

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

# **BIODIVERSITY DUTY FIRST REPORT**

PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT

February 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 to January 1<sup>st</sup> 2026

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1. Introduction .....	3
2. OVERVIEW – Biodiversity in the Borough and achievements and Challenges .....	4
3. Our Policies, Objectives and Actions .....	12
4. Consideration of Other Strategies and plans.....	14
5. Actions and Results of the First Consideration Report.....	15
6. Biodiversity Net Gain: Actions and Results .....	17
7. Raising Awareness and Community Engagement .....	20
8. Future Actions .....	22
9. Monitoring and Reviews .....	23
Appendices .....	23

A: Kent High Weald Partnership Annual Report 2024-2025

B: High Weald National Landscape Partnership Activity 2025-2026

C: [Biodiversity](#) Questionnaire

D: Mandatory BNG Data

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report is being published to meet the Council’s legal obligations under section 40A of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021) which requires Local Planning Authorities to publish a Biodiversity Duty Report.
- 1.2 The Environment Act 2021 amended section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (duty to conserve biodiversity) to set a general biodiversity objective which is the “*conservation and enhancement of biodiversity*”. To comply with the duty Planning authorities must consider what action the authority can take “*to further the general biodiversity objective*”.
- 1.3 The Act requires the Council to publish a Biodiversity Duty Report that reports on the results of actions for biodiversity already carried out and the proposed actions for biodiversity going forward.
- 1.4 The Biodiversity Duty Report sets out:
  - i. An overview of the Biodiversity of the Borough.
  - ii. The results of the work undertaken since the publication of the [First Consideration Report](#) in December 2023 in preparation for publishing this report.
  - iii. How the Council is delivering **Biodiversity Net Gain** (BNG), a mandatory requirement of new development which came into force in January 2024.
  - iv. Current and proposed actions covering the Council’s approach to raising public awareness, monitoring and review of Biodiversity.
- 1.5 The Government published guidance for **Complying with the Biodiversity Duty** and [Reporting your Biodiversity duty actions](#) in May 2023 including a schedule of contents for this Biodiversity Duty Report with mandatory and voluntary sections.
- 1.6 This report is designed to cover both mandatory and voluntary sections and meet the detailed requirements for information in the guidance and follows on from the [First Considerations report](#) published in December 2023.
- 1.7 Government guidance requires that this report covers the period from when mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain came into force (February 12th 2024) and for this report ends no later than 1st January 2026. Section 103(5b) of the Environment Act or 40a(5) of the NERC Act states: “*A biodiversity report (a) must specify the period covered by the report, and (b) must be published within the period of 12 weeks following the last day of that period*”.
- 1.8 Consequently, this report covers the period February 12th 2024 to January 1st 2026 and is to be published by the deadline of March 26th 2026. In addition, the report includes outcomes for Biodiversity Net Gain achieved by the Council prior to the period of it becoming mandatory since 2019.
- 1.9 The Council has formally recognised the need for urgent action on Biodiversity through a declaration of a climate and biodiversity emergency ([Full Council in July 2019](#)) and

has taken decisive action by being an early adopter of Biodiversity Net Gain in 2019. Latterly the Council, through its [Strategic Plan 2024-2032](#) has committed to “*deliver more or better quality natural habitat and increase biodiversity*”. The Council has for many years identified and designated a wide and extensive range of sites to be protected for their wildlife interest and seeks to ensure their continued protection and enhancement through policies and actions including community involvement in conservation activities. The Council is also involved in a number of new and longstanding partnerships that help to promote the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and support or direct action to improve biodiversity across the Borough.

- 1.10 New initiatives and actions include a commitment to planting a tree for every resident and a new project to establish a community nature reserve.
- 1.11 This report provides information on those partnerships and actions and what further work the Council is doing to fulfil its Biodiversity Duty.

## 2. OVERVIEW – Biodiversity in the Borough and achievements and Challenges

- 2.1 The borough has a rich and diverse range of habitats and species, many of which are threatened or endangered, and contains numerous designated sites and areas for biodiversity and landscape features which are of importance for biodiversity.
- 2.2 The borough is well endowed with woodland with just over 16% (5,391ha) of the landcover being recognised as Ancient Woodland with a total woodland land cover of just over 18% of the borough as well as having extensive areas of urban trees, wood pasture and parkland and numerous veteran trees.
- 2.3 While the borough contains no international sites for conservation it does have responsibilities for the protection of Ashdown Forest which is in Wealden District, under the Habitat Regulations. There are however numerous national, regional, and local sites representing a broad range of lowland habitats representative of the High and Low Weald landscapes which cover the Borough:

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	10
Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	61
Roadside Nature Reserve (RNR)	13
Site of Local Nature Conservation Value (SLNCV)	16
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	4
Candidate Local Nature Reserves (CLNR)	9

- 2.4 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are the responsibility of Natural England, Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) and Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs) are identified through a Kent wide partnership between Local Planning authorities, Kent Nature Partnership and the Kent Wildlife Trust, Sites of Local Nature Conservation Value (SLNCVs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and Candidate Local Nature Reserves (CLNRs) are identified by the Borough Council through the Local Plan. Most of these are on land in private ownership but all LNRs and some LWSs are on land owned by the Council or Parish/Town Councils. Together all the designated sites cover 4,572 ha (13.8% of the borough).
- 2.5 There are 40 Historic Parks and Gardens in the Borough covering some 1,840 ha which includes area of parkland, wood pasture and numerous veteran trees.
- 2.6 In addition, the Council owns and manages numerous green spaces and parks covering more than 2,000 hectares which contain important habitats and is very mindful of the need to balance amenity with biodiversity objectives.
- 2.7 The Borough is a stronghold for several notable and protected species including great crested newts, dormice, bats and badgers. All four common species of reptile are found in the borough and there is a wide range of bird species associated with the woodlands and farmland across the borough including swift, turtle dove, song thrush and lesser spotted woodpecker which are all birds on the red list for conservation concern.
- 2.8 As indicated above the Council is working in partnership with a number of organisations to identify, protect and manage areas and sites important for biodiversity. These are summarised in the table below:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Description</b>
Kent High Weald Partnership (KHWP)	TWBC KCC with Support from Forestry Commission and High Weald National Landscape Partnership (NLP)	This is a jointly funded project between TWBC and KCC that operates only in the Borough. Their aim is to <i>“connect people and nature through conservation, education, and wellbeing. Through our work we support the development of resilient communities and resilient ecosystems that mean people and wildlife can thrive together”</i>  They are responsible for managing a number of sites for nature conservation and public access and run numerous events, volunteer days and a Forest Schools program.
Kent Nature Partnership	Board: DEFRA Kent Downs National Landscape	The Kent Nature Partnership (KNP) is a coordinating strategic body, standing up for nature in Kent and Medway. The KNP was awarded Local Nature Partnership (LNP) status by the

Name	Members	Description
	Country Land and Business Association. Kent Planning Officers Group (MBC) Kent Wildlife Trust Kent County Council  Management working Group: Kent Countryside Partnerships DEFRA Dover District Council Kent and Medway BRC Kent County Council Kent Wildlife Trust High Weald National Landscape Medway Council RSPB South East Rivers Trust Southern Water Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	<p>government in July 2012 to drive positive change in the local natural environment. The Partnership supports the Local Wildlife System across Kent and supports the LNRS.</p> <p>The Partnership takes a strategic view of the challenges and opportunities involved in managing the natural environment as a system benefiting biodiversity, people and the local economy.</p>
Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).	Kent County Council are the Responsible Authority. Borough and District Councils including Tunbridge Wells Borough Council are Supporting Authorities	Delivered under the title of Making Space for Nature (MS4N) through partnership working with key stakeholders and extensive public consultation. Final version Published November 2025
Kent Plan Tree	KCC, Tunbridge Wells BC Parks Department Kent High Weald Partnership	PLAN TREE: Kent County Council's Tree Establishment Strategy 2022-2032 Working in partnership with LPAs to access grants for tree planting across Kent.

Name	Members	Description
High Weald National Landscape Partnership (HWNLP)	<p><b>County Councils:</b> East Sussex Kent West Sussex Surrey</p> <p><b>Borough and Districts:</b> Wealden Rother Tunbridge Wells Mid Sussex Ashford Sevenoaks Horsham Tandridge Hastings Tonbridge &amp; Malling Crawley</p>	<p>A 30 year partnership between fifteen local authorities which together form the <b>High Weald Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)</b> who are supported by an <b>Officer Steering Group</b>.</p> <p>The <b>High Weald National Landscape Team</b> is a small, independent, specialist team working day-to-day on behalf of the JAC, Defra and Natural England.</p> <p>The Partnership work to produce the High Weald AONB Management Plan and supporting guidance, advise members on AONB matters and collaborate on projects within the High Weald that support the objectives of the Management plan.</p>
Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) Local Wildlife Site (LWS) System	All Kent LPAs	<p>Through a rolling programme of surveys the KWT trust identifies and monitors LWS recommending to LPAs any additions, deletions or changes to LWS in their District.</p> <p>Reporting and recommendations are made to the LPAs through the Kent Nature Partnership.</p>
Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) Furnace Farm & Hoathly Farm Project	Kent Wildlife Trust, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and other partners	A Landscape scale Rewilding Project. The Wildlife trust have recently acquired two sites near Lamberhurst with a view to undertaking a re wildling project to benefit biodiversity and landscape restoration.
Ashdown Forest Strategic Access, Management and Monitoring Strategy (SAMMS) Partnership	The Conservators Of Ashdown Forest; Wealden DC (Chair) Mid Sussex DC Lewes DC Tunbridge Wells DC Tandridge DC Sevenoaks DC Natural England	The Partnership LPAs have been working with the Conservators of Ashdown Forest and Natural England since 2012 on the Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMMS) Strategy for Ashdown Forest as part of their responsibilities under the Habitat Regulations for European Sites. This involves the setting and collection of tariffs to fund studies and projects to help protect Ashdown Forest from the potential adverse effects of recreational visitors to the Forest.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Description</b>
Ashdown Forest Working Group (AFWG)	<b>County Councils:</b> East Sussex Kent West Sussex Surrey <b>Borough and Districts:</b> Wealden South Downs NPA Lewes Eastbourne Tunbridge Wells (Chair) Sevenoaks Mid Sussex Crawley Brighton and Hove Tandridge Hastings Rother Tonbridge & Malling Horsham <b>Others:</b> Natural England	The purpose of the AFWG is to work together to address the strategic cross boundary issue of air quality impacts on the Ashdown Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) that may arise from traffic associated with new development.
Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons Conservators	The Conservators: 4x Borough Councillors 4x Representatives of the Manor of Rusthall 4x Freehold Tenants	The Conservators are charged with managing the commons using a precept from the Borough Council and are supported by a strong Friends of Group of volunteers.
Parish and Town Councils	Various	The Council supports Parish and Town Councils with projects and land management.
Friends of Groups for Green Spaces and Parks	Most large Parks have a "Friends of Group"	These are supported by the Parks department and KHWP.
Great Crested Newts (GCN) District Level Licencing (DLL) Scheme	Natural England and Kent High Weald Partnership (KHWP)	The scheme is a statutory licensing regime administered by Natural England who providing funding for the creation and restoration of ponds for GCN. Within the borough delivery of these ponds is almost entirely achieved by the KHWP.
Bedgebury Pinetum	Bedgebury Pinetum, Kent High Weald	The Pinetum host the Kent High Weald Partnership who in turn delivery education

Name	Members	Description
	Partnership and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	events and Forest Schools for the Pinetum. The Council host a mini-Bedgebury pinetum at Grosvenor and Hilbert Park which promotes Bedgebury and the conservation work it does and in turn Bedgebury have provided some of the trees and assist with interpretation material and botanical labelling.

