of appropriate management will deliver benefits wherever it is applied.

Further, the desk-based approach means the mapping is theoretical and not based on actual known site condition. Site assessments, and other permissions and pre-requisites, will inform the appropriateness of the action.

The strategy and associated maps do not dictate actions, nor instruct their implementation – they are a guide for how landowners and managers could use or manage the land, or approach their operations, in a way that could support the recovery of nature.

4.1 To view where delivery of a potential measure has been mapped for a specific habitat type or type of action

PotMeasRef	Measure	ACIB	Method
All	marsh	All	All
GL2.1	GL2.1 Increase opportunities to store winter water on land adjacent to grazing marsh to increase opportunities for “wetting” during spring/summer.	Yes	Parcels adjacent to existing floodplain grazing marsh. Includes extra information provided by Dan Tuscon at Natural England.
GL2.2	GL2.2 Deliver grazing marsh habitat restoration, extension and creation where it will offer the greatest gains to support the county’s important grazing marsh flora and fauna, and is designed to minimise recreational disturbance and reduce risk from predation.	Yes	Mapped waders population data, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, coastal saltmarsh, lowland meadows, purple moor grass and rush pastures; 30m away from current woodland. Additional RSPB suggested areas have been included.
CL1.4	CL1.4 Create areas for saltmarsh restoration, seagrass regeneration and high tide roosts as well as breeding areas for seabirds and waders.	Yes	Seagrass Restoration (MMO1135) , Seagrass Potential (MMO1135), beach nesting bird sites, saltmarsh extent, seagrass layer, frontages & roost sites in Thanet.
FW11.2	FW11.2 Manage, restore and expand river valley wetlands, for example floodplain meadows, floodplain grazing marshes, reedbeds and mudflats.	No	WWTS Wetlands Water Quality Potential combined with Flood Zone 2, freshwater areas only.

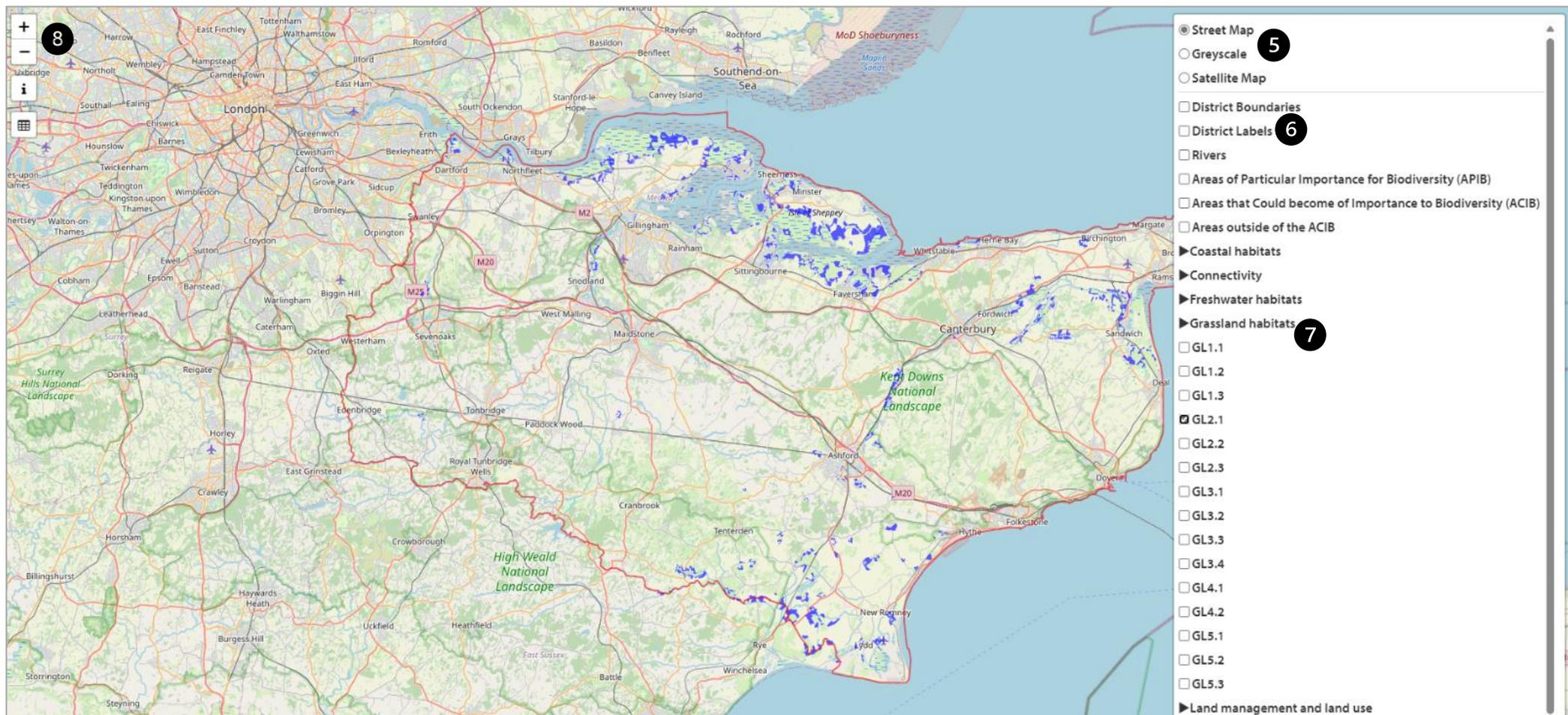
Showing 1 to 4 of 4 entries (filtered from 128 total entries) Previous 1 Next

1. Click on the table button  at the lefthand side of the mapping screen – a pop up table will appear.

2. In the search box under measure, enter the habitat or type of action (create, restore etc) you wish to view. This will bring up all measures which feature the habitat/type of action you entered.

