

Access prioritisation mapping to support the Enhancing Access Opportunities ELMS Test and Trial

27th February 2020

(updated January 2021)

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27th February 2020

High resolution mapping associated with this plan was created using GIS software. Shapefiles and full resolution maps can be obtained by contacting the author.

This report has been prepared by Mike Phillips of White Horse Ecology on behalf of the Kent Downs AONB Unit. Mike Phillips has 20 years of experience working in the sector and is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

The Enhancing Access Opportunities Test and Trial is being carried out by the National Association for the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty on behalf of Defra. It is part of the development of the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMs).



1 Executive Summary

This mapping exercise attempted to answer two questions:

1. Can geographical data be used to identify priority areas for Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMs) interventions that look to enhance access opportunities?
2. Is additional data or input required to refine the quality of these maps so they can be used as part of an ELMs?

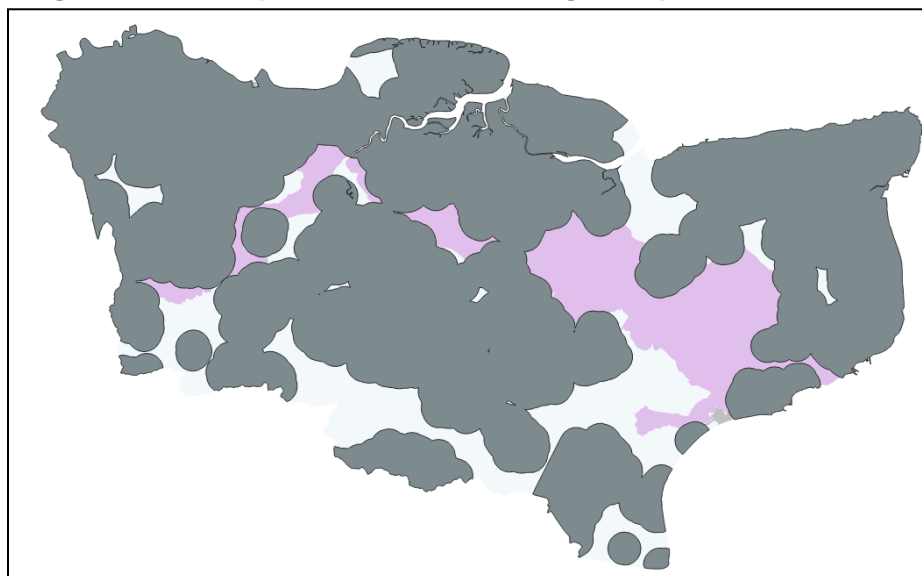
In short, priority areas can be identified, but particularly when the aim of interventions is to remove barriers to access, excluding areas from benefiting may not be advisable. Hence, the maps created as part of this work should be seen as guiding the prioritisation of resource allocation rather than prescribing it. Additionally, there are limitations in the data available that require both expert input and ground truthing to refine the priority maps produced. It is recommended that the maps produced here are used to guide conversations with land owners and managers and that they are amended as part of the Test and Trial process.

A selection of maps was created that tried to identify priority areas where access can be improved to:

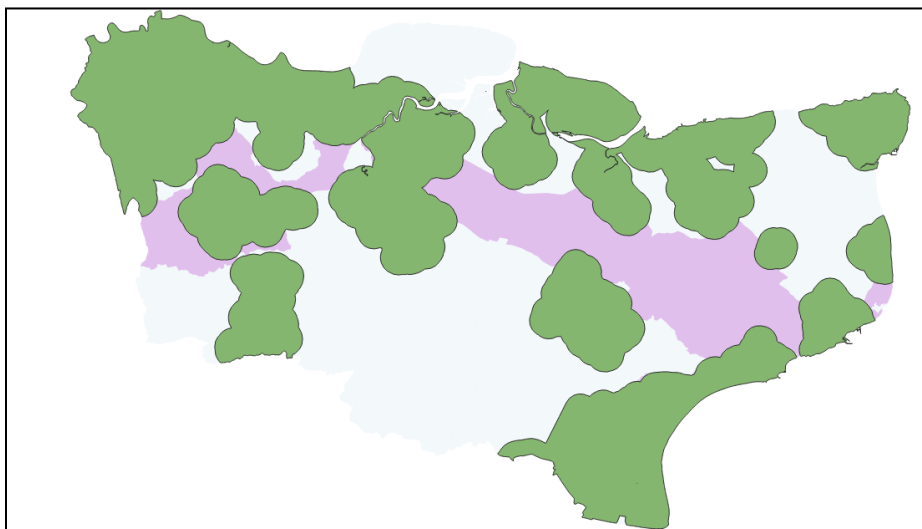
- provide access to local greenspace where provision is currently poor
- overcome barriers to access for communities that currently do not visit and use greenspace regularly
- provide alternatives to access that may be ecologically damaging.

To achieve this, a variety of datasets were used to create three maps (one for each of the issues identified above) where interventions could be prioritised. Most of the data is available nationally and is repeatable in other areas. Details of the datasets and how they were used can be found in the body of the report. The three priority maps and a combined map showing county-wide priority levels are shown below.

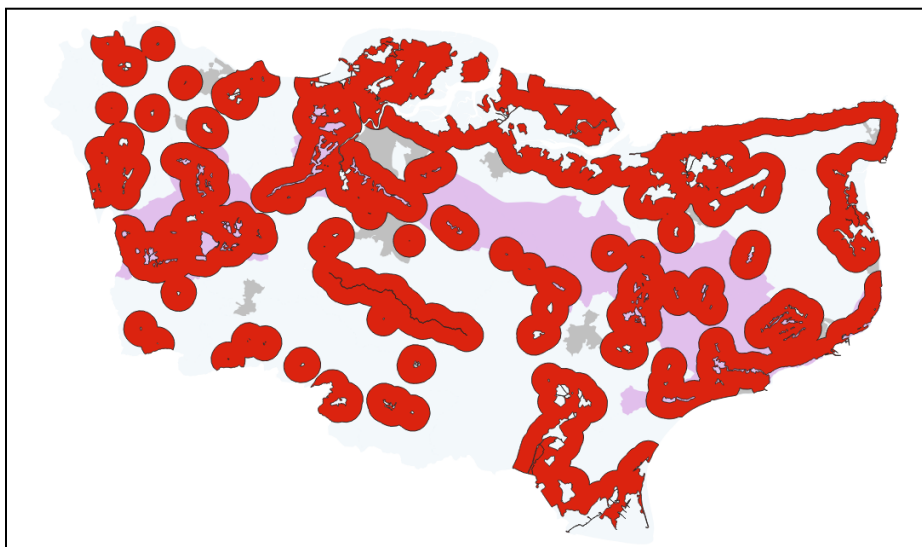
Target areas to improve access to local greenspace