2.9 The Kent High Weald Partnership (KHWP) is a key vehicle for the delivery of biodiversity on behalf of the Council. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is proud to have maintained this partnership which works only in the Borough over more than 25 years. The Partnership manages a number of nature conservation sites on behalf of the Council and supports conservation work across Council owned sites. The 2024-2025 Annual Report (Appendix A) of the KHWP sets out their mission:

*“Kent High Weald Partnership aims to connect people and nature through conservation, education, and wellbeing. Through our work we support the development of resilient communities and resilient ecosystems that mean people and wildlife can thrive together”.*

2.10 The report highlights some of their key achievements for 2024-2025:

- Delivered 109 volunteer tasks.
- Hosted 200 attendees to our nature events.
- Planted over 2500 trees with the help of 4 schools, 30 community volunteers, 2 young offenders, and 65 staff from local businesses, TWBC and KCC.
- Delivered 239 nature-based education and forest school sessions to over 500 children, and providing support for 7 different schools.
- Supported 28 secondary school children with complex needs with forest school programmes at Bedgebury Pinetum.
- Trained over 60 people in new skills or qualifications.
- Delivered 120 nature-based wellbeing sessions.
- Provided over 40 horticultural therapy sessions.
- Delivered 2 programmes of Green Wellbeing.

2.11 In addition, the KHWP has taken on the management of Council owned Snipe and Bassetts Woodland to deliver pre-mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain and to provide a Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS) site for Ashdown Forest. They have also supported the Council Bloom in Britain campaign and the Councils strategic tree planting objective.

2.12 Other highlights and success for the Council during the reporting period include:

**Snipe and Bassetts Wood BNG and SANGS site:** This is the Council's site for pre-mandatory BNG. Developers were sold biodiversity units using the emerging DEFRA Metric and the site is now under a new management regime to boost biodiversity for the next 30 years. In addition, the site has been accepted by Natural England as a SANGS site for Ashdown Forest with capacity for a small handful of developments that come forward as windfall sites. Money collected from developers will go towards parking and footpath improvements to make the site more attractive to dog walkers.

**Progress on the Strategic Plan 2024-2032 commitment to “plant a tree for every resident” (116,000) over 10 years:** The project has worked across the Council's estate of parks and open spaces, partnered with KCC and private landowners and used volunteer resources to plant 4,950 trees in the 2024/25 and 2025/26 seasons. Work has included hedgerow restoration, targeted planting of disease resistant elms to support the white letter hairstreak butterfly and planting endangered species of conifer in the Council's conifer collection in Grosvenor and Hilbert Park. The project is in the early stages learning from experience and is open to new opportunities but already has identified tree planting opportunities for more than 16,000 trees in the 2026/27 season.

**Furnace Farm & Hoathly Farm Wildling Project:** The Council has entered into a partnership with Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) to support the wilding of two farms totalling 139ha near Lamberhurst. The project will make a significant improvement to biodiversity, support the Council's tree planting initiative and will incorporate Natural Flood Measures.

**Tunbridge Wells In Bloom:** 2025 was 15th anniversary year of Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom entering the South and South East in Bloom competition. For 2025 Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom team received the following awards:

Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom - Gold - Champion of Champions

Dunorlan Park (large park, 25+ acres/10 hectares) - Gold

Barnets Wood Local Nature Reserve - Silver Gilt

Tunbridge Wells Common - Gold and category winner!

Woodbury Park Cemetery - Gold and category winner!

Tunbridge Wells Cemetery and Crematorium - Gold

Calverley Grounds (small park) - Gold

Grosvenor and Hilbert Park (large park, 25+ acres/10 hectares) - Gold

Additionally in 2025, Royal Tunbridge Wells was awarded a Silver Gilt special award for Gardening with Young People.

**High Weald AONB Management Plan and supporting guidance:** During the reporting period for this report the Council has supported the High Weald National Landscape Partnership (HWNLP) through the preparation and adoption of a new High Weald AONB Management Plan 2024 – 2029 as well as a series of supporting documents:

- High Weald Soft Landscaping & Planting Plans in Development Proposals Planning Advice Note
- High Weald Dark Skies Planning Advice Note

- Position Statement: Solar Farms and the High Weald National Landscape
- Position Statement: Habitat Banks and the High Weald National Landscape

With the support of Local Authority Members the HWNLP has delivered on a wide range projects during 2025 (see HWNLP Activity Report 2025-2026 Appendix B)

**Support for the [Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\)](#):** The Council has engaged with and supported a specialist Kent County Council team in the design and delivery of the first LNRS for Kent and Medway concluding with publication of the final strategy in November 2025. This will be taken forward for adoption by the Council in early 2026.

**S106 money:** In addition to s106 funds secured for Adult and Youth Recreation part of which may be spent on improvements to green spaces the Council has secured £27.5K for improvements to common land, £190k for offsite Biodiversity Net Gain on Council owned land and £51k for other improvements to Council green spaces.

**Adoption of New [Local Plan 2020-2038](#) with stronger policies for biodiversity:** A significant milestone in the design and application of new policies for biodiversity was the adoption of the new Local Plan in December 2025 (See section 3 below) which contained wide ranging policies to protect and enhance biodiversity across the borough.

- 2.13 Whilst the council has had many successes there are significant challenges ahead that may affect outcomes for biodiversity. Like most Local Authorities financial and staffing resources are limited and there is a heavy reliance upon our partnerships which are themselves vulnerable to wider economic pressures, and staffing issues.
- 2.14 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is also underway and will be implemented during the next Biodiversity Duty reporting period. This will affect not only the Council's configuration and resources but also that of our partnership organisations which might also be reorganised, and result in changing demands, governance and funding structures. There is then a need to be vigilant during any restructure with a need to ensure that biodiversity and the supporting partnerships are kept on the agenda.
- 2.15 Other challenges to biodiversity, such as climate change and pest and diseases, are largely outside the control of the Council but the Council will need to stay alive to these issues and where practical support initiatives to address these challenges.
- 2.16 Development also poses a threat to biodiversity. New development is coming forward on green field sites where biodiversity needs to be considered. Whilst policies and actions can secure Biodiversity Net Gain and significant Green Infrastructure which can have multiple benefits including benefits for people and wildlife, the pressure that amenity uses from new development have on biodiversity is very real and effects take place over a very short time span. Balancing amenity uses and benefits for biodiversity on new development is a challenge that the Council is trying to achieve through proactive engagement with developers, implementation of BNG, positive application of environmental policies and, where helpful, the production of additional guidance.

# 3. Our Policies, Objectives and Actions

3.1 The Council launched a new Strategic Plan 2024-2032 which guides all the work the Council carries out and which includes Priorities for Climate Action and Sustainable Development:

- Climate Action:

*“We will continue our work to create a cleaner, green and carbon zero future for our Borough. Climate change is real, and the clock is ticking: we have our role to play alongside national government and must all act locally if we are to win the fight globally”*

*“We will deliver more or better quality natural habitat and increase biodiversity”.*

- Sustainable Development:

*“We want the right types of homes in the right places with the right infrastructure, jobs and local businesses, whilst protecting our nature and heritage.*

*Our Borough needs more homes, and we must build them in a way that doesn't compromise future generations”.*

*“We will balance the requirement to build more homes for future generations with the need to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment”.*

3.2 The Council adopted a New Local Plan in December 2025 which is the mainstay of the Councils environmental policies that directly affect development in the Borough. These include policies for:

## **Environment and Design**

EN 1 Sustainable Design

EN 2 Sustainable Design Standards

EN 3 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

EN 4 Historic Environment, including Heritage Assets

EN 6 Shop Fronts

EN 7 Advertisements

EN 8 Outdoor Lighting and Dark Skies

## **Natural Environment**

EN 9 Biodiversity Net Gain

EN 10 Protection of Designated Sites and Habitats

EN 11 Ashdown Forest Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation

EN 12 Trees, Woodland, Hedges, and Development

EN 13 Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees

EN 14 Green, Grey, and Blue Infrastructure

- EN 15 Local Green Space
- EN 16 Landscape within the Built Environment
- EN 17 Arcadian Areas
- EN 18 Rural Landscape
- EN 19 The High Weald National Landscape
- EN 20 Agricultural Land

### **Air, Water, Noise and Land**

- EN 21 Air Quality
- EN 22 Air Quality Management Areas
- EN 23 Biomass Technology
- EN 24 Water Supply, Quality, and Conservation
- EN 25 Flood Risk
- EN 26 Sustainable Drainage
- EN 27 Noise
- EN 28 Land Contamination

- 3.3 The most significant policy for biodiversity is Policy EN 9 Biodiversity Net Gain which supports the delivery of the statutory BNG and sets out what is expected of new development.
- 3.4 A key part of the policy is the supporting statement which includes the following text:
- “6.150 Proposals for biodiversity and landscaping should be informed by national and local guidance, and strategies including the Local Nature Recovery Strategy when published. Current relevant guidance and information includes the Kent Habitat Survey, Biodiversity Action Plans, Biodiversity Opportunity Area statements, pollinator action plans, the Kent Environment Strategy, and the Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy, as well as the High Weald AONB Management Plan and its supporting documents. As part of net gains for nature, development will be expected to provide, protect, and reinforce green infrastructure in accordance with Policy EN 14: Green, Grey, and Blue Infrastructure and to provide enhancements for biodiversity, to include where possible, but not limited to:*
- *bird and bat boxes selected and located in accordance with the advice of an ecologist, integrated into new buildings, and focused on garden and urban species, including crevice dwelling bats, swifts, house sparrows, and starlings;*
  - *wildlife friendly sustainable urban drainage (SuDs) features;*
  - *ponds and scrapes specifically designed for wildlife;*
  - *holes in fences for hedgehogs;*
  - *amphibian friendly kerbs/drains;*
  - *culverts under paths and roads for small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians;*
  - *wildlife friendly show gardens;*
  - *a scheme of wildlife talks and events for new residents;*
  - *bug boxes and bug hotels;*
  - *on-site interpretation panels of ecological features and habitats”.*
- 3.5 The actual policy supports the mandatory 10% seeking more where possible but also seeks biodiversity improvements on sites exempt from the BNG legislation:

