



The Building with Nature Standards

Building with Nature

Building with Nature is a framework of Standards for good green infrastructure. It is a voluntary approach, which encourages developers to create places that really deliver for people and wildlife. It brings together existing guidance and good practice to recognise high-quality green infrastructure at all stages of the development process including policy, planning, design, delivery, and long-term management and maintenance.

The Building with Nature framework can be applied at any stage in the development and planning process, however, practitioners are encouraged to work with the Standards as early as possible.

There is an Assessment and Accreditation service to help secure the benefits, but the Standards themselves are free to use.



The Standards

The Standards, which draw together policy and practice guidance related to health and wellbeing, sustainable water management, ecology and biodiversity, can assist with policy and the planning and development of new and existing places and communities across the length and breadth of the UK.

The Building with Nature framework is reviewed and updated by a Standards Board, comprising leading experts in green infrastructure.

There are 23 Standards in total: five Core Standards, six Wellbeing Standards, six Water Standards, and six Wildlife Standards.

Core Standards (CORE)

The scheme should deliver a multifunctional and connected network of Green Infrastructure features, responsive to local character and needs, minimising adverse environmental impacts, with provision for long-term management and maintenance.

Core Standards	
CORE 1	The green infrastructure forms a multifunctional network.
CORE 2	The scheme identifies important local character features as a starting point for the green infrastructure proposals and incorporates them into the scheme to reference, reflect and enhance the local environment.
CORE 3	The type, quality and function of green infrastructure respond to the local context.
CORE 4	The green infrastructure is resilient to climate change; and minimises the scheme's environmental impact with respect to air, soil, light, noise, and water; and enhances the quality of air, soil and water.
CORE 5	Provision is made for long-term management and maintenance of all green infrastructure features post-development.

Wellbeing Standards (WELL)

The scheme should deliver Green Infrastructure that meets the needs of local people in an inclusive way and is accessible all year round. It should help to reduce health inequalities and to build a sense of community and belonging, encouraging active stewardship.

Wellbeing Standards	
WELL 1	Green infrastructure is accessible for all and is situated close to where people live to promote health, wellbeing, and active living.
WELL 2	The scheme encourages all people to use and enjoy green infrastructure and considers the needs and strengths of vulnerable and excluded groups.
WELL 3	Green infrastructure is designed to encourage optimal use and employs hard and soft features to be accessible at all times of year.
WELL 4	The scheme supports local priorities for reducing and/or preventing health inequalities.
WELL 5	The scheme demonstrates innovative solutions to overcoming social and cultural barriers to use and enjoyment of green infrastructure and considers how green infrastructure can promote socially sustainable communities and community cohesion.
WELL 6	The scheme demonstrates that green infrastructure is integral to the distinctiveness of place.

Water Standards (WAT)

The scheme should manage water in ways that minimise flood risk, improve water quality, and create or enhance features that add benefits for people and wildlife.

Water Standards	
WAT 1	Green infrastructure is integral to sustainable drainage and features are designed to minimise surface runoff, manage flood risk, and maintain the natural water cycle.
WAT 2	Green infrastructure has been used to improve water quality within the boundary of the scheme.
WAT 3	The design of SuDS enhances the capacity of green infrastructure features to create and sustain better places for people and nature.
WAT 4	The scheme responds to the local policy context in terms of water management, demonstrating an innovative approach to move beyond the statutory minimum.
WAT 5	A diversity of green infrastructure features are utilised to improve water quality, utilising more and better treatment stages to maximise pollution reduction downstream.
WAT 6	Features relating to water management are used to enhance local distinctiveness and add value to the overall design.

Wildlife Standards (WILD)

The scheme should help reverse the long-term decline in biodiversity by being sensitive to the local ecological context, providing space for wildlife to flourish. It should link habitats within the scheme and out into the wider landscape to help restoration as part of the Nature Recovery Network, both locally and nationally.

Wildlife Standards	
WILD 1	Green infrastructure delivers a net enhancement of biodiversity quality by avoiding, mitigating, and compensating for impacts on existing biodiversity, and restoring, creating and enhancing biodiversity, where possible within the boundary of the scheme. Provision has been made for on-going monitoring and remediation.
WILD 2	Green infrastructure features ensure linkages between habitats within the boundary of the scheme.
WILD 3	Green infrastructure delivers key measures that contribute to the target conservation status of key species.
WILD 4	Green infrastructure includes ecological features around and within the built environment.
WILD 5	Green infrastructure is effectively connected to ecological features beyond the boundary of the scheme and plays a role in restoring and sustaining wider ecological networks.
WILD 6	The scheme secures biodiversity measures in all stages of implementation and in the case of phased development schemes, across multiple phases of development.



For further information

Building with Nature is a voluntary approach developed by practitioners, policy-makers and academic experts, and tested with the people who will use and benefit from the framework. It enables developers to integrate green infrastructure to create places in which people and nature can flourish.

Visit www.buildingwithnature.org.uk or contact info@buildingwithnature.org.uk



July 2020