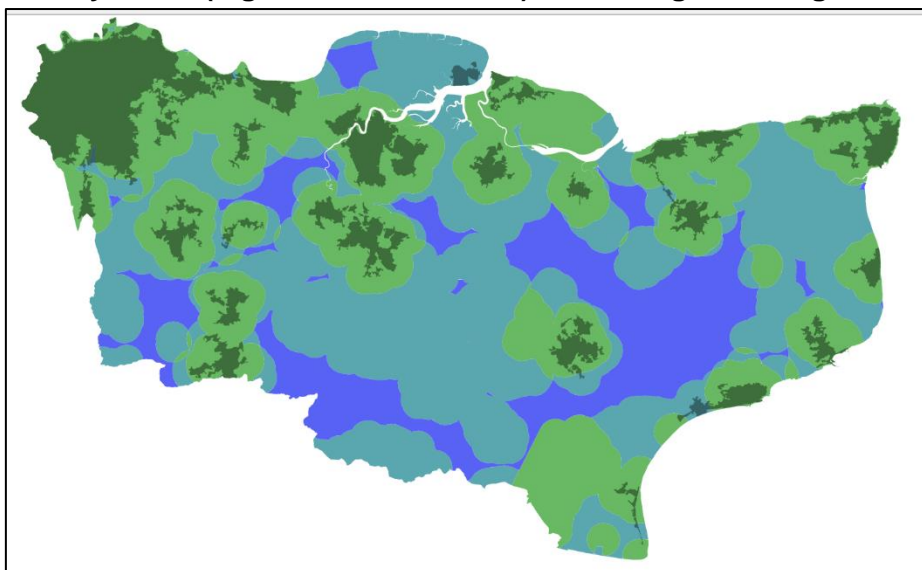
Target areas to remove barriers to access



Target areas providing access in ecologically sensitive areas



Priority levels (high, medium and low) combining removing barriers and improving access



2 Introduction

Kent Downs AONB Unit has been contracted by Defra through the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty to examine ways that the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMs) can be used to enhance access opportunities in the countryside. This is a broad subject and several ways to enhance access will be assessed based on different ways to either help people enjoy the countryside or to minimise the impact of potentially damaging access. These approaches may include:

1. Improve access to greenspace locally – access to local greenspace can vary across the county. Creating new opportunities for people to enjoy nature are needed in areas where provision is currently poor.
2. Remove barriers to accessing greenspace – there are large sections of the population that are under-represented in terms of access to the countryside. The reasons for this are many and varied. However, there is excellent evidence showing that health and disability, deprivation, ethnicity and even sexual orientation may all impact levels of access to the countryside.
3. Avoid damaging access to greenspace - some sites are particularly sensitive to public access. These include our most biodiverse sites and especially those with ground nesting birds that can be severely impacted by trampling and the activities of dogs.

The need for action and opportunities to address these issues will vary across the county. It may be possible to identify areas where interventions are likely to be more beneficial than others. This short report will attempt to identify areas where the biggest impact can be made. It should be stressed that the maps created here are only intended to identify areas where interventions are likely to be more valuable. Ground truthing and local input is required to identify areas where interventions are likely to have the greatest positive impact.

3 Datasets used in mapping

A number of datasets were used for the mapping that attempts to identify areas suitable for the ELMs access project. These are summarised in the table below.

Source	Available from	Summary
Access Network Mapping	Natural England: https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/3b9e9b7f7edb4cb395860ea8e53cea82_0	Mapping initially created in 2007 showing the level of access to open space in each of England's Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). Each LSOA is ranked in terms of the amount of accessible open space in the LSOA as well as the percentage of the LSOA that is accessible open space. The weblink provides more information but the authors warn against using the maps for decision making, more that they identify areas worthy of further investigation.
Built-Up Areas (December 2011)	Office for National Statistics: http://geoportal1-ons.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/f6684981be23404e83321077306fa837_0	Area of land classified as built-up in 2011 generated by classifying 50m square areas as either urban or rural. Information on how the classification is made is included as a link from the website
SSSIs in England	Natural England: https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/f10cbb4425154bfda349ccf493487a80_0	Mapping of all SSSIs in England available from Natural England.
Greenspace Needs Assessment	Kent Nature Partnership. Supplied by Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre. More information can be found at: http://healthsustainabilityplanning.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Greenspace-Needs-Assessment-Main-Report-	Datasets based on work carried out as part of a Greenspace Needs Assessment commissioned by Kent Nature Partnership. Mapping includes a number of datasets, some of which were derived from existing datasets created by 3 rd parties, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of Inactivity by LSOA • Greenspace needs assessment by LSOA • Number of ANGSt criteria met by postcode • Number of postcodes failing to meet DDC accessibility standard for

	FINAL-20-5-16.pdf	<p>greenspace</p> <p>Data from 2016. This data is only provided for the Kent County Council administrative area</p>
Indices of Multiple Deprivation	<p>Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government</p> <p>http://data-communities.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/d4b79be994ac4820ad44e10ded313df3_0</p>	<p>Maps of deprivation based on 39 indicators across 7 distinct domains of deprivation. The data is grouped by Lower Super Output Area and is in rank order. Data from 2019.</p>
Ill health and disability	<p>2011 census data available from the UK Data Service</p> <p>http://infuse2011.ukdataservice.ac.uk/</p>	<p>Census data is available for Output Areas in Kent and Medway. The categories available include those with a long-term health condition or disability where there day-to-day activities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limited a lot 2. Limited a little 3. Not limited
Ethnicity	<p>2011 census data available from the UK Data Service</p> <p>http://infuse2011.ukdataservice.ac.uk/</p>	<p>Census data is available for Output Areas in Kent and Medway. There are 18 categories available across five broad categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. White 2. Mixed 3. Black 4. Asian 5. Other

4 Access prioritisation maps

4.1 Maps based on access to greenspace

4.1.1 Target areas based on Access Network Mapping

This mapping is created using the Access Network Mapping sourced from Natural England. This makes an assessment of accessible open space per Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)

Steps

1. The LSOAs that ranked further than 0.5 standard deviations from the mean ranking based on area of open space in the LSOA were selected.
2. Selected areas were given a 2km buffer.
3. The buffered area was clipped using the vice county map of Kent to remove areas within the sea or outside Kent

The end result is all areas within 2km of a target LSOA within the vice county of Kent. The process was repeated with a 4km buffer.

Filenames: *Within 2km of target ANM LSOAs based on area.shp*
 Within 4km of target ANM LSOAs based on area.shp

The process was repeated based on percentage of LSOA that is accessible open space

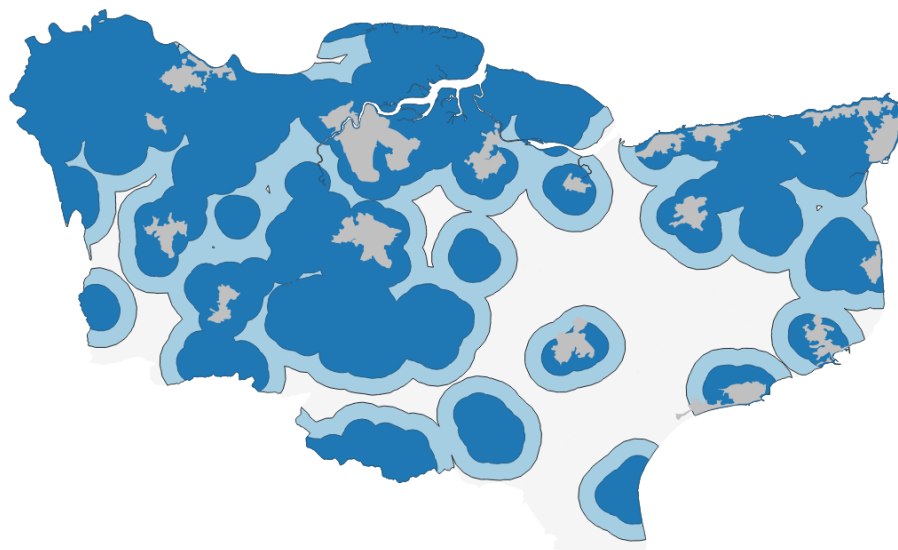
Steps

1. The LSOAs that ranked further than 0.5 standard deviations from the mean ranking based on percentage of open space in the LSOA were selected.
2. Selected areas were given a 2km buffer.
3. The buffered area was clipped using the vice county map of Kent to remove areas within the sea or outside Kent

