# Environment Act Habitat Target – Definitions and Descriptions

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Natural England Technical Information Note TIN219

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NATURAL ENGLAND

# Contents

# The habitat targets

The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP23) published on 31 January 2023 sets out government targets and commitments on habitats. This includes the long-term legally binding Environment Act habitat target as described in the Statutory Instrument (SI) "The Environmental Targets (Biodiversity) (England) Regulations 2023":

"To restore or create more than 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside of protected sites by 2042."

A new interim target was also set within the EIP23:

"To restore or create 140,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2028."

This paper was prepared jointly by Defra and Natural England, and sets out how the habitat targets will be defined and measured. This information serves two purposes: to provide high-level clarification for non-experts, and to provide detail for experts/those advising in the context of on-the-ground action. It includes definitions for restoration and creation, the list of wildlife-rich habitats, and the actions that will count toward the target.

# The type of actions that count as restoration or creation

The actions included as restoration or creation are those that establish wildlife-rich habitat on land or water where such habitat is currently absent. Actions should result in an increased extent of wildlife-rich habitat, not improved condition of existing wildlife-rich habitat. Restoration and creation will not need to be reported separately for this target.

Habitat restoration and creation action is differentiated from improvements to on-site management in that it leads to an increase in the extent of wildlife-rich habitat. To be considered restoration or creation, action should not occur on wildlife-rich habitat that currently meets any of the habitat definitions listed in Table 2. Any exceptions are listed as degraded habitat below.

Habitat restoration refers to:

- action on sites which support relict habitat that leads to the expansion of wildlife-rich habitat. Examples would include where fragments of wildlife-rich habitat remain and action on land or water surrounding these fragments re-establishes the habitat, increasing the total extent of the wildlife-rich habitat. Only the newly established habitat will be counted towards the target.

- action on degraded habitat where single or multiple actions need to be undertaken to address on or off-site pressures so that wildlife-rich habitats of sufficient quality can become established, e.g. addressing nutrient enrichment and invasive non-native species pressures to restore a lake.
- action on existing habitat (possibly wildlife-rich) that has developed in a degraded ecosystem; consequently, the existing habitat may be considered degraded. Examples include the restoration of blanket bog from dry heath on drained peat, or action to reduce grazing pressure on upland acid grassland to restore priority habitat such as upland heath or upland oakwood.

Habitat creation refers to the actions to establish wildlife-rich habitats, listed in Table 2, that are of sufficient quality to support the species that are typically found in that habitat.

# Relict habitat

Relict habitat refers to small, fragmented, remnant patches of wildlife-rich habitat in an area where the habitat in question would previously have been more widespread, or where the surrounding habitat is not currently considered wildlife-rich.

# Degraded habitat

Degraded habitat no longer exhibits the required level of natural functioning and consequently no longer supports the typical flora and fauna expected in that habitat. The impacts on natural functioning can be the addition of nutrients and chemicals, changes to the hydrological regime, intensive vegetation control, modifications to the physical or soil environment or biological pressures such as invasive non-native species, stocking and diseases. Below is an outline of those habitats that may be considered degraded:

- any existing habitat developed on drained peat where hydrological restoration is required to restore the peat. Table 1 provides examples of habitats usually considered wildlife-rich but considered degraded habitat when on drained peat.
- freshwater, coastal and estuarine habitats affected by pollution, physical modifications or damage, impacted hydrological regimes and invasive non-native species (INNS) where the aim is to remove these adverse pressures to facilitate restoration to a more natural state which would be considered wildlife-rich as described in Table 2.
- native woodland habitats including those on ancient woodland sites with non-native tree species where the aim is to reduce the cover of the non-native canopy trees to establish a wildlife-rich habitat.
- existing terrestrial habitats currently not listed in Table 2 as wildlife-rich where the objective is to develop the site into a wildlife-rich habitat, or the restoration of a wildlife-rich habitat from woodland through the Forestry Commission's open habitat policy including removal of conifers on coastal sand dunes.
- existing terrestrial semi-natural habitats behind sea defences where the primary aim of restoration involves the restoration of coastal processes including re-

alignment allowing saline inundation, cliff erosion or the removal of defences to allow roll-back of sand dune systems. Action here needs to be of sufficient scale to distinguish this from improvements to on-site management.

