

Achieving a Healthy Green Recovery – the essential role of green infrastructure

Tuesday 6th July 2021
Webinar 3

#GreenInf21

#GreenRecovery



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Green Infrastructure for All

Recovery - the essential role of green infrastructure 6 July 2021

Judy Ling Wong CBE



'BORN OF
THE PEOPLE'

MK and the humanists of armed struggle

People have agency

Care Share and Dare to Co-create Green Infrastructure

“ People are the ultimate force for change.

We need to put into place a culture of caring and sharing
and dare to negotiate the context for inclusive
participation

Government, organisations, community groups, and individuals can work together across different sectors and at different levels using our knowledge, skills and passion to shape our future.” *Judy Ling Wong CBE*

“The Battle for Sustainability will be won or lost in cities” Amina Mohammed UN Deputy Sec. General



First Global Stakeholders Forum 2019 – UN Habitat Assembly – New Urban Agenda

80% of the UK's population live in urban areas



GI Standards Some Keywords

- Truly local green spaces close to where people live
- Green Neighbourhoods
- Placemaking
- Multifunctional spaces
- Environmental features to meet needs
- Health and wellbeing
- Cultural connections with nature
- Resilience
- Climate Change
- Monitoring and targeting efforts
- Addressing inequalities

Why What and How

**“There is no such thing
as a
purely environmental initiative**

**A so-called
purely environmental initiative
is one that
has rejected
its social, cultural
and
economic dimensions.”**

*Judy Ling Wong 1987
Black Environment Network*





The Power of Replicable Initiatives

Embedding GI through Structural Actions

Theme 1 Representation

Theme 2 Engagement

Theme 3 Provision





Theme 1 Representation

- a. Put **high profile diversity champions** into place in organisations
- b. Nurture and support **community based champions to open up inreach**
- c. Nurture and support **diverse representation within decision making structures to share power**
- d. **Positive visibility** builds cultural presence and **counters negative cultural stereotyping**
- e. An integrated approach to policy and action, using a **human rights based approach**
- f. Support diverse local representatives to attend **high profile national and international events**



Building Visibility

We are not at Square One

An open database of the most established 100 BAME activists and experts



Inclusive public engagement confirms shared Local Historical Identity and builds a Sense of Belonging



Celebratory high profile planting event restoring the missing trees to the original 9 trees in the locality of Nine Elms in London with diverse presence in representation



Recognition of Cultural Presence and the significance of a sense of Belonging

Mughal Garden Lister Park Bradford

Claiming Cultural Presence and Making a Contribution



The Sikh community planted a native oak woodland for everyone to enjoy

This city fringe project at Nottingham's Bestwood Country Park commemorates the 300th Anniversary of the Khalsa, their holy scriptures



Theme 2 Engagement

- a. Stimulate and encourage **grass roots movements** for change
- b. Connect with and **resource local ethnic specific community groups**
- c. Work within the context of an **ongoing partnership as equal partners**
- d. **Identify cultural specific dimensions** relevant to the actions to be implemented
- e. **Identify and address barriers** and support the **co-creation of solutions**

Building Green Neighbourhoods through transforming Streets

Placemaking for people and nature beyond parks and gardens



- Urban streets should be targeted as part of our vision of planting millions of trees in the UK to contribute to net zero and meet needs
- Forward looking Local Authorities allow planting in tree pits and taking over of pavements with pots and other elements as long as a buggy or wheelchair can comfortably get through



Spaces for
transformation
are
everywhere

*Both low quality
green space and
hard spaces are
areas of
potential*



They
can
be
like
this

**These
spaces
are the
forest floor
of our
Urban
Forest**





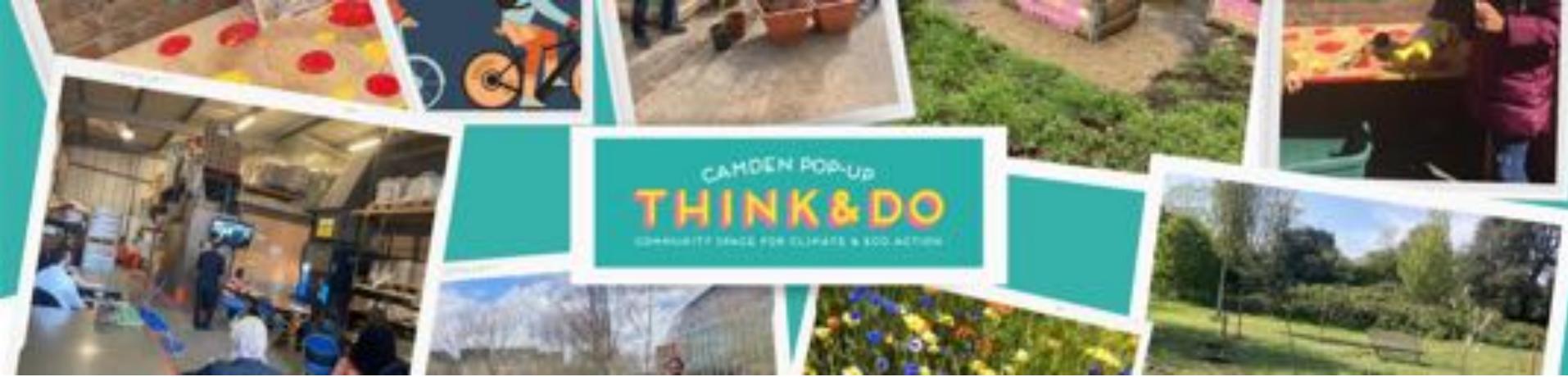
**Wildflower meadows and clusters of trees
to give an experience of nature at scale
Involving communities on social housing land or parks**



Indoor plants increased during Covid



Businesses can contribute too



Camden's 'Think & Do' Pop Up is a **community space** to give the chance to come together to develop ideas and projects tackling the climate and ecological crisis.

<https://www.thinkanddocamden.org.uk/>

The creation of a new civic space is a direct follow on from Camden's **Citizens' Assembly on the Climate Crisis** held in July 2019 which resulted in 17 recommendations. At its Full Meeting on 7th October 2019, the Council unanimously agreed to take forward all of them for its Final Action Plan

<https://www.camden.gov.uk/documents/20142/0/190723+Ideas+ballot+votes.pdf/7311979a-f984-fe06-b162-f5c9724579a9>

Building the Capacity to Re-imagine Urban Spaces



The power of re-
imagining opens
up all our futures

Dagenham &
Barking's Every
One Every Day
initiative has a
elaborate
community
programme
including extensive
maker spaces



The Use of the Arts for fun and informal education



Seeing differently - Opportunities in the Built Environment

Think out of the box - Even Pedestrian Crossings are Spaces for Creativity



Kilburn Underground's former ticket windows are now plantariums

Building an inclusive movement to unlock a vast contribution

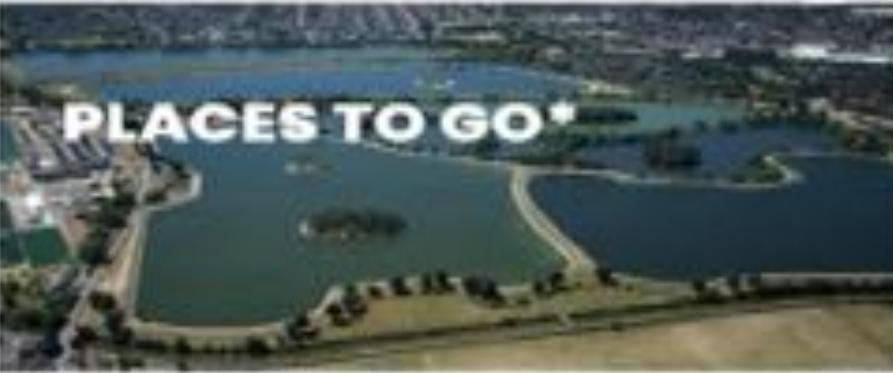
How-to Guides. Resources. Information. Programmes of Activities. Networks



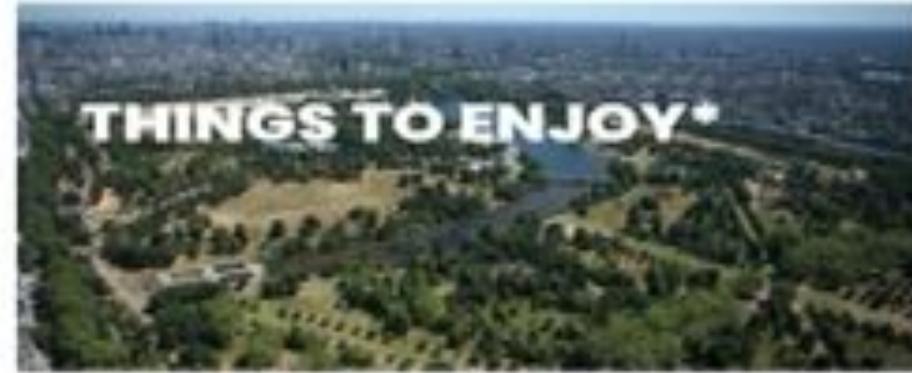
Signposting to make the most of London

"We love what we Enjoy and we protect what we love"

Judy Ling Wong 1987



PLACES TO GO*



THINGS TO ENJOY*



MAKE A DIFFERENCE*



GET MORE INVOLVED*

* Looking to get more involved with the London National Park City? You've found the right place.

