



# Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

## Kent LNRS Launch

- Collaborative opportunities
- Collaboration necessity

**Nick Johannsen FLI**



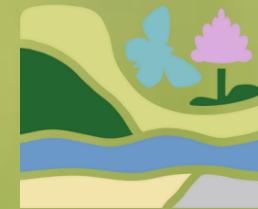
Kent Downs  
National  
Landscape



PART OF THE  
CROSS-CHANNEL  
**GEOPARK**  
TRANSMANCHE



Parc  
naturel  
régional  
des Caps et  
Marais d'Opale



**Big  
Chalk**

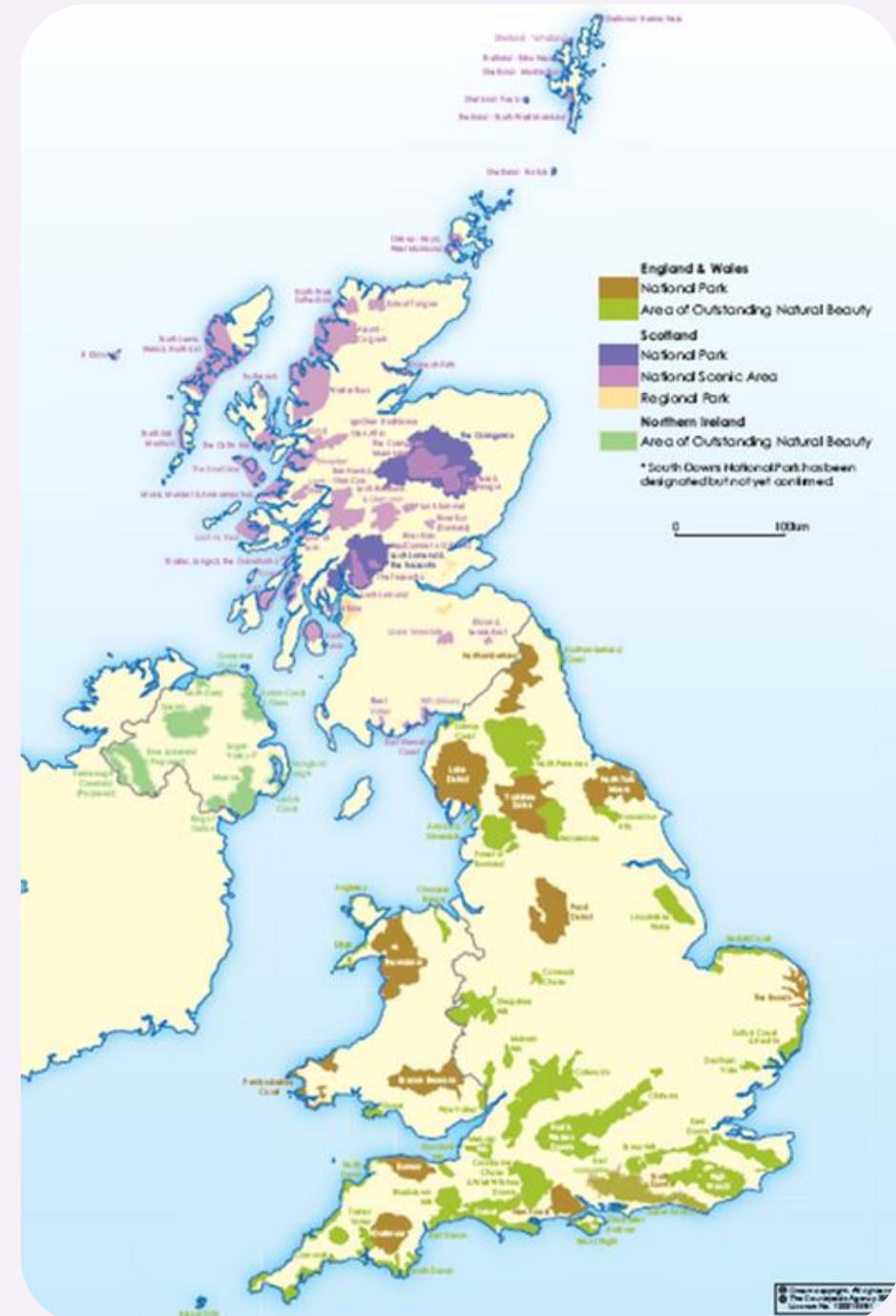
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GLOBAL  
**CROSS-CHANNEL  
GEOPARK**



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Landscape

# IUCN Cat V. Protected Landscapes

- National Landscapes and National Parks
- Cover 25% England
- 50% of SSSIs
- **Cat V. '...should represent an integral balance between people and nature' (IUCN)**
- Key role in Nature Recovery/  
Nature's Resilience

