



**User guide to the online
mapping tool**

Quick reference guide – click on the link to be taken to the guidance

If this is your first time using the mapping tool, we recommend you read the whole guidance document first to familiarise yourself with all the mapping elements, understand the online tool's functions and note the mapping limitations.

How to view what measures are **mapped to your land or a specific location** you're interested in

How to view **all potential measures** from first launch of tool (default setting)

How to view **all potential measures** if all layers have been cleared

How to view an **ambition's or habitat group's potential measures**

How to view a **specific habitat's potential measures**

How to view an **individual potential measure**

A searchable list of all the potential measures is available online – <https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Potential-measures.xlsx>

How to view the '**Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity**' (APIB)

How to view the '**Areas that Could become of particular Importance for Biodiversity**' (ACIB)

How to **clear all** measures from the default view

How to **view more than one layer** at a time

How to **prioritise action** when more than one potential measure is mapped to the same location

What to do if the area of land you're interested in **doesn't have potential measures** mapped to it

How to view the mapped **wider measures**

A searchable list of all the wider measures is available online – <https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Wider-measures.xlsx>

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Introduction

The Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy sets out the county's priorities for nature recovery and the recommended actions to deliver them. This spatially framed Strategy also identifies where in the county this action should be targeted to deliver the greatest outcomes for habitats and species.

This first-of-its-kind strategy for the county has been prepared by Kent County Council, appointed 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 Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy has been developed with extensive input from partners and stakeholders, with over 1,000 individuals attending events designed to enable full participation in the process.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy is a set of agreed priorities for Kent and Medway's nature recovery, with spatially framed potential measures to deliver them.

A **priority** is the outcome we want to see for nature.

A **potential measure** is the proposed action to deliver the priority. They must be practical and achievable. It is only potential measures that are eligible for the biodiversity net gain strategic significance uplift – and only when those potential measures are delivered in the areas they have been mapped to.

The **local habitat map** is a map of the Strategy area that provides a clear visual way for groups and individuals to understand the areas which are, or could become, of particular importance for biodiversity and the environment to target nature recovery action. The mapped parts include:

- location and extent of areas identified as being of particular importance for biodiversity
- locations for which potential measures have been proposed
- location and extent of identified areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity

Areas of particular importance for biodiversity are the Strategy area's national conservation sites (National Nature Reserve, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Marine Conservation Zones and Ramsar), Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites and irreplaceable habitat. The areas eligible for inclusion in this map is tightly defined by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy regulations.

Potential measures mapping identifies where the action determined as necessary for our nature recovery priorities should be strategically targeted to achieve the greatest gains for biodiversity and deliver the widest environmental benefits.

Areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity comprise the extent of the potential measures, with areas of particular importance for biodiversity excluded. These are the areas where the Strategy proposes effort should be concentrated to restore habitat, to achieve the greatest gains for nature and to derive the greatest benefits from a healthy, functioning environment. They are the areas of Kent and Medway where targeted action will enable us to deliver on the priorities laid out by the Strategy.

Wider measures are proposed actions which would be similarly beneficial over wide areas or those where it was not possible to determine specific locations to carry out the proposed action. Collectively, these wider measures identify areas of additional opportunities for nature recovery but do not form a part of the formal Strategy's local habitat map. Wider measures are NOT eligible for the biodiversity net gain strategic significance uplift.

Priority species are species the Strategy has determined should be prioritised for recovery action. They were identified from an initial list of threatened and locally significant species.

The mapped elements of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy are available via an online tool [Local Nature Recovery Strategy mapping portal | Making Space For Nature Kent](#). This document provides a guide to using the online tool and using the maps it presents for the purpose of informing nature recovery in Kent and Medway.

Notes on the maps

Before using the Strategy mapping it is important to note the following:

- Mapping indicates areas where the potential measures could be delivered. In some instances, these are wide ranging areas, in others they are specific areas depending on the mapping capability. In all cases, the mapped areas are indicative.
- The strategic nature of this document means that some measures may not be relevant or appropriate when considered in detail at the local level.
- The desk-based approach means the mapping is theoretical and not based on actual known site condition. Site assessments, and other permissions and pre-requisites, will inform the appropriateness of the action to that location.
- Inclusion of a site in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy does not preclude that action from any necessary permissions, site assessments and other pre-requisites before it is implemented.
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites and National Nature Reserves are statutory national and international designations. Measures have been mapped to these sites to maintain the integrity of the connectivity approach taken in creating a nature recovery network for the Strategy area. The potential measures also present future considerations for the site. However, the mapped potential measures do not override or replace existing management associated with the designation nor do they negate the need for any requisite consents or approvals. It is essential that the existing designated features and the legal processes and guidance are checked and followed prior to delivery of the suggested measure.
- Mapping is based on existing known data – consequently, other sites may hold potential interest or relevance to a potential measure but may not be mapped as there is no pre-existing data available.
- The Strategy and associated maps do not dictate actions, nor instruct their implementation – they are a guide for how landowners and managers could use or manage the land, or approach their operations, in a way that could support the recovery of nature.
- Mapping of an area to a potential measure, wider measure or areas that could become of particular importance to biodiversity does not offer any formal, or otherwise, protection which can only be provided through statutory designations or local planning policy. It also does not preclude any uses of the land or operations.

- Although mapping indicates where this action may be most needed or result in the greatest gains, the introduction of this action can be applied outside of the target area – nature recovery action does not need to be limited to the areas that could become of particular importance to biodiversity.
- A potential measure may have value locally, that is not reflected when considered strategically at a county scale – therefore its exclusion from the mapping does not indicate that the action is not applicable.
- The Strategy notes a number of management measures to increase the functionality or biodiversity of a habitat – some have been mapped, some not. These management measures apply to all the county and although mapping indicates where this management may be most needed or result in the greatest gains, the introduction of appropriate management will deliver benefits wherever it is applied.

Understanding the user features of the online mapping tool



The online mapping tool can be accessed via [Local Nature Recovery Strategy mapping portal | Making Space For Nature Kent](#)

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

Please read through the pop up and tick the “I agree to the above terms and conditions” box at the bottom left. Checking this box will allow the “OK” box to the bottom right to be highlighted – you can click this to launch the tool.

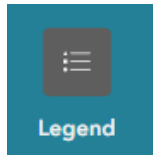
Please note that owing to the amount of data available to view in detail from this platform, layers may take some time to view.

If you have any problems accessing or using the tool, please email naturerecovery@kent.gov.uk

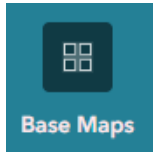
Important to note:

- Layers will take time to load – you will see a blue flashing dot against the map layers menu when it is loading.
- To view any layers in the menu, the top collective layer needs to be turned on.
 - To view any of the LNRs Local Habitat Map components (APIB, Potential measures or ACIB) the box “LNRs Local Habitat Map” must always be checked.
 - To view any of the potential measures, the box “Potential Measures” must always be checked.
 - To view any of the specific potential measures, the relevant ambition/habitat grouping box must always be checked.
 - To view any of the Additional (non-statutory) LNRs mapping (just wider measures currently), the box “Additional (non-statutory) LNRs mapping” must always be checked.
 - To view any of the wider measures, the box “Wider Measures” must always be checked.
 - To view any of the specific wider measures, the relevant ambition/habitat grouping box must always be checked.
- Please follow the step-by-step guides to ensure that the maps work for you.

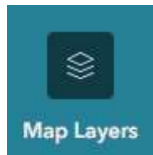
When the tool is launched, the following buttons will be displayed across the top.



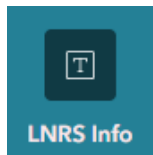
Legend – here you can view the symbology of the activated map layers. The window can be resized and repositioned by clicking on the corners and dragging.



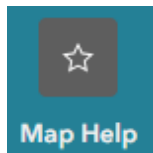
Base Maps – click here to change the base mapping type.



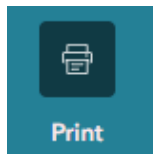
Map Layers – open a list of mapping layers here. Click the tick box to activate the layer. Use the drop-down arrows to view the measures inside the habitat groupings. As well as the measures box, the habitat grouping box and the potential measures box must be ticked in order for the potential measures layer to be presented. The window can be resized and repositioned by clicking on the corners and dragging. See below for more detail on the map layers.



LNRS info – click here for LNRS terminology explanations.

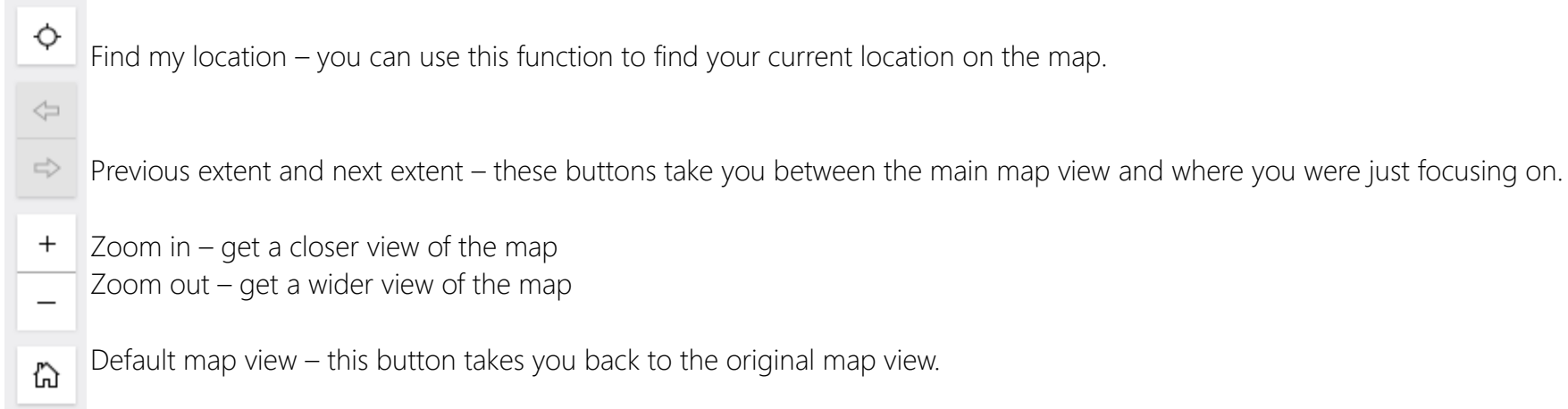


Map Help – click here at any time to find links to this guidance, the tutorial video and basis instructions.



Print – here you can print a map of the selected view window on the application for export as a file type such as PDF.

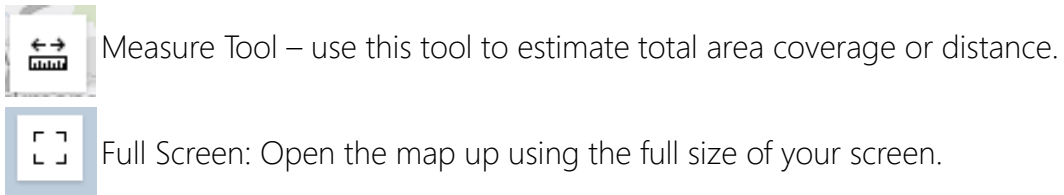
At the bottom right of the screen, you'll see some mapping function buttons – if you hover over the icons, it will say their function.