Aligned Common Aims - Partnership Promotion and Resources

Green Healthier Wilder

LONDON
NATIONAL
PARK CITY*

PLACES TO DO ▾ THINGS TO ENJOY ▾ MAKE A DIFFERENCE ▾ WHAT'S ON ▾ GET MORE INVOLVED ▾ ABOUT US ▾

LATEST ARTICLES



The London City Views Ring Walk

Places to Go

[Read More...](#)



School Pupils Take Action for Conservation

Make a Difference

[Read More...](#)



Culture of Confinement is a Child Rights Issue

Make a Difference

[Read More...](#)



NATIONAL PARK CITY **TREE PLANTERS***

Setup a resident driven tree planting scheme

Make a Difference

[Read More...](#)

Amplifying Local and Global Voices and Networks

Our Ethnic Minorities represent Global Majorities



100 Voices
Local and Global
Events

*Building bridges of
global awareness*

The National Park
City Foundation is
working towards
**25 National Park
Cities by 2025**

We organise events for cities around the world. You can find them over on our www.nationalparkcity.org/events
For example:

**29 Oct 2020 – How to make cities #GreenerHealthierWilder! Voices from
around the world >**

**Monthly – Regular Monthly Open Meetings for Cities starting campaigns
to make your city a National Park City or working to achieve the status for
some time already. >**



Theme 3 Provision

- a. **Build cross-sector links**, recognising the interconnectedness of environment, health and diversity and equality, with training for outreach
- b. **Embed diversity and equality across sectors** to establish a framework of relevant provision
- c. **Resource local community based groups** such as youth clubs, or luncheon clubs for elders
- d. Give information to improve health through **personal action for self-care**
- e. Provide **interpretation services** and **multi-language information** – use Google Translate
- f. **Establish ethnic minority networks in workplaces** for support, consultation, and advocacy
- g. **Improve the local environment** – housing, green spaces, streetscapes etc.
- h. **Build equal access** to coming new wave of **green jobs** to achieve net zero
- i. **Policy and actions** including **activities for enjoyment and informal learning**



Multifunctional spaces - Multiuse Park
Burgess Park as backyard to the largest housing estate in Europe

The Popular Perception of Food Growing and Gardening as Nature

The Lambeth Plots initiative – Food Security and Resilience

Mapping Lambeth's food growing potential



Myatt's Fields Park grows and gives away 50,000 plug plants for allotments, gardens and balconies to enable the community to extend the growing and harvesting season

Outdoor Learning at School lays Foundations for a Life with Nature



Every School a Natural Thinker School

Natural Thinkers 10 commitments:

- 1. Children have access to a range of natural areas and materials outside.**
- 2. Children have opportunities to grow, pick and taste produce.**
- 3. Children have access to gardening and digging.**
- 4. Children care for their natural environment.**
- 5. Children engage with the weather and seasons.**
- 6. Children have opportunities to engage with wildlife.**
- 7. Children have daily access to the outside.**
- 8. Settings ensure no child is excluded from outdoor activities.**
- 9. Settings ensure parents have opportunities to get involved with Natural Thinkers activities.**
- 10. At least 1 member of staff must have attended Natural Thinkers training.**

The Countryside and All of Nature is Also Ours



- **Trips as of right to access our most beautiful natural places**
- **We cannot be prisoners in cities**
- **Knowing nature at large inspires different local actions and rich local futures**



COP26 – Local and Global

Promoting GI as a key part of the Solution In an urbanising world

- People centered policy
- Diverse representative voices
- Champions at the top can unlock resources supporting a movement of diverse people, recognising their agency to transform their local environment
- Health and well-being as a fundamental feature of Resilience
- Linking living conditions, jobs and the environment
- National and international programmes of developmental activities

Local actions sit within national and international frameworks of policy



New Wave of Green Jobs to meet legal requirement of net zero

The **Green Jobs Taskforce** forms part of the government's ambitious plan to build back greener and achieve net zero emissions by 2050. £12 billion. Creation of 2 million jobs

The Green Apprenticeships Advisory Panel, supporting the Taskforce, will help focus efforts to make sure the right skills are in place for the future workforce:

- **enhancing our current apprenticeships** to ensure that they meet the needs of the employers within the growing green economy
- **creating new apprenticeship** to reflect new occupations to meet the challenge to reach net-zero carbon



IF NOT NOW - WHEN?



**ARE WE THE
LAST GENERATION?**

***Green Infrastructure helps to build a world in which
People and Nature Thrive Together***



Contact: judy@ben-network.org.uk

www.judylingwong.co.uk

www.ben-network.org.uk

Downloadable resources/publications on BEN website

Green Infrastructure Standards Framework

Jane Houghton

Project Manager and Senior Adviser, Natural England



Project Aims

- Improve existing green infrastructure (GI) and create more GI to provide benefits for health, nature, climate and prosperity
- Help the country recover from Covid 19 by ensuring that everyone has access to good quality GI and by focusing on areas of poor GI provision especially in areas of multiple deprivation and health inequalities
- Mainstream GI as a key asset/ infrastructure in creating and maintaining sustainable places



GI Standards Review

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- **Stage 1 2019**
 - Evidence review of the benefits of GI
 - Drivers of Change for GI, Policy,
 - Reviewed 25 GI Standards in UK & 15 international GI Standards
 - Developed GI Principles
- **Stage 2 Review 2020-21**
 - Urban Greening Factors
 - Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards
 - Developed GI Mapping
 - Trials, Testing, Feedback

GI Standards Reviews & Trials

Trials locations

Greater Manchester

Cheshire and Mersey Forest (inc Liverpool City Region)