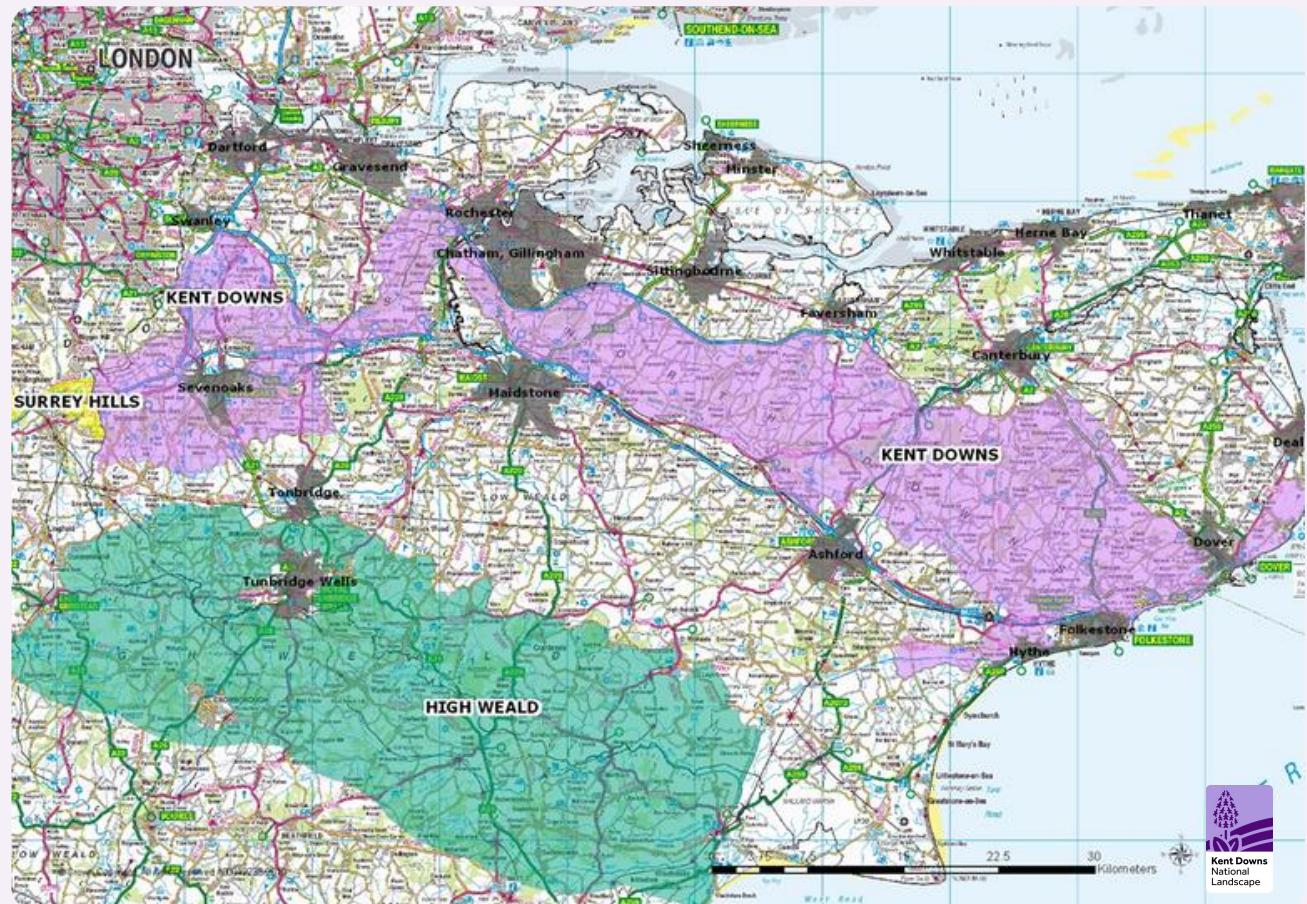




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# Kent Downs National Landscape

- **Covering 25% of county of Kent  
1/3 including The High Weald.**
- **Farming around 70% of the Kent  
Downs**
- **woodland 23%**
- **Well over 1m people within 1 km**
- **Only National Landscape in  
Greater London**





**Kent Downs  
National  
Landscape**

The Standing  
Committee  
on National  
Parks, 1938

'The Government is engaged on a Health Campaign...but it is no less essential, for any national health scheme, to preserve for the nation **walking grounds and regions where young and old can enjoy the sight of unspoilt nature.**

And it is not a question of physical exercise only, it is a question of spiritual exercise and enjoyment.'



'The protection of landscape beauty and the encouragement of open-air recreation...will be a great national investment, yielding unlimited returns in health and happiness'

Report of the National Parks Committee chaired by Sir Arthur Hobhouse, 1947



## The purpose

**To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape...**expected additional purposes for nature and access

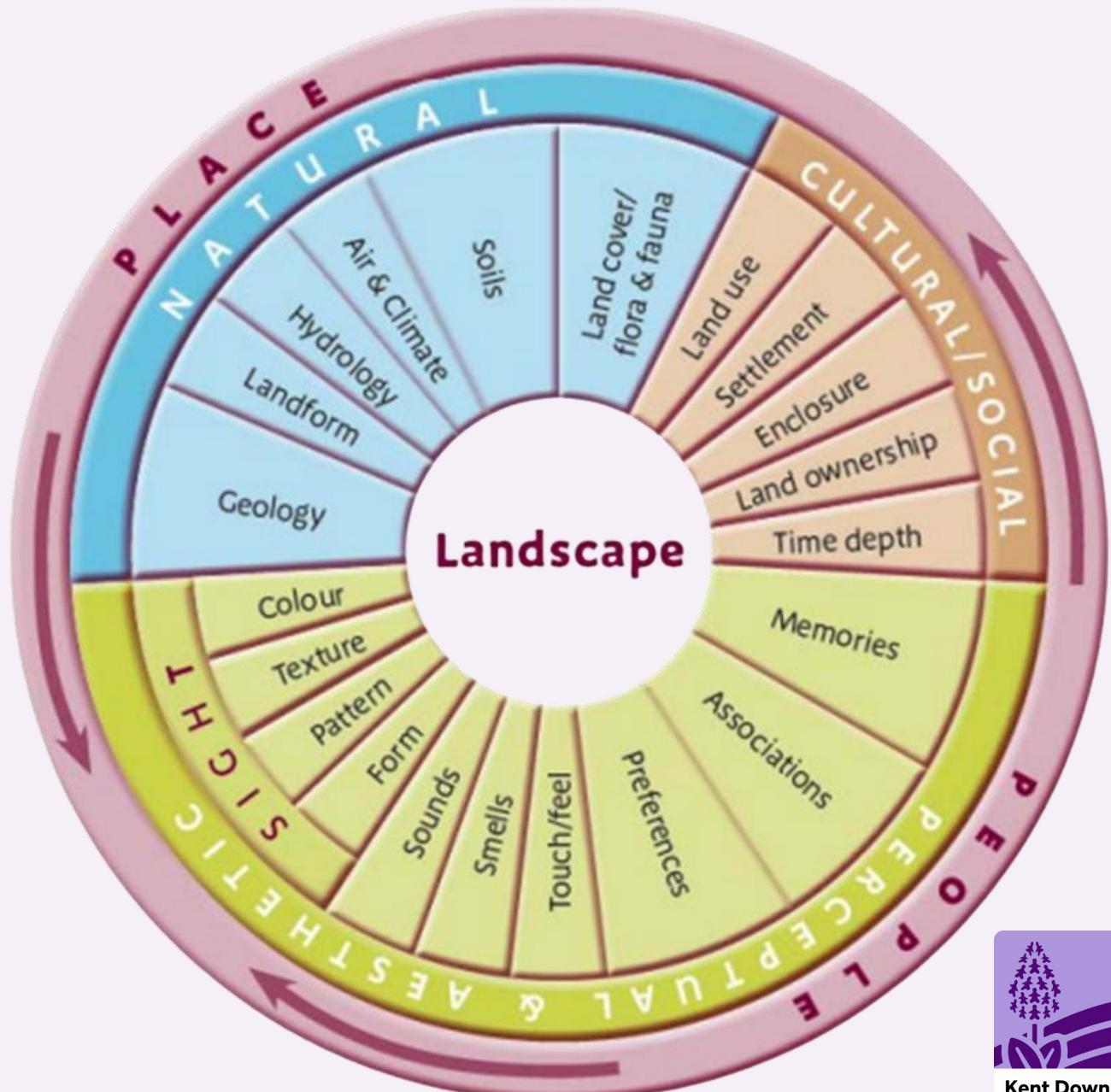
‘Natural beauty is not just the look of the landscape, but includes landform and geology, **plants and animals**, landscape features and the rich history of human settlement over the centuries.’



