

# E3 East Kent Nature Recovery Report

2024-2025

**DICE**  
University of Kent



E3  
Sharing  
Space for  
Nature



UK Research  
and Innovation



# Contents

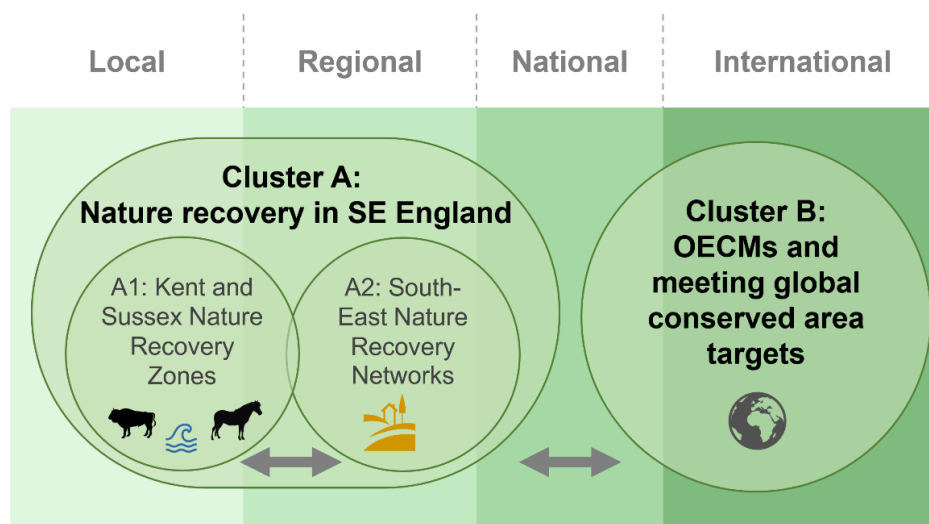
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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 The E3 ‘Sharing Space for Nature’ Research Initiative

In 2024, the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) at the University of Kent was awarded £8.3 million by Research England’s Expanding Excellence in England (E3) for a five-year research initiative titled “*Sharing Space for Nature: enhancing the role of conservation areas in tackling current environmental crises*”. The focus of the initiative stems from the Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) [Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (GBF), which includes a target committing all member states to manage 30% of their land and sea area for nature by 2030 (30-by-30). Achieving this requires a shift in how we design and implement conservation solutions in multifunctional landscapes and seascapes.

Our work aims to generate interdisciplinary research to inform decision-making across [different spatial scales](#), falling within two “clusters” (Figure 1). Cluster A1 focuses on landscape-level nature recovery in Kent and Sussex. This work has a particular focus on East Kent, where we aim to co-produce approaches to understand and establish innovative initiatives for nature recovery, climate change mitigation based on ecosystem restoration, and nature-based business and job creation. This requires understanding East Kent as a social-ecological system and the nature recovery efforts which already exist.



**Figure 1.** The E3 Sharing Space for Nature research clusters.

## 1.2 Report Aims

The aim of this report is to provide an overview of nature recovery in East Kent and the interconnected social, ecological, and economic factors shaping this system. This was developed by engaging with a range of stakeholders involved in relevant work in the area.

Information gathered through engagement with stakeholders has supported the following outcomes:

- Definition of the geographical boundary for the E3 Initiative’s definition of “East Kent”.
- Brief description of the social, ecological, and economic context of the area based on information gathered from September 2024 to 2025.
- Identification of potential topics and areas for focusing regional E3 work and resources.
- Relevant recommendations throughout.

## 2. Nature recovery context

### 2.1 Nature Recovery in the UK

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, with widespread biodiversity loss and degraded ecosystems ([State of Nature reports 2019 & 2023](#)). Nature recovery, defined by Natural England as actions to protect, restore, and sustainably manage the natural environment, has become an urgent national priority ([Natural England 2024](#)). In line with the GBF's goal to "substantially increase the area of natural ecosystems by 2050", nature recovery is an approach that moves beyond traditional conservation, aiming to improve rather than simply protect the state of biodiversity.

This approach is reflected in legislative and policy developments in the UK including:

- [The Environment Act 2021](#) – establishes legal requirements and mechanisms for improving the environment in the UK.
- [Environmental Improvement Plan \(EIP\)](#) – an environmental action plan in England with legally binding targets for nature to be revised every five years.
- [Local Nature Recovery Strategies \(LNRSs\)](#) – a mechanism to guide biodiversity conservation and habitat enhancement at the county level throughout England, mandated as part of the Environment Act.
- [Biodiversity Net Gain \(BNG\)](#) – a requirement for new developments to ensure there is a measurable increase in biodiversity, mandated as part of the Environment Act.
- [30-by-30 commitment](#) – a goal to protect and effectively manage 30% of England's land and sea for nature by 2030 established in the UK's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

### 2.2 Nature Recovery in Kent

Kent is one of the most wildlife-rich counties in England. It supports a wide range of habitats including chalk grasslands, freshwater marshes and coastal estuaries, and holds more ancient woodland than any other English county ([State of Nature in Kent 2021](#)). These habitats are vital in supporting iconic and threatened species. Kent is also renowned for its historic landscapes and rich farming traditions, with the county known as 'The Garden of England'.

Despite this richness, the benefits of Kent's natural heritage are not shared equally. Many urban and coastal districts experience higher unemployment, poorer health outcomes, and more limited access to green space ([Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025](#)). Alongside these inequalities, pressures from urban growth, intensive agriculture, pollution, and the impacts of climate change continue to degrade habitats

and diminish both ecological and human wellbeing ([Climate Change Risk and Impact Assessment for Kent and Medway 2020](#)). This combination of environmental and social challenges makes Kent a microcosm of wider national issues. These overlapping pressures highlight the importance of pursuing nature recovery to also address social and economic inequality and ensure that both people and nature can thrive.

