

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for London Plan Guidance

London Plan Guidance:	Urban Greening Factor
Teams involved:	London Plan Team and Green Infrastructure Team
Date:	February 2023

Who is the guidance aimed at and what are the key issues to be aware of?

The Urban Greening Factor (UGF) is a tool to measure and assess the quantity and quality of greening provided on a development. The guidance builds on the requirements in London Plan Policy G5, which sets out interim targets for different development types, providing further advice on the application of the UGF tool to developments and advice to boroughs on introducing UGF targets through Local Plans. Architects, landscape architects, ecologists and applicants – in addition to planning authorities – will be able to use this guidance in designing and specifying greening in development, and in quantifying and assessing greening against relevant UGF targets.

Which of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) aims are relevant to the guidance and the impacts identified?

1) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.

The UGF is designed to provide flexibility to enable an appropriate response to meeting local green infrastructure priorities and site-specific constraints, as well as to respond to different uses within a development. The target for major residential development applies to all tenures, and aims to ensure that occupants of market and affordable housing have equal provision of green infrastructure.

2) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The guidance sets out how boroughs should approach setting local UGF targets. This involves undertaking a local needs assessment exercise to determine areas of deficiency based on demographic and spatial environmental data to identify opportunities for new greening. It also allows for flexible approaches to design greening to suit the needs of people with protected characteristics.

3) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

By requiring the application of the UGF to all major developments, the guidance also seeks to create opportunities for social interaction, for example through greening communal areas of developments or creating new open spaces. This could help to foster

good relations and tackle prejudices between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Assessment

List aspects of the guidance that might affect particular groups

Guidance key aspects, chapter headings, theme etc	Particular group that could be affected
Encouraging spaces to be open, accessible and inclusive	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people; disabled people; older people; younger people; people on a low income; LGBTQ+ people; women; and pregnant people
Providing green routes that promote active travel where current opportunities are limited	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people; disabled people; older people; younger people; LGBTQ+ people; people on a low income; women; and pregnant people
Creating higher scores for wetlands, woodlands and biodiversity-rich planting reduces risk of flooding, helps improve air quality and provides a diversity-rich green environment for better mental health	Older people; disabled people; Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people

* It should be noted that the general policy requirement and principles are already required through the London Plan. This London Plan Guidance is providing further detail on how the policies should be implemented, and therefore further amplifying the effects.

Equality impacts, mitigating actions and justification

This section sets out the positive and negative impacts of the implementation of this guidance, both known and potential, for specified groups.

The objectives from the London Plan Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) and the EqIA guide questions are used where relevant to structure the answers.

For negative impacts, mitigating actions to minimise or eliminate negative impacts are identified, along with any action plan. If negative impacts cannot be mitigated, an objective justification is provided. For positive impacts, considerations is given to how these could be maximised.

The impacts are scored as follows:

- +2 Strong positive
- +1 Positive
- 0 Neutral
- - 1 Negative
- - 2 Strong negative

Age (consider particularly children, under-21s and over-65s)

Potential positive impacts and score

The UGF guidance encourages increased access to green spaces and public open spaces (within the development as well as part of the wider public realm). It also aims to make such spaces more inclusive. This could potentially make parts of the public realm and the external environment more welcoming and increase people's likelihood to use active travel modes. This, in turn, could help to reduce inequalities in physical and mental health and wellbeing, as the policy will help to bring forward safe, welcoming, secure and inclusive places and spaces. Provision of street trees, green walls, green roofs and wetlands is likely to improve air quality, hence having a positive impact on children and older people, as well as low-income communities who are most impacted by poor air quality. Impact score **+2**

The UGF, in combination with other policies related to open space and public realm, encourages public space to be more open, accessible and inclusive, and so is likely to mean more opportunities for Londoners of every background to connect, helping to advance equality of opportunity and fostering good relations – particularly for older Londoners who are more likely to experience social isolation. This is therefore likely to be beneficial for groups who are at higher risk of social isolation, such as older Londoners. Impact score **+2**

