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# Biodiversity Duty Report

March 2026

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# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report is published to meet Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's (TMBC) legal obligations under the Environment Act 2021 requiring local authorities and local planning authorities (LPA) to publish a Biodiversity Duty Report.
- 1.2 The Environment Act 2021 strengthened the statutory biodiversity duty in Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. This duty requires all public authorities in England to consider how they can conserve and enhance biodiversity and to report on the actions they have taken.
- 1.3 From 1 January 2023, all public authorities have been subject to this enhanced biodiversity duty. [Guidance](#) sets out authorities should:
  - a. Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity
  - b. Agree and adopt specific policies and objectives
  - c. Deliver and report on actions within statutory reporting periods
- 1.4 By 1 January 2024, public authorities were required to publish a First Consideration Report setting out how they intended to comply with the biodiversity duty. TMBC's [Biodiversity Duty – First Consideration Report](#) set out the Council's initial assessment of biodiversity opportunities and proposed actions.
- 1.5 This Biodiversity Report follows on from the First Consideration report and provides a record of progress for the first statutory reporting period covering 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025. In line with guidance, the report includes:
  - a. Actions taken to comply with the biodiversity duty
  - b. Proposed actions for the future and next reporting period
  - c. Actions carried out to meet biodiversity net gain (BNG) obligations
- 1.6 Further detail on TMBC's actions, progress and delivery in relation to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is provided in the accompanying Biodiversity Duty Action and Delivery Table in Appendix 2.
- 1.7 Subsequent reports will be published at intervals of no more than five years, in line with statutory requirements.

## 2 Policies, Objectives and Actions

### 2.1 Corporate and Strategic Context

- 2.2 Tonbridge and Malling is known for its beautiful countryside, rich wildlife, and diverse landscapes. We are committed to protecting and enhancing these special places.
- 2.3 As stipulated within the First Consideration Report, biodiversity conservation and enhancement are integrated across a range of TMBC's core strategies, plans, and service areas, ensuring that environmental objectives are embedded into both strategic policy and day-to-day delivery.
- 2.4 TMBC's Corporate Strategy (2023-2027) identifies "*Sustaining a borough which cares for the environment*" as one of four key priorities, with commitments to:
  - a. Delivering climate change plans focused on cutting emissions and increasing biodiversity.
  - b. Recycling more than anywhere else in Kent with measures to improve rates while reducing overall levels of waste and fly-tipping.
  - c. Improving environmental quality by tackling sources of pollution, by design-led approaches in new development and encouraging sustainable transport.
  - d. Managing parks, open spaces, and leisure centres for public benefit.

- e. Supporting local built heritage and local pride of place.

2.5 TMBC's Climate Change Strategy (2020–2030) is delivered through annual Climate Change Action Plans, which embed biodiversity considerations across the Council's service areas, focusing on:

- a. Sustainable development and land management
- b. Protection and enhancement of habitats and species
- c. Partner engagement to strengthen local resilience

This annual action plan approach supports coordinated and ongoing delivery of the biodiversity duty.

## 2.6 Planning Policy and Development Management

2.7 In line with national policy, TMBC has embedded biodiversity protection within its planning policy through the Core Strategy (2007) and the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document (2010). These documents include the following relevant policies:

2.8 The Core Strategy includes policies to protect designated landscapes including:

- Policy CP7 – Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Policy CP8 – Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Policy CP9 – Agricultural Land

2.9 The Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document contains policies addressing local wildlife, habitats and landscape protection including:

- Policy NE1 – Local Sites of Wildlife, Geological and Geomorphological Interest
- Policy NE2 – Habitat Networks
- Policy NE3 – Impact of Development on Biodiversity
- Policy NE4 – Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland
- Policy SQ1 – Landscape and Townscape Protection and Enhancement
- Policy OS1 – Protection of Open Spaces
- Policy OS2 – Allotments
- Policy OS3 – Open Space Standards
- Policy OS4 – Provision of Open Space
- Policy OS5 – Green Infrastructure Network

2.10 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is an approach to development, and/or land management, that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. The Environment Act 2021 requires that all development in England (with a few exemptions) deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain.

2.11 In 2024, TMBC adopted a [BNG Interim Policy Position Statement](#) to provide guidance for applicants/agents and decision makers on how BNG will be taken into account by the Council when considering development proposals until a new Local Plan is adopted. This is a material consideration that will be taken into account when determining planning applications. Further details on TMBC's Local Plan are below.

