

Annex A

Principal Reference Documents

NATIONAL GUIDANCE

CABE Green Space Strategies – a good practice guide – guidance on the process for preparing Green Space Strategies and on their layout and content.

Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future, ODPM, 2004 - The government's sustainable communities' policy sets out the challenge of creating clean, safe, attractive environments in which communities can take pride.

Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener, ODPM, 2002 - emphasises the wide ranging and multiple benefits of greenspace and the importance of taking a holistic approach. It outlines the government's commitment to the creation of accessible networks of high quality parks and diverse green space in towns and cities.

Greenspaces, Better Places, Urban Greenspace Taskforce, 2005 - highlights the benefits of urban parks and greenspaces. It places particular emphasis on the contribution greenspaces can make to urban regeneration, health, social cohesion and community development, education, heritage and culture.

PPS 7 – Sustainable Development in Rural Areas, 2005 aims to improve the quality and sustainability of local environments and neighbourhoods, while continuing to protect valued landscapes and natural resources. The implementation of Swale's Green Grid Strategy will further the same aims.

PPS 9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, 2004 is an extension of the Government's biodiversity strategy, Working with the Grain of Nature: a Biodiversity Strategy for England, 2002. PPS 9 sets out the way in which the Government's policies for the conservation of biological and geological diversity should be reflected in land use planning.

PPG 17 - Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, 2002 requires local authorities to undertake an assessment of their existing and current open space needs. This open space audit is part of Ashford's Green & Blue Grid Strategy and informs decisions on the distribution and function of open space. It also highlights areas of open space deficiency, taking account of Natural England's national targets for access to natural green space

PPS 25 – Development & Flood Risk – sets out government policy in relation to flood risk and new development, including the 'sequential test' – interpreted at local level by the Ashford Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

The countryside in and around towns: A vision for connecting town and country in pursuit of sustainable development, The Countryside Agency & Groundwork, 2005 - sets out ten key functions for the countryside in and around towns and explains how these can contribute to a high quality of life for all. The aim is to plan and design urban fringe land uses so that they form a 'bridge' to the countryside and a gateway to the town, as well as improving health, providing a setting for environmental education and a focus for recycling and renewable energy.

Biodiversity by design: a guide for sustainable communities, Town & Country Planning Association, 2004 - provides guidance on how to maximise the opportunities for biodiversity in the planning and design of sustainable communities. It considers core principles that relate to biodiversity planning, examines methods for site analysis and the design and management of green infrastructure projects and offers case studies from national and international projects which demonstrate approaches which may have the potential for replication in the UK

DEFRA, 2007, Conserving biodiversity in a changing climate – guidance on building capacity to adapt - sets out a series of guiding principles to help biodiversity plans and projects take explicit account of the impacts of climate change

REGIONAL GUIDANCE

Draft South East Regional Plan, May 2006 - Relevant policies are: T2 – rural transport (provision for cyclists and pedestrians), NRM2 – conservation and improvement of biodiversity (vi) maintaining & establishing accessible green networks and open greenspace in urban areas, C4 – countryside access and rights of way management, TSR2 – rural tourism, S3 – supporting healthy communities (through access to parks and greenspaces and promoting footpaths and cycleways)

Regional Economic Strategy for the South East, South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), 2006-2016 - This overarching policy document (which is regularly updated) sets the agenda for SEEDA, defining the region's priorities and targets. There is an emphasis on sustainable development and the link between well designed, quality green infrastructure and economic development. Included in the Strategy's targets for 'sustainable prosperity' are 'measurable' improvements in biodiversity and green infrastructure. The sustainability checklist (www.sustainability-checklist.co.uk) provides a useful toolkit for practitioners, which is of direct relevance to the delivery of the Green & Blue Grid.

Kent County Council Environment Strategy, 2003 - presents the environmental issues affecting the whole County. Key relevant themes are - On your doorstep, Nature matters, A sense of history, Sustainable settlements & Travel wise. Since the publication of the Kent Environment Strategy, there have been a number of progress reports and the 2007 Progress Report highlights continuing pressure on natural resources and the particular challenge of water management and climate change.