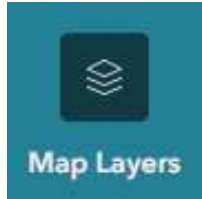
Other functions available can be found via these buttons– if you hover over the icons, it will say their function.



Search – use the search bar to find a specific location by address or postcode.



Viewing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy mapping using the online mapping tool



From the Map Layers button you can view all the mapped elements of the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy. These are:

Local Habitat Map

Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB) – these are the Strategy area’s national conservation sites (National Nature Reserve, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Marine Conservation Zones and Ramsar), Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites and irreplaceable habitat. The areas eligible for inclusion in this map is tightly defined by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy regulations. For instructions on how to view this on the mapping tool [click here](#).

Areas that could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB) - comprise the extent of the potential measures, with areas of particular importance for biodiversity excluded. These are the areas where the Strategy proposes effort should be concentrated to restore habitat, to achieve the greatest gains for nature and to derive the greatest benefits from a healthy, functioning environment. They are the areas of Kent and Medway where targeted action will enable us to deliver on the priorities laid out by the Strategy. For instructions on how to view this on the mapping tool [click here](#).

Potential Measures - are the proposed actions to deliver a priority. They must be practical and achievable. Potential measures mapping identifies where the action determined as necessary for our nature recovery priorities should be strategically targeted to achieve the greatest gains for biodiversity and deliver the widest environmental benefits. It is only potential measures that are eligible for the biodiversity net gain strategic significance uplift – and only when those potential measures are delivered in the areas they have been mapped to. For instructions on how to view this on the mapping tool [click here](#).

All the potential measures are associated with an ambition – the majority of the ambitions relate to a habitat grouping. All measures within the same ambition/habitat grouping share the same prefix. All measures relating to the same specific habitat share the same numbered prefix. Each measure is denoted by a unique reference number. For example, the potential measure *"Increase the extent of high-quality, connected lowland meadow by creating new lowland meadow sites, in close proximity to core/good condition sites"* has a reference number of GL3.2 – the GL tells us it’s a grassland habitat/ambition; the 3 tells us it’s a lowland meadow priority habitat and the .2 tells us its number two of the measures for this habitat.

Ambition / habitat grouping	Prefix	Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy priority / priority habitat	Prefix
Connectivity	CON	Fragmentation of key wildlife sites	CON1
		Fragmentation from major infrastructure	CON2
		Mosaic of habitats	CON3
		Landscape scale management (not mapped)	CON4
Nature-based solutions	NBS	Carbon capture (not mapped)	NBS1
		Safeguard ecosystem services (not mapped)	NBS2
		Soil health (not mapped)	NBS3
Land management and land-use	LM	Nature-friendly farming	LM1
		Climate change pressures for farmland	LM2
		Agricultural diffuse pollution	LM3
		Open space management	LM4
Grassland	GL	Chalk grasslands	GL1
		Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	GL2
		Lowland meadow	GL3
		Acid grassland and heathland	GL4
		Arable field margins	GL5
Successional habitats	SH	Open mosaic habitats found on previously developed land (brownfield)	SH1
		Scrub	SH2
Woodland, trees and hedgerows	WTH	Existing woodland, including wood pasture and parkland	WTH1
		New woodland	WTH2
		Lost woodland	WTH3
		Woodland resilience	WTH4
		Ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees	WTH5
		Wet woodland	WTH6
		Gill woodland	WTH7
		Hedgerow	WTH8
		Traditional orchards	WTH9
Freshwater	FW	Rivers and streams, including chalk and clay rivers (naturalised)	FW1
		Rivers and streams, including chalk and clay rivers (clean)	FW2
		Rivers and streams, including chalk and clay rivers (supply)	FW3
		Rivers and streams, including chalk and clay rivers (buffered)	FW4
		Headwater streams	FW5

Ambition / habitat grouping	Prefix	Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy priority / priority habitat	Prefix
		Ponds and lakes	FW6
		Lowland mire sites (fen and valley mires)	FW7
		Reedbeds	FW8
		Freshwater wetland	FW9
		Semi-natural lowland drains and marshlands	FW10
Urban	URB	Urban (fragmented)	URB1
		Urban greenspace	URB2
		Urban greenspace (nature-based solutions)	URB3
Coastal	CL	Estuary and open coast	CL1
		Saltmarsh and mudflats	CL2
		Seagrass	CL3
		Chalk cliffs and reefs	CL4
		Native Oyster and Blue Mussel reefs	CL5
		Saline lagoons	CL6
		Vegetated shingle	CL7
		Sand dunes	CL8

A searchable list of all the potential measures is available online – <https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Potential-measures.xlsx>

Additional (non-statutory) LNRS mapping

Wider Measures - are proposed actions which would be similarly beneficial over wide areas or those where it was not possible to determine specific locations to carry out the proposed action. Collectively, these wider measures identify areas of additional opportunities for nature recovery but do not form a part of the formal Strategy's local habitat map. Wider measures are NOT eligible for the biodiversity net gain strategic significance uplift – this only applies to potential measures.

For instructions on how to view this on the mapping tool [click here](#).

Priority species - mapping of potential measures for the Strategy's priority species has not been developed, due to the complex nature of the bespoke action required. To aid locating where action could be taken, priority species heat maps were developed for a range of habitat assemblages. The maps are based on the density of priority species for the habitat assemblage, enhanced with modelling to predict species density in areas that are unrecorded and reviewed and refined with the county's species experts. The maps identify the areas considered to offer the most benefits for priority species, using the density of priority species for that habitat assemblage as a proxy. The maps are indicative and are intended to provide additional and supporting information for delivery. Consequently, they should be used in consultation with species experts.

These maps are not currently available via the mapping tool.

Other guidance in this document

You can also find in this document guidance on:

[Prioritising action when more than one potential measure is mapped to the same location](#)

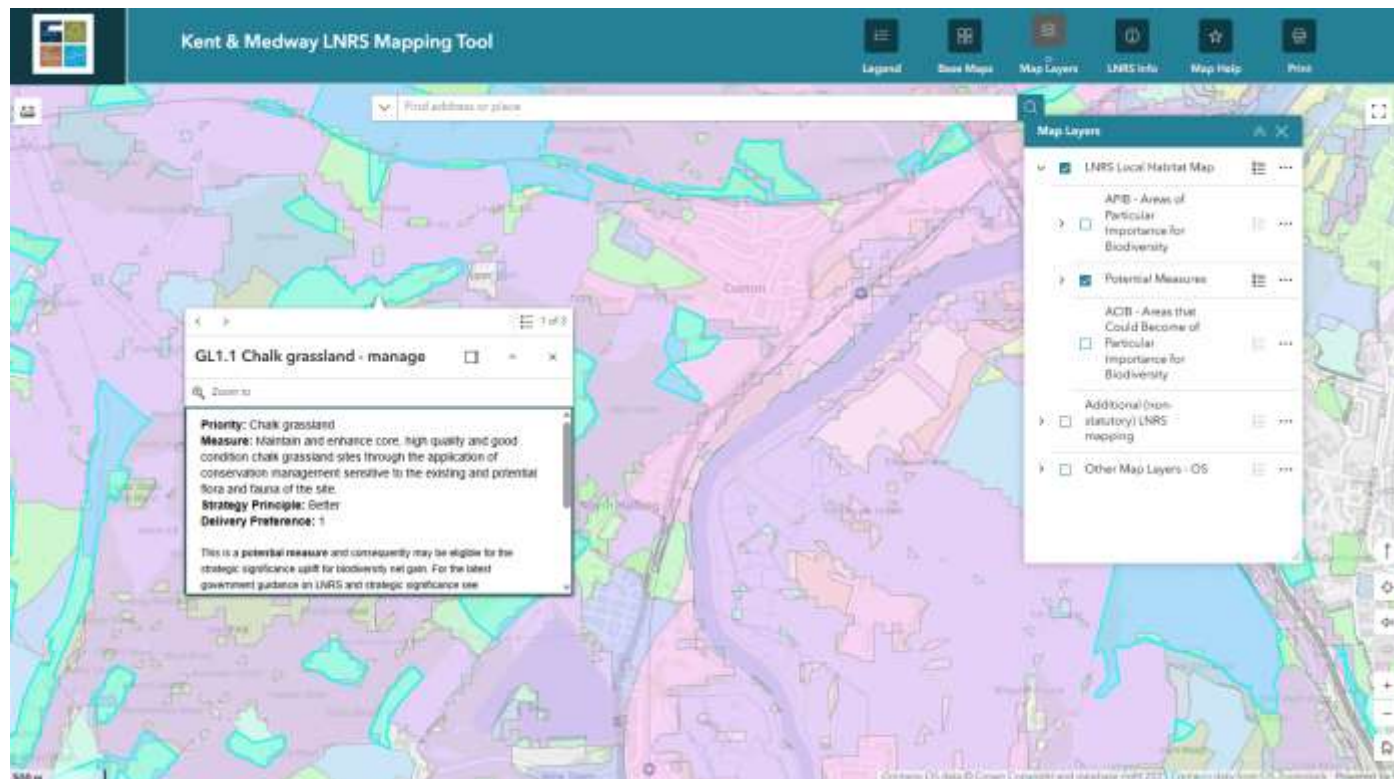
[The role of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy mapping in informing the delivery of biodiversity net gain](#)

[The role of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy mapping in protecting nature](#)

What information you can get from the maps

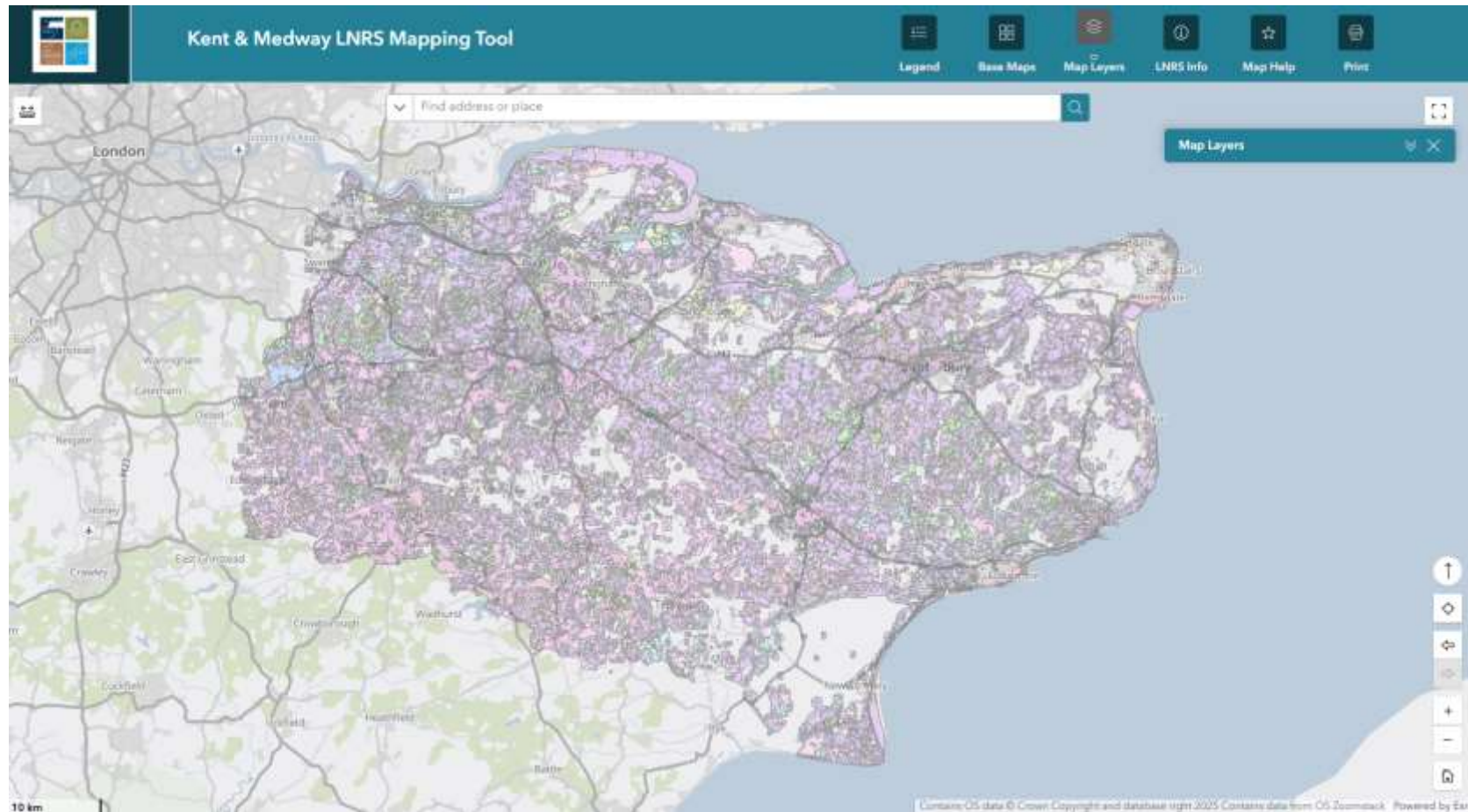
When you select an area of interest on the map by clicking on that location, a pop-up shows you which of the potential measures applies there. Where multiple measures are mapped to one area, use the arrows at the bottom of the pop-up to scroll through them. For each measure you will be able to view:

