Surrey Nature Recovery

Surrey Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Adam Brown

What is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy

- Introduced under the Environment Act 2021
- Surrey is one of 48 LNRS that will be created across England
- Locally led
- To be developed from broad engagement with multiple stakeholders
- Consider the delivery of wider environmental benefits

Core Principles for development

- **Transparency** – be able to show how partner contributions have been considered, how decisions have been made, and what the basis for them is
- **Inclusivity** – enable everyone with an interest to be involved where possible
- **Clear Communication** – avoid using technical terms that may not be understood by partners and end users

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What is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy

LNRS are a spatial or mapped strategy that will identify locations to create or improve habitat most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment

Each strategy must:-

- Map the most valuable existing areas for nature
- Agree priorities for nature's recovery
- Map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals

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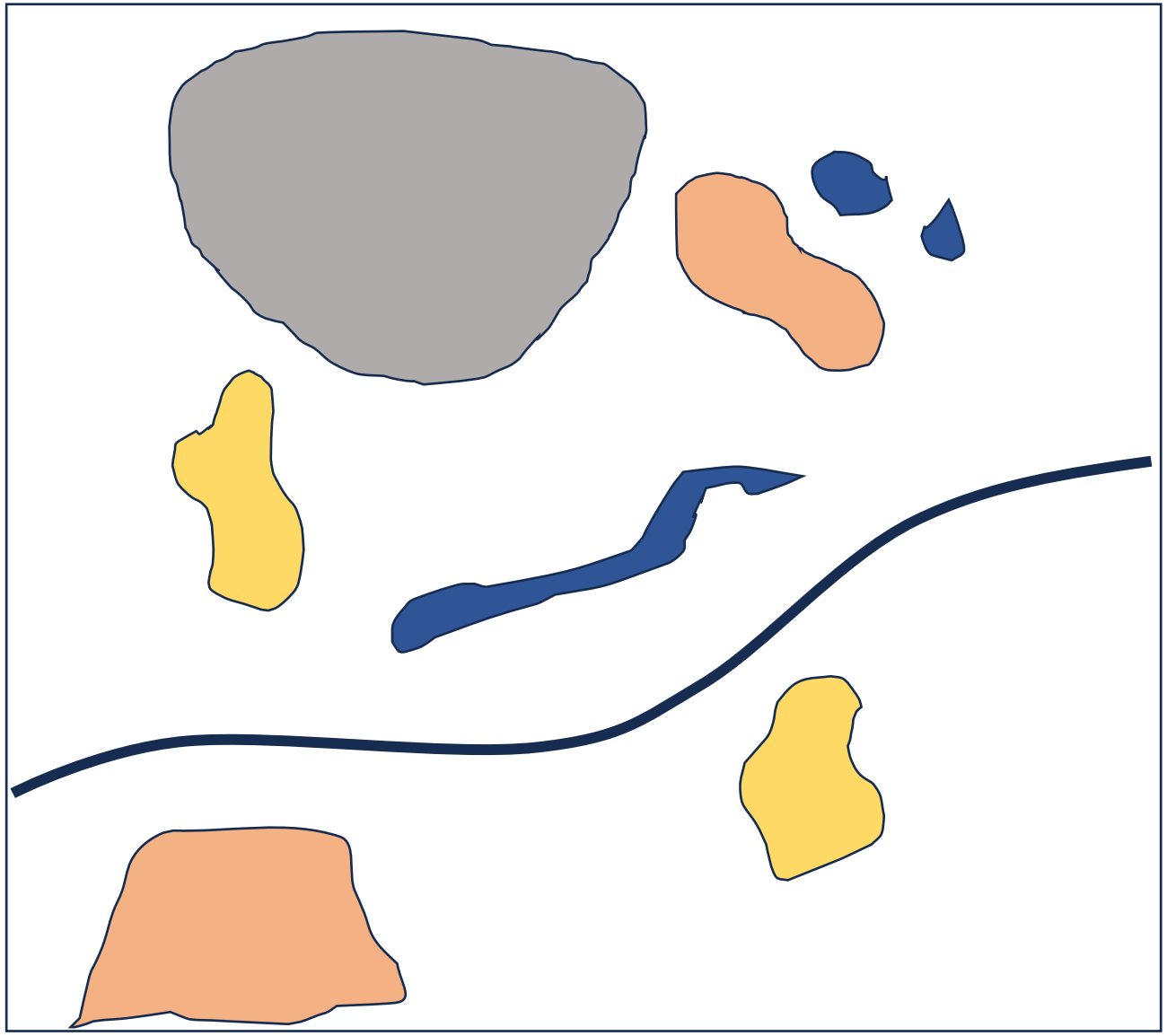
What do we already have? (Step 1)



- Motorway
- Urban
- National Designations (SAC, SPA, SSSI, NNR)
- Local Designations (Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites SNCIs)
- Irreplaceable Habitats (Ancient woodland etc)

