

**‘How Local Authorities can address  
the Biodiversity Emergency’**

**Designing for Biodiversity  
in Green and Blue  
Infrastructure (GBI)  
Limerick 2022**

**Stephanie Crewe**

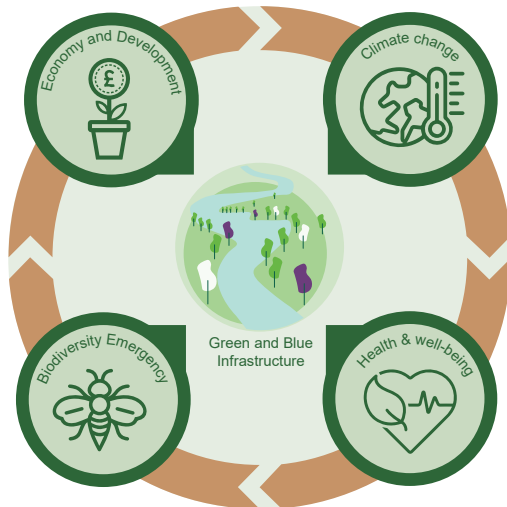
Associate Landscape Architect

21 September 2022

## Introduction to LUC

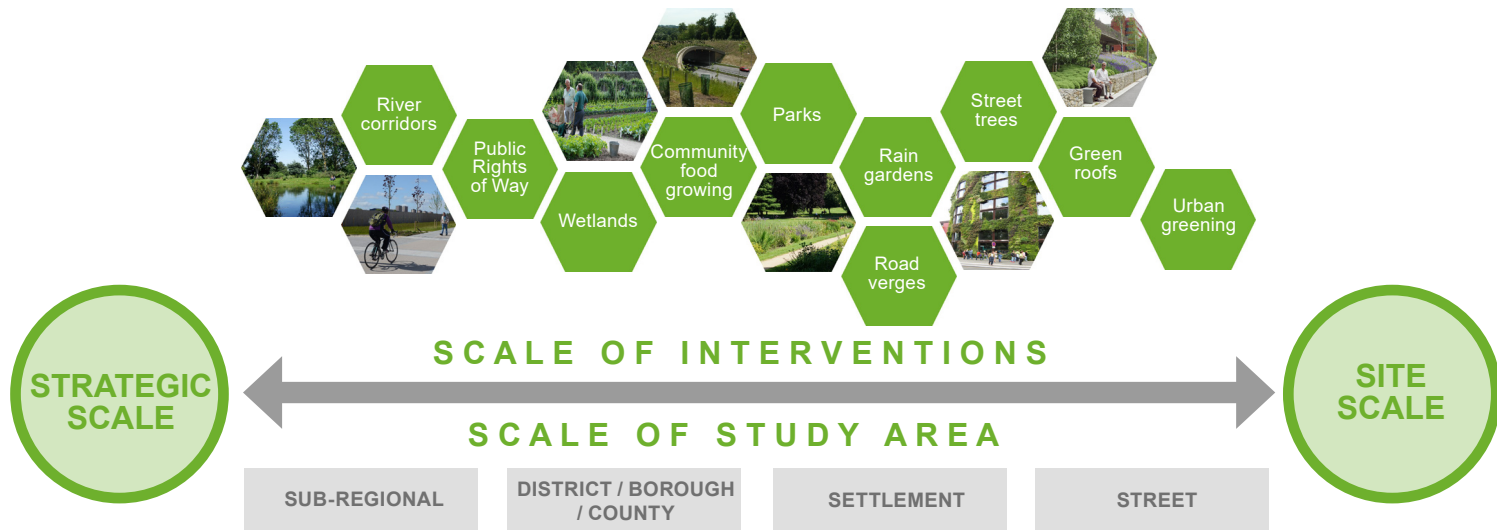
### An overview

- Award-winning environmental consultancy with a track record of over 50 years;
- Landscape planning and management, landscape design, environmental planning, ecology and geospatial services;
- Multi-disciplinary team undertaking Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) strategies aimed at tackling the key global challenges, not just biodiversity in isolation; and
- Aim to maximise the benefits from different GBI / environmental assets.