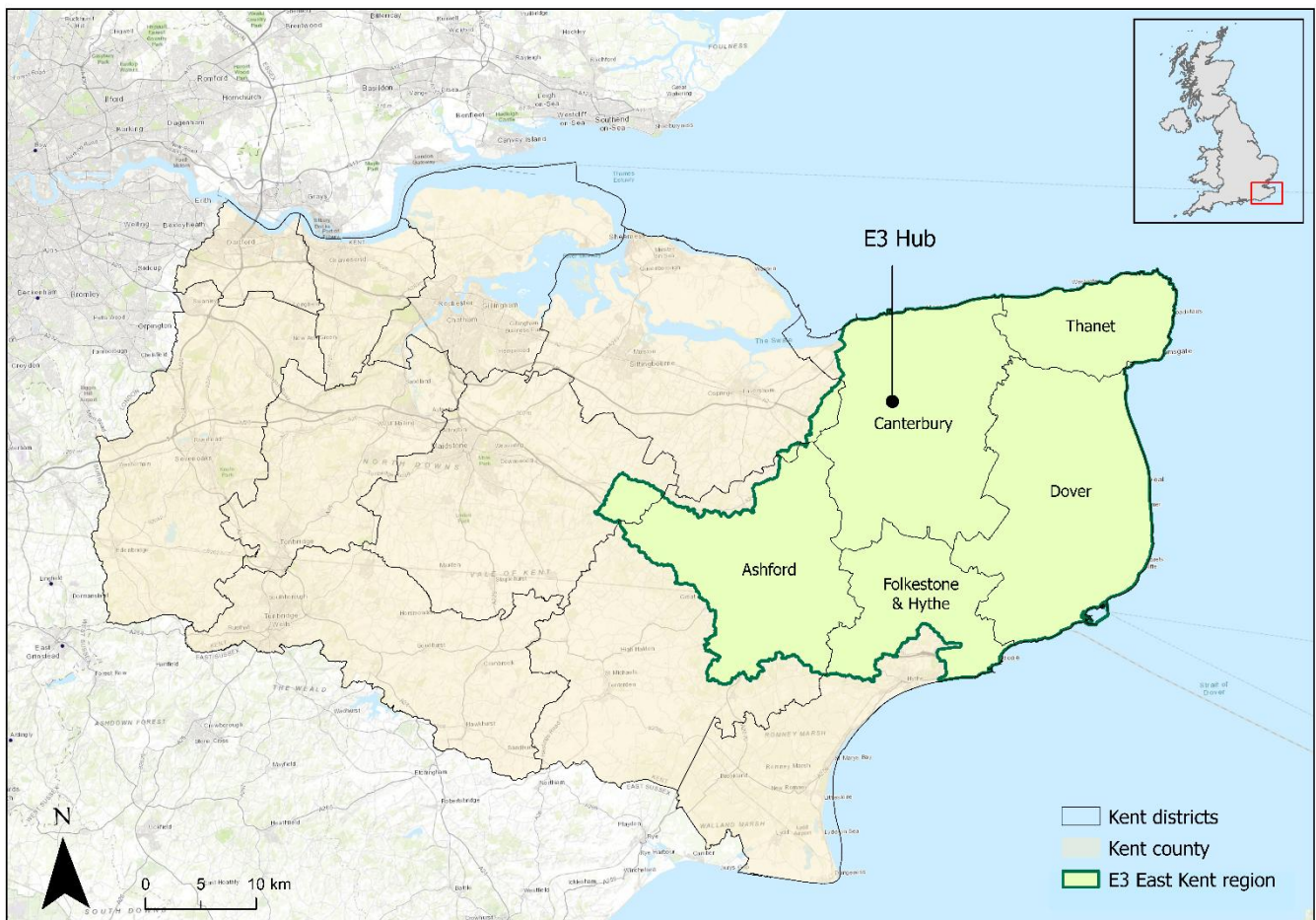
Within Kent, there are a series of county-wide policies and governance frameworks that promote and support nature recovery including:

- [The Kent and Medway LNRS 'Making Space for Nature'](#) - led by Kent County Council to collaboratively set shared nature recovery priorities and environmental improvements to create a network of wildlife-rich places across Kent.
- [Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2045](#) - a 25-year long-term county strategy for maintaining, restoring and creating rich habitats which also boost mental and physical health of residents.
- [Kent's Plan Bee Pollinator Action Plan](#) - an action plan, guidance and tool kit to improve the food sources and general habitat for pollinators in Kent.
- [Kent Downs National Landscape \(AONB\) Management Plan 2021-2026](#) - management targets for biodiversity, community wellbeing and cultural heritage within the national landscape.
- Local districts embed such county-wide policies into their district local plans.

# 3. East Kent as a social-ecological system

## 3.1 Geographic Boundary

The East Kent region for Cluster A1 has been defined based on the boundary of the Environment Agency's [Stour Management Catchment](#) (Figure 2). This area fully covers the three local authorities of [Canterbury City Council](#), [Dover District Council](#), and [Thanet District Council](#), and partially covers [Ashford Borough Council](#) and [Folkestone and Hythe District Council](#).



**Figure 2.** The East Kent region defined for Cluster A1 for the E3 Sharing Space for Nature initiative based on the boundary of the Stour Catchment (dark green). Data from Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer.

Within this region, we aim to better understand the social, ecological and economic contexts of East Kent, and the ways these systems interact. This is a pertinent study area because:

- The E3 Sharing Space for Nature hub is based in Canterbury, giving us a strong local presence and direct connection to established regional partnerships.
- The catchment is already a focal point for conservation and restoration, with many active nature recovery projects.
- The region's socioeconomic divide mirrors national trends.

- Numerous communities in the catchment face significant social deprivation and are vulnerable to climate change impacts.

All of the maps displayed in this section can be accessed as an interactive map app online at [E3 East Kent Nature Recovery](#).

## 3.2 Ecological Significance

### 3.2.1 Statutory and Non-Statutory Designations

East Kent contains a range of statutory and non-statutory designated areas (Figure 3). Statutory designations offer legally binding protection to sites of national and international importance, while non-statutory designations are recognised for their local value but lack legal status, with protection provided through planning policies and common law. Definitions and examples of specific designations found in East Kent are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Definitions and examples of nature designations in East Kent

**Statutory Designations**Local NatureReserves (LNRs)

Designated under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, LNRs are areas with wildlife or geological features of special interest locally, managed for people and wildlife.

**Examples in East Kent**

- \* Whitehall Meadows
- \* Jumping Downs
- \* No Man's Orchard
- \* Tyler Hill Meadow
- \* Prince's Beachlands

MarineConservation Zones (MCZs)

Designated under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, MCZs are areas that protect a range of nationally important, rare, or threatened habitats and species in the marine environment.

- \* Thanet Coast MCZ
- \* Dover to Deal MCZ
- \* Folkestone Pomerania MCZ

NationalLandscapes

Designated under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, National Landscapes are protected to conserve and enhance their natural beauty. They were formally known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

- \* Kent Downs National Landscape
- \* High Weald National Landscape

National NatureReserves (NNRs)

Established under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 or the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, NNRs are areas designated to protect significant habitats and species of national importance.

- \* Stodmarsh NNR
- \* Sandwich & Pegwell Bay NNR
- \* Blean Woods NNR

Ramsar Sites

Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (1971).

- \* Stodmarsh
- \* Thanet Coast & Sandwich Bay
- \* Swale (falls just outside of East Kent)

Special Areas ofConservation(SACs)

Protected areas designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, SACs aim to protect rare, threatened, or vulnerable habitats and species of European importance.

