

Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy

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Presentation

- What is Green Infrastructure
- Green Infrastructure Planning
- Purpose of the GI Strategy
- Planning and Policy context
- Scope
 - Strategy Outline
 - Existing GI Assets
- Air Quality
- Current Position
- Next Steps

What is Green Infrastructure?

- **Green Infrastructure:** 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 such as water purification, air quality, space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaptation. This network of green (land) and blue (water) spaces can improve environmental conditions and therefore citizens' health and quality of life. It also supports a green economy, creates job opportunities and enhances biodiversity
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index_en.htm
- “Green infrastructure is a **network of multifunctional** green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities.”(MHCLG, 2018)

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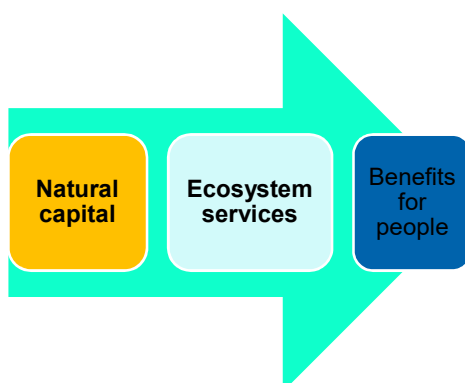
COGS Cycling Group & Salisbury Greenspace Partnership (SAGP)

GI is the network of multifunctional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental & quality of life benefits for local communities. These include improving air quality, providing alternative active travel options, providing green spaces for recreation, exercise & enjoying the natural world, conserving & enhancing wildlife & habitats, managing flood risk, preparing for climate change & building economic success. As a network it not only includes spaces referred to as Public Open Space ie. parks & formal gardens, amenity green space, recreation grounds & playing fields, but also cycling routes, pedestrian paths, rights of way, road, rail & river corridors, street trees, allotments, churchyards & cemeteries, woodlands and private gardens & other green spaces. It also includes streams, rivers, canals & other water bodies & features such as green roofs and walls.

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- **Natural Capital:** environmental resources (e.g. plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals) that provide benefits (ecosystem goods and services) to people. A critical component of green infrastructure projects.
- **Ecosystem (goods &) services:** derived from natural capital. They include clean drinking water, clean air, food, medicines, fuel, pollination, climate regulation, natural flood defences.

Green Infrastructure planning



- A land use design and management approach that seeks to preserve & enhance natural capital and the provision of ecosystems goods and services.
- A tool to provide environmental, economic and social benefits through natural solutions and help reduce dependence on 'grey' infrastructure that is often more expensive to build and maintain.

Purpose of the GI Strategy

To provide a high level framework (not delivery mechanism) which will enable the Council and its partners to:-

- embed and integrate a Green Infrastructure approach across social, economic and environmental land use and planning.
- deliver well-used, well managed, high quality, multi-functional networks of green corridors and assets, at all scales across the county and beyond into neighbouring areas
- protect and enhance our natural capital and the ecosystems goods and services it provides.
- It should help to provide a cultural shift in how decisions are made and put the value of the natural environment at the heart of decision making for all those with a role in shaping, changing and managing the environment.
- To position GI as essential alongside other types of infrastructure.

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Green and Blue spaces

Together they (should) form a multifunctional network



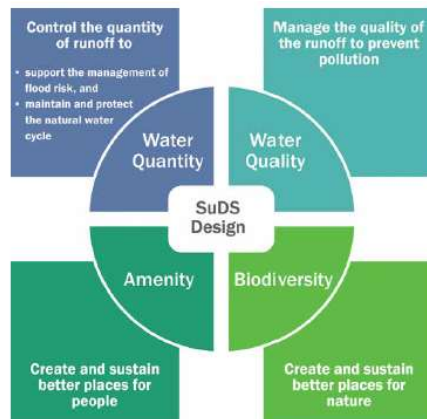
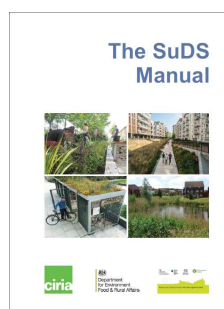
Rejuvenated River Marden, Calne Town Centre