- The **potential measure reference number**: this will allow you to locate the full details of potential measure within the [Strategy document](#) and find out the [mapping methodology and data used](#).
- The **priority** that the measure is targeting, in most cases this will be a specific habitat type.
- The **detailed measure**.
- The **Strategy principle** the measure relates to: [better, bigger, more, joined up or nature based solutions](#).
- The **delivery preference** for when more than one measure is mapped to an area, based on Strategy principles (1- being most preferred option). [Click here](#) for more information on what to do when more than one measure is mapped to the same area of land.
- The box will also make it clear whether this is a **potential measure or wider measure** – this will only be of use when you are viewing both the LNRS Local Habitat Map layers and the Additional (non-statutory) LNRS mapping layers.
- There is also a weblink for the mapping method and data and links to further guidance and information to help you understand and use the maps.

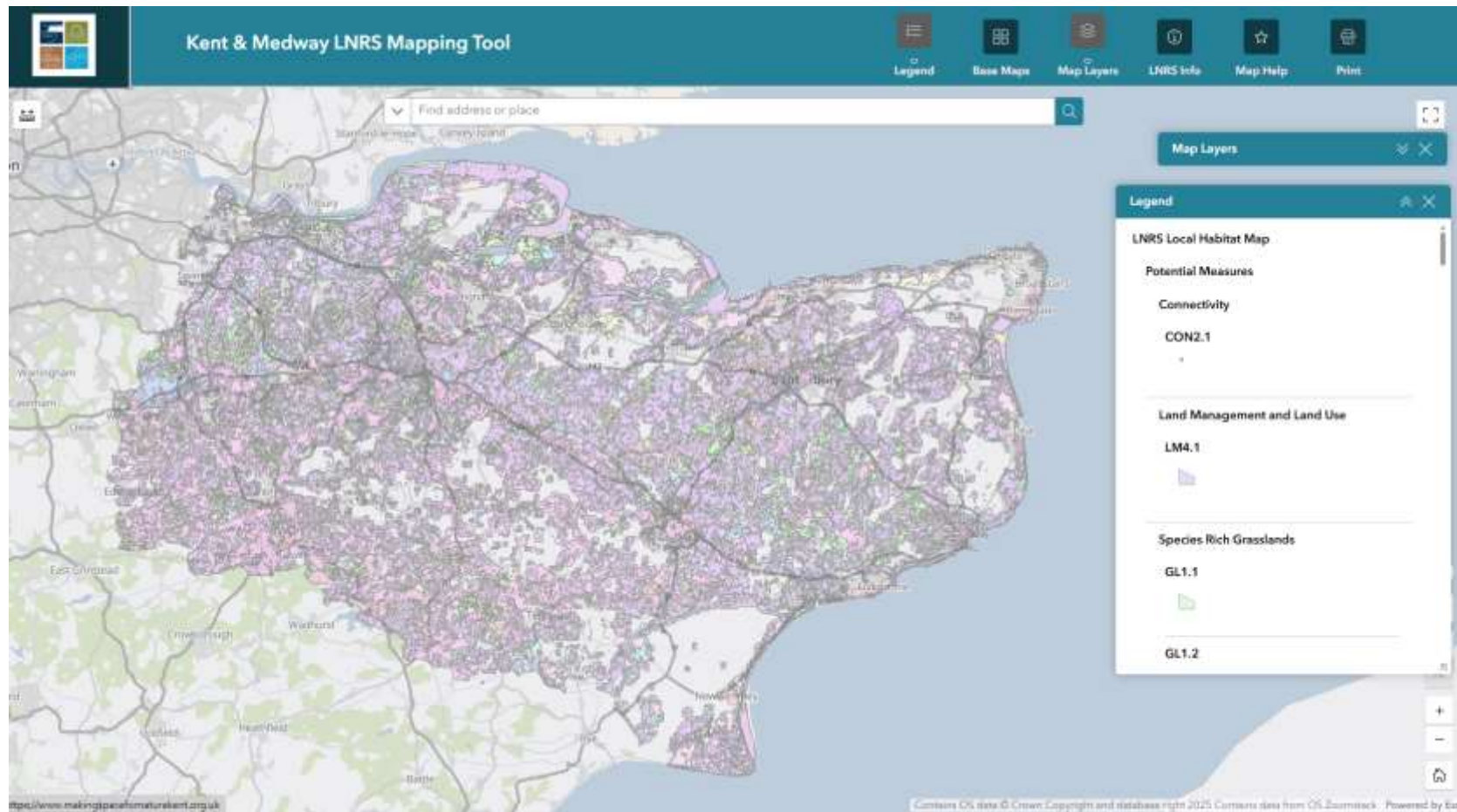


Default map view - all potential measures

The default view for the mapping tool is for all the potential measures to be presented at the same time. This can be a little overwhelming when you first view it but the purpose of this presentation is so you can straight away delve into the mapping and determine what is mapped where without having to adjust the map layers. See the next page for the tools to help you navigate around the all potential measures map.



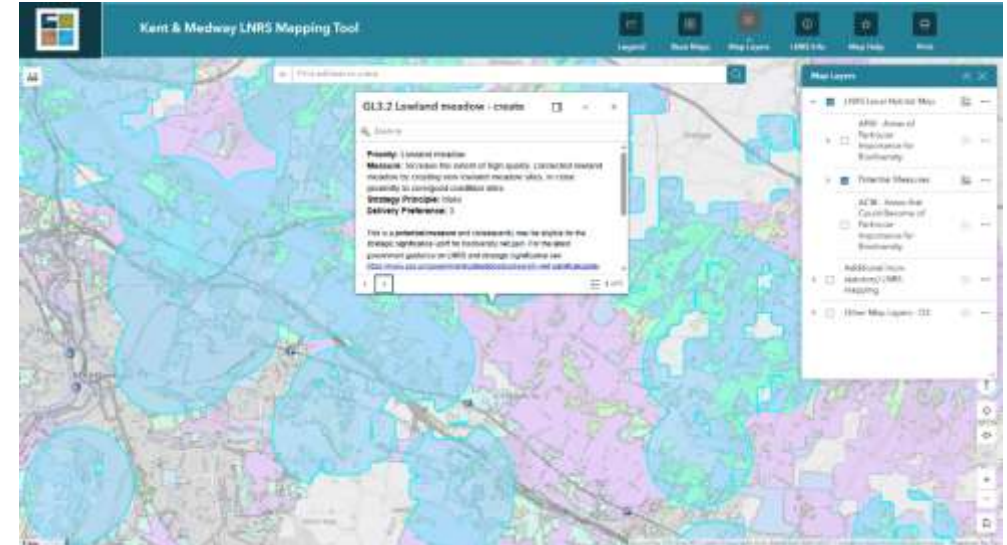
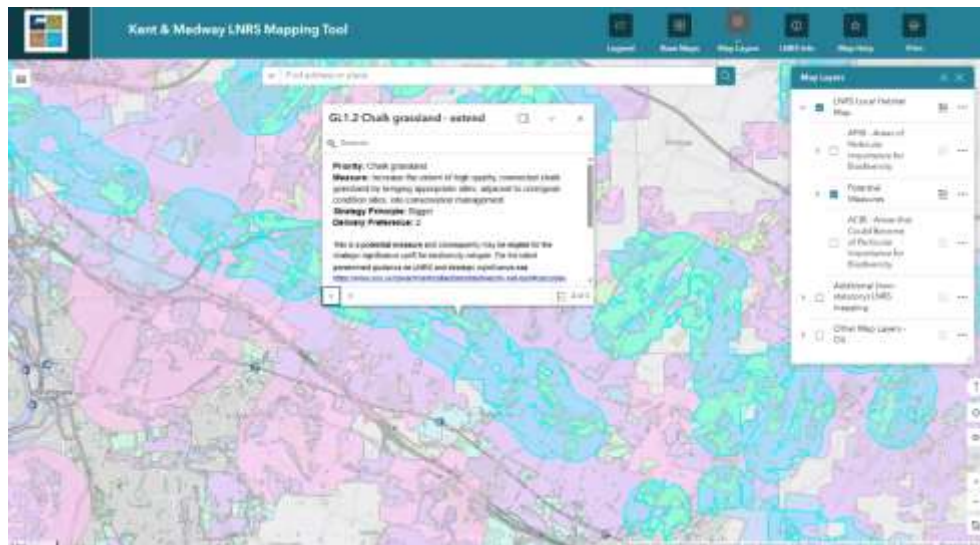
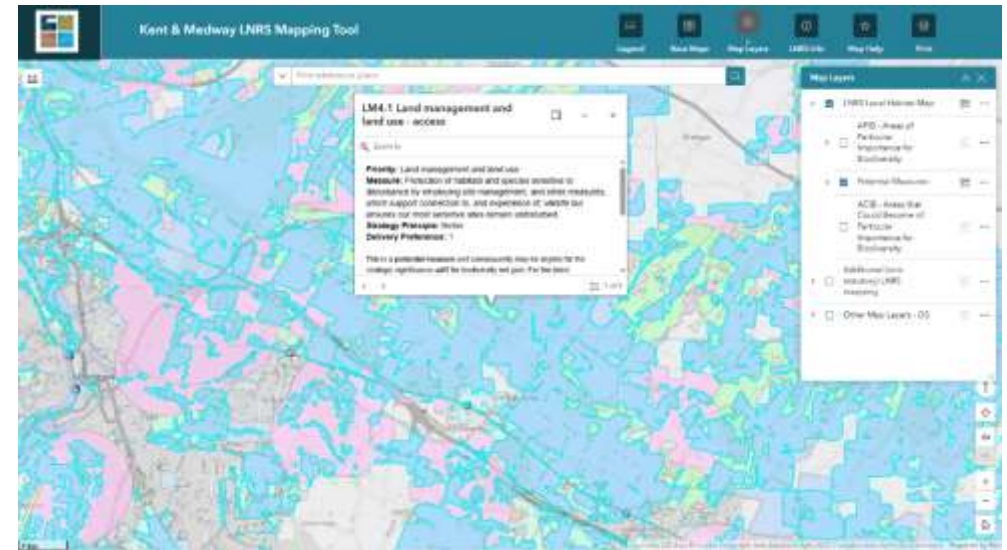
The first tool is to click on the legend button at the top of the screen – this will show the potential measure reference numbers and the colour they are mapped with. Given the large number of mapped measures, you may still find the map a little complex but the next tool should assist you.