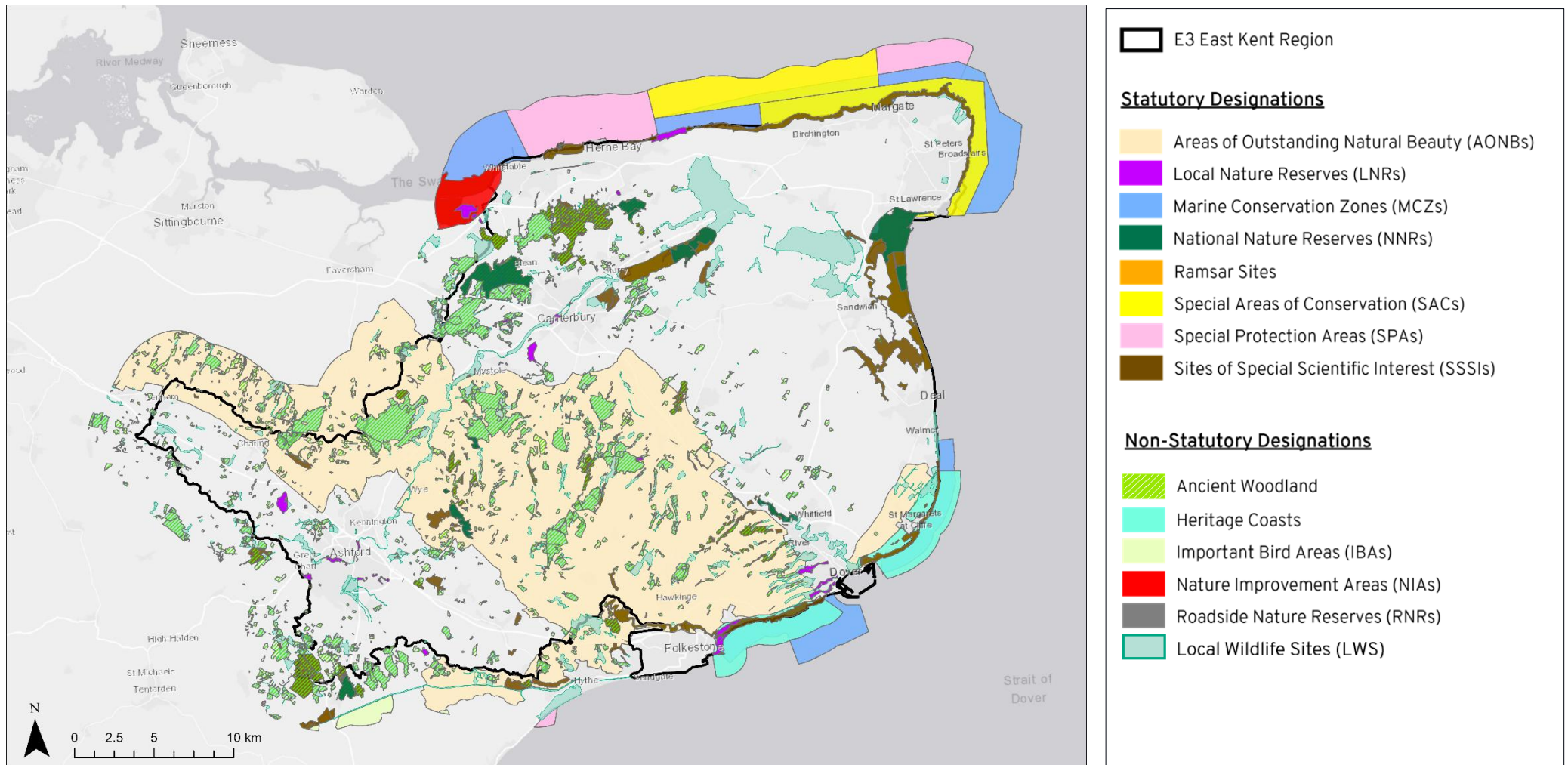
- \* Stodmarsh SAC
- \* Sandwich Bay SAC
- \* Thanet Coast SAC

<a href="#"><u>Special Protection Areas (SPAs)</u></a>	Protected areas classified under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 to protect rare and vulnerable birds and their habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Stodmarsh SPA</li> <li>* Thanet Coast &amp; Sandwich Bay SPA</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)</u></a>	Areas designated for their valuable wildlife, geology, or landforms, offering national protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Stodmarsh SSSI</li> <li>* Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes SSSI</li> <li>* Preston Marshes SSSI</li> </ul>

## **Non-Statutory Designations**

## **Examples in East Kent**

<a href="#"><u>Ancient Woodland</u></a>	Land continuously wooded since at least 1600 AD, valued for its unique biodiversity and heritage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Blean Wood</li> <li>* Littlebourne Wood</li> <li>* Eggring Wood</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Important Bird Areas (IBAs)</u></a>	Sites identified by BirdLife International as globally significant for bird conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* RSPB Dungeness</li> <li>* Sandwich &amp; Pegwell Bay NNR</li> <li>* Stodmarsh NNR</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Heritage Coasts</u></a>	Defined by agreement between maritime local authorities and Natural England, these are established to conserve the best examples of undeveloped coast.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* South Foreland Heritage Coast</li> <li>* Dover-Folkestone Coast</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Local Wildlife Sites</u></a>	Important areas for wildlife conservation in Kent and Medway, which fall outside of other statutory and non-statutory designations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Clowes Wood and Marley Wood</li> <li>* Chislet Marshes, Sarre Penn and Preston Marshes</li> <li>* Walmer and Kingsdown Golf Course</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)</u></a>	Large, landscape-scale projects enhancing and connecting natural habitats for wildlife and people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Greater Thames Marshes NIA (a very small part lies in East Kent)</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs)</u></a>	Verges managed to protect rare plants and wildlife along transport routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* None named but Kent Wildlife Trust have a map <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>