- All public bodies and statutory undertakers
- ‘Must seek to further’ purpose
- We ‘must’ collaborate (by law)! LURA

# Landscape

- It's not just what you see...
- **Nature an important part**
- Landscape approach not well understood



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**Kent Downs**  
National  
Landscape





**Kent Downs**  
National  
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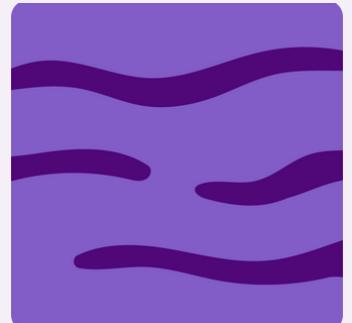


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Some pictures now

Lots of words...

Words (can)  
matter...



Lots of words...Words (should) matter

- **‘...Legally binding target to halt species decline by 2030.’**
- **‘...By 2030, at least 30% of land and sea is effectively managed and conserved, and nature is recovering beyond these places .’ National Landscapes the ‘backbone’.**

NE Strategy 2025



By  
2030



## Lots of words...Words (should) matter

- Working with National Parks and National Landscapes to define **clear pathways to nature recovery**...(NE strategy)
- ....Protected Landscapes are **essential to nature's recovery**' (Minister Creagh).



Natural England's  
Strategy  
2025/ Minister  
Creagh  
statement



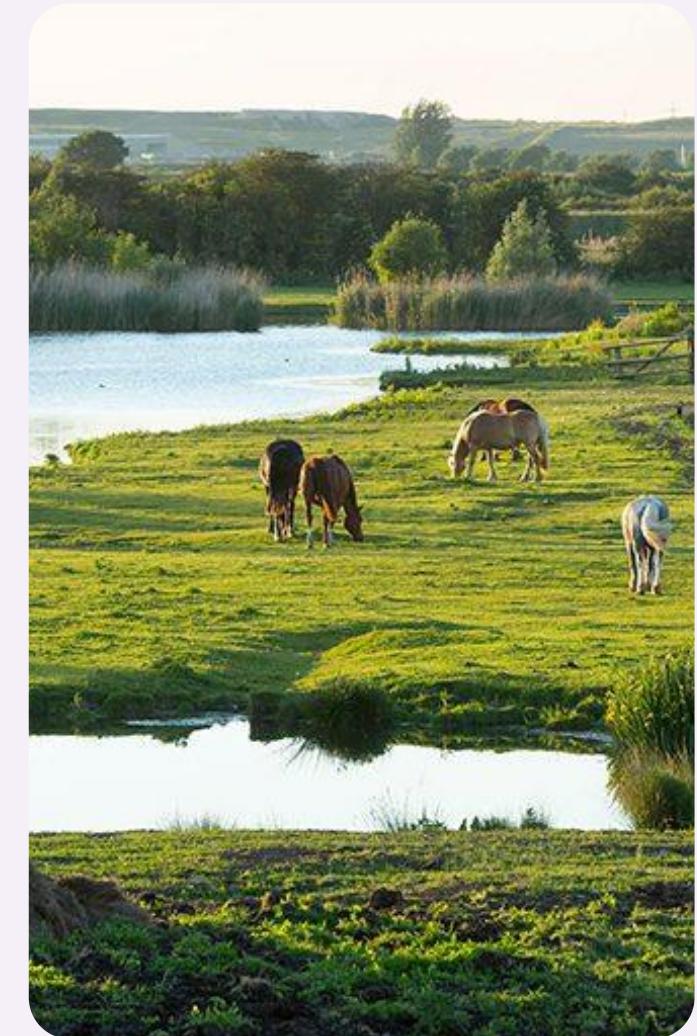
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# 10 Targets for Protected Landscapes; for nature, climate, people and place.

UK Government 2024

**5 of the 10 targets are for nature**

**Targets for the Landscape not for the Kent Downs Team...we must collaborate.**



Government Targets and Outcomes Framework for Protected Landscapes



**Kent Downs National Landscape**

## Target 1 (Nature)

**Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats** within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042

**That's nearly 70Km<sup>2</sup> in Kent Downs**

- Tree and woodland canopy 27km<sup>2</sup>
- Restore existing potential 30Km<sup>2</sup>
- New habitat 13 Km<sup>2</sup>



By  
2042



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## **Target 2 (Nature)**

Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.

