

Applying principles of landscape ecology to green infrastructure in urban design and planning

The Government is proposing to build up to 3 million new houses by 2020 to meet increasing demand, especially in the south east of England. At the same time the UK Government's White Paper on sustainable communities has increased awareness of the value of green space in urban areas, often known as 'green infrastructure'. Green spaces provide important areas for recreation but also have the potential for ecological benefits if planned and managed in the right way. The biodiversity potential of green space is often undervalued and this workshop aims to open a dialogue between ecologists, architects, planners and urban designers in order to discuss landscape ecology principles and techniques for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity at landscape scales.

Online discussion:
1st - 28th November 2007
www.iale.org.uk

One day workshop:
14th December 2007
The University of Northampton

Our understanding of biodiversity in urban areas is increasing and landscape ecology is adding to that knowledge. Landscape ecology can provide information on how much habitat is needed, what size patches are optimal and the location or spatial arrangement of green areas for certain species and habitats.

ialeUK invites you to contribute to the future challenges in accommodating growth and development by providing guiding principles based on the science and applied research for planning green space in urban areas. Although the meeting will include short presentations by experts in the field, it is primarily intended to be a participatory workshop with delegates working in groups to discuss how landscape ecology can contribute to the planning of green infrastructure and what information do landscape practitioners need from landscape ecologists. There will be a preliminary online discussion forum during November, the results of which will be used to shape the one day workshop.

The workshop will appeal to participants with practical experience in planning and consultancy as well landscape ecologists involved in research and conservation. Costs for workshop are £30 for ialeUK members and £50 for non-members. There is no charge for ialeUK student members.

Further information about the online discussion and the workshop is available on the ialeUK website (iale.org.uk). To discuss the workshop or to contribute case study material please contact:
Dr Janet Jackson (janet.jackson@northampton.ac.uk) or Paul Bellamy at (pbe@ceh.ac.uk).