### *“Policy EN 9 Biodiversity Net Gain*

*Development will only be permitted where in so far as is practical it:*

*Minimises the loss and fragmentation of existing habitats on-site.*

*Protects and enhances the biodiversity of retained habitats and, maximises opportunities for habitat restoration, enhancement and habitat connectivity.*

*Development requiring mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain shall provide a minimum of 10% gain in biodiversity and proposals for any off-site provision must demonstrate conformity with the Biodiversity Net Gain Hierarchy.*

*Any retrospective or self-build/custom build applications that is not exempt for other reasons, will be expected to demonstrate no net loss in biodiversity and gains for nature through enhancements for biodiversity through a reasoned statement, Ecological Impact Assessment or application of the Statutory Metric.*

*Other development that is exempt from the Mandatory BNG should where appropriate contribute to net gain through a proportionate scheme of ecological enhancements”.*

- 3.6 The Council will use these policies to inform development proposals and other actions across the Borough.
- 3.7 As noted above change and development across the High Weald National Landscape is guided by the High Weald AONB Management Plan and supporting guidance which underpins National and Council policies and guidance for the AONB.
- 3.8 To strengthen our partnership work on biodiversity related partnerships (such as the Kent High Weald Partnership, High Weald National Landscape Partnership, Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent County Council Ecology) are covered by Service Level Agreements and/or Memorandums of Understanding covering governance and funding. These are regularly reviewed and updated.

## **4. Consideration of Other Strategies and plans**

### **Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)**

- 4.1 As explained above the Council has supported and development of the [Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) (LNRS): The Council has engaged with and supported a specialist Kent County Council team in the design and delivery of the first LNRS for Kent and Medway concluding with publication of the final strategy in November 2025. This will be taken forward for adoption by the Council in early 2026.
- 4.2 The Council is now working with the LNRS team at KCC on the implementation of the LNRS including working with our Development Management Team and our Geographical Information System Officers to ensure that it is properly treated as a material consideration in Development Management decisions.

### **High Weald Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan**

- 4.3 Members and Officers actively participate in the ongoing actions of the High Weald National Landscapes Partnership for the (AONB) through the meetings of the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) and the Officer Steering Group (OSG) and occasional sub groups where required.
- 4.4 The updated [Management Plan 2024-2029](#) has been formally adopted by the Council and introductory sessions and briefings have been given to Members and Officers. The New Management plan and all the supporting guidance is published on the Council's [web site](#) for ease of access and to raise awareness.
- 4.5 The Council's new policy EN 19 The High Weald National Landscape makes it clear that for development management decisions particular regard will be had to the key components of Natural Beauty at the objectives in the Management Plan. The Management Plan now also contains cross cutting themes that will help improve outcomes for biodiversity:
- Restoring Soil Health and Regenerative Land Management
  - Nature Recovery and Biodiversity
  - The Climate Crisis: Achieving Net Zero
  - People and Access
  - Planning and Development in the High Weald

### **Species Conservation Strategies**

- 4.6 Under s109 of the Environment Act 2021 Natural England may prepare and publish a strategy for improving the conservation status of any species of fauna or flora to be known as a "species conservation strategy". Such a strategy that covers Tunbridge Wells Borough has not yet been published but the Council is aware of the intention and will take it into account as and when published.
- 4.7 The Council supports the District Level Licensing scheme for Great Crested Newts and was an active member of the project sounding board during its development. The Council continues to support the project, making applicants aware of the process and through the installation or restoration of ponds for GCN via the Kent High Weald Partnership.
- 4.8 The Council also makes developers aware of other schemes to support species recovery as and when appropriate such as the Turtle Dove Friendly Zones and hedgehog highways.

## **5. Actions and Results of the First Consideration Report**

- 5.1 The [First Consideration Report](#) set out seven actions at paragraph 2.11 that it would take to inform this report. Each of these are set out below with a short summary of progress and results. Proposed future actions are set out in Section 8.

***The Council will continue to apply the environmental policies to planning applications and will continue to review and update guidance and practice to improve outcomes.***

- 5.2 The Council routinely updates its web site when new guidance or issues arise. Since adoption of the new Local Plan in December 2025 the policies in it have been given full weight by the Council in planning decisions.

***The Council will review and report on BNG achieved since 2019 both on and off site and monitor mandatory BNG as it develops.***

- 5.3 The Council has continued to develop its approach to BNG, procuring appropriate software and external expertise to assist with assessing and monitoring BNG and has amended internal process for validation, report writing and monitoring. The outcomes for BNG are reported in Section 6.

***The Council will identify and develop sites for the provision of offsite BNG on council owned and third party land.***

- 5.4 The Council has used its own land as a non-mandatory BNG habitat bank and has identified further land for mandatory BNG. This is not being progressed at the moment owing to uncertainty over market conditions and the availability of suitable resources. The Council has been proactive in encouraging and supporting third party habitat banks such that two have been established and can be used for development in the Borough and there are ongoing discussion with others.

***The Council will continue to support and work with the relevant partnerships to deliver wildlife conservation activities, environmental education, landowner advice, community engagement and conservation volunteering.***

- 5.5 As can be seen from Section 2 of this report the Council is very active in a number of partnerships and continues to support community engagement and conservation volunteering and has maintained these through the reporting period.

***As part of Build a Better Borough and any subsequent Borough Plans, the council will review the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan.***

- 5.6 The Biodiversity Action Plan was not progressed due to uncertainties over the role of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Since then, the Council's Strategic Plan has superseded the Build a Better Borough commitment, with the biodiversity priorities changed to those outlined in 1.9. This action will not be pursued.

***Through internal discussions the Council will review procedures and practices across the Council to ensure that any reasonable opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity are identified and actioned.***

- 5.7 During the report period officers from Planning Policy have been engaging with departments across the Council, Parish Councils and 'Friends of' Groups to understand their awareness of the Biodiversity Duty and biodiversity more generally. The results of this engagement will inform activity during the next reporting period, but this activity has already raised awareness of this issue. As highlighted above there has been specific activity within planning to improve procedures and practice in relation to biodiversity. A summary of recipients and responses together with copies of the questions is contained in Appendix C.

***The Council will engage with key stakeholders to review current partnership working on biodiversity and look to new opportunities to improve outcomes for biodiversity.***

- 5.8 Progress on this is evidenced in section 2 of this report listing the partnerships and the work they do.
- 5.9 In addition to the above Biodiversity and Biodiversity Net Gain has been on the Council agenda for some time with reports to members on Biodiversity Net Gain, the Biodiversity Duty, Habitat Banks and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy such that they are very aware of the issues and work in progress.
- 5.10 There is ongoing discussion with senior management how best to reflect the Biodiversity Duty in everyday Council Business.

## **6. Biodiversity Net Gain: Actions and Results**

- 6.1 Using existing policies and government guidance the Council adopted a de facto 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) policy in 2019 prior to it becoming mandatory in 2024. Under that policy the Council undertook site surveys using the available DEFRA BNG metric at that time to identify how many biodiversity units certain sites could provide if improvements to site management for biodiversity were properly funded.
- 6.2 A single site was identified, Snipe and Bassetts Wood at Pembury, that could provide the necessary biodiversity units and was placed under a new management plan to be implemented by Kent High Weald Partnership. The new Management Plan is funded by developer contributions to the necessary level to meet any shortfall in biodiversity on approved development sites. This project has so far collected nearly £200k to provide just over 12 units of offsite biodiversity to ensure that developments provided at least 10% gain in Biodiversity. There are still some consents from pre mandatory BNG that may yet be implemented and contribute to this scheme.
- 6.3 In addition to the offsite BNG delivered under the pre mandatory regime a considerable amount of onsite BNG has been delivered. Full data for this is not yet available but the following are examples of predicted on site BNG from several developments:
- 23/03274 Benenden Hospital Goddards Green Road Benenden (Demolition of redundant buildings and erection of 87 dwellings) +10.32% habitat units, and +13.68% hedgerow units.
- 22/00757 OS Plot 6860 West Side Of Maidstone Road Matfield (15 no. residential dwellings) +15.86% habitat units +18.36 hedgerow units
- 20/00815 Land Adjacent To Turnden Hartley Road Cranbrook (Construction of 165 new dwellings) + 21.60 habitat units and +12.54% hedgerow units
- 6.4 In order to prepare for and deliver mandatory BNG the Council has been proactive in developing understanding and capacity through the following actions:
- Engagement in the Planning Advisory Service BNG group;

- Appointing KCC Ecology under a Service Level Agreement to review submitted Biodiversity Metrics and Gain plans;
- Working with landowners to bring forward habitat banks;
- Briefing elected Members and Parish Councils on BNG;
- Running training events for Development Management staff on BNG;
- Purchasing specialist software to help record and monitor BNG within planning applications (Mycelia).

6.5 To date two Habitat banks have been established under Conservation Covenants that are either within the Borough or within the relevant National Landscape Character Area and two other landowners are in discussion with the Council over possible s106 agreements to enable their land to come forward as a Habitat bank.

6.6 Data on outcomes for mandatory BNG is collated using the Mycelia software which produces a report in a format suggested by DEFRA. The full report is contained in Appendix D and has a focus on approved biodiversity gain plans (i.e. the plans required by the statutory condition) and their monitoring and as these often follow a few years after a consent there is currently only limited data. A summary is provided below:

**Eligible planning permissions granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requiring biodiversity net gain**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Consented applications requiring net gains</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Proportion (%)</b>
A	Total number of planning permissions granted that require biodiversity net gain in the reporting period	71	Not applicable
B	Total number of planning permissions granted in the reporting period where an exemption to the biodiversity net gain condition applies		Not applicable
C	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period	1	Not applicable
D	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through on-site units only	1	100.00
E	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through off-site units only	0	0.00
F	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through statutory credits only	0	0.00
G	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site and off-site units	0	0.00

**Overall expected gains and losses across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Overall expected gains and losses</b>	<b>Area habitat</b>	<b>Hedgerow</b>	<b>Watercourse</b>
A	Total number of pre-development biodiversity units approved on-site	8.34	0.83	0.10
B	Total number of post-development biodiversity units approved on-site	9.73	1.75	0.14
C	Total net unit change in biodiversity units, on-site	1.38	0.92	0.04
D	Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, on-site	16.59	110.03	43.36
E	Total number of baseline biodiversity units approved off-site	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	Total number of post-intervention biodiversity units approved off-site	0.00	0.00	0.00
G	Total net unit change in biodiversity units, off-site	0.00	0.00	0.00
H	Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, off-site	0.00	0.00	0.00
I	Total number of biodiversity units offset using statutory credits	0.00	0.00	0.00
J	Total net unit change in biodiversity units (including any units offset using credits)	1.38	0.92	0.04
K	Average percentage (%) change (including statutory credits)	16.59	110.03	43.36

- 6.7 Pre mandatory BNG was mostly provided on site and often resulted in a gain in excess of 10%. The single gain plan so far approved has also resulted in significant gains on site. Both national and local policy encourages on site BNG. Where an offsite BNG provision is required gains are generally limited to 10% by the need to purchase the required shortfall. In both pre mandatory and post mandatory BNG the Council has overall achieved more than a 10% gain which suggest that the policy and decision making are effective.
- 6.8 Council staff continue to learn through practice to develop their understanding of BNG but also continue to be supported by the Landscape and Biodiversity Officer and KCC Ecology. The Landscape and Biodiversity Officer post was expanded in January 2026 by 1x0.5 members of staff which in part is recognition of the new burden that BNG brings.
- 6.9 KCC offer regular drop-in sessions to deal with any unusual cases or questions that arise in day-to-day work and Mycelia run updated training sessions on the software and on new modules to ensure that staff stay up to date with best practice.
- 6.10 The Council is very much alive to some of the early teething problems with BNG and the changes being proposed by Government for 2026 and believes that it has the resources and capacity to deal with these.

