



Dover District Green Infrastructure Strategy

Improving the network of green and blue spaces across Dover district

Final (May 2024)



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Executive Summary

The Dover District Green Infrastructure Strategy aims to deliver a high-quality multifunctional network of green and blue spaces that benefit people and nature through the protection of existing assets and identification of opportunities to connect and enhance the green infrastructure network.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy draws on an extensive evidence base and identifies the needs and opportunities for the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure in our District, focusing on six Key Outcomes:

- *Protected and restored nature*
- *Greater resilience to climate change*
- *Sustainable water management*
- *Improved health and wellbeing for all*
- *Sustainable places*
- *Valued healthy landscapes.*

Actions that will contribute to the achievement of these Key Outcomes are set out in the Action Plan that forms part of this Strategy. The Council is committed to the delivery of three Core Actions embedded within the Green Infrastructure Strategy in order to guide investment in, protection of and enhancement of green infrastructure across the District.

Core Action 1: Develop and implement Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document / Guidance.

Core Action 2: Develop and implement Biodiversity Design Code for new development.

Core Action 3: Develop, promote, and implement Habitat Management Strategy for Biodiversity in public open spaces, including DDC land and property.

The remaining projects in the Action Plan will be subject to further review to identify project leads and partners, develop their scope, and consider potential funding sources. The Action Plan is a 'living' part of the Green Infrastructure Strategy: project proposals can be developed and added to the Action Plan so that they can be initiated when funding and resources allow. Delivery of the projects will be dependent on resourcing and funding availability and opportunities for both will be explored by the Council, project leads and other partners.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy will be subject to high-level review and monitoring of the Action Plan every two years. Progress towards and delivery of the projects within the Action Plan will form the basis of the approach to monitoring. Outputs from the Core Actions will incorporate specific targets and monitoring measures.

1. Introduction and Purpose

1.1. Green infrastructure¹ encompasses all the natural environmental features of an area, including²:

- Natural and semi-natural rural and urban green spaces – woodland, scrub, grassland, heath, wetland and open and running water (blue infrastructure), brownfield sites, coasts.
- Parks and gardens – urban parks, country parks, formal and private gardens, institutional grounds (e.g., schools and hospitals)
- Amenity green space – recreation spaces, play areas, outdoor sports facilities, community and roof gardens, hedges, village greens, commons, civic spaces, highway trees and verges.
- Allotments, orchards and farmland.
- Cemeteries and churchyards.
- Green corridors – hedgerows, rivers, canals, road verges, rail embankments, cycling and walking routes, rights of way.
- Nature conservation sites – Designated sites and statutory and non-statutory nature reserves.
- Green space designations (selected for historic significance, beauty, recreation, wildlife, or tranquillity)
- Archaeological and historic sites.
- Functional green space such as sustainable drainage schemes (SuDS) and flood storage areas.



¹ References to green infrastructure include green and blue spaces and features.

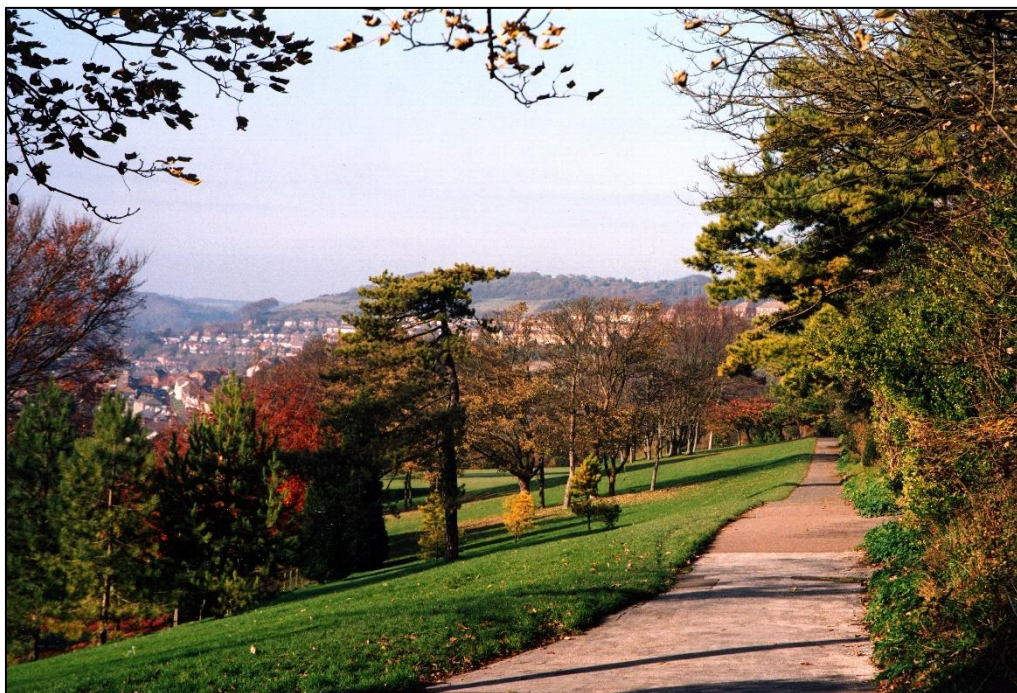
² Abridged from: *Town & Country Planning Association and The Wildlife Trusts (2012), Planning for a Healthy Environment – Good Practice Guidance for Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity.*

