

HYBRID PARKS



Home of England's Finest Gardens



HYBRID PARKS

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Green Infrastructure – An England Perspective.

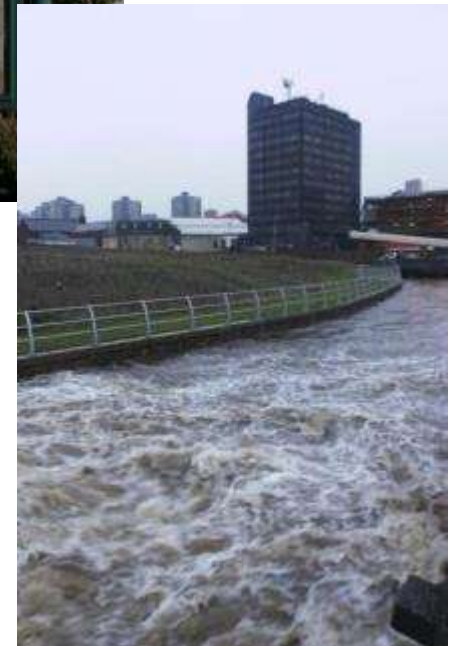
Better functional spaces and places.

Natural England.



- Natural England is the government's advisor on the natural environment. We provide practical advice, grounded in science, on how best to safeguard England's natural wealth for the benefit of everyone.
- Our remit is to ensure sustainable stewardship of the land and sea so that people and nature can thrive. It is our responsibility to see that England's rich natural environment can adapt and survive intact for future generations to enjoy.
- Martin Moss. Senior Advisor Green Infrastructure.

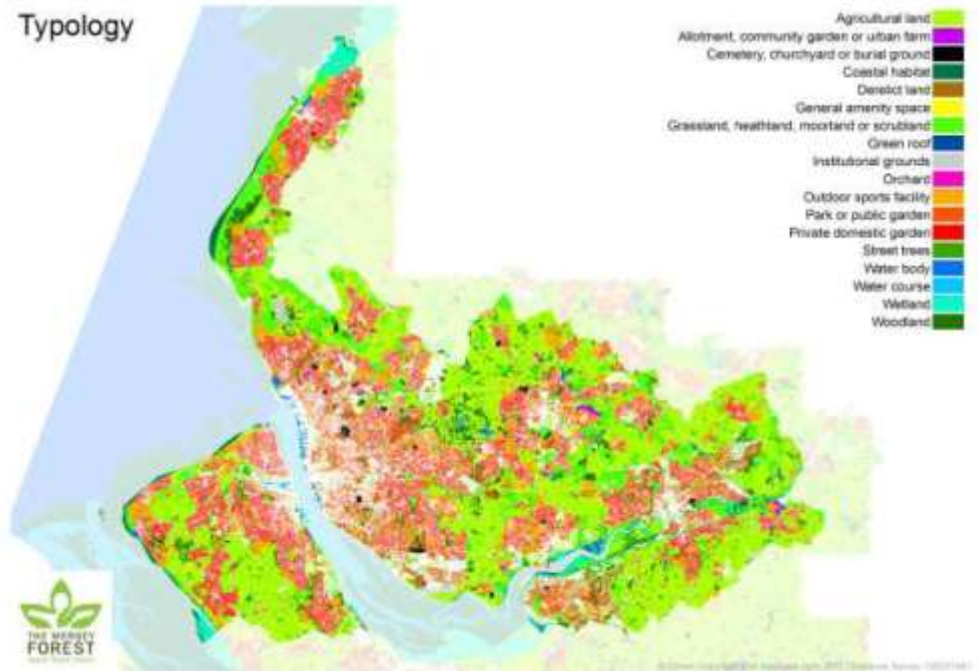
What do we mean by Green Infrastructure?



Green Infrastructure – what is the green bit?.



