Coastal 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
CL1 – Open coast and estuaries	CL1.3	Remove hard defences where appropriate (ensuring that both the natural and built environment is not at risk of inundation, damage or loss as a result), to allow space for tidal ingress and to enable the managed realignment of the coastline, to mitigate coastal squeeze and to allow intertidal habitats to be more resilient to climate change.	Bigger	2
	CL1.4	Create areas for saltmarsh restoration, seagrass regeneration and high- tide roosts, and provide breeding areas for seabirds and/or waders, with appropriate measures to prevent or reduce disturbance and predation.	More	3
CL2 – Saltmarsh and mudflats	CL2.2	Restore small-scale saltmarsh using traditional materials to slow down loss.	Bigger	2
	CL2.3	Create new high-tide roosts in areas less vulnerable to rising sea levels.	More	3
	CL2.4	Link areas with other wetland habitats to form a landscape mosaic of wetlands to reduce the tendency for waders and seabirds to be concentrated at key hotspots and reserves.	Connected	4



Priority habitat	Potential measure reference number	Potential measure	Principle delivering against	Delivery preference
CL3 – Seagrass	CL3.1	Address threats to seagrass beds by putting in place management which: - reduces and addresses pollution sources that impact seagrass restoration and growth - removes invasive spartina where it is known to be invading, smothering or limiting seagrass extension and restoration minimises damage from boat anchors, dredging, fishing and trampling.	Better	1
	CL3.2	Increase areas of existing seagrass beds.	Bigger	2
CL5 – Native reef building shellfish	CL5.1	Safeguard established areas of Native Oysters and Blue Mussels by developing protected areas with management measures, in collaboration with local stakeholders, including the local fishing community.	Better	1
	CL5.2	Where practical, remove invasive non-native species from the beds of Native Oysters and Blue Mussels.	Better	1
	CL5.3	Create suitable substrate for native oysters to colonise, focusing on existing/historic areas, and address the lack of larvae in the landscape.	More	3
	CL5.4	Create suitable substrate for Blue Mussels to colonise, focusing on existing/historic areas.	More	3
CL6 – Saline lagoons	CL6.1	Safeguard existing saline lagoons from loss and damaging activities that harm and/or pollute the lagoons.	Better	1
	CL6.2	Establish buffer zones and/or adjust site features and topography to ensure the ecological function of saline lagoon is not undermined by disturbance, and enhance marginal habitat.	Bigger	2



Priority habitat	Potential measure reference number	Potential measure	Principle delivering against	Delivery preference
	CL6.3	Create new saline lagoons to connect wetland sites in transitional areas that are likely to flood, taking into account their proximity to sources of recreational disturbance.	More	3
CL7 – Vegetated shingle	CL7.1	Safeguard existing habitat through access management and interventions (e.g. allocated routes and boardwalks) that minimise the impact of footfall and recreational disturbance on this delicate habitat.	Better	1
	CL7.2	Safeguard and extend supporting habitats, such as species-rich grasslands, next to coastal shingle that can act as seepage areas and support a mosaic of habitats for important coastal shingle species.	Bigger	2
CL8 – Sand dunes	CL8.1	Manage dunes to reduce scrub encroachment, remove invasive species and reduce disturbance pressures of recreational activities. Management to include year-round low-intensity grazing in the absence of endectocides, and with high-quality fodder in winter to maintain high dung quality.	Better	1
	CL8.2	Enable more naturalised and mobile sand dune systems through a full range of successional stages of sand stabilisation across the dune system, from mobile sparsely vegetated foredunes, young dunes with dense Marram Grass clumps, to more established dunes with varied vegetation, stable sandy grassland or heath, open sandy areas and dune slacks. Address overstabilisation of the dunes to increase dune mobility and sand movement.	Bigger	2



Coastal 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
CL1 – Open coast and estuaries	CL1.1	Where hard defences must remain, apply the 'greening the grey' approach, following Estuary Edges design principles to soften edges to encourage wildlife. Wider measure	Better	1
	CL1.2	Refuges for wildlife created with access managed to reduce disturbance.	Better	1
	CL1.5	Remove hard defences where appropriate to enable reconnection of fragmented habitats through managed realignment.	Connected	4
CL2 – Saltmarsh and mudflats	CL2.1	Maintain high tide roosts and nesting sites, with key sites fenced off, to limit disturbance and safeguard inland feeding, breeding and overwintering areas.	Better	1
CL4 – Chalk cliffs and reefs	CL4.1	Manage problematic non-native species.	Better	1
	CL4.2	Control leisure boat and other recreational activity in chalk reef areas.	Better	1
CL9 – Coastal disturbance	CL9.1	Develop zoned recreational areas that limit, restrict or prevent leisure activities which can disturb wildlife and damage sensitive habitats, and safeguard offshore islands.	Better	1



Priority habitat	Wider measure reference number	Wider measure	Principle delivering against	Delivery preference
	CL9.2	Build up existing and create new seal haul-out sites, which are adequately managed to provide safe areas for them.	Bigger	2