- 1.2. We all depend on the benefits provided by these natural environmental features, also known as ecosystem services. These include:
- Food and materials.
 - Clean water and air.
 - Climate regulation.
 - Flood prevention.
 - Pollination.
 - Recreation.
- 1.3. By protecting, restoring, connecting and managing our green infrastructure network, we will therefore protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors in addition to conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the District.
- 1.4. Furthermore, green infrastructure has a vital role in adapting to and mitigating the harmful effects of climate change. It is an essential tool that can provide mitigation and adaptation responses to the climate emergency which are more cost-effective than engineered solutions, as well as providing additional benefits such as spaces for recreation. Fundamentally, healthy and well-functioning natural systems will be essential as the climate changes.
- 1.5. Alongside the climate change agenda, the Dover District Green Infrastructure Strategy supports the aspirations and ambitions of Dover District Council’s Corporate Plan, Dover District Economic Growth Strategy, the Growth Strategy for Tourism and Visitor Economy and the strategic objectives in the emerging Local Plan. The Green Infrastructure Strategy will help to deliver a spectacular and sustainable environment, a prosperous economy, vibrant communities and thriving places. Through the Green Infrastructure Strategy, we will:
- Create more habitat for nature.
 - Have quality public open spaces.
 - Manage green infrastructure to adapt to the changing climate and support health and wellbeing.
 - Have green infrastructure at the heart of new development planning.
 - Work with our partners, communities, and residents to have more, improved, and better-connected green infrastructure.
- 1.6. The Green Infrastructure Strategy identifies the needs and opportunities across the District to protect and enhance green infrastructure, helping to guide the investment and delivery of green infrastructure and to realise its associated benefits for people and nature.
- 1.7. The Green Infrastructure Strategy will also help Dover District Council meet the requirements of the Environment Act 2021³.

³ As outlined in the *Green and Blue Infrastructure Evidence Report* (Bayne & Seijo, 2022)

2. Vision

Dover District in 2040 will be a destination of choice in which to live, work, visit, learn and invest. Residents, workers, and visitors will engage with the high quality multifunctional green infrastructure that delivers a wide range of benefits to people and nature by improving health and wellbeing, contributing to climate change resilience and mitigation, connecting wildlife habitats, supporting nature recovery and improvements in air quality, and attracting inward investment.



3. Implementation

- 3.1. The Green Infrastructure Strategy includes an Action Plan with a series of Core Actions that will deliver outputs embedded as integral elements of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- 3.2. Scoping of projects within the Green Infrastructure Strategy Action Plan will include the identification of project leads, partners, and stakeholders to take the work forward in partnership, in addition to identifying delivery mechanisms, indicative timescales for delivery, potential challenges, and consideration of potential funding streams.
- 3.3. The inclusion of a project in the Action Plan identifies it for further consideration but does not guarantee that it will be taken forward.
- 3.4. Dover District Council will promote the Green Infrastructure Strategy Action Plan and work with partners, communities and residents to identify and support specific projects

in local areas that will contribute to delivering more, improved and better-connected green infrastructure across the District.

- 3.5. The Green Infrastructure Strategy will be used within Dover District Council to help ensure that new development incorporates appropriate biodiversity enhancements and delivers biodiversity net gains that make an effective long-term contribution to the District's green infrastructure network.
- 3.6. The Green Infrastructure Strategy will provide a framework for projects managed by Dover District Council, ensuring that all opportunities are taken for projects to contribute to the Vision and Outcomes of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- 3.7. The Green Infrastructure Strategy will also be used alongside the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) that accompanies the Local Plan to identify projects appropriate for inclusion in the IDP, ensure IDP projects are in accordance with the Green Infrastructure Strategy, and to identify project delivery details, including potential project funding, as appropriate.
- 3.8. It is expected that green infrastructure will be delivered and funded through several key mechanisms, including:
 - Planning conditions and obligations placed on developers.
 - Developers integrating the principles into their proposals.
 - Dover District Council including it in actions e.g. land management, project delivery.
 - Special projects that draw on external funding or grant schemes.
 - Local community action, including fundraising, voluntary sector activities and charitable trusts.