3. Note the reference of the potential measure(s) you wish to view the map for. The table will also tell you whether or not the potential measure was used to inform the Areas that Could Become of Importance for Biodiversity and how the map was created.

4. Close the table by clicking the x in the right hand corner of the pop up.



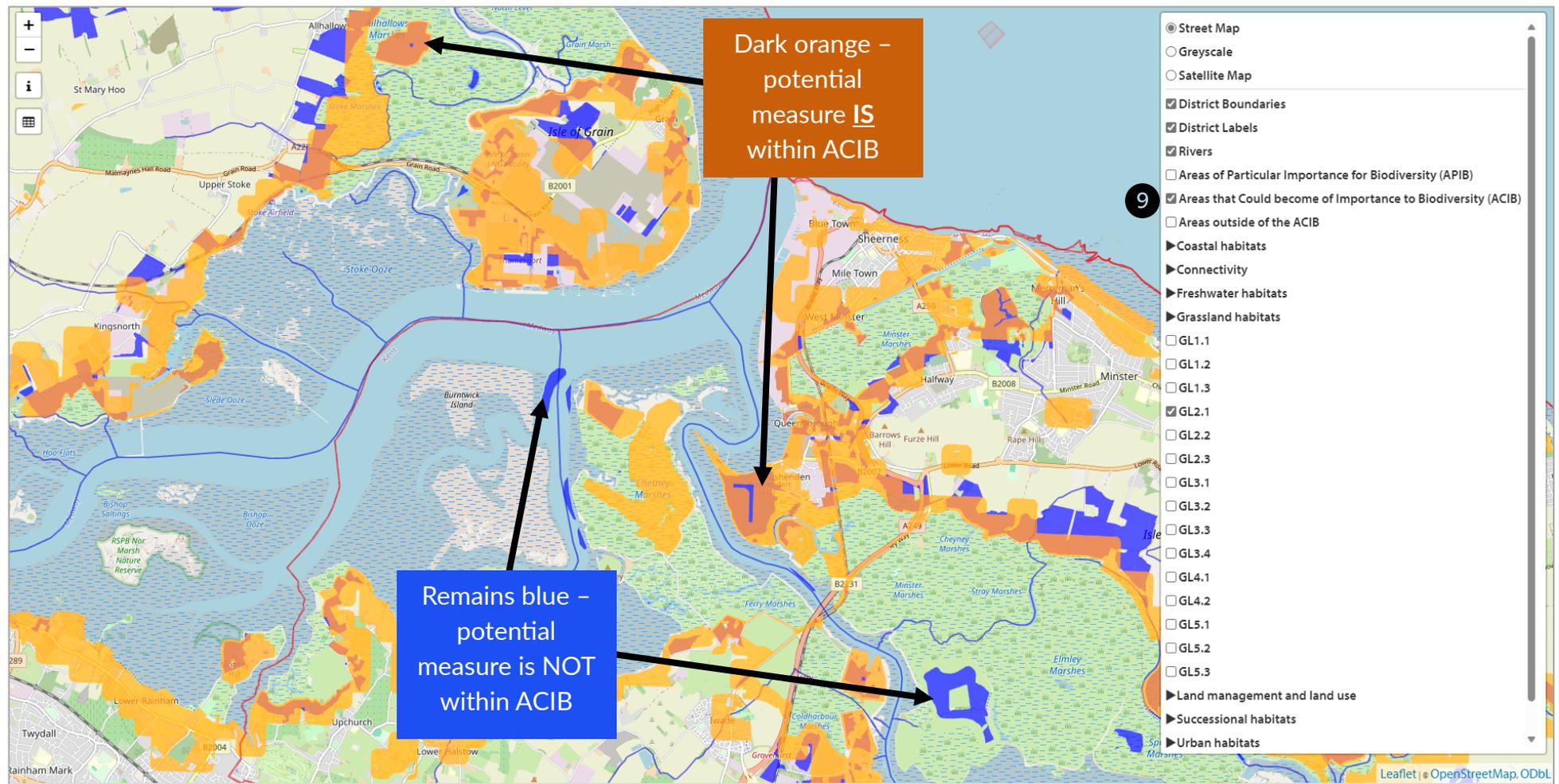
5. Returning to the online map, select which map view you want – default is Street Map. To select your choice, click in the circle.

6. You can also select whether or not you want to view the map with district boundaries, district labels and rivers. To select your choice, click in the box – you can select more than one (and none). The default is for all these layers to be on.

7. To view your selected measures, select the relevant LNRS ambition drop down and click in the reference number box. You can select more than one measure at a time, but the map will not distinguish between the potential measures. The blue areas on the map indicate where the opportunities for delivery of this potential measure have been identified to exist.

