

The following definition has been endorsed by the Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Consortium

Green Infrastructure provides a vital life-support system, encompassing a network of green spaces, access routes, landscapes and natural and historic elements that intersperse and connect Buckinghamshire's urban and rural settlements with each other and the surrounding countryside. Operating at all spatial scales it enables a holistic overview of the natural and historic environment, acknowledging its multi-functional benefits for economy, wildlife and health and well being of local people and communities.

The Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Consortium (GIC) was established in 2008. The GIC is a multi-agency forum comprised of local authorities, non government agencies, and countryside and community related organisations.

Green Infrastructure Functions

- Active recreation
- Passive recreation and quiet enjoyment
- Sustainable Transport and public rights of way
- Network, links and gateways
- Social Venue/meeting place
- Cultural/event value
- Education and training
- Heritage preservation
- Landscape and townscape structure
- Wildlife habitat and biodiversity
- Sustainable water and flood risk management
- Sustainable use and production
- Sustainable waste management
- Green produce and food production
- Integration of new and existing communities
- Shared experience of greenspace creation

Green Infrastructure Benefits

- Economic contribution/encouragement and employment benefits
- Environmental benefits
- Physical and psychological health benefits
- Social inclusion benefits
- Microclimate adjustment
- Sense of place
- Integration between existing and new communities.

Based on the guidance provided by the Thames Gateway Green Infrastructure Guidance (Greening the Gateway Partnership), which reflects the approach promoted in The Countryside in and Around Towns: a vision for connecting town and country in pursuit of sustainable development (Countryside Agency/Groundwork)