A searchable list of all the potential measures is available online – <https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Potential-measures.xlsx>

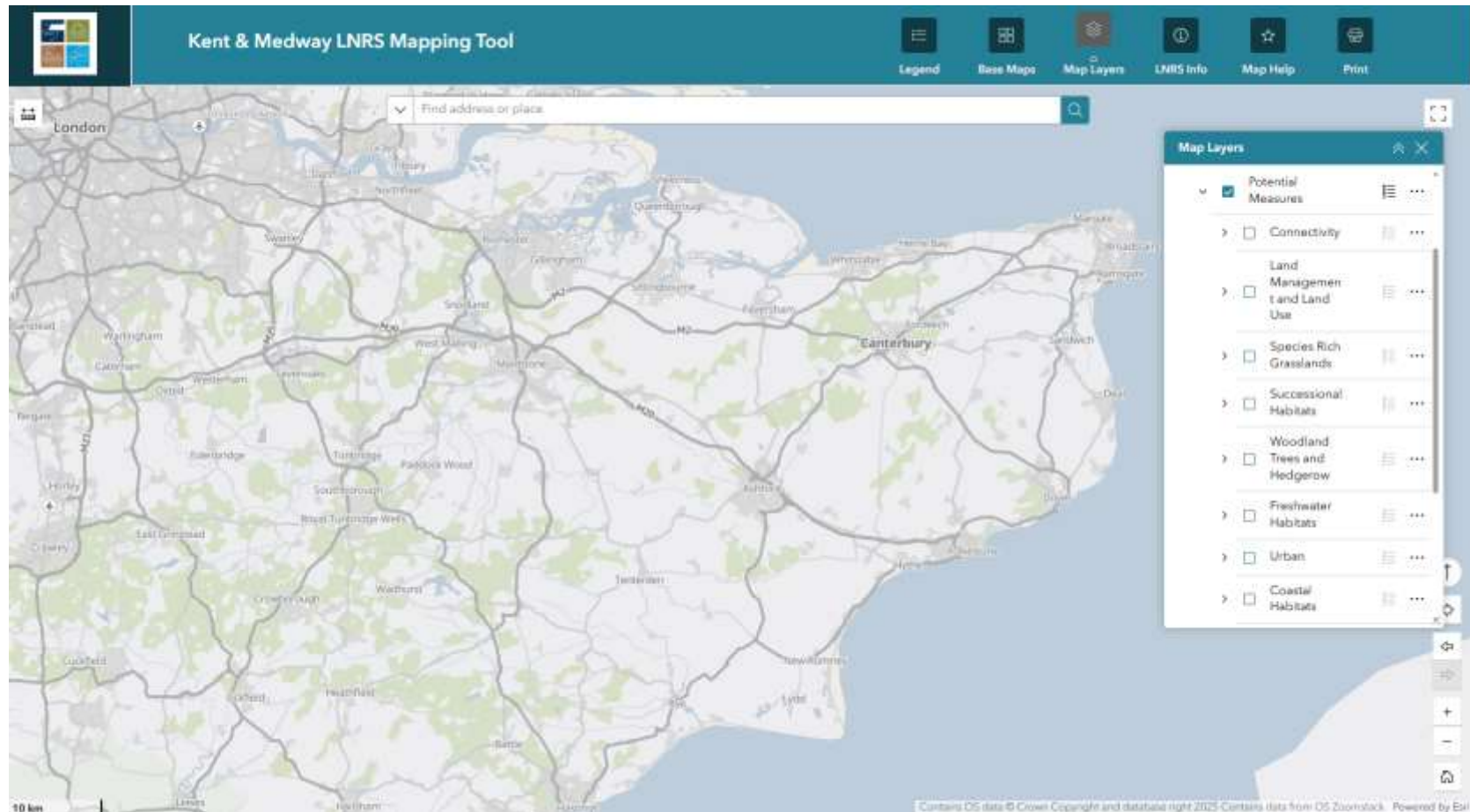
The other way to view the all potential measures map is to locate the site or area you are interested in and click on that parcel of land. This will bring up a pop-up box, which will list all the measures mapped to that area of land. Using the arrow buttons at the bottom of the box, you can scroll through each of the potential measures mapped to that land. As well as providing full details on the measure, scrolling through also highlights the extent of that mapped potential measure in a bright blue highlight outline.

Where more than one measure is identified, [click here](#) for advice on how to select the most appropriate measure.



Clearing the default map view

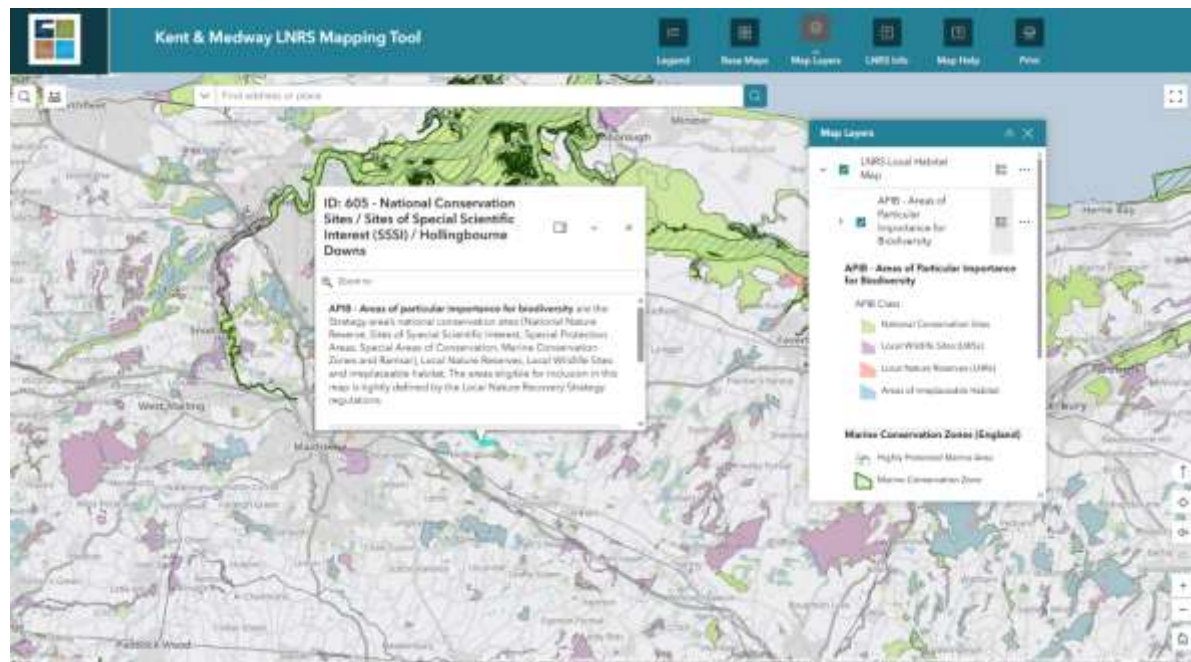
If you wish to clear the map of all potential measures, in order to create your own view of the mapped information, you simply uncheck all the ambition/habitat boxes sitting under potential measures and the map will clear. How to create a map based on the layers you wish to view is detailed in the remainder of this guide.



How to view the Strategy's Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB)

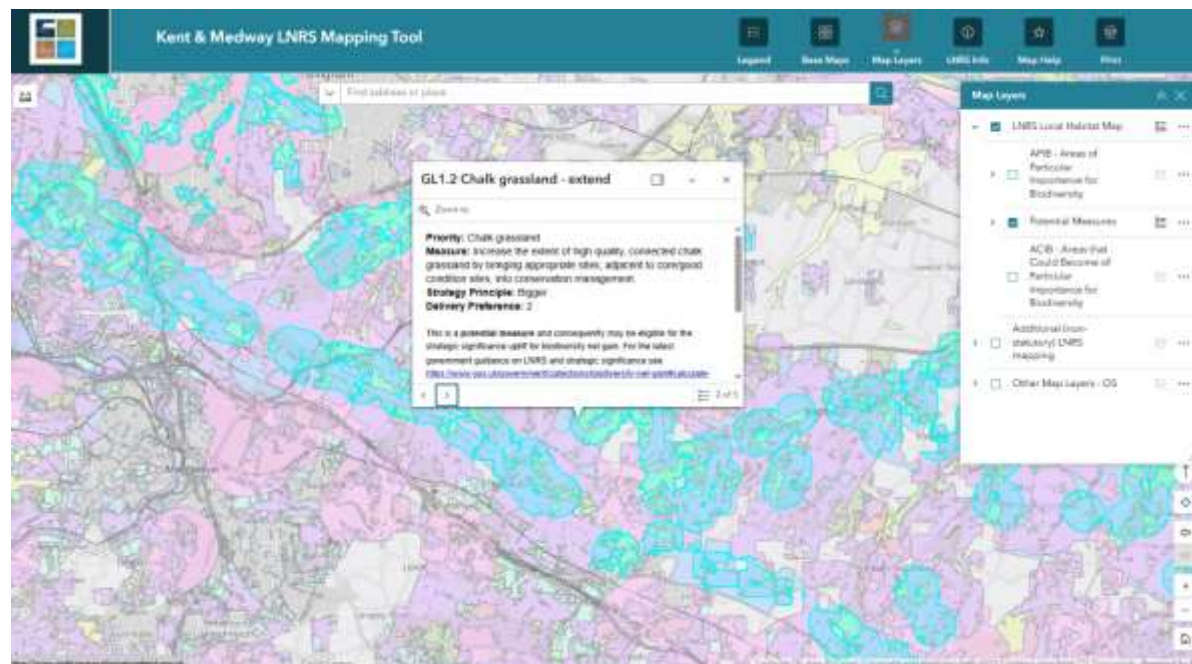
These are the Strategy area's national conservation sites (National Nature Reserve, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Marine Conservation Zones and Ramsar), Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites and irreplaceable habitat. The areas eligible for inclusion in this map is tightly defined by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy regulations. To view these:

1. First ensure no other layers are turned on by deselecting the APIB - Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer, ACIB- Areas that could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer and additional (non statutory) LNRS mapping if there is a check in the menu box for any of these.
2. Select the drop down box for the LNRS Local Habitat Map (this box needs to be checked) and select APIB - Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity.
3. The Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity will be displayed – by clicking legend button, you can turn on and off the legend in the mapping layer, which denotes the APIB class.
4. If you click on a mapped area, a pop-up box will tell you the specific APIB classification and the name of the site.



