

Green Infrastructure Consultation Proforma

Recipients:

- Andy Maginnis (Countryside Services) – regarding access, recreation and tourism
- Ed Dursley (Transport) – regarding access and movement
- Steve Bloomfield (Worcestershire Wildlife Trust) – regarding natural processes
- Tom Richards (Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust) – regarding natural processes
- Rachel Whiteman (Environment Agency) – regarding natural processes
- District Council conservation/landscape/ecology officers as necessary

Purpose: The purpose of this proforma is to inform the evidence gathering stage that will enable the future preparation of a Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy. It is also intended to inform the development of Green Infrastructure strategies as part of the preparation of District Authorities Core Strategies. The series of questions are intended to inform officers from Natural England and Worcestershire County Council of the following:

- Evidence base currently available
- Format of available evidence i.e. GIS, Maps, textual/descriptive
- Previous research completed
- Intended future research
- The inclusion of GI concepts and linkages within current policy and strategy preparation and evaluation
- Gauge the level of interest for future involvement in GI planning workshops

Green Infrastructure planning must be evidence led, thus the importance of this stage in collating your information and responses.

West Midlands Green Infrastructure Prospectus (*our working definition for GI planning in Worcestershire*)

Green Infrastructure is the network of green spaces and natural elements that intersperse and connect our cities, towns and villages. It is the open spaces, waterways, gardens, woodlands, green corridors, wildlife habitats, street trees, natural heritage and open countryside. Green infrastructure provides multiple benefits for the economy, the environment and people.

Green infrastructure may also be seen as part of the life-support system of an area; providing functions and environmental services to a community, such as employment, recreation, physical health and mental well being, social interaction, contact with nature, drainage and flood management, climate change adaptation and pollution control. It may be considered the essence of local character and sense of place, the very heart of a community, or dear to the hearts of many thousands some distance away.

Question 1: Are you familiar with the concept of Green Infrastructure planning as described in the definition above?

Question 2: With regard to the definition above, are you currently working or do you have any projects underway that contribute to Green Infrastructure strategic planning and if so how?

Question 3: You may have previously commented on a report by Faber Maunsell for GI in South Worcestershire. Do you have any comments with regard to the respective themes within the report? See link below to South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy http://www.swjcs.org/html/swjcs_green_infrastructure.html

Question 4: What sources of information do you have available that would contribute to a District and/or Countywide Green Infrastructure Strategy and spatial master planning?

Question 5: What does this information demonstrate in relation to Green Infrastructure planning as defined above (i.e. does it illustrate key nodes, corridors, sites of interest, etc)?

Question 6: Do you have any formal/informal standards of provision for GI elements in the above definition that you work towards?

Question 7: Is your information available in a GIS mapped format and would you be able to share this with Worcestershire County Council?

Question 8: As the preparation of a GI plan progresses, are you the relevant person to contact?

Thank you for providing the above information this will inform stage 1 of the plan preparation. It is intended to hold workshops to discuss how the various elements will be integrated. Would you wish to attend such a future event?

Yes

No

Could you please provide your contact details below:

Name:

Organisation & Role:

Contact Details:

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Yes

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WCC (in association with the Culture Theme Group's Parks and Countryside Task Group) is the lead body for the Worcestershire Countryside Access and Recreation Strategy. WCC is also the lead body for the county's Rights of Way Improvement Plan

**Question 3: You may have previously commented on a report by Faber Maunsell for GI in South Worcestershire. Do you have any comments with regard to the respective themes within the report? See link below to South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy
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It's important that we don't overlook the importance of informal recreation and access.

Question 4: What sources of information do you have available that would contribute to a District and/or Countywide Green Infrastructure Strategy and spatial master planning?

See Q2. + the county's Definitive Map and Management Plans for Countryside Service sites.

Question 5: What does this information demonstrate in relation to Green Infrastructure planning as defined above (i.e. does it illustrate key nodes, corridors, sites of interest, etc)?

Question 6: Do you have any formal/informal standards of provision for GI elements in the above definition that you work towards?

Yes – both in terms of public rights of way (BVPI 178) and our own sites (Estate Management Standards). We are also linked in to Green Flag and the emerging Country Parks Accreditation Scheme.

Question 7: Is your information available in a GIS mapped format and would you be able to share this with Worcestershire County Council?

Some is. Yes.

Question 8: As the preparation of a GI plan progresses, are you the relevant person to contact?

In the first instance for Countryside Sites and Public Rights of Way.

Thank you for providing the above information this will inform stage 1 of the plan preparation. It is intended to hold workshops to discuss how the various elements will be integrated. Would you wish to attend such a future event?

| Yes | No |
|-----|----|
| yes | |

Could you please provide your contact details below:

Name: Andy Maginnis

Organisation & Role: Acting Countryside Manager WCC Countryside Service

Contact Details: amaginnis@worcestershire.gov.uk

01905 766155

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Question 1: Are you familiar with the concept of Green Infrastructure planning as described in the definition above?

Yes

Question 2: With regard to the definition above, are you currently working or do you have any projects underway that contribute to Green Infrastructure strategic planning and if so how?

Yes – e.g. Diglis Connect2, development of Walking and Cycling Strategies

Question 3: You may have previously commented on a report by Faber Maunsell for GI in South Worcestershire. Do you have any comments with regard to the respective themes within the report? See link below to South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy http://www.swjcs.org/html/swjcs_green_infrastructure.html

Not previously commented – I do not see any green transport infrastructure plans?

Question 4: What sources of information do you have available that would contribute to a District and/or Countywide Green Infrastructure Strategy and spatial master planning?

County Walking and Cycling strategies

Question 5: What does this information demonstrate in relation to Green Infrastructure planning as defined above (i.e. does it illustrate key nodes, corridors, sites of interest, etc)?

Key corridors and network of sustainable ways of moving between green infrastructure

Question 6: Do you have any formal/informal standards of provision for GI elements in the above definition that you work towards?

**Department for Transport standards
Sustrans Greenway Design Standards**

Question 7: Is your information available in a GIS mapped format and would you be able to share this with Worcestershire County Council?

Yes on WCC Arcview 9

Question 8: As the preparation of a GI plan progresses, are you the relevant person to contact?

Yes

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| Yes | No |
|-----|----|
| Yes | |

Could you please provide your contact details below:

Name: Ed Dursley

Organisation & Role: Worcestershire County Council

Contact Details: Sustainable Transport Schemes Team Leader

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Yes

Question 2: With regard to the definition above, are you currently working or do you have any projects underway that contribute to Green Infrastructure strategic planning and if so how?

Yes. We have been involved with the GI policy at SWJCS level and we have contributed to the evidence base behind it and the GI Strategy in the past. In addition we contributed to the revisions made to the Faber Maunsell document last year.

Question 3: You may have previously commented on a report by Faber Maunsell for GI in South Worcestershire. Do you have any comments with regard to the respective themes within the report? See link below to South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy http://www.swjcs.org/html/swjcs_green_infrastructure.html

We provided comments last year and they should already be available. We can re-send them if needed.

Question 4: What sources of information do you have available that would contribute to a District and/or Countywide Green Infrastructure Strategy and spatial master planning?

Our already-submitted site analysis might be of use and we have expertise that can be called on at any time. We also have records for Trust Nature Reserves and run the SWS system for the county. All the information pertaining to both can be readily obtained via the WBRC given time and funding availability.

Question 5: What does this information demonstrate in relation to Green Infrastructure planning as defined above (i.e. does it illustrate key nodes, corridors, sites of interest, etc)?

The Reserves and SWSs are major nodes (and in the case of rivers and other linear sites, corridors) in the wider network so our information should be helpful in this regard.

Question 6: Do you have any formal/informal standards of provision for GI elements in the above definition that you work towards?

Not particularly but we would advocate the use of nationally agreed standards for open space, habitat quality and percentage green space where these exist.

Question 7: Is your information available in a GIS mapped format and would you be able to share this with Worcestershire County Council?

Yes. For the most part it is already shared. The final SWS layer will be available from mid April.

Question 8: As the preparation of a GI plan progresses, are you the relevant person to contact?

Yes.

Thank you for providing the above information this will inform stage 1 of the plan preparation. It is intended to hold workshops to discuss how the various elements will be integrated. Would you wish to attend such a future event?

Yes

No

Could you please provide your contact details below:

Name: Steve Bloomfield

**Organisation & Role: Conservation Officer – Planning
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust**

Contact Details: 01905 754 919

stevemb@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org

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Question 1: Are you familiar with the concept of Green Infrastructure planning as described in the definition above?

No – The concept of Green Infrastructure planning is something that is not clear. The definition above causes further confusion and does not explain the planning element. Does Green Infrastructure cover the entire natural and human environment and its relationships with everyday services as the definition (from a personal point of view) suggests? If so, then surely Green Infrastructure planning is just planning for the natural and built environment?

Question 2: With regard to the definition above, are you currently working or do you have any projects underway that contribute to Green Infrastructure strategic planning and if so how?

Production of a Geodiversity Action Plan for Worcestershire. The GAP will set out objectives and actions for the effective conservation and enhancement of the geodiversity resource in the county. Annual targets will subsequently be identified. All of the information will be available on the Biodiversity Action Reporting System website.

There are also specific projects currently underway and proposed, which would directly contribute to the GAP. These include the ‘Champions’ project, the Geopark Way long distance footpath and an initial condition assessment of Local Geological Sites.

**Question 3: You may have previously commented on a report by Faber Maunsell for GI in South Worcestershire. Do you have any comments with regard to the respective themes within the report? See link below to South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy
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Whilst the mention of the Geopark is welcomed, geodiversity has been implied in many cases, rather than being explicit. It is a key component of landscape character, and has influenced how and where settlements and particular habitats occur and/or can be restored.

It is not clear on a personal level, what the differences are between Structural Greenspace and Green Infrastructure?

Perhaps reviews of the themes are needed, and a justification/evidence base for the inclusion/exclusion of certain topics.

Question 4: What sources of information do you have available that

would contribute to a District and/or Countywide Green Infrastructure Strategy and spatial master planning?

The Earth Heritage Trust houses the county Geological Records Centre (GRC). This resource includes digital and paper information on soils, sand and gravel deposits, geology and quarries, alongside an extensive historical literature database and an initial physical classification of the county's river systems. The GRC also holds information on Local Geological Sites (formerly known as RIGS) within the county.

Question 5: What does this information demonstrate in relation to Green Infrastructure planning as defined above (i.e. does it illustrate key nodes, corridors, sites of interest, etc)?

Depending on the information required, the GRC can provide information on most of the aspects of geodiversity, from geology to soils and rivers. The GRC can also provide information on designated Local Geological Sites, alongside potential Local Sites.

Question 6: Do you have any formal/informal standards of provision for GI elements in the above definition that you work towards?

This question is not clear what it is asking. If it relates to data access, then yes, the GRC has a data access policy.

Question 7: Is your information available in a GIS mapped format and would you be able to share this with Worcestershire County Council?

Site boundaries for Local Geological Sites are available for the majority of sites. Baseline data on locations of important/rare soils and river characteristics are also available, however a report regarding these was submitted to the County Council in 2007. Due to the GRC receiving no core funding from any external body, site boundaries, soils and rivers data are only digitised/worked on where funding is available.

Digital soil and geological data is also held by the GRC, but access and availability is restricted by the data licenses (held by the British Geological Survey and the National Soils Research Institute).

Question 8: As the preparation of a GI plan progresses, are you the relevant person to contact?

Yes

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Yes

No

Could you please provide your contact details below:

Name: Tom Richards

Organisation & Role: Herefordshire & Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust

**Contact Details: Geological Records Centre
University of Worcester
Henwick Grove
Worcester
WR2 6AJ**

thomas.richards@worc.ac.uk 01905 855184

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Question 1: Are you familiar with the concept of Green Infrastructure planning as described in the definition above?

