Appendix 1.2a - Methodology for Potential Measures Mapping

Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery strategy

Making space for the county's nature

Introduction

The Strategy identifies priorities for nature recovery and the potential measures (actions) that will help deliver against these. Where data and evidence was available, these measures were mapped to where it was considered they would be best delivered to achieve the greatest gains for nature and derive the greatest benefits from a healthy, functioning environment.

Mapping was a desk-based exercise, with evidence and data used to inform where measures would best be targeted; the process followed requirements set out by Defra. The work was undertaken by the Kent Wildlife Trust, with support from Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre, under the expert input and advice of a data, evidence and mapping technical advisory group. The initial mapping was also reviewed and revised with partners and stakeholders before finalising. More detail on the mapping process is provided in Part 1 Chapter 5.

Measures with a reference code are the measures the Strategy has mapped. The mappable measures deliver against one of the Strategy principles of better, bigger, more, joined up and nature-based solutions.

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

The potential measures maps are available online at Local Nature Recovery Strategy mapping portal | Making Space For Nature Kent

A users guide to the online mapping tool is available from How to use the online mapping tool | Making Space For Nature Kent

This document outlines the mapping methodology and data used for the Strategy's potential measures. Where measures appear missing from the list, it will be because they are wider measures – mapping methodology for these is provided in Appendix 1.2b.

Connected ambition potential measures mapping

Map reference	**CON2.1**	Strategy principle	**Connected**
Potential measure	**Installation of green bridges, wildlife crossings, tunnels and other appropriate structures, alongside retrofitting existing structures, to address historic fragmentation caused by major infrastructure.**		
Mapping method	Identified points for green bridges.		
Data used	Green bridge potential opportunities (Kent County Council, 2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	During the development of the Strategy, Highways England requested prioritised points for retrofitting measures to address habitat fragmentation caused by major roads and railway. The points submitted to this were created in consultation with partners and stakeholders and signed off by the Strategy Board.		

Land management and land use ambition potential measures mapping

Map reference	**LM4.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Protection of habitats and species sensitive to disturbance by employing site management, and other measures, which support connection to, and experience of, wildlife but ensures our most sensitive sites remain undisturbed.**		
Mapping method	All semi-natural habitats that intersect with either: LPA provided greenspace data, a public right of way or land mapped as access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Allocated sites have been removed.		
Data used	- CEH land cover map (2024) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25) - Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Natural England, 2000) - Public Rights of Way (PRoW) (2023) - Public greenspace data provided by Local Planning Authorities directly.		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Adopted land allocation areas were removed as management would not be necessary within a development plan which has been approved.		

Chalk grassland priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**GL1.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Maintain and enhance core, high quality and good condition chalk grassland sites through the application of conservation management sensitive to the existing and potential flora and fauna of the site.**		
Mapping method	Existing chalk grassland from Kent Habitat Survey, CEH and Calcareous grassland from Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory. Includes extra information provided by Natural England habitat experts. Known chalk grassland sites not identified by mapping data manually included. Allocated sites removed.		
Data used	- Kent Habitat Survey: Calcareous grassland (2012) - CEH land cover map: Calcareous grassland (2024) - Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Calcareous Grassland (2024) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25) - Kent Wildlife Trust Reserves (2025)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapped on extent of chalk grassland, with input from chalk grassland experts in county. Allocated sites excluded on basis that chalk grassland management using conservation management approaches is unlikely to be feasible on developed land, nor have successful ecological restoration results returning high quality chalk grassland habitat.		

Map reference	**GL1.2**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Increase the extent of high quality, connected chalk grassland by bringing appropriate sites, adjacent to core/good condition sites, into conservation management.**		
Mapping method	All areas within 500m of existing chalk grassland, which sit on chalk bedrock, with existing chalk grassland sites removed. Urban, suburban & adopted allocation areas are removed.		
Data used	- British Geological Survey: Bedrock including chalk (2020) - Kent Habitat Survey: Calcareous grassland (2012) - Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Calcareous Grassland (2024) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25) - CEH landcover: Urban and Suburban (2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	500m agreed as an appropriate distance to enable a permeable landscape, with species expected to be able to colonise new sites and populations will be connected across the landscape. Allocated sites and urban/suburban sites excluded on basis that chalk grassland management using conservation management approaches is unlikely to be feasible on developed land, nor have successful ecological restoration results returning high quality chalk grassland habitat.		

Map reference	**GL1.3**	Strategy principle	**Connected**
Potential measure	**Increase functional links between chalk grassland and other habitats to maximise nature based solutions offered by improved connectivity.**		
Mapping method	Bottlenecks and areas of low existing flow identified for existing chalk grassland, with known chalk grassland sites not identified by mapping data manually included. Urban land cover and adopted allocations removed.		
Data used	Chalk connectivity modelling applied to combined data of: - Kent Habitat Survey: Calcareous grassland (2012) - Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Calcareous Grassland (2024) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25) - CEH landcover: Urban and Suburban (2024) - Kent Wildlife Trust Reserves (2025) - Connectivity modelling for Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre, 2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapping utilised Condatis for all its connectivity mapping work. Condatis is a decision support tool to identify the best locations for habitat creation and restoration to enhance existing habitat networks and increase connectivity across landscapes. It also pinpoints bottlenecks in the habitat network (where there are limited opportunities for colonisation). Allocated sites and urban/suburban sites excluded on basis that chalk grassland management using conservation management approaches is unlikely to be feasible on developed land, nor have successful ecological restoration results returning high quality chalk grassland habitat.		

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**GL2.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Increase opportunities to store winter water on land adjacent to grazing marsh to increase opportunities for "wetting" during spring/summer.**		
Mapping method	Parcels adjacent to existing floodplain grazing marsh. Includes extra information provided by Natural England habitat experts. Urban and suburban areas removed. High grade Agricultural Land Classification land excluded.		
Data used	- Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (2024) - Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory (v.3) (2024) - Agricultural Land Classification Grade (Natural England, 2023) - CEH landcover: Urban and Suburban (2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Urban and suburban areas removed as not appropriate as water storage. Valuable agricultural land removed in line with national policies to protect the best agricultural land.		

Map reference	**GL2.2**	Strategy principle	**More**
Potential measure	**Deliver grazing marsh habitat restoration, extension and creation where it will offer the greatest gains to support the county's important grazing marsh flora and fauna, and is designed to minimise recreational disturbance and reduce risk from predation.**		
Mapping method	Mapped waders' population data, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, coastal saltmarsh, lowland meadows, purple moor grass and rush pastures; 30m away from current woodland. Included manual addition of areas from RSPB, Landscape Recovery Project areas and known marsh habitat not identified by mapping data. Urban and suburban areas removed.		
Data used	- Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory (v.3) (2024) - Kent Wildlife Trust Master Habitat (2023) - Forestry Commission Wader Zonal Map (2024) - CEH landcover: Urban and Suburban (2024) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25) - Darent Valley Interventions (SERT, 2025) - Darent Valley Landscape Recovery Project (Kent Wildlife Trust, 2025)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Aligning with Countryside Stewardship GS9: management of wet grassland for breeding waders, where the land must be mapped on the Priority Habitat Inventory as coastal floodplain grazing marsh or purple moor grass and rush pasture or lowland meadow. 30m from any line or group of trees determined by ScotGovRural research, which shows waders avoid nesting and feeding in areas close to tall trees and hedges. Landscape Recovery Project areas aligning with this measure included in mapping, following Defra advice note *Landscape Recovery projects and Local Nature Recovery Strategies - A guidance note on working together* (May 2025).		

