



Nature Towns and Cities



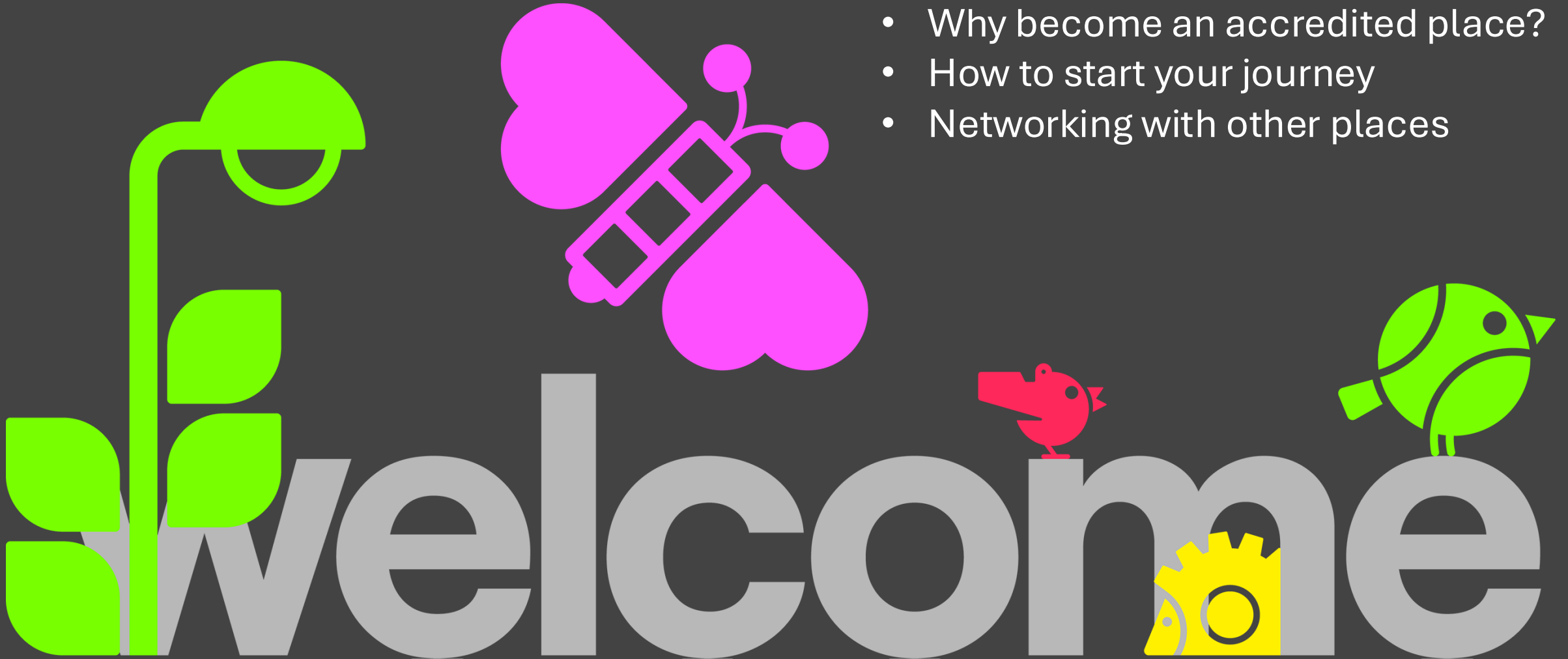
**Getting started
on your
accreditation
journey**

1 April 2025



Welcome to the launch of the Nature Towns and Cities Accreditation scheme

- What is the accreditation scheme?
- Why become an accredited place?
- How to start your journey
- Networking with other places



What is Nature Towns and Cities?

Nature Towns and Cities is a coalition of organisations working together to help deliver greener, fairer, healthier and more connected towns, cities and neighbourhoods.

Our aim is to help millions more people enjoy time in nature close to home, in greener, thriving towns and cities.

The programme works to inspire, support and incentivise local authorities, their partners and communities to take ambitious action for nature across urban areas.

It will help address the challenges facing towns and cities in the 21st century especially health inequalities, climate resilience and inclusive growth.



What is the accreditation scheme?



Becoming a Nature Town or City

Nature Towns and Cities is now open for applications for places to become accredited (in England).