Carlisle St. Cuthbert's Garden Village

West Yorkshire Combined Authorities

Cornwall - Bodmin

Birmingham City Council

Birmingham/ Tyseley & Hay Mills

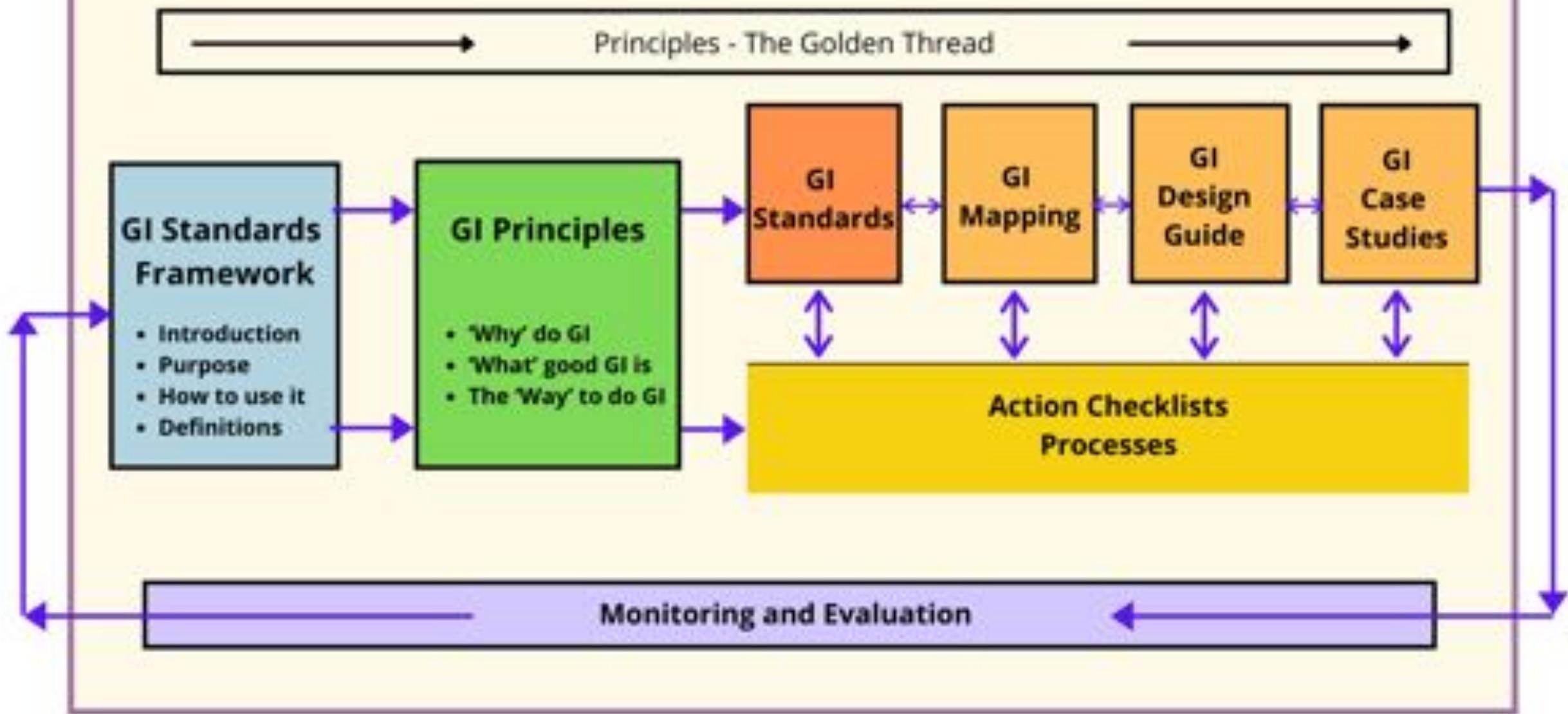
West of England GI Partnership

Greater Cambridge and Cambridgeshire

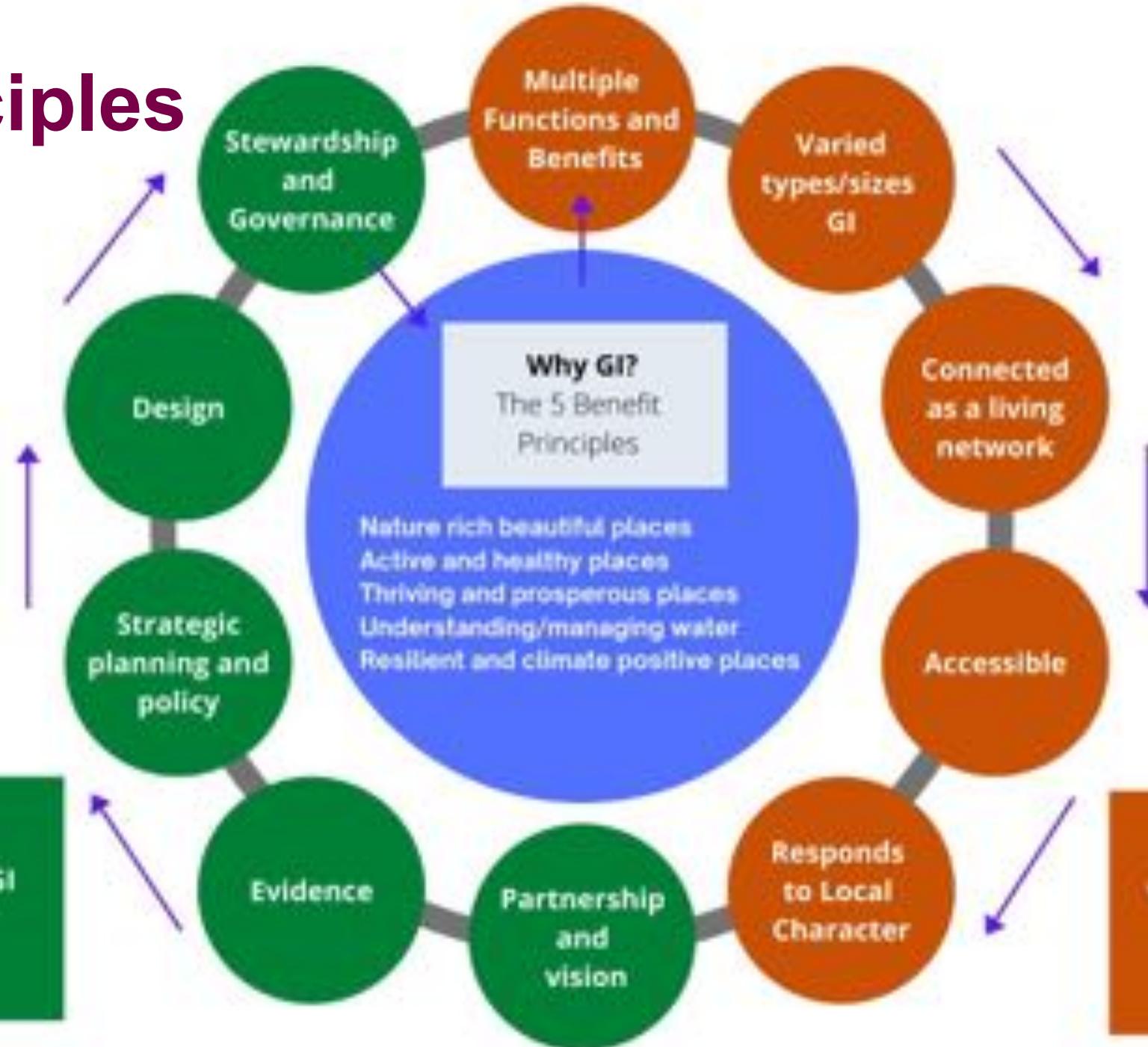
Essex



The Green Infrastructure Standards Framework



GI Principles



The GI Standards

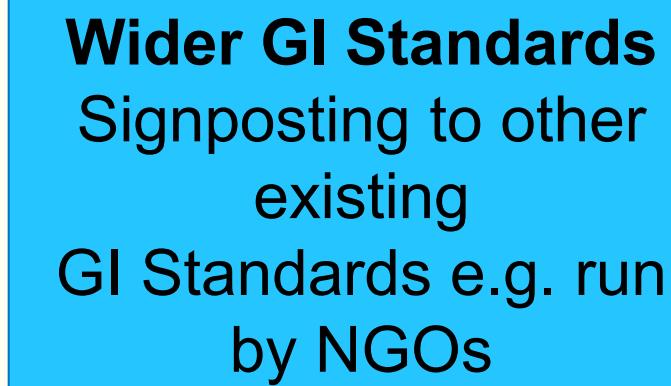


- **Standards**
 - ‘An agreed way of doing something.’ BSI
 - A level of quality or attainment
- Voluntary Standards
- Enables local setting of GI Standards
- Framework aims to increase the uptake of GI Standards overall
- Signposts to existing GI Standards
- Core Menu of GI Standards



Menu of GI Standards

P
R
I
N
C
I
P
L
E
S



Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards

(Draft Updated)

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Name of criterion	Size distance criteria	Walking & Cycling Times
Doorstep Greenspace	At least 0.5 ha within 200 metres	Under 5 mins walk
Local Natural Greenspace	At least 2 ha within 300 m (straight line route) or 500 m (actual route)	5- 10 mins walk 2 mins cycle
Neighbourhood Natural Greenspace	10 ha within 1 km	15 mins walk (4 mins cycle)
Wider neighbourhood	At least 20ha within 2km	25 mins walk
District	100 ha within 5 km	20 mins cycle
Sub-regional	500 ha within 10 km	40 mins cycle
Local Nature Reserves	At least 1 ha per 1000 population	10

Urban Greening Factor

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Urban Greening Factor =	Sum of (individual ecologically-effective surface area x weighting)
	Total site area

Southampton City Council GSF Tool – selection of factors

No	Surface Type (detailed descriptions given)	Score
1.01	Building surface area with no green roof	0.0
1.02	Extensive greenroofs - minimal planting depth / mineral substrate	0.6
1.03	Intensive greenroofs - wide variety of plant species requiring deeper substrate	0.7