3. Background to Green Infrastructure Strategy

- 3.5. The main evidence base for this strategy is the *Dover Green and Blue Infrastructure – Evidence Report* (Bayne and Seijo, 2022) which establishes the baseline for the Green Infrastructure Strategy, and provides an assessment of needs and opportunities, strategic priorities, and future actions for green infrastructure planning in the District. Actions are arranged in the *Evidence Report* by theme and location of strategic priority.

Consultation

- 3.6. The 2022 *Evidence Report* was informed by consultations with stakeholders, including Dover District Council and Kent County Council Officers, the Environment Agency, non-governmental organisations such as White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, Kent Wildlife Trust, National Trust, RSPB, Kent Downs National Landscape, and parish and town councils.
- 3.7. Comments on the Dover District Green Infrastructure Strategy were invited as part of a six-week consultation event which ran from Tuesday 3rd October 2023 to Tuesday 14th November 2023. Respondents were also asked to suggest additional projects for inclusion in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Action Plan, with the aim to capture both existing projects and project proposals. The consultation responses have been used to refine and develop the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Action Plan.

Existing green infrastructure network

- 3.8. Maps showing the existing green infrastructure provision and supporting evidence are presented by theme within the *Evidence Report*. These maps have been amalgamated in Figure 1 below to give an overview of the current green infrastructure network. The list of data used to create Figure 1 is in Appendix 3.
- 3.9. Figure 1 shows the distribution of green infrastructure assets across the District, highlighting the value of the coastal region and the ‘green fingers’ surrounding Dover Town but also revealing deficits in localised provision and a lack of connectivity for the many small green infrastructure assets distributed across the District’s central and northern rural areas.
- 3.10. The baseline green infrastructure network for the District is presented in Figure 1, but the quality and accessibility of the assets and the opportunities for enhancement of the green infrastructure network will need to be considered in detail as the Green Infrastructure Strategy actions are identified and projects are developed and implemented.
- 3.11. Detailed mapping of the existing green infrastructure network will be prepared to support the delivery of the Strategy, including the identification of opportunity areas for green infrastructure.

Figure 1. Existing Green Infrastructure Network



4. Context

4.5. The *Evidence Report* outlines the key national and local policies, plans and strategies that informed the establishment of the evidence base and the development of the Green Infrastructure Strategy. Core elements of the local context are summarised below.

Dover District Council Corporate Plan 2023 – 2027

4.6. The Corporate Plan provides the overarching strategic direction for Dover District Council. There are five Strategic Priorities. Strategic Priority Three – Protecting our environment includes the aims to:

- Recognise the importance of the environment in the decisions we make.
- Encourage a clean, green, and safe place to live, work, visit, learn and invest.
- Support and engage the community to protect their environment.

4.7. The Green Infrastructure Strategy is relevant to the Strategic Priorities and its implementation will support the aspirations and ambitions of the Corporate Plan.

Dover District Local Plan to 2040

4.8. The emerging Local Plan sets out the vision, strategic objectives and overarching development strategy for future growth in the District over the period to 2040. The Local Plan has been submitted for examination with a Main Modifications Consultation currently underway (May 2024). Subject to the outcome of the Inspector’s final report, the Council expects the Local Plan to be adopted in Autumn 2024.

4.9. The Green Infrastructure Strategy supports the delivery of the Local Plan, and is relevant to all four Strategic Objectives:

- Spectacular and Sustainable Environment
- Prosperous Economy
- Vibrant Communities
- Thriving Places

4.10. The Green Infrastructure Strategy has a significant role to play in delivering the Strategic Objectives of the emerging Local Plan by responding to, informing and guiding development that comes forward.

Climate Change Strategy (2021)

4.11. With a 2030 target for Dover District Council’s own estate to become a net zero carbon emitter, and a 2050 target of net zero for the wider district, the Council’s Climate Change Strategy⁴ explains how the climate emergency declaration will be put into action.

4.12. Many of the actions in the Council’s Climate Change Strategy Action Plan are also relevant to the Green Infrastructure Strategy, and actions delivered through the Green

⁴ <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Environment/Climate-Change/Climate-Change-Strategy-January-2021-web.pdf>

Infrastructure Strategy will complement and contribute to the successful implementation of the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan.

Growth Strategy for Tourism and the Visitor Economy (2020 – 2030)

4.13. Sustainability is embedded in the objectives of Dover District Council's Tourism and Visitor Economy Strategy, which also includes Sustainable Growth as a Guiding Principle:

"Working to achieve the right balance to ensure tourism growth is achieved in harmony with the environment and communities".

4.14. Actions delivered through the Green Infrastructure Strategy will build the resilience of the District's natural environment, supporting the sustainable growth of the tourism and visitor economy.

Economic Growth Strategy (2021)

4.15. The Economic Growth Strategy sets out the council's vision and long-term plan to secure economic prosperity through a diverse, resilient and highly productive economy.

