



Not Just a Pretty Place

– Making Biodiversity work for us

Tom Butterworth - Associate Director, Biodiversity



BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN –

A new role for infrastructure and development in improving Britain's wildlife.

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WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff's Biodiversity Net Gain process and toolkit is an efficient and effective method for demonstrating whether built environment schemes have been able to maintain or increase biodiversity value before and after construction works.

The toolkit is adaptable and ready to use on a variety of project types, including rail, highways and buildings.

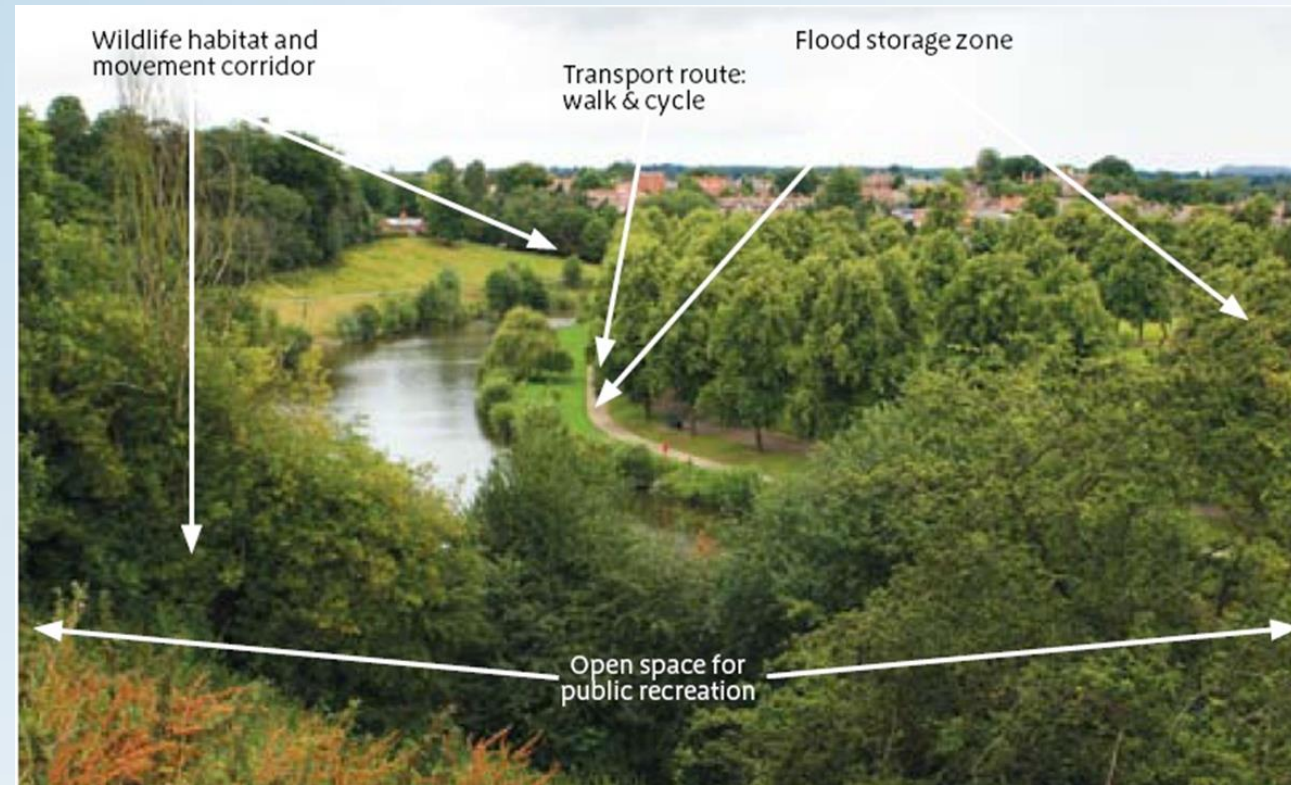
Our recommendations



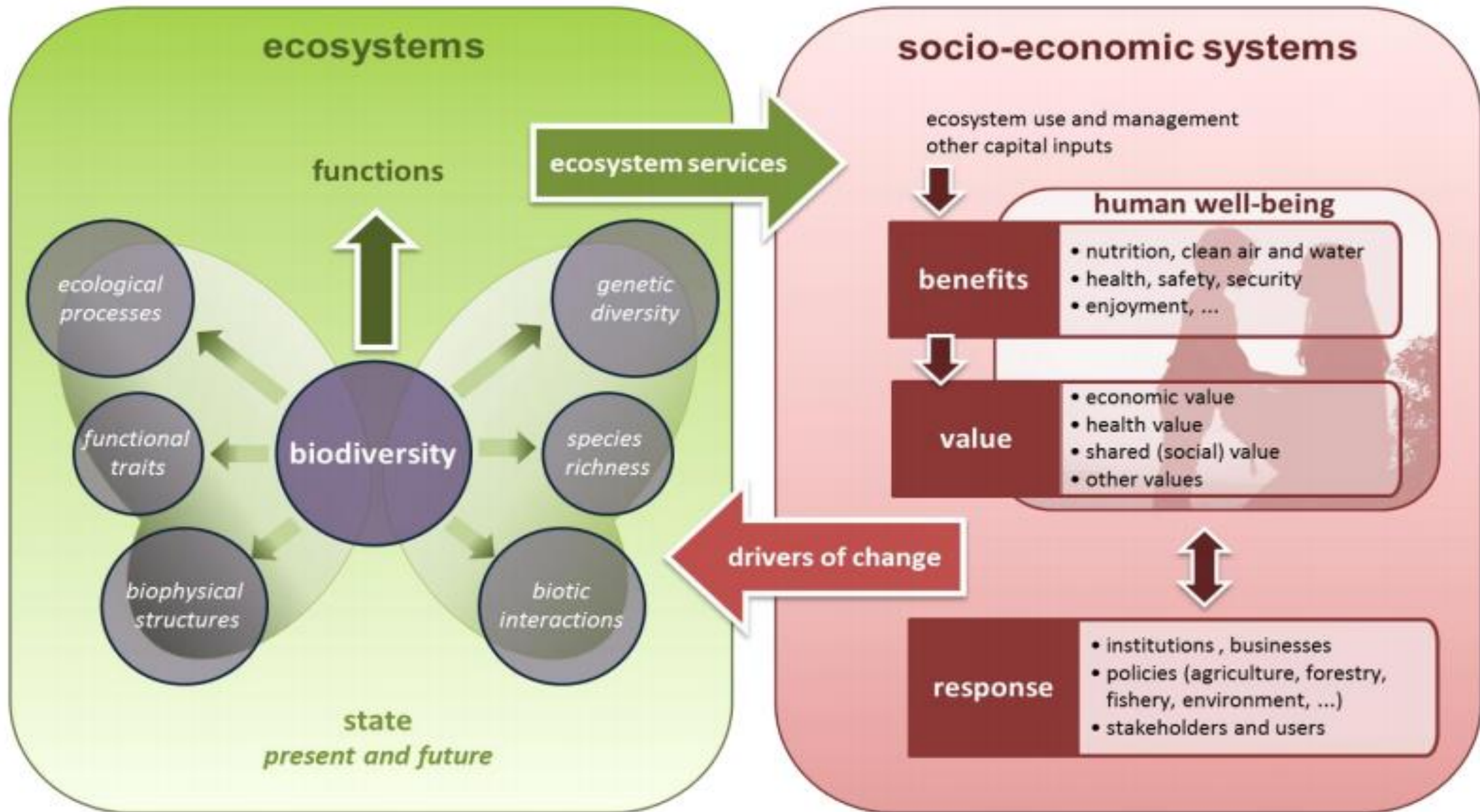
- Develop a consistent understanding of guidance to create a level playing field.
- Incorporated at a corporate level and in private sector developments.
- The offsetting metric tightened whilst maintaining simplicity.