1.04	Non-permeable surfaces	0.0
1.06	Semi-permeable surfaces e.g. sand and gravel	0.4
1.07	Grassland (short, amenity) - generally mown regularly	0.4
1.08	Grassland (long, rough) - cut seasonally,	0.5
1.09	Shrubs - vegetation with soil depth > 60 cm but no contact to subsoil	0.6

Next steps

- Pre-release of GI Mapping to Local Planning Authorities and GI Partnership in Autumn 2021
- Further development and testing of Core GI Standards and other components
- Launch of GI Standards Framework in summer 2022
- Consultation on GI Standards Framework
- Refinement
- Rollout 2022 onwards
 - Collaborative approach
 - Training

Many thanks
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Acknowledgements for photos: Martin Moss, Julia Thrift, Manchester City Council, Jane Houghton



Achieving a Healthy Green Recovery – the essential role of green infrastructure

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Green Infrastructure Design Guide

Andrew Linfoot

Global Technology Lead for Landscape Architecture

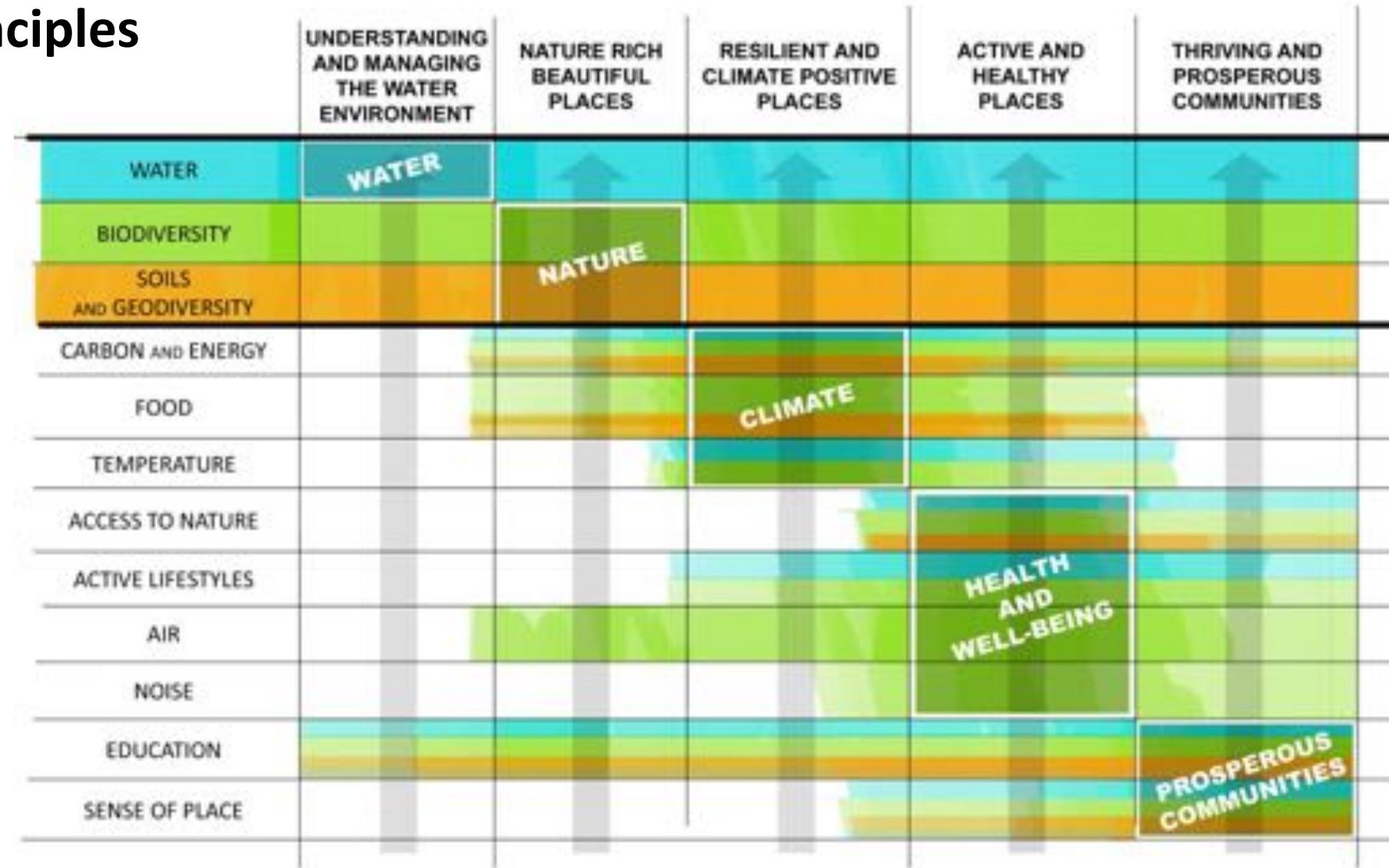
Green Infrastructure Design Guide – making it happen

- Focused on the outcomes – addressing the health and wellbeing, climate and biodiversity emergencies.
- Meeting the needs of its users – Local Government Officers and developers.
- Getting over the barriers – confidence to deliver GI (*see my poll*).
- Evidence – it can be done and done well.
- Pragmatism – making it real.
- Where does GI happen – from strategy and policy through to mowing the grass.
- National Design Codes – how GI can be delivered through the codes.
- Context driven – recognizing the diversity of our landscape and places.
- Build Better. Build Beautiful.

The Benefit Principles

Systems

GI functions

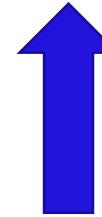


Connectivity and Multifunctionality: What is good Green Infrastructure

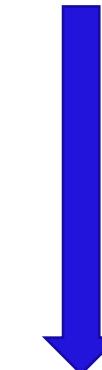
What it is and how it works.

Typologies

- The Rural Landscape
- Agriculture
- Industry
- Highways
- Commerce, Employment, and Healthcare
- The River Corridor
- Wildlife Reserves
- Roads and streets
- Pathways
- Parks, Recreation, and Community Greenspace
- Schools
- Gardens



