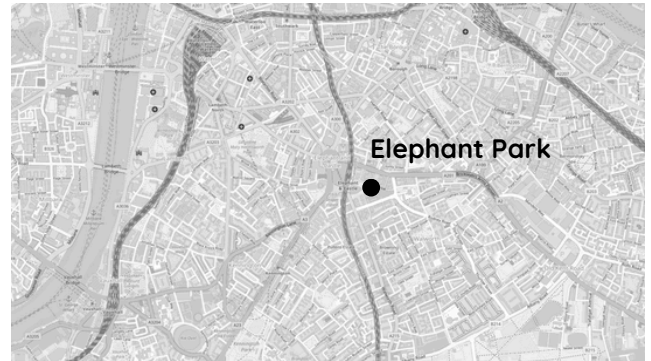


Elephant Park, Elephant & Castle, Southwark



Green Infrastructure Framework case study

Elephant Park is a £2.3 billion regeneration project delivering 3,000 homes along with offices, shops, leisure and community facilities. The green infrastructure includes a new park, and a play facility with fountains, waterfalls and slides. The project showcases the successful use of an Urban Greening Factor standard.



Map produced from the England Green Infrastructure Mapping Database on 30/01/2025.
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What was the vision?

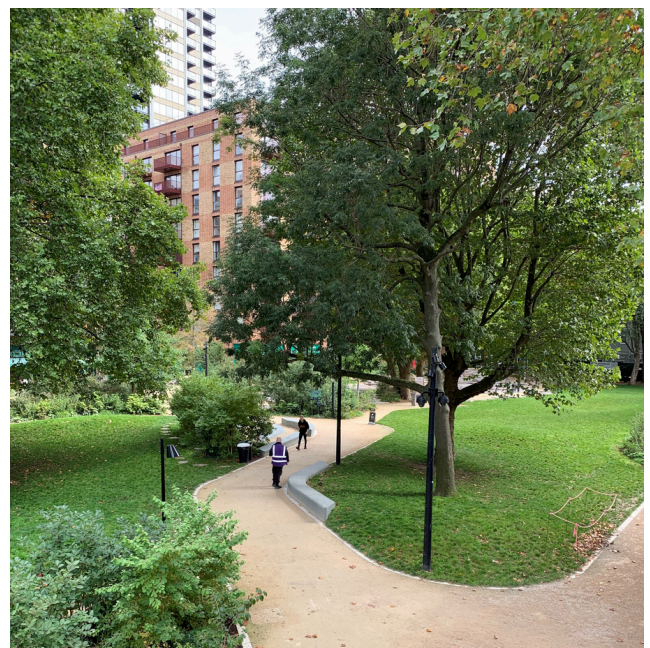
An urban oasis connecting people to place and nature. A liveable place where people and businesses can thrive, a place that feels relaxed and naturalistic, welcoming to all and home to nature. An exciting place with greenspaces connected by tree-lined streets and a strong connection to Elephant & Castle's rich heritage.

How did the Green Infrastructure Framework help to realise the vision?

Increasingly Urban Greening Factors are challenging design teams to increase the quality and quantity of planting. Meadows and trees achieve a high score within Urban Greening Factor calculations, encouraging designers to increase high value habitats, crucial if we are to tackle the big issues of the 21st century.



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Green Infrastructure Framework case study