How to view all potential measures at once (if starting from a cleared map)

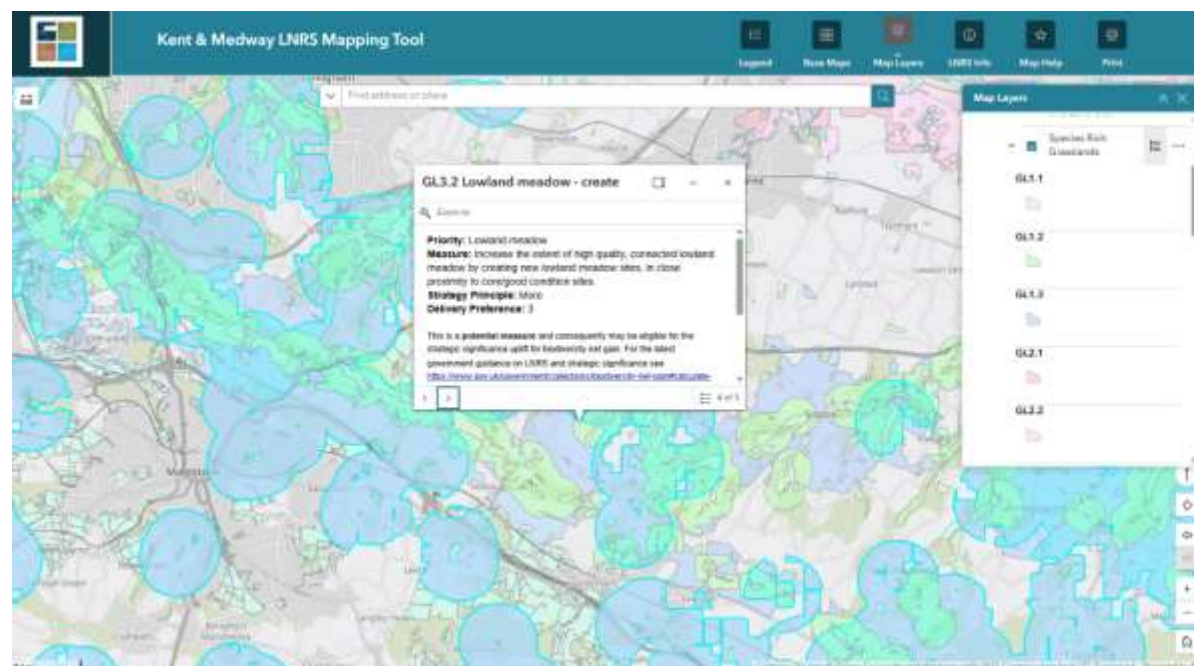
1. First ensure no other layers are turned on by deselecting the APIB - Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer, ACIB- Areas that could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer and additional (non statutory) LNRS mapping if there is a check in the menu box for any of these.
2. Select the drop down box for the LNRS Local Habitat Map (this box needs to be checked) and select Potential Measures (this box needs to be checked).
3. The potential measures will be displayed.
4. By clicking legend button in the map layers menu, you can turn on and off the legend in the mapping layer, which denotes the measure. Given the complexity of the mapping you may find the next step an easier way to understand what is mapped where.
5. If you click on a mapped area, a pop-up box will list all the measures mapped to that area of land. Using the arrow buttons at the bottom of the box, you can scroll through each of the potential measures mapped to that land. As well as providing full details on the measure, scrolling through also highlights the extent of that mapped potential measure in a bright blue highlight outline. Where more than one measure is identified, [click here](#) for advice on how to select the most appropriate measure.



A searchable list of all the potential measures is available online – <https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Potential-measures.xlsx>

How to view potential measures relating to one ambition / habitat group

1. First ensure no other layers are turned on by deselecting the APIB - Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer, ACIB- Areas that could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer and additional (non statutory) LNRS mapping if there is a check in the menu box for any of these.
2. Select the drop down box for the LNRS Local Habitat Map (this box needs to be checked) and select Potential Measures (this box needs to be checked).
3. Click on the potential measures drop down - uncheck all ambition/habitat grouping boxes apart from the ambition/habitat grouping you wish to view.
4. The potential measures for the selected ambition/habitat grouping will be displayed.
5. By clicking the legend button in the map layers menu, you can turn on and off the legend in the mapping layer, which denotes the measure.

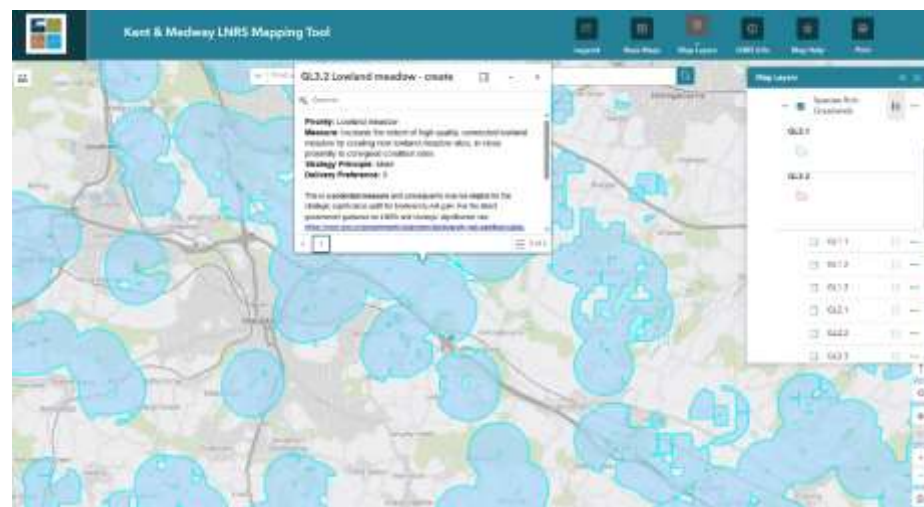
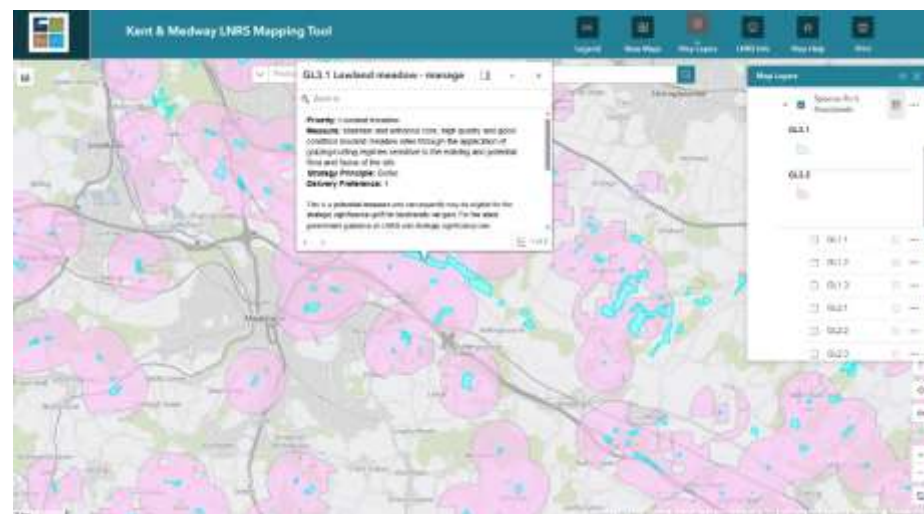


- Given the complexity of the mapping you may find the next step an easier way to understand what is mapped where.
6. If you click on a mapped area, a pop-up box will list all the measures mapped to that area of land. Using the arrow buttons at the bottom of the box, you can scroll through each of the potential measures mapped to that land. As well as providing full details on the measure, scrolling through also highlights the extent of that mapped potential measure in a bright blue highlight outline. Where more than one measure is identified, [click here](#) for advice on how to select the most appropriate measure.

The illustrated example above shows the selection of all potential measures that fall under species-rich grassland habitat group/ambition. It is therefore showing all the measures for priorities with the prefix GL - chalk grasslands, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, lowland meadow, acid grassland and heathland and arable field margins. A searchable list of all the potential measures is available online – <https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Potential-measures.xlsx>

How to view potential measures relating to one habitat type

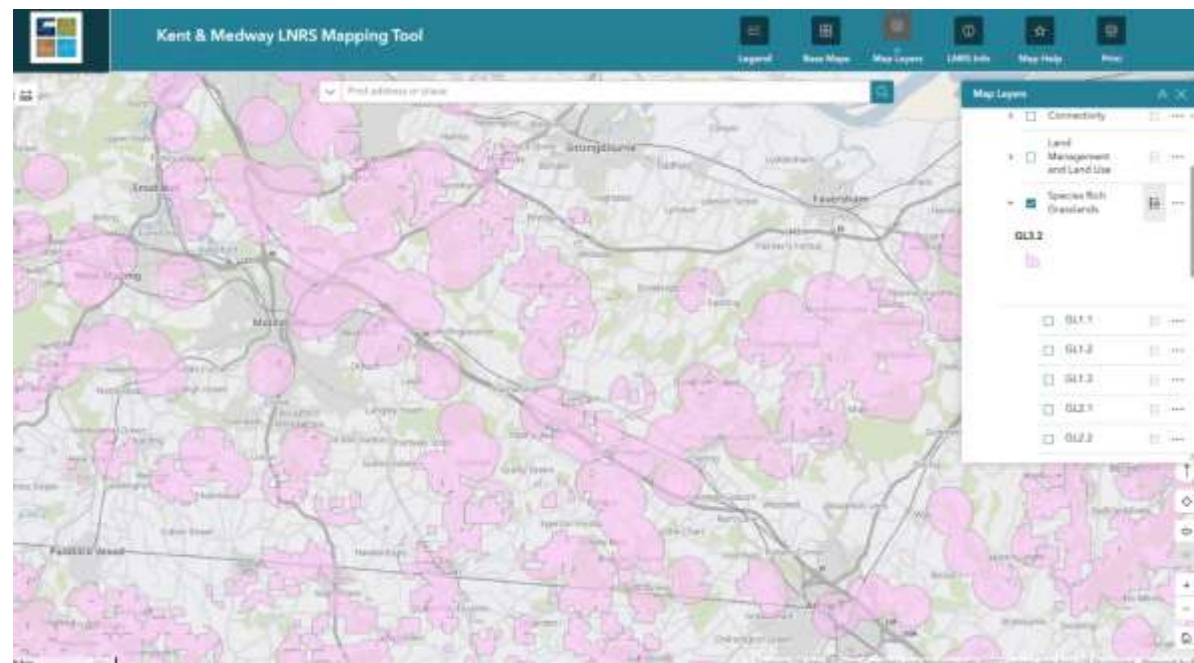
1. First ensure no other layers are turned on by deselecting the APIB - Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer, ACIB- Areas that could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer and additional (non statutory) LNRS mapping if there is a check in the menu box for any of these.
2. Select the drop down box for the LNRS Local Habitat Map (this box needs to be checked) and select Potential Measures (this box needs to be checked).
3. Click on the potential measures drop down - uncheck all ambition/habitat grouping boxes apart from the ambition/habitat grouping you wish to view.
4. Click ambition/habitat grouping drop down the habitat type belongs to - uncheck all potential measures not belonging to specific habitat type wish to view.
5. The potential measures for the selected priority/habitat will be displayed.
6. By clicking the legend button in the map layers menu , you can turn on and off the legend in the mapping layer, which denotes the measure. Given the complexity of the mapping you may find the next step an easier way to understand what is mapped where.
7. If you click on a mapped area, a pop-up box will list all the measures mapped to that area of land. Using the arrow buttons at the bottom of the box, you can scroll through each of the potential measures mapped to that land. As well as providing full details on the measure, scrolling through also highlights the extent of that mapped potential measure in a bright blue highlight outline. Where more than one measure is identified, [click here](#) for advice on how to select the most appropriate measure.