4.16. The Green Infrastructure Strategy will support and inform the target activities for the five key themes of the Economic Growth Strategy:

- Creating economic value.
- Delivering infrastructure for growth.
- Revitalising our town centres.
- Harnessing tourism and the visitor economy.
- A thriving rural economy.

Parks and Amenity Open Spaces Strategy (2013)

4.17. The District is well provided with parks and amenity open space, including traditional civic parks, urban green spaces, green corridors, village greens, informal play space and churchyards. The Green Infrastructure Strategy will enable the recognition and identification of opportunities for improving and increasing the multifunctional benefits of these public spaces.

Heritage Strategy (2020)

4.18. Dover District has an extraordinarily rich historic environment, including a vast wealth of individual and groups of heritage assets which have all had a major hand in shaping the development and identity of the District. The Green Infrastructure Strategy will support the Heritage Strategy and its recommendations where heritage is a key component of the value of the green space.

Air Quality Action Plan (in preparation)

4.19. Measures (e.g. sustainable transport promotion) in the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) will contribute to cleaner air in the district.

4.20. Following consultation in 2023, the AQAP is currently being finalised in preparation for adoption by DDC.

5. Themes and Outcomes

- 5.5. The Green Infrastructure Strategy spans the themes identified in the *Evidence Report*, reframing the strategic priorities to focus on the following high-level Key Outcomes:
- A. **Protected and restored nature** – ‘Bigger, better, more and connected’ habitat for nature.
 - B. **Greater resilience to changing climate** – Supporting adaptation and resilience to the changing climate.
 - C. **Sustainable water management** – Responding to and managing flood and drought risk, improving water quality, restoring river habitats, and connecting wetland habitats.
 - D. **Improved health and wellbeing for all** – Improving the availability and accessibility of green places which boost the health and wellbeing of everyone.
 - E. **Sustainable places** – Green infrastructure in new and existing communities that provides multiple benefits, so people and nature thrive.
 - F. **Valued healthy landscapes** – Conserving and enhancing our landscapes, seascapes, heritage, and sense of place.
- 5.6. For the Green Infrastructure Strategy, the actions listed in the *Evidence Report* have been refined and are grouped according to the Key Outcomes. These have been augmented with suggestions received during the consultation and are presented in the Action Plan in Appendix 1.

6. Action Plan

- 6.5. The Green Infrastructure Strategy includes an Action Plan, presented in Appendix 1, which identifies the actions that will help to deliver the Green Infrastructure Strategy. The Council cannot deliver this Green Infrastructure Strategy in isolation. Coordination and partnership work with internal and external partners is essential to realising the multifunctional benefits of green infrastructure within the District.
- 6.6. Each action has a primary focus on one of the Key Outcomes, but all the actions support several of the Key Outcomes due to the multifunctional values, functions, and benefits of green infrastructure.
- 6.7. Three Core Actions that are within Dover District Council’s remit to implement are identified as forming fundamental elements of this Green Infrastructure Strategy, and some preparatory work has been undertaken to consider the scope of these projects (Appendix 2). Further, more detailed scoping of the Core Actions will be progressed by the Council.
- 6.8. The Core Actions are listed at the top of the Action Plan but note that these and the other actions are not in order of importance / priority.

- 6.9. Following Adoption, the actions in the Green Infrastructure Strategy will be subject to review to identify project leads and partners, develop the project scopes, and consider potential funding sources and timescales for delivery.
- 6.10. The Action Plan is a ‘living’ part of the Green Infrastructure Strategy: project proposals can be developed and added to the Action Plan so that they can be initiated when funding and resources allow. Some elements are aspirational, and consideration of their continued inclusion in the Action Plan will form part of the regular reviews.
- 6.11. Delivery of the projects will be dependent on resourcing and funding availability and opportunities for both will be explored by the Council, project leads and other partners.

7. Monitoring and Review

- 7.5. The Green Infrastructure Strategy will be subject to high-level review and monitoring of the Action Plan every two years, with a full review of the evidence base and Green Infrastructure Strategy in 2034.
- 7.6. The projects within the Action Plan will form the basis of the approach to monitoring, so the key measures to evaluate the success of the implementation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy are focused on project delivery.
- 7.7. The Core Actions will incorporate specific targets and monitoring measures.
- 7.8. The biennial reviews will ensure that the Action Plan is kept up to date. As it is a ‘living document’, project additions, amendments and updates will be made to the Action Plan as necessary at any time. The IDP will also be updated with all relevant actions / projects.



Appendix 1

Action Plan

The Action Plan is a 'living' part of the Green Infrastructure Strategy: project proposals can be developed and added to the Action Plan so that they can be initiated when funding and resources allow. Some elements are aspirational, and consideration of their continued inclusion in the Action Plan will form part of the regular reviews. Delivery of the projects will be dependent on resourcing and funding availability and opportunities for both will be explored by the Council, project leads and other partners.