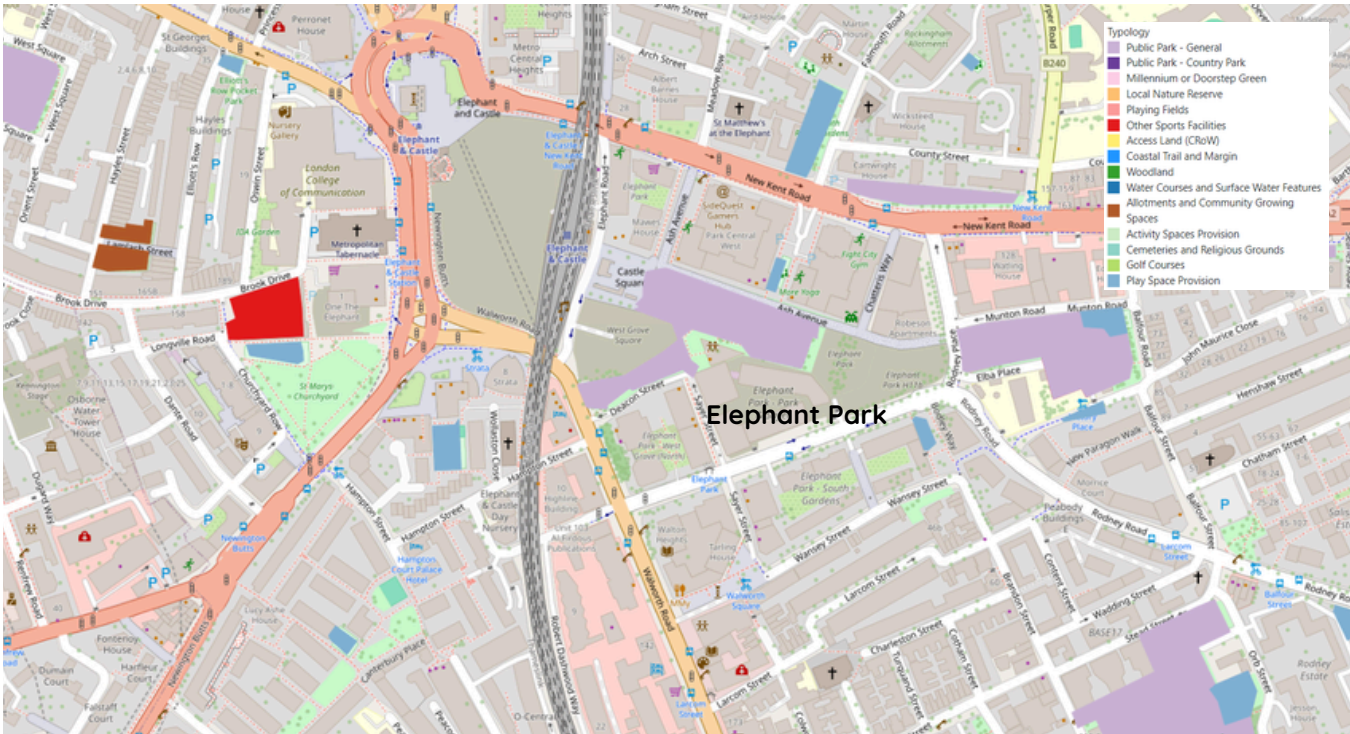
Hard infrastructure has been softened wherever possible with planted areas.



Elephant Park has achieved an Urban Greening Factor score of 0.36.



Demonstrates what's possible when developers have clear, well-defined parameters.



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Urban Greening Factor calculations reward green roofs, meadows and trees with high scores, incentivising designers to prioritise nature-based solutions.



At just 420 sqm, this innovative natural play space proves that transformative outdoor experiences can be created in even the smallest urban sites.



London Planes, Liquidambars, and cherries, grown and supplied in the UK by Hilliers Nursery.

Green Infrastructure Framework case study

What's been achieved?

The two acre park at the centre of the Elephant Park development is one of the largest new green spaces delivered in central London for over 70 years and is attracting visitors from across the city. The project demonstrates the transformative results that clear guidance and well-defined parameters can deliver. It's achieved an Urban Greening Factor score of 0.36 by turning traditional methods of master planning on their head. Instead of saying "Where can we fit in green infrastructure?", the designers asked "Where is it absolutely necessary to have hard infrastructure?". The design has created a place where people can connect with nature in the heart of an urban area. For example, a welcoming community space has been created at The Tree House, with a café kiosk and accessible toilets. Visitors can immerse themselves in the tree canopy from the roof terrace, and take in the view across the park and surrounding area.