Children and teenage girls are more likely to have restrictions placed on their mobility freedoms due to the perceived dangers of venturing too far to access public space. Creating spaces within the built environment that are proximate, green, welcoming and

well maintained is likely to have a positive impact for these groups by facilitating independent mobility and supporting their right to safety, both actual and perceived, in these spaces. It may also provide more opportunities for children to engage in social interaction and informal play, away from home and school, in green spaces that provide access to nature. This may be particularly beneficial for children in London, where 70 per cent of visits to the natural environment by children under 16 take place in urban green spaces. Impact score **+2**

Potential negative impacts, mitigation and score

In many developments in dense urban areas, there may be limited opportunities to provide significant new areas of accessible green space at ground level. If UGF targets are met primarily through the provision of inaccessible green roofs and walls, there may be limited opportunities for people to use this greening type for amenity and recreation. The guidance requires that applicants refer to urban greening priorities in the borough before designing the landscape in their developments. The UGF works alongside other policies, such as those related to design and those requiring the provision of amenity or play space; and encourages design choices that provide multiple benefits, such as the provision of play or other recreational space on roofs where appropriate. Impact score **0**

Relevant PSED aim(s)

- 1
- 2b
- 2c
- 3

Disability (consider different types of physical, learning or mental disabilities)

Potential positive impacts and score

Increasing Londoners' access to green spaces within developments, and in the proximate public realm, could potentially make the external environment more welcoming for people of all abilities. The guidance is likely to have a positive impact for groups such as disabled people, as well as groups at greater risk of poor mental health including disabled adults. People in these groups may be more likely to experience physical and other potential barriers to accessing parks due to distance, so incorporating more high-quality greening in developments may enable inclusion for people living in or using those spaces and buildings. Impact score **+2**

Encouraging public space within the built environment, close to where people live, to be more open, accessible and inclusive is likely to provide more opportunities for Londoners of every background to connect, helping to advance equality of opportunity and fostering good relations. This is therefore likely to be beneficial for groups who are at higher risk of social isolation, such as disabled Londoners. Impact score **+2**

Potential negative impacts, mitigation and score

Vegetation planted in these greening areas may trigger or exacerbate symptoms for people with particular disabilities, such as people with asthma or other respiratory conditions.

The impacts of planting to meet UGF requirements are not likely to be significant in the context of the existing vegetation within London, but there may be some particular localised risks. The guidance recommends that landscape professionals are involved in the design of greening measures from early in the development process. Their skills will allow the designs to select appropriate species and avoid those known to trigger allergies. Impact score **0**

Providing urban greening elements within the development at different levels or terraces may provide challenges for accessibility. The UGF works in combination with other policies in the Plan, such as those requiring the provision of amenity space in housing developments. Consideration of accessibility to the space must be dealt with at the planning application stages to create green environments that are accessible. Impact score **0**

Relevant PSED aim(s)

- 1
- 2a
- 2b
- 2c
- 3

Gender reassignment

Potential positive impacts and score

Increasing Londoners' access to green spaces within developments, and in the proximate public realm, could potentially make the external environment more welcoming for all. The guidance is likely to have a positive impact for gender reassignment groups who may be freely able to use the spaces, as they are part of either the development or the built environment. People in these groups may be more likely to experience physical and other potential barriers to accessing parks due to distance, cost or isolation, hence greening of the built environment may enable inclusion. Impact score **+1**

Potential negative impacts, mitigation and score

Spaces integrated within developments or public realm may not provide an opportunity for these groups to enjoy green environment in spaces that feel safe. This is a larger issue that cannot be solely addressed through UGF guidance, but the UGF methodology provides opportunities for schemes to provide a variety of spaces and greening types. Designs should address the needs of different groups to allow people to interact with nature in an environment that feels safe. Impact score **0**

Relevant PSED aim(s)

- 1
- 2a
- 2b
- 2c
- 3

Marriage and civil partnership

None identified.

