



# Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery strategy

Making space for the county's nature

## Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy

### Consultation report



Prepared by Lake Market Research



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# Executive Summary

*This Executive Summary and Consultation report pull together the findings of the public consultation on the draft Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy. To find out how this information will be used, please refer to the accompanying “Next Steps” document.*

*Both the draft Strategy and consultation questionnaire were long, hence the length of this report, but key points have been pulled together in this Executive Summary.*

- There were 264 questionnaire responses to this consultation: 254 online and 10 via paper or email. An additional 66 emails or letters were received providing feedback.
- The consultation received widened input and secured resident views that perhaps hadn't been heard to date. The majority of individuals responding to the consultation hadn't previously engaged in Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) development (89%). This should be considered when reviewing statistics as they represent 60% of consultees taking part. Over 1,000 people were engaged in the development of the draft Strategy across 2024.
- Higher prior involvement was observed amongst stakeholder groups, but the consultation also attracted new feedback from these groups. The consultation revealed that those who had previously engaged, largely found it a positive experience.
- There is work to be done to improve clarity and ease of understanding in respect of the Strategy document, this was a particularly strong view held amongst individual consultees. Free text feedback on clarity has helped identify where improvements can be focused. The document needs to be shorter and easier to digest and navigate, suggesting the need for different versions for different audiences and different purposes.
- There is an encouraging degree of satisfaction with the development process of the LNRS – 65% of all consultees agreed it had been sufficiently comprehensive, participatory and based on the best available information (a further 17% partially agree). Amongst those who have participated in the work to produce the LNRS, agreement increases to 77% (with a further 15% partially agreeing).
- There is low confidence in the LNRS delivering nature recovery but this is largely a result of external factors outside scope of the Kent & Medway LNRS, such as housing development, policy and funding, rather than any failings with the Strategy itself. Some consultees expressed a desire for stronger enforcement of plans and the incorporation of mandates and legislation alongside plans.
- There is strong agreement with the six principles and ten ambitions presented with around nine in ten agreeing with each. There is strong agreement with the ambitions of the identified priorities and measures as well. Support is particularly high for potential measures. Although it is noted that there are comments which need consideration against all, in terms of finalising the Strategy.
- Consultees are undecided on whether the right balance is struck between ambition and deliverability but a significant proportion of the free text feedback is focused on the likelihood of delivery due to external factors outside of the scope of the Kent and Medway LNRS. Some consultees reinforce desire for the inclusion of targets and for more baseline data to be evaluated.
- An encouraging proportion agree the LNRS makes it clear how it will inform nature recovery and its limitations of influence (68%). Amongst those who have participated in the work to produce the LNRS, agreement increases to 81%. However, there are mixed views on whether the Strategy provides enough detail to inform action for nature recovery (51% agree, 24% partially, 8% disagree, 17% don't know). Likewise similar on how the mapping would be used to

inform action for nature recovery. A User Guide to the online mapping tool was provided but this only got 30 downloads during the consultation period.

- The scene setting elements of the Strategy seem to be largely well received, although potentially more work is needed on links between the LNRS and other local and national strategic instruments.
- There is a reasonable understanding of the maps and how they were created, and reasonably strong confidence in accuracy of the mapping.
- There is reasonably strong agreement that the maps target action to the right places in the county and that the Areas that Could become of particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB) focuses action to where it should be prioritised, recognising that there are some specific comments on the maps that need to be reviewed.
- The already known need for the online mapping to be more user friendly was a common element in the feedback.
- A lot of comments were received relating to the need for change, influence, funding etc that is outside of scope of the LNRS but useful feedback for Natural England and Defra that needs to be compiled into a standalone report.

# Background and Methodology

## Background

The draft Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) was the subject of this public consultation. The Strategy sets out the county's priorities for nature recovery and the recommended actions to deliver these. This Strategy also identifies where in the county this action should be targeted to deliver the greatest outcomes for the county's habitats and species.

It has been prepared by Kent County Council (KCC), appointed and funded by Defra as Responsible Authority. It is one of 48 strategies across England, with the shared aim of halting and reversing the decline of nature.

The draft LNRS for Kent and Medway was developed with extensive input from partners and stakeholders across 2024, with over 1,000 individuals attending events designed to enable full participation in the process, which was open to anybody who wished to participate.

Once published, the Strategy has the potential to be a real game changer for nature recovery work, with the LNRS being linked to local planning and to various funding and investment streams. Crucially, the real focus of the LNRS will be not in the areas already protected for nature but the parts of Kent where opportunities to enhance, extend and create can deliver benefits not just for nature's recovery but also for Kent's society.

The intention of the Kent and Medway LNRS is to direct action and investment to areas where it is needed and will achieve the most. The aim is also for the LNRS to steer losses and impacts away from the county's most valuable natural assets.

The Strategy is framed around the Lawton principles and aims to deliver better, bigger, more and joined up. It is also developed on the basis of better consideration of land management and land use, so that we can work with nature and use natural processes to tackle the challenges our county faces.

The Kent and Medway LNRS has ten ambitions for nature recovery, that the 53 more detailed priorities, and their associated potential measures, sit under:

1. Connectivity
2. Nature-based solutions
3. Land management and land use
4. Species
5. Grasslands
6. Successional habitats
7. Woodland, trees and hedgerows
8. Freshwater
9. Urban
10. Coast

The Local Habitat Map for Kent and Medway is a key part of the LNRS, comprising of the "Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity" (APIB), areas already afforded protection, and the "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.

Many of the potential measures identified in the LNRS have also been mapped, targeting their delivery to where they would best be implemented with a focus on greatest need or opportunities for greatest benefit.

Whilst the Strategy makes no requirement for its measures to be implemented, it offers a comprehensive guide to nature recovery that will present many strategic and financial benefits to farmers, landowners, planners, developers, community groups and others, in taking forward the measures.

The Strategy also identifies some 141 priority species from a long list of 1,503 species assessed as rare, threatened or significant within the county that action should be focused on.

### Engagement and participation in LNRS development across 2024

Throughout the development process of the LNRS, consistent and varied engagement ensured input was collected from a broad range of stakeholders. This engagement was led by a team of officers dedicated to supporting the input of different stakeholder groups with a focus on farmers and landowners, local government, freshwater, and marine. Engagement and participation comprised:

- A launch attended by 150 stakeholders and 8 sector-specific introductory briefings attended by 232 people.
- 20 workshops with a total of 678 individual attendees, representing 285 different organisations, bodies, businesses, affiliations and Kent residents.
- Monthly newsletter and regular direct email to database of around 1,500 engaged stakeholders.
- Regular social media posts across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, with paid adverts used at key engagement points. Online surveys were also used as a more formal engagement route
- Focused interaction with farmers and landowners – from attending ploughing matches, farming exhibition shows and farm walks, to hosting pub drop-in sessions, and featuring on Kent Wildlife Trust's podcast with a focus on regenerative farming. A Land Advice Network Land Technical Advisory Group also ensured close working with farmers and landowners
- Youth engagement through the creation of a LNRS learning pack, children's engagement activities and attendance at Living Land show, attended by 100's of primary schools across Kent.
- Engagement with businesses and developers through presentations at Kent Design Show, Visit Kent conference, Medway Developers Forum and dedicated meetings with Kent Housing and Development Group and the SME Development Network (Kent).
- Presentations to a host of other stakeholders by attending partner meetings and events.

### **Consultation process**

On the 16 January 2025, an 8-week consultation was launched and ran until the 12 March 2025. The consultation invited residents, stakeholders and other interested parties to provide views on the draft Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The consultation questionnaire provided the opportunity to comment on:

- The process of developing the Strategy and how useful the resulting Strategy will be in informing nature recovery within the county.

- Whether the Strategy sufficiently provides the context for the need for nature recovery and how this will be delivered.
- The principles, vision and priorities for nature recovery in Kent and Medway.
- The potential measures (suggested actions), and areas identified for where these actions would best be delivered, to support the recovery of nature.

Feedback was captured via a consultation questionnaire which was available on the KCC engagement website ([www.kent.gov.uk/naturerecovery](http://www.kent.gov.uk/naturerecovery)). Hard copies of the consultation material were also available on request. The consultation webpage provided the draft Strategy, including supporting appendices and a link to the online mapping, Executive Summary, Frequently Asked Questions, summary flyer, and user guide for the online mapping tool to aid participation. A Word version of the questionnaire was provided on the webpage for people who did not wish to complete the online version.

A consultation stage Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was carried out to assess the impact the Strategy could have on those with protected characteristics. The EqIA was available as one of the consultation documents and the questionnaire invited consultees to comment on the assessment that had been carried out. An analysis of responses to this question can be found with the overall findings' sections of this report.

The Making Space for Nature team also held 44 drop in sessions at locations around the county, to allow people to come and discuss the Strategy in person. These included libraries in every borough, County Hall, museums, farmers markets, country parks, nature reserves, as well as farming-sector meetings and a farming exhibition show. The map below shows all the locations the team appeared over the 8-week period. The team engaged with over 500 people at the drop in sessions.

Map: locations of drop in sessions.



Online briefings were also held during the consultation period for:

- Developer and businesses
- Catchment partnerships
- Community groups

- Conservation, NGO and government agencies
- County, district, unitary, parish and town elected officials
- Landowners, farmers, growers and producers
- Local authority
- General
- Kent Youth Council

188 people attended the briefings. Two online drop-in sessions were also held, to allow an open question and answer opportunity for anyone who wished to attend. More information on the consultation events can be found on the Making Space for Nature website which was linked to from the consultation webpage: [www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/public-consultation-events](http://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/public-consultation-events).

Other activities to raise awareness of the consultation and encourage participation, included the following:

- Promoted on Making Space for Nature [website](#), Kent.gov homepage and relevant service pages.
- Email to stakeholders and partners, encouraging them to respond to the consultation and promote through their networks.
- Articles in the Making Space for Nature newsletter (pre-consultation, on launch and during consultation), and on the Making Space for Nature website.
- An invite to those registered with [Let's talk Kent](#) who have expressed an interest in hearing about consultations regarding 'Environment and countryside' (sent to 10,331 users) at the launch of the consultation and a reminder two weeks before the close of the consultation (sent to 8,997 users).
- Media release – <https://news.kent.gov.uk/articles/help-make-space-for-nature-in-kent>
- Posters and flyers displayed in KCC buildings, such as, Libraries and at Country Parks and partner outlets, including nature reserves, parish and town council noticeboards, community centres and community groups/friends of groups notice boards.
- Articles in parish council newsletters
- Posts on Making Space for Nature's Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn and KCC's corporate Facebook, X, Instagram, Nextdoor or LinkedIn channels.
- Posts shared on KCC's Explore Kent social media channels and by key partners such as Natural England, Kent Wildlife Trust, Kent Downs National Landscape, and various community and environmental groups such as Canterbury District Biodiversity Network.
- Paid Facebook advertising was used to extend the reach beyond those who already followed the Making Space for Nature or KCC's channels.
- Promotional footer on Making Space for Nature team's emails.
- Articles in KCC's residents' e-newsletter.
- Articles and posts on KCC internal staff communication channels.
- Briefing for KCC elected Members so that they were aware of the consultation launching and could promote the consultation to their communities.



- Promoted to towns and parish councils through the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) newsletter, website, and social media channels.

A summary of interaction with the consultation website and documents can be found below:

- 10,303 visits to the consultation webpage by 8,661 visitors.
- 1,119 downloads of Part 1 and 1,285 of Part 2 of the Strategy and 333 downloads of the Executive Summary.
- Appendix 1.1 - Summary of local plans review was downloaded 263 times, Appendix 2.1b - LNRS Potential Measures Mapping Data Source List 159 times, Appendix 1.2 - Local and National Strategies 123 times, Appendix 2.1a - Methodology for Potential Measures Mapping 173 times and Appendix 1.3 – Acknowledgements 144 times.
- The Word version of the consultation questionnaire was downloaded 141 times.
- 40 downloads of the Equality Impact Assessment.
- 19 downloads of the Word versions of the Strategy.

Organic posts via KCC's corporate channels had a reach of 31,699 on Facebook. There were 30,624 impressions on Instagram, X (Twitter), LinkedIn, and Nextdoor. Reach refers to the number of people who saw a post at least once and impressions are the number of times the post is displayed on someone's screen. The posts generated 795 clicks through to the consultation webpage. (Not all social media platforms report the same statistics). Organic posts from the Making Space for Nature Facebook and Instagram combined had a reach of 21947 during the consultation period, and 3296 impressions on LinkedIn.

## **Consultation response**

There were 264 questionnaire responses to this consultation: 254 online and 10 via paper / email. An additional 66 emails / letters were received providing feedback. The content of these emails and letters have been reviewed alongside open ended feedback received within the consultation questionnaire.

## **Points to note**

- Consultees were given the choice of which questions to answer / provide a comment for. The number of consultees providing an answer to each question is shown on each chart / data table featured in this report.
- For questions that were asked of all consultees taking part, the report outlines response by consultee type. Please note that the base sizes for some of these groups (e.g. farmers / growers / farming organisations and landowners) are low (under 20) and response is reported in terms of numbers selecting instead of percentages. These proportions should therefore be used with caution.
- During the consultation, the option to identify as a 'farmer / growing / farming organisation' was added to the questionnaire. As a result, it is possible that any 'farmers / growers / farming organisations' identified themselves under another category prior to this edit.
- Consultees were given the opportunity to provide context / reasons for their views at set questions in their own words. For the purpose of reporting, we have reviewed the comments made for each of these questions. For those answered by at least 50 consultees, common responses have been grouped together into themes. These themes are reported as counts and percentages within the report. Percentages for these questions will exceed the sum of

100% and comments often cover more than one theme. For free text questions answered by fewer than 50 consultees, example quote comments have been included to convey common themes expressed.

- Please note the sum of individual percentages in any single choice question in this report may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
- Please note that participation in consultations is self-selecting and this needs to be considered when interpreting responses.
- KCC were responsible for the design, promotion and collection of the consultation responses. Lake Market Research were appointed to conduct an independent analysis of feedback.

# Consultation questionnaire profile

## Consultation questionnaire - Response profile

This section details the profile of consultees who completed the consultation questionnaire. Six in ten consultees responded as an individual (60%). 1,000 people from a range of stakeholder groups had already engaged in developing the Strategy, which might explain the high number of individual responses.

CONSULTEE TYPE	Count	Percentage
As an individual	158	60%
On behalf of a family member or friend	1	0.4%
As a volunteer for an organisation	7	3%
As a professional	9	3%
As a landowner	13	5%
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation or association	8	3%
On behalf of a Town, Parish, District or Borough Council	13	5%
As a Parish, Town, Borough, District or County Councillor	10	4%
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation	24	9%
On behalf of a non-nature related charity or voluntary, community and social enterprise organisation (VCSE)	0	0%
On behalf of a representative of a local community group or residents' association	4	2%
On behalf of an educational establishment, such as a school or college	1	0%
On behalf of a health organisation	0	0%
On behalf of a business	4	2%
Something else (e.g. habitat bank provider, land manager, local government representative, education representative)	11	4%
Blank	1	0.4%
Total	264	

Separate email feedback was also received from 66 further individuals and organisations.

## Consultation questionnaire - Geographic profile

The following table shows how many people responded across each of the districts and boroughs in Kent and Medway.

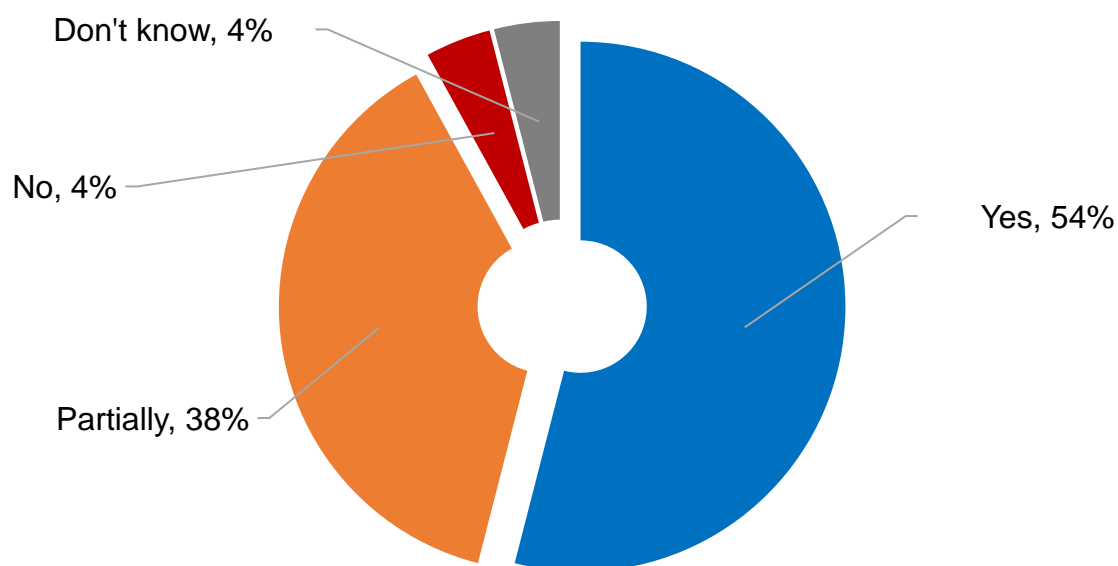
AREA	Count	Percentage
Ashford	10	4%
Canterbury	16	6%
Dartford	3	1%
Dover	24	9%
Folkestone & Hythe	15	6%
Gravesham	14	5%
Maidstone	45	17%
Medway	4	2%
Sevenoaks	27	10%
Swale	37	14%
Thanet	19	7%
Tonbridge & Malling	21	8%
Tunbridge Wells	14	5%
Outside Kent	13	5%
Did not provide postcode	2	1%

## Consultation feedback – Process for developing the LNRS and the application of the Strategy

### Perceived clarity and ease of understanding LNRS

Just over half (54%) agree that the LNRS is clear and easy to understand. 38% indicated it is partially easy to understand and 4% indicated it is not easy to understand. 4% are unsure.

**Is the LNRS clear and easy to understand?** Base: all responding (252).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	136	54%
Partially	95	38%
No	10	4%
Don't know	11	4%

The proportion selecting 'Yes' is higher amongst professionals and organisation volunteers. Whilst sample sizes are low, understanding is comparably lower amongst other consultee types with higher proportions selecting partially as opposed to no or don't know.

Number selecting by consultee type	Yes	Partially	No	Don't know
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=156)	85	57	7	7
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size =7)	5	2	0	0
As a professional (base size n=8)	7	1	0	0
As a landowner (base size =13)	5	8	0	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size =7)	3	3	0	1
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size =12)	5	7	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size =9)	4	4	1	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size =23)	12	8	1	2

## Consultee feedback on how LNRS could be made clearer / easier to understand

Consultees who provided a rating of 'partially' or 'no' were asked to detail how it could be clearer / easier to understand. Consultee comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. 76% of those rating 'partially' or 'no' provided a comment to this question

A number of consultees commented on the length of the LNRS: being too long / difficult to find anything (23% of consultees answering), too wordy / busy / repetitive (21%) and being overwhelming / off putting in length (11%).

One in five consultees (20%) commented that the language used it too complicated / needs to be simpler for everyone reading. 16% suggested that bullets / summaries / simplified versions are used.

10% commented on the maps being difficult / challenging to use and there were also requests to make the maps clearer to see the detail (8%) and for additional information on the maps (8%).

### Please tell us how we could make it clearer and/or easier to understand.

Base: all consultees providing a response (80).

	Number of responses	Percentage
Too long: difficult to get to find anything / get to the strategy	18	23%
Too wordy / too busy / too much waffle / repetitive	17	21%
Language used is too complicated / needs to be simpler (includes abbreviations and acronyms / inaccessible for people with dyslexia)	16	20%
Needs bullets, summaries, simplified versions produced	13	16%
Too long: overwhelming / off-putting	9	11%
Maps are difficult to use / challenging (including needing to refer back for code descriptions, allow a postcode search)	8	10%
Doesn't say how aims will be achieved / it's just a vision	7	9%
Make the maps clearer so it's easier to see detail (e.g. different colours for different layers, too many measures mapped)	6	8%
More information on the maps e.g. when referred to in document text, pop up info when click on a polygon, more specific area details, do not signify much)	6	8%
Videos (including YouTube) / in person presentations would be good / easier to understand	4	5%
Too generalised / needs more clarification	4	5%
Needs to be clearer / easier to understand / too detailed	3	4%
Shorter version is too short / not enough information	2	3%
Different versions required for different stakeholders	2	3%
No measures / no baseline values / no measurable benefits	2	3%
No financial information: public money spend / future costs	2	3%
Better in a booklet format	1	1%
Needs proof reading	1	1%
Slow to load	1	1%

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about the perceived length of the LNRS can be found below:

**“The documents are far too long for a member of the public to reasonably read and digest in order to give feedback in a timely way. The length of the docs will discourage people from engaging. I would like an executive summary of the main points.”** (Individual)

**“It is clear but it is too long. Most people won't have enough time to read it all properly, so I don't know if it is easy to understand in its entirety. The executive summary doesn't give you enough but the whole strategy itself is just too huge for any single person to digest. Also, you are targeting different stakeholders so it would have been useful to have different versions of the strategy for each different stakeholder. Presenting info to farmers and landowners will be very different from how to present it to the charity sector for example.”** (Landowner)

**“It is very long and detailed and repetitive which is off-putting. There should be bullet points outlining major information, with opportunities throughout to 'click' if more detail is wanted by the reader.”** (Individual)

**“The information presented in the document and supporting plans is lengthy and complex in parts, reflecting the scope of the strategy. There is a risk with lengthy documentation that key messages and objectives could be overlooked. For example, the targets at the end of Part 1 could be included in the Executive Summary at the start of the document. Consideration might be given to how the final version of the strategy might be more accessible to a wider audience. This could include design of the web-based materials and use of technical appendices. It is important that the website is intuitive and user-friendly, with clear and easy to understand datasets, and labels, whilst also ensuring mobile compatibility.”** (Council representative email)

**“A more concise version should be made available, including a summary for different types of stakeholders which provides the information specifically relevant to them. E.g. Summary for farmers, summary for landowners, summary for planners etc.”** (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about the language used / complexity of the document and being too generalised can be found below:

**“Needs to be simpler. There's lots of vision and consultation but not much of how this is going to be achieved.”** (Individual)

**“The language used is too corporate and not simple enough (the average lay reader is not going to understand language like 'comprise' or 'stakeholder'). Plain Language is better for this sort of public-facing document. The consultation would also benefit from some simple summary documents presenting key points.”** (Individual)

**“At first it was clear, but on farther reading with all the abbreviations of different departments gets a bit baffling but my love for nature made me persevere.”** (Individual)

**“The strategy intentions are clear, but I am not clear on how these intentions will be put into practice. The mapping gives a visual display of non-designated areas of important or**



**potentially important areas for biodiversity which planning authorities and developers will have to consider, but I feel the vagueness of boundaries for these areas will ultimately become a loophole for developers to exploit. I'm also not clear on how the various habitat improvements will be made and by whom, how funded, timescales etc. Monitoring of sites is also unclear.”** (Behalf of a nature related charity or organisation)

**“There is a lot of repetitive verbiage, not really giving any clear details on how the strategy will be implemented.”** (Individual)

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about perceived difficulty with the maps can be found below:

**“I found the maps overwhelming. The principles are clear and the measures, but the different maps felt confusing to me.”** (Councillor)

**“Part 1 is easy to understand and provides very helpful background and context. However, the document gets very complicated in Part 2 due to the number of potential measures and actions identified. The mapping, although very useful, due to the amount of data are very slow to load. You also do not appear to be able to click on a polygon within the map and it tell you what potential measure it refers to e.g. a pop-up dialogue box identifying the potential measure would be very helpful. Also, all layers on the map appear to be the same colour, which makes it hard to distinguish between potential measures when you have multiple measures selected at the same time.”** (Behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council)

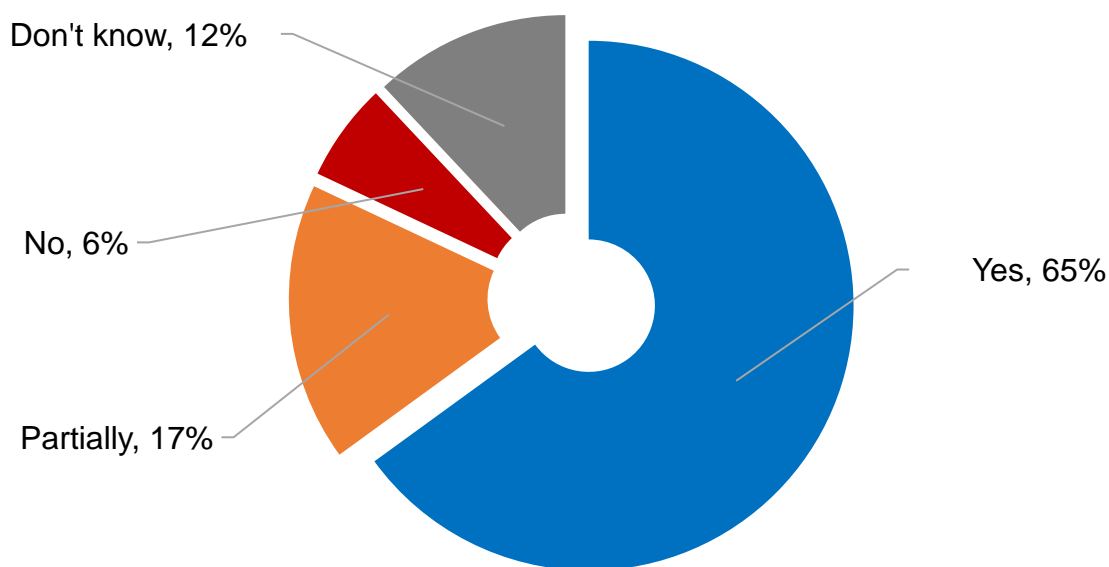
**“If people are well versed on these issues it is easier to understand than someone who only has some knowledge. Maps are difficult to navigate and place exactly where the areas are being highlighted.”** (Behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council)

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## Perception of LNRS development process

Almost two thirds (65%) agree the LNRS development process has been sufficiently comprehensive, participatory and based on the best available information. 17% indicated they partially agree and 6% disagree. 12% are unsure. Amongst those who have participated in the work to produce the LNRS, agreement increases to 77% (with a further 15% partially agreeing).

**Do you believe that the LNRS development process has been sufficiently comprehensive, participatory and based on the best available information?** Base: all responding (252).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	165	65%
Partially	43	17%
No	15	6%
Don't know	29	12%

The proportion selecting 'Yes' is higher amongst professionals, organisation volunteers, council representatives and councillors. Whilst the sample size is low, the proportion selecting 'Partially' or 'No' is comparably higher amongst farmers / growers / farming related organisations. There is more uncertainty amongst individual consultees and landowners with a higher proportion of each consultee type noting they are unsure.

Number selecting by consultee type	Yes	Partially	No	Don't know
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=158)	96	28	10	24
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	6	0	1	0
As a professional (base size=8)	7	1	0	0
As a landowner (base size=13)	7	3	1	2
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	5	2	1	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=12)	10	1	1	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=10)	8	2	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=21)	15	4	0	2

### **Consultee feedback on elements of the development process that has not been sufficient**

Consultees who provided a rating of 'partially' or 'no' were asked to detail what element of the development process has not been sufficient. Consultee comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. 71% of those rating 'partially' or 'no' provided a comment to this question.

Just over a quarter of consultees (27%) commented the development process needs a more knowledgeable approach including more local knowledge / more species / biodiversity knowledge. 24% commented that all areas / habitats / species need to be assessed included and that some important areas have been missed.

22% commented about a perceived lack of influence of the strategy / development process and 17% expressed concerns about housing / development plans.

**Please tell us what element of the development process has not been sufficient.**

Base: all consultees providing a response (41).

