

Kent Biodiversity Action Plan – 28 Priority Habitats

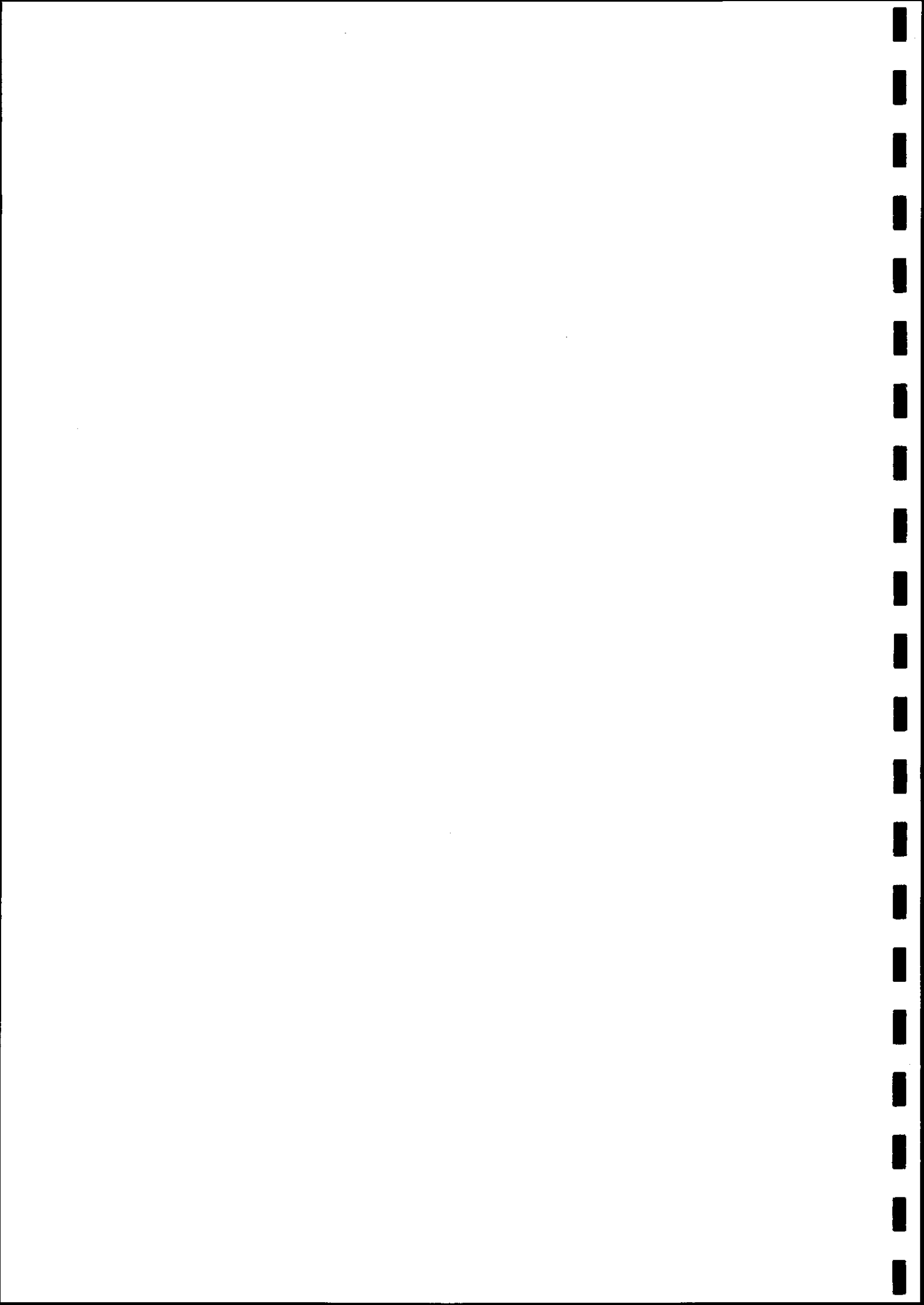
A web based document
<http://www.kentbap.org.uk/>

Kent is home to 28 UK BAP priority habitats...

which are now the focus of Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) produced by the Kent Biodiversity Partnership.

Each HAP sets out the steps needed to secure a healthy future for the habitat and for the wildlife that depends on the habitat for their survival. They provide up-to-date information on:

- the state of the habitat;
- the positive and negative factors affecting the habitat;
- the current action taking place to conserve the habitat;
- the objectives of the plan; and
- the details of the lead partner organisation and working group members involved.



1. Ancient &/or Species Rich Hedgerows



2. Built-Up Areas & Gardens



3. Cereal Field Margins



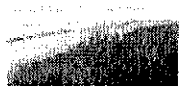
4. Chalk Rivers



5. Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh



6. Coastal Saltmarsh



7. Coastal Sand Dunes



8. Coastal Vegetated Shingle



9. Littoral & Sublittoral Chalk



10. Lowland Beech & Yew Woodland



11. Lowland Calcareous Grassland



12. Lowland Dry Acid Grassland



13. Lowland Fens



14. Lowland Heath



15. Lowland Meadow



16. Lowland Wood-Pasture & Parkland



17. Maritime Cliff & Slope



18. Marine



19. Mixed Broadleaved Woodland & Plantations



20. Mudflats



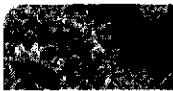
21. Old Orchards



22. Reedbeds



23. *Sabellaria alveolata* Reefs



24. *Sabellaria spinulosa* Reefs



25. Saline Lagoons



26. Seagrass Beds



27. Standing Open Water



28. Wet Woodland

Ancient &/or Species-Rich Hedgerows Action Plan

Objective 1: Ensure no net loss of ancient &/or species-rich hedgerows in Kent.

Target: Determine complete extent and condition of ancient &/or species-rich hedgerows in Kent, establish short, medium and long-term targets to ensure there is no net loss of this habitat.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Policy							
1. Ensure that hedgerow removal applications are considered in light of the ecological requirements of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.	2004	Ongoing	KCC	LAS	Nil		
2. Raise awareness to the legislative requirements of farmers and local authorities in protecting ancient &/or species-rich hedgerows.	2005		KCC	LAs, Kent & Sussex FWAG, CLA, NFU, CMPs			
Data & monitoring							
3. Determine the extent and condition of ancient &/or species-rich hedgerows in Kent building on 1) Defra survey data, 2) data contained within the KWHS (1995) and 3) local survey data.	2007	2010	KCC	High Weald CMP, North Kent Downs CMP	Tbd		
Land management							
4. Publish and promote the extent and condition of ancient &/or species-rich hedgerows in Kent, developing short, medium and long-term targets to ensure their preservation.	2007	2010	KBP	CMPs, K&MBRC			

- Objective 2:** Continue to encourage the positive management, restoration and re-creation of hedgerows. Priority should be given to:
- ancient &/or species-rich hedgerows;
 - hedgerows which reconnect other habitats;
 - Hedgerows that form a key feature of the landscape character, e.g. Low Weald, in particular where these have been removed due to agricultural intensification.

Target:

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Advisory Services							
5. Provide farmers one-to-one advice on the positive management of hedgerows.	2004	Ongoing	Kent & Sussex FWAG	CMPs, Defra RDS, Game Conservancy			
6. Provide farmers and landowners practical guides on hedgerow planting.	2004	Ongoing	CMPs				
7. Promote the services of rural advisors in the form of a Kent Rural Directory.	2004	2004	KCC				
8. Promote the restoration of ancient hedgerows in Kent and encourage the planting of new hedgerows through uptake of Environmental Stewardship.	2005		Defra RDS	Kent & Sussex FWAG, CLA, NFU, RSPB			
9. Monitor the delivery of targets for the conservation of hedgerows and as part of Environmental Stewardship.	2005		Defra RDS		In-kind		
10. Acknowledge and encourage hedgerow re-creation and the planting of new hedgerows to create favourable habitats for biodiversity.			Kent & Sussex FWAG	CLA, NFU, RSPB			

Objective 3: Raise awareness to the benefits of a positively managed ancient &/or species-rich hedgerows for biodiversity and farming in Kent.

Target:

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
11. Promote, via the NFU and CLA bulletins to members, the events and activities relevant to the conservation of ancient &/or species-rich hedgerows and biodiversity in Kent.	2004	Ongoing	Kent & Sussex FWAG	NFU, CLA	In kind		

Key

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
EN	English Nature
CLA	Country Land and Business Association
CMPs	Countryside Management Projects
Defra RDS	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Rural Development Service
FWAG	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
KBP	Kent Biodiversity Partnership
KCC	Kent County Council
K&MBRC	Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities
NFU	National Farmers Union
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

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Implementers	Partners directly involved in the delivery of an action in the HAP or SAP.

Built-Up Areas & Gardens Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain and enhance the current extent and quality of natural and semi-natural habitats within built-up areas & gardens.

Target: Ensure no net loss of natural and semi-natural habitats in built-up areas & gardens.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Policy							
1. Ensure development results in a net gain of wildlife habitats.	2004	Ongoing	LAs	KCC, KWT, EN, RSPB, EA			
2. Co-ordinate a working-group to develop good practice for biodiversity design, inputting this as part of the review of the Kent Design Guide.	2005	2006	KCC	HAP working group			
3. Adopt good practice for biodiversity design, incorporated as part of Kent Design Guide.	2005	Ongoing	LAs				
Land Management							
4. Encourage local authorities to set up their own roadside conservation scheme where this would further complement the Kent Wildlife Trust's initiative. Ensure that there is communication between the two.	2006	Ongoing		LAs, KWT			
5. Support the work of the Tree Warden Scheme, ensuring appropriate links between tree wardens and land managers.	2004	Ongoing	BTCV	LAs			

6. Consider the introduction of the Tree Warden Scheme to all urban areas in Kent.	2006	Ongoing	BTCV	LAs			
7. Conserve and enhance existing Local Nature Reserves (LNR), ensuring their positive management for wildlife.	2004	Ongoing	LAs				

Objective 2: Improve the biodiversity of built-up areas & gardens by increasing awareness to the benefits of, and encouraging, management sympathetic to wildlife.

Target: Increase the extent and quality of semi-natural and natural habitats within built-up areas & gardens.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Land management							
8. Designate urban Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) where sites meet published LWS selection standards.	2004	Ongoing	KWT	KWT, LAS			
9. Designate new LNRs ensuring their positive management for wildlife.	2004	Ongoing	LAs				
10. Promote and encourage landowners and local planning authorities to use Kent Landscape Information System (KLIS) in identifying where there is opportunity for habitat enhancement and creation in built-up areas (www.kent.gov.uk/klis .)	2004	Ongoing	KCC	EN, LAs			
Education and awareness raising							
11. Promote and extend the Gardening for Wildlife initiative.	2004	Ongoing	KWT	KCC, LAs,			
12. Provide advice and guidance on how to garden with wildlife in mind.	2004	Ongoing	EN				
13. Provide advice and guidance on how to garden with wildlife in mind.	2004	Ongoing	RSPB				

Objective 3: Raise the profile of positive planning for biodiversity in accordance with planning policy guidance/statements.

Target:

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Policy							
14. Ensure that development results in net gain of wildlife habitats.	2004	Ongoing	LAs	KCC, KWT, EN, RSPB, EA			
15. Work with delivery boards to promote and deliver targeted biodiversity gains as a part of plans for large-scale growth.	2004		KBP			The KWT has led the production of Wildlife Charters for Thames Gateway and Ashford. A Business & Biodiversity Adviser has been appointed and is working with Ashford Futures on a Green Charter.	
16. Ensure that all Local Development Frameworks (LDF) have positive policies for the maintenance and enhancement of urban biodiversity and urban wildlife habitats.	2005	Ongoing	Kent BAP Co-ordinator	LAs			
17. Develop local policies within Local Development Frameworks and the Water Framework Directive to ensure rehabilitation strategies for watercourses in built-up areas.	2005	Ongoing	LAs	KCC, EA			

Land management												
18. Select brownfield sites suitable for restoration ensuring that existing value of biodiversity is not compromised. Consider appropriate designation if necessary.	2004	Ongoing	EN	KFC, KWT, LAS								
19. Make the most of opportunities for wildlife enhancement as part of the restoration of 'brownfield' sites.	2004	Ongoing	Land Restoration Trust									
Education and awareness raising												
20. Arrange training sessions for all Kent LA Officers, raising awareness to the importance of biodiversity legislation and good practice.	2004	Ongoing	KCC, EN							One training session held by EN and KCC.		
21. Promote existing fact sheets and information on European and UK protected species, habitat issues and development, for example <i>Badgers & Development</i> produced by EN.	2004	Ongoing	EN	All								
22. Produce fact sheets for developers on how to consider 1) European protected species, 2) reptiles and 3) badgers in the development application process. If thought to be successful, disseminate wider and to other LAs.	2004	2006	DDC	KWT, LAS						One fact sheet has already been finished (European protected species)		
23. Develop and promote a requirement for developers to submit a statement setting out the positive contribution that their development will make to biodiversity.	2006		KPOG	DDC, T&MBC								

Objective 4: Inform and influence the planning of existing and new public open space by encouraging the adoption of appropriate accessible natural green space standards (ANGSt) in all urban areas to ensure that biodiversity is adequately considered within open space strategies required by PPG17.

Target:

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Policy							
24. Facilitate the assessment of ANGSt in every local planning authority and as a standard informing the open space strategy.	2003		KCC	EN		An assessment of ANGSt has been completed in Canterbury, Swale, Maidstone, Medway and Ashford.	
25. Ensure all LDFs include a target to meet ANGSt.	2004	Ongoing	LAs				
26. Protect natural open space, and provide new, accessible natural open space to form part of all major development proposals.	2004	Ongoing	LAs				
27. Consider management/provision/enhancement of natural open space as part of any proposal for open space provision or management.	2004	Ongoing	LAs				
28. Review the long-term management of open space for biodiversity to ensure positive management for wildlife through urban wildlife surveys.	2006	Ongoing	LAs				

Objective 5: Ensure biodiversity is incorporated in the development of Kent's community strategies.

Target:

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Policy							
29. Promote the Kent BAP and 'Community Strategies and Kent's natural environment' document to local strategic partnerships.	2005	2005	Kent BAP Co-ordinator	LAs			
Education and awareness raising							
30. Support and encourage community management projects for nature conservation.	2004	Ongoing	CMPs	BTCV, KWT, LAs, KCC			

Objective 6: Promote the importance of biodiversity as a component of the Sustainable Communities agenda.

Target:

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
31. Promote the Building for Nature project and good practice for biodiversity as a consideration in sustainable construction.	2004	Ongoing	SEEDA	KWT			
32. Deliver the Business & Biodiversity initiative in Ashford, working with developers and local businesses resulting in benefits for biodiversity.	2004	2007	KCC	EN, SEEDA, KSBP			
33. Take forward the recommendations of a Diversity Review completed by the Countryside Agency.	2006	-	KCC	LAs			
34. Implement local action for biodiversity and deliver the objectives of the Liveability Agenda.	2005	-	LAs				

Key

BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
EA	Environment Agency
EN	English Nature
CMs	Countryside Management Projects
DDC	Dover District Council
KBP	Kent Biodiversity Partnership
KCC	Kent County Council
KSBP	Kent Sustainable Business Partnership
KPOG	Kent Planning Officers Group
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SEEDA	South East of England Development Agency
T&MBC	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

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Cereal Field Margins Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain, enhance and create the area of cereal field margins being positively managed for wildlife in Kent.

Target:

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
1. Encourage the positive management of cereal field margins both within Cross Compliance regulation and Environmental Stewardship Agri-Environment Schemes.	2005		Defra RDS	CMPs, CLA, Kent & Sussex FWAG, NFU, KWT	In-kind		
2. Monitor the delivery of targets for the conservation of cereal field margins for biodiversity and as part of the Higher Level Agri-Environment Scheme.	2005		Defra RDS		In-kind		
3. Provide arable farmers one-to-one advice on the positive management of cereal field margins for biodiversity.	2004	Ongoing	Kent & Sussex FWAG	CMPs, KWT, GC	In-kind		
4. Acknowledge and encourage the positive management of cereal field margins for biodiversity.	2004	Ongoing	Kent & Sussex FWAG	CLA, NFU			
5. Promote the services of rural advisors in the form of a Kent Rural Directory.	2004	2004	KCC				
6. Co-ordinate a Kent Downs Farmland Conservation Project (to include birds, arable wild plants and farmland habitats) to tie in with AONB Landscape Initiative and Landscape Enhancement Grants.	2006		Kent Downs AONB	Defra, KWT, Plantlife, RSPB, Kent & Sussex FWAG			

Objective 2: Conserve and enhance key populations of arable weeds.

