

PRESS RELEASE

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Landscape Institute publishes Green Infrastructure document and shows there's never been a better time to invest in 'green' rather than 'grey' infrastructure

Up and down the country local communities are making their local areas greener and more 'liveable'. The Landscape Institute, the professional body which represents landscape architects, has published a definitive guide to integrating green infrastructure into the way places are planned, designed and managed so that local people can make 'green' development a reality in their neighbourhoods. *Local Green Infrastructure: Helping Communities make the most of their Landscape* presents eight case studies that show how local people and businesses can make their towns, cities and villages more attractive, healthier and better for wildlife. They reveal the potential of green infrastructure to bring a wide range of benefits, including: reducing our contribution to climate change, making our villages, towns and cities more liveable, reducing the risk of flooding, cleaning our air and water, enabling wildlife to flourish and bringing together local communities.

Speaking about the value of green infrastructure, Jo Watkins, President of the Landscape Institute, said: "We want to inspire everyone to make changes in their neighbourhoods by thinking about what's offered by the natural environment. As our case studies show, natural green open space attracts businesses to invest in an area, adds value to property, provides an educational resource and brings together local communities. Harnessing nature and making better use of our limited supply of land can therefore promote sustainable economic development and open up new employment opportunities."

Chief Executive Alastair McCapra said "The days of large-scale projects are over until the economy recovers, but you can get a big return on a small investment out of local green infrastructure. When times are tough it matters more to people that the places they live and work in look their best, and help attract new business and investment. In the current economic climate there has never been a better time to invest in green infrastructure over grey infrastructure."

The Landscape Institute, which campaigns to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment for public benefit is part of the government's Green Infrastructure Partnership. The Partnership, which was launched today as part of the Natural Environment White Paper, is made up of bodies representing Local Government, landscape and planning professionals, environmental interest groups and organisations such as Natural England, Environment Agency, and the Forestry Commission.

What is green infrastructure?

Green infrastructure is the network of green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect villages, towns and cities. In rural areas this can include fields, woodlands, hedgerows, country parks, rivers and lakes. In urban areas it can include domestic gardens, street trees, sports pitches, civic spaces, green roofs and walls. By thinking about the potential offered by the natural environment and integrating this into the way places are planned, designed and managed we can:

Reduce our contribution to climate change

Make our villages, towns and cities more liveable

Reduce the risk of flooding

Enable wildlife to flourish

Clean our air and water

Deliver multiple economic benefits

Green infrastructure around the UK – inspiring case studies that made a real difference:



Bury Mount and Watermeadows, Towcester

Preserving heritage and incentivising investment

Bury Mount, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, has been at the heart of the market town of Towcester since the 11th century. Listed on the English Heritage 'Heritage at Risk' register, its restoration, alongside 12 hectares of Grade II* watermeadows has created a much needed public green space. Bury Mount has also played a fundamental role in helping to ensure the success of wider regeneration. It has created an attractive centrepiece around which private investment can occur.

Landscape Architect: Camlin Lonsdale



Business Improvement District, Victoria, London

A public private partnership delivering green improvements that provide multiple economic, social and environmental benefits

'The Greening for Growth' project, in the Victoria Business Improvement District (BID), has brought business, local government and government agencies together to deliver 'green' improvements to the dense urban fabric of the area. By exploiting the smallest green infrastructure projects the BID is hoping to boost the local economy, improve the visitor experience, enrich the sense of place and reduce the cost to businesses of surface water flooding. 25 hectares of green roofs have been planted to deal with 80,000m³ of rain water per year – which has in the past led to the temporary closure

of Victoria Station and Underground.
Landscape Architect: Land Use Consultants



The Eastern Curve community garden, Dalston, London

A peaceful green oasis that brings the community together

Eastern Curve is a small budget community initiative which transformed a piece of overgrown and abandoned railway land into a tranquil garden tucked behind the bustle of Dalston High Street. The garden has quickly become a local hub for the community – a peaceful green oasis in an area severely lacking in public green space and a place where events and activities bring the neighbourhood together.

Landscape Architect: J&L Gibbons

Local Green Infrastructure: Helping Communities make the most of their Landscape is available to download at www.landscapeinstitute.org/gi

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For further information, interviews and images please contact Sarah Harrison on 07768 372892 or email sarah@sarahharrisonpr.com

Notes to Editor:

The Landscape Institute is the royal chartered body for landscape architects. It is a professional organisation and educational charity working to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment for the public benefit. It accredits university courses and promotes professional development to ensure that landscape architects deliver the highest standards of practice. It works with government to improve the planning, design and management of urban and rural landscape. Through its advocacy programmes and support to its members it champions landscape, and the landscape profession, in order to inspire great places where people want to live, work and visit.

Visit www.Landscapeinstitute.org for more information or follow the Institute on twitter: @talklandscape