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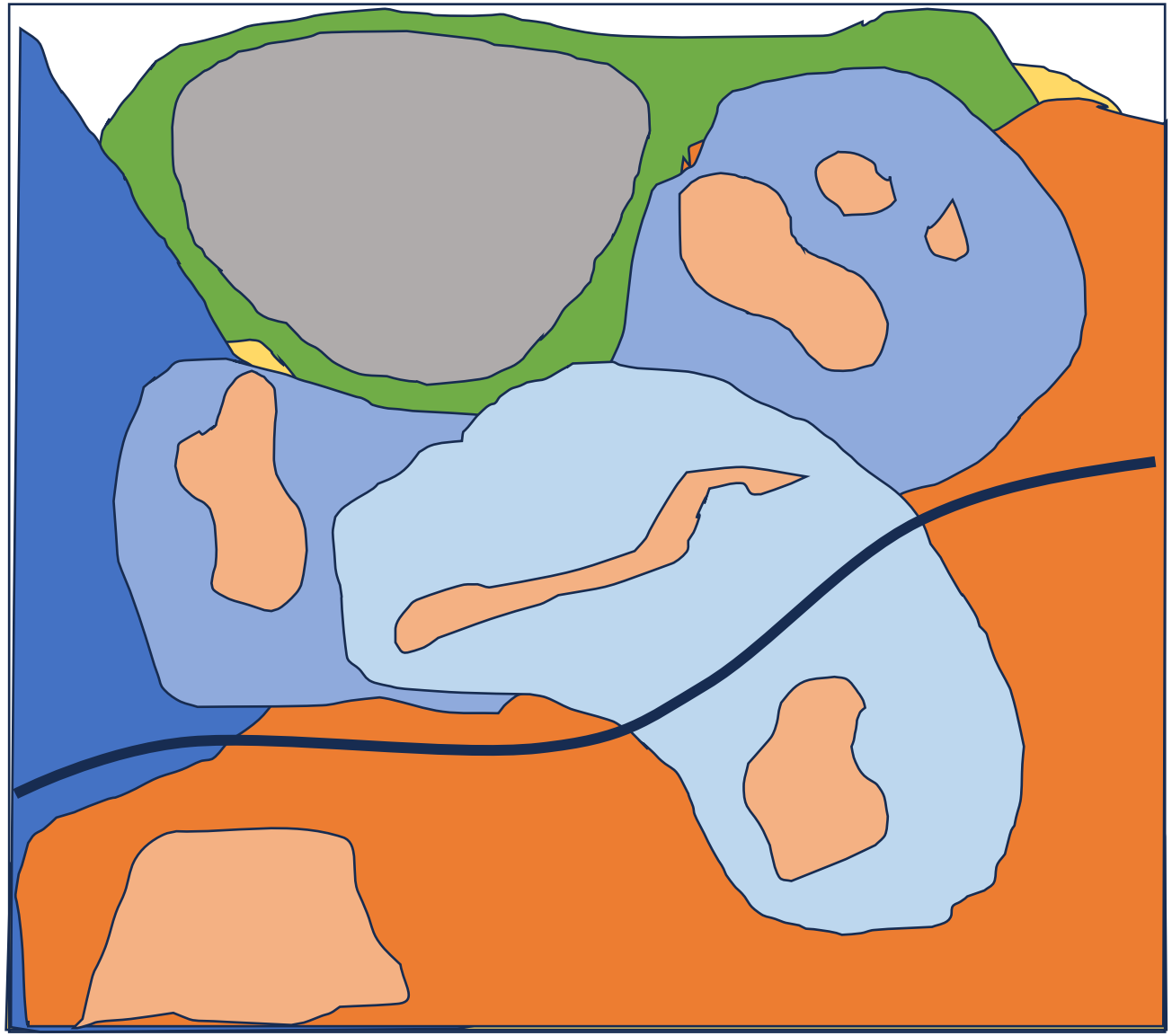
What outcomes do we want for nature recovery? (Step 3 and 4)



Existing areas for nature

- Pre-existing strategies and policies
  - National Landscape Management Plan
  - Neighbourhood biodiversity plan
  - National pollinator corridor
- Stakeholder engagement

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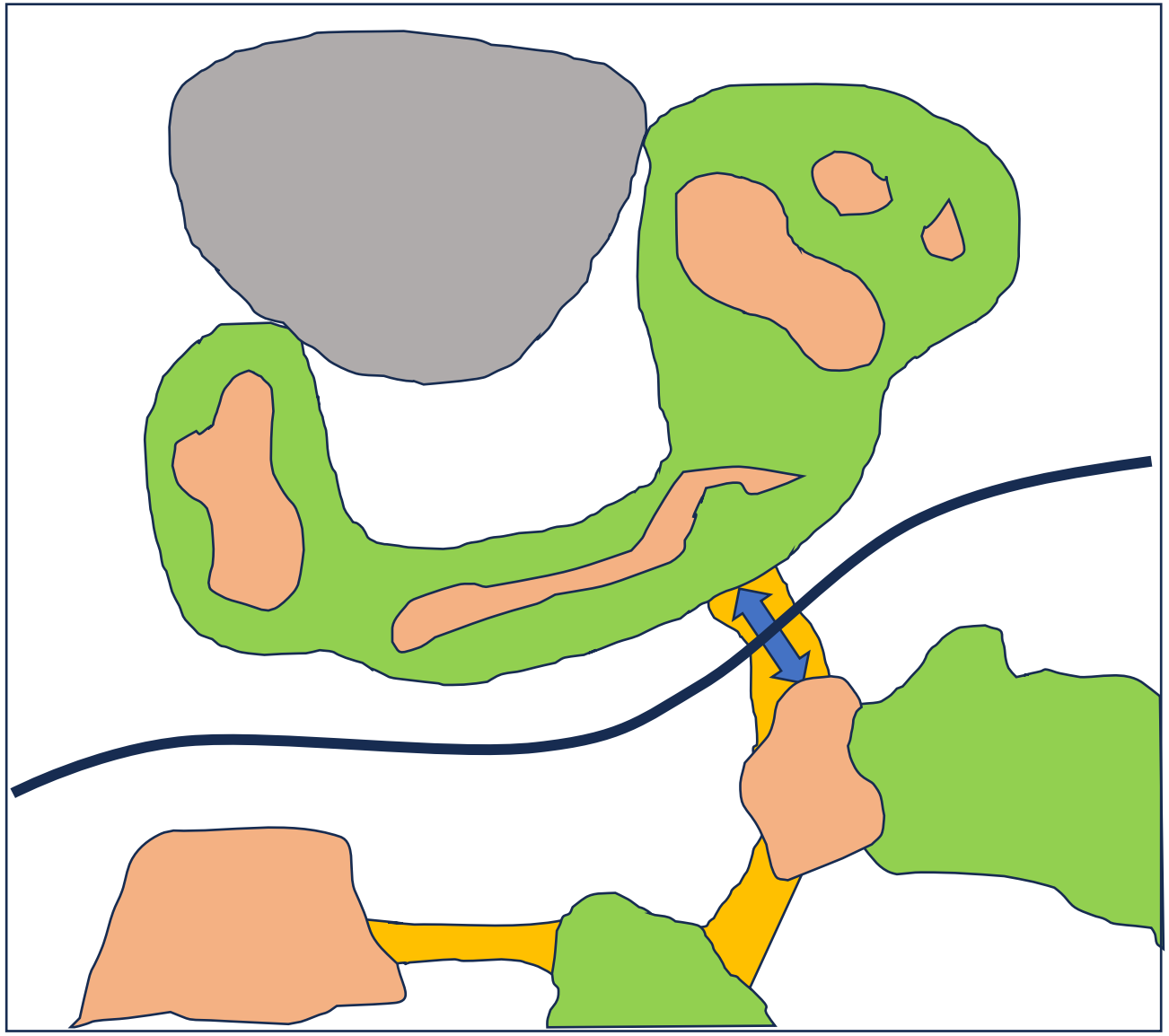
Final map of actions (step 5)



Prioritise the outcomes and associated actions

- Delivery of key benefits for nature recovery
- Delivery of stakeholder priorities
- Contribution to National Environmental Objectives
- Delivery of wider environmental benefits
- Areas land managers want to deliver nature recovery

Existing areas for nature

Creation of new habitat

Connecting corridors

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Where are we in the LNRS process?