## GBI and the concept of scale

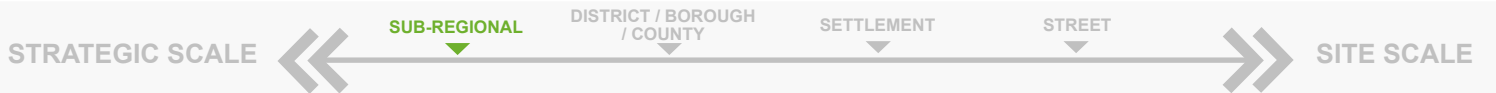
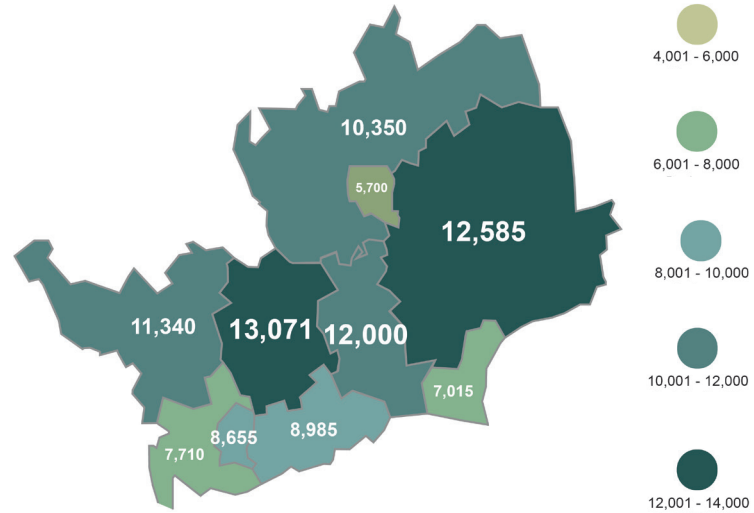
### GBI Strategies as mechanisms to deliver biodiversity



# Oversight and delivery of GBI at the sub-regional scale

## The challenge

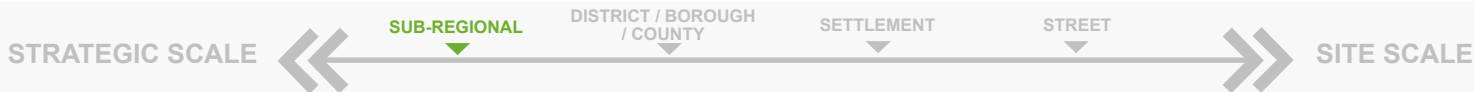
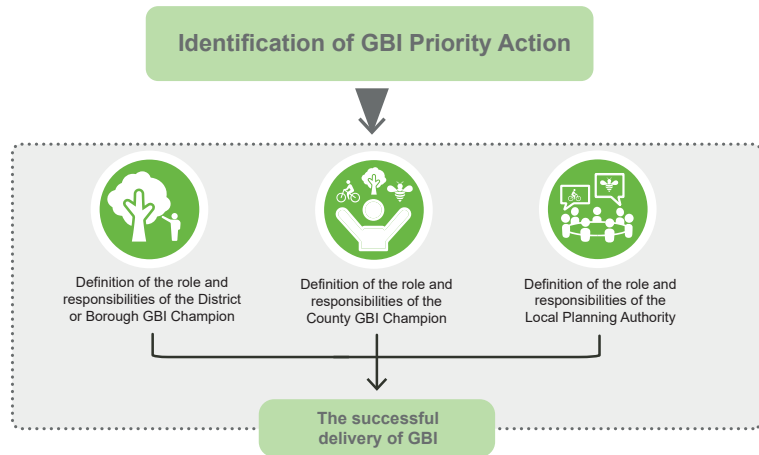
- Guide the planning of a **network of multi-functional greenspace** at the county scale;
- Address the need for **'buy-in'** from 10 separate Local Planning Authorities;
- Guide and inform the delivery of GBI in the context of the **county's future growth agenda**; and
- Deliver a **clear delivery plan** for GBI actions across the county.



# Oversight and delivery of GBI at the county scale

## Our response

- Establish an **overarching GBI Champion** for the county to provide oversight of the GBI Strategy;
- Create **individual GBI Champions at the district or borough level** to promote delivery within the planning context; and
- Each GBI Champion to become a member of a newly created **GBI Delivery Partnership** responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the GBI network.



