

Introduction

This calculator should be used in conjunction with London Plan Guidance 'Urban Greening Factor', 2021.

The Urban Greening Factor (UGF) is a tool that evaluates and quantifies the urban greening proposed in new developments. The UGF works by assigning a factor score to each surface cover type proposed in a planning application. Scores range from 1 for semi natural vegetation, through to 0 for impermeable sealed surfaces.

Instructions

- Cells highlighted in green should be completed by the applicant;
- Green cover should be categorised in accordance with Appendix 1 of the UGF guidance;
- The notes column should be used to record any assumptions (e.g. how expected tree canopy has been calculated) and to set out which features (e.g. the type of semi-natural habitat) have been included in the appropriate row;
- The calculation table should be copied to UGF drawing to be submitted for planning;
- The UGF should always be calculated on the total site area, equivalent to the red line boundary;
- Adjacent areas of land under the ownership or management of the applicant but not subject to the planning application must not be included; and
- Retained surface cover types should be included in the calculation.

Urban Greening Factor Calculator				
Surface Cover Type	Factor	Area (m²)	Contribution	Notes
Semi-natural vegetation (e.g. trees, woodland, species-rich grassland) maintained or established on site.	1	0	0	
Wetland or open water (semi-natural; not chlorinated) maintained or established on site.	1	0	0	
Intensive green roof or vegetation over structure. Substrate minimum settled depth of 150mm.	0.8	0	0	
Standard trees planted in connected tree pits with a minimum soil volume equivalent to at least two thirds of the projected canopy area of the mature tree.	0.8	0	0	
Extensive green roof with substrate of minimum settled depth of 80mm (or 60mm beneath vegetation blanket) – meets the requirements of GRO Code 2014.	0.7	5.5	3.85	
Flower-rich perennial planting.	0.7	13.5	9.45	
Rain gardens and other vegetated sustainable drainage elements.	0.7	0	0	
Hedges (line of mature shrubs one or two shrubs wide).	0.6	1.4	0.84	
Standard trees planted in pits with soil volumes less than two thirds of the projected canopy area of the mature tree.	0.6	12	7.2	Small tree to be planted with expected canopy 2m2 (front garden). Existing Pyrus tree canopy 10m2 (rear garden)
Green wall –modular system or climbers rooted in soil.	0.6	3.7	2.22	
Groundcover planting.	0.5	0	0	
Amenity grassland (species-poor, regularly mown lawn).	0.4	0	0	
Extensive green roof of sedum mat or other lightweight systems that do not meet GRO Code 2014.	0.3	1.5	0.45	
Water features (chlorinated) or unplanted detention basins.	0.2	0	0	
Permeable paving.	0.1	11.2	1.12	
Sealed surfaces (e.g. concrete, asphalt, waterproofing, stone).	0	27.7	0	
Total contribution			25.13	
Total site area (m²)				130
Urban Greening Factor				0.1933076923