



# VALUING NATURE

Valuing green infrastructure for health  
in London's local government and  
business communities (with Greater  
London Authority)

Warm-up event, London, 24 November 2017

Dr Ian Mell

School of Environment, Education & Development, University  
of Manchester

+44 (0161) 275 6868 / [ian.mell@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:ian.mell@manchester.ac.uk) /  
[@Mell\\_GIPlanning](https://twitter.com/Mell_GIPlanning)

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester

# Why GI, health and finance?

What and who are we planning for in our urban areas?



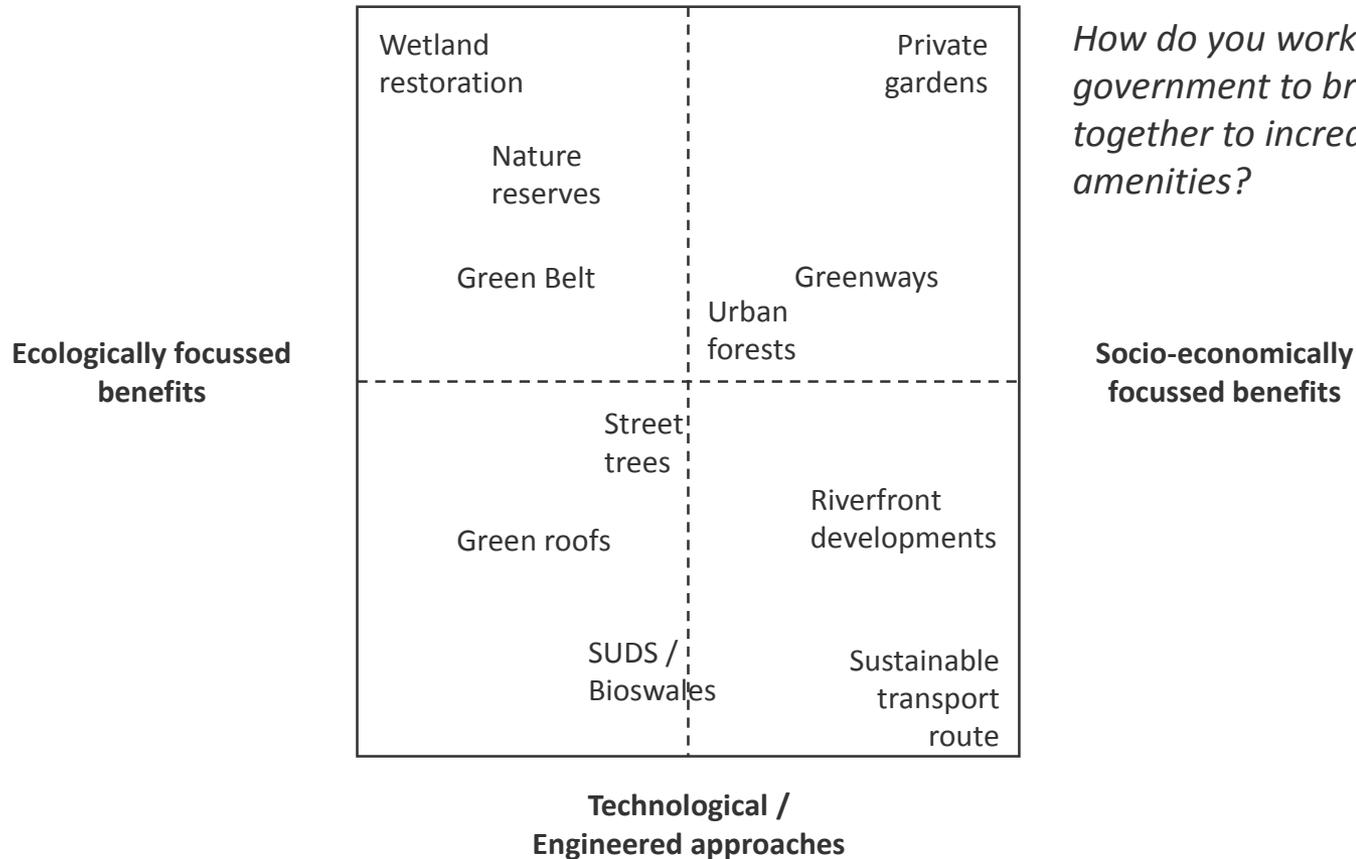
Housing development Suzhou Creek, central Shanghai



St Peter's Square redevelopment, central Manchester

# Balancing ecological-socio-economic- engineered-natural approaches in GI investment

## Nature-Based Solution (NBS) approaches



*How do you work with businesses and local government to bring GI, health and financing together to increase investment in landscape amenities?*