**Table 1. Degraded and restored habitats on peat.**

Note 1 Habitats otherwise considered wildlife-rich but considered degraded habitat when on drained peat are in the left column and may be restored to any of the habitat types shown in the right column.

| Any of the following habitats as listed in the SI may be considered 'degraded' if they are situated on drained peatland | Restoration to the following where the action includes re-wetting of the habitat to restore peat |
|---|---|
| • Lowland dry acid grassland<br>• Lowland acid grassland<br>• Upland acid grassland<br>• Neutral grassland<br>• Lowland heathland<br>• Upland heathland<br>• Purple moor-grass and rush pasture | • Blanket bog<br>• Lowland raised bog<br>• Wet heathland<br>• Upland fen, marsh or swamp<br>• Purple moor-grass and rush pasture<br>• Lowland fen, reedbed or other wetland type within floodplains |

# Actions to address degraded habitat

Action to address degraded habitat includes actions to address a range of different aspects of natural ecosystem function. These can be actions to redress adverse impacts of human modifications or less interventionist measures based on promoting natural processes. The former can include grip blocking or restoration of ancient woodland on plantation sites, whilst the latter could include natural recolonisation, managed re-alignment or re-instatement of natural drainage. These examples can be relevant to both "restoration" of existing degraded habitats and "creation" of additional new habitats.

Particularly, when promoting natural processes, the precise habitat type that will develop may be unknown. The SI allows for the reporting of dynamic mosaics of wildlife-rich habitats that can develop through the restoration of natural processes and ecosystems, where the exact outcomes of actions will not be known.

# Actions that will not count as restoration or creation

Habitat management includes actions that are intended to maintain or enhance existing wildlife-rich habitat and may follow those specific actions related to restoration and creation. It is recognised that, whilst these actions to improve the condition, structure or

composition of existing wildlife-rich habitats will be important in delivering our statutory species targets and are to be encouraged, they are out of scope of this habitat target.

# Actions that will count towards the targets

Actions to restore or create wildlife-rich habitat undertaken through established or future schemes, such as agri-environment schemes or government grants, will count towards the target. This is because they are 'reasonably expected to lead' to the creation/restoration of wildlife-rich habitat that is of sufficient quality for the purpose of measuring progress towards the target.

For action taken outside of established schemes, we will use expert opinion and trusted providers as appropriate to determine whether the action is considered as being 'reasonably expected to lead' to the restoration or creation of wildlife-rich habitat.

Where it is difficult to determine whether action will lead to the desired results it is also possible to report restoration/creation after the outcome has been observed, as long as the actions were undertaken under the appropriate time-period. It is anticipated that spatial data, including a mapped boundary of where the action has occurred, will be needed when reporting actions against the target.

Restoration and creation actions may be undertaken as part of many delivery mechanisms, including but not limited to the below:

- Agri-Environment Schemes or Environmental Land Management (including woodland) schemes.
- Biodiversity Net Gain where an excess of wildlife-rich habitat has been created or restored beyond the direct replacement of existing habitat (the direct replacement habitat does not count).
- Local Planning Authority/Nationally Significant Infrastructure projects where habitat delivery is planned through permissions beyond replacement of existing habitat.
- Nature-based solutions such as those that address coastal erosion and flooding.
- Work under the "Plan for Water" for waterbodies to reach Good Ecological Status, although further actions may also be required.
- Work under the Water Industry National Environment Programme.
- Grant funded nature projects e.g., Peat Grant, Species Recovery Grant, Species Survival Fund, Heritage Lottery nature projects, Big Nature Impact Fund.
- Nature markets based on high-integrity standards set by appropriate standards agencies.
- Regulatory or licensing activities for example via statutory authorities such as Forestry Commission, Natural England and Environment Agency.
- Management plan agreements – these cover action taken by individual farmers/landowners not covered under existing schemes.