Multi-functionality
Varied
Connected
Accessible
Character



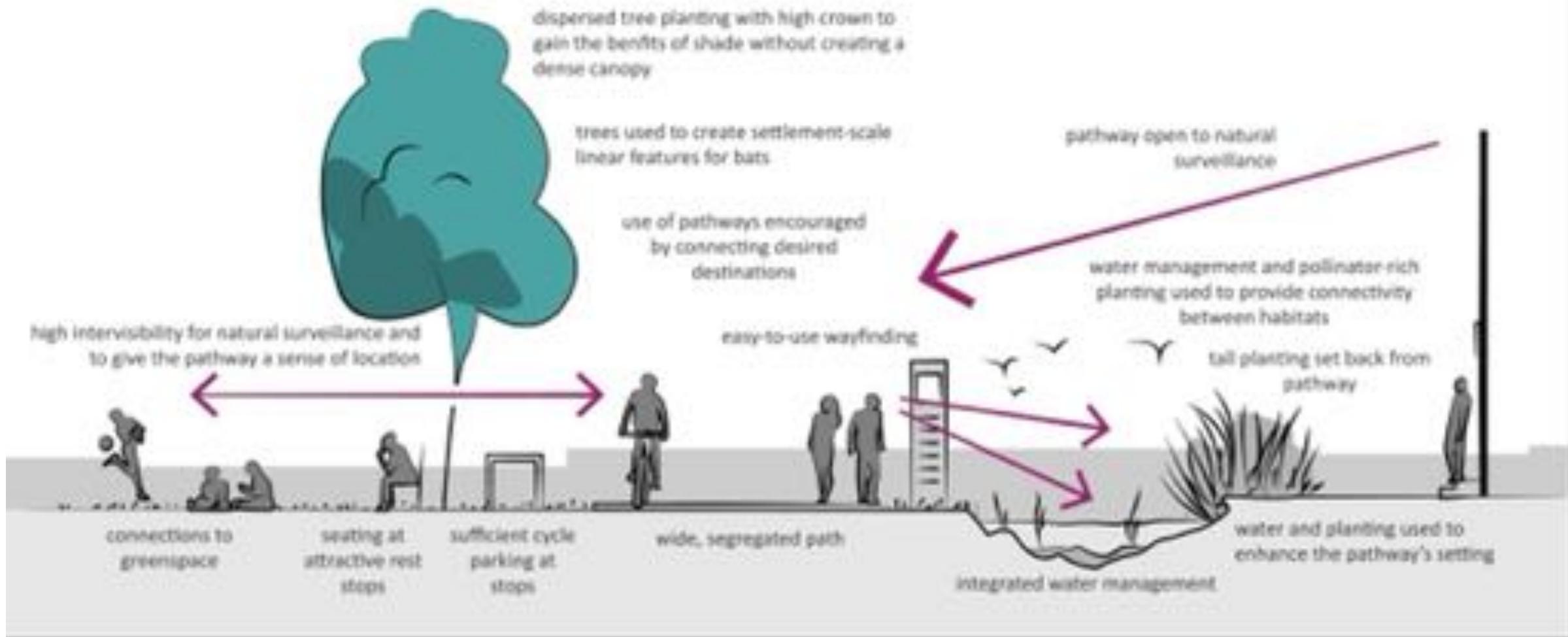
National Model Design Code

Characteristics of well designed places

GI systems and functions

	Context	Movement	Nature	Built form	Identity	Public space	Uses	Homes and buildings	Resources	Lifespan
Biodiversity										
Water										
Carbon and energy										
Food										
Soils										
Temperature										
Access to nature										
Active lifestyles										
Air										
Noise										
Education										
Sense of Place										

Active lifestyles





Challenging today.
Reinventing tomorrow.



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England Baseline Green Infrastructure Mapping.

Martin Moss, Senior Adviser Green Infrastructure
Natural England

Why are we doing this work?



25 Year Environment Plan Chapter 3 – Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing.

Three key commitments;

- Help people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces including through mental health services.
- Encourage children to be close to nature, in and out of school, with particular focus on disadvantaged areas.
- ‘Green’ our towns and cities by creating green infrastructure and planting one million urban trees.

We may know where we want to go, but where are we now and how will we monitor change over time? The Green Infrastructure Mapping is designed to help with this by providing a dateable baseline position.

Four key objectives.



We aim to create the first England wide Green Infrastructure mapping database.

A resource that will;

1. Provide a nationally consistent (cross authority) approach to GI mapping and analysis for England;
2. Provide all areas with equal access to data and maps and be as publicly accessible as possible.
3. Provide evidence to support a range of national to local planning, strategy and targeting needs;
4. Provide information at multiple scales (England, Local Authority, Middle Super Output Area and Lower Super Output Area) capable of being supplemented with local data.

A brief look at some of the work done to date.



- The main focus of work to date has been on compiling data on Green Infrastructure assets and undertaking a variety of assessments examining accessibility.
- This presentation will provide a brief introduction to 5 core elements of the work done so far More work is planned.
 1. Green Infrastructure Asset maps.
 2. Accessible Natural Green Space Standards Analysis (ANGSt).
 3. Accessible Natural Green Space Inequalities Analysis.
 4. Nature Close2Home Analysis - Children.
 5. Access to Water Side Analysis.

Analysis 1. Green Infrastructure Asset Maps.



- 1.1 Public Park - General
- 1.2 Public Park - Country Park
- 1.3 Millennium or Doorstep Green
- 1.4 Local Nature Reserve
- 1.5 National Nature Reserve
- 1.6 Playing Fields
- 1.7 Other Sports Facility
- 2.1 Access Land (CRoW)
- 3.1 Woodland
- 4.1 Water Courses and Surface Water Features
- 5.1 Allotment or Community Growing Spaces
- 5.2 Activity Spaces Provision
- 5.3 Cemeteries and Religious Grounds
- 5.4 Golf Course
- 5.5 Play Space Provision



Mapping the location of a range of green space assets.

Assets are compared with socio-economic data to create “analyses”.

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Accessible Green Spaces – Not all Green Infrastructure is publicly accessible.



Not all Green Infrastructure is publicly accessible.



In this work, publicly accessible green spaces are;

- Normally accessible to the general public at least during daylight hours.
- Are free to access.
- Provide space for a range of informal pastimes, recreational activities or general contemplation and enjoyment.

Spaces provided specifically for public access or over which there is a right of public access.

There will be other spaces used locally under a range of situations that are not included.

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Analysis 2. Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt) Analysis.



About 1 in 3 people across England are within the 200m Buffer.

The are 6 Accessible Natural Green Space Standards in a range of size and distance criteria.

This example is the "Doorstep" standard.

It advocates the provision of a green space of at least 0.5 Ha of within 200m.

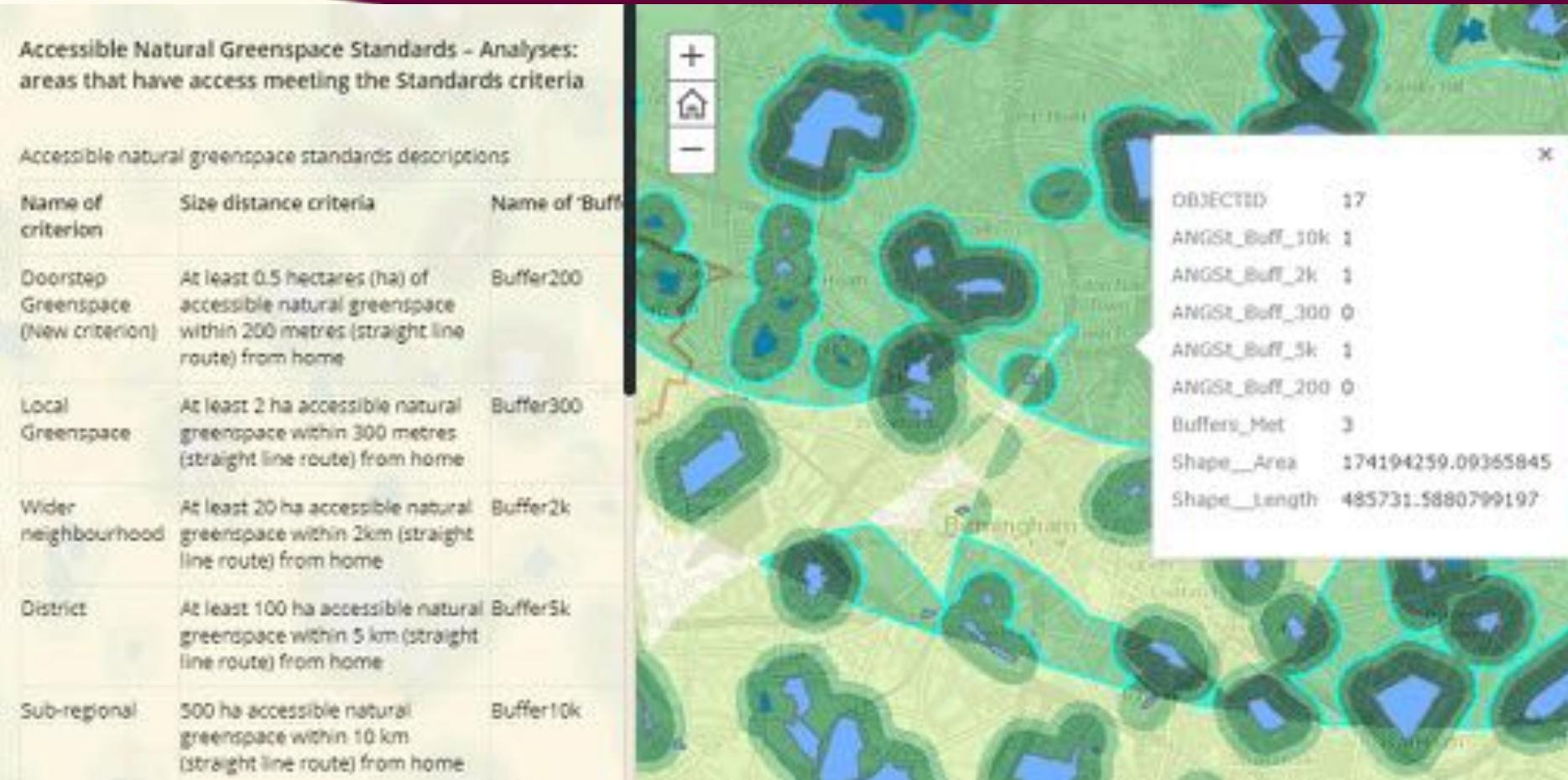
Or a green space about the size of a football pitch within about 5 mins walk.