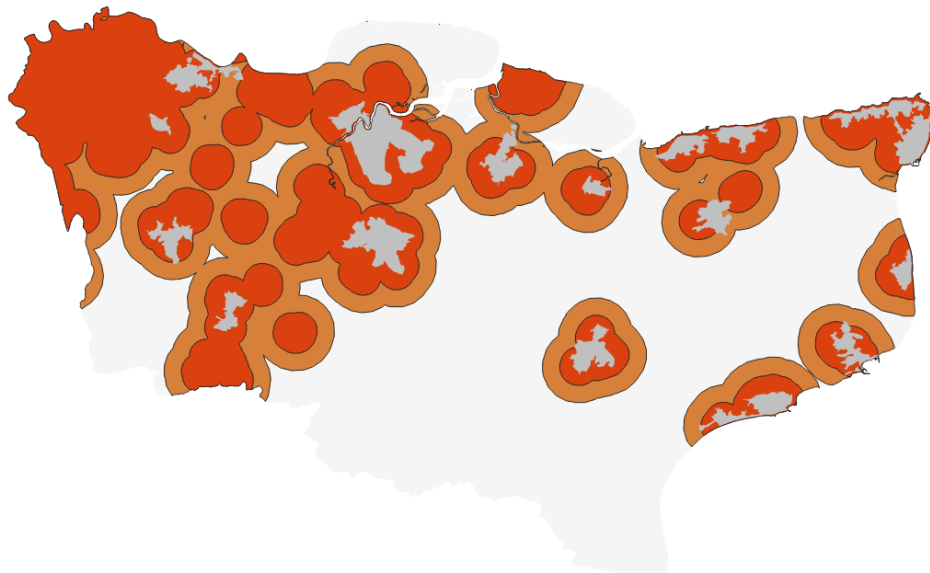
The end result is all areas within 2km of a target LSOA within the vice county of Kent. The process was repeated with a 4km buffer.

Filenames: *Within 2km of target ANM LSOAs based on percentage.shp*
 Within 4km of target ANM LSOAs based on percentage.shp

Maps



% open space per LSOA



Area of open space per LSOA

Additional Information

Access Network Mapping (ANM) measures the percentage of a LSOA that is open space as well as the overall area that is open space. The LSOAs that have the smallest area tend to be found in urban areas. However, this can be a little misleading as LSOAs are areas with roughly similar population sizes. Hence, urban LSOAs will be much smaller than rural LSOAs. Consequently, the area of open space in urban LSOAs is likely to be smaller. The percentage of LSOA that is open spaces is perhaps more revealing as this highlights some rural areas that may have relatively little access to open space. The maps below show the LSOAs that are further than half a standard deviation below the mean rank of LSOA based on both percentage of open space and area of open space.

Another factor of relevance, particularly when comparing these maps with the Greenspace Needs Assessment (GNA) mapping is that the measurement of greenspace for the GNA mapping and open space for the ANM mapping is different. The ANM includes public rights of way, land that is accessible via the CROW act and

through stewardship agreements. The largest amount of accessible land is woodland. The GNA mapping includes areas such as cemeteries and allotments as well as recreational facilities in its assessment of greenspace but not public rights of way. It is also worthy of note that the Greenspace Needs Assessment only covers the Kent County Council and neither considers Medway nor other parts of the Watsonian vice county of Kent (largely parts of South-East London).

4.1.2 Target areas based on DDC accessibility standard for greenspace

This mapping is created using a map showing postcodes that fail to meet the DDC accessibility standard for greenspace.

Steps

1. The postcodes not meeting the DDC standard were selected.
2. The centroid of each selected postcode was given a 2km buffer.
3. The buffered area was clipped using the vice county map of Kent to remove areas within the sea or outside Kent

The end result is a 2km buffer around the most inactive communities in Kent.

Filenames: *Within 2km of non DDC access.shp*

Map



Additional Information

The criteria needed to be selected for this map is that there is no site larger than 0.4 ha within 300 m of where people live in urban locations or at least a site larger than 2 ha within 1 km of where people live in rural locations. This method of selecting areas with poor access to greenspace has a high degree of correlation with other methods described but does highlight a higher percentage of rural areas with low levels of access to greenspace.

4.1.3 Target areas based on low levels of accessibility to greenspace

This map is created using LSOA based assessments of low access to greenspace made by the Greenspace Needs Assessment project.

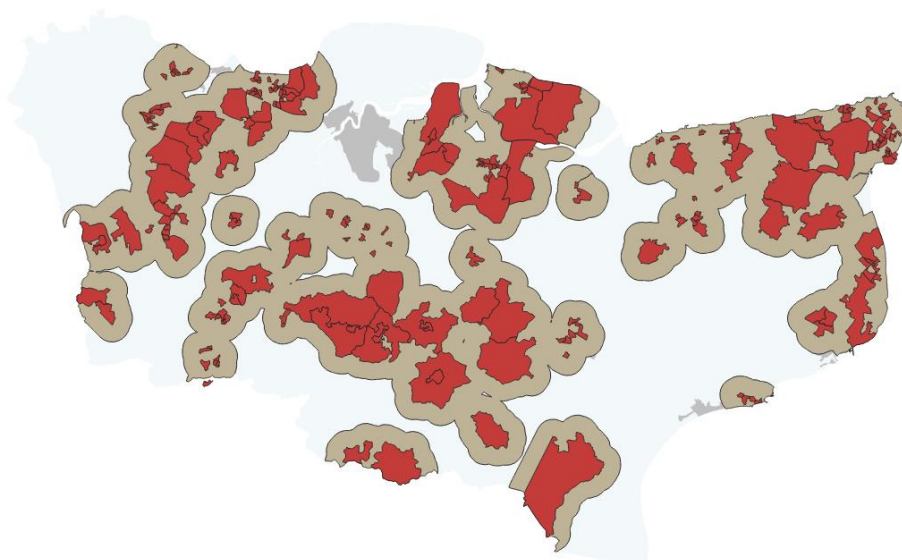
Steps

1. The LSOAs defined as having “very low access to greenspace” were selected.
2. The selected LSOAs were given a 2km buffer.
3. The buffered area was clipped using the vice county map of Kent to remove areas within the sea or outside Kent

The end result is a 2km buffer around the communities with lowest access to greenspace.

Filenames: *Within 2km of GNA very low accessibility to greenspace.shp*

Map



Additional Information

This map shows the areas assessed by the Greenspace Needs Assessment as having the lowest access to greenspace. These could potentially be viewed as the areas that have the highest priority for improved access to greenspace.

