

Hassocks PNP

Green Infrastructure Text

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012) defines green infrastructure as *"a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities"*.¹

Put simply green infrastructure provides a range of benefits to our village and our quality of life. These include:

- A general enhancement in the appearance and character of the place we live
- Providing access to parks and open spaces within our village and to the surrounding countryside
- Providing facilities for recreation, sports and quiet enjoyment
- Providing connected networks for wildlife
- Reduction in flood risk by reducing the volume and speed of rainfall flowing into rivers, while also helping to reduce water pollution
- Promotion of sustainable development
- Positive contribution to climate change through improved micro-climates through shading and cooling
- Encouraging walking and cycling providing sustainable transport benefits and encouraging activity and healthy living
- Allotments and community gardens can provide opportunities for local food production

There is also evidence² that well managed green infrastructure contributes wider economic and social benefits, including crime reduction, improved physical and mental health outcomes, economic competitiveness and greater attraction to tourists.

We have mapped the existing Green Infrastructure networks across the village in the following categories or typologies:

- Woodland and hedges (including roadside and railway planting and corridors)
- Parks and Open Spaces (including school grounds and cemeteries)
- Other open space such as the Golf Course
- Streams
- Footpaths, Bridleways and other rights of way
- Allotments

¹ See Annex 2: Glossary of the NPPF

² See for instance 'Green Infrastructure An integrated approach to land use Landscape Institute Position Statement'

- Tree lined streets
- Veteran or Landmark Trees³

Back gardens and other private land may also contribute to green infrastructure, in particular where these back onto other features such as streams, road and rail corridors, parks and woodland.

The Neighbourhood Plan envisages two important elements of green infrastructure provision. The first is to conserve and enhance our existing green infrastructure assets; and the second is to ensure new development contributes to the enhancement of this network, where appropriate, by:

- protecting existing assets or delivering mitigatory provision
- the creation of new green spaces which link to the existing paths and open space network
- planting which contributes to wildlife and links with the existing network of woodland, hedges and streams
- providing sustainable drainage
- providing allotments and community gardens

³ Veteran or Landmark Trees are defined as mature specimen trees of particular local significance or prominence and, in some cases, local historic and cultural associations