8. You can zoom in and out by clicking the + and – buttons on the left side of the mapping screen.

4.2 To identify whether a particular location for the proposed measure is within the Areas that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB)

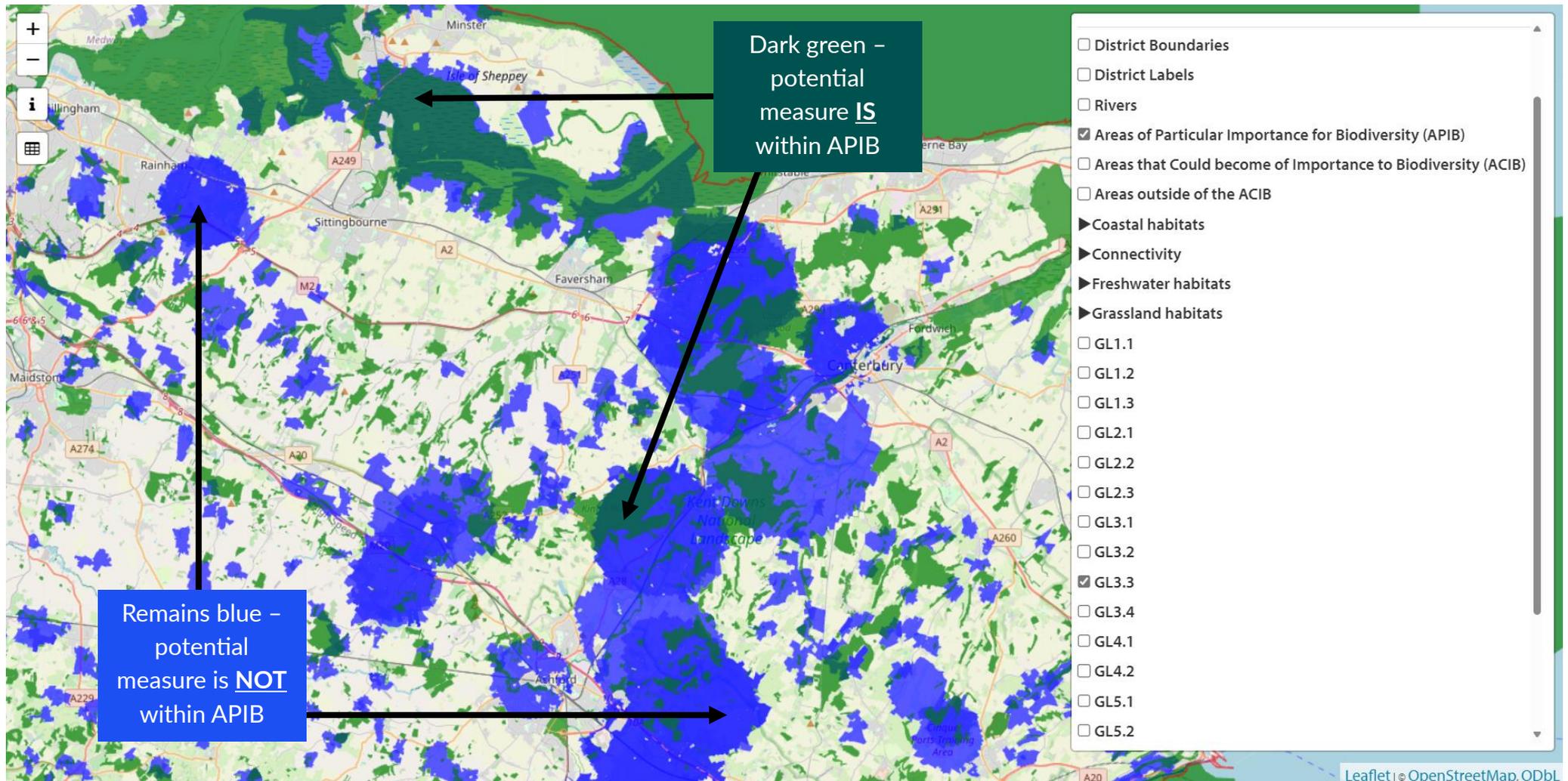


Follow steps 1-8 outlined in section 4.1.

9. If you want to see whether a particular location for the proposed measure falls into the Areas that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB), click in the box for Areas that Could become of Importance to Biodiversity. This will put the ACIB layer over the selected potential measure layer – any area shaded in a **dark orange** indicates where that potential measure falls within an Area that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity. If the area remains **blue**, it does not.

See next section for details on the potential **strategic significance** of Areas that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity.

4.3 To identify whether a particular location for the proposed measure is within the Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB)



Follow steps 1-8 outlined in section 4.1.

9. If you want to see whether a particular location for the proposed measure falls into the Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB), click in the box for Areas of Particular Importance to Biodiversity. This will put the APIB layer over the selected potential measure layer – any area shaded in a **dark green** indicates where that potential measure falls within an Area that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity. If the area remains **blue**, it does not.

5. Using the LNRS mapping to identify areas of strategic significance

The potential measures that fall within “areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity” indicate the areas of strategic significance in the county. If land falls in this area, and the action aligns with the potential measure(s) identified, this may be classed as strategically significant for any grant, funding and/or investment schemes using this as an indicator.

Biodiversity net gain is a mandatory requirement that aims to make sure that development has a measurably positive impact on biodiversity. This “gain” is calculated through the use of a standardised metric, which identifies the biodiversity value of the land lost and the biodiversity gained. The metric includes a strategic significance multiplier related to the “local habitat map” and the potential measures that fall within this. Biodiversity net gain will be more meaningful in terms of nature recovery if gains are not only situated in the areas of greatest need but also deliver the action required – therefore, high strategic significance will be applied when the habitat parcel is located in an area proposed to help deliver the LNRS priorities AND the intervention is consistent with the potential measures proposed for that location.

“Areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity” do not indicate areas where development should be excluded. They also do not dictate action nor place limitations on how the land should be used. “Areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity” can also not be applied retrospectively to local plans and policies that are already in place, or are well advanced in their process of plan revision, although may be applied to planning decisions. It is not expected that local plans and policies are revised to reference the Strategy, however planning authorities do need to have regard to, and take account of, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in the application of local plans. In time, as local plans are revised and updated, the local habitat map and associated Strategy will be an important and statutory source of spatial information to inform land use planning and ensure that nature, and opportunities for its recovery, is considered.

5.1 To view the proposed LNRS local habitat map which denotes the areas of strategic significance, comprising the Areas that Could become of Particular Importance to Biodiversity (ACIB) and the Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB)



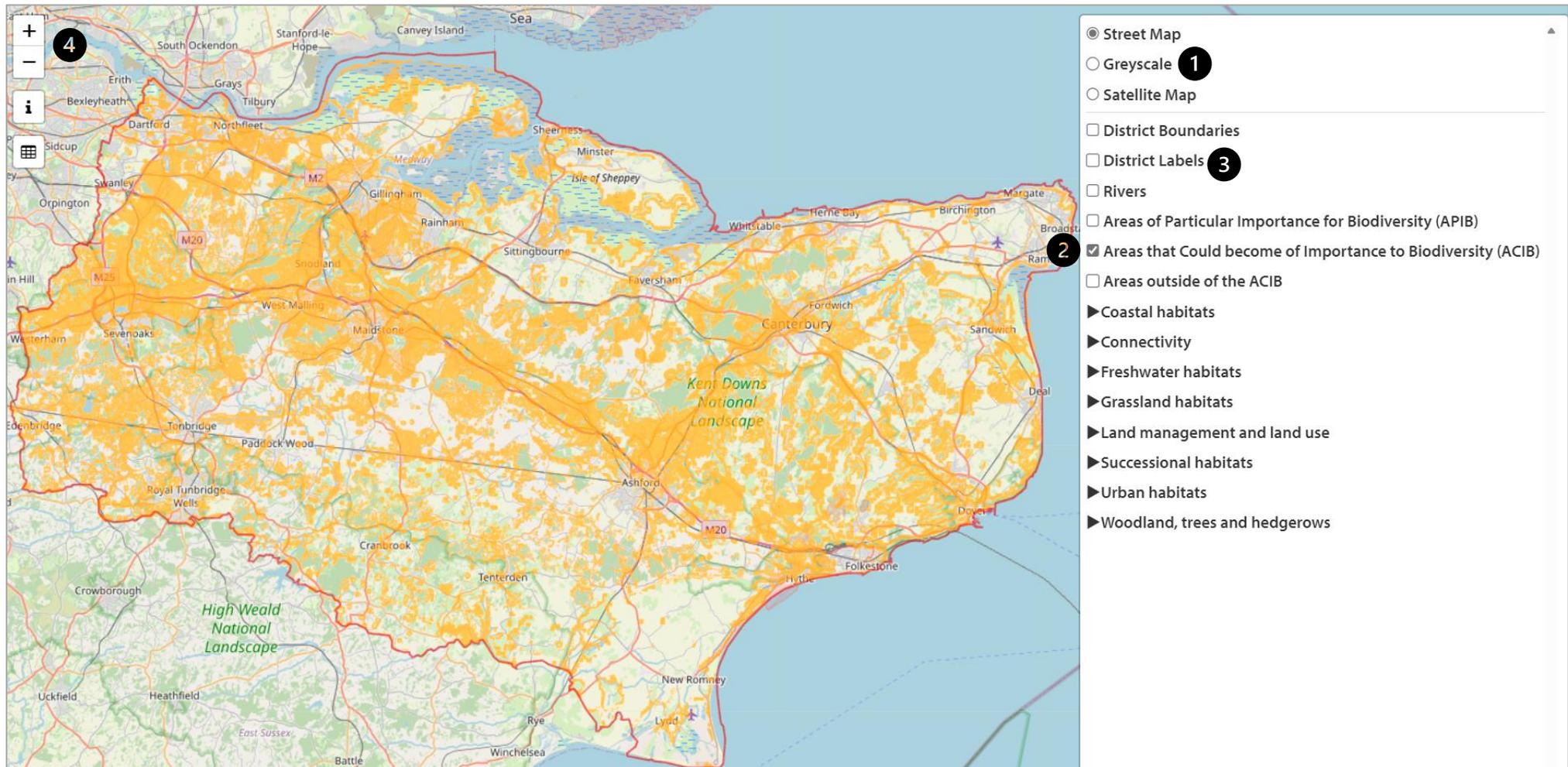
1. Select which map view you want – default is Street Map. To select your choice, click in the circle.

2. Click the box Areas that Could become of Importance to Biodiversity (ACIB) and click the box Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB). The ACIB will show on the map in **yellow**; APIB will show on the map in **green**. The **green** and **yellow** areas are the local habitat map for Kent and Medway.

3. You can select whether or not you want to view the map with district boundaries, district labels and rivers. To select your choice, click in the box – you can select more than one (and none). The default is for all these layers to be on.

4. You can zoom in and out by clicking the + and – buttons on the left side of the mapping screen to find the locations you're interested in.

