

Section 5.

Local Habitat Map



The intention of this map is to identify areas already important for biodiversity within the LNRS area and those areas that could become important, if the measures within the LNRS are implemented in a targeted way.

The Local Habitat Map has three, inter-related parts:

- A map of 'Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity' (APIB map);
- A map identifying where measures can best be delivered (Measures map);
- A map of 'Areas that could become of importance for biodiversity' (ACIB map).



5.1 Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB)

Statutory guidance strictly defines what should be included in the APIB as the following:

- All national conservation sites;
- All local nature reserves;
- All existing local wildlife sites and areas of irreplaceable habitat.

The statutory guidance is clear that Responsible Authorities should not map any other areas as being of particular importance for biodiversity. This is not to suggest that other areas are not important, but to help establish a nationally consistent baseline and to align well with local planning policy and avoid duplicating with the identification of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS).

Our APIB covers 42,518 ha which is 23.5% of the LNRS area.

We have 13,024ha of priority habitats that lie outside of the APIB as they are not formally designated as protected sites. This equates to 7.2% of the LNRS area. Some of this may comprise irreplaceable habitat as we do not know its full extent. In recognition of this

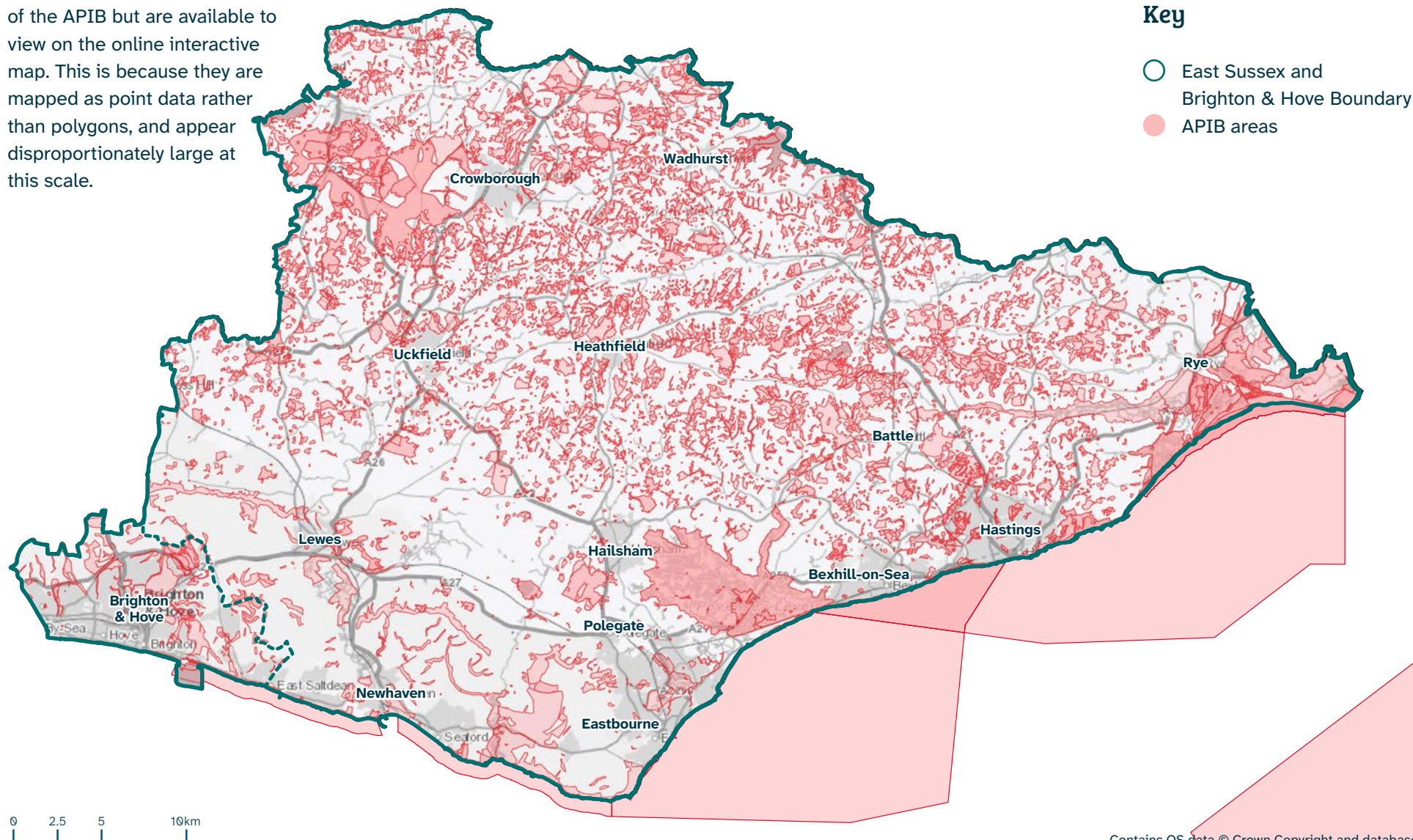
richness of biodiversity, and to ensure that our first port of call is to look after what we have and to make it better, many of our measures relate to enhancing the condition of our priority habitats.

