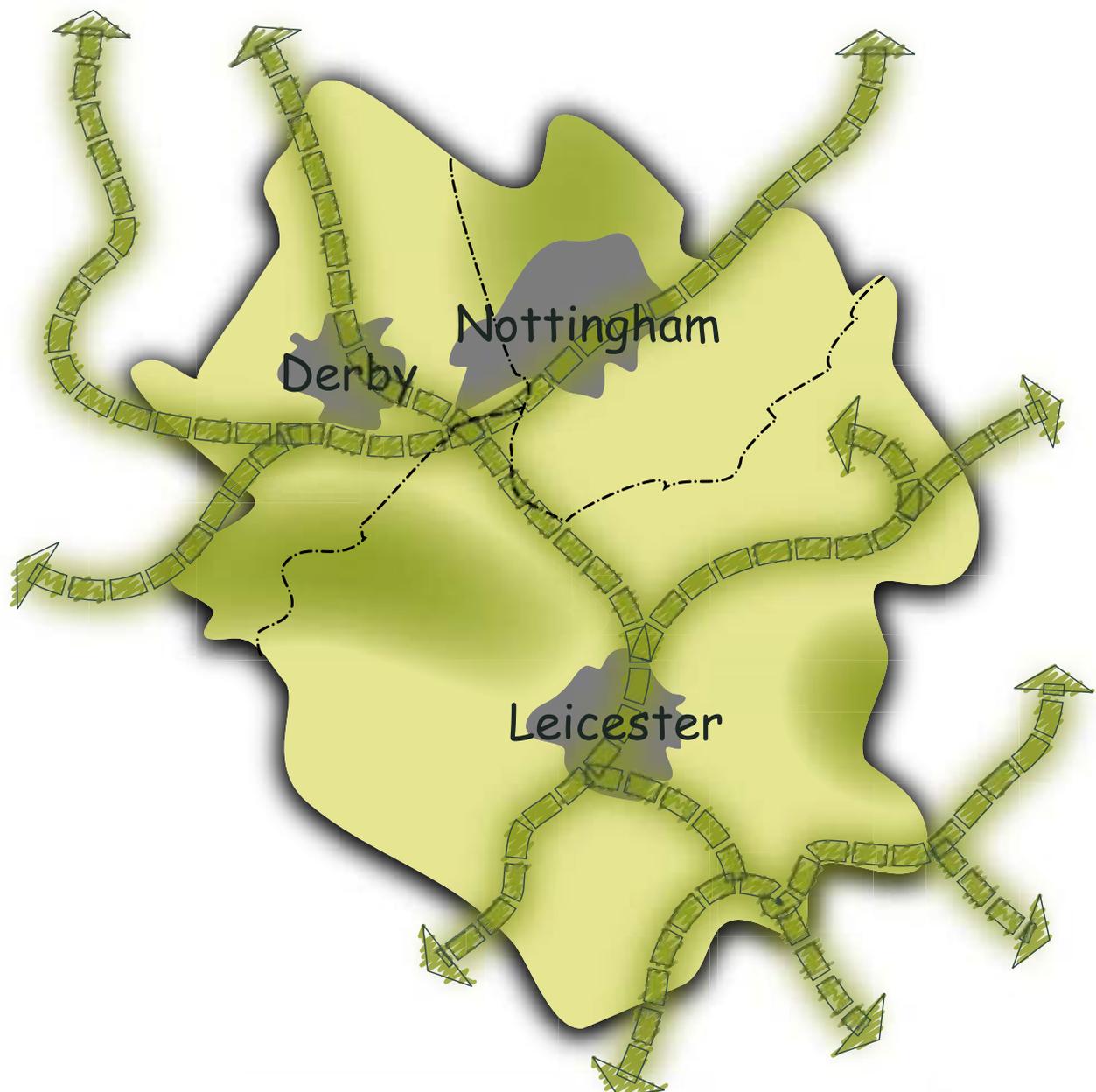


Green Infrastructure Strategy

Volume 3

Baseline Information Review and Strategic GI Audit



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Strategy Structure

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FOREWORD

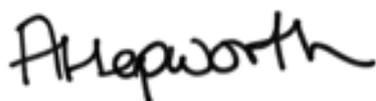
The East Midlands region faces an unprecedented scale of growth over the coming years, especially in the 6C's sub-region. In light of the scale and number of new houses that are planned, we recognised the need to develop a strategic approach to provision of Green Infrastructure (GI) as an environmental life support system for healthy communities and ecosystems. We wanted to maximise the potential of GI to bring about multifunctional holistic solutions to achieve wide ranging environmental, economic and social benefits, including climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The 6C's partnership have been working together with key players across the area for the last two years to produce this exciting and important Strategy. The challenge is now to deliver and manage GI along with the "grey infrastructure" needed to support sustainable communities in the sub-region. This Strategy represents a major step forward to achieve this by:

- Giving the strategic spatial framework needed to safeguard, manage, and extend networks of GI in local planning documents;
- Showing how the benefits of GI to economics, climate change, health, biodiversity and landscape can be realised;
- Significantly reducing the amount of data required to produce local policy documents; and
- Identifying funding sources and mechanisms for the delivery of GI and the priorities for investment.

I cannot commend enough the monumental achievement of the 6Cs Strategic GI Project Board, and also the overall 6Cs Partnership, in producing this sub-regional GI Strategy.

It provides a framework for all those working to plan and deliver sustainable development, and GI delivery in particular, within the sub-region and elsewhere around the East Midlands Region over the forthcoming years.



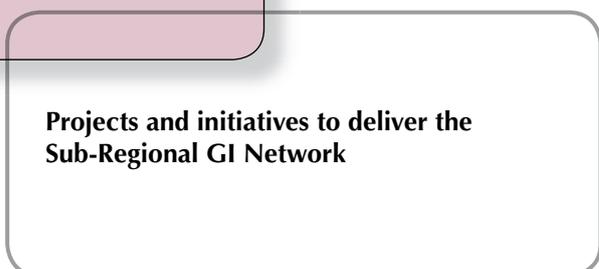
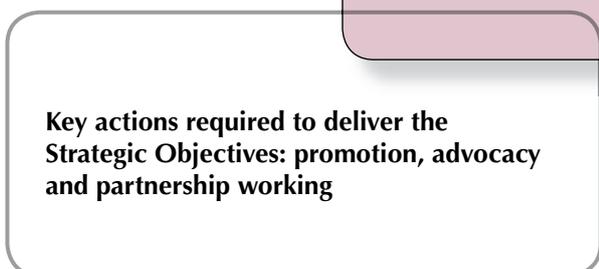
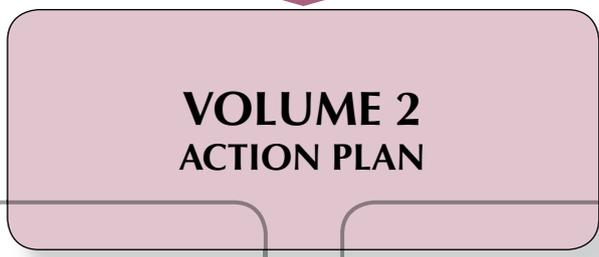
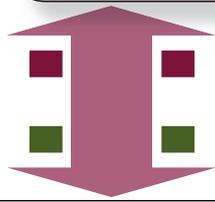
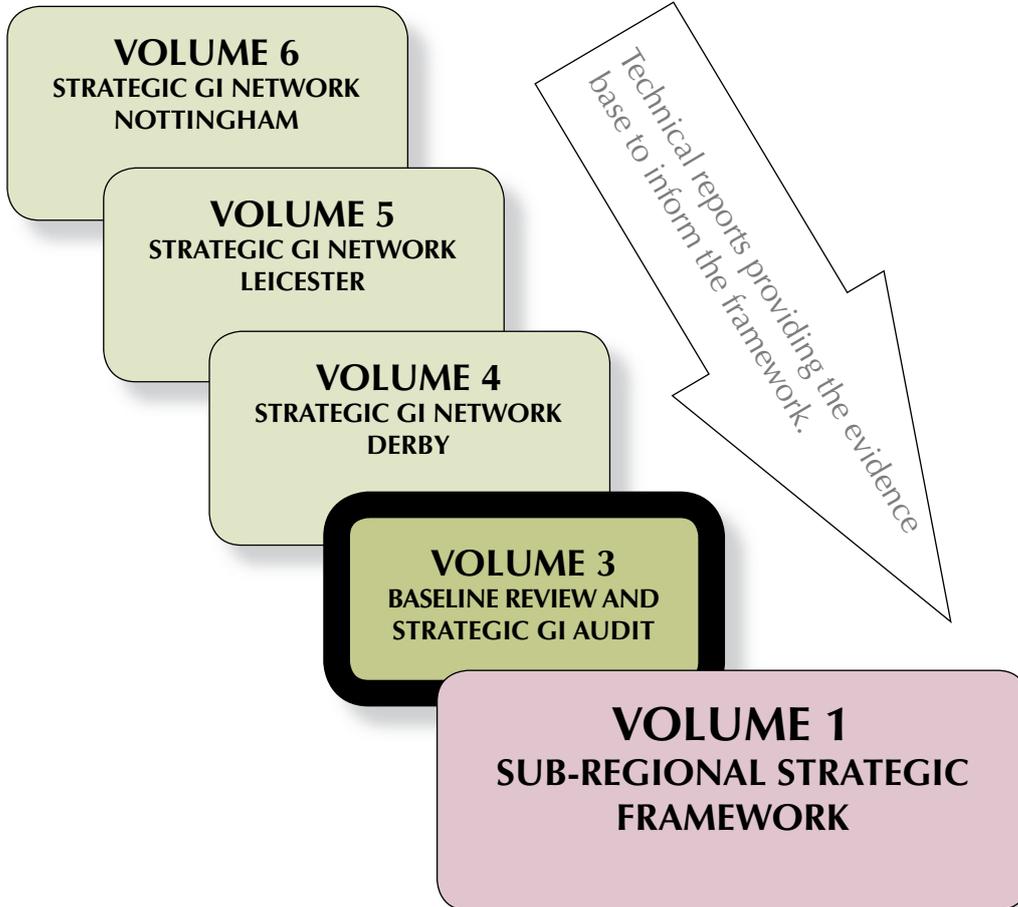
Alison Hepworth
Chair, 6Cs Strategic GI Project Board



STRATEGY STRUCTURE

STRATEGY

Long-term vision for the strategic GI network across the 6Cs Sub-Region



DELIVERY

Implementation of the Strategy to be reviewed regularly to reflect changing priorities and emerging delivery opportunities

PART ONE

BASELINE INFORMATION REVIEW

1.0 POLICY CONTEXT REVIEW

1.1 General

1.1.1 This section sets out a review of the existing and emerging policy context to determine support for enhanced GI provision, and identify policy requirements and targets that are of direct relevance to GI planning and delivery in the 6Cs sub-region.

1.2 National Policy and Guidance

1.2.1 The **UK Sustainable Development Strategy**¹ sets out the Government's national strategy for sustainable development based on four key priorities for action:

- Sustainable consumption and production;
- Climate change and energy;
- Natural resources and protection of the environment, and
- Sustainable communities.

1.2.2 The Strategy recognises the need for significant changes in the way that we influence the planet and identifies key actions that the Government intends to take forward to influence behaviour. Where natural resources are concerned, it recognises a need for better understanding of the environment's capacity to accommodate change and the need for environmental enhancement in areas where it has been degraded. It also identifies a need for better integration of the policy framework to deliver the environmental protection and enhancement it sets out to achieve.

1.2.3 The Government's **Sustainable Communities Plan** sets out a national long-term programme of action for delivering sustainable communities and places in both urban and rural areas within England. It aims to address housing supply issues, and deliver a better quality of life for communities throughout the Country. The Plan contains two key elements that are of direct relevance to GI:

- *Liveability* - the Plan sets out how the Government intends to intensify efforts to improve the local environment of all communities including cleaner streets, improved parks and better public spaces; and
- *Protecting the countryside* - the Plan outlines how the countryside will be protected through measures such as maintaining/increasing current areas of land designated as green belt land and improving its accessibility, biodiversity and amenity value; and promoting more and better publicly accessible green space.

1.2.4 The Government's focus on delivering a better quality of life or 'liveability' for communities and the emphasis on countryside protection supports the principles that underpin GI, and

¹ Securing the Future: the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2005).
2010

reinforces its importance in creating a healthy and enhanced environment. The GI Strategy will support delivery of the Government's objectives for building sustainable communities in the 6Cs sub-region, provided the necessary resources become available.

1.2.5 The Government's sustainable development objectives are supported by the national planning policy framework. Of particular significance to GI planning is **Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 12 - Creating Strong and Prosperous Communities through Local Spatial Planning**²², which sets out current government policy on local spatial planning and how Local Development Frameworks should be prepared. The role GI has to play in achieving sustainable communities is given particular prominence by PPS12. It defines GI as '*a network of multifunctional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities*'. In relation to the preparation of Core Strategies, PPS12 advises that they should be supported by evidence of what GI is needed to enable the amount of development proposed for the area, taking account of its type and distribution. It goes on to state that the GI planning process should identify, as far as possible:

- GI needs and costs;
- Phasing of development;
- Funding sources; and
- Responsibilities for delivery.

1.2.6 PPS12 also advises that the infrastructure planning process for the Core Strategy should include the specific GI requirements of any strategic sites which are allocated in it. It will therefore be necessary for detailed GI strategies and plans to be prepared for sites of strategic significance to the provision of new development associated with the current growth requirements for the sub-region. The Statement recognises that many issues critical to spatial planning do not respect local planning authority boundaries. This is particularly the case with GI networks that often cover larger areas, which makes planning an individual district in isolation a difficult task even where cross boundary guidance is available through such documents as the East Midlands Regional Plan. PPS12 also advises that critical discussions on infrastructure capacity and planning may be more effectively and efficiently carried out over a larger area than a single local planning authority area through joint working. The establishment of the partnership approach to the development of the GI Strategy for the 6Cs sub-region clearly follows this guidance.

1.2.7 The national planning policy framework includes a number of other statements and guidance notes that expand on the Government's objectives for the protection, enhancement and sustainable use of GI assets through the planning system. Of key importance is **Planning Policy**

²² Planning Policy Statement 12 – Creating Strong and Prosperous Communities through Local Spatial Planning (DCLG 2008).
2010

Guidance (PPG) 17 – Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, which highlights the requirement to undertake open space audits and strategies to inform spatial planning, and requires policies to be developed based on standards for provision of public open spaces - including accessible natural greenspaces. Further policy guidance of relevance to GI planning is provided in:

- **Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1 - Delivering Sustainable Development and its Supplement (Planning and Climate Change)** (requires development plans and planning decisions to have due regard to environmental issues in meeting sustainable development objectives);
- **PPS7 – Sustainable Development in Rural Areas** (sets out the Government's planning policies for rural areas, including towns and villages and the undeveloped countryside);
- **PPS9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation** (requires local authorities to conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife and geology, undertaken as part of a wider strategy for the protection and extension of open spaces and green access routes);
- **PPG15 – Planning and the Historic Environment** (sets out the Government's planning policies for protection and enhancement of the historic environment); and
- **PPS25 – Development and Flood Risk** (sets out the Government's planning policies for management of flood risk within the planning process).

1.2.8 **Planning Policy Statement on Eco-Towns**, which supplements PPS1, provides the standards any eco-town will have to adhere to and the list of locations identified with the potential for an eco-town. It confirms the important role that GI has in delivering sustainable communities, and sets out specific standards for provision of multifunctional green spaces within eco-town developments. The principles and guidance are considered to also apply to other forms of development.

1.2.9 The Government has issued a **draft Planning Policy Statement on Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment** for consultation in March 2010. This is a new policy statement on planning for the natural environment, green infrastructure, open space, sport, recreation and play. In its final form it will replace Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (PPS9); Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17); Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (PPS7) – in so far as it relates to landscape protection (paragraphs 21 to 23), soil and agricultural land quality (paragraphs 28 and 29) and forestry (paragraph 33); and Planning Policy Guidance 20: Coastal Planning (PPG20) in so far as it relates to coastal access, heritage coast and the undeveloped coast (paragraphs 2.9, 2.10 and 3.9).

1.2.10 With regards to plan-making, Policy NE4 (Local planning approach for green infrastructure) of the draft Planning Policy Statement on Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment requires that *'Local development frameworks should set out a strategic approach for the*

creation, protection and management of networks of green infrastructure. In doing so, local planning authorities should build on work undertaken at the regional and subregional level. Policies should: (i) provide for green infrastructure, particularly in locations where it will assist in reducing the impacts of climate change by providing flood water storage areas; sustainable drainage systems, urban cooling and local access to shady outdoor space, (ii) avoid development being located in areas which result in the fragmentation or isolation of natural habitats; (iii) identify opportunities to enhance green infrastructure and the natural habitats within it, by retaining, enhancing or creating green corridors linking rural and urban fringe areas and urban green spaces; and (iii) identify opportunities to enhance the functions urban green spaces can perform.'

1.2.11 With regards to development management, Policy NE9 (principles relating to the maintenance of an adequate supply of green infrastructure etc) of the draft Planning Policy Statement on Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment requires that *'Where a development would result in an adverse impact on green infrastructure, local planning authorities should consider imposing conditions or planning obligations to mitigate any harmful aspects of development and should ensure the functioning and connectivity of the green infrastructure network is maintained. Where development would cause significant harm to the functioning of green infrastructure networks, particularly in relation to reducing the impacts of climate change, and that harm cannot be mitigated, planning permission should be refused. When considering applications for development on or next to open space or green infrastructure, local planning authorities should consider favourably proposals that would remedy identified deficiencies in particular types of open space, green infrastructure or sports, recreational or play facilities, for example, by securing part of the development site for the type of use that is in deficit; or where the site could be exchanged for another which is at least as good in terms of size, usefulness, attractiveness, quality and accessibility. Where appropriate, local planning authorities should use planning obligations or conditions to ensure that the new facilities are adequately maintained and managed.'*

1.2.12 **World Class Places** (2009), published by the Department of Communities and Local Government, outlines the links between quality of place and various economic, social and environmental benefits. It acknowledges provision of greenspace and GI as central to quality of place, and places local authorities at the forefront of delivery through place shaping and planning.

1.2.13 The Department for Transport issued **Low Carbon Transport: a Green Future** (2009), the national strategy to move to a low carbon transport system. It acknowledges the benefits transport alternatives can have for the economy, health and environmental. GI strategies can contribute to the delivery of this national strategy, by aiding take up of public transport alternatives and planning for alternatives forms of transport such as cycle routes.

1.2.14 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published **Securing the Future** (2006), a national strategy outlining the principals and priorities for sustainable development in the UK. Central to the strategy is an understanding of the challenges of climate change and the need to protect natural resources and enhance the environment.

1.2.15 The GI approach is recognised by Natural England to be an essential component of sustainable development, and provide an effective way of delivering a wide range of ecosystem services, quality of life and health benefits. **Natural England's Housing Growth and Green Infrastructure Policy** published in 2008 expresses the need for:

- Growth to be located in sustainable locations;
- Environmental capacity to be a central consideration in decision making concerning new development;
- Improved environmental quality standards for all new housing development; and
- GI to be integral to the creation of sustainable new communities throughout England.

1.2.16 Natural England has prepared guidance on its approach to GI delivery to complement this policy statement. The **Natural England GI Guidance** (available from <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk>) is intended to assist Natural England, its partners and stakeholders (such as local authorities and developers) by outlining the concept, principles and benefits of GI. This guidance advocates that a GI Strategy is a pre-requisite for sustainable planning, in particular for areas such as the 6Cs sub-region where significant levels of growth are planned. Natural England's guidance recommends that GI strategies are developed by local partnerships for these areas to identify where investment in conserving, connecting and re-building GI can provide greatest benefits. The GI guidance reflects the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) publication **The Essential Role of Green Infrastructure: Eco-towns Green Infrastructure Worksheet** (see http://www.tcpa.org.uk/ecotowns/20081020_ET-WS_Green_Infrastructure.pdf). This guidance, which is endorsed by the Government and Natural England, recognises that GI is essential to both the environmental sustainability and long term social and economic success of eco-towns. Although specifically intended for eco-town developers and planners, the application of its principles and guidance on implementation of GI is advocated by Natural England as best practice for all other forms of development regardless of their type or location. The TCPA's Eco-Towns GI Worksheet recommends that GI should be:

- A primary consideration in planning, developing and maintaining an eco-town [and other development];
- Provided as a varied, widely distributed, strategically planned and interconnected network;
- Be factored into land values and decisions on housing densities and urban structure;
- Accessible to local people and provide alternative means of transport;
- designed to reflect and enhance the area's locally distinctive character, including local landscapes and habitats;
- Supported by a GI Strategy;
- Multifunctional, seeking the integration and interaction of different functions on the same site and across a GI network as a whole;

- Implemented through co-ordinated planning, delivery and management that cuts across local authority departments and boundaries and across different sectors;
- Able to achieve physical and functional connectivity between sites at all levels and right across a town, city or sub-region;
- Implemented primarily through focused GI strategies and the spatial planning system of Regional Spatial Strategies/Regional Plans and Local Development Frameworks, and it should be formally adopted within these planning policy documents; and
- Established permanently, with financial support for continued maintenance and adaptation.

