

1. Introduction

1.1 The Study

The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN) commissioned Entec to undertake the preparation of a Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy in 2008. A study has been developed, which is divided into two stages. The first includes an audit of all GI assets in the Borough and the preparation of a vision for the future development of a GI network. Gaps in provision were identified through the mapping of resources and a number of workshops with local stakeholders.

Stage Two aims to provide a plan by which to structure the future development of GI in the Borough. It provides a methodology, which supports the prioritisation of the GI initiatives identified and lists a number of high, medium and low priority projects for the towns of King's Lynn, Hunstanton and Downham Market. The findings of Stage One act as an evidence base upon which the identification of development priorities and GI initiatives is based. Further information is then provided on the policies which will require implementation to support the enhancement and development of GI provision in the area. Masterplans for future GI are demonstrated in the report, plus information on how the delivery of these plans will be resourced and monitored.



1.2 Summary of Stage One

The initial phases of the GI Strategy indicate the multifunctional nature of GI nationally, with regards to its definition and ability to support a wide range of social, economic and environmental agendas. A particular focus of the study is the recent attainment of King's Lynn's Growth Point status, which supports the construction of 15,800 new dwellings across the Borough over the period 2001 to 2025. This housing will be broadly allocated as follows: King's Lynn 7,000 units, Downham Market 2,700 and Hunstanton 560. The wider rural area in the Borough will also accommodate 4,600 units (of which 500 will be within the Wisbech fringe and 3,800 in Key Rural Service Centres). Funding is provided through the Growth Point initiative to ensure that appropriate GI is included within these developments.

The local benefits provided through existing, and proposed GI were also identified within Stage One. It demonstrates how GI can improve resident's quality of life and offer economic advantages, such as supporting the tourism offer. GI supports access and recreation purposes accommodating play areas and sports pitches within housing development schemes. Community demand for allotments, which can be used to support local food production, is high across the authority and appropriate space for new facilities will be sought, particularly in Downham Market.

The adaptation role of GI with regards to climate change is expected to be significant and aspirations exist to develop provision, such as street trees, green roofs and SUDS, in new residential and industrial areas, where possible.

Changes are likely to occur to the landscape in the area due to the scale of housing development which is planned over future years. It provides a method by which to soften these alterations and protect elements of the landscape. Opportunities exist in the Borough to enhance landscape characters, such as the Coast, the Fens and the wider agricultural landscape. GI also provides opportunities to support the management and enhancement of the various historic environments, which exist in the Borough, such as the Sandringham Estate. Many of these areas also serve as tourist attractions, providing a variety of economic benefits.



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A wide range of habitats are located within the Borough, however there is a focus on creating and extending the wetlands (through the projects identified in section 5). The protection and creation of heathland habitats is also a priority. Water courses support a number of GI functions and provide recreational opportunities, whilst accommodating biodiversity, and can act as a flood storage mechanism.