Much of our LNRS area is also already under positive management for wildlife, both inside and outside protected sites, either through its ownership and management by environmental organisations such as the National Trust (1,843ha), RSPB (284ha), Sussex Wildlife Trust (1,120ha) or the Woodland Trust (484ha), or through Environmental Stewardship agreements (22,189ha). East Sussex County Council has also designated 47ha as Wildlife Verges, with one of these supporting more than 85% of the UK population of the nationally rare spiked rampion.



Map 1. Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB) for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove

Ancient and veteran trees are not shown on this static version of the APIB but are available to view on the online interactive map. This is because they are mapped as point data rather than polygons, and appear disproportionately large at this scale.



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5.2 The Measures Map

The Statement of Biodiversity Priorities sets out the measures (actions) that if carried out can help to contribute to achievement of the priorities for the LNRS. The Measures Map identifies the **locations where these could be carried out to deliver the greatest benefit to biodiversity and/or the wider environment**, based on stakeholder judgement and best available datasets. Creating this map involved identifying where measures could help to create 'bigger, better, more and joined-up' areas of wildlife-rich habitat and/or help to act as nature-based solutions to issues such as flood risk reduction, improving water quality and so on.

The Priorities & Measures tables in the section above indicate whether a measure is mapped or not.

A **Mapped Measure** is a measure that has been mapped in a located area.

A **Non-Mapped Measure** is a measure that has not been mapped – and this may be for several reasons:

- The measure may be beneficial across the whole LNRS area (so therefore it is not possible to target it to where it would make the most difference); Examples include deer management and measures to enhance wildlife habitat on farmed land;
- The measure is not about direct action for habitat creation/enhancement activity;
- There is insufficient data to map the measure (or mapping cannot be done to a level of accuracy or reliability that is useful or meaningful).

Just over 40% of measures for this LNRS have been mapped.

Areas on the measures map cover 63,102ha, which is 34.9% of the LNRS land area.

Statutory guidance specifies that areas included within the measures map are considered strategically significant areas and are eligible for biodiversity net gain uplift (via the BNG metric).

All measures included within the LNRS are important in helping to achieve the stated ambitions and priorities within the document. Just because a measure is not mapped does not mean that it is less important as part of the overall strategy for nature's recovery. Where measures are mapped, there will be areas of the map they do not cover. However, there may still be very specific local opportunities for habitat enhancement and creation that are known to landowners and others in these areas. In these cases, it is hoped that the principles, priorities and measures can guide action.

The process of mapping measures included iterative analysis and feedback, using a range of datasets to inform priority locations for potential measures to be carried out. The methodology for mapping each measure is described in Part 4.

The Measures Map is colour coded and for ease of reference is presented to identify measures for each main habitat group, before these are presented as an overall measures map.