1.2.17 The **National Forest Strategy (2004-2014)** sets out the Government's vision for the creation of The National Forest. Leading the creation of The National Forest is The National Forest Company (NFC), established by Government in April 1995. The National Forest is embedded in Government policy, is recognised as a national exemplar of sustainable development and is also helping to meet Defra's aims and objectives. The NFC are responsible, through working with partners, for the delivery of the Government-approved National Forest Strategy. The idea is to create, within The National Forest's boundary, a vast new forested landscape for the nation that frames a mosaic of farms, open land, towns and villages. From its original 6% woodland cover, the eventual wooded area will spread over about a third of the area, thereby establishing a substantial working forest and transforming the landscape, the environment and the economy of the Forest area. The NFC plays an important facilitation role in developing GI links across the West and East Midlands, encouraging co-operation with neighbouring authorities and the 6Cs sub-region.

1.2.18 The GI approach is also increasingly reflected in the work of other Government agencies. For example, **English Heritage** has made its commitment to GI clear by stating that the GI concept offers significant opportunities for the protection and enhancement of the historic environment through site specific projects and integrated landscape conservation initiatives, and that it facilitates the use of historic and cultural elements of the landscape for education and for promoting tourism. Likewise, the **Environment Agency** has highlighted opportunities through integration of GI for implementation of creative solutions arising from flood risk assessment and management schemes, and water resource planning and conservation that can generate the provision of GI links and wider benefits. The **Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)** and **CABESpace** (the Government's advisor on parks and green space) recognise GI as an integral process that supports many of their aims and aspirations for securing quality in the design of parks and public spaces and the built environment through the spatial planning system.

1.2.19 In summary, it is clear that the multifunctional GI concept is increasingly becoming established in national policy and guidance as having an essential role to play in helping to deliver sustainable development and meet social, environmental and economic objectives.

1.3 Regional Policy and Guidance

1.3.1 The **Integrated Regional Strategy**³ (IRS) is the Sustainable Development Framework for the East Midlands region. The Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) draws together the key issues and challenges for the East Midlands and ensures that the wide ranging strategies and action plans across the region are integrated and compatible. The IRS outlines five priorities for the region:

- Reduce inequalities and improve community cohesion in the region;
- Conserve and enhance the natural environment;
- Create sustainable and healthy communities throughout the region;
- Improve sustainable economic performance and competitiveness; and
- Reduce the impacts on and of climate change, and use natural resources more efficiently.

1.3.2 The IRS identifies 20 key strategies, three of which are particularly significant to the development of the 6Cs GI Strategy: the East Midlands Regional Plan; the Regional Economic Strategy; and the Regional Environment Strategy.

1.3.3 The **East Midlands Regional Plan**⁴ provides the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East Midlands to 2026. It also represents the spatial element of the IRS. Policy 1 of the RSS Core Strategy seeks to secure the delivery of sustainable development within the East Midlands by requiring that all strategies, plans and programmes having a spatial impact should meet a number of Regional Core Objectives, including *‘To protect and enhance the environmental quality of urban and rural settlements to make them safe, attractive, clean and crime free places to live, work and invest in, through promoting... “green infrastructure”’*. Policy 2 of the Core Strategy (Promoting Better Design) requires that *‘The layout, design and construction of new development should be continuously improved, including in terms of reducing CO2 emissions and providing resilience to future climate change, by...taking account of the need to develop carbon sinks and “green infrastructure” networks and provide for access to open space and the enhancement of biodiversity and landscape quality.’* Sections 3.3.13 – 3.3.15 also refer to the role of biodiversity and geodiversity within the region.

1.3.4 The Spatial Strategy in Section 2 of the East Midlands Regional Plan provides the framework for meeting the Region’s development needs in a way that promotes a more sustainable pattern of development. The Spatial Strategy outlines regional priorities for both urban and rural communities. Within the 6Cs sub-region, Policy 3 focuses proposals for future growth on the built up areas of the three cities centered on Derby, Leicester and Nottingham (defined as “Principal Urban Areas”) and on the towns of Coalville, Hinckley (including Barwell and Earl Shilton), Hucknall, Ilkeston, Loughborough (including Shepshed), Market Harborough, Melton Mowbray and Swadlincote (defined as “Sub-Regional Centres”). The Spatial Strategy notes that

³ East Midlands Integrated Regional Strategy Framework (East Midlands Regional Assembly, 2008).

⁴ East Midlands Regional Plan - RSS8 (East Midlands Regional Assembly, March 2009).

'increasing the quality of the Region's green areas (green infrastructure)' is one of seven rural priorities for the East Midlands identified by the Regional Rural Delivery Framework and Rural Action Plan (2006-2013). Policy 12 of the Spatial Strategy outlines the development strategy for the Three Cities Sub-area, which broadly relates to the 6Cs GI Strategy Area: 'Development should support the continued growth and regeneration of Derby, Leicester and Nottingham, and maintain and strengthen the economic, commercial and cultural roles of all three cities...This will be achieved by ensuring that...provision is made for: the protection, development and enhancement of green infrastructure to address past environmental degradation and contribute to the development of sustainable communities.'

1.3.5 Regional priorities for housing are set out in Section 3 of the RSS, and Policy 13a makes provision for 177,600 new homes within the 6Cs sub-region between 2006 and 2016.

1.3.6 In setting regional priorities for natural and cultural resources, the Regional Plan recognises that provision of enhanced GI is a key challenge facing the Region, stating *'The area of statutory sites important for biodiversity in the Region is well below the national level. Overall there has been a significant decline in biodiversity and to compensate for past losses, regional habitat restoration and creation targets through the delivery of 'green infrastructure' needs to be proportionally greater than in other regions. The particularly low regional proportion of woodland cover offers a specific opportunity for habitat creation.'* In response to this, a specific policy promoting the GI approach is included in the RSS:

'POLICY 28 - REGIONAL PRIORITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Local Authorities, statutory environmental bodies and developers should work with the voluntary sector, landowners and local communities to ensure the delivery, protection and enhancement of Environmental Infrastructure across the Region. Such infrastructure should contribute to a high quality natural and built environment and to the delivery of sustainable communities.

Local Authorities and those responsible for the planning and delivery of growth and environmental management across the Region should work together to:

- Assess the capacity of existing Environmental Infrastructure to accommodate change in order to inform decisions on the scale, location and phasing of new development. Account should be taken of current deficits and likely future demands, including those likely to result from climate change, to identify any further needs or constraints;***
- Select appropriate indicators and targets to monitor the condition of Environmental Infrastructure and to ensure that its capacity to accommodate change is not breached;***
- Ensure that the provision and design of new Environmental Infrastructure is considered and its delivery planned through environmental capacity analysis at the same time as other infrastructure requirements;***
- Within Local Development Frameworks develop 'green infrastructure plans' based on character assessments of existing natural, cultural and landscape assets and the identification of new assets required to meet the needs of existing and expanding communities;***

- ***Increase access to green space that can be used for formal and informal recreation, educational purposes and to promote healthy lifestyles, without increasing pressures on sensitive sites, especially those designated under the European Habitats Directive; and***
- ***Identify delivery and funding mechanisms for the creation and future management of Green Infrastructure, including from the planning system and other funding sources such as EU funded Environmental Stewardship Schemes.'***

1.3.7 In addition to above policy, the East Midlands Regional Plan contains the following natural and cultural resources policies that are also relevant to the delivery, protection and enhancement of multifunctional GI assets that can provide a range of social, economic and environmental benefits for underpinning sustainable development in the 6Cs sub-region:

- Policy 26 - Protecting and Enhancing the Region's Natural and Cultural Heritage (Principles)
- Policy 27 - Regional Priorities for the Historic Environment
- Policy 29 - Priorities for Enhancing the Region's Biodiversity
- Policy 30 - Regional Priorities for Managing and Increasing Woodland Cover
- Policy 31 - Priorities for the Management and Enhancement of the Region's Landscape
- Policy 32 - A Regional Approach to Water Resources and Water Quality
- Policy 33 - Regional Priorities for Strategic River Corridors
- Policy 34 - Priorities for the Management of the Lincolnshire Coast
- Policy 35 - A Regional Approach to Managing Flood Risk
- Policy 36 - Regional Priorities for Air Quality
- Policy 37 - Regional Priorities for Minerals
- Policy 38 - Regional Priorities for Waste Management
- Policy 39 - Regional Priorities for Energy Reduction and Efficiency
- Policy 40 - Regional Priorities for Low Carbon Energy Generation
- Policy 41 - Regional Priorities for Culture, Sport and Recreation
- Policy 42 - Regional Priorities for Tourism
- Policy Three Cities SRS 5 Green Infrastructure and National Forest

1.3.8 Many of the above policies make specific reference to the GI approach. For example: Policy 27 (Regional Priorities for the Historic Environment) requires Local Planning Authorities to *'recognise the opportunities for enhancing existing tourism attractions and for developing the potential of other areas and sites of historic interest as part of Green Infrastructure, having regard to potential impacts on biodiversity.'*; Policy 30 (Regional Priorities for Managing and Increasing Woodland Cover) states that *'Opportunities should be taken to secure sustainable management of all woodland, and to increase public access to high quality multifunctional woodland close to communities as part of the development of Green Infrastructure.'*; and Policy 33 (Regional Priorities for Strategic River Corridors) sets out that *'Local Authorities and other relevant public bodies should work together across regional boundaries to protect and enhance the multifunctional importance of strategic river corridors as part of the Region's Green Infrastructure, including for wildlife, landscape and townscape, regeneration and economic diversification, education, recreation, the historic environment including archaeology, and managing flood risk.'*

1.3.9 The 6Cs GI Strategy will underpin the RSS by helping to establish strategic priorities and actions for GI investment within the 6Cs sub-region.

1.3.10 The **Regional Economic Strategy**⁵ is the economic strategy element of the IRS. Prepared by the East Midlands Development Agency (emda), the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) highlights the potential that GI has to deliver economic benefits, and the benefits to be gained by integrating economic, social and environmental policy through the RES and IRS. The RES recognises that the enhancement of the region's GI assets will have a key role to play in achieving the vision and strategic priorities set out in the RES. GI can attract inward investment, stimulate economic growth, raise property and land values, and increase tourism. The RES is based on three themes:

- Raising productivity;
- Ensuring sustainability, and
- Achieving equality

1.3.11 In relation to the 'ensuring sustainability' theme, the following five strategic priorities of relevance to GI planning and provision are identified:

- Enabling better connectivity and accessibility;
- Reducing the impact on climate change;
- Ensuring a high quality environment;
- Protecting and enhancing the environment; and
- Achieving a good balance between competing land uses.

1.3.12 A GI Guide and Toolkit has been recently developed by emda to support GI projects⁶. The Toolkit explains the rationale for investment in GI and offers a consistent evaluation and assessment framework to help with decision making in relation to the development, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of GI projects. The approach set out in the Toolkit is relevant to a range of existing funding streams, and is also likely to remain relevant as and when new funding streams and investment programmes come on board.

1.3.13 The **Regional Environment Strategy**⁷ (REnvS) is the environmental strategy element of the IRS. It aims to integrate consideration of the environment into all regional decision making, in order to enhance and reduce the impact of activities on the environment. The REnvS is structured around five key components:

- Managing and conserving the wealth of historical, archaeological, geological, geomorphological, biodiversity and landscape assets of the distinctive sub regions and local

⁵ 'A flourishing region' - Regional Economic Development Strategy for the East Midlands 2006-2020 (East Midlands Development Agency, 2006).

⁶ <http://www.emda.org.uk/environment/default.asp>

⁷ A Regional Environmental Strategy for the East Midlands (East Midlands Regional Assembly, 2002).

areas, fostering a sense of place and making people more aware of their environment, with appropriate access provision and getting people to use less environmentally damaging travel methods;

- Enhancing geodiversity, biodiversity and the character and quality of the region's variety of landscape types and characteristics in line with regional priorities;
- Minimising greenhouse gas emissions and protecting the environment while adapting to the challenges and taking up the opportunities that climate change will bring us, reducing our contribution to air pollutant emissions and encouraging the reduced environmental impact of energy use;
- Ensuring the prudent use of resources, such as minerals and aggregates, woodland and forestry, soils and land, minimising waste and reducing adverse impacts on the environment; and
- Continuing improvements in the quality and efficient use of increasingly scarce water resources, while increasing the use of sustainable drainage and respecting natural processes wherever possible in floodplains and along the coast.

1.3.14 Many of these components can be realised through careful integration of land-use planning and the development and implementation of GI.

1.3.15 The **Regional Cultural Strategy**⁸ (RCS) is the cultural strategy element of the IRS. The RCS seeks to improve the quality of life in the region by offering guidance for cultural development in the East Midlands, based on the premise that 'people's understanding of a place is shaped by its unique cultural character'. The strategy focuses on four themes, namely:

- Supporting cultural opportunities for people and communities;
- Fulfilling the potential of culture in regional opportunities, and in national policies and programmes;
- Getting culture valued in regional policy and planning; and
- Achieving sector sustainability.

1.3.16 GI has the potential to promote cultural development by providing people with access to the natural environment and their historic environment, and creating opportunities for education and learning.

1.3.17 The **Regional Biodiversity Strategy**⁹ (RBS) is also a key element of the IRS. The RBS has been developed by the East Midlands Biodiversity Partnership and is endorsed by East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA)¹⁰. It provides a strategic framework for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in the region through the delivery of action plans, and forms a key component of the Regional Environment Strategy. The development of the 6Cs GI will support the RBS by contributing towards achieving a step-change in the level of biodiversity throughout the 6Cs sub-region.

⁸ 'A Place of Choice' – A Cultural Strategy for the East Midlands 2006-2011 (East Midlands Cultural consortium, 2006).

⁹ Putting Wildlife Back on the Map – The East Midlands Biodiversity Strategy (Regional Biodiversity Partnership, 2006).

¹⁰ The East Midlands Regional Assembly was replaced by the East Midlands Councils in April 2010.

- 1.3.18 The **Regional Forestry Framework**¹¹ (RFF) was prepared by a partnership of regional bodies supported by the Forestry Commission. It establishes clear policy links between the regional objectives for forestry in the region and the role it can play in delivering IRS policy objectives, such as economic development, public health, spatial development/regeneration, nature conservation, tourism and culture. The RFF's guiding principles have been endorsed by the EMRA¹². The GI Strategy could contribute substantially to the implementation of this Framework through encouraging increased woodland and tree cover within the 6Cs sub-region.
- 1.3.19 The **Green Infrastructure Guide for the East Midlands**¹³ sets the context for the assessment, planning and provision of GI in the region. It provides a series of case studies to demonstrate how the many different types of GI resource can be managed to maximise the benefits they offer for environmental conservation and enhancement, with particular focus on the East Midlands. The Guide includes a checklist of principles for GI planning and delivery, and provides signposts to further resources and information to assist in the development of GI Strategies and initiatives. It was published in 2008, and the Guide is informing the development of the 6Cs GI Strategy.
- 1.3.20 The River Nene Regional Park has been leading work in the strategic planning of GI in the East Midlands and has published guidance to assist in the delivery of strategic GI planning in the region and for application nationally. **Creating Successful Green Infrastructure Plans – Best Practice from the East Midlands and the River Nene Regional Park**¹⁴ provides guidance to help all those involved in the planning or development of GI to understand its benefits. It is endorsed by Natural England, CABESpace and EMRA¹⁵.
- 1.3.21 The **East Midlands Green Infrastructure Scoping Study**¹⁶ investigated the underlying causes of under-investment in GI in the East Midlands, outside Northamptonshire. The study identified a number of drivers for change, recommending actions for organisations in the region to collectively overcome impediments to the delivery of GI. The document recommended the development of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the region and the establishment of a Green Infrastructure Network forum for the region. The **East Midlands Green Infrastructure Network (EMGIN)**¹⁷ has been established to provide a web-based platform for sharing guidance, good practice and practical experience in the planning and delivery of GI in the region and elsewhere. It is providing significant assistance and impetus to the development of GI in the 6C's area.

¹¹ Space4trees – The Regional Forestry Framework for the East Midlands (Forestry Commission, 2005).

¹² The East Midlands Regional Assembly was replaced by the East Midlands Councils in April 2010.

¹³ Green Infrastructure Guide for the East Midlands (East Midlands Green Infrastructure Network, 2008).

¹⁴ Creating Successful Green Infrastructure Plans, Best Practice from the East Midlands and the River Nene Regional Park (RNRP, September 2007).

¹⁵ EMRA was replaced by the East Midlands Councils in April 2010.

¹⁶ East Midlands Green Infrastructure Scoping Study (East Midlands Regional Assembly, 2006).

¹⁷ www.emgin.org.

1.3.22 The **East Midlands Public Benefit Mapping Project**¹⁸ established a methodology for the prioritisation of GI investment in the region. It considers where GI delivery could bring about the greatest economic, social and environmental benefit and provides strong evidence to support the prioritisation of areas for GI investment. The study concluded that the growth predicted for the 6Cs sub-region would put sustained pressure on the existing green infrastructure in the area, which already has high population densities and significant demand for open space. It found that these areas were already short in biodiversity and greenspace, and considerable investment in GI would be needed to reduce the impact of growth on the environment and to ensure that growth is sustainable. The study provides an important source of evidence for guiding future investment in GI provision.

1.4 Sub-Regional Policy and Guidance

1.4.1 The **Three Cities Sub-Regional Strategy** set out in Section 4.2 of the East Midlands Regional Plan¹⁹ provides additional direction and guidance to Local Development Frameworks on issues that cross strategic planning boundaries and other Sub-Regional matters of importance in the Three Cities Sub-area. It sets out a context for the sustainable regeneration and growth of the Sub-area, and takes into account and is consistent with the 6Cs Growth Point designation. The vision for the Sub-area is:

'The Three Cities Sub-area will be an area where the principles of sustainability are implemented through new development and regeneration. This will involve the significant strengthening of the complementary roles of the 3 Principal Urban Areas by providing new jobs, homes, services, community facilities and green and environmental infrastructure in and around them. The role of Sub-Regional Centres will be maintained through appropriate development, and the needs of other settlements requiring regeneration will be met in a sustainable way. Natural and cultural assets will be protected and enhanced.'

1.4.2 The Sub-Regional Strategy goes on to list twelve objectives for the implementation of development within this vision, which includes: *'To provide green infrastructure for existing and expanding communities, including access to green space that increases biodiversity, promotes healthy lifestyles and can be used for formal and informal recreation and educational purposes'*. The Three Cities Sub-Regional Strategy notes that the New Growth Point funding agreement over the period 2006 to 2021 will *'help to provide investment in the Sub-area's green and environmental infrastructure, to ensure that the level of housing proposed in this Sub-Regional Strategy can be developed embodying the principles behind "Sustainable Communities", minimising and mitigating any adverse environmental impacts.'* Although much of the anticipated growth will be brownfield regeneration, the strategy provides for a significant element to be accommodated through mixed-use sustainable urban extensions *'developed to exemplary environmental standards, addressing issues of environmental capacity (e.g. water*

¹⁸ Green Infrastructure for the East Midlands – A Public Benefit Mapping Project (East Midlands Regional Assembly, July 2006).

¹⁹ East Midlands Regional Plan - RSS8 (East Midlands Regional Assembly, March 2009).

supply/sewerage), integrating physically and socially with the existing urban area,' and 'providing generous green and environmental infrastructure.'

1.4.3 Policy Three Cities SRS 5 (Green Infrastructure and National Forest) sets out the priorities for natural and cultural resources in the sub-region:

'In considering major development proposals, especially those associated with the New Growth Point proposals, Local Authorities and implementing agencies will coordinate the provision of enhanced and new green infrastructure.

Strategic priorities include:

- *The National Forest*
- *A proposed Charnwood Forest Regional Park;*
- *A proposed Trent River Park;*
- *Green Wedges; and*
- *Community forest proposals and 'greenways' around Leicester*

In The National Forest, Local Authorities should work with other agencies across regional boundaries to promote the development of The National Forest in ways that generate environmental, economic and social benefits of both local and national significance by:

- *Enhancing the distinctive landscape, natural, cultural and historic assets of the area;*
- *Making provision for the planting of woodlands subject to environmental constraints;*
- *ensuring development is accompanied by proposals for creating appropriate woodland settings;*
- *Developing the recreational potential both for local communities and for visitors; and*
- *Creating a world class visitor experience which generates sustainable economic benefits for local communities.'*

1.4.4 Priorities for natural and cultural resources in the Three Cities sub-region include the need to consider the environmental impact of the proposed scale of development in the Sub-area from the outset, supported by a coordinated approach to providing new and enhancing existing GI across local authority boundaries. The Sub-Regional Strategy promotes the aim of integrating growth proposals with the broader objective of achieving linked, enhanced green networks, integrated with other strategies. This is particularly emphasised in the case of urban extensions, where the Strategy envisages development assisting in delivering and enhancing GI initiatives - such as the proposed Trent River Park near Nottingham.

1.4.5 The 6Cs GI Strategy will underpin the Three Cities Sub-Regional Strategy by helping to target action in those areas of the Sub-area where most benefits can be gained from investment in enhanced and new GI provision. It will also provide a sub-regional framework for development of local GI plans that promote a coordinated approach to providing GI across local authority boundaries.

1.4.6 The **6Cs Growth Point Programme of Development** sets out the 6Cs Strategic GI Project Board's approach to delivery of investment in strategic GI within the 6Cs sub-region. The 6Cs

Growth Point Programme of Development Refresh document can be downloaded from http://www.leicestershiretogether.org/nov08_pod_refresh_app_f_strategic_gi_v2.2.pdf).

