

Definitions of Green Infrastructure and Size/Threshold Criteria

1. 'Biodiversity by design'

The Green Infrastructure definition used in the project brief is taken from 'Biodiversity By Design' (TCPA). This publication identifies a typology hierarchy for Green Infrastructure (page 18). The levels in the hierarchy are:

- Regional Parks, Green Grids and Community Forests - 500ha upwards and within 10km of home. These are best provided on or near the urban fringe i.e. where there is sufficient space close to large local populations.
- Ecology Parks and Nature Reserves – at least 1ha per 1,000 population
- Parks and Natural Greenspaces. These include existing parks, designed ecological parks and local Nature reserves. Three levels of provision are proposed. Metropolitan – 60Ha plus within 3.3 km, District 20ha plus within 1.2km and Neighbourhood 2 ha plus – within 300m of home.
- Greenway linkages – site specific. These could follow existing features e.g. disused railway lines or waterways and create opportunities for access and ecological connectivity. They can include woodland linkages and wetland linkages
- Street Trees - 80 trees per km of road
- Communal Doorstep spaces – areas less than 1ha
- Green Buildings and private spaces – site specific

(NB It is suggested that the last three steps are too detailed for the purposes of this study).

2. English Nature

English Nature have also provided guidelines for greenspace as follows:

In 'Accessible natural greenspace in towns and cities – an review of appropriate size and distance criteria' (No. 153 English Nature Research Reports) English Nature sets out targets for greenspaces in regard to the provision for the local population. The document also provides a number of definitions for greenspace (section 1).

English Nature's 'Urban Greenspace' standards provide a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places of wildlife interest. These standards are slightly relaxed from the above research report but it is suggested that they can inform the standards guiding the Cambridge Sub-Region Strategy. The EN standards recommend that people living in towns and cities should have:

- an accessible natural greenspace of at least 2ha and less than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
- statutory Local Nature Reserves at a minimum level of one hectare per thousand population;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home; one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of

home; and one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home.

It is recognised in the EN report that in some areas it will be hard to achieve in the short-term, but it should be a long-term aim.

3. Cambridgeshire County Council

Strategic Open Space was defined in the Atkins Study (2004) and later modified by Cambridgeshire County Council as:

'Parks, gardens and areas of natural and semi-natural greenspace that provide opportunities for informal recreation and public access, are greater than 25ha in extent (exc. woodland* and open water) and fulfil five or more of the following criteria:

- fulfil structure plan and/or local development objectives
- contribute to large-scale public access schemes
- contain a network of linear access routes
- provide free and open access across the site
- are secured for or have a right of public use in perpetuity
- have a status or an intent to allow public access
- the provision of facilities that assist public access
- meet Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets'

*Given the nature of Cambridgeshire and the lack of woodland in the County, publicly accessible woodland under 25 hectares that meets five of the above criteria and which lies within enhancement areas where the total amount of woodland exceeds 25ha should be included as it is strategically and environmentally important.

(NB It should be noted that the Strategic Open Space is a sub set of the wider and more extensive Green Infrastructure).

4. PPG 17 Companion Guide Annex A Open Space Typology

PPG17 sets out the typology suggested by the Urban Green Spaces Task Force referred to in PPG17. As a result some of the terms are focused around the urban context. The categories in the typology are as follows and a record as to whether they are included in the current study. Inclusion in the GIS analysis will be dependent on the size of the selected facilities

Category of OpenSpace	Included in Cambridge Sub-Region GI Study	Notes
Urban Parks and (Public) Gardens	Yes	
Country Parks	Yes	
Natural and Semi- natural Greenspaces	Yes	
Green corridors	Yes	
Outdoor Sporting Facilities	No	Possible exception = Proposed Rowing Lake
Amenity Greenspaces	Yes	Size dependent
Provision for young	No	

children (Play areas)		
Allotments, Community Gardens and Urban Farms	No	
Churchyards & Cemeteries	Yes	
Civic Spaces (mainly hard)	No	Mainly hard materials

5. Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust in their document 'Space for People' set out aspirational benchmark standards for woodland provision as follows:

- that no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size
- that there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round trip) of peoples homes

The document also states that in the Eastern Region there is 78,443ha of woodland in an area of 1,957.502 ha = 4%. Of this woodland 48% is publicly accessible. 'Space for People' identifies that there is a very low provision of woodland within Cambridgeshire even when compared to other counties in the region. In Cambridgeshire only 2.3% of the population have access to a 2ha woodland within 500m and 19.6% to a 20ha site within 4km. These figures would increase to 17.24% and 26.47 if inaccessible woods were opened to the public. To achieve the aspirational standards there would be a need for 1,055 ha of woodland to be created within 500m and 910ha within 4km. However these standards do not reflect the local landscape character, which may suggest different targets.

6. Planning Sustainable Communities- A Green Infrastructure Guide for Milton Keynes and the South Midlands

This document has been prepared for another growth area. The definitions of Green Infrastructure in this document include some of the same source materials above however it provides a much broader definition of Green Infrastructure by including all sports fields, play areas and smaller individual areas of informal open space. The Open Space Standard stated is :

- Incidental Open Space – 1.4 ha per 1,00 population
- Major Open Space – 2.4 ha per 1,00 population

The above assumes an average of 2.3 people per household.