

Supporting Local Authorities to deliver Green Infrastructure:

Lessons from the Highways Greening Accelerator with Camden and Islington and how learning is being used in the national Nature Towns and Cities Initiative



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What is Nature Towns and Cities



A programme to help 100 towns and cities across the UK transform access to green space

Overall goal is for millions more people to be able to enjoy time outdoors in nature close to home

Help address the challenges facing towns and cities in C21st

Create greener, fairer, healthier and more connected towns, cities and neighbourhoods

Nature doing a job

What is Green Infrastructure?



Healthier,
more resilient
Nature



Healthier,
more resilient
Places



Healthier,
more resilient
People



Healthier,
more resilient
Economy

Green Infrastructure Framework

Principles and Standards for England

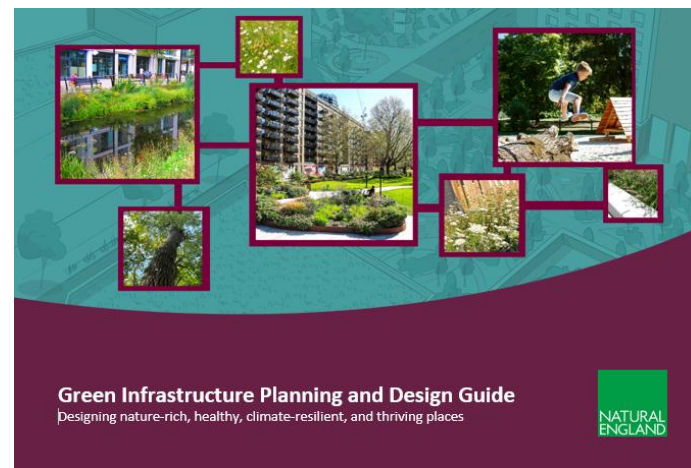
What is the Green Infrastructure Framework?

It sets out what good looks like for local planning authorities, developers, parks and greenspace managers and communities. It provides tools to help plan and design green infrastructure networks that deliver multiple benefits.

Green Infrastructure Principles

Why, What and How of good green infrastructure

Why	1. Nature 2. Health 3. Economy 4. Water 5. Climate
What	1. Multifunctional 2. Varied 3. Connected 4. Accessible 5. Responds to Character
How	1. Partnership and Vision 2. Evidence 3. Plan Strategically 4. Design 5. Manage, Value and Evaluate



For more information scan the QR code or copy the link:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx>