- 1.4.7 **Local Biodiversity Action Plans** (LBAPs) have been prepared for the three counties and The National Forest and provide guidance and priorities for action to conserve significant species and habitats. They are linked to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the priority habitats and species identified within it for conservation and enhancement. They also take account of additional locally significant habitat and species and set out actions for their conservation and enhancement. The LBAPs are one of the key points of reference for local planning authorities when considering the potential impacts of new development on biodiversity in the context of PPS9 and NI 197. The coverage of LBAPs for the 6Cs sub-region is shown on [Figure 2.1d](#).
- 1.4.8 A **Local Geodiversity Action Plan** has been developed for Leicestershire. However, it requires further work to identify objectives and actions. The National Forest has also recognised the need for a geodiversity action plan, which they have built into their five year plan. Geodiversity Action Plans provide guidance on all the geological resources of the areas they cover, including conserving and promoting geodiversity features. They are key to considering the potential impacts of new development on geodiversity in the context of PPS9 and NI 197.
- 1.4.9 The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 requires every County highway authority to publish a **Rights of Way Improvement Plan** (ROWIP). The Act specifically requires a ROWIP to assess:
- The extent to which local rights of way meet the present and likely future needs of the public;
 - The opportunities provided by rights of way for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area; and
 - The accessibility of rights of way to the blind or partially sighted and those with mobility problems.
- 1.4.10 A ROWIP has been prepared for each of the three counties and three cities in the 6Cs sub-region. They provide detailed assessments of the Rights of Way network and identify comprehensive action plans to address specific local needs - such as the improvement of existing routes, removal of obstructions, improvements to connectivity, extension of the network and promotion of routes to encourage their use. These ROWIPs typically form part of, or are integrated with Local Transport Plans prepared by Highway Authorities and contribute towards the development of sustainable transport initiatives. Additionally, Derbyshire County Council has published Greenway Strategies for East Derbyshire (currently under review), South Derbyshire, and West Derbyshire and High Peak. These networks are intended to link directly into settlements and to the public transport interchanges, continue through communities to join other routes, and provide linear transport routes from settlements into the wider countryside or to demand destinations.

1.4.11 **Landscape Character Assessments** have been prepared for each county and a number of district/boroughs in the 6Cs sub-region. These assessments map and describe variations in landscape character and provide guidelines for helping to sustain locally distinctive landscape characteristics and features. The East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment is currently at Consultation Draft stage and is due for publication in spring 2010.

1.4.12 A selective review of key policy/guidance documents within the sub-region is provided in [Appendix A1](#).

2.0 GI STUDIES AND STRATEGIES REVIEW

2.1 General

2.1.1 This section highlights existing GI specific studies and strategies that are particularly relevant to the Sub-Regional GI Strategy work. A more detailed review of existing GI studies and strategies in the 6Cs sub-region is provided [Appendix A1](#).

2.2 District/Borough GI Studies and Strategies

2.2.1 See [Figures 2.1a, 2.1b](#) and [2.1c](#) for coverage of district/borough-wide GI studies and strategies in and adjacent to the 6Cs sub-region.

2.2.2 An example of a borough-wide GI Strategy within the 6Cs sub-region is the **Green Infrastructure Strategy for Hinckley and Bosworth**²⁰. A further example is provided by the **City of Nottingham Green Infrastructure Study**, which is currently in preparation by Nottingham City Council.

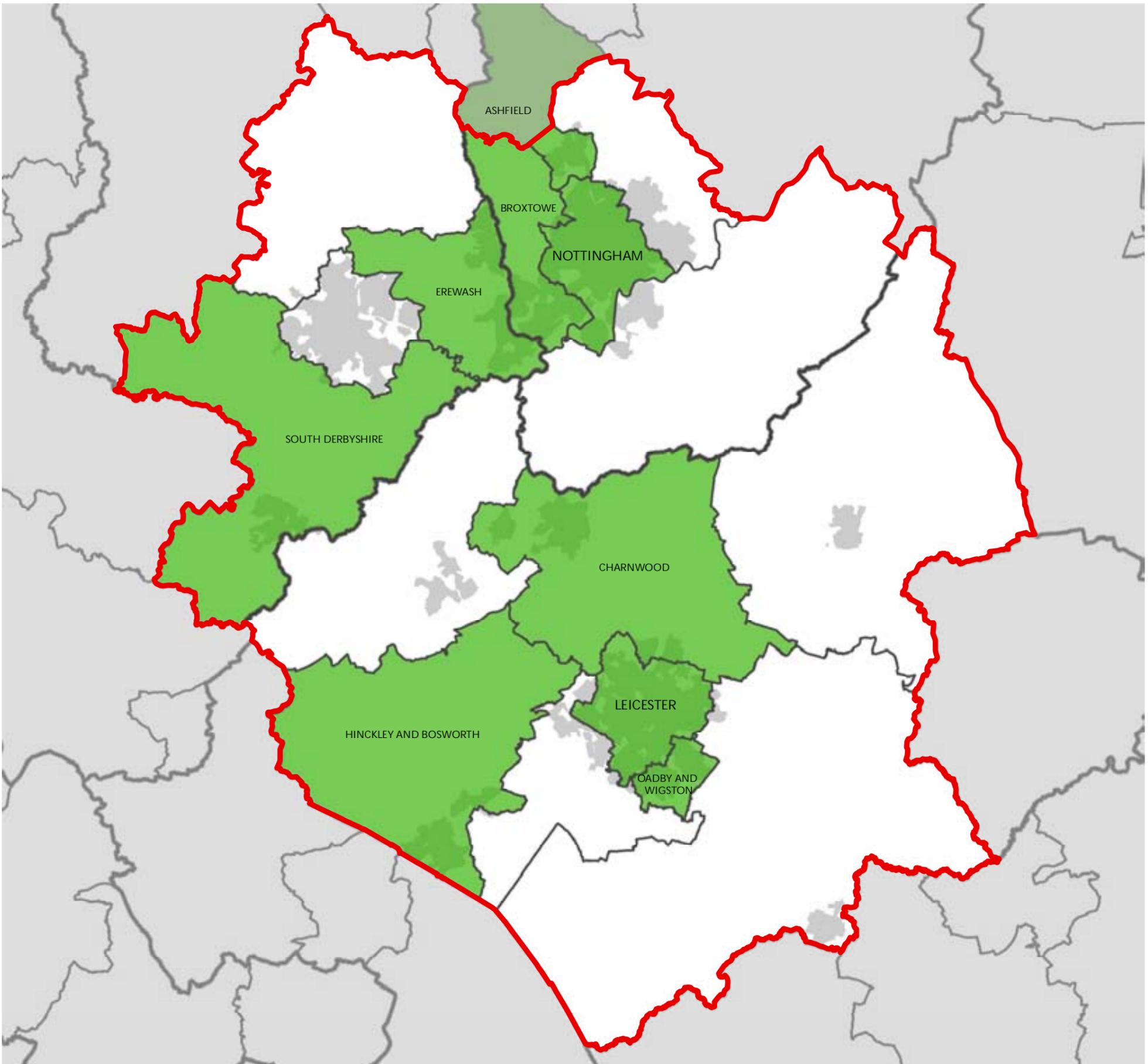
2.2.3 The **Northamptonshire GI Strategic Framework**²¹ considers the needs for GI provision throughout Northamptonshire, which adjoins the south east boundary of the 6Cs sub-region. On the western boundary of the 6Cs sub-region, the **East Staffordshire Green Infrastructure Study**²² considers the need for GI provision throughout the Borough. The National Forest plays an important role as a linking GI initiative between both the 6Cs and East Staffordshire (Burton-upon-Trent) Growth Points and is a priority area in both GI strategies.

2.2.4 District/borough-wide assessments of open/greenspace are key inputs for GI planning. Planning Policy Guidance 17 - Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17) urges local planning authorities to undertake assessments of open space provision within their areas

²⁰ A Green Infrastructure Strategy for Hinckley and Bosworth (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, October 2008).

²¹ Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Strategic Framework (River Nene Regional Park, 2006).

²² East Staffordshire Green Infrastructure Study (East Staffordshire Borough Council, 2008).



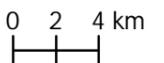
KEY



Published Green Space Strategies
(including Parks/Open Space Strategies)

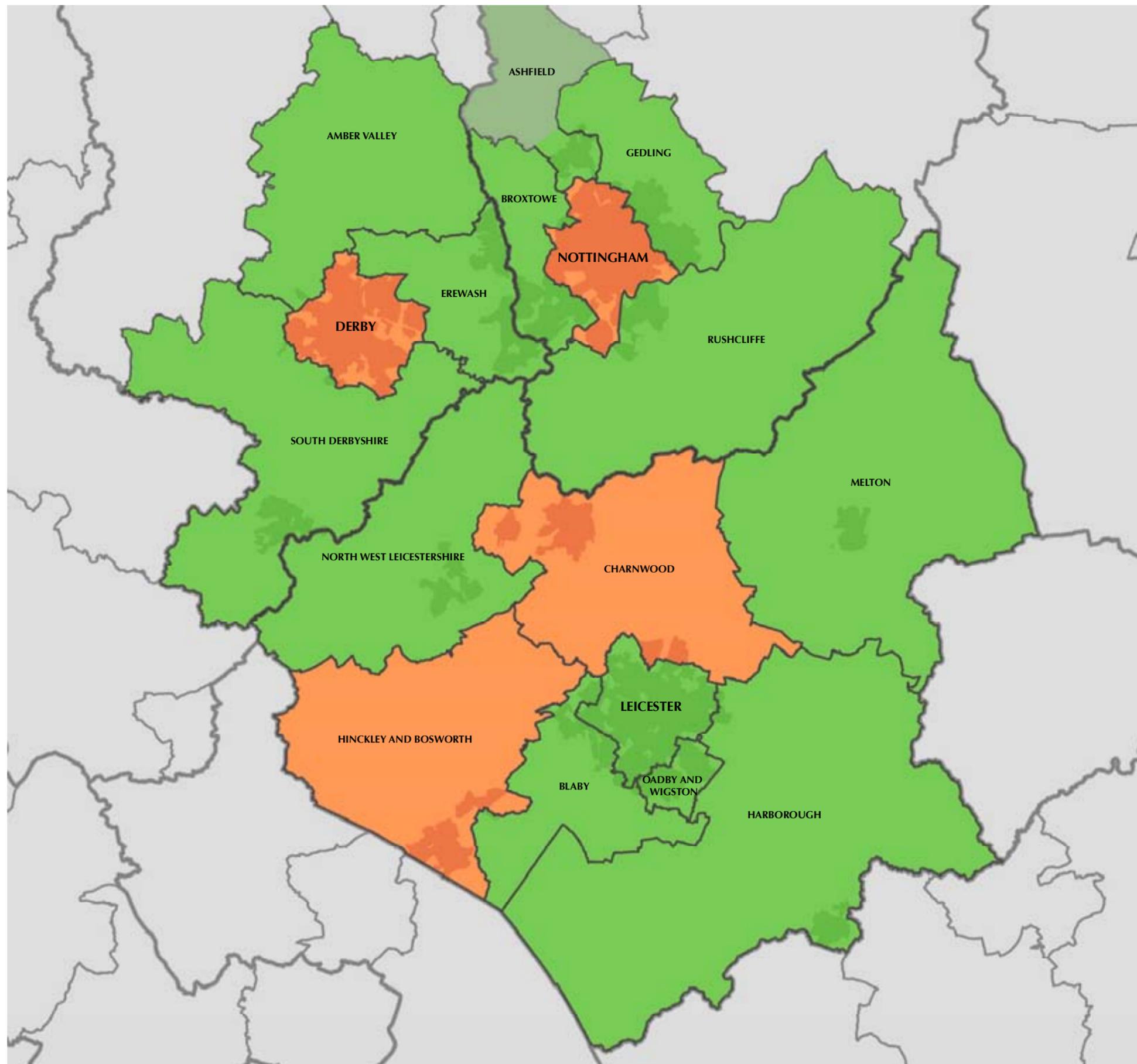
- Major Settlements
- District/Borough Boundaries
- County Boundaries

This Figure represents relevant available information provided by stakeholders at the time of the study, and may not be exhaustive. The accuracy of digital datasets received, which have been used in good faith without modification or enhancement, cannot be guaranteed. The Strategic GI Network Plan illustrates indicative GI assets at a strategic level, which do not necessarily indicate a constraint on development.



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KEY

- Published PPG17 Assessments
- PPG17 Assessments in Progress

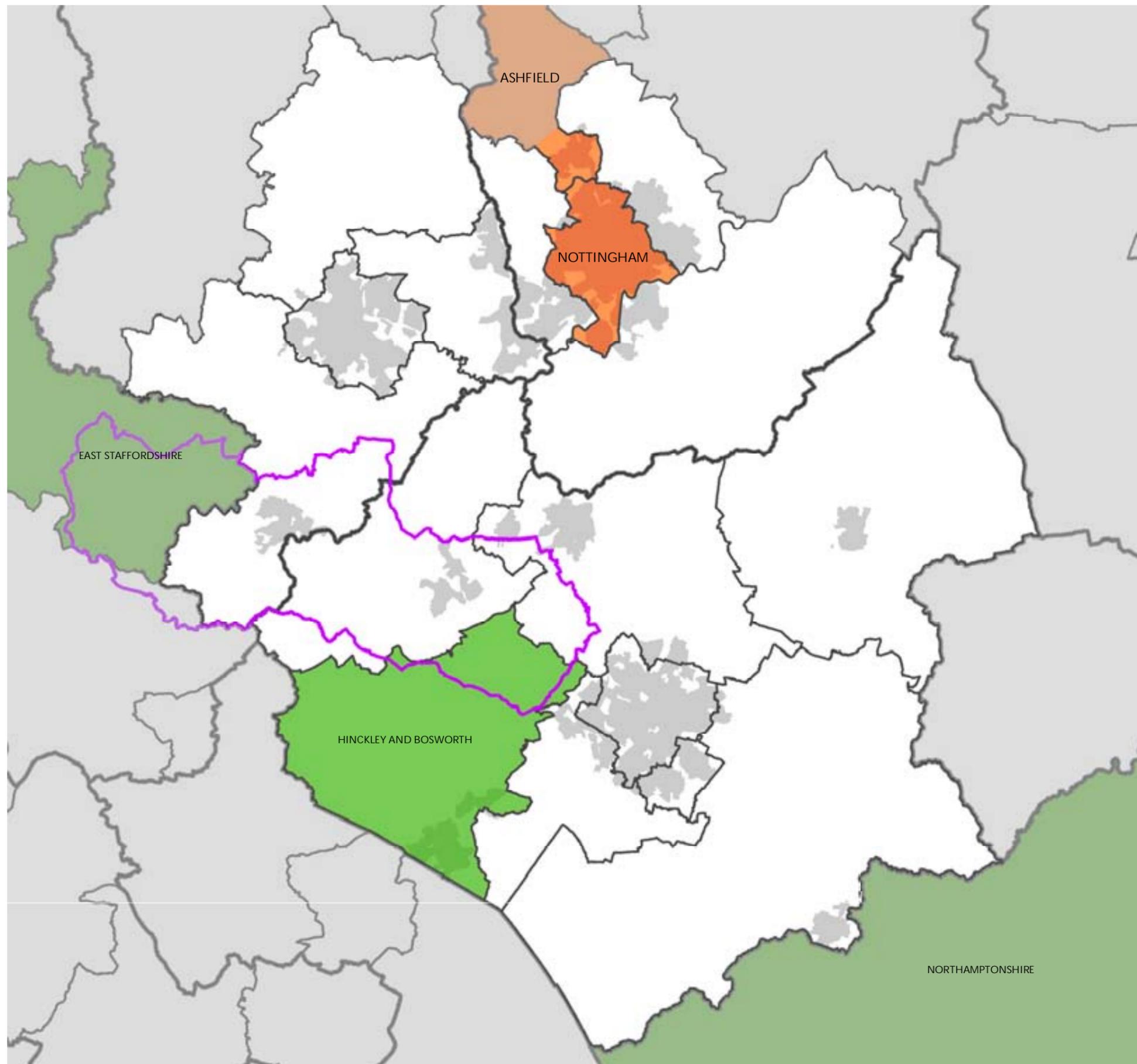
- Major Settlements
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Figure 2.1b
Planning Policy Guidance 17: Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessments



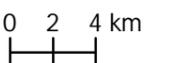
KEY



- Published GI Studies/Strategies
- GI Studies/Strategies In Progress
- National Forest
(covered by the Government endorsed National Forest Strategy)

- Major Settlements
- District/Borough Boundaries
- County Boundaries

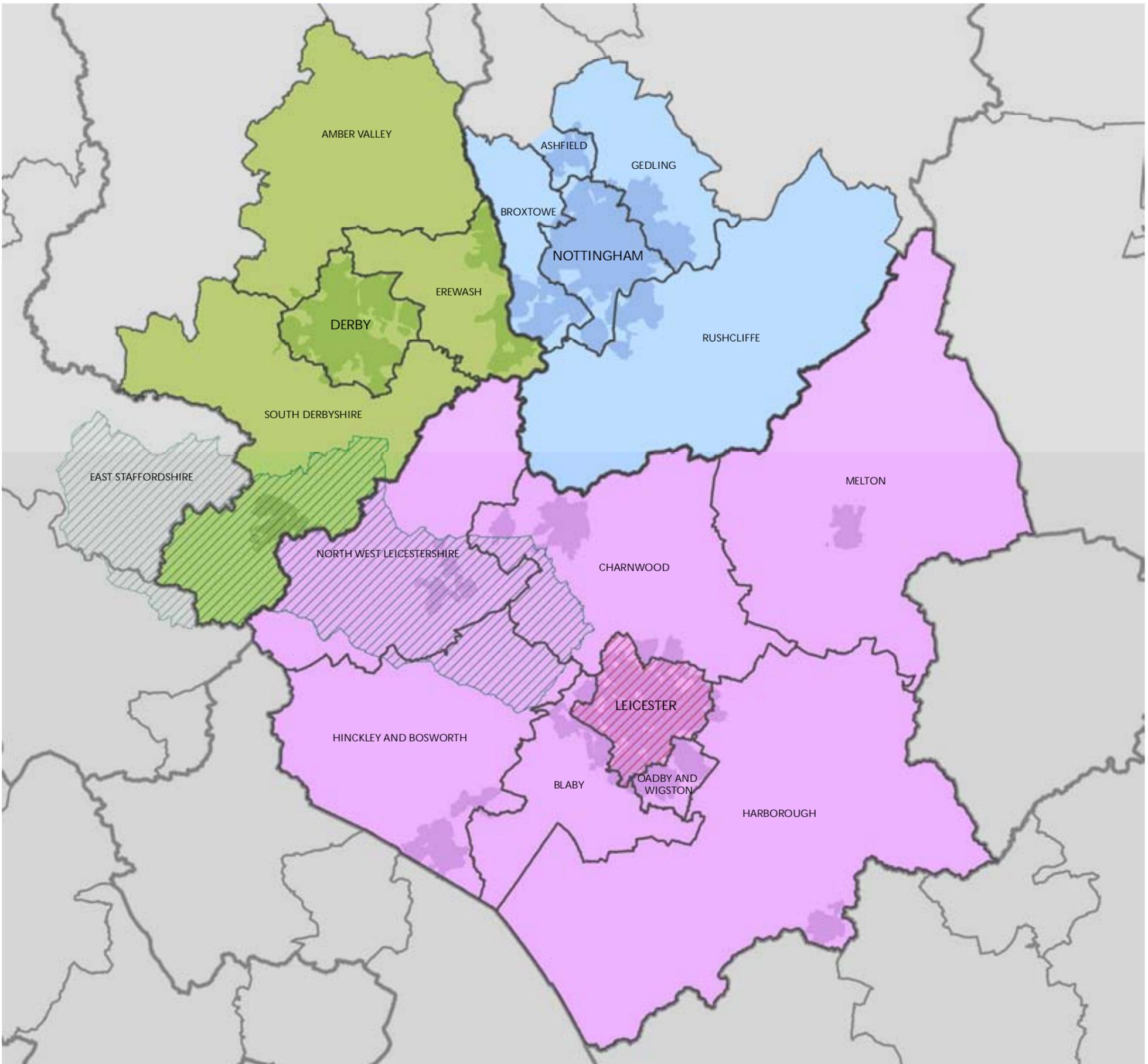
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Figure 2.1c
District/Borough GI Studies
and Strategies



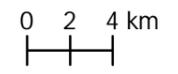
KEY



- Local Biodiversity Action Plans
- Lowland Derbyshire
 - Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
 - Nottinghamshire
 - Leicester
 - National Forest

- Major Settlements
- District/Borough Boundaries
- County Boundaries

This Figure represents relevant available information provided by stakeholders at the time of the study, and may not be exhaustive. The accuracy of digital datasets received, which have been used in good faith without modification or enhancement, cannot be guaranteed. The Strategic GI Network Plan illustrates indicative GI assets at a strategic level, which do not necessarily indicate a constraint on development.



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Figure 2.1d
Local Biodiversity Action Plans

and identify deficiencies in the provision, quality and accessibility of relevant facilities. Green Space Strategies build on PPG17 assessments, and are advocated by CABESpace. The extent to which authorities have completed **PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessments** and **Green Space Strategies** within the 6Cs sub-region is shown on **Figures 2.1b** and **2.1a** respectively, which show that local authorities are well advanced in their assessment of open space, sport and recreation provision.