- 6.11 The Council will continue to work with landowners and look to its own estate over the next few years to ensure that there is a ready supply of suitable good quality offsite BNG available to facilitate development across the Borough.

## 7. Raising Awareness and Community Engagement

- 7.1 The Council engages with residents through social media, and formal press releases as well as its web site which has specific areas and documents to cover Biodiversity. Articles on Biodiversity and biodiversity related events are often in the Councils quarterly magazine “Local” which goes out to all households in the Borough and is published on the Councils web site.
- 7.2 Press releases for special events are by their nature less frequent but are equally important in highlighting important issues e.g.

### **“Endangered tree species gifted to Tunbridge Wells**

*Published: Monday 29 December 2025*

*In December to mark National Tree Week, Forestry England’s Bedgebury National Pinetum gifted a rare and endangered Vietnamese Golden Cypress to the people of Tunbridge Wells.*

*The tree (*Xanthocyparis vietnamensis*) was planted in Grosvenor & Hilbert Park by Cabinet member Rob Wormington and Jonathan Codd, Bedgebury Manager, as a lasting symbol of global tree conservation and the vital work being done to protect threatened species at Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest.*

*Only discovered in 1999 in the remote limestone karst peaks of northern Vietnam, the Vietnamese Golden Cypress is the most recently identified conifer genus, a distinction previously held by the Wollemi Pine.*

*This species is listed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), placing it alongside some of the world’s most iconic and threatened species, including the Sumatran Tiger and Mountain Gorilla. Severe deforestation and habitat loss have left the tree confined to steep, inaccessible peaks in Vietnam, with only a handful of plants recently found across the border in China.*

*For 100 years, Bedgebury has been at the heart of conifer conservation, building one of the most complete collections of temperate conifers anywhere in the world. Its work ensures that species like the Vietnamese Golden Cypress, once on the brink, have a future beyond their native forests”.*

- 7.3 The Council supports “Friends of” groups for a number of parks and nature conservations sites and these in turn are supported by the Kent High Weald Partnership who deliver specific projects and regular volunteer events that help with engaging people in their local area and green spaces as well as raising awareness about particular conservation issues such as woodland management or protected species.

7.4 Friends of groups often have their own volunteering day but volunteer events run by KHWP are open to all. A typical monthly programme is shown below:



## KHWP VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME JANUARY 2026

Day	Date	Site	Task	Meeting Point
Thurs	1		*** NO TASK ***	
Weds	7	Southborough	Woodland Management - By Modest Corner	Car Park by St Peter's Church TN4 ORU
Thurs	8	Snipe Woods	Woodland Thinning	Romford Road TN2 4BB W3W Yield.Bulk.cherished
Weds	14	Crane Valley, Cranbrook	Site Maintenance	Cranbrook Coop Car Park TN17 3DQ
Thurs	15	Cinderhill, Matfield	Heathland Management	Cinderhill Car Park, TN12 7ED
Weds	21	Southborough	Woodland Management	Car Park by St Peter's Church TN4 ORU
Thurs	22	Snipe Woods	Woodland Thinning	Romford Road TN2 4BB W3W ///Yield.Bulk.cherished
Weds	28	Hilbert Wood	Appledore Wood - Thinning	Hilbert Road Entrance, TN2 3SF
Thurs	29	Hilbert Wood	Appledore Wood - Thinning	Hilbert Road Entrance, TN2 3SF



7.5 Where significant green spaces are included within new developments the Council will secure its future management through a planning condition or legal agreement that sets out requirements for engagement with the future residents when completed. The management is usually covered by an approved Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) which usually specifies a number of days or events for the residents e.g. LEMP for Mascalls Court Farm Application 18/02135:

#### *“4.3 Community Involvement*

*4.3.1 An understanding and appreciation of the landscape and ecological features of the development by residents and others, and their involvement in their management, is considered to be an important part of the development. Therefore, an annual programme of community events will be delivered to engage residents and others with the understanding and management of the landscape and ecological features of the site. This will comprise a minimum of three full day or half day equivalents each year covering such topics as;*

- Fruit tree management, including pruning;*
- Wildflower meadows and their management; and*
- Wetland habitats, their habitats, species and management.*

*4.3.2 The programme of events shall be approved by the Steering Group and shall be implemented by a provider from the approved list (e.g. KHWP, KWT, Brogdale Trust) or as otherwise approved by the Council”.*

- 7.6 Since autumn 2024 the Council has with the help of KHWP been delivering the corporate tree planting strategy involving volunteers to help with planting and maintenance. This project has evolved a number of specific projects including planting of disease resistant elm trees to support the white letter hairstreak butterfly, planting of woodland and hedgerows in parks and on private land as well as a Community Reserve Project which is aimed at “*encouraging everyone—residents, schools, businesses, and community groups—to create small spaces for nature*”.

## 8. Future Actions

- 8.1 The Council is committed to the partnerships set out above in Section 2 above and will work proactively to secure their future or alternative means of delivering similar outcomes through the Local Government Reorganisation. The actions proposed below may be subject to changes in legislation and the availability of resources over time and will at some stage be subject to review as part of Local Government Reorganisation and as such must be viewed as best intentions and endeavours at this time.
- 8.2 During the next period of the Duty Report the Council proposes to undertake, subject to the caveats above, the following actions to continue to deliver improvements for biodiversity:
- i. Continue to apply environmental policies to planning applications, reviewing internal and external guidance and practice as necessary to address changes in national policy and legislation.
  - ii. Continue to develop practice for BNG recording and monitoring working with KCC Ecology and Mycelia software. Data on BNG will be collated annually and added to the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).
  - iii. The Council will monitor the market for BNG and continue to appraise the options for further delivery of a habitat bank for BNG on Council owned land. The Council will also work proactively with third parties who wish to develop Habitat Banks for BNG in the Borough.
  - iv. The Council will, subject to Local Government Reorganisation, continue to support and work with the relevant partnerships to deliver wildlife conservation activities, environmental education, landowner advice, community engagement and conservation volunteering.
  - v. Work with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) team, our internal GIS team and planning officers and estate managers to ensure that LNRS is fully utilised in Planning and management of Council owned sites.
  - vi. The Council will review planning guidance to ensure that it is up to date with any changes in legislation or Government guidance and reflects current best practice.
  - vii. The Council will implement further training and/or engagement across the Council to address issues raised through the internal consultation exercise to ensure that the Biodiversity Duty is given the appropriate consideration across Council services.

- 8.3 The Council will continue to be alive to opportunities and issues affecting biodiversity and develop new actions or review the above actions to ensure that the actions being undertaken by the Council for biodiversity are effective and appropriate.

## 9. Monitoring and Reviews

- 9.1 Mandatory BNG required as part of planning will be monitored through the development management process with detailed monitoring supported by Mycelia software.
- 9.2 Outcomes for BNG as part of planning will be recorded annually as part of the Councils Planning Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).
- 9.3 The Council will review the use and effectiveness of the LNRS as it is being implemented this year and work with the team at KCC to improve outcomes for biodiversity.
- 9.4 It is anticipated that some or all actions and partnerships that support biodiversity will be reviewed as part of the Local Government Reorganisation and this is likely to happen during the next reporting period.

## Appendices

Appendix A: KHWP Annual Report 2024-2025

Appendix B: High Weald National Landscape Partnership Activity 2025-2026

Appendix C: Biodiversity Duty Questionnaires and Summary

Appendix D: Mandatory BNG data

# **Appendix A: KHWP Annual Report 2024-2025**



Kent  
**HIGH WEALD**  
protect / explore / enjoy

## Kent High Weald Partnership

Annual Report

April 2024 – March 2025



Kent High Weald Partnership aims to connect people and nature through conservation, education, and wellbeing. Through our work we support the development of resilient communities and resilient ecosystems that mean people and wildlife can thrive together.

“No one will protect what they don’t care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced.” (Sir David Attenborough)

Looking after our greenspaces, our nature, and our individual and community wellbeing has never felt so important. This is what the Kent High Weald Partnership works hard to do each year, to achieve the best outcomes for nature and people. And this year has been no exception. In 2024/5 our team of staff and volunteers have accomplished some amazing achievements in conservation, education, and wellbeing, with highlights summarized in the following pages. And we do this with limited resources – and by quadrupling our core funding through continuous grant seeking and income generating initiatives.

### *Why we do what we do...*

The climate situation we face today is alarming – and it can feel overwhelming and far beyond our control. The work we do as a local organisation provides people with the opportunity to make a difference in one's own community and landscape. This can provide us with a much-needed sense of **hope and connection**– from planting a new tree, enjoying a cuppa with your fellow volunteers whilst admiring the steps you just built, harvesting a courgette on the community allotment that you grew from seed, or witnessing one your students who struggles in class, thrive in an outdoor setting. Moments like these are what we are all about!

Urban greenspaces protect communities from climate change impacts – they reduce the air temperature by 2C-8C and they reduce pollution by up to 22%. Therefore we must look after them. But also we need to ensure everyone in the community can access greenspaces to be able to enjoy, connect with, and understand nature and the important role these spaces play in all our lives and those of the future generations. That's why we have focussed this year on creating an access strategy and will continue to work on improving access to greenspaces and the High Weald Landscape in the coming years, all the while continuing to protect and enhance these beautiful natural places.



**KHWP – Building Connections in Nature Since 1991!**

## Conservation Highlights

KHWP works to ensure our valuable local greenspaces are managed sustainably and sensitively to support biodiversity and community, and to mitigate against the impacts of climate change.