**That's additional 8km<sup>2</sup> in the Kent Downs in favourable condition**

And/ or 55 SSSI special features (eg rare species or threatened habitats)



**By  
2042**

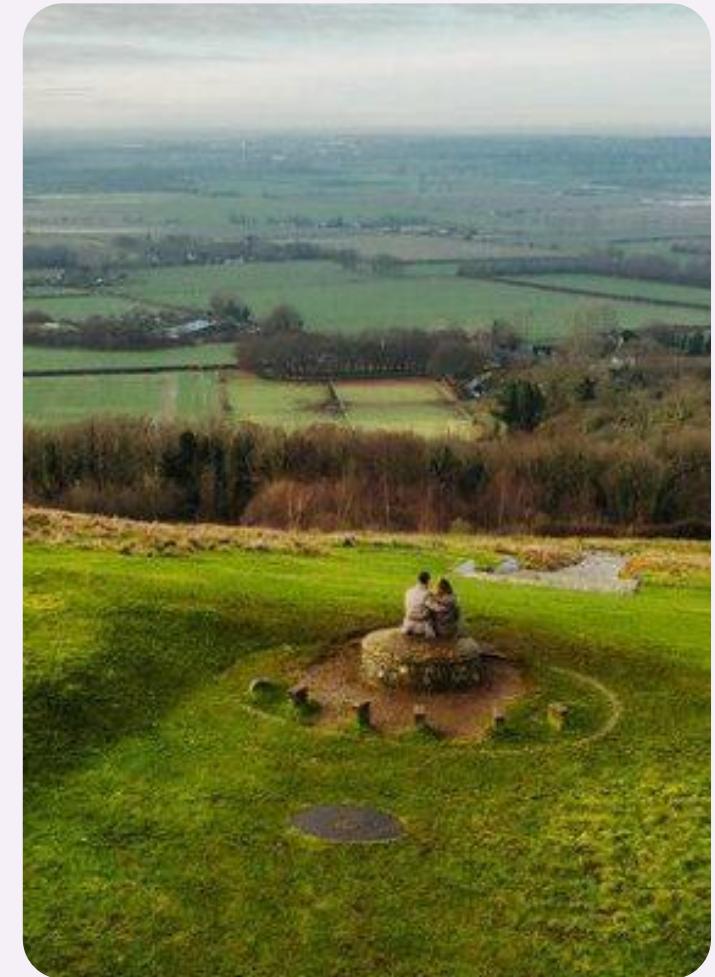


## Target 3 (Nature)

For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by **31 January 2028**.

**Kent Downs currently 28%**

**Additional 32% in 2 years**



By  
2042

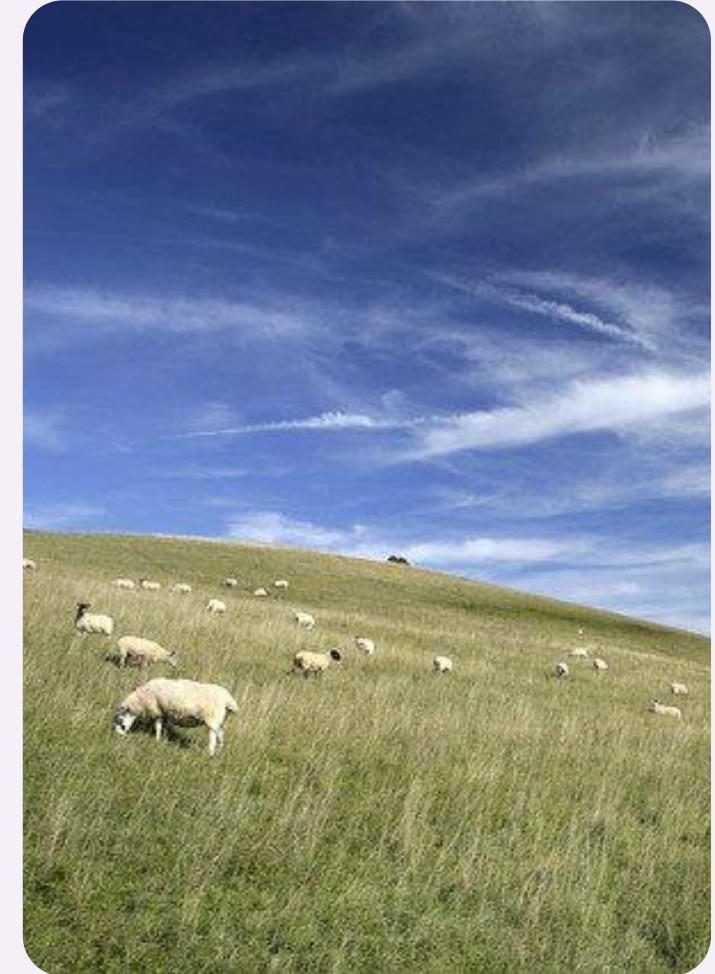


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## **Target 4 (Nature)**

**Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.**

Still awaiting further information



**By  
2042**



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## Target 5 (Nature)

Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.

Using Agri-Environment as proxy

By area 66% (phew)

By owner 28% (err?)



By  
2042



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# Lots of words...

