

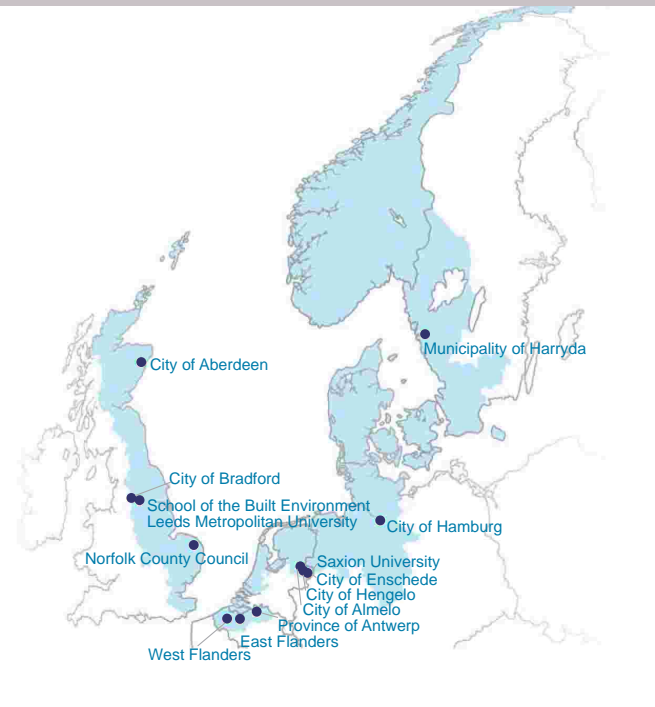


Sustainable
URBAN FRINGES
SURF

The Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) project brings together partners from the North Sea Region which would not have been possible without the Interreg IVB North Sea programme and support from the European Regional Development Fund.

Project partners

- Aberdeen City Council
- School of the Built Environment at Leeds Metropolitan University
- City of Bradford
- Norfolk County Council
- City of Enschede
- Saxion University
- City of Almelo
- City of Hengelo
- Province of East Flanders
- Province of West Flanders
- City of Hamburg
- Municipality of Harryda
- Province of Antwerp



“Understanding the value of urban fringes and the role they can play in creating communities where people want to live, work and do business.”

Take part in the urban fringe debate.
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Find out more on our website
www.sustainablefringes.eu



European Regional Development Fund

Project Background



“Urban Fringes are areas of landscape which link rural & urban environments. They are under pressure from increasing urban growth and expansion and inconsistent spatial planning policy.”

Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) is a three year project approved by Interreg in September 2009. The project, which brings together partners from 5 countries, is working to unlock the potential of urban fringes by -

- Recognising their value to local communities.
- Protecting their environmental quality for future generations.
- Identifying opportunities to increase the competitiveness of these areas.

Urban fringes are used for a multitude of purposes but due to complex issues of ownership and administration are often neglected, suffering -

- declining biodiversity
- deteriorating water quality
- low green space value
- poor accessibility & wide social inequalities.
- lack of identity
- threat from changing demographics

The project aims to put the urban fringe higher on the political agenda. Urban fringes can not be considered in isolation and the project will encourage greater integration between policies and programmes at local, regional & national level to make urban fringes challenging and more attractive spaces.

Project themes

- ✓ Economy, competitiveness, enterprise
- ✓ Governance
- ✓ Role and value of green spaces
- ✓ Spatial planning and stakeholder engagement

What will the project deliver?

The project aims to achieve a more sustainable future for urban fringes by producing –

- A governance model for urban fringes.
- Recommendations to support and strengthen enterprise and make more competitive places.
- Comparison of urban fringe policies, recommendations for future policy and development of a set of policy guidelines for urban fringes.
- A toolkit for greenspace management.
- A SURF accessible learning legacy.
- A knowledge network on urban fringes.

“Urban Fringes are recognised as valuable assets, which can provide a high quality environment in an urban setting, creating vital areas for the health and well being of local communities.”

