



**Sussex  
Nature Recovery**  
A collective blueprint for targeted action

# Towards criteria for shortlisting LNRS priorities - DRAFT

Last reviewed 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
[Date]



## Background

The development of each Local Nature Recovery Strategy must complete key tasks set out in the statutory guidance. These include:

- gathering together a long list of priorities for nature's recovery from multiple sources, including those which reflect the most important issues to local people and organisations, and;
- a process of shortlisting, to reduce the long list into a manageable number of agreed, critical priorities that reflect a balance of suggestions from local partners and support national environmental objectives.

This below are a draft set of criteria with which the process of shortlisting could be carried out.

## Draft criteria for shortlisting

### 1. **Core or primary criteria**....to identify those priorities which relate to 'ecological/ wider environmental need'

Must answer yes for at least one of these to progress to short list.

- Does this priority specifically contribute to **national environmental objectives (targets and commitments)**? If so, which one(s) (identify in matrix/table).
- Does it respond to specific **pressures** and/or **opportunities** already identified by the LNRS process? If so, which?
- Does it make a specific contribution to delivering bigger/better/more joined **priority habitats** and **protected sites** in Sussex? If so, which/how?
- Does it help to reduce decline and/or support recovery of **priority/threatened species** in Sussex?
- Does it support recovery of a **locally important/significant** habitat or species in Sussex not already covered by the two criteria above?
- Does it contribute to enhancement/recovery of specific **ecosystems** and/or **natural processes** of importance in Sussex?
- Does it provide an acknowledged/feasible **nature-based solution\*** for a key issue in Sussex (if so, which?)
- Is it within the **scope** of the LNRS to tackle?
- Can it actually be done/is it **feasible** (regardless of funding/resources)?
- Is it **likely to be successful** into the future (e.g. does it make sense in relation to future climate change)?

**2. Additional criteria (desirable/nice to have)** – to be used to help rank priorities that make it through the above, thus giving a more nuanced sense of priorities. Could be done through adding **weightings for each.**

- Is it **urgent/** is it vital that we **get to work on this in the short term** (i.e. within this LNRS period of 3-8 years) or can we leave this till later? (explaining why it is urgent and what the risk would be if we left this to a future LNRS to deal with). [Note: If it is **important – but not urgent**, this should be flagged but the priority may not then make it to the short-list unless other criteria suggest it should be included. ‘Easy wins’ for nature and things with strong support from preference-based information could be examples]
- Does it align with/support priorities of a neighbouring Responsible Authority across the LNRS boundary – and/or reflect wider regional priorities across the South East?
- Will it provide other (co-)benefits/ natural capital benefits in addition to benefits to biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions noted above (above)? If yes, what are these?
- Will it enhance the resilience of nature and/or people to climate change?
- Can delivery of this priority be led by landowners/farmers (thus supporting engagement of this sector)?
- Can delivery of this priority be led by communities/ local green groups/ local people (thus fostering engagement)?
- Does delivery of this priority provide other opportunities for engagement/ greater public involvement with nature’s recovery?
- Are there existing (or likely future) funding sources available for the measures that underpin this priority?
- Are there existing/ (or likely future) ‘enabling resources’ to drive delivery (e.g. project, partnership, volunteer resources, collaboration across stakeholders such as farm cluster etc.)?
- Are there existing mechanisms in place or projects already being carried out in relation to this priority (helping to lead the way/ could be expanded etc)?

\*Nature-based solutions include use of habitat creation/enhancement to address issues such as water quality, water supply, flood risk management, carbon sequestration/storage – but in the highly-populated south-east, provision of accessible natural greenspace near people (where it is needed most) could also be considered a ‘nature based solution’ to support well-being, health, social/community cohesion etc. There is a strong view across others in the SE that this should be reflected in priorities.