

# UK Green Forum

[www.thegreencity.co.uk](http://www.thegreencity.co.uk)



## Current status of Green City approaches in the UK

Working With Nature – Roma, 22 Marzo 2012

Mark Long, Director

# Working with Nature?

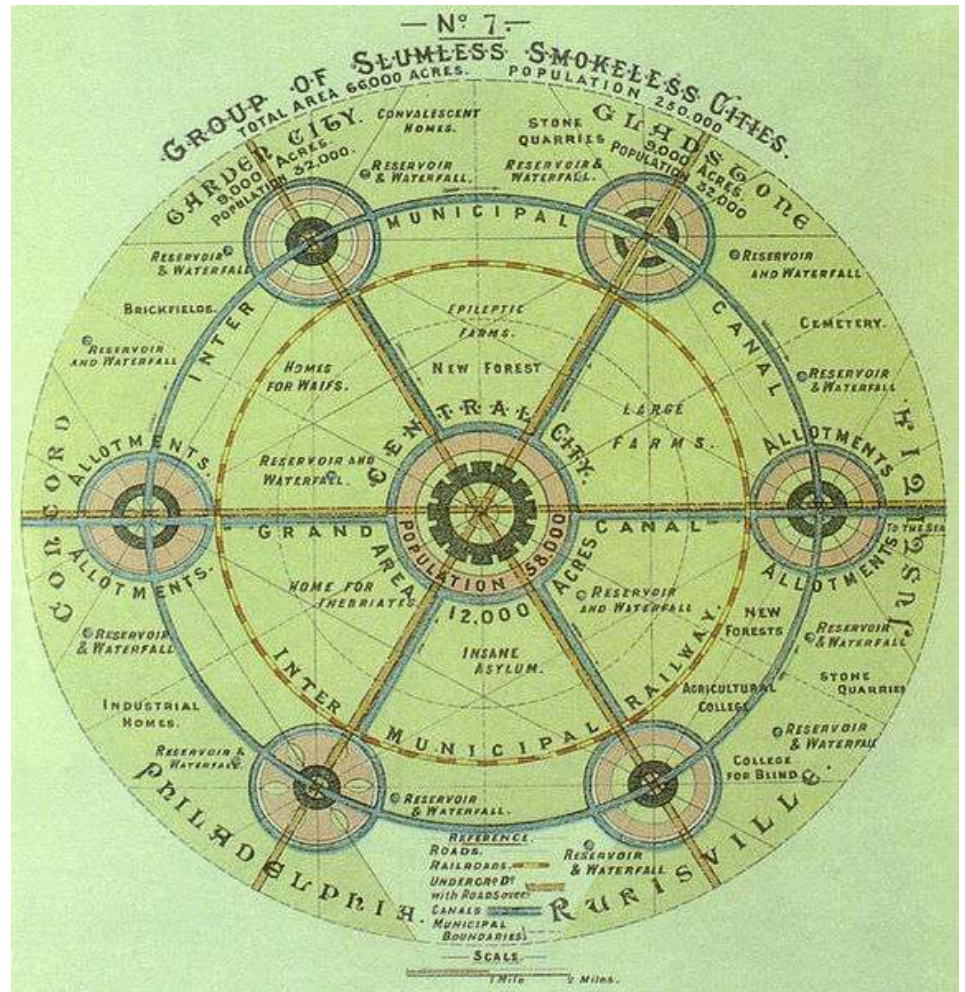
By 2008 50% of global population living in cities

By 2047 70% of will be urban

How can we achieve “liveability” with nature in modern cities?



# Green infrastructure & liveability

















# Obstacles to liveability?

- Changing climate
- Air quality
- Social tension
- Hostile neighbourhoods
- Energy costs – heat, light, transport
- Food insecurity
- Population density?





# Questions:

Does Green Infrastructure hold the keys to overcoming these?

Can it enable development without inhibiting it?



# What is the mood in the UK?

- “Sea change” towards greener approaches in policy rhetoric
- “Green Economy” with green infrastructure at its heart recognised by government as providing multi benefits
- National Ecosystem Assessment puts value on natural environment



# “The Greenest Governemnt Ever”?



# UK Green Forum members



British Association of  
Landscape Industries



eden project



Plant Publicity Holland



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.



**Trees for Cities**

city registration number 1032154



Sensory Trust



NOTTINGHAM  
TRENT UNIVERSITY





# The International Green City family



**UK Green Forum**  
[www.thegreencity.co.uk](http://www.thegreencity.co.uk)



# A global movement

- The Netherlands
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Hungary
- Switzerland

Development on-going

- Canada
- Portugal
- Far East





# UK Green Forum – key points

- Provides essential interface with European & global Green City movement
- Enables networking & information exchange among diverse group
- Regular communications via new website, email & hard copy bulletins
- Contributes to lobbying
- Assists with projects

# Current activities

- UK Green Forum Actions
- UK Green Forum members' actions – with backing & support where relevant



# Green Infrastructure Partnership

- Partnership includes planners, landscape architects, environmental interest groups, Natural England, Landscape Institute & Environment Agency
- Commitment in NEA, aims to support development of GI in England
- Acknowledges health, environmental, economic & social value

# The Greenest Games









# The Big Tree Plant

- Government commitment to plant 1 million new trees by 2015
- London Mayor Boris Johnson pledge to plant 10 000 trees by March 2012 & 50 000 in London by end of mayoral term
- Supported by nursery stock sector & environmental bodies









# Economic valuation tools

- UFORE & STRATUM (US Forest Service tools)
- i-Tree Eco – software app collecting data on urban forest, currently trialling in Torbay with Treeconomics organisation
- Green infrastructure valuation toolkit – cost/benefit assessment tool trialled in Liverpool, London and Tees Valley



# Torbay i-Tree Eco survey

- Combined total value of urban tree stock £280 million
- Annual carbon storage value £5 million
- Air pollution removal £1.3 million

(good enough to see an immediate £25 000 added to tree maintenance budget)





# Regeneration with Green

- Heygate Estate – Elephant & Castle, London
- Barking Riverside, Essex
- Park Hill Estate, Sheffield



# Consumer – facing actions

- Colour your Life – Green Community Award
- Green City messaging through consumer media campaign reaching 20 -25 million per annum
- Web & social media
- Garden ReLeaf day



# Environment Cities

- Group of UK cities working to address sustainability issues – transport, food, energy, carbon
- Working with Peterborough (PECT) to assist with messaging





# The Green City Guidelines

*Techniques for a healthy liveable city*

Michelle de Roo | landscape and urban designer



# Green City Guidelines

- A source book for professionals
- International examples of the application of the 'Green City Approach'
- Practical pointers on how positive outcomes can be achieved with Green Infrastructure – the 'Guidelines'
- Based on best available science currently out there

# Current/next steps

- Finalise legal status of foundation
- Continue working with member bodies to communicate joint messaging
- Develop our web presence & social media activities
- Greater awareness-raising/penetration
- Continue to recruit new members



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Thanks for listening

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Mark Long