Mapping Areas of Importance for Biodiversity (APIB)	In Draft
Collating pressures, threat, challenges, opportunities	January – July 2024
Gathering the priorities longlist ← We are here	Workshops & online surveys – May – August 2024
Shortlisting the priorities	Area workshops and consultation – August - September
Identify potential measures	
Mapping Areas that Could become of Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB)	September - December 2024
Public Consultation	February - March 2025
Publication	July 2025

What is different this time?

- Previous biodiversity plans – such as the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas – had no statutory underpinning

- LNRS are a requirement of the Environment Act, 2021 – They are not just a policy that can easily be dropped or changed

- Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill amendments mean that all strategic development, minerals and waste, neighbourhood and local plans must take account of the LNRS in their creation

- Direct relation to funding mechanisms (e.g. BNG)

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Potential Delivery Mechanisms

- Biodiversity Net Gain uplift (15%)
- Potential link to Countryside Stewardship Plus
- DEFRA will likely target nature recovery funding at LNRS highlighted areas
- Aggregated delivery of environmental benefits will mean better access to high integrity nature markets

There are no contractual obligations that come with being identified in the LNRS, but these may come attached with relevant funding sources (BNG – 30 years)

We want deliverable actions for nature recovery – this means working together

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Obligations on mapped land

The LNRS will be an expression of what you **could** do not what you **have** to do

“The main purpose of the strategies is to identify locations to create or improve habitat most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment. **The strategies do not force the owners and managers of the land identified to make any changes.** Instead, the government is encouraging action through, for example, opportunities for funding and investment.”

If you do not want your land included in the LNRS – it can be removed prior to publication

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APIB

Potential Measure

- PM_01 Restore or enhance springs and seepages to support specialist invertebrate assemblages
- PM_02 Enhance semi-natural broad-leaved woodland by ensuring diverse structure and promoting natural regeneration
- PM_03 Create open space in semi-natural broadleaved woodland to benefit invertebrate and plant assemblages
- PM_04 Enhance habitat around ponds and lakes to provide habitat for x y z and to reduce disturbance
- PM_05 Create new broadleaved woodland

Things to note:

One measure could occur in more than one location – eg PM_01 is in two specific locations

Conquences of multiple measures in same area – eg PM_01 and PM_02. To overlap or cookie cut?

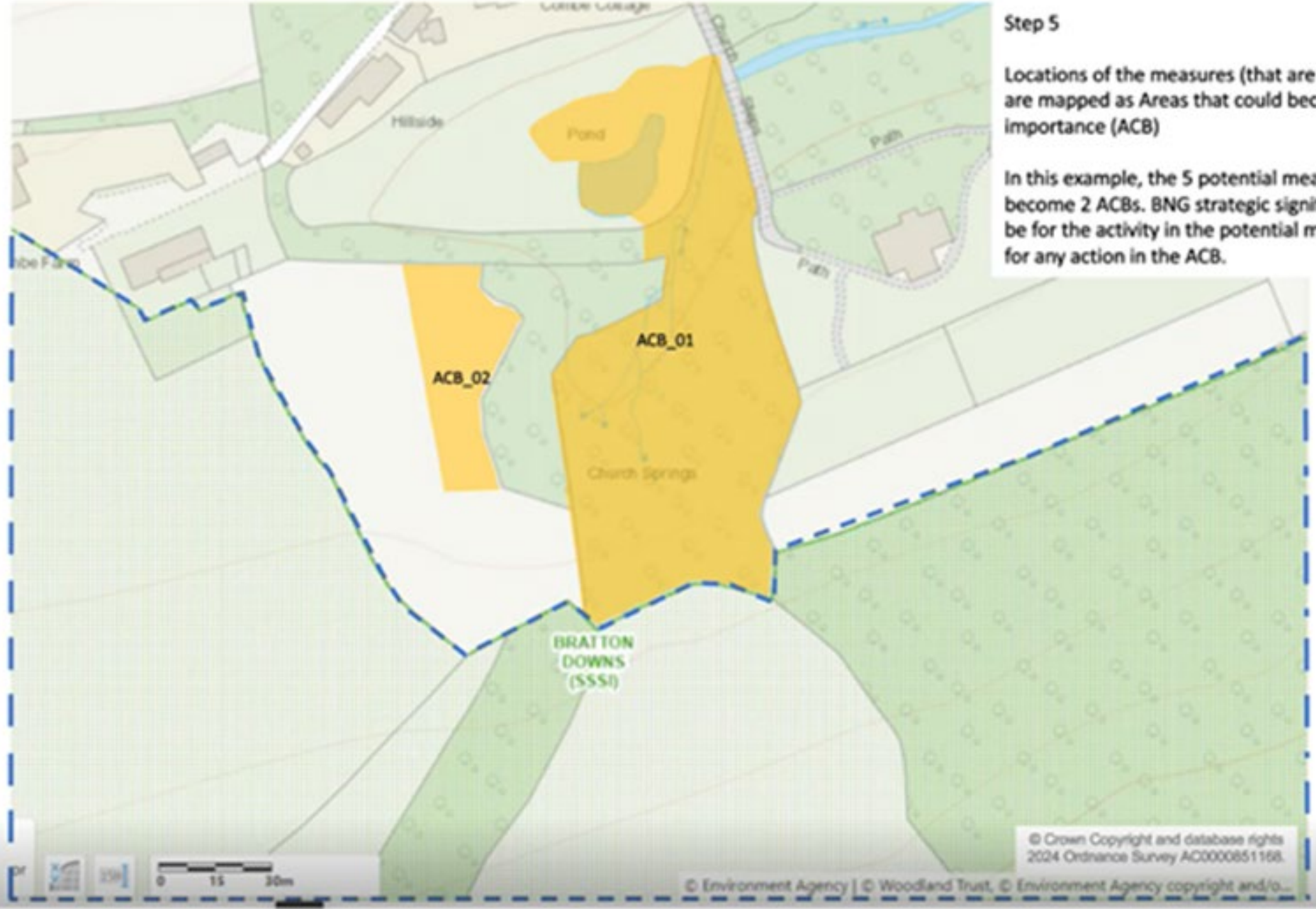
Measures can be mapped in APIBs eg PM_02 overlaps with APIB.

Fictional example

APIB

Potential Measure

ACB



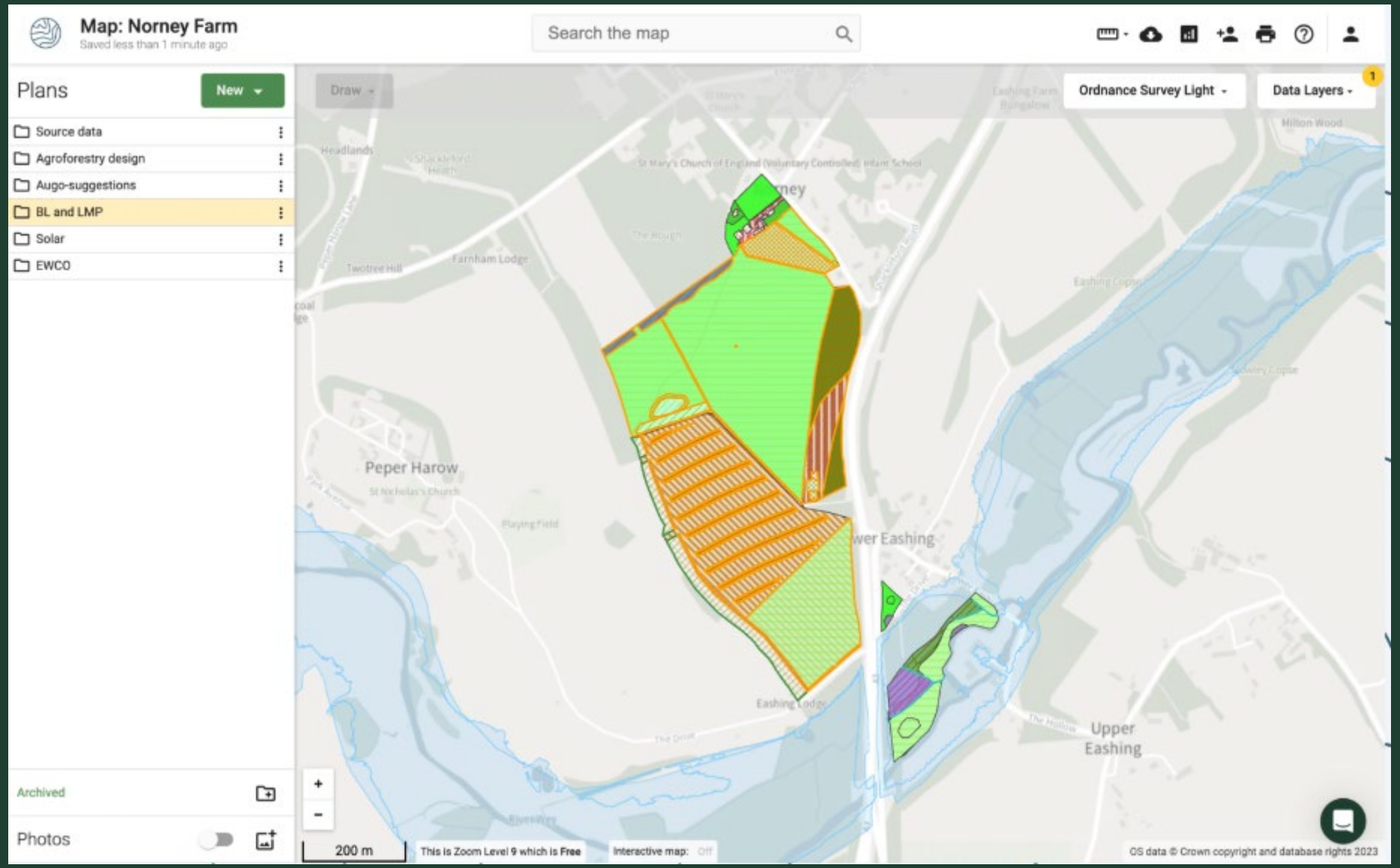
Step 5

Locations of the measures (that are not in APIB) are mapped as Areas that could become of importance (ACB)

In this example, the 5 potential measures become 2 ACBs. BNG strategic significance would be for the activity in the potential measure not for any action in the ACB.

Fictional example

Land App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Farnham Lodge
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Broader context for today

