Annex F – Strategic significance in mapped measures

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) identifies areas where development could have the biggest impact on nature and where habitat creation, restoration or enhancement are most beneficial for nature recovery. The LNRS does not protect land outside of designated areas/sites or compel landowners to deliver the works identified in the strategy. However, some land/sites in the LNRS are already designated for nature conservation at different levels and benefit from existing protections as such.

New development has a positive opportunity to support nature recovery by incorporating sustainable land uses and facilitating long term gains for biodiversity within their schemes. Where mapped Measures, identified in the LNRS, interact with development sites, including sites allocated in Local Plans, developers can use the LNRS as a tool to help them identify strategic priorities and guide the interventions they incorporate within their schemes.

The table below has been prepared to provide clarity for planning applications subject to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), in relation to the 'Strategic Significance' multiplier used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (SBM).

Within South Yorkshire, the LNRS plays a role in BNG by determining the 'strategic significance' multiplier used within the SBM. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide sets out that high strategic significance should be applied when:

- the location of the habitat parcel has been mapped in the Local Habitat Map as an area where a mapped Measure has been proposed to help deliver the priorities of that LNRS; and
- the proposed intervention is consistent with the mapped Measure in the LNRS for the habitat parcel.

Habitat creation or enhancement, within the red line boundary of a planning application or habitat bank, that delivers interventions identified as mapped Measures in the LNRS, are incentivised in the SBM as they generate more biodiversity units. It is therefore important that there is clarity regarding what interventions are considered consistent with delivery of a mapped Measure.

The LNRS uses general habitat definitions, such as 'grassland' and 'wetland'. It also talks about interventions in a general way, for example talking about 'enhancement' or 'restoration' of habitats. This is necessary in order to make the document accessible. In comparison the SBM uses the UK Habitat Classification System to describe habitat types, and uses detailed Condition Assessment Criteria to measure improvements to a habitat. There is therefore a need to translate between the habitat types and language used in the SBM and the LNRS.

The table below has been prepared to clearly define these translations. For each mapped Measure, either the 'UK Habs'[1] habitat type, or the SBM distinctiveness level of a habitat, that is considered to represent delivery of that Measure, is set out. The SBM distinctiveness level of a habitat has been used where lots of different habitats might be consistent with delivery of a Measure. Target conditions that must be met for habitat creation or enhancements are also indicated.

[1] ukhab – UK Habitat Classification

Measure	Measure Wording	UK Habs Habitat Type or SBM Habitat distinctiveness and SBM Condition Targets considered to be used for assigning strategic significance.
RI-01-02	Create and maintain native, species-rich and structurally diverse habitats along watercourse margins by up to 10m to enhance and connect biodiversity, provide shade, intercept pollutants (urban, transport and industrial), and capture run-off.	Any medium distinctiveness (or higher) habitat in moderate (or better) condition proposed for creation.
RI-01-04	Create and manage new floodplain grazing marsh, where appropriate, to reconnect rivers with floodplains, and by expanding existing habitats.	Projects that create habitat that meets the UK Habs definition of Floodplain Wetland Mosaic and Target Moderate condition or better.
RI-02-02	Remove or modify artificial barriers such as culverts and weirs to support the movement and dispersal of migratory fish and promote diverse and resilient aquatic populations and communities. Include control and mitigation measures for potential migration of INNS following removal of barriers.	Where projects delivering the mapped Measures result in an uplift in river condition, or change of encroachment band, as set out by the watercourse module of the Statutory Metric User Guidance.
RI-02-03	Enhance the biodiversity of man-made and artificially impacted waterbodies (including mill ponds, recreational lakes and reservoirs) by installing habitat features such as vegetated margins, floating islands, and by planting reedbed and fen.	Creation of marginal habitats around identified mapped waterbodies. Include creation of any medium distinctiveness or better and moderate condition or better habitats.
RI-02-05	Enhance the water quality and biodiversity value of canals, through sensitive in-channel vegetation management practices, buffering bankside habitats by up to 10m from the top of the bank. This may include eradication of invasive non-native species, catchment management, remediation and removal of sediment, and removing blockages at goits.	Within the Area Habitats module, any creation of, or enhancement to, any type of medium distinctiveness (or better) habitat in moderate (or higher) condition within the riparian zone adjacent to the canal. Within the Watercourse Module, any improvement in River condition or reduction in the extent of encroachment.
RI-02-06	Enhance the water quality and biodiversity value of drains through sensitive in-channel vegetation management practices, buffering bankside habitats by up to 10m from	Within the Area Habitats module, any creation of, or enhancement to, any type of medium distinctiveness (or better) habitat in moderate (or higher) condition within the riparian zone adjacent to the drain.

