



Green infrastructure planning

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What is green infrastructure?



Green infrastructure (GI) is a strategically planned, delivered and managed network of multi-functional green spaces, which can provide a healthy and rich environment.

It needs to be delivered at all spatial scales, accommodating both accessible natural green spaces within local communities and often much larger sites in the urban fringe and wide countryside

Designing in Greenspace



What are the key GI assets?



- Urban and country parks
- Green informal recreation space
- Commons and village greens
- Woodland
- Natural and semi-natural habitats for wildlife
- Local Nature Reserves and county wildlife sites
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Historic landscapes
- Waterways, waterbodies and wetland
- Public rights of way, cycleways and other recreational routes
- Green corridors including hedgerows, ditches, disused railways and verges

What are Green Infrastructure Strategies?



Green infrastructure strategies provide visionary and strategic frameworks for integrated environmental planning across an area where significant new growth and development is planned.

They provide an up to date data base of existing environmental assets (ecological, recreational, landscape and historical), which is then analysed to identify gaps and opportunities in the ecological and recreational networks.

The concept of multiple use of sites and corridors is a key characteristic of GI plans



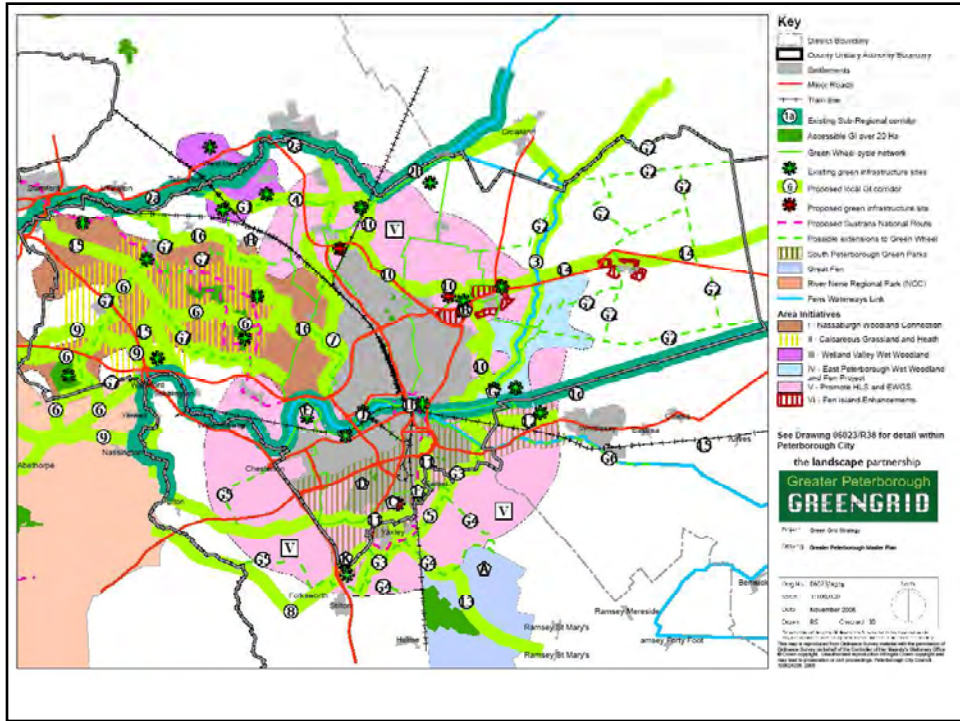
They can be at a variety of scales :

- Sub-regional e.g. Thames Gateway South Essex Greengrid
- County e.g. Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic GI Plan
- Growth area specific e.g. Cambridgeshire Greenvision, Peterborough Green Grid Strategy, Harlow Area GI Plan, Thetford GI Strategy, Norwich GI Strategy and Haven Gateway GI Strategy
- Borough specific e.g. Thurrock Green Grid Strategy

They should include an analysis of existing provision using the ANGST (accessible natural greenspace) Standards

They usually include an action/ implementation plan

Some have development guidance e.g. Harlow and Thurrock



What are GI strategies for?



1. Valuable source of information and a tool to guide landowners, planners, developers and others in assessing the impact of land use change and the opportunities to achieve environmental gain from development.
2. They are primarily a tool to influence the planning process at a variety of scales: local site master planning, borough and wider strategic scale. They are beginning to be written into core strategies.

Development Guidance



Thurrock Development Guidance



Regional policy for GI



The East of England Plan has a very good policy for GI (ENV1) which all Local Development Frameworks will have to reflect. It says:

LDD's should :

- Define a multiple hierarchy of GI, in terms of location, function, size and levels of use, at every spatial scale and across all areas of the region based on analysis of existing natural, historic, cultural and landscape assets, including the identification of new assets required to deliver GI
- Identify and require the retention and provision of substantial connected networks of green space, in urban, urban fringe, and adjacent countryside areas to serve the new communities in the sub-region by 2021
- Ensure that policies have regard to the economic and social as well as environmental benefits of GI assets, and fulfil obligations to protect sites of European or international importance for wildlife

Creating sustainable communities



How can Local Access Forums engage with the GI planning and implementation process?



In Growth Areas/Growth Points with completed GI strategies:

- Obtain a copy of the GI strategy (almost all are available on the web)
- Seek an invitation to join the steering group which is co-ordinating the implementation of the strategy, as in Peterborough
- Are ROWIP priorities reflected in the GI strategy action plan priorities.
- Identify opportunities for delivery ROWIP targets through a multi-functional approach i.e. is there scope for looking at access projects in a wider dimension (e.g. landscape enhancement, wildlife corridors)
- When preparing responses to LDF core strategy and other consultations, and large planning applications look for references to GI and GI strategies





In areas where we expect GI planning to start in the near future (Kings Lynn, St Edmundsbury, Chelmsford and Hertfordshire):

- Seek an invitation to the stakeholder consultation process which is a key part of the strategy preparation process
- Help those preparing the plans by providing information and identifying gaps and opportunities in the access network
- Comment on the draft strategies to make sure access is fully covered

Where to go for further information?



www.harlow.gov.uk/gip

www.bedsandlutongreeninfrastructure.org.uk

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/greenvision

www.naturalnet.org.uk

www.greengrid.co.uk

www.goeast.gov.uk for East of England Plan