The illustrated example above shows the selection of all potential measures for lowland meadow habitats. It is therefore showing all the measures for priorities with the prefix GL3 – in this case GL3.1 *Maintain and enhance core, high quality and good condition lowland meadow sites through the application of grazing/cutting regimes sensitive to the existing and potential flora and fauna of the site* and GL3.2 *Increase the extent of high quality, connected lowland meadow by creating new lowland meadow sites, in close proximity to core/good condition sites*. A searchable list of all the potential measures is available online – <https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Potential-measures.xlsx>

How to view an individual potential measure

1. First ensure no other layers are turned on by deselecting the APIB - Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer, ACIB- Areas that could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer and additional (non statutory) LNRS mapping if there is a check in the menu box for any of these.
2. Select the drop down box for the LNRS Local Habitat Map (this box needs to be checked) and select Potential Measures (this box needs to be checked).
3. Click on the potential measures drop down - uncheck all ambition/habitat grouping boxes apart from the ambition/habitat grouping the measure you wish to view is in.
4. Click ambition/habitat grouping drop down the habitat type belongs to - uncheck all potential measures you do not wish to view.
5. The individual potential measure will be displayed.



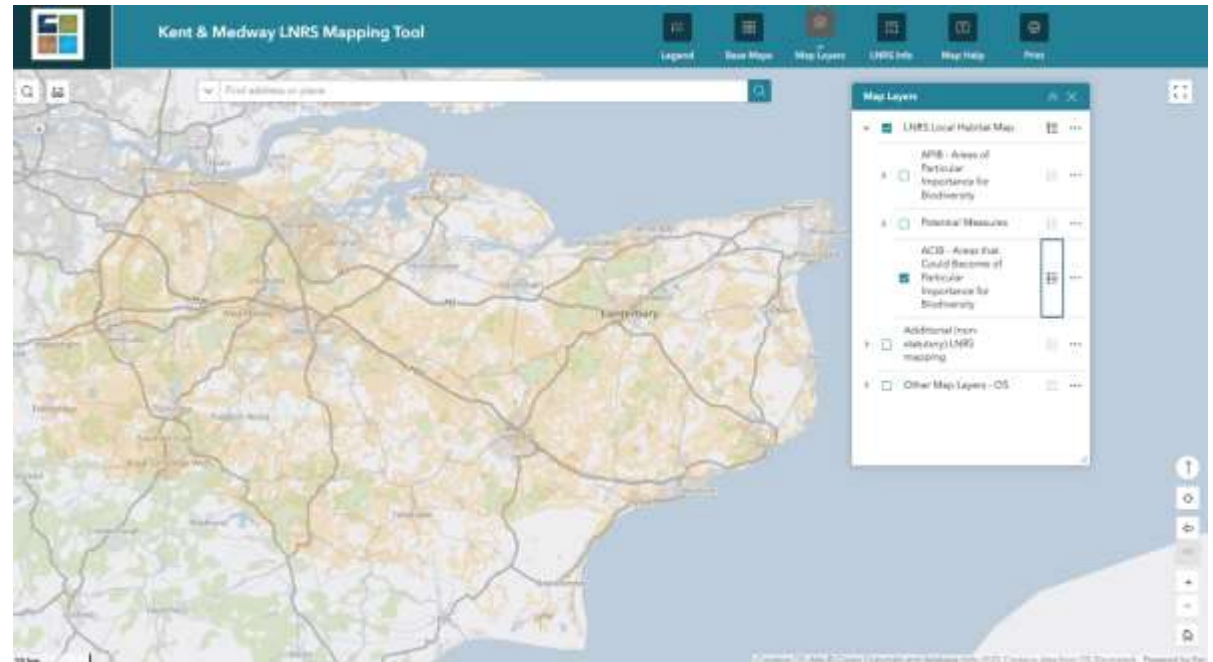
The illustrated example above shows the selection of one specific potential measure for lowland meadow habitats – GL3.2 *Increase the extent of high quality, connected lowland meadow by creating new lowland meadow sites, in close proximity to core/good condition sites.*

A searchable list of all the potential measures is available online – <https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Potential-measures.xlsx>

How to view the Strategy's Areas of that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB)

These areas comprise the extent of the potential measures, with areas of particular importance for biodiversity excluded. These are the areas where the Strategy proposes effort should be concentrated to restore habitat, to achieve the greatest gains for nature and to derive the greatest benefits from a healthy, functioning environment. They are the areas of Kent and Medway where targeted action will enable us to deliver on the priorities laid out by the Strategy.

1. First ensure no other layers are turned on by deselecting the APIB - Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer and additional (non statutory) LNRS mapping if there is a check in the menu box for any of these.
2. Select the drop down box for the LNRS Local Habitat Map (this box needs to be checked) and select ACIB - Areas that could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity.
3. The Areas that could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity will be displayed.



How to view more than one layer at a time

You can view as many of the layers at the same time as you wish – although the nature of the mapping means it will soon become a complicated picture. However there are some tools to help you view multiple layers more easily.

In the illustrated example, the APIB, ACIB and potential measures GL3.1, GL3.2 and GL5.3 layers are all displayed across the map. Clicking on a parcel of land will bring up the details of what is mapped to that site.

In the first selected location example, there are three LNRS features mapped:

1. Areas that Could become of particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB)
2. Potential measure GL3.2 Lowland meadow - Increase the extent of high quality, connected lowland meadow by creating new lowland meadow sites, in close proximity to core/good condition sites.
3. Potential measure GL5.3 Arable fields - Design and deliver location and soil appropriate projects, targeted in the richest arable plant areas and on a variety of soil types, to create new, large areas dedicated to the promotion of arable wild plant diversity and abundance.



By clicking the legend button in the map layers menu , you can turn on and off the legend in the mapping layer, which denotes the different areas shown.

To make this clearer, using the arrows at the bottom of the pop up box, you can scroll through the details of each layer mapped to that land. What this does is highlight on the map the extent of this layer in a bright blue highlight outline.

In the second selected location example, there are three LNRS features mapped:

1. Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB) - Local Wildlife Sites Bredhurst Woods Etc.
2. Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB) - Areas of Irreplaceable Habitat (Ancient woodland, Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland, Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites)
3. Potential measure GL3.2 Lowland meadow - Increase the extent of high quality, connected lowland meadow by creating new lowland meadow sites, in close proximity to core/good condition sites.



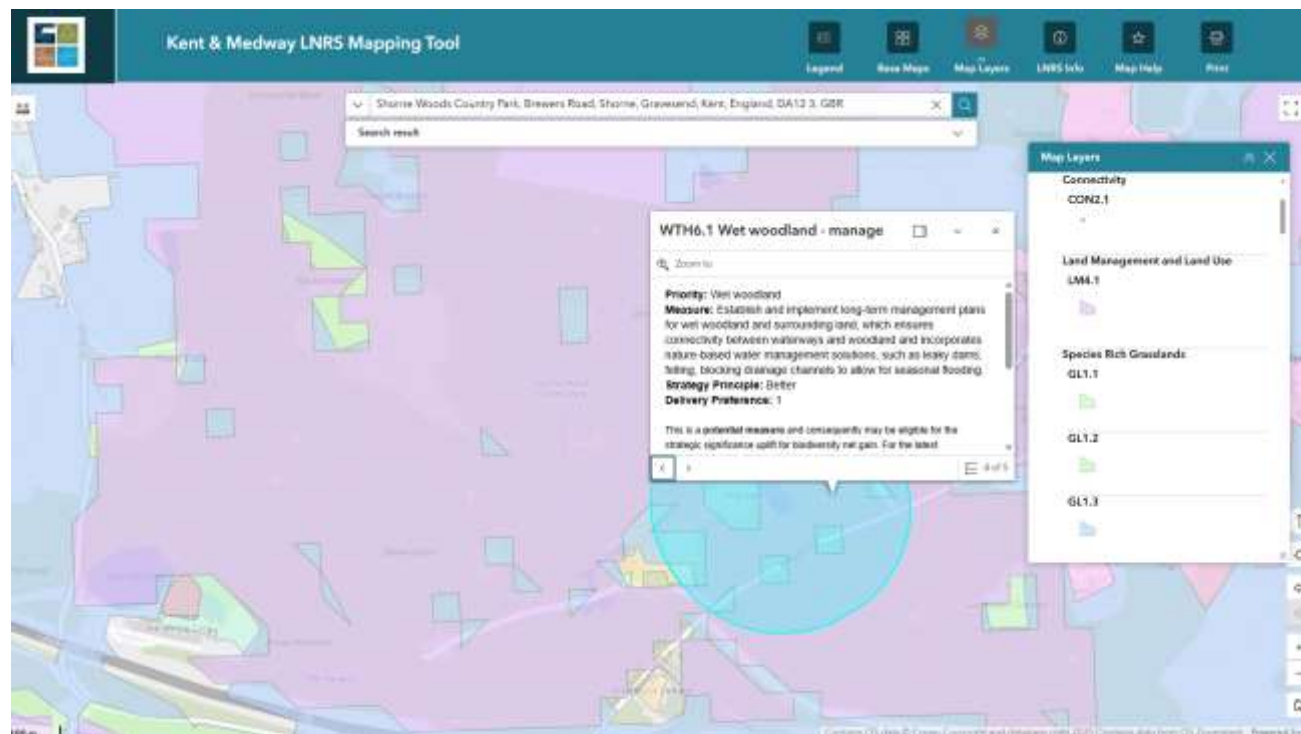
By clicking the legend button in the map layers menu , you can turn on and off the legend in the mapping layer, which denotes the different areas shown.

To make this clearer, using the arrows at the bottom of the pop up box, you can scroll through the details of each layer mapped to that land. What this does is highlight on the map the extent of this layer in a bright blue highlight outline.

Whilst a potential measure is mapped to this location, the Areas that Could become of particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB) is not because there are Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB) features (the Local Wildlife Site and the irreplaceable habitat) – the ACIB and APIB cannot overlap.

How to find what measures are mapped to a specific location

You may want to find a specific location and view the measures mapped to that area. You can do this by zooming down to the location or by using the search tool at the top of the mapping tool page. Unless you are interested in a specific habitat grouping, type or potential measure, this is best used in the default starting setting so you can easily and readily view all the potential measures mapped to the location. You can also view all the wider measures alongside the potential measures, if you select this data layer to also display.