	the top of the bank. This may include eradication of invasive non-native species, catchment management, remediation and removal of sediment, and removing blockages at goits.	Within the Watercourse Module, any improvement in River condition or reduction in the extent of encroachment.
RI-02-09	Expertly manage ancient and veteran white willows in the former fenlands of the Humberhead Levels. Identify and record to prevent further loss of the trees and the rare and specialist species that live within them.	No definition as veteran trees are considered an irreplaceable habitat so not subject to BNG.
RI-02-10	Increase riparian woodland, scrub and mosaic habitats in suitable cloughs of upper catchments to increase biodiversity, provide natural flood management, improve water quality and cooling/shading.	Creation of Wet Woodland W1d. Target condition Poor or better.
WE-01-01	Create and manage mosaics of fen, marsh, swamp and open water habitats through hydrological and vegetation management, for example through the introduction of suitable plant species to increase diversity and ecological connectivity.	Creation of Fens Upland and Lowland, Reedbeds or Ponds targeting a minimum of moderate condition.
WE-01-02	Restore and manage mosaics of fen, marsh, swamp and open water habitats through hydrological and vegetation management, for example introduction of suitable plant species to increase diversity and ecological connectivity.	Enhancement of Fens Upland and Lowland, Reedbeds or Ponds by uplift of condition from Poor to Moderate or Moderate to Good.
WE-01-04	Restore and manage existing floodplain grazing marshes through early summer hay cuts, 'aftermath' interventions such as extensive grazing regimes and water level management.	Projects that restore and manage habitat that meets the UK Habs definition of Floodplain Wetland Mosaic and target Moderate condition or better.
BO-01-01	Restore and enhance existing lowland raised bog by managing water levels to promote peat-forming vegetation, including through planting sphagnum species, preventing scrub succession and the control of invasive and non-native species.	No target applied as lowland raised bog is the reason for designation of the sites where this habitat is found.
BO-01-05	Manage vegetation and water levels on lowland agricultural peat to re-wet ground conditions and habitats, reduce carbon emissions and reduce soil loss by wind erosion.	Creation of Lowland or Upland Fens, Reedbeds, Floodplain wetland Mosaic targeting a minimum of moderate condition.

B0-02-02	Restore and enhance blanket bog, for example through blocking grips and gullies, planting sphagnum mosses, and increasing vegetation cover in line with the 'Decision support framework for peatland protection'.	Blanket Bog enhanced to moderate condition or better.
GR-01-01	Manage and enhance existing grasslands (acid, neutral, calcareous, and wet) of high biodiversity value to maintain and extend the existing ecological network.	Projects that Enhance existing Lowland Calcareous Grassland, Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, Lowland Meadows, Other Lowland Acid Grassland, Upland Acid Grassland, Upland Hay Meadows or Other Neutral Grassland to a target Condition of Good.
GR-01-02	Restore and enhance degraded or unmanaged semi-natural grassland habitats to bring them into sustainable management, prioritising sites that buffer existing good grasslands or areas with rare species such as ground-nesting birds. For example, through low intensity grazing and/or appropriate cutting regimes.	Projects that enhance Lowland Calcareous Grassland, Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, Lowland Meadows, Other Lowland Acid Grassland, Upland Acid Grassland, Upland Hay Meadows or Other neutral Grassland to a target Condition of Moderate or better.
GR-01-03	Create new semi-natural grassland habitats of value and secure sustainable management on these sites, prioritising sites that buffer existing good grasslands.	Projects that Create Lowland Calcareous Grassland, Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, Lowland Meadows, Other Lowland Acid Grassland, Upland Acid Grassland, Upland Hay Meadows or Other Neutral Grassland with a target Condition of Moderate or better.
HE-01-01	Restore and enhance wet heath and complimentary mosaics of heathland, grassland, wetland, woodland, and scrub habitat, including transitional habitats – for example, through an appropriate level of grazing, natural regeneration and using blocking grips and gullies.	Projects that enhance habitats that meets the UK Habs definition of upland heathland/willow scrub/upland acid grassland/fens upland and target condition uplift from Poor to Moderate condition or Moderate to Good condition.
HE-01-02	Create wet heath and complimentary mosaics of heathland, grassland, wetland, and scrub habitat, including transitional habitats – for example, through an appropriate level of grazing, natural regeneration and using blocking grips and gullies.	Projects that create habitat that meets the UK Habs definition of upland heathland/willow scrub/upland acid grassland/fens upland and Target Moderate (or higher) condition.

