

United Kingdom

Green Infrastructure Framework



TYPE OF TOOL
*Methodology/
Guidelines/
Requirements*



MAIN SECTORS
All sectors



THEME
Green



INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS
*Long-term strategic vision;
Transparent, systematic and effective
stakeholder participation*

In a nutshell



OBJECTIVE: The Green Infrastructure Framework is aimed at supporting the greening of UK's towns and cities and connections with the surrounding landscape.



Agency in charge
Natural England



Levels of government
National and sub-national



Year of implementation
2023



Current status
Fully operational

Overview

Good quality Green Infrastructure (GI) has an important role to play in urban and rural environments for improving health and wellbeing, air quality, nature recovery and resilience to and mitigation of climate change, along with addressing issues of social inequality and environmental decline. The GI Framework is a commitment by the UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. It supports the greening of towns and cities and connections with the surrounding landscape. The GI Framework will help local planning authorities and developers to consider GI in local plans and in new development. It can support better planning for good quality GI, and help to target the creation or improvement of GI, particularly where existing provision is poorest. The framework comprises of: i) GI Principles covering the why, what and how to do good GI; ii) GI Standards providing guidance on national standards for green infrastructure quantity and quality; iii) GI Maps providing mapped environmental, socio-economic datasets to support the standards; iv) GI Planning and Design Guide providing practical, evidence-based advice on how to design good quality GI; and v) GI Process Journeys guiding on how to apply all the products in the GI Framework. The development of the GI Framework has been overseen by a cross departmental steering group as part of the 25 Year Environment Plan. The Framework development has also benefited from technical input from an advisory group made up of Local Authorities, academics, sector institutions, voluntary sector bodies, representative organisations and businesses. Consultation on the emerging Framework products has taken place in several phases with a broad range of key stakeholders. These activities included local planning authority trials, housing and development sector consultation, local authority consultation and a public survey consultation. Local authorities will be supported in assessing their green infrastructure against the new standards through a programme of training that supports uptake and delivery. Over time the GI standards will be monitored and evaluated as part of the 25 Year Environment Plan Outcomes Indicator Framework for blue and green infrastructure. This data will be used to understand how and whether the GI Standards should be adjusted.

REFERENCES:

- Natural England, *Green Infrastructure Framework*, <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx>