

# **WARWICKSHIRE, COVENTRY & SOLIHULL**

## **SUB-REGIONAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY**

### **ANNEXE B:**

#### **North West Green Infrastructure Guide (NWGIG)**

#### **Progress Document**

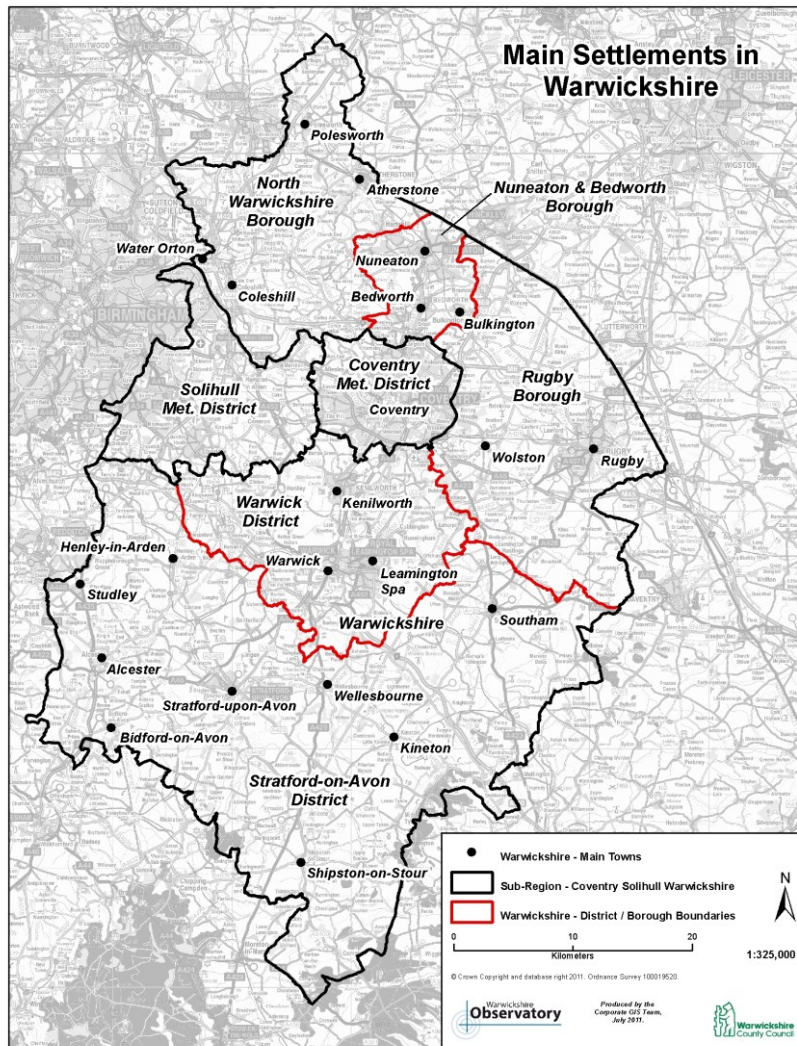
**Last update – February 2013**

**(Template for Consultation)**

## **Contents**

**[To be completed]**

## Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Area



The Local authorities participating in the pilot are listed in Table 1 below. This therefore covers all planning applications received across the sub-region.

Table 1: Local Authorities Participating in Biodiversity Offsetting Pilot

<i>Local Authorities Participating in Biodiversity Offsetting Pilot</i>
Warwickshire County Council
Warwick District Council
Stratford District Council
North Warwickshire Borough Council
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Rugby Borough Council
Coventry City Council
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

## Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull's Green Infrastructure Guide

The Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Green Infrastructure Strategy will broadly follow the 'North West Green Infrastructure Guide'<sup>1</sup> (NWGIG) as a framework for its production and the monitoring of progress in delivering its objectives. The NWGIG identifies five basic steps to Green Infrastructure Planning:

- STEP 1 - Partnerships and Priorities
- STEP 2 - Data Audit and Resource Mapping
- STEP 3 - Functional Assessment
- STEP 4 - Needs Assessment
- STEP 5 - Intervention Plan

More detail on this process is available at [www.greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk](http://www.greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk). Further explanations of the above steps with tools, actions and methods that go towards the successful completion of these Steps, together with the progress made to complete them are found within Appendix 1.

### STEP 1 - Partnerships and Priorities

- Build partnerships of stakeholders who benefit from, and lobby for, green infrastructure.
- Review relevant policies and strategies.
- Determine the key outcomes for the green infrastructure mapping process.
- The Partnership determines the scope of the plan based on resources, objectives and information available.
- Build organisational support for the Green Infrastructure Plan.

### STEP 2 - Data Audit and Resource Mapping

- Identify available information, including maps, regional and national guidance, datasets, relevant policy frameworks, regional and national strategies and stakeholders.
- Generate a map of the physical area showing Green Infrastructure types and locations, usually on a Geographic Information System (GIS).

