

Green Infrastructure Plan and Statement

In January 2023 Natural England has introduced a Green Infrastructure Plan, it consists of Green Infrastructure principles, standards, maps, Process Journeys, and planning and design guide. The principles are split into 3 categories below.

Benefits

- 1 : Green infrastructure: nature rich and beautiful places where nature will recover and thrive in towns cities and the countryside, conserving and enhancing natural beauty, wild life, habitats, geology and soils and our own personal and cultural life with nature.
- 2 : Green neighbourhoods provide active and healthy places, green/blue spaces and green routes will give a good community and connections to nature that will benefit a healthier more active, physical, mental health and well-being and quality of life for the community. GI will also help with health risks like urban heat stress, noise pollution flooding and poor air quality.
- 3 : Green Infrastructure helps to support prospering communities by adding value by creating good environments that will appeal to businesses, investors, creating jobs, and supporting retail and the high streets, and also help to give support the local economy and regeneration.
- 4 : By improving water management green infrastructure will reduce flood risk to local and catchment scales, reducing pressure and at local and catchment scales, reducing pressures the water system, bringing and improve water quality and filtration, and will help natural water cycles, reducing on the environment pressure and infrastructure, bringing amenity, biodiversity, economic and other benefits.
- 5 : Green infrastructure will make resilient and positive places and adaptive to climate changes and will help to meet zero carbon and air quality targets. Long term resilience should be designed to adapt to climate change.

Descriptive principles

- 1 : Multifunctional Green Infrastructure should deliver a range of functions and benefits for people to meet their needs in nature and places to address specific issues Multifunctionally is important where provision is of poor quality or scarce.
- 2 : Green Infrastructure should provide varies types and sizes of green and blue spaces, green routes and environmental features that can provide a range of features, different functions, benefits and solutions to address specific issues and needs.
- 3 : GI should function and connect as a living network for people and nature within nature in regions/national levels and should enhance ecological networks and support ecosystems to provide connection to those who need its benefits the most.
- 4 : Green Infrastructure should create and maintain to green available spaces that enable people to connect and experience to connect with accessibility wherever they reside access to parks, green spaces, recreational walking and cycling paths that are safe, well managed and welcoming and for the needs of everyone.
- 5 : An areas character should be responded too so that it contributes to the conservation/ restoration of landscapes or create new quality landscapes which can be enhanced, restored to replace desegregated areas which will make local people and the general public feel connected.