

Appendix 8.5 Geographical Nature Conservation Assessment Criteria

Nature conservation value	Criteria
International	<p>An internationally designated site or candidate site (Special Protection Area (SPA), possible SPA, Special Area of Conservation (SAC), possible SAC, Ramsar Site, Biogenetic Reserve).</p> <p>Any regularly occurring population of an internationally important species that is threatened or rare in the UK, i.e. a Red Data Book species, or listed as occurring in 15 or fewer 10km squares in the UK (categories 1 and 2 in the UK BAP), or of uncertain conservation status, or of global conservation concern in the UK BAP.</p> <p>A regularly occurring, nationally significant population of any internationally important species.</p> <p>A regularly occurring, nationally significant number of an internationally important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.</p>
UK / National	<p>A nationally designated site (Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserve (NNR), Marine Nature Reserve (MNR)) or a discrete area that meets the published selection criteria for national designation (e.g. SSSI selection guidelines).</p> <p>Any regularly occurring population of a nationally important species that is threatened or rare in the region or county.</p> <p>A regularly occurring, regionally or county significant population of any nationally important species.</p> <p>A regularly occurring, regionally or county significant number of a nationally important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.</p>
Regional	<p>Viable areas of key habitat identified as being rare in the region, or nationally scarce; small areas of such habitat that are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole.</p> <p>Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a regionally important species .</p> <p>A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a regionally important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.</p> <p>Sites that exceed the county-level designations but fall short of SSSI selection guidelines, where these occur.</p>
County	<p>County sites and other sites that meet the published ecological selection criteria for designation, including Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS)</p> <p>A viable area of habitat identified as rare in the county or regionally scarce or localised.</p> <p>Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a county important species.</p> <p>A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a county important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.</p>
Local (District) (i.e. within 10km radius of the study area)	<p>Areas of habitat considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource within approximately a 10km radius of the study area.</p> <p>Areas of habitat that are rare within approximately a 10km radius of the study area, or scarce or localised on a county scale.</p> <p>An area of habitat that supports a small proportion of a larger population of county to nationally important species.</p> <p>A regularly occurring, locally significant population of a locally important species.</p> <p>A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a locally important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.</p>

Nature conservation value	Criteria
	A regularly occurring, locally significant total number of more than one locally important species.
Very local (i.e. within the site or immediate environs of the study area)	Areas of habitat considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource within the study area.