2.12 The Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy (2024) provides a borough-wide baseline of green (land) and blue (water) assets and identifies areas for potential habitat creation and enhancement. It set out to:

- a. Map and assess existing ecological networks.
- b. Identify areas within 15-minute access to green or blue space.
- c. Highlight zones for targeted biodiversity improvements.

The strategy has been used to help shape Local Plan policy direction and to identify areas for potential habitat creation and enhancement.

2.13 TMBC is currently preparing a new Local Plan, which looks ahead to 2042. It sets out a vision and objectives for the borough and a spatial strategy for growth, that identifies the locations where development will take place. It sets out both strategic and non-strategic policies that will guide

development across the borough, that will contribute towards achieving the desired social, environmental, and economic outcomes.

- 2.14 The Local Plan sets out how we will achieve this. We aim to:
- a. Protect and enhance valued landscapes, woodlands, rivers, and wildlife habitats, including ancient woodland and veteran trees.
  - b. Safeguard sites of international, national, and local importance for biodiversity, such as Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and Local Wildlife Sites.
  - c. Deliver a measurable net gain in biodiversity from new development, so that nature is left in a better state than before.
  - d. Integrate green and blue infrastructure such as parks, green corridors, rivers, and wetlands into new developments to support wildlife, manage water, and provide spaces for people to enjoy.
  - e. Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land, recognising its value for food production, biodiversity, and carbon storage.
  - f. Minimise pollution (air, water, noise, and light) and ensure new development does not harm the environment or people's quality of life.

## 2.15 Leisure Services (Parks and Open Spaces)

- 2.16 TMBC manages a substantial green estate, including parks, country parks, sports grounds, and other public open spaces. The following section focuses on biodiversity actions delivered within site management and maintenance practices of council-owned land, where ecological considerations are embedded within routine service delivery through adopted policies, management plans, contracts, delivery programmes and partnership working.
- 2.17 Biodiversity is supported through a range of policies and initiatives:
- a. Cyclical tree safety inspections are undertaken in accordance with the Council's Tree Safety Policy, with replacement planting implemented where required.
  - b. The Council's Tree Charter guides the protection, management, and expansion of the borough's tree cover, aligning with climate change and green infrastructure objectives.
  - c. A Pollinator Strategy is being developed to support pollinating species across managed land.
- 2.18 The Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract specification is being reviewed to adopt less intensive management practices that support biodiversity, including the implementation of Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs) and a reduction in herbicide use.
- 2.19 Site management and delivery are supported through structured planning:
- a. Five-year Management Plans are delivered for key parks and open spaces, including Haysden Country Park, Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground, and Leybourne Lakes Country Park.
  - b. Delivery of Woodland Management Plans for key woodland sites including Taddington Valley and Holly Hill Woodlands.
  - c. The Council has achieved, and continues to work towards, external accreditations including Green Flag Award and Country Park status, supporting investment and biodiversity enhancement at key sites.
  - d. Planting 1000 trees and whips a year across all public open spaces.
- 2.20 Partnership working plays a key role in supporting site management and biodiversity outcomes, including:
- a. Working with partners to monitor, record and tackle Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS).
  - b. Providing Core Funding to Medway Valley Countryside Partnership to support delivery of Volunteer Action Days and monitoring, recording and removal of Invasive Non-Native Species across the Medway catchment area.
  - c. Supporting community and volunteer groups with equipment and training to enable flora and fauna monitoring and habitat improvement initiatives at key sites.
  - d. Commissioning a RNR monitoring programme to measure success and identify management

- practices to enhance biodiversity within these areas.
- e. Worked alongside Haysden Country Park volunteer group to install lakeside revetment to prevent erosion and allow the planting and establishment of aquatic flora.
  - f. Pond creation at Haysden Country Park.
  - g. Working with partners to investigate opportunities for river channel enhancements in the Shallows at Haysden Country Park and to deliver enhancements to the Penn Stream at Woodland Walk Public Open Space in Tonbridge.