Map reference	**GL2.3**	Strategy principle	**Connected**
Potential measure	**Reconnect rivers with their former natural floodplain and improve the water storage ability of floodplain, in order to protect against climate change impacts and drought.**		
Mapping method	Mapped all land under 5m in elevation within 100m of a river. Included Landscape Recovery Project areas.		
Data used	- Ordnance Survey MasterMap Water Network Layer 2025) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25) - Darent Valley Interventions (SERT, 2025) - Darent Valley Landscape Recovery Project (Kent Wildlife Trust, 2025)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	The existing data on floodplains does not take into account historical floodplains. Low elevation combined with proximity to a river was used as a proxy to areas that could be restored to a natural floodplain. Landscape Recovery Project areas aligning with this measure included in mapping, following Defra advice note *Landscape Recovery projects and Local Nature Recovery Strategies - A guidance note on working together* (May 2025).		

Lowland meadow priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**GL3.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**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.**		
Mapping method	Existing lowland meadow from Kent Habitat Survey and Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory. Includes extra information provided by Natural England habitat experts. Allocated sites removed.		
Data used	- Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Lowland meadows (2024) - Priority Habitat Inventory (v.3): Lowland meadows (Natural England, 2024) - Kent Habitat Survey: Lowland meadows (2012) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapped on extent of lowland meadow, with input from lowland meadow experts in county. Allocated sites excluded on basis that lowland meadow management using conservation management approaches is unlikely to be feasible on developed land, nor have successful ecological restoration results returning high quality lowland meadow habitat.		

Map reference	**GL3.2**	Strategy principle	**More**
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.**		
Mapping method	1km buffer of lowland meadow, clipped to the lowland meadow connectivity model. Included Landscape Recovery Project areas. Allocated sites removed.		
Data used	- Kent Habitat Survey: Lowland meadows (2012) - Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Lowland meadows (2024) - Darent Valley Landscape Recovery Project: Lowland meadow connectivity areas (Kent Wildlife Trust, 2025) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25) - Connectivity modelling for Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre, 2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Natural England produced several reports shortly after the Lawton report, recommending how close the same priority habitats should be to each other, most being within 1km. Lowland meadow patches must be in close proximity to other patches, for highly specialised species within a habitat, adjacent sites need to be < 200m apart (National Habitat Network Maps, Defra). Mapping utilised Condatis for all its connectivity mapping work. Condatis is a decision support tool to identify the best locations for habitat creation and restoration to enhance existing habitat networks and increase connectivity across landscapes. It also pinpoints bottlenecks in the habitat network (where there are limited opportunities for colonisation). Landscape Recovery Project areas aligning with this measure included in mapping, following Defra advice note *Landscape Recovery projects and Local Nature Recovery Strategies - A guidance note on working together* (May 2025). Allocated sites excluded on basis that lowland meadow management using conservation management approaches is unlikely to be feasible on developed land, nor have successful ecological restoration results returning high quality lowland meadow habitat.		

Acid grassland and heathland priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**GL4.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Implement appropriately designed acid grassland management that prevents succession into secondary woodland and scrub encroachment and ensures that acid grassland is maintained and retained but not at the expense of the mosaic's heathland resource. Grazing regime provides maximum diversity and a combination of larger open areas and smaller mosaic "glades" to provide habitat for breeding birds, reptiles and invertebrates. Climate resilience is built into management.**		
Mapping method	Existing habitat mapped of acid grassland, dry heath and wet heath from the Kent Habitat Survey and lowland dry acid grassland and lowland heathland from the Priority Habitat Inventory. Allocated sites removed.		
Data used	- Kent Habitat Survey: grassland, wet heathland and heathland (2012) - Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Lowland dry acid grassland and lowland heathland (2024) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapped on extent of acid grassland and heathland. Allocated sites excluded on basis that acid grassland and heathland grazing management approaches is unlikely to be feasible on developed land, nor have successful ecological restoration results returning high quality acid grassland and heathland.		

Map reference	**GL4.2**	Strategy principle	**More**
Potential measure	**Create new acid grassland sites from improved grassland and former arable sites.**		
Mapping method	Improved grassland and current arable sites on acidic-slightly acidic soils, within areas of low acid grassland connectivity or bottlenecks. Acid soils were identified using the Cranfield Soils data, identifying: 'Freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils', 'Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils', 'Naturally wet very acid sandy and loamy oils', 'Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage', 'Slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils', 'Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils'. Allocated sites and urban/suburban areas removed.		
Data used	- Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Acid grassland, lowland dry heath, lowland wet heath (2024) - Kent Habitat Survey: Arable improved grassland (2012) - Cranfield Soil data (2024) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25) - CEH landcover: Urban and Suburban areas (CEH, 2024) - Connectivity modelling for Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre, 2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Sites were selected on basis of appropriate conditions to create, using the connectivity modelling to identify areas of most benefit in terms of improving acid grassland connectivity. Mapping utilised Condatis for all its connectivity mapping work. Condatis is a decision support tool to identify the best locations for habitat creation and restoration to enhance existing habitat networks and increase connectivity across landscapes. It also pinpoints bottlenecks in the habitat network (where there are limited opportunities for colonisation). Allocated sites and urban/suburban areas excluded on basis that they offer limited opportunity, with limited chance of successful ecological restoration results returning high quality acid grassland habitat.		

Arable fields ambition priority measures mapping

Map reference	**GL5.3**	Strategy principle	**More**
Potential measure	**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.**		
Mapping method	All existing arable and improved grassland field margins (the first 5m within a polygon). Urban, suburban and adopted allocation areas are removed.		
Data used	- Kent Habitat Survey: Rural Field Margins (2012). - CEH landcover: Urban and Suburban areas (CEH, 2024) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	A 5m internal buffer was applied to each arable and pasture field parcel within the county. This identifies each potential field margin where the measure could be applied. The buffer was internal only as external boundaries likely fall out of the landowner's control. 5m was agreed as it falls midway in the Natural England recommended "outer 2-12m margin". Allocated sites and urban/suburban areas excluded on basis that they offer limited opportunity, with limited chance of successful ecological restoration results returning high quality arable plant areas.		

Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land (brownfield) priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**SH1.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Appropriate management plans in place for key open mosaic habitat on previously developed land (brownfield) sites, with measures that support the succession of habitats to occur naturally, increase edge habitat, create a graded profile of mixed habitat and provide features that support the species of interest most strongly tied to open mosaic habitats and, in particular, any species that the particular site in question is notable for.**		
Mapping method	Nightingales were chosen as a proxy to identify key sites for successional habitat. The RSPB provided a data layer of nightingale hotspots – any areas of Open Mosaic habitat within 2km of those were selected for the measure. Bumblebee Conservation Trust provided some additional sites to supplement the mapping. Inclusion of Nature Recovery Project areas.		
Data used	- Open Mosaic Habitat (Natural England, 2022) - Bumblebee Conservation Trust Bumblebee Open Mosaic (2024) - Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory (Natural England, 2024) - RSPB Nightingale Hotspots (2025) - Darent Valley Interventions (SERT, 2025)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Nightingales were agreed as an appropriate indicator for areas in which successional habitat management should be targeted towards. This was then supplemented with other known sites to ensure the mapping was catering for a wider range of species that this habitat is crucial for. Landscape Recovery Project areas aligning with this measure included in mapping, following Defra advice note *Landscape Recovery projects and Local Nature Recovery Strategies - A guidance note on working together* (May 2025).		

