
Definitions of Strategic Significance Levels for Habitats used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric within Newark and Sherwood District.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out Newark and Sherwood District Council’s definitions of ‘High’, ‘Medium’ and ‘Low’ Strategic Significance to be used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric for Biodiversity Net Gain calculations supporting planning applications within the Newark and Sherwood District.
- 1.2 This has been produced to provide clarity for applicants during the interim period before the Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy is published. This is in accordance with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Statutory Biodiversity Metric user guidance.
- 1.3 These definitions have been derived from work previously undertaken to identify priority areas for habitat creation and enhancement within the Newark and Sherwood district, and with an additional focus on sites designated for their nature conservation interest.

2.0 Definitions of Strategic Significance within Newark and Sherwood District

Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Focal Areas

- 2.1 A Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping exercise undertaken by the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group resulted in several outputs, which included Focal Area Maps which identify locations where it was considered that there are concentrations of opportunities for habitat creation, and where it was considered that activities for habitat creation and enhancement could be prioritised to provide maximum biodiversity benefits. The attached Plan Ref, NSDC_BNG_SS_01_Rev A shows the locations of these Focal Areas and lists the priority broad habitat types. NSDC consider these to all be habitats of ‘High’ strategic significance.
- 2.2 The series of tables at the end of this document provide correspondences between these broad habitat types, the habitat types listed within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and the UK HAB habitat types.
- 2.3 Table 2 below sets out how the ‘High’ strategic significance category should be entered on the baseline and post-intervention sheets of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.

Designated Sites

- 2.4 Key sites for biodiversity within the district are those that are afforded a nature conservation designation. This includes sites afforded a statutory designation, which encompasses sites within the National Site Network (i.e., Special Conservation Areas (SCA)), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Local Nature Reserves (where the declaration includes a significant nature conservation interest). In addition, this includes sites afforded a non-statutory designation as Local Wildlife Sites. Except for Local Nature Reserves, these sites have been designated on the basis of meeting relevant criteria based on international, national and local conservation importance values. The creation of appropriate habitats immediately adjacent to, or near, sites designated for the habitats they support is considered important. This provides

opportunities to increase the area of interest, or to provide important steppingstones to enhance or create ecological networks.

- 2.5 It is proposed that any habitat of the type for which a site has been specifically designated for (either mentioned in the site citation, or which it can be shown that the site meets the current selection criteria for) which is created or enhanced, and which is situated immediately adjacent to the designated site boundary is to be considered as being of ‘High’ Strategic Significance. Where such habitats are not immediately adjacent to the designated site boundary, but are within 100m of the boundary, these are to be considered as being of ‘Medium’ Strategic Significance. This is because these habitats will represent ecological linkage to important locations; i.e., sites designated for their nature conservation importance.
- 2.6 The location of, and links to the citations for sites on the National Sites Network and for Sites of Special Scientific Interest are available from the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGiC) interactive webtool [MAGiC \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://defra.gov.uk/magic). The location of Local Wildlife Sites within Nottinghamshire are available from the Nottinghamshire Insight Mapping webtool [Nottingham City Council - Insight Mapping GIS Mapping](https://www.nottinghamcitycouncil.gov.uk/insight-mapping).
- 2.7 Table 2 below sets out how these ‘High’ and ‘Medium’ strategic significance categories should be entered on the baseline and post-intervention sheets of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.

Habitats not meeting the ‘High’ and ‘Medium’ definitions

- 2.8 All other habitat types not meeting the above criteria for ‘High’ and ‘Medium’ strategic significance are to be considered as being of ‘Low’ strategic significance.
- 2.9 These should be entered into the Statutory Biodiversity Metric as ‘Low’ in both the baseline and post-intervention sheets as set out in Table 2 below.

Table 1: Summary

Strategic Significance		
High	Medium	Low
Habitats identified as a priority within the relevant Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Focal Area.		All other habitats not meeting the definitions for High or Medium strategic significance.
Habitats immediately adjacent to a designated site that represent the habitat type(s) for which the site has been designated.	Habitats within 100m of a designated site that represent the habitat type(s) for which the site has been designated.	