The Kent & Medway Structure Plan, adopted July 6 2006 - sets out the strategic planning framework for the protection of the environment, major transport priorities, and the scale, pattern and broad location of new development including provision for new housing and major economic development across Kent and Medway. Key relevant policies are 'Policies for Protecting our Natural Environment', 'Promoting Quality of Life in Town and Country' and Policy TP11: Facilities for Pedestrians and Cyclists.

Kent Countryside Access Improvement Plan, Kent County Council, Draft 2007 - sets out a 10 year strategy for improving access to the countryside based on local and national research. It aims to increase the usage and enjoyment of public rights of way and open green spaces in Kent.

Local Transport Plan, Kent County Council, 2006-11 - aims to provide good, safe accessibility to jobs and services for all sections of the community, to improve the environment and health of the community and to widen the choice of available transport by developing public transport and promoting walking and cycling.

A Living Landscape for the South-East- the ecological network approach to rebuilding biodiversity for the 21st century, Kent Wildlife Trust, on behalf of the Wildlife Trusts in the SE, 2006 - The Kent component of this detailed GIS mapping project demonstrates how a co-ordinated approach to habitat restoration, enhancement and re-creation might function at a strategic scale. The model is based on high quality habitat data and seeks to inform strategic planning and land use management decisions.

A model for an ecological framework for Kent & Medway, Richard Moyse (Kent Wildlife Trust) and Ed Rowsell (Kent County Council), 2007

An analysis of accessible natural greenspace provision in the south east, Forestry Commission, 2007 – GIS based analysis of the provision of greenspace which is accessible and open to the public across the whole of the SE region

Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan, 2004-2009 - provides the management framework for the AONB. Of particular relevance are policies relating to the sustainable management of the AONB's landscapes, visitor facilities, open access sites and public rights of way, opportunities for sustainable tourism and high quality interpretation and the provision of coordinated information about visitor use, recreation and access.

Landscape Assessment of Kent, Kent County Council, October 2004 – detailed classification of the whole county into landscape types and character areas.

Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation, Kent County Council & English Heritage, 2001 (Oxford Archaeological Unit) describes historical influences on landscape character across Kent and establishes the detailed historical landscape description units on which the local landscape character assessment of the Greater Ashford Area was based.

LOCAL GUIDANCE

Greater Ashford Development Framework- Urban Initiatives, 2005 – a masterplan framework designed to direct the future growth and development of Ashford in line with its status as one of the national growth areas.

Adopted Core Strategy - Ashford Borough Council, July 2008 - This amended version of the Core Strategy was adopted following the Inspector's Report in July 2008

Submitted Core Strategy – Ashford Borough Council, November 2006 - This is the submitted Core Strategy document which is the central part of Ashford's Local Development Framework. It sets out the Council's vision for the Borough, a spatial strategy, broad locations for housing and other strategic development needs, guidance on how the highest possible standards of design and sustainability will be delivered, core topic policies and guidance on how the Council will monitor and deliver the Local Development framework.

Ashford Borough Council Local Plan, 2000 - The Local Plan was formally adopted by the Borough Council in June 2000. It sets out a framework of plans and policies to guide the development and use of land in the Borough. This includes issues such as the location of housing development, measures to protect the countryside, and retail and employment policies. The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 provided for the saving of these Adopted Local Plan policies until 27 September 2007, after which they would expire, but the Secretary of State has compiled a list stating which Local Plan policies should be saved beyond 27 September 2007 and which should be left to expire. These saved policies came into force on 28 September 2007 and will be used as the basis for all decision making; they will remain in place until they are superseded by policies in the LDF.

Programme for Development for the Ashford Growth Area, Ashford's Future Delivery Board – a high level programme management tool to secure the delivery of the targets set for the Ashford Growth area. The programme summarises the key strategic infrastructure requirements to be met for successful sustainable growth.

Ashford Growth Area Rural Scoping Study – LDA Design, August 2007 – a scoping study which looks at the potential impact of Ashford's growth on future countryside planning across the borough.

Ashford Integrated Water Management & Greenspace: Towards a Green & Blue Grid for Ashford, Catherine Bickmore Associates & Black & Veatch, 2006 – a research study which uses four case studies to explore the synergy between integrated water management and integration of different levels and scales

Ashford Integrated Water Management Strategy, 2006-2031, Environment Agency, July 2007 (Final) – provides a framework to show how Ashford's water infrastructure and environmental issues can be planned and implemented alongside the spatial planning of a sustainable community.