4.1.4 Target areas based on ANGSt

This mapping is created using ANGSt scores for postcodes in Kent. ANGSt scores are based on the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard as defined by Natural England. There are four levels defined and an assessment of how many ANGSt levels were met by each postcode has been mapped.

Steps

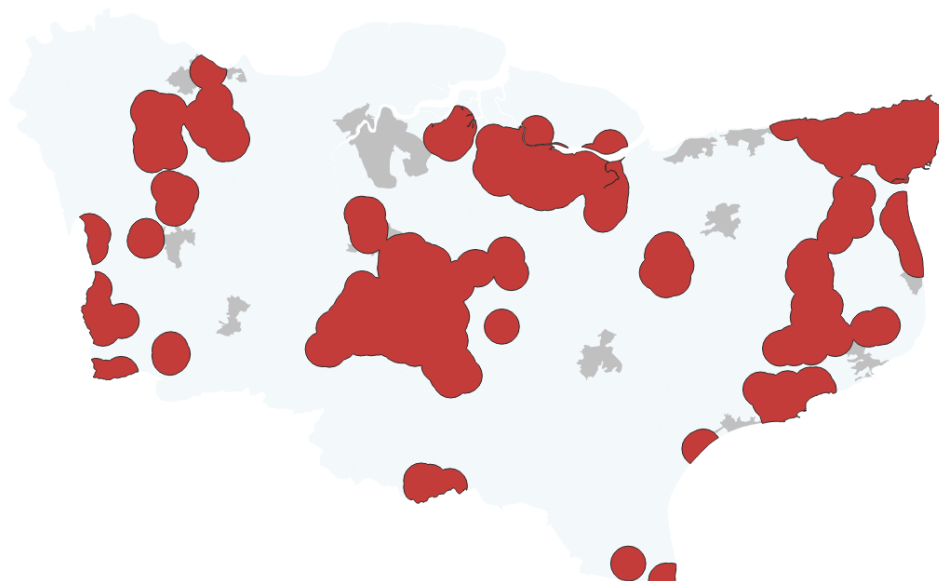
1. The postcodes with an ANGSt score of 1 and 0 were selected (the areas with least access to greenspace).
2. The centroid of each selected postcode was given a given a 2km buffer.

3. The buffered area was clipped using the vice county map of Kent to remove areas within the sea or outside Kent

The end result is a 2km buffer around the postcodes of Kent with the lowest levels of access to greenspace.

Filenames: *Within 2km of 0 to 1 ANGSt score.shp*

Map



Additional Information

The map produced shows areas of Kent (it does not include Medway or London Boroughs within the vice county of Kent) where access to greenspace is lowest. These areas meet either none or one of the four ANGSt measures. The ANGSt measures of accessible greenspace are:

- Of at least 2 ha in size, no more than 300 m (5 minutes walk) from home
- At least one accessible 20 ha site within 2 km of home
- One accessible 100 ha size within 5 km of home
- One accessible 500 ha site within 10 km of home

Whilst this map shows areas that have limited access to greenspace further analysis in each area is needed to ascertain why access is limited. Would scores be increased by the creation of large 500 hectare spaces or are many small areas of greenspace required. Often rural areas lack small areas of greenspace where urban areas do not. It should also be noted that the ANGSt standards for access to greenspace does not include the public rights of way network.

4.1.5 Target areas based on distance from 25 Ha greenspace

This map looked at which areas were not within 2km of a greenspace of at least 25Ha in size

Steps

1. Areas of greenspace over 25 Ha according to the Greenspace Needs Assessment were selected.
2. The selected greenspaces were given a 2km buffer.
3. The areas of Kent that were neither selected nor buffered (the intersection) were calculated.
4. Areas of less than 100 hectares were removed from this layer.

The end result is a all of the land in Kent of over 100 hectares that is further than 2km from a greenspace of 25 hectares or over.

Filenames: *Outside 2km of 25Ha greenspace.shp*

Map



Additional Information

This map shows all areas that are more than 2km from a greenspace larger than 25 hectares. The choice of 25 hectares was an arbitrary one but is an area that is large enough to be considered a significant nature reserve, woodland or greenspace. This map shows areas where the creation of large areas of open access greenspace would be of most benefit.

4.2 Maps based on communities who may face barriers to accessing the countryside

4.2.1 Target Areas based on proximity to built-up areas

This map is created using the Built-up areas dataset.

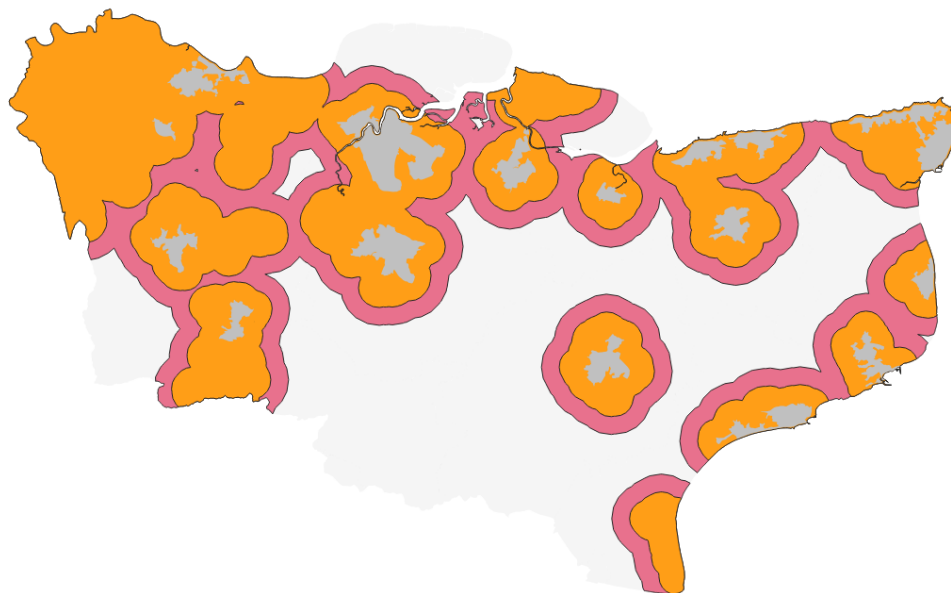
Steps

1. Select only urban areas over 3km²
2. Clip the dataset using the vice county map of Kent to reduce its size
3. Create a 2km buffer around urban areas
4. Clip the buffered area using the vice county map of Kent to remove areas within the sea or outside Kent.

The end result is a map of areas within 2km of an urban area within the vice county of Kent. The process was repeated with a 4km buffer.

Filenames: *Within 2km of urban area.shp*
Within 4km of urban area.shp

Map



Additional Information

This mapping tool does not actually attempt to identify areas that have limited access to greenspace, nor does it attempt to identify the most deprived communities or even those where there are the highest levels of cultural and ethnic groups that don't often access greenspace. However, proximity to urban areas (in this case areas of over 3km²) can act as a proxy for all of these things. Hence, proximity is perhaps a crude but rather effective mechanism for identifying where improved access to greenspace can be targeted. If this map is compared to some of the factors that proximity to urban areas acts as a proxy for, the results are fairly similar. The map shows both a 2km and a 4km buffer around urban areas.

