

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



Stage 1: Baseline Audit of Strategic GI Assets
Stakeholder Workshops, 29th January 2009

ACCESS/RECREATION – KEY FINDINGS OF THE DISCUSSION GROUPS

OVERVIEW OF THE EXISTING STRATEGIC ASSETS MAPPING

Objectives

- To identify and map the existing accessible greenspace resource at the sub-regional scale. Accessible greenspace is defined as land largely outside of urban areas that is normally available for public access on foot, providing opportunities for open access for informal recreational activities.
- To identify the linear access routes/corridors that provide people with access to greenspace assets on foot, cycle or horseback.
- To identify and resolve gaps in the data for the baseline assessment of accessible greenspace provision at the sub-regional (6Cs Growth Point) scale.

What is included and why?

- The maps identify accessible greenspace assets using data provided by the Strategic GI Project Steering Group and its partners. The data includes Open Access Land, Forestry Commission land, Woodland Trust Access Land, Leicestershire and Derbyshire Country Parks, Public Rights of Way, dedicated Cycle Routes, Nottingham City Council Parks and Gardens, Nottinghamshire County Council Green Estates, and navigable waterways.
- The mapping is based on available validated data sets that reflect accessible greenspace provision at the sub-regional scale. This ensures consistency in the baseline assessment across the sub-region.

What is not included and why?



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- Local accessible greenspace is not included because data is inconsistent across the sub-region and has not been validated.
- Assets within urban areas are omitted unless they have strategic significance at the sub-regional scale.
- Local Open Space Sport and Recreation (PPG 17) datasets have not been included. This local data will form part of the Stage 3 assessment covering the three city areas at the local scale.
- National Trust land with open public access has not yet been mapped. The National Trust is providing data to show sites that offer limited or unlimited public access to Trust land.

OVERVIEW OF THE STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES MAPPING

Objectives

- To identify where opportunities exist to create new or enhance existing accessible greenspace to meet the needs of existing and new communities.
- To identify where the connectivity of accessible greenspaces could be improved by enhancing existing assets or creating new resources, including provision of greenways and blue ways.

How were the opportunities defined?

- Opportunities have been identified by mapping existing accessible greenspace resources.
- Accessible greenspace has been evaluated using the ANGSt model to identify where GI provision is deficient when compared to the location of significant settlements and areas where growth is expected.
- Opportunities have been identified where there is potential to improve public access to greenspace using countryside access routes and navigable waterways.

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ACCESS/RECREATION – QUESTIONNAIRE

EXISTING STRATEGIC ASSETS MAPPING

Are there any key data sets missing from the mapping of existing strategic biodiversity/ environmental systems resources or assets at the sub-regional scale?

- *Green Wedges (and protected land close to the edge of settlements)*
- *Stepping Stones strategic GI concept map (Leicester Stepping Stones Project)*
- *Rutland Water – a significant and accessible recreational resource, just outside the boundary of the 6Cs Growth Point area*
- *Local (city level) access routes*
- *Additional canals and canal corridors, namely the Grantham Canal, Ashby Canal, Crompton Canal and the Grand Union Canal*
- *Navigable stretches of the River Wreake – Melton Mowbray*
- *Transport networks*
- *District/Borough greenspaces and greenspace strategies*
- *Melton Country Park*
- *Locations identified for additional growth*

Where can this data be sourced from?

- *Canals – British Waterways*
- *Grantham canal – Grantham Canal Partnership*
- *Green Wedges and Local GI – District and Borough Councils*

Where are the main existing strategic access/recreation routes and sites in and around the Growth Point that need to be recognised in the development of the GI Strategy?

- *The National Forest*
- *Charnwood Forest*
- *Erewash Valley*
- *Disused railway lines*
- *River corridors*
- *Cycle Network – National Cycle Network and local routes*



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- *Canal network*
- *Public Rights of Way*

STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES MAPPING

Looking at the preliminary opportunity mapping, and taking into account the principles attached, which areas/corridors do you think have the greatest potential to address key gaps/needs in the strategic access/recreation network in and around the Growth Point?

- *Strategic River Corridors*
- *Canal corridors*
- *Urban fringe land – around existing settlements and at locations where growth will occur.*
- *GI provision within development sites*
- *The National Forest – Long Distance Trail*
- *Erewash Valley – cycle and pedestrian corridor*
- *Charnwood Forest*
- *Disused railway corridors*
- *East Derbyshire Woodland Project*
- *Leighfield Forest*
- *Creation of Green Lanes to connect places and GI provision*

What do you think are the three main forces for the provision of a strategic access/recreation network in and around the Growth Point that need to be recognised in the development of the GI Strategy?

- *Housing Growth and population increase*
- *Increase in demand at existing sites*
- *The need for links between places and GI assets*

ANY OTHER COMMENTS?



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The following sources of additional information relevant to the baseline audit were identified by the discussion groups:

- *Leicester City Council Infrastructure Study.*
- *Tranquillity Mapping (CPRE)*
- *District Local Plans/LDFs/Core Strategies - especially concerning locations identified for growth*
- *Stepping Stones Project*
- *Grantham Canal Partnership*
- *River Trent to Cotgrave GI Masterplan (Notts City Council, Rushcliffe BC, Inland Waterways, British Waterways and Natural England*
- *Access points from public transport networks*
- *South Derbyshire Greenway Strategy (2007) (currently under review)*
- *Rights of Way Improvement Plans*
- *City scale greenspace data*
- *Opportunities for access corridors to be created to link the three cities*

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ACCESS/RECREATION PRINCIPLES

- Opportunities should be taken to create new informal recreational facilities/accessible greenspace, particularly those that will link urban and countryside areas
- The importance of linked space and green routes for providing educational and recreational opportunities, that can enhance health and well-being, should be recognised
- Consideration should be given to sustainable travel where options for new facilities are being developed
- Improve access for all, using cycle and pedestrian routes and the opening up of disused railway lines
- Create sustainable green spaces to link people from doorstep to countryside
- Provide opportunities for safe and healthy activities for all ages and abilities
- Balance the conservation and enhancement of the environment with increasing accessibility and use of natural and cultural assets
- Develop accessibility of urban centres to maximise potential as 'gateways' to rural areas
- Consider delivering landscape scale access corridors by linking local schemes and/or flagship projects

(principles adapted from East Midlands Green Infrastructure Guide, EMRA 2007)