

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



Stage 1: Baseline Audit of Strategic GI Assets

Stakeholder Workshops, 29th January 2009

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER/HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT - KEY FINDINGS OF THE DISCUSSION GROUPS

OVERVIEW OF THE EXISTING STRATEGIC ASSETS MAPPING

Objectives

- To identify Landscape Character Areas at a consistent level across the 6Cs Growth Point as a broad framework for understanding areas of distinctive character.
- To identify key historic environment assets (built heritage, archaeology and historic landscapes) within the framework of the broad Landscape Character Areas.

What is included and why?

- Landscape Character Areas derived from the published County Landscape Character Assessments (Derbyshire 2003, Nottinghamshire 1997 and Leicestershire 2001)
- Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings
- Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest
- Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site
- Peak District National Park

What is not included and why?

- Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) data is not currently available across the whole 6Cs Growth Point in a format that can readily be applied to the baseline assessment at the sub-regional scale.
- Conservation Area data has not been requested at this stage from the 17 district, borough and city authorities.

OVERVIEW OF THE STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES MAPPING

Objectives

- To identify broad areas where there is greatest potential to invest in strategic landscape improvements and the enhanced management, presentation, accessibility and interpretation of historic environment assets at the sub-regional scale.

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How were the opportunities defined?

- Priorities for conservation, enhancement, restoration etc. identified in the County Landscape Character Assessments were used to identify strategic areas for intervention at the sub-regional scale.
- Strategic road corridor networks are identified. These are a primary means by which many people see and experience the 6Cs Growth Point. Opportunities exist to enhance the landscape quality and views along these route corridors in order to improve the overall visual experience for people travelling through the area, strengthening landscape character and sense of place (e.g. roadside verge enhancements/public art/enhancing viewing corridors to key landmarks).
- Areas on the fringes of major settlements are identified. These are typically areas where landscape quality and character has declined due to adverse influences from urban settlement and urban fringe land uses.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER/HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT – QUESTIONNAIRE

EXISTING STRATEGIC ASSETS MAPPING

Are there any key data sets missing from the mapping of existing strategic landscape character/historic environment resources or assets at the sub-regional scale?

- *Buildings at risk register*
- *Registered historic battlefields, e.g. Bosworth, and sites beyond the 6Cs boundary, e.g. Naseby and East Stoke*
- *Ancient Woodland*
- *Historic accessibility of landscapes*
- *Historic attractions*
- *Tranquillity mapping (CPRE)*
- *Foxton Ancient Monument - Tourism Site*

If so, where can this data be sourced from?

- *Tranquillity mapping data is available from the CPRE*

STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES MAPPING

Looking at the preliminary opportunity mapping, and taking into account the principles attached, which areas in and around the Growth Point do you think have the greatest potential or need for investment in strategic landscape improvements from a sub-regional perspective?

- *Strategic River Corridors*

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- *Castle Donnington/ East Midlands Airport area of the Melbourne Parklands*
- *Historic Estate Parklands - The Melbourne Parklands*
- *Trunk road network*
- *M1 Corridor*
- *The National Forest*
- *Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site*
- *Canal corridors*
- *Bosworth Battlefield*

Taking into account the principles attached, which resources or assets do you think have the greatest potential to offer strategic opportunities for the enhanced management, presentation, accessibility and interpretation of historic environment assets at the sub-regional scale in and around the Growth Point?

- *Urban fringe areas around settlements*
- *Charnwood Forest*
- *The National Forest*
- *Trunk road corridors*
- *Strategic river corridors*
- *Canal corridors – Grantham Canal and Ashby Canal*
- *Historic battlefields*

What do you think are the three main forces for change to the character of the landscape/historic environment in and around the Growth Point that need to be recognised in the development of the GI Strategy?

- *Housing Growth and new development*
- *New road infrastructure*
- *Declining condition of heritage assets (buildings and other assets)*

ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

- *There could be benefits in developing stronger cross references between broad LCAs to more detailed LCT Guidelines and HLC mapping*
- *An M1 Corridor Landscape Enhancement Strategy is being prepared by ARUPs as part of proposals to widen the M1*
- *Derbyshire County Council has developed an approach to the mapping of the historic environment in a GI context, which has regard to HLC and biodiversity data. The approach could be applied more widely in the 6Cs Growth Point area to achieve consistent analysis of historic environment GI resources.*
- *Opportunities exist to link 6Cs Strategic \GI assessment with similar work in Northamptonshire and city scale work at Corby.*
- *Some questions were raised about the consistency of HLC data across the three counties.*

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LANDSCAPE CHARACTER/HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT PRINCIPLES

- Green Infrastructure should contribute to the protection and enhancement of the historic dimension of the present landscape, including particular historic assets and their settings
- New opportunities for access to historic sites should be sought, especially where they secure the restoration of 'at risk' assets
- Opportunities should be seized to take Scheduled Monuments out of arable cultivation, in order to reduce damage to significant archaeological sites by ongoing ploughing
- Opportunities for the restoration or recreation of historic landscapes should be identified, especially where they also restore or recreate wildlife habitats
- GI investment should support the restoration and management of urban parks, historic parks and gardens and historic landscapes, particularly where these can also provide opportunities for countryside access and to other historic sites and features
- Locally distinctive materials and techniques should be used where appropriate
- The development of urban greenspace networks should take account of the historic urban character
- GI proposals should be based on a sound understanding of the local historic environment, making use of information contained in local historic environment records and other databases, and utilising specialist techniques (such as characterisation) where appropriate
- Balance the conservation and enhancement of the environment with increasing accessibility and use of natural and cultural assets
- Optimise landscape scale features and opportunities to develop the overall vision for GI

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