4.2.2 Target areas based on Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

This mapping is created using IMD data provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

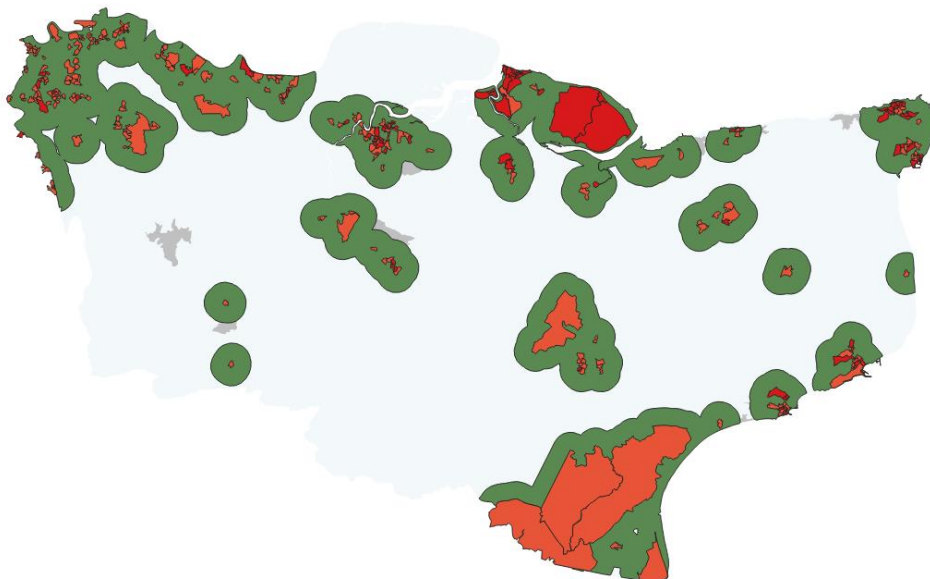
Steps

1. Select only the LSOAs in the vice county of Kent in the highest 2 deciles of ranked deprivation. (i.e. 20% of the LSOAs in the vice county with the highest rates of deprivation)
2. Each selected LSOA was given a 2km buffer.
3. The buffered area was clipped using the vice county map of Kent to remove areas within the sea or outside Kent

The end result is a 2km buffer around the most deprived LSOAs in Kent.

Filenames: *Within 2km of LSOA IMD 2 deciles.shp*

Map



Additional Information

These maps are useful as they show overall levels of deprivation. One of the measures includes the quality of the environment that people live in but also includes multiple other factors including education, health, income and employment levels. The map reveals rural areas where levels of deprivation are high and where access to greenspace could be beneficial to communities. More information about how indices of multiple deprivation are calculated can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/833959/loD_2019_Infographic.pdf

4.2.3 Target areas based on inactivity levels

This mapping is created using inactivity data for LSOAs in Kent. Whilst speaking to the data provider it became clear that there is some confusion over what the data actually displays. It is most likely that the data for each LSOA is the percentile of ranked levels of inactivity.

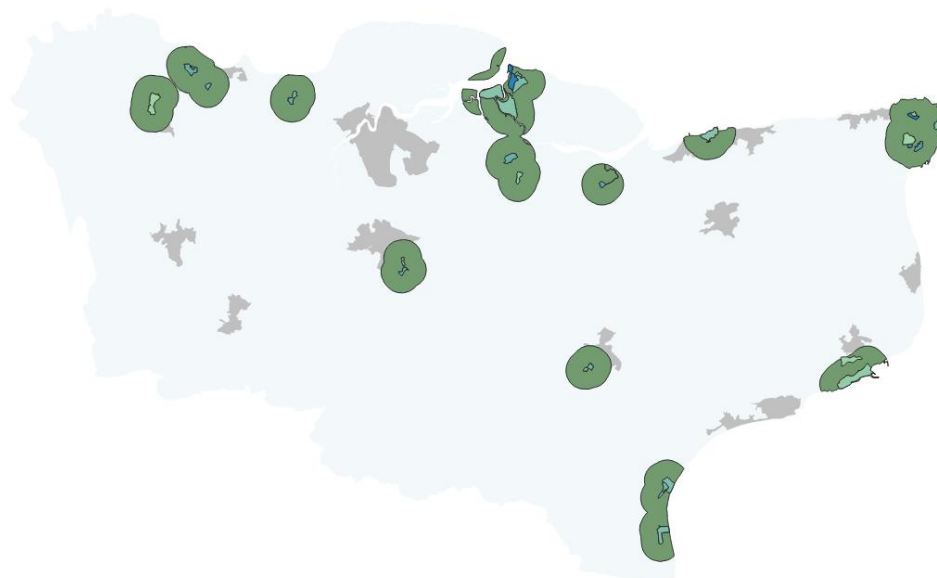
Steps

1. The most inactive LSOAs were selected. This equates to the 27 most inactive LSOAs out of the 902 in the Kent County Council area or the 3% of most inactive LSOAs
2. The selected LSOAs were given a 2km buffer.
3. The buffered area was clipped using the vice county map of Kent to remove areas within the sea or outside Kent

The end result is a 2km buffer around the LSOAs that contain the most inactive populations.

Filenames: *Within 2km of most inactive LSOAs.shp*

Map



Additional Information

The original dataset was provided to KCC by Experian and there is some confusion over exactly what the dataset shows. However, it is a reasonable assumption to make that the LSOAs identified in this process contain the highest percentage of inactive people in Kent. Reasons for levels of activity are complex and relate to a combination of features. The physical proximity to green space may not be limited for these communities and may indicate that more complex interventions than simply providing greenspace may be needed to properly address this issue.

4.2.4 Target areas based on most ethnically diverse Output Areas

This map looked at which areas were within 2km of the Output Areas that were most ethnically diverse in the 2011 census.

Steps

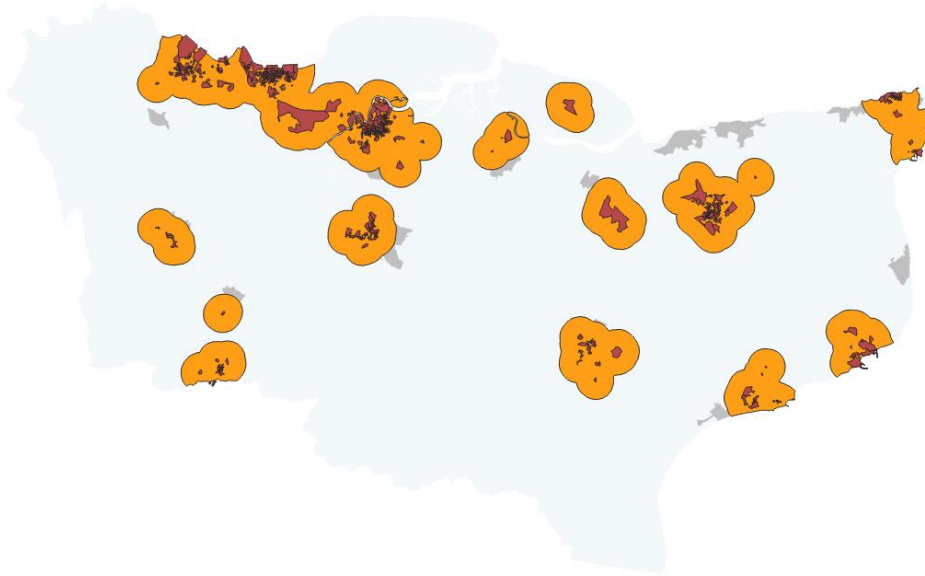
1. The upper decile of most ethnically diverse Output Areas (by percentage) were selected. This is the % of people that were not white British in the first map or not white in the second map.
2. The selected Output Areas were given a 2km buffer.
3. The buffered areas were clipped using the vice county map of Kent to remove areas within the sea or outside Kent.