Target:

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
7. Medway Gap "Valley of Visions" Landscape Partnership application to Heritage Lottery Fund. Includes a programme linking to Ranscombe Farm/Cuxton weedy field to encourage and extend areas of arable wild plant communities in Medway Gap.	Autumn 2006	-	Kent Downs AONB	Plantlife, MC, T&MBC, KWT		Stage 1 of the application has been submitted (10/04) Stage 2 development, 04-12/05	
8. Produce an inventory of key sites for arable weeds in Kent & Medway.	2006	-	KWT	KCC			
9. Work proactively with landowners to develop and implement conservation plans for all key arable weed sites.	2008	-	KWT	KCC, CLA, NFU			
10. Identify sites where new populations of key arable weeds can be established.	2008	-	KWT	KCC			

Objective 3: Raise awareness to the benefits of a positively managed cereal field margin for biodiversity and farming in Kent.

Target:

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
11. Promote, via the NFU and CLA bulletins to members, the events and activities relevant to the conservation of cereal field margins and biodiversity in Kent, i.e. publishing diary dates.	2004	Ongoing	Kent & Sussex FWAG	RSPB, KWT, NFU, CLA	in-kind		

Key

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CLA	Country Land and Business Association
CMPs	Countryside Management Projects
DEFRA/ RDS	Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs/ Rural Development Service
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
GC	Game Conservancy
KCC	Kent County Council
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
MC	Medway Council
NFU	National Farmers Union
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
T&MBC	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

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Chalk rivers Action Plan

Objective 1: Conserve the characteristic flora, fauna and physical habitat features of chalk rivers including their winterbourne stretches.

Target: Quantifiable improvement in habitat quality of chalk rivers in Kent (as judged by EA quality indicators such as Biota scores, RHS indices and GQA scores.)

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
1. Ensure that the water companies' Asset Management Plans Environment Programme (AMP 4 & 5) address water resource and quality issues relevant to chalk river ecology.	2004	2009	EA	EA, Water Companies		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	
2. Promote advice on best-practice river corridor management in partnership with local river owners and users.		ongoing	EA	KSCP, NWKCP, WCCP, Kent & Sussex FWAG, EA, Angling Clubs, DEFRA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing NWKCP producing section on riparian land management in 'Land Managers Pack' for North Downs AONB 	
3. Ensure that Flood Defence and Land Drainage operations and improvements are sensitive to ecological requirements and low flow events.		ongoing	EA	EA, Stour IDB, LAs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing. New work instruction to Flood defence re. Weed-cutting in low-flow conditions. 	

4. Support farmers in establishing and implementing farm plans to control soil erosion and manage nutrients in chalk catchments.	2003	2005	FWAG	Kent & Sussex FWAG, InterReg, EA, KCC, DEFRA, EN, ESCC, Sussex Otters & Rivers Project, T&MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Agriculture & Rivers Project for Kent & Sussex initiated in 2003 with focus on Lydden Valley (North & South Streams). 	
5. Clearly identify threats to chalk rivers in planning consultations and local plans.		ongoing	EA			
6. Identify solutions to ecologically unsustainable abstraction through CAMS and other programmes, using approaches that as far as practically possible restore and protect natural hydrological processes.		ongoing	EA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ River Darent Action Plan Phase 1 completed, phase 2 in progress. ▪ River Dour Action Plan phase 1 completed. 	
7. Improve ecological monitoring of chalk rivers to detect adverse changes and validate the effectiveness of management actions.	2004	onwards	EA			
8. Implement measures to ensure that risks posed by invasive, non-native species are reduced and opportunities for containment or eradication are realised.		2010	EA/EN			

Objective 2: Review the need and potential for restoration of flows, water quality and habitat diversity of Kent's chalk rivers in consultation with local communities and organisations, and implement restoration where appropriate.

Target: Enhancement/restoration strategies produced for all chalk main rivers in Kent, and implementation underway by 2010.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
9. Develop chalk river rehabilitation and enhancement strategies for main/critical rivers with local partners, and employing national research and good practice.	2004	2010	EA	EA, LAs, KSCP, NWKCP, WCCP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement Strategy for River Dour completed 2004 • Enhancement Strategy for River Darent in progress. 	
10. Seek opportunities for habitat enhancement through Flood Defence works and Development Control consultations.		ongoing	EA	EA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • New EA weedcut specification launched in 2003 	
11. Seek opportunities for habitat enhancement and restoration through planning consultations and local plans.		ongoing	LAs	LAs, EA, KCC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	
12. Seek to secure the development and implementation of an Integrated Water Management Study for Ashford which maintains and enhances the biodiversity of the chalk reach of the Great Stour.	2003	2005	EA	EA, ABC, Water companies, KCC, EN, KWT		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project started 2003 	

Objective 3: Raise awareness of the importance of chalk rivers as a UK BAP priority habitat in Kent.

Target: Increased awareness of the importance of chalk rivers in Kent and the actions being progressed under this HAP.

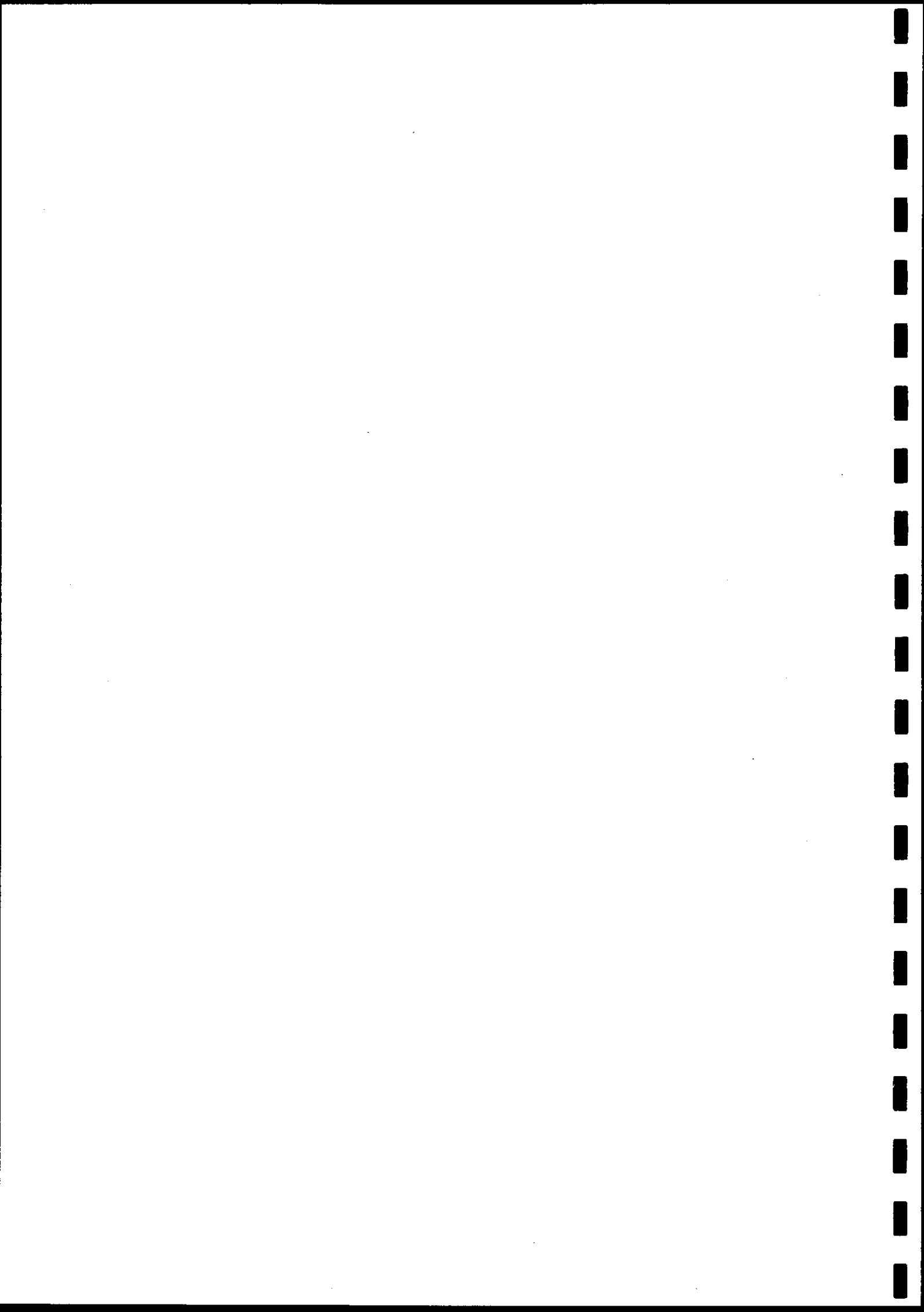
Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
13. Produce and disseminate information on chalk river habitat and the Kent HAP.		ongoing	EA	KBP			
14. Report and publicise issues and projects associated with chalk river HAP actions.		ongoing	EA	KBP			
15. Publicise, within Kent, the UK Steering Group's: 'State of England's Chalk Rivers' (2004) report.	2004	2005	EA	EN, EA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report published 2004 and distributed to main partners and stakeholders for further distribution. 	

Key

ABC	Ashford Borough Council
DEFRA/ RDS	Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs/ Rural Development Service
EA	Environment Agency
EN	English Nature
ESCC	East Sussex County Council
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
KBP	Kent Biodiversity Partnership
KCC	Kent County Council
KSCP	Kentish Stour Countryside Project
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAS	Local Authorities
NWKCP	North West Kent Countryside Project
WCCP	White Cliffs Countryside Project
T&MBC	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

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Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh Action Plan

Objective 1: To maintain the extent and quality of existing areas of semi-natural grazing marsh.

Target: No net reduction in overall extent of resource, number of sites or mean site area by the time of the next Kent Habitat Survey.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Policy							
1. Ensure that all strategic and local plans include policies to protect BAP habitats.	2004	2010	KWT	LAs, KCC			Planning policy guidance; conflicts with other policies.
2. Ensure all grazing marsh of county importance is designated as SNCI.	2004	2020	KWT	KBP SG, LAs			Resources
3. Ensure any strategy for managed realignment of flood defences incorporates measures for compensation of loss of grazing marsh and associated habitats.	2005		EA	EA			

Objective 2: Bring all existing areas of semi-natural grazing marsh into appropriate management.

Target: All SSSI and Local Wildlife Site (SNCI) grazing marsh to be in favourable or recovering condition by 2020

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Land management							
4. Secure favourable/recovering condition of grazing marsh within SSSIs.	2005	2020	EN	EN, Landowners			
5. Establish conservation status of all grazing marsh Local Wildlife Sites (SNCIs).	2005	2010	KWT	KWT			Resources, Access to land
6. Provide support to owners and managers of Grazing Marsh Local Wildlife Sites (SNCIs).	2004	-	KWT	KWT, EN, KCC CMPs, AONB, LAs			Resources, Level of take up
7. Restore, manage and interpret floodplain grazing marsh and associated habitats at East End Marshes (part of Dartford Marshes).	2005	2010	Groundwork KT	Managing the Marshes SG			Resources

8. Restore, manage and interpret floodplain grazing marsh in Medway Gap	2004		Kent Downs AONB Unit	Plantlife, AONB Unit, MC, TMBC, KWT, EN	Medway Gap "Valley of Visions" Landscape Partnership application to Heritage Lottery Fund submitted Oct 2004. Stage 2 development April- Dec '05	
9. Continue the restoration and conservation management of grazing marsh at Oare Marshes	2004	-	KWT	KWT		
10. Encourage uptake of agri-environment schemes for areas of grazing marsh.	2005	-	Defra	Defra, FWAG, KWT, advisors		Resources
Advisory						
11. Ensure that the importance of grazing marsh as a habitat is more widely understood and appreciated through a programme of targeted PR including events and publications.	2005		KWT	KWT, EN, RSPB, AONB Units, KCC, LAS, CMPs KCN		Resources

Objective 3: Create new grazing marsh habitat, especially where it will link existing areas of grazing marsh.

Target: A net increase in the area of grazing marsh in Kent of at least 10% by 2010, at least 20% by 2020 and at least 25% by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Land Management							
12. Target environmental stewardship to revert arable land back to grazing marsh.	2004		Defra/RDS	FWAG, CMPs			
13. Identify areas where it would be practical to recreate grazing marsh and improve links with existing habitat by targeting habitat restoration and creation around existing areas.	2005	2020	KWT	KWT, landowners, CMPs, DEFRA			

Objective 4: Assess the present distribution of grazing marsh in the country.

Target: Determine complete extent and condition of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh in Kent.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Data and monitoring							
14. Determine the extent and condition of grazing marsh in Kent, building on a) data contained in the Kent habitat surveys 2003, b) new survey data	2005	2010		KCC, KWT, EN, KMBRC			Resources

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EN	English Nature
CMPs	Countryside Management Projects
Defra RDS	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Rural Development Service
FWAG	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
Groundwork KT	Groundwork Kent Thames-side
KBP	Kent Biodiversity Partnership
SG	Steering Group
KCC	Kent County Council
KCN	Kent Coastal Network
KWBRC	Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre
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Coastal Saltmarsh Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain the extent of the saltmarsh resource in Kent (subject to evolution through natural processes)

Target: There should be no net loss of coastal saltmarsh relative to the amount (1,450 ha) recorded by the 2003 Kent Habitat Survey.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Policy							
1. Planning authorities to maintain a presumption against intertidal encroachment by development. Any unavoidable losses to development should be compensated by saltmarsh creation, where possible, within the same littoral cell.	2005	ongoing	KCC	KCC, MC, LAS			Conflict with other policies
2. Use the Shoreline Management Plan process to assess and, where appropriate, implement opportunities for managed realignment of flood defences to offset losses of intertidal habitat to rising sea levels, with particular reference to the recommendations in CHaMPs.	2005	ongoing	EA	EA, LAS, KCC, MC			Resources, conflict with other policies
3. All Environmental Impact Assessments for developments at the coast to include an assessment of the effect on coastal processes, and post implementation monitoring and assessment of effects.	2005	ongoing	KCC	KCC, MC, LAS, EA			

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Site safeguard and Management							
4. Promote the awareness and uptake of agri-environment schemes that involve the management and creation of saltmarsh.	2005	ongoing	Defra	Defra, EA, EN, FWAG, RSPB			Resources, willingness of farmers to take up appropriate options
5. Develop and implement an environmentally responsible approach to maintenance dredging in the Thames and Medway/Swale estuaries	2005	2007	TEP, MSEP	Port Authorities, EN, EA, RSPB, TEP, MSEP			Resources
Monitoring and Research							
6. Review the extent and distribution of saltmarsh, using the 2003 Kent Habitat Survey as the start point, to establish the main areas where erosion and accretion are occurring	2008	Every 5 years	KCC	KCC, MC, KMBRC, EN			Resources
7. Carry out a review of dredging practices and their effect on sediment dynamics.	2006	2009	TEP, MSEP	TEP, MSEP, Port Authorities, EN, EA, RSPB			Resources

Objective 2: Maintain, enhance and restore the quality of coastal saltmarsh

Note: Saltmarsh habitat is being maintained when the management is in place to meet the objectives for the site. A large proportion of the saltmarsh in Kent is currently in unfavourable condition, therefore, it will be maintained when the management is in place to bring it back to favourable condition. This means that SSSI saltmarsh habitat is being maintained when it is in favourable or recovering condition. Enhancement is the process of improving the quality of the saltmarsh so it better meets its management objectives. Restoration is the process of returning degraded, relict saltmarsh back to a condition where it meets the criteria for saltmarsh.