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Natural Green Space Accessibility – the local profile.

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Maps showing the overlaps between different buffers can be created to show which standards are or are not met at any location.

(The ANGSt Profile).

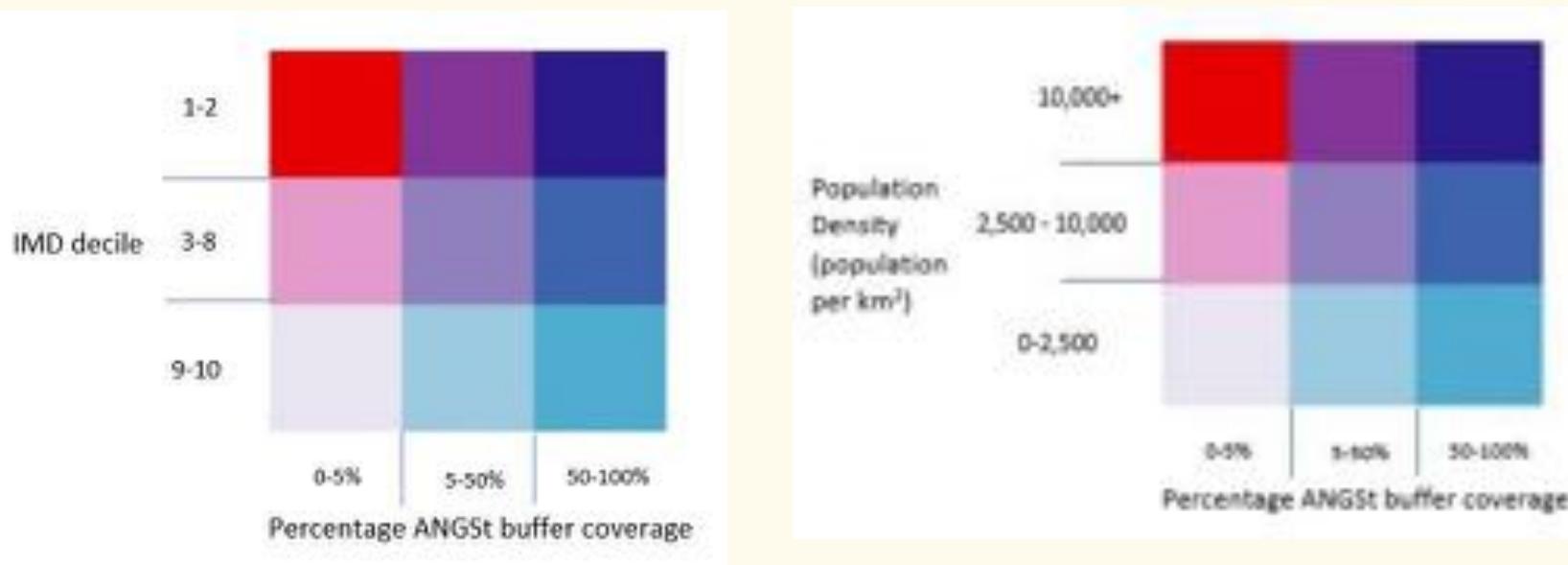
Understanding Green Space Provision – Local and Strategic.

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Analysis 3. Accessible Natural Green Space Inequalities Maps.



This method looks at inequalities in access provision between areas.

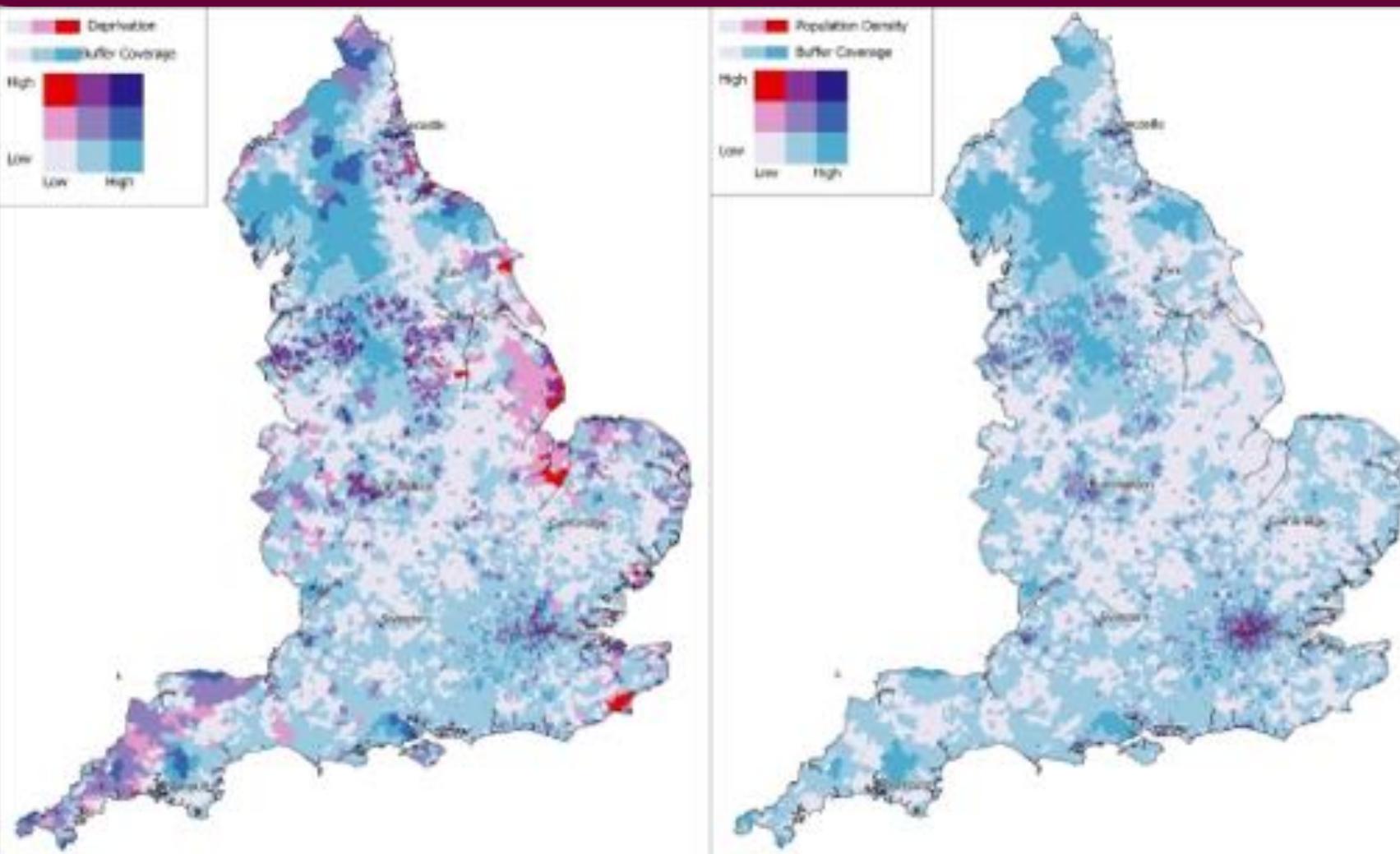


Compares the percentage of an area that is within an Access to Natural Green Space Standards Buffer zone with another variable.

Assigning an "Inequality Class".
L1 = Least favourable Scenario.
H3 = Most favourable Scenario.

This analysis looked at comparison with the **Index of Multiple Deprivation** for one analysis and **population density** for another.

Access inequality maps for 200m Accessible Natural Green Space Buffer.



Index of Multiple Deprivation

Spatial unit = Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA).

Population Density

These maps show the distribution of "Access Inequality Scenarios".

The red areas are those where accessibility is lowest and are either "Most Deprived" according to IMD, or have high population density (more than 10,000 people per square kilometre).

The red areas are where we expect there may be the most significant inequalities in access to Natural Green Space.

Local data and knowledge would refine these maps.