What were the problems to overcome?

Green infrastructure represents a vital tool in urban climate change mitigation and adaptation. The network of multifunctional greenspaces at Elephant Park help to reduce the impacts of the urban heat island effect, surface water flooding, biodiversity loss and poor air quality, alongside a raft of other benefits.

What lessons have been learnt?

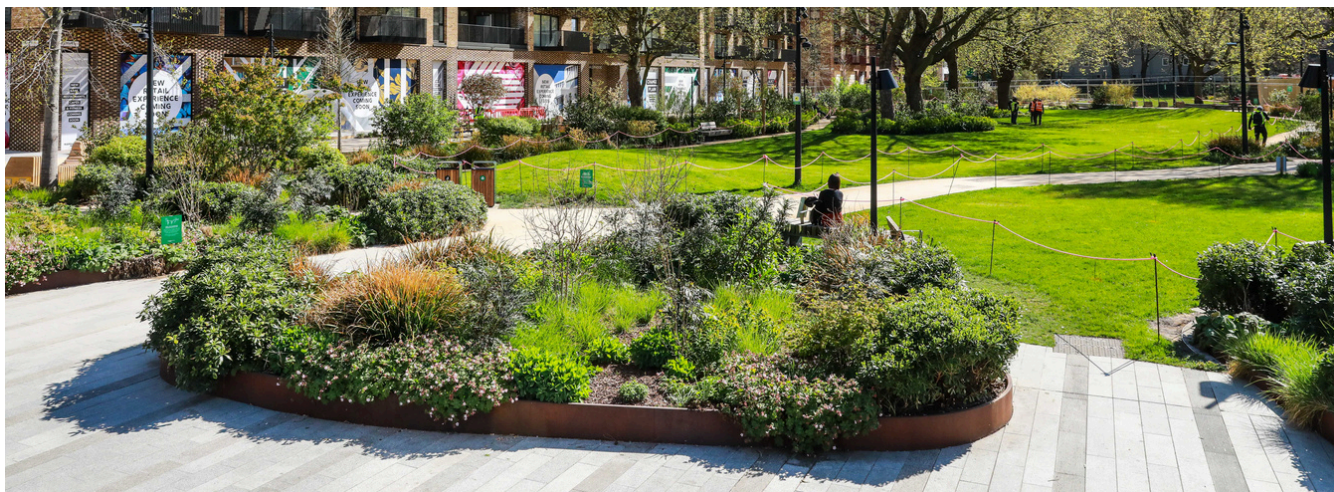
Selecting the appropriate plants adds nature conservation value, encouraging locally important invertebrates, birds and other wildlife. For example, the designers have used mature London Planes, Liquidambars and cherries, grown and supplied in the UK by Hilliers Nursery. The project's Biodiversity, Ecology, and Nature (BEN) strategy guided the ecological design of the project.

How was the green infrastructure strategy funded?

Elephant Park received funding from the London City Hall Green and Resilient Spaces Fund, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Greengage Environmental and Lendlease.

How is the infrastructure being managed and funded going forward?

The publicly accessible green spaces are maintained by the estate management team and funded through a service charge.



Green Infrastructure Framework case study

Green Infrastructure Framework Principles: The benefits

1. Nature-rich, beautiful places

The design team at Lendlease have used mature trees and green, open spaces, connected by tree-lined streets, to create a green heart for this central London borough. Dry areas, moist areas, hundreds of new trees, as well as many retained trees, encouraging a range of species to thrive, and enrich the lives of those living and working in the area.

2. Active and healthy places

Elephant Park is designed to support and encourage green transport in all its forms. Upon completion, there will be 90 new cycle-hire bikes, over 300 bicycle spaces, and a wealth of new pedestrian and cycle routes. All encouraging active travel and helping to reduce air pollution.