### STEP 3 - Functional Assessment

- Assess current situation – what the Green Infrastructure is doing, where it is functioning well and needs to be maintained, and where it needs to be improved.
- Assess future situation – consider the threats to Green Infrastructure; seek out the opportunities for improvement; consider how it might need to change; determine how to secure change.

### STEP 4 - Needs Assessment

- Cross-reference Green Infrastructure planning with strategic outcomes identified in Step 1.
- Reference relevant datasets such as deprivation indices, market research, house prices etc.

### STEP 5 - Intervention Plan

The Green Infrastructure Plan will set out:

- What the green infrastructure of an area is;
- What it is doing and what it might do;
- Where the Green Infrastructure is functioning well and needs maintaining;

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<sup>1</sup> North West Green Infrastructure Guide (NWGIGThink Tank, 2008)

- How it needs to change; and
- What will be done to secure change.

## Outputs and Outcomes

The desired outcome is a comprehensive, interactive and highly flexible evidence base, which can be used for a range of purposes:

- A framework for the sustainable land management of the area;
- A tool for predicting the implications of change on the natural environment;
- An accurate picture of the green infrastructure of an area – essential in making planning decisions, informing developments and strategies;
- A tool for delivering the natural environmental contribution to identified priorities in the fields of health, economy and quality of life;
- A structured plan for delivering environmental change;
- Attracting funding by demonstrating researched needs and outcomes; and
- Attracting inward investment.

The progress of the Outputs and Outcomes associated to the five Steps listed above is reported within Annexe B. Changes to this Annexe will accord with the governance procedures detailed in the main strategy document.

Notes to Steps in the green infrastructure planning process tale below:

Step	Tools and Data	Process Steps	Methods
GREEN	Data acquired or tool developed where this strategy has been integrated.	Process done or is on-going	Action done or on-going
AMBER	Data being gathered or acquired	Processes being worked on	Methods being worked on
BLACK	Still to do	Still to do	Still to do

Further description and evidence of progress and completion follows under corresponding heading.

## Reporting

The reporting of progress towards the implementation of WCS Green Infrastructure Strategy will be through the annual updating of this Annexe B, prepared by the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Green Infrastructure Partnership (WCSGIP).

These annual updates will be presented to Coventry Solihull and Warwickshire Association of Planning Officers (owners of the WCS Green Infrastructure Strategy) and the WCS Local Nature Partnership.

# WCSGIG Progress Report

Date: February 2013

## Steps in the green infrastructure planning process

Step	Tools and Data	Process Steps	Methods
1 Partnerships and Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional and sub-regional strategies</li> <li>LDF Documents</li> <li>Community Plans</li> <li>Local Strategies and Neighbourhood Plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assemble partnerships</li> <li>Assess policy frameworks</li> <li>Determine strategic priorities to which GI will contribute</li> <li>Agree scope and scale of GI planning project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify GI stakeholders &amp; champions</li> <li>Compile GI Strategy position into central evidence database</li> <li>Local and strategic values</li> <li>Public Benefit Assessment?</li> </ul>
2 Data Audit and Resource Mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aerial Photographs</li> <li>National Land Use Database OS Mastermap</li> <li>Web-source geographic and demographic data</li> <li>Data held by local authorities and partners</li> <li>Data from Greenspace audits</li> <li>Socio-economic data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify data shortfalls and how these will be addressed</li> <li>Identify existing GI components, their quality, distribution, connectedness</li> <li>Identify geographic context of GI – relationship to surrounds communities and environmental features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GIS mapping of green infrastructure components and relationships to surround land uses and demographic data</li> </ul>
3 Functional Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape character assessment</li> <li>Historic Landscape Characterisation</li> <li>Conservation area appraisal</li> <li>Concept statements</li> <li>Town and village statements</li> <li>Greenspace strategies</li> <li>Biodiversity Action Plans</li> <li>Habitat Audits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify existing GI components, their quality and functionality</li> <li>Map of existing functions</li> <li>Consider spatial implications of forces for change</li> <li>Map potential functions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshops with key stakeholders to discuss forces of change</li> <li>GIS mapping of spatial implications of forces for change</li> <li>Case study methodologies</li> <li>Clere model</li> </ul>
4 Needs Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greenspace provision guidelines</li> <li>Open Space/Greenspace audits</li> <li>Census Data</li> <li>Deprivation statistics</li> <li>Rural economy profiles</li> <li>Climate change adaption requirements</li> <li>Proposed built developments and spatial changes</li> <li>Strategic priority and forward planning documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify whether the existing GI is appropriate to local need</li> <li>Determine how strategic priorities can be represented by datasets</li> <li>Relate existing GI and functionality to strategic priorities and standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GIS mapping of local needs and strategic priorities</li> <li>Comparison of existing GI functions and local needs</li> <li>Case study methodologies</li> </ul>
5 Intervention Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GIS datasets and wider evidence database from stage 1, 2 &amp; 3</li> <li>Engagement with regional, sub-regional and local policy development and consultation including LSPs</li> <li>Use of existing, proven delivery mechanisms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What changes are needed to GI design, development, maintenance and management?</li> <li>Where are these changes needed?</li> <li>By what means will changes be sought?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using steps 1 to 4 determine type and locations required</li> <li>Advocacy and promotion through policy frameworks; LEPs, LNPs, LDFs, Neighbourhood Plans</li> <li>Incorporate intervention plan into proposed project and programmes e.g. CROWIP</li> <li>Section 106 agreements, endowments, ring fenced funds and match funding.</li> </ul>