The end result is a all of the areas of Kent that are within 2km of the most ethnically diverse communities.

Filenames: *Within 2km of ethnic diversity.shp*
Within 2km of non-white.shp

Map

Within 2km of most ethnically diverse communities



Within 2km of communities with highest percentage of non-white population



Additional Information

Both of these maps are similar. However, this data is from the 2011 census so may require significant revision. The ethnic diversity map includes non-British white people and there have been significant increases in the numbers of Europeans living in Kent since 2011. An anomaly can be seen on the Isle of Sheppey which contains the output area with the most diverse community in Kent. This corresponds to the area that includes three prisons which will account for this level of diversity. Improving accessibility in this area may not be a high priority.

4.2.5 Target areas based on disability and ill-health in Output Areas

This map looked at which areas were within 2km of the Output Areas where the highest percentage of people suffered from ill-health and disability in the 2011 census. The number of people considered were those who stated that their ill-health or disability either impacted their day-to-day lives a lot or a little.

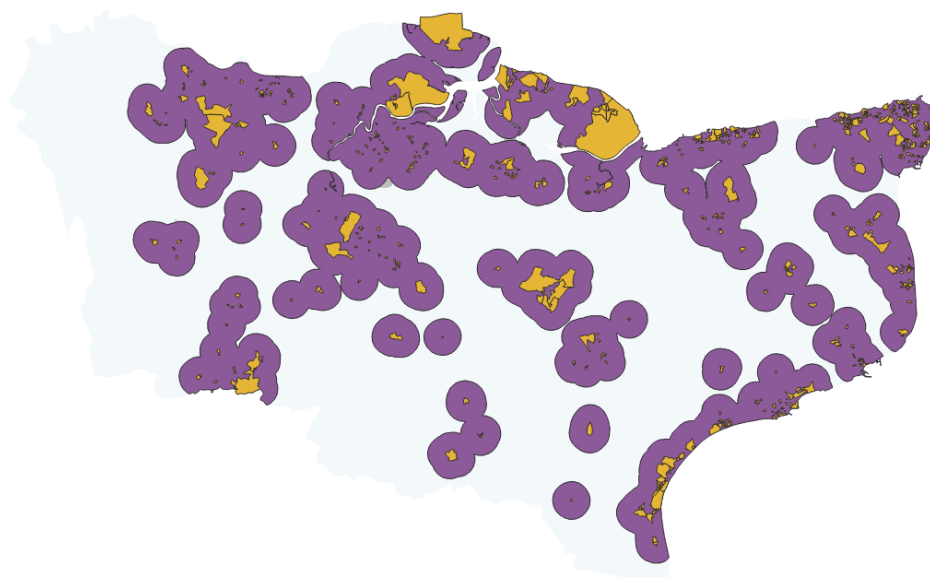
Steps

1. The upper decile of Output Areas (by percentage) based on ill-health and disability levels were selected. This is the % of people that stated that ill-health and disability impacted their day-to-day life a little or a lot.
2. The selected Output Areas were given a 2km buffer.
3. The buffered areas were clipped using the vice county map of Kent to remove areas within the sea or outside Kent.

The end result is a all of the areas of Kent that are within 2km of the most disabled communities.

Filenames: *Within 2km of most disabled.shp*

Map



Additional Information

Levels of disability (disability or ill-health having an impact on day-to-day life) vary greatly across the county. Levels of disability on the 10% of Output Areas with the highest levels are at least three times higher than those in the 10% of Output Areas with the lowest levels. Reasons for this may include the age of the population in the area as well as general levels of ill-health and disability.

4.3 Maps based on ecologically sensitive areas

4.3.1 Target areas based on proximity to SSSIs

This mapping is created using SSSI data provided by Natural England.

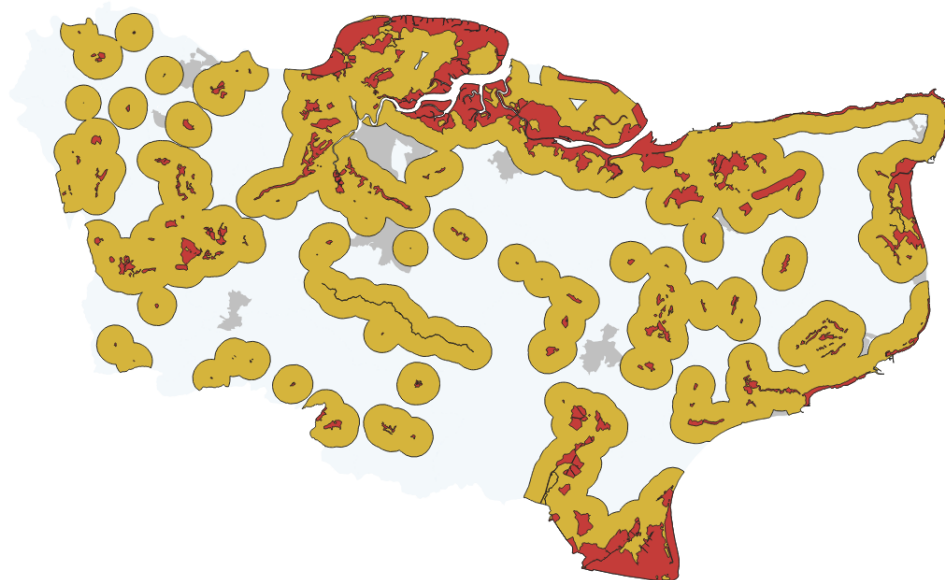
Steps

1. The SSSI dataset was clipped using the vice county map of Kent to remove areas within the sea or outside Kent.
2. Each SSSI was given a 2km buffer.
3. The buffered area was clipped using the vice county map of Kent to remove areas within the sea or outside Kent

The end result is a 2km buffer of all SSSIs.

Filenames: *Within 2km of SSSI.shp*

Map



Additional Information

This map is very basic and needs refinement. There is some value in targeting areas that are close to SSSIs as all SSSIs are sensitive. However, there are many SSSIs where public access is either not permitted or not a problem. There are also some SSSIs where access is a big problem. This layer will require ground truthing and further investigation. Natural England officers may be able to help here or looking at the reason for designation. Otherwise, this mapping may identify large areas where access does not need to be diverted away from protected areas. Equally, there may be areas of farmland adjacent to a SSSI where access is poor which support ground nesting birds and other wildlife that is sensitive to levels of access. Further work is needed to identify the areas where high levels of access are impacting wildlife.