Scrub priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**SH2.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Selective conservation grazing of areas within the scrub to create open areas and allow for natural regeneration.**		
Mapping method	Nightingales and Turtle Doves were chosen as a proxy to identify key sites for successional habitat. The RSPB provided a data layer of nightingale hotspots – any areas of Open Mosaic habitat within 1km of those were selected for the measure. Bumblebee Conservation Trust provided some additional sites to supplement the mapping.		
Data used	- Open Mosaic Habitat (Natural England, 2022) - Bumblebee Conservation Trust Bumblebee Open Mosaic (2024) - Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory (Natural England, 2024) - RSPB Nightingale Hotspots (2025) - RSPB Turtle Dove National Survey (2021)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Nightingales and Turtle Doves were agreed as an appropriate indicator for areas in which successional habitat management should be targeted towards. This was then supplemented with other known sites to ensure the mapping was catering for a wider range of species that this habitat is crucial for.		

Map reference	**SH2.2**	Strategy principle	**Connected**
Potential measure	**Maintain and integrate areas of scrub within arable land, woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and urban habitats to encourage successional habitats and provide wildlife corridors.**		
Mapping method	Arable, woodland, grassland, wetland and urban habitats within areas of low connectivity or bottlenecks. Selecting good quality scrub by focusing on Nightingale and Turtle Dove areas only.		
Data used	- CEH landcover: Arable and Horticulture and Improved grassland (2024) - RSPB Turtle Dove National Survey (2021) - RSPB Nightingale Hotspots (2024) - Connectivity modelling for Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre, 2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapping utilised Condatis for all its connectivity mapping work. Condatis is a decision support tool to identify the best locations for habitat creation and restoration to enhance existing habitat networks and increase connectivity across landscapes. It also pinpoints bottlenecks in the habitat network (where there are limited opportunities for colonisation). Turtle Doves were agreed as an appropriate indicator for areas in which successional habitat creation for connectivity should be targeted towards.		

Map reference	**SH2.3**	Strategy principle	**Connected**
Potential measure	**Put in place active scrub management that provides a mix of young and mature scrub, bare ground and links with surrounding habitat.**		
Mapping method	Nightingales and Turtle Doves were chosen as a proxy to identify key sites for successional habitat. The RSPB provided a data layer of nightingale hotspots – any areas of Open Mosaic habitat within 1km of those were selected for the measure. Bumblebee Conservation Trust provided some additional sites to supplement the mapping. Mapping was clipped also to the "sites under active management" connectivity model to show potential areas that could link to surrounding habitats – these sites included: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Ramsar, Special Protected Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Local Wildlife Sites, Kent Wildlife Trust Reserves, RSPB Reserves, Woodland Trust Reserves, Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves.		
Data used	- Open Mosaic Habitat (Natural England, 2022) - Bumblebee Conservations Trust Bumblebee Open Mosaic (,2024) - RSPB Turtle Dove National Survey (2021) - RSPB Nightingale Hotspots (2024) - Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Ramsar, Special Protected Areas, Special Areas of Conservation (Natural England, 2024) - Local Wildlife Sites (Kent Wildlife Trust, 2023) - Kent Wildlife Trust Reserves (Kent Wildlife Trust, 2023) - RSPB Reserves (RSPB, 2024) - Woodland Trust Reserves (The Woodland Trust, 2020) - Country Parks (Natural England, 2024) - Local Nature Reserves (Natural England, 2024) - Connectivity modelling for Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre, 2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapping utilised Condatis for all its connectivity mapping work. Condatis is a decision support tool to identify the best locations for habitat creation and restoration to enhance existing habitat networks and increase connectivity across landscapes. It also pinpoints bottlenecks in the habitat network (where there are limited opportunities for colonisation). Turtle Doves and Nightingales were agreed as an appropriate indicator for areas in which successional habitat creation for connectivity should be targeted towards. This was then supplemented with other known sites to ensure the mapping was catering for a wider range of species that this habitat is crucial for.		

Woodland (management) priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**WTH1.2**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Restoration and extension of lowland and upland wood pasture and parkland.**		
Mapping method	Buffered wood pasture and parkland by 75m. Allocated sites and urban/suburban areas removed. Woodland pasture creation parcels were included from Landscape Nature Recovery Projects.		
Data used	- Woodland Parks and Parkland (Natural England, 2024) - Built up areas (Ordnance Survey, 2022) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25) - Darent Valley Landscape Recovery Woodland Pasture creation parcels (2025)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Based on general eligibility criteria for the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) for areas that use natural colonisation, which requires sites to be within 75 metres of a viable seed source of at least 2 tree species. The England low-sensitivity zones suitable for woodland creation map indicates areas with potential for establishing new woodland with low sensitivities that may prevent tree planting, highlighting locations where it should be easier to agree on woodland creation compared to other areas. The use of this data assisted the mapping not only in deliverability of the measure but also that sites not suitable for tree planting – both feasibility and ecologically – were already excluded from the map. Landscape Recovery Project areas aligning with this measure included in mapping, following Defra advice note *Landscape Recovery projects and Local Nature Recovery Strategies - A guidance note on working together* (May 2025). Allocated sites and urban/suburban areas excluded on basis that they offer limited opportunity, with limited chance of successful ecological restoration results returning high quality wood pasture and parkland.		

Map reference	**WTH1.3**	Strategy principle	**Connected**
Potential measure	**Safeguard and enhance small pockets of woodland to provide key stepping stones for species movement and connect with hedgerows and scrub.**		
Mapping method	Identified small (<20km) and isolated woodlands (500m radius) that are not part of larger connected woodland networks. Allocated sites removed.		
Data used	- Kent Wildlife Trust Master Habitat: Woodland (2023) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Peoples Trust for Endangered Species defines a small and isolated woodland holding as being <20 ha in size and >500 m from adjacent woodlands or hedgerows. Allocated sites excluded on basis that they offer limited opportunity, with limited chance of successful ecological restoration results returning high quality woodland creation.		