Pregnancy and maternity

Potential positive impacts and score

The UGF, in combination with other policies related to open space and public realm, encourages public space to be more open, accessible and inclusive. It is likely to provide more opportunities for Londoners to connect; and open up opportunities for social interaction in spaces that feel safe to all users during the day time and night. This is likely to have a positive impact on people who share the protected characteristic of pregnancy and maternity. Impact score **+1**

Encouraging activities such as scootering in play streets, or the gathering of people with similar characteristics in green streets or pocket parks, or green spaces within development, could have a positive impact on pregnant people and parents with children who are too old for pushchairs, as it may help to enhance their mobility. Impact score **+1**

Potential negative impacts, mitigation and score

Balancing the consideration of greening the built environment for wider public use could have a negative impact on pregnant women or mothers with young children. For example, some spaces may be problematic for people who may have more difficulty navigating barriers and obstructions within the public realm, such as pregnant people or parents with young children in pushchairs. The guidance allows for site-specific approaches to urban greening and the consideration of various users. Consultation with community stakeholders would be essential during the application stage to tailor the design of these spaces. The needs assessment required through the guidance will enable planners and designers to identify availability of spaces for the users within the area and design appropriately, with due regard to consultation with community stakeholders to address deficiencies and ensure spaces are accessible to people with the protected characteristics of pregnancy and maternity. Impact score **0**

Relevant PSED aim(s)

- 1
- 2a
- 2c

Race or ethnicity (consider refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, Gypsies and Travellers)

Potential positive impacts and score

Evidence finds that places with a higher proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents also tend to have fewer green spaces. Areas that have almost no Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents have six times as many parks as those where more than 40 per cent of the population are Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic. The UGF guidance seeks to create opportunities for greening the built environment, thus enabling open space access in deficient areas. This guidance is likely to have a positive impact for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Londoners, as it aims to provide more opportunity for access to green spaces across London. Impact score **+2**

During the pandemic, people from an ethnic minority background were more likely to report greater benefits to their mental health from green space and open space during lockdown than people identifying as White (S&SR Environment and Spaces Group, 2020). Hence, this guidance is expected to create better physical and mental health environments for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people. Impact score **+1**

Relevant PSED aim(s)

- 1
- 2b
- 2c
- 3

Religion or belief

None identified.

Sex

Potential positive impacts and score

Girls and young women often report feeling unsafe when outside. Greening and spaces created as part of meeting UGF requirements will be integrated into the development and will generally be at a smaller scale than traditional open spaces. This can provide opportunities to interact with nature in a way that feels safe and may be of particular benefit to girls and young women. Impact score **+1**

Relevant PSED aim(s)

- 1
- 2b
- 2c
- 3

Sexual orientation

Potential positive impacts and score

There are a range of ways to deliver greening to meet UGF targets in combination with other related policy objectives; choices should be influenced by local needs and priorities. Creating green spaces within developments that feel safe to all users during the day and night is likely to be beneficial for certain protected characteristic groups who are more likely to experience fear of crime, such as LGBTQ+ people. Impact score **+1**

Relevant PSED aim(s)

- 1
- 2b
- 2c
- 3

People on low incomes

Potential positive impacts and score

More than half of London is deficient in access to public open space, and people on low incomes are much more likely to live in these locations. Urban greening provided to meet the UGF such as roof gardens, pocket parks or green streets will help to mitigate these inequalities where there are no opportunities to provide large new areas of public open space. Impact score **+2**

Londoners on low incomes are also one of the groups of people disproportionately affected by climate change, because they are those least able to respond quickly and recover from it. Furthermore, the impacts of climate change are also unevenly distributed across the city, with neighbourhoods with income and health inequalities at greater risk. Greening provided to meet the UGF will increase local climate resilience, and boroughs are encouraged to set targets that reflect local issues, which could include targets to prioritise greening that reduces climate vulnerability.

Application of the UGF may increase opportunities for greening the built environment, creating low-traffic neighbourhoods and informal play streets for children. This may have a positive impact for people on low incomes who are less likely to have access to private outdoor space.

If people feel safe and welcome to spend time in a space, and encourage their children to play and be active in a space, this may have a positive impact on the health of children from low-income families. At year five, children living in the most deprived areas are 15 percentage points more likely to be overweight or obese than children in the least deprived areas. Impact score **+1**

Potential negative impacts, mitigation and score

If the greening measures installed as part of meeting UGF targets are not properly maintained, the quality may degrade over time and may render the spaces not useable.

