



Essex County Council

Essex LNRS Stanway Parish Council – Nature Recovery Opportunities



**ESSEX
LNRS**

LOCAL
NATURE
RECOVERY
STRATEGY



Nature Crisis

- **Decline and loss of species**
 - 1 in 6 species at risk of being lost from Great Britain
 - 55% decline in farm birds
 - 50% reduction in butterfly numbers
 - 32% decline in species' abundance in England
- **Habitat loss**
 - lowest 12% for biodiversity intactness
- **Increased fragments habitat**
 - Decrease of connectivity for 19% of species

What is a local nature recovery strategy (LNRS)?

- Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are designed to drive action for nature recovery and further environment benefits across England.
- **LNRSs were made mandatory by the Environment Act 2021**
- Essex County Council is the Responsible Authority appointed to deliver the LNRS on behalf of Greater Essex.
- **Created in partnership with landowners, key environmental stakeholders, Supporting Authorities and members of the public.**
- Once complete, the Essex LNRS will highlight areas where nature is thriving, opportunities for potential habitat creation or enhancement, a strategy for recovery and a visual map to show the state of nature in Essex.



What can it achieve?

- A strategy and map of vital existing spaces for nature and locations of importance for biodiversity – highlight existing spaces of importance for biodiversity and showcase opportunities for nature recovery, leading to better co-ordination.
- Help contribute towards the national and local target of 30% coverage of green infrastructure by 2030. Essex has approx. 14% coverage of GI currently.
- The completed LNRS will be a consideration in planning matters and influence central funding streams to deliver improvements for our environment.
- Co-ordinated approach enables better results on less land – Bigger, Better, More connected



What will the LNRS look like?

- Set out priorities and opportunities for nature
- **Map the most valuable existing natural areas – baseline mapping**
- Map areas which could deliver for nature in the future – opportunity mapping
- **Measures for nature recovery – a series of actions to achieve nature recovery**



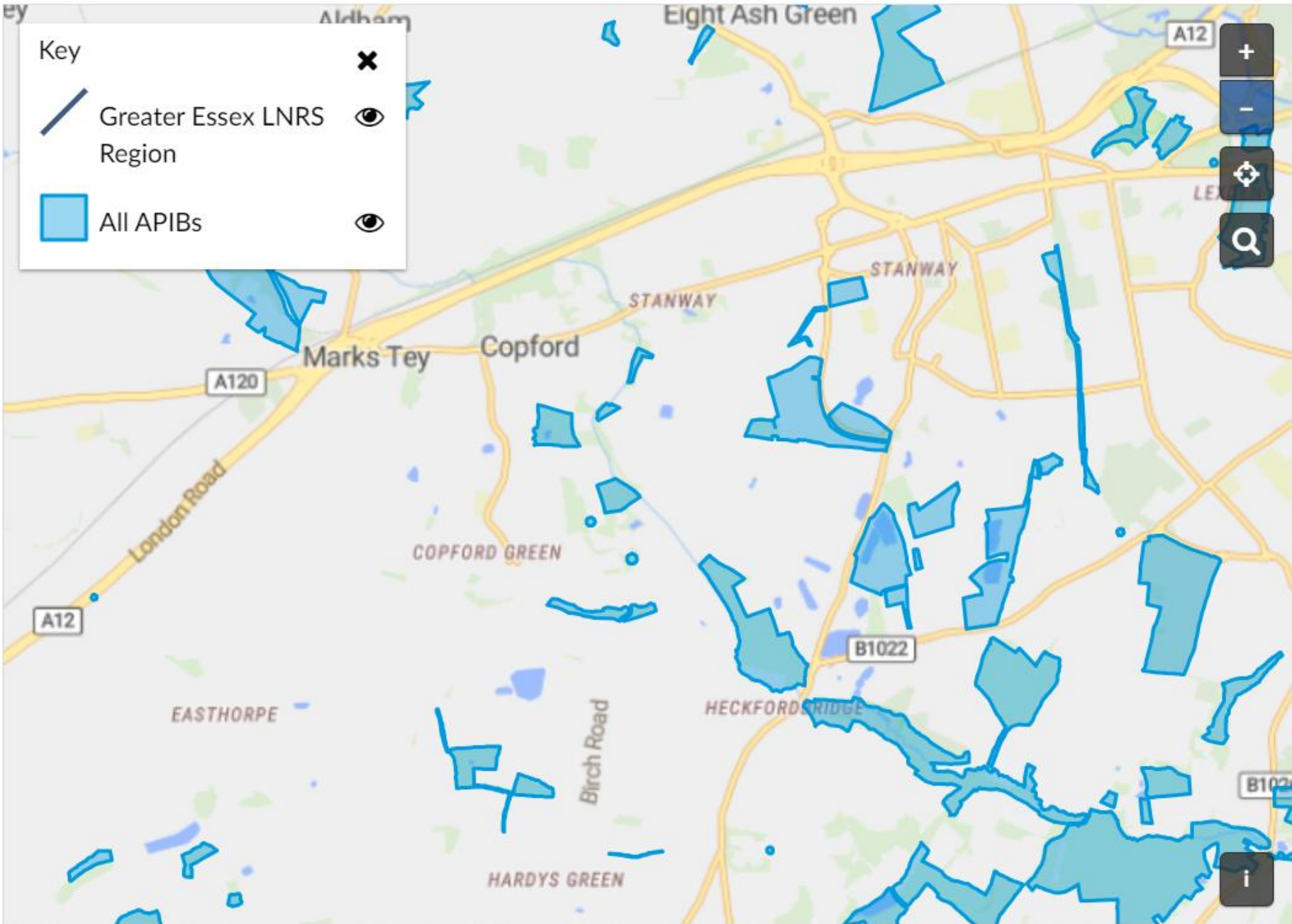
How might local projects be guided
by LNRS opportunity mapping?