Woodland (canopy cover) priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**WTH2.1**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Extension of existing woodland through natural colonisation and planting.**		
Mapping method	Identifying woodland within 75m of existing broadleaved woodland, which falls within low-sensitivity zones suitable for woodland creation. In addition, woodland creation areas were included from Landscape Recovery Projects.		
Data used	- Kent Wildlife Trust Master Habitat: woodland (2023) - CEH habitat data: existing broadleaved woodland (2024) - Forestry Commission England woodland creation low sensitivity map v4.0 (2023) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25) - Woodland creation areas (Kent Wildlife Trust's Darent Valley Landscape Recovery, 2025)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Based on general eligibility criteria for the England Woodland Creation Offer for areas that use natural colonisation, which requires sites to be within 75 metres of a viable seed source of at least 2 tree species. The England low-sensitivity zones suitable for woodland creation map indicates areas with potential for establishing new woodland with low sensitivities that may prevent tree planting, highlighting locations where it should be easier to agree on woodland creation compared to other areas. The use of this data assisted the mapping not only in deliverability of the measure but also that sites not suitable for tree planting – both feasibility and ecologically – were already excluded from the map. Allocated sites excluded on basis that they offer limited opportunity for natural colonisation of woodland. Landscape Recovery Project areas aligning with this measure included in mapping, following Defra advice note *Landscape Recovery projects and Local Nature Recovery Strategies - A guidance note on working together* (May 2025).		

Map reference	**WTH2.2**	Strategy principle	**More**
Potential measure	**Conversion of unproductive land for arable into woodland.**		
Mapping method	Mapped to Grade 4 and 5 agricultural land that falls within the woodland creation low sensitivity map. In addition, woodland creation areas were included from Landscape Recovery Projects.		
Data used	- Forestry Commission England woodland creation low sensitivity map v4.0 (2023) - Agricultural Land Classification Grade (Natural England, 2023) - Woodland creation areas (Kent Wildlife Trust's Darent Valley Landscape Recovery, 2025)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Grade 4 and 5 are poor graded agricultural land suffering severe limitations that significantly restrict the range and/or yield of crops to be grown – determined that this would be suitable land to target for conversion without compromising national policies to protect the best agricultural land. The England low-sensitivity zones suitable for woodland creation map indicates areas with potential for establishing new woodland with low sensitivities that may prevent tree planting, highlighting locations where it should be easier to agree on woodland creation compared to other areas. The use of this data assisted the mapping not only in deliverability of the measure but also that sites not suitable for tree planting – both feasibility and ecologically – were already excluded from the map.		

Map reference	**WTH2.5**	Strategy principle	**Nature-based solutions**
Potential measure	**Plant more urban trees and create urban forests and orchards, ideally siting tree planting to where they will provide flood management, air quality and temperature regulation benefits.**		
Mapping method	Mapped areas of the Forestry Commission's Urban Canopy Cover that overlap among riparian zones, floodplain woodlands, Forestry Commission's Flood Risk Management and emission-related areas within major urban environments. Refined these regions by intersecting with the woodland creation sensitivity mapping.		
Data used	- Environment Agency Working with Natural Processes: Riparian Woodland Potential (2015) - Environment Agency Working with Natural Processes: Floodplain Reconnection Potential (2015) - Forestry Commission England Woodland Creation Offer: NfC Ammonia Emissions Capture for SSSI Protection (2022) - Forestry Commission England Woodland Creation Offer: Flood Risk Management (2024) - Forestry Commission Urban Canopy Cover (2023) - Forestry Commission England woodland creation low sensitivity map v4.0 (2023)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Working with Natural Processes Riparian Woodland Potential is the Environment Agency's best estimate of locations where tree planting may be possible on smaller floodplains close to flow pathways, and effective to attenuate flooding. The England low-sensitivity zones suitable for woodland creation map indicates areas with potential for establishing new woodland with low sensitivities that may prevent tree planting, highlighting locations where it should be easier to agree on woodland creation compared to other areas. The use of this data assisted the mapping not only in deliverability of the measure but also that sites not suitable for tree planting – both feasibility and ecologically – were already excluded from the map.		

Woodland (resilience) priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**WTH4.2**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Where appropriate, promote the restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) sites to a more species rich woodland.**		
Mapping method	Identified ancient woodland sites with the status 'PAWS'.		
Data used	- Natural England Ancient Woodland Inventory (2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapped to extent of designated habitat.		

Map reference	**WTH4.4**	Strategy principle	**Connected**
Potential measure	**Establish green bridges to connect woodlands fragmented by road and rail.**		
Mapping method	Identified points for green bridges.		
Data used	- Green bridge potential opportunities (Kent County Council, 2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	During the development of the Strategy, Highways England requested prioritised points for retrofitting measures to address habitat fragmentation caused by major roads and railway. The points submitted to this were created in consultation with partners and stakeholders and signed off by the Strategy Board.		

Ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**WTH5.3**	Strategy principle	**More**
Potential measure	**Solitary ancient and veteran trees buffered with open space, with further protections offered with establishment of neighbouring wood pasture and agroforestry of mixed habitats.**		
Mapping method	Mapping woodland creation areas with the Ancient Tree Inventory, buffered >15m to <75m, creating a doughnut, 15m from any ancient woodland and to a 75m buffer. Allocated sites excluded.		
Data used	- Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory (2023) - Forestry Commission England woodland creation low sensitivity map v4.0 (2023) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Based on Natural England and Forestry Commission buffer zone recommendations: for ancient woodlands, the proposal should have a buffer zone of at least 15 metres from the boundary of the woodland to avoid root damage (known as the root protection area). Based on general eligibility criteria for the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) for areas that use natural colonisation, which requires sites to be within 75 metres of a viable seed source of at least 2 tree species. The England low-sensitivity zones suitable for woodland creation map indicates areas with potential for establishing new woodland with low sensitivities that may prevent tree planting, highlighting locations where it should be easier to agree on woodland creation compared to other areas. The use of this data assisted the mapping not only in deliverability of the measure but also that sites not suitable for tree planting – both feasibility and ecologically – were already excluded from the map. Allocated sites excluded on basis that they offer limited opportunity for the measure.		

Map reference	**WTH5.4**	Strategy principle	**Connected**
Potential measure	**Connectivity of ancient woodland improved by links to hedgerows, establishment of standard trees and increased standing deadwood.**		
Mapping method	Identified isolated ancient woodland areas - >500m from another woodland - by buffering and filtering ancient woodlands, and assessed connectivity with other woodland patches using the woodland connectivity and bottleneck models. Allocated sites excluded.		
Data used	- Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (2024) - Connectivity modelling for Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre, 2024) - Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory (2023) - Connectivity modelling for Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre, 2024) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25) - Connectivity modelling for Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre, 2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Peoples Trust for Endangered Species defines a small and isolated woodland holding as being <20 ha in size and >500 m from adjacent woodlands or hedgerows. Mapping utilised Condatis for all its connectivity mapping work. Condatis is a decision support tool to identify the best locations for habitat creation and restoration to enhance existing habitat networks and increase connectivity across landscapes. It also pinpoints bottlenecks in the habitat network (where there are limited opportunities for colonisation). Allocated sites excluded on basis that they offer limited opportunity for the measure.		

Wet woodland priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**WTH6.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Establish and implement long-term management plans for wet woodland and surrounding land, which ensures connectivity between waterways and woodland and incorporates nature-based water management solutions, such as leaky dams, felling, blocking drainage channels to allow for seasonal flooding.**		
Mapping method	Created a 200m buffer zone around areas of existing wet woodland and combined that buffer with areas identified for floodplain reconnection by the EA's working with natural processes project. Also mapped Priority Inventory Woodland Habitats in flood zone 2. Allocated sites excluded.		
Data used	- Environment Agency Working with Natural Processes: potential floodplain connectivity (2015) - Kent Wildlife Trust Master Habitat Wet woodland (2023) - Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Deciduous Woodland (2024) - Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning (2018) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapping identified known wet woodland areas and, by mapping woodland sites in flood zone 2, seasonal wet woodland. Allocated sites excluded on basis that they offer limited opportunity for the measure.		