	Number of responses	Percentage
Needs a more knowledgeable approach, e.g. more local knowledge, more species / biodiversity knowledge, a science / geology-driven approach, including soil science	11	27%
All areas / habitats / species to be assessed / included / believe some important areas have been missed off / a lack of coastal focus	10	24%
Lack of influence of the strategy / development process	9	22%
Housing / development: does not answer for government's plans to build	7	17%
Strategy plans have not been well communicated / only just heard about it	7	17%
Confusing / needs more basic information and language	5	12%
No measurable targets / baseline data / measures	2	5%
Maps are already / will be out of date	2	5%
Landowners / farmers: too time consuming, interests ignored	2	5%
Got in the way of actual valuable work	1	2%

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about needing a more knowledgeable / local approach can be found below:

**“A more science-driven approach to opportunity and constraints mapping would identify a different spatial approach. Geology is the key determinant of species richness because of its interactions with agriculture and modification. It is therefore puzzling that the less intensively farmed and therefore more ecologically intact Greensand Ridge is not identified as a stronghold and refuge for biodiversity in Kent. The clear emphasis on terrestrial over coastal habitats perhaps indicates a developmental bias - where science would have informed a greater focus on the shoreline/near shore areas.”** (Councillor)

**“There were no specific soil organisations or professionals listed in Appendix 1.3. Soil contains more than half the earth's biodiversity, and it would have been helpful to have more than data sets from Cranfield - the British Society of Soil Science, for example.”** (Professional)

**“The level of accuracy of LNRS map is dependent on up-to-date comprehensive habitat survey information and a robust and up to date national and local designation system that accurately reflects the biodiversity value of the county and districts. Although Kent BRC has a lot of local data it appears, from reviewing the Thanet area, it seems that the national priority habitat inventories have not been used e.g. areas of wood pasture & parkland, priority woodland and no-main habitat but priority habitat present. In addition, recent survey information of sites in Thanet has revealed additional grassland areas of biodiversity value, particularly around Manston Airport, that have not been included. This area supports a very large population of Lizard orchids. The development of the ACIB is**

**flawed, for example, there appears to be no attempt to link up existing non-designated grassland areas, even where there is survey information or areas could be identified from land use maps (Living England or the Kent habitat survey) with the ABIP areas. In addition, the KLIS habitat potential maps do not appear to play any role in this mapping exercise so the potential for calcareous grassland within the central area of Thanet is completely omitted even though there are sites supporting such grassland either from creation activities (e.g. at Thanet Earth, along the A299) or where remnant species still survive e.g. within the Manston Airport landholdings.” (Individual)**

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about areas / habitats / species assessed / included can be found below:

**“The approach of having specific designated areas is inadequate. All Kent areas should be assessed for biodiversity and strong action plans agreed before any development, highways etc are considered.” (Individual)**

**“Thanet was once home to woodland which Henry VIII caused to be felled for his navy. There is nothing in the LNRS which recognises the need to replace, even in part, this valuable resource and opportunities are continually being missed.” (Individual)**

**“Is the Hoo Peninsula included in this and the protection of not only the nightingales but other species?” (Individual)**

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about perceived lack of influence of the strategy / development process can be found below:

**“More engagement with parish councils would have helped. Several did not readily grasp what is being proposed, or how to partner in it. Early antipathies were not easy to overcome - some of that is inevitable, but it could have been made more persuasive.” (Councillor)**

**“The intent may be good but with the amount of development that is taking place throughout Kent, there is a complete lack of accountability & far too few people to regulate it.” (Landowner)**

**“Attended several discussion groups, but not sure if these had any influence on what has been produced.” (Individual)**

## **Wider feedback on involvement in development captured via email**

62 emails / letters were received as part of the consultation. Some examples of email anecdotal feedback received on involvement in the development of the LNRS can be found below:

**“Multiple members of our team participated in multiple Making Space for Nature workshops, specifically those based around coastal habitats. We found the experience enjoyable and useful. It was clear that feedback given in earlier workshops had been taken into consideration in subsequent workshops. The diversity of organisations present was very encouraging, and the facilitators did a good job of mixing people up to stimulate good discussion.”**

**“The Making Space for Nature in Kent & Medway has been extremely well run with a high level of good quality engagement, leading to a very clear, robust and comprehensive LNRS.”**

**“Attended 2 workshops. The experience was very worthwhile, enlightening, thought provoking, encouraging and highly collaborative.”**

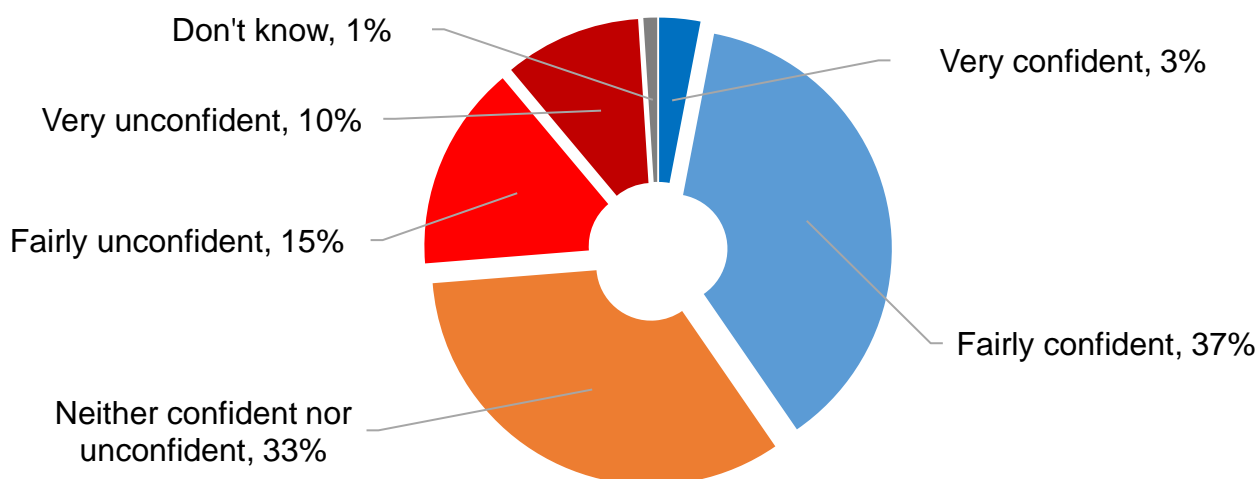
**“Great work. I hope there will be some funding to help realise these ambitions. It gave us great hope knowing that such a knowledgeable, talented and committed team has been working on this. They have provided a great starting point for nature recovery.”**

## Confidence in LNRS delivering nature recovery

Four in ten (40%) are confident that the LNRS will deliver nature recovery in Kent and Medway. 33% indicated they are neither confident nor unconfident and 26% are not confident.

### How confident are you that the LNRS will deliver nature recovery in Kent and Medway?

Base: all responding (253).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Confident	101	40%
Net - Unconfident	65	26%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Very confident	7	3%
Fairly confident	94	37%
Neither confident nor unconfident	84	33%
Fairly unconfident	39	15%
Very unconfident	26	10%
Don't know	3	1%

The proportion net confident is highest amongst professionals. Confidence is comparably lower amongst individual consultees, organisation volunteers, landowners and farmers / growers / farming related organisations, with higher proportions of these consultee types selecting 'neither confident nor unconfident'.

<b>Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net confident</b>	<b>Neither confident nor unconfident</b>	<b>Net unconfident</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=159)	61	55	42	1
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	1	3	3	0
As a professional (base size=8)	5	3	0	0
As a landowner (base size=13)	4	4	5	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	3	3	2	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=12)	6	3	2	1
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	4	3	2	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=21)	10	3	2	0



## Consultee feedback on confidence that the LNRS will deliver nature recovery in Kent and Medway

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide context to their answer in their own words. Consultee comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. 62% of consultees provided a comment to this question.

Almost a quarter of consultees (23%) expressed concerns that the pressure to build houses by central government will override plans and whether there will be sufficient funding. 20% expressed concerns that government will not commit to the priorities / focus will be on economic growth. 19% commented that proposals are deserving but are doubtful whether they can be delivered. 18% would like to see the words 'encouraging / take account' replaced with 'mandated' or 'made policy'.

**Please use the box below if you'd like to provide context to your answer.**

Base: all consultees providing a response (163).

	Number of responses	Percentage
Pressure to build houses by central government will override	37	23%
Will come down to funding / resources, which won't be sufficient	37	23%
Concern government will not do the correct thing / focus is on economic growth	32	20%
Proposals laudable but odds of delivery are low / great in principle but doubtful	31	19%
The words 'encouraging' / 'take account' are not the same as 'mandated' / should be made policy / legislation	30	18%
Impacts on nature are getting worse / too many houses built on countryside / on farmland	17	10%
Developers / influential key stakeholders have more power	15	9%
LNRS is an excellent strategy, with correct legislation and funding	13	8%
Lip service / tactic to say have consulted / never listen	12	7%
Strategy needs to be clearer: easier to read through / decipher, detail about how it will be delivered / the link between Biodiversity Net Gain and LNRS / measurable targets	10	6%
Will come down to the landowners	9	6%
Comments about needing to protect (long-term) biodiversity / nature / wildlife	7	4%
Huge task / will require lot of understanding of stakeholder needs	6	4%
People need to change / habits / need educating	6	4%
Wasting money on strategy when could have been spent directly on nature	4	2%
Comments about areas / marshes / coastal areas that are mapped / not mapped (ACIB doesn't cover all the rivers and waterways / ACIBS is uneven across county)	4	2%
Concern about local authority reorganisation changes	3	2%
Disagree with number of solar farms / needs including in strategy	2	1%

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about overriding government pressure to build houses can be found below:

**“I would truly love to believe these measures and suggestions would be taken into account, but with such pressure on housing and infrastructure in the South-East required, I am not confident that the authorities will seriously adhere to them.” (Individual)**

**“I believe that Defra and the government need to provide true support (financial and otherwise) commitment to biodiversity and nature recovery strategies across the country and show effective mechanisms that fairly compensate farmers and landowners for undertaking ambitious nature recovery work. Otherwise, I fear that all the hard work that organisations have put into the strategies and planning will not be able to be achieved. I am also particularly worried about the direction that development might take in regard to scrapping the existing legislation and planning policies relating to protected species, in favour of only looking at net gain calculations. More an overarching concern about the support and funding available to enact the plan, rather than any criticism of the plan itself, but nonetheless important.” (Individual)**

**“The nature recovery strategy is a greatly detailed and comprehensive mechanism for understanding what measures are needed where in the county. Despite this, the nature of the LNRS means they do not enforce any obligations to deliver and therefore there is no guarantee they will be headed to in questions relating to land use.” (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)**

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about sufficient resources / funding can be found below:

**“It's a laudable ambition to support nature recovery in principle. However, the delivery of objectives quantifiable by metrics is completely another matter. In terms of the paucity of local authority resources available to support delivery of positive change, and in the face of the competing priorities of central government policies relating to planning reforms and development pressures, it's difficult to imagine with any confidence that any practical achievements can be made.” (Individual)**

**“I think the LNRS is an excellent piece of work and gives us the best chance for nature recovery. However, I fear lack of funding and real government support may hold back progress. My doubts therefore reflect the general situation rather than my opinion of the LNRS.” (Individual)**

**“Adoption of potential measures by farmers is likely to be dependent upon available funding. Integrating LNRS measures with existing ELMs funding will be key. Identifying which measures correspond to which ELMs actions will make the adoption easier and therefore more likely to be taken up by farmers.” (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)**

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about government priorities / economic growth can be found below:

**“We are sceptical that with the new NPPF and Nature Restoration Fund plus the current Government's aims and objectives to 'get Britain building' that the pressures will be too**

**great on our Kent countryside. The fragmentation that will occur due to infrastructure and new estates does not bode well. That said, we hope that the strategy is a success and does save our nature.”** (Nature related charity or organisation)

**“It's heartbreaking that Rachel Reeves' recent commitment to expanding Heathrow, speeding up a new Dartford crossing and overturning planning objections negates everything that this document stands for. Why bother? The previous and current governments' obsession with economic growth views the natural environment as an obstacle to be pushed aside.”** (Individual)

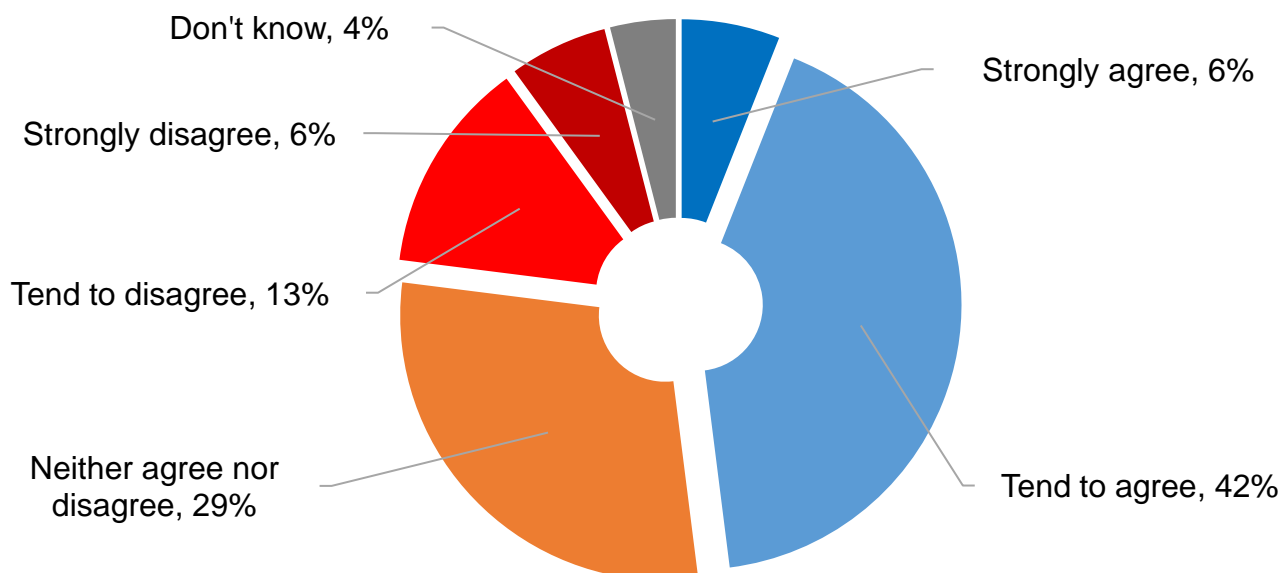
**“I hope that the LNRS will delivery effective nature recovery, but I am cynical given that most local and national government tends to de-prioritise the environment in favour of popularism. How can a County Council who supports the Lower Thames Crossing really be committed to supporting environmental recovery in Kent?”** (Individual)

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## Perception of LNRS striking a balance between ambition and deliverability

Almost half (48%) agree that the LNRS strikes a balance between ambition and deliverability. 29% indicated they are neither agree nor disagree and 19% disagree.

**How much do you agree or disagree that the LNRS strikes a balance between ambition and deliverability?** Base: all responding (250).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	120	48%
Net - Disagree	48	19%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	14	6%
Tend to agree	106	42%
Neither agree nor disagree	72	29%
Tend to disagree	32	13%
Strongly disagree	16	6%
Don't know	10	4%

The proportion agreeing is highest amongst professionals. Agreement is comparably lower amongst individual consultees and landowners, although a higher proportion of these consultee groups selected 'neither agree nor disagree'.

Number selecting by consultee type	Net agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Net disagree	Don't know
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=159)	72	50	31	6
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	4	2	1	0
As a professional (base size=8)	6	2	0	0
As a landowner (base size=13)	4	4	3	2
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	4	1	3	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	6	2	2	1
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=10)	6	1	3	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=19)	11	4	3	1

## Consultee feedback on confidence that the LNRS will deliver nature recovery in Kent and Medway

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide context to their answer in their own words. Consultee comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. 39% of consultees provided a comment to this question.

The most common themes noted echo previous concerns, namely government influence / priorities (20% of consultees answering), concern whether delivery is possible (19%), financial / resource concerns (13%) and housing / development concerns (13%).

17% comment that there is a lack of measurable targets / baseline data and 11% express concerns that developments / landowners / stakeholder will dictate plans.

**Please use the box below if you'd like to provide context to your answer.**

Base: all consultees providing a response (103).

	Number of responses	Percentage
Government / politicians will dictate / will not implement / lack of political will	21	20%
Applaud the ambition / hopeful it delivers	20	19%
There is a lack of measurable targets and baseline data	18	17%
Finances / resources will dictate	13	13%
Housing / building will take priority / as they have done already	13	13%
Developers / landowners / stakeholders will dictate: conflict of ambitions	11	11%
We must do something / we can't do nothing / KCC have an opportunity here	9	9%
A vested interest is needed: education, promotion	9	9%
A good approach but doubt it will deliver	6	6%
It needs to be mandated / enforced for it to work	6	6%
The document is too large scale to grasp, deliverables likely to be lost	5	5%
Over-ambitious / more clear, cheaper, simple steps needed	5	5%
Little faith, doubt anything will be delivered	4	4%
Lacking in ambition / just easy gains, no difficult areas	4	4%
Time will tell	4	4%

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about government influence / priorities can be found below:

**“How will the powers of government be persuaded to respect the valuable ideals in the LNRS? Objectors will be seen as 'woke' nimbies and climate objections have already been squashed by new legislation.”** (Individual)

**“I think every effort has been made to adopt a practical approach and realistic solutions. I am not convinced politicians will take the time or trouble to understand the proposals and I fear they will not implement the strategy without strong incentives.” (Councillor)**

**“The present Government has made it clear that they dislike the countryside. Building on greenbelt, building at an alarming rate telling everyone that planning permission will be lax and local opinion does not matter. KCC has an opportunity here to do something really positive and embrace NBS (nature based solutions) and Natural Capital.” (Individual)**

Example quotes, in consultees own words, expressing concern about possible delivery can be found below:

**“At least someone is trying to highlight the issues and hopefully by well-reasoned argument obtain a good outcome.” (Individual)**

**“A tremendous amount of work has gone into this project, and it is hard to see the ambitions being eroded by Government rhetoric which is not always supportive. We sincerely hope that the LNRS are given the backing and mandate to truly deliver on the great work they have done.” (Representative of a local community group or residents’ association)**

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about measurable targets and baseline data can be found below:

**“This is a beautifully detailed document, but the Strategy "makes no requirement for its measures to be implemented" and, without any statutory "teeth", I can't see it delivering significant improvement for nature in Kent. Landowners need to maximise profit from their land, Councils need to fill housing targets and the supposed economic benefits of Nationally Important Infrastructure Projects (like the Lower Thames Crossing and its knock-on effects on plans for traffic between M2 and M20 or quarrying more ragstone for road-building) will always outweigh environmental benefits of making wildlife habitats bigger, better or more joined-up.” (Individual)**

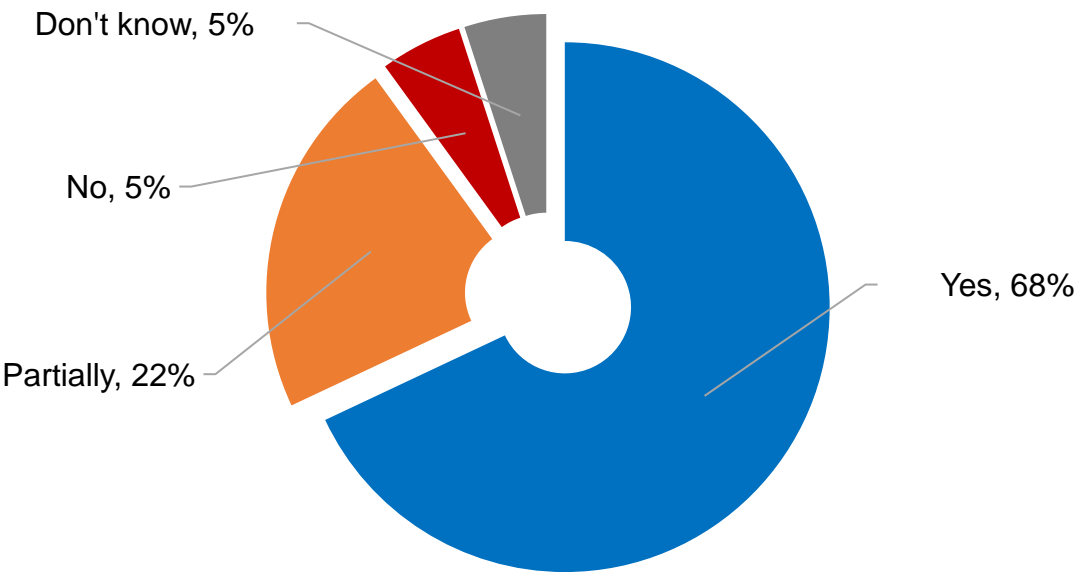
**“It sets out the caveats to success clearly and at the same time has a compelling argument which any opposition will need to counter with robust evidence. The argument for action is clear.” (Professional)**

**“It sounds wonderful if it happens but has little information on how any of these aims are actually going to be achieved.” (Individual)**

## Perceived clarity of Chapter 1 of Strategy Part 1

Just over two thirds (68%) agree Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Strategy makes it clear how the LNRS will inform nature recovery and the limitations of its influence. 22% indicated they partially agree and 5% disagree. 5% are unsure. Amongst those who have participated in the work to produce the LNRS, agreement increases to 81%.

**Does Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Strategy make clear how the LNRS will inform nature recovery and the limitations of its influence?** Base: all responding (250).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	169	68%
Partially	56	22%
No	12	5%
Don't know	13	5%



The proportion selecting 'Yes' is higher amongst professionals and council representatives. Agreement is comparably lower amongst individual consultees, landowners, farmers / growers / farming related organisations and councillors, although significant proportions of these consultee types have selected 'Partially' as opposed to 'No' or 'Don't know'.

Number selecting by consultee type	Yes	Partially	No	Don't know
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=156)	100	38	9	9
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	5	2	0	0
As a professional (base size=8)	7	0	0	1
As a landowner (base size=13)	8	4	1	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	5	2	1	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	9	2	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=10)	5	3	1	1
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=20)	17	3	0	0

### **Consultee feedback on making it clear how the LNRS will inform nature recovery and the limitations of its influence**

Consultees who provided a rating of 'partially' or 'no' were asked how the LNRS could be made clearer in informing nature recovery and the limitations of its influence. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 40% of those rating 'partially' or 'no' provided a comment to this question (27 consultees).

#### **Please tell us if you have any suggestions on making it clear how the LNRS will inform nature recovery and the limitations of its influence.**

Housing / development concerns

**"More consideration for nature and wildlife whose habitats are being taken for housing which in turn can damage the environment air quality more cars using fuel and rubbish being thrown not being collected or fly tippers not being prosecuted."** (Individual)

**"I don't believe nature will be given priority over development."** (Individual)

**“The strategy is akin to encouragement rather than being statutory with the exception of the metric. The LNRS will not stop development, not even in the most biodiverse areas. Ideally, there should exist a moratorium on any development within the LNRS, without this, it becomes a 'nice to have' rather than real protection for our countryside.”** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

Perceived lack of targets / actions

**“The above points are lukewarm at best and sit on the fence of action. They need to be more direct and decisive to make a clear difference. Sounds like a lot of the recommendations are optional - this won't help to support positive change. People will choose not to adhere to optional guidance.”** (Individual)

**“It is too nebulous and without any sanctions it will be ignored by Council and private developers who are just out to make money.”** (Individual)

Wider engagement / ongoing information sharing

**“I wonder if you may need to get more people on board, i.e. spread the word as to this plan, as the more people who know about it, the more likely it is to be successful, as we will all obviously have to look out for each other.”** (Individual)

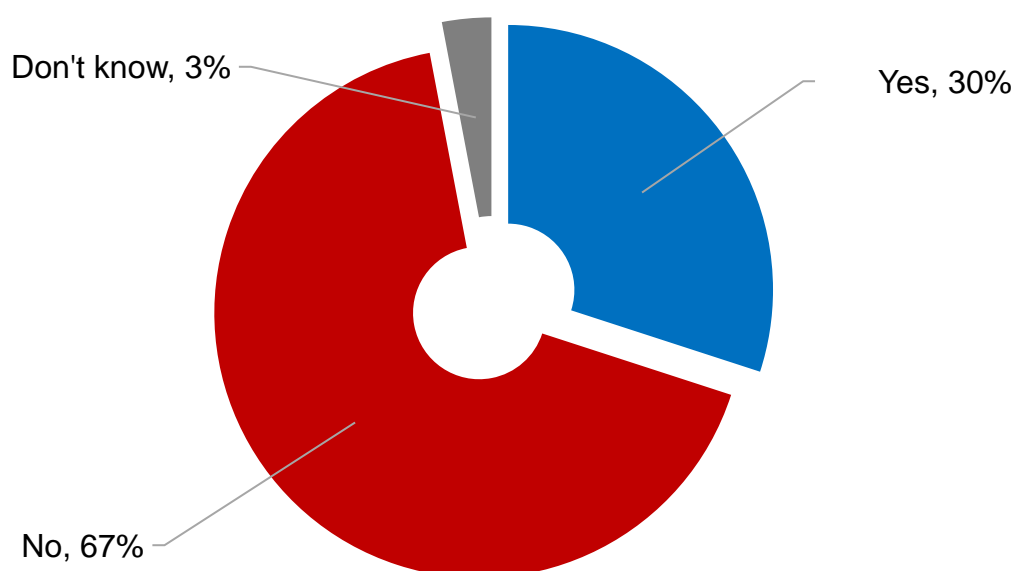
**“By providing information of how both the public and local councils can get involved. More information about meetings, public consultations etc and - more publicity for the abovementioned. The public needs to be properly engaged with this. More public-facing information, leafleting campaigns, more publicity etc.”** (Councillor)

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## Participation in LNRS development work

Almost one third (30%) of those who took part in the consultation questionnaire indicated they participated in any of the work to develop the LNRS to date. 67% did not participate and 3% are unsure.

**Did you participate in any of the work to develop the LNRS?** Base: all responding (254).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	77	30%
No	170	67%
Don't know	7	3%

The proportion selecting 'Yes' is higher amongst professionals, council representatives, nature related charities or organisations and farmers / growers / farming related organisations. Participation is comparably lower amongst individual consultees, organisation volunteers, landowners and councillors. It seems that a big proportion of individuals took the consultation as a first opportunity to participate in the LNRS, whereas many other groups had already engaged.

Number selecting by consultee type	Yes	No	Don't know
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size =156)	14	139	3
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size =7)	3	4	0
As a professional (base size =9)	6	3	0
As a landowner (base size =13)	5	7	1
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size =8)	5	2	1
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size =11)	9	2	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size =10)	4	6	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size =23)	20	2	1

## Consultee feedback on participation in developing the LNRS

Consultees who indicated they participated in developing the LNRS were asked how they participated and how they found the experience. Consultee comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. 93% of consultees who indicated they participated in the work to develop the LNRS provided a comment to this question.

The majority of those who described how they participated took part in workshops (72%). Just over one in five (22%) indicated they provided feedback / contributed to the LNRS with comments. The majority of those who described their experience providing positive descriptions with consultees commenting on the experience being informative / worthwhile (38%), inclusive / wide ranging (34%) and interesting / enjoyable (28%). Smaller proportions noted that their experience was perplexing / unclear (14%) and/or frustrating / disheartening to realise the strategy is unlikely to achieve aims (14%).

**Please tell us how you participated.** Base: all consultees providing a response (67).

	Number of responses	Percentage
Workshops (generic / unspecified)	48	72%
Providing feedback / contributing comments	15	22%
Mapping	9	13%
Meetings / consultations / events (generic / unspecified)	8	12%
Priority species / species selection	8	12%
Webinars / online	6	9%
Data	3	4%
Supported networking	3	4%
Interactive online map	2	3%
Land Advice Network	2	3%
Contributed as a farmer / landowner	2	3%
Data Evidence and Mapping TAG / Species Recovery TAG	1	1%
Shorne Woods LNRS workshops	1	1%

**Please tell us how you found the experience.** Base: all consultees providing a response (29).

	Number of responses	Percentage
Informative / worthwhile	11	38%
Inclusive / wide ranging engaged audience / all views considered	10	34%
Enjoyable / interesting	8	28%
Well-run / organised	5	17%
Hard work / perplexing / unclear	5	17%
Facilitators knowledgeable / experienced / committed	4	14%
Frustrating / disheartening to realise unlikely to achieve aims	4	14%

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about positive participation experiences can be found below:

**“The local knowledge of people taking part in discussions gave me a better understanding of what was around me and the requirement to balance nature with human activities. Manmade Climate Change is a real concern.”** (Behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council)

**“Attended many meetings from the launch. We made significant contribution with regard to what was and was not achievable with particular reference to our own low weald landscape.”** (Business)

**“I participated in several workshops and found them inclusive, interactive and helpful to better understand the scope and purpose of the LNRS.”** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

**“Attended 2 workshops. The experience was very worthwhile, enlightening, thought provoking, encouraging and highly collaborative.”** (Individual)

**“I attended a workshop which I thought was excellent. I also added suggestions to the interactive online map. The online map was a great idea as it provided an opportunity for areas that are often overlooked to be represented.”** (Individual)

**“I attended workshops at various stages of the LNRS. The workshops were very well run and informative and allowed contribution.”** (Landowner)

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about potential areas of improvement to participation experiences can be found below:

**“I thoroughly enjoyed attending the various online meetings and in-person workshops. The opportunity to meet and discuss the LNRS with other people from wildlife groups, environmental organisations and landowners was most valuable. I found some of the workshops overwhelming in terms of the amount of material to process and comment on in a meaningful way. The knowledge, experience and commitment of the KCC team of facilitators was impressive and appreciated.”** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

**“The experience was informative but some of the sessions were too long for some stakeholders to fully participate - e.g. businesses.”** (Professional)

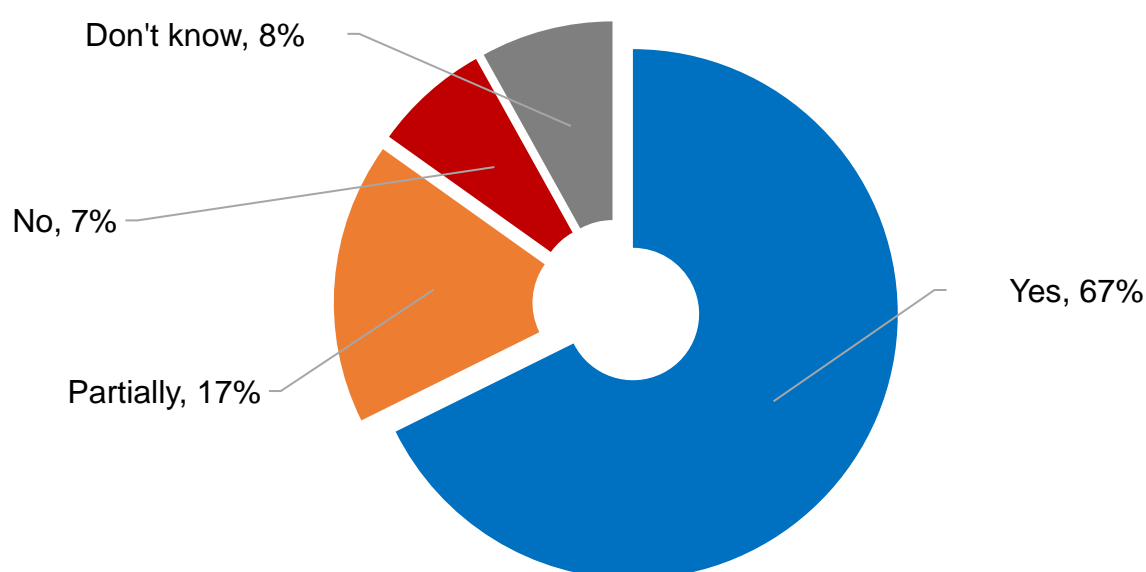
**“Workshops were well-organised, encouraging and informative. I later became disillusioned with the process, as it became clear that implementation of measures would depend on good will of landowners and that the species, habitats and measures discussed with such passion at the workshops would be whittled away by the short-listing process and further diluted by the absence of any statutory enforcement. My main concern was to have habitat connectivity at landscape scale made to inform local planning decisions but I eventually realised that the LNRS doesn't provide a mechanism for this.”** (Individual)

## Consultation feedback – The need for recovery of nature in Kent and Medway

### LNRS representation of landscape features, habitats and species

Just over two thirds (67%) agree the LNRS sufficiently represents the significance of the county's landscape features, habitats and species. 17% indicated they partially agree and 7% disagree. 8% are unsure.