2.3 Corridor/Area-Specific GI Studies and Strategies

2.3.1 GI strategies for specific corridors and areas within the 6Cs sub-region include:

- East Derbyshire Greenway Strategy (1998, currently under review)²³;
- South Derbyshire Greenway Strategy²⁴;
- Stepping Stones GI Delivery Plan (2006)²⁵;
- The National Forest Strategy (2004-14)²⁶
- Trent Link - River Trent to Cotgrave Green Infrastructure Master Plan²⁷;
- Trent River Park Vision and Action Plan (2008)²⁸; and
- West Derbyshire and High Peak Greenway Strategy (2008)²⁹.
- Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Historic Landscape Characterisation (2010)³⁰

2.3.2 See **Appendix A1** for details of these studies and strategies.

2.4 Site Masterplanning GI Strategies

2.4.1 An example of a Site Masterplanning GI Strategy is provided by the **Nottingham Gateway GI Strategy** being prepared by consultants, on behalf of a landowner consortium led by Barratt, as part of the site masterplanning process for a proposed Sustainable Urban Extension in Clifton, south of Nottingham within the Borough of Rushcliffe.

²³ Greenway Strategy, East Derbyshire District (Derbyshire County Council Countryside Services, June 1998 – currently under review).

²⁴ Greenway Strategy, South Derbyshire District (Derbyshire County Council Countryside Services, May 2006).

²⁵ Stepping Stones green Wedge Management Plan, Stepping Stones Project, (Leicestershire County Council, 2006).

²⁶ The National Forest Strategy 2004-14 (The National Forest)

²⁷ River Trent to Cotgrave Green Infrastructure Master Plan (Grantham Canal Partnership, due for publication Spring 2009)

²⁸ Trent River Park Vision and Action Plan (EDAW/AECOM on behalf of Nottingham City Council, 2008).

²⁹ Greenway Strategy, West Derbyshire and High Peak (Derbyshire County Council Countryside Services, October 2008).

³⁰ Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Historic Landscape Characterisation (Leicestershire County Council in partnership with English Heritage, 2010)

PART TWO STRATEGIC GI AUDIT

Commensurate with the strategic focus of this audit, the maps presented in this document are intended to illustrate the broad distribution and extent of GI assets, needs and opportunities from a sub-regional perspective.

The maps are based on information provided at the time of the study, and may not be exhaustive. They should therefore not be used to inform detailed GI work without validation to check their accuracy at the local level.

3.0 EXISTING GI ASSETS

3.1 General

3.1.1 The 6Cs sub-region has a range of GI assets that provide benefits to both people and wildlife. The following audit provides an overview of existing strategic GI assets based around the four themes identified in the Green Infrastructure Guide for the East Midlands³¹, which sets the context for the assessment, planning and provision of GI in the region. These themes are:

- Biodiversity;
- Access and Recreation;
- Landscape Character and Historic Environment; and
- Natural Processes and Environmental Systems.

3.1.2 The audit of each theme draws on available datasets and information provided by the 6Cs GI Strategy Steering Group and its partners that is relevant to this sub-regional scale of assessment. The audit also takes account of available data identified as a result of stakeholder consultation workshops held in January 2009 where relevant (see [Appendix A5](#)). Details of the GI asset mapping data used in the audit are provided in [Appendix A2](#).

3.2 Biodiversity Assets

3.2.1 This section provides an audit of existing strategic biodiversity assets in the 6Cs sub-region.

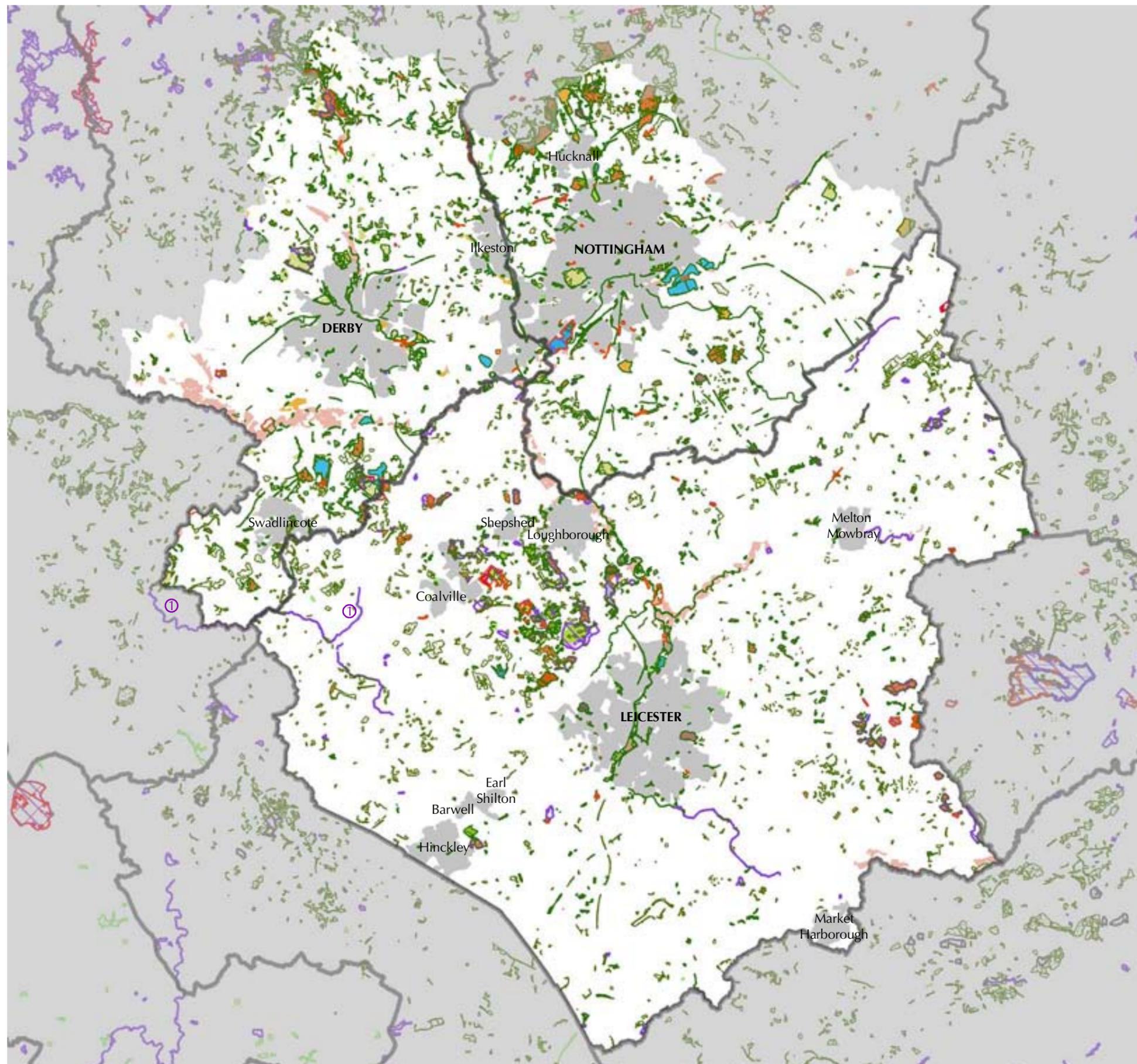
Designated Areas

3.2.2 [Figure 3.1](#) illustrates the spatial distribution of areas designated for their nature conservation value.

3.2.3 The River Mease **Special Area of Conservation** (SAC), bordering Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire, is the only site within the 6Cs sub-region designated as a site of European nature conservation importance. The river is designated for its *Ranunculus fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* (vegetation communities dominated by water crowfoots and starworts) and its populations of spined loach *Cobitis taenia* and bullhead *Cottus gobio*. The river also supports populations of white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* and otter *Lutra lutra*.

3.2.4 The 6Cs sub-region supports 106 nationally important **Sites of Special Scientific Interest** (SSSIs), totalling an area of approximately 3000ha. [Table 3.1](#) below provides a comparison of SSSIs within the 6Cs, with SSSIs in the East Midlands Region and England as a whole. It

³¹ Green Infrastructure Guide for the East Midlands (East Midlands Green Infrastructure Network, 2008).
2010



KEY



Natural/Semi-Natural Habitats

(based on Wildlife Trust and Natural England BAP Priority Habitat data)

- Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Eutrophic Standing Waters
- Lowland Calcareous Grassland
- Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
- Lowland Fen
- Lowland Heathland
- Lowland Meadows
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land
- Purple Moor Grass and Rush-Pastures
- Reedbed
- Wood-Pasture and Parkland

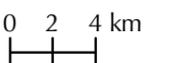
Designated Areas

- National Nature Reserves
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Protection Areas
- Special Areas of Conservation
- River Mease Special Area of Conservation
- Local Nature Reserves
- Local Wildlife Sites
- Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves (with Public Access)

Woodland and Trees

- National Inventory of Woodland and Trees
- Major Settlements
- County Boundaries

This Figure represents relevant available information provided by stakeholders at the time of the study, and may not be exhaustive. The accuracy of digital datasets received, which have been used in good faith without modification or enhancement, cannot be guaranteed. The Strategic GI Network Plan illustrates indicative GI assets at a strategic level, which do not necessarily indicate a constraint on development.



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Figure 3.1
Biodiversity - Existing Strategic Assets (Natural Greenspace)

highlights the comparative lack of statutorily designated sites within the 6Cs sub-region. SSSIs only cover c.0.5% of the total area of the 6Cs, while they cover c.4.3% of the total area of the East Midlands region and c.7.0% of the total area of England. There is therefore a consequent need for high quality habitat delivery in GI provision within the growth area. The most frequently occurring ‘features of interest’ for which the 6Cs sub-region’s SSSIs have been designated are: broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland (46 sites); neutral grassland (37 sites); earth heritage (25 sites) and standing open water (18 sites)³².

Table 3.1 – Comparison of SSSIs within the 6Cs sub-region, the East Midlands Region and England

	6Cs sub-region	East Midlands	England
Total land area (ha)	665,000	1,562,700	13,043,900
Number of SSSIs	106	382	>4000
Area covered by SSSIs (ha)	3,000	67,423	913,073
% of the total land area designated as SSSI	c.0.5%	c.4.3%	c.7.0%

- 3.2.5 Four of the East Midlands region’s 10 **National Nature Reserves** (NNRs) occur within the 6Cs sub-region (Calke, Cribbs Meadow, Charnwood Lodge and Muston Meadows), totalling an area of 527ha.
- 3.2.6 Sixty-nine of the 83 **Local Nature Reserves** (LNRs) in the East Midlands region occur within the 6Cs sub-region, an area of 350ha.
- 3.2.7 In summary, the total area of land statutorily designated for its nature conservation interest is approximately 3878ha, which constitutes approximately 0.6% of the 6Cs sub-region.
- 3.2.8 There are 557 non-statutory **Local Wildlife Sites** (LWS) within the Derbyshire part of the 6Cs sub-region, totalling an area of approximately 3915ha; 493 Nottinghamshire LWS totalling an area of 5639ha; and 531 Leicestershire LWS totalling an area of 2852ha. The total area of non-statutorily designated land for its nature conservation interest is approximately 12406ha, which constitutes approximately 2% of the total area of the 6Cs sub-region.
- 3.2.9 There are 18 non-statutory **Local Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves** (LWTNR) with public access within the Derbyshire part of the 6Cs sub-region, totalling an area of approximately 237ha; 28 Nottinghamshire LWTNR totalling an area of approximately 336ha; and 31 Leicestershire LWTNR totalling an area of approximately 694ha. LWTNR with public access constitute approximately 0.2% of the total area of the 6Cs sub-region.

³² Please note: 37 SSSIs are notified for more than one feature of interest and therefore the total number of reasons for notification exceeds the total number of sites.

Natural/Semi-Natural Habitats and other Key Ecological Features

3.2.10 **Figure 3.1** illustrates the spatial distribution of natural/semi-natural habitats and other key ecological features within the 6Cs sub-region.

3.2.11 The natural/semi-natural habitats relate principally to BAP priority habitat types mapped by Natural England and the three Wildlife Trusts. These habitat types also include ‘Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land’, which reflect the significant role that former mineral extraction sites play in shaping the landscape of the 6Cs sub-region. **Table 3.2** below ranks each of these habitat types as a proportion of the total area of semi-natural habitats.

Table 3.2 – Habitat Types as % of Total Biodiversity Resource

Habitat Type	Habitat types as % of the total area of semi-natural habitats
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (includes wet woodland)	31.5%
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	23.0%
Lowland meadows	14.0%
Eutrophic standing water	7.0%
Lowland dry acid grassland	5.5%
Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	5.4%
Wood-pasture and parkland	4.0%
Lowland heathland	3.7%
Reedbed	2.7%
Lowland fen	1.9%
Lowland calcareous grassland	1.0%
Purple moor grass and rush-pasture	0.3%

Biodiversity Characterisation

3.2.12 Both **Figure 3.1** and **Table 3.2** indicate the limited extent of the existing biodiversity resource relative to the overall area of the 6Cs sub-region, and highlight the generally fragmented nature of habitats in many parts of the area. Overall, the biodiversity resource of the 6Cs sub-region can be characterised as follows:

Urban Habitats

- The 6Cs sub-region is dominated by the three major conurbations of Leicester, Derby and Nottingham with smaller towns such as Coalville, Hinckley (including Barwell and Earl Shilton), Hucknall, Ilkeston, Loughborough (including Shepshed), Market Harborough, Melton Mowbray and Swadlincote.

- Remnants of most of the habitats listed in **Table 3.1** above can be found either within or adjacent to these urban centres, usually as fragments of habitats present before the land was used for built development³³.

Post Industrial Habitats

- Coal mining, mineral and aggregate extraction are dominant industrial activities within the 6Cs sub-region, and their value in respect of both biodiversity and geodiversity is reflected in the fact that about half of all SSSIs in Leicestershire are related to quarrying activity³⁴. Sites such as Attenborough Gravel Pits in Nottinghamshire, which is designated for its woodland, neutral grassland, and open standing water, are also a reflection of the value post-industrial sites can provide for habitat enhancement and creation. Moreover, sand and gravel deposits, and old coal workings provide conditions that are able to support relatively rare habitats such as dry acid grasslands; other quarries support rare animal life such as the spider *Mastigusa macrophthalma* at Bardon Quarry.
- Post-industrial sites may also include disused railway lines and sidings that provide linear semi-natural habitats that provide elements of connectivity in an otherwise highly managed or intensively farmed landscape.

Water and Wetlands

- The 6Cs sub-region is dominated by a series of river systems. The River Trent flows from west to east into which flow the Rivers Dove, Derwent and Erewash from the north, and the Rivers Wreake and Soar from the south. The River Welland forms part of the south east boundary of Leicestershire. The floodplains of these rivers support areas of floodplain grazing marsh, in particular the River Soar north of Leicester, the Lower Derwent, north of Derby and the Rivers Dove and Trent south west of Derby. Remnant areas of reedbed and wet woodland are also present, associated with a number of tributaries and reservoirs, but are highly fragmented in an otherwise predominantly urban and intensively farmed landscape.
- Significant bodies of standing open water also occur within the 6Cs sub-region. In particular, at Attenborough Gravel Pits and Colwick Park/Holme Pierrepont on the southern fringes of Nottingham, the Staunton Harold and Foremark reservoirs northeast of Swadlincote, and Swithland and Cropston reservoirs in Charnwood Forest.

³³ Putting Wildlife Back on the Map – A Biodiversity Strategy for the East Midlands. Full Strategy (East Midlands Regional Assembly and East Midlands Biodiversity Partnership, May 2006 - p57).

³⁴ Putting Wildlife Back on the Map – A Biodiversity Strategy for the East Midlands. Full Strategy (East Midlands Regional Assembly and East Midlands Biodiversity Partnership, May 2006 -p57).

- A number of canals also occur within the 6Cs sub-region, notably the Grand Union, Trent and Mersey, Ashby, Cromford, Grantham, Beeston, Nottingham and Erewash canals. There are also remnant canals, including the Derby Canal and parts of the Grantham Canal.

Woodlands

- Generally, the woodland resource of the 6Cs sub-region is highly fragmented. Total woodland cover for the East Midlands region is only 5.1%, compared with the national average of 8%³⁵. Land recorded in the 6Cs sub-region under the Forestry Commission's National Inventory of Woodland and Trees database totals an area of approximately 14818ha.
- While much of the woodland within the 6Cs sub-region is plantation woodland, or woodland recorded on the Forestry Commission's National Inventory of Woodland and Trees, remnants of ancient semi-natural woodland remain - in particular, woodlands associated with the Derwent valley in the Peak approaches, Sherwood Forest and its environs north of Nottingham, Charnwood Forest (bounded by Leicester, Loughborough, and Coalville) and Leighfield Forest (which lies to the east of Leicester and extends into Rutland). In addition, there are areas of woodland within The National Forest, representing both old, established woodlands as well as more recently established woodlands. The National Forest contains a higher percentage of woodland cover than other parts of the 6Cs sub-region.
- The East Midlands region has 25% of the country's wood pasture and parkland³⁶. A number of sites supporting wood-pasture and parkland occur within the 6Cs sub-region. Notable sites include Markeaton Park, Wollaton Park, Kedleston Hall, Calke and Newstead Abbey, amongst others.

Grasslands/Heathland

- Semi natural, unimproved, grasslands – these are generally small and fragmented throughout the 6Cs sub-region and are generally restricted to soils overlying particular geological formations, or occur on post-industrial sites that offer appropriate growing conditions.
- Sites supporting acid grasslands including: Kendall's Meadow, Croft Pasture, Swithland Wood and Croft Hill Quarry SSSIs.

³⁵ Putting Wildlife Back on the Map – A Biodiversity Strategy for the East Midlands. Full Strategy (East Midlands Regional Assembly and East Midlands Biodiversity Partnership, May 2006 - p57).

³⁶ Putting Wildlife Back on the Map – A Biodiversity Strategy for the East Midlands. Full Strategy (East Midlands Regional Assembly and East Midlands Biodiversity Partnership, May 2006 - p57).

- Sites supporting calcareous grasslands including: Breedon Hill, Gotham Hill Pasture and Orston Plaster Pits SSSIs.
- Heathland - mostly concentrated within the Charnwood/National Forest area and north of Nottingham, although small fragments of heathland also occur to the west of Belper. Examples of heathland habitats include: Charnwood Lodge, Bardon Hill and Grace Dieu & High Sharpley SSSIs.
- Neutral grasslands – floodplain grazing marsh and lowland meadows are the most widely represented grassland habitat type in the 6Cs sub-region. As discussed above, concentrations of floodplain grazing marsh are found in the floodplains of the Rivers Soar, Wreake, Trent and Dove. In addition to the floodplain, fragmented areas of lowland meadow are also to be found in the Nottinghamshire/Leicestershire Wolds.

3.3 Access and Recreation Assets

3.3.1 This section provides an audit of existing access and recreation assets in the 6Cs sub-region from a sub-regional perspective, as represented by the mapping and assessment of strategic accessible natural greenspace and countryside access routes.

Existing Accessible Natural Greenspace

3.3.2 This audit identifies and maps the provision of larger areas of accessible natural greenspaces of sub-regional significance in the countryside around the 6Cs settlements. **For the purposes of the audit, ‘natural greenspace’ is defined as: land, water or geological features that have been colonised by plants and animals and are dominated by natural processes; and ‘strategic accessible natural greenspace’ is defined as natural greenspace greater than 2ha in size that is normally available for public access on foot, providing opportunities for open access for informal recreational activities.**

3.3.3 The extent and distribution of land within different types of strategic accessible natural greenspace resource that meets the above definition is shown on [Figure 3.2a](#) and includes:

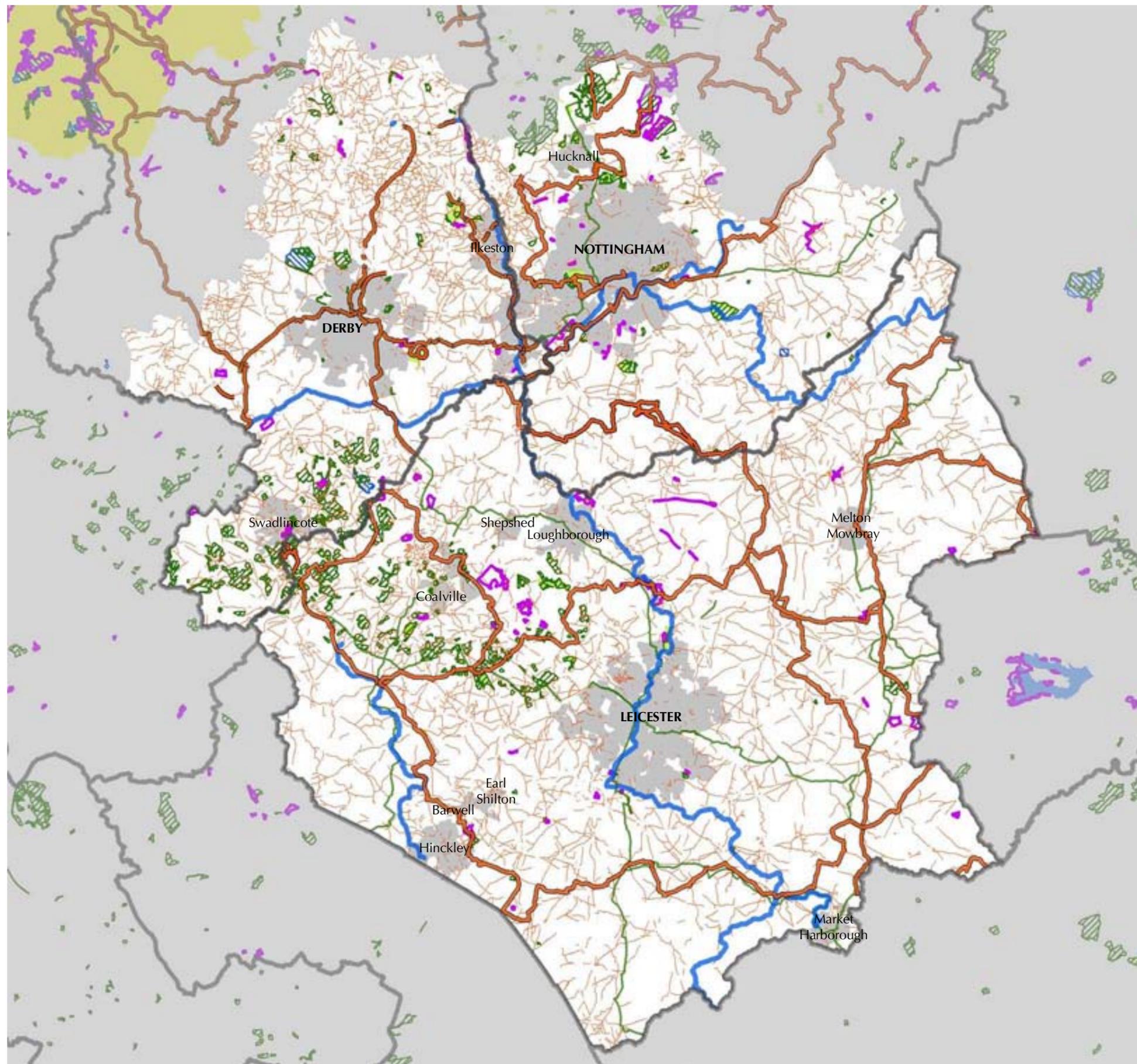
- Open Access Land³⁷;
- Accessible Woodland³⁸;
- National Trust Land with Open Access³⁹; and
- Country Parks⁴⁰.