### ***This year KHWP:***

- ✓ Improved **over 30 sites/150 hectares** for biodiversity and people by **managing habitats and improving access** – including removing 1.5ha of invasive laurel at Sherwood Lake, building 44 steps at Snipe Woods, and carrying out 3 full site access audits.
- ✓ Delivered **109 volunteer tasks**, equal to an economic contribution of over **£110,000** of work hours.
- ✓ Supported Tunbridge Wells to win **13 South and South East in Bloom awards**
- ✓ Created and restored **6 ponds** to help provide habitat for great crested newts.
- ✓ **Surveyed 25 ponds** recently created and restored for great crested newts.
- ✓ Maintained **10 “leaky” dams**, providing natural flood defences.
- ✓ Installed **2 hibernaculum** at Snipe Woods for reptiles and amphibians
- ✓ Planted over **2500 trees** with the help of 4 schools, 30 community volunteers, 2 young offenders, and 65 staff from local businesses, TWBC and KCC.
- ✓ Hosted **200 attendees** to our **nature events** including guided bat walks, an archaeological walk, seasonal walks including the High Weald Walking Festival, and our volunteer walk and talk events.
- ✓ **Trained 38 volunteers** in species identification and surveying techniques covering flora, bees, birds, butterflies, reptiles, and dragonflies and damselflies.
- ✓ Co-hosted with TWBC a **thank-you event** and BBQ for over 50 volunteers.
- ✓ Hosted conservation tasks days for **6 corporate groups**
- ✓ Provided a **conservation traineeship** to a recent graduate and **work experience** to a secondary school student.



**“I love working in the woodland at Sherwood Lake. Until I joined KHWP I didn't even know that this site existed, and I find it particularly beautiful and a very therapeutic space - great for my mental health. Also the camaraderie that exists among my fellow volunteers is very special” (Volunteer)**

## Education Highlights

Children are the future guardians of our natural world, and KHWP work to inspire, educate, train, and connect young people with nature. We also provide work experience and training for adults looking to learn new skills or progress their careers.

### This year we have:

- ✓ Delivered **239 nature-based education** and **forest school** sessions to over **500 children**, and providing support for **7 different schools**.
- ✓ Provided forest school provision to **50 disadvantaged primary school children**, including special educational needs and English as additional language students.
- ✓ Supported **28 secondary school children with complex needs** with forest school programmes at Bedgebury Pinetum
- ✓ Delivered a Forest School programme to **28 pre-school children** at Barnetts Wood Local Nature Reserve
- ✓ Delivered **2 Forest School nurture programmes** to small groups of primary school children struggling with school and mental health challenges.
- ✓ Provided **Teambuilding activities** at Bedgebury for over **130 children**.
- ✓ Hosted **56 children** at our Bedgebury and Tunbridge Wells based **Forest School Holiday Day Camps**.
- ✓ **Trained over 60 people in new skills or qualifications** including Forest School leadership, chainsaw operation, improving accessibility, species ID and surveying, tree planting, and green woodwork.
- ✓ Provided **work experience** opportunities for young people and students.



**“It is wonderful to see my daughter’s confidence grow. She has really come out of her shell.” (Forest Time parent)**

# Wellbeing Highlights

It is well known that spending time in nature is good for us – KHWP works to improve the health and wellbeing of local people by offering accessible nature connection opportunities through our volunteer programme, community allotment space, and professionally designed and delivered wellbeing programmes.

## This year we:

- ✓ Delivered **120 nature-based wellbeing sessions** – the funding of which provided a social return worth **nearly £200,000**.
- ✓ Provided over **40 horticultural therapy sessions** at our wildlife friendly community allotment site for adults with poor mental health, physical health issues, and learning difficulties.
- ✓ **Improved the wellbeing of over 30 adults** suffering poor mental health and social isolation via our online Connect with Nature programme.
- ✓ Delivered **2 programmes of Green Wellbeing**, offering nature connection activities, including arts and crafts and woodwork, to adults with poor mental health at our community allotment.
- ✓ Provided **over 30 adults with social inclusion** and a sense of purpose and belonging through our weekly volunteer programme.
- ✓ Supported **7 families experiencing challenges** through our **therapeutic family forest school** intervention, Forest Time, with Broadwater Primary School.
- ✓ Hosted **tea and talk** sessions on our Community Allotment.
- ✓ Provided **local businesses and organisations** with opportunities for team or individual volunteering.



**“My wellbeing has definitely improved - I’ve been feeling more motivated to leave the house even just for 5 minutes to explore nature. I’ve also felt better about talking to people I don’t know as a result of the group.”**

**(Connect with Nature online participant)**

## Financial Summary

KHWP is a non-profit organisation hosted administratively by Kent County Council. In 2024/25 our turnover was **£335,880** with an end of year reserves fund of £64k. 23% of our income was core funding, 36% was funding and grants for conservation, 11% for wellbeing grants and contracts, 12% was education and training grants and income, and 18% from other grants. **For every £1 of core funding given to KHWP we bring in an additional £4 to spend on local nature and community.**

This year our external grant funders included: Farming in Protected Landscapes, South East Water, Colyer Fergusson Trust, Environment Agency, Sport England, and a KCC Members Grant.

## Find Out More...

**Get in touch...**Contact KHWP Manager, Cally Fiddimore, by emailing [cally.fiddimore@kent.gov.uk](mailto:cally.fiddimore@kent.gov.uk) or call 07545 743416. We would be very happy to provide presentations on our work to your groups or organisations.

**Follow us online...**You can find us online at [www.khwp.org.uk](http://www.khwp.org.uk) , on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

**Come and join us!** We always need volunteers and we welcome groups of volunteers (or individuals) from organisations and businesses looking to get involved – we have plenty to do year round. Tea, coffee, biscuits and great banter guaranteed!



*“Thank you” from the KHWP Team!*

A massive thank you to our core funders, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Kent County Council, and to all our partners and funders – you enable us to carry out this important work making a real difference to people and nature.

And thank you to our fantastic volunteers and supporters – we could not operate without you!



Working In Partnership with

# **Appendix B: High Weald National Landscape Partnership Activity 2025-2026**



**High Weald  
National  
Landscape**

# **High Weald National Landscape Partnership Activity 2025-2026**

# Framing what the partnership does

Defra Targets and Outcomes Framework

High Weald Management Plan character components and objectives

Nature recovery ; net zero; health and well-being; equality diversity and inclusion

By local authority priorities

Growth

By funding stream

By stakeholder

Most our our work has multiple objectives and delivers a range of benefits

## High Weald National Landscape Partnership

The primary purpose of the JAC is to

- conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB.
- The JAC will also:
- increase understanding and enjoyment by the public of the special qualities of the AONB
  - seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the AONB.

# High Weald AONB Management Plan (2024-2029)

- Statutory, reviewed every 5 years
- Informed by widespread consultation
- Adopted by the area's 15 local authorities
- Sets out what makes the area special and objectives and actions

# High Weald Partnership Work Plan (2025-2026)

A very detailed spreadsheet!



High Weald National Landscape

Progression	Start date	Objective	Actions	Priority	Timeline
1	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
2	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
3	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
4	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
5	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
6	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
7	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
8	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
9	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
10	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
11	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
12	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
13	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
14	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
15	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
16	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
17	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
18	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
19	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026
20	2025-2026	Partnership Work Plan	Partnership work plan for 2025-2026	High	2025-2026

# Core: policy, planning and advice

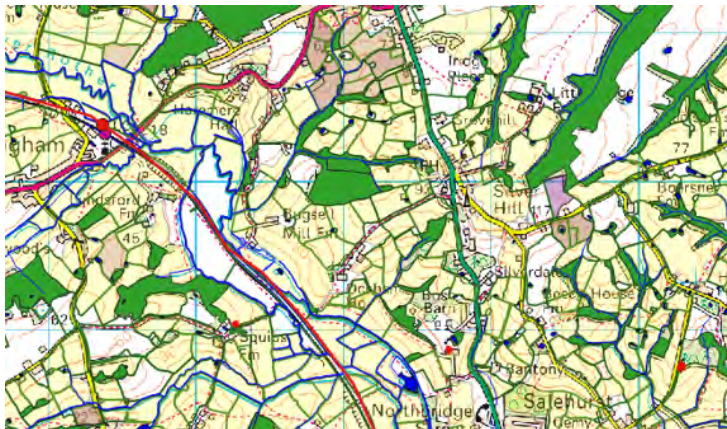
- **Promote High Weald Management Plan and its evidence base:** climate change adaptation plan
- **Development proposals:** local authorities, FC, NE, water companies etc
- **Inform other plans and strategies:** local nature recovery strategies
- **Advocate for the area's needs:** abattoir, irreplaceable habitat; veteran trees and gill woodlands
- **Share expertise:** co-design of local advisory models
- **Work with NLA to guide policy:** Duty of Regard guidance for local authorities
- **Collaborative approaches:** officers steering group, meadows group , deer management group, land management advisers – leading to outputs, for example soft landscaping guidance
- **High Weald landscape induction:** webinars, induction walks and talks



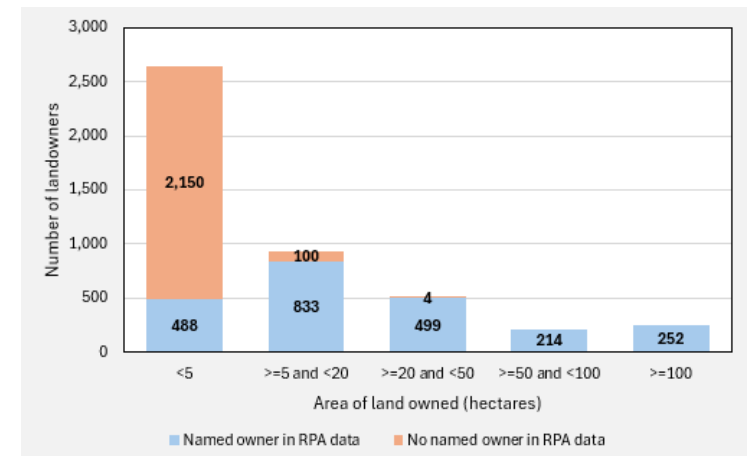
**High Weald**  
National  
Landscape

# Core: research, evidence and data

- High Weald character components
- Land holding and ownership analysis
- Drone surveys; deer numbers and extent; deer management groups; stalker home bases
- Project delivery: primary school engagement; grant awards
- Lost features dataset: AI tool developed with our support
- Grassland datasets: compilation, disclaimers and explanation
- Local nature recovery strategies
- Landscape Observatory: informing a model that will pilot AI mapping and habitat condition monitoring in context of climate change