Successful communal or public spaces need resources for stewardship, maintenance, community involvement, security or enlivenment. Planning authorities' Green Infrastructure Strategies that identify opportunities for urban greening must also identify funds for maintenance, or require planning obligations and section 106 agreements to keep greening elements in good quality. The design of greening measures should consider opportunities to address inequalities in the quality and quantity of green space in different neighbourhoods, so that the benefits of proximity to urban nature are felt by every community. **0**

Relevant PSED aim(s)

- 2a
- 2b

Overview of equality impacts

This table summarises the scoring of the impacts for each group identified in the previous section.

Category	UGF guidance
Age	+2
Disability	+2
Gender reassignment	+1
Marriage and civil partnership	No anticipated impacts
Pregnancy and maternity	+1
Race	+2
Religion and belief	No anticipated impacts
Sex	+1
Sexual orientation	+1
People on low incomes	+1

Consider whether to break the guidance down and introduce further rows in order to make clear different equality impacts for different aspects of the guidance.

Recommendation

Based your assessment, please indicate which course of action you are recommending to decision makers.

Outcome number	Description	Recommended
Outcome one	No major change to the guidance is required: this EqIA has not identified any potential for discrimination or negative impact, and all opportunities to advance equality have been taken.	Yes
Outcome two	Adjustments to the guidance are required to remove barriers identified by the EqIA or better advance equality.	No
Outcome three	Justify and continue with the guidance despite having identified some potential for negative impacts or missed opportunities to advance equality.	No
Outcome four	Stop, rethink or abandon when the EqIA shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination	No

Monitoring

Monitoring will take place through the London Plan Annual Monitoring Report and wider monitoring of the Mayor's other strategies, as well as part of reviewing the London Plan.

Appendix A: Evidence Reference and Content

London Plan IIA (including EqIA) and Addendums

Evidence

Age

[Out of Bounds: Equity in Access to Urban Nature](#), Groundwork, May 2021

Habits formed in childhood often have consequences for adult engagement with nature. A study of the benefits of green spaces for wellbeing in Sheffield found that the presence or absence of positive childhood memories associated with green spaces had a significant influence on their use throughout adulthood (Improving Wellbeing through Urban Nature, 2019).

Girls and young women often report feeling unsafe when spending time in public spaces such as parks and green spaces. A survey conducted by Girlguiding found that 41 per cent of girls aged 11 to 16 feel unsafe when they go outside, rising to 49 per cent of young women aged 17 to 21. In the survey, 22 per cent of girls aged 11 to 16 said that they are often stared at and receive unwanted attention when they are outside, increasing to 41 per cent of young women aged 17 to 21. All these measures were higher for girls and young women who identify as disabled or LGBQ (Girlguiding, 2020).

A separate survey found that 60 per cent of children were found to have spent less time outdoors since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, but this varied across the population: 71 per cent of children from ethnic minority backgrounds reported spending less time outside, compared to 57 per cent of White children. It also found that 73 per cent of children from households with annual income below £17,000 spent less time outdoors, compared with 57 per cent from households with an annual income above this level (Natural England, 2020b).

[Equality, diversity and inclusion evidence base for London](#), GLA Intelligence, June 2019

The GLA has found that, as of 2019, over a fifth of London's population are under 16 (1.9m). Over two-thirds, or 6.2m, are working-age (between 16 and 64), and less than one in eight are 65 or over (1.1m). Despite the latter being the smallest age group in London's population, the number of Londoners aged 65 or over is projected to increase by 86 per cent between 2019 and 2050, faster than younger age groups. Therefore, there will be a growing need for accessible and inclusive infrastructure that supports an ageing population.

Outside of the home, the nature of London's built environment can support, or form barriers to, participating in city life. This is particularly relevant to older people and those with children in pushchairs, who face barriers in accessing many services and buildings because of how buildings, spaces and places are designed and managed.