- Target 1: 1,301 ha of saltmarsh SSSI (95%) to have management in place to meet its objectives by 2010**
- Target 2: 1,382 ha of saltmarsh SSSI (100%) and SNCI (25%) to have management in place to meet its objectives by 2020**
- Target 3: 149 ha of saltmarsh restored and enhanced by 2010**
- Target 4: 218 ha of saltmarsh restored and enhanced by 2020**

Note: Many of the actions to achieve objective 1 will also contribute to achieving objectives 2 and 3.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Policy							
8. Contribute to and influence Shoreline Management Plans to ensure habitat protection and, where possible, enhancement and creation, with particular reference to the recommendations in CHaMPs.	2005	2008	EA	EA, KCC, RSPB, EN, KWT			Conflict with other policies
Site safeguard and Management							
9. Produce site management plans for the main saltmarsh SSSIs, including objectives to increase species diversity.	2005	2010	EN	EN, KWT, RSPB, ECT			
10. Where coastal squeeze means that SSSI units are in unfavourable condition (eg in the South Thames estuary),	2005	2010	EN	EN, EA, KCC, MC, LAs			Conflict with objectives for freshwater/bracki

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
investigate the possibility of setting back flood defences. Ensure that opportunities for managed realignment are incorporated where appropriate into the relevant Shoreline Management Plans and coastal flood management strategies.							sh habitats behind the sea wall, conflict with other policies
11. Take opportunities, where appropriate, to set back flood defences when creating new developments next to estuaries and the coast, to create new saltmarsh.	2005	ongoing	KCC	KCC, EA, LAs, MC			Lack of space
12. Promote the awareness and uptake of agri-environment schemes that involve the management and creation of saltmarsh.	2005	ongoing	Defra	Defra, EA, EN, FWAG, RSPB			Resources, willingness of farmers to take up appropriate options
13. Promote uptake of Entry Level Stewardship agreements to reduce diffuse agricultural pollution to saltmarsh.	2005	ongoing	Defra	Defra, EA, EN, FWAG, RSPB			Resources, willingness of farmers to take up appropriate options
Monitoring and Research							
14. Monitor numbers of birds using internationally important sites annually (as part of the Wetland Bird Survey, WeBS).	2005	annual	RSPB	KOS, RSPB, BTO, EN			
15. Monitor habitat change against the predictions in Coastal Habitat Management Plans (CHaMPs) and review recommendations accordingly.	2006	2010	EN	EN, EA			Resources

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
16. Monitor the spread of <i>Spartina anglica</i> and research the evolution of <i>Spartina</i> dominated swards within the Medway and Swale estuaries.	2006	2010	EN	EA, EN, KMBRC			Resources
17. Investigate the feasibility/sustainability of creating new islands to replace those lost in the Medway/Swale estuaries.	2006	2010	RSPB	RSPB, Port Authorities, EN			Resources
18. Investigate the link between different sources of nutrients (nitrogen) and <i>Enteromorpha</i> growth in the Medway Estuary. If a link is proven, take action to reduce sources through either Ofwat's Periodic Review process or agri-environment schemes with landowners depending on whether the sources are principally point or diffuse.	2005	2008	EA	EA, EN, Defra			Resources
19. Carry out invertebrate surveys of each of the main saltmarsh areas to establish what are the important species for Kent and to inform management to enhance sites.	2007	2010	EN	EN, KWT, KMBRC			Resources
20. Investigate the possibility of establishing a saltmarsh ostracod database for Kent. Then monitor populations and investigate their use as indicators of environmental change	2005		RocDoc Ltd	RocDoc Ltd, EN, KWT, KMBRC			Resources

Objective 4: Raise awareness of the importance of coastal saltmarsh as a UK priority habitat in Kent

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
21. Produce and distribute printed/web-based information on the coastal saltmarsh HAP.	2006	2006	RSPB	RSPB, KCC, coastal saltmarsh HAP partners			Resources
22. Using existing networks and various means of publicity available within the coastal saltmarsh working group, produce and disseminate promotional material/press releases raising the profile of the Kent BAP.	2005	ongoing	RSPB	RSPB, KCC, coastal saltmarsh HAP partners			Resources
23. Carry out the annual monitoring and reporting of progress on the coastal saltmarsh HAP employing the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS).	2005	annual	RSPB	RSPB, KCC, coastal saltmarsh HAP partners			

Key

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
EA	Environment Agency
ECT	Elmley Conservation Trust
EN	English Nature
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
FWAG	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
KCC	Kent County Council
KMBRC	Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre
KOS	Kent Ornithological Society
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities
MC	Medway Council
MSEP	Medway Swale Estuary Partnership
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
TEP	Thames Estuary Partnership

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Coastal Sand Dunes Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain quality and extent of existing coastal sand dunes in Kent.

Target: Maintain 176 ha of coastal sand dune by 2010, 187 ha by 2020 and 188 ha by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
1. Achieve 95% of SSSI sand dunes in Favourable or Unfavourable Recovering condition: Ideally the sand dune should be lightly grazed.	2005	2010	EN	O/Os			
2. Ensure positive management of sites selected as Local Wildlife Sites (SNCI).	2005	2026	KWT	Landowners			
3. Incorporate HAP targets for coastal sand dune within the Local Development Frameworks of Dover and Shepway.	2005	2006	KCC	LAS			

Objective 2: Ensure positive management all coastal sand dunes in Kent.

Target: Enhance and restore 58 ha of coastal sand dune in Kent by 2026.
 Ensure there is no net loss coastal sand dune in Kent up to 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
4. Achieve 100% of SSSI coastal sand dune in Favourable or Unfavourable Recovering condition (9ha).	2010	2020	EN	EN, O/Os			
5. Ensure positive management of sites selected as Local Wildlife Sites (SNCI) (7ha)	2005	2026	KWT	Landowners			
6. Consider selection of the 42 ha of coastal sand dune currently not designated as Local Wildlife Sites (SNCI).	2005	2026	KWT	Landowners			
7. Investigate causes of vegetation change identified in the 2001 sand dune survey at Sandwich (commissioned by EN).	2005	2010	EN	EA			

Objective 3: Raise awareness of coastal sand dunes in Kent.

Target: An increase in public awareness and appreciation of coastal sand dune resulting in the more positive management of this habitat.

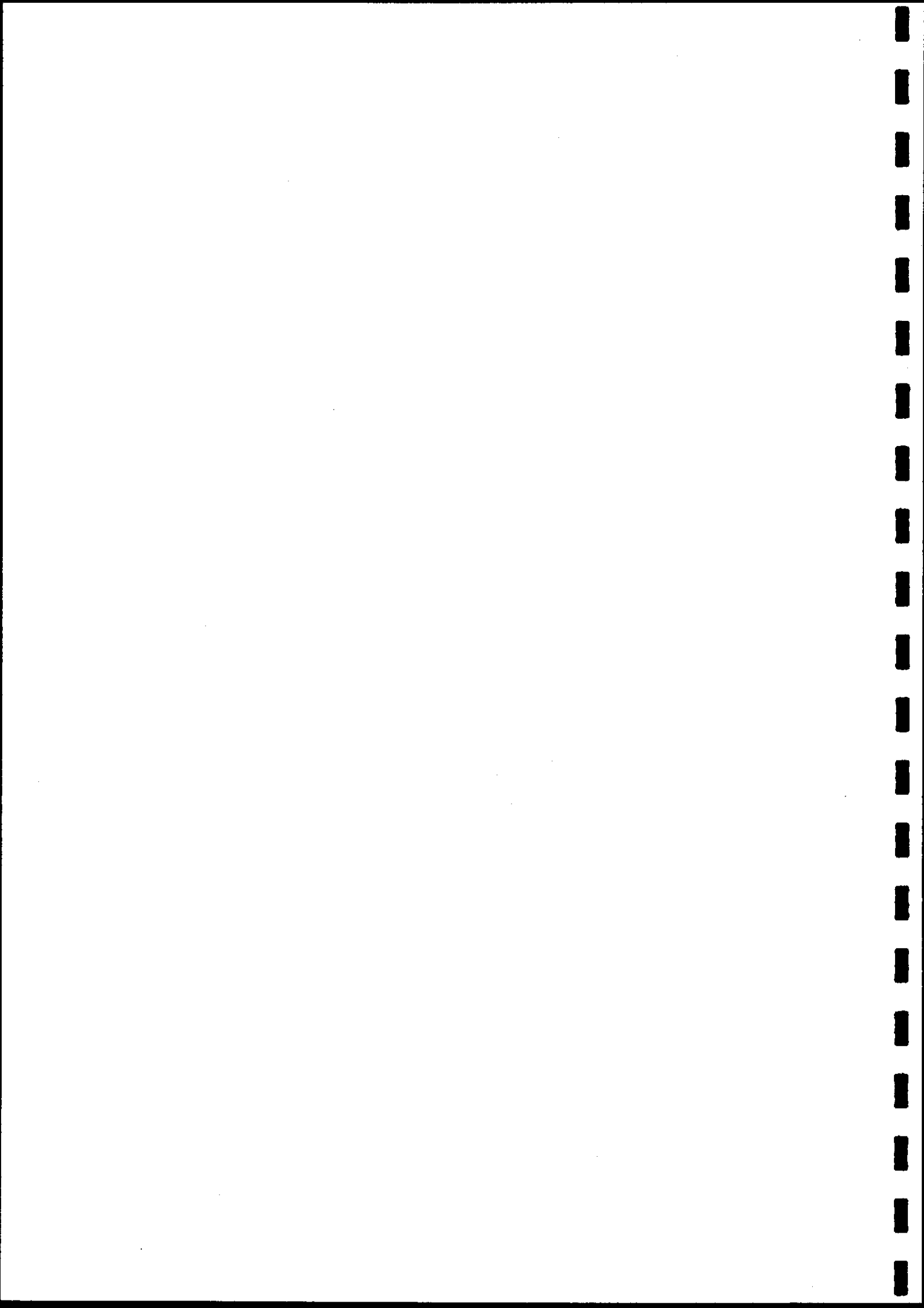
Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
8. Promotion of the National Nature Reserve at Sandwich and Pegwell Bay.	Ongoing	Ongoing	KWT	KWT, EN, DDC, NT			
9. Promotion of importance of sand dunes through high-profile golfing events such as the Links Golf Course Open Championship.	2003		EN	Royal St George's Golf Club			
10. Raise awareness of importance of sand dunes at Sandwich for coastal birds.	Ongoing	Ongoing	SBBOT				

Key

EA	Environment Agency
EN	English Nature
DDC	Dover District Council
EN	English Nature
KCC	Kent County Council
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities
NT	National Trust
O/Os	Owner/Occupiers
SBBOT	Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory

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Coastal Vegetated Shingle Action Plan

Objective 1: Ensure no net loss of coastal vegetated shingle, unless subject to natural coastal changes.

Target: Ensure no net loss of current extent of the 691 ha of coastal vegetated shingle resource in Kent.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Policy							
1. Ensure Kent BAP targets are incorporated within the relevant LDFs and coastal vegetated shingle is recognised as a priority habitat.	2004		KBP	LAs, KCC, KPOG			
2. Advocate natural coastal processes and the ecological importance of coastal vegetated shingle in the Shoreline Management Plan review process.	2004	End of SMP review process	EN	KCC, EA, LAs, SECG, KPOG			
3. Ensure that strategic and local plans include policies to protect coastal vegetated shingle	2005		KCC	LAs, KPOG			

Objective 2: Restore coastal vegetated shingle to favourable condition or unfavourable recovering condition with the proviso that patterns of coastal evolution may erode shingle from the coastline.

Target: Restore 555 ha by 2010 (equivalent to 95% SSSI), 602 ha by 2020 (equivalent to 100% SSSI & 25% SNCI) and 619 ha by 2026 (equivalent to 100% SSSI & 50% SNCI).

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
4. Achieve 95% of SSSI Coastal Vegetated Shingle in Favourable or Unfavourable Recovering condition.	2004	2010	EN	EN, Owner Occupiers, MOD, RSPB, British Energy, Dungeness Estate, F&DWS, SDC, RMCP, RMC, Crown Estate			
5. Re-establish areas of coastal vegetated shingle on blocks of old shingle, damaged during the war and not recovered.	2004		MOD	EN			
6. Establish conservation status of all vegetated shingle SNCIs.	2005		KWT				
7. Ensure that vegetated shingle is seen as a priority by all bodies offering management advice to landowners.	2005		EN	RMCP, EN, EA, KWT, MOD, KCC, LAS			
Monitoring and Research							

8. Review the extent and distribution of coastal vegetated shingle every 10 years, using the 2003 Kent Habitat Survey as the start point, to establish the main areas where erosion and accretion are occurring.	2013	Every 10 years	KCC	KCC, MC, K&MBRC, EN			
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Objective 3: Ensure that all areas of qualifying coastal vegetated single are protected by appropriate designations.

Target: Enhance and restore 136ha by 2010 (100% of total resource minus 95% SSSI), 89ha by 2020 (100% total resource minus 100% SSSI & 25% SNCI) and 72ha by 2026 (100% total resource minus 100% SSSI and 50% SNCI).

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
9. Consider extension of SSSIs to take additional high quality areas of shingle.	2006		EN	Owner Occupiers, MOD			
10. Ensure all vegetated shingle of county importance is designated as SNCI.	2005		KWT				
11. Work with Local Planning Authorities to ensure the nature conservation value of coastal vegetated shingle is considered when selecting Local Nature Reserves.	2005		KCC	KPOG, KWT, EN			

Objective 4: Restore open fen communities on Dungeness to suitable wetland areas.

Target: By 2010, restore open fen communities on Dungeness to 2 ponds (pits number 5 & 6) & identify the extent of willow scrub appropriate to be maintained around the other ponds.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
12. Continued scrub clearance, annual grazing and monitoring of recovery of the fen vegetation on pits 5 and 6 of the natural freshwater pits at Dungeness, and response of adjacent shingle vegetation to grazing.	1997	2010	EN	RSPB, RMCP			
13. Maintain open conditions around significant plant species in the remaining Open Pits.	2003	2010	EN	RSPB, RMCP			
14. Identify the extent of scrub required in the natural freshwater pits to effectively conserve important Myxomycete communities.	2005	2010	EN	EN			
15. Maintain water levels in the natural freshwater pits maintaining the nature conservation interest.	2004		EA	F&DWS, RSPB, EN, Romney Marsh IDB			

Objective 5: Restore natural coastal processes as far as is possible to all areas of the coast.

Target:

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
16. Identify how best to integrate a more natural functioning of the Dungeness coast with existing infrastructure - Power Stations, etc.	2003	2006	EA	British Energy, EA, MOD, EN			
17. Cease beach feeding at Dungeness and allow natural coastal processes to recommence once Nuclear Power Station in decommissioned.	2000	2010	EA	British Energy, MOD, EN			
18. Cease artificial management of the coastal frontage between the Kent/Sussex boundary and Dungeness Power Station.	2000	2010	EA	British Energy, MOD, EN, KCC, SCC			

Key

EA	Environment Agency
EN	English Nature
CMPs	Countryside Management Projects
DDC	Dover District Council
F&DWS	Folkestone & Dover Water Services
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
K&MBRC	Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre
KBP	Kent Biodiversity Partnership
KCC	Kent County Council
KPOG	Kent Planning Officers Group
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities
MC	Medway Council
MOD	Ministry of Defence
RMC	Ready Mixed Concrete
RMCP	Romney Marsh Countryside Project
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SECG	South East Coastal Group
SCC	Sussex County Council
SDC	Shepway District Council

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Favourable Condition and Recovering Unfavourable Favourable	The vegetation communities of shingle features depend on the amount of finer materials mixed in with the shingle, and on the hydrological regime. The classic pioneer species on the seaward edge include sea kale <i>Crambe maritima</i> , sea pea, <i>Lathyrus japonicus</i> , Babington's orache, <i>Atriplex glabriuscula</i> , sea beet, <i>Beta vulgaris</i> , and sea campion <i>Silene uniflora</i> ; such species can withstand exposure to salt spray and some degree of burial or erosion. Further from the shore, where conditions are more stable, more mixed communities develop, leading to mature grassland, lowland heath, moss and lichen communities, or even scrub. Some of these communities appear to be specific to shingle, and some are only known from Dungeness. On the parallel ridges of cusped forelands, patterned vegetation develops, due to the differing particle size and hydrology. Some shingle sites contain natural hollows which develop wetland communities, and similar vegetation may develop as a result of gravel extraction. Vegetated shingle often contains extensive areas of bare ground, resulting from for instance bands of coarse shingle. The extent of their shingle can be increased by erosion caused by walkers or vehicles resulting in unfavourable condition of the shingle. Long established shingle vegetation such as lichen heath can be particularly hard to restore once it has been extensively eroded.

Littoral & Sub-littoral Chalk Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain the extent and quality of littoral & sub-littoral chalk habitats unaffected by coastal defence and other engineering works.

