

# 6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



## Stage 1: Baseline Audit of Strategic GI Assets

Stakeholder Workshops, 30th 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?

- 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.

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## 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.

## ACCESS/RECREATION – QUESTIONNAIRE

### EXISTING STRATEGIC ASSETS MAPPING

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

- *Stepping Stones Project*
- *Some district/borough scale sites considered to be potentially significant to GI baseline assessment were not identified on the maps*
- *Local GI provision*
- *Greenways data*
- *Derby city Public Rights of Way and cycle routes*
- *Markeaton Park*
- *Derby city river corridor*
- *Millenium Park, Derby*
- *Melton Country Park*
- *PPG 17 assessment – Market Harborough*
- *Harborough Green Spaces*
- *Lutterworth Country Park, Market Harborough*
- *Magna Park, Market Harborough*
- *Navigable waterways (actual rather than indicative)*

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If so, where can this data be sourced from?

- *PPG 17 and open space data is available from some district/borough councils.*
- *Stepping Stones Project staff can provide information relating to the project area around Leicester.*
- *Derby City Council holds information about cycle route provision and Derby City's parks.*

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?

- *Strategic River Corridors*
- *Canal Corridors including the Cromford, Grantham, Ashby and Grand Union Canals*
- *Increase amount of river system that is navigable and accessible*
- *Sherwood Forest*
- *Green Grids*
- *Urban fringe land – around existing settlements and at locations where growth will occur.*
- *Creation of green grids linking to existing urban GI resources*
- *Links between the 6Cs and the Peak District National Park*
- *Reservoirs*

## 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*
- *Derwent Valley*
- *Charnwood Forest*
- *The National Forest*
- *Canal and waterway corridors including the Cromford, Grantham, Ashby and Grand Union Canals*
- *Increase amount of river system that is navigable and accessible*
- *Urban fringe land – around existing settlements and at locations where growth will occur.*
- *Creation of green grids linking to existing urban GI resources*
- *Links between the 6Cs and the Peak District National Park*
- *Reservoirs*
- *Greenways and creation of Green Lanes*
- *Creation of green grids in urban areas*
- *Extension of the cycle route network*

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?

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- *Housing and related growth*
- *Increased visitor pressure*
- *Sustainability of urban areas*
- *Need to reduce reliance on motor transport for access to greenspace.*

## ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

- *Greenspace strategies will be important, particularly to develop quality criteria/standards*
- *GI provision needs to be local to people and of the right type to address specific demand.*
- *Care is needed in the application of the ANGSt model*

*Key strategies are in place and contribute to the strategic and local planning of GI, notably:*

- *OnTrent initiative*
- *Stepping Stones Project*
- *Hinckley and Bosworth GI Strategy*
- *Melton Mowbray PPG 17 Open Space and Recreation Study*
- *Melton Biodiversity and Geodiversity Study*
- *Melton Landscape Character Assessment*
- *Areas of Separation Study - Melton*
- *Stepping Stones Project*
- *Charnwood Regional Park initiative*
- *Open Space Strategy, Market Harborough*
- *The strategy should take account of the carrying capacity of sites where provision is made for access and recreation.*
- *Growth is anticipated in all major settlements, not solely the specific places identified as locations for growth.*

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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)*