

# Summary of Section 11: The Priorities and Measures

## County Durham Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

### What is Section 11 About?

Section 11 sets out the priorities and practical actions (“measures”) for nature recovery in County Durham. These are grouped by habitat types (like grasslands, woodlands, rivers, urban areas, coast) and by key species groups (such as butterflies, birds, mammals, etc.). Each priority is linked to national environmental goals and the wider benefits nature provides to people.

The following information only provides an overview of the priorities and measures, please refer to the Statement of Priorities for the full details and background.

### 1. Overarching priorities and measures

- **Protect and manage Local Wildlife Sites:** These are locally important places for wildlife. Regular surveys and management advice will help keep them in good condition.
- **Connect habitats:** Reduce barriers to wildlife migration and create green corridors along features such as roads and railways so wildlife can move more easily across the landscape.
- **Improve ecological data:** Encourage more wildlife recording and surveys to fill gaps in knowledge.
- **Support nature-friendly farming:** Help farmers adopt practices that benefit both nature and food production, such as silvopasture, cover cropping, planting hedgerows, creating ponds, and using wildlife-friendly seed mixes.

### 2. Habitat priorities and measures

#### Grassland, Heathland & Peatlands

- **Restore and connect species-rich grasslands:** Manage existing grasslands well, restore lost areas, and link them together.
- **Heathlands:** Maintain, restore and connect these open, shrubby habitats.
- **Open Mosaic Habitats.** Maintain and connect these wildlife rich habitats
- **Peatlands:** Restore bogs to good condition, which helps wildlife and stores carbon.

#### Woodlands, Hedgerows, Scrub & Trees

- **Ancient woodlands and veteran trees:** Protect and manage these irreplaceable habitats.

- **Increase native woodland:** Plant more native trees and connect woodlands.
- **Manage our woodlands:** Positively manage our woodlands to support nature recovery and provide a range of ecosystem services (the benefits we gain from wildlife rich places)
- **Hedgerows:** Improve existing hedges and plant new, species-rich ones to link habitats.

#### Running Waters & Wetlands

- **Improve water quality:** Reduce pollution from farming and old mines.
- **Restore rivers:** Make rivers more natural by removing barriers, reconnecting them to floodplains and improving riparian habitats
- **Wetlands:** Create and restore ponds, fens, and swamps, creating clusters of wetland habitats
- **Control invasive species:** Work together to reduce harmful non-native plants and animals.

#### Urban Areas

- **More wildlife in towns:** Create community woodlands, plant street trees, and manage parks for nature.
- **Wildlife-friendly spaces:** Encourage residents to create habitats in gardens and schools.
- **Nest boxes:** Install boxes for birds, bats, and insects.

#### Coast

- **Manage recreation:** Balance public access with protecting sensitive coastal habitats and wildlife.
- **Alternative green spaces:** Create nature-rich parks near the coast to reduce pressure on fragile areas.

## 3. Species priorities and measures

#### Butterflies & Moths

- **Protect key species:** Focus on rare moths and butterflies, especially those needing special habitats like limestone grasslands and brownfield sites.
- **Habitat management:** Restore and connect suitable habitats, and consider reintroductions where needed.

#### Bumblebees

- **Support declining species:** Create flower-rich grasslands and manage roadside verges for foraging and nesting.

#### Birds

- **Willow Tit:** Secure and expand populations by managing wet woodlands and installing nest boxes.

- **Black Grouse:** Protect breeding sites and create a mosaic of habitats.
- **Waders and Farmland Birds:** Improve and create habitats for breeding and wintering birds, such as wet grasslands and wildflower margins.

#### **Reptiles**

- **Adder and Slow Worm:** Secure populations by managing habitats and engage the public with their conservation.

#### **Fish**

- **Wild Fish Assemblage:** Restore river habitats, remove migration barriers, and encourage good angling practices.

#### **Flowering Plants**

- **Rare plants:** Protect and expand populations of species like Lady's Mantles, Flat Sedge, Northern Hawk's-beard, and Ivy-leaved Bellflower through surveys, habitat management, and introductions.

#### **Mammals**

- **Water Vole and Red Squirrel:** Control invasive species (mink and grey squirrel), manage habitats, and support local conservation groups.