# Celebrating Limerick's connection to its watercourses

## The challenge

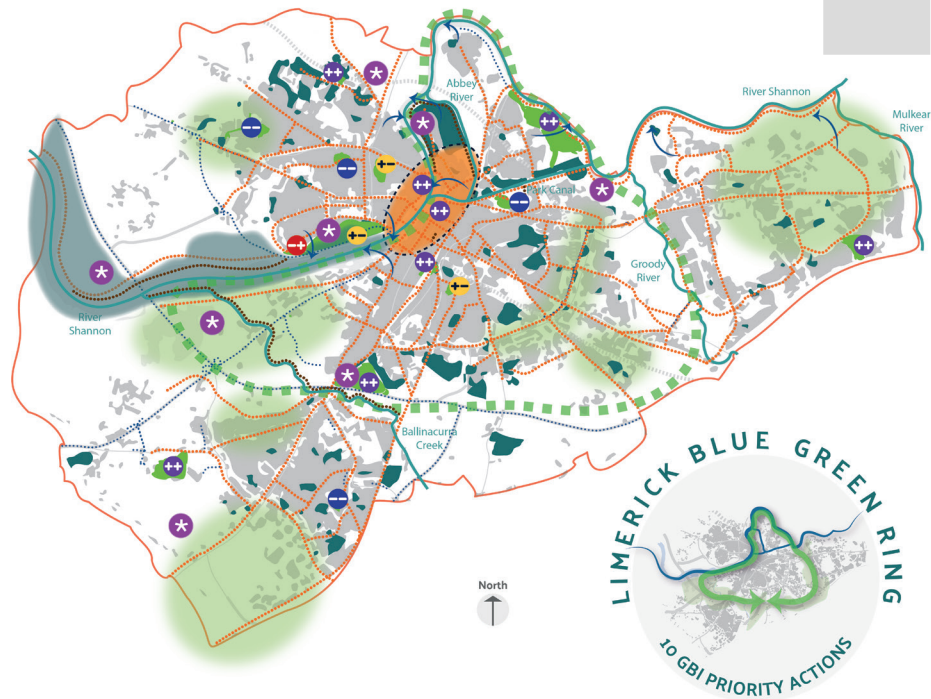
- Recognise Limerick's **rich abundance of waterways**, including the River Shannon and its tributaries - over 1,200ha of protected natural heritage, including SPAs, SACs and pNHAs;
- Highlight the **importance of greenways and blueways** in providing a range of benefits; and
- Develop a **coherent ecological network**, improve connectivity and restore natural processes.



## Celebrating Limerick's connection to its watercourses

### Our response

- Identify 10 GBI Priority Actions;
- When considered as a whole, the GBI Priority Actions establish the '**Limerick Blue Green Ring**'; and
- This will form a landscape scale GBI corridor delivering **multi-functional benefits** across Limerick.



STRATEGIC SCALE

SUB-REGIONAL

DISTRICT / BOROUGH  
/ COUNTY

SETTLEMENT

STREET

SITE SCALE

## Celebrating Limerick's connection to its watercourses

### Our response

- Identify a GBI Priority Action centred on the proposed **enhancement, protection and creation** of a network of blueways;
- Utilise GBI to provide a crucial link in **enhancing the blueways** and improving waterside experiences and activities, whilst **balancing ecological sensitivities; and**
- Collaborate with stakeholders to **deliver river restoration** at the catchment scale.





## Balancing recreational and ecological pressures

### The challenge

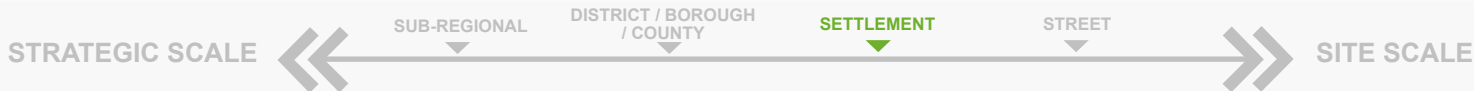
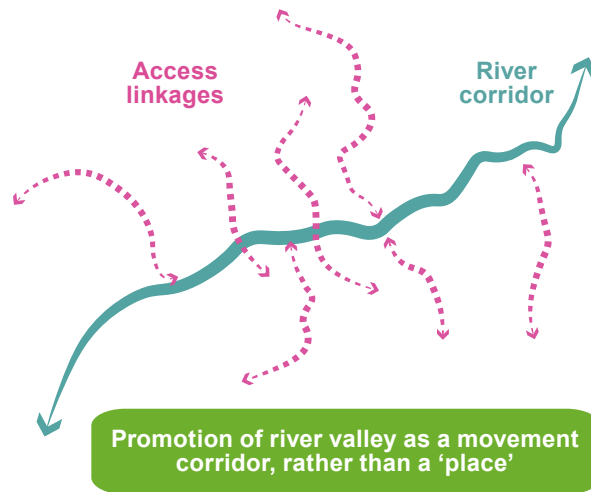
- Utilise GBI to shape the **development of a Garden Town** on the Essex / Hertfordshire border, UK;
- Provide a landscape framework to **connect areas of growth** and inform landscape-led masterplanning; and
- Ensure the **GBI network is biodiverse, climate resilient and accessible** to the local community for education, active travel and wider well-being benefits.