## STEP 1 - Partnerships and Priorities

- Build partnerships of stakeholders who benefit from, and lobby for, green infrastructure.

Report: WCS Green Infrastructure Strategy is being consulted upon with request for partners to form the WDCGI partnership.

- Review relevant policies and strategies.

Local Plan Policies that reference the WCS Green Infrastructure Strategy are:

- Warwick District
  - Key Principle - Protecting biodiversity, high quality landscapes, heritage assets and other areas of significance
  - PO10 Built Environment
  - PO15 Green Infrastructure
- Stratford District
  - CS1 – Sustainable Development: (d) Reduce and adapt to the effects of climate change, particularly through the location of new development, design and construction techniques, renewable technologies, landscape and historic environment management, biodiversity, flood risk management and the use of green infrastructure.
  - CS2 Climate Change and Sustainable Energy
  - CS13 Green Infrastructure
  - CS14 Earlswood Lakes Country Park
  - CS15 Design and Distinctiveness
- Rugby Borough
  - Spatial Vision - The sustainable growth of the town and Borough to meet the needs of the community will be balanced with protection and enhancement of the Borough's historic environment, existing natural assets through the creation of a strategic green infrastructure network. Development will be accommodated in ways which reduce our carbon footprint as well as protecting and enhancing the area.
  - Spatial Objective - Protect natural species present in the Borough by improving habitats through the enhancement of a green infrastructure network that supports natural and ecological processes.
  - CS14 - Enhancing the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network
  - CS15 - Green Infrastructure Allocations
  - CS16 - Sustainable Design
- Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough
  - Strategic Objective – 5. A Green Infrastructure network of high quality, well connected, multi-functional open spaces, corridors and links that deliver benefits to the landscape, wildlife and the public.
- North Warwickshire Borough
  - Strategic Objective – 8. To establish and maintain a network of accessible good quality green infrastructure, open spaces, sports and recreational facilities.
  - NW12 Nature Conservation
  - NW13 Green Infrastructure



- Warwickshire County Waste Strategy
  - Vision:... the Core Strategy will have safeguarded communities from adverse environmental impacts, protected human health, amenity and well-being and will also have protected and enhanced the natural, historic, cultural and water environment of the county.
  - DM1 – Protection of the natural and built environment
  - DM5 – Recreation Assets and Public Rights of Way
- Warwickshire County Minerals Strategy
  - In preparation
- Solihull Metropolitan Borough
  - Climate Change Objective - Promote the use and beneficial effects of trees and green infrastructure in new developments.
  - Vision – The Borough’s high quality Mature Suburbs, distinctive rural settlements, villages and wider Rural Area, its historic and natural environment and green infrastructure network will be protected and enhanced.
  - P9 – Climate Change
  - P10 – Natural Environment
  - P11 – Water Management
  - P13 – Minerals
  - P14 – Amenity
  - P15 – Securing Design Quality
  - P18 – Health and Wellbeing
  - P20 – Provision of Open Space, Children’s Play, Sport Recreation and Leisure
  - P21 Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Provision
- Coventry City Council
  - Overall Strategy – Improving Environmental Quality: It seeks to protect our heritage and acknowledges that well-connected green infrastructure has the potential to make Coventry a much more attractive and prosperous city, as well as a healthier place to live and work.
  - EM5 – Green and Blue Infrastructure
  - DE1 – Ensuring High Quality Design
  - GE1 – Green Infrastructure
  - GE3 – Biodiversity, Geological, Landscape and Archaeological Conservation
- Other Strategies that reference the Green Infrastructure Strategy include:
  - xyz
- Determine the key outcomes for the green infrastructure mapping process.
- The Partnership determines the scope of the plan based on resources, objectives and information available.
- Build organisational support for the Green Infrastructure Plan.

## **STEP 2 - Data Audit and Resource Mapping**

- Identify available information, including maps, regional and national guidance, datasets, relevant policy frameworks, regional and national strategies and stakeholders.



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EXAMPLE