Target: Maintain 359 ha of littoral & sub-littoral chalk by 2010 and 378ha by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
1. Achieve 95% of SSSI littoral chalk in Favourable or Unfavourable Recovering condition.	2005	2010	EN	EN, O/Os			
2. As far as possible, allow natural coastal processes to determine the geomorphology of the littoral and sub-littoral environment.	Ongoing	Ongoing	All	All			
3. Ensure no new coastal defences adjacent to the littoral and sub-littoral chalk.	Ongoing	Ongoing	LAs	LAs, EN, EA			
4. Advocate natural coastal processes and the ecological importance of chalk habitats in the Shoreline Management Plan review process.	2004	End of SMP review process	EN	KCC, EN, EA, LAs			

<p>5. Work with planners and developers to ensure zero or minimal effects of any new developments on littoral and sub-littoral chalk. In particular, encourage a presumption against development close to the shore which, due to the progress of natural erosion, could require future coastal defence works.</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing	EN	LAS, EN, KCC			
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Objective 2: Enhance and restore littoral & sub-littoral chalk.

Target: Enhance and restore 60ha of littoral & sub-littoral chalk by 2026 (19ha by 2010 with a further 41ha by 2026).

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
6. Complete work started to survey sea defences around Thanet sea caves. Where feasible and ecologically appropriate, remove sea defences in front of them, which are no longer effective or necessary.	Summer 2004	Summer 2006	TDC	TDC, EN, SECG			Health and safety concerns may result in reluctance to undertake this work.
7. If appropriate, apply above to sea caves in Shepway and Dover Districts.	Summer 2006	Summer 2007	EN	DDC, SDC, SECG			As above
8. Monitor ecological changes resulting from above work.	Summer 2006	Summer 2008	EN	NEKCSAG/ Consultant, SECG			
9. Coastal cliff and seawall survey to investigate possible erosion of chalk reef by adjacent sea defences. Remedial action (if any) not yet known.	2003	2008	TDC (Coastal Engineers)	TDC, EN, SECG		Geologist started survey 2003	
10. Complete baseline survey of sea caves on Thanet coast. Disseminate results to inform future management, plan for follow-up monitoring as appropriate.	Summer 2005	Ongoing	EN	TCP, EN, EMS Management Group, SECG			

11. Disseminate results of survey of subtidal reef to inform future management. Plan for future monitoring as needed.	Summer 2005	Ongoing	EN	EN, TCP, EMS Management Group, SECG		
12. Undertake monitoring of intertidal reef and sea cave communities; disseminate results to inform future management.	Summer 2005	Spring 2006 & ongoing	EN	Consultants, TCP, EN, EMS Management Group, SECG		

Objective 3: Understand the impacts of non-native species of concern on littoral & sub-littoral chalk habitats and, if necessary, take measures to stop their spread.

Target: An action plan for managing the impact of non-native species of concern on littoral & sub-littoral chalk habitats in Kent.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
13. Wakame general distribution survey - Kent (more detailed survey to follow if thought necessary).	2006	2007	EN	NEKCSAG/ consultant/ Shoresearch group (KWT)			
14. Completion of current Japweed survey - Thanet.	Summer 2004	2004	TCP	Student project		Project completed	Limited time as MSc project
15. Other non-native species surveys as necessary.	2005 onwards	Ongoing	EN	NEKCSAG/ Consultant/ Shoresearch/ Seasearch			
16. Follow-up action if necessary, depending on results of above (and other) species surveys.	2005 onwards		EN/TCP	EN, TCP, LAs			

Objective 4: Ensure human activities continue to be managed to minimise their effects on littoral & sub-littoral chalk habitats and species.

Target: A notable decrease in detrimental effects of human activities on littoral and sub-littoral chalk habitats.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
17. Ensure review of the North East Kent European marine sites Management Scheme considers ongoing and any new human activities that may affect littoral and sub-littoral chalk habitats. Ensure that measures are in place to prevent inappropriate action.	Spring 2005	Spring 2006	EN	All Relevant Authorities			
18. Ensure that the Thanet Coast Project continues to work with local people to address human disturbance issues, especially effects on turnstones and other wintering birds.	Ongoing	Ongoing	TCP	TCP & local people, EN, TDC, KCC			
19. Ensure an appropriate review of the Thanet Coastal Codes (voluntary codes of conduct for local coastal users) and implementation of any necessary changes.	Autumn 2004	Spring 2005	TCP	TCP & local people, EN			

20. Establish baseline information on effects of human activities on littoral and sub-littoral chalk, through volunteer warden recording scheme. Use to inform future management.	Summer 2005	Summer 2006 & ongoing	TCP	TCP, EN, volunteers			
21. Launch of Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme (volunteers to act as local "eyes and ears" for their adopted stretch of coastline) and follow-up training.	Winter 2004-5	Ongoing	TCP	TCP & volunteers			
22. Run public awareness raising events to highlight the importance of the chalk reef communities around the Thanet Coast, reaching as many sectors of the community as possible.	Ongoing	Ongoing	TCP	TCP, KWT, KCN, EN			
23. Ensure lessons are learned from TCP's work, and applied to other areas of coastal chalk in Kent (and elsewhere) as appropriate.	Ongoing	Ongoing	TCP	TCP, EN, NEKCSAG, LAS			

Key

EN	English Nature
KCC	Kent County Council
KCN	Kent Coastal Network
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities
NEKCSAG	North East Kent Coastal Scientific Advisory Group
O/Os	Owner/Occupiers
SECG	South East Coastal Group
TCP	Thanet Coast Project
TDC	Thanet District Council

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Lowland beech and yew woodland Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain the total current extent and condition of semi-natural lowland beech and yew woodland in Kent.

Target: Maintain 216ha by 2010, 260ha by 2020 and 291ha by 2026 of lowland beech and yew woodland (Kent Habitat Survey 2003)

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
1. Carry out woodlands census and habitat survey to monitor status.	Summer 2005		FC/KCC	FC, KCC		FC National Inventory of Woodlands and Trees due to start summer 2005. Detailed planning of progress to be finalised	
2. Ensure that significant beech-yew woods not designated SSSI are made Local Wildlife Sites (SNCLs).			KWT	KWT			
3. Prepare and circulate a brief document to planners to highlight the importance of this habitat.			KCC	KCC, FC			
4. Create a new post dedicated to working with woodland Sites of Species Scientific Interest (SSSI) owners to ensure management plans are written to achieve improving condition.	07/01/05	31/12/05	FC/EN	FC/EN joint funders	£30,000	Appointment of officer completed. Post based at FC, initially for 1 year	Availability of future funding to extend post.

5. Engage with owners of SSSI woodlands in unfavourable condition via workshops.	1/1/05	30/1/06	FC/EN	FC/EN	£2000	Initial workshop planned Feb 2005; others if needed.	
6. Put in place support systems to ensure management plans are carried out and favourable condition achieved.	1/6/2005	31/3/10	FC/EN	FC/EN			Availability of grant aid at a time when timber markets are declining.

Objective 2: Identify priority areas for increasing the area of this habitat through planting new woodlands and altering the structure of existing woodlands with a significant non-native component.

Target: Create and re-create 45ha of lowland beech and yew woodland by 2020 and a further 22ha by 2026 (Kent Habitat Survey 2003).

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
7. Use the K-LIS system to identify areas of opportunity for the planting of new beech-yew woodlands and produce a map of priority areas.	April 2005	March 2006	KCC	KCC			Modelled data requires careful interpretation
8. Identify existing woodlands not currently classified as beech-yew woodlands with the potential to be incorporated into this habitat category through appropriate management.	April 2005	March 2006	KCC				Ground truthing of scenarios required to ensure accuracy.
9. Encourage removal of non-native species from those woods identified above through development of management plans and grant aid.	April 2006	Ongoing	EN/FC	EN, FC, KWT			Available grant aid.

Objective 3: Develop management plans for semi-natural lowland beech and yew woods that are currently not in management.

Target: Enhance and restore 56ha of lowland beech and yew woodland by 2010, 83 ha by 2020 and 111ha by 2026 (Kent Habitat Survey 2003).

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
10. Prepare straightforward guidance on habitat recognition and management for beech-yew SNCI owners.			KCC	KCC			
11. Prepare written management plans for beech-yew SNCI owners.			KWT	KWT, FC			

Key

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
EN	English Nature
FC	Forestry Commission
KCC	Kent County Council
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust

Definitions

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Lowland Calcareous Grassland Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain current extent and quality of lowland calcareous grassland in Kent.

Target: Maintain 535 ha by 2010, 711 ha by 2020 and 859 ha by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
1. Achieve 95% of SSSI lowland calcareous grassland in Favourable or Unfavourable Recovering condition.	2004	2010	EN	EN, O/Os			
2. Target Environmental Stewardship to maintain existing areas of lowland calcareous grassland.	2005	2010	Defra/RDS	Defra/RDS			

<p>3. Implement the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan which includes the following Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a strategic AONB initiative to secure and improve the management, promotion and understanding of chalk grassland, and reversion of arable and improved grassland in targeted areas. 2. Provide landscape management advice and support for all Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs), identifying opportunities to create links between SNCIs and other recognised biodiversity sites particularly of chalk grassland and ancient woodland. 	2004	2009	Kent Downs AONB	Kent Downs AONB, EN, WCCP, LAs, KWT, PlantLife, NT	<p>Medway Gap "Valley of Visions" Landscape Partnership application to Heritage Lottery Fund. Identifies a programme "Doubling the Downs" to restore, manage and interpret calcareous grassland in Medway Gap.</p> <p>Stage 1 application submitted Oct '04. (Planned) Stage 2 development April-Dec '05. Implementation Autumn '06</p> <p>Dover & Folkestone landscape Action Plan partnership preparing bid to HLF for significant chalk grassland programme - management, restoration, education and access. Stage 1 application made Feb 05. (Planned) Project development April 2006. Implementation 2007</p>
<p>4. Ensure that strategic and local plans include policies to protect calcareous grassland.</p>	2005		KWT		
<p>5. Ensure all calcareous grassland of county importance is designated as a Local Wildlife Site (SNCI).</p>	2005		KWT		
<p>6. Establish conservation status of all calcareous grassland SNCIs.</p>	2005		KWT		
<p>7. Ensure that calcareous grassland is seen as a priority by all bodies offering management advice to landowners.</p>	2005		All		

Objective 2: Ensure positive management of all lowland calcareous grassland in Kent

Target: Enhance and restore 415 ha by 2010, 664 ha by 2020 and 830 ha by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
8. Target Environmental Stewardship to restore and enhance areas of calcareous grassland.	Ongoing from 2004		Defra/RDS	Defra, Kent Downs AONB, Kent & Sussex FWAG, CMPs.		Defra/Kent Downs AONB Strategic Chalk grassland Initiative - Proactively targeting owners of existing unmanaged chalk grassland areas, and identifying links to areas of high potential for restoration, using Defra and Lifescapes GIS tools and Stewardship agreements.	
9. Work with local authorities and land-owners to identify and implement programmes for calcareous grassland management and restoration, particularly in key areas in the Medway Gap, the Darent Valley north of Sevenoaks, around Dover, around Wye, on the scarp between Maidstone and Ashford.	2005		All	Defra, LAs, Kent Downs AONB, EN, KWT, CMPs, NT		Medway Gap "Valley of Visions" Landscape Partnership application to Heritage Lottery Fund submitted Oct 03 identifies a programme "Doubling the Downs" to restore, manage and interpret calcareous grassland in Medway Gap.	

Objective 3: Create (or re-create) lowland calcareous grassland in Kent:

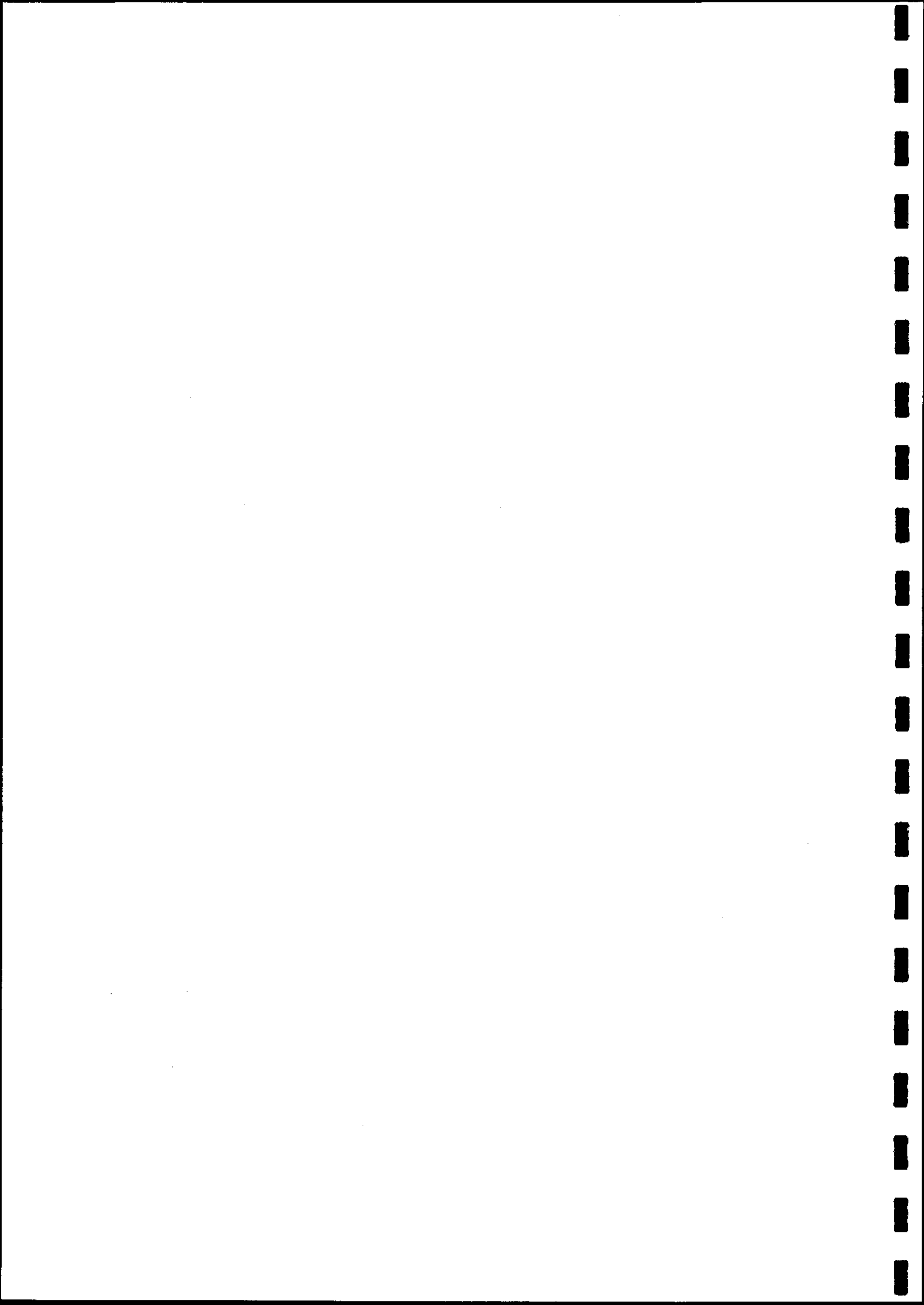
Target: Create 249 ha by 2010, 332 ha between 2010-2020, and 166 ha between 2020-2026

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
10. Improve links between existing areas along the spine of the North Downs by targeting habitat restoration and creation around existing areas.	2005	-	Defra/RDS	Defra, Kent Downs AONB, LAs, EN, KWT, CMPs, NT		Medway Gap "Valley of Visions" Landscape Partnership application to Heritage Lottery Fund submitted Oct 03 identifies a programme "Doubling the Downs" to restore, manage and interpret calcareous grassland in Medway Gap.	
11. Target Environmental Stewardship to revert arable land back to calcareous grassland.	2005	-	Defra/RDS	Kent & Sussex FWAG, CMPs.			

Objective 4: Raise awareness of lowland calcareous grassland.

