

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



Stage 1: Baseline Audit of Strategic GI Assets
Stakeholder Workshops, 30th 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.



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- 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.

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



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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?

- *Former industrial landscapes of the Erewash Valley and River Leen*
- *Canals*
- *Historic Battlefields*
- *Erewash Valley*
- *Green Belt and Green Wedges*
- *The National Forest*
- *Urban River corridors*
- *Historic transport routes*
- *Landscape features – e.g. areas of concentrated ridge and furrow*
- *Geological/geomorphological sites*
- *Additional road corridors – A38,A453,A46 etc*
- *Environmental Stewardship Agreements*
- *Mineral sites*
- *Strategic views*
- *Geological resources – Charnwood*

If so, where can this data be sourced from?

- *Relevant information is available from the county, district and borough councils.*
- *Geological and geodiversity information is available from the British Geological Survey (BGS)*

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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- *The National Forest*
- *Trunk road corridors*
- *Green Belt and Green Wedges*
- *Erewash Valley and the Cromford Canal*
- *Charnwood Forest*
- *River Trent quarries*
- *Leighfield Forest*
- *Lower Derwent Valley*
- *Leicestershire coalfields*
- *Erewash Valley and World Heritage Site*

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?

- *River corridors*
- *Canal corridors*
- *Mineral workings*
- *New attractions , e.g. Willington Marina*
- *River Trent in Nottingham city*
- *The River Leen*
- *Growth point locations*
- *Agricultural land – through environmental stewardship schemes*
- *Urban fringes and Green Wedges*
- *Historic routes – Fosse Way, Watling Street, Gantry Road*
- *Vale of Belvoir*
- *Melton Ironstone landscape*
- *Former coal fields including open cast sites north of Nottingham*
- *Urban river corridors*

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?

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- *Housing and industrial development, urban sprawl*
- *Recreational pressure, notably pressure on Charnwood Forest from Leicester, Loughborough and Coalville communities, all of which are expected to grow substantially*
- *Climate change*
- *New transport infrastructure*
- *Development of substantial education facilities , e.g. Loughborough University*
- *Poor design*
- *Pollution*

ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

- *A 1:50000 Regional Landscape Character Assessment for the East Midlands is currently being progressed but information is not yet available.*
- *A GI Strategy is available for Burton-on-Trent (East Staffordshire Borough Council)*
- *The Lower Derwent Flood Relief Management Plan provides a potentially useful source of information relevant to GI provision in the Derby area.*
- *Flood Management Schemes present opportunities for landscape enhancement .*
- *Other strategies could be linked to the 6Cs GI Strategy, e.g. Northants GI Strategy, Newark GI, West Midlands Strategy*

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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)