5 Initial results

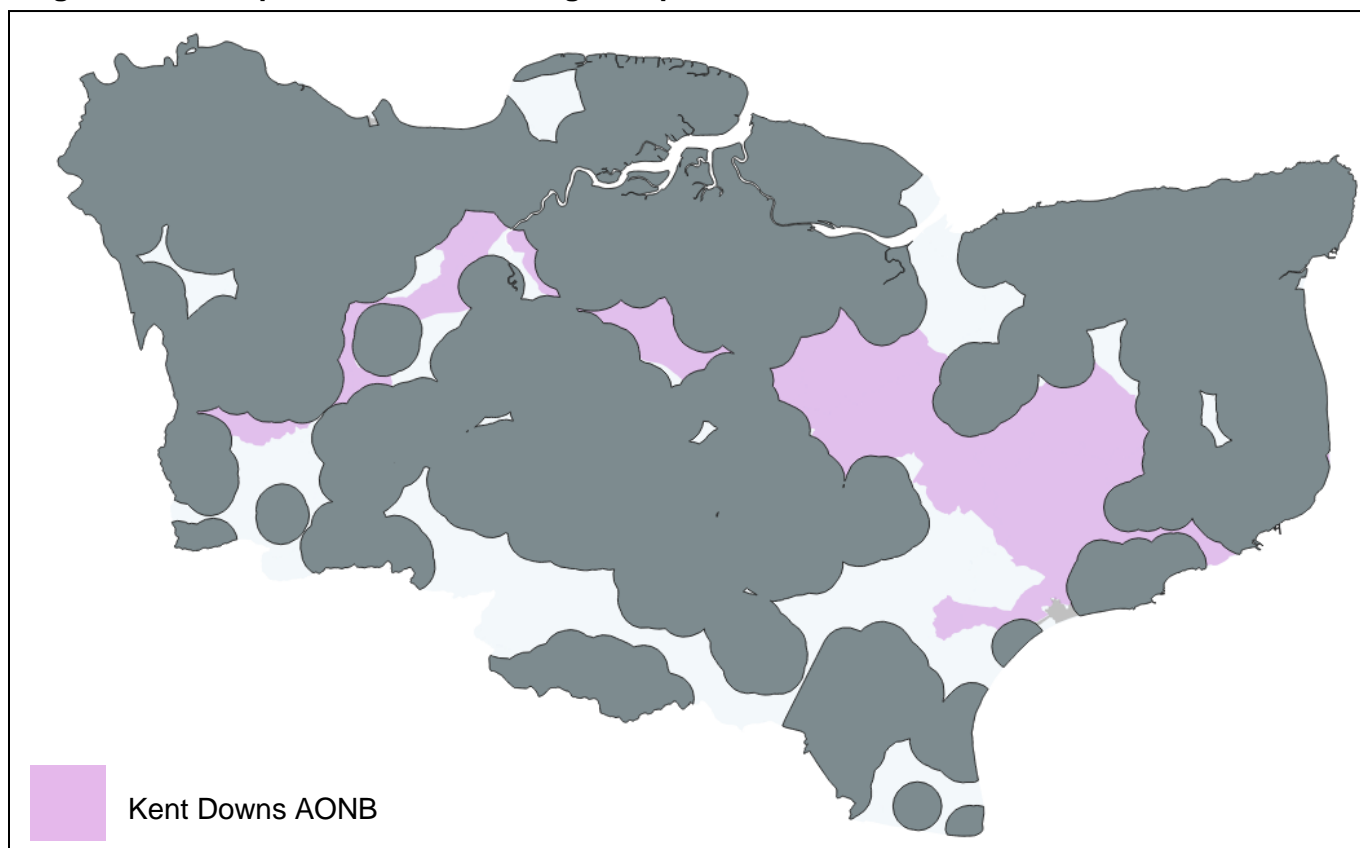
Whilst it is possible to make a case for improved access anywhere in the county of Kent, the mapping exercise carried out here has allowed certain areas to be prioritised. These are not the same for each of the three approaches to access enhancement. Consequently, three separate maps have been produced which are shown here. A decision was made to include the entire vice county of Kent in these maps. This reflects the fact that parts of the Kent Downs AONB are within Medway and the London Boroughs that used to be part of Kent. It also allows the role that these areas play as the setting for the AONB as well as acknowledging the importance of providing access to populations that are frequent visitors to Kent and the Kent Downs AONB.

5.1 Improve local access to greenspace

This map is an amalgamation of several of the maps created in section 4.1. There was a significant divergence between some of the maps created using this methodology even though all of the maps were based on the provision of accessible greenspace in localities. The final map was made by merging three of the maps created in section 4.1. These were:

1. Target areas based on ANGSt score of 0 or 1. This includes all of the areas that do not have access to at least 2 of the ANGSt designated accessibility standards. Original map in section 4.1.4.
2. Target areas based on very low levels of access to greenspace. These are the LSOAs identified by Kent Nature Partnership's Greenspace Needs Assessment as having the lowest levels of access. Original map in section 4.1.3.
3. Target areas based on Access Network Mapping. This is based upon the percentage of an LSOA that is open access greenspace. It has been included as it shows rural areas that have a greenspace deficit and covers the whole vice county unlike the other two chosen maps. Original map in section 4.1.1.