**Does the LNRS sufficiently represent the significance of the county's landscape features, habitats and species?** Base: all responding (255).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	172	67%
Partially	43	17%
No	19	7%
Don't know	21	8%

The proportion selecting 'Yes' is high amongst the majority of consultee types. A comparably higher proportion of farmers / growers / farming related organisations selected 'Partially' or 'No'.

Number selecting by consultee type	Yes	Partially	No	Don't know
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=157)	102	26	13	16
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	5	2	0	0
As a professional (base size=9)	7	2	0	0
As a landowner (base size=13)	9	3	0	1
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	3	3	2	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	9	1	0	1
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=10)	9	0	1	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=22)	16	5	1	0

### **Consultee feedback on elements of the county's natural features not sufficiently recognised**

Consultees who provided a rating of 'partially' or 'no' were asked to detail what element(s) of the county's natural features are not sufficiently recognised in Chapters 2 and 3. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 68% of those rating 'partially' or 'no' provided a comment to this question (42 consultees).

#### **Please tell us which element of the county's natural features is not sufficiently recognised in Chapters 2 and 3.**

##### **Habitat feedback**

**"The focus is primarily on above ground biodiversity. The many species that live in the soil are under-represented, and soil as a habitat in its own right is mentioned mainly in the context of its support of above ground habitats."** (Professional)

**"The information is limited by what is known, surveyed or expressed by those involved. We should be mindful that habitats need to support a wide range of species and not just those currently considered rare or most opportune to improve. Actions to improve one should not risk detriment of another. Maintaining corridors, hideways, etc is important."** (Individual)

**"I'd like to see more importance placed on habitats, less on NCAs. But I do feel it gives a good representation of the county overall."** (Professional)

**"At an overall level it appears to due to the significant number of natural features and habitats that are within the county. When looking at the plan at a local level (specifically**

**using the map and zoom feature), it is clear that important habitats and opportunities are being missed by this plan.” (Individual)**

**“Kent is very significant in ecological terms but other parts of the country have seen far more ambitious landscape scale nature recovery and rewilding initiatives. Kent is punching well below its weight. The Kent wildlife context appears unambitious and outdated - landscape scale nature recovery and restoring damaged ecosystems is fundamental to stopping the ecological rot in Kent.” (Councillor)**

**“Because it doesn’t take into account of modern productive commercial farming and the need for food, it is only looking at nature in a bubble which is unrealistic.” (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)**

Area / location feedback

**“It’s recognition of the Low Weald, and its necessity in the health of the HW, strategic importance for avoidance of future flooding, as well as its innate connectivity is still lacking. This is derived from the simplistic way in which landscapes are defined nationally, so less a failure of the strategy, more a criticism of the basic guiding principles drawn up by others.” (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)**

**“The strategy for conserving brownfield sites - one of our most precious but overlooked habitats - doesn’t obviously feature in the plan, which is strange given the number of species in the recovery plan which occur at these locations and in this habitat.” (Individual)**

**“The coastal, agricultural and urban environments of East Kent are barely mentioned and there is no mention at all of any if the critically by important environment created by Brownfield sites given back to nature.” (Individual)**

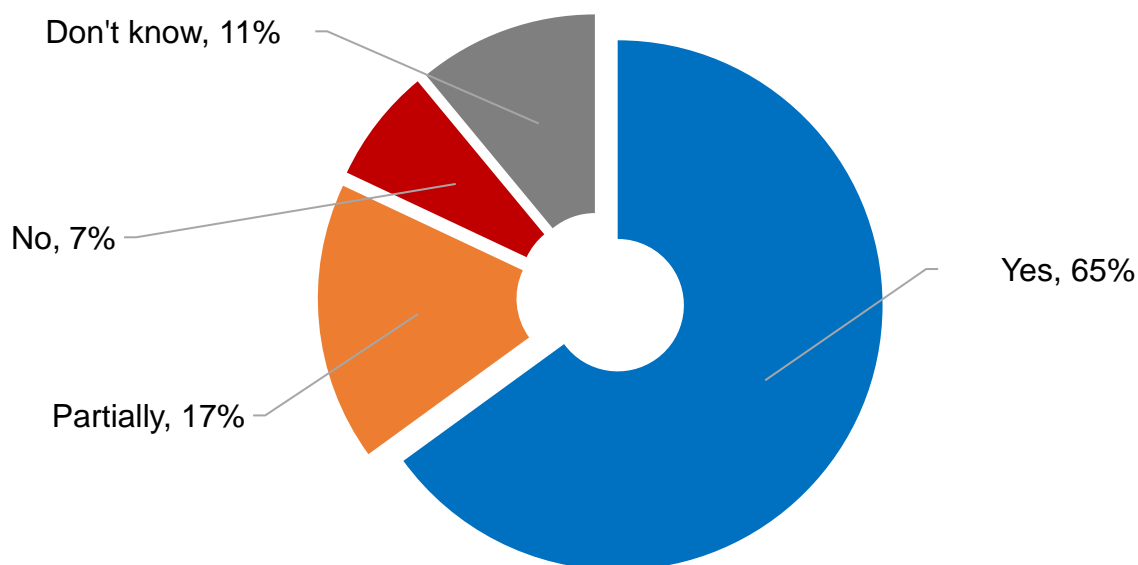
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## Outlining of trends of habitats and species change trends

Almost two thirds (65%) agree the LNRS sufficiently outlines the trends of habitats and species change that the county has seen over the past decade. 17% indicated they partially agree and 7% disagree. 11% are unsure.

**Does the LNRS sufficiently outline the trends of habitats and species change that the county has seen over the past decade?** Base: all responding (246).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	161	65%
Partially	43	17%
No	16	7%
Don't know	26	11%

The proportion selecting 'Yes' is high amongst professionals, organisation volunteers, council representatives and councillors. Agreement is comparably lower amongst individual consultees, although a proportion indicated they are unsure. A higher proportion of farmers / growers / farming related organisations and nature related charities or organisations selected 'Partially'.

Response by consultee type	Yes	Partially	No	Don't know
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=152)	92	27	12	21
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	6	1	0	0
As a professional (base size=9)	8	1	0	0
As a landowner (base size=13)	9	3	0	1
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	4	1	2	1
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	10	0	0	1
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=10)	8	2	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=19)	12	5	1	1

### Consultee feedback on what changes the Strategy has failed to reference

Consultees who provided a rating of 'partially' or 'no' were asked to detail what changes the Strategy has failed to reference. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes comments have been noted below. 56% of those rating 'partially' or 'no' provided a comment to this question (33 consultees).

**Please tell us what changes the Strategy has failed to reference.**

Species feedback

**“Very little mention of changes and losses in the marine environment, e.g. historic declines in seagrass, oysters and saltmarsh in Kent. Only discussed loss of habitat extent, not loss of habitat quality.”** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

**“Insufficient mention of bats and the negative effect of ambient urban lights on them. Insufficient appreciation of slow worms and the need to enhance and protect their habitats.”** (Individual)

**“Very little about how beavers and water meadow restoration.”** (Individual)

**“Does not adequately recognise the effect of increased Co2 on plant species. Short on species specific detail.”** (Individual)

**“There are species that are thriving that are being well managed, which the strategy doesn't reconcile.”** (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)

**“We had to filter down the list of species which meant there were winners and losers. However, only time will tell if any potential measures to help certain key species will by default help the species that did not make it onto the list. The NRF could trigger a decline in the most vulnerable of Kent species if they are not surveyed for, therefore, there may be an element of feeling around in the dark to a certain degree and only time will tell if any of the potential measures are actually making a significant difference in securing a certain species survival.”** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

Area / location feedback

**“The urban ambition does not mention that green and blue spaces can support the significant quantity of biodiversity which is dependent on buildings to nest and roost, such as bats and several endangered, red-listed bird species.”** (Representative of a local community group or residents' association)

**“North Kent marshes and the potential for wonderful places of interest, healing and sustainable places for all to enjoying general biodiversity to thrive. Make them all SSIs and or NNR.”** (Individual)

**“Minster marshes electricity place. Southern Water's non-stop sewerage spills into rivers and sea.”** (Individual)

A review of best practice examples was put forward as a suggestion:

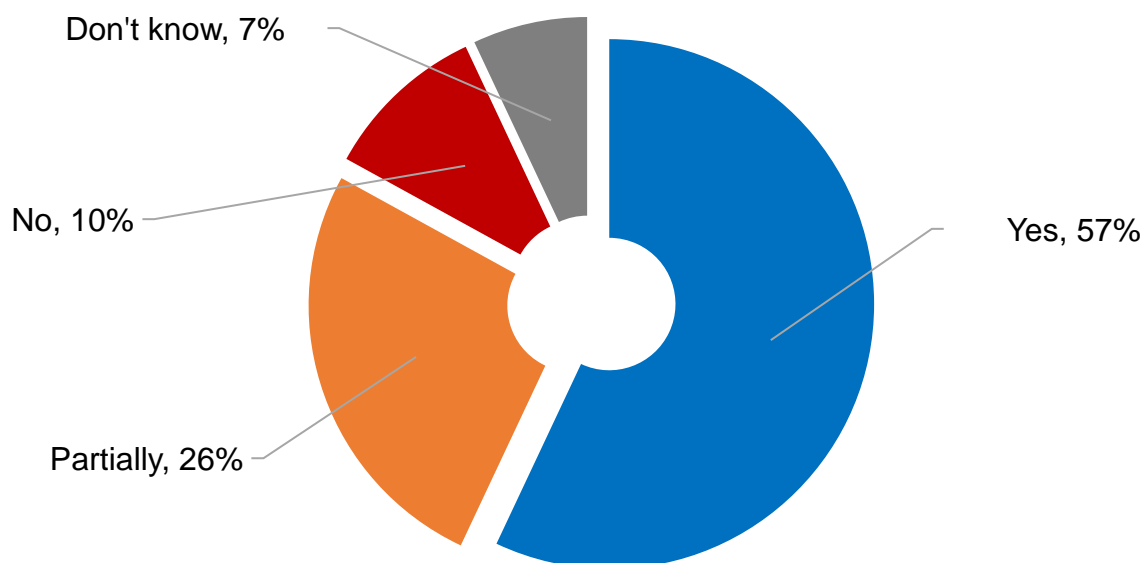
**“Get some case studies of areas where there has been a healthy balance of nature and species and what has happened over the past decade. It will reveal what worked in the best interests of wildlife and nature and the human communities in those areas and it would reveal what happened to cause the nature crisis. Get submissions from a cross section of areas and you will then understand what causes the nature crisis and what has to be put right in order for nature in every area to recover.”** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

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## Identification of key pressures, challenges and threats impacting natural environment

Almost six in ten (57%) agree the LNRS has identified all the key pressures, challenges and threats impacting on the county's natural environment. Just over a quarter (26%) indicated they partially agree and 10% disagree. 7% are unsure.

**Has the LNRS identified all the key pressures, challenges and threats impacting on the county's natural environment?** Base: all responding (249).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	143	57%
Partially	65	26%
No	24	10%
Don't know	17	7%

The proportion selecting 'Yes' is high amongst professionals, organisation volunteers and council representatives. Whilst sample sizes are low, a comparably higher proportion of farmers / growers / farming related organisations and nature related charities or organisations selected 'Partially' or 'No'.

Number selecting by consultee type	Yes	Partially	No	Don't know
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=153)	89	40	13	11
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	6	1	0	0
As a professional (base size=9)	7	2	0	0
As a landowner (base size=13)	8	2	1	2
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	3	2	2	1
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	8	2	0	1
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=10)	5	3	2	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=21)	6	9	6	0

## Consultee feedback on which key pressures, challenges or threats are missing

Consultees who provided a rating of 'partially' or 'no' were asked to detail which key pressures, challenges or threats are missing. Consultee comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. 29% of consultees provided a comment to this question.

The most common themes noted echo previous concerns, namely housing / development impact (36% of consultees answering), political pressures (25%) and perceived lack of enforcement / boldness of strategy (12%).

Other comments suggested include water pollution (11%) and solar / wind farm use (8%)

**Please tell us which key pressures, challenges or threats are missing.** Base: all consultees providing a response (76).

	Number of responses	Percentage
Impact of housing / building / developing on natural environment / green belt	27	36%
Political pressures	19	25%
Lack of enforcement / not bold enough	9	12%
Water pollution	8	11%
Solar / wind farm use	6	8%
Other miscellaneous pollution mentions	4	5%
Landscape / habitat fragmentation	4	5%
Loss of nesting sites on buildings	4	5%
Artificial lighting pollution	3	4%
Vehicle / road freight / exhaust pollution	3	4%
Soil pollution / soil health and biodiversity	3	4%
Land use (generic / unspecified)	3	4%
Surface water drainage, including in relation to groundwater	3	4%
Human pressures: include trampling of habitats, quad bikes in woodland, ease of access for damage	3	4%
Pesticides	2	3%
Climate change too general, should be more detailed (including sea-level changes)	2	3%
Deer culling needs including	1	1%
Man-made barriers on water courses	1	1%
Planting on recreational spaces is beneficial for wildlife	1	1%
Undergrazing to chalk downland needs more emphasis	1	1%
Increasing horse ownership	1	1%
Immigration	1	1%

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about housing / development can be found below:

**“It is ambitious. It will take a lot of partnership working across the board and a full understanding of other stakeholders needs. It operates in one of the most difficult of environments - pressure on land. In this context it is to be welcomed but will come up against a lot of opposition. The evidence gathered and rationale will stand it in good stead to counter this.”** (Professional)

**“Lack of emphasis on how development and its consequences have impacted and will continue to impact the natural environment.”** (Individual)

**“The relentless building of houses on beautiful fields, grubbing up ancient trees and woodlands destroying the habitats of the wildlife and the flora and fauna of the land. Once destroyed it’s gone for ever you can never get back ancient woodlands.”** (Individual)

**“Whilst everything else listed above is a very good summary I am very surprised there is a not a bullet point dedicated to future development and house building which is a huge threat to the natural environment. Existing wildlife and environmental protections are already insufficient in addressing this, I think this should definitely be included, particularly if agriculture is being pulled out as threat as it seems that farmers might be unfairly targeted where actually conservationists and farmers have far more in common and should be working together on nature recovery. I am concerned that the narrative at the moment is very much to let developers off the hook.”** (Individual)

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about political pressures can be found below:

**“From an environmental science perspective, definitely. But political pressures - the single biggest hurdle to whether anything actually gets done in the end at scale - are not discussed.”** (Individual)

**“Not only the question of government funding, but also the 'unfriendly environment' in political terms set both at government and regional levels that acts, at best, as a brake to the LNRS and its wider ambitions, but, at worst, to actively undermine it.”** (Councillor)

**“Change of government, change of government policy are both threats impacting the county’s natural environment. For instance, a change in house building policy, and in fact, any change that might come about from the Land Use Framework for England might impact on the LNRS.”** (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)

**“The decades of political and economic drivers which force farmers to use agricultural practises which cause harm. Farmers are extremely practical and can deliver change at speed but need to have the right support and ability to feed their families on the land that they farm.”** (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)

Example quotes, in consultees own words, put forward by nature related charities or organisations can be found below:

**“Habitat Fragmentation absent from list.”** (Nature related charity or organisation)

**“The threat of undergrazing to chalk downland should be given more emphasis; unimproved chalk grassland continues to be lost to succession of scrub in the Dover and Folkestone area (including on SSSIs). This is particularly the case on sites that are privately owned/managed and where there stewardship agreements have lapsed. Some farms have reduced their livestock numbers, potentially increasing the risk of undergrazing. However, rabbit haemorrhagic disease has also had a noticeable impact in the last 15 years.”** (Nature related charity or organisation)

**“Light pollution has been briefly mentioned, but the effects of artificial lighting cannot be underestimated. It is detrimental to the breeding success of insects and affects the movement and emergence time of bats, reducing their foraging areas and the time they can feed. Studies suggest it has a negative effect on our wellbeing too.”** (Nature related charity or organisation)

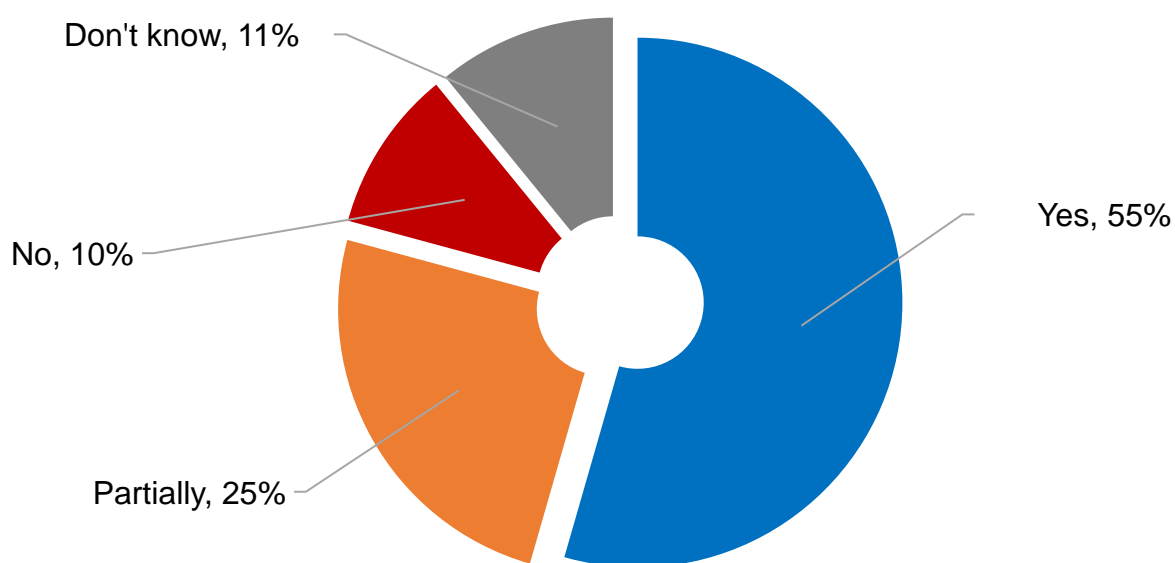
**“The pressure of excessive unsustainable level of human occupation and activity on areas which is driving out wildlife. These areas that need to recover are the areas which are now being judged as not great for wildlife. This is because they have been targeted to be degraded. These are specifically the areas where nature needs help to be restored, not hammered further to drive out what little remains of the habitat. This is part of the new government policy to remove protection and only the information that helps the government do that will be taken from this project. The biodiversity net gain scheme is already hitting these areas hard, providing mitigation in other areas or buying credits instead of providing mitigation in the areas where the biodiversity is being lost.”** (Nature related charity or organisation)



## Clarity of links between LNRS and local plans, strategies and national targets and ambitions

Just over half (55%) agree the links between the LNRS and the county's local plans, strategies and the national targets and ambitions are clear. A quarter (25%) indicated they partially agree and 10% disagree. 11% are unsure.

**Are the links between the LNRS and the county's local plans, strategies and the national targets and ambitions clear?** Base: all responding (247).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	135	55%
Partially	61	25%
No	25	10%
Don't know	26	11%

The proportion selecting 'Yes' is highest amongst professionals and organisation volunteers. Whilst the sample sizes are low, a comparably higher proportion of landowners, council representatives and councillors selected 'Partially' and 'No'.

Number selecting by consultee type	Yes	Partially	No	Don't know
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=153)	81	39	13	20
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	6	1	0	0
As a professional (base size=9)	8	1	0	0
As a landowner (base size=13)	5	4	3	1
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	5	0	2	1
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	5	3	3	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=10)	3	5	1	1
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=18)	11	5	1	1

### Consultee feedback on how the links could be made clearer

Consultees who provided a rating of 'partially' or 'no' were asked to detail how the links between the LNRS and the county's local plans, strategies and national targets and ambition clear. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 43% of those rating 'partially' or 'no' provided a comment to this question (37 consultees).

#### Please tell us how we could make the links clearer.

Concerns for enforcement / conflicting priorities

**"This is a complex area. National targets are subject to change for political reasons and as they have little real legal clout it is unlikely that well-intentioned local plans such as this will be mirrored by the national situation."** (Individual)

**"Page 66 you say 'the LNRS can assist these authorities in targeting and focusing such actions'. Is that to say that developers won't have to go along with the recommendations of the LNRS if they choose to do some other method of compensation etc?"** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

**"It will only work if more thought is given to planning new housing estates, where they are built, how they are managed, what damage is done to wild places during building work, road construction and management of the sites on completion."** (Individual)

**"Plans are clear but would like to see them incorporated. Currently sounds like there is no guarantees and influence on decision making could be limited. The project was created for**

**a purpose and should be used. Evidential proof will build confidence of those who have been involved in the process.” (Individual)**

Specific examples of links believed to be missed

**“TWBC Local Plan major proportion of their proposed housing development is proposed on Green Belt even though the Inspector has ruled out Tudeley Garden Village housing proposals, the revised local Plan is still intent of revisiting development of houses at Tudeley.” (Individual)**

**“There is no mention of the UK Gov growth agenda.” (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)**

**“There are new proposals being out forward by the government that need to be considered as the LNRS will be a key reference document. The Planning Reform Working Paper ‘Development and Nature Recovery’ outlines the Government’s proposed new approach to how housing and infrastructure development can meet its environmental obligations and contribute to nature recovery including the production of a Delivery Plan and a Nature Restoration Fund.” (Individual)**

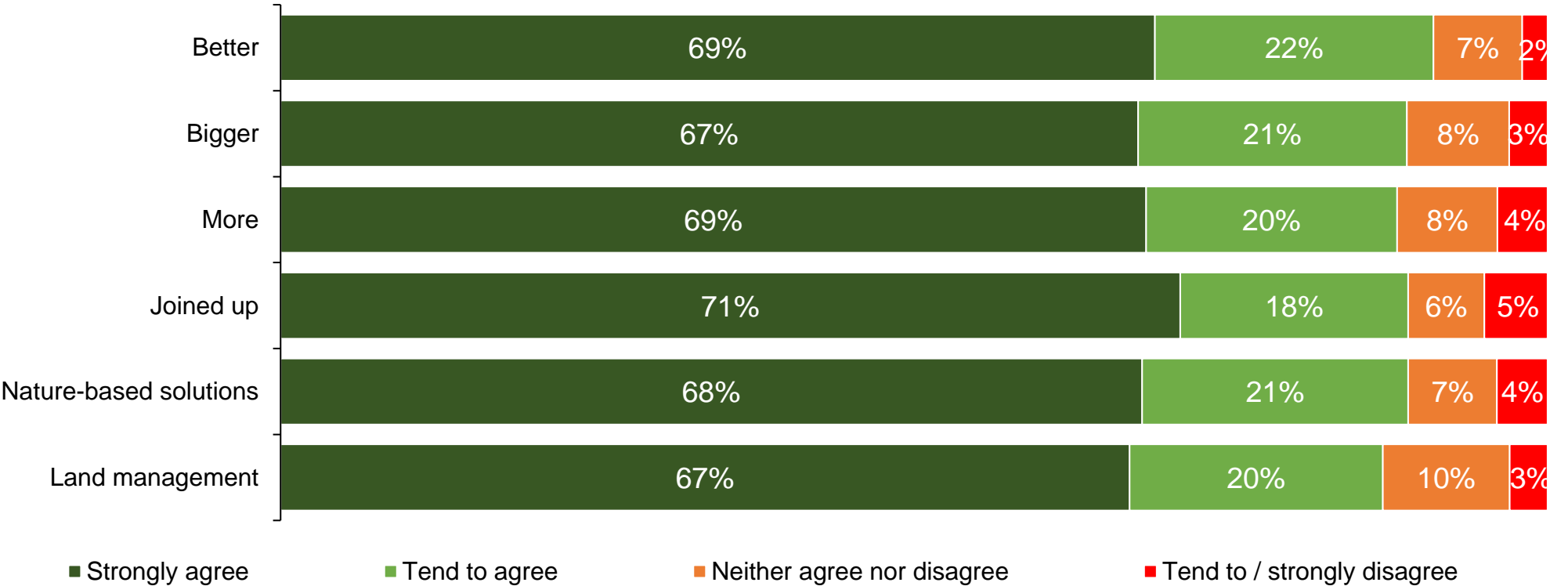
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# Consultation feedback – The principles, ambitions, priorities and potential measures for nature recovery in Kent and Medway

## Level of agreement with adoption of nature recovery principles

Agreement with each of the six principles presented is broadly consistent with around nine in ten agreeing with each (Better – 91%, Bigger – 89%, More – 88%, Joined up – 89%, Nature-based solutions – 89%, Land management – 87%). Few consultees indicated they disagree with any of the principles presented.

**How much do you agree or disagree with the adoption of these principles as the founding principles for delivering nature recovery in Kent and Medway?** Base: all responding (244-245).



## Better

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	221	91%
Net – Disagree	5	2%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	168	69%
Tend to agree	53	22%
Neither agree nor disagree	18	7%
Tend to / strongly disagree	5	2%
Don't know	0	0%

## Bigger

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	217	89%
Net – Disagree	9	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	165	67%
Tend to agree	52	21%
Neither agree nor disagree	19	8%
Tend to / strongly disagree	9	3%
Don't know	0	0%

## More

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	216	88%
Net – Disagree	9	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	168	69%
Tend to agree	48	20%
Neither agree nor disagree	20	8%
Tend to / strongly disagree	9	4%
Don't know	0	0%

## Joined up

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	218	89%
Net – Disagree	12	5%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	173	71%
Tend to agree	45	18%
Neither agree nor disagree	15	6%
Tend to / strongly disagree	12	5%
Don't know	0	0%

## Nature-based solutions

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	218	89%
Net – Disagree	10	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	167	68%
Tend to agree	51	21%
Neither agree nor disagree	17	7%
Tend to / strongly disagree	10	4%
Don't know	0	0%

## Land management

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	212	87%
Net – Disagree	9	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	164	67%
Tend to agree	48	20%
Neither agree nor disagree	24	10%
Tend to / strongly disagree	9	3%
Don't know	0	0%

Overall agreement with the principles is high across the majority of consultee types. Agreement appears comparably lower amongst farmers / growers / farming related organisations but this is due to a low sample size and one consultee selecting disagree across the priorities.

<b>Better – Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Net disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=154)	139	11	4	0
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=6)	5	1	0	0
As a professional (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=12)	9	3	0	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	6	1	1	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	11	0	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=18)	18	0	0	0

<b>Bigger – Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Net disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=154)	138	10	6	0
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	5	2	0	0
As a professional (base size=9)	8	1	0	0
As a landowner (base size=12)	9	2	1	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	5	1	2	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	10	1	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=18)	18	0	0	0

<b>More – Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Net disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=154)	135	13	6	0
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	6	1	0	0
As a professional (base size=9)	8	1	0	0
As a landowner (base size=12)	9	2	1	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	6	1	1	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	11	0	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=18)	18	0	0	0

<b>Joined-up – Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Net disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=154)	135	11	8	0
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	6	0	1	0
As a professional (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=12)	9	2	1	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	6	1	1	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	11	0	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=18)	18	0	0	0



<b>Nature-based solutions – Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Net disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=154)	135	12	7	0
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	7	0	0	0
As a professional (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=12)	9	2	1	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	5	1	2	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	10	1	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=18)	18	0	0	0

<b>Land management – Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Net disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=154)	132	17	5	0
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	6	0	1	0
As a professional (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=12)	8	3	1	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	5	1	2	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	10	1	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	8	1	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=18)	18	0	0	0

## Consultee comments on the principles

Consultees were given the opportunity to make any comments on the principles. Consultee comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. 33% of consultees provided a comment to this question.

Whilst a proportion of consultees express general agreement with the principles in their answer (12% of consultees answering) and that the principles are good but action is needed (15%), other comments echo earlier concerns regarding housing / development (15%) and stricter enforcement in terms of compliance for planning applications / pollution (12%).

### If you would like to make any comments on the principles, please tell us.

Base: all consultees providing a response (86).