Children in London are less likely than children in other parts of England to make visits to the natural environment: in London, 62 per cent make at least one visit a week and 15 per cent never visit, while these figures are 70 per cent and 12 per cent respectively at an England level. Data at a national level also reveals that some groups of children are less likely to engage with the natural environment. This includes Black, Asian and Minority

Ethnic children – 56 per cent of whom make at least one visit a week compared to 74 per cent of children who are not from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic backgrounds. There is also a decrease among children whose parents are from a lower social class, with a gap in weekly visits of 12 percentage points between the highest social grade (77 per cent) and the lowest (65 per cent).

[Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment \(MENE\) Report, 2018-2019 review](#), Natural England, 2020

Nationally there has been a decline in the amount of time that children spend outside in recent years. Research shows the amount of time they do spend outside depends largely on the frequency with which their parents take them on visits to green space.

The MENE data has shown that, for the majority of children, their main experience of the natural environment is close to home, in green spaces within towns and cities. This is particularly the case for children from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds and those living in less affluent areas who may be less able to travel further afield. In London 70 per cent of visits outside by children overall are to urban green spaces.

[Making London Child Friendly – Designing Places and Streets for Children and Young People](#), GLA, January 2020

Children, particularly teenagers, are a complicated presence in public space – often stereotyped as proponents of antisocial behaviour, whilst also imposed with mobility restrictions due to perceived dangers of public space. In London, young people's perceptions of safety in their area decrease with age. A study conducted by ZCD Architects found knife crime, strangers, and adults' negative perceptions to be the most prominent factors for reluctance to go outside. Built-environment interventions and policy should therefore aim to fulfil a child's right to safety, both actual and perceived.

Girls, particularly teenage girls, are more likely to have restrictions placed on their mobility freedoms. Research in different housing typologies in London found that boys are more likely to play out, visit a park and ride a bicycle alone, and have fewer concerns over safety in public spaces. Design, planning and policy must understand these social and gendered issues when considering how built environment interventions will be experienced and impact on opportunities for mobility.

Designing for independent mobility needs to create safe and accessible routes between the home and the school, as well as connections to the other places that children and young people use. 'Third places' are places used away from home and school, such as parks, recreation facilities, libraries and other forms of social infrastructure. These informal urban greening spaces, where important social interactions occur, hold a key functional and symbolic role.

Disability

[Equality, diversity and inclusion evidence base for London](#), GLA Intelligence, June 2019

There are 1.3m disabled adults in London, defined according to the Equality Act 2010 as having a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on their ability to do normal daily activities. Disability is closely related to age: 13 per cent of the working-age population are disabled, versus 28 per cent of people aged 65 or over.

Disabled and older Londoners face barriers in accessing London's built environment, as a result of street design and clutter, a lack of dedicated parking, and a few accessible and

specialised public toilets. Older Londoners are at risk of social isolation due to physical barriers preventing them from experiencing the city in full.

[Out of Bounds: Equity in Access to Urban Nature](#), Groundwork, May 2021

Evidence suggests that urban nature is less accessible to disabled people. A survey found that 47 per cent of adults with a long-term illness or condition had made a visit in the last 14 days, compared to 62 per cent without a long-term illness or condition. Of those living with a long-term illness or condition, 29 per cent said they had not visited a natural space in the previous month, compared to 18 per cent of those without a long-term illness or condition (Natural England, 2020d).

Urban green and blue spaces can be disabling environments for people with impairments. Studies of the experiences of people with a mobility impairment found that the interviewees placed a high value on physical closeness to nature; and that a lack of accessibility could lead to negative experiences of exclusion from green spaces. The structural constraints to spending time in natural spaces identified included lack of information about accessibility and physical constraints in terms of paths, obstacles, parking and toilets (Corazon et al, 2019). Disabled people who use bikes as a mobility aid report being excluded from green and blue spaces where cycling is prohibited, and feeling uncomfortable and 'othered' by the attention their mobility aids attract (Inckle, 2019). Different impairments affect disabled people's access to natural spaces differently. The Sensing Nature project developed a guide to designing green spaces with sight impairment in mind. Barriers to accessing urban nature identified included a lack of talking/tactile maps, natural seasonal changes, public transport links, and having to walk along busy roads or cross large open areas which can be hard to navigate.