3.0 Table 2: How Strategic Significance should be entered in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric

Strategic Significance Category	Proposal	Statutory Biodiversity Metric Sheet	
		Baseline	Post-intervention
High (i.e., 'Formally identified in local strategy')	Retained – no enhancement	Record as 'High'	Record as 'High'
	Retained - enhanced	Record as 'Low' ¹	
	Lost	Record as 'High'	N/A
	Created	N/A	Record as 'High'
Medium (i.e., 'Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy')	Retained – no enhancement	Record as 'Medium'	Record as 'Medium'
	Retained – enhanced	Record as 'Low' ²	
	Lost	Record as 'Medium'	N/A
	Created	N/A	Record as 'Medium'
Low (i.e., Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy)	Retained – no enhancement	Record as 'Low'	Record as 'Low'
	Retained – enhanced		N/A
	Lost		
	Created	N/A	Record as 'Low'

¹ This incentivises the retention and enhancement of the relevant priority habitats within Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Focal Areas as an enhanced gain is calculated.

² This incentivises the retention and enhancement of key habitats associated with designated sites as an enhanced gain is calculated.

23.01.24 Cabinet Report BNG Policy and Actions – Appendix B
Habitat Correspondence Tables

Focal Area	High Strategic Significance Habitats				
	Focal Area Priority Habitat	BM Habitat	UKHab Habitat Type	UKHab Code	Distinctiveness
Birklands and Bilhaugh	Mixed deciduous woodland.	Woodland and forest - Felled	Other woodland	53	High
		Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f	
			Dry oak-dominated woodland	w1f5	
			Other lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f7	
			Other broadleaved woodland	w1g	Medium
			Other woodland - mixed	w1h	
			Other woodland mixed: mainly broadleaved	w1h5	
		Wet woodland	w1d	High	
		Woodland and forest – Wood-pasture and parkland	Woodland and Trees	26	Very High
		Heathland.	Lowland heathland	Lowland Heathland	h1a
	Dry heaths – lowland			h1a5	
	Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath – lowland			h1a7	
	Acid grassland.	Lowland dry acid grassland	Lowland dry acid grassland	g1a	Very High
			Other lowland dry acid grassland	g1a6	Medium
		Other lowland acid grassland	Other lowland acid grassland	g1d	

Focal Area	High Strategic Significance Habitats					
	Focal Area Priority Habitat	BM Habitat	UKHab Habitat Type	UKHab Code	Distinctiveness	
Burton Joyce, Lambley and Cocker Beck	Mixed deciduous woodland.	Woodland and forest - Felled	Other woodland	53	High	
		Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f		
			Dry oak-dominated woodland	w1f5		
			Other lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f7		
			Other broadleaved woodland	w1g	Medium	
			Other woodland - mixed	w1h		
		Other woodland mixed: mainly broadleaved	w1h5			
	Wet woodland	w1d	High			
	Species-rich neutral grassland.	Woodland and forest – Wood-pasture and parkland	Woodland and Trees	26	Very High	
			Grassland – Lowland Meadows	Lowland meadows	g3a	Very High
		Lowland hay meadows		g3a5		
		Other lowland meadows		g3a6		
		Grassland – Other neutral grassland	Other neutral grassland	g3c	Medium	
	Arrhenatherum neutral grassland (where the stands can be identified as representing one of the following NVC communities; MG1c, MG1d, MG1e)		g3c5			