	Number of responses	Percentage
Principles are good / it's action that's needed	13	15%
Problem is 'growth' / the constant building of houses / development on land / farming land	13	15%
Agree with the principles / Lawton's principles are great	10	12%
Will only work if mandate for compulsory compliance including when granting planning applications, fines for polluting	10	12%
Work with what we have first / allow small / existing habitats / chalk downland to flourish	8	9%
Everyone needs to be on board: public, landowners, developers, politicians	7	8%
Doubt it will happen / too difficult to implement	6	7%
Needs to be a shift in values / educate that nature is intrinsic, not an instrumental value	6	7%
Suggestions for additional / other principles to be included	6	7%
Land should be for food, not housing	5	6%
Small is also good	3	3%
Would also need man-made solutions / built environment	3	3%
How will you get landowners / farmers on board? / Who will compensate them for loss of productive land?	3	3%
Landowners know how to and do manage land use for the benefit of habitats and species	2	2%
Maintaining corridors is essential, glad to see this	2	2%
Won't happen in Thanet / what about Thanet?	2	2%
Some land areas missing (public parks, valley adjacent to Fauchons Lane Bearsted / Weaving)	2	2%
Needs more definition / made clearer	1	1%
Bigger, better, more, joined up could all be combined, they collectively achieve the same	1	1%

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about the hope for action can be found below:

**“We agree with the ambition behind the Lawton principles but we do not agree that they are being truly implemented at present. We disagree with taking wildlife habitats away from communities. All people should have access to their local wildlife and this should be enhanced.”** (Representative of a local community group or residents’ association)

**“Excellent ideals - but there is a need to give more priority to them at a local and national level.”** (Individual)

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about housing development can be found below:

**“How can this be fully achievable when land is disappearing at an alarming rate for houses. So many fields that were habitats for wildlife now gone. The estates are barren of wildlife. Trees gone! Hedges gone! The saplings planted will take years to grow before any birds can nest in them.”** (Individual)

**“I have no confidence in planners and politicians to protect our nature and rural environment, in favour of money making developments.”** (Individual)

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about enforcement can be found below:

**“It seems that LNRS takes second place to ‘growth’ agenda and there should be statutory powers and allocated funds etc. to ensure it is put into effect.”** (Organisation volunteer)

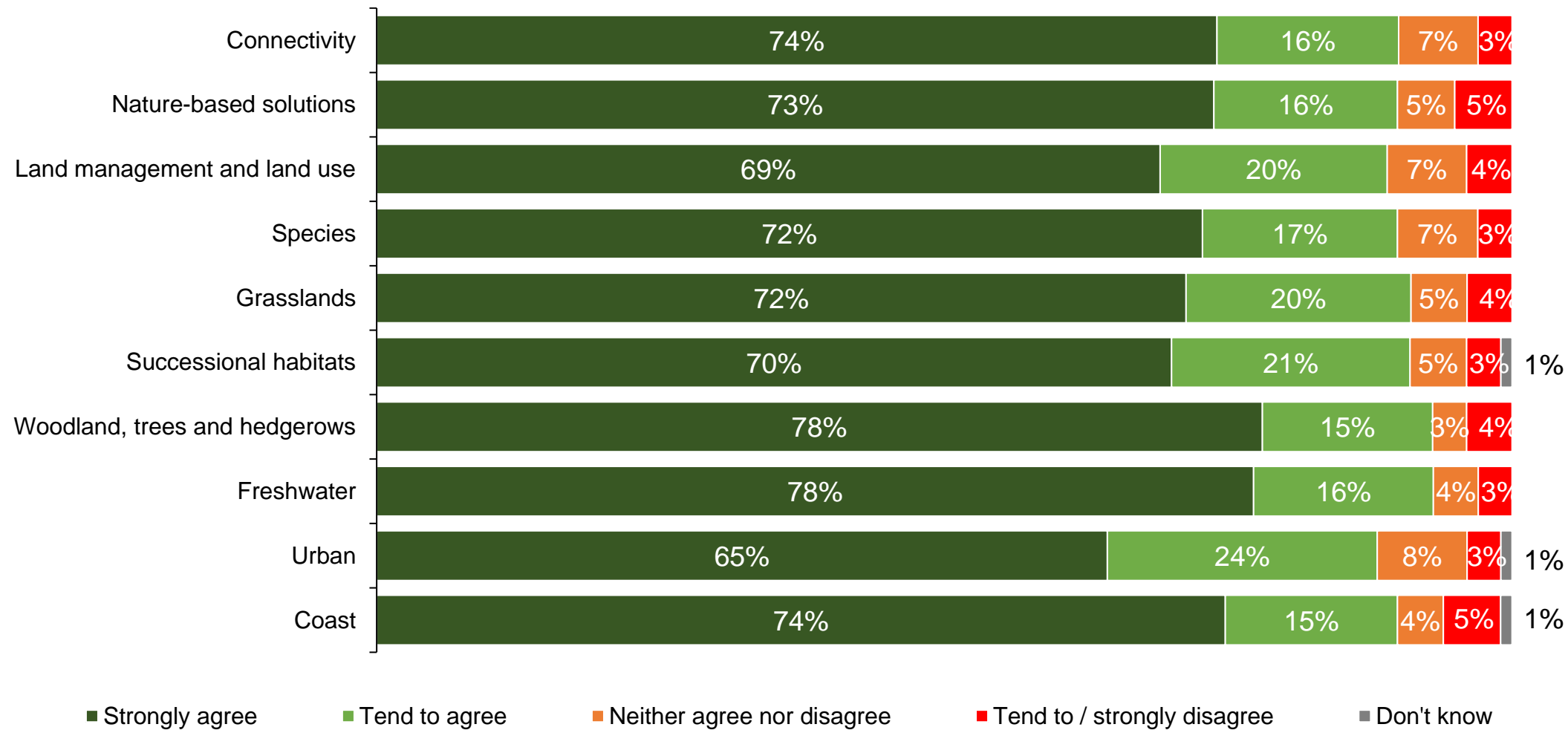
**“Insist that any development being built on farmland or orchards or green space must include an area of natural habitat for animals and wildlife and to enhance the lifestyles of its residence. Not all developers ensure their green spaces are sufficient and often they become the dumping ground for their building debris which is covered up with turf. My husband is a landscape Gardner and it’s very common for him to work on gardens on new builds to discover under the turf builder’s debris. How is this not being monitored? How is this good for environment? How is this good for the people living there, how is this good for the wildlife?”** (Individual)

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## Agreement with ten ambitions

Agreement with each of the ten ambitions presented is broadly consistent with around nine in ten agreeing with each (Connectivity – 90%, Nature-based solutions – 89%, Land management and land use – 89%, Species – 89%, Grasslands – 91%, Successional habitats – 91%, Woodland, trees and hedgerows – 93%, Freshwater – 93%, Urban – 89%, Coast – 90%). Few consultees indicated they disagree with any of the ambitions presented.

How much do you agree or disagree with the ten ambitions in the county’s vision for nature recovery? Base: all responding (243-247).



## Connectivity

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	221	90%
Net – Disagree	8	3%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	181	74%
Tend to agree	40	16%
Neither agree nor disagree	16	7%
Tend to / strongly disagree	8	3%
Don't know	0	0%

## Nature-based solutions

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	217	89%
Net – Disagree	13	5%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	177	73%
Tend to agree	40	16%
Neither agree nor disagree	13	5%
Tend to / strongly disagree	13	5%
Don't know	1	0%

## Land management and land use

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	219	89%
Net – Disagree	10	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	169	69%
Tend to agree	50	20%
Neither agree nor disagree	16	7%
Tend to / strongly disagree	10	4%
Don't know	0	0%

## Species

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	221	89%
Net – Disagree	8	3%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	179	72%
Tend to agree	42	17%
Neither agree nor disagree	17	7%
Tend to / strongly disagree	8	3%
Don't know	1	0%

## Grasslands

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	223	91%
Net – Disagree	10	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	175	72%
Tend to agree	48	20%
Neither agree nor disagree	11	5%
Tend to / strongly disagree	10	4%
Don't know	0	0%

## Successional habitats

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	221	91%
Net – Disagree	8	3%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	169	70%
Tend to agree	52	21%
Neither agree nor disagree	12	5%
Tend to / strongly disagree	8	3%
Don't know	2	1%

## Woodland, trees and hedgerows

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	226	93%
Net – Disagree	9	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	190	78%
Tend to agree	36	15%
Neither agree nor disagree	8	3%
Tend to / strongly disagree	9	4%
Don't know	0	0%

## Freshwater

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	227	93%
Net – Disagree	7	3%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	189	78%
Tend to agree	38	16%
Neither agree nor disagree	9	4%
Tend to / strongly disagree	7	3%
Don't know	0	0%

## Urban

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	218	89%
Net – Disagree	7	3%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	159	65%
Tend to agree	59	24%
Neither agree nor disagree	19	8%
Tend to / strongly disagree	7	3%
Don't know	2	1%

## Coast

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	218	90%
Net – Disagree	12	5%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	181	74%
Tend to agree	37	15%
Neither agree nor disagree	10	4%
Tend to / strongly disagree	12	5%
Don't know	3	1%

Overall agreement with the ambitions is high across the majority of consultee types. Overall agreement appears comparably lower amongst farmers / growers / farming related organisations but this is due to a low sample size and one or two consultees selecting disagree across the ambitions.

Connectivity – Number selecting by consultee type	Net agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Net disagree	Don't know
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=152)	137	9	6	0
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	7	0	0	0
As a professional (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=13)	11	2	0	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	5	2	1	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	11	0	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=19)	18	1	0	0



<b>Nature-based solutions – Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Net disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=151)	135	8	8	0
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	7	0	0	0
As a professional (base size=9)	8	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=13)	11	1	0	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	5	1	2	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	9	0	1	1
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=19)	18	0	0	0

<b>Land management and land use – Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Net disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=152)	137	8	7	0
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	6	1	0	0
As a professional (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=13)	11	1	1	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	5	1	2	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	9	2	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	8	1	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=19)	19	0	0	0

<b>Species – Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Net disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=153)	136	11	5	1
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	7	0	0	0
As a professional (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=13)	11	1	1	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	5	0	0	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	11	0	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	8	1	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=20)	19	0	1	0

<b>Grasslands – Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Net disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=152)	138	6	8	0
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	7	0	0	0
As a professional (base size=8)	8	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=13)	11	1	1	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	5	2	1	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	11	0	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=19)	18	0	0	0

<b>Successional habitats – Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Net disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=152)	138	7	6	1
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	7	0	0	0
As a professional (base size=8)	6	1	0	1
As a landowner (base size=12)	10	1	1	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	6	1	1	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	11	0	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=19)	18	0	0	0

<b>Woodland, trees and hedgerows – Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Net disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=151)	141	4	6	0
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	7	0	0	0
As a professional (base size=8)	8	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=13)	11	1	1	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	6	1	1	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	11	0	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=19)	17	1	1	0

<b>Freshwater – Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Net disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=151)	140	6	6	0
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	7	0	0	0
As a professional (base size=8)	8	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=13)	11	2	0	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	6	1	1	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	11	0	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	9	0	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=19)	19	0	0	0

<b>Urban – Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Net disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=153)	135	13	5	0
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	7	0	0	0
As a professional (base size=8)	7	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=12)	11	1	0	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	4	3	1	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	10	0	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=8)	8	0	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=22)	21	1	0	0

<b>Coast – Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Net disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=151)	138	5	7	1
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	7	0	0	0
As a professional (base size=9)	8	0	0	1
As a landowner (base size=13)	10	1	2	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	4	2	2	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	10	0	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=8)	8	0	0	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=19)	19	0	0	0

## Consultee comments on the ambitions

Consultees were given the opportunity to make any comments on the ten ambitions. Consultee comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. 30% of consultees provided a comment to this question.

Comments echo earlier concerns regarding a need for incorporating actions (25%), housing / development concerns (13%) and stricter enforcement in terms of non-compliance (13%).

**If you would like to make any comments on the ambitions, please tell us.**

Base: all consultees providing a response (80).

	Number of responses	Percentage
Actions are needed / not words	20	25%
Good / agree / needs doing	12	15%
Futile while house building continues / building impacts on wildlife / water quality	10	13%
All needs to be backed by law / fines for non-compliance, including water companies	10	13%
New builds should incorporate green energy, accommodate nature, man-made solutions also needed	7	9%
Needs everyone board, including public engagement strategy	7	9%
Pointless / meaningless / bureaucracy	6	8%
Doesn't mention the green and blue spaces for nesting	4	5%
Government / political pressures and priorities will override	4	5%
Marshes / marshland: Dartford Marsh missing / more consideration for marshland needed	4	5%
Rivers need better protection / more consideration	4	5%
All species / habitats to be considered, focusing on some may impact those not included	3	4%
Need to be undisturbed spaces too / not accessible by humans / cars / dogs	3	4%
Soil health important / need to include below ground, not just above ground species	2	3%
Perception farmers are not supported by the government	2	3%
Needs to be more green space for humans to enjoy / essential for our well-being	2	3%

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about inclusion of actions can be found below:

**"I agree with what needs to happen but the fundamental question is how to make it happen and enforce a change that leads to real improvement. words are not enough."** (Landowner)

**"All very laudable ambitions. But in the absence of resources and a framework that incentivizes voluntary participation or mandates compulsory compliance, it's all just rhetoric, isn't it?"** (Individual)

**“They are great and it will be amazing when all of this is prioritised; however there needs to be more specific and detailed targets to ensure these things do happen.” (Individual)**

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about housing / development can be found below:

**“Great ambitions but what action will preserve Minster Marshes, Pegwell bay and the few remaining natural areas Thanet has left. Ambitions don't stop development.” (Individual)**

**“How can you connect vital habitats when they are cut off by housing estates and new roads, water quality will only go down with the building and living in of new houses, The building process and all of its chemicals, road traffic and more people will increase pollution and make the whole vision for nature defunct.” (Individual)**

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about enforcement can be found below:

**“You need legislation on your side to enforce all this. Otherwise, it is a pen and paper exercise. When the Secretary of State can override any development, this can be immaterial.” (Organisation volunteer)**

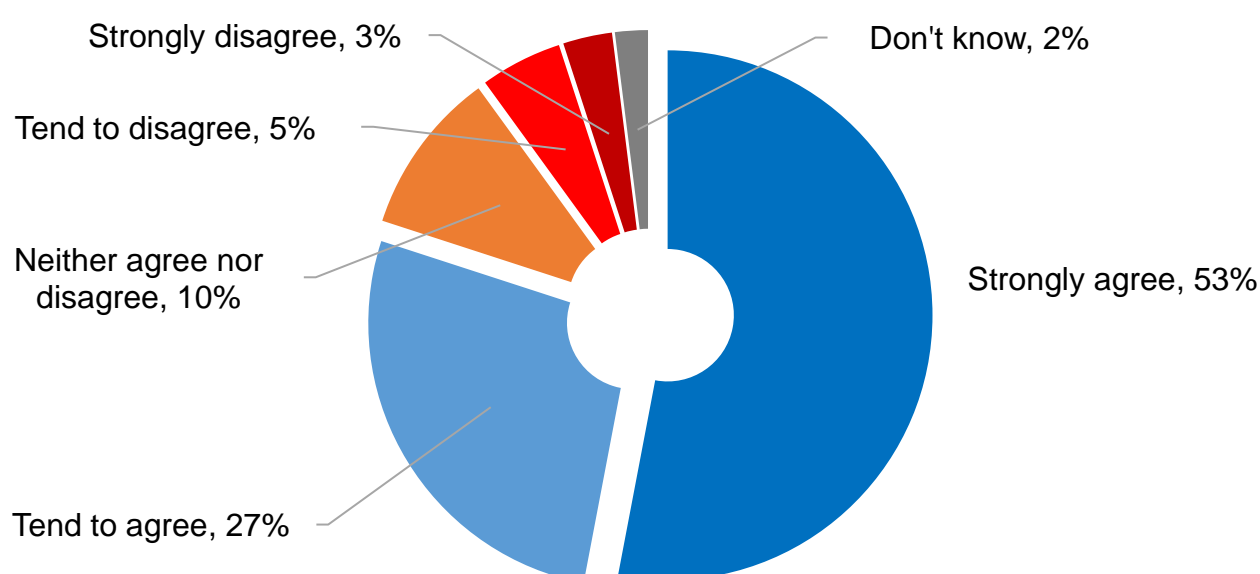
**“Need far more enforcement and protection for natural land use. Need to develop polluted brownfield sights for housing, education and health without destroying further natural habitats. All new builds should have solar panels.” (Individual)**

## ‘Connectivity’ ambition

80% agree that the identified priorities and measures for ‘Connectivity’ will achieve the specified ambitions. 10% indicated they are neither agree nor disagree and 8% disagree.

**How much do you agree or disagree that the identified priorities and measures for ‘Connectivity’ will achieve the ambition to...? Base: all responding (110).**

- **See high quality habitats connected at both a county and local scale, providing more linked natural space for nature to thrive in**
- **A landscape that wildlife can move through and adapt to change in**



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	88	80%
Net – Disagree	9	8%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	58	53%
Tend to agree	30	27%
Neither agree nor disagree	11	10%
Tend to disagree	6	5%
Strongly disagree	3	3%
Don't know	2	2%



## Consultee feedback on the identified priorities and measures achieving required ambitions

Consultees were given the opportunity to make any comments to provide context for their answer. Consultee comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. 21% of consultees provided a comment to this question.

25% of consultees answering noted that they agree with the priorities and corridors are important. Other common comments echo earlier concerns regarding a need for incorporating actions / measures of achievement (18%) and enforcement (13%). 14% commented that corridors and connectivity need higher priority / more needs to be done to mitigate the taking of habitats.

**Please use the box below if you'd like to provide context to your answer.**

Base: all consultees providing a response (56).

	Number of responses	Percentage
Agree / corridors are important	14	25%
Everyone needs to co-operate / be encouraged to participate / incentivise and educate	10	18%
Needs actions / measures / practical framework / clarity on how it will be achieved	10	18%
Corridors and connectivity need higher priority / more needs to be done to mitigate the taking of habitats	8	14%
Needs statutory enforcement / ensure included with planning applications	7	13%
Cannot be achieved whilst house building is a priority / perceived lack of political will	5	9%
Complicated / bureaucratic / won't happen	4	7%
Green bridges need careful consideration in terms of placement and potential risks	4	7%
Gardens / swift boxes / tunnels are not sufficient substitutes for hedgerows, ponds, coppice ditches	2	4%
Landowners will not co-operate	2	4%
15m buffer as minimum / 100m needed either side of streams, rivers, ditches	2	4%
Focus should be on protecting existing habitats too (e.g. Dungeness is left stranded)	2	4%

Example quotes covering common themes expressed can be found below:

**“The importance of habitat connectivity cannot be overlooked it has to be a priority if nature recovery is successful for fauna and flora.”** (Professional)

**“Particularly welcome measures to address fragmentation from infrastructure (CON2) and to make 'grey' infrastructure corridors work better for nature (CON3). Transport corridors have a significant impact on Kent and it is good to see the LNRS address this.”** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

**“Strongly agree with this for the reasons given in the document. However, it will be difficult to achieve without the need for some significant green infrastructure investment (if done retrospectively). It is key to make others realise the benefit of including this infrastructure at the start of the planning process for projects and factor it in.” (Professional)**

**“The Low Weald's connectivity is high but could be higher. Connecting the fragment of AWs and mapping important hedgerows could prove the network is mostly there. Encourage landowners to manage grass verges for nature - this means private householders as well as farmers. Could there be awards for best-managed roadside verges?” (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)**

**“Map Con 1 references safeguarding - an awkward word in this context. This map covers large parts of the county so it begs the question what is it safeguarding from - development, climate change, recreational pressures, farming? Map Con 3 captures more land area than the Local Habitat Map and the ACIB. What does this mean in planning terms and which is more important in directing actions and investment? Would it not be clearer to only show the connectivity measures that fall within the areas highlighted in the ACIB and LNM?.” (Behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council)**

**“Priority CON2 includes the installation of green bridges etc. There is some doubt about the effectiveness of such measures, this uncertainty needs to be addressed. Priority CON3.1 have these identified? The map appears to cover the majority of the country, which may be unrealistic. Priority CON3.2 needs to be balanced with protecting wildlife from the adverse effects of recreational use.” (Professional)**

**“I don't feel that enough emphasis has been given to the pressures of new developments on disturbance, habitat loss or connectivity. More emphasis on nature recovery needs to be included in such applications and planning decisions.” (Individual)**

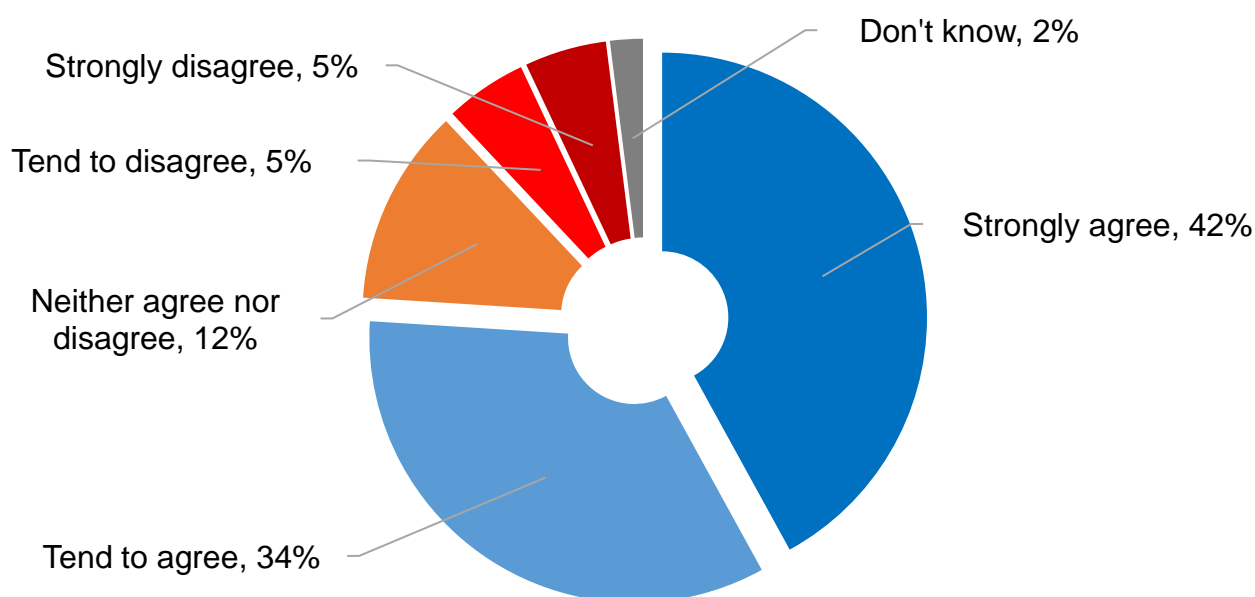
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## ‘Nature-based solutions’ ambition

80% agree that the identified priorities and measures for ‘Nature-based solutions’ will achieve the specified ambitions. 12% indicated they are neither agree nor disagree and 10% disagree.

**How much do you agree or disagree that the identified priorities and measures for ‘Nature-based solutions’ will achieve the ambition to...?** Base: all responding (132).

- **Maximising our resilience to the challenges of climate change**
- **Tackle health and societal inequality**
- **Deliver well-being benefits, whilst simultaneously recovering nature**



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	100	76%
Net – Disagree	13	10%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	55	42%
Tend to agree	45	34%
Neither agree nor disagree	16	12%
Tend to disagree	6	5%
Strongly disagree	7	5%
Don't know	3	2%

## **Consultee feedback on the identified priorities and measures achieving required ambitions**

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide context to their answer in their own words. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 37 consultees provided a comment to this question.

### Potential opportunities

**“Explore and encourage the use of neutral grasslands as natural flood mitigators. In the Low Weald, this could mean well away from Flood Zone 3, as experience here has proved. This could take pressure from flood blackspots such as Yalding.”** (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)

**“Particularly welcome and endorse 6.1.2 Trees & Woodland are powerful actors in climate mitigation & resilience. Linking to Kent's Plan Trees approach makes good sense and improves the ability to deliver at landscape scale.”** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

**“Natural approaches have less of a footprint and work with nature. Only issue is we have overly urbanised areas making this approach difficult and compounding issues, opportunities to renaturalise derelict/redundant urban areas should be considered and allow people to connect with nature.”** (Individual)

### Importance of prioritising nature

**“Should not nature be a priority? Humans need to be respectful of nature prioritise it...out back etc. as by having that in place as the priority the other elements will be achieved. Accessibility is not always in nature's interest.”** (Individual)

**“Start with the priority of saving nature from destruction and allowing it to survive and flourish. Once the health and equal rights for other species exists, the health and respect for all others will improve. It's not an ambition that can be achieved because those in power and control are benefitting from the destruction of nature. An ambition should be to address the roots of the problems but as it's DEFRA and KCC it won't be possible.”** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

**“We need to do so much more. I've mentioned new developments failing to consider nature but also taping and destroying pristine natural environments. But developments MUST plant more. Plant more saplings and trees, more ponds, more diverse local environment.”** (Individual)

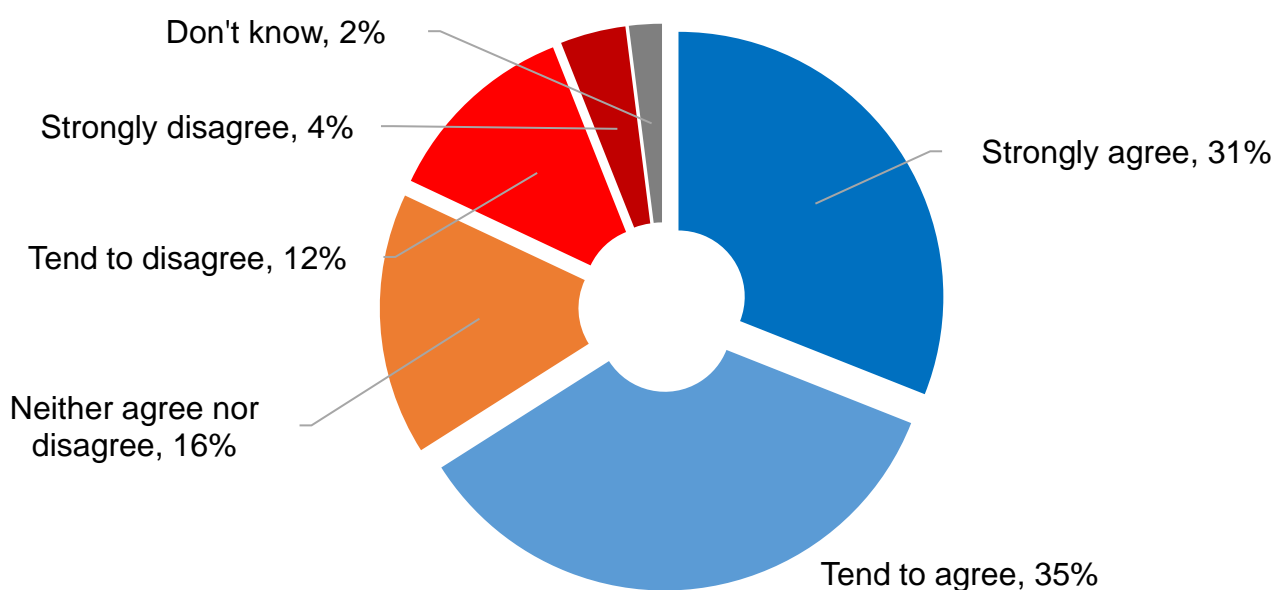
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## Contribution of 'Land management and land use' priorities

Two thirds (66%) agree that the identified priorities and measures for 'Land management and land use' will achieve the ambition of delivering nature recovery gains alongside meeting the economic and social needs provided by this sector. 16% indicated they are neither agree nor disagree and 16% disagree.

**How much do you agree or disagree that the identified priorities and measures for 'Land management and land use' will achieve the ambition of delivering nature recovery gains alongside meeting the economic and social needs provided by this sector...?**

Base: all responding (139).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	92	66%
Net – Disagree	22	16%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	43	31%
Tend to agree	49	35%
Neither agree nor disagree	22	16%
Tend to disagree	16	12%
Strongly disagree	6	4%
Don't know	3	2%

## Consultee feedback on the identified priorities and measures achieving required ambitions

Consultees were given the opportunity to make any comments to provide context for their answer. Consultee comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. 23% of consultees provided a comment to this question.

Comments echo earlier concerns regarding protection of land for nature (19%), government plans for development / attached financial incentives (16%) and lack of resources / funding (6%) 16% highlighted a need to work with and support farmers and consider the pressures they are under.

**Please use the box below if you'd like to provide context to your answer.**

Base: all consultees providing a response (62).