3. Thriving and prospering communities

The development delivers housing, retail spaces, and green spaces, and support for local businesses and community projects. Aiming to improve the quality of life for residents and foster a sense of community. The development also focuses on sustainability, including green infrastructure, contributing to a more eco-friendly and vibrant neighborhood

4. Improved water management

Green infrastructure has been designed to mitigate the effects of surface water flooding. The park's rain gardens are designed to lessen the burden on London's sewer system by running surface water into the park's ground. Hard landscaping has been minimised and a meandering swale slows water flow into the network.

5. Resilient and climate positive places

The greenspaces will play a crucial role in helping to reduce surface water flooding, biodiversity loss and poor air quality; the tree canopy, including the retention of 128 mature Plane trees (70+ years old) and over 200 new trees, will reduce the impacts of the urban heat

island effect. Additionally, Southwark Council has issued a Tree Preservation Order covering key parts of the site, reflecting the long-term ecological value of Elephant Park and helping to safeguard its maturing tree canopy.

Green Infrastructure Framework Principles: The attributes

1. Multifunctional

The new green infrastructure will provide new habitats for wildlife, and create a healthier, more pleasant environment for residents and visitors. Green roofs, green walls and other planting provide habitats for wildlife and improve air quality.

2. Varied

The park is designed to be a social hub, offering spaces for exercise, play, and relaxation. It includes wide-open lawns, seating areas, and play clusters, making it suitable for diverse user groups, including families, dog walkers, and those seeking quiet moments.

3. Connected

Green initiatives to improve connectivity for nature include the planting of numerous trees. Pedestrian and cycle routes are integrated to encourage active engagement with nature and connect the park to surrounding areas.

4. Accessible

Pedestrianised areas and new cycle lanes improve access to nature and promote active lifestyles. The welcoming public spaces, encourage visitors to enjoy the green environment.

5. Character

The name Elephant Park maintains the strong connection with the area's heritage. The name Elephant & Castle is believed to come from the coaching inn that stood here from around the mid 18th century. Prior to that there was a blacksmith's forge that may have had an affiliation with Cutlers, a group of medieval craftsmen who made swords and knives and who used an Elephant on their coat of arms.

Green Infrastructure Framework case study

Green Infrastructure Framework Principles: The process

1. Partnership and vision

Lendlease, in collaboration with Southwark Council and local residents, has delivered inclusive placemaking at Elephant Park - one of London's most ambitious regeneration projects. By integrating green infrastructure, inclusive design, and long-term socio-economic benefits, the scheme has driven investment in Elephant & Castle. Key partners include Transport for London, the Greater London Authority, London College of Communication, London South Bank University and Get Living.

2. Evidence

Ecological and environmental evidence for the planning at Elephant Park was rooted in thorough site assessments and sustainability-driven design. Key ecological surveys, including habitat mapping and bat surveys, helped determine where green roofs, rain gardens, and native planting would be most effective. The project underwent Environmental Impact Assessment screening to evaluate its broader ecological footprint. These insights, combined with guidance from the Biodiversity Ecology and Nature Strategy, ensured the regeneration would support urban biodiversity, climate resilience, and ecological connectivity.

3. Plan strategically

The council has identified Elephant & Castle as an area with opportunity for growth. They have planned strategically to deliver homes, including affordable housing options, particularly for those living and working in Southwark. The creation of new public spaces, parks, and green areas, aims to improve the quality of life for residents and enhance the area's appeal.

4. Design

The project's Biodiversity, Ecology, and Nature strategy guided the ecological design of the project. Elephant Park features comprehensive green infrastructure designed to enhance

biodiversity, manage water runoff, and improve the overall quality of life for residents and visitors. Key features include rain gardens, green roofs and walls, a variety of habitats for wildlife, and sustainable transport options. The park also incorporates social and recreational spaces, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment.

5. Managed, valued, monitored and evaluated

The green infrastructure will be regularly reviewed to ensure it continues to deliver a vibrant, sustainable, and enjoyable environment for residents and visitors. Lendlease continue to maintain the publicly accessible green spaces.



Delivered by:

**Lendlease
in partnership with
Southwark Council**