



**CRAVEN**

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**D I S T R I C T**

# **Craven Green & Blue Infrastructure Resource Paper**

**DECEMBER 2022**

## **Purpose of this Resource Paper**

Green and blue infrastructure (GBI) can be defined as all the natural and semi-natural landscape elements that form the green-blue network in an area.

The paper complements the [Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity SPD](#), which provides formal guidance on the specific requirements of policies [ENV4: Biodiversity](#) and [ENV5: Green Infrastructure](#) of the adopted [Craven Local Plan](#). Specifically, this paper relates to Policy ENV5, which requires housing, business and other developments to be accompanied by an improved and expanded green infrastructure network. Policy ENV4 requires development to make a positive contribution towards achieving a net gain in biodiversity wherever possible and the SPD recommends use of Natural England's Biodiversity Metric (see [Biodiversity Metric 3.0 resource paper](#) for further information).

Information on the [Craven GBI Map](#) and in this Resource Paper:

- Provides applicants with a means for finding out where GBI assets are in the area, and how proposed assets might be formed and linked into the wider GBI network;
- Provides a clear picture of known GBI assets in Craven and suggests broad GBI types;
- Shows the location of these different GBI types;
- Explains the wider benefits of GBI, including for example its multifunctional role;
- Answers a few FAQs that applicants may have about policies ENV4 and ENV5.

## **Types of Green & Blue Infrastructure**

Assets on the Craven GBI Map and suggested GBI types are as follows:

### Blue Infrastructure

- The Leeds and Liverpool Canal

Other waterbodies are visible in the standard Google Map background and in Natural England's GI mapping layers (see Additional GBI Guidance and Mapping, below).

### Green Infrastructure (a): Plan-led multifunctional GI assets

- Green Wedges
- Designated Local Green Spaces
- A number of allocated Sites

### Green Infrastructure (b): natural habitat and wildlife focused

- Ancient woodland
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

### Green Infrastructure (c): community and/or recreation focused

- Amenity greenspace (as identified in the Open Space Assessment 2016);
- Allotments (as identified in the Open Space Assessment 2016);
- Cemeteries (as identified in the Open Space Assessment 2016);

- Children’s play areas (as identified in the Open Space Assessment 2016);
- Civic spaces (as identified in the Open Space Assessment 2016);
- Outdoor sports facilities (as identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy 2016);
- Parks and gardens (as identified in the Open Space Assessment 2016);
- Semi-natural greenspace (as identified in the Open Space Assessment 2016);
- Public Rights of Way (PRoW);
- Areas of land covered by Tree Preservation Orders (TPO).

### **Using the Mapping Tool**

The Craven GBI Map uses a Google Map format and by clicking on any polygon in the mapping layers users can view details about each GBI asset. Inset boxes are plotted around some assets in and bordering on the plan area. These inset boxes are very close to the outmost extents of the asset boundaries, and links to where the user can find the full, detailed boundaries are included in the polygon’s site details. The map provides users with the ability to turn individual layers on and off and perhaps overlay their own proposed development site. This will allow users to see how their proposed GBI can interact with and potentially link up to existing GBI in the area.

### **Wider benefits of GBI**

Both existing and new areas of GBI play an important role in providing multifunctional spaces for people, species and habitats and can include flood alleviation areas, recreational walkways, open space areas, wildlife corridors and habitat areas. Newly created areas of GBI can link to the existing GBI network to enhance the wider network.

### **Additional GBI Guidance and Mapping**

Natural England have produced a Green Infrastructure Framework relating to principles and standards for England. This framework is a commitment in the Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan, and it is available to view under <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx>. This website includes a Green Infrastructure Mapping Database. This is a baseline of GI across England with multiple data sets that assist in planning GI strategically at different scales, and targeting investment where it is most needed. It is a freely available tool providing GI Mapping layers and analyses, and the Green Infrastructure Mapping Database User Guide. This mapping database user guide is available under: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx>.

### **Relevant Craven Local Plan Policies**

- [ENV4: Biodiversity](#)
- [ENV5: Green Infrastructure](#)

### **Relevant Craven Local Plan policy guidance**

- [Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity SPD](#)

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This Resource Paper provides general information about relevant planning topics and we hope readers find it helpful. Please be aware that it is not a statement of Council policy and does not provide formal policy guidance. For those things, please follow links to the Craven Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents provided above.