Key Outcome	Ref.	Actions	In Local Plan	Linked key outcomes ⁶	Potential lead partner	Potential resourcing	Proposed / potential project scope
Protected and restored nature	N1	CORE ACTION 1: Develop and implement Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	YES	N C W H S L	DDC	DDC Officer time	See Appendix 2: Scoping of Core Actions
Protected and restored nature	N2	CORE ACTION 2: Develop and implement Biodiversity Design Code for new development	YES	N C W H S L	DDC	DDC Officer time	See Appendix 2: Scoping of Core Actions
Protected and restored nature	N3	CORE ACTION 3: Develop, promote and implement Habitat Management Strategy for Biodiversity in public open spaces, including DDC land and property.	YES	N C W H S L	DDC	DDC Officer time	See Appendix 2: Scoping of Core Actions

⁶Linked Key Outcomes:

N: Protected and Restored Nature. **C:** Greater resilience to Climate Change. **W:** Sustainable Water Management. **H:** Improved Health and Wellbeing for all. **S:** Sustainable Places. **L:** Valued Healthy Landscapes.

Key Outcome	Ref.	Actions	In Local Plan	Linked key outcomes ⁶	Potential lead partner	Potential resourcing	Proposed / potential project scope
Protected and restored nature	N4	Implement Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy (SAMM)	YES	N C S	DDC	Developer contributions	Recruit SAMM Officer and implement the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA SAMM.
Protected and restored nature	N5	Develop and implement Chalk Grassland Action Plan		N C H S L			Link to Kent Biodiversity Strategy (protect, improve and increase priority habitats). To be incorporated within Core Action 3. Habitat Management Strategy for Biodiversity. Work with partners to identify and scope site/area-based projects (e.g. Alkham Valley).
Protected and restored nature	N6	Develop and implement Turtle Dove Action Plan		N C H S L	DDC / RSPB		Link to Kent Biodiversity Strategy (protect and increase priority species populations) Relevant measures to be included in Biodiversity Design Code Developer guidance on considering turtle doves in planning applications. Work with RSPB - RSPB turtle dove friendly zones, Develop approach to support community actions. Increase awareness and community engagement.
Protected and restored nature	N7	Monitor and manage visitor pressure at sensitive sites	YES	N C H S L		Developer contributions	Carry out visitor surveys at sensitive biodiversity sites including Sandwich Bay, Lydden and Temple Ewell Downs, to monitor visitor impacts. Identify and implement management actions where necessary.
Protected and restored nature	N8	Contribute to development of and actively engage with Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	YES	N C W H			Work with Kent County Council / Kent Nature Partnership to ensure DDC input and to embed LNRS principles into the District's green infrastructure.

⁶Linked Key Outcomes:

N: Protected and Restored Nature. **C:** Greater resilience to Climate Change. **W:** Sustainable Water Management.

H: Improved Health and Wellbeing for all. **S:** Sustainable Places. **L:** Valued Healthy Landscapes.

Key Outcome	Ref.	Actions	In Local Plan	Linked key outcomes ⁶	Potential lead partner	Potential resourcing	Proposed / potential project scope
				S L			
Protected and restored nature	N9	Spatial actions - Dover Town: Develop and implement plan to improve the biodiversity of Dover and access to Dover Town hills and valleys.		N C H S L			Create and enhance wildlife corridors within and beyond the town, linking with wider green infrastructure networks. Focus on chalk grassland restoration / management, understanding ownership, continuing the legacy of the Up On The Downs project, consideration of further Local Nature Reserve designation. Could form sub-section of Habitat Management Strategy for Biodiversity. Support the Objectives and recommendations within the Heritage Strategy, including R1 which seeks to sustain the heritage value of gateways and historic routes to and through settlements. Improve accessibility and condition of Public Rights of Way.
Protected and restored nature	N10	Spatial actions - Aylesham: Establish and improve the biodiversity of Aylesham		N C H S L			Increase biodiversity of grassland and verges. Community engagement in natural environment Designate Spinney Wood as a Local Nature Reserve. Protect and enhance woodland areas. Improve connectivity between green spaces.
Protected and restored nature	N11	Spatial actions - Sandwich: Improve the biodiversity of Sandwich		N C W H S L			Create and enhance wildlife corridors within and beyond the town, linking with wider green infrastructure networks. Increase biodiversity through town wall management, ensuring any proposals are consistent with the conservation of its significance as a designated scheduled monument. Establishment of strategic park (Sandwich Town Walls) Improve management of stream and ditch banks Management of grazing marsh

⁶Linked Key Outcomes:

N: Protected and Restored Nature. **C:** Greater resilience to Climate Change. **W:** Sustainable Water Management.
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Key Outcome	Ref.	Actions	In Local Plan	Linked key outcomes ⁶	Potential lead partner	Potential resourcing	Proposed / potential project scope
							Consider designating Gazen Salts Nature Reserve and Monks Wall Nature Reserve as Local Nature Reserves. Explore potential for Local Wildlife Site status.
Protected and restored nature	N12	Spatial actions - Villages in Dover District: Improve the biodiversity of villages		N C W H S L			Tree, woodland and hedge planting for connectivity. Woodland management. New development maintains and enhances connectivity and incorporates wildlife features. Engagement with turtle dove friendly zones Review ash die back impacts and any actions necessary. Improve wildlife features in rural villages. Riparian planting opportunities. Identify specific enhancement projects (consultation suggestions include Preston Recreation Ground, Alkham Village Green, and Chalksole Green).
Protected and restored nature	N13	Mapping of Dover district green infrastructure opportunity areas	YES	N C W H S L	DDC	In-house using existing staff resource	Undertake detailed mapping of existing green infrastructure resource. Identification of green infrastructure opportunity areas – use of Natural England’s Green Infrastructure Framework, Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards Consider / ensure links to Local Nature Recovery Strategy – potential for finer detail?
Greater resilience to changing climate	C1	Develop and implement Tree Strategy	YES	N C H S L			Tree Strategy to for DDC tree management. Strategic approaches to trees: e.g. tree planting as part of new development, identification of potential off-site tree planting sites, woodland creation, natural regeneration, management of ash die-back. Link to Kent County Council Tree Strategy (Kent Plan Tree).

⁶Linked Key Outcomes:

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Key Outcome	Ref.	Actions	In Local Plan	Linked key outcomes ⁶	Potential lead partner	Potential resourcing	Proposed / potential project scope
Greater resilience to changing climate	C2	Investigate coastal risks and develop long-term plan for coastal management and adaptation	YES	N C W H S L			Consider and address coastal squeeze. Identify risk areas and potential actions necessary to mitigate / adapt.
Sustainable water management	W1	Develop and implement River Dour Improvement Plan		N C W H S L			Recognise the importance of the River Dour to the District and as a priority habitat in need of restoration. Consideration of key species Ongoing projects including fish passes, River Dour Greenway. Identify specific enhancement projects e.g. Kearsney Abbey, Pencester Gardens, Stembrook. Aim to designate parts as Local Wildlife Site. Explore potential for BNG watercourse units on DDC landholdings. Work with Catchment Improvement Partnership, Affinity Water, Environment Agency, Southern Water. Reference to DDC's emerging local plan Water Cycle Strategy.
Sustainable water management	W2	Identify and implement opportunities for river restoration		N C W H S L			Restoration of culverted watercourses. River restoration enhancements. Re-meandering. Improved fish / eel passage.
Improved health and wellbeing for all	H1	Develop and implement strategic approach to PROW and GI corridor connections for development allocations.		N C W H S	KCC/DDC and developers		New development delivers improved and new PROW access to green spaces and countryside, incorporating multifunctional GI benefits.

⁶Linked Key Outcomes:

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Key Outcome	Ref.	Actions	In Local Plan	Linked key outcomes ⁶	Potential lead partner	Potential resourcing	Proposed / potential project scope
				L			Refer to Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework, Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards, Urban Greening Factor Could form extension to Biodiversity Design Code.
Improved health and wellbeing for all	H2	Develop and implement Play and Sports Facilities Strategies		H S			Incorporate multifunctional green infrastructure principles into new provision of outdoor sports and play spaces. Ensure there is sufficient provision and increase nature and tree cover to existing sites where possible.
Sustainable places	S1	Progress development and implementation of a Walking and Cycling Strategy		N C H S L	DDC / Sustrans / KCC		Strategic approach to ensuring connectivity of PROW, cycle routes and accessible greenspaces. Embedding green infrastructure principles into Walking and Cycling Strategy. Promoting active travel through new and improved routes, and use of public transport. Supporting the Objectives and recommendations within the Heritage Strategy, including R1 which seeks to sustain the heritage value of gateways and historic routes to and through settlements. Where possible to support and promote the 'Discover Lost Ways' project. Link to KCC Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
Sustainable places	S2	Create / provide / encourage more spaces to support community food growing		N C H S L			Review and support / meet the need for community allotments and community gardens. Link to Produced in White Cliffs Country, Produced in Kent – FoodLoop.