## Balancing recreational and ecological pressures

### Our response

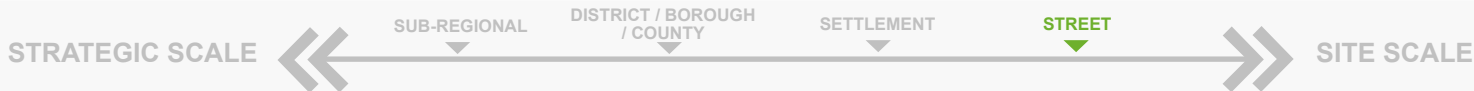
- Re-framing of the river valley from promotion as a recreational corridor and destination park **in recognition of its ecological sensitivity**;
- Emphasis on **dilution of recreational pressure** on the river corridor, whilst continuing to accommodate defined corridors for movement and active travel; and
- **Recreation not minimised, but not encouraged** - concentrated in areas pre-determined to be resilient enough to take the additional pressure.



# Providing a landscape framework and retro-fitting GBI into an existing street pattern

## The challenge

- Promote ecological connectivity by developing an **urban tree strategy** for coastal towns within Wales;
- **Multi-layered existing built settings and coastal environments** with multiple constraints; and
- Assist the LPAs by provide a landscape framework to **deliver future tree planting** within an existing street pattern.



# Providing a landscape framework and retro-fitting GBI into an existing street pattern

## Our response

- Established a **tree hierarchy for the street network**;
- Identified **generic principles** for the establishment of trees within settlements; and
- Defined **sub-principles for each category** within the hierarchy (including suggested species and planting typologies).

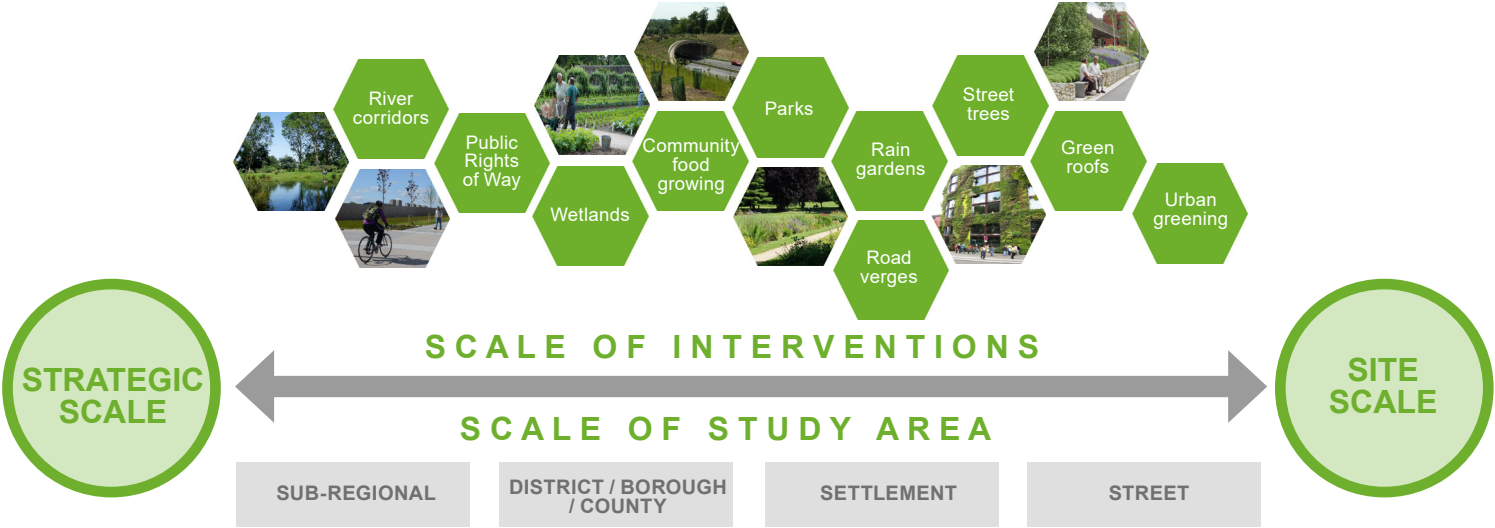


- Long-term replacement strategy for existing mature specimens
- Statement street with proposed tree avenue
- Tree planting within 'nodes' through partial parking reconfiguration
- Tree planting limited to gateway specimens



# Differing approaches to the delivery of GBI at a range of scales

## Component GBI assets deliver functions to differing extents



# 'How Local Authorities can address the Biodiversity Emergency'

## Thank you

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