Target: An increase in public awareness and appreciation of lowland calcareous grassland resulting in the more positive management of this habitat.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
12. Promote calcareous grassland as a priority habitat within the Kent Downs AONB.	2005	-	Kent Downs AONB	Kent Downs AONB			
13. Produce and/or disseminate guidance for landowners on appropriate management for calcareous grassland.	2005	-	KWT				
14. Produce and/or disseminate information for a general audience on Kent's calcareous grassland.	2005	-	KWT				
15. Produce and disseminate habitat fact sheets for Calcareous Grassland and Downland habitats and associated fauna on K-LIS	2005	-	KCC	EN			
16. Raise awareness of the opportunity to restore and recreate calcareous grassland in Kent using K-LIS.	2005	-	KCC	EN, Kent Downs AONB			



Key

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CMPs	Countryside Management Projects
Defra/	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs/
RDS	Rural Development Service
EN	English Nature
KCC	Kent County Council
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities
NT	National Trust
O/Os	Owner/Occupiers
WCCP	White Cliffs Countryside Project

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Lowland Dry Acid Grassland Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain the extent of all existing acid grassland sites.

Target: No net reduction in number of sites, overall extent of resource, or mean site area by the time of the next Kent Habitat Survey.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Policy						
1. Ensure that strategic and local plans include policies to protect BAP habitats	2004	2010	KWT	LAs, KCC		Planning policy guidance; conflict with other planning policies.
2. Ensure all acid grassland of county importance is designated as a Local Wildlife Site (SNCI).	2004	2020	KWT	KWT, LAs		Resources.
Advisory						
3. Produce and/or disseminate guidance for landowners on appropriate site management	2004	2007	KWT	KWT, EN, KCC, FWAG, Defra, CMPs, AONB, LAs		Resources.

Objective 2: Increase the overall area extent of acid grassland and reduce habitat fragmentation.

Target: A net increase in the area of acid grassland in Kent of at least 10% by 2010, at least 20% by 2020 and at least 25% by 2026, and a net increase in the mean and median block sizes.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Policy						
4. Where appropriate, seek restoration to acid grassland as a condition of permissions for aggregates extraction.	2005	-	KCC	KCC, Business		Conflict with other planning policies.
Land management						
5. Identify areas where it would be practical to recreate acid grassland as the first step in a county-wide restoration programme.	2004	2006	KWT	KWT, CMPs, Defra		Resources.
6. Work with local authorities and developers to identify and implement programmes for acid grassland restoration, including as part of public open space and road verges, particularly in association with growth areas.	2005	-	KWT	KWT, LAs, Business		Resources. Availability of local opportunities.
Advisory						
7. Provide support to owners and managers of acid grassland Local Wildlife Sites (SNCI)s.	2004	-	KWT	KWT, EN, KCC, CMPs, AONB, LAs		Resources. Level of take-up.
8. Where appropriate, target land managers for the uptake of agri-environment schemes.	2005	-	Defra	Defra, FWAG, KWT, advisors		

Objective 3: Secure appropriate management of all SSSI and Local Wildlife Site (SNCI) acid grassland.

Target: All SSSI and 25% of Local Wildlife Site (SNCI) acid grassland to be in favourable or recovering condition by 2020; 50% of SNCI acid grassland to be in favourable condition by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Land management						
9. Secure favourable/recovering condition of acid grassland units within SSSIs.	2005	2020	EN	EN, Landowners		
10. Establish conservation status of all acid grassland Local Wildlife Sites (SNCI)s.	2005	2010	KWT	KWT		Resources; access to land.
11. Provide support to owners and managers of acid grassland Local Wildlife Sites (SNCI)s.	2004	-	KWT	KWT, EN, KCC, CMPs, AONB, LAS		Resources; level of take-up.
12. Encourage uptake of agri-environment schemes for acid grassland sites.	2005	-	Defra	Defra, FWAG, KWT, advisors		Resources.

Objective 4: Where possible, secure the appropriate management of non-designated acid grassland.

Target: Ensure all land managers have access to management advice.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Advisory						
13. Produce and/or disseminate guidance for landowners, local authorities and developers on appropriate site management.	2004	2007	KWT	KWT, EN, KCC, FWAG, Defra		Resources.
14. Ensure that acid grassland is seen as a priority by all bodies offering management advice to landowners.	2005	-	KWT	KWT, EN, KCC, FWAG, Defra		Resources; conflict with other objectives.
15. Support programmes for the reintroduction of grazing (or other appropriate management) on acid grassland commons.	2005	-	KWT	KWT, Defra, CMPs, EN, landowners		Resources; conflict with open-spaces objectives.
16. Encourage uptake of agri-environment schemes for acid grassland sites.	2005	-	Defra	Defra, FWAG, KWT, advisors		Resources.

Objective 5: Increase the general understanding of acid grassland as an important supporter of biodiversity.

Target: Produce new printed and web-based material.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Advisory						
17. Produce and/or disseminate information for a general audience on Kent's acid grassland.	2005	2007	KWT	KWT, KCC, EN		Resources.

Key

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
EN	English Nature
CMPs	Countryside Management Projects
Defra	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
FWAG	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
KCC	Kent County Council
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities

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Lowland Fen Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain the extent and quality of all existing fen sites.

Target: No net reduction in number of sites, overall extent of resource, or mean site area by the time of the next Kent Habitat Survey. All SSSI fens and 25% of Local Wildlife Site (SNCI) fens to be in favourable or recovering condition by 2020; 50% of Local Wildlife Site (SNCI) fens to be in favourable condition by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Policy						
1. Ensure that strategic and local plans include policies to protect BAP habitats.	2004	2010	KWT	LAs, KCC		Planning policy guidance; conflict with other planning policies.
2. Ensure all fen habitat of county importance is designated as a Local Wildlife Site (SNCI).	2004	2020	KWT	KWT		Resources.
Advisory						
3. Produce and/or disseminate guidance for landowners on appropriate site management of fens.	2004	2007	KWT	KWT, EN, KCC, FWAG, Defra		Resources.
4. Provide support to owners and managers of Local Wildlife Sites (SNCIs) with fen habitat.	2004	-	KWT	KWT, EN, KCC		Resources. Level of take-up.

Objective 2: Ensure sufficient water is available to maintain, and where appropriate enhance, fen habitat.

Target: All SSSI fens and 25% of Local Wildlife Site (SNCI) fens to be in favourable or recovering condition by 2020; 50% of Local Wildlife Site (SNCI) fens to be in favourable condition by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Policy						
5. Ensure that Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) identify the action necessary to conserve fen habitats, and that this action is implemented.	2005		EA	EA	CAMS are in place for the Stour catchment and North Kent.	
Advisory						
6. Produce information for water users explaining how water efficiency is linked to habitat protection and enhancement.	2005		KWT	KWT, EA		Resources

Objective 3: Ensure that, wherever possible, the management of flood risk works with, maintains and enhances natural systems, for example through the reconnection of water courses with their natural floodplains.

Target: No net reduction in number of sites, overall extent of resource, or mean site area by the time of the next Kent Habitat Survey. All SSSI fens and 25% of Local Wildlife Site (SNCI) fens to be in favourable or recovering condition by 2020; 50% of SNCI fens to be in favourable condition by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Policy						
7. Ensure that Catchment Flood Management Plans identify the action necessary to conserve and enhance fen habitats, and that this action is implemented.	2005		EA	EA		

Objective 4: Resist culverting, canalisation, diversion or other alterations of springs, headwaters and other water courses where this would potentially or actually damage fen habitat.

Target: No net reduction in number of sites, overall extent of resource, or mean site area by the time of the next Kent Habitat Survey. All SSSI fens and 25% of SNCI fens to be in favourable or recovering condition by 2020; 50% of SNCI fens to be in favourable condition by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Policy						
8. Ensure that strategic and local plans include policies to protect BAP habitats.	2004	2010	KWT	LAs, KCC		Planning policy guidance; conflict with other planning policies.
Advisory						
9. Produce information for planners, developers and land managers highlighting the importance of springs, headwaters and other small watercourses.	2005		KWT	KWT, EA		Resources

Objective 5: Create new, strategically important wetlands as part of the major river systems in the county.

Target: A net increase in the area of fen in Kent of at least 10% by 2010, at least 20% by 2020 and at least 25% by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Policy						
10. Ensure that Catchment Flood Management Plans identify the action necessary to conserve and enhance fen habitats, and that this action is implemented.	2005	-	EA	EA		
Land management						
11. Work with local authorities and developers to identify and implement programmes for fen restoration, particularly in association with growth areas.	2005	-	KWT	KWT, EA, LAs, Business		Resources. Availability of local opportunities.

Objective 6: Secure the appropriate conservation management of existing fen.

Target: All SSSI fens and 25% of Local Wildlife Site (SNCI) fens to be in favourable or recovering condition by 2020; 50% of SNCI fens to be in favourable condition by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Advisory						
12. Produce and/or disseminate guidance for landowners on appropriate site management.	2004	2007	KWT	KWT, EN, KCC, FWAG, Defra		Resources.
13. Provide support to owners and managers of Local Wildlife Sites (SNCI) with fen habitat.	2004	-	KWT	KWT, EN, KCC		Resources. Level of take-up.

Objective 7: Where appropriate, seek restoration to conservation wetland - including fen habitat - as a condition of aggregate extraction in floodplains.

Target: All planning applications for minerals extraction in floodplains to include some restoration to fen or other wetland habitat.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Policy						
14. Where appropriate, seek restoration to wetland habitat as a condition of permissions for aggregates extraction.	2005	-	KCC	KCC, Business		Conflict with other planning policies.
Advisory						
15. Promote the use of the new best practice website currently being developed by SEEDA.	2005	-	SEEDA	All		

Key

EA	Environment Agency
EN	English Nature
Defra	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
FWAG	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
KCC	Kent County Council
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities
SEEDA	South East England Development Agency

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Lowland Heath Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain the extent of all existing heathland sites.

Target: No net decrease in the distribution or overall extent of resource by the time of the next Kent Habitat Survey.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Policy						
1. Ensure that strategic and local plans include policies to protect BAP habitats	2004	-	KWT	KCC, LAS		Planning policy guidance; conflict with other planning policies.
2. Ensure all existing heathland, including heathland within woodlands, is designated as a Local Wildlife Site (SNCI).	2005	-	KWT	LAS, KWT		Resources.
Advisory						
3. Ensure that the importance of heathland as a habitat is more widely understood and appreciated through a programme of targeted PR including events and publications.	2005	-	KWT	KWT, EN, RSPB, AONB Units, KCC, LA, CMPS		Resources.

Objective 2: Significantly increase the extent of heathland, particularly at or close to existing sites at Dartford and Hothfield, in the Blean and the High Weald.

Target: Create a minimum of 5ha of new heathland by 2010, and 15ha of new heathland by 2020; aim to create at least 60ha of new heathland by 2010, and 100ha of new heathland by 2020. This target is to be achieved without any net loss of lowland acid grassland.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Research						
4. Understand historic extent of heathland in Kent	2004	2006	KWT, High Weald AONB Unit	KWT, High Weald AONB Unit		Resources.
5. Identify areas where it would be practical to recreate heathland as the first step in a county-wide restoration programme.	2004	2006	KWT, High Weald AONB Unit, FC	KWT, High Weald AONB Unit, FC, CMPs		Resources.
Land management						
6. Work with local authorities and developers to identify and implement programmes for heathland recreation and restoration at Dartford and Hothfield, and on publicly and privately owned land in the High Weald AONB.	2005	-	KWT	High Weald AONB Unit, RSPB, FC, LAS, CMPs, business, landowners		Resources; cooperation of partners.
7. Ensure that conservation management plans for the Blean complex include provision for substantial recreation and/or restoration of heathland.	2005	-	KWT, EN, RSPB	KWT, EN, RSPB		Possible conflict with other conservation priorities.

8. Support programmes for the reintroduction of grazing (or other appropriate management) on heathland commons.	2005	-	KWT	KWT, EN, LAs, CMPs, landowners		Conflict with access and open space policies.
Advisory						
9. Ensure that the importance of heathland as a habitat is more widely understood and appreciated through a programme of targeted PR including events and publications.	2005	-	KWT	KWT, EN, RSPB, AONB Units, KCC, LAs, CMPs		Resources.

Objective 3: Secure the appropriate conservation management of all existing and restored/recreated heathland.

Target: All SSSI heathland, and 50% of Local Wildlife Site (SNCI) heathland to be in favourable condition by 2020.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Land management						
10. Continue the restoration and conservation management of heathland at Hothfield Common.	2004	-	KWT	KWT		Resources.
11. Continue the restoration and conservation management of heathland at Pembury Heath.	2004	-	RSPB	RSPB		
12. Secure the appropriate conservation management of Dartford Heath as a key part of the Green Grid in Kent Thameside.	2005	-	Groundwork Kent Thames-side	Groundwork Kent Thames-side		Resources; conflict with local users.
13. Provide support to owners and managers of heathland Local Wildlife Sites (SNCI's).	2005		KWT	KWT, CMPs		Resources.
14. Secure the appropriate management of Forestry Commission sites with potential for heathland restoration.	2005	-	FC	FC		
Advisory						
15. Ensure that the importance of heathland as a habitat is more widely understood and appreciated through a programme of targeted PR including events and publications.	2005	-	KWT	KWT, EN, RSPB, AONB Units, KCC, LAs, CMPs		Resources.

16. Provide guidance for owners of small heathland sites.	2005	-	KWT	KWT, CMPs		Resources; level of take-up.
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Key

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
EN	English Nature
CMPs	Countryside Management Projects
FC	Forestry Commission
KCC	Kent County Council
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

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Lowland Meadows Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain the extent and quality of all lowland meadows (where quality is monitored by a site meeting good conservation management objectives).

Target: Maintain 65ha of SSSI lowland meadow by 2010 (equivalent to 95% of SSSI), 117ha by 2020 (equivalent to 100% SSSI and 25% SNCI) and 166ha by 2026 (equivalent to 100% SSSI and 50% SNCI).

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Policy						
1. Ensure that strategic and local plans include policies to protect BAP habitats.	2005	2010	KWT, Kent BAP Co-ordinator	LAs, KCC, EN, KBP		Planning policy guidance; conflict with other planning policies
Land management						
2. Secure favourable/recovering condition of lowland meadow units within SSSIs.	2005	2015	EN	EN, O/Os		Identification of type and quality of existing resource
3. Establish conservation status of all lowland meadow SNCIs.	2005	2026	KWT	KWT		Resources. Access to land. Identification of type and quality of existing resource.

4. Further develop the Weald grazing network for vulnerable meadows. Advisory	2005	-	Kent High Weald AONB				
5. Provide support to owners and managers of lowland meadow SNCIs.			KWT, Kent High Weald AONB	KWT, EN, KCC, DEFRA, CMPs, FWAG, AONB units			
6. Provide practical/ financial assistance for small hay meadow management.	2005	-	DEFRA	DEFRA, EN		Resources	
7. Encourage uptake of agri-environment schemes on lowland meadow sites.	2005	-	DEFRA	DEFRA, FWAG, KWT, advisors			
8. Promote the establishment of a local native seed production 'nursery' to provide a bulk source of local provenance seed for restoration projects.	2005	2010	KWT	KCC, AONB units, KWT		Landowner availability, resources	

Objective 2: Increase the overall extent of lowland meadows and reduce habitat fragmentation.

Target: Create and/or re-create 165ha (25% of existing resource) by 2010 and 329ha (50% of existing resource) by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Policy						
9. Ensure conservation measures are taken into account in the development and operation of agri-environment schemes.	2005		KWT, DEFRA	KCC, KWT, LAS		
10. Where appropriate, seek restoration to lowland meadows from arable as conditions of planning permissions.	2005		KCC	KCC, LAs, Business		Land owner/ land availability
Land management						
11. Seek opportunities to restore lowland meadows via Environmental Stewardship, acquisition or agreement. Prioritise extensions to existing sites.	2005	2015	KWT	KWT, EN, AONB units, FWAG, DEFRA		Resources. Level of take up. Identification of type and quality of existing resource.
Advisory						
12. Provide support to owners and managers of lowland meadow SNCIs.	2005	-	KWT	KWT, EN, CMPs AONB units		Resources

Objective 3: Where possible, secure the appropriate management of all non-designated lowland meadows.

Target: Enhance and restore 165ha (equivalent to 25% of existing resource) by 2010, 263ha by 2020 (equivalent to 40% of total resource) and 329ha by 2026 (equivalent to 50% of total resource). (These are cumulative figures).

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Policy						
13. Consider lowland meadows when determining the selection of Local Nature Reserves.	2005	Ongoing	LAs	KCC, KWT		
Land management						
14. Ensure all lowland meadows of county importance are identified for their potential as Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Consider and pursue designation where appropriate.	2005	Ongoing	EN	EN		
15. Ensure that all lowland meadows of county importance are identified as a Local Wildlife Site (SNCL) when not a candidate as a SSSI.	2005	2010	KWT	KWT, EN		Resources Identification of type and quality of the existing resource.

Education and awareness raising									
16. Raise the profile of lowland meadows for their nature conservation importance.	2004	Ongoing	Kent BAP Co-ordinator	KBP					
Advisory									
17. Provide support to landowners interested in carrying out management for the conservation of lowland meadows.	2004	Ongoing	KWT, AONBs						
18. Produce and/or disseminate guidance for landowners on appropriate site management.	2005			KWT, EN, AONB units, FWAG, DEFRA					Resources
19. Provide support to owners and managers of lowland meadow SNCIs.			KWT	KWT, CMPs					
20. Provide practical/financial assistance for small hay meadow management.	2005	-	DEFRA	EN, DEFRA					
21. Encourage uptake of agri-environment schemes on lowland meadow sites.	2005		DEFRA	DEFRA, FWAG, KWT, advisors					
22. Promote the establishment of a local native seed production 'nursery' to provide a bulk source of local provenance seed for restoration projects.	2005	2010	KWT	KCC, AONB units KWT					Landowner availability, resources

Key

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
EN	English Nature
CMPs	Countryside Management Projects
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
KBP	Kent Biodiversity Partnership
KCC	Kent County Council
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities
O/Os	Owner Occupiers

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Lowland Wood-Pasture & Parkland Action Plan

Objective 1: Ensure that the current area of wood-pasture in Kent is actively managed through suitable grazing and tree management.

Target 1: Maintain 217 ha of lowland wood-pasture and parkland 2010, 319 ha by 2020 and 410 ha by 2026.

Target 2: Enhance and restore 324 ha of lowland wood-pasture and parkland (equivalent to 10% of the 2003 resource) by 2010, 486 ha (equivalent to 15% of the 2003 resource) by 2020 and 648 ha (equivalent to 20% of the 2003 resource) by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Policy and legislation							
1. Assess favourably TPO applications for veteran trees of particular importance in wood-pasture & parkland.	2004	Ongoing	LAS	KCC, EN			
Site management							
2. Achieve 95% of SSSI lowland wood-pasture & parkland in Favourable or Unfavourable Recovering condition.	2004	2010	EN	EN, O/Os			
3. Secure favourable conservation status of lowland wood-pasture & parkland LWSs.	2005		KWT	Landowners			
4. Target Environmental Stewardship to restore and enhance areas of wood-pasture & parkland.	2005		Defra/RDS	Kent & Sussex FWAG, CMPs.			

5. Co-ordinate the activities of volunteer groups that contribute to the management of wood-pasture sites. Advisory	2004	Ongoing	CMPs	EN		
6. Provide one-to-one advice to landowners on the management of wood-pasture & parkland (e.g. pollarding and grazing). Research & Monitoring	2004	Ongoing	CMPs	EN, FC, KWT,		
7. Carry out an inventory of all wood-pasture sites assessing the condition of veteran trees.	2007		KCC	EN, FC, KWT		

Objective 2: Create new areas of wood-pasture and parkland in Kent where there is greatest opportunity and where this would not compromise nature conservation objectives for other habitats.

Target 1: Create 259 ha of lowland wood-pasture and parkland (equivalent to 8% of the 2003 resource) by 2020 and a further 130 ha (equivalent to 4% of the 2003 resource) by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
8. Promote the planting of new trees and management of maiden trees through the England Woodland Grant	2004		FC	FC, Defra			
9. Facilitate programmes to ensure a local resource of skilled tree surgeons trained in the pollarding of wood-			KCC	EN			
Communications & Publicity							
10. Within the Kent Downs AONB, develop a programme of veteran, parkland and specimen tree conservation and promotion, including opportunities to re-establish wood-	2007		Kent Downs AONB	EN, KWT, NT, FC			

Key

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
EN	English Nature
CMPs	Countryside Management Projects
Defra	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
FC	Forestry Commission
FWAG	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
KCC	Kent County Council
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities
NT	National Trust
O/Os	Owner/Occupiers

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Maritime Cliff & Slope Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain quality and extent of existing maritime cliff & slope.

Target: Maintain 115 ha of coastal maritime cliff and slope by 2010 and a total of 122 ha by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
1. Achieve 95% of SSSI maritime cliff and slope in Favourable or Unfavourable Recovering condition.	2005	2010	EN	EN, O/Os			
2. As far as possible, allow natural coastal processes to determine the geomorphology of the coastal environment.	Ongoing	Ongoing	All	All			
3. Ensure no new coastal defences below nationally or internationally designated maritime cliff and slope.	Ongoing	Ongoing	SECG	LAs, EN, EA			
4. Advocate natural coastal processes and the ecological importance of maritime cliff and slope in the Shoreline Management Plan review process.	2004	End of SMP review process	EN	KCC, EN, EA, LAs			
5. Encourage a presumption against development close to the cliff-top which, due to the progress of natural erosion, could require future coastal defence works.	Ongoing	Ongoing	EN	LAs, EN			

6. Incorporation of HAP targets for maritime cliff & slope within the Local Development Frameworks of Dover, Shepway and Swale.	2005	2006	KCC	LAS			
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Objective 2: Ensure positive management all maritime cliff & slope in Kent.

Target: Enhance and restore 12 ha of maritime cliff & slope by 2026.
 Ensure there is no net loss maritime cliff & slope in Kent up to 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
7. Achieve 100% of SSSI maritime cliff and slope in Favourable or Unfavourable Recovering condition.	2010	2020	EN	EN, O/Os			
8. Maintain and where possible create a buffer of semi-natural grassland along the cliff-top by targeting Environmental Stewardship towards arable reversion.	2005	On-going	Defra/RDS	Defra/RDS, EN, WCCP			
9. Consider selection of the 5 ha of maritime cliff & slope outside SSSI designation as a Local Wildlife Site (SNCI).	2005	2026	KWT				
10. Develop a new Heritage Coastal Management Plan.	2005	2020	Kent Downs AONB	NT, WCCP			

Objective 3: Raise awareness of maritime cliff and slope.

Target: An increase in public awareness and appreciation of maritime cliff & slope resulting in the more positive management of this habitat.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
11. Promote the importance of maritime cliff & slope through leaflets and guided walks and other public events.	ongoing	Ongoing	WCCP	WCCP, NT			
12. Develop a new Heritage Coastal Management Plan.	2005	2020	Kent Downs AONB	NT, WCCP			

Key

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
EA	Environment Agency
EN	English Nature
EN	English Nature
KCC	Kent County Council
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities
NT	National Trust
O/Os	Owner/Occupiers
SECG	South East Coastal Group
WCCP	White Cliffs Countryside Project

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Marine Action Plan

Objective 1: To increase knowledge of Kent's marine habitats and species and the effect of human activities on them.

Target 1: To gather existing and new data on marine habitats and species and on human activities.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Cataloguing of existing data							
1. Establish Kent Marine and Coastal Research Library:	2004	2006	KCC/KMBRC	NEKCSAG, KMBRC, TCP, KCN, MSEP	£37K	Funding proposals drawn up Dec 04; some funds secured. Appointed officer for Thanet phase Mar 05.	
Thanet Coast (Whitstable to Deal)	2004	2005					
Deal to Dungeness	2005	2005					
Isle of Grain to Whitstable	2005	2006					
2. Maintain TEP library	2004	Ongoing	TEP	TEP			
3. Maintain and update Kent Marine and Coastal Research Library	2005	Ongoing	KMBRC/KCC	KMBRC			
New and Ongoing Data Collection							
4. Maintain Seasearch marine training and survey programme - recording habitats, seabed cover types and species at selected sites.	2004	Ongoing	KWT	KWT, Seasearch			
5. Develop Seasearch project to encourage Kent divers to record species of particular interest (BAP, climate	2005	2005	KWT	KWT, Seasearch			

change, edge of range).													
6. Maintain Shoresearch intertidal training and survey programme - recording habitat information and full species lists for selected sites.	2004	Ongoing	KWT	KWT, Shoresearch, Kent Marine Group									
7. Develop Shoresearch recording format for compatibility with Marine Recorder, Thanet Coast Project, East and West Sussex coastal biodiversity and wardening projects, and Hampshire.	2005	2005	KWT	KWT, TCP Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme, ESCC, W Sussex Coastal Warden Scheme									Shoresearch format being piloted in Kent, Sussex and Hampshire in 2005. Review end 2005.
8. Develop Shoresearch project to encourage recording of species of particular interest (BAP, climate change, introduced), and skate and ray egg cases.	2005	2005	KWT	KWT, Shoresearch, Shark Trust									
9. Promote marine mammal recording.	2004	Ongoing	KMG	KMG, KMBRC, KWT, KCN									
10. Carry out desk based study on impact of climate change on marine native species, incorporating RSPB work on marine indicator species, with long term view to model impacts of climate change on marine environment around Kent.	2005		KCC	KCC, RSPB									
11. Assess fishing practices used in Kent, and their impacts on the marine environment, in light of national research initiatives.	2005?		KESFC/EA/ CEFAS	KESFC, EA									
12. Assess coastal/marine recreational activities, impact on habitats, and carrying capacity around	2004 underway		MSEP	MSEP									

Medway/Swale.									
13. Encourage further work on recreational impacts to cover the rest of Kent, in light of results of MSEP work. (Link with Coastal Warden Scheme included in Littoral and Sublittoral Chalk HAP).	2005?		KCC		KCC, TCP Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme, KCN				

Target 2: To determine the existence, location and extent of sublittoral Priority Habitats in Kent seas.
(See separate HAPs for Sabellaria reef habitats, littoral and sublittoral chalk, and seagrass beds.)

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Maerl or maerl beds							
14. Undertake surveys of Varne Bank (where dead fragments found in 2003).	2005	2006	KWT	KWT, Seasearch, Bramley Assocs			
15. Increase awareness of maerl among divers, and encourage recording of maerl by Seasearch volunteers and other divers.	2004	Ongoing	KWT	KWT, Seasearch			

Objective 2: To protect key sites of marine nature conservation value around Kent.

Target 1: To identify sites of national, regional and local importance and prevent loss/deterioration.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Identification of key sites							
16. Identify key sites of marine wildlife value	2004	Ongoing	KWT	KWT/Seasearch/Shoresearch			
Protection of key sites							
17. Promote designation of key sites within framework of existing European Directives, new national legislation, or if necessary non-statutory schemes.	2005		KWT	KWT, EN			
18. Make data on Kent's marine environment and key sites available to influence marine management decisions, at local, marine landscape, regional seas and wider sea levels.	2004	Ongoing	KWT	KMBRC			

Objective 3: To promote an integrated cross-sectoral, ecosystem approach to sustainable marine resource management in Kent and regionally.

Target 1: To promote a holistic approach to marine management.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Marine Legislation and SEA							
19. Contribute to national campaign to promote integrated comprehensive marine legislation.	2004	2005	(WCL)	KWT, RSPB, NT, LGA coastal issues SIG			
20. Contribute to regional and national efforts to promote cross-sectoral SEAs	2004?	Ongoing	(WCL/TWTs)	TWTs/KWT, RSPB, EN			
Regional Marine BAP							
21. Contribute to development of regional marine BAP to address issues at regional seas and wider seas levels.	2004	2005	TWT-SEMP	KWT, KCC, TEP, EN			

Target 2: To increase awareness of the marine environment and liaison between its users.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
22. To raise awareness of the marine environment and the impacts of human activities (remote and local) on marine habitats and species. (Link with	2004	Ongoing	KWT	KWT, TWT-SEMP, TCP, MSEP, KCC KCN			

Littoral and Sublittoral Chalk HAP awareness work around Thanet).										
23. To improve liaison with and between all users of the marine environment, and set up working groups to address particular issues.	2004	Ongoing	KCC	KCC, KCN Members						

Target 3: To contribute to initiatives aimed at sustainable resource management.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Fisheries							
24. Partners in the TEP Fisheries Action Group to continue to develop a Greater Thames Estuary approach to sustainable local fisheries and fishing practices, and agree action required and make recommendations that can then be explored Kent-wide.	2005?	Ongoing	TEP FAG, KESFC	TEP FAG KESFC			
25. To work with Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee to promote sustainable local fisheries and fishing practices in Kent, and specifically to protect near-shore habitats of importance as breeding and nursery areas for marine fish and invertebrates, through use of byelaws and other appropriate means.	2005?	Ongoing	KESFC	KCC, KWT, TWT-SEMP, KESFC, EN			

Coastal and Offshore Development									
26. Encourage sustainable coastal and offshore developments through influencing planning applications and development policy.	2004	Ongoing	KCC	KCC, KWT, EA, EN					
Shoreline Management Planning									
27. Linked with all coastal HAPs, to contribute to and influence SMPs to encourage a naturally functioning coast where possible, to maintain intertidal/near-shore habitats of importance as breeding/nursery areas for marine fish and invertebrates.	2004	Ongoing	EA	KCC, KWT, EA, EN, KESFC					
Dredging									
28. Partners in TEP Dredging Liaison Group to establish best practice guidelines for environmentally responsible dredging and encourage their use Kent-wide.	2005		TEP DLG, PLA	TEP DLG, KCC, KWT, TWT-SEMP, EN, BMAPA, CE, PLA, Port Authorities, KESFC					
29. Encourage increased beneficial use of dredged material - assess potential routes/uses for beneficial dredged material in Kent.	2005?	Ongoing	TEP DLG, EN, RSPB	TEP DLG, PLA, Port Authorities, KCC, KWT, SECG, EN, RSPB					
Pollution									
30. Reduce water pollution through working with industry and supporting work of standing environmental groups.	2005?	Ongoing	EA	EA, KCC, SEG, EN					
31. Increase awareness of pollution, WFD and other legislative instruments for reducing pollution.	2005		EA	EA, KCC KCN, EN					

Key

BMAPA	British Marine Aggregate Producers Association
CE	Crown Estate
EA	Environment Agency
EN	English Nature
ESCC	East Sussex County Council
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
KCC	Kent County Council
KCN	Kent Coastal Network
KESFC	Kent & Essex Sea Fisheries Committee
KMG	Kent Mammal Group
KMBRC	Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
MSEP	Medway Swale Estuary Partnership
NEK CSAG	NE Kent Coastal Scientific Advisory Group
PLA	Port of London Authority
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SECG	South East Coastal Group
SEMP	South East Marine Programme (TWT)
TCP	Thanet Coast Project
TEP	Thames Estuary Partnership
TEP FAG	TEP Fisheries Action Group
TEP DLG	TEP Dredging Liaison Group
TWT	The Wildlife Trusts (national partnership)
WCL	Wildlife & Countryside Link
WFD	Water Framework Directive

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Mixed Broadleaved Woodland and Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain the existing area of ancient and semi-natural woodland.

Target: Retain the current area and quality of ancient woodland.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
1. Carry out woodlands census and habitat survey to monitor status.	Summer 2005		FC/KCC	FC, KCC		FC National Inventory of Woodlands and Trees due to start summer 2005.	
2. Ensure that significant mixed broadleaved woods not designated SSSI are made SNCI.	2005	2026	KWT	KWT			
3. Prepare and circulate a brief document to planners to highlight the importance of this habitat.	2006	2007	KCC	KCC, FC			

Objective 2: Achieve favourable condition in woodland SSSIs through management plans and appropriate management.

Target: 95% of woodland SSSI in unfavourable improving or favourable condition by 2010.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
4. Create a new post dedicated to working with woodland SSSI owners to ensure management plans are written to achieve improving condition.	07/01/05	31/12/05	FC/EN	FC/EN joint funders	£30,000	Appointment of officer completed. Post based at FC, initially for 1 year	Availability of future funding to extend post.
5. Engage with owners of SSSI woodlands in unfavourable condition via workshops.	1/1/05	30/1/06	FC/EN	FC, EN	£2000	Initial workshop planned Feb 2005; others if needed.	
6. Put in place support systems to ensure management plans are carried out and favourable condition achieved.	1/6/2005	31/3/2010	FC/EN	FC, EN, KWT, KCC, AONB, woodland owners			Availability of grant aid at a time when timber markets are declining.

Objective 3: Increase the area of semi-natural woodland on ancient woodland sites.