The Accreditation recognises towns and cities putting nature and green infrastructure at the heart of their places and communities. It is a place's commitment to transforming green infrastructure to benefit people, place and nature.

The first level is **Foundation**, demonstrating good leadership, engagement and participation of communities and effective partnerships.

You can find out more about the accreditation process and what is required on the website:

www.naturetownsandcities.org.uk/accreditation



[Name]:
A Nature
Town/City



[Name]:
A Nature
Town/City

What's in it for you?

Strengthen the case for change and the urban nature agenda internally

Progress through a framework to deliver outcomes for people, place and nature

Strengthen your partnerships

Get external recognition

Secure funding and investment

- By getting investment ready
- By assuring funders of a high impact investment
- Through accessing new green finance products

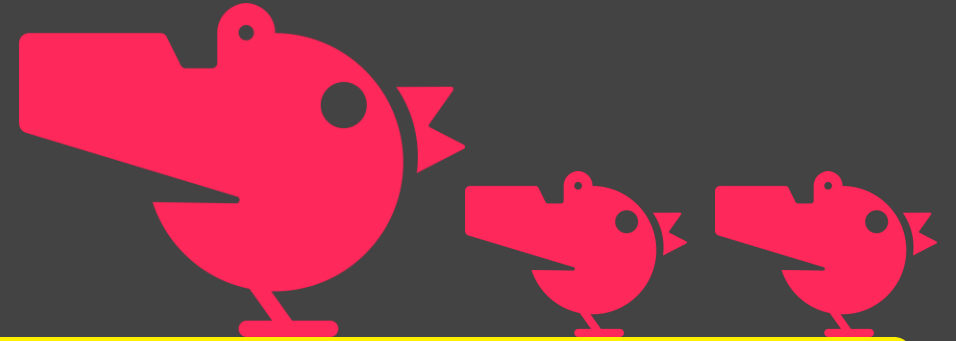


What is required at Foundation level?

1. Setting your vision

Checklist for your vision:

- ✓ Ambitious
- ✓ Holistic
- ✓ Co-developed
- ✓ Senior sponsor
- ✓ Public engagement
- ✓ Shared & promoted
- ✓ Children & young people involved
- ✓ Plan for review & evaluation



How can I evidence this?

- Statement, video or animation of vision
- Write-ups, photos, videos of co-design workshops
- Outputs from public engagement events
- Evidence of senior sponsorship (blog posts, written commitments, films or videos)

What is required at Foundation level?

2. Building strong partnerships

Show that you have thought about...

- ✓ Scale: local/regional
- ✓ Current and potential partners
- ✓ Place-based stakeholders
- ✓ Capability, capacity, leadership
- ✓ Decision making
- ✓ Co-stewardship models
- ✓ Review

How can I evidence this?

- MoU/partnership agreements/terms of reference
- Framework for partnership working
- Framework for decision-making
- Examples of stewardship models