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- ## Policy context: Environmental policies & plans
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan
 - **Air quality strategy**
 - Biodiversity Action Plan
 - Surface water Management Plan
 - Groundwater Management Strategy
 - Local Flood Risk management Strategy
 - HRA & mitigation Strategy for Salisbury Plain
 - Carbon Management Plan
 - Energy Resilience plan
 - Minerals & waste policy
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Water Management



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Policy context: Economy, development & infrastructure

- Local Development Scheme
- Local Development Plan
- Swindon & Wiltshire Spatial Plan
- Housing Site Allocation Plan
- Local Transport Plan
- Freight Strategy
- Car parking strategy
- Swindon & Wiltshire Rural Economy Study 2017
- South West Rural Productivity Commission Report 2017
- S&W Local Industrial Strategy/Structural Economic Plan
- Regeneration – masterplans
- Swindon & Wiltshire Destination Management & Development Plan
- Wiltshire & Swindon Accommodation Futures Study
- Salisbury Tourism Recovery Plan 2018

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Design Guide (Draft)

1.2 The villages, market towns and the City of Salisbury are valued for their historic streets, public squares and buildings which retain a human scale, intricacy of detail and characteristic use of attractive local materials notably from natural stone to brick and flint. The countryside with its long and often expansive views, big skies, and prominent skylines is valued for its tranquility and beauty as well as the rich heritage assets of international, national and local significance. The county is notable for its large number of designated Heritage Assets (below).

1.3 Collectively these characteristics maintain a strong connection and sense of continuity of the present with the past and contribute to a strong sense of identity and belonging, social wellbeing and prosperity. New development respecting and reinforcing these qualities can make a positive contribution to this.

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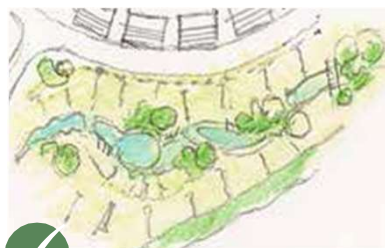
*'Fig 3.8: Incorporate significant features of the site.
Do not hide significant site features (left). Take the opportunity to incorporate these in a positive way within the public realm (right).'*



Wiltshire Council Design Guide DRAFT

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'Above ground swales and sustainable drainage storage should generally reflect the form and appearance of planted natural watercourses rather than artificial basins which often do not integrate well into the landscape and can dominate open space (fig 3.9).'



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Policy Context: Social & Community

- Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy
- Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy
- Dementia Strategy
- Obesity Strategy
- Child health improvement Strategy
- 2008-2012 Wiltshire Council Rights of way Improvement Plan
- Open Spaces Strategy
- Playing Pitch Strategy
- S&W Anti-social Behaviour Strategy
- Housing Strategy
- Gypsy & Traveller site policy & Development Plan

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Healthy People and Places



Putting Health into Place
Introducing NHS England's
Healthy New Towns
programme

- *1 IN 3 Children in YEAR 6 is overweight or obese*
- *36,815 Deaths could be avoided through increased physical activity*
- *Mental well being -Places where people live have a significant impact on their mental and physical health*
- *Poorly maintained parks and green spaces do little to invite walking or play.*
- *Six million people over the age of 60 live with two or more long-term conditions, such as type 2 diabetes or depression.*

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Air quality

- Maintain & enhance open spaces & green routes:
 - multi-functionality
 - connectivity
 - clean, safe, direct, dedicated, linking homes, schools, colleges, work places, services, the countryside
 - Balance of accessibility and visual amenity/biodiversity
- Trees & hedgerows
- Health & wellbeing
- Climate regulation
- Local Transport Plans
- Salisbury walking & Cycling Implementation Plan

