

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

The Landscape Institute welcomes the first UK National Ecosystem Assessment

The Landscape Institute, the professional body for landscape architects, welcomes today's publication of the first ever UK National Ecosystem Assessment.

'The Landscape Institute is very pleased to have played a part in supporting the production of this key report' said President Jo Watkins. 'It provides an incredibly rich and detailed evidence base supporting the work we have done on the importance of green infrastructure and the importance of investing in our landscape.'

'As well as health, leisure and cultural benefits to individuals, the ecosystems around us provide us with basic needs including food, breathable air and drinkable water. These things are delivered to us at minimal cost by natural systems. We like to assume they will always be there for us, but if we carry on as we are, they may not.'

'This government has pledged to be the greenest government ever and we are glad that they have given their full support to the work of producing this assessment and publishing it today. Now they need to work with landscape architects and other key professions to ensure we enable our ecosystems to keep on giving all the benefits the assessment sets out. In particular it is crucial that the changes to the planning system take full account of the findings of the assessment.'

'Whether we are building new houses, planning windfarms, deciding what to do with school playing fields or managing a town park, it is in our own vital interest to manage and sustain our green assets. As this assessment clearly shows, the cost of failure is incredibly high.'

'The Landscape Institute is committed to working with the government and other partners to reverse the decline of our ecosystems where this is taking place, and to preserve and enhance them everywhere.'

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Notes to editors:

1. To find out more about the Landscape Institute visit www.landscapeinstitute.org
2. The Landscape Institute is the professional body for landscape architects. It is an educational charity and chartered body responsible for protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment for the benefit of the public. It champions well-designed and well-managed urban and rural landscape. The Institute's accreditation and professional procedures ensure that the designers, managers and scientists who make up the landscape architecture profession work to the highest standards. Its advocacy and education programmes promote the landscape architecture profession as one which focuses on design, environment and community in order to inspire great places where people want to live, work and visit. The Institute provides services to assist members including support and promotion of the work of landscape architects; information and guidance to the public and industry about the specific expertise offered by those in the profession; and training and educational advice to students and professionals looking to build upon their experience.
3. The Landscape Institute's 2009 publication, *Green infrastructure: multifunctional and connected landscapes*, explains the multiple benefits to be gained from an approach to land use which puts nature at the heart of the decision-making process. The publication can be found at www.landscapeinstitute.org/policy/GreenInfrastructure.php