## 3 Raising Awareness and Engagement

- 3.1 Alongside service-level delivery, TMBC works collaboratively with a range of strategic partners and community organisations to support biodiversity conservation and enhancement at a borough-wide and cross-boundary scale. This partnership-led approach enables coordination, evidence-sharing, and alignment with regional and national biodiversity priorities.
- 3.2 TMBC works with strategic partnerships to support biodiversity outcomes, including:
  - a. Active participation in the Kent Nature Partnership, including contribution to the development of the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy, published in November 2025.
  - b. Active participation in the Kent Downs and High Weald National Landscape Joint Advisory Committees, and the development and adoption of the Management Plans for these protected landscapes.
  - c. Funding contribution to and participation in the Local Wildlife Site System for Kent.
  - d. Participation in the Ashdown Forest Working Group (AFWG). The purpose of the AFWG is to work together to consider and address any strategic cross boundary issues of air quality impacts on the Ashdown Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) that may arise from traffic associated with new development. A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared.
- 3.3 Community and volunteer involvement also plays an important role in supporting biodiversity across the borough:
  - a. Continued engagement with community organisations (e.g. Haysden Country Park Volunteers, Platt Wood Management Committee).
  - b. Supporting local volunteer groups to enhance biodiversity.

## 4 First Consideration Report Actions and Results

- 4.1 The following priorities were identified in the First Consideration Report for TMBC:
  - a. Development of a new Local Plan, the Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation ran from 11th November 2025 to 2nd January 2026.
  - b. Continued involvement in the Kent and Medway LNRS. TMBC contributed to the development of the strategy, this was officially launched in November 2025.
  - c. Development and implementation of a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, this was published 2024.
  - d. Implementation and reporting of Biodiversity Net Gain, see below for more information.
  - e. Staff investment/training around biodiversity.
  - f. Investigating potential ecological enhancement opportunities on council owned land, this action was progressed through the commissioning of a Biodiversity Net Gain Feasibility Study, as discussed below.

## 5 Biodiversity Net Gain Actions and Results

- 5.1 At the time of reporting, no developments subject to mandatory biodiversity net gain (BNG) requirements have reached the statutory trigger point for implementation, which is typically commencement of

development on site. Consequently, TMBC has not yet commenced formal monitoring activities associated with approved biodiversity gain plans.

- 5.2 The Council currently has one development where biodiversity net gain delivery is in progress. For this scheme, biodiversity net gain is being delivered off-site, outside of the borough, by the landowner Boughton Monchelsea Amenity Trust (BMAT). Adonis Blue has been appointed as the consultant and is responsible for overseeing the delivery, management, and reporting of biodiversity gains on behalf of the developer. The Council continues to receive and review information relating to this scheme and will incorporate monitoring data into future reporting once statutory trigger points are met and formal monitoring requirements commence.
- 5.3 At present, TMBC utilises the Mycelia software platform to manage biodiversity net gain information. While the monitoring functionality has not yet been activated, the system provides a structured framework to support future monitoring, data management, and reporting as developments progress through implementation stages.
- 5.4 In addition, the Council has commissioned a Biodiversity Net Gain Feasibility Study to assess the potential for council-owned land to support off-site biodiversity net gain delivery. This detailed feasibility assessment has provided a baseline understanding of which sites within the Council's estate may be suitable for off-site BNG provision. The findings of the study have informed the Local Plan evidence base, supported internal discussions on the implementation of biodiversity net gain, and will identify next steps for potential habitat creation and enhancement opportunities across the Council's landholdings.
- 5.5 As additional developments reach the implementation stage, the Council will expand the quantitative reporting of biodiversity net gain outcomes in line with national guidance.

## 6 Future Actions

- 6.1 TMBC will continue to take practical steps to conserve and enhance biodiversity across its parks, open spaces, and other land. Over the coming years, the Council aims to:
  - a. Continue to manage selected grass areas for wildlife through the Grounds Maintenance Contract and identify new areas where mowing can be reduced to allow wildflowers and pollinators to establish and thrive.
  - b. Plant 1000 native trees per year and investigate opportunities to plant native shrubs and flowers within amenity green spaces.
  - c. Identify areas where simple habitats such as bird boxes, bug hotels, and log piles can be created or installed to support insects and small animals.
  - d. Continue to maintain natural edges to ponds, streams, and ditches and work with external partners, such as Medway Valley Countryside Partnership to investigate external funding opportunities to further protect and enhance these features by planting native wetland vegetation.
  - e. Seek opportunities to continue to work with community groups to increase biodiversity through volunteer planting events, school projects, and local initiatives.
  - f. Record and share progress to demonstrate improvements and identify further opportunities for action.
- 6.2 The findings of the Biodiversity Net Gain Feasibility Study will be used to inform future opportunities and to identify next steps for potential habitat creation and enhancement across the Council's landholdings.
- 6.3 These straightforward measures will help increase biodiversity, support pollinators, and make local green spaces more sustainable.