Ashford Sustainable Drainage Strategy – Technical Guidance Document, 3rd Draft, Atkins, May 2007 – provides practical advice on designing, operating and managing sustainable drainage systems

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Ashford Borough Council, October 2006 – advises on the assessment of flood risk, the impact of surface runoff and locations where specific flood mitigation measures are required in relation to proposals in the Local Development Framework.

Ashford Review of Greenspace Management, Maxwell Stamp, December 2007 - identifies and evaluates options for ownership, management and funding of greenspace in Ashford during the next 20 years. Of particular relevance is the analysis of the potential to create a dedicated 'Greenspace Trust' for key parts of the Green & Blue Grid.

LOCAL GUIDANCE

Planning for Woodlands in Ashford Borough, Forestry Commission, Draft 2007 – guidance to ensure that the opportunities that Forestry Commission and private woodlands present in Ashford are fully realised in future open space and recreation strategies

Ashford Local Development Framework – Local Landscape Character Study – Studio Engleback, 2005. – a detailed landscape character assessment of the hinterland surrounding the Greater Ashford Development Area which informed the development of the greater Ashford Development Framework. It is based on the detailed historic landscape character units which are within the overall hierarchy of the Kent county landscape character areas and provides a detailed analysis of the condition and distinctive character of the landscape surrounding Ashford.

Green Corridor Action Plan, Ashford Borough Council, 2000 – a strategy to guide the ongoing design and management of the riverside areas through Ashford town centre, which are known as the ‘green corridors’.

Urban Fringe Management Project – brief for Audience Development Plan, Ashford Borough Council, Work in progress

Willesborough Dykes Action Plan, 2007 – identifies priority projects for environmental enhancement and management, together with implications and options for funding.

Willesborough Dykes Community Education Project, 2008, Kentish Stour Countryside Project – working with local schools to develop an understanding of three principal habitats: grassland, water and woodland/hedgerows within an urban environment.

Ashford Borough Council, 2008, Ashford Protected Species Strategy – Brief for Consultants. This brief is for a study which will provide guidance on a strategic approach to the conservation of protected species within the Ashford area, suggesting how to tackle the problem of limited sites for translocation of protected reptiles and amphibians. It is based on a paper by John Newton (The Ecology Consultancy) and Richard Moyses (Kent Wildlife Trust) entitled Ashford’s Expansion & the impact on protected species – a proposal.

Annex B

GIS Data Sets – Sources & Content

Sheils Flynn gratefully acknowledges the data and assistance provided by Kent County Council, the Environment Agency, Kent Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Sustrans, Ashford's Future and Ashford Borough Council in collating the extensive GIS data-sets used in preparing the GIS mapping which informed the development of Ashford's Green & Blue Grid.

Data	Data source
Physical attributes	
Geology	Kent County Council
Topography	Kent County Council
Hydrology	Environment Agency
Agricultural land quality	Kent County Council
Planning	
Local Plan Policy	Ashford Borough Council
County Landscape Policy	Kent County Council
Landscape	
Landscape character (county)	Kent County Council
Landscape character (Ashford)	Ashford Borough Council (data digitised for this study)
Landscape condition (county)	Kent County Council
Landscape condition (Ashford)	Ashford Borough Council (data digitised for this study)
Accessibility	
Promoted routes	Kent County Council
Public rights of way	Kent County Council
Ashford cycleways	Ashford Future
National Cycle Routes	Sustrans

Data	Data source
Heritage	
All heritage designations/data	Kent County Council
Ecology	
Statutory designations	Kent County Council
Ecological network model	Kent Wildlife Trust
Existing habitat data	Kent Wildlife Trust
Amenity	
PPG 17 data	Inspace Planning (PPG 17 audit & assessment)
Places of Interest/art	Ashford Borough Council (data digitised for this study)
Environmental Stewardship	
Environmental Stewardship	Natural England
Socio-Economic	
Indices of Multiple Deprivation	National Statistics (central government)

