



Re-thinking Green

**Integrating development
with green infrastructure**

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What did green space ever do for us?

A collective and growing body of research demonstrates that seeing and being in nature and green spaces:

- Restores physical and mental energy
- Helps with stress relief
- Improves concentration
- Improves our immune system
- Stimulates sharper thinking and creativity
- Reduces risk of early death



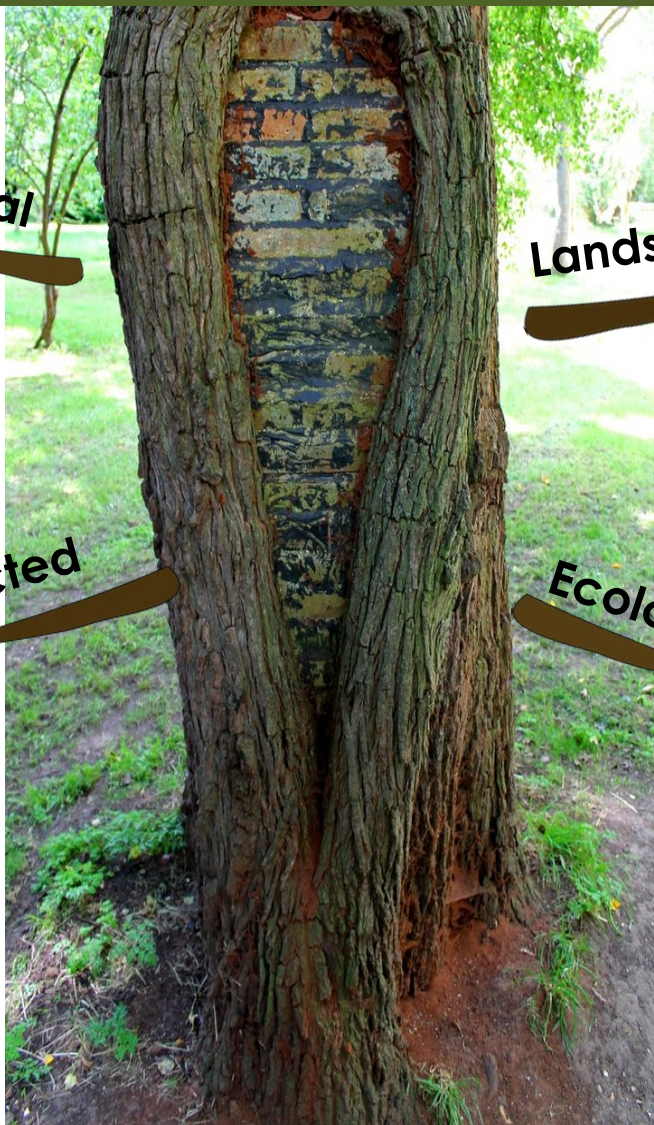
Green Infrastructure

Multi-functional

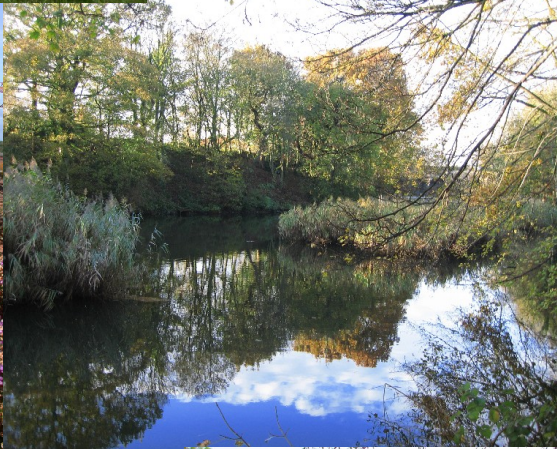
Landscape scale

Interconnected

Ecological services



Green infrastructure



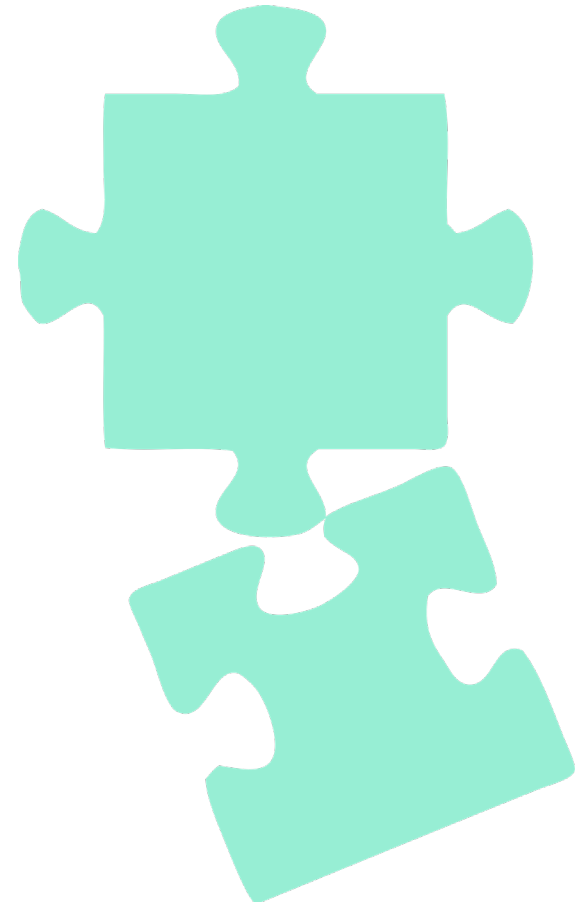
MYTH BUSTER – GI can be ‘left-over’ green space.



Integrating early on in the design process is key.

Connectivity is key

- Plan early-on at concept stage.
- What GI assets already exist?
- Integrate with new GI
- Think outside the 'box'- looking at neighbouring assets and uses.
- Integrate at different scales
- Maximise benefits gained.



MYTH BUSTER – GI merely serves a function through its inclusion.



Thinking holistically is key.

Benefits for all

- Future residents, nearby residents, wildlife
- What issues and opportunities are associated with the development site?
- What are the local needs?
- Start with the Local Plan vision and objectives
- What natural, cultural, economic services can be accommodated for and/or enhanced through GI?



MYTH BUSTER – some sites are too small or too complicated to include GI.



Think creatively.

Multiple scales



GI should be designed and planned for at different scales:

- **National/regional/ county** – e.g. trails, network of designated sites, landscape character
- **District** – strategic GI networks, flood risk
- **Neighbourhood / street** – e.g. local walking and cycling links, nearby shops, work, schools, open space
- **Dwellings/buildings** – green roofs, soakaways



Valuing GI in Development

- Direct – e.g. uptake, retention of tenants
- Indirect – e.g. health, social, environmental benefits
- Cost reduction – e.g. heating and cooling
- Risk/resilience management – maintenance and replacement cost savings



Important to evaluate and communicate a site's GI benefits - expressing gains in relation to economic, social and environmental value.





Mission ImPossible

Be bold!

- Integrated approach to delivery - planned at the outset with a GI champion
- Be nature, health and heritage led
- Move beyond aesthetics and pure function looking within and outside the 'red-line'
- Make landscapes 'work harder' to deliver combined benefits
- Design in creativity through imaginative use of spaces
- Design where you would want to live



'At its heart, the aim of GI is to manage the many, often conflicting, pressures being placed upon our finite land resource. In doing so, we can maximise the benefits to be derived...'



(Demystifying Green Infrastructure – UK Green Building Council)