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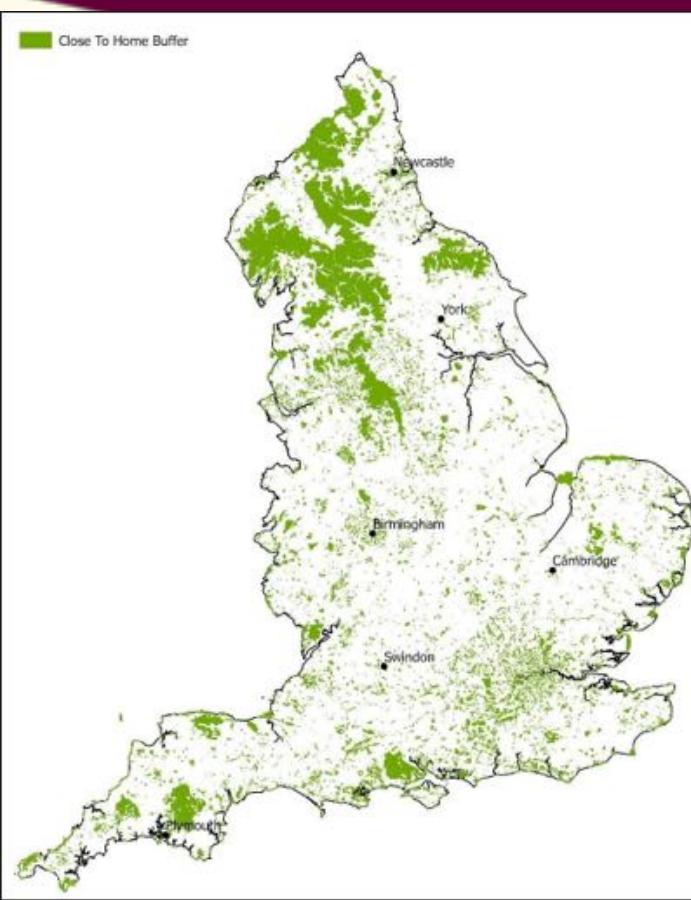
Analysis 4. Nature Rich Places Close2Home.



- Children and young people analysis (under 16).
- We want more children to have daily contact with nature.
- We need more nature rich places close to where children live.
- The “Nature Close2Home Zone”.
- Using a 300m buffer around “Nature Rich Green Spaces” we have assessed the percentage of children who are in the “zone”.



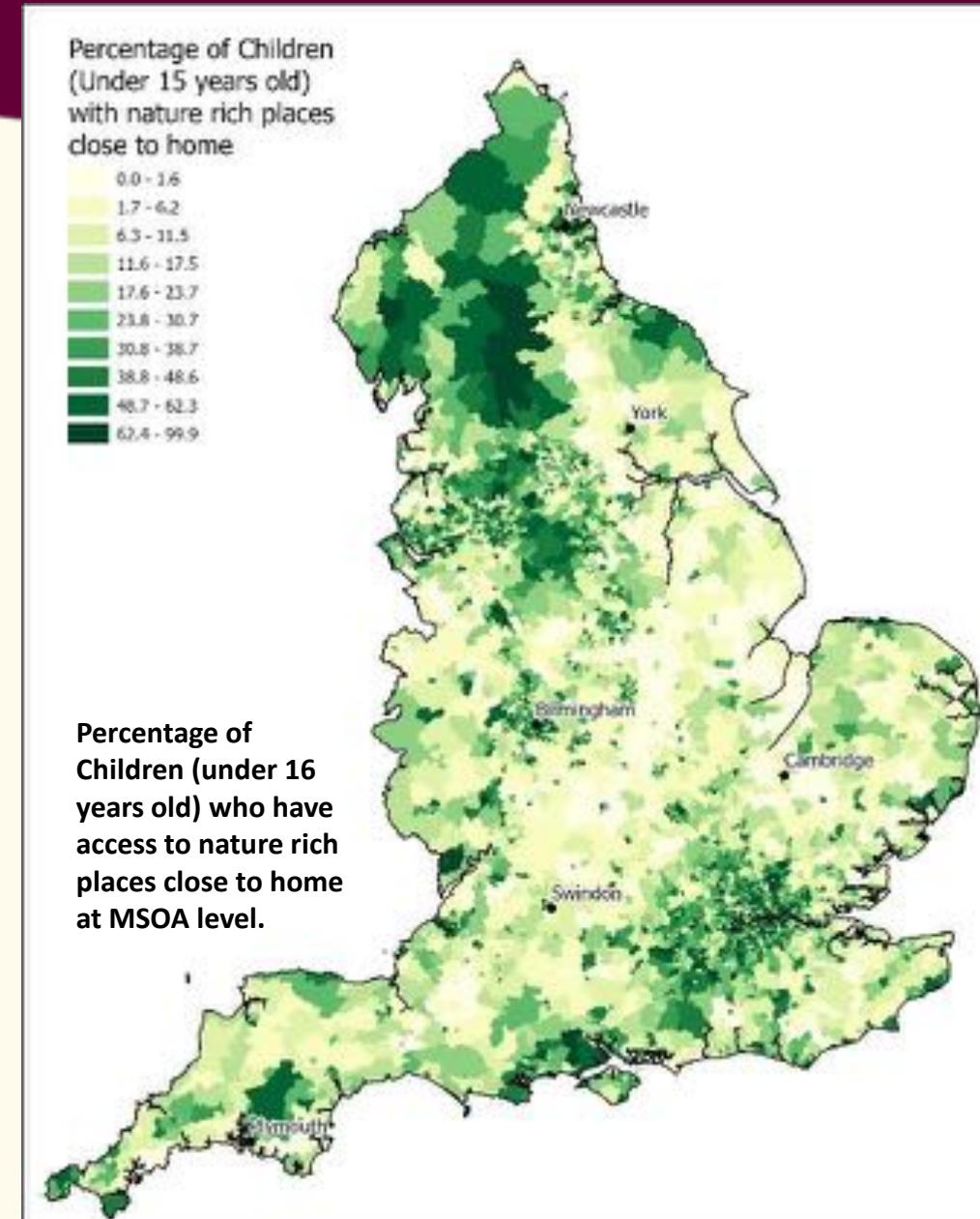
Nature Rich Spaces – The Close2Home Zone.



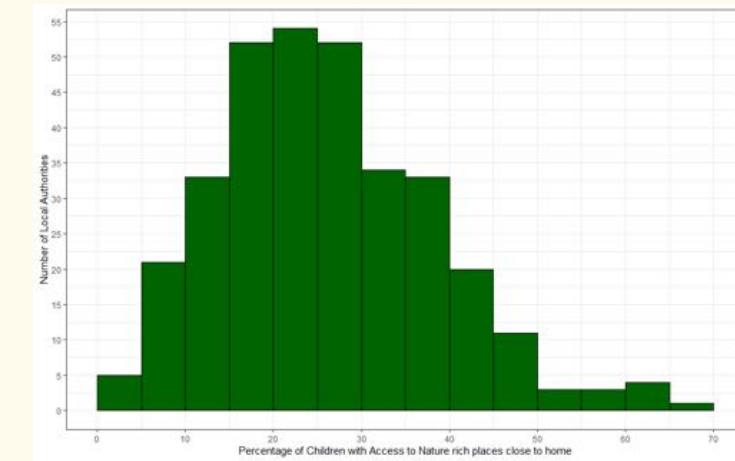
The 300m Close2Home zone.

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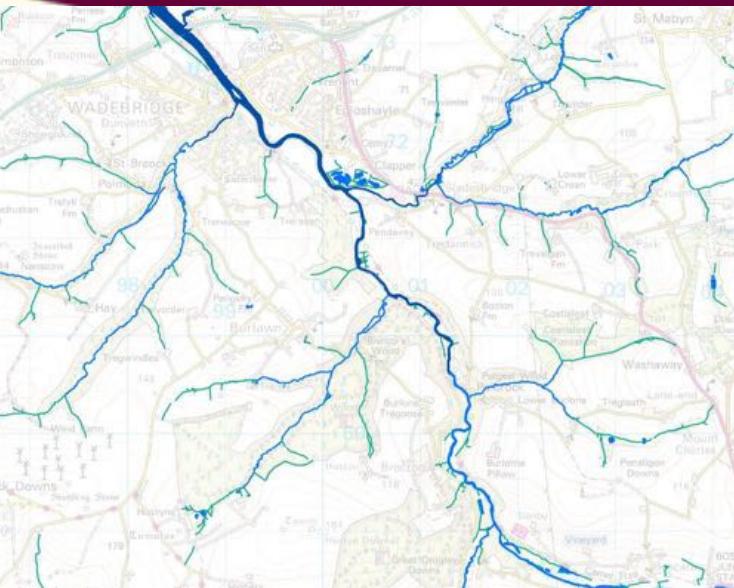


Shows the variation in opportunity that children have to access local nature on a frequent basis.