# Lots to do...

# We're making a start





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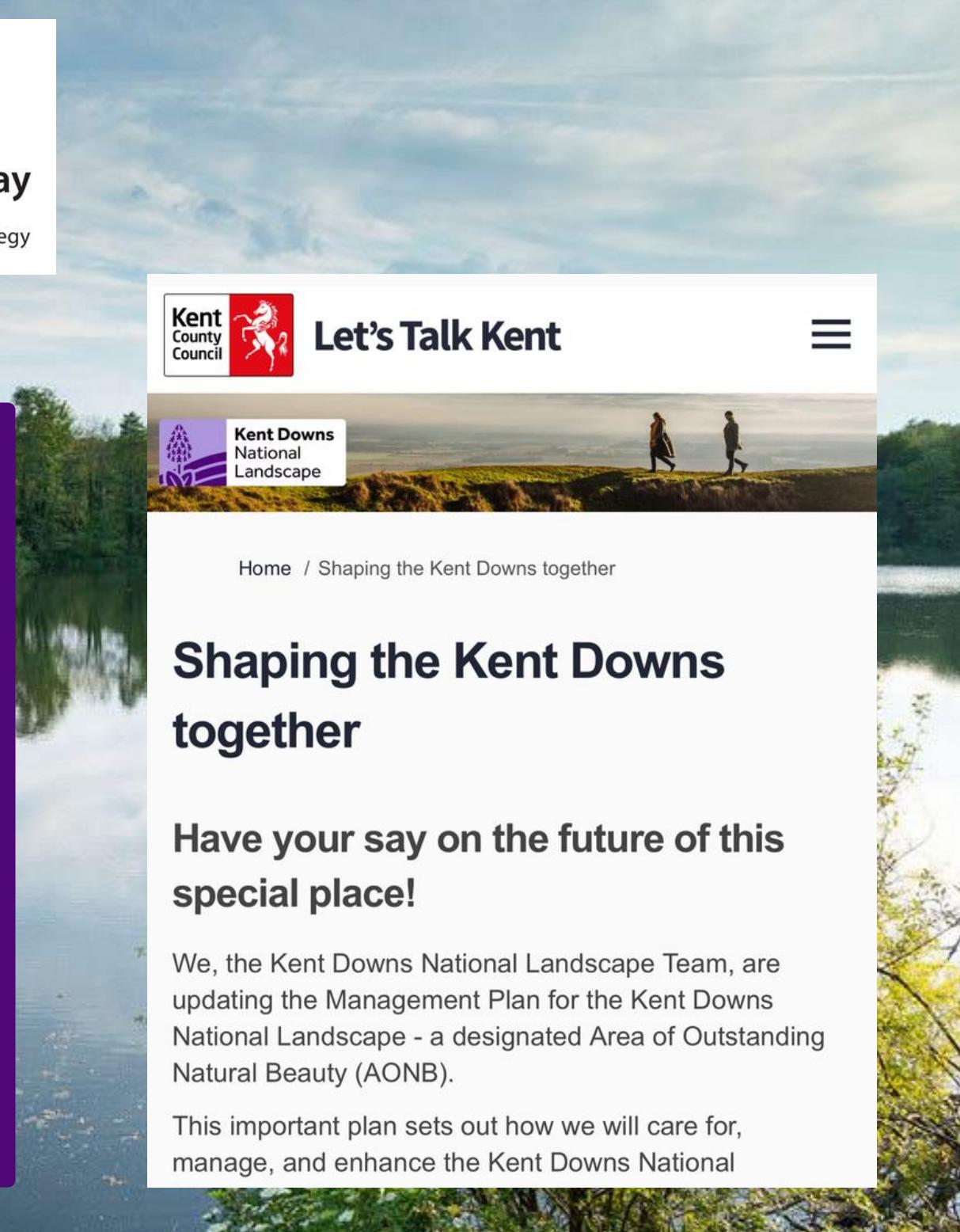


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# Statutory review of the Kent Downs Management Plan

**The LNRS is  
planned to be the  
'nature bit'.**



**Kent County Council** **Let's Talk Kent** ≡

**Kent Downs National Landscape**

Home / Shaping the Kent Downs together

## Shaping the Kent Downs together

### Have your say on the future of this special place!

We, the Kent Downs National Landscape Team, are updating the Management Plan for the Kent Downs National Landscape - a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

This important plan sets out how we will care for, manage, and enhance the Kent Downs National



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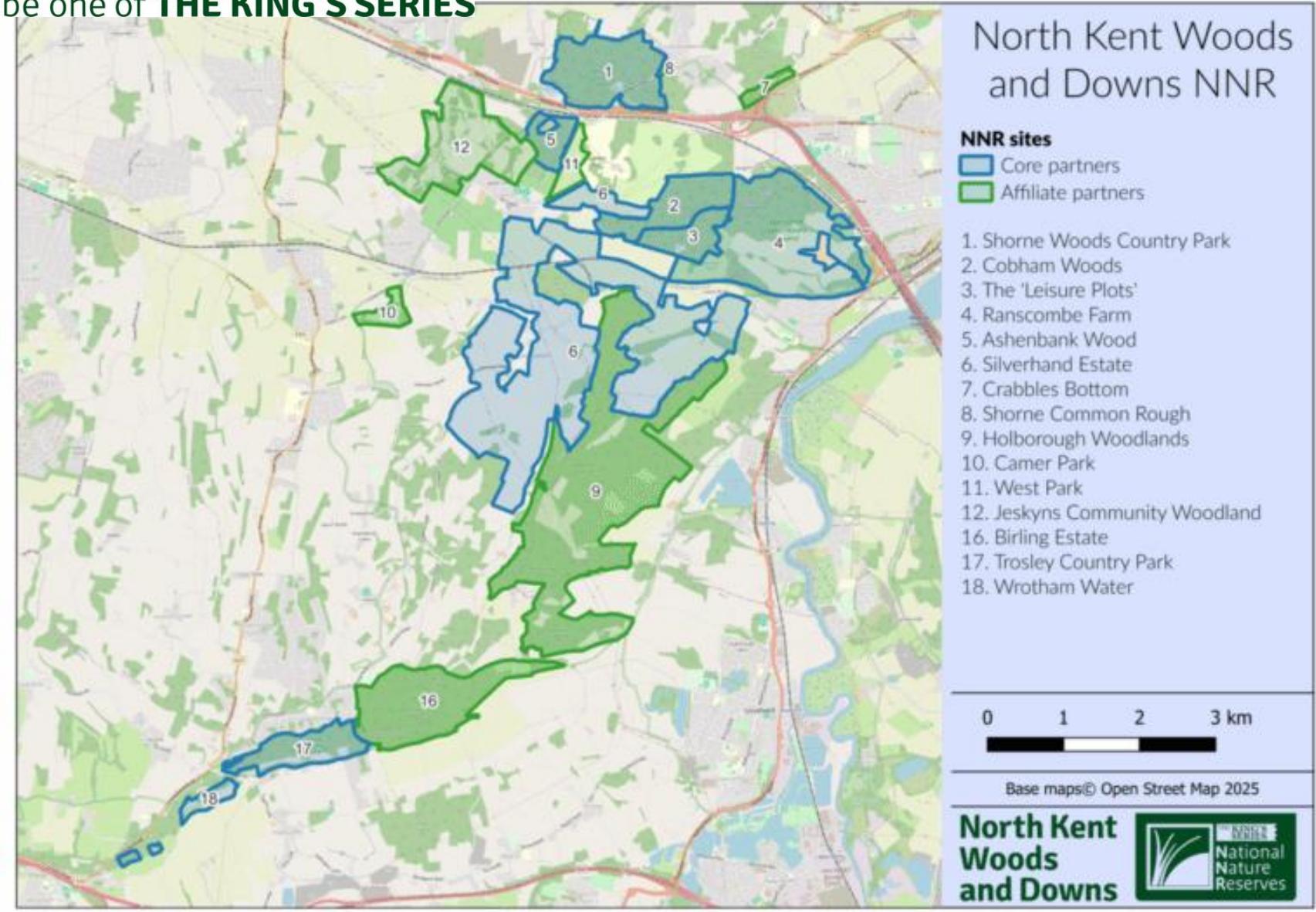
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# North Kent Woods and Downs



