

Extract from relevant pages of the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) report on Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Natural England 2011

Introduction

ANGSt was developed in the early 1990's and was based on research into minimum distances people would travel to the natural environment. Natural England reviewed the standard in 2008 and concluded that the standard was still useful, but that further guidance was required to explain how the standard should be applied. The "Nature Nearby" report, published in March 2010, provides this additional clarity, and should therefore be read in conjunction with this report.

What is the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt)?

ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have one accessible natural greenspace:

- of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and;
- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population (Nature Nearby 2010)

ANGSt is a powerful tool in assessing current levels of accessible natural greenspace, and planning for better provision. The three underlying principles of ANGSt are:

- Improving access to greenspaces
- Improving naturalness of greenspaces
- Improving connectivity with greenspaces

Background to ANGSt

Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) (ODPM [now CLG], 2002a) recommends that local authorities carry out assessments and audits to identify deficits or surpluses in the provision of open space (including natural and semi-natural greenspace), sports and recreational facilities. The Companion Guide to PPG17 (ODPM [now CLG], 2002b) highlights the use of Natural England's ANGSt as the model to assess the provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace, although it does not constrain local authorities from developing alternative approaches.

The East of England Biodiversity Delivery Plan (East of England Biodiversity Forum, 2008) aims to push for regional compliance with the ANGSt. This study contributes to Natural England's Delivery Plan for an understanding of the provision of green infrastructure within the Region. Other reports have been produced for Essex, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

[Insert web links](#)

Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANG) definition

The 'Nature Nearby' report gives clear explanations on how to interpret the standard with respect to naturalness and accessibility. [This analysis was commissioned ahead of the publication of 'Nature Nearby', and uses the definition 'places where human control and activities are not so intensive so that natural processes are allowed to predominate' \(Handley et al, 2003a\). Insert definition from Nature Nearby](#)