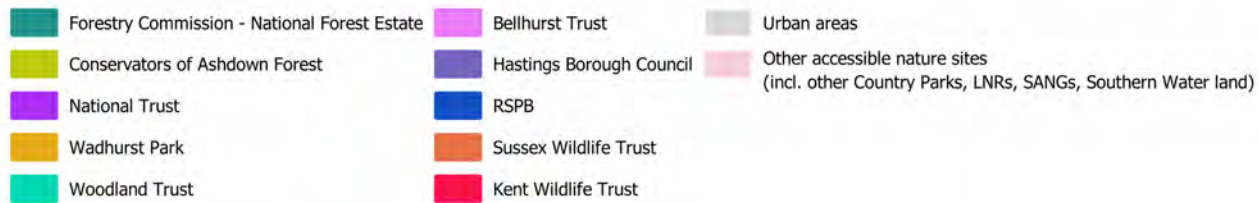
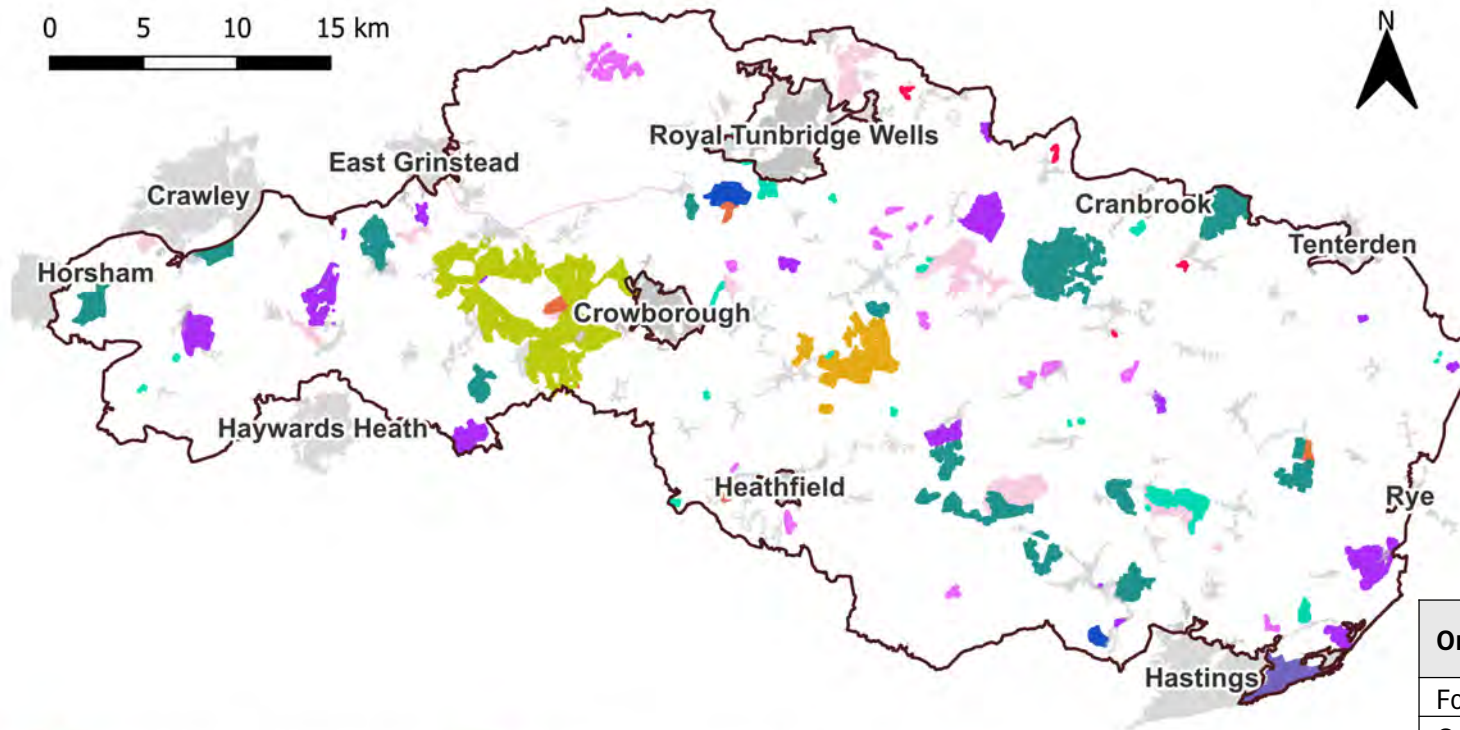
**High Weald**  
National  
Landscape



# Land ownership



High Weald  
National  
Landscape



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Organisation	Area (ha)	Rank (among High Weald rural landowners)
Forestry England	3,163	1
Conservators of Ashdown Forest	2,457	2
National Trust	1,631	3
Wadhurst Park	796	8
Woodland Trust	478	20
Bellhurst Trust	445	33
Hasting Borough Council	336	38
RSPB	238	68
Sussex Wildlife Trust	168	115
Kent Wildlife Trust	50	529
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,762</b>	

# Core: securing and managing resources

- **Partnership:** JAC, management board, FiPL panel and NCF panel; devolution project
- **Securing resources:** four applications to species recovery programme; application for funds for a planning and design phase for a £5 million + Landscape Connections proposal in development; new MoA with Woodland Trust to deliver shared objectives; shovel-ready projects, particularly strategic projects
- **Managing self-financing projects:** four grant programmes: Farming in Protected Landscapes, Removing Barriers to Access, Management Plan Implementation Fund and Nature and Community Fund (Lund Trust); High Weald Heroes; Deer Initiative; Cuckmere and Coombe Natural Flood Management Project



**High Weald**  
National  
Landscape

# Conserving and enhancing the national landscape: regenerative farming

## Pasture for Life:

**Grant support 2025: £53,630**

Farmer-to-farmer mentoring and training for 75 land managers to support transition to high nature value farming methods including 20 small group mentoring events run by farmers themselves and 10 one-to-many training events across the High Weald.

**Investment in system change:** multiple grants to farmers to allow regenerative farming (mobile planned grazing systems – semi-permanent fencing, water supply

**Demonstration sites:** Springham and Shaw Farm



**High Weald  
National  
Landscape**



# Conserving and enhancing the national landscape: deer management

## High Weald Deer Project

- Landowner support: help with finding a deer stalker; setting expectations from a stalker; stalker agreements; deer management plans and cull targets; webinar; walks and talks
- Stalker support: help with night licences; qualifications; skills training (Plumpton College); communal larders; venison markets
- Collaborative management: drone surveys (4,000ha); 4 deer management groups; liaison via whats app; deer move days; deer conference; team work!



**Investment in infrastructure:** multiple grants for deer seats, deer larders, sight line creation; deer move days



# Conserving and enhancing the national landscape: dark skies, hedges, wildflower grasslands, dark skies, wetland

- **Dark Skies:** engagement of over 18 communities in an event programme; guidance; data gathering; lighting assessments; international dark skies communities
- **Hedges:** grants for reinstating lost hedges; trialing hedge restoration approaches that are economic for farmers
- **Wildflower grasslands:** grants; surveys on behalf of multiple landowners to help with decision-making; co-host National Grassland Conference 2026
- **Natural flood management:** grants for leaky woody debris dams to slow the flow and prevent downstream flooding
- **Swifts, swallows and house martins:** new community project



## Neil Burfield (Greening Chiddingly)

**Awarded £10,097**

Riparian habitat improvement with six leaky dams, tree cover enhancements through planting of 155 fruit trees, seven tree pens and 248m hedge planting



**Scotney Estate. Awarded £9,100.** Reintroduction of coppice management to 3.4ha of native wet woodland with traditional site-sensitive, low-impact extraction by heavy horse.



**Beckley Parish Council. Awarded £5,365 in 2020.** A range of works to diversify the habitat of a village wetland nature reserve.

## Friends of Creatureland

**Awarded £5,700**

Management by contractor of 0.4ha of coppiced woodland with horse-drawn timber extraction; purchase of hand tools for coppicing by the community. Purchase of hand tools, equipment, fencing materials and 10 fruit trees to support community organic food production.



# Furthering understanding and enjoyment: health and well being



High Weald  
National  
Landscape



## Walks Festival 2025

- 624 walkers attending 58 guided walks, led by a range of partners
- Experience rated "Excellent" or "Good" by 96% participants
- **85%** reported knowing more about the High Weald 'National Landscape' as a result of the festival
- All reported being inspired to walk more.

## Investment in removing barriers to access

- Free metal pedestrian gates to replace existing stiles – over 150 installed
- Path surfacing of PROW, country parks and nature reserves
- Changing places toilet Ashdown Forest.



**High Weald**  
National  
Landscape



## Removing barriers to access

### Diversity Resources International

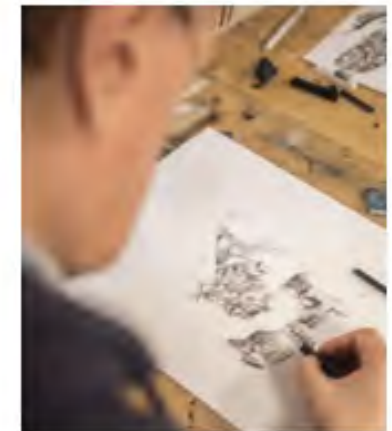
**Grant award:** £6,499

**Project summary:** Seven walks for 70 ethnically diverse women who would not walk on their own, facilitated by travel bursaries and bilingual interpreters to enable women to overcome real and perceived barriers to countryside access.

### Fabrica

**Grant award:** £16,362

**Project summary:** Twenty-four creative nature-based sessions for 48 men with mental health issues that draw inspiration from the High Weald landscape, reduce isolation and build trust.



*Men Who Make – drawing session*

# Furthering understanding and enjoyment: outdoor learning



**High Weald  
National  
Landscape**

**High Weald Heroes:** Partnership's long-standing primary school education programme. Indoor and outdoor learning. Welly walks from school gate continue to be popular. Average year support 25 schools; 2500 children; new video

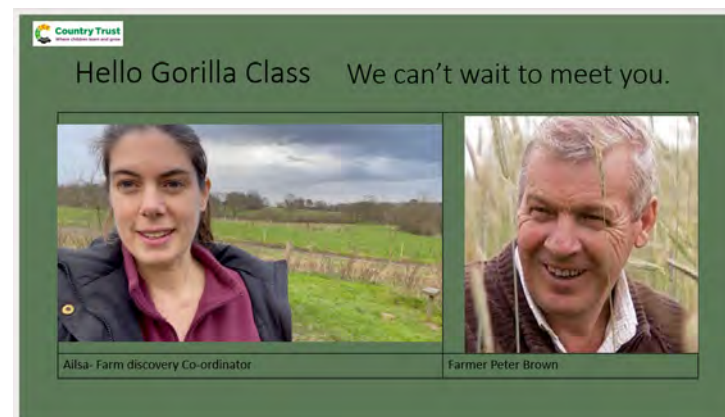


## **Country Trust**

**Grant award: £20.342**

Provision of 18 inspiring, hands-on day visits across 6 farms/land holdings for c.450 children from disadvantaged communities in and around the High Weald National Landscape

**School education grant pilot:** small grants less than £1,500 to enable outdoor education and visits to farms and nature reserves in the High Weald. Funds secured for continuation.