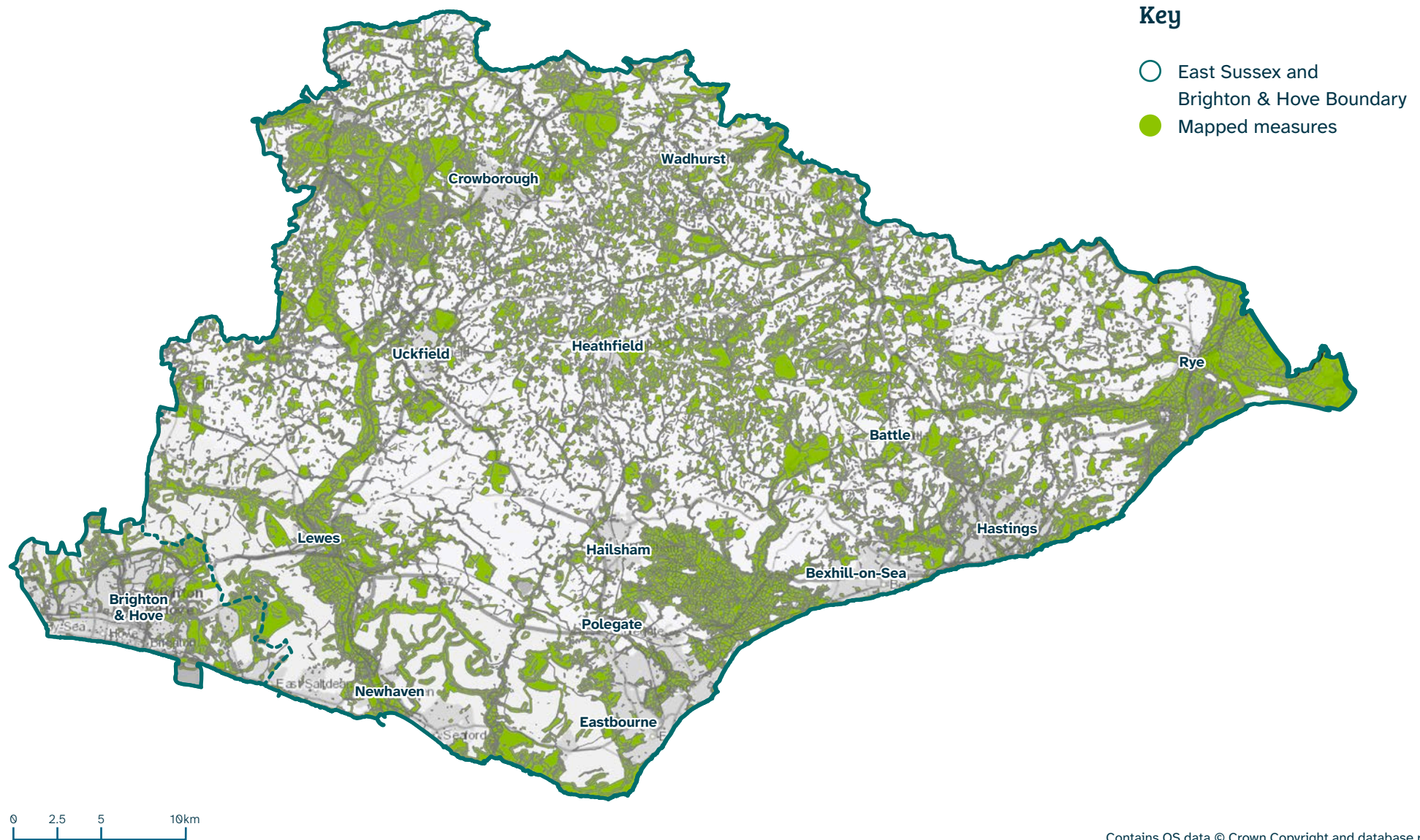
The various habitat layers of the Measures Map are best viewed on the interactive online map.

Note: some of these measures overlap, which simply means that there may be more than one action on the ground in these areas which would confer benefit for biodiversity and/or deliver wider environmental benefits. These overlaps have been checked carefully to identify any measures which should have priority over others or to remove those that may conflict with others or be better implemented elsewhere. As such, we believe that the overlaps that remain provide landowners with the flexibility to choose those which best fit with other plans for their land or surrounding habitats.

Disclaimer: *The Measures Map is a guide and show suggested measures for nature's recovery in an area. It is important to undertake site specific investigations and seek expert advice and the necessary permissions before starting work on the ground. The Measures Map should not be treated as definitive but as a tool to help plan and coordinate action for nature's recovery.*



Map 2. All Mapped Measures



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Note: Measures mapped to land included on the APIB

Some of these measures are mapped onto land that appears on the APIB and as such indicate action that could be taken to deliver benefit for biodiversity and/or the wider environment on areas already identified as of particular importance for biodiversity. This is important for Local Wildlife Sites and areas of irreplaceable habitat which are not covered by statutory protections and management agreements (such as exist for SSSIs and NNRs) and is intended to help target action in these sites and habitats where it may be needed most.

Defra guidance for the preparation of an LNRS advises that no measures should be mapped onto 'national conservation sites' (SSSIs, SACs/SPAs, NNRs, Ramsar Sites) unless there is no duplication or conflict with the management agreement for each site. As there are 65 SSSIs alone in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, it was not possible to check the Measures Map against each management agreement separately. However, one of our key principles is to look after what we have and make it better, and the potential measures mapping has been designed to deliver a

coherent network for nature recovery across the Strategy area. As such, some of our measures lie within national conservation sites and present future considerations for these sites. We have agreed with Natural England that measures to **enhance habitats** (rather than for habitat creation) can be mapped within high priority sites, e.g. those with international designations. These measures sit alongside the legal requirements associated with these sites and do not override them or replace existing management associated with the designation, nor do they negate the need for any requisite consents or approvals. It is essential that the existing designated features and the legal processes and guidance are checked and followed prior to delivery of the suggested measure. How potential measures may be applied to national conservation sites in the future will be part of an ongoing point of discussion during the Strategy's delivery, monitoring and review process.

Measures which are mapped on land not included in the APIB are captured on the third part of the Local Habitat Map, the ACIB (Areas that Could become of Importance for Biodiversity) – see over.