³⁷ Countryside & Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 Open Access Land (mountain, moor, heath & down/registered common land).

³⁸ Consolidated Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust accessible woodland dataset.

³⁹ National Trust land with full (24hr) and limited open access.

⁴⁰ Includes some larger urban parks/other major open spaces in urban areas where provided in datasets supplied by data providers.



KEY



Existing Strategic Accessible Natural Greenspace

Land greater than 2ha in size largely outside urban areas that is normally available for public access on foot, providing opportunities for open access for informal recreational activities.

- Open Access Land and Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves with Public Access
- Accessible Woodland
- National Trust Land with Open Access
- Country Parks

Major Recreational Areas outside Growth Point

- Peak District National Park
- Rutland Water

Existing Strategic Countryside Access Routes

Linear, generally off-road and car free routes, that are normally available for public access on foot, horseback or by cycle providing opportunities to access the countryside for informal recreation activities.

- Promoted Recreational Routes
- Cycle Network
- Navigable Waterways (indicative)

Public Rights of Way Network

- Public Rights of Way Network

- Major Settlements
- County Boundaries

This Figure represents relevant available information provided by stakeholders at the time of the study, and may not be exhaustive. The accuracy of digital datasets received, which have been used in good faith without modification or enhancement, cannot be guaranteed. The Strategic GI Network Plan illustrates indicative GI assets at a strategic level, which do not necessarily indicate a constraint on development.



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Figure 3.2a
Access & Recreation - Existing Strategic Assets

3.3.4 **Table 3.3** below ranks the types of accessible natural greenspace resource within the 6Cs sub-region in terms of their extent/proportion. It is apparent that the largest proportion of the total accessible natural greenspace resource is accessible woodland, the majority of which is owned/managed by the Woodland Trust. Of the 14,818ha of woodland recorded in the Forestry Commission’s National Inventory of Woodland and Trees within the 6Cs sub-region, approximately 40% provides opportunities for open public access.

Table 3.3 – Extent/Proportion of Strategic Accessible Natural Greenspace

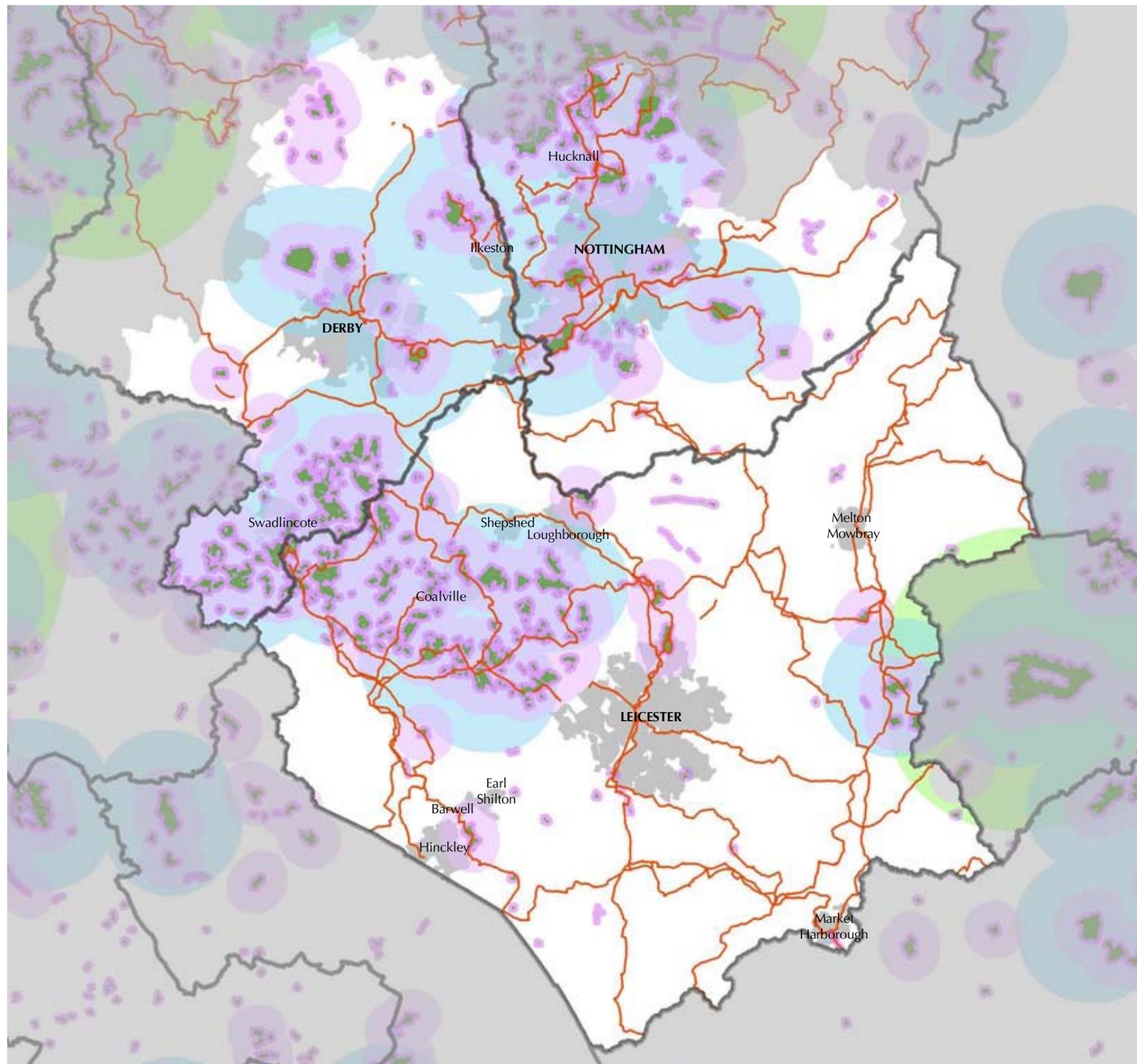
Strategic Accessible Natural Greenspace Type	Extent of Resource	Percentage of Resource
Accessible Woodland	5,957ha	60%
Country Parks	1,630ha	16%
Open Access Land/Wildlife Trust Accessible Nature Reserves	1828	18%
National Trust Land with Open Access	583ha	6%

3.3.5 The assessment of accessible natural greenspace provision in the 6Cs sub-region was undertaken using the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard⁴¹ (ANGSt). This is a national benchmark originally developed by English Nature (and now promoted by Natural England) to set standards for the provision of accessible natural greenspace close to where people live. The Standard emphasises the importance for people of being able to have easy access to natural (and semi-natural) greenspace close to where they live; the Standard is a way of ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to experience geodiversity, biodiversity and ‘areas of natural essence’ as part of their everyday lives, providing benefits for people’s education, health and well-being. Although designed primarily for use in the urban context, the ANGSt model can also be used to assess how accessible natural greenspace in the wider countryside contributes to levels of provision for both urban and rural communities. Applying the Standard enables comparisons to be made between the levels of accessible natural greenspace available to people across the sub-region.

3.3.6 In addition to stating that no person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace, which should be at least 2ha, the Standard highlights the need for the provision of a hierarchy of larger natural greenspace sites: **the Standard suggests at least one 20ha site within 2 km and one 100ha site within 5km and one 500ha site within 10km.** The Standard also recommends that provision should be made of at least 2ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1000 population.

3.3.7 **Figures 3.2b – 3.2f** identify the location and distribution of different sizes of strategic accessible natural greenspace sites within the 6Cs sub-region and their respective catchments based on the ANGSt model. The main settlements that are the focus of current proposals for significant

⁴¹ Providing Accessible Natural Greenspaces in Towns and Cities: A Practical Guide to Assessing the Resource and Implementing Local Standards for Provision (English Nature, 2003).



KEY



Accessible Natural Greenspace Catchments

- 300m catchment - all accessible natural greenspace
- 2km catchment - accessible natural greenspace >20ha
- 5km catchment - accessible natural greenspace >100ha
- 10km catchment - accessible natural greenspace >500ha

Existing Strategic Accessible Natural Greenspace
(See Figure 3.2a)

Land greater than 2ha in size largely outside urban areas that is normally available for public access on foot, providing opportunities for open access for informal recreational activities.

Existing Strategic Countryside Access Routes
(See Figure 3.2a)

Linear, generally off-road and car free routes, that are normally available for public access on foot, horseback or by cycle providing opportunities to access the countryside for informal recreation activities.

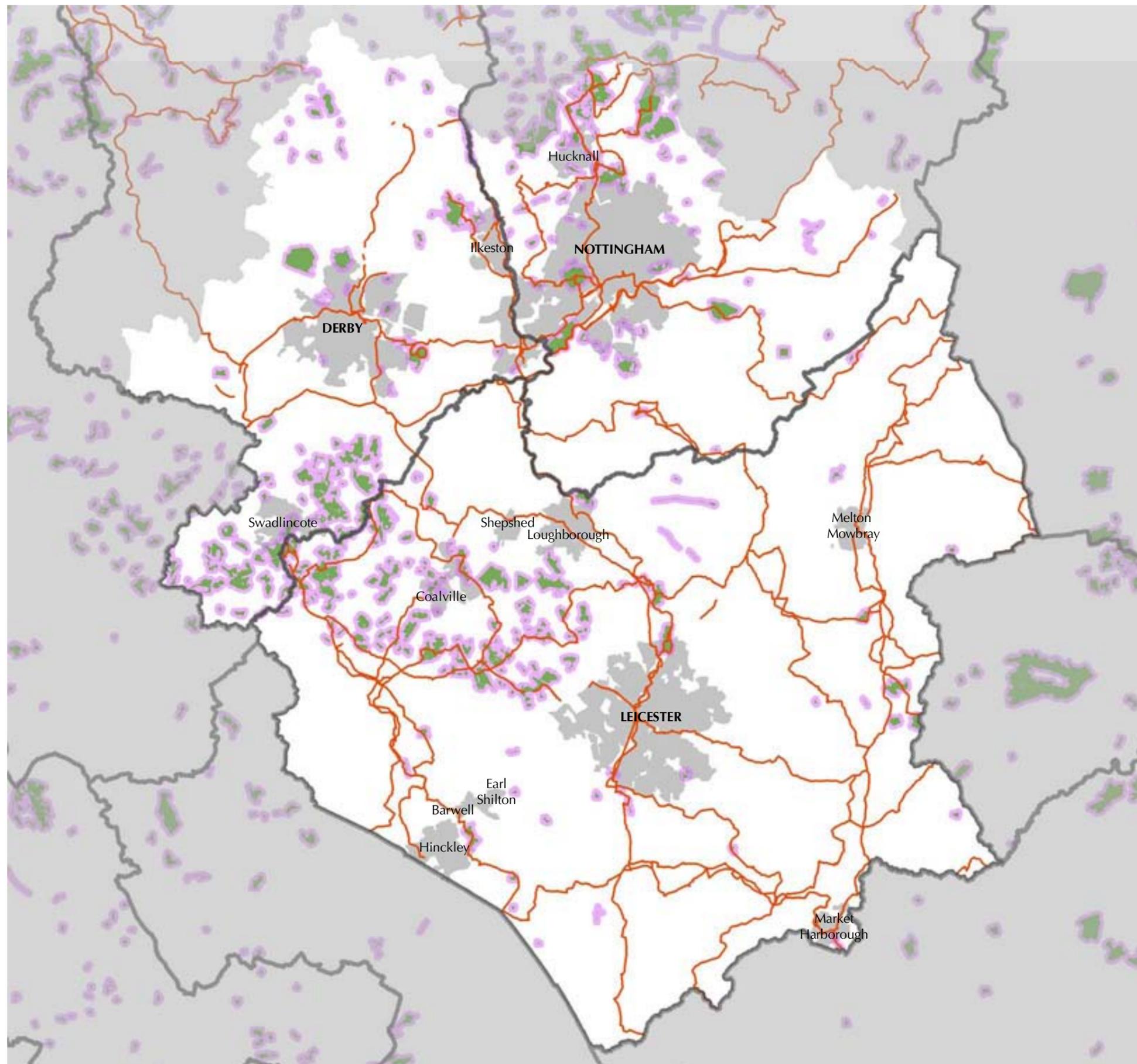
- Major Settlements
- County Boundaries

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Figure 3.2b
Access & Recreation - Existing Strategic Assets:
Accessible Natural Greenspace Catchments



KEY



Accessible Natural Greenspace Catchments

 300m catchment - all accessible natural greenspace

Existing Strategic Accessible Natural Greenspace
(See Figure 3.2a)

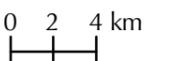
Land greater than 2ha in size largely outside urban areas that is normally available for public access on foot, providing opportunities for open access for informal recreational activities.

Existing Strategic Countryside Access Routes
(See Figure 3.2a)

Linear, generally off-road and car free routes, that are normally available for public access on foot, horseback or by cycle providing opportunities to access the countryside for informal recreation activities.

 Major Settlements
 County Boundaries

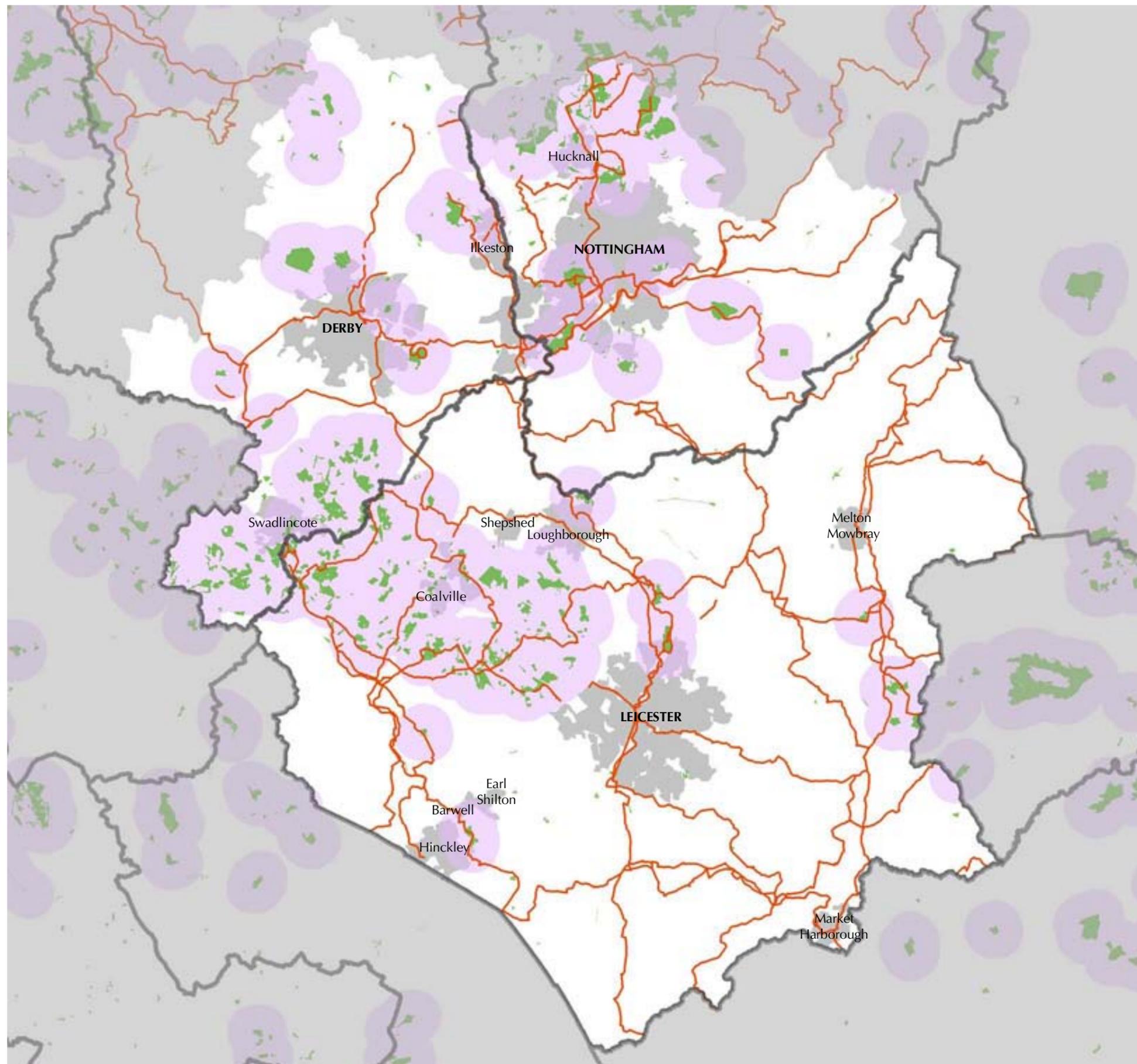
This Figure represents relevant available information provided by stakeholders at the time of the study, and may not be exhaustive. The accuracy of digital datasets received, which have been used in good faith without modification or enhancement, cannot be guaranteed. The Strategic GI Network Plan illustrates indicative GI assets at a strategic level, which do not necessarily indicate a constraint on development.



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Figure 3.2c
Access & Recreation - Existing Strategic Assets:
Accessible Natural Greenspace - 300m Catchment



KEY



Accessible Natural Greenspace Catchments

2km catchment - accessible natural greenspace >20ha

Existing Strategic Accessible Natural Greenspace
(See Figure 3.2a)

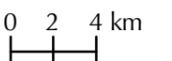
Land greater than 2ha in size largely outside urban areas that is normally available for public access on foot, providing opportunities for open access for informal recreational activities.

Existing Strategic Countryside Access Routes
(See Figure 3.2a)

Linear, generally off-road and car free routes, that are normally available for public access on foot, horseback or by cycle providing opportunities to access the countryside for informal recreation activities.

Major Settlements
 County Boundaries

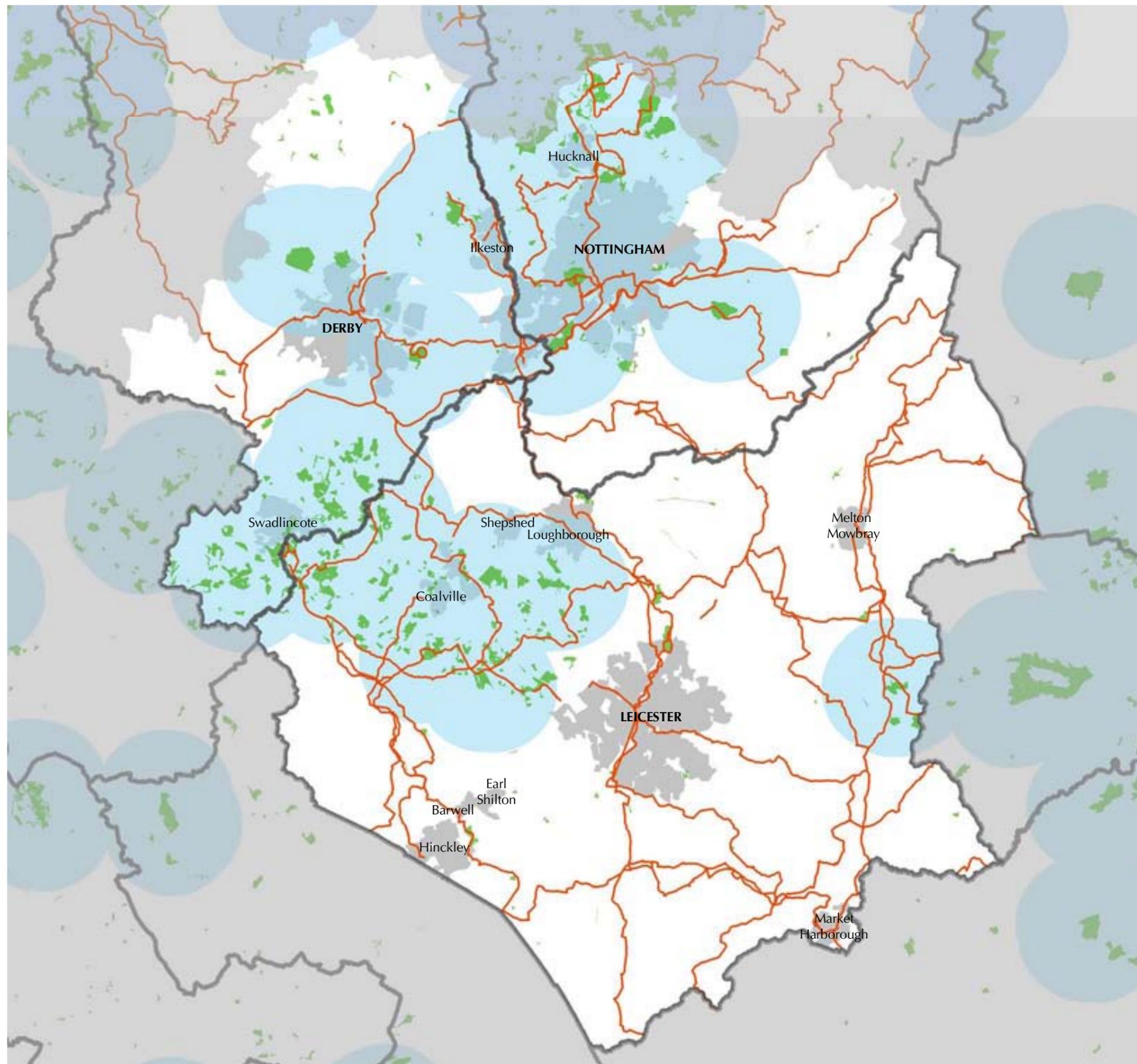
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Figure 3.2d
 Access & Recreation - Existing Strategic Assets:
 Accessible Natural Greenspace - 2km Catchment



KEY



Accessible Natural Greenspace Catchments

5km catchment - accessible natural greenspace >100ha

Existing Strategic Accessible Natural Greenspace
(See Figure 3.2a)

Land greater than 2ha in size largely outside urban areas that is normally available for public access on foot, providing opportunities for open access for informal recreational activities.