## Garden Classroom

**Grant award:** various

**Project summary:** Purchase of two outhouses and wildlife monitoring equipment to improve the countryside visit experience; provision of a bespoke and immersive residential camp experience in the High Weald for 220 primary school children with high levels of support need due to poverty, food intolerances and allergies, cultural constraints and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).



## St Mary's Special School

**Grant award:** £6,658

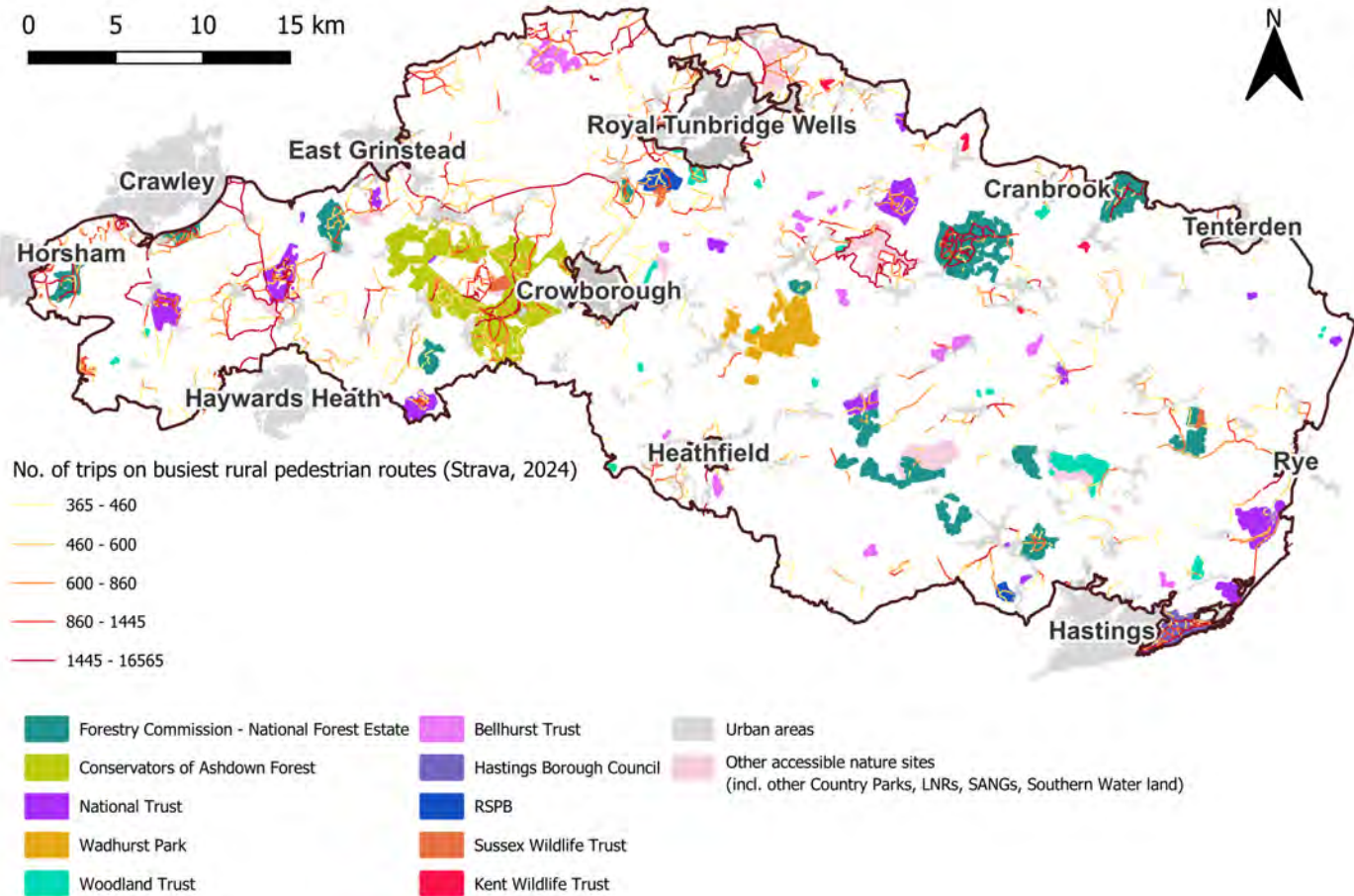
**Project summary:** Creation of an all-weather teaching and plant growing space by pupils with special needs (for boys aged 8 to 16) including purchase and installation of large, rainwater capture tanks. To develop pupils land-based vocational skills and facilitate employment opportunities

# Grants for nature reserve extensions

Lawton review: wildlife needs bigger, better, more joined up habitat



High Weald  
National  
Landscape



Hargate Forest, near Tunbridge Wells  
New England Wood, near Haywards Heath

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# Rural economy

Supporting land-based business and local organisations and communities

- Since 2017, the NCF has awarded 288 grants totaling £1,557,000. 204 projects were complete on 31 March 2025.
- Since 2023, FiPL has awarded over £1.8 million to 183 projects (average grant £9,800)
- Partnership's existence has led to at least £3.3 million investment in the rural economy over the last 5 years.



**High Weald**  
National  
Landscape



## High Weald National Landscape Partnership Team October 2025

Core staff 6FTE/Project staff 5.6 FTE (17 team members)



High Weald  
National  
Landscape

### Sally Marsh/ Jason Lavender

Co-Director (1FTE)

### Gerry Sherwin

Business Manager (0.8FTE)

#### BUSINESS TEAM

### Samantha Nicholas

Team Support Officer (0.8FTE)

### Jo O'Driscoll

Communications Lead (0.8FTE)

Fixed term 31.3.27

### Daniel Cavill

Senior Administrator (EiRL)  
(1FTE)

Fixed term to 31.3.26

### Fiona McGuire

Senior Administrator  
Zero hours contract

#### POLICY & RESEARCH TEAM

### Diane Russell

Planning Advisor  
(1FTE)

### Sarah Brotherton

Landscape Officer  
(0.6FTE)

#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

### Rachel Bennington

Education Officer (0.6FTE)

### Lucy Bowyer

Community Engagement  
Officer (0.6FTE)

Fixed term 31.10.26

#### LAND MANAGEMENT TEAM

### Janet Whitman

Land Management Officer (1FTE)

### Tobias Jackson

Land Management Project Officer (1FTE)

Fixed term to 31.3.26

### Christine Meadows

Land Management Project Officer (0.2FTE)

### Dean Morrison

Land Management Project Officer (Water specialist) (1FTE)

Fixed term 31.03.27

### Steph Mason

Land Management Officer

Zero hours contract

### Mark Smith

Deer Co-ordinator (0.6FTE)

Fixed term 31.3.27



## Thank You

Local authority partners, FiPL panel members, Defra, Lund Trust and panel, Woodland Trust, Pfl, National Landscapes Association; The Ramblers; farmers and land managers; Wild About groups and many others

# **Appendix C: Biodiversity Duty Questionnaires and Summary**

# BIODIVERSITY DUTY QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

Category	Group	Total no. of questionnaire recipients	No. of Responses collected	No. of Unsubmitted	Completion rate
Internal	TWBC	35	25	10	71%
External	Parish Councils	16	11	5	69%
External	Friends groups	11	7	4	64%

## Biodiversity Questionnaire for Council Officers/Departments

### The Biodiversity Duty:

Public bodies including Local Authorities have a statutory duty to consider biodiversity in their decision making and actions to protect and improve biodiversity.

Section 40(1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act) requires Local Authorities to “from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions” to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

The Government specifically requires Local Authorities to publish a **Biodiversity Report** which contains a summary of actions:

- that the authority has taken for biodiversity in the recent past
- that the authority intends to take for biodiversity going forward

The report must also include quantitative data on actions and outcomes.

The duty and the coverage of the report applies to all departments and functions of the Council not just planning.

Planning are leading on this work but need your input and actions if the Council is to meet its biodiversity duty. As a first step we would like you to complete the short questionnaire below. If you would prefer we can meet you in person and discuss the questions and or other aspects of biodiversity.

### Questions:

	Question	Response
1	Are you/your team aware of the Biodiversity Duty?	
2	Do you think your work area/team might have an impact on biodiversity?	
3	Are you/your team doing anything specific to conserve or enhance biodiversity?	
4	Is there anything you/your team could do as part of your work to help conserve or enhance biodiversity?	
5	What training or support would you/your team require or what actions could you/your team take to improve outcomes for biodiversity?	

## Biodiversity Questionnaire for Others

### The Biodiversity Duty:

Public bodies including Local Authorities have a statutory duty to consider biodiversity in their decision making and actions to protect and improve biodiversity.

Section 40(1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act) requires Local Authorities to “from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions” to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

The Government specifically requires Local Authorities to publish a **Biodiversity Report** which contains a summary of actions:

- that the authority has taken for biodiversity in the recent past
- that the authority intends to take for biodiversity going forward

The report must also include quantitative data on actions and outcomes.

As part of this work we want to engage with the organisations and groups that we work with to raise awareness of our role in protecting and enhancing biodiversity across the borough, to see what interest and scope there is within these groups and organisations to work with us on issues around biodiversity and to see if there is anything we can do to support improvements in outcomes for biodiversity within your scope of activity.

As a first step we would like you to complete the short questionnaire below. If you would prefer we can meet you in person and discuss the questions or other aspects of biodiversity that are of interest to you.

### Questions:

	Question	Response
1	Are you/your organisation or group aware of the Biodiversity Duty?	
2	Do you think the work or activities of your organisation or group might have an impact on biodiversity?	
3	Is your organisation or group doing anything specific to conserve or enhance biodiversity?	
4	Is there anything your organisation or group could do as part of your work to help conserve or enhance biodiversity?	
5	What training or support would your organisation or group require or what actions could they take to improve outcomes for biodiversity?	

# **Appendix D: Mandatory BNG data**

**Biodiversity duty: biodiversity net gain information**

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council LPA

12 February 2024 to 5 February 2026

Percentage Net Gain required by the LPA: 10%

Table of Contents

## **Table of Contents**

This spreadsheet contains 8 worksheets.

Worksheet 1 covers information about the number of eligible planning permissions granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requiring biodiversity net gain.

Worksheet 2 covers the overall expected gains and losses from biodiversity gain plans approved during the reporting period.

Worksheet 3 covers the number of biodiversity gain plans approved during the reporting period that impact irreplaceable habitat.

