

BRIEF: Nature Recovery in the South Downs National Park

September 2022

Broad aim: to formulate a community-led plan for nature enhancement and sustainable recovery in Kingston near Lewes parish by identifying, developing, and connecting a network of green and blue spaces across the whole parish, in line with the SDNPA's nature recovery principles, dedicating areas to nature.

The first step of this project is to produce a simple habitat map for the parish. This process will highlight opportunities for nature recovery projects based on the available existing and historic data.

Method: Collate existing maps and data on green and blue areas, farmland, and boundaries by accessing free online resources including but not limited to:

- OS maps (<https://osdatahub.os.uk/downloads/open> and e.g. OS Zoomstack for buildings and parks, Boundary-Line for administrative boundaries)
- OS Zoomstack (for buildings and parks)
- OS Greenspace <https://getoutside.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/greenspaces/>
- Defra Data Services Platform <https://environment.data.gov.uk>
- NBN Atlas
- National Forest Inventory and Vegetation Object Model for woodlands
- The Magic Map (which provides geographic information about the natural environment, managed by Natural England)
- The Natural England Open Data Geoportal <https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com>
- The South Downs Landscape character assessment
- Maps and species data from Sussex Biological Records (fee TBC see 'costs')

The map will consider and include details of public access and will confirm designation by corresponding with the SDNPA teams. The map will characterise all major green spaces within the parish boundaries, including (where possible) hedges, verges and gardens using satellite and available digital maps.

Output:

Baseline map

1. Map PDFs and digital files will be created using QGIS (a free open-source application) so the habitat map can be developed by adding data layers of complexity. We will use existing data to create an initial map. We will characterise all remaining land as far as possible through observation (ground truthing) and confirmation of current land use (corresponding with the Parish Council and stakeholders).

Restoration

2. We will summarise three opportunities for nature recovery projects by identifying spaces that could be restored based on the following criteria: highest influence over land management (e.g. Parish-owned and managed open spaces), low (anticipated)

current biodiversity, low cost and effort to restore and manage in the future (i.e. high passive restoration potential), and high connectivity potential.

3. Two images will be created to illustrate the future of specific areas following proposed suggestions for restoration.
4. A report will be produced, summarising methods, providing key statistics (estimated area of characterised green and blue spaces), and summarising opportunities for nature recovery projects in succeeding stages of the project.
5. We will add these data to the Land App (see: thelandapp.com) for open access and collaboration with all stakeholders. The digital files will also be shared on Restor (an open data platform for restoration projects, see <https://restor.eco/>) where our project can be shared, data can be easily added, and change can be monitored over time.

Roles:

- 2 x supervisors (oversee the project, ground truth data, and co-author the report)
- 1 employee (to research and collate all existing and available maps and data, produce a map, add data to the Land App and Restor)
- 1 artist (create two images of the future following advice, included in the report)

Cost:

Supervisor £500/day = £1000

Employee £200/day = £3000

Artist = £1000

Admin (20%) = £1000

Sussex Biological Records maps and species data £100+VAT (TBC)

TOTAL = £6000 (+ ~£100)

Time: 3 months (completed by March 2023)