LUC

# Green and blue infrastructure and open space

# Unlocking the potential of nature in your projects

Green and blue infrastructure (GBI) and open spaces are vital for creating healthy, resilient communities. By combining these elements, we integrate nature into projects, improving biodiversity and public health.

We offer a comprehensive range of services, from strategic planning to project implementation and management. Our goal is to help you achieve your sustainability objectives while creating places that benefit people and the environment.



# Our expertise in green and blue infrastructure and open space

### Green and blue infrastructure

LUC is a leading advisor on GBI, helping clients plan, design, and manage connected networks of natural and semi-natural spaces.

We have extensive experience in developing and implementing GBI projects, from large-scale strategies and frameworks to small-scale initiatives.

GBI strategies form the foundation of our approach, identifying opportunities for enhancing biodiversity and creating sustainable networks. Open space design and management focus on improving access, functionality, and connectivity.

### **Open space**

LUC is also an expert in open space planning, design, and management.



Shoreditch Park

We help clients assess the quantity and quality of existing open space provision, develop strategies for improving open space access and connectivity, design and implement innovative open space projects, and manage and maintain open spaces effectively.



Ceredigion Green Infrastructure (GBI) Action Plans

#### **GBI** masterplans

We have developed comprehensive plans for integrating green and blue infrastructure into new developments and existing urban areas.

These plans often include strategies for enhancing biodiversity, managing water resources, and improving public health.

### Urban greening initiatives

We have designed and implemented projects that bring nature into cities, such as green roofs, pocket parks, and rain gardens.

These initiatives can help improve air quality, reduce urban heat island effects, and enhance biodiversity.





Ashridge Estate Spatial Plan

#### **Open space strategies**

We have developed strategies for the protection, enhancement, and management of open spaces, including parks, green corridors, and waterways. These strategies often focus on improving biodiversity, public access, and recreational opportunities.

#### Nature recovery strategies

We deliver strategic assessment at the landscape scale, working to ensure protected and green spaces tangibly contribute to the delivery of nature recovery.

At the site-specific scale, ecological assessment and mitigation strategies inform site design and management plans across a range of lowland, upland, and urban sites.

Through robust monitoring, long-term management can be responsive to user needs – both human and wildlife – and in turn, inform the policy and targets of the future.





Stanmer Park Management and Maintenance Plan

#### Landscape Management and Maintenance Plans

We have developed comprehensive plans for the management and maintenance of landscapes, considering factors such as biodiversity, climate change, and public access.

These plans often include recommendations for sustainable management practices, such as habitat restoration and green infrastructure integration.

#### **Conservation Management Plans**

We have created plans for the conservation of heritage assets, such as historic parks and gardens.

These plans often include strategies for enhancing biodiversity, preserving cultural heritage, and improving public access.





#### Paddington GI Audit

#### Landscape management and governance

We have provided guidance on the management and governance of landscapes, including the development of policies, regulations, and funding mechanisms.

We have also helped to establish partnerships between public and private sector organisations to promote sustainable landscape management.

#### Green space audits

We have conducted audits of green spaces to assess their condition, identify opportunities for improvement, and inform decision-making.

These audits can help to identify areas where investment is needed to enhance the quality and accessibility of green spaces.



# Our approach

We deliver creative, evidence-based GBI solutions that meet your needs.







### **Multidisciplinary collaboration**

We employ a diverse in-house team of environmental consultants to provide a holistic approach. We bring together specialists across client organisations as well as external technical stakeholders.

Our collaborative principles means that we consider all aspects of a project and develop solutions that are tailored to specific needs.

### **Evidence-based design**

We use robust data and analysis to design effective GBI solutions. This approach ensures that our solutions are informed by the latest research and best practices.

### **Community engagement**

We involve stakeholders in the planning process to ensure GBI projects meet community needs. Our inclusive approach fosters trust, with everyone's perspectives considered.

# Our experts

Our team brings together landscape architects, ecologists, planners, landscape managers, and geospatial specialists with expertise in green and blue infrastructure.



#### Landscape managers

We develop and implement long-term management plans for GBI projects.

### Landscape architects

Our landscape architects design and plan green spaces that are functional, beautiful, and ecologically beneficial.

### Ecologists

Our ecologists work at a range of scales to assess ecological impacts and inform policy. They design solutions and management regimes that protect biodiversity and drive nature recovery.

### Planners

Our planners integrate GBI into planning frameworks and secure planning permissions for projects.

## **Geospatial specialists**

Our geospatial specialists analyse spatial data to inform decision-making and optimise GBI projects.

## Historic environment consultants

We assess the heritage value of sites and develop strategies for conserving and enhancing historic features.



# Our wider impact

Our work extends beyond individual projects – it also influences policy and strategies at a broader level. We create healthier, more resilient places for people and wildlife by advocating for nature-based solutions, promoting sustainable development, and improving public health.

### Climate change mitigation and adaptation

GBI helps manage flood risk, reduce urban heat island effects, and sequester carbon. Our work has helped to reduce temperatures in urban areas and create climate resilient spaces.

#### Improved public health

Access to green space promotes physical and mental well-being. Studies have shown that spending time in nature can reduce stress, improve mood, and boost cognitive function.

#### Nature recovery

GBI networks provide vital habitats for wildlife. By creating and restoring habitats, we can help to protect at-risk species and maintain ecosystem resilience.

### **Thriving places**

GBI contributes to creating high-quality environments that attract visitors and investors and support local businesses and regeneration.





# Our clients

LUC works with a diverse range of clients, including local authorities, government agencies, developers, and landowners.

We build strong partnerships based on trust, expertise, and a shared commitment to creating a better future.



"Sarah and the team provided expert professional advice and presented this in a clear and logical way, so that it was wellreceived and understood by elected members."

> Partnership for Urban South Hampshire

"I found the whole of LUC's team a real pleasure to work with and I was particularly heartened by their determination to stand by their principles and professional convictions when the occasion demanded."

> Oxfordshire County Council

"LUC has continued to provide us with a highquality professional service. This included appearing at our Resumed Examination Hearings for our Local Plan and preparing the SA Adoption Statement."

> West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit

# LUC

# Contact us

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