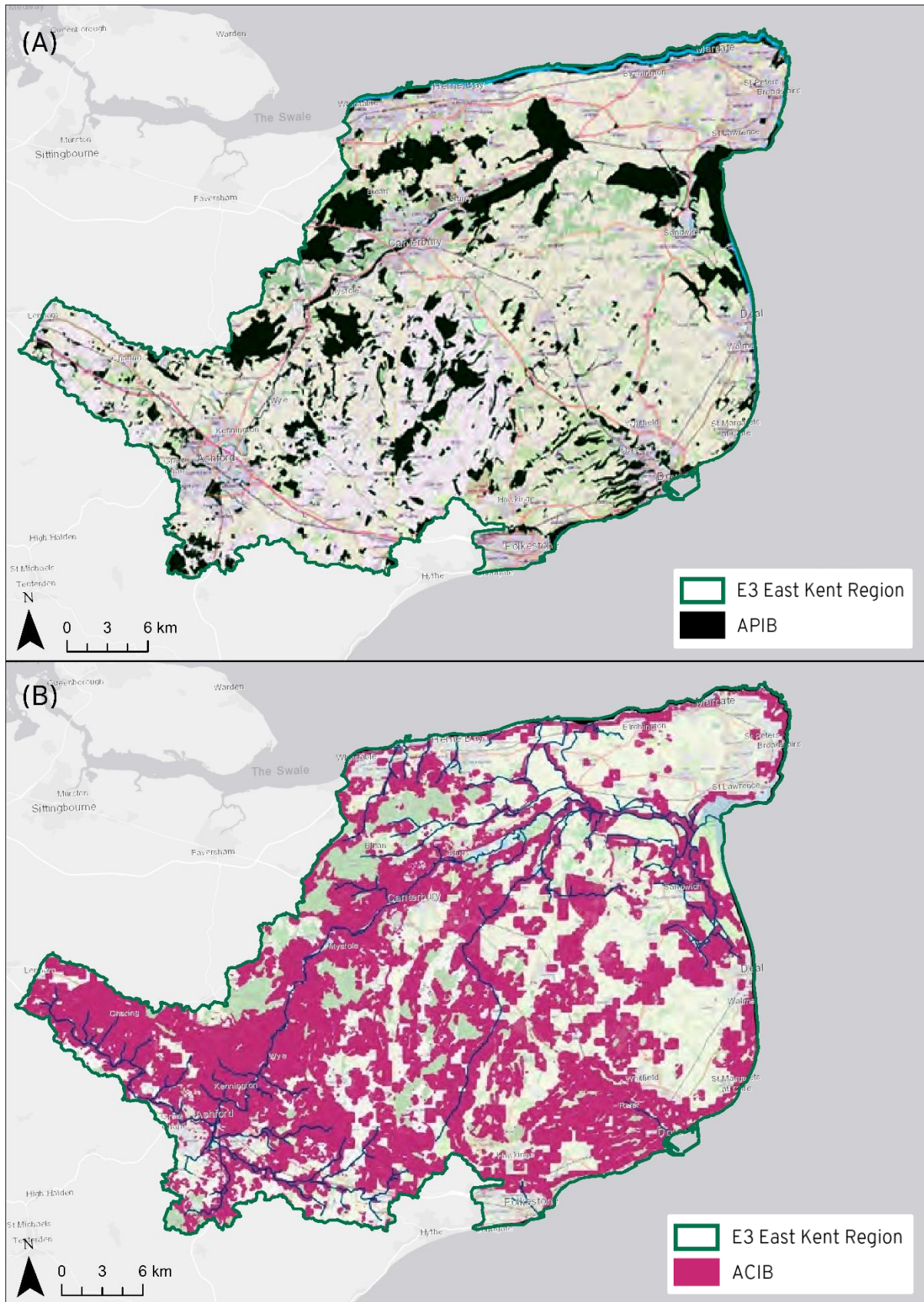


**Figure 3.** Statutory and non-statutory designated areas within the E3 East Kent boundary and a 3km buffer (some overlapping designations may not be fully visible). LWS data copyright of Kent Wildlife Trust, 2025; all other data from Natural England Open Data Geoportal.

### 3.2.2 Habitats and Species

East Kent supports a range of the UK's priority natural environments, including chalk grasslands, ancient woodlands, lowland heath, saltmarshes, estuaries, and freshwater wetlands. These habitats support rare and threatened species, including the Adonis blue butterfly, turtle dove, marsh harrier, greater horseshoe bat, dormouse and man orchid ([UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species 2007](#)). According to the [State of Nature in Kent 2021](#), the county supports more species of conservation concern than most other parts of England, and many of these are found in East Kent.

Such habitats and species were taken into account during the development of the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), 'Making Space for Nature'. Led by Kent County Council and involving over 1,000 stakeholders, the Kent LNRS aims to create a network of wildlife-rich places across the county. The process identified areas of particular importance for biodiversity (APIB) and areas that could become of importance for biodiversity (ACIB) which are visible on an [interactive webmap](#). A large proportion of the E3 East Kent region falls within ACIB (Figure 4), i.e. should be the focus of future nature recovery efforts.



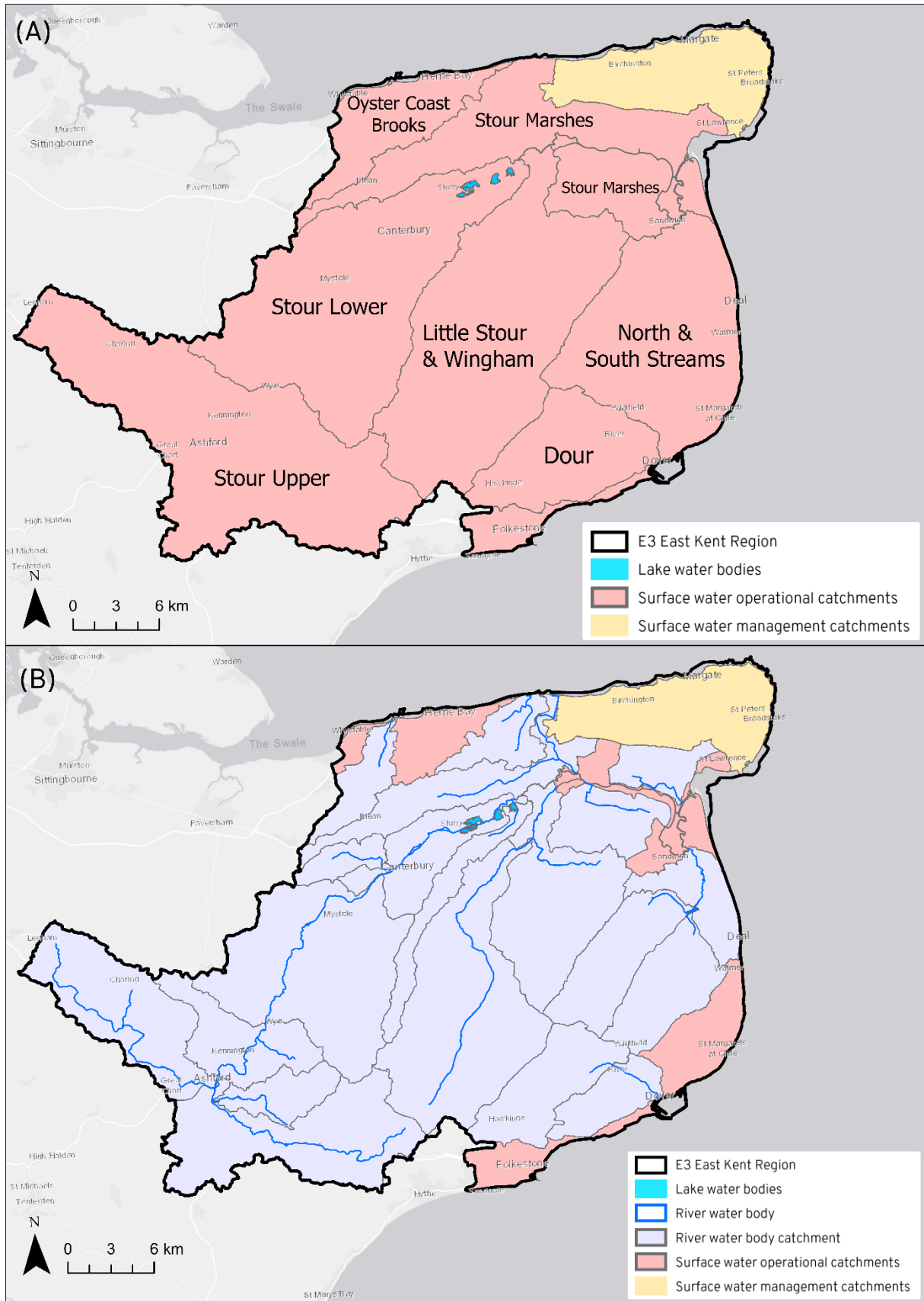
**Figure 4.** The (A) Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB) and; (B) Areas that Could be Important for Biodiversity (ACIB) identified in the Kent and Medway ‘Making Space for Nature’ Local Nature Recovery Strategy with the E3 East Kent boundary overlaid. Data were digitised from LNRS consultation documents and may have slight inaccuracies.