Map reference	**WTH6.2**	Strategy principle	**More**
Potential measure	**Creation of ponds within woodlands, and naturally regenerated riparian zones.**		
Mapping method	Combined Great Crested Newt strategic areas with wetlands and refines it by combining data on riparian woodlands and CEH woodlands. Ancient woodlands were removed.		
Data used	Natural England Great Crested Newt - Strategic Opportunity Areas (2024) Kent Wildlife Trust Master Habitat Wet woodland (2023) Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25) Environment Agency Working with Natural Processes: Riparian Woodland Potential (2015) CEH: Coniferous Woodland and Broadleaved Woodland (2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Used known strategic sites that benefit a Strategy Priority Species that fell within suitable woodland habitats. Ancient woodlands removed given unique sensitivities of these sites.		

Gill woodland priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**WTH7.1**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Create buffer zones around the gill woodland to ensure they remain largely undisturbed.**		
Mapping method	Gills woodlands buffered by 8m.		
Data used	- Gill woodland boundary (Kent Wildlife Trust, 2024) drawn from the paper Ghyll Woodlands of the Weald - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024-25)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	8m buffer applied on advice of Forestry Commission, based on best practice management guidelines. Allocated sites excluded on basis that they offer limited opportunity for the measure.		

Traditional orchards priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**WTH9.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Restore and bring established traditional orchards back into positive management, including long sward length, wildflower meadow strips between trees, limited or no spraying, sensitive pruning and dead wood/ dying trees retained.**		
Mapping method	Mapped traditional orchards and traditional orchards mapped within the Priority Habitat Inventory.		
Data used	- Traditional orchards (Natural England, 2023) - Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Traditional orchards (2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapped to extent of habitat.		

Map reference	**WTH9.2**	Strategy principle	**More**
Potential measure	**Establish new community orchards, in appropriate areas and with a focus on urban locations.**		
Mapping method	Refined historic traditional orchard areas by removing overlaps with built-up areas (buffered by 1km).		
Data used	- Orchard Networks: Historic Traditional Orchards (2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Based on historic traditional orchard sites in county.		

Rivers (naturalising) priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**FW1.2**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Undo historical physical modifications which have disconnected rivers and floodplains and restore natural processes through a range of approaches including supply of woody material and allowing this to remain in the channel where not causing flood risk, restoring channel stage zero, restoration of historic meanders, bed raising, regrading banks to create shallow edges and establishing mosaics of water meadows, wet grasslands and wet woodlands, to allow inundation of floodplains above Q10 flows.**		
Mapping method	Combined freshwater mitigation measures and river obstacles. Included Landscape Recovery Project areas.		
Data used	- Environment Agency Mitigation measures (2024). - Rivers Trust River obstacles (2024). - SERT Mitigation measures (2024). - Darent Valley Interventions (SERT, 2025) - River Obstacles (Environment Agency, Zoological Society of London, The Rivers Trust, Thames Estuary Partnership, The River Restoration Centre and Natural Aptitude, 2021)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	River obstacles and mitigation measures for the county's watercourses have already been reviewed, determined and mapped by various organisations – mapping utilised this existing and tested evidence. Landscape Recovery Project areas aligning with this measure included in mapping, following Defra advice note *Landscape Recovery projects and Local Nature Recovery Strategies - A guidance note on working together* (May 2025).		

Map reference	**FW1.3**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Restore more natural shape of channels by narrowing overwide channels, especially where siltation, uniform and low flows and lack of habitat diversity are a pressure.**		
Mapping method	Combined freshwater mitigation measures and river obstacles: dams, lock, sluice, culverts and weir.		
Data used	- Environment Agency Mitigation measures (2024). - Rivers Trust River obstacles (2024). - SERT Mitigation measures (2024). - River Obstacles (Environment Agency, Zoological Society of London, The Rivers Trust, Thames Estuary Partnership, The River Restoration Centre and Natural Aptitude, 2021)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	River obstacles and mitigation measures for the county's watercourses have already been reviewed, determined and mapped by various organisations – mapping utilised this existing and tested evidence.		

Map reference	**FW1.4**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Open up and daylight culverted rivers, streams and ditches including ephemeral/ seasonal streams where modification is redundant.**		
Mapping method	Based on mitigation measures related to culverts and all culverts indemnities by the Rivers Trust.		
Data used	- Environment Agency Mitigation measures (2024). - Rivers Trust River obstacles (2024). - SERT Mitigation measures (2024).		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	River obstacles and mitigation measures for the county's watercourses have already been reviewed, determined and mapped by various organisations – mapping utilised this existing and tested evidence.		

Rivers (clean) priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**FW2.4**	Strategy principle	**Nature-based solutions**
Potential measure	**Prevent road runoff entering rivers through the installation of SuDS, downstream defenders, or similar interception features on highways, local roads, and existing and new.**		
Mapping method	10m buffer of intersection points between roads and rivers.		
Data used	- Ordnance Survey Open Rivers (2023) - Major Road Network (Department for Transport, 2021)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions			

Rivers (supply) priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**FW3.2**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Retain and enhance habitats that support infiltration such as grasslands, woodland, reedbeds and lowland peat. Avoid reduction of infiltration in key recharge areas and around chalk stream winterbournes.**		
Mapping method	Intersection between chalk and Overland Flow Pathways, woodland, and grasslands		
Data used	- Natural England Priority River Habitat - Headwater Areas (2024) - Chalk streams (Natural England, 2023) - Environment Agency Overland Flow Pathways (2024) - CEH Coniferous woodland, Deciduous woodland, Improved grassland, Neutral grassland, Calcareous grassland (2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions			

Map reference	**FW3.3**	Strategy principle	**Nature-based solutions**
Potential measure	**Slow the flow and store water in the catchment in areas of low agricultural productivity or where there is space in urban areas, working with natural processes, to implement natural flood management e.g. through installation of large woody material, creation of wet woodlands, lowland meadows, reedbeds, flood attenuation ponds and similar, especially where they can reduce flood risk and provide clean recharge to the groundwater body.**		
Mapping method	Identified areas of low agricultural productivity (Agricultural Land Classification Grade 4 and 5) with areas outlined for riparian or floodplain woodland.		
Data used	- Environment Agency Working with Natural Processes: Floodplain Woodland Potential (2015) - Agricultural Land Classification Grade (Natural England, 2023)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Existing mapping has already identified potential woodland areas as suitable for implementing natural flood management measures. Grade 4 and 5 are poor graded agricultural land suffering severe limitations that significantly restrict the range and/or yield of crops to be grown – determined that this would be suitable land to target for conversion without compromising national policies to protect the best agricultural land.		