Parish Councils / Community Groups

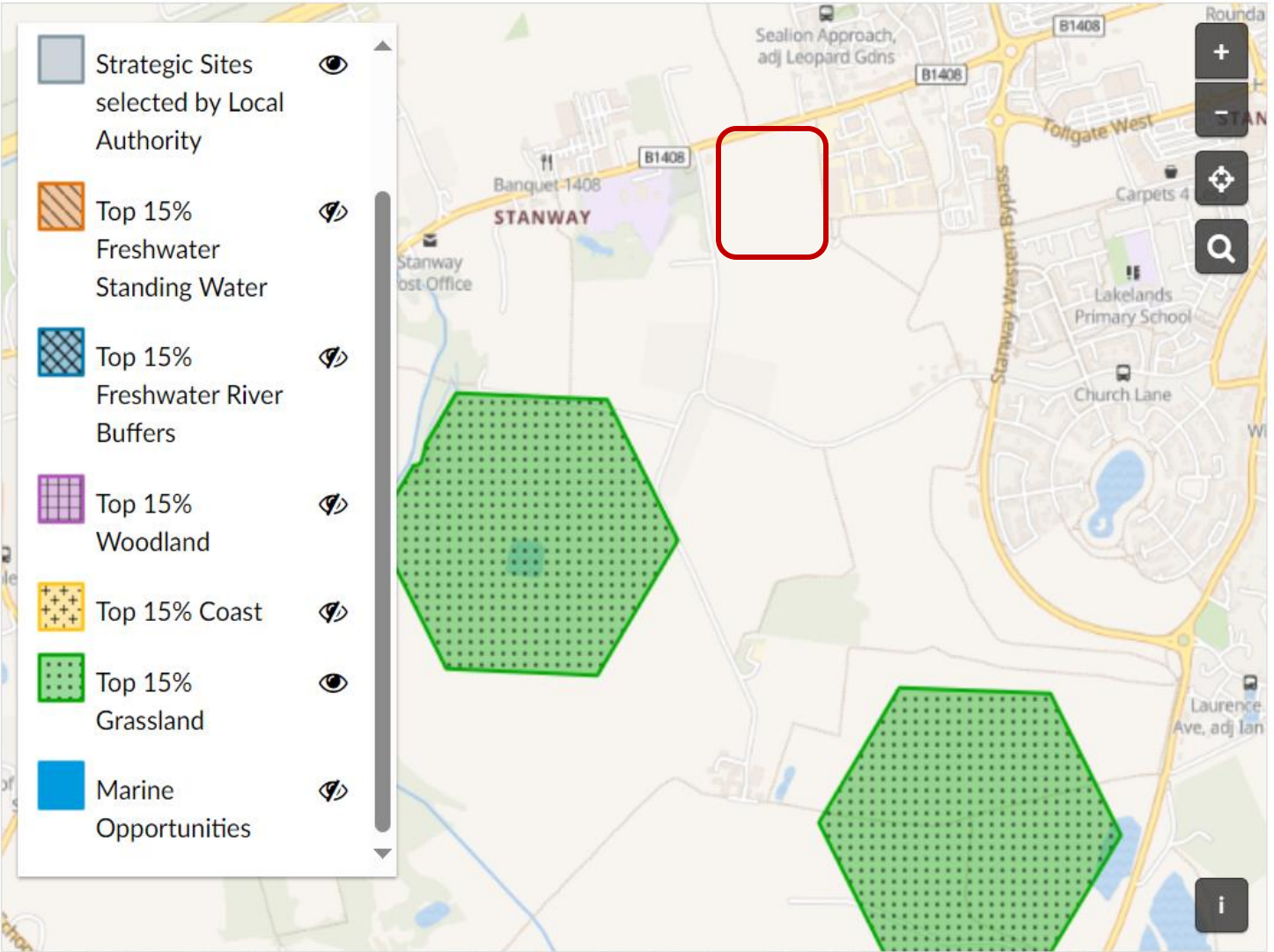
- **Assists in pinpointing areas within the local community to prioritise for nature recovery efforts.**
- Provides guidance for focusing on habitat creation and enhancement initiatives.
- **Aids in aligning neighbourhood plans with its objectives.**
- Can support funding applications for nature recovery projects.
- **Provides 15% uplift in Biodiversity Net Gain units**
- Aids in the establishment of new local community groups dedicated to nature recovery efforts.



Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIBs)

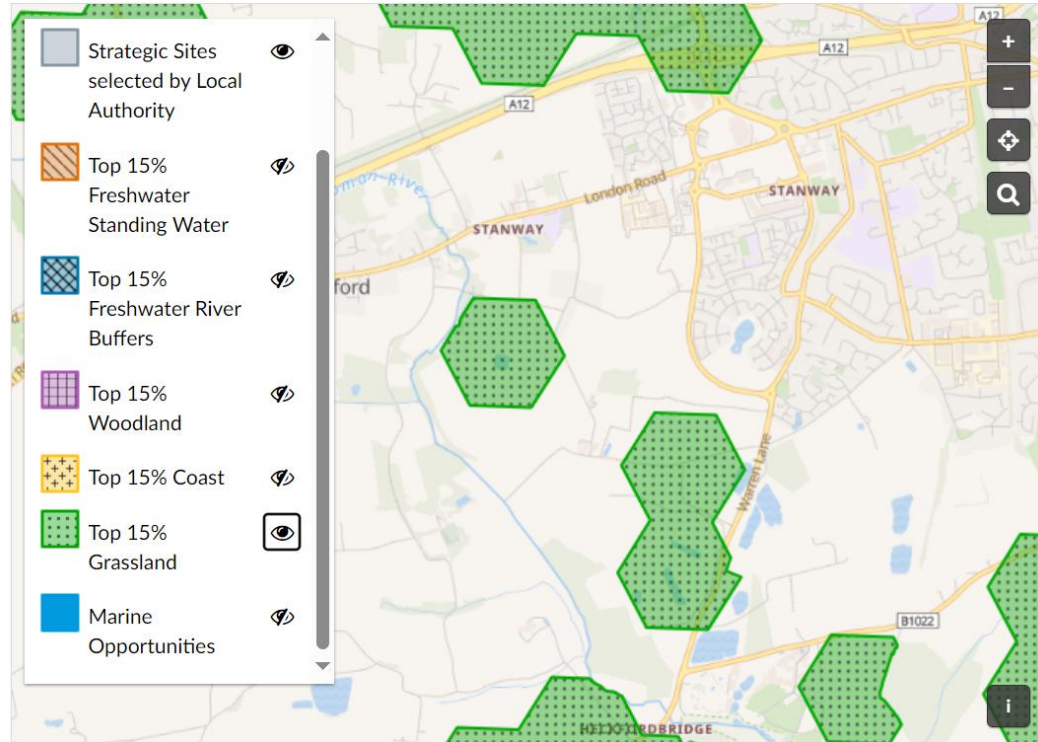


Combined Strategic Habitat Creation Opportunities

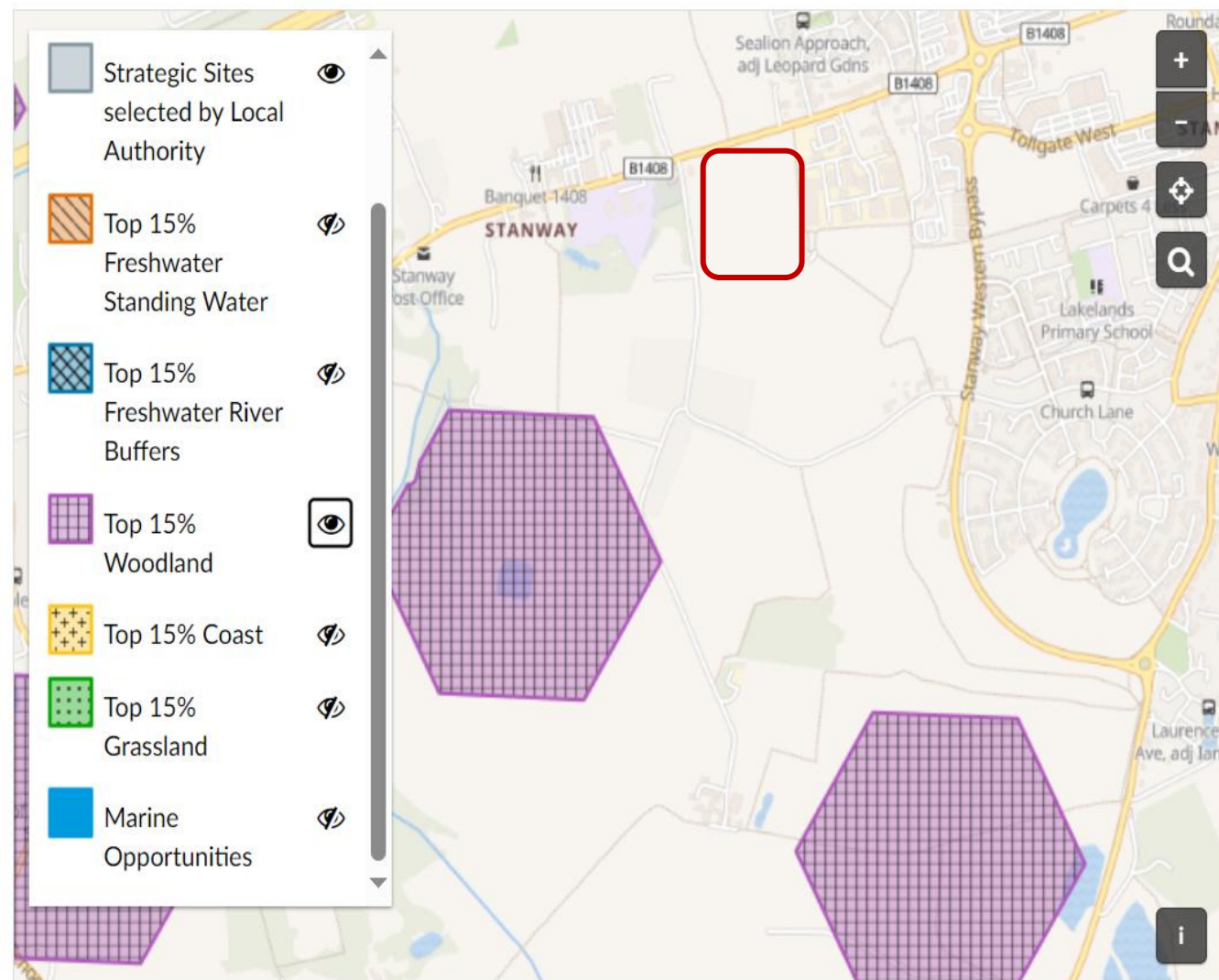


Grassland