Proud to be one of **THE KING'S SERIES**



# North Kent Woods and Downs



Proud to be one of **THE KING'S SERIES**



# North Kent Woods and Downs



Proud to be one of **THE KING'S SERIES**

- Birling Estate
- Forestry England
- Gravesham Borough Council
- Kent County Council
- Kent Downs National Landscape
- National Trust
- Natural England
- Medway Council and Plantlife
- Shorne Parish Council
- Tarmac
- The Woodland Trust
- Vineyard Farms Ltd
- West Kent Downs Countryside Trust

Supported by  
National Highways



Brought to you by: **Nature**  
Cared for by: **All**

**[nkwdnnr.org.uk](http://nkwdnnr.org.uk)**

# North Kent Woods and Downs



Proud to be one of **THE KING'S SERIES**





CROSS-CHANNEL  
**GEOPARK**

Global Geopark

TRANSMANCHE





CROSS-CHANNEL  
GEOPARK  
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# What is UNESCO Global Geopark?

**Single, unified geographical areas of international geological significance,**

**Bottom-up approach to conservation and sustainable development just like a National Landscape.**



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Parc naturel régional des Caps et Marais d'Opale



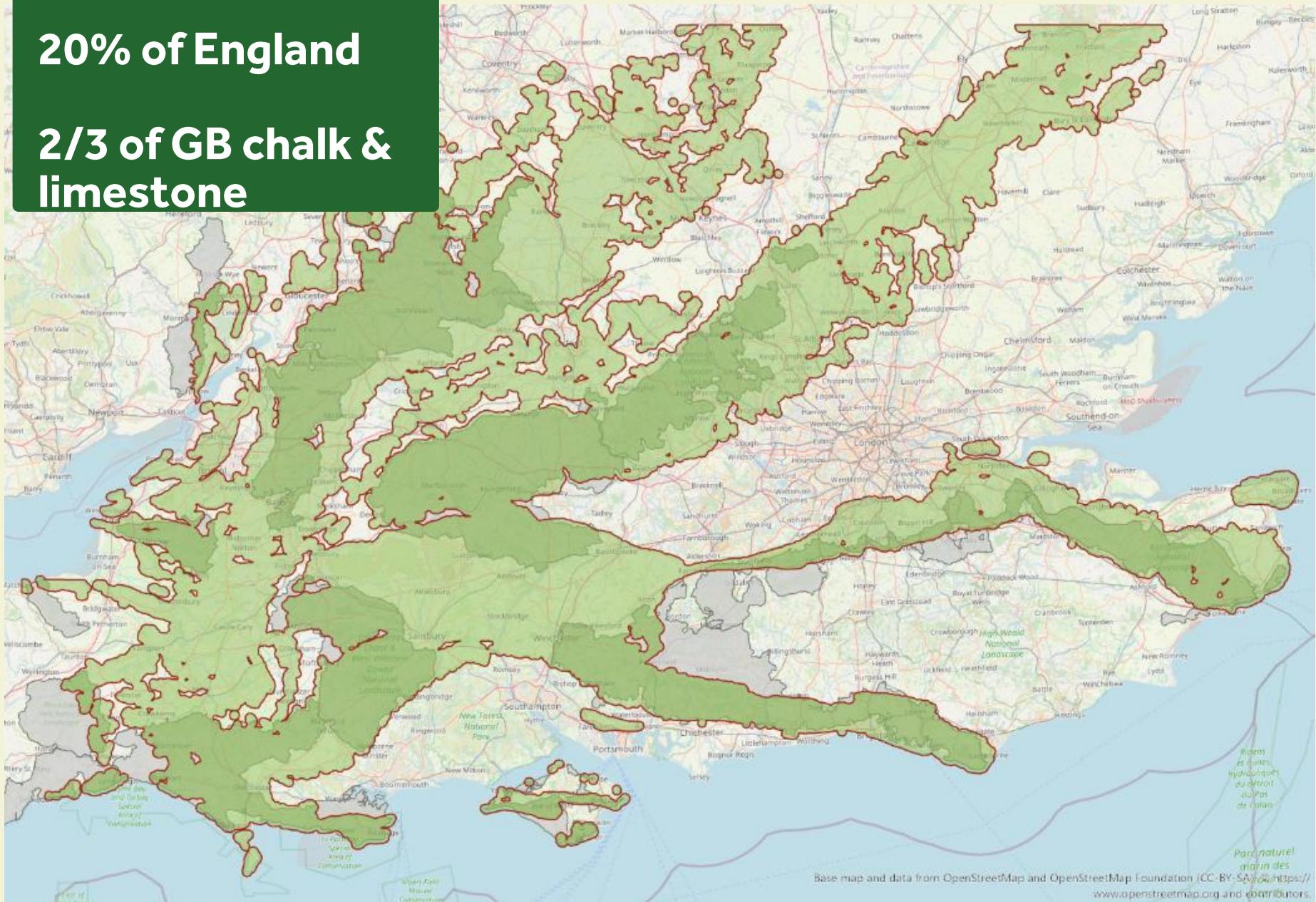
**The UNESCO brand supports**

- Sustainable tourism; Local pride
- New partnerships and resources
- Nous devons collaborer !