Rivers (buffers) priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**FW4.1**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Establish and maintain wide areas of semi-natural, complex habitats along banks of rivers and streams (including seasonal and headwater reaches), allowing light grazing of wet grassland areas with a focus on native livestock breeds, and encouraging woodland particularly where there is need for more shading of rivers to provide cooler temperatures, increasing riparian tree cover to 30%. Allow natural regeneration of habitats and recolonisation.**		
Mapping method	Identified open mosaic habitats within a 500m buffer zone around rivers and headwaters. Added mapped areas identifying riparian buffers for keeping rivers cool.		
Data used	Open Mosaic Habitat (Natural England, 2022) Ordnance Survey Open Rivers (2023) Forestry Commission England Woodland Creation Offer: Keeping Rivers Cool Riparian Buffers (2023) Natural England Priority River Habitat - Headwater Areas (2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Utilised existing data layers which have identified areas where buffers are required to cool rivers.		

Map reference	**FW4.2**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Use re-development of old infrastructure as an opportunity to re-naturalise river corridors (e.g. old industrial sites).**		
Mapping method	Identified open mosaic habitats within a 150 meter buffer zone around rivers (Ordnance Survey rivers layer) and headwaters.		
Data used	- Open Mosaic Habitat (Natural England, 2022) - Ordnance Survey Open Rivers (2023) - Natural England Priority River Habitat - Headwater Areas (2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Focussed on open mosaic habitats on previously developed land (brownfield), as these are areas of previous development identified to have an existing biodiversity value.		

Map reference	**FW4.3**	Strategy principle	**Nature-based solutions**
Potential measure	**Combine buffers with the use of nature based solutions to hold water on floodplains and in areas upstream of communities at risk of flooding, and clean water. This could include for example large woody debris, sediment traps, floodplain wetlands.**		
Mapping method	Mapped to areas that are identified for natural flood management, which fall within either connectivity bottlenecks or areas that fail the standards for accessible natural greenspace and outside of high productivity agricultural land. Applied 150m buffer zone.		
Data used	- Connectivity modelling for Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre, 2024) - Environment Agency Working with Natural Processes: Runoff Attenuation Features (2024) - Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (2024) - Environment Agency Working with Natural Processes: Riparian Woodland Potential (2015) - Agricultural Land Classification Grade (Natural England, 2023)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapping utilised Condatis for all its connectivity mapping work. Condatis is a decision support tool to identify the best locations for habitat creation and restoration to enhance existing habitat networks and increase connectivity across landscapes. It also pinpoints bottlenecks in the habitat network (where there are restricted opportunities for colonisation). 150m determined by Data, mapping and evidence technical advisory group as suitable starting point for creating a buffer zone around rivers. Valuable agricultural land removed in line with national policies to protect the best agricultural land.		

Headwater streams priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**FW5.2**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Restore and establish wetlands in headwater areas and around natural springs, by reversing and preventing further drainage of springs and seepage areas.**		
Mapping method	Wetlands identified in areas identified as headwaters and aquifers.		
Data used	- British Geological Survey Principal Aquifers & Secondary A aquifers (2024) - Natural England Priority River Habitat - Headwater Areas (England) (2024) - Kent Habitat Survey: Wetlands (2012) - WWT 'Wetlands for Water Quality' potential (2024) - Permanently wet areas ('Watersystems maps' from the University of Antwerp from a project called PROWATER, 2024) - Priority Habitat Inventory (Natural England, 2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions			

Map reference	**FW5.3**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Renaturalise urban and modified sections of headwaters including ephemeral streams such as winterbournes (e.g. where they have been straightened and deepened to drain woodlands and agricultural land) including through approaches such as stage 0 restoration.**		
Mapping method	Mapped all river modifications identified by the Environment Agency and Rivers Trust that fall within the headwater area.		
Data used	- Natural England Priority River Habitat - Headwater Areas (England) (2024) - Environment Agency Mitigation measures (2024). - Rivers Trust River obstacles (2024). - SERT Mitigation measures (2024). - River Obstacles (Environment Agency, Zoological Society of London, The Rivers Trust, Thames Estuary Partnership, The River Restoration Centre and Natural Aptitude, 2021)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	River obstacles and mitigation measures for the county's watercourses have already been reviewed, determined and mapped by various organisations – mapping utilised this existing and tested evidence.		

Lowland mire sites priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**FW7.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Manage existing fen and bog sites to reduce encroachment, including through scrub management and appropriate grazing.**		
Mapping method	Mapped Kent Habitat Survey on fen data, Natural England data on peat soils and Priority Habitat Inventory for Lowland fens.		
Data used	Kent Habitat Survey: fen (2012) Peaty Soils Location (England) (Natural England, 2024). Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Lowland fens (2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapped to extent of all fen and bog sites.		

Map reference	**FW7.2**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Create and maintain wide buffers around existing fen and bog sites to safeguard them from diffuse pollution.**		
Mapping method	Buffered Kent Habitat Survey fen data by 200m.		
Data used	Kent Habitat Survey: fen (2012)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	200m determined by Data, mapping and evidence technical advisory group as an appropriate width for a wide buffer for diffuse pollution safeguarding for fen and bog sites.		

Map reference	**FW7.3**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Restore lowland peat habitats by reversing drainage and supporting re-wetting of areas.**		
Mapping method	Natural England's Peaty soils in Kent. Known peatland sites not identified by mapping data manually included.		
Data used	- Peaty Soils Location (England) (Natural England, 2024). - SSSI (Natural England, 2025)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapped to extent of all peaty soil locations within Kent. Hothfield SSSI added, as classified as peatland.		

Freshwater wetlands priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**FW9.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Enhance reservoirs and similar waterbodies to provide better wildlife habitat. Ensure any such water bodies include features that enable wildlife to get out of water.**		
Mapping method	Mapped CEH waterbodies (contains reserves and other waterbodies).		
Data used	- CEH Waterbodies (2021)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapped to extent of all waterbodies.		

Urban environment (space for nature) priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**URB2.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Areas of urban greenspace managed to maximise provision for nature in urban areas, providing a greater complexity of habitats, with year round shelter, forage and food.**		
Mapping method	Mapped to: - Greenspace defined in Kent and Medway LNRS as: Parks and gardens – urban parks, country and regional parks, historic, formal and managed gardens, children's play areas, stately homes; Amenity greenspace – informal recreation spaces, village greens, urban commons; Natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces – woodland and scrub, grassland, heath or moor, wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and disturbed ground; Green corridors – rivers and canals including their banks, cycling routes, pedestrian paths, and rights of way; Allotments; Community gardens and orchards; City farms; Cemeteries, churchyards and other religious grounds; Playing fields and pitches; Golf courses; Equestrian sites. - 10m buffer applied around both Public Rights of Way and Waterways. - All semi-natural habitats from CEH Land Cover Map (Fen, Marsh and Swamp, Heather, Coniferous Woodland, Broadleaved Woodland, Freshwater, Heather Grassland, Calcareous Grassland, Improved Grassland, Neutral Grassland) found within Major Urban Areas. - All Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace, Millennium Greens, Country Parks, Open Mosaic on Previously Developed Land. - Additions received from the county's Local Planning Authorities.		
Data used	- Ordnance Survey MasterMap Water Network Layer (2025) - Public Rights of Way (PRoW) (Kent Local Authority, 2023) - Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace (2023) - Millennium Greens (England) Polygons (Natural England, 2024) - Country Parks (England) (Natural England, 2024) - CEH Semi Natural Habitat (2024) - Major Urban Areas (Office for National Statistics & Local Authorities, 2021) supplemented by Local Planning Authorities. - Open Mosaic Habitat (Natural England, 2022) - Ordnance Survey Open Rivers (2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapped all opportunities for greenspace – determined that urban areas mapping should not be refined by connectivity modelling for the urban environment measures, as every opportunity to increase the value of green infrastructure in increasingly over developed urban areas should be identified.		