Gender reassignment

[Is England Fairer? The state of equality and human rights 2016](#), Equality and Human Rights Commission, 1 March 2016

A 2006 study of transgender and transsexual people's experiences of inequality and discrimination found that 73 per cent of surveyed transgender respondents had experienced harassment in public spaces (including comments; threatening behaviour; and physical, verbal or sexual abuse) with 10 per cent having been victims of threatening behaviour in public spaces (Whittle et al, 2007).

In 2015, the Home Office reported a 9 per cent rise in police recorded transgender hate crimes between 2013-14 and 2014-15. For almost all police forces (41 out of 44), transgender identity hate crime was the least commonly recorded hate crime (Home Office, 2015a).

[Is Britain Fairer? Key facts and findings on transgender people](#), Equality and Human Rights Commission, 2015

A UK survey of transgender people carried out in 2012 indicated that respondents avoid some activities due to a fear of being harassed or identified as transgender. Many said they avoided public toilets and gyms, and around a quarter said they avoided clothing shops, leisure facilities, clubs or social groups, public transport, travelling abroad, restaurants or bars. Those with 'clear and constant gender identities' as men avoided many more situations than those with 'clear and constant identities' as women. This was particularly the case with public toilets, with 77 per cent of transgender men avoiding them.

[LGBT in Britain – Trans report](#), Stonewall, 2018

Trans people experience high levels of discrimination and poor treatment because of their gender identity, and often change their behaviour because of it. This ranges from verbal abuse and intimidation in the street and other public spaces such as toilets, to being discriminated against in shops, cafés, restaurants, bars and nightclubs. Trans people also face discrimination when using public services, and when looking for a house to rent or buy.

More than two in five trans people (44 per cent) avoid certain streets altogether because they don't feel safe there as an LGBT person

Marriage or civil partnership

No evidence was found that is relevant to the UGF.

Pregnancy and maternity

[Equality, diversity and inclusion evidence base for London](#), GLA Intelligence, June 2019

Outside of the home, the nature of London's built environment can support, or form barriers to, participating in city life. This is particularly relevant to those with pushchairs, who face barriers in accessing many services and buildings because of how buildings, spaces and places are designed and managed.

Race

[Equality, diversity and inclusion evidence base for London](#), GLA Intelligence, June 2019

GLA projections estimate that, as of 2019, 57 per cent of Londoners have a White British, White Irish or other White ethnicity, with the remaining 43 per cent having a Black, Asian or minority ethnicity.

Availability of green space is lower in more deprived areas and areas with a higher proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents, with children in London less likely to visit the natural environment than children elsewhere in England.

[Office for National Statistics](#), 2020

In England, Black people are nearly four times as likely as White people to have no access to outdoor space at home. Even comparing people of similar age, social grade and living situation, those of Black ethnicity are 2.4 times less likely than those of White ethnicity to have a private garden.

The survey also found that 21 per cent of households in London lack access to a private or shared garden which is the highest rate of any region in England. Across England, Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic people are less likely to have access to a garden than White people.

[Out of Bounds: Equity in Access to Urban Nature](#), Groundwork, May 2021

Almost 40 per cent of people from ethnic minority backgrounds live in the areas that are most deprived of green space, compared to 14 per cent of White people (Friends of the Earth, 2020). People from ethnic minority backgrounds are less likely to live within five minutes' walk from a green space than people who identify as White (39 per cent compared to 58 per cent); less likely to report good walking routes where they live (38 per cent compared to 52 per cent); and less likely to report a variety of different green spaces within walking distance of where they live (46 per cent compared to 58 per cent) (the Ramblers, 2020).

Experiences of harassment or abuse can also prevent people from ethnic minority backgrounds from choosing to spend time in green or blue space. The perception that these spaces are dominated by White people and the experience of racism in these spaces can have an impact for several generations, as people take their lead from their parents' use of such spaces, or lack thereof (Collier, 2019). The presence of racist graffiti, or experiences of racist abuse, can be major barriers to the use of urban green space for ethnic minority groups (Seaman et al, 2010).