The above list is not exhaustive, and restoration or creation actions not undertaken via these mechanisms may also count towards the targets if there is sufficient confidence that the outcome will be delivered. Outcomes could be specific wildlife-rich habitats or a dynamic mosaic of wildlife-rich habitats developed through the restoration of natural processes and ecosystems. Such actions may be undertaken via statutory organisations, nature conservation NGOs, local authorities, companies or individuals.

# Actions that will not count towards the targets

- Actions within protected sites (European sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Marine Conservation Zones) which were designated on or before 30th January 2023 (action on future designated protected sites will be counted as will action on land surrounding protected sites, which is encouraged).
- Compensatory action that replaces habitat lost due to land-use change such as permitted developments and compensation measures for European Sites. Note that where excess habitat is created the excess can count, but not the replacement habitat.
- Action on sites already commenced prior to 30 January 2023 such as the delivery reported within the Habitat Creation Spatial Audit and the 180,911 ha of mapped priority habitat and 176,426 ha of arable field margins so far recorded prior to the commencement of the Act.
- Habitat Management, meaning action to maintain or improve the condition of existing habitat which is already considered wildlife-rich i.e. already meeting any of the habitat descriptions in Table 2, such as the priority habitat descriptions.
- Additional actions on sites already recorded as contributing towards the target i.e., BNG stacking/bundling as this is an area-based target.
- Action to create wildlife-rich habitat types which results in the degradation of another existing wildlife-rich habitat type which would naturally be found in that location, e.g., inappropriate establishment of dry habitat types on peat.

# When actions will need to have commenced to count towards the targets

Actions that start after the regulations came into force (30 January 2023) will be counted towards the target.

# How habitat loss is considered

The habitats target is not designed to measure net additions at a national scale; the target will comprise the gross number of hectares of habitat restored or created. Data on losses of wildlife-rich habitat are not always available, making an exact assessment of a net increase difficult.

Habitat loss should be recorded where it is known about. Where habitat created or restored includes direct replacement habitat only excess habitat should count towards the target. Situations where knowledge on habitat loss is likely to be available includes habitat which is subject to EIA (Agriculture) regulations or replacement habitat for Biodiversity Net Gain. Information on habitat loss can be used to inform understanding of the status of habitats in addition to the habitats target.

# The meaning of "sufficient quality" for the different habitat types

The term 'sufficient quality' relates to the ultimate condition of the habitat developed. The SI defines 'sufficient quality' as

"…habitat […] which is of sufficient quality that it is, or will be, capable of supporting flora and fauna which are typically found in the habitats in question".

To be considered as "sufficient quality," all the actions that need to be taken for a habitat to reach this quality must be implemented but habitat recovery as a response may be ongoing. Desired outcomes for individual habitat types are detailed in Table 2.

This is an action-based target, and habitat condition will not be assessed. Those actions under schemes which we reasonably expect to lead to the restoration or creation of wildlife-rich habitat, as described above, will count towards the target.

For priority habitats what is meant by sufficient quality is generally set out within the priority habitat descriptions and for those habitats included within the BNG Metric the aim would be to meet 'good condition'.

Some wildlife-rich habitats of coastal waters are not covered by priority habitat or BNG; instead, the JNCC Marine or the EUNIS habitat classification is used to understand sufficient quality.

For river and lake habitats the 25 Year Environment Plan indicator B6 and the naturalness assessment published on the Freshwater Biological Association website can be used to understand what is meant by sufficient quality.

