

# The Twenty-Three Standards

There are 23 standards in total. Five core standards together create a solid foundation for the delivery of high-quality green infrastructure through planning and development.

There are three additional thematic groups of standards. Within each of these themes there are three standards attainable at Good level (1-3) and three standards at Excellent level (4-6).

## CORE Standards

**CORE1:** The green infrastructure forms a multifunctional network.

**CORE2:** The scheme identifies important local character features as a starting point for the green infrastructure proposals and incorporates them into the scheme to reference, reflect and enhance the local environment.

**CORE3:** The type, quality and function of green infrastructure respond to the local context.

**CORE4:** The green infrastructure is resilient to climate change; and minimises the scheme's environmental impact with respect to air, soil, light, noise, and water; and enhances the quality of air, soil and water.

**CORE5:** Provision is made for long-term management and maintenance of all green infrastructure features post-development.

## WELLBEING Standards

### *Good*

**WELL1:** Green infrastructure is accessible for all and is situated close to where people live to promote health, wellbeing, and active living.

**WELL2:** The scheme encourages all people to use and enjoy green infrastructure and considers the needs and strengths of vulnerable and excluded groups.

**WELL3:** Green infrastructure is designed to encourage optimal use and employs hard and soft features to be accessible at all times of year.

### *Excellent*

**WELL4:** The scheme supports local priorities for reducing and/or preventing health inequalities.

**WELL5:** The scheme demonstrates innovative solutions to overcoming social and cultural barriers to use and enjoyment of green infrastructure and considers how green infrastructure can promote socially sustainable communities and community cohesion.

**WELL6:** The scheme demonstrates that green infrastructure is integral to the distinctiveness of place.

## WATER Standards

### *Good*

**WAT1:** Green infrastructure is integral to sustainable drainage and features are designed to minimise surface runoff, manage flood risk, and maintain the natural water cycle.

**WAT2:** Green infrastructure has been used to improve water quality within the boundary of the scheme.

**WAT3:** The design of SuDS enhances the capacity of green infrastructure features to create and sustain better places for people and nature.

### *Excellent*

**WAT4:** The scheme responds to the local policy context in terms of water management, demonstrating an innovative approach to move beyond the statutory minimum.

**WAT5:** A diversity of green infrastructure features are utilised to improve water quality, utilising more and better treatment stages to maximise pollution reduction downstream.

**WAT6:** Features relating to water management are used to enhance local distinctiveness and add value to the overall design.

## WILDLIFE Standards

### *Good*

**WILD1:** Green infrastructure delivers a net enhancement of biodiversity quality by avoiding, mitigating, and compensating for impacts on existing biodiversity, and restoring, creating and enhancing biodiversity, where possible within the boundary of the scheme. Provision has been made for on-going monitoring and remediation.

**WILD2:** Green infrastructure features ensure linkages between habitats within the boundary of the scheme.

**WILD3:** Green infrastructure delivers key measures that contribute to the target conservation status of key species.

### *Excellent*

**WILD4:** Green infrastructure includes ecological features around and within the built environment.

**WILD5:** Green infrastructure is effectively connected to ecological features beyond the boundary of the scheme and plays a role in restoring and sustaining wider ecological networks.

**WILD6:** The scheme secures biodiversity measures in all stages of implementation and in the case of phased development schemes, across multiple phases of development.