5.2 To view the proposed areas of strategic significance – just focusing on those within the Areas that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB)



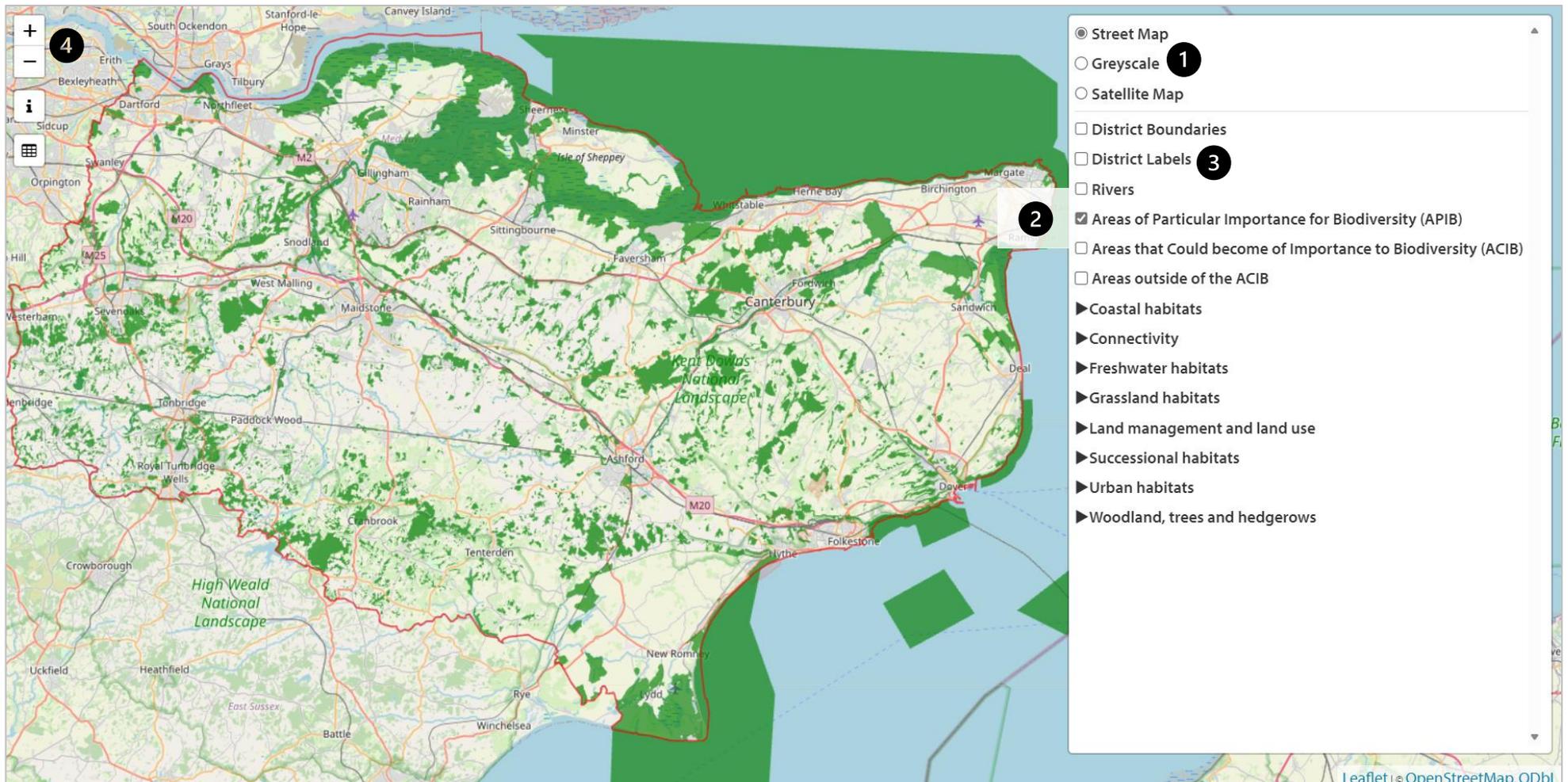
1. Select which map view you want – default is Street Map. To select your choice, click in the circle.

2. Click the box Areas that Could become of Importance to Biodiversity (ACIB). The ACIB will show on the map in yellow.

3. You can select whether or not you want to view the map with district boundaries, district labels and rivers. To select your choice, click in the box – you can select more than one (and none). The default is for all these layers to be on.

4. You can zoom in and out by clicking the + and – buttons on the left side of the mapping screen to find the locations you’re interested in.

5.3 To view the proposed areas of strategic significance – just focusing on those within the Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity



1. Select which map view you want – default is Street Map. To select your choice, click in the circle.

2. Click the box Areas of Particular Importance to Biodiversity (APIB). The APIB will show on the map in green.

3. You can select whether or not you want to view the map with district boundaries, district labels and rivers. To select your choice, click in the box – you can select more than one (and none). The default is for all these layers to be on.

4. You can zoom in and out by clicking the + and - buttons on the left side of the mapping screen to find the locations you're interested in.

5.4 To view the land outside of the Areas that Could become of Particular Importance to Biodiversity (ACIB)



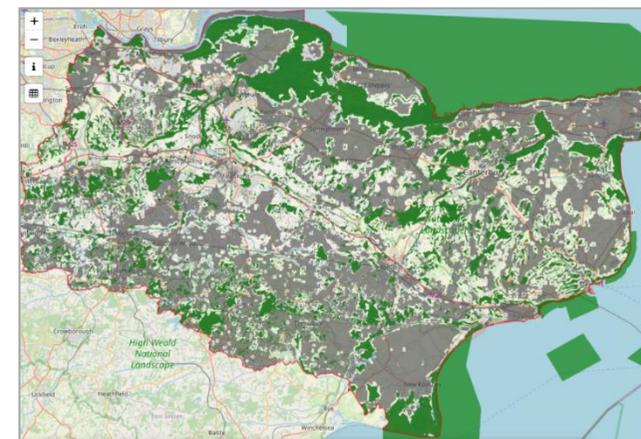
1. Select which map view you want – default is Street Map. To select your choice, click in the circle.

