

# Nature Recovery in the South Downs National Park Parishes

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# What do you need to do before applying for ReNature funding ?



- Have an idea!
- Create a plan
- Work up costs
- Ongoing management plan

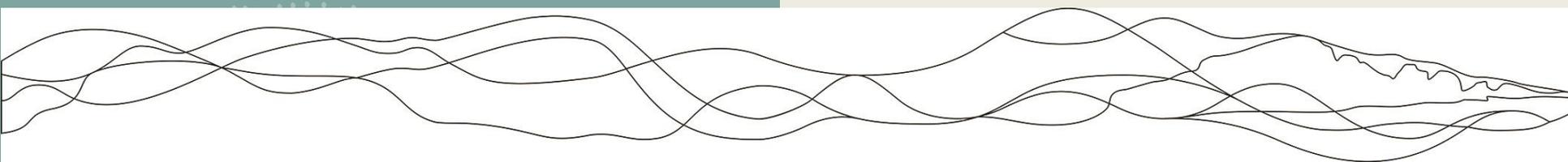
# What have other parishes done?



Nature Recovery and Climate Action in  
the Parish of East Dean and Friston



Nature Recovery Opportunities in the  
parish of Kingston near Lewes





## THE SITE Kingston near Lewes

Area of Kingston parish identified from the historic parish boundary. The map includes land registry parcels within the Kingston boundary, local buildings, rivers, chalk streams, surface water, ancient trees, reedbeds, and green space, which includes public parks, allotments, cemeteries, and other community green spaces.

**Total site area:** 571 ha

**Length of roads:** 8.077 km

**Area of recreational green space:** 2.3 ha

St Pancras Green: 1.5 ha

The Village Green: 0.48 ha

St Pancras Church cemetery 0.22 ha

Tennis courts: 0.12 ha

**Additional green areas:**

Snednore: ~0.3 ha

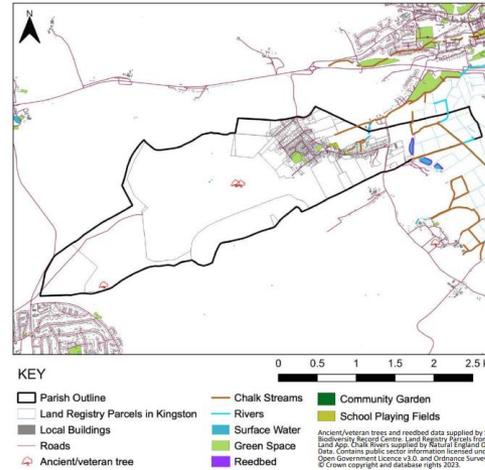
Community Wildlife Garden: 0.03 ha

School Playing Fields: ~0.5 ha

**Area of blue space:** 2.5 ha

**Length of rivers:** 665 m

**Length of chalk streams:** 1246 m



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- Introduction
- Section 1) Green & Blue Infrastructure in Kingston near Lewes
- Section 2) Nature recovery opportunities
- Section 3) Nature recovery and climate change
- Summary

This report has been produced by Wild Business Ltd for Kingston near Lewes Parish Council, with the support of the South Downs National Park Authority. The report provides a broad assessment of the current green and blue infrastructure in the parish, the nature recovery opportunities, and the potential impact of climate change. It has been produced using a desk-based approach, using data and resources that are publicly available and that have been obtained from the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre. These data have not been ground truthed for this report. The report is intended for the use of the Parish Council to develop a nature recovery strategy for the Parish. The report and content within should not be used, distributed, or published for purposes beyond the intended use.

This report has been produced and written by Chris Sandom, Ellen Rotheray, and Talitha Bromwich.



## Principles of nature recovery for the village

Along with explicit nature recovery projects, the Parish Council could encourage villagers to adhere to biodiversity positive principles. The following are recommended and are adapted from the University of Sussex's Good Practice Biodiversity Principles:

1. **Plan for net gain:** Ensure that nature is recovering in the Parish by minimizing negative impacts and offsetting any negative impacts with nature recovery elsewhere.
2. **Aim to be a pesticide, peat and synthetic fertilizer free village:** Avoid these products to support biodiversity in the Village and beyond.
3. **Use water conscious planting practices:** Plant select species that do not have high water requirements.
4. **Leave deadwood:** Where safe to do so, leave standing and fallen deadwood, a vital resource to support biodiversity.
5. **Promote wildlife highways:** Encourage the use of hedges and create holes and gaps in fences to allow wildlife to move through the Village and beyond.
6. **Promote joined-up nature recovery projects:** For biodiversity bigger is better, so work together to create bigger wildlife gardens and spaces.