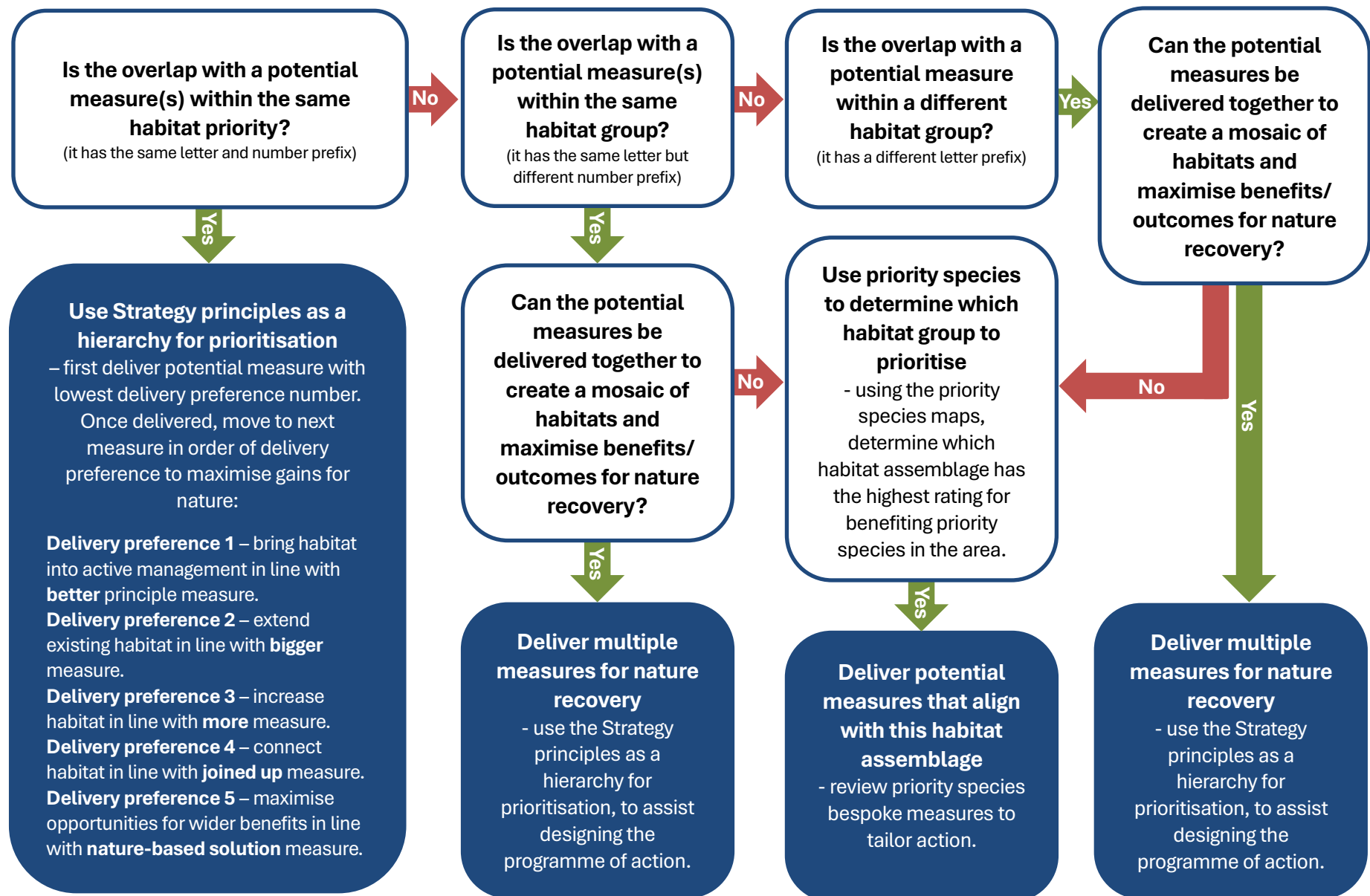


By clicking the legend button in the map layers menu, you can turn on and off the legend in the mapping layer, which denotes the measure. Given the complexity of the mapping you may find it easier to understand what is mapped where by clicking on the area and viewing the measures through the pop-up box. This will list all the measures mapped to that area of land – using the arrow buttons at the bottom of the box, you can scroll through each of the measures mapped to that land. As well as providing full details on the measure, scrolling through also highlights the extent of that mapped wider measure in a bright blue highlight outline. Where more than one measure is identified, [click here](#) for advice on how to select the most appropriate measure.

Prioritising action when more than one potential measure is mapped to the same location

In some locations, more than one potential measure is identified. This is to ensure that no opportunity for nature recovery is missed and that broad areas consider a range of habitats, to create the mosaic of habitats that nature recovery needs.

Where the most appropriate measure, based on the site, is not clear following a local site assessment, the approach overleaf is recommended to aid the selection of the most appropriate measure to deliver. It is advised that professional advice is sought from a land advisor, nature conservation body or another appropriately qualified source.



What if the area of land you're interested in doesn't have potential measures mapped to it

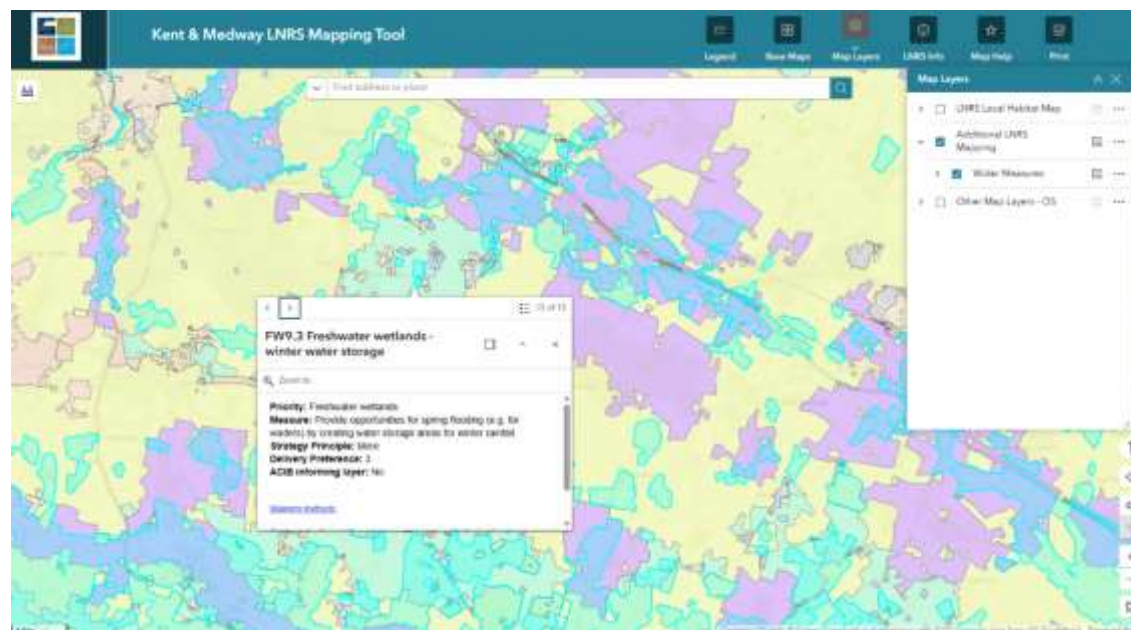
Users of the Strategy and its mapping may be concerned about the 'white space' in the local habitat map, which indicates that the area is not mapped as being – or could become – of particular importance for biodiversity.

Every area has a biodiversity value and is important in the recovery of nature. This Strategy was developed under the project title Making Space for Nature, and that is absolutely what we need to do in every part of the county's landscape if our wildlife is to have the room it needs to return to a thriving state. However, as noted by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy guidance, indiscriminate or widespread mapping of areas will not aid the targeting of available resources. Therefore, the Strategy is required to determine and map the areas that will have the greatest impact on achieving the priorities.

An unmapped area does not mean that no action should be taken – and there are measures that can be taken indiscriminately across the county. A number of the priorities have mapped **wider measures** – these are measures identified as valuable to the recovery of a particular habitat but which could only be mapped to the extent of that habitat, rather than as prioritised areas. While these do not feature in the Strategy's local habitat map, they play an important role in directing broad action across the whole of the Strategy area and collectively fill in much of the white space. In addition, under many of the priorities, there are land management and land-use principles, which can be applied to that habitat. These principles can be applied to that particular habitat anywhere in the county – it does not need to be habitat mapped in the local habitat map.

How to view all the mapped wider measures

1. First ensure no other layers are turned on by deselecting the APIB - Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer, ACIB- Areas that could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer and the Potential Measures. This can be done in one go by deselecting the LNRS Local Habitat Map.
2. Select the box for Additional (non-statutory) LNRS mapping (this box needs to be checked) and select Wider Measures (this box needs to be checked).
3. The wider measures will be displayed.
4. By clicking legend button in the map layers menu, you can turn on and off the legend in the mapping layer, which denotes the measure. Given the complexity of the mapping you may find the next step an easier way to understand what is mapped where.
5. If you click on a mapped area, a pop-up box will list all the measures mapped to that area of land. Using the arrow buttons at the bottom of the box, you can scroll through each of the potential measures mapped to that land. As well as providing full details on the measure, scrolling through also highlights the extent of that mapped potential measure in a bright blue highlight outline. Where more than one measure is identified, [click here](#) for advice on how to select the most appropriate measure.

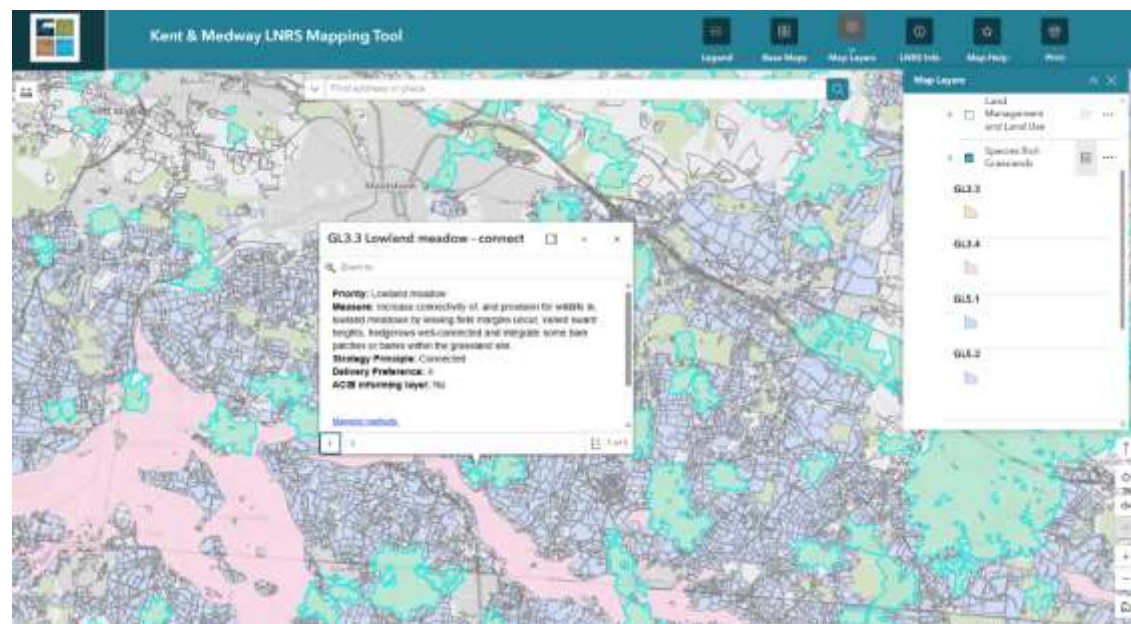


Note: wider measures identify areas of opportunity for nature recovery but is not a formal part of the Strategy's local habitat map and is NOT eligible for the strategic significance uplift for biodiversity net gain.