The mean percentage of children (by Local Authority) who have access to nature rich places close to home is 26.04%.

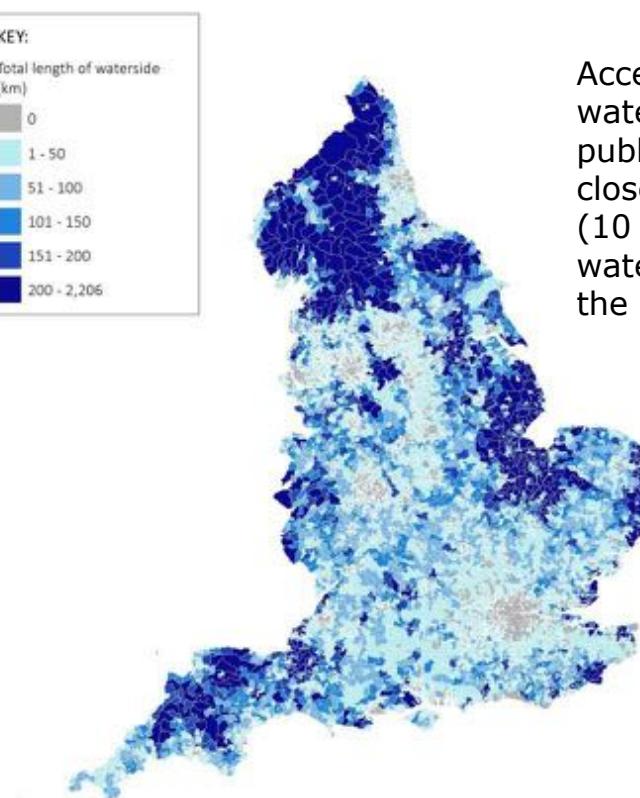
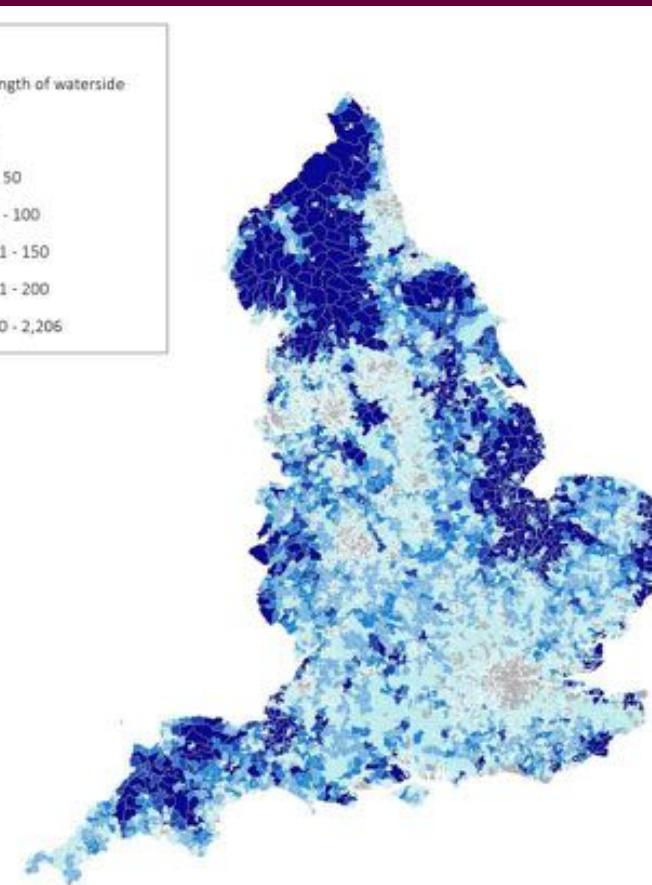
Analysis 5 - Blue Infrastructure – Access to Waterside.



Blue Infrastructure network
(the wet bits!).

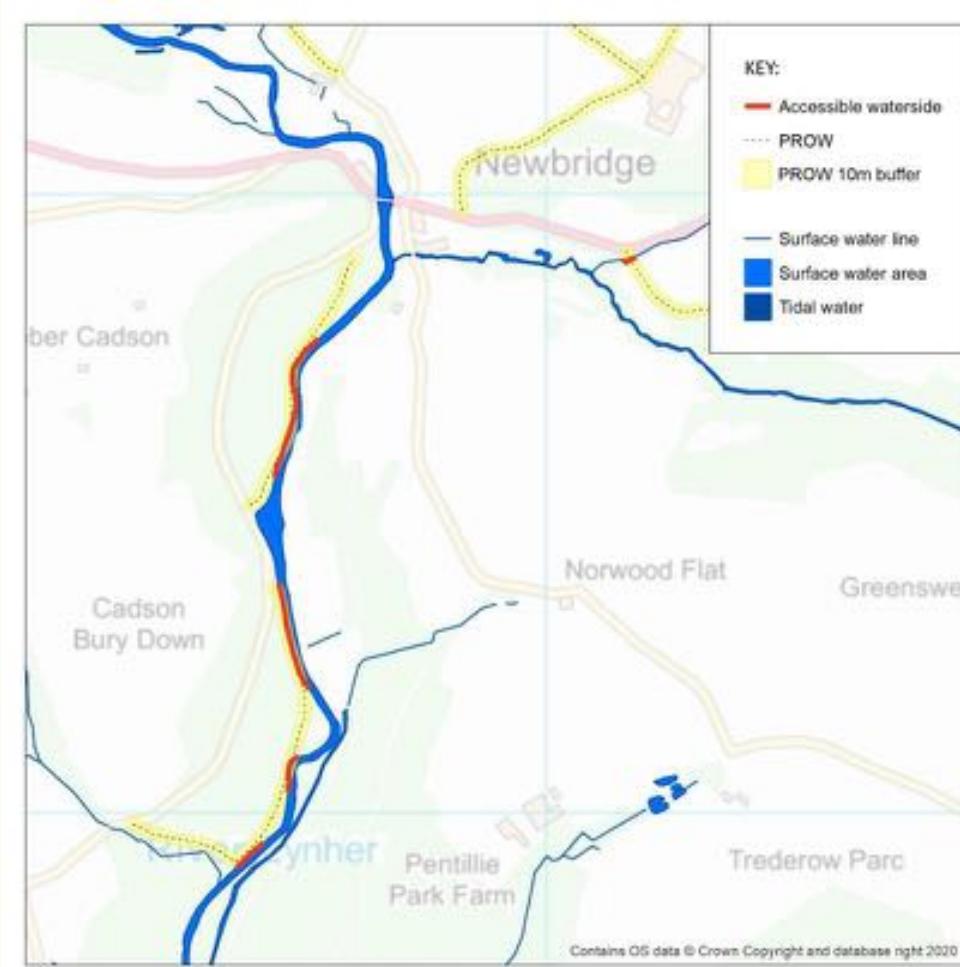
We have brought together
data on water courses and
water bodies.

We have mapped the
total km of waterside.
This means the water
edge, not the water
itself.



We have mapped those parts of
the total waterside resource that
are accessible by Public Rights
of Way and/or accessible green
spaces.

Access to waterside by Public Rights of Way and Access Spaces.



Map showing example of Public Rights of Way with 10m buffer and intersecting waterside.



Map showing example of accessible natural green space with 1m buffer and intersecting waterside.

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Making the maps accessible.



- We are working to establish a web portal for the Green Infrastructure Standards.
- The Open Data version (V1.1 OGL) will be hosted on the website as an Early Release Version.
- This will make available the work done so far.
- Go live is expected in the Autumn 2021.

These approaches are developmental.



- These analyses are a first step toward understanding some complex issues at an England wide level.
- We will be seeking feedback on:
- The approaches taken;
- How they match with circumstances on the ground;
- How useable they are;
- How they may be improved.
- V 1.1 is the beginning not the end. We will seek to update and improve over time.

Acknowledgements.



- Funded by Defra, Natural England and the Natural Capital and Ecosystems Assessment Programme.
- Work undertaken for Natural England and Defra by ADAS and the Westcountry Rivers Trust (Blue Infrastructure).



Photo – Martin Moss

End of the Story so far...



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