

APPENDIX 6N – PUBLICATION EXTRACTS RELEVANT TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTUREActions for Housing Growth, CABI, 2007

CABI and its partners in producing this document, Natural England, English Heritage, the Environment Agency and the Academy for Sustainable Communities, share a vision of what makes a good place:-

- *Places that respect and enhance the area's context, reinforcing or creating a positive identity*
- *Landscapes that are multi-functional and provide opportunities for food, water and energy production and healthy living*
- *Neighbourhoods where it is convenient and safe to walk or cycle to the shops, the primary school, and the doctor's surgery and where, if travelling further afield, getting on a bus, tram or train, rather than in the car, is a first choice not a last resort*
- *Homes and streets that are well designed, meeting the CABI/Home Builders Federation Building for Life standard*
- *Mixed neighbourhoods where a range of types and tenures of houses and flats are available for all, where people can move to another home locally when their needs or circumstances change*
- *Places that are well managed and looked after*
- *Homes that people can easily change or extend*

In planning the scale of development, the document recommends that proposals should **“seek to reconnect green infrastructure (the network of open space, woodlands, wildlife habitat, parks and other natural areas) and integrate it into strategic planning.”**

Under the guiding principles contained within Action 4, it suggests that:-

“The green infrastructure alongside a development, when well designed, can provide a range of social, economic and environmental benefits – including for example children's play areas, attractive walking and cycle routes, flood storage areas, biodiversity, air quality improvement, shelter from the wind, and space to grow food and wood for fuel.”

Action 6 describes the requirements for green infrastructure in more detail, recommending the promotion of **“multi-functional open space to support recreation, biodiverse wildlife habitats, cultural heritage, energy production, water and waste treatment, sustainable transport, education, food production, flood alleviation and sustainable drainage”** whilst **“ensuring that proposals are integrated into wider regional, sub-regional and local open green space frameworks including green grids, and open space and green space strategies...”**

Active Design, Sport England, 2006

The CABI approach is supported by 'Active Design' (Sport England, 2006). It states that:-

“Good masterplanning promotes the creation of new open space networks based on existing landscape features and characteristics such as planting, landform and water features. The provision of attractive and well integrated sports and leisure facilities should be a significant and important part of this landscape framework and development layout. It places sports and physical activity on the design agenda and can also raise the profile of sports and recreation activities through design excellence.”

The Essential Role of Green Infrastructure: Eco-Towns Green Infrastructure Worksheet Advice to Promoters and Planners, TCPA, DLCCG and Natural England, 2008

The Worksheet advises that proposals for GI should be:-

“.....designed and managed as a multi-functional resource capable of providing the landscape, ecological services and quality of life benefits that are required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability. Its design and management should also protect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types.”

Also that:-

“GI includes new and established green spaces, which should thread through and surround the built environment, connecting the urban area to its wider rural hinterland. It should be delivered at all spatial scales – regional, sub regional, local and neighbourhood levels – and should accommodate both accessible natural green spaces within local communities and much larger sites in the urban fringe and wider countryside.”

A suggested typology of green infrastructure assets are:-

- *Parks and gardens;*
- *Amenity green space;*
- *Allotments, community gardens, city farms, orchards, roof gardens, urban edge farmland;*
- *Cemeteries and churchyards;*
- *Natural and semi-natural rural and urban green spaces;*
- *Green corridors;*
- *Existing locally designated sites for nature conservation i.e. SINC's;*
- *Archaeological and historic sites;*
- *Functional green space i.e. SUDs*

In planning development, it is recommended that proposals should adhere to the following set of GI principles:-

1. *Green infrastructure should be a primary consideration in planning, developing and maintaining an eco-town;*
2. *Green infrastructure should be provided as a varied, widely distributed, strategically planned and interconnected network;*
3. *Green infrastructure should be factored into land values and decisions on housing densities and urban structure.....;*
4. *Green infrastructure should be accessible to local people and provide alternative means of transport;*
5. *Green infrastructure should be designed to reflect and enhance the area's locally distinctive character, including local landscapes and habitats. It should also support specific local priorities and strategies for environmental management;*
6. *Green infrastructure should be supported by a GI strategy;*
7. *Green infrastructure should be multi-functional;*
8. *Green infrastructure should be implemented through coordinated planning, delivery and management that cuts across local authority departments and boundaries and across different sectors;*
9. *Green infrastructure should be able to achieve physical and functional connectivity between sites at all levels and right across a town, city or sub-region;*

10. *Green infrastructure should be implemented primarily through focussed GI strategies and the spatial planning system of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks (LDFs), and should be formally adopted within these planning policy documents;*
11. *Green infrastructure should be established permanently, with financial support for continued maintenance and adaptation.*

Nature Nearby: Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance, Natural England, 2010

The overarching principle of Nature Nearby is to **“provide inspiring green spaces with high quality access to the natural environment.”** The guidance proposes that the following Natural England objectives be adopted by greenspace professionals when planning and delivering green infrastructure.

1. *Access to Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt)*
2. *Visitor Service Standards (e.g. Nature Reserve, Country Park)*
3. *Greenspace Quality Standard (e.g. Green Flag)*

The guidance suggests that, *“Accessible greenspace, particularly in urban areas, is now becoming recognised as providing some of the fundamental needs of society, rather than just being ‘nice to have’.* Natural England’s definition of greenspace is very broad and encompasses a wider range of spaces than those traditionally considered as either ‘natural areas’ or parks, gardens and playing fields.”

It goes on to state that, *“The provision of accessible greenspace within green infrastructure in and around urban areas significantly contributes to creating places where people want to live and work.”* and that green infrastructure *“is an essential component of good planning for urban and rural areas, particularly in the face of climate change.”*

Under the policy context, *“Natural England wants all people in England to have the opportunity to be inspired by the natural environment through outdoor activity, and especially to reach those who do not currently see it as relevant to their lives. This addresses the need for people to have places to access and enjoy a high quality natural environment....We believe that places where people can enjoy the natural environment should be improved and created where they are most wanted and needed: close to where people live; and where they want to visit.”*

Natural England’s position with regard to housing and growth includes, **“Necessary housing growth should be accommodated with minimum impact on the natural environment, and should deliver maximum benefits for the natural environment and people together.”** It goes on to say that, **“The provision of green infrastructure should be an integral part of the creation of sustainable communities throughout England...The provision of accessible, multi-functional green spaces as an integral part of all new development can considerably enhance the quality of development, and deliver a wide range of benefits for people and the natural environment.”** Chapter 3: Accessible Greenspace and Spatial Planning suggests that, **“Delivering the requirements of green infrastructure is only part of the story; unless a sufficient quantity of greenspace is accessible to the public, the needs of local people will not be met.”**