Worksheet 4 covers the number of biodiversity gain sites and biodiversity units delivered.

Worksheet 5 covers a summary of whether approved development is meeting its monitoring requirements.

Worksheet 6 covers the composition of gains split by area habitat type.

Worksheet 7 covers the composition of gains split by hedgerow and line of trees type.

Worksheet 8 covers the composition of gains split by watercourse type.

## Eligible planning permissions granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requiring biodiversity net gain

This information can be manually collected from approved biodiversity gain plans or statutory metrics if you are not using a software package

This worksheet contains one table.

This is Table 1

ID	Consented applications requiring net gains	Number	Proportion (%)
A	Total number of planning permissions granted that require biodiversity net gain in the reporting period	71	Not applicable
B	Total number of planning permissions granted in the reporting period where an exemption to the biodiversity net gain condition applies		Not applicable
C	Total number of biodiversity gain Plans approved in the reporting period	1	Not applicable
D	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through on-site units only	1	100.00
E	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through off-site units only	0	0.00
F	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through statutory credits only	0	0.00
G	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site and off-site units	0	0.00
H	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site units and statutory credits	0	0.00
I	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of off-site units and statutory credits	0	0.00
J	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site, off-site units and statutory credits	0	0.00

### Guidance - where to find/how to calculate the data

A

B

C

D - Biodiversity Gain Plan, question 4.6. For proportion divide the number by Table 1, Line C. Expressed as a percentage

E - Biodiversity Gain Plan, question 4.6. For proportion divide the number by Table 1, Line C. Expressed as a percentage

F - Biodiversity Gain Plan, question 4.11. For proportion divide the number by Table 1, Line C. Expressed as a percentage

G - Biodiversity Gain Plan, question 4.6. For proportion divide the number by Table 1, Line C. Expressed as a percentage

H - Biodiversity Gain Plan, question 4.6 and 4.11. For proportion divide the number by Table 1, Line C.-Expressed as a percentage

I - Biodiversity Gain Plan, question 4.6 and 4.11. For proportion divide the number by Table 1, Line C. Expressed as a percentage

J - Biodiversity Gain Plan, question 4.6 and 4.11. For proportion divide the number by Table 1, Line C. Expressed as a percentage

## Overall expected gains and losses across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period

This worksheet contains one table.

This is Table 2

ID	Overall expected gains and losses	Area habitat	Hedgerow	Watercourse
A	Total number of pre-development biodiversity units approved on-site	8.34	0.83	0.10
B	Total number of post-development biodiversity units approved on-site	9.73	1.75	0.14
C	Total net unit change in biodiversity units, on-site	1.38	0.92	0.04
D	Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, on-site	16.59	110.03	43.36
E	Total number of baseline biodiversity units approved off-site	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	Total number of post-intervention biodiversity units approved off-site	0.00	0.00	0.00
G	Total net unit change in biodiversity units, off-site	0.00	0.00	0.00
H	Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, off-site	0.00	0.00	0.00
I	Total number of biodiversity units offset using statutory credits	0.00	0.00	0.00
J	Total net unit change in biodiversity units (including any units offset using credits)	1.38	0.92	0.04
K	Average percentage (%) change (including statutory credits)	16.59	110.03	43.36

### Guidance - where to find/how to calculate the data

- A Biodiversity Gain Plan, total 6.3 across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period
- B Biodiversity Gain Plan, total 6.4 across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period
- C Biodiversity Gain Plan, total 6.5 number of area/hedgerow/watercourse units across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period
- D Table 2, line C divided by Table 2, line A expressed as a percentage
- E Biodiversity Gain Plan, total 7.4 across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period
- F Biodiversity Gain Plan, total 7.5 across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period
- G Biodiversity Gain Plan, total 7.6 number of area/habitat/watercourse units across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period
- H Table 2, line G divided by Table 2 line E, expressed as a percentage
- I Biodiversity Gain Plan, total 8.2 across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period
- J Sum of Table 2 line C+G+I
- K Table 2 line J divided by the sum of Table 2 line A+E, expressed as a percentage

## Impact on Irreplaceable Habitat

This worksheet contains one table.

This is Table 3

ID	Impact on irreplaceable habitat	Total	Proportion (%)
A	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period where the on-site change negatively impacts irreplaceable habitats	0	0.00

### Guidance - where to find/how to calculate the data

- A The number of applications selecting 'yes' on biodiversity gain plan 5.1. For proportion divide by Table 1 line C, expressed as a percentage

## Location of off-site biodiversity units

This worksheet contains one table

This is Table 4

ID	Location of off-site biodiversity units	Total	Proportion
A	Number of off-site biodiversity units located inside LPA boundary or NCA of impact site	0.00	0.00
B	Number of off-site biodiversity units located outside LPA or NCA of impact site, but in neighbouring LPA or NCA	0.00	0.00
C	Number of off-site biodiversity units located outside of LPA or NCA of impact site and neighbouring LPA or NCA	0.00	0.00

### Guidance – where to find/how to calculate the data

For 'Total' sum number of off-site biodiversity units in each category for all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period where off-site gains have been used. Category found in 'Off-site Habitat Baseline Tab', Number of biodiversity units found in 'Off-site gain site summary' tab

For 'Proportion (%)' should be calculated as such:  $((\text{Total (Column C)} / (\text{sum of totals in column C})) \times 100)$

## Results of monitoring biodiversity gains

This worksheet contains two tables.

This is Table 5

ID	Results of monitoring biodiversity gains where the LPA is part of the legal agreement	Total	Proportion (%)
A	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans including the delivery of 'significant' on-site gains		
B	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements and habitat delivery expectations for 'significant' on-site gains		
C	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements but not meeting habitat delivery expectations for 'significant' on-site gains		
D	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are failing to meet monitoring requirements for 'significant' on-site gains		
E	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans where the status of monitoring requirements is unknown for 'significant' on-site gains		
F	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans including the delivery of off-site gains, where the LPA are responsible for monitoring.		
G	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements and habitat delivery expectations for offsite gains where the LPA is responsible for monitoring.		
H	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements but not meeting habitat delivery expectations for offsite gains where the LPA is responsible for monitoring		
I	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are failing to meet monitoring requirements for offsite gains where the LPA is responsible for monitoring		
J	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans where the status of monitoring requirements is unknown for offsite gains where the LPA is responsible for monitoring.		

ID	Enforcement actions taken in the reporting period	Total	Proportion (%)
L	Number of enforcement actions taken during the reporting period associated with Biodiversity Net Gain policy	0	

ID	Tracking monitoring of biodiversity gains	Free Text
K	Please describe how you have collected information on monitoring (e.g., use of digital software to collect and analyse monitoring data/ manual checking of monitoring reports/ internal monitoring system etc.	

### Guidance - where to find/how to calculate the data

Proportion (%) should be calculated as such:  $\frac{\text{Total (Table 5a)}}{\text{Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period (Table 1, line C)}} \times 100$

## Composition of biodiversity gains - areas

This worksheet contains one table.

This is Table 6

ID	Habitat Type - Area	Total biodiversity units at baseline	Total hectares at baseline	Total biodiversity units post - development	Total hectares post-development	Net change in biodiversity units	Net change in hectares
A	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B	Grassland	3.23	0.54	4.04	0.42	0.82	-0.11
C	Heathland and shrub	0.92	0.08	1.05	0.10	0.13	0.02
D	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E	Sparsely vegetated land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	Urban	0.01	0.46	0.08	0.55	0.07	0.09
G	Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
H	Woodland and forest	0.37	0.04	0.50	0.04	0.13	0.00
I	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
J	Coastal saltmarsh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
K	Rockv shore	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
L	Coastal laqoons	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
M	Intertidal hard structures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
N	Watercourse footprint	Not applicable	0.00	Not applicable	0.00	Not applicable	0.00
O	Individual trees	3.82	0.39	4.04	0.50	0.23	0.11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8.34</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>9.73</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>0.11</b>

### Guidance - where to find/how to calculate the data

For 'Total biodiversity units at baseline' column, see column D, rows 78-92 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.

For 'Total hectares at baseline' column, see column C, rows 78-92 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.

For 'Total biodiversity units post-development' column, see column F, rows 78-92 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.

For 'Total hectares post-development' column, see column E, rows 78-92 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.

For 'Net change in biodiversity units' column, calculate by deducting 'Total biodiversity units at baseline' from 'Total biodiversity units post-development'.

For 'Net change hectares' column, calculate by deducting 'Total hectares at baseline' from 'Total hectares post-development'.

## Composition of biodiversity gains - hedgerows and lines of trees

This worksheet contains one table.

This is Table 7

ID	Habitat type - hedgerows and lines of trees	Total biodiversity units at baseline	Total kilometres at baseline	Total biodiversity units post - development	Total kilometres post - development	Net change in biodiversity units	Net change in kilometres
A	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C	Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
D	Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E	Species-rich native hedgerow	0.00	0.00	1.69	0.14	1.69	0.14
F	Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G	Native hedgerow with trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
H	Ecologically valuable line of trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I	Ecologically valuable line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
J	Native hedgerow	0.83	0.14	0.03	0.01	-0.81	-0.13
K	Line of trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
L	Line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
M	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>0.06</b>

### Guidance - where to find/how to calculate the data

For 'Total biodiversity units at baseline' column, see column D, rows 140-152 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.

For 'Total kilometres at baseline' column, see column C, rows 140-152 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.

For 'Total biodiversity units post-development' column, see column F, rows 140-152 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.

For 'Total kilometres post-development' column, see column E, rows 140-152 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.

For 'Net change in biodiversity units' column, calculate by deducting 'Total biodiversity units at baseline' from 'Total biodiversity units post-development'.

For 'Net change in kilometres' column calculate by deducting 'Total kilometres at baseline' from 'Total kilometres post-development'.

## Composition of biodiversity gains - watercourses

This worksheet contains one table.

This is Table 8

ID	Habitat type - watercourse	Total biodiversity units at baseline	Total kilometres at baseline	Total biodiversity units post-development	Total kilometres post-development	Net change in biodiversity units	Net change in kilometres
A	Priority habitat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B	Other rivers and streams	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C	Ditches	0.10	0.01	0.14	0.01	0.04	0.00
D	Canals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E	Culvert	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.00</b>

### Guidance - where to find/how to calculate the data

For 'Total biodiversity units at baseline' column, see column D, rows 203-207 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.

For 'Total kilometres at baseline' column, see column C, rows 203-207 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.

For 'Total biodiversity units post-development' column, see column F, rows 203-207 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.

For 'Total kilometres post-development' column, see column E, rows 203-207 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.

For 'Net change biodiversity units' column, calculate by deducting 'Total biodiversity units at baseline' from 'Total biodiversity units post-development'.

For 'Net change in kilometres' column, calculate by deducting 'Total kilometres at baseline' from 'Total kilometres post-development'.