

APPENDIX B

Summary of Relevant Strategies and Studies

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT STRATEGIES AND STUDIES

Existing Wealden District Green Infrastructure Evidence Base

GI related evidence base work undertaken by the Council includes:

- Wealden Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment (November 2014)¹⁸¹.
- Wealden Landscape Study (February 2009)¹⁸².
- Habitat Regulations Assessment work associated with Ashdown Forest Special Protection Area (SPA)/Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Pevensey Levels SAC (on-going).
- Updated Open Space, Sport and Recreation Stud (in prep).
- Updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (in prep)
- Wealden Local Plan Sites Landscape and Ecological Assessments (2017)

Wealden District Council Community and Corporate Strategies

The Wealden Sustainability Strategy¹⁸³ and Corporate Plan¹⁸⁴ provide a number of themes, vision elements and priorities that can be closely linked with the environmental, social and economic benefits of GI including:

- Improving mental health and wellbeing.
- Adapting to climate change and managing flood risk.
- Protecting, maintaining and enhancing rural and urban environments.
- Providing high quality, accessible open space and a safe and comprehensive network of footpaths and bridleways.
- Promotion of the countryside as a sustainable resource for recreation, tourism and other rural enterprise.
- Support for Wealden's farming, forestry and viticulture enterprises.

¹⁸¹ http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Planning_and_Building_Control/Planning_Policy/CoreStrategy/CoreStrategyLibrary/Planning_Evidence_Base_Landscape.aspx

¹⁸² See Landscape page for footnote 5 for link.

¹⁸³ Wealden Sustainability Strategy (undated)

¹⁸⁴ Wealden Corporate Plan, WDC (2015-19)

Other Relevant Strategies and Studies

East Sussex Environment Strategy (2011)

The East Sussex Environment Strategy¹⁸⁵ identifies the following objectives:

- To protect and enhance key biodiversity sites, halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity, and further develop and restore large scale habitats.
- To create well planned GI that supports the landscape, habitats and wildlife.
- To ensure that 90% of the population of the County has access to a natural greenspace within 5 minutes of their home.
- To provide the opportunity to be active outdoors on a regular basis.

To achieve this, the Strategy put forward two specific actions in regards to GI:

- To develop a countywide approach to GI.
- To ensure that the infrastructure (including GI) associated with new development is planned for and that environmental objectives are represented in Local Plans.

East Sussex Green Infrastructure Study (2014)

To meet the Environment Strategy actions detailed above, the County Council produced the East Sussex Green Infrastructure Study¹⁸⁶. This study provides guidance to local authorities and identifies a number of objectives relating to baseline mapping, assessment scales, key functions of GI and opportunities and gaps in data. The aim is to ensure that a joined up approach to identifying and assessing the provision of GI at a County level can be achieved and contributed to by each local authority within the County - including Wealden District.

South Downs National Park Access Network and Accessible Natural Greenspace Study

The South Downs National Park Access Network and Accessible Natural Green Space Study¹⁸⁷ provides evidence in support of both the South Downs National Park Management Plan and Local Plan, by analysing the access network and elements of the GI network in and around the National Park. The study focuses primarily on one element of the total GI resource, the access components and, in particular, accessible natural greenspace. The study analysed access to accessible natural greenspace against standards set out by Natural England, which states that everyone should have access to some form of accessible natural greenspace. The study identifies areas of deficiency in provision for populations

¹⁸⁵ East Sussex Environment Strategy (2011)

¹⁸⁶ East Sussex Green Infrastructure Study (2014)

¹⁸⁷ <http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/national-park-local-plan/evidence-and-supporting-documents/access-network-and-accessible-natural-green-space-study/>

served by the National Park, including those both within and outside the Park – including Wealden District.

South Downs National Park Draft Green Infrastructure Framework (2016)

The Draft Green Infrastructure Framework¹⁸⁸ sets out a roadmap for GI planning related to the South Downs National Park and the wider region. The Framework bridges the divide between urban and rural areas in terms of GI planning, making new connections and bringing greater understanding of the synergies and interactions between them. The Framework aims to support spatial planning by local authorities by bringing together the existing strategies and plans of partners and placing these alongside additional evidence to add depth to the understanding of the area. The Framework is not intended to be prescriptive in the specific actions which partners should take to further GI planning and delivery but, rather, provides an over-arching framework of priorities and principles into which individual plans, strategies and delivery could fit. The Framework provides several GI case study examples as well as identifying proposed GI Investment Areas, including two within Wealden District.

¹⁸⁸ South Downs National Park Draft Green Infrastructure Framework (2016)



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