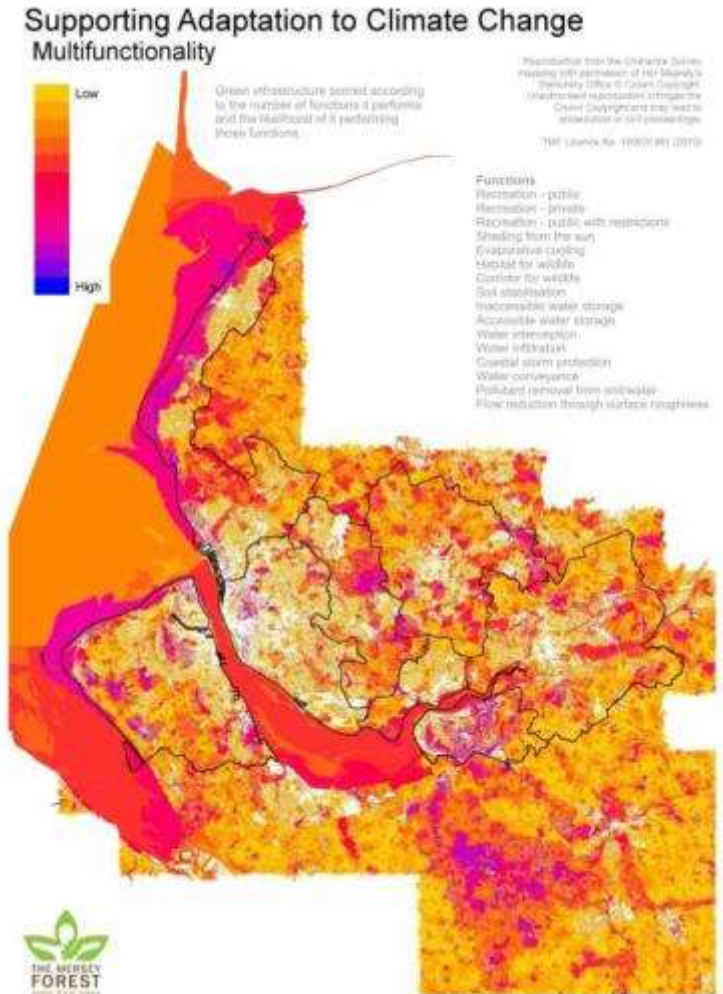
- A collection of “natural” components and spaces.
- A simple typology.
- Based on open spaces typologies.
- What sort of space is this?
- Allows us to consider what it is doing.



Green Infrastructure – what is the infrastructure bit?

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- Delivering functions.
- Systems and networks.
- Biodiversity, water management, quality of place, health and wellbeing, climate change adaption, recreation, education etc.
- The role of the natural environment in developing more sustainable places.



Definitions – There are many.

- All say similar things.
- Recent EU communication provides a “working definition”;

Green Infrastructure (GI) — Enhancing Europe’s Natural Capital

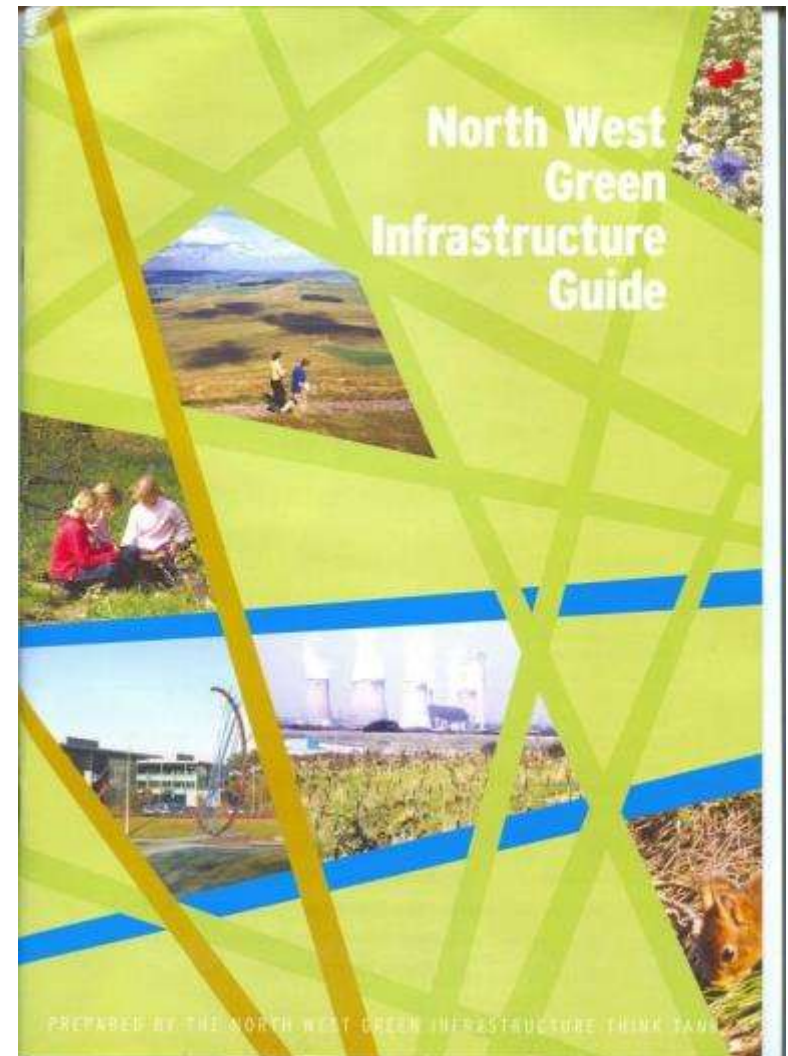
- “a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services. It incorporates green spaces (or blue if aquatic ecosystems are concerned) and other physical features in terrestrial (including coastal) and marine areas. On land, GI is present in rural and urban settings”.