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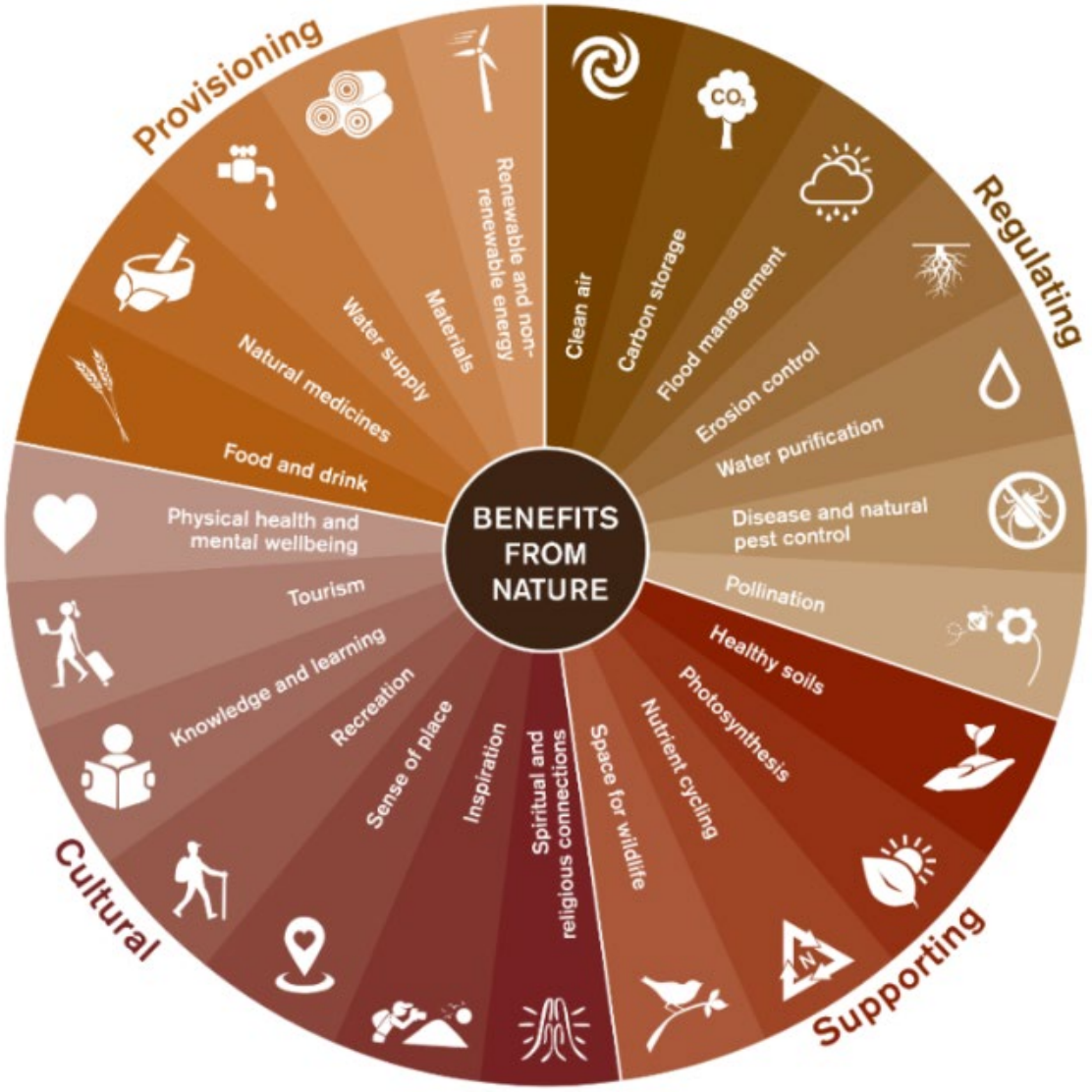
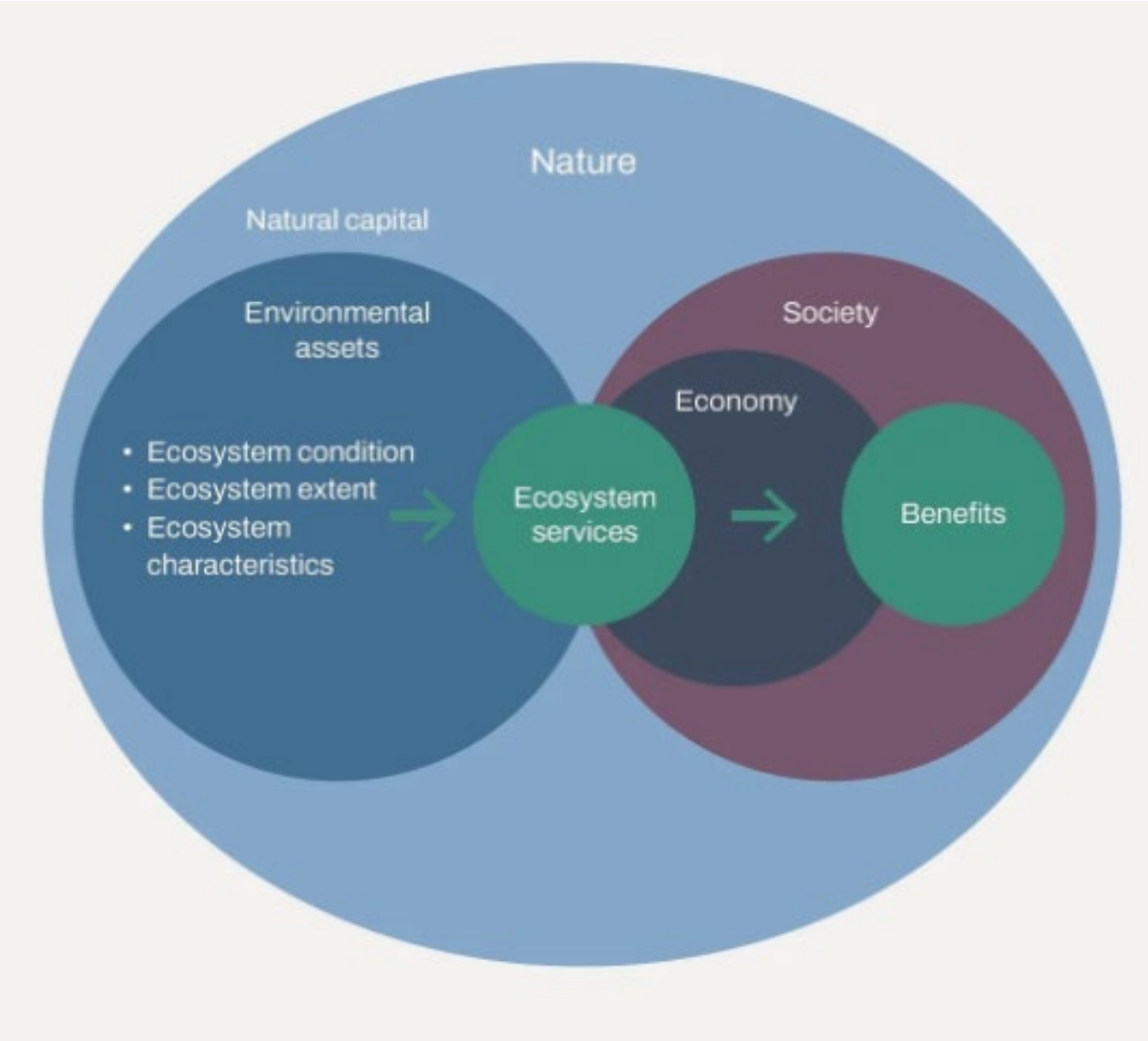
Wider Environmental Benefits





Improved nature – Improved society

Poor Health at Work is Responsible for £138bn Loss to UK Economy Each Year

23 January 2024

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN

Spending at least 120 minutes a week in nature is associated with good health and wellbeing