**Table 2. The list of wildlife-rich habitats and their habitat descriptions or condition information.**

Note 1. S41 refers to Section 41 of Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (Habitats and species of principal importance in England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)) and S1 refers to Schedule 1 of the Statutory Instrument for The Environmental Targets (Biodiversity) (England) Regulations 2023 (legislation.gov.uk).

Note 2. Coastal waters are included where they are situated less than one nautical mile from the shore.

Note 3. Actions to reach Good Ecological Status will have a considerable role in restoring freshwater and coastal habitats but additional action may also be required.

| Broad habitat type | Wildlife-rich habitat name | S41 | S1 | Desired Outcome |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Arable and horticulture** | Arable field margins | Yes | No | Aim to meet agreed habitat definition for arable field margins Recorded simply as the area of selected AES options |
| **Acid Grassland** | Lowland dry acid grassland | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for Lowland dry acid grassland also see PHI Guidance and 'good condition' as outlined in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 6A 'Grassland Med High & V. High' |
| **Acid Grassland** | Lowland acid grassland | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' for 'other lowland acid grassland' as outlined in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 6A 'Grassland Med High & V. High'. |
| **Acid Grassland** | Upland acid grassland | No | Yes | Wildlife-rich upland acid grasslands of sufficient quality should aim to meet one of the following 3 criteria:<br>(i) The lowland dry acid grassland definition but occur in the uplands<br>(ii) Meet the annex 1 of the EU Habitats Directive habitat definition for nardus grassland on siliceous substrates in mountain areas.<br>(iii) Meet the criteria for wax cap grasslands and be in the uplands.<br><br>Also aim to meet 'good condition' for 'upland acidic grassland' as outlined in the BNG Metric Tab 6A 'Grassland Med High & V. High'. |
| **Calcareous Grassland** | Lowland calcareous grassland | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for lowland calcareous grassland also see PHI Guidance and 'good condition' as outlined in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 6A 'Grassland Med High & V. High' |
| **Calcareous Grassland** | Upland calcareous grassland | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for upland calcareous grassland also see PHI Guidance and 'good condition' as outlined in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 6A 'Grassland Med High & V. High' |

| Broad habitat type | Wildlife-rich habitat name | S41 | S1 | Desired Outcome |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Neutral Grassland** | Lowland meadows | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for lowland meadows also see PHI Guidance and 'good condition' as outlined in the BNG condition Assessments sheets Tab 6A 'Grassland Med High & V. High' |
| **Neutral Grassland** | Upland hay meadows | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for upland hay meadows also see PHI Guidance and 'good condition' as outlined in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 6A 'Grassland Med High & V. High' |
| **Neutral Grassland** | Neutral grassland | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' for 'other neutral grassland' as outlined in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 6A 'Grassland Med High & V. High'. |
| **Improved Grassland** | Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh | Yes | No | Aim to improve natural function wherever possible as part of future restoration within the floodplain.<br><br>A definition for Floodplain wetland mosaic habitat is proposed to replace the definition for Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh. A brief definition of floodplain wetland mosaic habitat can be found in UK Habitat Classification. The locations of modified floodplain areas providing highly important refuges for wetland wildlife of high biodiversity value within the existing inventory form part of this new habitat definition. Aim to meet 'good condition' as outlined in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 23A 'Wetland' |
| **Fen, Marsh and Swamp** | Floodplain wetland mosaic | No | Yes | A short definition for floodplain wetland mosaic habitat can be found in UK Habitat Classification. Aim to meet the 6 general criteria and the different criteria for any habitats anticipated to form mosaics as outlined in 'Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 23A 'Wetland'. The ditches condition assessment should only be used where they are a key component of the modified floodplain areas providing highly important refuges for wetland wildlife. |
| **Fen, Marsh and Swamp** | Purple moor-grass and rush pastures | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for purple moor-grass and rush pastures also see PHI Guidance and 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 23A 'Wetland' |
| **Fen, Marsh and Swamp** | Lowland fens | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for lowland fens and 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 23A 'Wetland' |
| **Fen, Marsh and Swamp** | Reedbeds | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for reedbeds and 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 23A 'Wetland' |
| **Fen, Marsh and Swamp** | Upland flushes, fens and swamps | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for upland flushes, fens and swamps and 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 23 A 'Wetland' |
| **Bogs** | Blanket bog | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for blanket bog and 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 23A 'Wetland' |