HE-02-01	Manage and restore heathland to prevent loss of condition and extent, including where present as part of a habitat mosaic.	Enhancement of Lowland Heathland. Target any condition as restoration may involve a change of habitat type via reversing successional changes.
HE-02-02	Create and buffer wildlife-rich and structurally diverse heathland habitat mosaics of acid grassland and scrub to improve connectivity for heathland species between new and existing heathland sites, for example in the Humberhead Levels. This could include seed and brash collection from donor sites.	Creation of Lowland Heathland. Target any condition as creation may involve changing habitat types as you restore heathland via reversing successional changes.
WO-01-04	Create new woodlands to buffer and connect existing woodlands to enable habitat connectivity between fragmented woodlands and increase the overall tree and woodland cover by incorporating natural colonisation and regeneration.	Create Lowland mixed deciduous Woodland, Other Woodland Broadleaved, Other Woodland Mixed, Upland Birchwoods, Upland Mixed Ashwoods, Upland Oakwood, Wet Woodland. Targeting a Condition of Poor or better.
WO-01-05	Enhance existing woodlands and wet woodlands by working with land managers to bring more of these habitats into sustainable management, including water-level regulation, for nature recovery and wider environmental benefits.	Enhancement in condition of Lowland mixed deciduous Woodland, Other Woodland Broadleaved, Other Woodland Mixed, Upland Birchwoods, Upland Mixed Ashwoods, Upland Oakwood, Wet Woodland. Targeting uplift to moderate condition or better.
WO-01-06	Create and manage new wet and riparian woodland where it will support the presence of priority species, and where it will provide wider ecological connectivity and ecosystem benefits including flood alleviation.	Creation of Wet Woodland W1d. Target condition Poor or better.
WO-01-08	Create and enlarge existing species-diverse mosaics as transitional habitats between new grassland and woodland sites, incorporating scrub, hedgerows, wood pasture, ancient and veteran trees.	Creation of: Mixed Scrub/Blackthorn Scrub/Gorse Scrub/ Hawthorn Scrub/ Hazel Scrub/Willow Scrub targeting Good condition; Hedgerows Any type of species rich native hedgerow targeting Good condition; Wood pasture (in landscapes where there are existing veteran trees) Targeting Good condition.
WO-01-12	Establish and maintain clough woodlands, prioritising areas where they have been lost – providing this aligns with the Open Habitats Policy, wader guidance, and the 'Decision Support Framework for Peatland Protection'. Incorporate an appropriate mix of native tree	Creation of Upland mixed ashwoods, Upland Birchwoods, Upland oakwoods. Target condition Poor or better

	species and shrubs to re-establish these habitats. Ecological assessment will confirm any conflicts with other habitat types and ensure suitability of species, and natural capital assessment will show the ecosystem services likely to be delivered.	
WO-01-13	Safeguard, restore and manage existing hedgerows (including trees in hedges to create wildlife corridors to increase the connectivity of habitats.	Enhancement of existing hedgerows to any Species rich native hedgerow type targeting a minimum of Good condition.
WO-02-01	Restore all ancient woodlands into positive management, in accordance with current government guidance and standards. This is defined as: Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands, Woodland Pasture, Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites, and Ancient and Veteran Trees.	Enhancement of Lowland mixed deciduous Woodland, Upland Birchwoods, Upland Mixed Ashwoods, Upland Oakwood, Wet Woodland. Target condition moving from Poor to Moderate or Moderate to Good.
WO-02-02	Connect and buffer existing ancient woodland with woody habitat corridors using appropriate blend of conventional planting with natural colonisation and natural regeneration.	Creation of Mixed Scrub/Blackthorn Scrub/Gorse Scrub/ Hawthorn Scrub/ Hazel Scrub/Willow Scrub. Target condition Good; Creation of any type of Species Rich Native Hedgerow. Target condition good. Creation of Other woodland; broadleaved or other woodland; mixed. Target is Poor (or higher) condition.
UR-03-01	Create high-quality habitat on existing mineral extractions sites that is suitable for the site's soil type, for example collieries in the Coalfields, limestone in the Magnesian Limestone area or sand and gravel in the Humberhead Levels area.	Creation of Open Mosaic Habitat on previously developed land in good condition or creation of any high distinctiveness grassland suitable for the soil type in moderate condition or better.
UR-03-03	Maintain, enhance and manage inland rock habitats to safeguard the condition and extent of their features of special biodiversity interest and the species that depend on them.	Sparsely Vegetated Land - Inland rock outcrop and scree or other inland rock and scree enhanced to good condition.
UR-04-04	Enhance and manage existing spaces at public buildings, schools, hospitals, and other anchor institutions to provide more blue and green infrastructure for people and nature.	Enhancement of any low distinctiveness habitat to a medium distinctiveness habitat or better or enhancement of any existing medium distinctiveness habitat.