Accreditation Level one: Foundation application form

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Nature Towns and Cities accreditation recognises towns and cities that are putting nature and green infrastructure at the heart of their plans and marks their commitment to transforming their town or city to benefit people, place and nature. The scheme is currently open to English places during this initial period.

To apply, follow these steps:

* Once you have downloaded this form, save locally and then upload when completed. You'll need to use our [accreditation criteria](https://naturetownsandcities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Accreditation-criteria.pdf), and we recommend you use the [accreditation workbook](https://naturetownsandcities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Nature-Towns-and-Cities-Accreditation-Workbook.xlsx) to prepare (this link will download the workbook as an excel file to your computer).
* For inspiration, take a look at those who have already become [official nature towns and cities](https://naturetownsandcities.org.uk/accredited-nature-towns-and-cities/).
* Submit your application [here](https://naturetownsandcities.org.uk/accreditation-application/). You'll need to evidence your application by uploading supporting documents that detail how you have met all criteria for each step.

As an accredited place, you will join towns and cities putting nature at the heart of their plans. You will learn from each other and be celebrated on our website and at upcoming events. You will receive a detailed feedback report, personalised accreditation logo to promote the great work that you’re doing and be supported into the next stage via group learning, online resources and each other.

**Lead Applicant**

Enter your name here

# Executive summary

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**Please summarise the work** that has been done in this area over the last few years and what has led you to this point. Please include any specific or wider challenges that you have faced, how you overcame them, any specific highlights/projects to mention, and what’s next for your place. This will help frame your application within the broader context of your town or city and bring your story to life.

Please include a paragraph or a visual representation that explains the different pieces of evidence that you have submitted e.g., how different strategies, plan, projects fit together. This will help guide the assessors through your evidence. Your summary should answer how you have met the criteria in full but please aim to be concise.

Enter your text here, increasing the size of this box as needed

# Setting your vision

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | Explanation of how you have met the criteria |
| 1. Have you written a clear and ambitious vision for transformation in the town or city? | Enter your text here |
| 1. How have you thought holistically about the change their vision could bring, considering the big challenges the place needs to address, the opportunities for transformation, and the rationale for it? |  |
| 1. Who have you identified and secured the support of key sponsors within their organisations and other key bodies who will champion and lead for the change e.g. leaders, mayors, directors? |  |
| 1. How have you shared the vision and created long term, cross-party support? |  |
| 1. How have you developed the vision with relevant people and groups from the community, businesses and organisations? |  |
| 1. How have you involved the wider public to understand their priorities and interests, making sure to be inclusive and reaching new audiences? |  |
| 1. How have you engaged with children and young people, asking them what they want for the future of green infrastructure? |  |
| 1. What is your plan for reviewing and evaluating the vision? |  |
| Attachments | |
| Please indicate the documents which are relevant to this section. | Enter your text here |
| Links | |
| Please link to documents/ webpages/ videos etc. | Enter your text here |

A green and black logo

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# A yellow and black bee logo AI-generated content may be incorrect.A yellow and black bee logo AI-generated content may be incorrect.A yellow and black bee logo AI-generated content may be incorrect.Building strong partnerships

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | Explanation of how you have met the criteria |
| 1. Have you considered the scale at which you will work, regionally and locally? | Enter your text here |
| 1. Have you identified current and potential partners to co-develop and bring the vision to life? |  |
| 1. How have you co-[designed a framework for partnership working](https://naturetownsandcities.org.uk/guidance/local-authority-guide-to-partnership-working-for-people-and-nature/), considering the capability, capacity and leadership needed across the place? |  |
| 1. Have you co-designed a framework for partnership decision making? |  |
| 1. How have you considered how key place-based stakeholders benefit from nature? |  |
| 1. How have you identified how partners are directly investing and can continue to invest in nature themselves? |  |
| 1. How have you considered formalising the bigger, more strategic partnerships with agreements, defining roles and responsibilities e.g. memorandum of understanding, adopted partnership agreement, terms of reference? |  |
| 1. How have you considered your approach to working with communities, including co-stewardship models? |  |
| 1. What is your plan for the ongoing review of the partnership as it evolves? |  |
| Attachments | |
| Please indicate the documents which are relevant to this section. | Enter your text here |
| Links | |
| Please link to documents/ webpages/ videos etc. | Enter your text here |

**Writing your green infrastructure strategy and improvement plan**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | Explanation of how you have met the criteria |
| 1. How have you used the Natural England’s GIF to guide your thinking whilst developing a GI strategy and improvement plan? E.g. analysed data, set objectives, targets and considered developing local design guides? | Enter your text here |
| 1. How have you reviewed existing relevant strategies and policies within which to frame this overarching GI strategy and improvement plan? |  |
| 1. How have you considered the distinct challenges and opportunities of the place and how the GI strategy will respond to these? |  |
| 1. Have you written an improvement/action/delivery plan to move your GI strategy into implementation? |  |
| 1. Have you taken a partnership approach and co-designed the GI strategy and improvement plan, thinking about potential strategic and delivery partners as well as broader public engagement? |  |
| 1. Have you considered other components that may guide the work e.g. funding, governance and workforce development? |  |
| 1. What is the plan for monitoring and evaluating the GI strategy? |  |
| Attachments | |
| Please indicate the documents which are relevant to this section. | Enter your text here |
| Links | |
| Please link to documents/ webpages/ videos etc.) | Enter your text here |

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