Received: 8 May 2018
Accepted: 8 May 2019
Published online: 13 June 2019

Mathew P. White[1], Ian Alcock[1], James Grellier[1], Benedict W. Wheeler[1], Terry Hartig[2], Sara L. Warber[1,3], Angie Bone[1], Michael H. Depledge[1] & Lora E. Fleming[1]

Spending time in natural environments can benefit health and well-being, but exposure-response relationships are under-researched. We examined associations between recreational nature contact in the last seven days and self-reported health and well-being. Participants (n = 19,806) were drawn from the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2014/15–2015/16); weighted to be nationally representative. Weekly contact was categorised using 60 min blocks. Analyses controlled for residential greenspace and other neighbourhood and individual factors. Compared to no nature contact last week, the likelihood of reporting good health or high well-being became significantly greater with contact ≥120 mins (e.g. 120–179 mins: ORs [95%CIs]: Health = 1.59 [1.31–1.92]; Well-being = 1.23 [1.08–1.40]). Positive associations peaked between 200–300 mins per week with no further gain. The pattern was consistent across key groups including older adults and those with long-term health issues. It did not matter how 120 mins of contact a week was achieved (e.g. one long *vs.* several shorter visits/week). Prospective longitudinal and intervention studies are a critical next step in developing possible weekly nature exposure guidelines comparable to those for physical activity.

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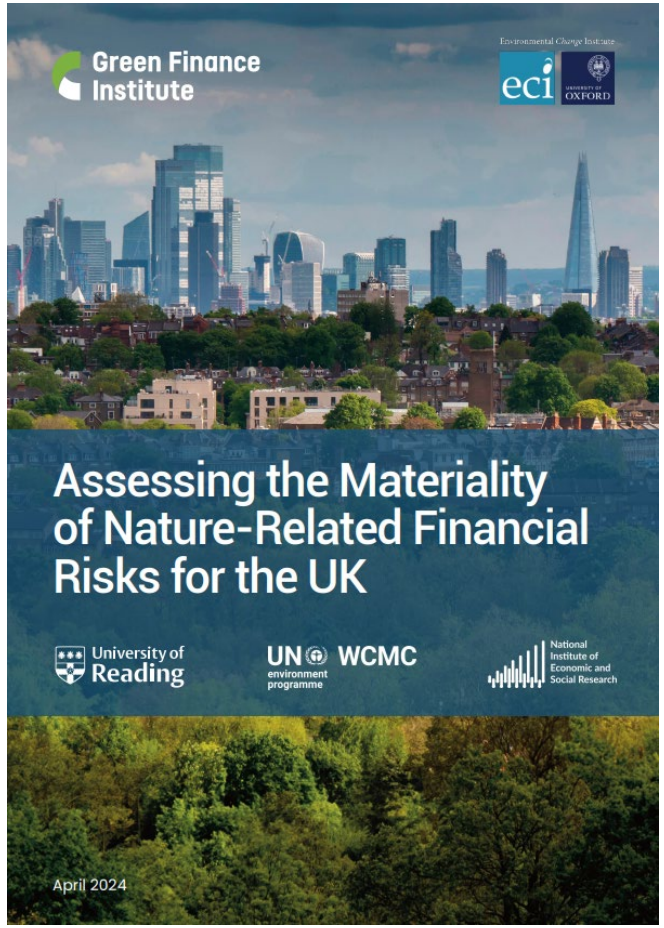
Nature Means Business

TNFD Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures

SCIENCE BASED TARGETS NETWORK
GLOBAL COMMONS ALLIANCE

UK BUSINESS & BIODIVERSITY FORUM

Nature degradation could cause a 12% loss to UK GDP



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National Context

The government has set a number of legally binding targets:

30X30- To protect and conserve a minimum of 30% of land and sea for biodiversity by 2030

Biodiversity on land - Restore or create in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitat **outside protected sites** by 2042, compared to 2022 levels

Woodland cover - Increase total tree and woodland cover from 14.5% of land area now to 16.5% by 2050

Hedgerows - Support farmers to create or restore 30,000 miles of hedgerows by 2037 and 45,000 miles of hedgerows by 2050

SSSI - Restore 75% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest to favourable condition by 2042. By 31 January 2028 50% of SSSIs will have actions on track to achieve favourable condition.

Access - Work to ensure that everyone in England lives within 15 minutes' walk of a green or blue space

Improve water quality and availability - Reduce nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and sediment pollution from agriculture into the water environment by at least 40% by 2038, compared to a 2018 baseline

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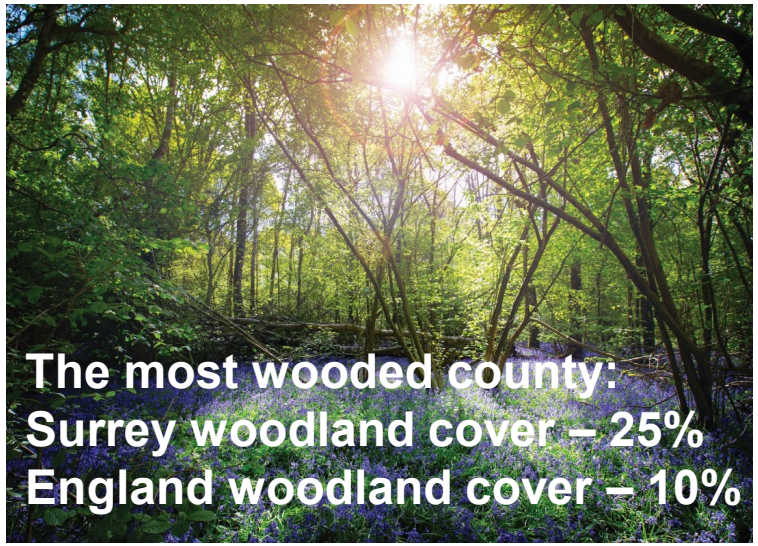
A county rich in biodiversity?



