



Department for  
Communities and  
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Thank you for your letter of 30 January 2015 on behalf of your Institute, the Land Trust, the Town and Country Planning Association and Groundwork, expressing your concerns about green infrastructure and the national planning practice guidance.

I would like to categorically assure you that there has been no change in either planning policy or guidance with respect to green infrastructure. The only change that has occurred is that Natural England's guidance on green infrastructure, which the planning guidance links to, has been moved to the archive section of the government website. However, it is still available and accessible for users.

I understand that you have received a reply to your letter from the Rt Hon Liz Truss MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, referring to the review of her Department's guidance, and inviting you to meet her officials to discuss how guidance can best be provided. As your concerns cover the impact on the planning system I have suggested that my officials also attend this meeting.

The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that local planning authorities should set out a strategic approach in their local plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. We continue to recognise and support the value of green infrastructure in contributing to sustainable development, improved physical and mental health and well-being, as well as a greater sense of pride in the local area. We hope that your organisations can work with us and with local partners to achieve this.

**BRANDON LEWIS MP**