Green Infrastructure Planning – the technically rational bit.



- A spatial Planning technique.
- Based on a logic chain style of analysis.
- Type – What have we got?
- Function – What is it doing?
- Benefit – What do we get out of that?
- Value – How much, how important?



Green Infrastructure Strategy – the engagement, discussion and agreement bit.



- Communication. Engaging people and developing better understanding and agreement.
- Planning. Agreeing on what needs to be done and where.
- Investment. Understanding value to enable investment.
- Delivery. The bottom line.
- Delivery informed by Needs –
- What we need to keep because it is doing an important job.
- What we need to enhance because we need it to function better.
- What we need to create to fulfil needs that are currently un-met.

Green Infrastructure in England ?

Policy, planning, strategy and delivery at multiple scales.



National Planning Policy Framework.

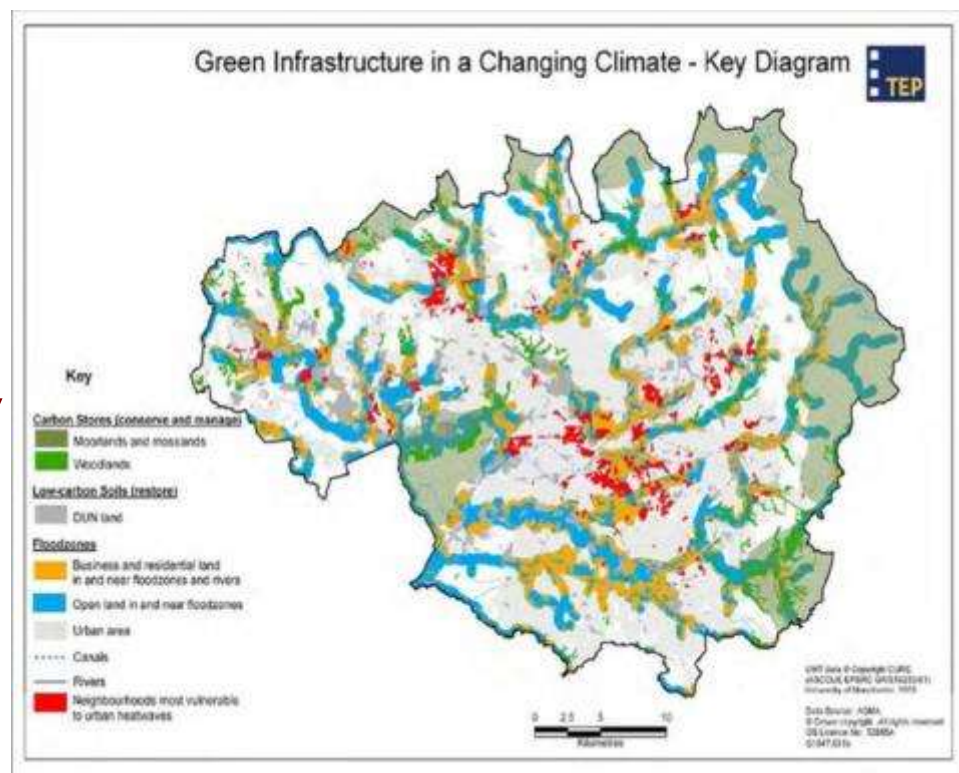


- Our high level statutory policy framework.
- Provides close links for GI with -
 - Ecosystem or “natural” services.
 - Ecological networks.
 - Climate change adaptation.
- Policy 114;
- Local Planning Authorities should set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure.

Sub-National Frameworks.

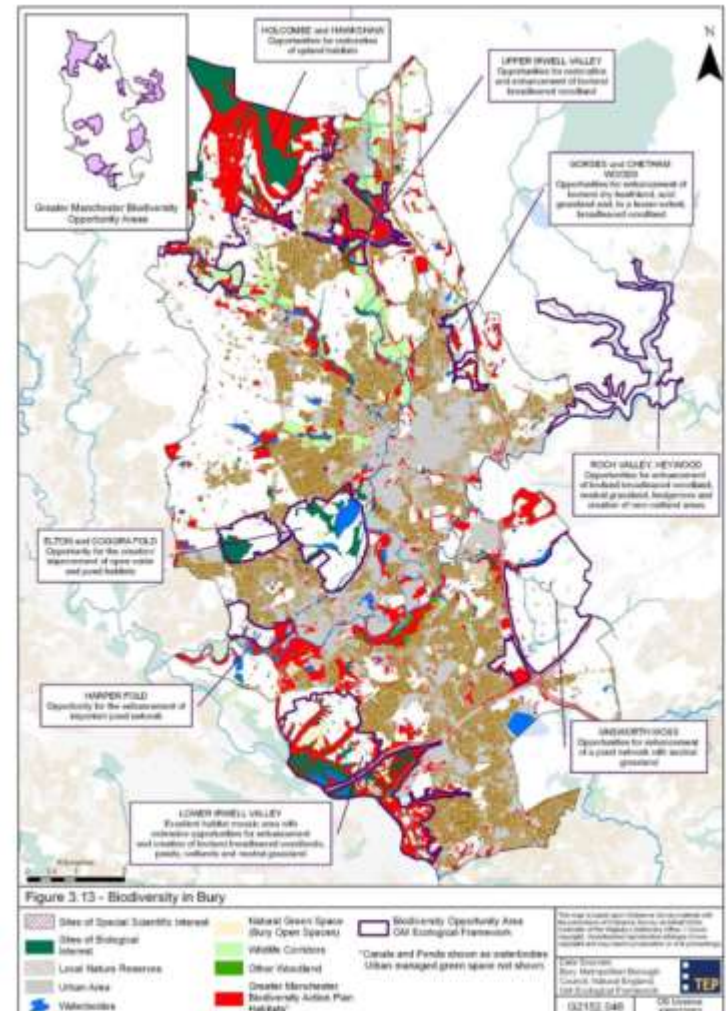


- County and City Region scale.
- Non-Statutory.
- Need to work together on the bigger things.
- Consistent evidence base.
- Joined up across boundary (aids with duty to cooperate).
- Common understanding, approach and direction of travel.