Target: 80% of ancient woodlands to be composed of native species by 2050.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
7. Encourage a gradual process of removal of non-native species from ancient woodland through development of management plans and grant aid.	April 2006	Ongoing	EN/FC	EN, FC, KWT		FE design plan for Orlestone forest approved and Clowes wood in draft form	Available funding. Lack of timber markets. Importance of conifers for some moths. Importance of sweet chestnut as part of Kents cultural heritage.
8. Pass on best practice advice through seminars, research publications and easy to understand leaflets	2005	Ongoing	FC	FC, EN, WT, KWT		FC seminar held 2004. Forest research book published.	Funding

Objective 4: Develop management plans for ancient and semi-natural broadleaved woodlands that are not in SSSIs.

Target:

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
9. Prepare straightforward guidance on habitat recognition and management for mixed broadleaf woodland SNCI owners.	2004	2005	KCC	KCC			
10. Prepare written management plans for mixed broadleaf woodland SNCI owners.			KWT	KWT, FC			

Objective 5: Develop a programme to restore and, where appropriate, reintroduce populations of BAP and Kent Red Data Book woodland butterflies.

Target:

	Present	10 year	50 year
Heath Fritillary	Approx. 16 colonies	25 colonies	30 colonies
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	1 poor colony	15 colonies	Widely found
Duke of Burgundy fritillary	3+ colonies	5 colonies	15 colonies

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
11. Identify potential areas for management of habitats across ownership boundaries, on a landscape scale to increase interconnected habitat.	Jan 05	Jan 06	EN/FC/BC	KWT, FE, WT, EN		Areas at Blean Denge and Gorsley identified.	Funding
12. Develop funding bids for the management of areas identified above.	Jan 05	March 06	WT/BC	WT/BC, KWT			
13. Monitor populations of key butterfly species.	Ongoing		BC	KWT, RSPB, FE, WT			
14. Identify sites for the reintroduction of species.							

Objective 6: Develop opportunities for all to enjoy woodland biodiversity.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
15. Produce self guided walk leaflets for Bleau woods.	Debbie	Debbie	Bleau Initiative	Bleau Initiative partners and volunteers		Debbie	
16. Produce an information pack for teachers listing farms and farm woodlands with access for schools	April 05	Dec 06	DEFRA, FC	DEFRA, FC		In draft form	
17. Development of a community woodland in the Thames Gateway area. Develop Lamberhurst Farm as a woodland area and public access and educational resource.	April 05	March 07	FE (Thames Gateway) WT (Lamberhurst Farm)	FE WT		145ha Land purchased near Cobham. Lamberhurst Farm plans presented to the public	
18. Apply to Heritage Lottery Fund for 'Welcome to the Wildside' proposal, to enable people to experience and learn about Ham Street Woods and other National Nature Reserves. If successful, implement proposals.		Autumn 05 (submit bid)	EN	EN		Work continues to complete the application	Implementation depends on successful HLF application

Key

BC	Butterfly Conservation
EN	English Nature
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
FC	Forestry Commission
FE	Forestry Enterprise
KCC	Kent County Council
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
WT	Woodland Trust

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Mudflats Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain at least the present extent of Kent's mudflats.

Target: Maintain present area (8,408ha) of mudflat resource by 2010.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
1. Planning authorities should maintain a presumption against intertidal encroachment by development. Any unavoidable losses to development should, where possible, be compensated by mudflat creation within the same littoral cell.		ongoing	KCC/LAS	EN, EA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EA has intertidal encroachment policy for estuaries. 	
2. Use the SMP process to investigate and pursue opportunities for managed realignment of flood defences to offset losses of intertidal habitat to rising sea level.	2004	onwards	EA	KCC, LAS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isle of Grain to Dover SMP review April 2005. • Medway Estuary and Swale SMP April 2005 • Thames Estuary Project 2100 	
3. Monitor the rate and location of Mudflat change and research the relative significance of contributory factors including climate change, dredging, development and coastal defences.		On-going	EA/KCC	KCN		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kent Habitat Survey 2003 to be updated 	

Objective 2: Maintain, restore and enhance the quality of intertidal mudflats.

Target: No deterioration in ecological quality of intertidal mudflat. Enhance/restore 895ha of mudflat by 2010.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
4. Maintain or restore estuarine water quality to ensure that mudflats fulfil their ecological and conservation role.		ongoing	EA			Ongoing	
5. Monitor non-native species and their impact on mudflat species/habitat.		Ongoing	EN	EA, KWT			
6. Encourage wider adoption of a bait-digging code of conduct as developed by the Thanet Coast Project.	2005	2010	EN	KCN			
7. Work with dredging companies to reduce impacts on mudflats.		ongoing	EA	EN			

Objective 3: Raise awareness, amongst key decision-makers, of the importance of mudflats as an ecological resource.

Target: Increased awareness evident in mudflat-favourable planning decisions.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
8. Produce and distribute printed or web-based information on Mudflats and their conservation importance.	2006	2007	Kent BAP Co-ordinator	KCN, EN			

Key

EA	Environment Agency
EN	English Nature
KCC	Kent County Council
KCN	Kent Coastal Network
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities

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Old Orchards Action Plan

Objective 1: Seek to minimise the loss of traditional old orchards.

Target: No orchards grubbed through owner's lack of awareness of the available support.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
1. Publicise Environmental Stewardship.	Jan 2005	On-going	Defra RDS	KBP			
2. Publicise Heritage Lottery Funding.	Jan 2005	On-going	HLF	KBP			

Objective 2: To more accurately establish the current extent and condition of traditional orchards.

Target: Establish extent by 2007, condition by 2010.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
3. Establish extent of orchards.	2005	2007	K&MBRC	KBP			
4. Establish condition of orchards in CS.	2005	2007	Defra RDS				
5. Establish condition of orchards in HLF.	2005	2006	CA (HLF)				
6. Establish condition of unsupported orchards.	2005	2010	K&MBRC	KBP			

Objective 3: Maintain those traditional old orchards remaining in (or restore them to) favourable managed condition.

Target: All identified orchards in favourable condition within two years of identification (Identification involves owners agreement to retain).

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
7. Encourage uptake of relevant ES items.	Mar 2005	On-going	Defra RDS	KBP			
8. Appropriate management of ES sites.	Jan 2005	On-going	Defra RDS	KBP			
9. Seek to restore old orchard sites within the Kent Downs AONB.	2005	On-going	Kent Downs AONB				
10. Appropriate management of HL sites.	Jan 2005	On-going	CA (HLF)	KBP			
11. Establish database of pruners & graziers.	Mar 2005	On-going	RAMSAK (?)	KBP			

Objective 4: Increase the use of orchards as community orchards.

Target: Three more orchards to be used more formally by their local communities.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
12. Identification of suitable sites.	2005	2007	TBC	All Projects			
13. Establishment of events programme.	2005	2007	TBC	All Projects			
14. Action with Communities in Rural Kent.							

Objective 5: Targeted planting of new trees.

Target: Identification of suitable sites.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
15. Identification of suitable sites.	2005	2007	Defra RDS	All partners			
16. Use appropriate ES orchard option.	Mar 2005	On-going	Defra RDS	All partners			
17. Identify sites for the re-creation of orchards within the Kent Downs AONB	2005	On-going	Kent Downs AONB				

Objective 6: Establish and maintain a comprehensive list of community and accessible traditional orchards and associated events.

Target: List and system for maintenance established by 2006.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
18. List community orchards.	2005	2006	TBC	KBP			
19. List traditional orchards with public access.	2005	2006	TBC	Defra RDS (CS)			

Objective 7: To improve knowledge and awareness of the biological and cultural value of local fruit varieties, traditional orchards and the management practices and skills associated with them.

Target: On-going

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
20. To identify markets supporting the restoration and creation of old orchards in the Kent Downs AONB	2005	On-going	Kent Downs AONB	Kent Downs AONB			
21. To publicise Apple Day (annually).	Aug 2005	Oct 2005	TBC	KBP			
22. To publicise other orchard/fruit events.	Apr 2005		TBC	KBP			
23. To stimulate demand for traditional orchard products.	Apr 2005		TBC	KBP			
24. Link to Brogdale & Hadlow Coll. Events.	Apr 2005		TBC	KBP			
25. Link with KCC Produced in Kent work.	Apr 2005		TBC	KBP			

Key

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CA	Countryside Agency
Defra RDS	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Rural Development Service
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
KBP	Kent Biodiversity Partnership
K&MBRC	Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre

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Reedbeds Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain the overall extent of existing reedbed sites.

Target: No net reduction in number of sites, overall extent of resource, or mean site area by the time of the next Kent Habitat Survey. All SSSI reedbeds and 25% of Local Wildlife Site (SNCI) reedbeds to be in favourable or recovering condition by 2020; 50% of Local Wildlife Site (SNCI) reedbeds to be in favourable condition by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Policy						
1. Ensure that strategic and local plans include policies to protect BAP habitats.	2004	2010	KWT	LAs, KCC		Planning policy guidance; conflict with other planning policies.
2. Ensure all reedbed habitat of county importance is designated as a Local Wildlife Site (SNCI).	2004	2020	KWT	KWT		Resources.
Land management						
3. Achieve 95% of SSSI reedbed in Favourable, or Unfavourable Recovering, condition.	2004	2010	EN	Landowners or managers		
Advisory						
4. Produce and/or disseminate guidance for landowners on appropriate site management of reedbeds.	2004	2008	KWT	KWT, EN, KCC, FWAG, Defra		Resources.
5. Provide support to owners and managers of Local Wildlife Sites (SNCI) with reedbed habitat.	2004		KWT	KWT, EN, KCC		Resources. Level of take-up.

Objective 2: Create new, strategically important wetlands - to include reedbeds - as part of the major river systems in the county.

Target: A net increase in the area of reedbed in Kent of at least 30% by 2010, at least 60% by 2020 and at least 75% by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Policy						
6. Ensure that Catchment Flood Management Plans, Water Level Abstraction Management Plans identify the action necessary to conserve and enhance reedbed habitats, and that this action is implemented.	2005	-	EA	EA		
Land management						
7. Work with local authorities and developers to identify and implement programmes for reedbed restoration, as part of wider wetland restoration, particularly in association with growth areas.	2005	-	KWT	KWT, EA, LAs, Business		Resources. Availability of local opportunities.

Objective 3: Secure the appropriate conservation management of existing reedbeds.

Target: All SSSI reedbeds and 25% of Local Wildlife Site (SNCI) reedbeds to be in favourable or recovering condition by 2020; 50% of Local Wildlife Site (SNCI) reedbeds to be in favourable condition by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Advisory						
8. Produce and/or disseminate guidance for landowners on appropriate site management.	2004	2008	KWT	KWT, EN, KCC, FWAG, Defra		Resources.
9. Provide support to owners and managers of Local Wildlife Sites (SNCIs) with reedbed habitat.	2004	-	KWT	KWT, EN, KCC		Resources. Level of take-up.

Objective 4: Where appropriate, seek restoration to conservation wetland - including reedbeds - as a condition of aggregate extraction in floodplains.

Target: All planning applications for minerals extraction in floodplains to include some restoration to reedbed or other wetland habitat.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Policy						
10. Where appropriate, seek restoration to wetland habitat as a condition of permissions for aggregates extraction.	2005	-	KCC	KCC, Business		Conflict with other planning policies.
Advisory						
11. Promote the use of the new best practice website currently being developed by SEEDA.	2005	-	SEEDA	All		

Objective 5: Ensure that any future proposals for coastal realignment do not result in net loss of reedbed habitat.

Target: All SSSI reedbeds and 25% of Local Wildlife Site (SNCI) reedbeds to be in favourable or recovering condition by 2020; 50% of Local Wildlife Site (SNCI) reedbeds to be in favourable condition by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Progress	Constraints
Policy						
12. Ensure that managed realignment schemes, or other coastal flood risk management schemes, take account of potential impacts on freshwater or brackish water habitats and fully mitigate or compensate for any potential loss.	2005		EA	EA, KCC, LAS		

Key

EA	Environment Agency
EN	English Nature
Defra RDS	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Rural Development Service
FWAG	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
KCC	Kent County Council
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAS	Local Authorities
SEEDA	South East England Development Agency

Definitions

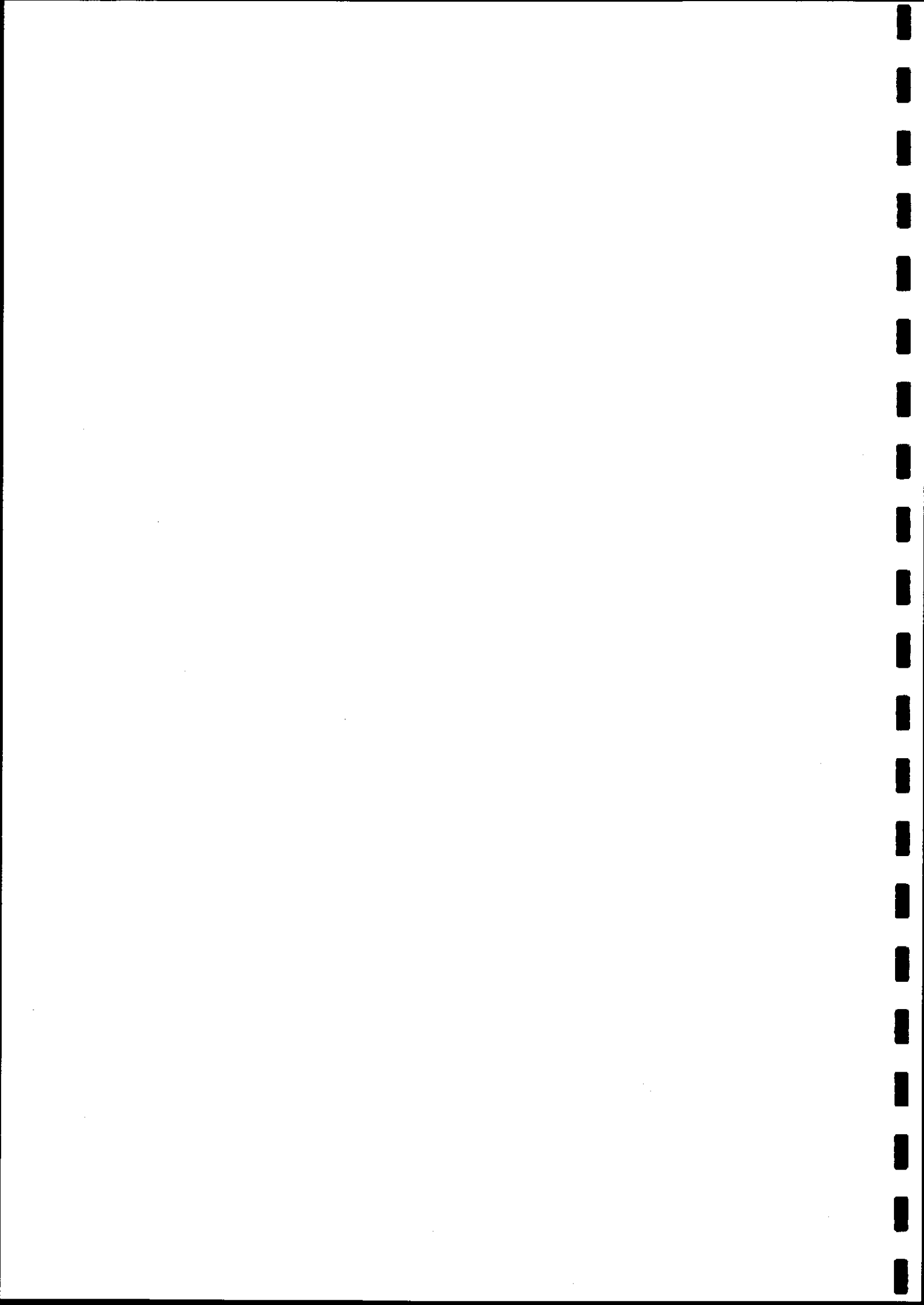
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Sabellaria alveolata Reefs Action Plan

Objective 1: To determine the existence, extent and condition of *Sabellaria alveolata* reefs around the Kent coast.

Target: To establish whether *Sabellaria alveolata* reefs persist in Kent and to map their extent and condition.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
1. Revisit sites where <i>Sabellaria alveolata</i> reefs previously recorded.	2005	-	KWT	KWT, Shoresearch		Shoresearch visits planned for ELWS 12 March and 20 Aug 2005	
2. Encourage recording of <i>Sabellaria alveolata</i> by Shoresearch and Seasearch volunteers, conservation organisations with coastal sites or remit, and members of the public.	2005	-	KWT	KWT, Shoresearch and Seasearch			
3. Undertake survey of any reefs found to: map location and extent, assess condition, record community supported by reef.	2005/6	-	KWT	KWT, Shoresearch			



Objective 2: To maintain the distribution and quality of any *S. alveolata* reefs found around the Kent coast.