### 3.2.3 Water Quality and Availability

The [Stour Management Catchment](#) forms the geographic focus of the E3 Sharing Space for Nature initiative. It includes multiple lakes, river bodies and seven operational catchments (Table 2), namely the Dour, Little Stour and Wingham, North and South Streams, Oyster Coast Brooks, Stour Lower, Stour Marshes and Stour Upper (Figure 5). The Great Stour River and its tributaries flow through urban centres, agricultural land, and protected nature reserves such as Stodmarsh. The catchment plays a vital role in supporting wildlife, reducing flood risks and regulating water quality, where 80% of the area's drinking water is supplied by groundwater ([Defra 2025](#)). Given that East Kent is one of the driest parts of the country ([Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership 2018](#)), it is critical that water use is managed closely to support water availability in the natural environment.

**Table 2.** The different types of water management units found within the Stour catchment and their definitions according to the Water Framework Directive and the Environment Agency.

Type of water management unit (smallest to largest)	Definition
Lake water bodies	Individual standing water features designated under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), such as reservoirs, large ponds, and natural lakes.
River water bodies	Stretches of rivers and streams defined as discrete management units under the WFD.
River water body catchments	The land area that drains into a single river water body.
Surface water operational catchments	Sub-catchments defined by the Environment Agency for day-to-day water management and planning.
Surface water management catchments	Larger aggregations of operational catchments used for strategic water planning, reporting, and River Basin Management Plans.

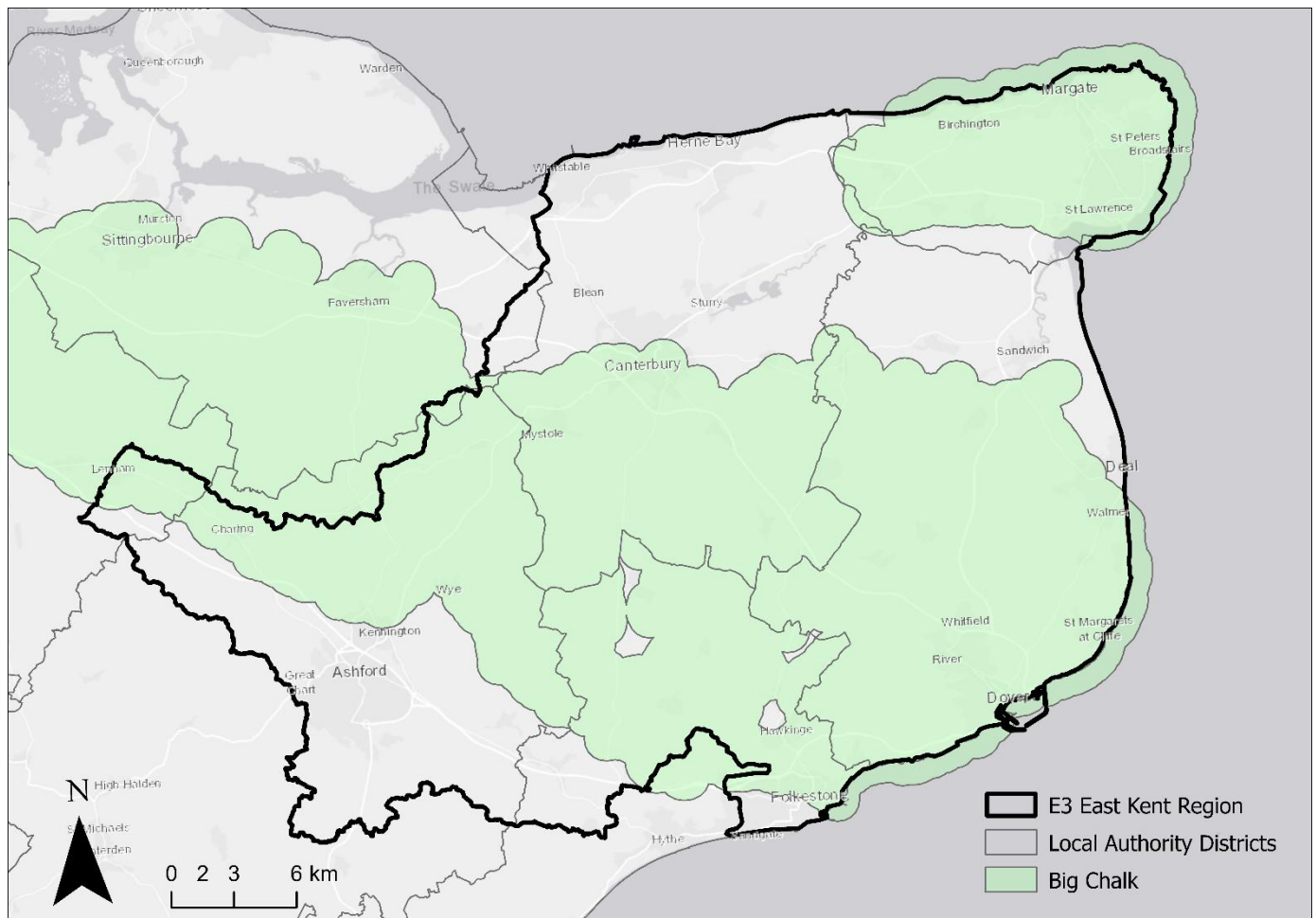


**Figure 5.** The Stour Catchment in East Kent with the (A) seven operational catchments, and (B) the river systems. The surface water management catchment (pale orange) also includes all surface water operational catchments (pale pink). Data from Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer.

### 3.2.4 Landscape Connectivity

East Kent's coastal location makes it a strategic area for ecological connectivity, a key goal of the Environment Act 2021. Sites like Sandwich Bay and Pegwell Bay are vital stopovers for migratory birds along the [East Atlantic Flyway](#), while the Stour Valley's wetland network links inland habitats to the coast, enabling species movement and landscape-scale recovery ([Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership 2025](#)).

Improving connectivity between chalk habitats is a focus of nature recovery efforts in the region. This includes the [Chalk to Coast](#) and [Big Chalk](#) projects. The latter is led by the National Landscapes Association and seeks to connect and restore chalk and limestone landscapes across southern England. The project has identified chalk landscapes in East Kent that span much of the E3 region and encompass most of the Thanet district (Figure 6).



**Figure 6.** The land area of Big Chalk within and outside the E3 East Kent region. Data supplied by Big Chalk.

Efforts are also underway to connect East Kent's chalk landscapes at an international scale. The chalk habitats of East Kent, including the White Cliffs of Dover, are historically linked across the Channel to the downlands of northern France ([Kent Downs 2024](#)). This [cross-Channel chalk corridor](#) has been recognised by the Kent Downs National Landscape as an area of exceptional conservation value. Together with the Parc Naturel Régional des Caps et Marais d'Opale, and in partnership with a number of stakeholder groups, the Kent Downs are working to secure Cross-Channel UNESCO Global Geopark status for the site, making it the first UNESCO Global Geopark site not connected by a land boundary (Figure 7). Such recognition could help strengthen habitat and species protection and create awareness within local communities on the ecological and cultural significance of chalk landscapes.



**Figure 7.** The proposed Cross Channel Geopark by the Kent Downs National Landscape that connects chalk landscapes between East Kent and northern France.

