

## **Glossary of Key Terms**

### **Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt)**

These standards recognise the importance of nature in the urban context in terms of improving the quality of people's lives and people's entitlement to have access to, and experience of, nature near to where they live.

### **Agri-Environment Scheme**

An agricultural or farming management scheme that incorporates environmental enhancements or benefits.

### **Ancient Woodland**

An area which has been continuously wooded since at least the year 1600, irrespective of any management which may have taken place.

### **Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)**

Ancient semi natural woodland has the greatest value for wildlife. It has a significant proportion of the native species present and has been continuously wooded for at least 400 years.

### **Area Action Plan (AAP)**

Used to provide a planning framework for areas of change and areas of conservation. Area Action Plans have the status of Development Plan Documents.

### **Area Frameworks**

A component of the Spatial Framework in the Second Edition GI Strategy. Area Frameworks are intended to complement Strategic Projects and Investment Opportunities by identifying locations within the county where an intensity of change is planned (primarily as a result of housing and economic development) and for which there is an early opportunity for GI to shape that change.

### **Biodiversity**

Biological diversity - all living things, their habitats and the relationship between them.

### **Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)**

A strategy prepared for a local area aimed at conserving and enhancing biological diversity.

### **Biodiversity Offsetting**

Biodiversity offsetting provides conservation benefits that compensate for any significant adverse biodiversity impact as a result of development that remains after appropriate prevention and mitigation measures have already been taken.

### **Brownfield**

Brownfield sites describe areas with permanent structures such as unused buildings and infrastructure and usually some bare ground and a range of habitats, such as shrub areas and temporary water pools. These sites are also known as previously developed land, and they are largely confined to urban areas.

### **Climate Change Adaptation**

The ability of a place to adapt to both extreme weather events and long term changes to climate patterns.

**Climate Change Mitigation**

Mitigation aims to reduce the impact of climate change by taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop carbon sinks (stores of carbon that do not decompose to produce carbon dioxide).

**Community Strategy**

Local authorities are required by the Local Government Act 2000 to prepare these, with the aim of improving the social, environmental and economic well-being of their areas. Through the Community Strategy, authorities are expected to co-ordinate the actions of local public, private, voluntary and community sectors.

**Conservation Areas**

Areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

**Core Strategy**

Sets out the long-term spatial vision for the local planning authority area and the spatial objectives and strategic policies to deliver that vision. The Core Strategy has the status of a Development Plan Document.

**County Wildlife Sites (CWS)**

Designated by the County Wildlife Sites Panel (composed of Local Authorities, the Wildlife Trust and representatives from Natural England) and considered to be of County or Regional importance.

**CROW Act**

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000). Legislation that contains new provisions for access in the countryside and for protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

**Development Plan Document (DPDs)**

Documents prepared by local planning authorities and outline the key development goals of the local development framework. All DPDs must be subject to rigorous procedures of community involvement, consultation and independent examination and adopted after receipt of the inspector's binding report.

**Ecosystem Services**

The essential services and benefits that are derived from a fully functioning natural environment, including the management of basic resources such as water, and the sequestration of carbon.

**Geodiversity**

Geological diversity – the varied range of rocks, minerals and topographic characteristics/ landform, together with the processes instrumental in forming these features over geological time. The various components of our geological heritage can give insights into past climates, earlier environments and the development of life on earth.

**Green Belt**

An area of land designated in Development Plans that restricts new built development in order to achieve a number of specific purposes, such as preventing the sprawl of large built-up areas. Green Belts are expected to offer long-term certainty, with their boundaries being altered only in exceptional circumstances.

**Green Space**

A key component of a green infrastructure network, often classified within the typology devised by Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17): Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation.

**Greenhouse Gas**

A gas which traps energy radiated by the earth within the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is the most important of these.

**Green Infrastructure**

Green Infrastructure (GI) is a strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality of life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability. Its design and management should also respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types.

**Habitat Banking**

Measures by which revenues from development schemes requiring off-site mitigation of habitat loss are collected and invested in specific habitat creation projects. In an English context, Habitat Banking is being developed as 'Biodiversity Offsetting' by DEFRA and Natural England.

**Indices of Multiple Deprivation**

These aggregate a number of indicators of social, economic and housing deprivation, into a single deprivation 'score' for a discrete area (local authority wards are often used).