# Big Chalk

20% of England

2/3 of GB chalk & limestone



# Bioregional Nature Recovery Collaboration

> 150 partners

## 28/ 48 LNRS partnerships

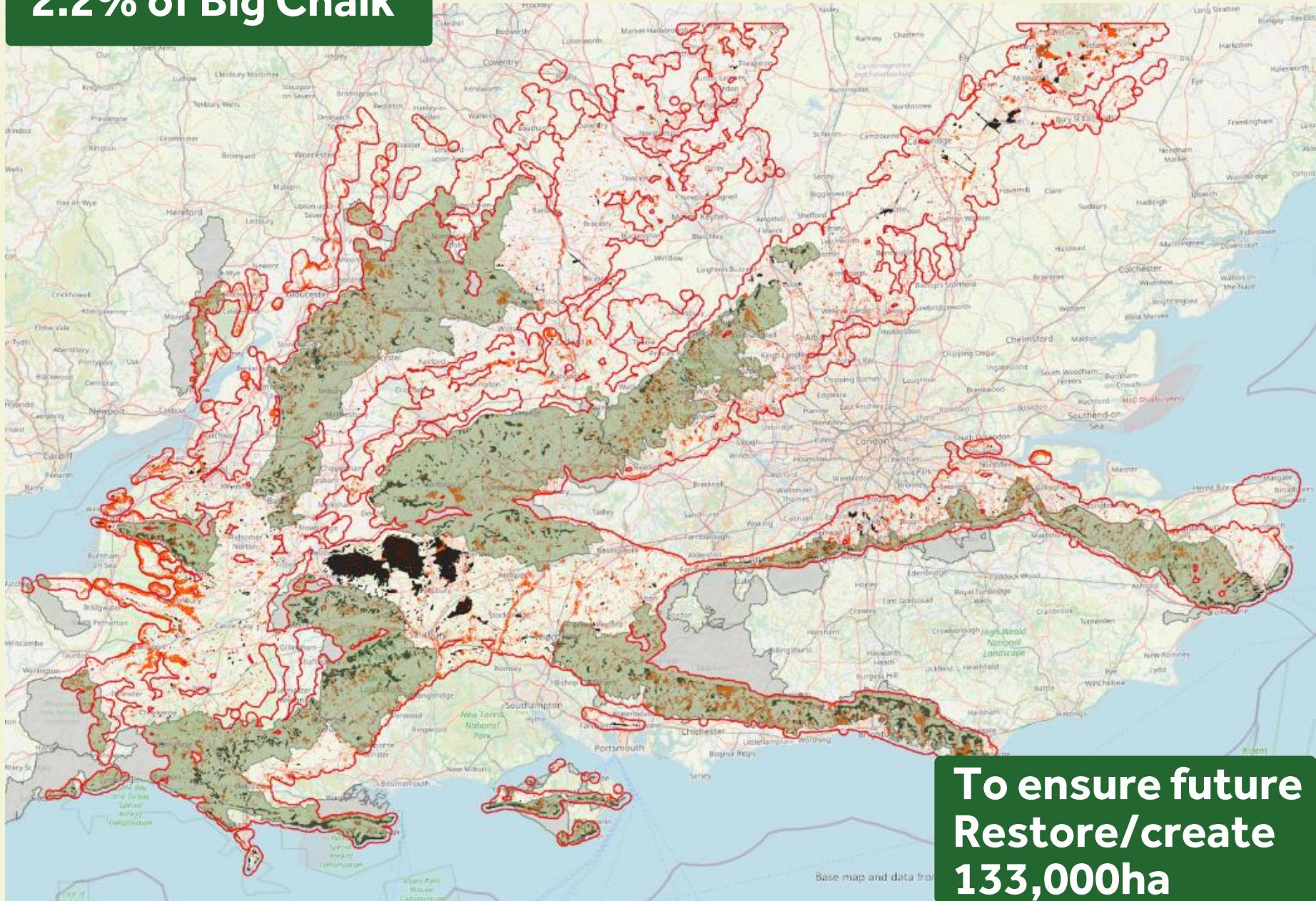
**Vision:** create nature-rich chalk and limestone landscapes that benefit all of us