Focal Area	High Strategic Significance Habitats				
	Focal Area Priority Habitat	BM Habitat	UKHab Habitat Type	UKHab Code	Distinctiveness
Clipstone	Mixed deciduous woodland.	Woodland and forest - Felled	Other woodland	53	High
		Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f	
			Dry oak-dominated woodland	w1f5	
			Other lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f7	
			Other broadleaved woodland	w1g	Medium
		Other woodland - mixed	w1h		
		Other woodland mixed: mainly broadleaved	w1h5		
		Wet woodland	w1d	High	
		Woodland and forest – Wood-pasture and parkland	Woodland and Trees	26	Very High
	Heathland.	Lowland heathland	Lowland Heathland	h1a	High
			Dry heaths – lowland	h1a5	
			Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath – lowland	h1a7	
	Acid grassland.	Lowland dry acid grassland	Lowland dry acid grassland	g1a	Very High
			Other lowland dry acid grassland	g1a6	Medium
		Other lowland acid grassland	Other lowland acid grassland	g1d	

Focal Area		High Strategic Significance Habitats			
	Focal Area Priority Habitat	BM Habitat	UKHab Habitat Type	UKHab Code	Distinctiveness
Trent Valley (Langford Lowfields to Girton)	Wetland Habitats	Wetland – Fens (upland and lowland)	Lowland fens	f2a	Very High
			Hard-water springs depositing lime; lowlands	f2a6	
			Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens; lowland	f2a7	
			Aquatic marginal vegetation	f2d	High
		Wetland - Reedbeds	Reedbeds	f2e	High
		Lakes – Ponds (priority habitat)	Freshwater	40	High
		Lakes – Ponds (non-priority habitat)	Freshwater	41	Medium
		Lakes – Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	Eutrophic standing waters	r1a	Very High
	Grassland – Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	19	High	
	Species-rich neutral grassland.	Grassland – Lowland Meadows	Lowland meadows	g3a	Very High
			Lowland hay meadows	g3a5	
			Other lowland meadows	g3a6	
		Grassland – Other neutral grassland	Other neutral grassland	g3c	Medium
	Arrhenatherum neutral grassland (where the stands can be identified as representing one of the following NVC communities; MG1c, MG1d, MG1e)	g3c5			
	Heathland.	Lowland heathland	Lowland Heathland	h1a	High
			Dry heaths – lowland	h1a5	
			Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath – lowland	h1a7	
	Acid grassland.	Lowland dry acid grassland	Lowland dry acid grassland	g1a	Very High
			Other lowland dry acid grassland	g1a6	Medium
		Other lowland acid grassland	Other lowland acid grassland	g1d	

Focal Area	High Strategic Significance Habitats					
	Focal Area Priority Habitat	BM Habitat	UKHab Habitat Type	UKHab Code	Distinctiveness	
Mercia Mudwoods	Mixed deciduous woodland.	Woodland and forest - Felled	Other woodland	53	High	
		Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f		Medium
			Dry oak-dominated woodland	w1f5		
			Other lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f7		
			Other broadleaved woodland	w1g		
			Other woodland - mixed	w1h		
		Other woodland mixed: mainly broadleaved	w1h5			
	Wet woodland	w1d	High			
	Woodland and forest – Wood-pasture and parkland	Woodland and Trees	26	Very High		
	Species-rich neutral grassland.	Grassland – Lowland Meadows	Lowland meadows	g3a	Very High	
			Lowland hay meadows	g3a5		
			Other lowland meadows	g3a6		
		Grassland – Other neutral grassland	Other neutral grassland	g3c	Medium	
Arrhenatherum neutral grassland (where the stands can be identified as representing one of the following NVC communities; MG1c, MG1d, MG1e)			g3c5			

Focal Area	High Strategic Significance Habitats				
	Focal Area Priority Habitat	BM Habitat	UKHab Habitat Type	UKHab Code	Distinctiveness
River Maun and River Meden	Wetland Habitats	Wetland – Fens (upland and lowland)	Lowland fens	f2a	Very High
			Hard-water springs depositing lime; lowlands	f2a6	
			Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens; lowland	f2a7	
			Aquatic marginal vegetation	f2d	High
		Wetland - Reedbeds	Reedbeds	f2e	High
		Lakes – Ponds (priority habitat)	Freshwater	40	High
		Lakes – Ponds (non-priority habitat)	Freshwater	41	Medium
		Lakes – Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	Eutrophic standing waters	r1a	Very High
		Grassland – Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	19	High

