

## Woodland, trees and hedgerows 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 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---------------------|
| WTH1 – Woodland (management)   | WTH1.2                             | Restore and extend lowland and upland wood pasture and parkland.   | Bigger                       | 2                   |
|                                | WTH1.3                             | Safeguard and enhance small pockets of woodland to provide key stepping stones for species movement and connect with hedgerows and scrub.  | Connected                    | 4                   |
| WTH2 – Woodland (canopy cover) | WTH2.1                             | Extend existing woodland through natural colonisation and planting.  | Bigger                       | 2                   |
|                                | WTH2.2                             | Convert unproductive land for arable into woodland.  | More                         | 3                   |
|                                | WTH2.5                             | Plant more urban trees and create urban forests and orchards, ideally siting tree planting to where they will provide flood management, air quality and temperature regulation benefits. | Nature-based solutions       | 5                   |
| WTH4 – Woodland (resilience)   | WTH4.2                             | Where appropriate, promote the restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites to a more species-rich woodland.   | Bigger                       | 2                   |
|                                | WTH4.4                             | Establish green bridges to connect woodlands fragmented by road and rail.  | Connected                    | 4                   |

| <b>Priority habitat</b>                               | <b>Potential measure reference number</b> | <b>Potential measure</b>   | <b>Principle delivering against</b> | <b>Delivery preference</b> |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| WTH5 – Ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees | WTH5.3                                    | Buffer solitary ancient and veteran trees with open space, with further protections offered by establishing neighbouring wood pasture and agroforestry of mixed habitats.  | More                                | 3                          |
|   | WTH5.4                                    | Connectivity of ancient woodland improved by links to hedgerows, establishing standard trees and increasing standing deadwood.   | Connected                           | 4                          |
| WTH6 – Wet woodland                                   | WTH6.1                                    | Establish and implement long-term management plans for wet woodland and surrounding land, which ensures connectivity between waterways and woodland and incorporates nature-based water management solutions, such as leaky dams, felling, and blocking drainage channels to allow for seasonal flooding.<br>Potential measure | Better                              | 1                          |
|   | WTH6.2                                    | Create ponds within woodlands and naturally regenerated riparian zones.  | More                                | 2                          |
| WTH7 – Gill woodland                                  | WTH7.1                                    | Create buffer zones around the gill woodland to ensure they remain largely undisturbed.  | Bigger                              | 2                          |
| WTH9 – Traditional orchards                           | WTH9.1                                    | Potential measure Restore and bring established traditional orchards back into positive management, including maintaining long sward length, establishing wildflower meadow strips between trees, limited or no spraying, sensitive pruning and retaining dead wood/dying trees.   | Better                              | 1                          |
|   | WTH9.2                                    | Establish new community orchards in appropriate areas, with a focus on urban locations.  | More                                | 3                          |

## Woodland, trees and hedgerows 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 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---------------------|
| WTH1 – Woodland (management)   | WTH1.1                         | Holistic management of woodlands and transitional open spaces to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- sensitively consider the understory, ground flora and soil</li> <li>- allow a variety of successional states and variety of species, developing to mature, providing different canopy layers</li> <li>- manage internal edge, including creation of glades and rides</li> <li>- preserve natural decay stages of woodland, including old growth, dead and dead standing wood</li> <li>- (where appropriate) reinstate and increase coppicing as a management measure</li> <li>- deliver targeted management in order to provide habitats for vulnerable woodland species</li> </ul> | Better                       | 1                   |
| WTH2 – Woodland (canopy cover) | WTH2.3                         | Plant more trees in hedgerows.   | More                         | 3                   |
|                                | WTH2.4                         | Use tree and hedgerow establishment and scrub to increase connectivity, provide wildlife corridors and address fragmented areas of woodland.   | Connected                    | 4                   |

| Priority habitat                                      | Wider measure reference number | Wider measure  | Principle delivering against | Delivery preference |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---------------------|
| WTH4 – Woodland (resilience)                          | WTH4.1                         | Management that facilitates and enables the natural regeneration of woodlands, by reducing grazing pressures.  | Better                       | 1                   |
|   | WTH4.3                         | Increase connectivity of woodland habitats by creating semi-natural habitat buffers strips, which reduce the gaps between patches and extend woodland edge habitats.   | Connected                    | 4                   |
| WTH5 – Ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees | WTH5.1                         | Appropriate and targeted management of ancient woodland, in order to retain and enhance specific features of ancient woodland and enhance biodiversity.  | Better                       | 1                   |
|   | WTH5.2                         | Establish adequate buffer zones around ancient woodland that provide sufficient and suitable protection to the root system and other sensitive ecological features that the ancient woodland supports. Buffers are linked to hedgerows and other appropriate habitats, to extend habitat connectivity. | Bigger                       | 2                   |
| WTH8 – Hedgerows                                      | WTH8.1                         | Actively manage the county's hedgerows, fill gaps and remove invasive species. Rejuvenate and restore hedgerows that have declined in structural condition. Increase the extent of hedge laying, coppicing and gapping up within this management.  | Better                       | 1                   |
|   | WTH8.2                         | Buffer hedgerows with grass margins, scrub and headlands.  | Bigger                       | 2                   |
|   | WTH8.3                         | Strategically site new and extended hedgerows to aid habitat connectivity and support species forage, shelter and movement. Restore links to copse and woodland.   | Connected                    | 4                   |