	Number of responses	Percentage
No more building on (greenbelt) land / we must leave our land to nature / land needs to be protected	12	19%
Priorities laudable but government plans for building / development will preside / financial incentives will not match land value for developers	10	16%
Need to work with and support farmers; social / economic pressures they are under must be considered	10	16%
Education and promotion is needed, evidence the benefits and importance of alternative land use	6	10%
Priorities laudable but will need resource and funding to work	4	6%
Will be difficult to get farmers / landowners on board / lack of will	4	6%
Unclear on measurable targets / delivery	4	6%
Good set of priorities	4	6%
Waterways and rivers need more consideration	4	6%
Land use must be for food production	3	5%
Solar farms are not good for nature / food production	3	5%
Soil health is also a priority, need a soil health policy	2	3%
More guidance around buffer strips is needed	2	3%
Needs more on litter / fly tipping / waste disposal	2	3%
Comments related to specific wording used	2	3%
Enforcement is needed e.g. for property developers to create corridors, plant native species, install bat and bird boxes, landowners abiding	2	3%

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about protecting land can be found below:

**"I would like to see less building on green belt and AONB land and more brown field sites to be investigated before the destruction of countryside fields and ancient woodlands."**

(Individual)

**“Let's see more "land management" for wildlife and more opposition of huge housing projects - again see my previous comments on how this can be addressed. Moderating the population in the way I have mentioned before is the way to moderating - and hopefully curtailing - massive building projects and Ponzi schemes like solar farms.”** (Councillor)

**“It is essential to make use of all these objectives and tools and aim high. There is little doubt that after 75 years of man 'helping himself' to Mother Nature's bounty with little or no regard for it being a finite resource, stopping the degradation let alone repairing the mess is a massive task. Without total commitment from citizens, landowners, local authorities and enforcement agencies, these objectives no matter how laudable, will fail. The continued tacit acceptance of flagrant environmental abuse, usually purely in pursuit of short term profit, simply has to stop.”** (On behalf of a business)

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about plans for building / development can be found below:

**“Current environmental protections eg TPOs are just being set aside by District councils to permit unwanted housing development on rural land. This strategy sits at odds with National policy so will never be achieved.”** (Individual)

**“Under our current government, economic growth will always come before conservation, which will always be over-ruled. Current wildlife laws are ignored when it comes to building and development.”** (Individual)

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about supporting / considering farmers can be found below:

**“Farming are faced with gains or losses on large scale and if finances were taken out of the equation they would be organic but unfortunately it's about survival. One area that needs joining up is use of farmland, different graded soils that are suitable/unsuitable for different arable or livestock it would be good if farms were instructed more on what subset they should produce instead of competing with each other growing what gives greater return. I believe this is why we have deficits and gluts of certain produce.”** (Behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council)

**“Farmers need to be supported to remain farmers caring for the land and developing habitats I worry that local to me most of the food producing landscape is becoming housing without proper infrastructure and creating a situation whereby local producers are diminished this creates concern about food poverty and higher prices, pollution and quality this is not progress.”** (Individual)

**“With regard to LM1 & LM2: The LNRS recognises the economic and social contributions of the farming sector in Kent and many of the potential measures proposed can go hand in hand with food production. However, the LNRS does not recognise the potential impact of some measures on food security. Actions such as establishing wider buffer strips are likely to reduce the productivity of the land and food security as a consequence. With regard to LM3 (reducing pressure from livestock access and reducing livestock stocking density) - outdoor grazing is beneficial to livestock welfare; reducing available area of livestock**

**grazing may have a detrimental impact on livestock welfare. Many farmers are introducing livestock back into their rotation as a way to improve their soil health.”** (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)

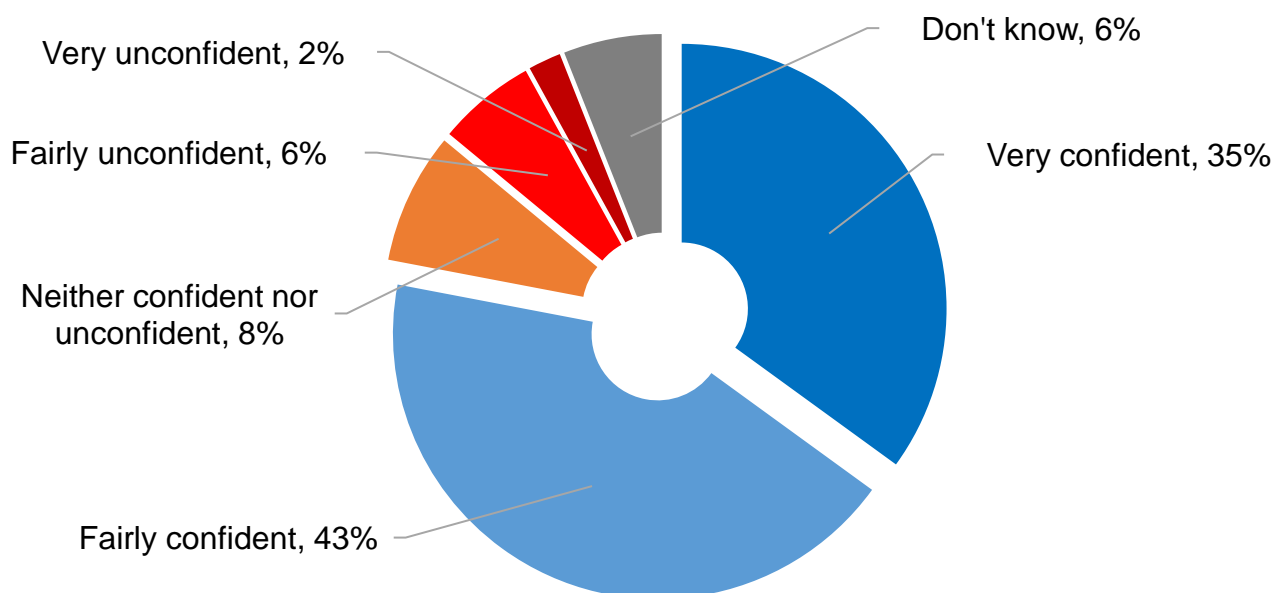
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## ‘Priority Species’ identification

Just over three quarters (78%) are confident that the priority species identified are correct. 8% indicated they are neither agree nor disagree and 8% disagree.

**Given the process and those involved, how confident are you that the priority species identified are correct?** Base: all responding (102).



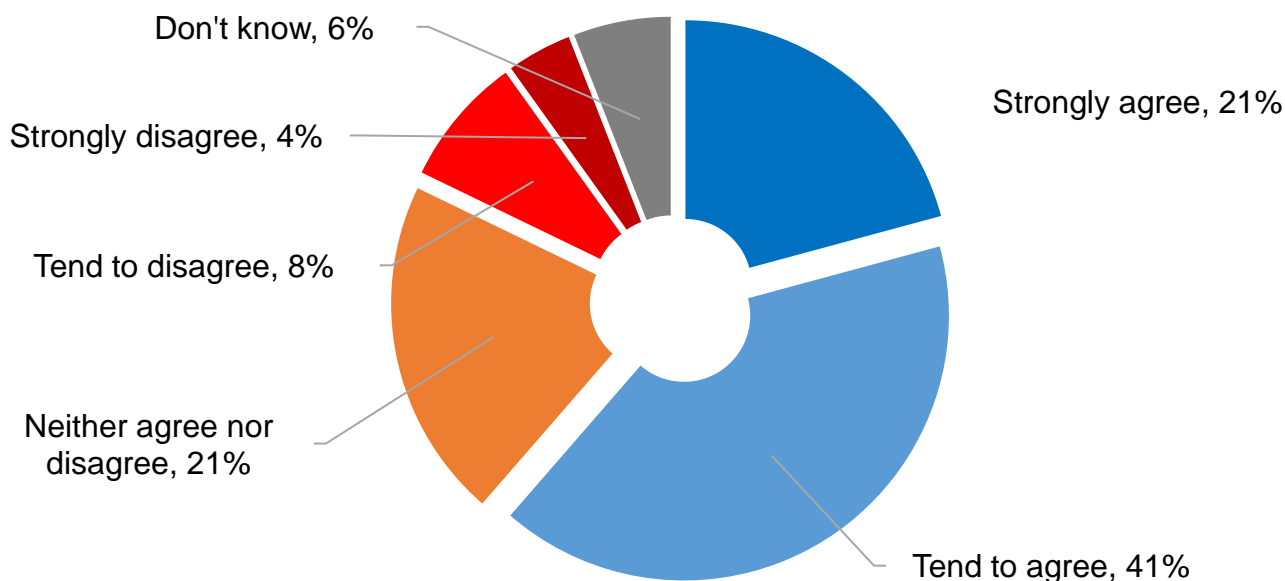
Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Confident	80	78%
Net – Not confident	8	8%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Very confident	36	35%
Fairly confident	44	43%
Neither confident nor unconfident	8	8%
Fairly unconfident	6	6%
Very unconfident	2	2%
Don't know	6	6%

## LNRS contribution towards halting the decline and aiding recovery of priority species

Just over six in ten (61%) agree that LNRS measures will halt the decline of, and aid the recovery, of priority species. Just over a fifth (21%) indicated they are neither agree nor disagree and 12% disagree.

**How much do you agree or disagree that LNRS measures will halt the decline of, and aid the recovery, of priority species...? Base: all responding (101).**



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	62	61%
Net – Disagree	12	12%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	21	21%
Tend to agree	41	41%
Neither agree nor disagree	21	21%
Tend to disagree	8	8%
Strongly disagree	4	4%
Don't know	6	6%

## Consultee feedback on level of confidence in identified priority species and measures will halt decline of, and aid recovery of, priority species

Consultees were given the opportunity to make any comments to provide context for their answers. Consultee comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. 18% of consultees provided a comment to this question.

15% of consultees answering noted species they believed to be missing.

**Please add any comments you would like to make about the following in the box below: the level of confidence you have with the identified priority species and/or your level of agreement that the measures will halt the decline of, and aid the recovery of, our priority species.** Base: all consultees providing a response (47).

	Number of responses	Percentage
Will not be prioritised by government / building and development is more important	7	15%
Some species have been omitted: skylarks, beavers, wading birds, saltmarsh species, river species, fish species, weasels, slow worms	7	15%
Needs action not just ambition	6	13%
Developers need to do more for nature / should be enforced / as part of planning applications	5	11%
Hopeful for success	5	11%
Doubtful of success	4	9%
Success will be impacted by other factors: connectivity, climate events	4	9%
Concerns about re-introduction: may cause more problems / work with what we have	4	9%
Good representative sample of species listed	4	9%
Unclear how this will be delivered	2	4%
Dispute some of the 'facts' (e.g. grasshopper numbers)	2	4%
Education is needed too	2	4%
Lack of joined up thinking (e.g. freshwater / saline)	1	2%

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about housing / development concerns can be found below:

**“The progress of building 1.5 million house with roads, schools etc seems unstoppable with nothing to stop the total annihilation. Just look at Ashford!”** (Landowner)

**“The LNRS will undoubtedly help to a degree. However, as mentioned previously the current and previous government's agendas do not support species recovery, especially on landscape scale.”** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

**“Actions to support certain species must be carefully considered to avoid causing unintended consequences on farm businesses and food production. Where wildlife**

**crossings e.g. green bridges, are being considered in the LNRS, it is important to be aware of the potential risks created by these structures, such as the spread of animal diseases and to consult with landowners about their potential location.” (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)**

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about species missing can be found below:

**“Why is there no mention of weasels? I’ve seen a decline in sightings over the years (outskirts of Canterbury) mainly due to new build developments/ loss of habitat. Surely we should be protecting this species. Slow worms also. Both organisms play a part in ecosystems.” (Individual)**

**“Skylark not included in priority species list although it is Red Listed? And it is one which can be voted for a flagship species for grassland. Why is this?” (Councillor)**

**“There are SPA specific species which are not included as individual species and only included under a broader definition, i.e. wading birds.” (Behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council)**

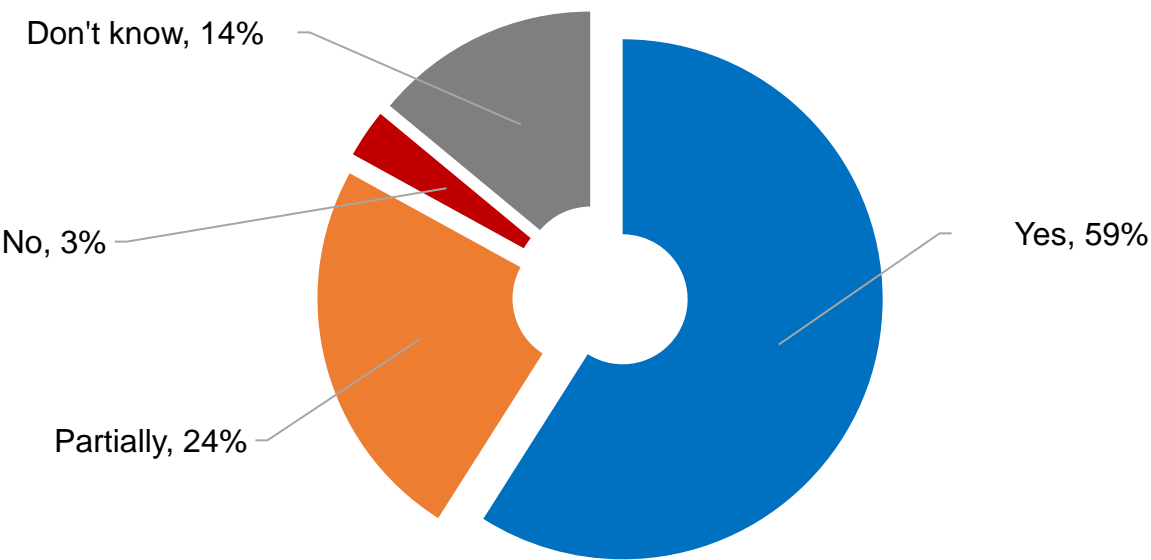
**“As stated previously, the focus is primarily on above ground biodiversity. The many species that live in the soil are under-represented, and soil as a habitat in its own right is mentioned mainly in the context of its support of above ground habitats.” (As a professional)**

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‘Grassland’ habitat priorities

Almost six in ten (59%) agree the right grassland habitats have been identified as priorities. 24% indicated they partially agree and 3% disagreed. 14% are unsure.

Are the right grassland habitats identified as priorities? Base: all responding (87).

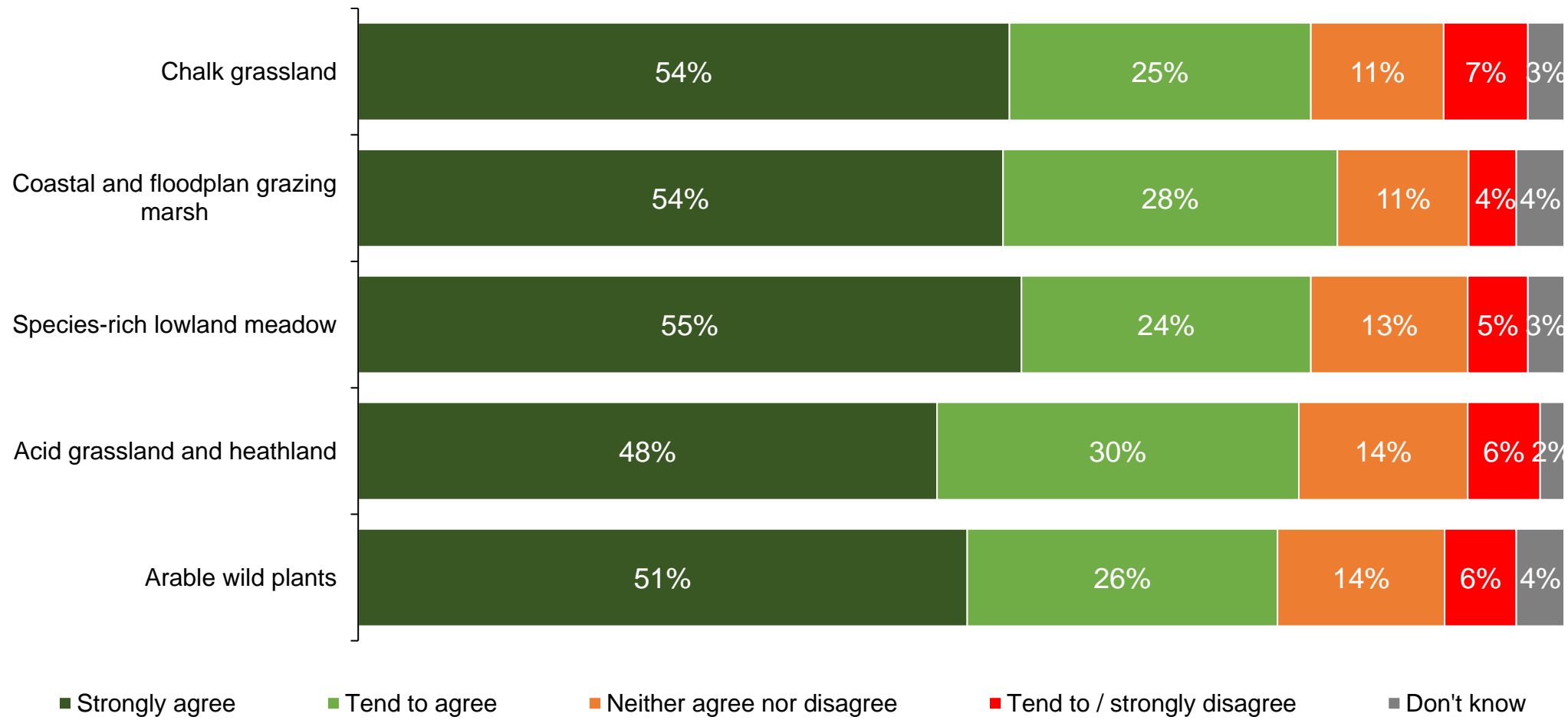


Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	51	59%
Partially	21	24%
No	3	3%
Don't know	12	14%

## Appropriateness of grassland habitat measures

Perceived appropriateness of each of the grassland habitat measures is high with around eight in ten agreeing with each (Chalk grassland – 79%, Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh – 81%, Species-rich lowland meadow – 79%, Acid grassland and heathland – 78%, Arable wild plants – 77%). Few consultees indicated they disagree with any of the measures presented.

**How much do you agree or disagree that the measures for each specific grassland habitat priority are appropriate?** Base: all responding (244-245).



## Chalk grassland

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	63	79%
Net – Disagree	5	7%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	43	54%
Tend to agree	20	25%
Neither agree nor disagree	9	11%
Tend to / strongly disagree	5	7%
Don't know	3	4%

## Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	65	81%
Net – Disagree	3	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	43	54%
Tend to agree	22	28%
Neither agree nor disagree	9	11%
Tend to / strongly disagree	3	4%
Don't know	3	4%

## Species-rich lowland meadow

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	62	79%
Net – Disagree	4	5%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	43	55%
Tend to agree	19	24%
Neither agree nor disagree	10	13%
Tend to / strongly disagree	4	5%
Don't know	2	3%

## Acid grassland and heathland

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	63	78%
Net – Disagree	5	6%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	39	48%
Tend to agree	24	30%
Neither agree nor disagree	11	14%
Tend to / strongly disagree	5	6%
Don't know	2	2%

## Arable wild plants

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	62	77%
Net – Disagree	5	6%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	41	51%
Tend to agree	21	26%
Neither agree nor disagree	11	14%
Tend to / strongly disagree	5	6%
Don't know	3	4%

## Consultee feedback on any grassland habitats that have been missed and/or the appropriateness of the measures

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide comments on any grassland habitats that have been missed and/or the appropriateness of the measures for each grassland habitat priority. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 22 consultees provided a comment to this question.

**“Some of the grassland measures on the mapping appear to include large swathes of the urban area in Thanet Westgate, Birchington, Palm Bay, Kingsgate and Broadstairs eg GL1.3, even though Appendix 2.1a states that urban land cover and adopted local plan allocations are removed. We suggests that these areas are removed from the mapping of this measure. Similarly, GL2.2 grazing marsh habitat includes large sections of the urban area around Margate Old Town and Cliftonville which is inappropriate and should be removed.”** (Behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council)



**“The priorities and potential measures are fine, but the maps need amending e.g. the map for priority GL1 (page 123) significantly underestimates the potential land area in which it would be possible to increase and link up chalk grasslands. The mapping of priority GL2 (page 125) treats Romney Marsh less generously than the Stour/Wantsum marshes, North Kent marshes, Sheppey marshes and Grain marshes. There are also some strange inclusions in the map for GL2 (e.g. land on top of the chalk cliffs at Capel-le-Ferne and St Margaret's-at-Cliffe has no potential for grazing marsh). The mapping of GL4 is also uneven - there is potential to restore/recreate acid grassland on the clay-with-flint soils that overly much of the North Downs e.g. mapping of historic common land could provide a focus for this habitat; e.g. Stelling Minnis, Rhodes Minnis, Swingfield Minnis, River Minnis, Ewell Minnis etc.”** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

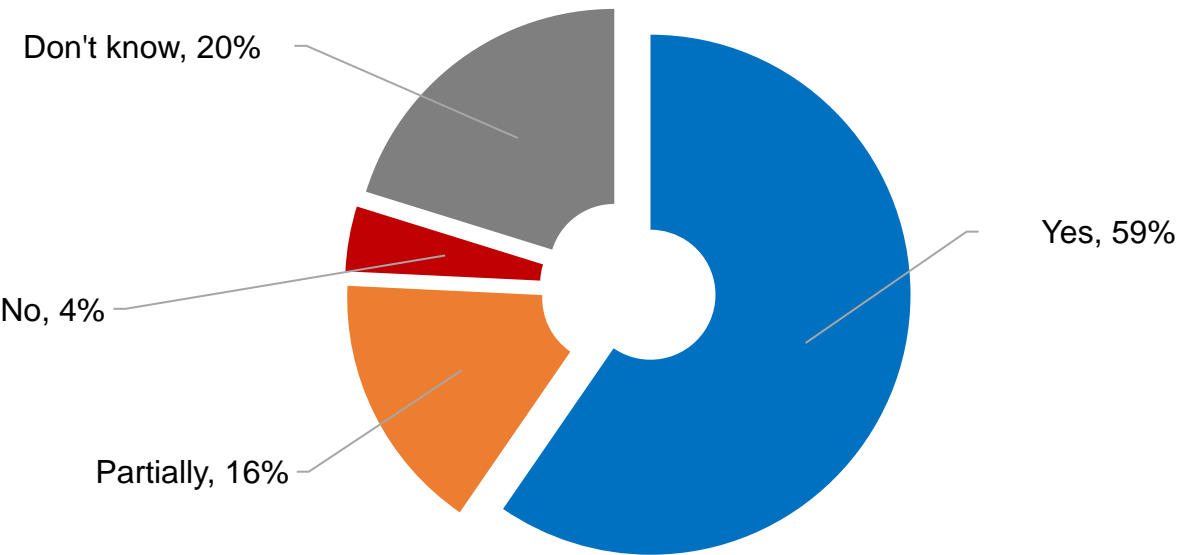
**“It isn't clear from the categories of grassland that the London clay meadow areas of the county are included in your lowland category. Clay meadows do have a characteristic flora community of their own and there should be some recognition given to the variability of lowland meadow.”** (Individual)

**“Chalk grassland is doing well and is likely to continue to do so. It's an important habitat internationally, but it doesn't reflect much of the county. Efforts should be concentrated in boosting the area of species-rich LMs, acid/ heath and arable wild plants. How about initiatives with adjacent counties for these? Experience is Sussex/Surrey could help boost efforts here. With Arable wild plants, how about drawing up a list and circulating to agronomists that do routing cropwalking? I have found 3 plants on the Kent Rare Plant register by simply looking closely at what is growing on field margins on our farm, There are a lot more out there to be found, particularly on field margins that are not sown.”** (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)

‘Successional’ habitats and measures

Almost six in ten (59%) agree the right types of successional habitats have been identified as priorities. 16% indicated they partially agree and 4% disagreed. 20% are unsure.

Are the right types of successional habitats identified as priorities? Base: all responding (74).

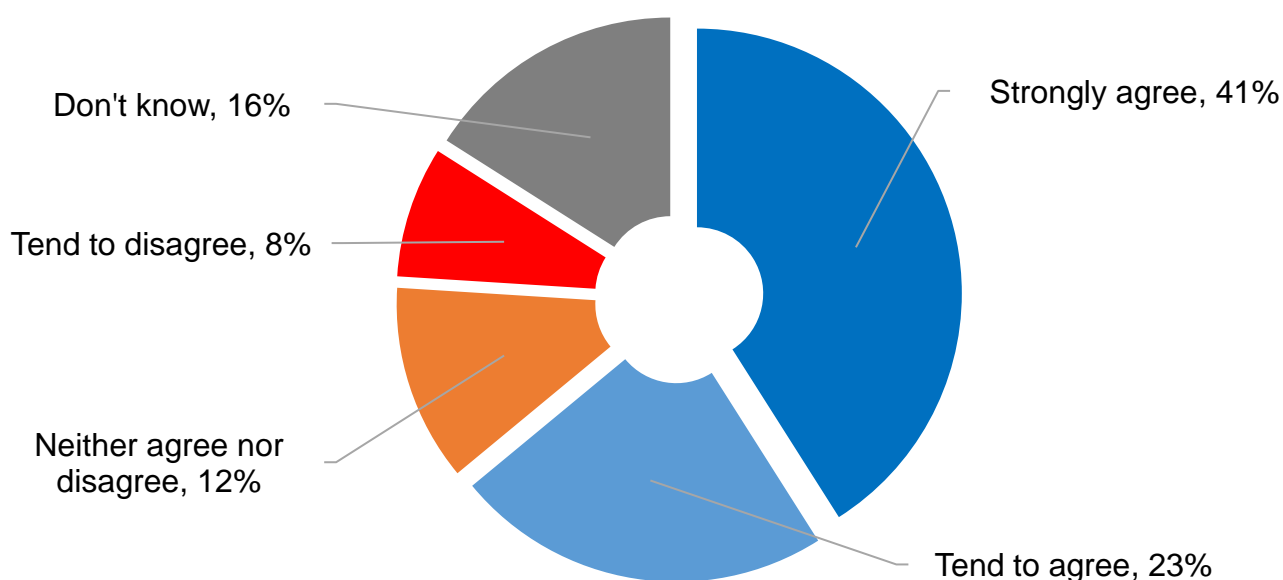


Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	44	59%
Partially	12	16%
No	3	4%
Don't know	15	20%

## Appropriateness of successional habitat measures

Almost two thirds (64%) agree the measures for successional habitats are appropriate. 12% indicated they neither agree nor disagree and 8% disagreed. 16% are unsure.

**How much do you agree or disagree that the measures for successional habitats are appropriate...?** Base: all responding (75).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	48	64%
Net – Disagree	18	8%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	31	41%
Tend to agree	17	23%
Neither agree nor disagree	9	12%
Tend to disagree	6	8%
Don't know	12	16%

## **Consultees comments on any successional habitats that have been missed and/or the appropriateness of the measures**

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide comments on any successional habitats that have been missed and/or the appropriateness of the measures for successional habitats. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 17 consultees provided a comment to this question.

**“Sand dunes are missing from the successional habitats. We have a number of LNRS priority species reliant on sand dunes in varying successional stages; all at risk from coastal processes with no room to move.”** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

**“Competition for Land Use: In areas like Thanet, where open land is limited and under pressure for housing, commercial, or agricultural use, prioritising space for successional habitats could face opposition. Habitat Management Challenges: Maintaining early successional habitats requires regular interventions, such as controlled grazing or disturbance. Without adequate funding and skilled personnel, these habitats could either degrade or revert to later successional stages. Public Perception: Scrubland or open mosaic habitats may be undervalued by the public, who often perceive them as unkempt or wasteful compared to manicured landscapes, potentially leading to resistance.”** (Behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council)

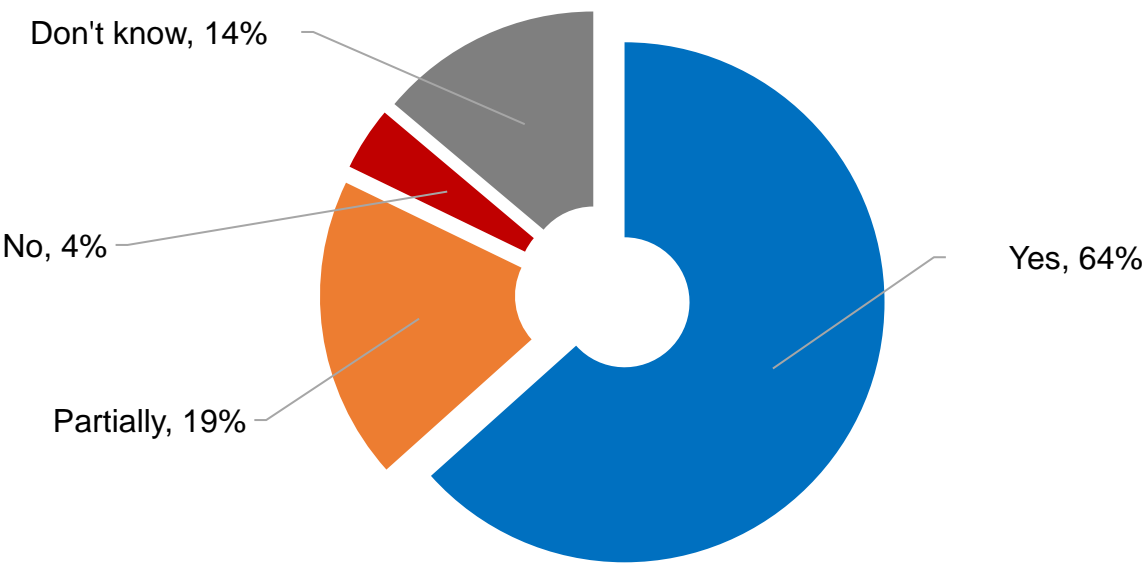
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‘Woodland, trees and hedgerows’ habitats

Almost two thirds (64%) agree the right types of woodland, trees and hedgerow habitats grassland habitats have been identified as priorities. 19% indicated they partially agree and 4% disagreed. 14% are unsure.

Are the right types of woodland, trees and hedgerow habitats identified as priorities?

Base: all responding (140).

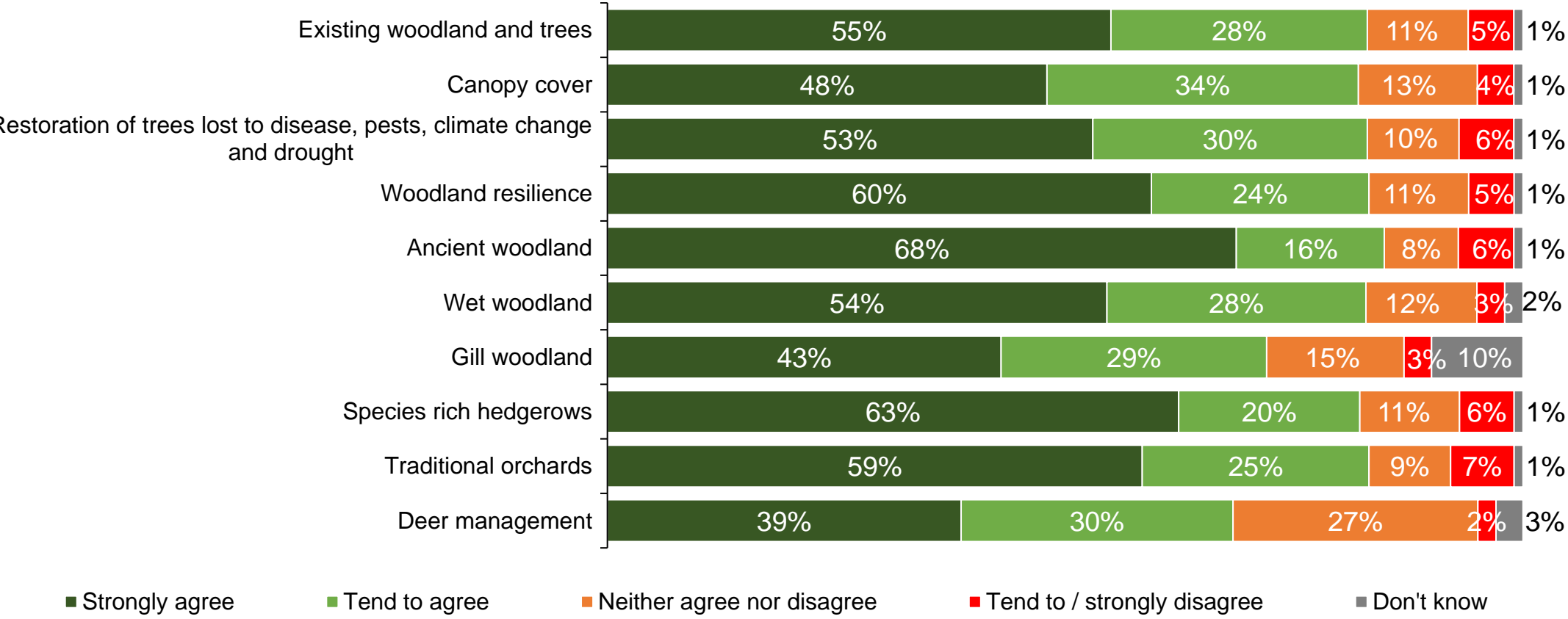


Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	89	64%
Partially	26	19%
No	6	4%
Don't know	19	14%

## Appropriateness of woodland, trees and hedgerow priority measures

Perceived appropriateness of the majority of woodland, trees and hedgerow measures is high with around eight in ten agreeing with each (Existing woodland and trees – 83%, Canopy cover – 82%, Restoration of trees lost to disease, pests, climate change and drought – 83%, Woodland resilience – 84%, Ancient woodland – 82%, Wet woodland – 82%, Species rich hedgerows – 83%, Traditional orchards – 84%). Agreement is lower in the context of Gill woodland (71%) and Deer Management (69%) but the proportion neither agreeing nor disagreeing or indicating they don't know are comparably higher for these measures.