Combined Strategic Habitat Creation Opportunities

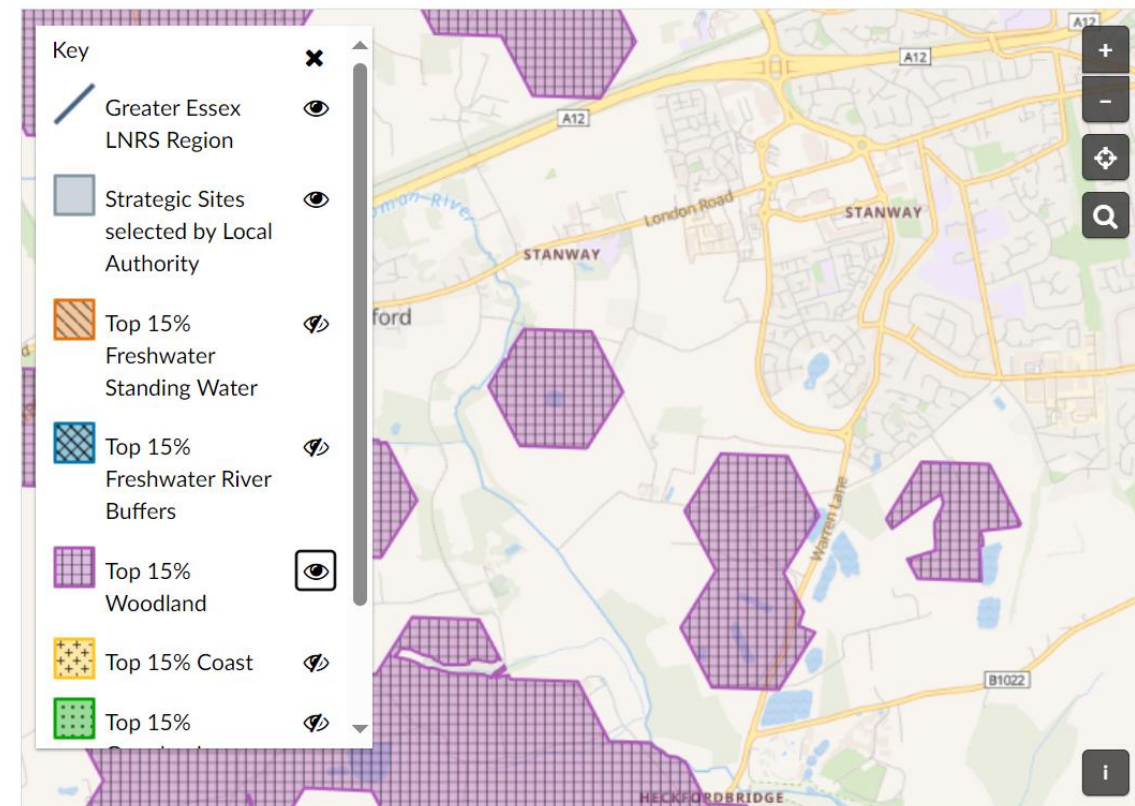


Combined Strategic Habitat Creation Opportunities

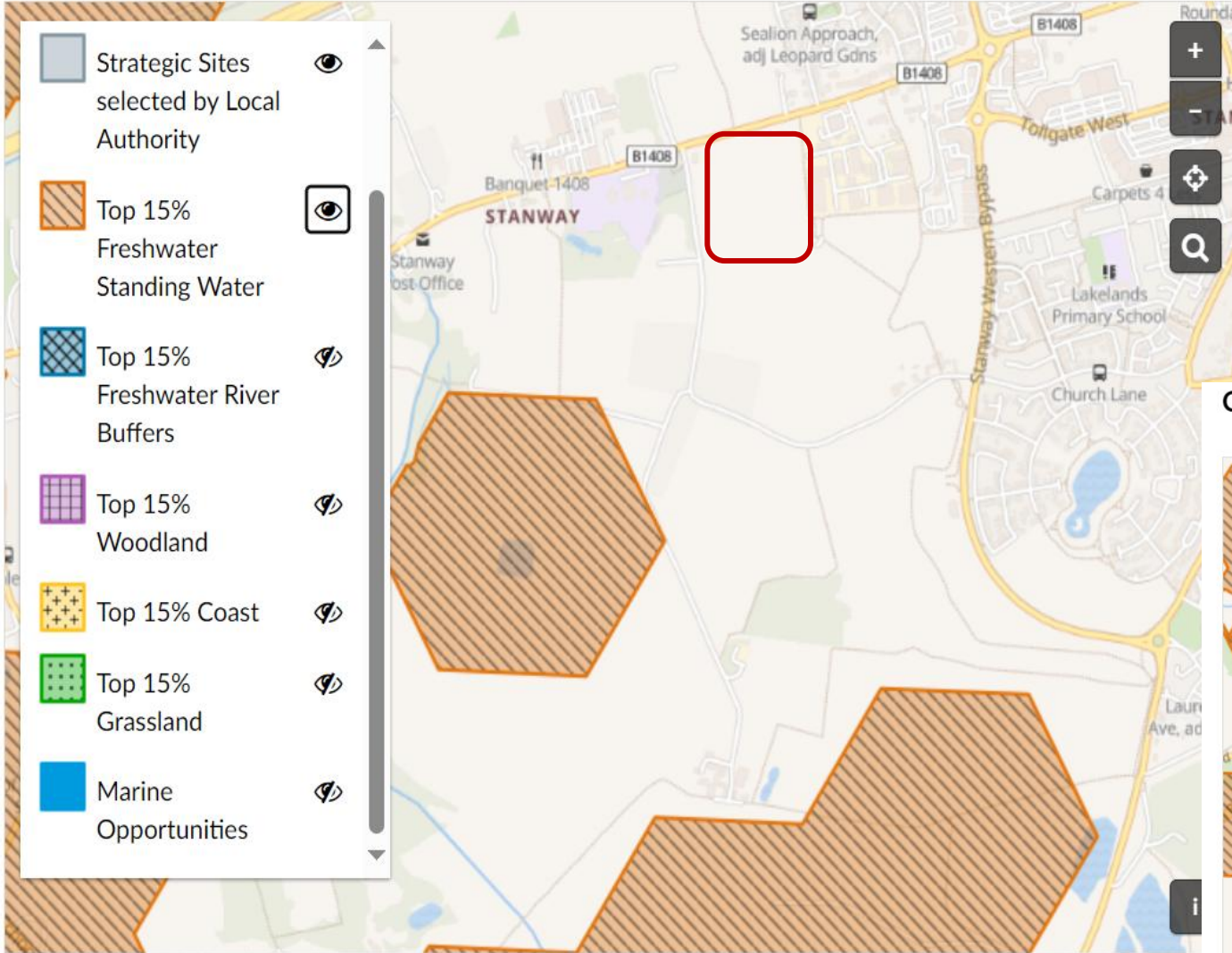


Woodland

Combined Strategic Habitat Creation Opportunities

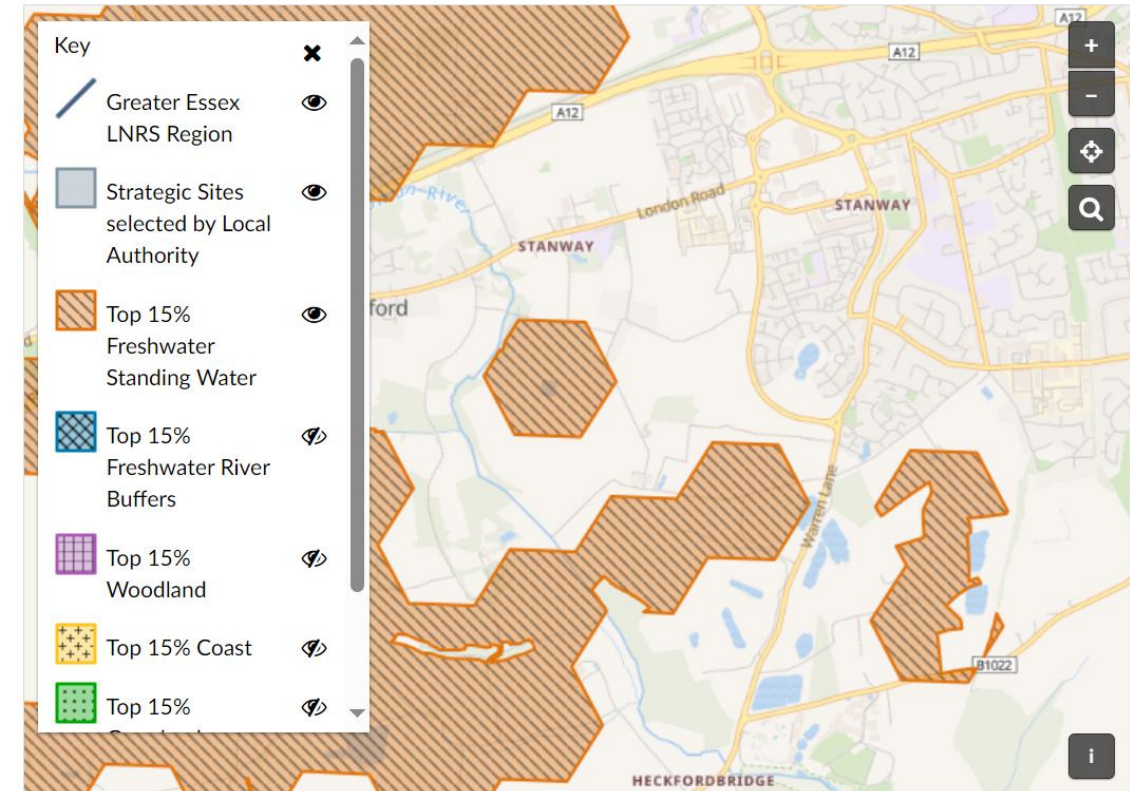


Combined Strategic Habitat Creation Opportunities

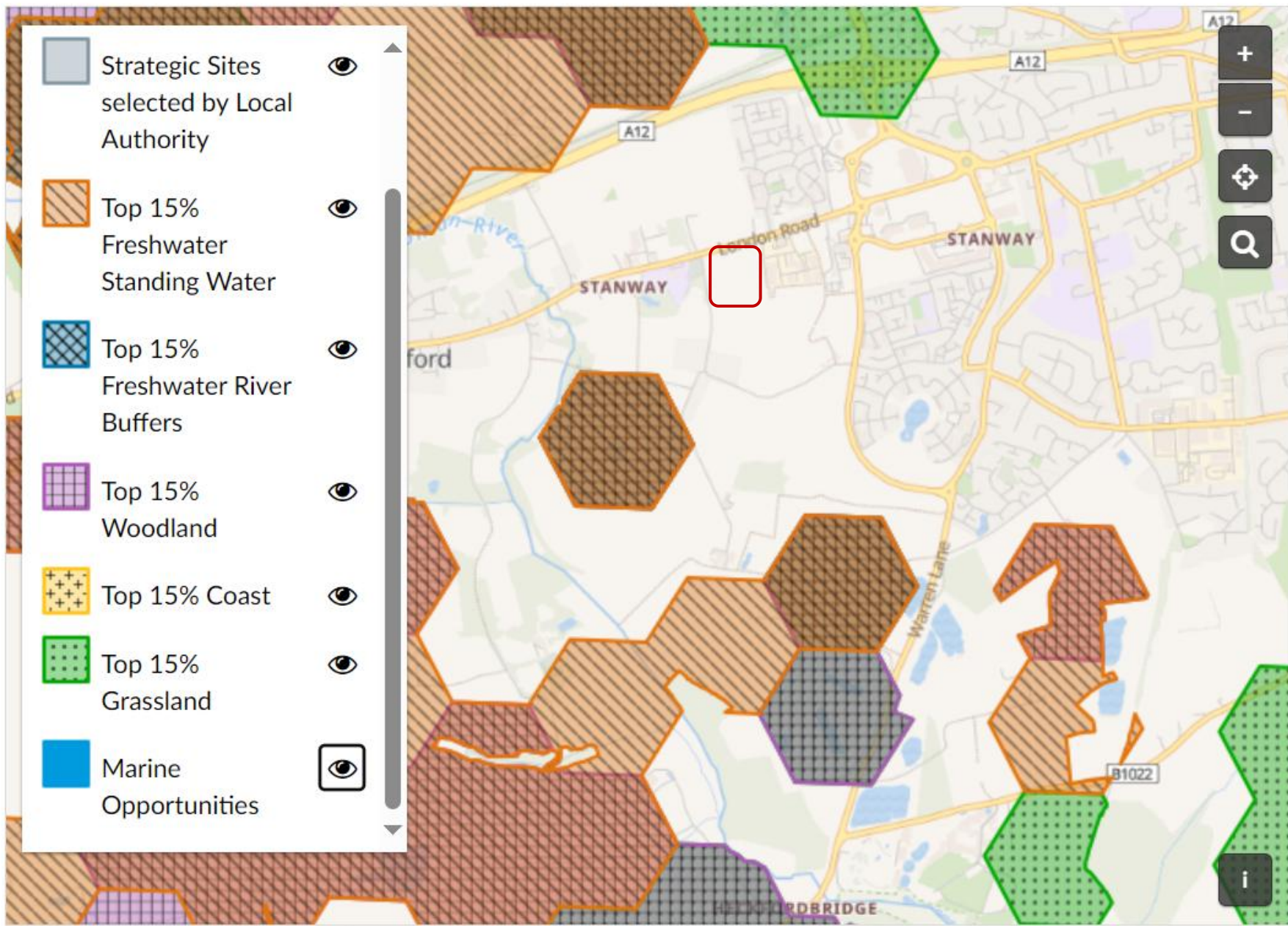


Freshwater standing water

Combined Strategic Habitat Creation Opportunities



Combined Strategic Habitat Creation Opportunities



All opportunities

Overview of BNG

Urgent need

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries – in the bottom 10% globally.⁽¹⁾ Additional investment of up to £97 billion is needed over this decade above current public sector commitments for the UK to meet its nature targets.⁽²⁾