| Broad habitat type | Wildlife-rich habitat name | S41 | S1 | Desired Outcome |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bogs** | Lowland raised bog | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for lowland raised bog and 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 23A 'Wetland' |
| **Montane Habitats** | Mountain heaths and willow scrub | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for Mountain heaths and willow scrub and 'good condition' as outlined in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 7A 'Heathlands' |
| **Dwarf Shrub Heath** | Lowland heathland | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for lowland heathland and 'good condition' as outlined in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 7A 'Heathland' |
| **Dwarf Shrub Heath** | Upland heathland | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for upland heathland and 'good condition' as outlined in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 7A 'Heathland' |
| **Inland rock** | Calaminarian grasslands | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for calaminarian grasslands and 'good condition' as outlined in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 6A 'Grassland Med High & V High' |
| **Inland rock** | Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for inland rock outcrop and scree habitats and 'good condition' as outlined in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 21A 'Sparsely vegetated land' |
| **Inland rock** | Limestone pavements | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for limestone pavements and 'good condition' as outlined in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 15A 'Limestone pavement' |
| **Inland rock** | Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for open mosaic habitats on previously developed land |
| **Inland rock** | Inland rock and scree | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' for 'other inland rock and scree' as outlined in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 21A 'Sparsely vegetated land' |
| **Standing open waters** | Aquifer-fed naturally fluctuating water bodies | Yes | No | Aim for naturally functioning habitat as described in B6 and the Lake naturalness assessment – guidance document. Note that entirely pristine habitat is not required for this target, class 2 in the above assessments will be acceptable. For attributes such as water quality included in Water Environment Regulations this equates to good. Actions to reach Good Ecological Status will have a considerable role in restoring these habitats but additional actions may also be required. |
| **Standing open waters** | Eutrophic standing waters | Yes | No | Aim for naturally functioning habitat as described in B6 and the Lake naturalness assessment – guidance document. Note that entirely pristine habitat is not required for this target, class 2 in the above assessments will be acceptable. For attributes such as water quality included in Water Environment Regulations this equates to good. Actions to reach Good Ecological Status will have a considerable role in restoring these habitats but additional actions may also be required. |

| Broad habitat type | Wildlife-rich habitat name | S41 | S1 | Desired Outcome |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Standing open waters** | Mesotrophic lakes | Yes | No | Aim for naturally functioning habitat as described in B6 and the Lake naturalness assessment – guidance document. Note that entirely pristine habitat is not required for this target, class 2 in the above assessments will be acceptable. For attributes such as water quality included in Water Environment Regulations this equates to good. Actions to reach Good Ecological Status will have a considerable role in restoring these habitats but additional actions may also be required. |
| **Standing open waters** | Oligotrophic and dystrophic lakes | Yes | No | Aim for naturally functioning habitat as described in B6 and the Lake naturalness assessment – guidance document. Note that entirely pristine habitat is not required for this target, class 2 in the above assessments will be acceptable. For attributes such as water quality included in Water Environment Regulations this equates to good. Actions to reach Good Ecological Status will have a considerable role in restoring these habitats but additional actions may also be required. |
| **Standing open waters** | Ponds | Yes | Yes | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for ponds and 'good condition' as outlined in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 18A 'Pond' |
| **Rivers and streams** | Rivers | Yes | No | Aim for naturally functioning habitat as described in B6 and the River-naturalness-assessment-guidance-document. Note that entirely pristine habitat is not required for this target, class 2 in the above assessments will be acceptable. For attributes such as water quality included in Water Environment Regulations this equates to good. Actions to reach Good Ecological Status will have a considerable role in restoring these habitats but additional actions may also be required. |
| **Rivers and streams** | Rivers and Streams | No | Yes | Aim for naturally functioning habitat as described in B6 and the River-naturalness-assessment-guidance-document. Note that entirely pristine habitat is not required for this target, class 2 in the above assessments will be acceptable. For attributes such as water quality included in Water Environment Regulations this equates to good. Actions to reach Good Ecological Status will have a considerable role in restoring these habitats but additional actions may also be required. |
| **Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland** | Lowland beech and yew woodland | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for lowland beech and yew woodland and 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 24A 'Woodland'<br>All new woodlands should follow the FC woodland establishment guidance, delivery of the woodland habitats may best be achieved through natural woodland colonisation |
| **Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland** | Lowland mixed deciduous woodland | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for lowland mixed deciduous woodland and 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 24A 'Woodland'<br>All new woodlands should follow the FC woodland establishment guidance, delivery of the woodland habitats may best be achieved through natural woodland colonisation |
| **Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland** | Upland mixed ashwoods | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for upland mixed ashwoods and 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 24A 'Woodland'<br>All new woodlands should follow the FC woodland establishment guidance, delivery of the woodland habitats may best be achieved through natural woodland colonisation |
| **Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland** | Upland oakwood | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for upland oakwood and 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 24A 'Woodland'<br>All new woodlands should follow the FC woodland establishment guidance, delivery of the woodland habitats may best be achieved through natural woodland colonisation |

