

# Data Wish List for GI Strategy – Appendix 2

Process Guide for Local Planning Authorities –  
Developing Green Infrastructure Policies and  
Strategies using the Green Infrastructure Framework –  
Principles and Standards for England

September 2024

## Table 1 Data Wish List

The 'Data Wish List' is a comprehensive set of evidence which can be used to develop a green infrastructure strategy. Please note that this list is extensive and if some of these datasets are not available it would not prevent the strategy from being produced.

Type	GIS layer	Source (Not all data listed may be open data and some may require use under license).	Purpose
Green Infrastructure	Greenness grid	Natural England GI Framework	Existing GI assets / deficiencies
Green Infrastructure	Density of PRoW Network	Natural England GI Framework	Existing GI assets / deficiencies
Green Infrastructure	Spatial data showing locations of any green walls/green roofs	If locally held – not always much data for this	Existing GI assets
Green Infrastructure	Green infrastructure network	Locally held – if available e.g. from a previous strategy	Existing GI Areas of opportunity
Green Infrastructure	Tree canopy cover	May be locally held. Can be purchased e.g. from Bluesky. In urban areas average tree canopy over wards is freely available: <a href="#">GB Ward Canopy Cover WebMap (arcgis.com)</a>	Existing GI assets / deficiencies
Green Infrastructure	Land Cover (Corine / CEH)	Copernicus (available at 100m resolution on 6 yearly cycle) / CEH data down to 10m	Useful background for types of GI assets

Type	GIS layer	Source (Not all data listed may be open data and some may require use under license).	Purpose
		resolution may require bespoke license.	which may be present
Ecological Environment	Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	Locally held data	Existing GI assets
Ecological Environment	<p>Ecological Network – this may include component Biodiversity Core Areas. Buffers, Corridors, Stepping Stones &amp; Opportunity Areas. Opportunity Areas may be described as 'Nature Improvement Areas' .</p> <p>Existing areas or aspirational opportunity areas identified by the LPA. These may be formally adopted as part of the Local Plan, in-progress to be so, or referenced in Council workstream/s. This includes Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA)</p>	Locally held data	<p>Existing GI assets</p> <p>Areas of opportunity</p>
Ecological Environment	Priority Habitat Inventory (PHI)	National Data available, but can be supplemented if there is any local habitat mapping data	Existing GI assets
Ecological Environment	Living England Habitat Probability Map	Natural England	Existing GI Assets

Type	GIS layer	Source (Not all data listed may be open data and some may require use under license).	Purpose
Ecological Environment	Hedges / Verges etc	If held locally. Data available under license from CEH or commercially (eg: Bluesky).	Existing GI assets
Ecological Environment	Species data	Any locally held data available	Area of ecological need
Ecological Environment	B-Line	Produced by Buglife – freely available to download	Areas of opportunity
Ecological Environment	Natural Habitat Network Class. This includes: Primary & associated habitats identified (largely based on PHI data) Restorable habitats Restoration – Creation Enhancement Zones 1 & 2	Natural England (Habitat Networks England data).	Existing GI assets Areas of opportunity
Ecological Environment	Working with natural Processes data. Includes: Woodland Constraints (WWNP data) Riparian Woodland Potential (WWNP data) Wider Catchment Woodland Potential (WWNP data) Floodplain Woodland Potential (WWNP data)	FCERM (Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management) and Environment Agency	Areas of opportunity / constraint

Type	GIS layer	Source (Not all data listed may be open data and some may require use under license).	Purpose
Ecological Environment	FC Priority Places for England - The FC data identified Priority Places for England areas to support the Woodland Carbon Fund (launched 2016), based on data that includes populations, deprivation indices and existing public access.	Forestry Commission	Area of opportunity
Ecological Environment	Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	Natural England	Existing assets
Ecological Environment	National Nature Reserves (NNR)	Natural England	Existing assets
Ecological Environment	Ramsar	Natural England	Existing assets
Ecological Environment	Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	Natural England	Existing assets
Ecological Environment	Special Protection Areas (SPA)	Natural England	Existing assets
Ecological Environment	Recommended Marine Conservation Zone	Natural England	Existing assets
Ecological Environment	Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Natural England	Existing assets
Ecological Environment	SSSI units	Natural England	Existing assets
Ecological Environment	SSSI impact risk zones	Natural England	Areas of constraint

Type	GIS layer	Source (Not all data listed may be open data and some may require use under license).	Purpose
Ecological Environment	NGO reserves e.g. Plantlife, RSPB, The Wildlife Trusts etc.	RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, Plantlife etc. – can be useful to get in touch and see if there is mapped data available for these	Existing assets
Ecological Environment	UK Important Bird Areas (IBAs)	RSPB	Existing assets
Ecological Environment	Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI)	Natural England	Existing assets
Ecological Environment	National Forest Inventory (NFI)	Forestry Commission	Existing assets
Hydrology	Surface Water Flooding	Environment Agency	Areas of need
Hydrology	Land at risk from groundwater flooding	British Geological Survey – data available under license.	Areas of need
Hydrology	Flood zone 3a and 3b	Environment Agency	Areas of need
Hydrology	Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) – e.g. location of rain gardens or other SuDs features	Locally held data may be available	Existing GI assets
Hydrology	Watercourses / bodies	Ordnance Survey	Existing GI assets
Hydrology	Water Framework Directive Water Quality	Environment Agency	Areas of need

