Sustainable Urban Fringe (SURF) project
Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) is a 3 year project 2009 - 2012, bringing together partners and experts from across the North Sea Region to exchange information and develop a common approach towards urban fringe development.
Who are the Partners?

- 13 partners
- 5 countries
  - UK
  - Netherlands
  - Belgium
  - Germany
  - Sweden
An urban fringe is a zone of transition and interface between urban and country areas, where a broad variety of land uses and activities come together.
Objectives SURF

Tackle issues of ownership & administration

Tackle complex and conflicting policy

Improved Environmental quality.

Contribution to health & well being of local communities.

Economic development opportunities.
Project challenges

- **Challenges facing urban fringes, include:**
  - complex issues of ownership and administration
  - declining biodiversity
  - deteriorating water quality
  - low green space value
  - poor access
  - threat from growth and expansion
  - inconsistent spatial planning policy
  - Impact from changing demographics.
Key themes for the urban fringes

1. Economy, competitiveness, enterprise
   - Contribution to an areas competitiveness and sustainability.

2. Governance

3. Role and value of green spaces
   - Benefits quality urban fringes bring to adjacent communities.

4. Spatial Planning & Stakeholder Engagement
   - Addressing divided and uncoordinated planning responsibilities.
What is SURF doing?

**Urban Fringe information sharing**
- Raising awareness of the urban fringe agenda.
- Providing a common platform to exchange knowledge, strategies, policies in dealing urban fringes.

**Urban Fringe Research and Analysis**
- Urban Fringe SWOT analysis & analytical framework.
- Information exchange on urban fringe policy challenges.

**Urban Fringe Implementation**
- Production of integrated policy guidelines.
- Production of urban fringe tool kit.
SURF partners are working to ensure urban fringes are recognised as valuable assets. These areas can provide a high quality environment, creating vital urban areas where people want to live, work and do business.
Find out more...

- SURF website
  - www.sustainablefringes.eu