The way that urban natural spaces are designed can also reinforce barriers to use for people from ethnic minority groups. A study on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London found significant differences between the spatial practices and preferences of local people along ethnic lines (Snaith, 2015).

During the pandemic, people from an ethnic minority background were more likely to report greater benefits to their mental health from green space and open space during lockdown than people identifying as White (S&SR Environment and Spaces Group, 2020).

Religion or belief

No evidence was found that is relevant to the UGF

Sex

[Out of Bounds: Equity in Access to Urban Nature](#), Groundwork, May 2021

Girls and young women often report feeling unsafe when spending time in public spaces such as parks and green spaces. A survey conducted by Girlguiding found that 41 per cent of girls aged 11 to 16 feel unsafe when they go outside, rising to 49 per cent of young women aged 17 to 21. In the survey, 22 per cent of girls aged 11 to 16 said that they are often stared at and receive unwanted attention when they are outside, increasing to 41 per cent of young women aged 17 to 21. All these measures were higher for girls and young women who identify as disabled or LGBQ (Girlguiding, 2020).

Sexual orientation

[Out of Bounds: Equity in Access to Urban Nature](#), Groundwork, May 2021

Girls and young women often report feeling unsafe when spending time in public spaces such as parks and green spaces. A survey conducted by Girlguiding found that 41 per cent of girls aged 11 to 16 feel unsafe when they go outside, rising to 49 per cent of young women aged 17 to 21. In the survey, 22 per cent of girls aged 11 to 16 said that they are often stared at and receive unwanted attention when they are outside, increasing to 41 per cent of young women aged 17 to 21. All these measures were higher for girls and young women who identify as disabled or LGBQ (Girlguiding, 2020).

People on low incomes

[Out of Bounds: Equity in Access to Urban Nature](#), Groundwork, May 2021

People from low-income households are also less likely to have good access to green space. People on low incomes are less likely to live within a five-minute walk of a green space (46 per cent of those with an annual household income under £15,000 compared to 70 per cent of people with an annual household income over £35,000), less likely to live somewhere where the streets are green (27 per cent compared to 53 per cent), and less likely to report good walking routes where they live (42 per cent compared to 59 per cent)

(the Ramblers, 2020). Research in Sheffield found that urban deprivation was more likely to affect people's contact with nature for wellbeing than ethnicity; parks, neighbourhoods, roadsides and through-routes in deprived areas were more often described as having rubbish and not being looked after, which put some people off walking, cycling and visiting green spaces near where they live (Improving Wellbeing through Urban Nature, 2019).

In a separate survey, 74 per cent of people from the highest socio-economic groups reported visiting natural spaces at least once a week compared to 53 per cent of people from the lowest socio-economic groups (Natural England, 2019).

[Equality, diversity and inclusion evidence base for London](#), GLA Intelligence, June 2019

Availability of green space is lower in more deprived areas and areas with a higher proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents. Children in London are less likely to visit the natural environment than children elsewhere in England.

[Climate risk mapping](#), GLA and Bloomberg Associates, 2020

Londoners on low incomes are also one of the groups disproportionately affected by climate change, because they are those least able to respond quickly and recover from it. Furthermore, the impacts of climate change are unevenly distributed across the city: neighbourhoods with income and health inequalities are at greater risk

Gaps in evidence

None identified

Appendix B: Engagement summary

Summary of protected groups engaged and engagement record

Engagement events during the development of the guidance were aimed at relevant stakeholders involved in implementing the policy, including borough officers and decision-makers, developers, and landscape architects.

During the consultation period, three online virtual seminars were held: an introductory session explaining the UGF, which was open to all; and two more technical sessions aimed at developers and local planning authorities.

Four responses were received in relation to equality impacts: from the London Wildlife Trust and three individuals. Respondents raised the need to add greening at ground level in relation to age, and the need for green spaces to be accessible to people who use mobility devices in relation to disability. Respondents also raised the need for green spaces that are safe for women at night. For further detail see the UGF consultation report.