## 3.3 Social Significance

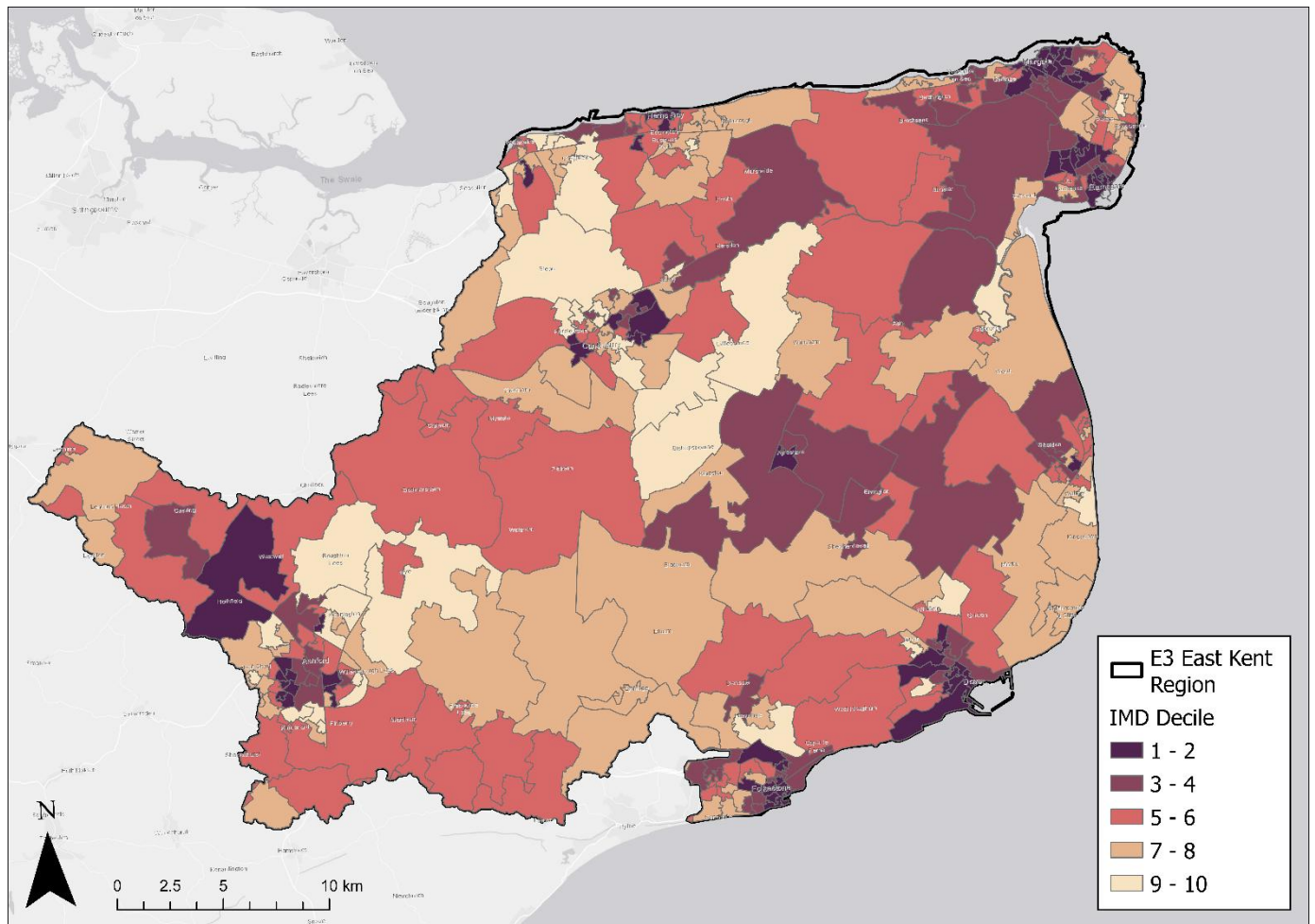
### 3.3.1 Historical and Cultural Identity

Communities in East Kent have deep historical and cultural connections to the landscape. This includes [medieval pilgrimage routes](#) like the Way of St Augustine, literary landscapes such as linked to the writing of Charles Dickens, and [artistic](#) pieces inspired by the region's coastline and scenery.

### 3.3.2 Community Deprivation

While Kent is often viewed as rural and affluent, East Kent contains some of the most deprived communities in England. The [Index of Multiple Deprivation \(IMD\)](#) ranks small geographical areas across the UK according to factors such as income, employment, and health. Using the IMD 2019 dataset, deprivation in East Kent is highest in coastal and urbanised areas, particularly within Thanet, Dover, and Ashford districts, and lowest in more rural areas, notably within Canterbury district (Figure 8).

Thanet has the highest proportion of residents in Kent with a limiting long-term health condition ([2021 Census](#)). Such areas also experience high unemployment, lower educational attainment, and reduced life expectancy. Urban development can further fragment green spaces and limit access to nature, negatively affecting mental wellbeing. This is especially evident in Thanet, the second most urbanised district in Kent by land area ([Kent Analytics Kent County Council 2022a](#)). Often, the communities that could benefit most from nature have the least opportunity to experience it. Restoring and reconnecting green spaces will be vital to improving health, wellbeing, and supporting a fairer, more inclusive East Kent.