**How much do you agree or disagree that the measures for each specific woodland, trees and hedgerows priority are appropriate?**  
Base: all responding (126-131).



## Existing woodland and trees

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	109	83%
Net – Disagree	7	5%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	72	55%
Tend to agree	37	28%
Neither agree nor disagree	14	11%
Tend to / strongly disagree	7	5%
Don't know	1	1%

## Canopy cover

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	107	82%
Net – Disagree	5	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	63	48%
Tend to agree	44	34%
Neither agree nor disagree	17	13%
Tend to / strongly disagree	5	4%
Don't know	1	1%

## Restoration of trees lost to disease, pests, climate change and drought

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	109	83%
Net – Disagree	8	6%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	70	53%
Tend to agree	39	30%
Neither agree nor disagree	13	10%
Tend to / strongly disagree	8	6%
Don't know	1	1%

## Woodland resilience

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	110	84%
Net – Disagree	6	5%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	79	60%
Tend to agree	31	24%
Neither agree nor disagree	14	11%
Tend to / strongly disagree	6	5%
Don't know	1	1%

## Ancient woodland

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	110	85%
Net – Disagree	8	6%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	89	68%
Tend to agree	21	16%
Neither agree nor disagree	11	8%
Tend to / strongly disagree	8	6%
Don't know	1	1%

## Wet woodland

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	106	82%
Net – Disagree	4	3%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	70	54%
Tend to agree	36	28%
Neither agree nor disagree	16	12%
Tend to / strongly disagree	4	3%
Don't know	3	2%



## Gill woodland

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	90	71%
Net – Disagree	4	3%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	54	43%
Tend to agree	36	29%
Neither agree nor disagree	19	15%
Tend to / strongly disagree	4	3%
Don't know	13	10%

## Species rich hedgerows

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	108	83%
Net – Disagree	7	5%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	82	63%
Tend to agree	26	20%
Neither agree nor disagree	14	11%
Tend to / strongly disagree	7	5%
Don't know	1	1%

## Traditional orchards

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	108	84%
Net – Disagree	8	6%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	76	59%
Tend to agree	32	25%
Neither agree nor disagree	12	9%
Tend to / strongly disagree	8	6%
Don't know	1	1%

## Deer management

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	88	69%
Net – Disagree	2	2%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	50	39%
Tend to agree	38	30%
Neither agree nor disagree	34	27%
Tend to / strongly disagree	2	2%
Don't know	4	3%

## Consultee feedback on any woodland, trees and hedgerows habitats that have been missed and/or the appropriateness of the measures

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide comments on any woodland, trees and hedgerows habitats that have been missed and/or the appropriateness of the measures for each woodland, trees and hedgerows habitats. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 18% of consultees provided a comment to this question.

**Please add any comments you would like to make about the following in the box below: any woodland, trees and hedgerows habitats that we have missed when identifying priorities and/or the appropriateness of the measures for woodland, trees and hedgerows habitats.**  
Base: all consultees providing a response (48).

	Number of responses	Percentage
Too many trees (including orchards) have been lost to developers, needs stricter control	12	25%
Specialist knowledge / management essential for: any tree / woodland planting (including replacing diseased / suitability of species), measuring and surveying	11	23%
More detail needed, e.g. on PAWS, hedgerows, what woodland, what trees? How implemented? Champion Trees?	9	19%
Support the aims, more trees need to be planted, important for biodiversity, plant more nut (for food) trees	8	17%
Ancient woodland needs to be protected by law / minimum 50m buffer, dark skies	7	15%
Some mapping incorrect / areas missed, e.g.: Fauchons Valley, what about parkland?	6	13%
Hedgerows: leave what exists, promote wildlife hedge laying	4	8%
Doubtful will achieve aims, complicated and difficult to undertake	4	8%
Agree with deer management (including grey squirrels too)	3	6%

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about loss of trees / developer concerns can be found below:

**“Traditional orchards have declined for commercial reasons. Added economic pressures on growers are unlikely to encourage their reinstatement. Traditional orchards could be better encouraged through community and charity use.”** (Professional)

**“The issue of mapping Ancient woodlands and protecting is critical. Over many years these areas have been designated and mapped in District databases but some have been lost through development, planning and poor compliance during updating records.”** (Behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council )

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about specialist knowledge / management can be found below:

**“Trees such as Ash and Elm are suffering the impact of pest and disease that may not be controllable so restoring them might not be practical. Deer management has to be a priority to restore the scrub and nectar layer in woodland to help rebuild woodland ecosystems. Closed canopy woodland is not a suitable solution but mosaic of scrub, woodland and glades is required.”** (Business)

**“The current method of measuring net biodiversity gain/ loss is flawed. It relies on a developer assigning a competent person( undefined as to how) and permits removal of established habitats like mature trees and hedgerows to be replaced with new and much smaller versions, which will take decades to achieve the state of those removed, causing the loss of the resident species until that time and that is considered a gain!”** (Individual)

**“The invasive nature and lack of associated diversity associated with Sycamore means that I don't think its planting should be advocated. Other native alternatives are appropriate to replace Ash, e.g. Small-leaved Lime. Promote wildlife hedgelaying, alongside the other methods, which is a much faster, cheaper method and better for wildlife than traditional hedgelaying or coppicing. It is more likely to get done than the other methods because it is quicker and easier...and better for wildlife.”** (Other)

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about detail required can be found below:

**“I am lucky to have substantial hedging in my close locality but it is regularly ‘flailed’ which is resulting in gaps and reduction of species variation. Vegetation below the hedge on roadside used to contain many wildflower species but now mostly cow parsley and nettle. Your strategy mentions hedging and its maintenance but again it’s not clear how you will achieve this. I don’t know who to approach, so could it be made clear in the strategy and publicised how a member of the public with concerns can raise them.”** (Other)

**“‘WTH4.2 Where appropriate, promote the restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) sites to a more species rich woodland.’ This is the first mention of PAWS in the document. PAWS are legally defined as ancient woodland. However, no previous explanation of this in the document could be unintentionally misleading. PAWS habitats,**

**especially rotational coppice, create a rich mosaic habitat for many specialist and at risk species (such as the hazel dormouse). Perhaps a brief explanation of what ancient woodland is would be helpful and remove any risk of doubt about when restoration is and isn't 'appropriate.'** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

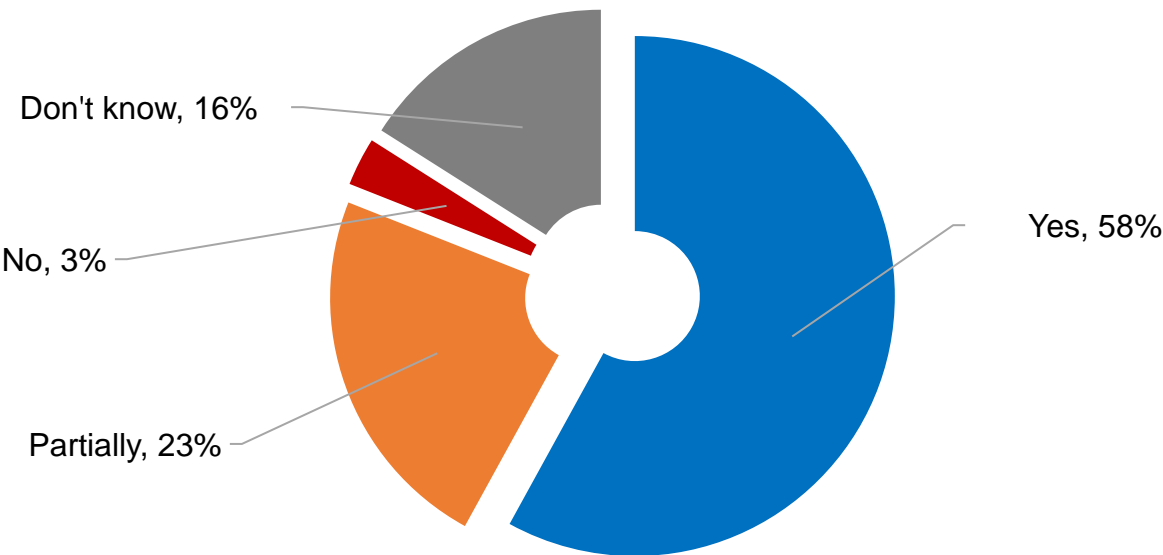
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‘Freshwater’ habitats

Almost six in ten (58%) agree the right freshwater habitats have been identified as priorities. 23% indicated they partially agree and 3% disagreed. 16% are unsure.

Are the right freshwater habitats identified as priorities?

Base: all responding (113).

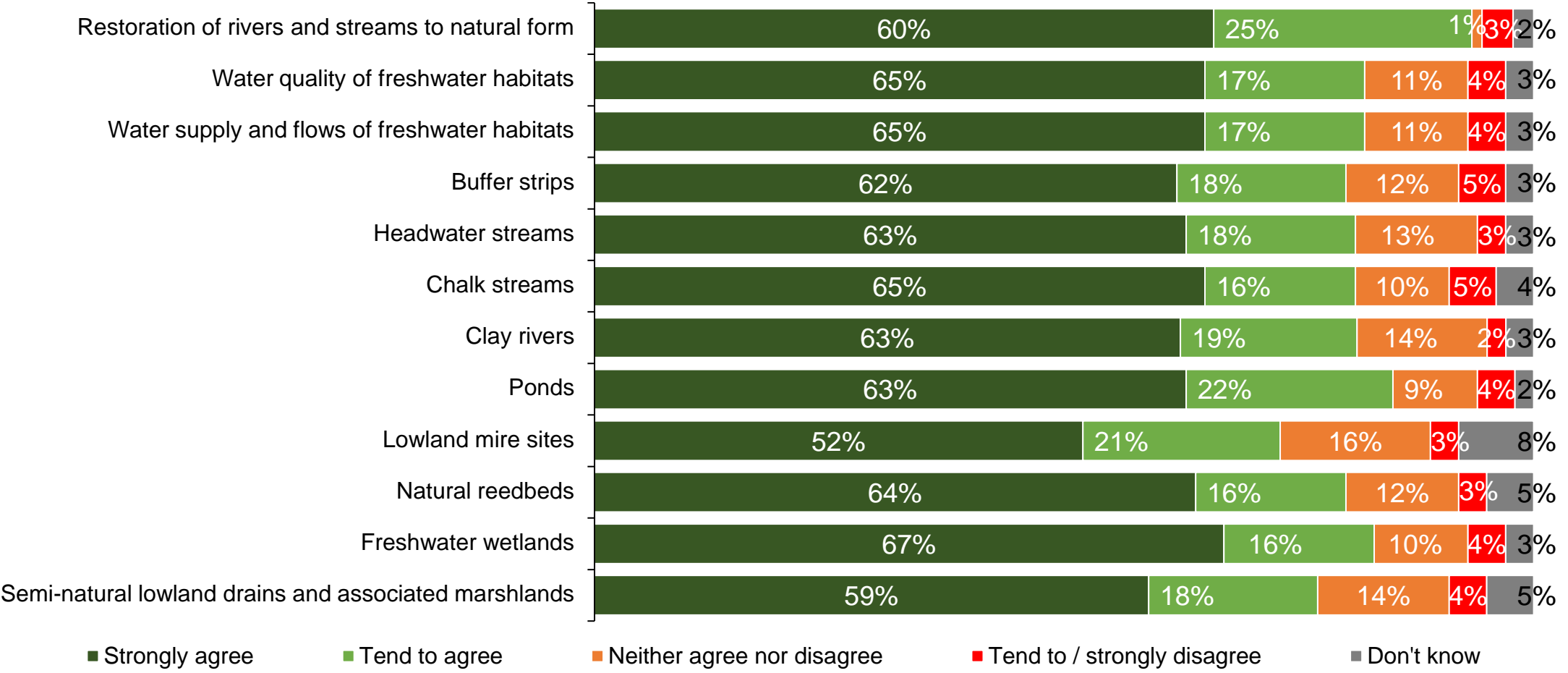


Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	66	58%
Partially	26	23%
No	3	3%
Don't know	18	16%

## Appropriateness of freshwater priority measures

Perceived appropriateness of the majority of freshwater measures is high with around eight in ten agreeing with each (Restoration of rivers and streams to natural form – 85%, Water quality of freshwater habitats – 82%, Buffer strips – 82%, Headwater streams – 80%, Chalk streams – 81%, Clay rivers – 81%, Ponds – 85%, Natural reedbeds – 80%. Freshwater wetlands – 83%). Agreement is lower in the context of Lowland mire sites (74%) and Semi-natural lowland drains and associated marshlands (77%) but the proportion neither agreeing nor disagreeing or indicating they don't know are comparably higher for these measures.

How much do you agree or disagree that the measures for each specific freshwater priority are appropriate? Base: all responding (126-131).



## Restoration of rivers and streams to natural form

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	89	85%
Net – Disagree	3	3%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	63	60%
Tend to agree	26	25%
Neither agree nor disagree	11	10%
Tend to / strongly disagree	3	3%
Don't know	2	2%

## Water quality of freshwater habitats

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	87	82%
Net – Disagree	4	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	69	65%
Tend to agree	18	17%
Neither agree nor disagree	12	11%
Tend to / strongly disagree	4	4%
Don't know	3	3%

## Water supply and flows of freshwater habitats

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	87	82%
Net – Disagree	4	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	69	65%
Tend to agree	18	17%
Neither agree nor disagree	12	11%
Tend to / strongly disagree	4	4%
Don't know	3	3%

## Buffer strips

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	84	80%
Net – Disagree	5	5%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	65	62%
Tend to agree	19	18%
Neither agree nor disagree	13	12%
Tend to / strongly disagree	5	5%
Don't know	3	3%

## Headwater streams

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	84	81%
Net – Disagree	3	3%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	65	63%
Tend to agree	19	18%
Neither agree nor disagree	14	13%
Tend to / strongly disagree	3	3%
Don't know	3	3%

## Chalk streams

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	85	81%
Net – Disagree	5	5%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	68	65%
Tend to agree	17	16%
Neither agree nor disagree	11	10%
Tend to / strongly disagree	5	5%
Don't know	4	4%



## Clay rivers

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	83	81%
Net – Disagree	2	2%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	64	63%
Tend to agree	19	19%
Neither agree nor disagree	14	14%
Tend to / strongly disagree	2	2%
Don't know	3	3%

## Ponds

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	90	85%
Net – Disagree	4	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	67	63%
Tend to agree	23	22%
Neither agree nor disagree	10	9%
Tend to / strongly disagree	4	4%
Don't know	2	2%

## Lowland mire sites

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	76	74%
Net – Disagree	3	3%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	54	52%
Tend to agree	22	21%
Neither agree nor disagree	16	16%
Tend to / strongly disagree	3	3%
Don't know	8	8%

## Natural reedbeds

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	84	80%
Net – Disagree	3	3%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	67	64%
Tend to agree	17	16%
Neither agree nor disagree	13	12%
Tend to / strongly disagree	3	3%
Don't know	5	5%

## Freshwater wetlands sites

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	89	83%
Net – Disagree	4	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	72	67%
Tend to agree	17	6%
Neither agree nor disagree	11	10%
Tend to / strongly disagree	4	4%
Don't know	3	3%

## Semi-natural lowland drains and associated marshlands

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	80	77%
Net – Disagree	4	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	61	59%
Tend to agree	19	18%
Neither agree nor disagree	15	14%
Tend to / strongly disagree	4	4%
Don't know	5	5%

## **Consultee feedback on any freshwater habitats that have been missed and/or the appropriateness of the measures**

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide comments on any freshwater habitats that have been missed and/or the appropriateness of the measures for each freshwater habitats. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 44 consultees provided a comment to this question.

**“More focus on groundwater sources is needed. This should also link to the opportunities that adequate consideration of source protection zones in planning would give for biodiversity gain. It is also really important that a distinction is made in the LNRS between natural reedbeds and constructed wetlands. We have concerns about the creation of constructed wetlands in the chalk and the potential for this to impact not just the environment but also sources of public water supply.”** (Business)

**“More clarity on how the plan will interact with pond creation projects such as District Level Licensing and the potential new planning and nature laws that have been proposed-would be good to see that these linkages/potential linkages have been acknowledged and planned for. Lots on work on pond creation is ongoing for DLL and there is potential for this plan to be subject to be integral to any changes in planning law and environmental protection. It would be important to add a priority for water around partnership working. In such a multi-faceted industry with so many players it is essential to work together and to acknowledge the value of this in the LNRS in its own priority would highlight the importance and also acknowledge that there are many other players in the water industry who have an integral role to play in delivering the outcomes of the LNRS.”** (Professional)

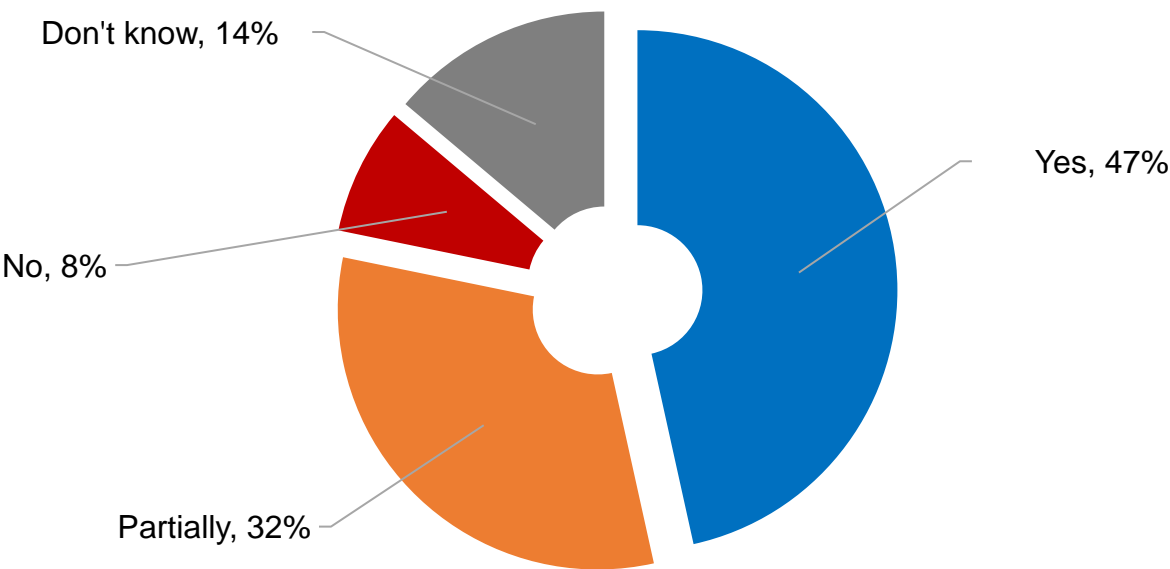
**“Reedbeds can be incorporated into urban and peri-urban projects, along with ponds.”** (Professional)

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‘Urban’ priorities

Almost half (47%) agree the right areas of focus have been identified as priorities for urban areas. 32% indicated they partially agree and 8% disagreed. 14% are unsure.

Are the right areas of focus identified as priorities for urban areas? Base: all responding (88).

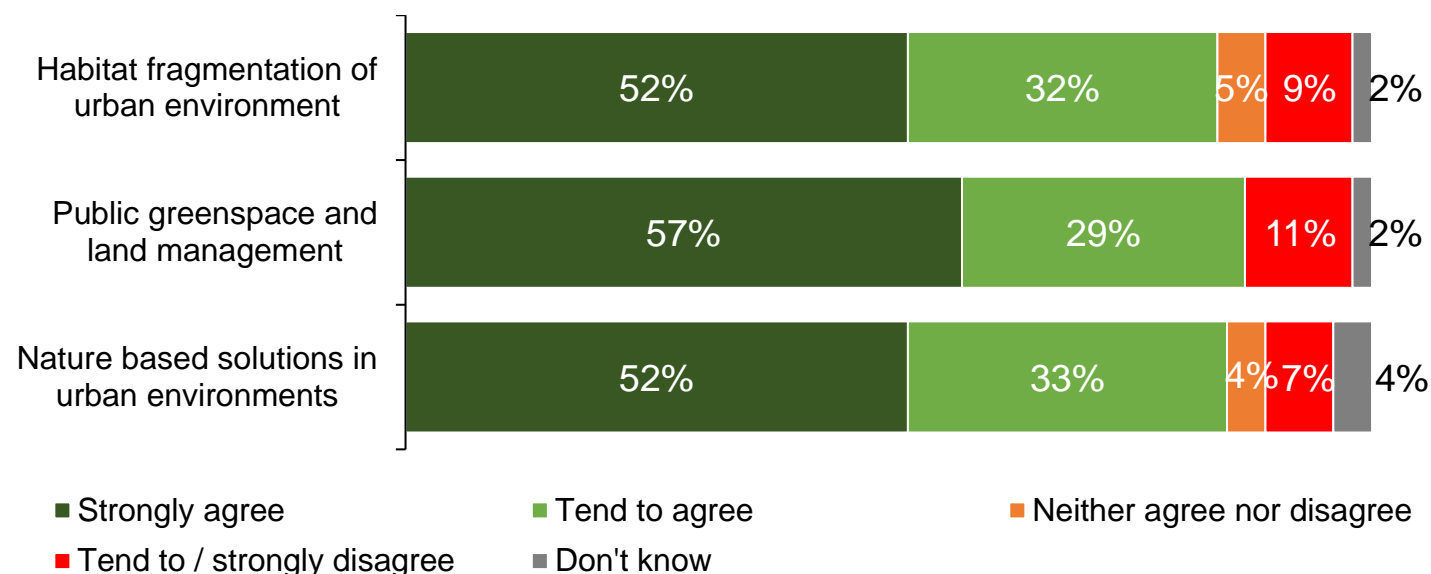


Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	41	47%
Partially	28	32%
No	7	8%
Don't know	12	14%

## Appropriateness of urban priority measures

Perceived appropriateness of the majority of urban priority measures is high with over eight in ten agreeing with each (Habitat fragmentation of urban environment – 84%, Public greenspace and land management – 87%, Nature based solutions in urban environments – 85%).

**How much do you agree or disagree that the measures for each specific urban priority area are appropriate?** Base: all responding (82)



### Habitat fragmentation of urban environment

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	69	84%
Net – Disagree	7	9%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	43	52%
Tend to agree	26	32%
Neither agree nor disagree	4	5%
Tend to / strongly disagree	4	9%
Don't know	2	2%

### Public greenspace and land management

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	71	87%
Net – Disagree	9	11%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	47	57%
Tend to agree	24	29%
Neither agree nor disagree	0	0%
Tend to / strongly disagree	9	11%
Don't know	2	2%

### Nature based solutions in urban environments

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	70	85%
Net – Disagree	6	7%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	43	52%
Tend to agree	27	33%
Neither agree nor disagree	3	4%
Tend to / strongly disagree	6	7%
Don't know	3	4%

### Consultee feedback on any urban areas that have been missed and/or the appropriateness of the measures

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide comments on any urban areas that have been missed and/or the appropriateness of the measures for urban areas. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 37 consultees provided a comment to this question.

**“The aims of this habitat type are excellent but not always easy to achieve. Planting street trees in clay areas for example can have serious consequences for buildings nearby. However, my main issue with this lies with future planning. It is obvious to me that current developments do not make sufficient provision for this, certainly not those in my local area. More priority allocated to nature is essential for the planning success of future developments.”** (Individual)

**“SuDS needs to be better regulated and long term risks better understood for ponds/reedbeds picking up contaminants and risk to wildlife frequenting these locations.”** (Individual)

**“I think we should also include private gardens and incentivise private owners to (where possible) create wildlife habitat or attract wildlife in their garden and restrict the use of chemicals to absolute minimum by good practice and good mix of native plant species. Professional Gardeners should be trained specifically in this area.”** (Individual)

**“There is a missed opportunity without a focus on public education and engagement in the management of private gardens. No Mow May is a great initiative, but nature-friendly garden management should be promoted. More native plants, less use of chemicals, more composting, control of domestic cats, less paving over and so on. Also, recreation areas have scant mention - golf courses in particular are mentioned only in the context of one species (Bur Medick) and not general best practice guidance for broader biodiversity enhancements for soil protection and other species.”** (Professional)

**“Arts-based public engagement and education programmes also needed.”** (Individual)

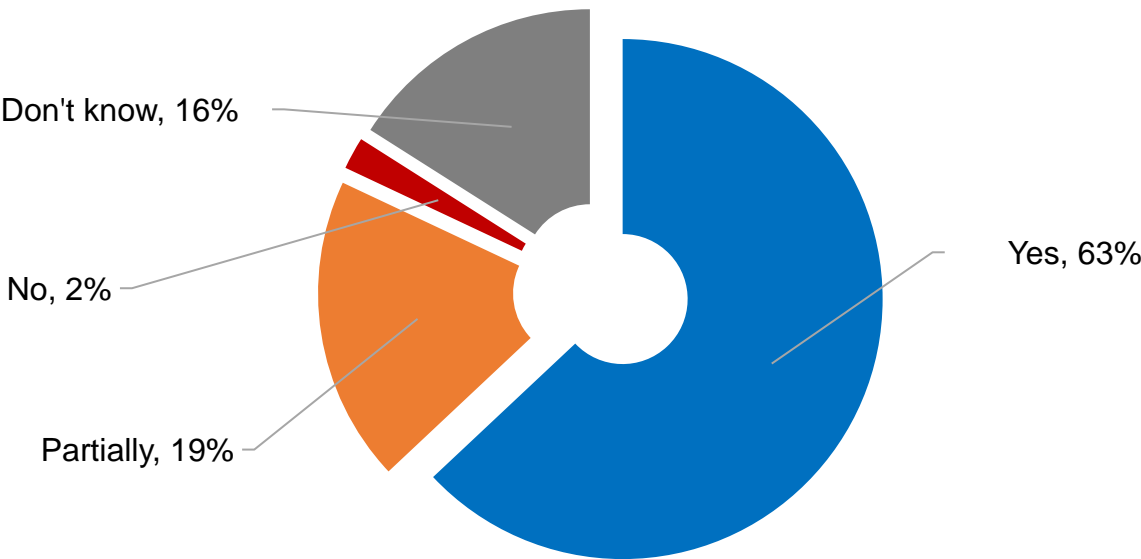
**“We would welcome a commitment in the strategy around prevention of development in Source Protection Zones. Development in this area not only poses a risk to water supply but also these zones which are spread throughout the county would give opportunities to link or focus areas of habitat enhancement.”** (On behalf of a business)

**“The regeneration of ultra managed urban areas as mixed habitats, somewhat contiguous with 'wild' habitats, is relatively unexplored.”** (Parish, Town, Borough, District or County Councillor)

‘Coastal’ habitats

Almost two thirds (63%) agree the right types of coastal habitats have been identified as priorities. 19% indicated they partially agree and 2% disagreed. 16% are unsure.

Are the right types of coastal habitats identified as priorities? Base: all responding (86).