Yes. We consider that key issues such as: flood risk (i.e. flood storage/flows, surface water drainage, 8m easements adjacent 'main rivers' for access, maintenance etc.), water quality, biodiversity and water resources are relevant and can be managed and enhanced through 'green infrastructure' provision.

Question 2: With regard to the definition above, are you currently working or do you have any projects underway that contribute to Green Infrastructure strategic planning and if so how?

Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMP) – consider the factors that contribute to flood risk within a catchment (now and in the future) and from this recommend ways to manage the risk of flooding within the catchment over the next 50 to 100 years. The CFMPs have recently been finalised. They can contribute to GI Strategic Planning by identifying factors leading to flood risk within catchment areas, and considering appropriate ways to manage and reduce these risks i.e. through flood risk management policies, detailing further actions / studies required for a catchment area etc.

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) – are six year plans, which provide detail on local resource availability and policies that will have an influence over future development, in considering how water resources are going to be managed for that area. There are a number of plans applicable to the South Worcestershire Area, which we can provide further information on. They can contribute to GI Strategic Planning in considering sustainable resource management.

River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) – The Water Framework Directive is based on a six-yearly cycle of planning, action and review, through River Basin Management Planning. As part of this RBMPs will be produced for each River Basin District (RBD) every 6 years. RBMPs consider the main issues and condition of each RBD. They must state environmental objectives for each RBD and summarise a programme of delivery actions for achieving them. Draft plans are currently in consultation.

Question 3: You may have previously commented on a report by Faber Maunsell for GI in South Worcestershire. Do you have any comments with regard to the respective themes within the report? See link below to South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy http://www.swjcs.org/html/swjcs_green_infrastructure.html

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is currently being produced for the South Worcestershire area by JBA Consulting. The Faber Maunsell report has been utilised as a background report in producing this document. The SFRA should consider all sources of flooding, provide guidance and evidence for undertaking the Sequential Test, recommend policies for the Core Strategy, consider types of SuDS suitable for potential development sites etc.

A Water Cycle Study is currently being produced for the South Worcestershire area. This will incorporate the themes within the Faber Maunsell report i.e. flood risk, water resources, water quality. For further information contact Fred Davies (South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy Project Manager).

Both of the above documents will inform policies and allocations within the Development Plan Documents for South Worcestershire.

Question 4: What sources of information do you have available that would contribute to a District and/or Countywide Green Infrastructure Strategy and spatial master planning?

Flood Risk – Available information has been utilised by JBA Consulting in producing the SFRA and we would refer you to this document.

Water Quality & Water Resources – It is likely data/information will be requested as part of the South Worcestershire Water Cycle Study.

Question 5: What does this information demonstrate in relation to Green Infrastructure planning as defined above (i.e. does it illustrate key nodes, corridors, sites of interest, etc)?

Identify areas at risk of flooding, which should be kept as or returned to open space and inform appropriate SuDS techniques for catchment areas. SuDS techniques (i.e. wetland, swales, ponds, green roofs etc.) should be incorporated into areas of open space to reduce flood risk but also to enhance water quality, biodiversity and promote groundwater recharge. To achieve this enough space should be provided for the required attenuation / appropriate SuDS techniques etc.

Question 6: Do you have any formal/informal standards of provision for GI elements in the above definition that you work towards?

None

Question 7: Is your information available in a GIS mapped format and would you be able to share this with Worcestershire County Council?

Some is available – we have previously responded to data requests for the SFRA produced for the South Worcestershire LPAs. A data request may be submitted for the Water Cycle Study. This would be dealt with via our External Relations team.

Question 8: As the preparation of a GI plan progresses, are you the relevant person to contact?

Yes

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Yes

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Could you please provide your contact details below:

Name: Rachel Whiteman

Organisation & Role: Environment Agency, Senior Planning Officer

Contact Details: tel: 01743 283 505,

email: rachel.whiteman@environment-agency.gov.uk