2. Click the box Areas outside of the ACIB. Areas outside of the ACIB will be shown in grey.

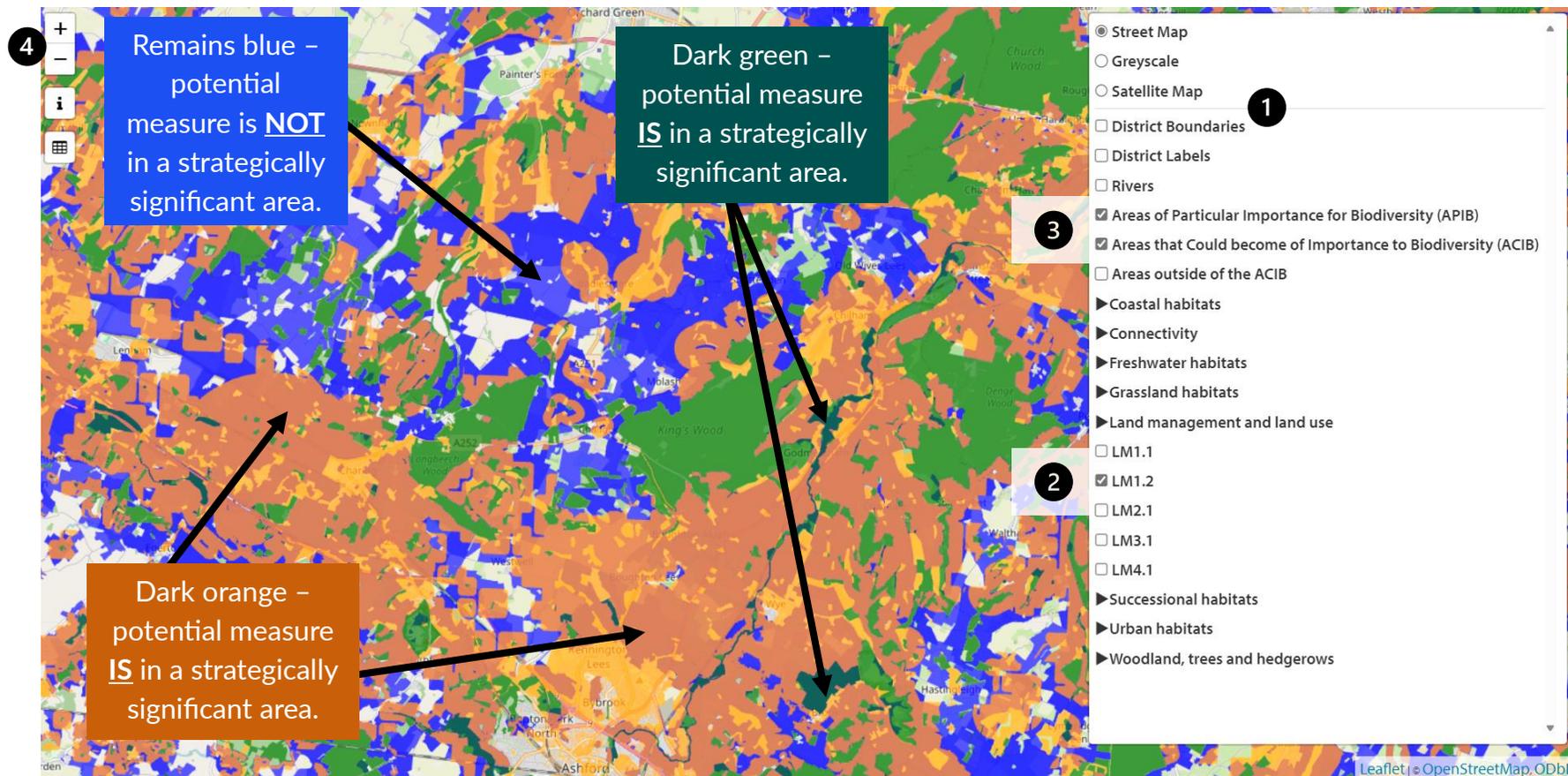
3. You can select whether or not you want to view the map with district boundaries, district labels and rivers. To select your choice, click in the box – you can select more than one (and none). The default is for all these layers to be on.

4. You can zoom in and out by clicking the + and - buttons on the left side of the mapping screen to find the locations you're interested in.

Note that this map does not exclude the Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB) – to exclude these you will need to click the APIB box, and this will overlay in green.