Existing Strategic Countryside Access Routes
(See Figure 3.2a)

Linear, generally off-road and car free routes, that are normally available for public access on foot, horseback or by cycle providing opportunities to access the countryside for informal recreation activities.

Major Settlements

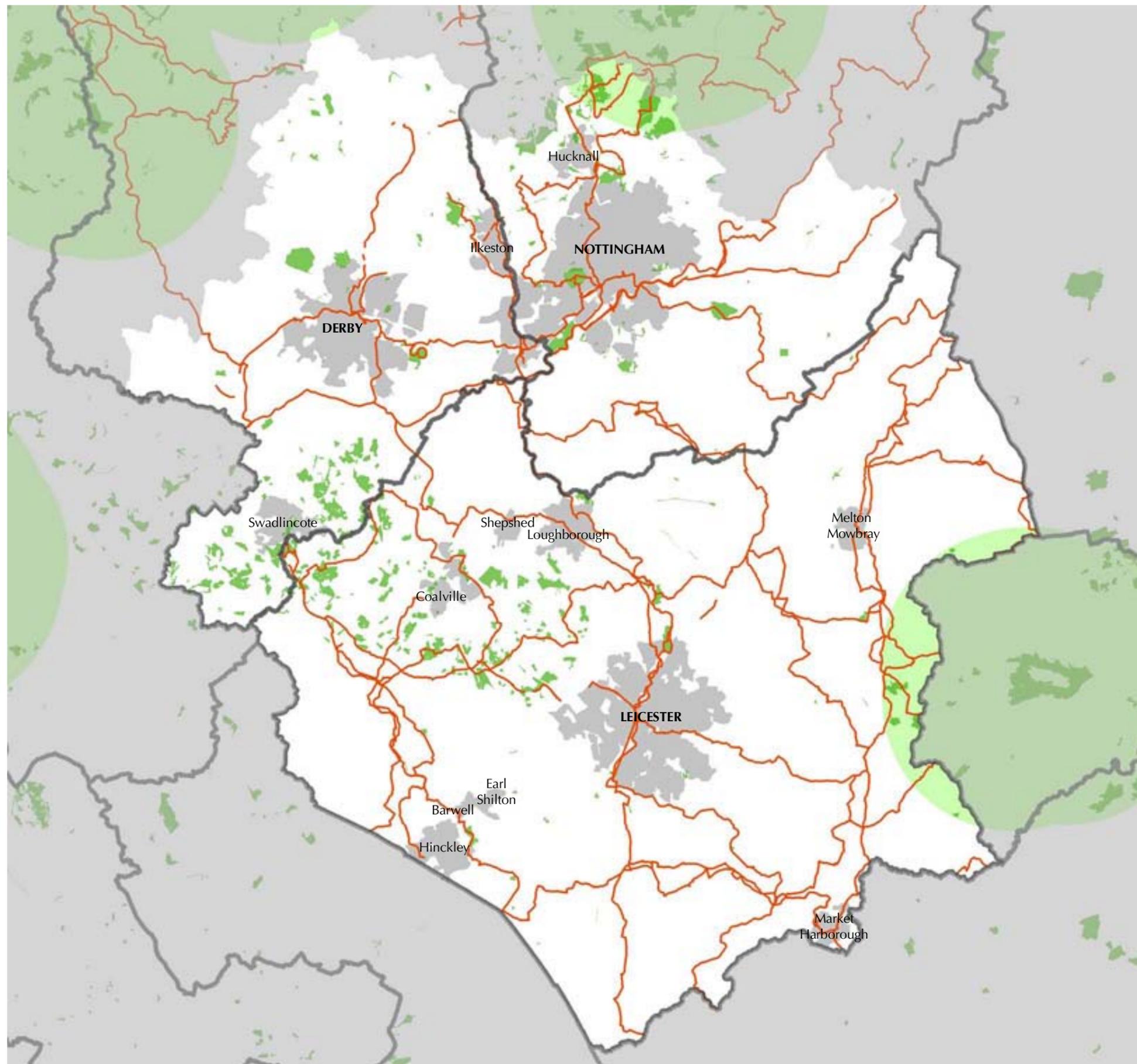
County Boundaries

This Figure represents relevant available information provided by stakeholders at the time of the study, and may not be exhaustive. The accuracy of digital datasets received, which have been used in good faith without modification or enhancement, cannot be guaranteed. The Strategic GI Network Plan illustrates indicative GI assets at a strategic level, which do not necessarily indicate a constraint on development.



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Figure 3.2e
Access & Recreation - Existing Strategic Assets:
Accessible Natural Greenspace - 5km Catchment



KEY



Accessible Natural Greenspace Catchments

10km catchment - accessible natural greenspace >500ha

Existing Strategic Accessible Natural Greenspace
(See Figure 3.2a)

Land greater than 2ha in size largely outside urban areas that is normally available for public access on foot, providing opportunities for open access for informal recreational activities.

Existing Strategic Countryside Access Routes
(See Figure 3.2a)

Linear, generally off-road and car free routes, that are normally available for public access on foot, horseback or by cycle providing opportunities to access the countryside for informal recreation activities.

Major Settlements

County Boundaries

This Figure represents relevant available information provided by stakeholders at the time of the study, and may not be exhaustive. The accuracy of digital datasets received, which have been used in good faith without modification or enhancement, cannot be guaranteed. The Strategic GI Network Plan illustrates indicative GI assets at a strategic level, which do not necessarily indicate a constraint on development.



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Figure 3.2f
Access & Recreation - Existing Strategic Assets:
Accessible Natural Greenspace - 10km Catchment

future growth under the Sustainable Communities Plan and the East Midlands Regional Plan are:

- the three cities of Leicester, Derby and Nottingham;
- the towns of Coalville, Hinckley (including Barwell and Earl Shilton), Hucknall, Ilkeston, Loughborough (including Shepshed), Market Harborough, Melton Mowbray and Swadlincote.

3.3.8 **Figure 3.2b** shows that none of the above settlements currently meet the requirements of the ANGSt model in full, and that furthermore provision of accessible natural greenspace at all tiers in the hierarchy is poorly distributed in relation to the main settlements. Of the three cities, there is a general deficiency of larger accessible natural greenspace around much of Leicester relative to Derby and Nottingham. There is also a notable deficiency of larger accessible natural greenspace provision around Market Harborough relative to the other main towns. Although not shown on the datasets provided by Natural England, it is understood that there is a Country Park of some 55ha to the north of Melton Mowbray.

3.3.9 It should be noted that following stakeholder consultation, it was agreed that, where available, district level PPG17 Open Space datasets (including open spaces such as allotments, cemeteries, parks and gardens, and amenity space), would be used in the mapping of the Strategic GI Networks for the Three Cities (see **Volumes 4, 5, and 6**).

Existing Strategic Countryside Access Routes

3.3.10 This audit considers the provision of strategic countryside access routes of sub-regional significance within the 6Cs sub-region. **For the purposes of the audit, 'strategic countryside access routes' are defined as: linear, generally off-road and car free routes, that are normally available for public access on foot, horseback or by cycle providing opportunities to access the countryside for informal recreation activities.**

3.3.11 The existing network of countryside access routes that are considered to be of greatest strategic significance in and around the 6Cs sub-region is shown on **Figure 3.2a** and includes:

- **Public Rights of Way Network** – the network of bridleways (access on foot, horseback or pedal cycle), byways (access on foot, horseback, pedal cycles and wheeled vehicles of all kinds) and footpaths (access on foot only);
- **Promoted Recreational Routes** – the network of often 'themed' routes for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists actively, mostly forming part of the existing statutory Rights of Way network, promoted by local authorities and government agencies; and
- **Cycle Network** – comprising the Sustrans National Cycle Network, which is intended to provide safe, attractive and high quality routes developed primarily for cyclists but also for other non-vehicular users, and a network of local cycleways.

- **Navigable Waterways** – the network of navigable river/canal routes for watercraft and towpaths that provide access for walking and cycling.

3.3.12 Overall, the strategic countryside access routes provide an extensive network of linkages between settlements, accessible natural greenspace sites and the wider countryside in the 6Cs sub-region. This countryside access route network comprises:

- 5479km of Public Rights of Way (comprising 4605km of Public Footpaths and 874km of Public Bridleways);
- 581km of Promoted Recreational Routes⁴²;
- 431km of Cycle Network⁴³; and
- 249km of Navigable Waterways.

3.3.13 The areas north of Derby, including the Derwent and Erewash valleys and the fringes of the Peak District National Park, are particularly well served by a high density of Public Rights of Way. The network is well connected, offering many and diverse opportunities for access to the countryside in these areas. The Rights of Way network in these areas is enhanced by the cycle network. There is also a good network of countryside access routes in The National Forest and Charnwood Forest, notably close to Swadlincote and Coalville. Here, the network of Rights of Way provides good connections to other accessible natural greenspace resources and creates good links between the settlements, the countryside, and accessible natural greenspace. This network is again further enhanced by the network of cycle routes. The overall cycle network (The National Cycle Network and associated local cycle routes) is reasonably well developed in the 6Cs sub-region and provides good cycle access, especially along river/canal corridors in Leicester City, the Ashby Canal, the River Leen and the Derwent Valley. Elsewhere, the potential the river and canal corridors have to provide cycle and other multi-user access routes has yet to be fully realised. There is particularly good cycle network provision in The National Forest around Swadlincote, the Derwent Valley and Erewash Valley. This network provides good connectivity between Derby and accessible natural greenspaces in the area. Areas less well served by the Countryside Access Route include north Nottingham and south and east Derby.

3.3.14 The countryside access route network in the 6Cs sub-region also includes 249km of Navigable Waterways. These include:

- River Trent;
- River Soar;
- Trent and Mersey Canal;
- Ashby Canal;
- Grantham Canal;
- Beeston Canal;
- Nottingham Canal;

⁴² Promoted Recreational Routes predominantly follow existing Public Rights of Way and cycle routes.

⁴³ This includes both the National Cycle Network and Local cycleways.

- Grand Union Canal; and
- Erewash Canal.

3.3.15 The navigable waterways are an important national, regional and sub-regional recreational resource. They provide opportunities for people to move along generally traffic free corridors and enjoy the opportunities the canals and rivers provide for a diverse range of formal and informal recreational activity such as walking, cycling, boating, fishing and canoeing. They also provide valuable socio-economic and regeneration opportunities. The network is connected to the wider national and regional network of navigable waterways and is an important tourism resource. Much of the network provides access corridors for walking and cycling, and opportunities for people to enjoy a variety of recreational pursuits. The navigable waterways provide a significant strategic network of interconnected access routes linking the three cities.

3.4 Landscape Character and Historic Environment Assets

3.4.1 This section provides an audit of landscape character and historic environment assets in the 6Cs sub-region from a sub-regional perspective based on available data and information.

Landscape Character Assets

National Character

3.4.2 The Character of England Map⁴⁴ identifies 17 broadly-defined 'National Character Areas' wholly or partially within the 6Cs sub-region:

- 30: Southern Magnesian Limestone;
- 38: Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield;
- 48: Trent and Belvoir Vales;
- 49: Sherwood;
- 50: Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent;
- 68: Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands;
- 69: Trent Valley Washlands;
- 70: Melbourne Parklands;
- 71: Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield;
- 72: Mease/Sence Lowlands;
- 73: Charnwood;
- 74: Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds;
- 75: Kesteven Uplands;
- 89: Northamptonshire Vales;
- 93: High Leicestershire;
- 94: Leicestershire Vales;
- 95: Northamptonshire Uplands.

⁴⁴ Character of England Map (Countryside Agency, English Nature, RDS, English Heritage, updated 2006).
2010

3.4.3 The character of the natural and man-made landscape of the above National Character Areas is described within Countryside Character Volume 4: East Midlands⁴⁵. These areas provide a framework for the following more detailed published assessments of landscape character undertaken at the regional and sub-regional scale within the 6Cs sub-region.

Regional Landscape Character

3.4.4 The East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment (EMRLCA)⁴⁶, commissioned by Natural England was published in spring 2010. The aim of the EMRLCA is to increase understanding of the region's varied landscapes by identifying distinctive, rare or special characteristics. The EMRLCA presents objective, non-technical descriptions of each of the 31 regional landscape character types. It also considers the implications of forces for change in the landscape and provides guidance to counter adverse impacts and promote positive change.

3.4.5 The innovative approach to this study has pioneered new methods of assessment and has been undertaken in line with the most up-to-date guidance and methodologies. The report and accompanying illustrations provide an accessible overview of the region's diverse landscape, as well as informing strategic initiatives and decision making which may have an impact on the character and identity of the landscape. The assessment is anticipated to act as a stimulus for a range of positive initiatives and to raise awareness of environmental issues, helping decision-makers and stakeholders to demand higher standards of design and development across the region in the future. Together with County Landscape Character Assessments (see following paragraphs), the Regional Landscape Character Assessment will provide decision-makers in the 6Cs sub-region with information and guidance to inform the design of GI networks.

3.4.6 The following Regional Landscape Character Types fall within the 6Cs sub-region:

- 3a: Floodplain Valleys
- 4a: Unwooded Vales
- 5a: Village Farmlands
- 5b: Wooded Village Farmlands
- 5c: Undulating Mixed Farmlands
- 6d: Limestone Farmlands
- 8a: Clay Wolds
- 9a: Settled Coalfield Farmlands
- 10b: Sandstone Forest and Heaths
- 10c: Wooded Slopes and Valleys
- 10d: Forested Ancient Hills
- 11a: Open Moors and Inbye Land

⁴⁵ Countryside Character Volume 4: East Midlands (Countryside Agency, 1997).

⁴⁶ The EMRLCA is available from www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/east_midlands/ourwork/characterassessment.aspx.

Sub-Regional Landscape Character

3.4.7 At the sub-regional scale, Landscape Character Assessments published for Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire define landscape character units at the County level. These are listed below.

Derbyshire Landscape Character Assessment

3.4.8 In the context of the 6 National Character Areas covering Derbyshire, the Landscape Character Assessment for Derbyshire⁴⁷ identifies 17 Landscape Character Types⁴⁸ within the 6Cs sub-region (see [Figure 3.3a](#) and [Table 3.4](#)):

Table 3.4 – Derbyshire Landscape Character Types within the 6Cs Sub-Region

National Character Areas		Derbyshire Landscape Character Types	
50:	Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent	D1 D2 D3 D4 D6	Enclosed Moors and Heaths Wooded Slopes and Valleys Wooded Farmlands Gritstone Heaths and Commons Riverside Meadows
38:	Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfields;	D6 D8 D10 D11	Riverside Meadows Coalfield Village Farmlands Coalfield Estatelands Plateau Estate Farmlands
68:	Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands	D5 D6 D9 D13	Settled Farmlands Riverside Meadows Estate Farmlands Sandstone Slopes and Heaths
69:	Trent Valley Washlands	D6 D14 D15	Riverside Meadows Lowland Village Farmlands Wet Pasture Meadows
70:	Melbourne Parklands	D6 D9 D13 D16	Riverside Meadows Estate Farmlands Sandstone Slopes and Heaths Wooded Estatelands
71:	Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield	D8	Coalfield Village Farmlands
72:	Mease/Sence Lowlands	D6 D17	Riverside Meadows Village Estate Farmlands

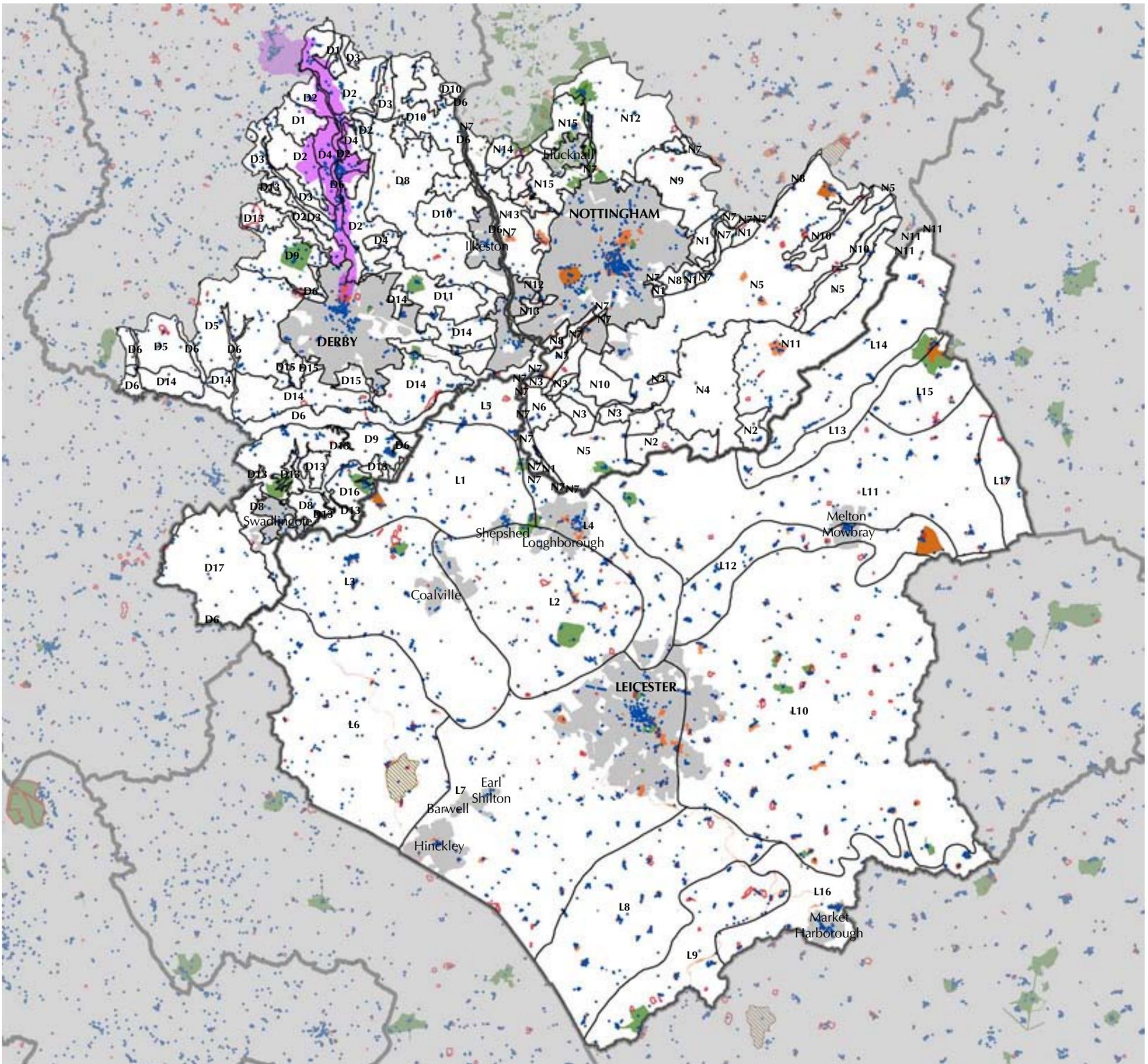
Nottinghamshire Landscape Character Assessment

3.4.9 In the context of the 6 National Character Areas covering Nottinghamshire, the Landscape Character Assessment for Nottinghamshire⁴⁹ identifies 15 Landscape Character Types⁵⁰ within the 6Cs sub-region (see [Figure 3.3a](#) and [Table 3.5](#)):

⁴⁷ The Landscape Character of Derbyshire (Derbyshire County Council, 2003).

⁴⁸ Landscape Character Types are generic units of landscape with a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently throughout an area, for example 'Wooded Hills and Valleys'.