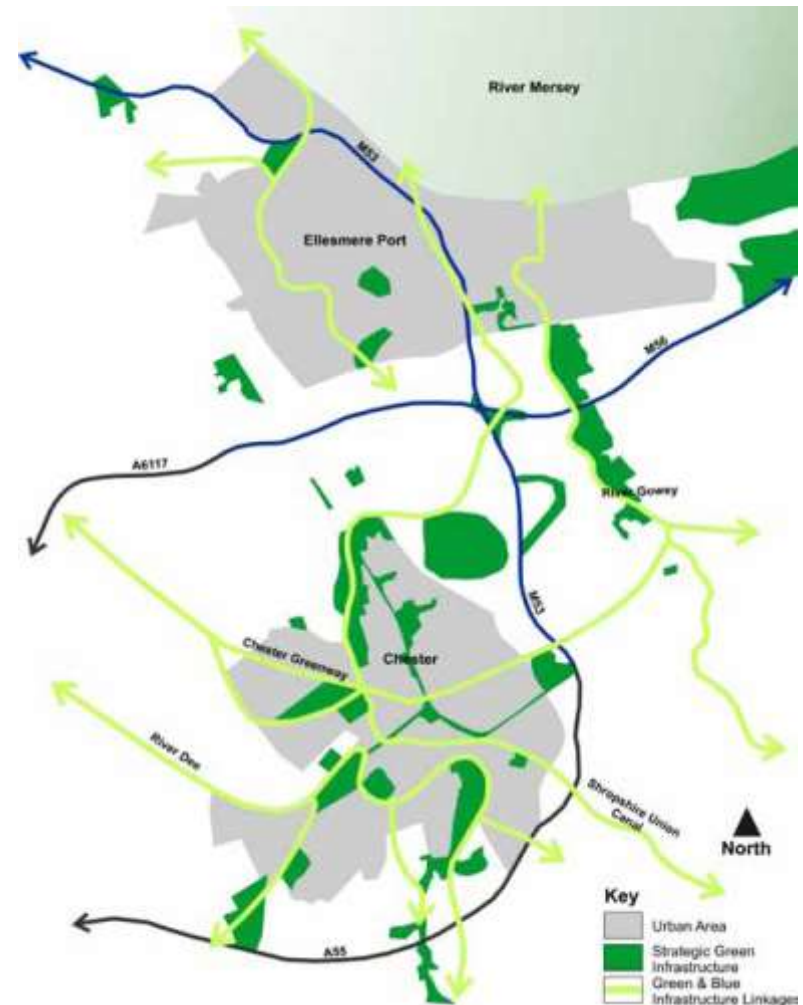
District Plans and Policies

- Statutory plans – local articulation of the NPPF.
- Part of the Local Plan Evidence Base.
- Set out a formal planning policy and background information.
- Often still quite general in scope.
- Can be used to make links across policy agendas such as housing, economic development, broader environmental policy etc.



Local GI Strategy.

- Non-statutory.
- Go beyond statutory policy.
- Set vision and objectives.
- Cut across policies to make connections between stakeholders.
- Present the evidence base.
- Articulate, communicate and inspire.
- Basis of action plans (We are going to do “this” here).



What is the relationship between Green Infrastructure and Hybrid Parks?



How much GI do you get in a City?

- Green Infrastructure looks at the totality of the potential “green” resource.
- Some Manchester stats.
- 58% is GI.
- About a third to a half is publically accessible green space of some form.
- About 3 to 7% of the City is actual Park.
- But parks and open spaces are important components of our green infrastructure.
- 31% private or domestic garden space
- 19% rough grassland
- 11% general amenity land
- 9% woodland
- 6% public park or garden
- 6% outdoor sports facilities
- 2% blue infrastructure – rivers, canals, lakes and ponds
- 16% cemeteries, development land, street trees

Wythenshawe SRF - Green Infrastructure Typology

Legend

- Residential, community gardens or urban trees
- Community, churchyards or burial ground
- Recreation
- General amenity space
- Recreational, residential, woodland or woodland
- Institutional grounds
- Cemetery
- Historic park or facility
- Private or semi-private
- High Garden
- Park or public garden
- Cemetery
- Water body
- Water course
- Wetland
- Flooded

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Look for Pink, Green,
Orange.

How does GI relate to Hybrid parks?

- Hybrid Parks talks about;
- “Parks being used for sustainable local and regional development”
- “Mitigating climate change”
- “Better serving economic, social and environmental purposes”.
- Sounds a lot like what green infrastructure is trying to do.



Hybrid Parks are Green Infrastructure.



- Parks are crucial parts of the GI network, especially within the urban fabric.
- There are increasing demands to fit more and more functions into parks.
- Increased recognition of the role of parks in quality of life and quality of place agendas.