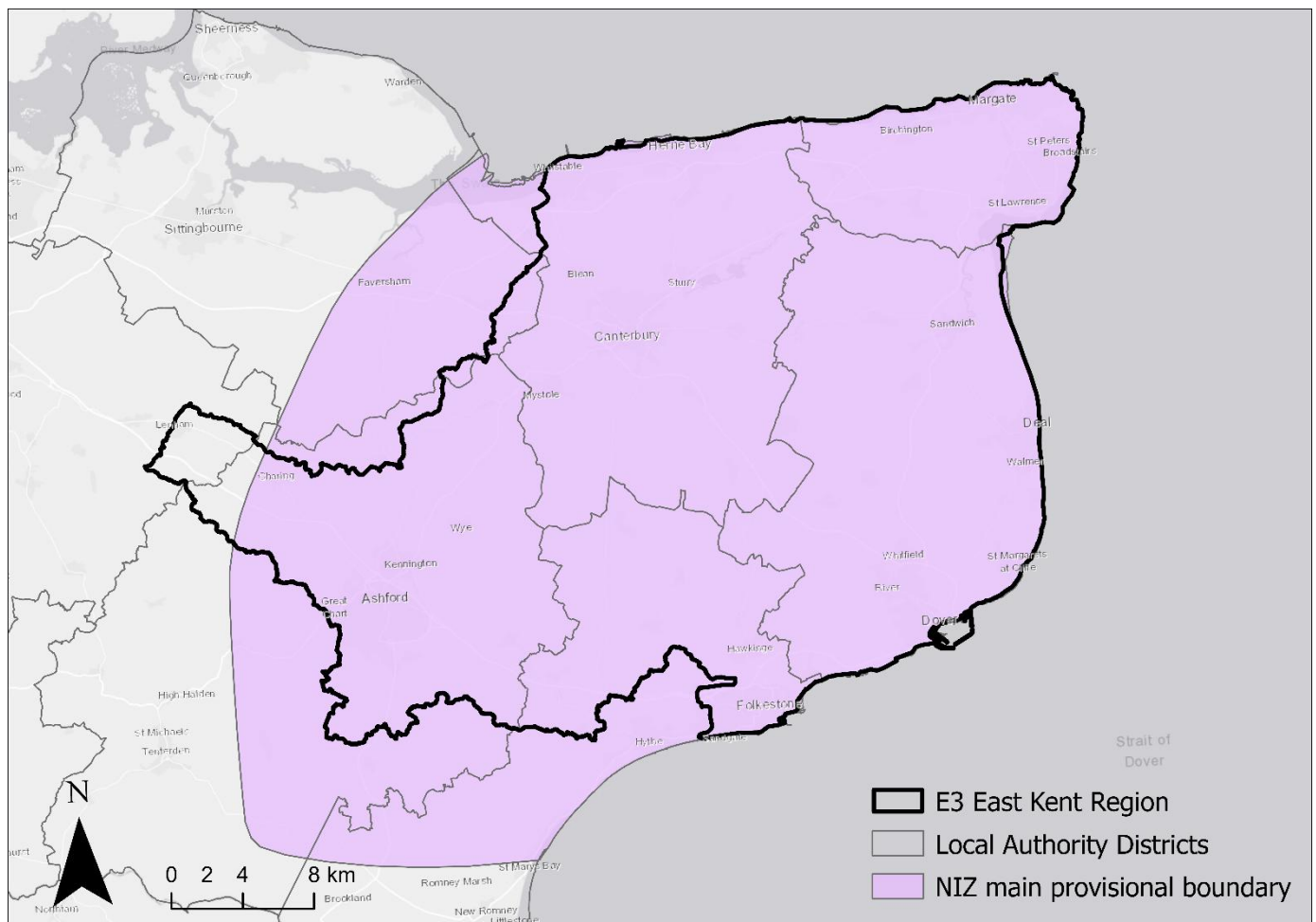


**Figure 8.** The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) (2019) in the E3 East Kent region where decile 1 represents the most deprived 10% of areas and decile 10 represents the least deprived 10% of areas.

### 3.4 Economic Significance

East Kent's economy depends on several key sectors, including agriculture, tourism, and transport. The Port of Dover handles over a third of all UK trade with the EU ([Port of Dover Annual Report 2023](#)), while the Canterbury district attracts the highest number of domestic and overseas visitors in Kent ([Visit Kent Tourism Impact Report 2023](#)). While these industries drive economic growth, they can also create environmental pressures, including habitat loss, pollution, and increased carbon emissions.

Nature recovery can provide a pathway to reduce these environmental impacts and support sustainable development. For example, agri-environment schemes can help landowners boost biodiversity, improve soil health, and increase farm resilience to changing circumstances ([Defra 2024](#)). Kent Wildlife Trust are developing an East Kent [Nature Investment Zone](#) that aims to connect investors, landowners, and stakeholders to fund landscape-scale restoration within the East Kent region (Figure 9). Embedding nature recovery into economic planning like this will be essential to attract investment and support environmental health with sustainable growth.



**Figure 9.** The provisional boundary for the East Kent Nature Investment Zone (NIZ) by Kent Wildlife Trust.

## 3.5 Threats and Pressures

### 3.5.1 Climate Change

East Kent faces intensifying climate impacts including hotter summers (up to +5–6 °C by 2080), wetter winters (+20–30%) and sea level- rise (~0.8 m) ([Climate Change Risk and Impact Assessment for Kent and Medway 2020](#)). [Climate Central](#)'s predictive maps show that low-lying areas of East Kent, particularly around Sandwich, Pegwell Bay, and across large parts of the Thanet district, are highly vulnerable to future sea level rise (Figure 10). The [Social Flood Risk Index \(SFRI\)](#) further highlights communities where flood exposure overlaps with social disadvantage, including parts of Deal, Herne Bay, and Thanet district (Figure 11). These areas are not only at a higher risk of flooding but also face greater challenges in preparing for and recovering from floods. The [River Stour Catchment Flood Management Plan](#) also highlights severe flood risk for Canterbury district residents. Nature recovery actions, like restoring floodplain wetlands, can buffer these effects by slowing and storing floodwater, protecting shorelines, and supporting more resilient landscapes and communities.



Figure 10. Climate Central map showing the areas of land predicted to be below annual flood level by 2050 (in red).

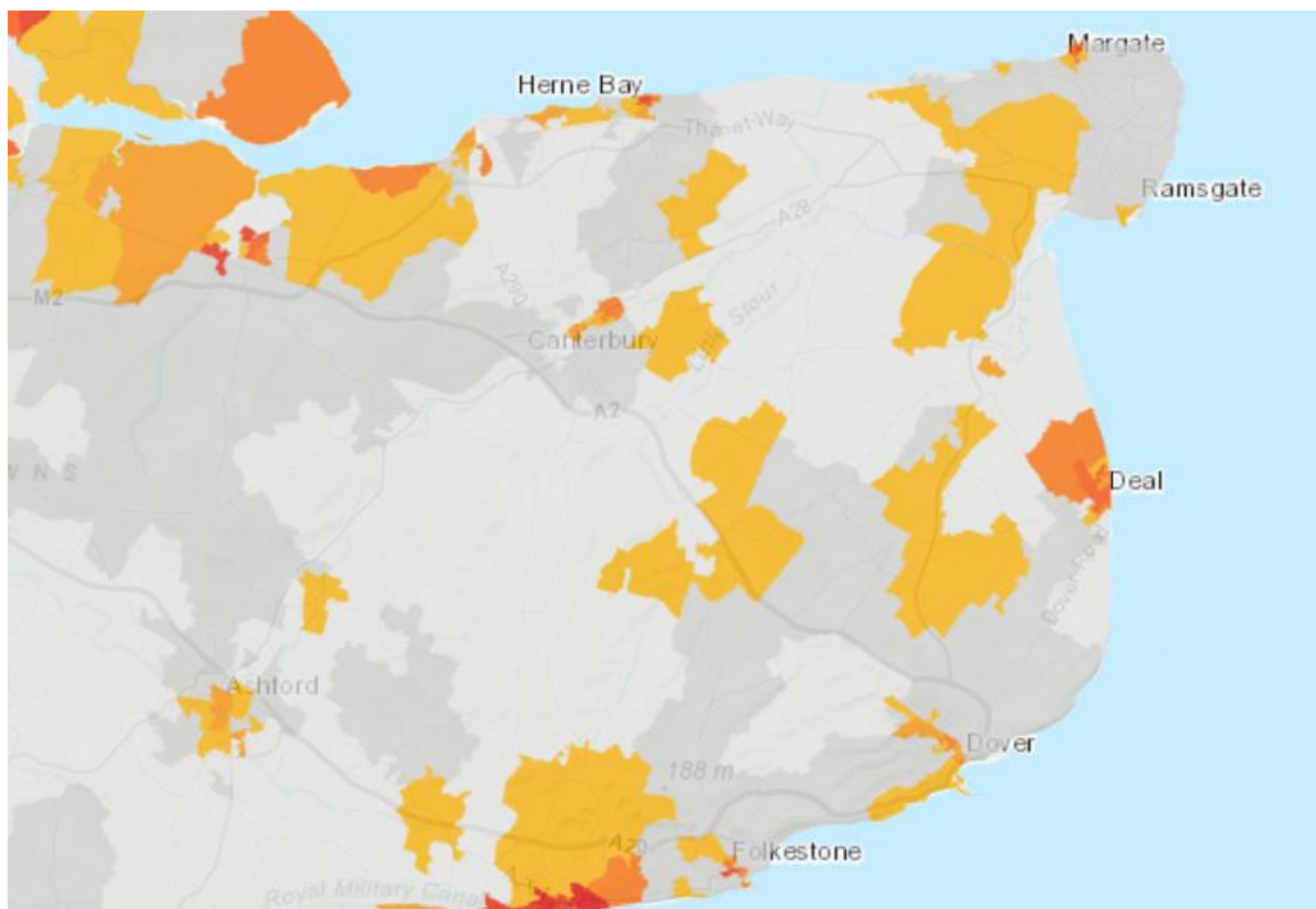


Figure 11. The Social Flooding Risk Index highlights areas where social disadvantage and flood risk overlap. Lighter colours indicate a lower risk versus darker colours indicating a higher risk.

### 3.5.2 Agriculture

Agriculture is the dominant land use across East Kent, covering 60–70% of non-developed land ([Kent Analytics Kent County Council 2022a](#)). While vital for livelihoods and food production, intensive farming has impacts on the environment. The [Stour Catchment Plan \(2018\)](#) highlights pesticide runoff, nutrient leaching, and water over-abstraction as major pressures on water quality and availability. This presents an opportunity for nature recovery through regenerative farming, rewilding, and habitat restoration. Local initiatives, such as [farm cluster engagement](#) by the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and [nutrient mitigation strategies](#) from Kent County Council’s Nutrient Neutrality Working Group, show how sustainable land management is being used to help address these impacts.

### 3.5.3 Land Use Change

East Kent faces increasing land use pressure from housing, road development, and agricultural expansion. Between 2019 and 2022, 78% of new homes in Ashford were built on undeveloped land, while 54% in Canterbury were on brownfield sites ([Kent Analytics Kent County Council 2022b](#)). Such growth can lead to habitat loss and fragmentation, threatening associated species ([Wildwood Trust 2023](#)). Incorporating nature recovery into development decisions through spatial planning and nature-based solutions, like

hedgerow restoration and buffer zones, can help prevent this. Kent's ['Making Space for Nature'](#) project is an example of how local authorities are identifying and protecting key ecological networks amid growing development pressures.

### **3.5.4 Community and Tourism Impacts**

Tourism is a key part of East Kent's economy, with over 90% of residents in Canterbury, Thanet and Dover districts recognising their area as a tourist destination ([Visit Kent - Canterbury 2023](#); [Visit Kent - Thanet 2023](#); [Visit Kent - Dover 2023](#)). While support for tourism remains strong for most residents in East Kent, over half are concerned about its impact on the natural environment including wildlife disturbance, overcrowding, and parking pressure. For example, visitor behaviour in Sandwich and Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve such as walking across mudflats and walking dogs off leads are actively causing disturbance to threatened species ([Kent Wildlife Trust 2024](#)). Nature-sensitive tourism approaches including eco-tourism, improved public transport, and off-season activities will be key to reduce pressure on sensitive sites.

## 4. Current nature recovery projects in East Kent

### 4.1 East Kent Nature Recovery Projects

We engaged with a range of stakeholders who are delivering large, landscape-scale nature recovery projects within the E3 East Kent boundary. A summary of these is presented in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Summary of stakeholder-led nature recovery projects identified within the E3 East Kent region.

Landscape project	Summary of project
<a href="#"><u>Making Space for Nature</u></a>	Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway is the county's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), a government-required plan for all English counties to guide nature restoration and conservation. Led by Kent County Council in partnership with conservation groups, local authorities, and communities, it highlights key areas such as areas of particular importance for biodiversity (APIB) and areas that could become of importance for biodiversity (ACIB). The strategy aims to create connected, resilient habitats that safeguard Kent's wildlife for the future.
<a href="#"><u>Wilder Blean</u></a>	The Wilder Blean project, led by Kent Wildlife Trust in partnership with Wildwood Trust, is a pioneering rewilding initiative in the Blean Woods near Canterbury. It aims to restore natural habitats and boost biodiversity by introducing species such as European bison, which help manage woodland through their natural behaviours. By creating a wilder, more diverse ecosystem, the project supports wildlife, enhances carbon storage, and offers new opportunities for eco-tourism and community engagement.
<a href="#"><u>Big Chalk</u></a>	Hosted by the National Landscapes Association, the Big Chalk project comprises more than 150 organisations with a common vision of creating thriving chalk and limestone landscapes across southern England. Uniting resources and expertise, and covering a fifth of England, Big Chalk aims to build a dynamic nature recovery network that will be central to the UK's pledge to protect 30% of land and halt the decline of nature by 2030.
<a href="#"><u>Stour Valley Restore</u></a>	Stour Valley Restore is a new scheme being developed by the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership. It will aim to bring about positive change for the Stour Valley and its important natural and cultural heritage. This landscape is under increasing pressure from a number of factors, including drought, climate change, invasive species, pollution, and wildlife declines. Their key themes include landscape restoration, species recovery, heritage and landscape, learning and creativity, and access and visiting.
<a href="#"><u>The Cross-Channel</u></a>	The Kent Downs National Landscape are working with their neighbouring protected landscape in France, the Parc Naturel Regional des Caps et Marais d'Opale, to

<a href="#"><u>UNESCO Global GeoPark</u></a>	<p>secure a Cross-Channel UNESCO Global Geopark across both land and sea. This partnership celebrates the geological connection between the two sites including shared chalk landscapes and ancient woodlands. The designation will promote sustainable tourism, education, and will connect people with the land’s geological history.</p>
<a href="#"><u>Stodmarsh Catchment Nutrient Neutrality</u></a>	<p>The Stodmarsh Catchment nutrient neutrality programme aims to protect its internationally important wetlands from excess nitrogen and phosphorus from development wastewater. Since 2020, all new housing here must be “nutrient neutral” to avoid further harm. Kent County Council, Natural England, and other partners have £9.8 million to fund solutions like wetlands, septic tank upgrades, water efficiency measures, and floodplain meadows to support sustainable housing growth while protecting and restoring Stodmarsh’s unique wetland habitats.</p>
<a href="#"><u>The Wildwood Trust Species Reintroductions</u></a>	<p>The Wildwood Trust, based near Canterbury, is dedicated to rewilding and restoring wildlife across Kent. Their work combines habitat restoration, species reintroduction, and public engagement. Specifically in East Kent, they co-lead the pioneering Wilder Blean project, introducing European bison, Exmoor ponies, and iron-age pigs to restore natural woodland processes. Along the Dover coastline, they are working to reintroduce the red-billed chough, a once-extinct bird in Kent, as part of chalk grassland restoration.</p>



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