| Broad habitat type | Wildlife-rich habitat name | S41 | S1 | Desired Outcome |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland** | Wet woodland | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for wet woodland and 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 24A 'Woodland'<br><br>All new woodlands should follow the FC woodland establishment guidance, delivery of the woodland habitats may best be achieved through natural woodland colonisation |
| **Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland** | Native woodland: broadleaved | No | Yes | Aim for 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 24A 'Woodland' or more than 35 points within the woodland Condition survey forms.<br><br>The Woodland Wildlife Toolkit states that Native woodland is defined as woodland that is composed of at least 80% native tree species. Up to 20% of this can comprise "naturalised species" if they are already present in the wood. This will still meet the favourable condition threshold for 'nativeness'.<br><br>On ancient woodland sites which have been converted to plantations dominated by non-native species (known as "plantations on ancient woodland sites" or PAWS), the preferred long-term outcome is gradual restoration, eventually resulting in a stand with over 80% of the canopy containing native species.<br><br>All new woodlands should follow the FC woodland establishment guidance, delivery of the woodland habitats may best be achieved through natural woodland colonisation |
| **Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland** | Mixed woodland: | No | Yes | Mixed woodland: mainly native broadleaved (with a minimum requirement of 70% native broadleaved species). Aim to meet 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 24 A 'Woodland', except for criteria E cover of native tree and shrub species which may be 70%<br><br>All new woodlands should follow the FC woodland establishment guidance, delivery of the woodland habitats may best be achieved through natural woodland colonisation |
| **Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland** | Wood-pasture and parkland | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for Wood-pasture and parkland. The long term aim, for creating or restoring, would be to meet BNG 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 25A 'Wood-pasture and parkland' but as an interim, for the creation of new habitat within the first 30years (or restoration of an historic site where the veteran trees are no longer present), we suggest an aim to meet 'moderate' condition for BNG 4.0 aiming to pass at least criteria C, D, E, G and H. |
| **Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland** | Traditional orchards | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for Traditional orchards and 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 17A 'Orchard' |
| **Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland** | Blackthorn scrub | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 20A 'Scrub' |
| **Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland** | Bramble scrub | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 20A 'Scrub' |
| **Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland** | Gorse scrub | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 20A 'Scrub' |

| Broad habitat type | Wildlife-rich habitat name | S41 | S1 | Desired Outcome |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland** | Hawthorn scrub | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 20A 'Scrub' |
| **Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland** | Hazel scrub | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 20A 'Scrub' |
| **Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland** | Mixed scrub | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 20A 'Scrub' |
| **Boundary and Linear Features** | Hedgerows | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for Hedgerows with the aim of meeting favourable condition as outlined in Annex 9 of the Hedgerow survey handbook. |
| **Boundary and Linear Features** | Native Species-Rich Hedgerow with trees | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 8A 'Hedgerow'. |
| **Boundary and Linear Features** | Native Species-Rich Hedgerow - Associated with bank or ditch | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 8A 'Hedgerow'. |
| **Boundary and Linear Features** | Native Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 8A 'Hedgerow'. |
| **Boundary and Linear Features** | Native Hedgerow - Associated with bank or ditch | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 8A 'Hedgerow'. |
| **Boundary and Linear Features** | Native Hedgerow with trees | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 8A 'Hedgerow'. |
| **Boundary and Linear Features** | Native Species-Rich Hedgerow | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 8A 'Hedgerow'. |
| **Boundary and Linear Features** | Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable) | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' as outlined the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 16A 'Line of Trees'. |
| **Boundary and Linear Features** | Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable) - with Bank or Ditch | No | Yes | Aim to meet 'good condition' as outlined the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 16A 'Line of Trees'. |
| **Littoral sediment** | Coastal saltmarsh | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for coastal saltmarsh and biotopes therein |
| **Littoral sediment** | Intertidal mudflats | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for intertidal mudflats and biotopes therein |
| **Littoral sediment** | Peat and clay exposures with Piddocks | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for peat and clay exposures and biotopes therein |
| **Littoral sediment** | Seagrass beds | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for seagrass beds and biotopes therein |

| Broad habitat type | Wildlife-rich habitat name | S41 | S1 | Desired Outcome |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Littoral sediment** | Sheltered muddy gravels | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for sheltered muddy gravels and biotopes therein |
| **Littoral sediment** | Coastal Saltmarsh and saline reedbeds | No | Yes | Aim to meet MHC definition for coastal Saltmarsh and saline reedbeds and 'good condition' as outlined in BNG Metric Tab 3A 'Coastal Saltmarsh' |
| **Littoral sediment** | Littoral muddy sand | No | Yes | Aim to meet agreed habitat definition in EUNIS -Factsheet for Littoral sand and muddy sand (europa.eu) |
| **Littoral sediment** | Littoral coarse sediment | No | Yes | Aim to meet MHC definition for littoral coarse sediment and 'good condition' as outlined in the BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 13A 'Intertidal sediment' |
| **Littoral sediment** | Littoral sand | No | Yes | Aim to meet MHC definition for littoral sand and 'good condition' as outlined in BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 13A 'Intertidal sediment' |
| **Littoral sediment** | Littoral mixed sediments | No | Yes | Aim to meet MHC definition for Littoral mixed sediment and biotopes therein and 'good condition' as outlined in BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 13A 'Intertidal sediment' |
| **Littoral sediment** | Features of littoral sediment | No | Yes | Aim to meet agreed habitat definition in EUNIS - Factsheet for Features of littoral sediment (europa.eu) |
| **Littoral Rock**[9] | Intertidal boulder communities | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for intertidal boulder communities and biotopes therein |
| **Littoral Rock**[9] | Intertidal chalk | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for intertidal chalk and biotopes therein |
| **Littoral Rock**[9] | *Sabellaria alveolata* reefs | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for *Sabellaria alveolata* reefs and biotopes therein |
| **Littoral Rock** | High energy littoral rock | No | Yes | Aim to meet MHC definition for high energy littoral rock and 'good condition' as outlined in BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 19A 'Rocky Shore' |
| **Littoral Rock** | Moderate energy littoral rock | No | Yes | Aim to meet MHC definition for moderate energy littoral rock and 'good condition' as outlined in BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 19A 'Rocky Shore' |
| **Littoral Rock** | Low energy littoral rock | No | Yes | Aim to meet MHC definition for low energy littoral rock and 'good condition' as outlined in BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 19A 'Rocky Shore' |
| **Littoral Rock** | Features of littoral rock | No | Yes | Aim to meet agreed habitat definition in EUNIS - Factsheet for Features of littoral rock (europa.eu) |
| **Supralittoral rock** | Maritime cliff and slopes | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for maritime cliff and slopes and 'good condition' as outlined in BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 1A 'Coastal' |
| **Sublittoral rock** | Estuarine rocky habitats | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for estuarine rocky habitats and biotopes therein |
| **Sublittoral rock** | Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats and biotopes therein |
| **Sublittoral rock** | *Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for *Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs and biotopes therein, definition of 'reefiness' in Defining and managing Sabellaria spinulosa reefs esp. Table 2 & 4 |
| **Sublittoral rock** | Subtidal chalk | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for subtidal chalk and biotopes therein |