Parking the benefits

- The application of green infrastructure approaches to parks offers an opportunity to scale up and widen the benefits that communities derive from them.

Beam Park, Dagenham, East London. 53 Ha of multiple benefit wetland park.



From problem to valued resource.

- A space that was once neglected and a setting for anti-social behaviour.
- Core purpose - River Beam flood management.
- But designed to maximise a range of other benefits for local wildlife, the local community and local businesses.
- Won the 2011 CIWEM Living Wetlands Award and the Brownfield Award for 'Best Use of Land'.



What should be our guiding rules?

- Flood risk management.
- Biodiversity - priority habitats.
- Local recreation.
- Sport provision.
- Natural Play.
- Heritage conservation.
- Social cohesion.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Employment.
- Housing and area regeneration.
- Climate change adaptation.



Park Plus – the wider context.

- To get the best from our parks they will need to be part of a wider network of functional green infrastructure.
- They should form important hubs and connections in the network.
- They should be capable of supporting a wide set of community needs and aspirations.



Park Value.

- The benefits we derive from parks are still under appreciated.
- Better tools to assess the value of the “natural services” that parks provide will over time improve understanding of their environmental, social and economic values.
- Networks (including parks) should be seen as critical infrastructure – essential natural capital helping us to create more sustainable places.



From Park Keeper to Green Utility Provider.



- Hybrid parks comes at a time when demands on “green asset management services” are increasing.
- Expectation from the community are rising.
- Resources are declining.
- Pressures around health, biodiversity and climate change are increasing the overall need for good quality and multifunctional green infrastructure.



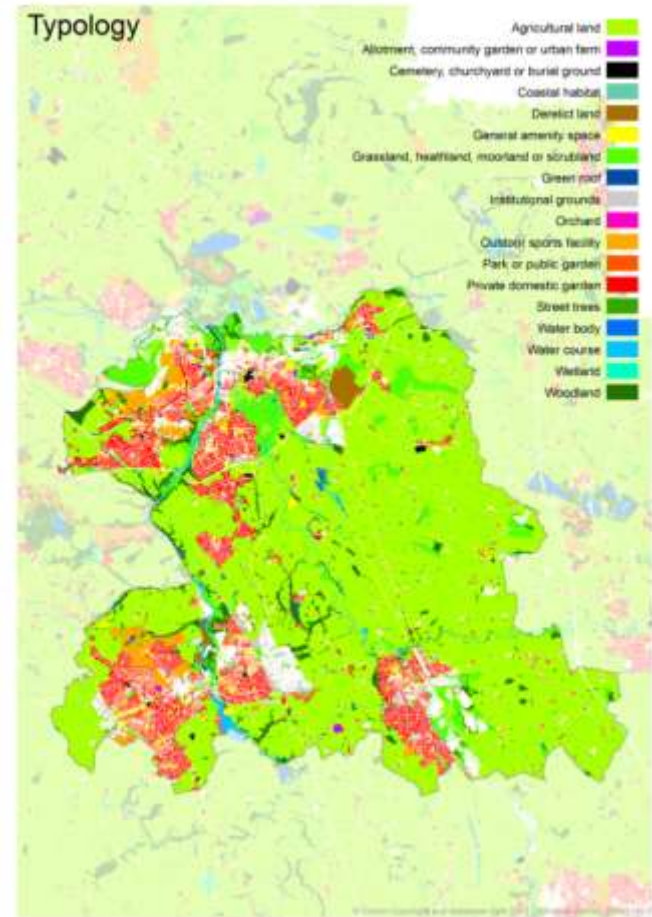
Park Response.

- Local Authorities and communities are having to examine how to respond to these pressures.
- New understandings.
- New ways of working – who will manage the resource and why?.
- A bigger focus on outcomes and benefits (reduced flood risks, improved well being, sustainable products etc).



Next ...

- The Weaver Valley Project is a practical and local example of the application of green infrastructure thinking.
- It is also where the Local Authority is trying to develop and apply the Hybrid Parks concept.
- Adding value, widening benefits and involving people.
- But it's not for me to say more ...



And so onward !