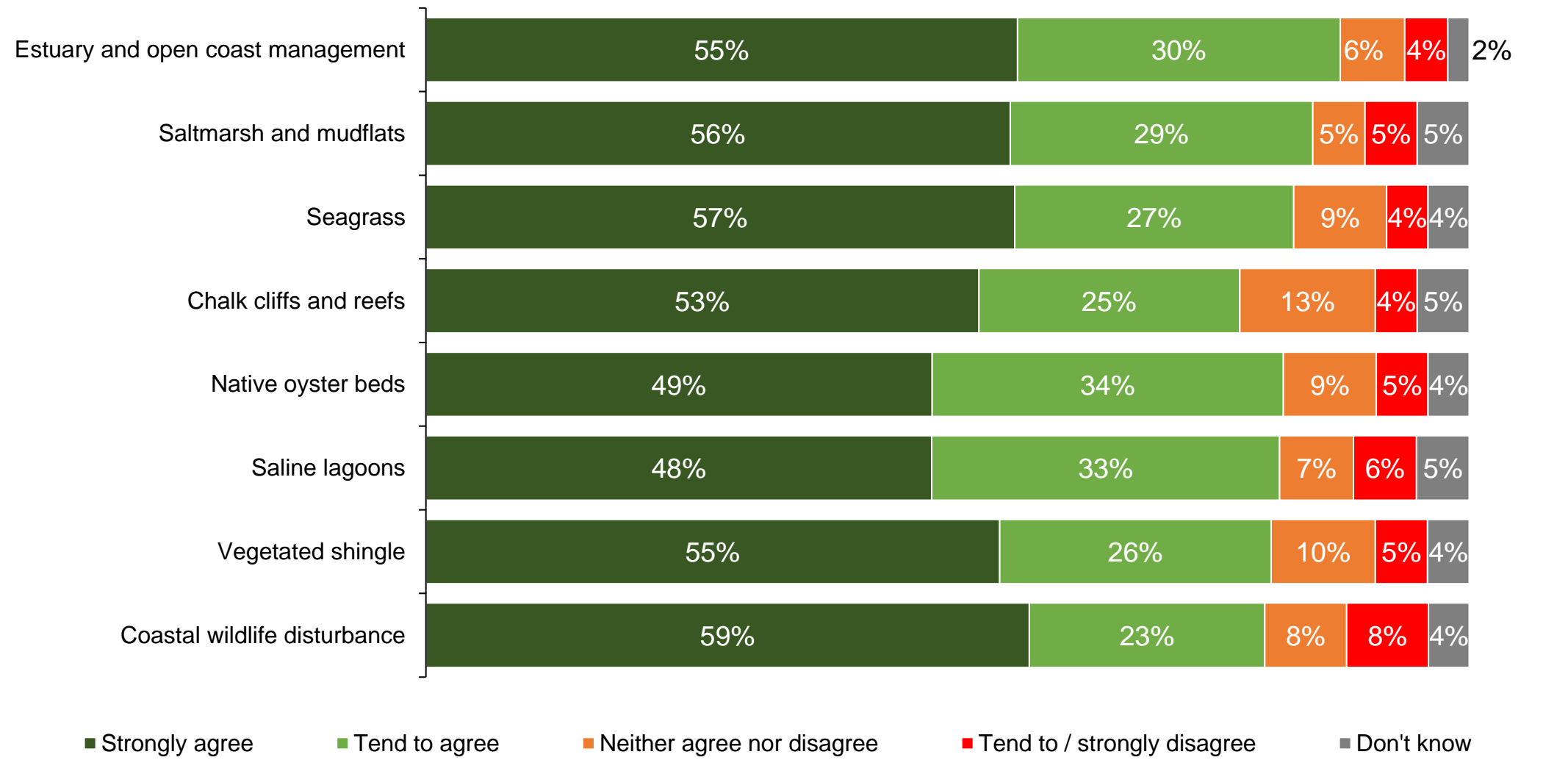
Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	54	63%
Partially	16	19%
No	2	2%
Don't know	14	16%



## Appropriateness of coastal habitat measures

Perceived appropriateness of the majority of coastal habitat priority measures is high with over eight in ten agreeing with each (Estuary and open coast management – 85%, Saltmarsh and mudflats – 85%, Seagrass – 84%, Chalk cliffs and reefs – 78%, Native oyster beds – 83%, Saline lagoons – 81%, Vegetated shingle – 81%, Coastal wildlife disturbance – 81%).

How much do you agree or disagree that the measures for each specific coastal habitat priority are appropriate? Base: all responding (80-131).



## Estuary and open coast management

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	68	85%
Net – Disagree	3	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	44	55%
Tend to agree	24	30%
Neither agree nor disagree	5	6%
Tend to / strongly disagree	3	4%
Don't know	4	5%

## Saltmarsh and mudflats

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	70	85%
Net – Disagree	4	5%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	46	56%
Tend to agree	24	29%
Neither agree nor disagree	4	5%
Tend to / strongly disagree	4	5%
Don't know	4	5%

## Seagrass

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	68	84%
Net – Disagree	3	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	46	57%
Tend to agree	22	27%
Neither agree nor disagree	7	9%
Tend to / strongly disagree	3	4%
Don't know	3	4%

## Chalk cliffs and reefs

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	62	78%
Net – Disagree	3	4%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	42	53%
Tend to agree	20	25%
Neither agree nor disagree	10	13%
Tend to / strongly disagree	3	4%
Don't know	4	5%

## Native oyster beds

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	66	83%
Net – Disagree	4	5%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	39	49%
Tend to agree	27	34%
Neither agree nor disagree	7	9%
Tend to / strongly disagree	4	5%
Don't know	3	4%

## Saline lagoons

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	66	81%
Net – Disagree	5	6%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	39	48%
Tend to agree	27	33%
Neither agree nor disagree	6	7%
Tend to / strongly disagree	5	6%
Don't know	4	5%

## Vegetated shingle

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	65	81%
Net – Disagree	4	5%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	44	55%
Tend to agree	21	26%
Neither agree nor disagree	8	10%
Tend to / strongly disagree	4	5%
Don't know	3	4%

## Coastal wildlife disturbance

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	65	81%
Net – Disagree	6	8%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	47	59%
Tend to agree	18	23%
Neither agree nor disagree	6	8%
Tend to / strongly disagree	6	8%
Don't know	3	4%

## Consultee feedback on any coastal habitats that have been missed and/or the appropriateness of the measures

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide comments on any coastal habitats that have been missed and/or the appropriateness of the measures for coastal habitats. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 27 consultees provided a comment to this question.

**“Too many coastal species are being washed up dead facing extinction in years to come we need to realise the importance of managing our coastline and waters.”** (Individual)

**“The prioritisation must address the headline stresses that continue to assail our natural assets, including water polluting activities, including undertreatment of sewage.”**  
(Councillor)

**“No mention of the need to address litter, sea dumping and illegal tipping that affect the marine environment. Not specific enough on coastal wildlife disturbance. I have reported incidents to BirdWise, but although they have an occasional presence I haven’t seen any**

**“We encourage the LNRS to use the phrase ‘significant disturbance’ in LNRS documentation as this provides conceptual clarity to what phrases like ‘reduce disturbance’ (CL1.2 and CL1.4 and CL8) mean in terms of the required outcome. What is important is to note in the document, and most certainly in delivery, is the objective is to avoid significant disturbance. This is different from disturbance in general terms because it needs to result in material impacts on a population. Work under the African and Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (see section 3) has looked at what significant disturbance for birds is. It considers these to be, changed location distribution on a continuing basis, changed local abundance on a sustained basis or reduction in the ability of any significant group of birds to survive, breed, or rear their young. It is a good model to work from to determine where the disturbance level is an issue or not. Therefore, it would be helpful to make clear the issue is significant disturbance anywhere in the LNRS documentation.” (Nature-based charity or organisation)**

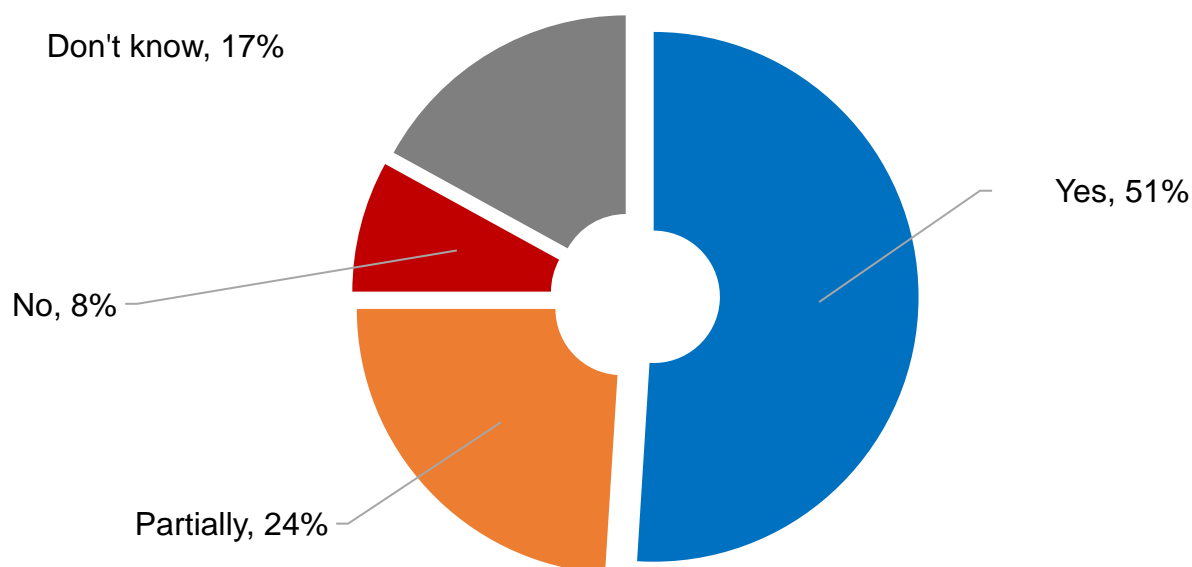
**“Under nature-based solutions consider including oyster restoration for water quality. CL3.1 “Reduce pollution which is causing smothering of seagrass by intercepting with reedbed filtration”. This is an untested intervention. Although it is a great idea I think the priority needs to be reduce pollution smothering seagrass and the method is still to be determined but must also include a reduction in the amount of pollution entering the environment also. CL3.2 “Remove invasive spartina to reduce smothering of seagrass” - again previous attempts at removing spartina have had mixed success. Removal of threats for seagrass should include recreational disturbance from bait digging, trampling etc. Measure CL3.3 includes some very discrete areas in the webapp, but these do not align with modelling work. Measure CL5.1,5.2,5.3 These areas don’t seem to align with datasets. CL5.1 “Safeguard established areas with no take zones”. A NTZ is unlikely to be possible for oyster protection and it is certain way to lose the support of other stakeholders including fishers. We would support changing this with “Safeguard established areas with potential protected areas and management measures”. Native oyster restoration is just starting to be discussed in Kent, this dialogue of NTZ could be detrimental to future work. CL5.2 “Remove invasive, non-native species from the native beds” although this would be a nice ideal, marine non-native species are very difficult to remove and therefore this is unlikely to be successful. Perhaps as this is a habitat that is data deficient perhaps an action around better data, evidence and/or mapping is needed to inform the priority's delivery. CL5 “Map and monitor the native oyster beds” could usefully include “Map and monitor the native oyster beds to identify priority areas for native oyster restoration”. CL5.3 “Create suitable substrate for native oysters to colonise, focussing on existing/historic areas”. Could this also include ...”address the lack of larvae in the landscape” as oysters reefs tend to be substrate and/or larvae limited. Lastly native oyster is an animal so could be one of the priority species.” (Nature-based charity or organisation)**

**“For native oyster, we answered “Strongly Disagree” due to Measure CL5.1. The area covered by CL5.1 in the LNRS webmap is vast (noting that this is different to that map presented on page 227 of the LNRS Part 2). In addition, we cannot see any consideration within the LNRS documentation for how the location of native oyster no take zones will be developed in collaboration with the fisheries that operate in this area.” (Other)**

## Provision of enough detail to understand how to use strategy

Just over half (51%) agree the section provides enough detail to understand how they could use the strategy to inform personal nature recovery. Almost a quarter (24%) indicated they partially agree and 8% disagreed. 17% are unsure.

**Does this section of the LNRS provide enough detail for you to understand how to use the strategy to inform your nature recovery(s)?** Base: all responding (239).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	121	51%
Partially	57	24%
No	20	8%
Don't know	41	17%

The proportion selecting 'Yes' is higher amongst professionals, organisation volunteers and councillors. Agreement is comparably lower amongst individual consultees, nature related charities or organisations, farmers / growers / farming related organisations and landowners, however there is some uncertainty across these consultee types.

Number selecting by consultee type	Yes	Partially	No	Don't know
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=150)	73	35	12	30
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	5	1	1	0
As a professional (base size=9)	7	2	0	0
As a landowner (base size=12)	4	4	1	3
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	4	1	1	2
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	7	1	2	1
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (n=9)	6	1	0	2
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (n=16)	8	5	1	2

## **Consultee feedback on detail provided**

Consultees who provided a rating of 'partially' or 'no' were asked to detail reason(s) for their answer. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 37 consultees provided a comment to this question.

**Please tell us the reason for your answer.**

Need for action / enforcement

**"I think it needs more specific detail. It just sounds great and I applaud the principles and would love them to all come to fruition but I can't find the detail. If it is just recommendations how is it not going to lose out to developers and their greed?"** (Individual)

**"Actions need to be defined and a communication strategy including an escalation process. There is no sense of who is to be held to account."** (Individual)

**"No information on local groups made available to enable involvement with any actions outlined."** (Individual)

**"If, as it seems, the strategy can only be used on an advisory basis, and it's not clear how a member of the public can access help with something that needs action on a higher level or some kind of enforcement then I am not overly confident of the aims of the strategy having much impact."** (Other)

**"There are lots of bland statements but what is actually going to happen to make a significant difference. How will changes take place and what will change look like? e.g. give support to more farmers to help them to change their grazing practises, provide markets for local produce, promote agroecological farming methods, KCC should commit to purchasing 100% of all its food from within Kent or the SE. Some specific actions and goals are needed. It will otherwise be toothless."** (Landowner)

Need for simplicity to aid understanding / improve relevance

**"It depends on who may be using the strategy. The initial paragraph could perhaps be made into 2 simpler sentences for greatest inclusion and understanding of the document. Could there be a 'How to use this strategy' section, perhaps with a visual flow-chart of where to start, for likely users?"** (Other)

**"It's ok for most but more layman terms needed and needs to be advertised more widespread in local newspapers etc."** (Individual)

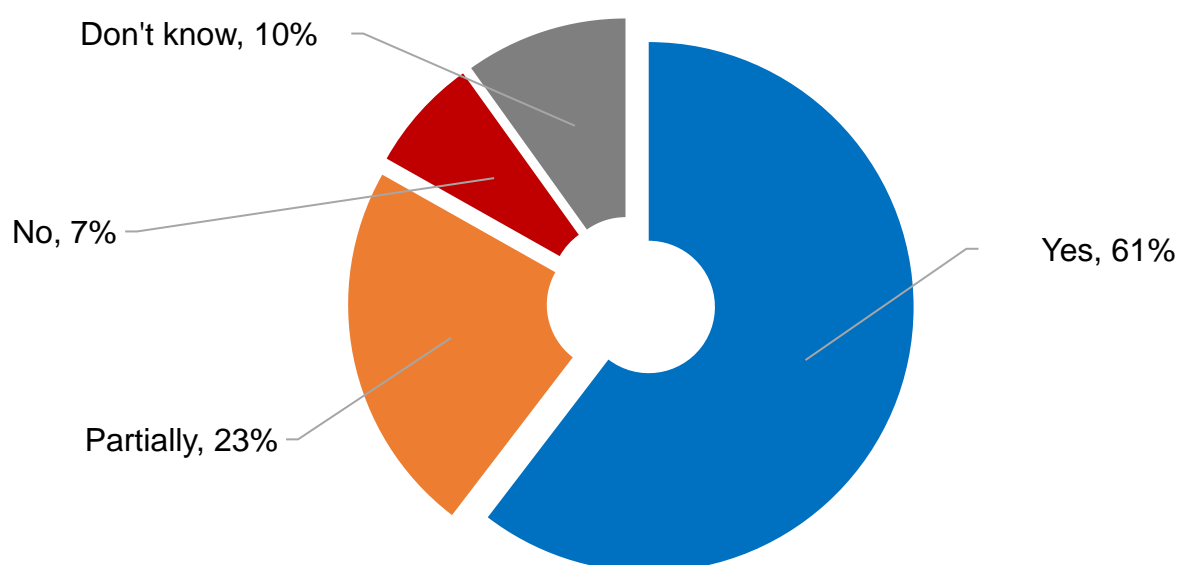
**"There is so much information it is difficult to absorb it all! We don't think action steps on the ground are clearly defined as yet. The document is very high level strategic thinking but what can the average person do to help?"** (Representative of a local community group or residents' association)

## Consultation feedback – Kent and Medway LNRS mapping

### Clarity of Strategy maps

Just over six in ten (61%) agree the purposes of the Strategy maps and how they were devised is clear. Almost a quarter (23%) indicated they partially agree and 7% disagreed. 10% are unsure.

**From Chapter 1 of Part 2, are the purposes of the Strategy maps, and how they were devised clear?** Base: all responding (230).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	140	61%
Partially	54	23%
No	14	6%
Don't know	22	10%



The proportion selecting 'Yes' is higher amongst professionals, organisation volunteers and councillors. Agreement is comparably lower amongst individual consultees, although a proportion are unsure. Agreement is also comparably lower amongst farmers / growers / farming related organisations, council representatives and landowners with higher proportions partially agreeing.

<b>Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Partially</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=145)	86	33	8	18
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	6	1	0	0
As a professional (base size=8)	8	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=9)	3	5	1	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=6)	3	2	1	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	5	6	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	8	0	1	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=17)	10	3	2	2

### **Consultee feedback on how mapping could be made clearer**

Consultees who provided a rating of 'partially' or 'no' were asked to detail how the maps could be made clearer. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 28 consultees provided a comment to this question. Some express concerns about how easy they are to use.

**Please tell us how the mapping could be made clearer.**

**“Maps showing areas like Low or High Weald or Greensands are meaningless unless you can identify where they exist. Without information on main town locations superimposed on maps it is virtually impossible to identify where these boundaries are located. This undermined my ability to interpret the data and remain interested.”** (Individual)

**“I'm not sure how easy the maps are to follow for a lay person. If I am carrying out a series of projects with actions and indicators in relation to agro-ecological food production, in what ways could I use the evidence and map to ensure our action plan is underpinned by the LNRS.”** (Individual)

**“Key to maps often not obvious and when click on map it does not link to any details of the local habitat.”** (Individual)

**“The highlighted areas don't match with geographical features and don't identify areas that have been submitted.”** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

**“Far too high-level, scale too small, cannot see anything.”** (Councillor)

“There are opportunities to review the design and presentation of the online mapping to improve readability and user experience in the final version. The website needs to be user-friendly and intuitive, similar to the Magic website ([www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)). It should include clear descriptions, such as the meaning of ACIB. Our officers experienced issues with the outside ACIB layer not functioning properly. There is potential for further development work on the online mapping, such as adding a search function by a postcode or "what three words" to demonstrate location and LNRS measures/priorities. Additionally, layers displayed in different colours would make it easier to interpret multiple priorities. In the maps set out as graphics in Part 1, we query legibility of detail when people zoom in to check on a specific area. Could there be a hyperlink to a live map, which would have the function of reading at different scales.” (Council representative email)

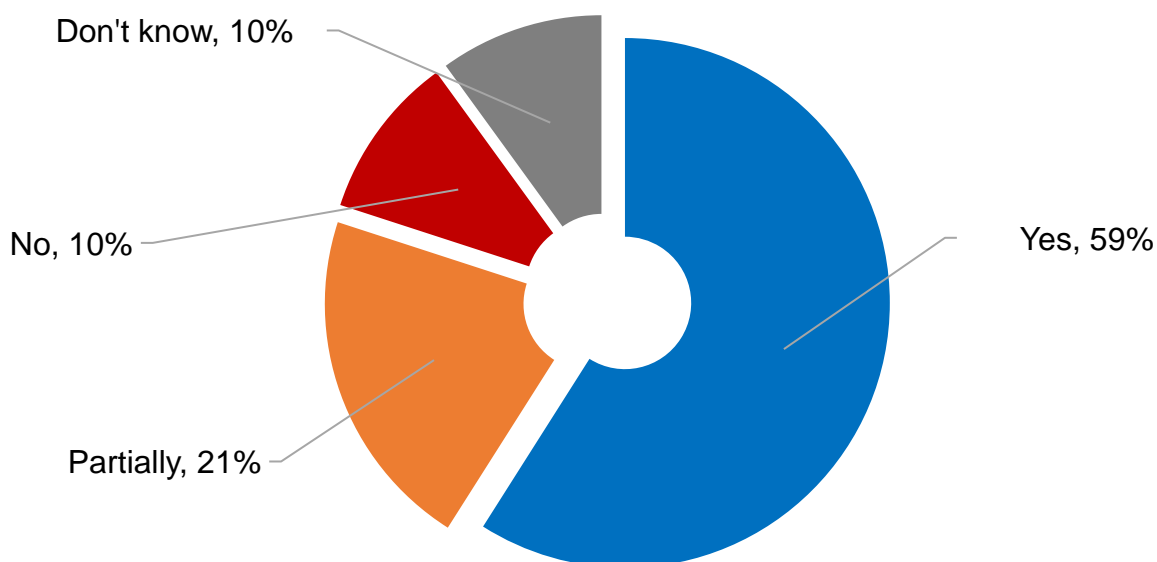
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## Degree to which information / mapping provides clarity on mapping process

Almost six in ten (59%) agree the information provided in the LNRS and the online maps make it clear which potential measures have been mapped and how they were mapped. 21% indicated they partially agree and 10% disagreed. 10% are unsure.

**Does the information provided in the LNRS document and with the online maps make it clear which potential measures have been mapped and how they were mapped?**

Base: all responding (229).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	135	59%
Partially	48	21%
No	23	10%
Don't know	23	10%

The proportion selecting 'Yes' is higher amongst professionals, organisation volunteers and councillors. Agreement is comparably lower amongst individual consultees, although a proportion are unsure. Agreement is also comparably lower amongst farmers / growers / farming related organisations, with a higher proportion disagreeing, and council representatives, with a higher proportion partially agreeing.

Number selecting by consultee type	Yes	Partially	No	Don't know
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=146)	82	30	14	20
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	6	1	0	0
As a professional (base size=8)	8	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=10)	6	1	3	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=6)	3	1	2	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=11)	5	6	0	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=8)	6	1	1	0
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=16)	8	4	2	2

### **Consultee feedback on how online mapping of potential measures could be made clearer**

Consultees who provided a rating of 'partially' or 'no' were asked to detail how the maps could be made clearer. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 23 consultees provided a comment to this question. Some express concerns about the accuracy of information used and how easy they are to use.

**Please tell us how the mapping could be made clearer.**

**"Many of the areas mapped aren't designed with the most up to date information, we understand they are illustrative, but we worry that it might be difficult in the future to access funds for areas outside those suggested in the mapping."** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

**"Whilst there are maps for many of the potential measures, the data used for each map is unclear. In some cases, the measure proposed is suggested across areas of land that are not suitable e.g. the presence of urban areas. There also appears to be little or no reference the KLIS habitat potential maps."** (Individual)

**"I believe the document makes this clear but the mapping tool itself needs some work to improve its clarity."** (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)

**"Would be useful to get more details on specific areas on the maps eg looking more closely at the Low Weald."** (Behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council)

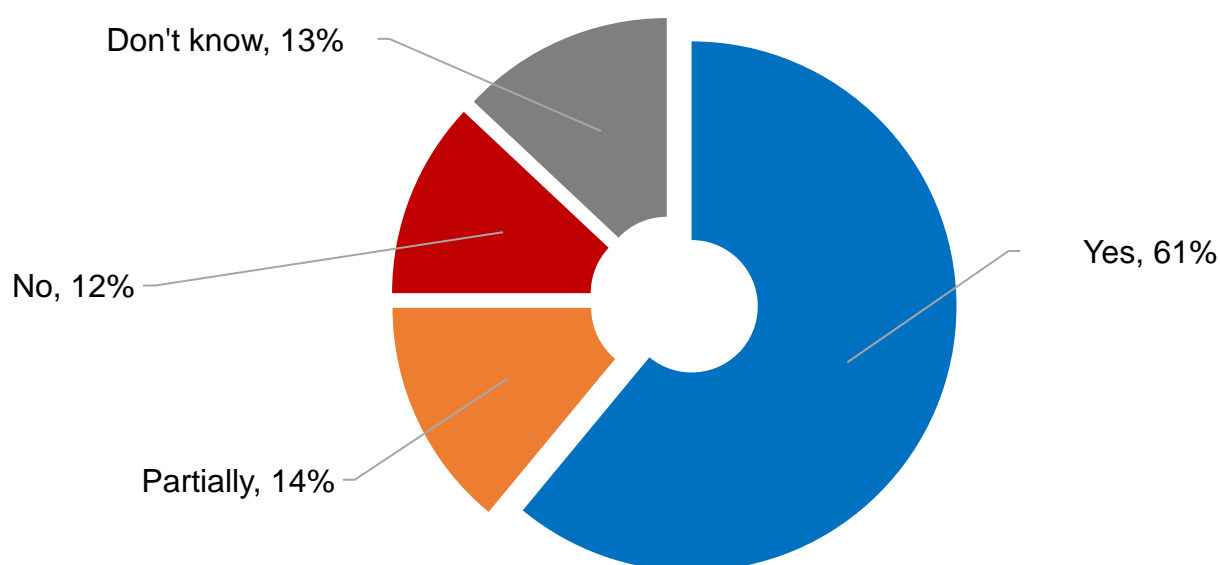
**“The mapping tool whilst very useful does need to improve functionality if it is to be used easily and effectively by a wide audience. In particular the ability to screen a site area (polygon) against all measures and the ability to click on any mapped data and view the measure information. We also note that if the layers are not loaded in the correct sequence that they do not clearly show areas of significance. As identifying areas of significance is a key purpose of the LNRS this should be looked at to minimise any user errors.”** (Council representative email)

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## Degree to which information / mapping provides clarity on measures used to inform ACIB

Just over six in ten (61%) agree the information provided in the LNRS and the online maps make it clear which potential measures were used to inform the Areas that Could become of Importance for Biodiversity and how the map was created. 14% indicated they partially agree and 12% disagreed. 13% are unsure.

**Does the information provided in the LNRS document and with the online maps make it clear which potential measures were used to inform the Areas that Could become of Importance for Biodiversity and how this map was created?** Base: all responding (227).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	139	61%
Partially	31	14%
No	27	12%
Don't know	30	13%

The proportion selecting 'Yes' is higher amongst professionals, organisation volunteers and councillors. Agreement is comparably lower amongst individual consultees, although it is worth noting that a proportion are unsure. Agreement is also comparably lower amongst landowners and farmers / growers / farming related organisations, with higher proportions disagreeing.

Number selecting by consultee type	Yes	Partially	No	Don't know
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=143)	82	24	13	24
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	6	1	0	0
As a professional (base size=8)	8	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=9)	5	1	3	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=7)	3	1	3	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=12)	7	2	2	1
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	7	0	1	1
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=16)	10	1	3	2

### **Consultee feedback on how potential measures were used to inform the Areas that Could become of Importance for Biodiversity could be made clearer**

Consultees who provided a rating of 'partially' or 'no' were asked to detail how it could be made clearer. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 22 consultees provided a comment to this question. Some express concerns about the accuracy of information used and how easy they are to use.

**Please tell us how the mapping could be made clearer.**

**“Seems to have regular shapes like circles so the degree of accuracy of proposed areas is questionable, also what granulation of mapping was used when creating these areas.”**

(Behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council )

**“I believe the document makes this clear but the mapping tool itself needs some work to improve its clarity.”** (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)

**“Maps are too complex to understand for the lay person. Frustrating that one cannot easily go between the maps and the questionnaire when wanting to refer to a specific point.”**

(Individual)

**“The online map allows a comparison between the potential measures mapping and the ACIB mapping but the document is very short on explanation.”** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

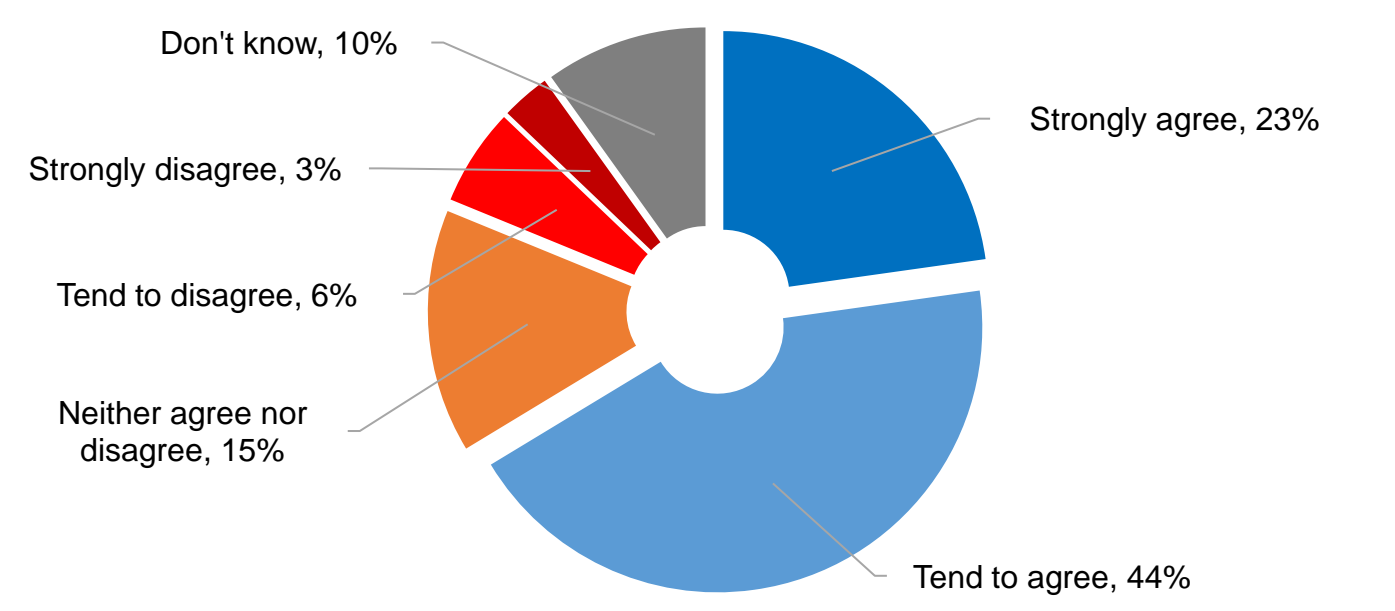
**“We have during the consultation raised concerns with both the extent of mapping of the ACIB areas (“Areas that Could become of particular Importance for Biodiversity”) and the**

ability to review the detail of the mapping provided. It is not really possible for us to check the methodology for creating each layer or owing to the large amount of data whether there are any obvious anomalies or errors. From exploring the mapping data provided we think there may be, as we have previously noted, too many priorities/measures for even a relatively small land parcel which raises concerns over the application and effectiveness of the LNRS.” (Council representative email)

### Agreement potential measures mapping identifies action focus

Two thirds (66%) agree that potential measures mapping identifies where to focus action for nature recovery. 15% indicated they are neither agree nor disagree and 9% disagree.