**Mission:** collectively secure the future of nature in southern England's iconic chalk and limestone landscapes by.

**Doing together what we cannot do alone**



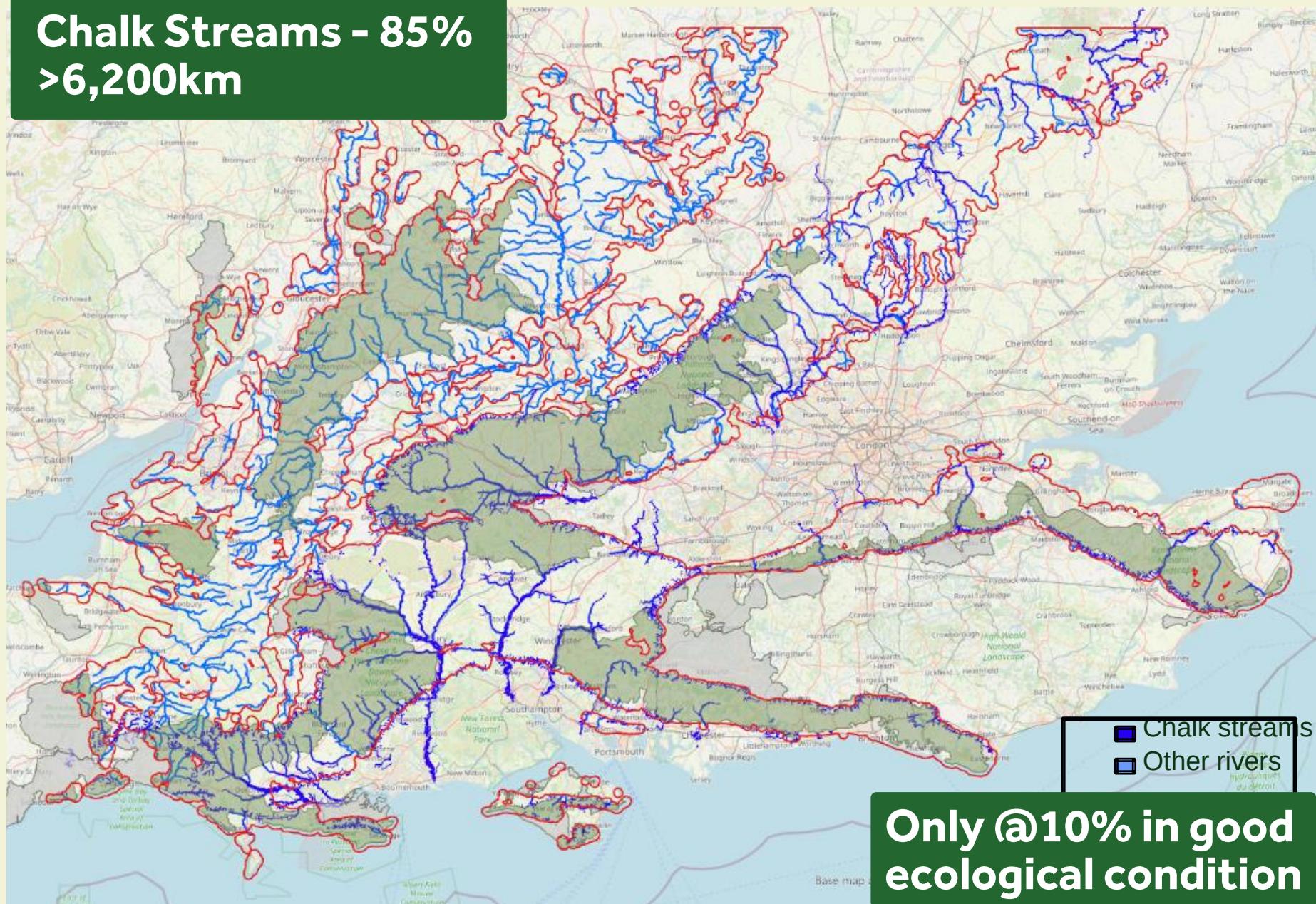
# Chalk Grassland 2.2% of Big Chalk



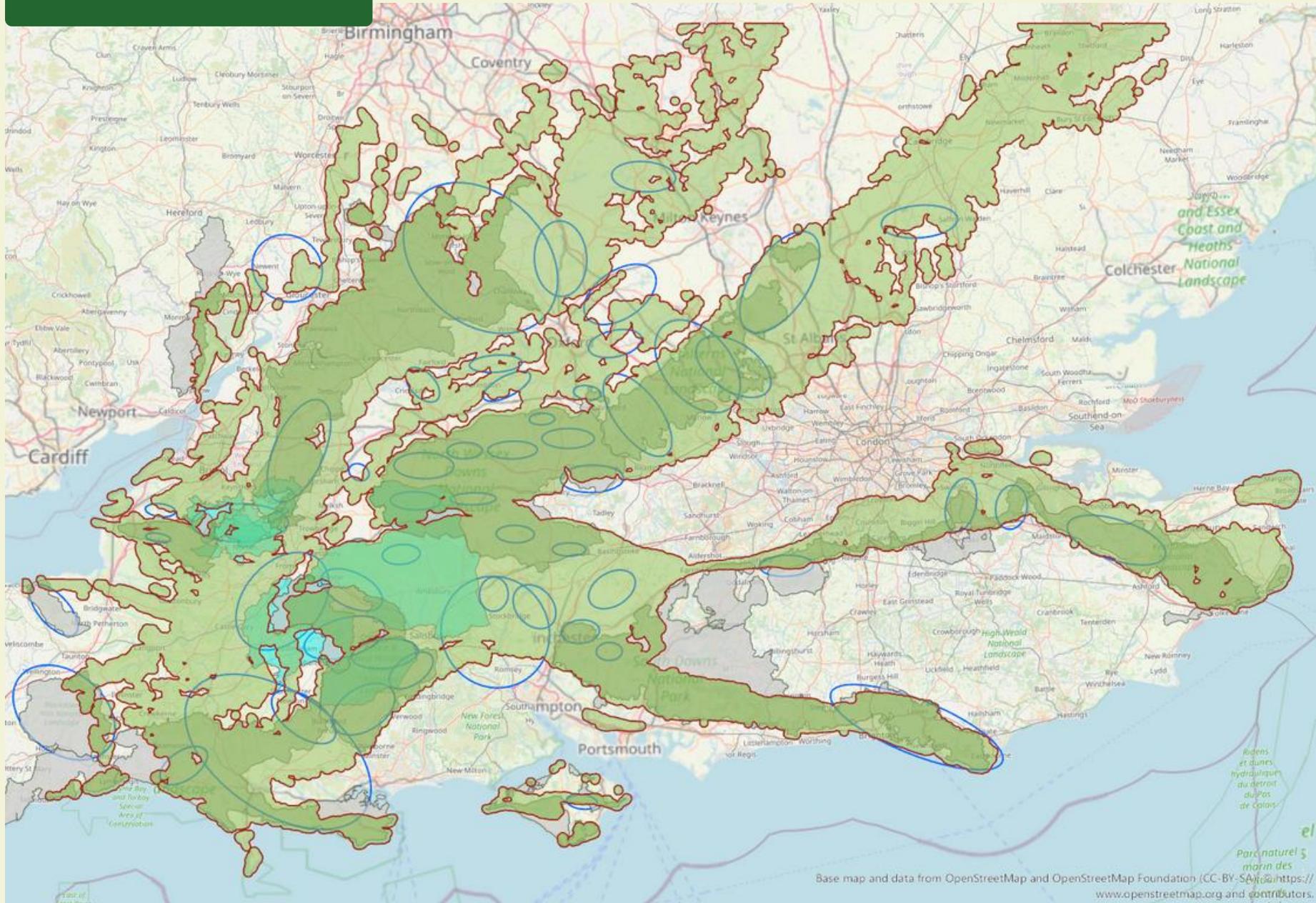
To ensure future  
Restore/create  
133,000ha



**Rivers**  
**Chalk Streams - 85%**  
**>6,200km**



# Farm Clusters



**“True transformation happens when we think big—when we plan and act across landscapes and organisational boundaries... collaborative action across multiple stakeholders... is what truly drives change...”**

**...and we need to work at every scale**





Proud to be one of **THE KING'S SERIES**



Image generated by Gemini AI



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# Let's collaborate!