Target areas to improve access to local greenspace



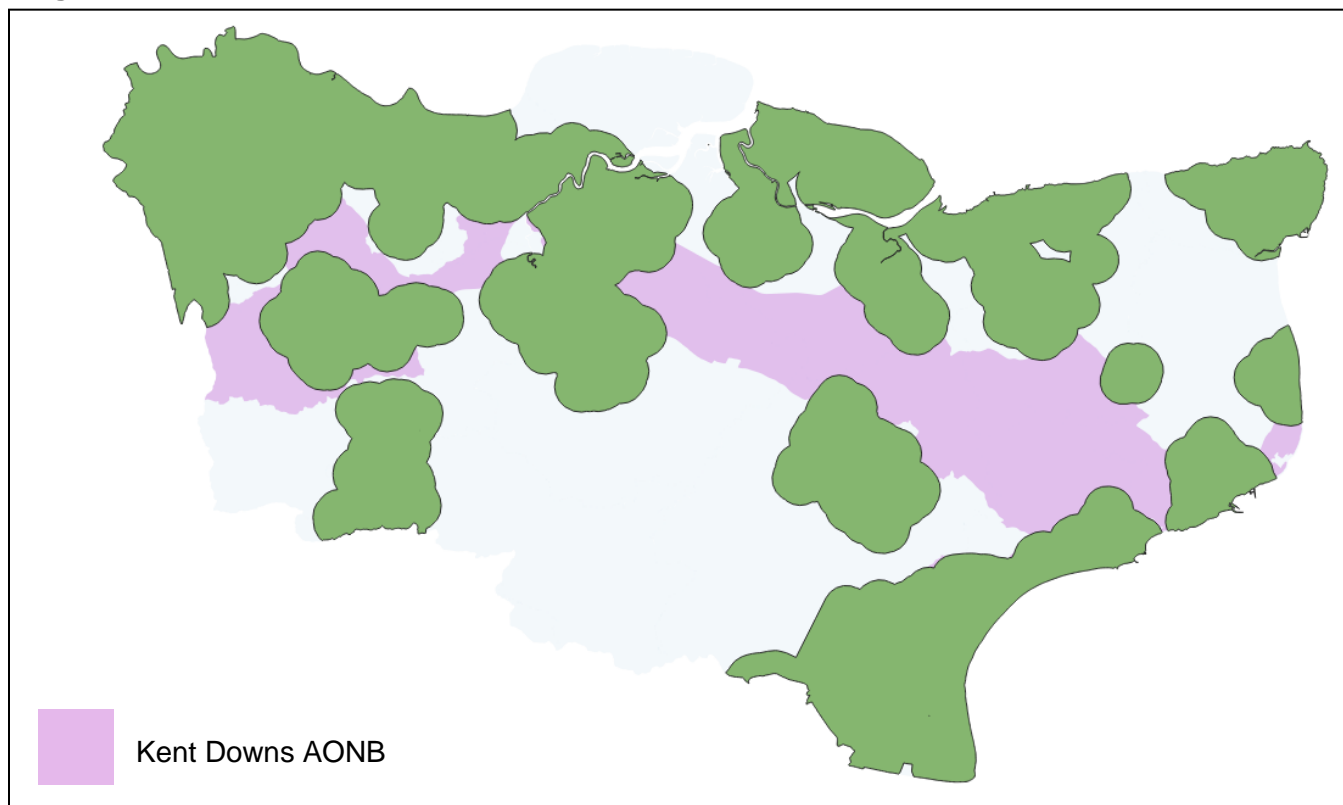
5.2 Removing barriers to access

There are numerous factors involved when looking at which areas should be prioritised. There are numerous barriers to communities accessing the countryside, only some of which have a geographical dimension. The success of measures that aim to reduce barriers to access will depend upon how well they are implemented

and whether there are people who are able to facilitate access. However, there are factors that allow the targeting of specific areas of Kent where access improvements or interventions to facilitate access are likely to impact more people. Proximity to urban populations is key as those people who are least able to access the countryside or face the biggest barriers are more often found in these areas. Also, organisations that work with groups that have barriers to access are often based in urban locations. Hence, improvements near urban areas should be prioritised. Of the other factors that were mapped as part of this project (inactivity, ethnicity, deprivation, ill health and disability) the target areas identified were clustered around urban centres. The only exception to this was ill-health and disability. The final target map was created by merging the following maps.

1. Target areas based on proximity to built-up areas. Original map in section 4.2.1.
2. Target areas based on Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Original map in section 4.2.2.
3. Target areas based on levels of activity. Original map in section 4.2.3.
4. Target areas based on areas with high levels of ethnic diversity. Original map in section 4.2.4.

Target areas to remove barriers to access

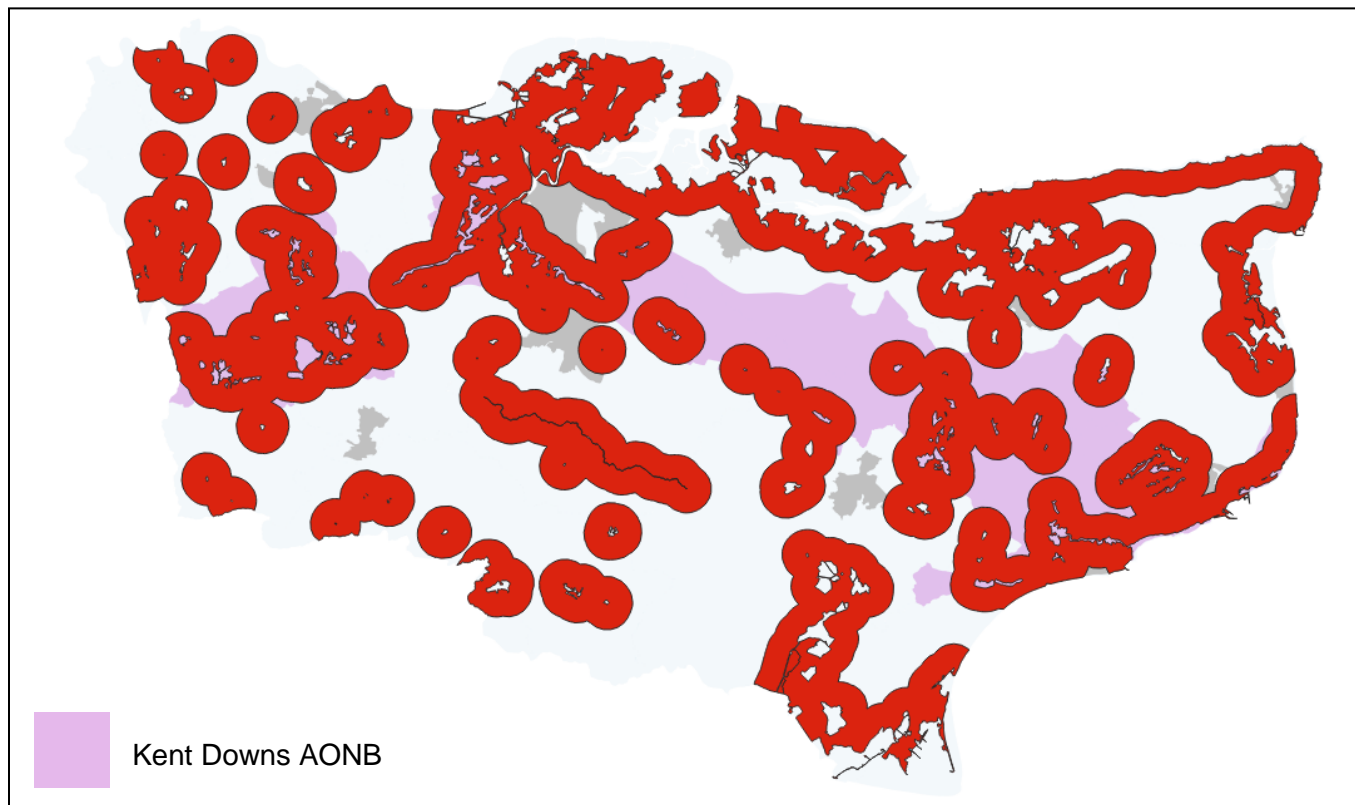


5.3 Access in ecologically sensitive areas

Mapping in this area is not currently well developed. As mentioned in other parts of this report simply mapping SSSIs may not identify all areas where access is impacting ecologically sensitive areas and may also identify areas where public access is being actively encouraged and is not seen as being detrimental to wildlife. Using Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation mapping did nothing to improve these anomalies. This mapping requires input from professionals to identify the areas that are most at risk from public access and where alternative public access can be created using Enhancing Access ELMS interventions. Currently

this mapping is simply areas within 2km of SSSIs though it is hoped that this map will be refined as the project progresses.

Target areas providing access in ecologically sensitive areas



5.4 Establishing priority areas in Kent

In order to create a practical map to prioritise access enhancements the removing barriers and improving access to greenspace maps were combined to form a points scoring system. These areas that were prioritised in both maps were labelled as high priority, those that were priority areas in just one of the maps were medium priority and areas that were not priorities for either maps were labelled as low priority. This is just one way that priority areas can be allocated which may help score E.L.M. applications but criteria could be set depending upon local priorities. To create a more meaningful and simpler to apply map, some of the smaller polygons in this map should be removed or merged.

It should also be stressed that there may be a good case to enhance access at any locality if the proposal is of a high quality, even in low priority areas.

High, medium and low priority areas

