

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 6.1: ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Ecological Evaluation Criteria with Geographical Significance

Level of Value	Examples
International	An internationally designated or candidate site (SPA, pSPA, SAC, cSAC, pSAC, Ramsar site, Biogenetic Reserve). A sustainable area of a habitat listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive, or smaller areas of such habitat which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. A sustainable population of an internationally important species, i.e., a UK Red Data Book species or species listed as occurring in 15 or fewer 10km squares in the UK (categories 1 and 2 in the UK BAP) which is listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive, or as being of unfavourable conservation status in Europe, of uncertain conservation status or of global conservation concern in the UK BAP. Also sites supporting a breeding population of such a species or supplying a critical element of their habitat requirements.
National	A nationally designated site (SSSI, ASSI, NNR, Marine Nature Reserve) or a discrete area which meets the selection criteria for national designation (e.g. SSSI selection guidelines). A sustainable area of a priority habitat identified in the UK BAP, or of smaller areas of such habitat which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. A sustainable population of a nationally important species or a site supporting such a species, i.e. a species listed on Schedules 5 & 8 of the 1981 W&CA (as amended) which is a UK Red Data Book species (excluding scarce species) that is not listed as being of unfavourable conservation status in Europe, of uncertain conservation status or of global conservation concern in the UK BAP. A non-Red Data Book species that is listed as occurring in 15 or fewer 10km squares in the UK (categories 1 and 2 in the UK BAP). Also sites supporting a breeding population of such a species or supplying a critical element of their habitat requirements.
Regional	Sustainable areas of key habitat identified in the Regional BAP or smaller areas of such habitat which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. Sustainable areas of key habitat identified as being of Regional value in the appropriate Natural Area profile. A population of a species listed as being nationally scarce which occurs in 16-100 10km squares in the UK or in a Regional BAP or relevant Natural Area on account of its regional rarity or localisation. Sites supporting a breeding population of such a species or supplying a critical element of their habitat requirements. Sites that exceed the County-level designations but fall short of SSSI selection guidelines.
County / Metropolitan	Semi-natural ancient woodland greater than 0.25 ha. County/Metropolitan sites and others meeting the ecological selection criteria for designation. A sustainable area of habitat identified in County BAP. A population of a species that is listed in a County/Metropolitan "red data book" or

Level of Value	Examples
	BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation. Also sites supporting a breeding population of such a species or supplying a critical element of their habitat requirements.
District / Borough	Semi-natural ancient woodland smaller than 0.25 ha. Sustainable areas of habitat identified in a sub-County (District/Borough) BAP or in the relevant Natural Area profile. Sites/features that are scarce within the District/Borough or which appreciably enrich the District/Borough habitat resource. A diverse and/ or ecologically valuable hedgerow network. A population of a species that is listed in a District/Borough BAP because of its rarity in the locality or in the relevant Natural Area profile because of its regional rarity or localisation. Also sites supporting a breeding population of such a species or supplying a critical element of their requirements.
Parish / Neighbour- hood	Areas of habitat that appreciably enrich the parish/neighbourhood resource, e.g., species-rich hedgerow.