Type	GIS layer	Source (Not all data listed may be open data and some may require use under license).	Purpose
Hydrology	Source Protection Zones	Environment Agency	Areas of need
Hydrology	Natural Flood Management Areas or Opportunity areas	If any locally held data available	Existing GI assets Areas of opportunity
Access, Recreation and Open Space	Local cycle routes	Locally held	Existing GI asset
Access, Recreation and Open Space	Public Rights of Way (PRoW)	Locally held	Existing GI asset
Access, Recreation and Open Space	Local recreation routes	If any locally held	Existing GI asset
Access, Recreation and Open Space	Open spaces	Some local space is available nationally through OS but this should be supplemented by locally held data and an up to date open space strategy where possible	Existing GI asset
Access, Recreation and Open Space	Access to open space	This can be obtained from NEGIF but this is nationally held data –	Areas of deficiency / need (only where the

Type	GIS layer	Source (Not all data listed may be open data and some may require use under license).	Purpose
		may require addition of local data.	deficiency overlaps with populations)
Access, Recreation and Open Space	Play areas	OS Greenspace data - Can feed into open space data	Existing GI asset
Access, Recreation and Open Space	Sports and recreation facilities	Sport England (Active Places), OS Greenspace data or may locally held	Existing GI asset
Access, Recreation and Open Space	Country Parks	Natural England	Existing GI asset
Access, Recreation and Open Space	Doorstep and Millenium greens	Natural England	Existing GI asset
Access, Recreation and Open Space	National Trails	Natural England	Existing GI asset
Access, Recreation and Open Space	National and Regional Cycle Routes	Sustrans	Existing GI asset
Access, Recreation	CRoW Act Open Access Land / Open Country	Natural England	Existing GI asset



Type	GIS layer	Source (Not all data listed may be open data and some may require use under license).	Purpose
and Open Space			
Access, Recreation and Open Space	CRow Act Registered Common Land	Natural England	Existing GI asset
Access, Recreation and Open Space	Coastal Trial and Coastal Margin	Natural England	Existing GI asset
Access, Recreation and Open Space	National Trust Land – Always Open / Limited Access	National Trust	Existing GI asset
Health and wellbeing	Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)	Defra – UK Air Information Resource	Area of need
Health and wellbeing	Index of Deprivation (IoD 2019) – this is also useful divided into domains, particularly the Health and disability and Living Environment deprivation domains	MHCLG	Area of need
Health and wellbeing	Road and rail noise data	Defra	Areas of need
Health and wellbeing	Other air quality data	Anything held locally or available through Environment agency	Areas of need

Type	GIS layer	Source (Not all data listed may be open data and some may require use under license).	Purpose
Health and wellbeing	Surface temperature / urban heat island data	If there is anything held locally on this could do have	Areas of need
Health and wellbeing	Population density	Census data	Areas of need
Geology	Locally Important Geological Sites (LIGS) or Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS)	Held locally	Existing GI asset
Historic Environment	Conservation areas, Listed buildings, scheduled monument or any other historic designation	Historic England or held locally	To note that GI should be designed sensitively in relation to historic assets.
Historic Environment	Historic Environment Records (HER)	Historic England – or locally held	May indicate a need (or opportunity) for GI to improve historic setting
Landscape	Landscape character types / areas	Held locally	To inform types of opportunities which may be suitable
Landscape	National Parks / National Landscapes / Heritage Coasts etc.	Natural England	GI asset

Type	GIS layer	Source (Not all data listed may be open data and some may require use under license).	Purpose
Landscape	Environmental Stewardship (ES) / Countryside Stewardship etc.	Natural England	May indicate opportunities or existence of GI in agricultural land
Landscape	Agricultural grade	Nationally available	Can inform opportunities
Other layers of note	Settlement boundaries	Held locally	
Other layers of note	Town centres / Local centres	Held locally	
Other layers of note	Site allocations / Site allocation options: i.e. Call for sites, Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) sites. Other significant planning applications, safeguarded land.	Held locally	This can indicate where there are opportunities for new GI within development
Other layers of note	Population projections	Held locally	
Other layers of note	Bus stops / train stations etc.	Held locally	Can inform opportunities in relation to connectivity for people

Type	GIS layer	Source (Not all data listed may be open data and some may require use under license).	Purpose
Other layers of note	Existing employment sites, industrial sites	Held locally	This can indicate where there are opportunities for new GI within development
Other layers of note	Greenfield land	Held locally	
Other layers of note	Brownfield land	Held locally	
Other layers of note	Waste management facilities, minerals safeguarding areas, authorised landfill sites, historic landfill sites, contaminated land	Held locally	Can be constraints or opportunities for new GI

Natural England is here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

Natural England publications are available as accessible pdfs from [www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england).

Should an alternative format of this publication be required, please contact our enquiries line for more information: 0300 060 3900 or email [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk).

ISBN 978-1-78367-408-4  
Catalogue code: NE820

This publication is published by Natural England under the Open Government Licence v3.0 for public sector information. You are encouraged to use, and reuse, information subject to certain conditions. For details of the licence visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3).

Please note: Natural England photographs are only available for non-commercial purposes. For information regarding the use of maps or data visit [www.gov.uk/how-to-access-natural-englands-maps-and-data](http://www.gov.uk/how-to-access-natural-englands-maps-and-data).

© Natural England 2023