5.3 Areas that Could become of Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB)

Measures that are mapped onto land **outside the APIB** are together identified on the third map within the Local Habitat Map – the map of **Areas that Could become of Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB)**. In essence, the ACIB identifies where and how habitats can be enhanced or created to create a more joined-up and resilient ecological network of habitats between and around the core sites and irreplaceable habitats mapped on the APIB. The ACIB does not overlap with the APIB.

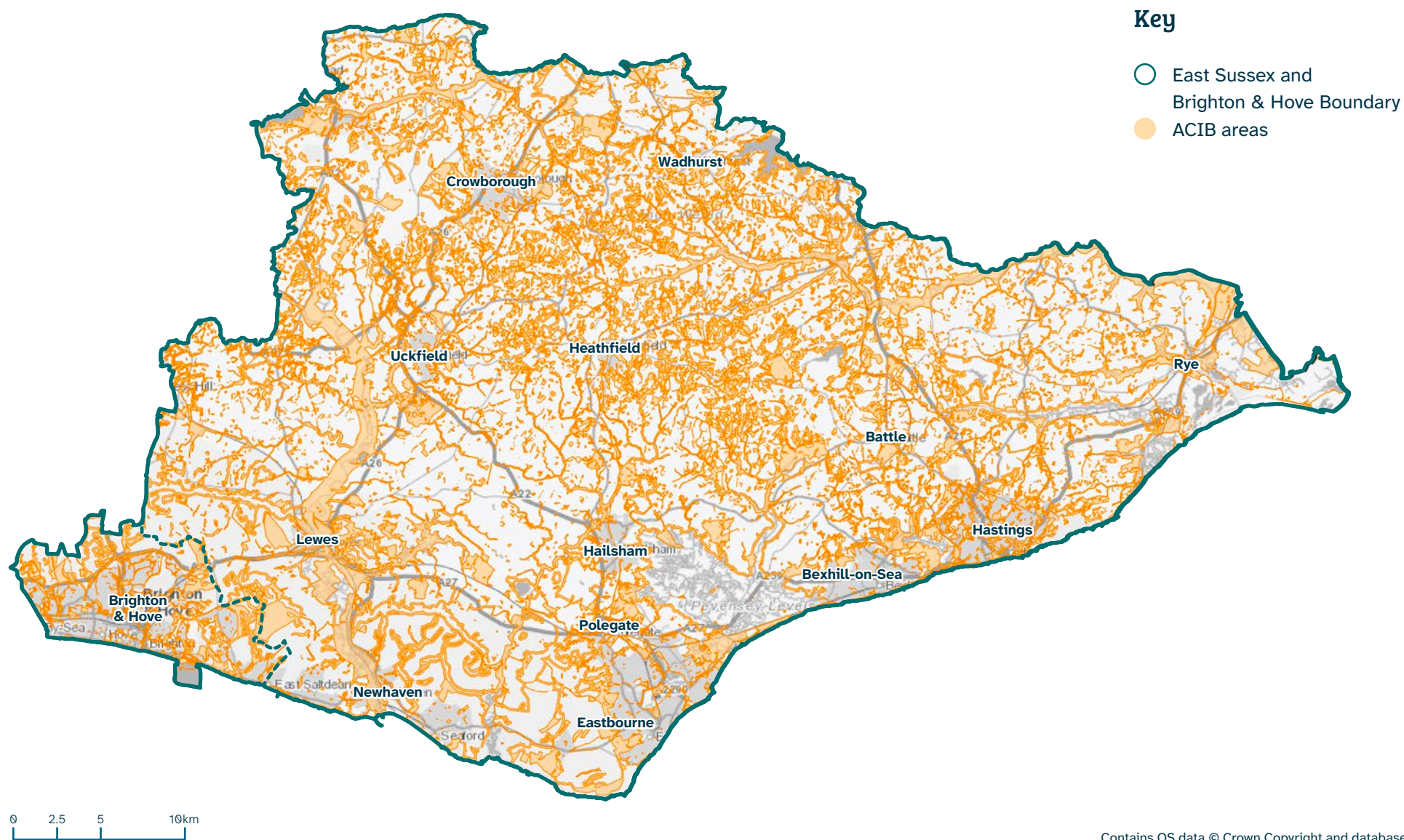
The ACIB for the LNRS area covers 39,837 which is 22.02% of the land area.

Together the APIB and ACIB cover **82,355ha, 46%** of the land cover of the LNRS area.

It is important to note that the ACIB is an interpretation of where action for nature could have the most benefit for nature and the wider environment, based on best available data and stakeholder input. Inclusion on this map does not automatically guarantee that it is possible to enhance/create habitat in these areas. Any potential habitat creation or enhancement proposals will need thorough investigation and consent before they take place. Any efforts to create or enhance space for nature outside these areas is also valuable and should be encouraged.



Map 3. Map of Areas that Could become of Importance for Biodiversity (ACIB)



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