**Local Plan Policy ENV 6**

**Green Infrastructure**

The value and strategic role of the following Green Infrastructure corridors within the Borough will be protected and enhanced in line with the hierarchy below.

a. Regional importance: ‘Coast’ and the ‘River Derwent’

b. Sub-Regional importance: ‘Esk’

c. Locally important assets and corridors, including the ‘Hertford’ corridor

Proposals for the creation of new Green Infrastructure assets that improve connectivity and accessibility within the above corridors, or lead to the creation of new corridors, will be supported. Developments that will have an unacceptable impact on Green Infrastructure will be resisted unless other policy considerations within this Local Plan indicate otherwise.

 **8.60** The Borough contains a high number and diverse range of green spaces, all of which contribute to environmental quality within the area. The general areas of these are shown on Map 8.1. It is essential that these individual sites are managed as a multi-functional, connected network of Green Infrastructure "assets" in order to maximise their cumulative potential to support natural and ecological processes, to address the challenges associated with climate change, including surface water, river and coastal flooding and to ensure a high quality of life for local communities. Green Infrastructure assets incorporate natural, semi-natural and manmade sites, such as:

**Parks and Gardens** – urban parks, Country Parks, formal gardens

**Amenity Greenspace** – informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, domesticgardens, village greens, urban commons, other incidental space

**Natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces -** woodland and scrub, grassland(e.g.downland and meadow), heath or moor, wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and disturbed ground), bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs and quarries)

**Green corridors** – rivers and canals including their banks, road and rail corridors, cycling routes, pedestrian paths, and rights of way

**Other -** allotments, community gardens, city farms, cemeteries and churchyards

**8.61** The Borough Council has worked closely with Natural England and North Yorkshire County Council to identify and define Green Infrastructure corridors based on the density, importance and connectivity of existing Green Infrastructure assets within the Borough and neighbouring areas. A hierarchy of Green Infrastructure corridors has been established as a result of this exercise; identifying corridors of regional, sub-regional and in some cases, local /district, importance. The strategic importance of these corridors will be protected and enhanced by improving linkages between existing assets and by promoting the development of new assets where appropriate. The Borough Council will work with neighbouring authorities and the North and North Yorkshire Local Nature Partnership to identify and deliver projects within Green Infrastructure corridors that cross local authority boundaries.

**8.62** The most significant Green Infrastructure corridors within the Borough are the ‘Coast’ and the ‘River Derwent’. The Coast corridor covers the entire length of the Yorkshire coastline, crossing through 3 districts and is of regional importance. Within the Borough, the coast corridor is characterised by a mix of open coastal landscapes, historic settlements and holiday parks.

It comprises a large number of important natural and semi-natural habitats,including Flamborough Head, which is an area of European, National and local importance as an ornithological and marine habitat. Parts of the Borough coastline are also designated as Heritage Coast.

 **8.64** Green Infrastructure also functions at the local level, connecting urban areas to their wider rural hinterland, providing opportunities for recreation and means of accessing places.

The Borough Council will look to develop a Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document for the Borough, which will support the implementation of this Local Plan policy and provide a clear vision and framework for Green Infrastructure provision at the local level.