Focal Area		High Strategic Significance Habitats			
	Focal Area Priority Habitat	BM Habitat	UKHab Habitat Type	UKHab Code	Distinctiveness
River Smite and River Devon	Mixed deciduous woodland.	Woodland and forest - Felled	Other woodland	53	High
		Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f	
			Dry oak-dominated woodland	w1f5	
			Other lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f7	
			Other broadleaved woodland	w1g	
		Other woodland - mixed	w1h	Medium	
		Other woodland mixed: mainly broadleaved	w1h5		
	Wet woodland	w1d	High		
	Woodland and forest – Wood-pasture and parkland	Woodland and trees	26	Very High	
	Wetland Habitats	Wetland – Fens (upland and lowland)	Lowland fens	f2a	Very High
			Hard-water springs depositing lime; lowlands	f2a6	
			Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens; lowland	f2a7	
			Aquatic marginal vegetation	f2d	High
		Wetland - Reedbeds	Reedbeds	f2e	High
		Lakes – Ponds (priority habitat)	Freshwater	40	High
Lakes – Ponds (non-priority habitat)		Freshwater	41	Medium	
Lakes – Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies		Eutrophic standing waters	r1a	Very High	
Grassland – Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	19	High		

Focal Area	High Strategic Significance Habitats				
	Focal Area Priority Habitat	BM Habitat	UKHab Habitat Type	UKHab Code	Distinctiveness
South Sherwood	Mixed deciduous woodland.	Woodland and forest - Felled	Other woodland	53	High
		Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f	
			Dry oak-dominated woodland	w1f5	
			Other lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f7	
			Other broadleaved woodland	w1g	Medium
			Other woodland - mixed	w1h	
			Other woodland mixed: mainly broadleaved	w1h5	
			Wet woodland	w1d	High
		Woodland and forest – Wood-pasture and parkland	Woodland and Trees	26	Very High
	Heathland.	Lowland heathland	Lowland Heathland	h1a	High
			Dry heaths – lowland	h1a5	
			Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath – lowland	h1a7	
	Acid grassland.	Lowland dry acid grassland	Lowland dry acid grassland	g1a	Very High
			Other lowland dry acid grassland	g1a6	Medium
Other lowland acid grassland		Other lowland acid grassland	g1d		

Focal Area	High Strategic Significance Habitats				
	Focal Area Priority Habitat	BM Habitat	UKHab Habitat Type	UKHab Code	Distinctiveness
The Dumbles	Mixed deciduous woodland.	Woodland and forest - Felled	Other woodland	53	High
		Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f	
			Dry oak-dominated woodland	w1f5	
			Other lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f7	
			Other broadleaved woodland	w1g	Medium
			Other woodland - mixed	w1h	
			Other woodland mixed: mainly broadleaved	w1h5	
		Wet woodland	w1d	High	
	Woodland and forest – Wood-pasture and parkland	Woodland and Trees	26	Very High	
	Species-rich neutral grassland.	Grassland – Lowland Meadows	Lowland meadows	g3a	Very High
			Lowland hay meadows	g3a5	
			Other lowland meadows	g3a6	
		Grassland – Other neutral grassland	Other neutral grassland	g3c	Medium
			Arrhenatherum neutral grassland (where the stands can be identified as representing one of the following NVC communities; MG1c, MG1d, MG1e)	g3c5	