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Current position

- Data collection –reviewing other strategies, engaging & learning from partners e.g. West of England authorities, RIBA
- Mapping – 2016: biodiversity and recreation scores
- Developing Wiltshire Strategy framework
- Beginning engagement with Wiltshire partners e.g. SAQMP

Local Delivery

Salisbury Area Greenspace Partnership

A strong Local Voice for Greenspace

Vision and Goals

“is for good quality, well connected and managed green infrastructure which provides a range of benefits for the growing community in the Salisbury area, including valuable amenity areas, safer alternative routes for people, corridors for wildlife, environmental regulation and ecosystem service delivery, and the unique and distinctive character which makes this a special place”

Green Infrastructure Framework



Purpose (reflection)

It should help to provide a cultural shift in how decisions are made and put the value of the natural environment at the heart of decision making for all those with a role in shaping, changing and managing the environment.

To position GI as essential alongside other types of infrastructure.

Scope: GI Strategy outline

1. What is GI
2. Benefits of GI
3. Purpose & role of the GI strategy
4. Vision
5. Policy context
6. Local context– people, economy, environment
7. Existing GIs assets
8. Objectives and outcomes
9. Regional partnership and cross-cutting themes
10. Delivery

Scope: Existing GIs assets: -

- Landscape & built heritage
- Biodiversity, habitats & wildlife corridors
- Trees, woodlands (& hedgerows)
- Water resources
- Open spaces, recreation & 'green' routes
- Health & wellbeing
- Local food (& farming)
- Ecosystem Services e.g:
 - Air Quality
 - Water quality
 - Soil quality
 - Pollination
 - Climate regulation
 - Carbon sequestration

Next steps

- Identify & engage with key partners and stakeholders
- Work with partners to work with to develop draft strategy
 - Wiltshire Council service areas; external Wiltshire partners and neighbouring/regional partners.
- Review & update mapping of Wiltshire GI assets
- Consultation & final strategy
- Deliver through local plans and partners
- Policy matrix assessment

- Current Government policy – A Green Future: the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>; the Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), July 2018: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/revised-national-planning-policy-framework>; Planning Policy Guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment>
- Wiltshire Council's Local Plan (former Core Strategy) policy objectives, particularly for transport; health & wellbeing; environment; sustainability; landscape; place shaping: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/adopted-local-plan-jan16-low-res.pdf>
- Work done elsewhere which includes reference to greenways – e.g. 'Made to move' and 'Beelines' created by Transport for Greater Manchester: <https://www.tfgm.com/made-to-move/beelines>
- The Strategic Environmental & Economic Investment Plan for Oxfordshire led by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) & its partners: <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/sites/default/files/uploads/OxLEP%20Environmental%20Strategy.pdf>
- Salisbury Draft Transport Strategy Refresh 2018: <https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=143325>
- SAGP website: <http://www.salisburyareagreenspacepartnership.co.uk/greenspace-asset-mapping>
- Sunday Times article: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sunday-times-investigation-110-000-trees-lost-to-council-axemen-p1kp6qkz>, or <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5801627/Great-tree-massacre-Councils-cut-110-000-trees-desperate-bid-save-money.html>
- Wiltshire Council Air Quality Action Plan for Wiltshire, June 2015: <http://www.wiltshireairquality.org.uk/assets/documents/action-plans/Final%20Air%20Quality%20Action%20Plan%20D16140.pdf>
- Landscape Institute publications including Public Health and Landscape: Creating healthy places: http://www.landscapeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/PublicHealthandLandscape_FINAL_singlepage.pdf
- Green Infrastructure: An integrated approach to landuse: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Green-Infrastructure_an-integrated-approach-to-land-use.pdf
- Exeter Green Infrastructure Strategy 2009: <https://exeter.gov.uk/media/1698/gi-executive-summary.pdf>

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