# Urban environment 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| URB2 – Urban environment (space for nature) | URB2.1 | Manage areas of urban green space to maximise nature provision in urban areas, providing a greater complexity of habitats, with year-round shelter, forage and food. | Better | 1 |
| | URB2.2 | Naturalise urban river corridors by removing river obstacles where appropriate and replacing hard river banks with native buffer verges and riverside trees. | Bigger | 2 |
| | URB2.3 | Target urban tree establishment to areas of low canopy cover. | Nature-based solutions | 5 |

# Urban environment 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| URB1 – Urban environment (connectivity) | URB1.1 | Employ conservation cuts, minimise mowing and leave wild strips, buffers and corners on verges and grass areas in areas known to be of importance for pollinator connectivity. | Better | 1 |
| | URB1.2 | Enhance and safeguard existing green space and trees that provide key stepping stones between larger natural spaces that are either within or at the edge of urban areas. | Connected | 4 |
| | URB1.3 | Establish wildlife corridors and provide habitat stepping stones across urban and developed landscapes by enhancing, extending and creating new green spaces, ponds, tree cover, green roofs and walls and wild verges/swathes. | Connected | 4 |
| URB3 – Urban environment (nature-based solutions) | URB3.1 | Plant trees and hedgerows specifically to deliver air quality, temperature regulation/cooling and surface water management benefits and targeted to areas where it is most needed and will deliver the greatest impact. | Nature-based solutions | 5 |
| | URB3.2 | Prioritise the use of natural flood management/nature-based solutions over engineered, hard solutions, to manage areas at high risk from | Nature-based | 5 |

| Priority habitat | Wider measure reference number | Wider measure | Principle delivering against | Delivery preference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | surface-water flooding. | solutions | |
| | URB3.3 | Use new and retrofitted green walls and roofs to enhance biodiversity, while also providing temperature regulation in settings most at risk from urban heat island effects | Nature-based solutions | 5 |
| | URB3.4 | Increase green and blue infrastructure, and more natural space, targeted to communities where they are most needed to deliver health and wellbeing benefits and greater connection with nature. | Nature-based solutions | 5 |