Focal Area		High Strategic Significance Habitats			
	Focal Area Priority Habitat	BM Habitat	UKHab Habitat Type	UKHab Code	Distinctiveness
Trent Valley (Lady Bay to Hoveringham)	Wetland Habitats	Wetland – Fens (upland and lowland)	Lowland fens	f2a	Very High
			Hard-water springs depositing lime; lowlands	f2a6	
			Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens; lowland	f2a7	
			Aquatic marginal vegetation	f2d	High
		Wetland - Reedbeds	Reedbeds	f2e	High
		Lakes – Ponds (priority habitat)	Freshwater	40	High
		Lakes – Ponds (non-priority habitat)	Freshwater	41	Medium
		Lakes – Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	Eutrophic standing waters	r1a	Very High
	Grassland – Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	19	High	
	Species-rich neutral grassland.	Grassland – Lowland Meadows	Lowland meadows	g3a	Very High
			Lowland hay meadows	g3a5	
			Other lowland meadows	g3a6	
		Grassland – Other neutral grassland	Other neutral grassland	g3c	Medium
			Arrhenatherum neutral grassland (where the stands can be identified as representing one of the following NVC communities; MG1c, MG1d, MG1e)	g3c5	
	Heathland.	Lowland heathland	Lowland Heathland	h1a	High
			Dry heaths – lowland	h1a5	
			Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath – lowland	h1a7	
	Acid grassland.	Lowland dry acid grassland	Lowland dry acid grassland	g1a	Very High
			Other lowland dry acid grassland	g1a6	Medium
		Other lowland acid grassland	Other lowland acid grassland	g1d	

Focal Area	High Strategic Significance Habitats					
	Focal Area Priority Habitat	BM Habitat	UKHab Habitat Type	UKHab Code	Distinctiveness	
Upper Idle Valley (Bothamsall and Haughton to Retford)	Mixed deciduous woodland.	Woodland and forest - Felled	Other woodland	53	High	
		Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f		Medium
			Dry oak-dominated woodland	w1f5		
			Other lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f7		
			Other broadleaved woodland	w1g		
		Other woodland - mixed	w1h			
		Other woodland mixed: mainly broadleaved	w1h5			
	Wet woodland	w1d	High			
	Woodland and forest – Wood-pasture and parkland	Woodland and Trees	26	Very High		
	Species-rich neutral grassland.	Grassland – Lowland Meadows	Lowland meadows	g3a	Very High	
			Lowland hay meadows	g3a5		
			Other lowland meadows	g3a6		
		Grassland – Other neutral grassland	Other neutral grassland	g3c	Medium	
	Arrhenatherum neutral grassland (where the stands can be identified as representing one of the following NVC communities; MG1c, MG1d, MG1e)	g3c5				
	Wetland Habitats	Wetland – Fens (upland and lowland)	Lowland fens	f2a	Very High	
Hard-water springs depositing lime; lowlands			f2a6			
Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens; lowland			f2a7			

Focal Area	High Strategic Significance Habitats				
	Focal Area Priority Habitat	BM Habitat	UKHab Habitat Type	UKHab Code	Distinctiveness
Upper Idle Valley (Bothamsall and Haughton to Retford)	Wetland Habitats	Wetland – Fens (upland and lowland)	Aquatic marginal vegetation	f2d	High
		Wetland - Reedbeds	Reedbeds	f2e	High
		Lakes – Ponds (priority habitat)	Freshwater	40	High
		Lakes – Ponds (non-priority habitat)	Freshwater	41	Medium
		Lakes – Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	Eutrophic standing waters	r1a	Very High
		Grassland – Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	19	High

Focal Area	High Strategic Significance Habitats					
	Focal Area Priority Habitat	BM Habitat	UKHab Habitat Type	UKHab Code	Distinctiveness	
Welbeck and Clumber	Mixed deciduous woodland.	Woodland and forest - Felled	Other woodland	53	High	
		Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f		Medium
			Dry oak-dominated woodland	w1f5		
			Other lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f7		
			Other broadleaved woodland	w1g		
		Other woodland - mixed	w1h			
		Other woodland mixed: mainly broadleaved	w1h5			
	Wet woodland	w1d	High			
	Woodland and forest – Wood-pasture and parkland	Woodland and Trees	26	Very High		
		Lowland heathland	Lowland Heathland	h1a	High	
	Dry heaths – lowland		h1a5			
	Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath – lowland		h1a7			
	Acid grassland.	Lowland dry acid grassland	Lowland dry acid grassland	g1a	Very High	
			Other lowland dry acid grassland	g1a6	Medium	
		Other lowland acid grassland	Other lowland acid grassland	g1d		