⁶Linked Key Outcomes:

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Key Outcome	Ref.	Actions	In Local Plan	Linked key outcomes ⁶	Potential lead partner	Potential resourcing	Proposed / potential project scope
Sustainable places	S3	Public engagement strategy for GI		N C W H S L			Engaging and informing Dover district residents, workers and visitors of the value of multifunctional green infrastructure, particularly where changes are going to be implemented. Incorporate in Core Action 3.
Sustainable places	S4	Review and implement DDC's approach to Local Nature Reserve designation		N C H S L			Increase the hectare provision per 1,000 people with a more even distribution across the district. Initial potential options - Spinney Wood, Gazen Salts, possible further LNRs around Dover Town. Resourcing implications to form part of review
Sustainable places	S5	Spatial actions - Dover Town: Improve the provision of GI in Dover town centre		N C W H S L	DDC / KCC		Incorporate green infrastructure measures within public realm improvements e.g. Bench Street. Consider wider-scale and aspirational improvements e.g. linear park along York Street / A256 that connects to green spaces across Dover Town.
Sustainable places	S6	Spatial actions - Deal and Walmer: Establish and improve the 'green heart' of Deal		N C W H S L			Thread biodiversity and pollinator-friendly areas throughout the town, including biodiversity improvements in Victoria Park and Telegraph Road. Increase tree canopy cover where appropriate. Adopt and Implement Kingsdown and Walmer Beach Local Wildlife Site management plan.
Sustainable places	S7	Spatial actions - Aylesham: Create better access connections in Aylesham for health, recreation, and active travel		N C H S L			Improve open space connectivity for all users Support delivery of allotment / community garden site Promote / establish safer walking and cycling routes within the area and links to the wider countryside.

⁶Linked Key Outcomes:

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Key Outcome	Ref.	Actions	In Local Plan	Linked key outcomes ⁶	Potential lead partner	Potential resourcing	Proposed / potential project scope
Sustainable places	S8	Spatial actions - Sandwich: Create better access connections in Sandwich for health, recreation, and active travel		N C H S L			Explore potential for establishment of strategic park Improve connectivity between open spaces, including cycle / multi-user route opportunities within new development and links to wider countryside. Support the Objectives and recommendations within the Heritage Strategy, including R1 which seeks to sustain the heritage value of gateways and historic routes to and through settlements.
Sustainable places	S9	Spatial actions - Villages in Dover District: Create better access connections for health, recreation, and active travel		N C H S L			Improve accessibility and condition of Public Rights of Way within and between villages. Consider new access routes, including safe linkages with 'behind the hedge' paths, access to allotments and growing spaces. Seek new and improve existing accessible open spaces. Support the Objectives and recommendations within the Heritage Strategy, including R1 which seeks to sustain the heritage value of gateways and historic routes to and through settlements.
Valued healthy landscapes	L1	Implement and actively engage with Kent Downs National Landscape's (AONB) Management Plan ⁵	YES	N C W H S L			Ensure that the Kent Downs National Landscape's Management Plan (aka AONB Management Plan) is actively engaged with. Ensure that impacts and actions to further the purpose of the Kent Downs National Landscape are considered across all Dover District Council functions. Link to Kent Downs National Landscape projects - Heritage Coast, managing increased tourism, design links. Support and promote / recognise White Cliffs Countryside Partnership's activities in this area.

⁵ [Management Plan 2021-2026 - Kent Downs](#)

⁶**Linked Key Outcomes:**

N: Protected and Restored Nature. **C:** Greater resilience to Climate Change. **W:** Sustainable Water Management.
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Key Outcome	Ref.	Actions	In Local Plan	Linked key outcomes ⁶	Potential lead partner	Potential resourcing	Proposed / potential project scope
							Support the Objectives and recommendations within the Heritage Strategy and recognising the contribution the historic built environment and archaeological resource pays to the character of the AONB.
Valued healthy landscapes	L2	Support and contribute to the application for the Kent Downs National Landscape to secure Cross-Channel UNESCO Global Geopark status		H S L			Support the Kent Downs National Landscape's work by promoting and supporting the Global Geopark proposal.

⁶Linked Key Outcomes:

N: Protected and Restored Nature. **C:** Greater resilience to Climate Change. **W:** Sustainable Water Management.
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Appendix 2

Initial scoping of Core Actions

Post-Adoption, the Core Actions will be subject to detailed scoping, including the identification of project partners and confirmation of timescales.

Core Action 1 (N1). Develop and implement Biodiversity Net Gain supplementary planning document / guidance	
Overview	Guidance for developers on achieving minimum 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) from any new development in Dover district, in accordance with the emerging Local Plan and Environment Act 2021.
Potential scope to include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BNG assessment process (ecological surveys, use of biodiversity metric, small sites metric, watercourse units, baseline habitat assessment, biodiversity gain plan / draft biodiversity gain plan, mapping) • Local list considerations • Provisions for phased development • Frameworks for the delivery options for BNG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On-site habitat creation and enhancements ○ Off-site habitat creation and enhancements ○ Purchase of biodiversity credits / use of habitat banks • Clarification that BNG does not supersede any existing habitats or species legislation / protections, clarification regarding stacking / additionality for protected species compensation schemes. • Irreplaceable habitats. • Clarification regarding application of mitigation hierarchy • Consideration of ecological functionality • Provisions for sites with zero biodiversity value. • Identification of 'strategic significance', in terms of habitats and locations, to guide BNG decisions. • Management and Monitoring Plans
Lead	Dover District Council Senior Natural Environment Officer
Potential partners / stakeholders	Kent County Council Biodiversity Net Gain Officer Kent Nature Partnership
Delivery mechanisms	Linked to emerging Local Plan, biodiversity net gain guidance to be adopted for implementation through DDC development management.
Potential funding streams	Prepared in-house within DDC, new burdens funding relating to Environment Act may be available.
Timescales	To complete a draft for consultation by end 2024 and finalise for Adoption Spring 2025.
Potential challenges	Legislative and procedural details still bedding in. Should have strong links to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, currently in development (publication due in spring 2025).

