

Green Infrastructure

Ecology Guidance Note: 2014

SERVICES:

- Organising stakeholder consultation process, including collating responses
- Habitat mapping, to identify existing key areas to protect and link within the scheme
- GI chapter production
- GI assets – impact assessment

What is Green Infrastructure?

The aim of Green Infrastructure (GI) assessments is to identify existing Green Infrastructure assets such as public open spaces, woodlands, wildlife corridors, historic environments, visual attributes and landscapes. “It should be designed and managed as a multi-functional resource capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities” (Natural England).

How is it applied?

The approach of these studies is to provide a long term vision to ensure Green Infrastructure principles are integrated into strategic growth plans and development areas. This should include opportunities to enhance green space and corridors.

Strategies take the form of a co-ordinated, mapped Green Infrastructure Plan, together with a study report explaining processes, methodology and findings. This would generally include an implementation strategy including action plans for the provision and future management of Green Infrastructure assets. The key is to plan the green aspects of the development alongside other services at an early stage. This is based on:

- clear evidence based analysis of sites to provide, maintain and enhance Green Infrastructure
- Green Infrastructure guidelines being used to incorporate environmental provision throughout the scheme
- The provision of green links to the wider community and rural locations.

The principles are based upon the provision of multi-functional open space to maximise public benefit through informal recreation, health and wellbeing. The connectivity of these networks creates an overall value greater than the individual parts.