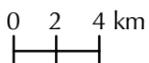
⁴⁹ Nottinghamshire Countryside Appraisal (Nottinghamshire County Council, 1998)



KEY

- Published Landscape Character Units**
- Derbyshire Landscape Character Types**
- D1 Enclosed Moors and Heaths
 - D2 Wooded Slopes and Valleys
 - D3 Wooded Farmlands
 - D4 Gritstone Heaths and Commons
 - D5 Settled Farmlands
 - D6 Riverside Meadows
 - D8 Coalfield Village Farmlands
 - D9 Estate Farmlands
 - D10 Coalfield Estatelands
 - D11 Plateau Estate Farmlands
 - D13 Sandstone Slopes and Heaths
 - D14 Lowland Village Farmlands
 - D15 Wet Pasture Meadows
 - D16 Wooded Estatelands
 - D17 Village Estate Farmlands
- Nottinghamshire Landscape Character Types**
- N1 Terrace Farmlands
 - N2 Clay Wolds
 - N3 Wooded Hills and Scarps
 - N4 Wooded Clay Wolds
 - N5 Village Farmlands
 - N6 Alluvial Estatelands
 - N7 River Meadowlands
 - N8 River Valley Wetlands
 - N9 Dumble Farmlands
 - N10 Alluvial Farmlands
 - N11 Vale Farmlands
 - N12 Forest Sandlands
 - N13 Coalfields Farmlands
 - N14 Limestone Fringe
 - N15 Limestone Farmlands
- Leicestershire Landscape Character Areas**
- L1 Langley Lowlands
 - L2 Charnwood Forest
 - L3 The Coalfield
 - L4 Soar Valley
 - L5 Trent Valley
 - L6 Mease/Sence Lowlands
 - L7 Upper Soar
 - L8 Lutterworth Lowlands
 - L9 Laughton Hills
 - L10 High Leicestershire
 - L11 The Wolds
 - L12 Wreake Valley
 - L13 Belvoir Scarp
 - L14 Vale of Belvoir
 - L15 Knipton Bowl
 - L16 Welland Valley
 - L17 Cottesmore Plateau
- Designated Historic Environment Assets**
- Scheduled Monuments
 - Historic Battlefields
 - Conservation Areas
 - Listed Buildings
 - Hinckley Heritage Assets
 - Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site
 - Parks & Gardens of Historic Interest
 - Major Settlements
 - County Boundaries

This figure represents relevant available information provided by stakeholders at the time of the study, and may not be exhaustive. The accuracy of digital datasets received, which have been used in good faith without modification or enhancement, cannot be guaranteed. The Strategic GI Network Plan illustrates indicative GI assets at a strategic level, which do not necessarily indicate a constraint on development.



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Figure 3.3a
Landscape Character and Historic Environment - Existing Strategic Assets

Table 3.5 -- Nottinghamshire Landscape Character Types within the 6Cs Sub-Region

National Character Areas		Nottinghamshire Landscape Character Types	
74:	Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds	N1 N2 N3 N4 N5 N6	Terraced Farmlands Clay Wolds Wooded Hills and Scarps Wooded Clay Wolds Village Farmlands Alluvial Estatelands
48:	Trent and Belvoir Vales The County Assessment has divided this National Character Area into four distinct regions: Trent Washlands	N1 N7 N8	Village Farmlands River Meadowlands River Valley Wetlands
	Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands	N9	Dumble Farmlands
	South Nottinghamshire Farmlands	N10	Village Farmlands Alluvial Levels
	Vale of Belvoir	N11	Vale Farmlands
49:	Sherwood	N12 N13 N7 N9	Forest Sandlands Coalfields Farmlands River Meadowlands Dumble Farmlands
69:	Trent Valley Washlands	N7 N1	River Meadowlands Village Farmlands
38:	Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield	N13 N7 N14	Coalfields Farmlands River Meadowlands Limestone Fringe
30:	Southern Magnesian Limestone	N15 N13 N12 N7 N14	Limestone Farmlands Coalfields Farmlands Forest Sandlands River Meadowlands Limestone Fringe

Leicestershire Landscape Character Assessment

3.4.10 In the context of the 11 National Character Areas covering Leicestershire, the Landscape Character Assessment for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland⁵¹ identifies 14 Landscape Character Areas⁵² within the 6Cs sub-region (see **Figure 3.3a** and **Table 3.6**):

Table 3.6 – Leicestershire Landscape Character Types within the 6Cs Sub-Region

National Character Areas		Leicestershire Landscape Character Areas	
70:	Melbourne Parklands	L1	Langley Lowlands
73:	Charnwood	L2	Charnwood Forest
71:	Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield	L3	The Coalfield
69:	Trent Valley Washlands	L4 L5	Soar Valley Trent Valley

⁵⁰ Landscape Character Types are generic units of landscape with a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently throughout an area, for example 'Wooded Hills and Valleys'.

⁵¹ Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Landscape and Woodland Strategy (Leicestershire County Council, 2001, Addendum 2006).

⁵² Landscape Character Areas are discrete geographical areas with a distinct and recognisable pattern of landscape, typically associated with a place, for example 'Vale of Belvoir'.

National Character Areas		Leicestershire Landscape Character Areas	
72:	Mease/Sence Lowlands	L6	Mease/Sence Lowlands
94:	Leicestershire Vales	L6 L7 L8 L9	Mease/Sence Lowlands Upper Soar Lutterworth Lowlands Laughton Hills
93:	High Leicestershire	L10	High Leicestershire
74:	Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds	L11 L12 L13 L14 L15	The Wolds Wreake Valley Belvoir Scarp Vale of Belvoir Knipton Bowl
48:	Trent and Belvoir Vales	L14	Vale of Belvoir
89:	Northamptonshire Vales	L9 L16	Laughton Hills Welland Valley
75:	Kesteven Uplands	L17 L11	Cottesmore Plateau The Wolds

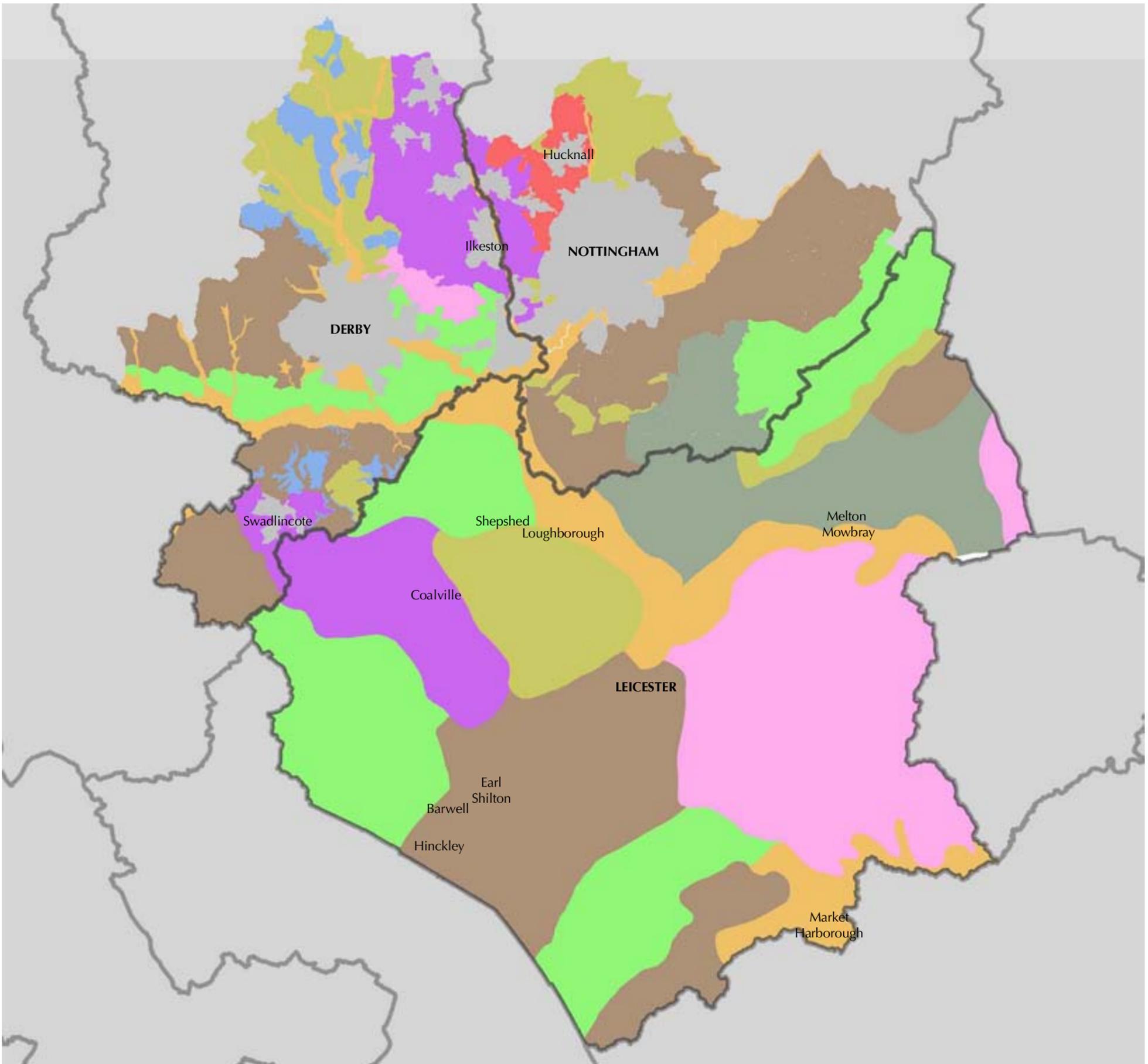
Consolidated Landscape Character Types for the 6Cs Sub-Region

- 3.4.11 The Landscape Character Assessments for Nottinghamshire (1998) and Derbyshire (2003) followed the Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland (2002)⁵³. As a result they show a good degree of consistency and continuity of approach across the county boundaries, both identifying Landscape Character Types at a similar scale of resolution set within the framework of the National Character Areas. However, the Leicestershire Landscape Character Assessment was published in 2001 following guidance that differs from the current established approach adopted in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, resulting in little consistency in terms of the landscape classification and mapping of landscape character units especially where these meet at the county boundaries.
- 3.4.12 In order to provide a consistent framework for understanding variations in landscape character across the 6Cs sub-region as a whole, the landscape character units defined by the three County Landscape Character Assessments have been reviewed and grouped together into ‘Consolidated Landscape Character Types’ (see [Figure 3.3b](#) and [Table 3.7](#)).

Table 3.7 – Consolidated landscape Character Types

County Landscape Character Types (see Fig A3.3a) (D = Derbyshire/N = Nottinghamshire/L = Leicestershire)	Consolidated Landscape Character Types (see Fig A3.3b)
Wooded Slopes and Valleys (D2) Wooded Farmlands (D3) Wooded Estatelands (D16) Wooded Hills and Scarps (N3) Forest Sandlands (N12) Charnwood Forest (L2) Belvoir Scarp (L13)	Wooded Farmlands
Riverside Meadows (D6)	River Valley Meadowlands/Farmlands

⁵³ Landscape Character Assessment : Guidance for England and Scotland (Countryside Agency/Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002).
2010



KEY

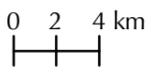


Consolidated Landscape Character Types

- Clay Wold Farmlands
- Coalfield Farmlands
- Limestone Farmlands
- Lowland Farmlands
- Moors, Heaths and Commons
- Plateaux/Estate Farmlands
- River Valley Meadowlands/Farmlands
- Rolling Settled/Estate Farmlands
- Urban
- Wooded Farmlands

County Boundaries

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Figure 3.3b
Landscape Character and Historic Environment - Consolidated Landscape Character Types

County Landscape Character Types (see Fig A3.3a) (D = Derbyshire/N = Nottinghamshire/L = Leicestershire)	Consolidated Landscape Character Types (see Fig A3.3b)
Wet Pasture Meadows (D15) Terrace Farmlands (N1) River Meadowlands (N7) River Valley Wetlands (N8) Soar Valley (L4) Trent Valley (L5) Wreake Valley (L12) Welland Valley (L16)	
Settled Farmlands (D5) Estate Farmlands (D9) Village Estate Farmlands (D17) Village Farmlands (N5) Alluvial Estatelands (N6) Dumble Farmlands (N9) Alluvial Levels (N6) Upper Soar (L7) Loughton Hills (L9) Knipton Bowl (L15)	Rolling Settled/Estate Farmlands
Coalfield Village Farmlands (D8) Coalfield Estatelands (D10) Coalfield Farmlands (N13) The Coalfield (L3)	Coalfield Farmlands
Plateau Estate Farmlands (D11) High Leicestershire (L10) Cottesmore Plateau (L17)	Plateau/Estate Farmlands
Enclosed Moors and Heaths (D1) Gritstone Heaths and Commons (D4) Sandstone Slopes and Heaths (D13)	Moors, Heaths and Commons
Lowland Village Farmlands (D14) Vale Farmlands (N11) Langley Lowlands (L1) Mease/Sence Lowlands (L6) Lutterworth Lowlands (L8) Vale of Belvoir (L14)	Lowland Farmlands
Clay Wolds (N2) Wooded Clay Wolds (N4) The Wolds (L11)	Clay Wold Farmlands
Limestone Fringe (N14) Limestone Farmlands (N15)	Limestone Farmlands

3.4.13 Although the Leicestershire Landscape Character Assessment defines Landscape Character Areas, these are in effect Landscape Character Types. By using the information provided within the Leicestershire Landscape Character Assessment report it has been possible to ascribe Landscape Character Type names to each area of its Areas. It should also be noted, however, that the 'Types' within Leicestershire are defined at a much broader scale than those within Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. This consolidation exercise did not attempt to revise the boundaries defined by the County Landscape Character Assessments, but simply to apply the available information in a way that enabled a degree of consistency across the 6Cs sub-region.

District/Borough Landscape Character Assessments

3.4.14 Landscape Character Assessments have been prepared for the following Districts/Boroughs within the 6Cs sub-region:

- Blaby District Council;
- Harborough District Council;
- Greater Nottingham;
- Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council;
- Leicester City Council (as part of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Landscape and Woodland Strategy);
- Melton Borough Council; and
- Oadby & Wigston Borough Council.

3.4.15 At the time of this audit, Landscape Character Assessments have not yet been prepared for the following Districts/Boroughs within the 6Cs sub-region:

- Ashfield District;
- Broxtowe Borough;
- Gedling Borough;
- Rushcliffe Borough;
- North West Leicestershire District; and
- Charnwood Borough.

The following Boroughs and Districts are included in 'the Landscape Character of Derbyshire:

- Amber Valley Borough;
- Erewash Borough
- Derby City Council;
- South Derbyshire District.

Other Landscape Character Assessments

3.4.16 Landscape Character Assessments have also been prepared for The National Forest (covering parts of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, Charnwood Borough, North West Leicestershire District, South Derbyshire District Council and East Staffordshire Borough Council) and Charnwood Forest (covering parts of Charnwood Borough, North-West Leicestershire District and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough).

Historic Landscape Character Assessments

3.4.17 Historic Landscape Character (HLC) analysis comprises a comprehensive consideration of the present day landscape identifying its historic origins and describing its character and distinctive elements. The latter, often perceived as 'natural', are nevertheless the product of centuries of human action – e.g. hedgerows, woodland, ponds and modified watercourses. They also take

account of more intangible matters reflected in its physical structure: time-depth and patterns such as settlement, land-use and the mixture of enclosed and non-enclosed land, arable and grazing, woodland and parkland. Historic Landscape Character analysis divides the landscape into a series of pre-defined categories of HLC Types based on current and historic mapping, aerial photography, historic and natural environment data, land-use and appearance. Examples include different types of woodland (recent plantations, ancient woodland), heathland and common, areas mainly characterised by mineral extraction or industry, and ornamental designed landscapes. Using various techniques and media, HLC assessments provide, with some exceptions for urban areas, a seamless analysis of the the 6Cs sub-region. The individual studies underline both the diversity and coherence of the landscape and the fundamental contribution the historic environment makes to its character and form.

3.4.18 In the 6Cs sub-region, each of the three Counties has developed Historic Landscape Character Assessments to varying degrees of consistency. The Nottinghamshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment programme was one of the first in England, and the resulting mapping of Historic Landscape Types is not considered by the County Council to be as robust as that achieved by later work developed for Derbyshire and Leicestershire. It is understood that there are currently no plans to update the Nottinghamshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment in line with more recent best practice. Derbyshire County Council has developed a methodology for analysing the historic landscape data provided by their Historic Landscape Character Assessment, within the framework of the Landscape Character Types defined by the County Landscape Character Assessment, to identify strategic historic landscapes within the Derbyshire part of the 6Cs sub-region. The Leicestershire study, which includes analysis of Leicester and the Leicestershire sub-regional centres (Coalville, Loughborough, Hinckley [including Barwell and Earl Shilton], Loughborough [including Shepshed], Market Harborough and Melton Mowbray) has been recently completed and is schedule for publication in mid 2010. The project has been undertaken using the latest techniques and utilising current GIS technologies throughout the project.

Historic Environment Assets

3.4.19 This audit identifies and maps designated historic environment assets in the 6Cs sub-region related to the built heritage, archaeology and historic designed landscapes. The extent and distribution of the designated historic environment assets is shown on [Figure 3.3a](#) and includes:

- Scheduled Monuments;
- Historic Battlefields;
- Conservation Areas;
- Listed Buildings;
- World Heritage Sites; and
- Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest.

Scheduled Monuments

3.4.20 Scheduled Monuments are archaeological and historical sites of national importance. Scheduled Monuments are not always ancient, or visible above ground. There are over 200 'classes' of Scheduled Monuments ranging from prehistoric standing stones and burial mounds, through the many types of medieval site - castles, monasteries, abandoned farmsteads and villages - to the more recent results of human activity, such as collieries and wartime pillboxes. There are currently about 31,400 Scheduled Monuments in England.

3.4.21 There are currently 354⁵⁴ Scheduled Monuments throughout the 6Cs sub-region, with certain Landscape Character Types containing a greater distribution than others. For example:

- The Plateau and Estate Farmlands contain a wide distribution of Deserted Medieval Villages, Medieval monastic sites, Manorial and moated sites;
- The River Valley Farmlands contain a wide distribution of Deserted Medieval Villages and Medieval settlement remains, as well as scattered bridges and Roman forts;
- The Coalfield Farmlands contain scattered evidence of sites of Iron Age settlements and coal mining remains; and
- The Rolling Settled/Estate Farmlands contain a wide distribution of sites of medieval settlement and scattered Romano-British villas.

Historic Battlefield

3.4.22 The English Heritage *Register of Historic Battlefields* identifies 43 important English battlefields. Its purpose is to offer them protection and to promote a better understanding of their significance. The Battle of Bosworth Field in Leicestershire is the only Registered Historic Battlefield Site within the 6Cs sub-region.

Conservation Areas

3.4.23 Conservation Areas are designated areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. There are 400 Conservation Areas within the 6Cs sub-region (91 in Derbyshire, 76 in Nottinghamshire and 233 in Leicestershire). These Conservation Areas vary in size, and often include clusters of Listed Buildings (see below); however, other features of merit, such as open spaces, trees, historic street patterns or items of historic or archaeological interest, may also contribute to the special character of an area. The Conservation Areas are widely distributed reflecting the historic settlement pattern of the 6Cs sub-region. The majority are focussed on the historic cores of settlements, including rural villages, larger settlements and the three cities of Leicester, Derby and Nottingham.

⁵⁴ Data from the English Heritage Scheduled Monuments GIS dataset.
2010

Listed Buildings

3.4.24 Listed Buildings are buildings of special architectural or historic interest. Listed buildings are classified into grades to show their relative importance:

- Grade I - buildings of exceptional interest (around 2% of all listed buildings);
- Grade II* - particularly important and of more than special interest (around 4% of all listed buildings); and
- Grade II - buildings of special interest, which warrant every effort being made to preserve them.

3.4.25 There are 8048 Listed Buildings of all grades within the 6Cs sub-region, representing a range of buildings and structures such as:

- Farmhouses, barns, coachhouses, houses and cottages;
- Chest tombs and headstones;
- Abbey ruins;
- Churches, churchyard walls and chapels;
- Manors and halls;
- Almshouses;
- Aqueducts;
- Canal locks, canal bridges, canal mileposts and footbridges;
- Dovecotes;
- Granaries;
- Mills;
- Village crosses, stocks and pumps
- Ice houses;
- Castles;
- Railway bridges and viaducts;
- Boathouses;
- Boundary posts, stones and walls;
- Stable blocks;
- Walls and kitchen garden walls;
- Water pumps and water mills.

Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest

3.4.26 The English Heritage *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England* identifies nearly 1450 sites divided into three grade bands to give added guidance on their significance. The majority of the sites identified through the Register as being of a sufficiently high level of interest to merit a national designation, are designated grade II. Around 30% of the 1450 are considered to be of exceptional historic interest and are awarded grade II* status. A further 10% are of international importance, and are classified as grade I.