Core Action 2 (N2). Develop and implement Biodiversity Design Code for new development	
Overview	Guidance for developers for the inclusion of appropriate biodiversity enhancements for new development.
Potential scope to include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of appropriate biodiversity features and specifications there of (integrated bird nest boxes, bat tubes, bee bricks, hibernacula, log piles etc) • Biodiversity requirements for open spaces in development sites (e.g. locally appropriate landscape planting and habitat creation). • Consideration of long-term management. • Biodiversity provisions for SuDS • Living roofs and walls (including reference to Buglife guidance titled 'Creating Green Roofs for Invertebrates'). • Integration of green features within development sites and connectivity to off-site public rights of way and open spaces • Specifications for the above within distinct areas (Ref to landscape character assessments, Turtle Dove Friendly Zones, AONB) of the district. • Scope to benefit from review of existing national standards / best practice, including Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework
Lead	DDC Senior Natural Environment Officer
Potential partners / stakeholders	In-house expertise (including White Cliffs Countryside Partnership), local NGOs, Natural England, landscaping specialists, developers(?).
Delivery mechanisms	Use of design codes to inform development is secured within emerging local plan
Potential funding streams	Prepared in-house within DDC.
Timescales	Develop scope and identify working group partners by Autumn 2024. First draft by Spring 2025.
Potential challenges	Engagement with and securing buy-in from developers. Consideration of whether landscape planting specifications are viable options (in terms of sourcing of materials and cost considerations)

Core Action 3 (N3). Develop, promote and implement Habitat Management Strategy for Biodiversity in public open spaces, including DDC land and property.	
Overview	To improve management for biodiversity of land across the district.
Potential scope to include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat management actions to deliver enhancements for biodiversity. Including site specific (e.g. specific DDC landholdings) and habitat-specific actions. • Specific management measures for Kent Biodiversity Strategy habitats and species (e.g. chalk grassland, turtle doves). • Use by DDC Parks and Open Spaces – review of current practices to identify opportunities in which to encourage / enhance biodiversity. Reflected in Parks & Open Spaces Strategy (in development). Need

	<p>to limit duplication of effort / resource in preparation of related Strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider highway verge / reservation biodiversity. • Aim to bring DDC-owned Local Wildlife Sites into positive conservation management, including implementation of Kingsdown and Walmer Beach Local Wildlife Site management plan. • Development of habitat management options that are accessible for town and parish councils (and other land managers) to manage their own landholdings for increased biodiversity benefits. • Promotion of wildlife gardening (link with Kent Wildlife Trust). • Ensure measures are captured to demonstrate adherence to the enhanced NERC Act Biodiversity Duty, for local authorities to 'conserve and enhance biodiversity' • Continue to develop approach to public engagement to communicate reasons for changes in habitat management.
Lead	Head of Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside, DDC
Potential partners / stakeholders	DDC Parks and Open Spaces White Cliffs Countryside Partnership NGOs
Delivery mechanisms	Implemented through the use of appropriate management actions that increase biodiversity in Parks and Open Spaces, active management of DDC local wildlife sites, engagement of town and parish councils (some identified need in consultation)
Potential funding streams	Strategy developed in-house in DDC. Needs to consider / address funding implications for implementation of management actions.
Timescales	Detailed scope of Strategy developed by end of 2024, including consideration of opportunities in which to encourage / enhance biodiversity on DDC landholdings, and assessment of cost implications.
Potential challenges	Public perceptions of changes in habitat management, cost of management actions, potential need to re-distribute existing resources if new funding not available.

Appendix 3

Mapping data used to create Figure 1

Ancient Woodland
Countryside and Rights of Way Act Access Land
DDC Reg 19 Local Plan Open Space
Heritage Coast
Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
Kent Habitat Survey 2012 – BAP habitats
Kent Wildlife Trust Reserves
Local Nature Reserves
Local Wildlife Sites
Marine Conservation Zones
National Nature Reserves
Natural England Priority Habitats Inventory
Parks and Gardens
Ramsar Sites
Rivers
Roadside Nature Reserves
RSPB Sites
Sites of Special Scientific Interest
Special Areas of Conservation
Special Protection Areas
Tree Preservation Orders
Woodland Grant Scheme 3
Woodland Trust Sites