74% of our key designated sites (SSSI) are in favourable condition

Against a national average of 37%

Huge disparity across the county

Waverley	35%
Mole valley	31%
Guildford	30%
Surrey Heath	30%
Runnymede	23%
Woking	23%
Tandridge	19%
Elmbridge	18%
Reigate and Banstead	17%
Epsom and Ewell	11%
Spelthorne	3%

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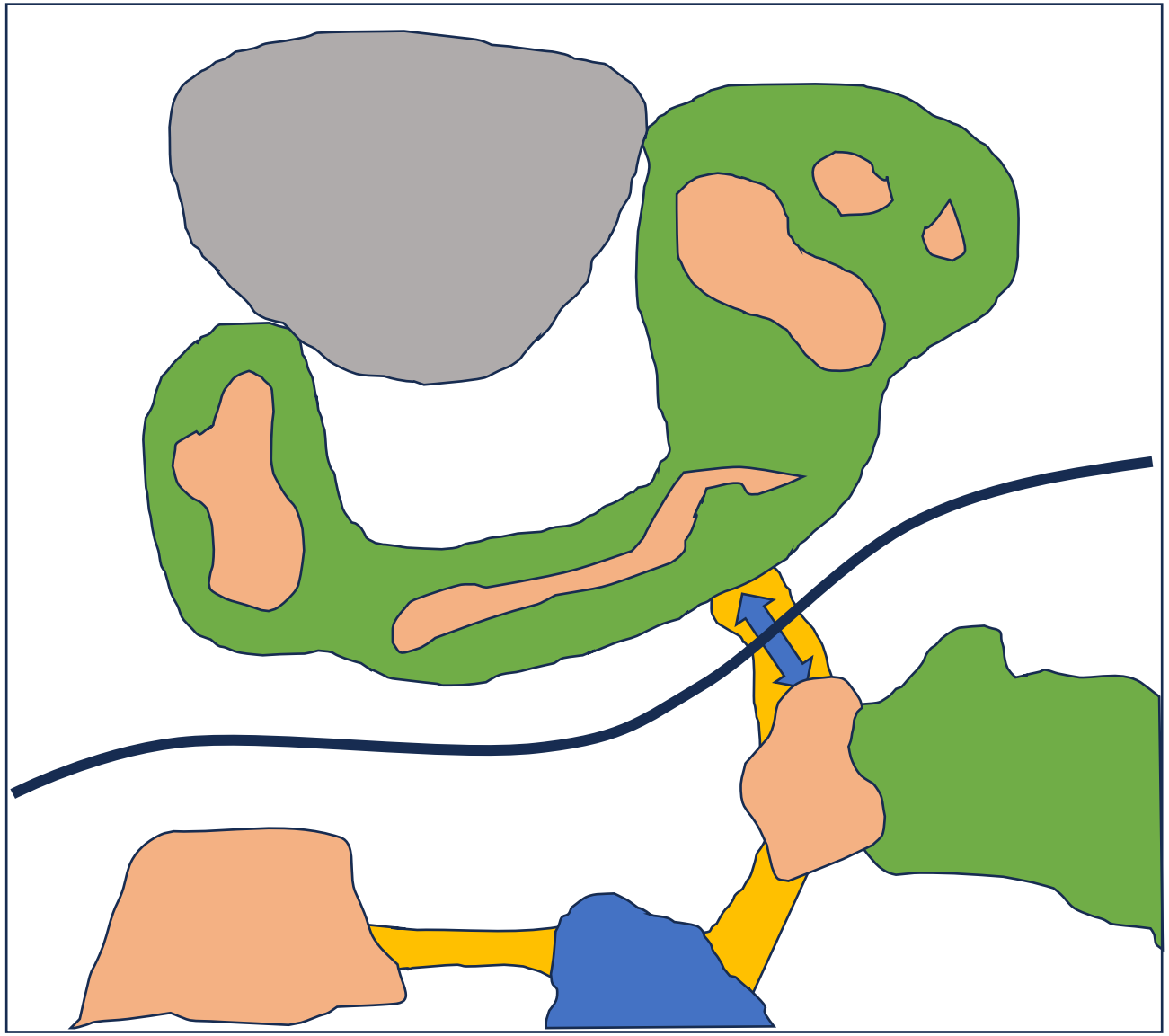
Lawton principles for making space for nature



More (new stepping stones created)

Bigger (Buffering existing habitat)

Better (improved quality of existing habitat)

Joined (connecting corridors)

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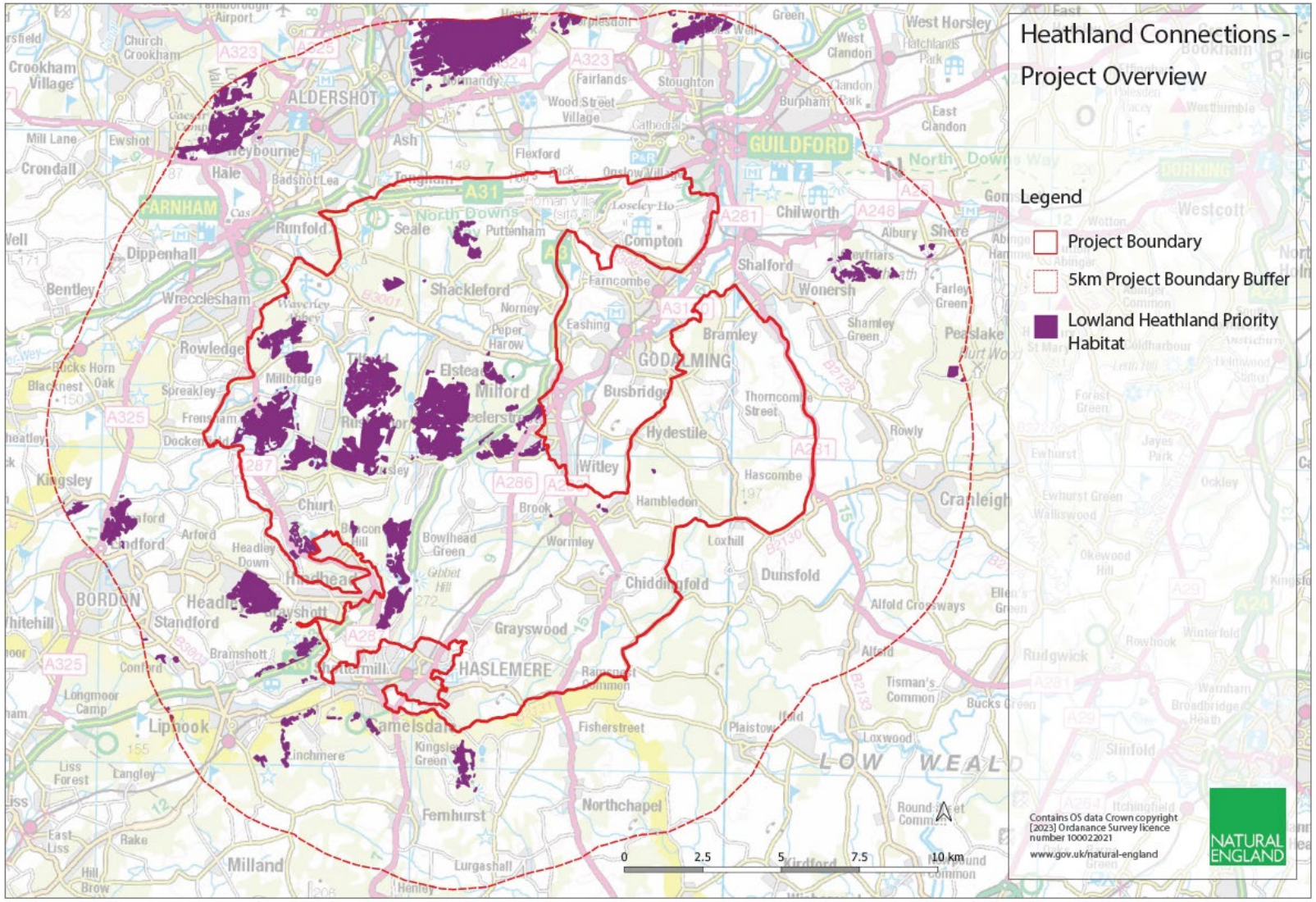
Links to other work – Heathlands Connections