# 7 Appendix

## APPENDIX 1: Terms and Definitions

Term	Definition
Biodiversity	The variety of plant and animal life in the world or within a particular habitat.
Biodiversity Duty	The legal requirement for public authorities in England to take steps for conserving and enhancing biodiversity when exercising their functions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Complying with the biodiversity duty guidance</a></li></ul>
Biodiversity Duty Report	A statutory report published by the Council under the Environment Act 2021, setting out how the authority has complied with its biodiversity duty. The report is published on the Council’s website and provides transparency and evidence of compliance. It is not submitted to a central government body. Defra intends to include references to biodiversity reports in future reviews of the Environmental Improvement Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Reporting your biodiversity duty actions guidance</a></li></ul>
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	BNG is an approach to development. It makes sure that habitats for wildlife are left in a measurably better state than they were before the development. Where applicable, developers must deliver a BNG of 10%. This means a development will result in more or better quality natural habitat than there was before development.
Environment Act 2021	An Act of Parliament that establishes targets, plans, and reporting requirements to improve and protect the natural environment.

**APPENDIX 2: Biodiversity Duty Action and Delivery Table**

Details on actions undertaken, progress, and delivery during the reporting period is provided in the Biodiversity Duty Action and Delivery Table below.

Action Undertaken	Status	Biodiversity Benefit	Supporting Document	Actions Delivered
Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy	Published March 2024.	The Strategy sets out a framework for protecting, enhancing, and connecting the Borough’s natural assets and identifies mechanisms for delivery across council functions. Its recommendations help ensure habitats are climate-resilient, support native species, deliver biodiversity net gain, and provide opportunities for environmental enhancement.	<a href="https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/downloads/file/3935/green-and-blue-infrastructure-strategy">https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/downloads/file/3935/green-and-blue-infrastructure-strategy</a>	Strategy completed and published, providing an evidence base and spatial mapping to inform decision-making across TMBC. Early implementation has included using the strategy to shape Local Plan policy direction and to identify priority areas for habitat creation and enhancement.
Biodiversity Net Gain Feasibility Study	Final Report completed November 2025.	Council owned land is assessed for off-site BNG potential. It considers environmental designations (e.g. SSSIs, local nature reserves), priority habitats identified in the Kent and Medway draft LNRS, and the condition and habitat types across the Estate. It also evaluates policy context, resource requirements, financial feasibility and the potential for income generation through BNG units. This supports informed decision-making and the feasibility of suitable areas for future habitat creation and enhancement.		Completion of a detailed feasibility assessment, providing a baseline understanding of which council-owned sites may be suitable for off-site BNG delivery. The study has been used to inform Local Plan evidence, guide internal discussions on BNG implementation, and identify next steps for potential habitat creation opportunities across the estate.

<p>Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)</p>	<p>Published November 2025.</p>	<p>The LNRS identifies priority habitats, species and locations for nature recovery across Kent and Medway. It provides a spatial framework to guide action and investment towards areas where ecological improvements will deliver the greatest benefit. TMBC will have regard to the LNRS in relevant functions, helping to ensure that biodiversity enhancements are aligned with county-wide priorities and opportunities for nature recovery.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/">https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/</a></p>	<p>TMBC contributed to the development of the LNRS, providing input on local priorities, data, and opportunities for nature recovery within the Borough. The Council's involvement has ensured that TMBC's ecological context and potential delivery sites are represented within the county-wide strategy.</p>
<p>TMBC Local Plan</p>	<p>Regulation 18 consultation undertaken between November 2025 and January 2026.</p>	<p>The Local Plan provides the strategic framework for development across the borough from 2024 to 2042. It seeks to support sustainable growth, climate resilience, protects natural and historic assets, provides opportunities for regeneration and promotes inclusive and prosperous communities. This includes seeking the conservation and enhancement of national and local sites designated for their biodiversity value, as well as setting out locally specific requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain.</p>		<p>Preparation of the Regulation 18 draft, incorporating updated biodiversity policies, locally specific BNG requirements, and alignment with the Kent and Medway LNRS and the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. Evidence gathering and policy development have informed the emerging approach to biodiversity within the Local Plan.</p>