| Broad habitat type | Wildlife-rich habitat name | S41 | S1 | Desired Outcome |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sublittoral rock** | Tide-swept channels | Yes | No | Aim to meet priority habitat definition for tide-swept channels and biotopes therein |
| **Sublittoral rock** | Infralittoral rock | No | Yes | Aim to meet MHC definition for infralittoral rock |
| **Sublittoral rock** | Circalittoral rock | No | Yes | Aim to meet MHC definition for circalittoral rock |
| **Sublittoral rock** | Subtidal stony reef | No | Yes | Aim to meet the priority habitat definition for subtidal stony reef |
| **Supralittoral Sediment** | Coastal sand dunes | Yes | No | Aim to meet the priority habitat definition for coastal sand dunes and 'good condition' as outlined in BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 1A 'Coastal' |
| **Supralittoral Sediment** | Coastal vegetated shingle | Yes | No | Aim to meet the priority habitat definition for coastal vegetated shingle and 'good condition' as outlined in BNG Condition Assessments sheets Tab 1A 'Coastal' |
| **Sublittoral Sediment** | Saline lagoons | Yes | No | Aim to meet the priority habitat definition for saline lagoons and biotopes therein |
| **Sublittoral Sediment** | Blue mussel beds on sediment | Yes | No | Aim to meet the priority habitat definition for blue mussel beds and biotopes therein |
| **Sublittoral Sediment** | Horse mussel beds | Yes | No | Aim to meet the priority habitat definition for horse mussel beds and biotopes therein |
| **Sublittoral Sediment** | Maërl beds | Yes | No | Aim to meet the priority habitat definition for maërl beds and biotopes therein |
| **Sublittoral Sediment** | Mud habitats in deep water | Yes | No | Aim to meet the priority habitat definition for mud habitats in deep water and biotypes therein |
| **Sublittoral Sediment** | Subtidal sands and gravels | Yes | No | Aim to meet the priority habitat definition for subtidal sands and gravels and biotypes therein |
| **Sublittoral Sediment** | Native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) beds[1] | No | Yes | Aim to meet the habitat definition for native oyster (Ostrea edulis) beds |
| **Sublittoral Sediment** | Subtidal coarse sediment | No | Yes | Aim to meet MHC definition for subtidal coarse sediment |
| **Sublittoral Sediment** | Subtidal mixed sediments | No | Yes | Aim to meet MHC definition for subtidal mixed sediments |
| **Sublittoral Sediment** | Subtidal mud | No | Yes | Aim to meet MHC definition for subtidal mud |
| **Sublittoral Sediment** | Subtidal sand | No | Yes | Aim to meet MHC definition for subtidal sand |
| **Sublittoral Sediment** | Subtidal seagrass beds | No | Yes | Aim to meet MHC definition for subtidal seagrass beds |

## About Natural England

Natural England is here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

## Further Information

This report can be downloaded from the Natural England Access to Evidence Catalogue. For information on Natural England publications or if you require an alternative format, please contact the Natural England Enquiry Service on 0300 060 3900 or email enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk.

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