**THE SITE**  
**East Dean & Friston**

The area of East Dean and Friston is identified from the historic parish boundary. The map includes land registry parcels, buildings, roads, and green spaces, which include publicly accessible parks, churchyards, and other community green spaces. Additional village greens not captured by OS maps have been added using data provided by the Climate Friends group.

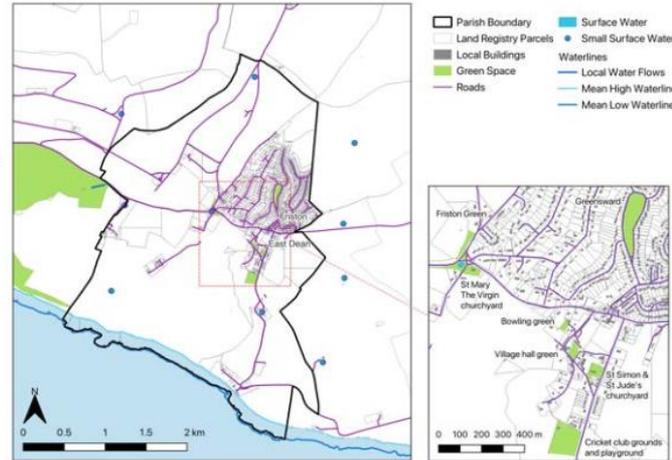
There are no major waterlines (rivers, canals) that run through the parish and no ponds wide enough to be captured by OS water layers. However, Friston Pond and other potential small surface water bodies were inferred using Google Earth and LandApp layers, and marked here as points, as they are not visible at the map's scale. The status and nature (e.g. natural ponds, man-made or agricultural use) of these potential very small water bodies would need to be confirmed with ground surveys.

The mean high and low waterlines along the coast are outlined.

**Total site area:** 897 ha

**Length of roads:** 25.4 km

**Area of community green spaces:** 5.1 ha



Land registry parcels from HM Land Registry. All other data from the Ordnance Survey and LandApp. Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. and Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights 2023.

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**OPPORTUNITIES**  
**East Dean & Friston Village**

Public green spaces, road verges and gardens cover a reasonably large proportion of the parish. The South Downs National Park has an ambition to ReNature 33% of the Park by 2030. The parish and residents could support this ambition by supporting further nature recovery in public spaces and gardens.

The wildflower meadows that are currently found in the East Dean church yard and the Greensward could be expanded. These areas are supporting beautiful wildflowers and the species that depend on them. These types of habitats could be created around boundaries of public spaces, along road verges, and in patches in gardens.

These patches can be simply created by reducing mowing to one cut in late Summer or early Autumn, and ensuring cuttings are removed to keep the nutrient levels low. Sowing yellow-rattle in grassland can also help create more species-rich grassland. Alternatively, more intensive restoration can be applied to create more species rich habitats.

Planting and protecting heat and drought tolerant trees within the villages and within the park areas should be considered. With the increasing prevalence of extremely hot days, the provision of more shade is an important adaptation to climate change.

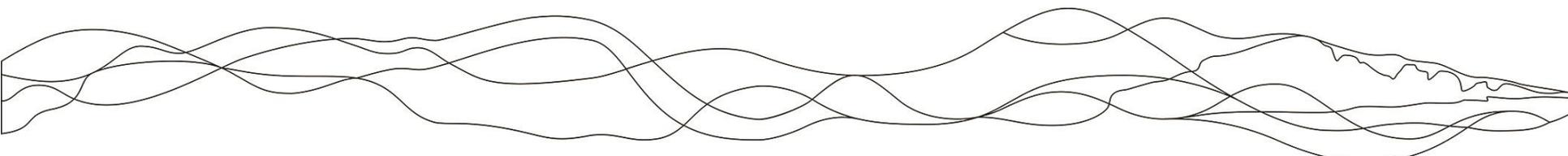
The following pages explore how nature recovery can support the creation of:

1. People and nature recreation areas.
2. Wilder and wildlife-rich gardens.
3. Wildlife corridors along road verges and park boundaries.

Finally, this section provides principles that can be followed to create more nature-friendly villages.



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# Outcomes

- A report to galvanise support – Kingston’s is online here [Item-9.1-EGM-14th-June-2023-Kingston-nr-Lewes-Nature-Recovery-Final-06052023\\_Reduced\\_Res\\_compressed.pdf \(kingston-pc.gov.uk\)](#)
- You know what you have
- Suggestions of where to improve
- Clear targets to aim for