Annex C

Stakeholder Workshop – 5 February, 2.00pm

Stakeholder Workshop – 16 July 10.00am

PARTICIPANTS

Ashford Borough Council	Richard Alderton	Head of Planning & Development
Ashford Borough Council	Daniel Carter	Senior Policy Planner
Ashford Borough Council	Simon Cole	Planning Policy Manager
Ashford Borough Council	Ann Davies	Parks & Countryside
Ashford Borough Council	Steve Parish	Project Office
Ashford Borough Council	Chris Dixon	Art Projects Co-ordinator
Ashford Borough Council	Liz Walker	Landscape
Ashford Borough Council	Terry Jones	Nature Conservation & Tourism
Ashford's Future	Judith Armitt	Managing Director
Ashford's Future	Abigail Raymond	Acting Programme Director
Ashford's Future	Laurienne Tibbles	Sustainable Development Manager
Ashford's Future	Steven Boxall	Infrastructure Manager
Ashford's Future	Stuart Nicholls	Programme Manager
Ashford's Future	Andrew Phillips	Sustainable Transport Manager
Ashford Landowners' Group	Haydn Payne	Planning Director, Berkeley Strategic Ltd
Ashford Landowners' Group	Russell Jarvis	Director, Jarvis Homes Ltd
Ashford Landowners' Group	Ruth McKeown	Representing Capel House Property Trust
Ashford Landowners' Group	Nathan Edwards	Representing Capel House Property Trust
Ashford Landowners' Group	Robert Stevenson	Director, John Bishop and Associates
CPRE, Kent	Sean Furey	Deputy Director
Ecology Consultancy	John Newton	Managing Director
Environment Agency	Jo Addis	Sustainable Development Manager
Environment Agency	Barrie Neaves	Project Manager – Ashford Growth Area
English Partnerships	Simon Bandy	Senior Regeneration Manager
Forestry Commission	Terry Jennings	Public Forest Estate
Forestry Commission	Jonathan Harding	Area Manager

Greening the Gateway Kent & Medway	Martin Hall	Director
Inspace Planning	Graham Jones	Director
Kent County Council	Andy Corcoran	Highways Services
Kent County Council	David Jenkins	Highways Services
Kent County Council	Andrew Hutchinson	East Kent Rights of Way Manager
Kent County Council	Katie Cullen	Area Rights of Way Officer
Kent County Council	David Jenkins	Highways Services
Kent County Council	Faye Faiers	Area Rights of Way Officer
Kent County Council	Val Hyland	Regeneration & Projects Manager
Kent County Council	Liz Holliday	Team Leader, Natural Environment & Coast
Kent County Council	John Williams	Head of Heritage
Kent County Council	Lis Dyson	Heritage team
Kent Downs AONB	Nick Johannsen	Director
Kent Wildlife Trust	Richard Moyse	Senior Conservation Officer
Kentish Stour Countryside Project	Jon Shelton	Countryside Manager
Land Restoration Trust	David Beuzeval	Development Director
Natural England	Marjan Desmet	Team Member - SE Communities
Natural England	Brian McDonald	Team Leader SE Communities
SEEDA	Martin Barrow	Senior Development Manager
SEEDA	Valerie Carter	Rural Director
SEEDA	Adam Ingleby	Head of Environmental Development
Sheils Flynn	Kate Collins	Director
Sheils Flynn	Stephen Flynn	Director
Sheils Flynn	Eoghan Sheils	Director
Sustrans	Simon Pratt	Regional Manager
Sustrans	David Young	Regional Co-ordinator, SE

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The Steering Group:

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Laurienne Tibbles - Ashford's Future
Val Hyland - Kent County Council

The Inspace Planning team:

Graham Jones
Jim Phillips
Phil Chichester

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Marjan Desmet - Natural England
Chris Dixon - Ashford Borough Council
Lis Dyson - Kent County Council
Faye Faiers - Kent County Council
Colin Finch - Kent County Council
Rob Gazzard - Forestry Commission
Chris Giles - Natural England
Simon Pratt - Sustrans
Richard Moyse - Kent Wildlife Trust
Barrie Neaves - Environment Agency
Abigail Raymond - Ashford's Future
Debbie Salmon - Kent Wildlife Trust
Dan Tuson - Natural England