Map reference	**URB2.2**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Naturalise urban river corridors, by removing river obstacles where appropriate and replacing hard river banks with native buffer verges and riverside trees.**		
Mapping method	All river naturalisation measures identified by the Rivers Trust, SERT and the EA within urban areas. Buffered by 10m.		
Data used	- Environment Agency Mitigation measures (2024). - Rivers Trust River obstacles (2024). - SERT Mitigation measures (2024). - River Obstacles (Environment Agency, Zoological Society of London, The Rivers Trust, Thames Estuary Partnership, The River Restoration Centre and Natural Aptitude, 2021) - Major Urban Areas (Office for National Statistics & Local Authorities, 2021)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	River obstacles and mitigation measures for the county's watercourses have already been reviewed, determined and mapped by various organisations – mapping utilised this existing and tested evidence. Mapped all opportunities for bluespace – determined that urban areas mapping should not be refined by connectivity modelling for the urban environment measures, as every opportunity to increase the value of blue infrastructure in increasingly over developed urban areas should be identified.		

Map reference	**URB2.3**	Strategy principle	**Nature-based solutions**
Potential measure	**Target urban tree establishment to areas of low canopy cover.**		
Mapping method	Areas outlined for woodland creation by the England Woodland Creation offer that fall within either an area of low canopy cover (less than 15%) or an area of high deprivation (IMD less than 4).		
Data used	Forestry England woodland creation low sensitivity map v4.0 (2023) Forestry Commission Urban Canopy Cover (2023) IMD (Consumer Data Research Centre, 2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Tree establishment targeted to areas where there is low canopy cover or where Index of Multiple Deprivation determines that there would be more keenly felt health benefits from increasing trees in urban areas. The Index of Multiple Deprivation identifies health inequalities, with decile 1 being the most deprived and decile 10 being the least deprived.		

Open coast and estuaries priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**CL1.3**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Hard defences removed where appropriate, to allow space for tidal ingress and enable the managed realignment of the coastline, to mitigate coastal squeeze and allows intertidal habitats to be more resilient to climate change.**		
Mapping method	Mapped area identified for management realignment.		
Data used	Environment Agency Shoreline Managed Plans (Environment Agency, 2023)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) have already identified areas where managed realignment would be feasible, taking into account the impacts of such a policy on coastal communities and habitats existing behind the existing coastal defence. By using this mapping, the considerations need for potential measure CL1.3 have already been reviewed beyond the abilities of the Strategy mapping approach.		

Map reference	**CL1.4**	Strategy principle	**More**
Potential measure	**Create areas for saltmarsh restoration, seagrass regeneration and high tide roosts and provide breeding areas for seabirds and/or waders, with appropriate measures to prevent or reduce disturbance and predation.**		
Mapping method	Mapped to areas of seagrass restoration and creation, areas of importance for beach nesting bird sites, saltmarsh extent, seagrass layer, frontages & roost sites in Thanet. Managed realignment frontages from the Medway Estuary and Swale Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. Other known sites not identified by mapping data manually included.		
Data used	- Roost Sites (Thanet Council, 2024) - RSPB Beach nesting sites (2024) - Environment Agency Medway Estuary and Swale Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2024) - MMO1135 Potential Seagrass Creation and Restoration (Marine Management Organisation, 2019) - Seagrass Potential (Environment Agency, 2024) - Saltmarsh Extent & Zonation (Environment Agency, 2019)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Data layers determined as opportunity areas for potential measure, with bird data to indicate areas of importance for seabirds and waders.		

Saltmarsh and mudflats priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**CL2.2**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Small-scale saltmarsh restoration, using traditional materials to slow down loss**		
Mapping method	Mapped all known saltmarsh habitats and potential habitat.		
Data used	Environment Agency Saltmarsh Extent & Zonation (2024) MMO1135 Potential Habitat Creation Sites Within the Current Floodplain (Marine Management Organisation, 2019)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapped to extent of existing habitat and potential for habitat.		

Map reference	**CL2.3**	Strategy principle	**More**
Potential measure	**Create new high tide roosts, in areas less vulnerable to rising sea levels.**		
Mapping method	Mapped beach nesting sites, roost sites in saltmarsh and coastal and floodplain grazing marsh areas, selecting areas outside of flood zone 2 & 3.		
Data used	- RSPB Beach nesting sites (2024) - Roost Sites (Thanet Council, 2024) - Environment Agency Saltmarsh Extent & Zonation (2024) - Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Fen, marsh, swamp (2024) - Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning (2018)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapped extent of habitat in areas of importance for seabirds and waders, in areas of less risk from flooding inundation.		

Map reference	**CL2.4**	Strategy principle	**Connected**
Potential measure	**Link areas with other wetland habitats to form a landscape mosaic of wetlands to reduce the tendency for waders and seabirds to be concentrated at key hotspots and reserves.**		
Mapping method	Mapped to areas of low connectivity, and bottlenecks, for wetlands within 1km of the high water line. Known wetland sites not identified by mapping data manually included.		
Data used	- Connectivity modelling for Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre, 2024) - Kent Habitat Survey: wetlands (2012) - Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Fen, marsh, swamp, wet woodland (2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapping utilised Condatis for all its connectivity mapping work. Condatis is a decision support tool to identify the best locations for habitat creation and restoration to enhance existing habitat networks and increase connectivity across landscapes. It also pinpoints bottlenecks in the habitat network (where there are restricted opportunities for colonisation). Areas of low connectivity, and bottlenecks, for wetlands within 1km of the high water line represent priority areas for the creation of new wetland habitats. Ham Fen and Worth Marshes as additional sites missed by mapping.		

Seagrass priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**CL3.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Address threats to seagrass beds by putting in place management which:** **- Reduces and addresses pollution sources impacting seagrass restoration and growth.** **- Removes invasive spartina where it is known to be invading, smothering or limiting seagrass extension and restoration.** **- Minimise damage from boat anchors, dredging, fishing and trampling.**		
Mapping method	Mapped treated sewage discharge outlets within 3 km of seagrass and areas suitable for seagrass.		
Data used	- Treated sewage discharge (Rivers Trust, 2024) - Natural England National Seagrass Layer (England) (2022) - MMO1135 Potential Seagrass Creation Restoration (Marine Management Organisation, 2019) - MMO1135 Potential Beneficial use Mud Stretches which may Benefit (Marine Management Organisation, 2019) - ZSL Seagrass Suitability Areas model (2025)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	3km determined by Data, evidence and mapping technical advisory group as suitable buffer from discharge outlets.		