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Risks and competing pressures

- Climate Change
  - Flood risk
  - Wild fire
  - Drought
  - Adjusted habitat ranges

- Future Food Security

- Development

- Invasive non-native species

- Pests and diseases

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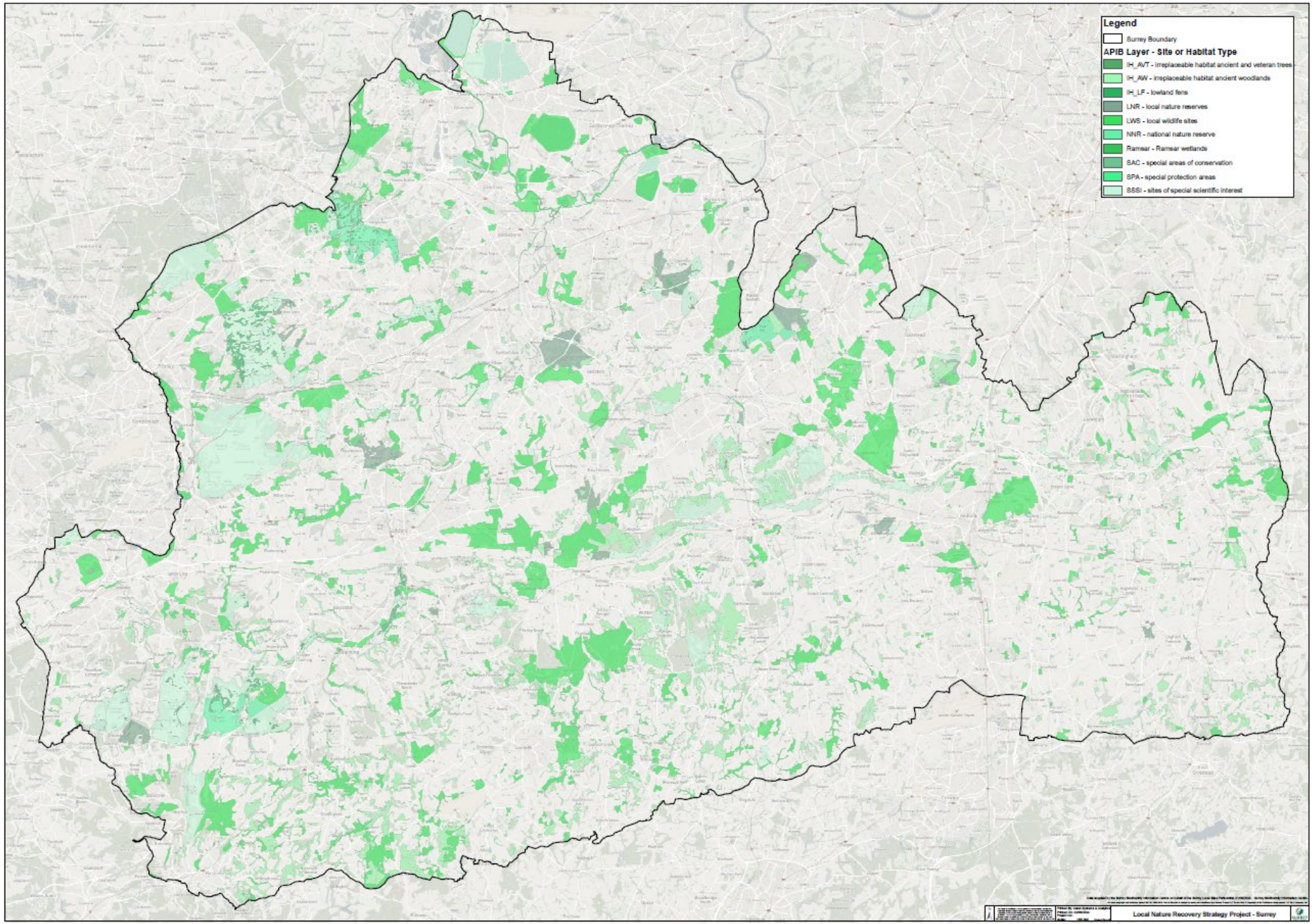
Legend
Surrey Boundary
APIB Layer - Site or Habitat Type
IH_AVT - irreplaceable habitat ancient and veteran trees
IH_AW - irreplaceable habitat ancient woodlands
IH_LF - lowland fens
LNR - local nature reserves
LWS - local wildlife sites
NNR - national nature reserve
Ramsar - Ramsar wetlands
SAC - special areas of conservation
SPA - special protection areas
SSSI - sites of special scientific interest
Local Nature Recovery Strategy Project - Surrey

Thank you

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