<p>Development and implementation of Site Management Plans (SMP)</p>	<p>5 year management plans in place at key sites (Haysden Country Park, Leybourne Lakes Country Park, Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground).</p> <p>Plans are reviewed and updated on a cyclical basis.</p>	<p>5 year site management plans are developed for key sites (Haysden Country Park, Leybourne Lakes Country Park, Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground). These plans are consulted on and approved by Members. These plans demonstrate the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity within TMBC and guide how parks are managed to protect its natural resources while allowing for public enjoyment.</p>	<p><a href="https://democracy.tmbc.gov.uk/documents/s79405/Annex+3+-+Tonbridge+Racecourse+Sportsground+Management+Plan+2024+-+2028.pdf">https://democracy.tmbc.gov.uk/documents/s79405/Annex+3+-+Tonbridge+Racecourse+Sportsground+Management+Plan+2024+-+2028.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://democracy.tmbc.gov.uk/documents/b20765/Haysden+Country+Park+Management+Plan+2025-29+-+Annex+1+05th-Feb-2025+19.30+Communities+and+Environment.pdf?T=9">https://democracy.tmbc.gov.uk/documents/b20765/Haysden+Country+Park+Management+Plan+2025-29+-+Annex+1+05th-Feb-2025+19.30+Communities+and+Environment.pdf?T=9</a></p>	<p>SMPs have been prepared, consulted on, and approved for key sites. Management actions within these plans have been implemented through routine grounds maintenance, habitat management, volunteer activities, and tree works.</p>
<p>Development and implementation of Woodland Management Plans (WMG)</p>	<p>Adopted at selected sites (Taddington Valley and Holly Hill).</p> <p>Plans have an operational period of ten years and are reviewed and updated on a cyclical basis.</p> <p>Holly Hill WMP currently being reviewed and is</p>	<p>Woodland Management Plans, approved by the Forestry commission before formal adoption, guide the management of key woodland sites (Taddington Valley, Walderslade/Holly Hill POS, Birling). They play a crucial role in conserving and enhancing biodiversity and set out actions to protect its natural resources while allowing for public enjoyment.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/downloads/download/557/taddington-valley-woodland-management-plan---consultation-draft">https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/downloads/download/557/taddington-valley-woodland-management-plan---consultation-draft</a></p>	<p>Plans have been prepared, approved and implemented for key woodland sites. Management actions within these plans such as habitat improvement works, tree safety inspections, coppicing and engagement with local volunteers are delivered through routine woodland management and annual work programmes.</p>

	scheduled for renewal in Summer 2026.			
Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs)	Forms part of routine Grounds Maintenance Contract.  Additional sites to be reviewed and presented to Members in March 2026.	RNRs provide areas where grassland is managed on an extended cutting regime, allowing vegetation to grow longer. This supports invertebrate populations, increases habitat diversity, and creates opportunities for a wider range of fauna to establish and thrive along the roadside network.		Designation and management of multiple RNR sites across the Borough, with reduced mowing regimes implemented and monitored. Sites have been identified by officers based on biodiversity value, and management practices have been adjusted to support pollinators and other wildlife.
RNR Monitoring Programme	One off project funded via the Corporate Climate Change budget. Report received December 2025.  Recommendations to be considered and presented to Members in March 2026.	The Council has commissioned Medway Valley Countryside Partnership to monitor the flora and fauna present in its RNRs. This monitoring will identify habitat condition, species presence and opportunities for enhancement. An annual report will provide evidence-based recommendations to support improved management and biodiversity outcomes at RNR sites.		Commissioning of a specialist partner to undertake ecological monitoring across RNR sites. Baseline data collection is complete helping to establish an evidence base to inform future management decisions and enhancements. Report findings being reviewed.
Established Sportsground Buffer Zones	Implemented and maintained as part of ongoing site management through GM Contract and ad hoc maintenance.	Vegetation buffer zones have been introduced at sportsgrounds to create more diverse habitat areas alongside playing pitches. These zones support pollinators, invertebrates and small wildlife, improve habitat connectivity and soften the transition between formal sports areas and surrounding green space.		Buffer zones established and maintained at identified sportsgrounds. Mowing regimes have been adjusted to allow vegetation to develop, creating habitat structure that supports wildlife. Zones are reviewed as part of routine grounds maintenance.