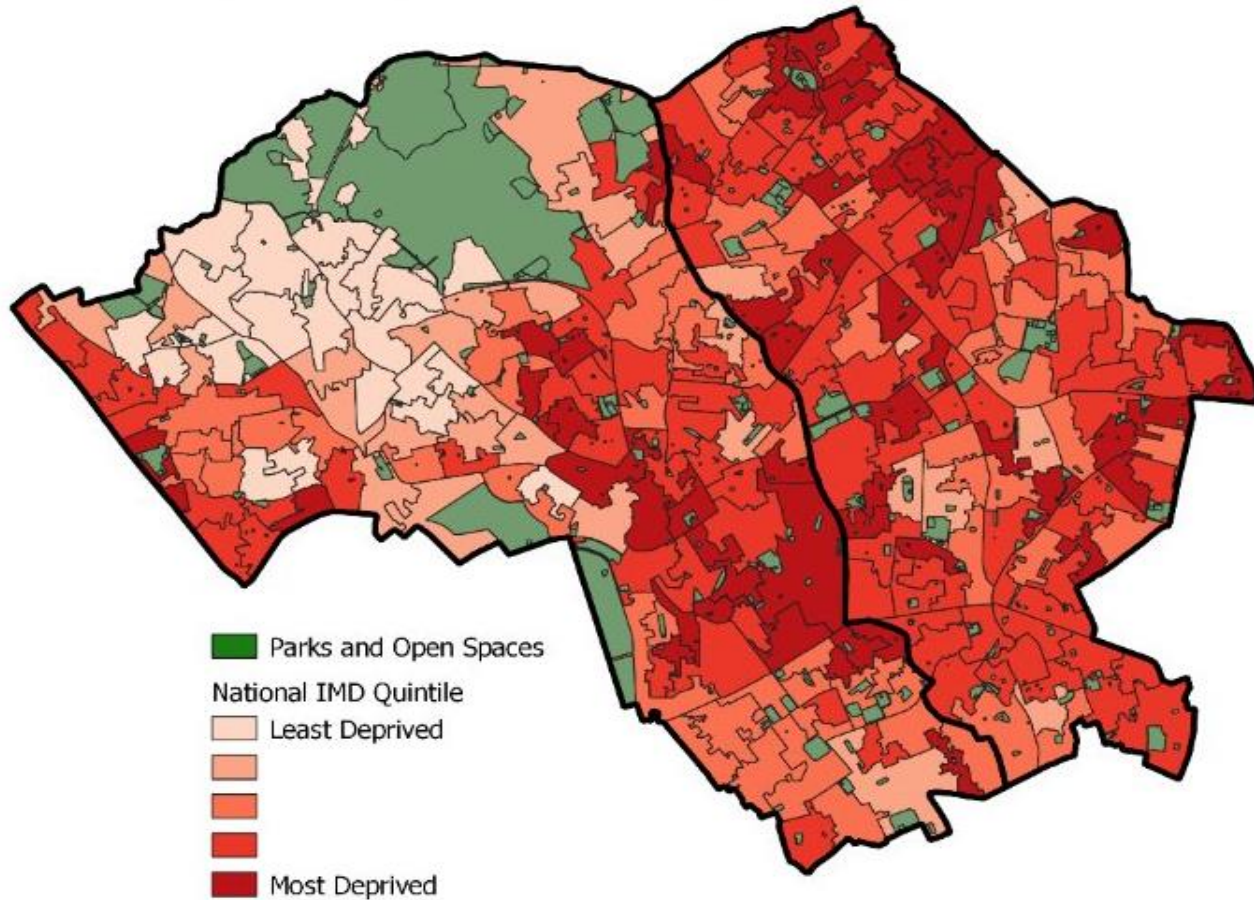
Camden and Islington

Highways Greening Accelerator

Local Government Association
October 2024



Camden and Islington Parks and Open Spaces and Index of Multiple Deprivation quintiles





Fleet Valley Pocket Park (2021)



2023



Alfred Place Gardens (2018)

2023



Ferntower Rd (2021)



Cleveland Road (2023)

Highways Greening Accelerator summary

"The programme explores and develops creative and innovative ways of using highways land to provide the access to nature and the green infrastructure benefits that are needed to address inequality, improve quality of life and support vital ecosystem services."

- Funded by the National Trust and Heritage Lottery - £280k between Camden and Islington over 2 years
- Funding focuses on learning, processes and skills development in Green Infrastructure (not capital works)
- Ensuring that investment in highway greening is effective, efficient and contributes to reducing inequalities by targeting areas of greatest need.



Training programme



- Initial assessment of officers' skills, knowledge and experience
- Curriculum developed with UDL – 12 topics, in person site visits and online
- Tailored to transport and highways officer audience, range of levels
- Topics included: SuDS, Hard Materials, Planting, Ecology, Engagement, Delivery processes
- Also provided a regular space for open questions and networking
- Recorded sessions, but main legacy in development of guidance documents

Green Infrastructure for Streets

A practical guide to design, delivery & maintenance

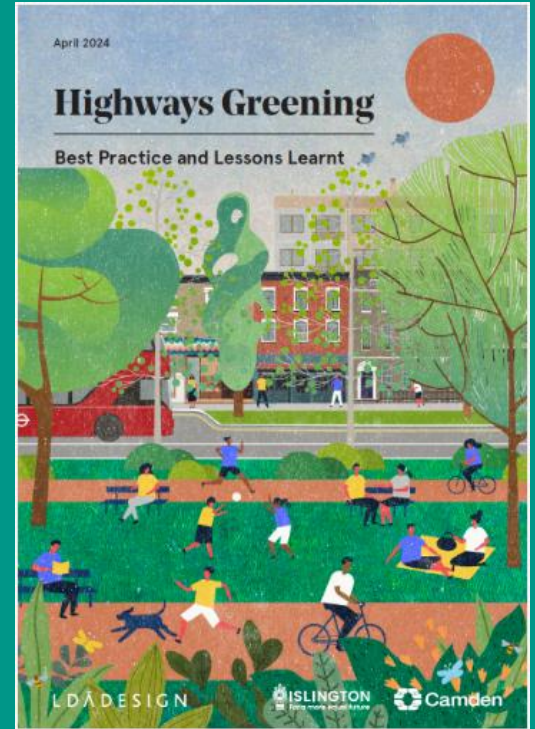


UDL



Planting Design Guide For Streets

LD&A DESIGN



April 2024

Highways Greening

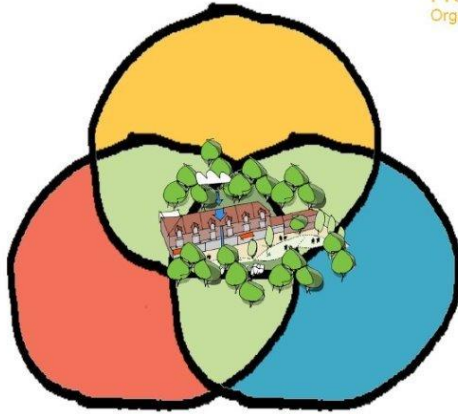
Best Practice and Lessons Learnt

LD&A DESIGN



Available at: [Green Infrastructure for Streets \(urbandesignlearning.com\)](https://www.urbandesignlearning.com)

Process
Organisation & Strategy



Resources
Teams & Skills

Funding
Capital & Revenue



PROCESS

Strong political leadership and the willingness to implement innovative changes will help deliver more transformational public realm projects.

RESOURCES

Projects need collaborative teams with the expertise and capacity to effectively deliver on time and to budget

FUNDING

The durability and long-term success of a scheme is reliant on how well it is maintained and managed over time and ensuring the design is adequately resourced.

Next steps for Camden and Islington

Supporting existing projects

Use the projects that are already underway in Islington and Camden as pilots to test the outputs of the HGA programme

Supporting officers

Continue to support officers with developing their knowledge and skills on GI by sharing internally

Strategy and policy

Use findings and mapping tool to inform forthcoming Green Infrastructure Strategy at LBI and LBC

Questions?