**Investment Opportunities**

A component of the Spatial Framework in the GI Strategy. Investment Opportunities are a series of county-wide programmes, the exact location, scale and scope of which is left to the appropriate delivery agents to develop. Four Investment Opportunities have been identified for Cambridgeshire, comprising:

- Biodiversity Enhancement Programme.
- Sustainable Movement Programme.
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Programme.
- Economic Investment Programme.

**Landscape Scale**

Approach to conservation planning that looks beyond protected areas and discrete wildlife sites to wider natural processes functioning across landscapes.

**Listed buildings**

Buildings of special architectural or historic interest held on a list administered by English Heritage. Decisions on changes are made by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. The buildings or structures are graded I, II\* or II to reflect their relative importance. Listing gives statutory protection to historic buildings against unauthorised alteration or demolition. Special permission is required for works that may affect their character or appearance.

**Local Development Documents (LDDs)**

These include Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents. LDDs collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy for the local planning authority's area.

**Local Development Framework (LDF)**

A folder of documents which includes all the local planning authority's local development documents. An LDF comprises of Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents, Statement of Community Involvement, the Local Development Scheme, the Annual Monitoring Report and any Local Development Orders or Simplified Planning Zones that may have been added.

**Local Development Scheme (LDS)**

The local planning authority's time-scaled programme for the preparation of Local Development Documents.

**Local Delivery Vehicles (LDVs)**

Partnerships which bring the public and private sectors together to deliver large-scale social, economic and environmental change.

**Local Nature Reserve (LNR)**

A statutory term denoting an area of land designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 as being of importance for nature conservation and where public understanding and enjoyment of nature conservation is actively promoted.

**Multi-functionality**

The ability to provide multiple or 'cross cutting' functions, by integrating different activities and land usage, on individual sites and across a whole green infrastructure network.

**National Nature Reserve (NNR)**

A statutory term, denoting an area of land designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 or the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as being of national (and sometimes international) importance. Sites may be in a variety of ownerships, but the essential characteristic is that they are primarily used for nature conservation.

**Planning Policy Statements (PPS)**

Documents issued by Central Government to replace existing Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) notes.

**Ramsar Site**

Wetlands designated by the contracting parties of the Ramsar Convention for inclusion in the list of wetlands of international importance because they meet one or more of the Ramsar criteria.

**Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)**

A strategy for how a region should look in fifteen to twenty years time and possibly longer. The RSS identifies the scale and distribution of new housing in the region, indicates areas of regeneration, expansion or sub-regional planning. Regional Spatial Strategies are prepared by Regional Planning Bodies.

**Scheduled Monument**

Monuments included in the Schedule of Monuments of National Importance, which the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport has a duty to compile and maintain under Section 1 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

## **Section 106**

Section 106 Planning Agreements secure community infrastructure to meet the needs of residents in new developments and/or to mitigate the impact of new developments upon existing community facilities.

## **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**

A site identified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) as an area of special interest by reason of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographic features.

## **Spatial Framework**

The Spatial Framework is the overall 'structure' for GI planning and delivery set out in the GI Strategy. It provides a stimulus and direction for activity in the short-term (the coming 5-10 years) and a framework on which to promote and build GI delivery success up-to and beyond 2031. It consists of three distinct components (described separately):

Investment Opportunities;  
Strategic Projects; and  
Area Frameworks.

## **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)**

Sites of European importance for habitats and species other than wild birds, designated under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations, 1992 in the UK.

## **Special Protection Areas (SPA)**

Sites of European importance for wild birds designated under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations, 1992 in the UK.

## **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs)**

Formerly called Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems. An approach to managing rainfall and run off in developments, with a view to replicating natural drainage. SUDs also aim to control pollution, recharge ground water, control flooding, and often provide landscape and environmental enhancement. **Statutory** Denotes something that is defined in legislation.

## **Strategic Projects**

A component of the Spatial Framework in the Second Edition GI Strategy. These are site specific initiatives of strategic importance. Strategic Projects are of significant importance, perhaps because of their addressing particular needs that would be difficult to address through other mechanisms or because they will have a large impact, with significant benefits for people, wildlife or the environment more generally.

## **Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**

A Local Development Document that may cover a range of issues, thematic or site specific and provides further detail of policies and proposals in a 'parent' Development Plan Document.

## **Sustainable Development**

Making provision for the needs of the existing population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

## **Urban Heat Island Effect**

Whereby air temperatures may be several degrees warmer in built up areas compared to the wider countryside.

**Woodfuel**

Woodfuel can be burned to generate heat or electricity and is an important part of the UK's renewable energy supply. It is a sustainable, low carbon, source of energy that is produced from managed woods, where felled trees are replanted.