5.5 To identify whether a particular location for a proposed measure is within an area of strategic significance, as denoted by the LNRS local habitat map



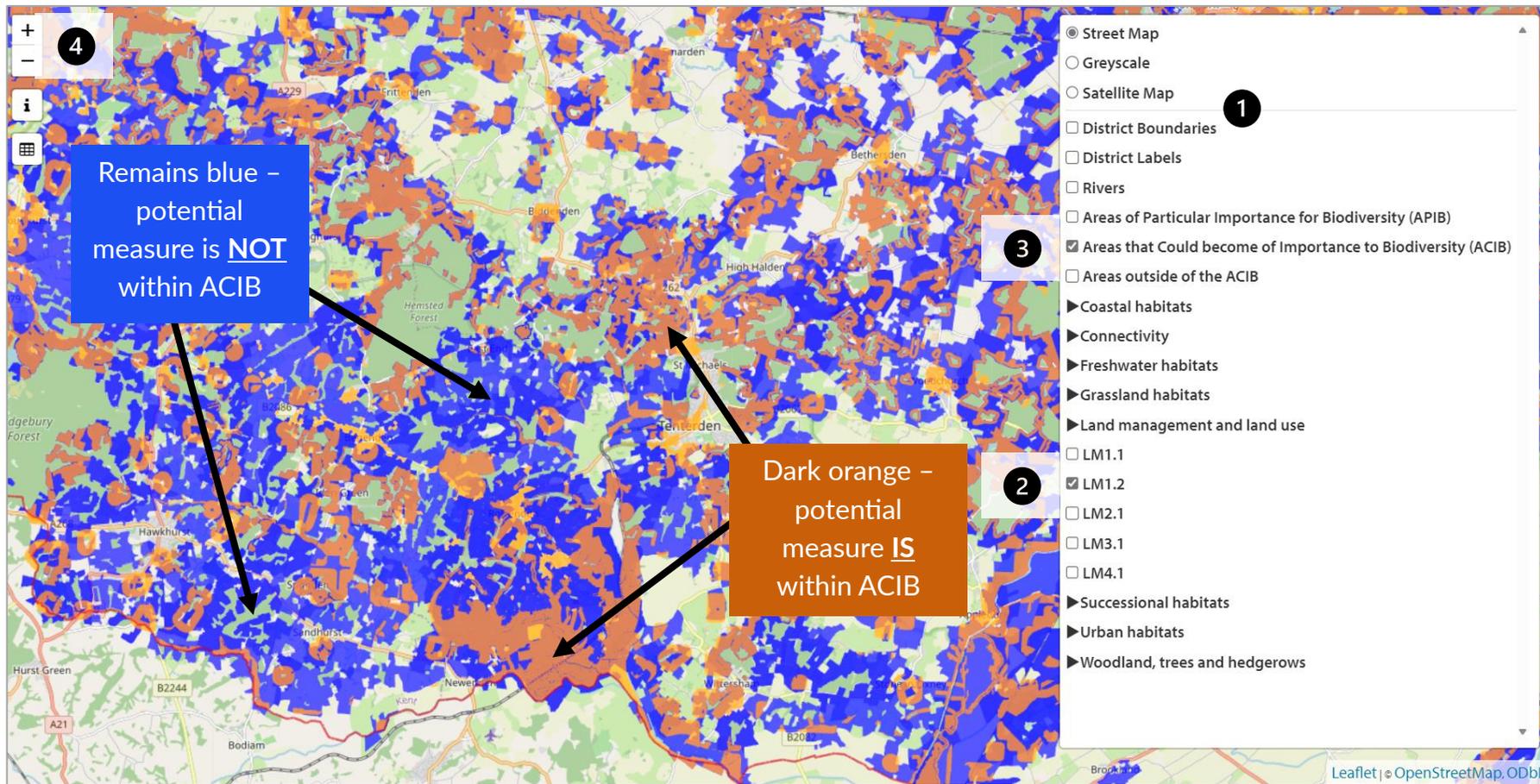
1. First select the map view and other map details you want to view.

2. Then select the measure you are interested in delivering.

3. Then click in the boxes for Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity and Areas that Could become of Importance to Biodiversity. This will put the APIB and ACIB layer over the selected potential measure layer - any area shaded in a **dark green** or **dark orange** indicates where that potential measure falls within an Area that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity and Area of Particular Importance for Biodiversity respectively and therefore is in an area of strategic significance. If the area remains **blue**, it is not in an area of strategic significance. **Green** and **yellow** areas are areas of the Local Habitat Map (APIB and ACIB respectively), where that potential measure is not identified for.

4. Use the + and - buttons on the left side of the mapping screen to zoom into the area you're interested in.

5.6 To identify whether a particular location for a proposed measure is within an area of strategic significance within the Areas that Could become of particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB)