Map reference	**CL3.2**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Increase areas of existing seagrass beds.**		
Mapping method	Mapped to areas of areas identified as suitable for seagrass and areas for seagrass restoration.		
Data used	- Natural England National Seagrass Layer (England) (2022) - MMO1135 Potential Seagrass Creation Restoration (Marine Management Organisation, 2019) - MMO1135 Potential Beneficial use Mud Stretches which may Benefit (Marine Management Organisation, 2019) - ZSL Seagrass Suitability Areas model (2025)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapped to areas known suitable for creation and extension of seagrass beds.		

Native Oyster and Blue Mussel beds priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**CL5.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Safeguard established areas of native oysters and blue mussels by developing protected areas with management measures, in collaboration with local stakeholders, including the local fishing community.**		
Mapping method	Mapped Marine Protected Areas alongside areas of oyster bed potential.		
Data used	- JNCC Marine Protected Areas (2023) - Environment Agency Native Oyster Bed Potential (2024) - ZSL Seagrass Suitability Areas model (2025)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapped to known areas of native oysters and blue mussels, using Marine Protected Areas mapping. Potential sites identified by existing data layers and suitable habitats – in this case seagrass beds for native oysters. No blue mussel data available for use in mapping – native oyster data used as indicator. Data for native oysters and blue mussels is limited in availability owing to commercial sensitivity.		

Map reference	**CL5.2**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Where practical, remove invasive, non-native species from the beds of native oysters and blue mussels.**		
Mapping method	Areas of invasive non-native species mapped to areas of potential for native oysters and blue mussels.		
Data used	- Invasive species (INNS count of spp per monad) (KMBRC, 2000) - Environment Agency Native Oyster Bed Potential (2024) - ZSL Seagrass Suitability Areas model (2025)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Areas where known invasive non-native species occur on coast mapped to important areas for native oysters and blue mussels. No blue mussel data available for use in mapping – native oyster data used as indicator. Data for native oysters and blue mussels is limited in availability owing to commercial sensitivity.		

Map reference	**CL5.3**	Strategy principle	**More**
Potential measure	**Create suitable substrate for native oysters to colonise, focussing on existing/historic areas, and address the lack of larvae in the landscape.**		
Mapping method	Mapped Native Oyster Bed Potential.		
Data used	- Environment Agency Native Oyster Bed Potential (2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Used already determined data for potential. Data for native oysters and blue mussels is limited in availability owing to commercial sensitivity.		

Map reference	**CL5.4**	Strategy principle	**More**
Potential measure	**Create suitable substrate for blue mussels to colonise, focussing on existing/historic areas.**		
Mapping method	Mapped to littoral sediment and sediment habitats.		
Data used	- Kent Wildlife Trust Habitat Master: Littoral sediment, Sublittoral sediment (2023)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	UK BAP Priority Habitats notes that Blue Mussel Beds are suited to existing habitats of Littoral sediment and Sublittoral sediment. Data for native oysters and blue mussels is limited in availability owing to commercial sensitivity.		

Saline lagoons priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**CL6.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Safeguard existing saline lagoons from loss and damaging activities that harm and/or pollute the lagoons.**		
Mapping method	Mapped 50m buffer to extent of saline lagoons habitat. Known saline lagoons not identified by mapping data manually included. Incorrectly mapped saline lagoons removed.		
Data used	- Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Saline lagoons (2024) - Natural England Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	50m determined as appropriate buffer by Data, evidence and mapping technical advisory group. Oare and Sandwich nature reserves are identified by Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory as featuring saline lagoons – these were manually removed on advice from Kent Wildlife Trust that the lagoons are not saline.		

Map reference	**CL6.2**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Establish buffer zones and/or adjust site features and topography, to ensure ecological function of saline lagoon is not undermined by disturbance; enhance marginal habitat.**		
Mapping method	Mapped 50m buffer to extent of saline lagoons habitat. Known saline lagoons not identified by mapping data manually included. Incorrectly mapped saline lagoons removed.		
Data used	- Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Saline lagoons (2024) - Natural England Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	50m determined as appropriate buffer by Data, evidence and mapping technical advisory group. Oare and Sandwich nature reserves are identified by Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory as featuring saline lagoons – these were manually removed on advice from Kent Wildlife Trust that the lagoons are not saline.		

Map reference	**CL6.3**	Strategy principle	**More**
Potential measure	**Create new saline lagoons to connect wetland sites in transitional areas that are likely to flood, taking into account proximity to sources of recreational disturbance.**		
Mapping method	Mapped to already identified potential areas for saline lagoons.		
Data used	- RSPB Saline Lagoon Potential (2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Utilised already mapped areas for the creation of saline lagoons.		

Vegetated shingle priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**CL7.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Safeguard existing habitat through access and management and interventions (e.g. allocated routes and boardwalks) that minimise the impact of footfall and recreational disturbance on this delicate habitat.**		
Mapping method	Mapped existing vegetated shingle.		
Data used	- Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Coastal vegetated shingle (2024) - Kent Habitat Survey: vegetated shingle (2012)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapped to extent of habitat.		

Map reference	**CL7.2**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Safeguard and extend supporting habitats, such as species-rich grasslands, next to coastal shingle that can act as seepage areas and support a mosaic of habitats for important coastal shingle species.**		
Mapping method	Species rich grassland habitats, with public access, within 50m of existing coastal vegetated shingle.		
Data used	- Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory: Coastal vegetated shingle (2024) - CRoW Act 2000 - Access Layer (Natural England, 2024) - Public Rights of Way (PRoW) (Kent Local Authority, 2023)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Species rich grassland patches must be in close proximity (50m) to existing vegetated shingle to offer opportunity for habitat extension. Potential areas which may be more prone to recreational disturbance identified through public access.		

Sand dunes priority potential measures mapping

Map reference	**CL8.1**	Strategy principle	**Better**
Potential measure	**Management of dunes to reduce scrub encroachment, remove invasive species and reduce disturbance pressures of recreational activities. Management to include year round low intensity grazing in the absence of endectocides, and with high quality fodder in winter to maintain high dung quality.**		
Mapping method	Mapped to dune habitat.		
Data used	- Natural England Priority Inventory Habitats: Coastal sand dunes		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	Mapped to extent of habitat.		

Map reference	**CL8.2**	Strategy principle	**Bigger**
Potential measure	**Enable more naturalised and mobile sand dune systems, through a full range of successional stages of sand stabilisation across the dune system, from mobile sparsely vegetated foredunes, young dunes with dense Marram Grass clumps, to more established dunes with varied vegetation, stable sandy grassland or heath, open sandy areas and dune slacks. Address overstabilisation of the dunes to increase dune**		
Mapping method	Existing dune habitat buffered by 90m. Urban, suburban areas & adopted allocations removed.		
Data used	- Natural England Priority Inventory Habitats: Coastal sand dunes (2024) - Adopted allocations (Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Local Authorities data, 2024) - CEH landcover: Urban and Suburban (2024)		
Explanation for method adopted and any exclusions	NASA Surveyors have observed dunes in Namibia moving at an average of 9 meters per year, with smaller dunes moving as fast as 83 meters per year according to NASA Earth Observatory (.gov). On basis of maximum of Strategy's 10 year period, 90m buffer was applied. Adopted land allocation and urban/suburban areas were removed as measure would not be feasible where developed land prevented the movement of sand dunes.		