



## **Explanatory notes for the mapping of actions within the Areas that could be of particular importance for biodiversity**

The following text includes principles, notes and caveats relating to the mapping with the aim of adding clarity and context to its use.

### **Principles relating to the mapping of actions in the ACB map**

1. Nature first! Actions should be located where they will benefit biodiversity or the environment the most.
2. The total coverage of actions should be between 15% and 40%, in line with DEFRA expected coverage. Coverage currently sits at around 29.5%.
3. Mapping should use a consistent, methodical approach. Any adaptations to mapping required by consultation must first seek to adapt the method.
4. Any bespoke additions to the mapping (i.e. polygons) must be evidenced.
5. Activities already in progress should not be mapped. For the purpose of the LNRS this refers to any practical actions which were started before the end of 2023 (the date of the first call for projects).
6. Mapping should prioritise opportunities and not identify broad areas for action.
7. No actions to be mapped on statutory sites.
8. Mapping should seek to direct funding to new opportunities not just existing conservation hot spots.
9. In most cases where actions are not mapped this is because they are relevant across the strategy area. However, in some cases this is due to lack of data.

### **A note on landscape scale recovery projects and similar**

- The LNRS does seek to recognize landscape scale projects, but the decision was made not to simply mark these as a boundary on the map. The agreed approach was as follows:
  - Where a project plans habitat creation (or has commenced habitat creation after the 2023 cut off) which overlaps and aligns with a mapped LNRS action the boundary of the action was extended to include the habitat creation of the project.
  - Where planned project work overlaps, but does not align, mapped actions was not replaced by non-aligned planned habitat creation.
  - However, where any completed habitat creation disagrees with LNRS mapping, the section of the action in question was removed so as not to disadvantage created habitat in terms of future funding. However, this created habitat will not be included in the mapping.



- Where evidence of habitats that the LNRS seeks to buffer can be provided (e.g. survey data) in the form of a shapefile they were added to the ACB map.
- The application of the above approach was reliant on the provision of appropriate shapefiles from the project managers.

#### **A note on BNG, BNG offset sites and Habitat Banks.**

- Biodiversity net gain offset sites and habitat banks have not been universally added to the ACB map without meeting the same criteria as other sites, as it is felt this would undermine the strategic significance of other sites, including onsite BNG.
- Under the appropriate condition they may be included within the APIB mapping of the next iteration of the LNRS.
- As stated by Defra all baseline habitat of a BNG assessment is considered to be of low strategic significance, with the mapped actions of the LNRS acting as opportunities for developers and biodiversity unit providers to ascribe high strategic significance to certain offset habitat.

#### **Caveats to the mapping**

- Actions are mapped at a strategic level with the best available data. In some cases, it may be inappropriate to undertake described actions where they are mapped, for example, floodplain reconnection is not suitable within urban areas. This can be due to technical mapping issues or changes in land use since data was collected.
- The appropriate guidance and regulations should be used. Where possible the LNRS has signposted to these, though it is the responsibility of the user to ensure they have had due diligence.
- Where required relevant licenses and agreements must be acquired before any actions take place. It is the responsibility of the user to ensure this is the case.
- Actions within this LNRS are not intended to result in deforestation, where the creation of space is suggested within forested areas, it is intended to result in the creation of rides and glades which improve the function of woodland and only where this is ecologically appropriate.
- Landowners can access details on LWS on their land by contacting the GLNP on [info@glnp.org.uk](mailto:info@glnp.org.uk).
- The ACB mapping identifies broad areas where actions for nature recovery would be most effective, contributing to these actions at a smaller scale within the area identified is just as valid as widescale nature recovery work across the action's area.

#### **Principles relating to the priorities and actions**

1. Mapped and non-mapped actions are equal in their importance, mapping just shows where the implementation of certain actions would be most strategic.
2. Before committing to undertake an action, ecological advice should be sought to ensure the action is appropriate for your site.
3. Mapped actions can be undertaken in appropriate places outside of areas shown on the map.



4. Each action can be considered in their own right, though it is important to recognize the priorities that they feed into which are highlighted by the LNRS.
5. Where habitat creation actions overlap, none take priority over the other, the preferred option is for habitat creation in these areas to contribute to a mosaic of the relevant habitats.
6. Where actions to buffer specific habitats overlap action to buffer LWS the preferred approach would be to buffer the LWS with habitat relevant to the LWS, where possible.
7. Where actions to buffer specific habitats overlap actions to buffer without specific mention of habitat, which is not **Action 146**, the preferred approach is to buffer with the relevant specified habitat.
8. Where actions are mapped within areas allocated for development by the local plan or where outline planning permission has been granted, but designs has not yet been submitted, LNRS actions should be used inform design of developments to maximise nature recovery and enable the enhancement, protection and creation of ecological networks. This should be seen as an opportunity for strategic uplift in onsite biodiversity net gain.
9. Actions identified by the LNRS, both mapped and unmapped, do not place any obligation on land managers and how they manage their land.