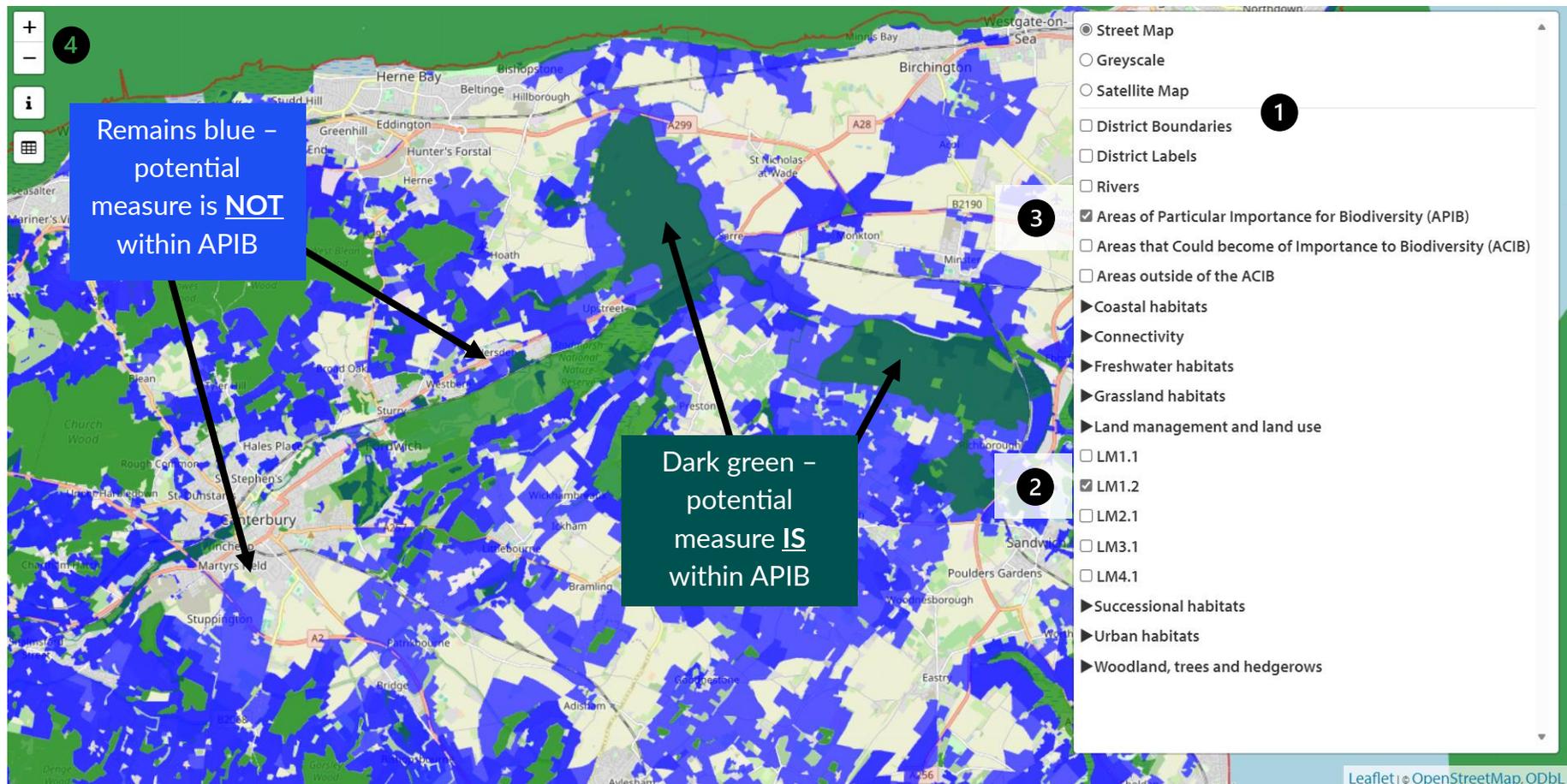
1. First select the map view and other map details you want to view.

2. Then select the measure you are interested in delivering.

3. Then click in the box for Areas that Could become of Importance to Biodiversity. This will put the ACIB layer over the selected potential measure layer – any area shaded in a **dark orange** indicates where that potential measure falls within an Area that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity. If the area remains **blue**, it does not. **Yellow** areas on the map are Areas that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity, where that potential measure is not identified for.

4. Use the + and - buttons on the left side of the mapping screen to zoom into the area you're interested in.

5.7 To identify whether a particular location for a proposed measure is within an area of strategic significance within the Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB)



1. First select the map view and other map details you want to view.

2. Then select the measure you are interested in delivering.

3. Then click in the box for Areas that Could become of Importance to Biodiversity. This will put the ACIB layer over the selected potential measure layer – any area shaded in a **dark green** indicates where that potential measure falls within an Area that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity. If the area remains **blue**, it does not. **Green** areas on the map are Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity, where that potential measure is not identified for.

4. Use the + and – buttons on the left side of the mapping screen to zoom into the area you're interested in.

6. Prioritising action

In some locations, more than one potential measure is identified. This is to ensure that no opportunity for nature recovery is missed and that broad areas consider a range of habitats, to create the mosaic of habitats that nature recovery needs. Further work is to be undertaken to provide a more definitive steer to the prioritised action.

However, in the absence of a prioritised action and where the most appropriate measure, based on the site, is not clear following local site assessment, the hierarchy of principles should be applied. That being and starting with:

1. Better – first ensure that appropriate management is in place and resourced.
2. Bigger – build on what is there by extending and buffering, using natural regeneration as the first approach.
3. More – where there is not the opportunity to extend, establish new through restoration and creation.
4. Join up – this principle will be achieved by delivering on the first three principles and focussing this action in the “areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity”.

Consideration should also be given to prioritising measures which offer the opportunity to deliver against the Strategy’s identified priority species.

7. Protecting nature

The purpose of the Strategy is to provide a framework for nature recovery, directing action to where it is most needed and where it will deliver the greatest gains. It does not offer any formal, or otherwise, protection which can only be provided through statutory designations or local planning policy.

Local authorities may choose to use the Strategy to help identify land that should be set aside for the purposes of nature recovery but there is no requirement on them to do so. The Strategy is there to offer direction and proposed measures that can assist public bodies in meeting their duties relating to the recovery of nature.

Throughout the document the term safeguard is used. In the context of this Strategy, this does not imply a formal protection nor prevention of potentially impactful activities, unless already identified within an existing and adopted local plan or an already established legal protection. Safeguarding may be delivered by setting aside the land but also refers to the use of active management that prevents loss and damage, the use of buffers to minimise human impacts and connecting habitats to increase resilience.

No element of the mapping should be viewed as some level of protection or prevention.