Market opportunity

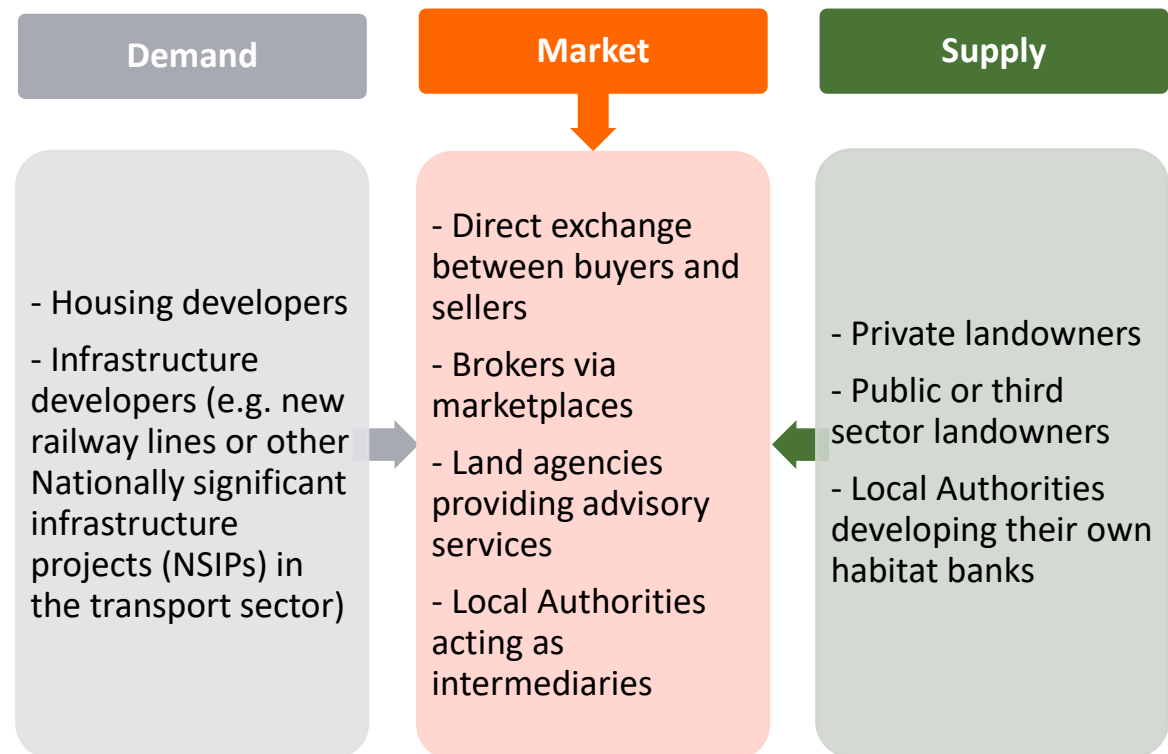
The BNG market is expected to generate £100-300 million in revenues for off-site habitat creation per year.⁽³⁾

Environment Act 2021

- Requires all new Town and Country Planning Act developments to increase biodiversity by at least 10%
- Gain should ideally be made on-site, but if not possible (e.g. in dense city centres), then off-site gains can be made instead, with works carried out by either the developer or a third party (e.g. eNGOs)
- From February 2024, all new developments must, by law, have a mitigation plan in place to offset any habitat loss and deliver an overall Net Gain in biodiversity

Biodiversity Unit (BU)

- Can be calculated using the Defra biodiversity metric (v4)
- Quantifies biodiversity value of a habitat
- Allows for the trading of BUs amongst market participants



⁽¹⁾ UK has 'led the world' in destroying the natural environment | Natural History Museum (nhm.ac.uk)

⁽²⁾ Finance Gap for UK Nature Report (greenfinanceinstitute.co.uk)

⁽³⁾ Net gain impact assessment (publishing.service.gov.uk)

⁽⁴⁾ Finance Earth (2023, unpublished)

BUs: Biodiversity Units

Grant funding and support

Grants:

- Essex Community Initiatives Fund
- Member Local Funds
- Enover Community Fund
- Sports England
- Philanthropic funding

Support

- Essex Forest Initiative
- Essex Wildlife Trust
- The Wilderness Foundation
- Other Parish councils / community groups

Thank you