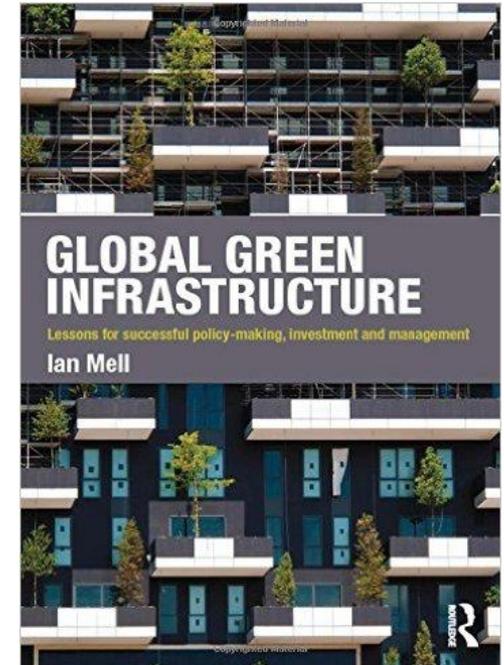
# Background/interests

## Background:

- Over 10 years experience as a landscape planner with a background in green infrastructure policy, research and implementation in academia (BSc, MSc, PhD), local government and environmental sectors
- Extensive experience of developing and evaluation the ways in which GI/GS is debated within policy and practice in the UK, EU, USA and Asia

## Interests:

- Interest in how different stakeholders use elements of green infrastructure to promote socio-economic and ecological benefits.
- **Understanding the role of the planning system and business interactions with it to delivery maximum health, well-being, economic and ecological benefits from GI/GS interventions**
- **Interest in understanding decision-making of business (and GLA) in their use of GI and what barriers limit this process**
- Deeper analysis of how developers contributions to GLA fund GI and health projects



Download PDF Export

 Urban Forestry & Urban Greening  
Volume 18, 1 August 2016, Pages 257-267

To green or not to green: Establishing the economic value of green infrastructure investments in The Wicker, Sheffield  
Ian C. Mell <sup>a, \*</sup>, John Hanneberry <sup>b</sup>, Sigrid Hehl-Lange <sup>c</sup>, Berna Keskin <sup>b</sup>  
[Show more](#)

 Environmental Research  
Volume 158, October 2017, Pages 399-408

Re-defining the characteristics of environmental volunteering: Creating a typology of community-scale green infrastructure  
Gemma Jerome <sup>a, b, \*</sup>, Ian Mell <sup>c</sup>, Dave Shaw <sup>d</sup>

# Placement focus and logistics



- Greater London Authority (GLA) with Peter Massini (Principal Policy & Programme Officer – Green Infrastructure)

40% fte (20% London/20% Manchester)

- Working with businesses in London via GLA to assess decision-making for GI and health/well-being and where funding/investment opportunities lie in the future
- The development of new collaborative/stakeholder networks and greater experience of working with key GI, health, development practitioners and the business community in London to discuss, develop and synthesise opportunities
- Engagement with a wider, politically active and business-orientated dissemination network and the enhancement of negotiation skills between stakeholders to discuss options for investment in GI and health
- Development of a baseline dataset of GI funding in London, which (where possible) can be used to examine funding for GI and identify whether health can be used to increasing contributions for different stakeholders

Mell, IC. (2017) Financing the future of green infrastructure planning: Alternatives and opportunities in the UK. *Landscape Research*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01426397.2017.1390079>

Mell, IC. (2016) Financing Green Infrastructure in times of austerity...the case of Liverpool UK. *Biotope City Journal* (online). <http://www.biotope-city.net/gallery/financing-green-infrastructure-times-austerity>

# Project aspirations

- Engage local government and business communities to examine how a 'financial' value can be applied to green infrastructure (GI) planning in Greater London.
- Working with local stakeholders discuss how the use of health/well-being can be better aligned with economic development discussions to:
  - engage stakeholders in an active discussion of what evidence they would need to start investing in GI, and what kinds of investment they might make.
- The aim of the placement is to raise the visibility of links between GI and public health, and target the practices/initiatives stakeholders could take to improve the health of local people through investment in GI.



# Outputs and outcomes

## **GLA focussed:**

- 1 x technical project report outlining the background evidence, baseline policy and funding position in Greater London, and the outcomes of the primary investigation with stakeholders

## **Partner/stakeholder focussed:**

- 3 x presentations to GLA, LPAs and business community with the potential for several presentations/talks/workshops to be developed and be rolled out across Greater London to highlight links between health, green infrastructure and economic growth/development.

## **NERC focussed:**

- 1 x non-technical report highlight key messages and issues that will be made accessible to all interested parties.

## **Academic focussed:**

- 1 x academic paper on links between health and green infrastructure within a combined LPAs/local government and business community environment.