Target: To protect any existing reefs through site designation, awareness and practical management measures

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
If <i>Sabellaria alveolata</i> reefs found:							
4. Encourage protection, if possible through SSSI designation, if not already covered, or through other possible statutory or voluntary designations.			KWT, EN	KWT, EN			
5. Depending on condition, raise awareness of the existence, locations, significance and vulnerabilities of reefs.			KWT	KWT, TCP, KCN			
6. Where presence is confirmed, introduce measures to prevent mechanical damage from small craft, and from other beach users.			TCP, MSEP, KCC	TCP Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme, KCN			
7. Ensure presence of reefs is considered in Shoreline Management Plans, coastal defence strategies, beach management, and any coastal developments.			EN, EA, KCC	EN, EA, KCC, TCP, KWT			

Objective 3: To encourage/contribute to national BAP research initiatives to establish the habitat conditions required for re-establishment of *S. alveolata* reefs.

Target: To investigate re-establishment of reefs in Kent.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
8. Liaise with national BAP lead partner to encourage and contribute to research into habitat requirements for re-establishment of the species.	2005	-	KWT, EN	KWT, EN			

Key

EA	Environment Agency
EN	English Nature
KCN	Kent Coastal Network
KCC	Kent County Council
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
MSEP	Medway & Swale Estuary Partnership
TCP	Thanet Coast Project

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Sabellaria spinulosa Reefs Action Plan

Objective 1: To determine the existence, location and extent of *Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs around Kent and in the outer Thames Estuary.

Target: To establish whether *Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs exist in Kent and, as located, to map their extent and condition.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
1. Obtain data from past and current research and monitoring.	2005		KWT	KWT, KCN			
2. Revisit sites where <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> previously recorded.	2005		KWT	KWT, Seasearch			
3. Encourage recording of <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> by Seasearch volunteers, and other divers.	2005	Ongoing	KWT	KWT, Seasearch			
4. Undertake survey of any reefs found to: map location and extent, assess condition, record community supported by reef.			KWT	CEFAS, EN, KWT, Seasearch			

Objective 2: To maintain the distribution and quality of any *S. spinulosa* reefs found off Kent and in the outer Thames Estuary.

Target: To protect any existing reefs through site designation, awareness and practical management measures.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
If <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> reefs found:							
5. Encourage protection, if possible through SAC designation, or through other possible statutory or voluntary designations.			EN, KWT	EN, KWT			
6. Raise awareness of existence, locations, significance and vulnerabilities of reefs.			KWT	KWT, CEFAS, KCN, CE			
7. Liaise with national BAP lead partner regarding Code of Practice.			KWT, EN, CEFAS	KWT, EN, CEFAS			
8. Work with fishing industry to promote protection of reef areas.			KESFC, CEFAS	KESFC, CEFAS, KWT, EN			
9. Ensure presence of reefs is considered in SEAs and EIAs for any offshore developments and activities including aggregate dredging and spoil disposal.			EN, CEFAS	EN, CEFAS, KWT			

Objective 3: To encourage / contribute to national BAP research initiatives to establish the habitat conditions required for re-establishment of *S. spinulosa* reefs.

Target: To investigate re-establishment of reefs in Kent

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
10. Liaise with national BAP lead partner to encourage and contribute to research into habitat requirements for re-establishment of the species.			KWT, CEFAS	KWT, CEFAS			

Key

CE	Crown Estate
CEFAS	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
EA	Environment Agency
EN	English Nature
KCN	Kent Coastal Network
KCC	Kent County Council
KESFC	Kent & Essex Sea Fisheries Committee
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust

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Saline Lagoons Action Plan

- Objective 1:** Maintain the current quality and extent of saline lagoons in Kent.
- Target 1:** No net loss of saline lagoon resource (242ha).
- Target 2:** 216ha of saline lagoons SSSI (95%) to have management in place to meet its objectives by 2010.
- Target 3:** 231ha of saline lagoon SSSI (100%) and SNCI (25%) to have management in place to meet its objectives by 2020.
- Objective 2:** Enhance and restore the conservation interest of existing saline lagoons by appropriate management.
- Target 4:** 26ha of saline lagoons enhanced and restored by 2010; 37ha by 2020.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Site safeguard and management							
1. Ensure that Local Development Frameworks and other development plans include policies to protect Kent's saline lagoon resource.	2005	ongoing	KCC, MC	KCC, MC, LAS			Planning policy guidance, conflict with other policies
2. Ensure the conservation objectives for saline lagoons are incorporated into Shoreline Management Plans.	2005	2010	EA	EA, EN, LAS, Defra, RSPB			Conflict with other policies
3. Ensure that coastal flood defence schemes take account of saline lagoons and ensure no net loss to their extent in Kent.	2005	ongoing	EA	EA, EN, KCC, MC, LAS			Conflict with other policies

4. Ensure the conservation objectives for saline lagoons are incorporated into the Green Grid strategies being produced for Medway and Swale.	2005	2007	MC, Swale BC	MC, Swale BC, RSPB, KWT, EN				Resources
5. Monitor and maintain the stable exchange of waters to and from lagoonal habitats, where controls are in place, to ensure water levels and salinity stays within acceptable limits.	2005	ongoing	EN	EN, EA, RSPB, KWT				Resources
6. Promote uptake of Entry Level Stewardship agreements where relevant, to reduce diffuse agricultural pollution to saline lagoons.	2005	ongoing	Defra	Defra, RSPB, EN				Resources, willingness of farmers to take up appropriate options
Research and monitoring								
7. Create and maintain an inventory of saline lagoons in Kent.	2005	ongoing	KCC	KCC, K&MBRC, EN, KWT, RSPB				Resources
8. Put in place a prioritised monitoring programme for saline lagoon aquatic plants and invertebrates.	2006	ongoing	EN	EN, EA, KMBRC, RSPB, KWT				Resources
9. Investigate the potential impacts of climate change on saline lagoons in Kent - this will be done through the Environment Agency's Thames Estuary 2-100 project and through the reviews of Shoreline Management Plans.	2005	2008	EA	EA, EN, RSPB				

Objective 3: Raise awareness of the importance of saline lagoons as a UK priority habitat in Kent.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Communications							
10. Raise public awareness by increasing links between local people, schools, colleges and universities and local saline lagoon sites by providing educational resources and training.	2005	ongoing	RSPB	RSPB, KWT			Resources
11. Ensure that the importance of saline lagoons as a habitat is more widely understood and appreciated through a targeted programme of publications, events and activities.	2005	ongoing	RSPB	RSPB, K&MBRC, saline lagoon HAP partners			Resources
12. Carry out the annual monitoring and reporting of progress on the saline lagoon HAP employing the UK Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS).	2005	annual	RSPB	RSPB, saline lagoon HAP partners			

Key

BC	Borough Council
Defra	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
EN	English Nature
HAP	Habitat Action Plan
KCC	Kent County Council
K&MBRC	Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities
MC	Medway Council
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

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Seagrass Beds Action Plan

Objective 1: Improve understanding of the status and extent of seagrass beds in Kent waters.

Target: Status and extent of seagrass beds in Kent waters defined by 2008.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Research and Monitoring							
1. Compile a record of the extent, quality and distribution of seagrass around the Kent coast.	2005	2007	KMBRC	KMBRC, KCC, EN, RSPB, KWT			Resources

Objective 2: Maintain extent and distribution of seagrass beds in Kent waters.

Target: No loss in the extent of seagrass beds.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Site Safeguard and Management							
2. Ensure that development schemes, dredging operations and fishing activities do not affect the integrity or the conservation interest of intertidal and subtidal seagrass beds.	2005	ongoing	LAs	LAs, Port Authorities, EN			Lack of awareness of exactly where seagrass beds are found

Advisory	2007	2008	KCC	KCC, EN, RSPB			
3. Provide advice to local authorities and others on minimising impacts of plans and operations on seagrass beds.							
Communications and Publicity							
4. Promote awareness among coastal users of the conservation importance of seagrass beds and how to avoid impact on these habitats.	2007	2008	MSEP	KCC, MSEP, RSPB			

Objective 3: Assess feasibility of restoration of damaged or degraded seagrass beds.

Target: Until surveys assess the extent of the seagrass resource, it will not be possible to assess whether restoration is necessary, or to specify a final target for extent of habitat.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
Site Safeguard and Management							
5. Identify suitable sites for restoration of seagrass and draw up a strategy to enable the target to be met.	2008	2010	RSPB	RSPB, EN, KMBRC, KWT			

Objective 4: Raise awareness of the importance of seagrass beds as a UK priority habitat in Kent.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
6. Produce and distribute printed/web-based information on the seagrass beds HAP.	2006	2006	RSPB	RSPB, KCC, seagrass beds HAP partners			Resources
7. Using existing networks and various means of publicity available within the seagrass beds working group, produce and disseminate promotional material/press releases raising the profile of the Kent BAP.	2006	ongoing	RSPB	RSPB, KCC, seagrass beds HAP partners			Resources
8. Carry out the annual monitoring and reporting of progress on the seagrass beds HAP employing the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS).	2005	annual	RSPB	RSPB, KCC, seagrass beds HAP partners			

Key

EN	English Nature
HAP	Habitat Action Plan
KCC	Kent County Council
KMBRC	Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
LAs	Local Authorities
MSEP	Medway & Swale Estuary Partnership
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

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Standing Open Water Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain the condition of open waters currently judged as in favourable condition (typical plant and animal communities present and sustainable) within important sites/landscapes (SSSI, SNCI, AONB). Maintain the condition of all other high-quality sites where feasible.

Target: No deterioration in ecological status of favourable-condition standing waters in Kent.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
1. Ensure that no deterioration in water quality occurs within favourable-status standing open waters.	2005	Ongoing	EA	EA, LAS, Landowners, Water companies			
2. Ensure the protection and continuation of favourable condition of all Tier 1 eutrophic standing waters (as defined by the national HAP steering group).	2005	Ongoing	EA				
3. Ensure that appropriate habitat management plans exist or are developed for standing open waters and surrounding land ('buffer zones') within important wildlife and landscape areas.	2005	Ongoing	EN/KWT	Landowners, EN, KWT, AONB Units, LAS			

4. Ensure that any occurrences of non-native, invasive species in favourable-status sites are reported and controlled quickly and effectively.	2005	Ongoing	EN/KWT	Landowners			
5. Discourage the sale of invasive aquatic species by garden centres, and promote the use of native species.	2005	Ongoing	EA/KWT				
6. Ensure that surface/groundwater abstractions and water level controls do not have a deleterious effect on the ecology of favourable-status standing waters.	2005	Ongoing	EA				
7. Ensure that faunal pathogens (such as fish diseases and crayfish plague) are not transferred into currently-unaffected standing waters.	2005	Ongoing	EA				
8. Use the planning and consenting process to ensure that development does not adversely impact on the ecology of standing waters and faunal linkages between them.	2005	Ongoing	LAs	EA, EN, KCC			

Objective 2: Initiate action to restore to favourable condition (typical plant and animal communities present) sites that have been damaged or neglected, particularly within important sites and landscapes.

Target: All important sites restored to favourable condition by 2010

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
9. Identify important standing waters that are in unfavourable ecological condition and determine causes.	2005	2010	EN/KWT				
10. Implement a programme of restoration (typical plant and animal communities present) for key standing waters identified as in unfavourable condition. Prioritise Tier 2 eutrophic standing waters (as defined by national steering group) that have been damaged by human activity.	2007	2020	EA/EN				
11. Identify sites containing invasive, non-native species and initiate a programme of removal.	2005	Ongoing	KMBRC	KRAG, EA			
12. Provide up-to-date advice to landowners/managers on restoration and management of standing waters.	2005	Ongoing	EA/KWT				
13. Promote the BTCV Pond Warden Scheme in Kent to encourage appropriate management of ponds at Parish level.	2005	Ongoing	BTCV				

Objective 3: Increase the abundance of standing open water habitats where appropriate, particularly wildlife-friendly ponds.

Target: Create 30 new wildlife ponds in strategic areas by 2010.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
14. Develop a strategic approach in Kent to facilitate targeted pond creation using landscape ecology principles and spatial planning tools such as KLIS.	2005	2006	KCC	CMPs			
15. Identify target areas for creation of great crested newt breeding ponds and facilitate creation through development gain and agri-environment schemes.	2005	Ongoing	KRAG	DEFRA, FWAG, LAs			
16. Encourage the creation of wildlife ponds within public and private parks and gardens through leaflets and advisory visits.	2005	Ongoing	LAs/CMPs	KWT, Landowners			
17. Work with developers and consultants to ensure that new ponds and swales are incorporated into development proposals where appropriate.	2005	Ongoing	EA/LAs				
18. Promote good practice pond design and management for native wildlife to home-owners and land managers.	2005	Ongoing	KWT/ FWAG				

Key

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Kent Downs & High Weald AONBs)
BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
CMPs	Countryside Management Projects
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
EN	English Nature
FC	Forestry Commission
KCC	Kent County Council
KMBRC	Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
KRAG	Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group
LAs	Local Authorities

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Wet Woodland Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain the total current extent and condition of semi-natural wet woodland in Kent.

Target: Maintain 68 ha by 2010, 91ha by 2020 and 109 ha by 2026

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
1. Carry out woodlands census and habitat survey to monitor status.			FC/KCC	FC, KCC			
2. Ensure that significant wet woods not designated SSSI are made SNCI.			KWT	KWT			
3. Circulate a brief document to planners to highlight the importance of this habitat.			KCC	KCC, FC			
4. Create a post dedicated to working with SSSI owners to ensure management plans are written to achieve improving condition.	1/12/04	30/11/05	FC/EN	FC, EN	£30,000	Appointment of officer completed.	
5. Engage with owners of SSSI in unfavourable condition via workshops.	1/1/06	30/1/06	FC/EN	FC, EN	£2000		
6. Put in place a system of support to ensure management plans are carried out and favourable condition achieved.	1/6/2005	31/3/2010	FC/EN	FC, EN, KWT, KCC, woodland owners			Availability of grant aid at a time when timber markets are declining.

Objective 2: Identify priority areas for increasing the area of this habitat through the creation of new woodlands and altering the water management of land near potential areas.

Target: Create 18ha of wet wood by 2020 and a further 9ha by 2026

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
7. Use the K-lis system to identify areas of opportunity for the planting of new wet woodlands and produce a map of priority areas.	April 2005	March 2006	KCC	KCC			Modelled data requires careful interpretation
8. Identify existing woodlands not currently classified as wet woodlands with the potential to be incorporated into this habitat category through appropriate management.	April 2005	March 2006	KCC	KCC			Ground truthing of scenarios required to ensure accuracy.
9. Encourage removal of non-native species from those woods identified above through development of management plans and grant aid.			EN/FC	EN, FC, KWT			Available grant aid.
10. Influence and facilitate decisions on the water management of potential sites for creation through consultation and disseminating good practice advice.			EA	EA, KCC, FC			

Objective 3: Develop management plans for wet woods that are currently not in management.

Target: Enhance and restore 23ha by 2010, 35ha by 2020 and 46ha by 2026.

Action	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Lead Partner	Implementers	Cost	Progress	Constraints
11. Prepare straightforward guidance on habitat recognition and management for wet woodland SNCI owners.			KWT	KWT, FC			
12. Prepare written management plans for wet wood SNCI owners.			KWT	KWT, FC			

Key

EA	Environment Agency
EN	English Nature
FC	Forestry Commission
KCC	Kent County Council
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust

Definitions

Objective	What a plan aims to achieve
Target	When an objective should be achieved by
Action	How the objective is to be achieved and by whom
Lead Partner (of HAP)	A dedicated lead partner responsible for liaising with the various partners contributing to a specific HAP and/or SAP. The lead partner has overall responsibility for updating the HAP and/or SAP, for facilitating its implementation and for the annual reporting.
Lead Partner (of action within HAP)	In addition to the lead partner of each HAP or SAP, each action has a lead partner. They are not necessarily responsible for undertaking the action alone but may have the responsibility for its co-ordination and reporting to the HAP or SAP lead partner.
Implementers	Partners directly involved in the delivery of an action in the HAP or SAP.