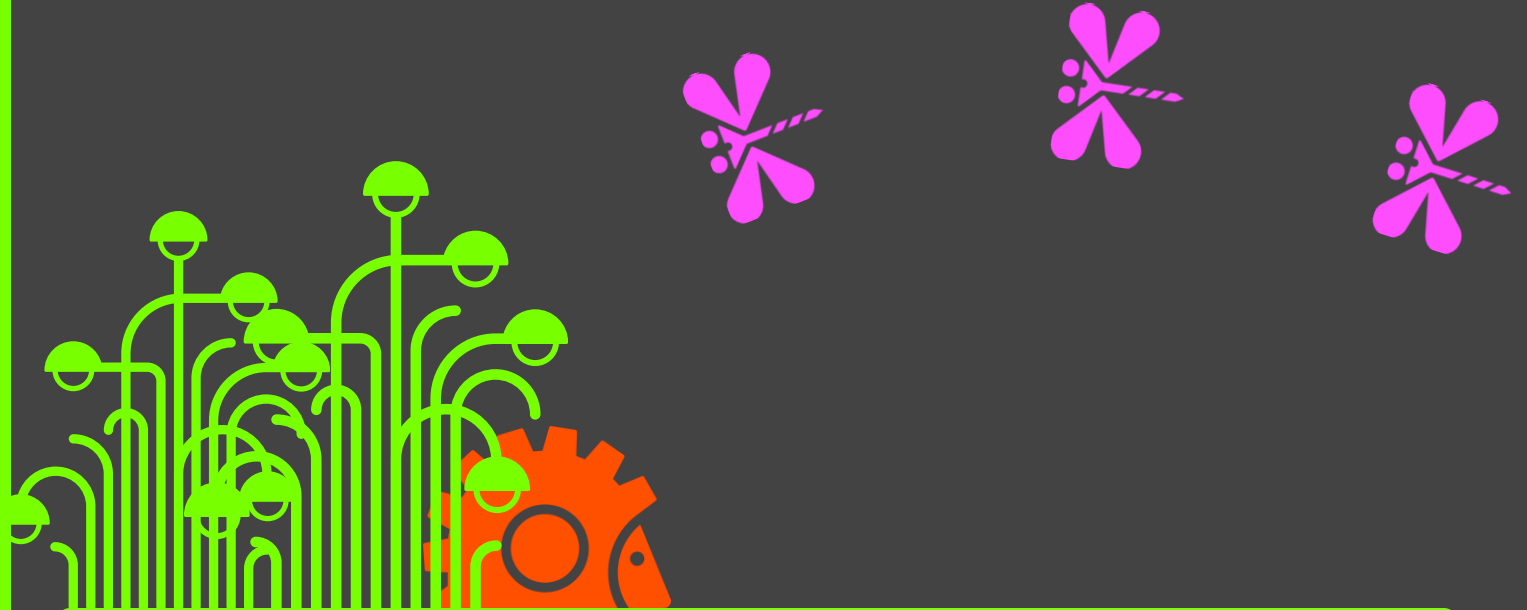


What is required at Foundation level?

3. Writing your green infrastructure strategy and improvement plan

Show that you have thought about...

- ✓ Distinct challenges & opportunities of your place
- ✓ Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework
- ✓ Existing relevant strategies and policies
- ✓ Partnership approach
- ✓ Action oriented
- ✓ Broader public engagement
- ✓ Funding, governance, skills
- ✓ Monitoring and evaluation



How can I evidence this?

- Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Action plan
- Other relevant strategies and policies

How to start your journey

Check the criteria

Think about current or planned work that could fit into the framework and get you ready for accreditation

Speak to current and potential partner organisations

Who do you already work with and who else do you wish to partner with? Is the local authority bought in? Who will be your lead applicant?

Explore the self-evaluation tool

Use the tool with your partners to understand your current strengths and areas for improvement, from which to prioritise work

Join monthly accreditation support sessions and other network events

You can ask questions of us and each other to help you on your journey

Use the accreditation workbook and other resources

You can record your work and evidence to prepare for application

Explore other resources in the library

Applying for accreditation –

www.naturetownsnadcities.org.uk/accreditation

Apply for accreditation level one: Foundation

If you are the lead applicant for your town or city, you can apply for accreditation here. The Nature Towns and Cities accreditation is split into two levels. At this time you can only apply for level one: Foundation. Level two: Advanced will be coming soon.



Setting your vision

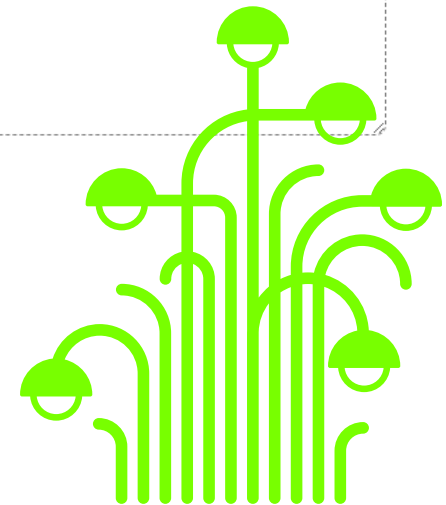
Evidencing your application - please use this text box to explain how you have met every criterion for “setting your vision” and refer to documents or links you have uploaded *

File Upload *

⬆

Drop a file here or click to upload
Maximum file size: 50MB

Provide any links to videos (YouTube)





Nature Towns and Cities



Q&A

For more information about accreditation, contact
info@naturalengland.gov.uk



Time to learn from each other

- What are you already working on that could help you towards becoming accredited?
- What else do you need to do to be ready to apply for Foundation level accreditation?
- How might you get senior sponsors excited about this? What are the selling points of this for your place?