- Incorporated into 25 year environment plan.
- The DEFRA metric could be an obligatory.
- Build an evidence base of the long term performance.

Can mitigation be standardised, streamlined, or tailored to meet the particular challenges of NSIPs?



The multifunctional role of green infrastructure, an example from Shrewsbury
Photo by Nigel Jones, Natural England



Mayesbrook Park

- Strong partnership in socially deprived area of Barking & Dagenham
- On the doorstep of Mayesbrook Primary School, enabling outdoor learning
- Under-used 45 ha park transformed into flagship climate change park
- Canalised Mayes Brook transformed into natural river, increasing biodiversity and ensuring flood protection



Victoria Business Improvement District

Fitting 25 ha of green roofs could deal with 80,000m³ of rain water each year and prevent future surface water flooding

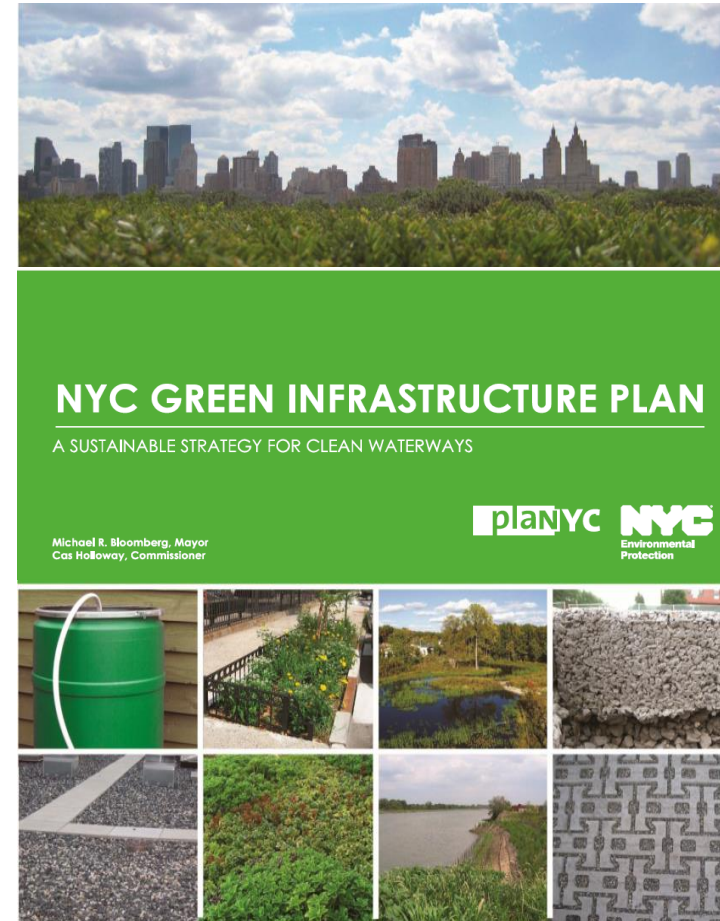
Green infrastructure opportunities identified by Victoria BID could reduce peak summer temperatures by up to 5.1°C



A New York example

- Aim: to reduce combined sewer outflows into the harbour
- Method: using street trees, swales, bio-infiltration, blue and green roofs to capture first inch of rainfall on 10% of the city⁽¹⁾.
- This will save \$1.5 billion dollars over a grey only approach ⁽¹⁾ .

1) NYC ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION 2010. NYC Green Infrastructure Plan: A sustainable strategy for clean waterways.



- Can we make these types of mitigation work for NSIPs?
- How can we ensure the we gain multiple benefits from the green spaces we created as a result of mitigation?
- How can we make our mitigation we put in place more resilient to change?



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