

Grassland habitat priorities and potential measures

A potential measure is the proposed action to deliver the priority. They must be practical and achievable. Potential measures mapping identifies where the action determined as necessary for our nature recovery priorities should be strategically targeted to achieve the greatest gains for biodiversity and deliver the widest environmental benefits. It is only potential measures that are eligible for the biodiversity net gain strategic significance uplift – and only when those potential measures are delivered in the areas they have been mapped to.

Priority habitat	Potential measure reference number	Potential measure	Principle delivering against	Delivery preference
GL1 – Chalk grasslands	GL1.1	Maintain and enhance core, high quality and good condition chalk grassland sites through the application of conservation management sensitive to the existing and potential flora and fauna of the site.	Better	1
	GL1.2	Increase the extent of high quality, connected chalk grassland by bringing appropriate sites, adjacent to core/good condition sites, into conservation management.	Bigger	2
	GL1.3	Increase functional links between chalk grassland and other habitats to maximise nature based solutions offered by improved connectivity.	Connected	4
GL2 – Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	GL2.1	Increase opportunities to store winter water on land adjacent to grazing marsh to increase opportunities for “wetting” during spring/summer.	Better	1
	GL2.2	Deliver grazing marsh habitat restoration, extension and creation where it will offer the greatest gains to support the county’s important grazing marsh flora and fauna, and is designed to minimise recreational disturbance and reduce risk from predation.	More	3

Priority habitat	Potential measure reference number	Potential measure	Principle delivering against	Delivery preference
	GL2.3	Reconnect rivers with their former natural floodplain and improve the water storage ability of floodplain, in order to protect against climate change impacts and drought.	Connected	4
GL3 – Lowland meadow	GL3.1	Maintain and enhance core, high quality and good condition lowland meadow sites through the application of grazing/cutting regimes sensitive to the existing and potential flora and fauna of the site.	Better	1
	GL3.2	Increase the extent of high quality, connected lowland meadow by creating new lowland meadow sites, in close proximity to core/good condition sites.	More	3
GL4 – Acid grassland and heathland	GL4.1	Implement appropriately designed acid grassland management that prevents succession into secondary woodland and scrub encroachment and ensures that acid grassland is maintained and retained but not at the expense of the mosaic's heathland resource. Grazing regime provides maximum diversity and a combination of larger open areas and smaller mosaic "glades" to provide habitat for breeding birds, reptiles and invertebrates. Climate resilience is built into management.	Better	1
	GL4.2	Create new acid grassland sites from improved grassland and former arable sites.	More	3
GL5 – Arable wild plants	GL5.3	Design and deliver location and soil appropriate projects, targeted in the richest arable plant areas and on a variety of soil types, to create new, large areas dedicated to the promotion of arable wild plant diversity and abundance.	More	3

Grassland habitat priorities and wider measures

Wider measures are proposed actions which would be similarly beneficial over wide areas or those where it was not possible to determine specific locations to carry out the proposed action. Collectively, these wider measures identify areas of additional opportunities for nature recovery but do not form a part of the formal Strategy's local habitat map. Wider measures are NOT eligible for the biodiversity net gain strategic significance uplift – this only applies to potential measures.

Priority habitat	Wider measure reference number	Wider measure	Principle delivering against	Delivery preference
GL3 – Lowland meadow	GL3.3	Increase connectivity of, and provision for wildlife in, lowland meadows by leaving field margins uncut, varied sward heights, hedgerows well-connected and integrate some bare patches or banks within the grassland site.	Connected	4
	GL3.4	Establish neutral grasslands on floodplains, to create resilience to flooding and drought and protect water quality.	Nature-based solutions	5
GL5 – Arable wild plants	GL5.1	Management of field margins to provide graduated field edges, with wider and cultivated margins.	Better	1
	GL5.2	Management of fields, with mixed times of cultivation to encourage a diversity of arable wild plants.	Better	1