How much do you agree or disagree that the potential measures mapping identifies where we need to focus our action for nature recovery...? Base: all responding (229).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	152	66%
Net – Disagree	20	9%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	52	23%
Tend to agree	100	44%
Neither agree nor disagree	34	15%
Tend to disagree	13	6%
Strongly disagree	7	3%
Don't know	23	10%

The proportion agreeing is higher amongst professionals, organisation volunteers, farmers / growers / farming related organisations, councillors and nature related charities or organisations. Agreement is comparably lower amongst individual consultees, although a higher proportion neither agree nor disagree or are unsure. Agreement is also comparably lower amongst landowners.

Number selecting by consultee type	Net agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Net disagree	Don't know
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=143)	90	23	12	18
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	6	0	0	1
As a professional (base size=8)	8	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=11)	6	2	2	1
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=7)	6	0	1	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=13)	9	2	2	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=8)	7	0	0	1
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=16)	12	2	1	1



## Consultee feedback on mapping identifying where nature recovery action needs to focus

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide context to their answer. Consultee comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. 21% of consultees provided a comment to this question.

23% of consultees answering made reference to perceived errors in the maps presented.

**Please use the box below if you'd like to provide context to your answer.**

Base: all consultees providing a response (56).

	Number of responses	Percentage
Maps incorrect / areas missing (watercourse where there isn't one, missing a drainage route from NE Marden, Mereworth biodiversity areas, Birden Nature Reserve, Kent Brook, River Eden missing from some measures)	13	23%
All areas need equal focus, some areas missing (Hoo Peninsula / Hawkshill / Thanet), lack of ambition for ACIB	10	18%
Maps difficult to use, complicated to understand	7	13%
Maps too vague	5	9%
Maps will need managing / redefining as areas develop, pre/post	5	9%
Very good / have confidence	5	9%
More explanations needed, lack of detail	4	7%
Needs action not maps	4	7%
Maps not working properly: froze, stuck on one area	3	5%
Everyone needs to be on board, educate the public, more events	3	5%
Stop building on green belt / more control over developers	3	5%

Example quotes, in consultees own words, of map errors can be found below:

**“Incorrectly mapped on our land, drawing a watercourse where there is none, and missing an important drainage route from north east Marden, part of a tributary stream of the River Beult.”** (Farmer / grower / farming organisation)

**“Looking at my home parish (Mereworth), there are areas of biodiversity that are not shown. These include significant areas of land set aside for nature conservation by a local farmer and at least two areas of privately owned biodiversity potential. How will such areas be added? How often will the map be maintained for areas of habitat created by dedicated landowners, for BNG and, for example, newt translocation?”** (Professional)

**“We were very pleased to see the River Eden feature on the potential measures maps, e.g. GL2.3. We were puzzled as to why the Kent Brook was not also included when it is also a headwater with similar habitat. We were also puzzled by partial coverage or omission of the River Eden and its tributaries.”** (Individual)

**“WTH2.5 Given that Thanet has one of the lowest percentages of tree canopy cover and it has a high urban density, it is surprising that the mapping does not include any opportunities for this measure. LM1.2 and LM2.1 - mapping has included the hoverport at Pegwell which should not be identified within this measure as it is largely hardstanding. As the habitat is a mosaic habitat any change to, or, “improvement” may not be possible or appropriate.”** (Behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council)

**“The potential measures mapping needs considerable refinement and sense-checking. There are some clear errors e.g. mapping of cliff-top habitat at Capel le Fern as having potential to restore grazing marsh.”** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

**“I have concerns about the “white space” on the mapping, in particular for Thanet, which appears to target these areas for development. Whilst the overall biodiversity of Thanet may be lower, some high priority species of farmland birds are found here.”** (Nature-based charity or organisation)

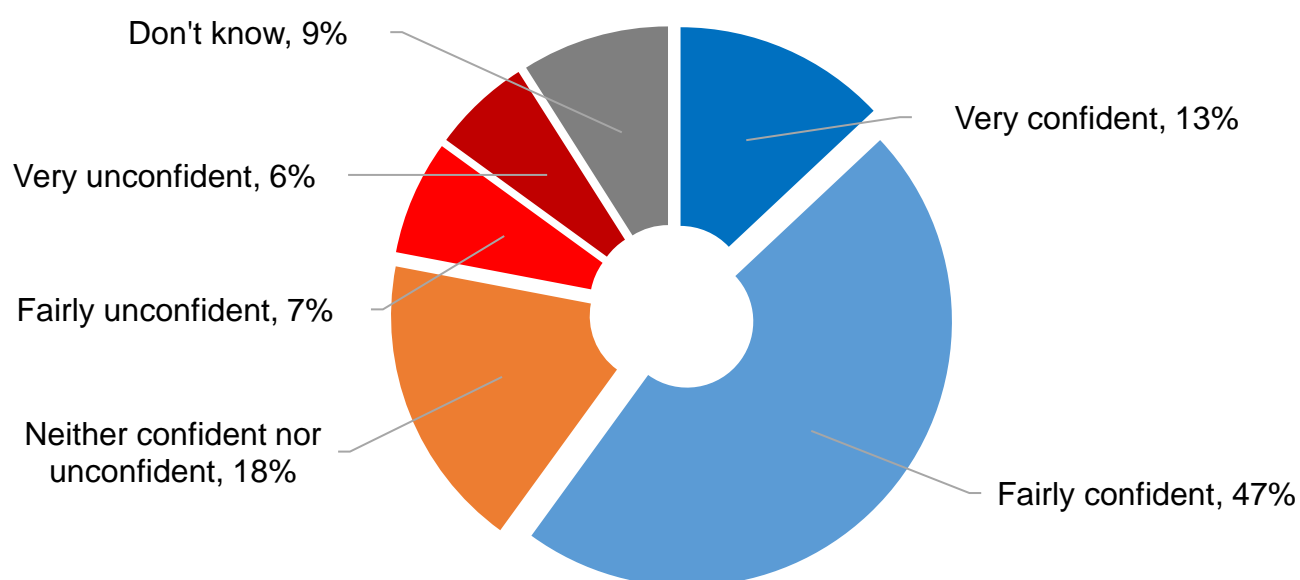
**“Some of the mapping for the areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity does not align with opportunities identified at local level, such as in the Medway Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan, and in the context of development proposals and local plan allocations, where key green corridors are critical for connectivity, such as the link from Darland Banks to the Kent Downs.”** (Council representative email)

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## Confidence in accuracy of mapping of potential measures and ACIB

Six in ten (60%) are confident the mapping of potential measures and Areas that could become of Importance for Biodiversity are correct. 18% indicated they are neither confident nor unconfident and 13% are not confident.

**Given the process and those involved, how confident are you that the mapping of potential measures and Areas that could become of Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB) in Kent and Medway is correct?** Base: all responding (102).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Confident	137	60%
Net – Not confident	30	13%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Very confident	30	13%
Fairly confident	107	47%
Neither confident nor unconfident	42	18%
Fairly unconfident	16	7%
Very unconfident	14	6%
Don't know	21	9%

The proportion 'confident' is higher amongst professionals, organisation volunteers, council representatives, councillors and nature related charities or organisations. Confidence is comparably lower amongst individual consultees, although a higher proportion are neither confident nor unconfident or unsure. Confidence is also comparably lower amongst landowners farmers / growers / farming related organisations, with a higher proportion disagreeing.

<b>Number selecting by consultee type</b>	<b>Net confident</b>	<b>Neither confident nor unconfident</b>	<b>Net unconfident</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=144)	80	31	18	15
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	5	1	0	1
As a professional (base size=8)	8	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=10)	5	3	2	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=7)	2	2	2	1
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=13)	10	0	3	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	7	1	0	1
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=16)	12	0	3	1

## Consultee feedback on confidence of mapping

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide context to their answer. Consultee comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. 21% of consultees provided a comment to this question.

**Please use the box below if you'd like to provide context to your answer.**

Base: all consultees providing a response (53).

	Number of responses	Percentage
Can only be fairly confident: depends on accuracy, is highly ambitious, requires trust that areas will be included	13	25%
Other areas need focus / some areas missing / start with those with SSI protection, mudflats, APIB	10	19%
Maps will need managing / redefining as areas develop, pre/post	5	9%
More explanations needed, lack of detail	5	9%
Maps incorrect	4	8%
Maps too vague	4	8%
Needs action not maps	4	8%
Maps not working properly: froze, stuck on one area	3	6%
Maps difficult to use, complicated to understand	3	6%
Very good / have confidence	3	6%

Example quotes, in consultees own words, about the mapping can be found below:

**"Mapping is indicative so we can only be fairly confident."** (Behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council)

**"Historical mapping of species presence/absence is poor, therefore it is possible that accuracy is less than 100% - we may be playing catch-up on this!"** (Individual)

**"The mapping of the ACIB significantly underestimates the current and potential biodiversity of Romney Marsh and leaves the Dungeness peninsular isolated from the rest of Kent. Romney Marsh is a county stronghold for many species of plant and animal, e.g. Greater Water-parsnip, Marsh Mallow, Sussex Emerald, Corn Bunting, Water Vole and Medicinal Leach. These species and many more are left completely stranded by the ACIB as it is currently mapped."** (Nature-related charity or organisation)

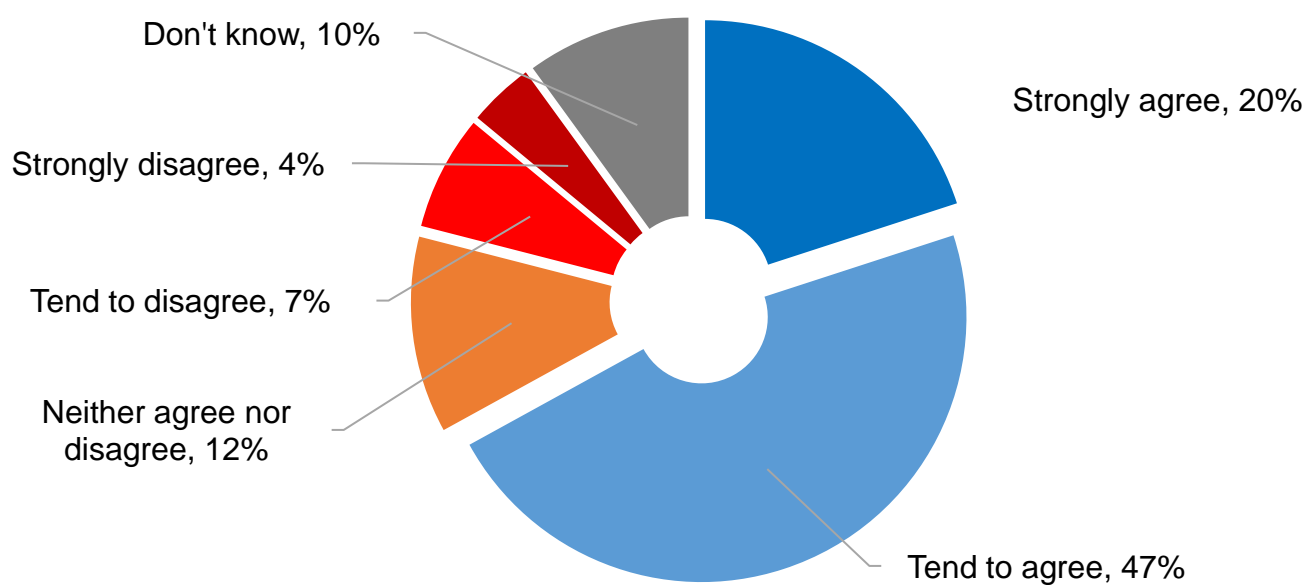
**"I currently don't see any joined-up working to protect vital brownfield sites, neither can I see a strategy for preserving and conserving them, when they are so vital to the K&M species recovery road map. Overall, the plan seems to favour the management of current reserves which are already protected. There seems little focus on conserving and protecting vital new sites - e.g. brownfield sites like Conyer Brickworks."** (Individual)

## Agreement with focus of mapped ACIB

Just over two thirds (68%) agree the mapped Areas that could become of Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB) suitably focuses where action should be prioritised. 12% indicated they are neither agree nor disagree and 11% disagree.

**How much do you agree or disagree that the mapped Areas that could become of Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB) suitably focuses where action should be prioritised?**

Base: all responding (226).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	153	68%
Net – Disagree	24	11%

Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	46	20%
Tend to agree	107	47%
Neither agree nor disagree	26	12%
Tend to disagree	15	7%
Strongly disagree	9	4%
Don't know	23	10%

The proportion agreeing is higher amongst professionals and councillors. Agreement is comparably lower amongst individual consultees and council representative but at its lowest amongst farmers / growers / farming related organisations, with a higher proportion disagreeing.

Number selecting by consultee type	Net agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Net disagree	Don't know
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=142)	95	20	13	14
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	5	1	0	1
As a professional (base size=8)	8	0	0	0
As a landowner (base size=10)	7	2	0	1
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=8)	3	2	2	1
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=12)	8	0	4	0
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=8)	7	0	0	1
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=14)	11	0	1	2

### **Consultee feedback on whether mapped Areas that Could become of Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB) suitably focus where action should be prioritised**

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide context to their answer. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 37 consultees provided a comment to this question.

**Please use the box below if you'd like to provide context to your answer**

Understanding target areas

**“Unable to make out in detail which specific towns/villages/ are targeted. Seems just a broad spectrum of areas across the county.”** (Individual)

**“The ACIB map covers such vast swathes of the county, it is not possible to distinguish which areas within this should be targeted. The extent of the coverage also makes it difficult to understand which areas could/should be prioritised for safeguarding to reflect the wording of the updated Planning Practice Guidance.”** (Behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council)

**“Cannot believe that the wide areas shown as ACIB are focussed enough on those which stand a chance of being supported.”** (Individual)

**“Some of them are areas that are already heavily developed with housing estates. I can't see how these could be improved very much.”** (Organisation volunteer)

Plans for mapping to keep up to date with developments

**“Surveys need to be carried out over the seasons to assess full degree of biodiversity, and this is not often possible to do. Hence sometimes a distorted picture.”** (Individual)

**“The more development that takes place the more pressure on the areas left so every patch not developed grows in importance. Also, the rating system for APIB needs to be robust and flexible as species decrease their importance increases so the rating system needs to adapt to this.”** (Individual)

A number of emails submitted as part of the consultation also made reference to the following:

**“We propose adding an Area that Could become of Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB) in the Blean Woodland Complex, north of Canterbury. This area between the rural settlements of Tyler Hill and Blean is strategically vital for biodiversity and habitat connectivity. Its designation as an ACIB would enhance ecological linkages between protected woodlands and Local Wildlife Sites (CA14 and CA15), improve wildlife corridors, and support public access to nature particularly along the Crab & Winkle pathway/cycle route and the public rights of way. The area also presents opportunities for nature-based solutions such as carbon sequestration, improved farmland management, and water quality protection especially given its connection to the proposed Broad Oak Reservoir (a project being run by South East Water). However, it is vulnerable to potential housing development making urgent recognition crucial. This proposal aligns with Kent Wildlife Trust’s ‘Keep Blean Green’ campaign and complements a local vision for a Blean Biopark — a designated Country Park integrating conservation, rewilding, and community engagement. A locally led petition, [link below](#), has over 25,000 signatures evidencing the strength of feeling on, and importance of, this area.”**

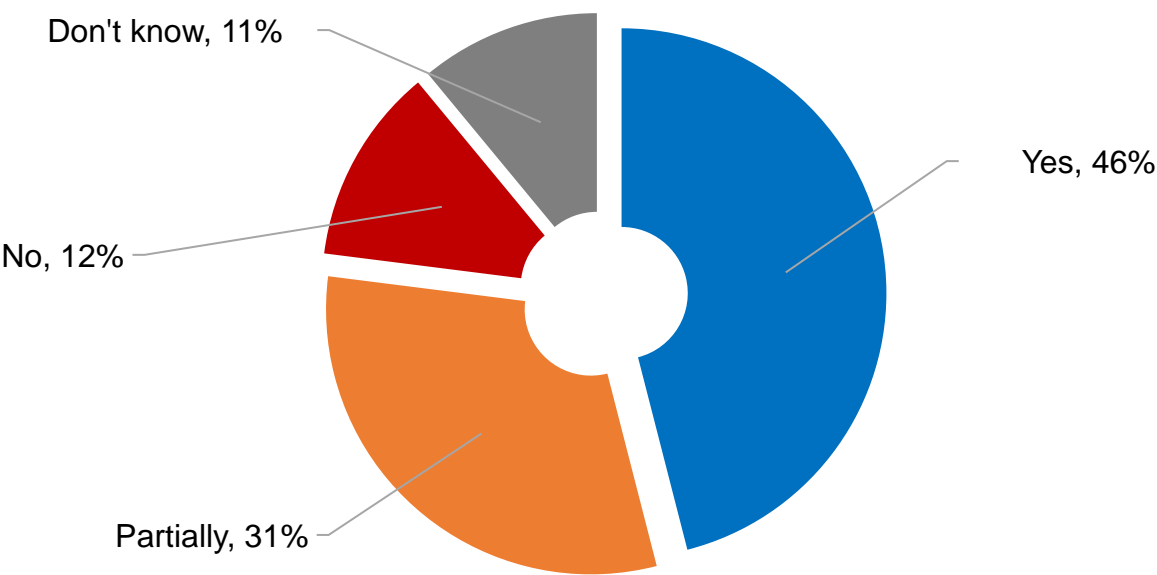
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**Perceived understanding of self-use of LNRS maps to inform nature recovery action**

Almost half (46%) agree they understand how they could use the LNRS maps to inform action for nature recovery. 31% indicated they partially agree and 12% disagreed. 11% are unsure.

**In reference to the LNRS document and the user guide, do you understand how you would use the LNRS maps to inform action for nature recovery?** Base: all responding (221).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	102	46%
Partially	68	31%
No	27	12%
Don't know	24	11%

The proportion selecting 'Yes' is higher amongst professionals, organisation volunteers, landowners and nature related charities or organisations. Understanding is comparably lower amongst individual consultees, although it is worth noting that a higher proportion are unsure. Understanding is also comparably lower amongst farmers / growers / farming related organisations with a higher proportion disagreeing.

Number selecting by consultee type	Yes	Partially	No	Don't know
As an individual / behalf of family member / friend (base size=137)	60	41	19	17
As a volunteer for an organisation (base size=7)	6	1	0	0
As a professional (base size=8)	7	1	0	0
As a landowner (base size=10)	6	3	1	0
As a farmer / grower or on behalf of a farming related organisation (base size=7)	3	1	3	0
On behalf of a Parish, Town, Borough or District Council (base size=12)	4	5	2	1
As a Parish, Town, District or County Councillor (base size=9)	2	4	1	2
On behalf of a nature related charity or organisation (base size=16)	10	5	0	1

### Any errors in the mapping of these specific sites prioritised

Consultees were given the opportunity to comment on any errors in the mapping of the Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB). Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 20 consultees provided a comment to this question.

**If you believe there are any errors in the mapping of these specific sites, please detail in the box below**

**“The whole of Oaken Wood is shown as APIB, but half of it has already been quarried (see satellite image on Bing Maps), making me wonder what other areas show out-of-date information.”** (Individual)

**“Because unimproved chalk grassland is not listed as an irreplaceable habitat (mistakenly in my opinion), and not all chalk grasslands are designated as SSSIs or Local Wildlife Sites there are a few areas of unimproved chalk grassland that are not mapped as APIBs. Most of these are fairly small fragments, but Drellingore Bank in the Alkham Valley (TR 24424 40931) is sizeable.”** (Nature-based charity or organisation)

**“Restoring and reconnecting PAWS sites is the major opportunity for nature recovery in Kent & Medway. These sites are well-mapped in the APIB through the Ancient Woodland Inventory. However ancient & veteran trees outside woods are not necessarily comprehensively mapped. The Ancient Tree Inventory, held by the Woodland Trust, may be incomplete and therefore lead to errors of omission. An exercise to complete the ATI in APIB and ACIB areas would be welcome.”** (Nature-based charity or organisation)

## Any other feedback on draft LNRS

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide any other feedback on the draft LNRS.

Consultee comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. 29% of consultees provided a comment to this question.

A quarter of consultees commented that the strategy document is good and they are hopeful for its success (25%). Other document specific comments referenced a desire to amend map displays (13%) and shortening the content for digestion purposes (10%).

**If there is anything else you would like to tell us about the draft LNRS including the appendices, please tell us in the box below.** Base: all consultees providing a response (77).

	Number of responses	Percentage
Great document / hope it succeeds	19	25%
Maps need amending: difficult to use, incorrect, areas missing, too small to read	10	13%
Document is huge: difficult to digest and understand / needs a shorter / layman's version	8	10%
Needs everyone on board, communicate with everyone more / more education to raise awareness, support, engagement	7	9%
Developers will override	6	8%
Good document, doubt it will be successful	6	8%
Needs backing by legislation / enforcement / enforced legal action	6	8%
All good, but how is this going to be actioned?	5	6%
Government policy / priorities will override	4	5%
Spelling / grammatical / page number errors in document	4	5%
Needs more on the ground / achievable actions, needs actioning	4	5%
Lacking in detail for some elements	3	4%
More protection of existing nesting sites needed	3	4%
Waste of time / money given financial status / times of austerity	2	3%
Some areas missing / Thanet not included	2	3%

## Response to Equality Impact Assessment

Consultees were asked to provide the views on the equality analysis in their own words. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below. 24 consultees provided a comment to this question. The majority of comments put forward questioned the need for a EqIA for this particular consultation and its relevance.

**We welcome your views on our equality analysis and if you think there is anything else we should consider relating to equality and diversity?**

**“I do feel that too little consideration is given to accessibility to nature for people with limited mobility, particularly wheelchair users.”** (Individual)

**“Access for buggies/ mobility scooters needed as at present there are steps beside the jetty which means users cannot seamlessly go from docks to The Leas.”** (Individual)

**“The complexity of analysing the maps and trying to return to the survey is not very user friendly for older people. (>65).”** (Individual)

**“Sorry, but I don't see what this has to do with protecting Nature. The only relevance I can see is access to Nature Reserves & mobility within them,& in all cases the needs of Nature should come 1st.”** (Other)

**“I am sorry, but seriously, what has this got to do with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy? This is politics, wokeness and political correctness gone mad.”** (Individual)

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## Next steps

All input and feedback from the consultation has been examined by the Making Space for Nature team and where possible this will be used to help finalise the Strategy.

This consultation report will be published on the Let's Talk Kent consultation webpage, with the "Next Steps" document, which provides the team's initial response to points raised in the consultation.

A full "You Said, We Did" document will be published later in the year showing the changes made to the Strategy because of the consultation and explaining areas that haven't been included.

Under the LNRS regulations, a pre-publication version of the Strategy will be shared with the Supporting Authorities (local authorities and Natural England) and neighbouring Responsible Authorities. If no objections are raised, KCC, as Responsible Authority can inform the Secretary of State of its intent to publish.

The Strategy will then be published later in 2025. Details of how Strategy delivery will be coordinated, monitored and supported will also be published by the government later in 2025.

## Appendix A - Consultation demographic profile

The tables below show the demographic profile of individual consultees who completed the consultation questionnaire. The proportion who indicated they did not want to disclose this information has been included as applicable. 68% of individual consultees answered these questions.

<b>Sex (individual consultees only)</b> Base - 111	Number of responses	Percentage
Male	64	58%
Female	44	40%
Prefer not to say	3	3%

<b>Gender same as birth (individual consultees only)</b> Base - 111	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	108	98%
No	0	0%
Prefer not to say	2	2%

<b>Age (individual consultees only)</b> Base - 111	Number of responses	Percentage
16-25	1	1%
26-35	2	2%
36-45	5	4%
46-55	17	15%
56-65	40	36%
66-75	22	20%
76-85	22	20%
86 and over	2	2%
Prefer not to say	1	1%

<b>Disability</b> (individual consultees only) Base - 111	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	18	16%
- Physical	12	11%
- Sensory (hearing, sight or both)	1	1%
- Longstanding illness or health condition	9	8%
- Mental health condition	3	3%
- Neurodivergent (such as ADHS, autism, dyslexia and dyspraxia)	3	3%
- A different disability or health condition	2	2%
No	88	79%
Prefer not to say	5	5%

<b>Carer</b> (individual consultees only)	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	18	16%
No	90	81%
Prefer not to say	3	3%

<b>Ethnicity</b> (individual consultees only) Base – 105	Number of responses	Percentage
White English, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish or British	99	94%
Any other White background	2	2%
White and Asian	2	2%
Any other Asian background	1	1%

<b>Religion or belief</b> (individual consultees only) Base – 111	Number of responses	Percentage
Atheist	5	5%
Christian	46	41%
Buddhist	1	1%
A different religion or belief	5	5%
No	44	40%
Prefer not to say	10	9%

<b>Sexuality</b> (individual consultees only) Base – 111	Number of responses	Percentage
Heterosexual / Straight	98	91%
Gay or lesbian	1	1%
Prefer to define own sexuality	1	1%
Prefer not to say	1	7%

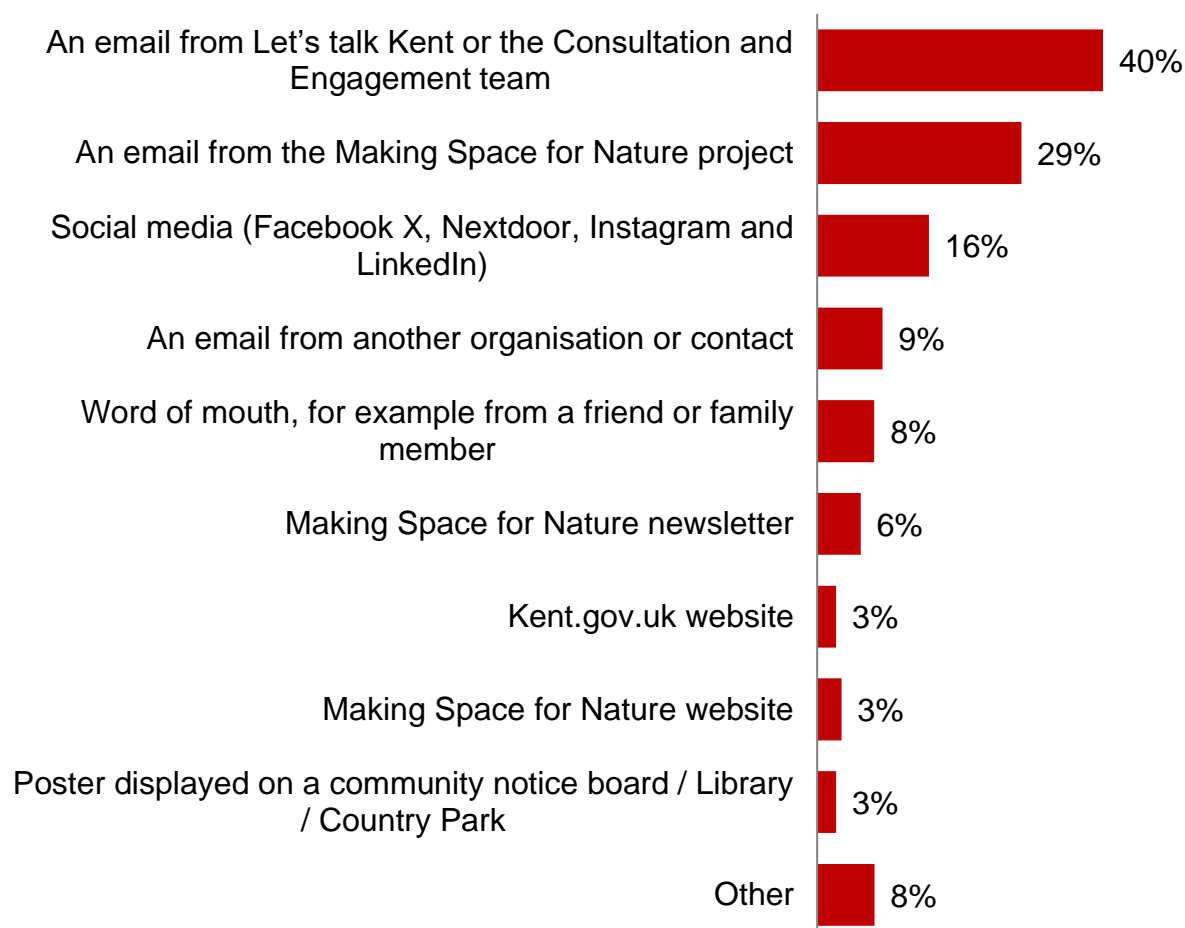
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## Appendix B - Consultation awareness

The two most common means of finding out about the consultation is via an email from Let's talk Kent or the Consultation and Engagement team (40%) and via an email from the Making Space for Nature project (29%). 16% found out about the consultation through social media.

**How did you find out about this consultation?** Base: all providing a response (263).



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
An email from Let's talk Kent or the Consultation and Engagement team	105	40%
An email from the Making Space for Nature project	75	29%
Social media (Facebook, X, Nextdoor, Instagram and LinkedIn)	41	16%
An email from another organisation or contact	24	9%
Word of mouth, for example from a friend or family member	21	8%
Making Space for Nature newsletter	16	6%
Kent.gov.uk website	7	3%
Making Space for Nature website	9	3%
Poster displayed on a community notice board / Library / Country Park	7	3%
Other (e.g. flyer / leaflet, local councillors, consultation sessions / LNRS engagement)	20	8%

## Appendix C - Consultation Questionnaire

A Word version of the consultation questionnaire can be found in the Documents section on the consultation webpage: <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/nature-recovery>.

## Appendix D – Examples of promotional material

Some examples of the visual material used can be found below:



**Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy Public Consultation**

**Have your say!**

Organisations and stakeholders from across the county have been working together to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Kent and Medway. The strategy identifies our shared priorities and proposed actions for nature recovery and environmental improvements to create a network of wildlife-rich places. We now want to hear your views!

Find out more and have your say at  
[www.kent.gov.uk/naturerecovery](http://www.kent.gov.uk/naturerecovery)  
Consultation closes 12 March 2025

If you require any of the documents in an alternative format or language, including BSL, please email [alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk](mailto:alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk) or call 03000 42 15 53 (text relay service number: 18001 03000 42 15 53). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.

 **Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery strategy**  
Making space for the county's nature