Reduction in use of herbicides	Use of herbicides reduced during recent tender of Grounds Maintenance Contract. Under constant review during term of contract.	The Council has stopped using herbicides in grass areas and shrub beds, limiting their use to sports pitches only where necessary for playability. Reducing chemical inputs improves habitat quality, protects food sources for invertebrates, and supports healthier soil ecosystems.		Herbicide use removed from routine grounds maintenance, with alternative management practices adopted for grass and shrub areas. Limited, targeted application retained only for sports pitch and hard surface maintenance.
Tree Planting	Included within the Corporate Climate Change Action Plan as a formal target and reviewed annually.	Through its Corporate Climate Change Action Plan, TMBC is committed to planting 1,000 trees or whips per year. Tree planting increases habitat availability, supports pollinators, birds and invertebrates, enhances soil health, improves microclimates, and contributes to long-term ecological resilience.		Annual tree-planting programme delivered, with sites identified across the borough and coordinated planting undertaken each year. Newly planted trees are monitored and maintained to support establishment and long-term habitat value.
Tree Safety Policy	Policy approved by Members, regularly reviewed and sub policies implemented via regular inspection of immature and mature trees.  Due for review in 2026.	The Tree Safety Policy ensures regular inspections and appropriate management of trees on Council-owned land. Maintaining trees in good health helps preserve mature habitat structures, supports species that rely on trees for food and shelter, and enables long-term ecological resilience while balancing public safety.	<a href="https://democracy.tmbc.gov.uk/documents/s69839/Annex%201%20-%20Current%20Policy.pdf">https://democracy.tmbc.gov.uk/documents/s69839/Annex%201%20-%20Current%20Policy.pdf</a>	Scheduled inspections undertaken across Council-owned sites, with maintenance works carried out where required to retain tree health and structural integrity. Records of inspections and interventions are maintained.
Working in partnership with Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP)	TMBC is a core funding partner of MVCP which delivers a range of projects that support biodiversity:	Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) control		Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) control at priority sites, including mapping, monitoring and targeted removal to protect native species/habitats.
		Community/volunteer engagement		Supporting practical conservation tasks and increasing local engagement in biodiversity.

	Current Memorandum of Agreement in place until 2029.	Outdoor education		Helping to build awareness and understanding of local ecosystems.
		Access projects		Encouraging residents to connect with and value natural spaces.
Working in partnership with Kent Plan Tree (KCC Tree Establishment Strategy)	External Funding available in tranches and at discretion of KCC.	TMBC is working in partnership with KCC's Kent Plan Tree team to plant and establish trees across the Borough and support delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan. Increasing tree cover provides multiple biodiversity benefits, including enhanced habitats, food sources for wildlife, improved soil and water regulation, and greater ecological connectivity.		Actions include identifying suitable council-owned and public sites for tree planting, supporting species selection and planting design, assisting with community planting events, and undertaking establishment maintenance such as watering and monitoring. TMBC works with KCC to ensure trees are planted in locations that maximise ecological value and contribute to long-term canopy expansion.
High Weald National Landscape Partnership	Ongoing	A partnership between local authorities with land in the National Landscape, along with key stakeholders, which together form the High Weald Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) and Officer Steering Group (OSG). The partnership works together to produce the High Weald AONB Management Plan and supporting guidance, which sets out the Councils policies for managing land in the National Landscape, including actions around conserving and enhancing biodiversity.	<a href="https://highweald.org/document-library/aonb-management-plan/high-weald-aonb-management-plan-2024-2029/?layout=default">highweald.org/document-library/aonb-management-plan/high-weald-aonb-management-plan-2024-2029/?layout=default</a>	Adoption of the High Weald AONB Management Plan 2024-2029.
Kent Downs National Landscape Partnership	Ongoing	A partnership between local authorities and key stakeholders which together form the Kent Downs Joint Advisory Committee (JAC). The partnership works together to produce the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan and supporting guidance, which sets out the Councils policies for managing land in the National Landscape, including actions to conserve and enhance biodiversity.	<a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/media/1012247/the-kent-downs-aonb-management-plan-2021-2026-adopted.pdf">The-Kent-Downs-AONB-Management-Plan-2021-2026-Adopted.pdf</a>	Adoption of the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan.

Local Wildlife Site System for Kent	Ongoing	The Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) undertake a rolling programme of surveys of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) in Kent, to monitor the condition of these sites and identify any new sites for designation. KWT consult with relevant local authorities on changes, and make recommendations through the Kent Nature Partnership.		Supporting the conservation and enhancement of sites of biodiversity value in the borough.
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