A searchable list of all the wider measures is available online – <https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Wider-measures.xlsx>

How to view wider measures relating to one ambition / habitat group

1. First ensure no other layers are turned on by deselecting the APIB - Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer, ACIB- Areas that could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer and the Potential Measures. This can be done in one go by deselecting the LNRS Local Habitat Map.
2. Select the box for Additional (non-statutory) LNRS mapping (this box needs to be checked) and select Wider Measures (this box needs to be checked).
3. Click on the wider measures drop down - uncheck all ambition/habitat grouping boxes apart from the ambition/habitat grouping you wish to view.
4. The wider measures for the selected ambition/habitat grouping will be displayed.
5. By clicking the legend button in the map layers menu, you can turn on and off the legend in the mapping layer, which denotes the measure.



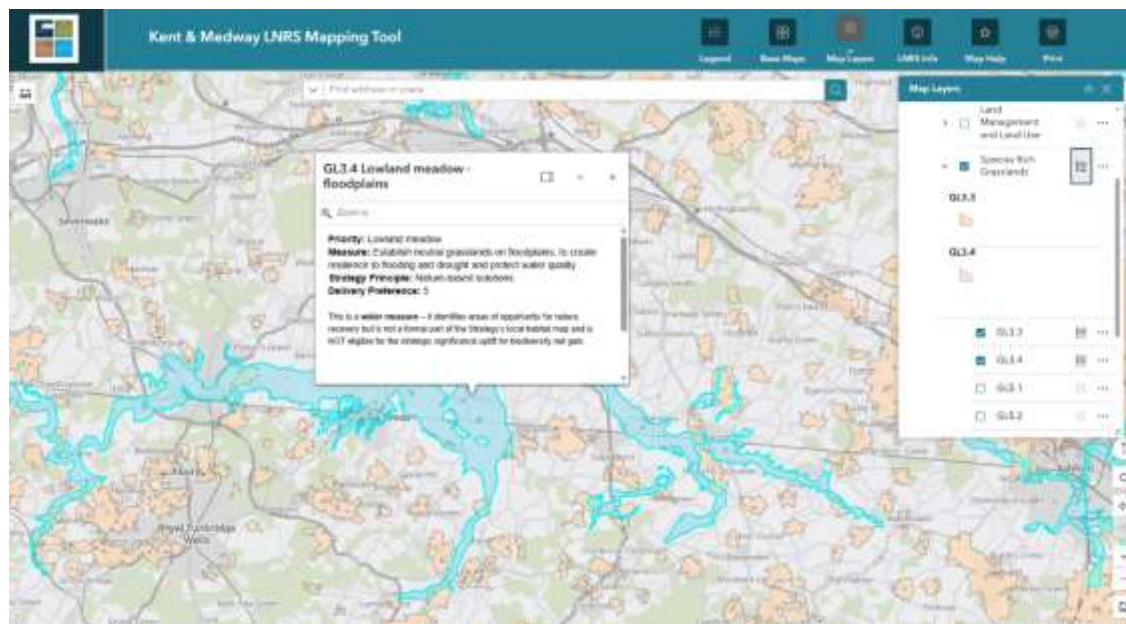
Given the complexity of the mapping you may find the next step an easier way to understand what is mapped where.

6. If you click on a mapped area, a pop-up box will list all the measures mapped to that area of land. Using the arrow buttons at the bottom of the box, you can scroll through each of the wider measures mapped to that land. As well as providing full details on the measure, scrolling through also highlights the extent of that mapped wider measure in a bright blue highlight outline. Where more than one measure is identified, [click here](#) for advice on how to select the most appropriate measure.

The illustrated example above shows the selection of all wider measures that fall under species-rich grassland habitat group/ambition. It is therefore showing all the wider measures for priorities with the prefix GL – in this case lowland meadow and arable field margins. Where there are no wider measures listed for a specific habitat, this is because all actions for that habitat were potential measures. A searchable list of all the wider measures is available online – <https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Wider-measures.xlsx>

How to view wider measures relating to one habitat type

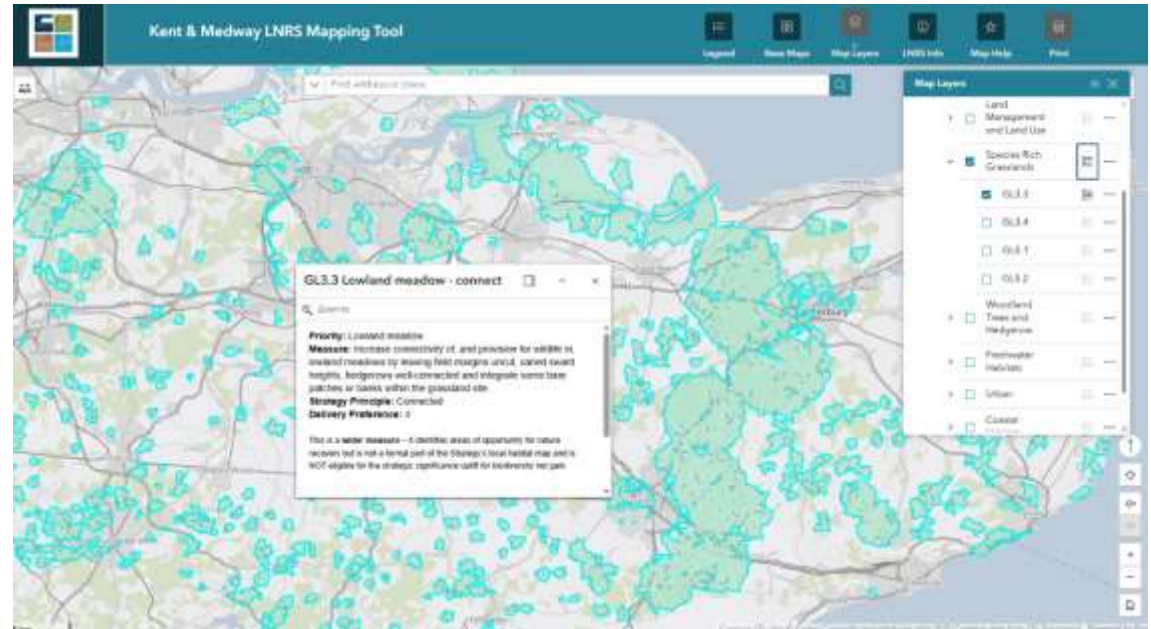
1. First ensure no other layers are turned on by deselecting the APIB - Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer, ACIB- Areas that could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer and the Potential Measures. This can be done in one go by deselecting the LNRS Local Habitat Map.
2. Select the box for Additional (non-statutory) LNRS mapping (this box needs to be checked) and select Wider Measures (this box needs to be checked).
3. Click on the wider measures drop down - uncheck all ambition/habitat grouping boxes apart from the ambition/habitat grouping you wish to view.
4. Click ambition/habitat grouping drop down the habitat type belongs to - uncheck all wider measures not belonging to specific habitat type wish to view.
5. The wider measures for the selected priority/habitat will be displayed.
6. By clicking the legend button in the map layers menu , you can turn on and off the legend in the mapping layer, which denotes the measure. Given the complexity of the mapping you may find the next step an easier way to understand what is mapped where.
7. If you click on a mapped area, a pop-up box will list all the measures mapped to that area of land. Using the arrow buttons at the bottom of the box, you can scroll through each of the wider measures mapped to that land. As well as providing full details on the measure, scrolling through also highlights the extent of that mapped wider measure in a bright blue highlight outline. Where more than one measure is identified, [click here](#) for advice on how to select the most appropriate measure



The illustrated example above shows the selection of all wider measures for lowland meadow habitats. It is therefore showing all the measures for priorities with the prefix GL3. A searchable list of all the wider measures is available online – <https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Wider-measures.xlsx>

How to view an individual wider measure

1. First ensure no other layers are turned on by deselecting the APIB - Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer, ACIB- Areas that could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity layer and the Potential Measures. This can be done in one go by deselecting the LNRS Local Habitat Map.
2. Select the box for Additional (non-statutory) LNRS mapping (this box needs to be checked) and select Wider Measures (this box needs to be checked).
3. Click on the wider measures drop down - uncheck all ambition/habitat grouping boxes apart from the ambition/habitat grouping the measure you wish to view is in.
4. Click ambition/habitat grouping drop down the habitat type belongs to - uncheck all wider measures you do not wish to view.
5. The individual wider measure will be displayed.



The illustrated example above shows the selection of one specific wider measure for lowland meadow habitats – GL3.3 *Increase connectivity of, and provision for wildlife in, lowland meadows by leaving field margins uncut, varied sward heights, hedgerows well-connected and integrate some bare patches or banks within the grassland site..*

A searchable list of all the potential measures is available online – <https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Potential-measures.xlsx>

The role of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy mapping in informing the delivery of biodiversity net gain

The potential measures mapping has an important role in the delivery of meaningful biodiversity net gain. Biodiversity net gain is a mandatory requirement that aims to make sure that development has a measurably positive impact on biodiversity. This “gain” is calculated using a standardised metric, which identifies the biodiversity value of the land lost and the biodiversity gained.

The 2025 updated planning guidance notes that Local Nature Recovery Strategies will identify areas where habitat creation, restoration or enhancement would be most beneficial for nature recovery and wider environmental outcomes and that the Strategies can play a critical role in supporting offsite gains to be delivered in a way that maximises biodiversity benefits, when these are required to achieve a development’s biodiversity gain objective. This can help to support bigger and more joined-up areas in which our wildlife can thrive.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies are designed to promote the delivery of offsite biodiversity gain in the right places, where offsite provision is needed to meet the biodiversity gain condition for a development and it cannot be met in full through onsite habitat enhancements.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy can be used as a key source of information regarding strategic approaches to off-site biodiversity net gain delivery and connections to existing habitat, when local planning authorities are carrying out their functions in respect of biodiversity net gain.

The statutory biodiversity metric formula takes different factors into account, including the habitat’s size, condition, type and strategic significance.

Strategic significance is the local significance of the habitat based on its location and habitat type. Where a Local Nature Recovery Strategy has been published, high strategic significance (and the associated score) is applied when:

- the location of the habitat parcel has been mapped in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy as an area where a potential measure has been proposed to help deliver the priorities of the Strategy; and
- the proposed intervention is consistent with the mapped potential measure in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the habitat parcel.

The mapping tool can assist you in identifying whether the land and action you are planning will meet the criteria for strategic significance. For the latest government guidance on how the LNRS informs strategic significance, in particular in relation to land within Areas of Particular Importance to Biodiversity see [Biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK](#)

The role of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy mapping in protecting nature

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

Throughout the document the term safeguard is used. In the context of this Strategy, this does not imply a formal protection nor prevention of potentially impactful activities, unless already identified within an existing and adopted local plan or an already established legal protection. Safeguarding may be delivered by setting aside the land but also refers to the use of active management that prevents loss and damage, the use of buffers to minimise human impacts and connecting habitats to increase resilience. Where measures refer to safeguarding areas, this does not mean that nothing can happen in these areas; rather that appropriate action should be taken within these areas to support the habitats and species they are notable for.

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

The LNRS Local Habitat Map can provide information for this purpose in its presentation of:

- Location and extent of areas identified as of particular importance for biodiversity.
- Locations where potential measures have been proposed.
- Location and extent of areas identified that could become of particular importance for biodiversity.