3.4.27 Within the 6Cs sub-region there are 48 Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, including the following which are graded as being of international importance or exceptional historic interest:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Grade</i>
Kedleston Hall	I
Melbourne Hall	I
Annesley Hall	II*
Calke Abbey	II*
Coleorton Hall	II*
Derby Arboretum	II*
Elvaston Castle	II*
Hunger Hill Gardens, Stonepit Coppice Gardens and Gorseyclose Gardens	II*
Newstead Abbey	II*
Papplewick Hall	II*
Staunton Harold Hall	II*
Swarkstone Old Hall	II*
Wollaton Hall	II*

World Heritage Site

3.4.28 A World Heritage Site is a place of outstanding international importance for the conservation of universal cultural and natural heritage. There are currently 878 World Heritage Sites worldwide, and 27 in the UK including the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site within the 6Cs sub-region. The justification for inscription of the Site states that the *‘Derwent Valley saw the birth of the factory system, when new types of building were erected to house the new technology for spinning cotton developed by Richard Arkwright in the early 19th century. In the Derwent Valley for the first time there was large-scale industrial production in a hitherto rural landscape. The need to provide housing and other facilities for workers and managers resulted in the creation of the first modern industrial towns.’*

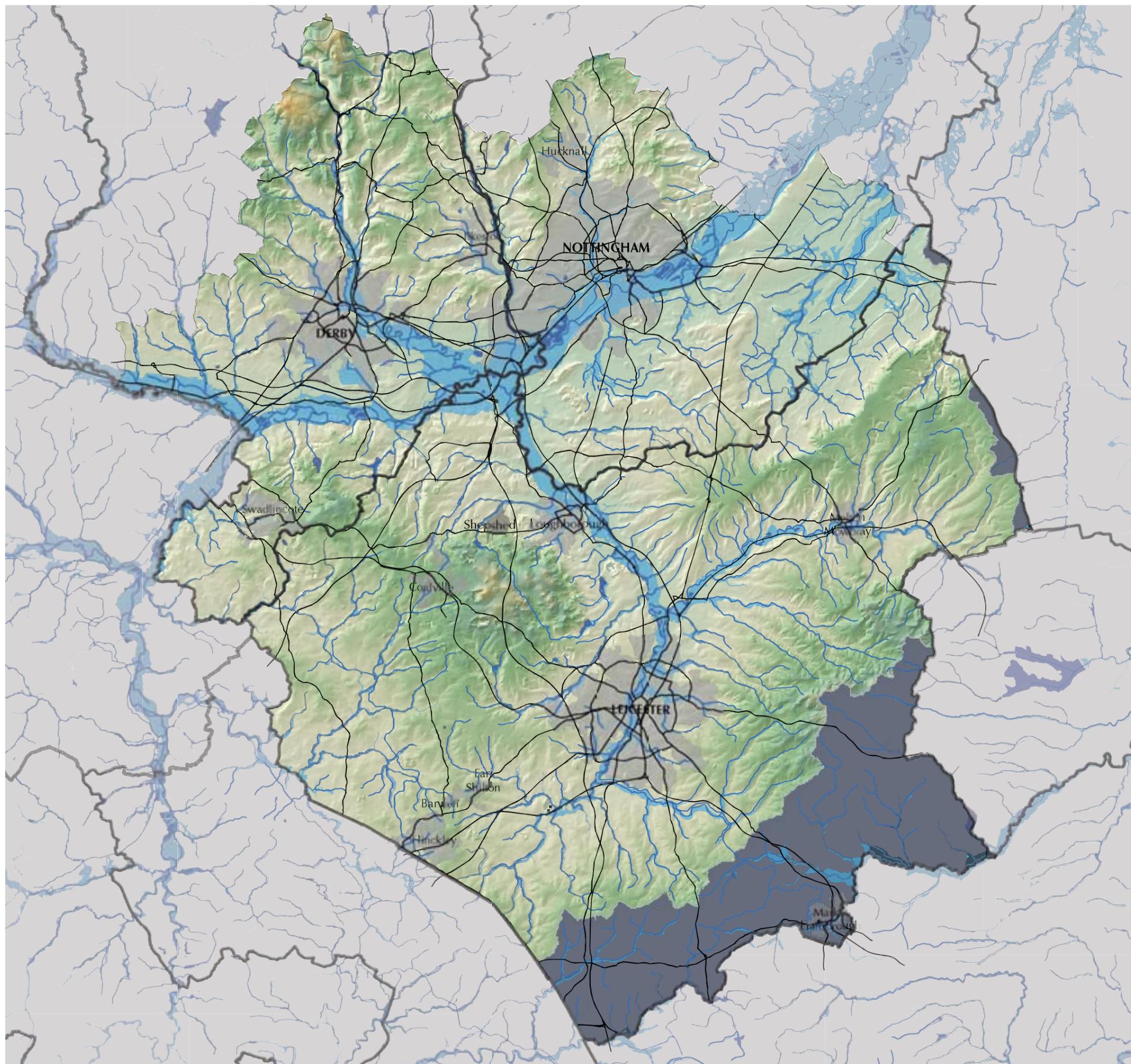
3.5 Natural Processes and Environmental Systems Assets

3.5.1 This section provides an audit of the natural processes and environmental systems that underpin the environmental quality of the 6Cs sub-region from a sub-regional perspective based on available data and information. The audit includes consideration of the following:

- Topography and geology;
- Soils;
- Hydrology;
- Air quality; and
- Climate change.

Topography and Geology

3.5.2 The 6Cs sub-region is underlain by a diverse range of rock types that influence the area’s topography (see [Figure 3.4](#)). The geological variety (see [Figure 3.5](#)) is reflected in the area’s landscapes and natural habitats, which have been shaped from the underlying rock and moulded by physical influences over millennia.



KEY



Hydrology

-  Watercourses
-  Natural Floodplains
-  Waterbodies

Topography

-  Landform
-  Area not covered by Topographical Data

-  Major Settlements
-  County Boundaries
-  Major Roads/Railways

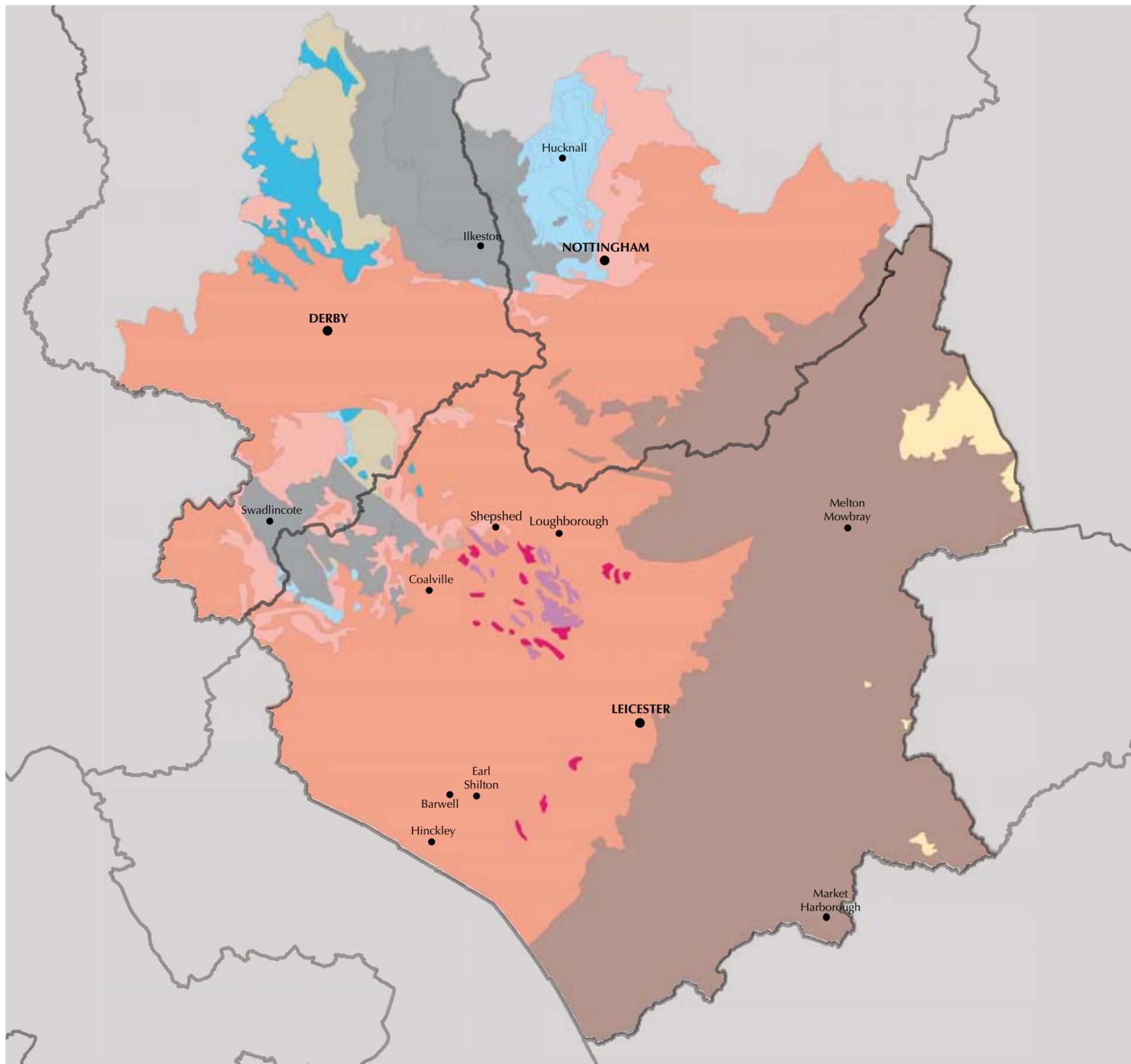
Information provided courtesy of the Environment Agency

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Figure 3.4
Natural Processes and Environmental Systems -
Existing Strategic Assets: Topography and Hydrology



KEY

- Middle Jurassic**
- Lower Jurassic**

- Permo-Triassic**
- Mercia Mudstone
- Sherwood Sandstone
- Zechstein

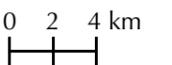
- Carboniferous**
- Pennine Coal Measures
- Millstone Grit
- Carboniferous Limestone

- Pre-Cambrian and Lower Palaeozoic**
- Igneous**



County Boundaries

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Figure 3.5
 Natural Processes and Environmental Systems -
 Existing Strategic Assets: Geology

- 3.5.3 Most of the 6Cs' geology consists of sedimentary rock layers laid down between 340 million and 175 million years ago. Mudstones, limestones, and sandstones accumulated during this time, layer after layer in roughly flat sheets. Subsequent earth movements tilted them down to the east. This has resulted in older rocks exposed in the higher western areas of the 6Cs and younger rocks in the east.
- 3.5.4 The upland area of Charnwood Forest is formed by outcrops of some of the oldest rocks in England, of Precambrian and Cambrian age. The Precambrian rocks are mostly of volcanic origin. These extrusive volcanic rocks have been intruded by coarse grained igneous rocks and have undergone several phases of folding, uplift and weathering. The rocks of Charnwood Forest are unique in yielding the first fossils to be found in Precambrian rocks in the world. They create a well drained heathland landscape with few watercourses. Charnwood's rocks have been extensively quarried and are a major source of rock aggregates, much of which is used to supply construction needs in southern England.
- 3.5.5 The higher ground of the Peak District to the northwest of the 6Cs sub-region is characterised by the Millstone Grit and Carboniferous limestone of the Dark and White Peaks respectively. Smaller inliers of Carboniferous limestone can be seen within the 6Cs area around Ticknall, Breedon Hill and Cloud Hill, and Millstone Grit around Melbourne.
- 3.5.6 The Carboniferous Coal Measures of the Leicester and South Derbyshire Coalfield as well as the southern part of the larger Derbyshire – Nottinghamshire – Yorkshire Coalfield form less prominent higher ground within the area. Sandstone outcrops occur throughout the 6Cs sub-region, the most significant of which are the Permian Lenton Sandstone Formation and the Triassic Sherwood Sandstone Group. These form a broad belt between Nottingham and south Yorkshire, in part underlying the landscape of Sherwood Forest. Other outcrops of the Sherwood Sandstone occur in western Leicestershire and South Derbyshire in the Coalville-Castle Donington – Burton-upon-Trent – Donisthorpe area. The Sherwood Sandstone is a nationally significant aquifer.
- 3.5.7 Succeeding the Sherwood Sandstone are the red mudstones of the Mercia Mudstone Group. These rocks are noted for their gypsum that has been mined and quarried in a number of areas in and just outside the 6Cs sub- region. The youngest rocks in the region are of Jurassic age, lying in east of the region and extending from west of Lutterworth up to near Newark. These rocks are mainly mudstones in the lower part and limestones in the upper part in the extreme east. They are generally very fossiliferous.
- 3.5.8 During the Pleistocene period, commencing about 2.6 million years ago, the 6Cs sub-region, like the rest of Britain, was subjected to rapid climate change with many warm and cold periods. 450,000 years ago the entire region was covered by ice, which left behind thick

deposits of till (sandy pebbly clay), and glaciofluvial sand and gravel across the area. Around 15,000 years ago, another ice sheet halted just to the west of the area, leaving it in a tundra-like environment. The modern day river system developed after the earlier ice age and resulted in extensive erosion, depositing gravels (River Terrace Deposits) in much wider floodplains. These deposits have been extensively quarried, giving rise to numerous gravel pits throughout the river valleys.

3.5.9 The 6Cs sub-region has historically provided a significant proportion of the UK's mineral production including coal, aggregates such as sand and gravel and crushed rock - limestone, sandstone and igneous rock, and quantities of gypsum, high purity limestone, fire-clay, brick clay, iron ore, cement, lead, locally distinctive building materials, and oil and gas. Minerals extracted from within the region remain a primary component of the construction, road building, power and other industries.

3.5.10 Although significant disruption occurs to the natural environment around mineral extraction sites, worked out sites have presented significant opportunities for redevelopment and regeneration. These have sometimes been used as landfill sites, and many have been used as nature reserves. Some of these sites contain rare habitats and geological exposures not found elsewhere, and therefore have a high geodiversity and biodiversity value.

3.5.11 Geology has a very strong influence on how the area's catchments respond to rainfall. While the limestone and sandstone in the upland areas are more permeable, their steep slopes can give rise to rapid surface run-off. By comparison, the more dominant mudstone rocks have high clay content and are less permeable and generally low lying, posing a higher flood risk.

3.5.12 There are a number of Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) within the 6Cs sub-region. RIGS were established in 1990 by the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) as a means of recognising sites of regional importance for geological and geomorphological conservation outside of statutorily protected land such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Following DEFRA guidelines and recommendations from UKRIGS, RIGS are generally being reclassified as Local Geological Sites. RIGS are selected on a local or regional basis using four nationally agreed criteria:

- The value of the site for educational purposes in life long learning;
- The value of the site for study by both professional and amateur Earth scientists;
- The historical value of the site in terms of important advances in Earth science knowledge, events or human exploitation; and
- The aesthetic value of a site in the landscape, particularly in relation to promoting public awareness and appreciation of Earth sciences.

3.5.13 In summary, key geological and mineral assets within the 6Cs sub-region are:

- Large river valleys of the River Trent and its main tributaries, the Soar, Derwent and Dove and Wreake. These were created by erosion initiated by meltwater from the glaciations;
- Sand and gravel (River Terrace Deposits) found adjacent to the alluvium along the outer extents of the valley floor and deposited by the rivers when they were much larger and faster flowing;
- Limestone outcrops of Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire;
- The history of aggregate extraction in the major river floodplains as evidenced by the sand and gravel pits;
- Hard rock outcrops in and near Charnwood Forest, Sherwood Forest, Matlock and the Belvoir Scarp quarried for aggregate;
- Coal deposits in each of the area's three counties, but particularly north of Nottingham and Derby, in the Swadlincote - Ashby-Coalville area;
- Extensive mudstone deposit that have been used for brick clay at various times;
- Soft sandstones in Nottinghamshire;
- Ironstone quarried for iron ore on the Belvoir escarpment;
- Gypsum mined and quarried at various localities, including high quality alabaster used for carving;
- Buried coal deposits in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire and Derbyshire;
- A wide variety of rocks used for building stone, such as for example Cambrian Swithland Slate, Carboniferous Sandstones, Permian Bulwell Stone, Triassic Sandstones and Jurassic Limestones, Ironstones and Sandstones.

3.5.14 The area's large number of SSSIs relate to geology and Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS).

Soils

3.5.15 Soil develops from the interaction between geology, climate and vegetation. It acts as a medium for storing water and nutrients for plants, is the foundation of food production, and supports a diversity of flora and fauna. It also filters and buffers substances that might otherwise pollute water. However, once soil is contaminated or physically degraded, it will remain in that state unless action is taken to remedy or mitigate the problem. Because of its many functions and economic value to agriculture and forestry, soil is a vital resource in the 6Cs sub-region.

3.5.16 There are a wide range of soils across the 6Cs sub-region. These are associated with the underlying geology and land use. In general, the area's main soil type is 'loamy', which is moderately well-drained but can become seasonally waterlogged. Soils to the north of Nottingham are sandy and tend to be better drained and more permeable. However, they tend to be more susceptible to soil erosion on steeper slopes, as in parts of Sherwood Forest. Pockets of impermeable clayey soils to the east of Loughborough can result in local rapid runoff. This fast runoff can give rise to localised flooding, particularly in smaller rivers such as the Wreake.

3.5.17 The 6Cs sub-region has a high percentage of 'best and most versatile agricultural land' (grade 1 – approximately 66ha, grade 2 – approximately 47642ha, and grade 3a – dataset unavailable to quantify grade 3a specifically [grade 3 which includes grade 3a and 3b is approximately

23189ha)). These are the most important types of soils for food production, and are a valued resource. Upland soils and vegetation are sensitive to damage from recreational activities and over-grazing. Subsequent erosion can lead to the siltation of water courses and riparian habitats. In other areas such as the lighter sands of Nottinghamshire, soils are being eroded by wind and activities surrounding pig farming.

Hydrology

- 3.5.18 The hydrological pattern of the 6Cs sub-region is illustrated in [Figure 3.4](#). Most of the 6Cs sub-region lies within the River Trent catchment area. This includes the River Trent and its main tributaries of the Soar, Derwent and Dove. Other large tributaries include the Erewash, Wreake, and Mease, which are themselves fed by many smaller streams.
- 3.5.19 The Peak District forms the highest parts of the River Trent catchment, and is primarily drained by the headwaters of the River Derwent. The River Dove also has its source in the Peak District in the Axe Edge moors, and the River Trent rises further to the west in the Staffordshire moorlands which form the western edge of the Peak District. The River Welland lies along the southern boundary of the 6Cs sub-region. Its headwaters are around Market Harborough. The river has many small tributaries in the hilly south eastern portion of the sub-region.
- 3.5.20 The Peak District receives the East Midland region's highest precipitation, in excess of 1400mm per year on average. This amount declines as elevation decreases to the east of the Peak District, with southeast Leicestershire receiving an average of 560mm per year. As a whole, England receives 828mm on average highlighting that parts of the 6Cs sub-region are much drier than the national average. Precipitation is more or less equally spread throughout the year, although the late Winter and Spring tend to have the least amounts of rain.
- 3.5.21 Groundwater plays an important role for public water supply in the 6Cs sub-region. For example, 80% of Nottinghamshire's public water supply is provided by groundwater. In addition, it supports flows in many rivers, and provides water for agriculture. This is especially true in the eastern areas of the 6Cs sub-region, which receive the smallest amount of rainfall in the area.
- 3.5.22 The Sherwood Sandstone Group outcrop, which forms a broad belt between Nottingham and south Yorkshire, is the second most important aquifer in England, providing a water supply for the wider area. There are also other geological formations that contain aquifers in the west of the 6Cs sub-region, including the Lower Magnesian Limestone (Cadeby Formation), and Carboniferous limestone. In the east of the region, the Lincolnshire Limestone forms an aquifer. Other minor aquifers include sandstone beds in the Coal Measures and Millstone Grit. The extensive river terraces in the main river valleys form an important aquifer, particularly along

the Trent valley; Water quality in the 6Cs sub-region's aquifers is generally good, although some areas experience rising nitrate concentrations.

- 3.5.23 The main aquifers are very vulnerable at outcrop to surface pollution where they are not protected by overlying low permeability superficial deposits. This is particularly relevant to the Sherwood Sandstone due to its high porosity and to the fracture-flow dominated Lincolnshire Limestone.
- 3.5.24 Within the 6Cs sub-region, the large coal-fired power station at Ratcliffe-on-Soar takes about 48 million cubic metres of water a year from the River Trent for cooling. Evaporative losses account for some 11 million cubic metres of that water.
- 3.5.25 There is currently no capacity for additional water supply through groundwater abstraction throughout the majority of the 6Cs sub-region. There is some capacity to abstract water from the River Trent and parts of the River Soar in summer and in winter from most of the area's rivers. To the northeast of Nottingham, licensed surface or groundwater abstractions exceed the sustainable limit, potentially affecting rivers and wetlands. Abstraction by farmers for spray irrigation is mainly taken in the summer months when river flows are typically at their lowest. The result is that peak day irrigation demands in the region can exceed available public supply. Because of evaporative losses, very little of the irrigation water is returned to its source which means that it becomes unavailable to downstream users.
- 3.5.26 The 6Cs sub-region contains nine large reservoirs that provide the area with potable water supply: Staunton Harold; Foremark; Blackbrook; Thornton; Cropston; Swithland; Saddington; Eyebrook; and Knipton. Many of these reservoirs offer wildlife habitats and opportunities for recreational uses such as fishing, bird watching, sailing and walking. Water from these reservoirs is typically treated prior to being delivered to industrial or household users. Rutland Water is a large reservoir east of the 6Cs sub-region, and the Carsington reservoir is situated in the hills to the east of the Peak District. Reservoirs in the area are sometimes also used as micro hydro-electric power generation, for flood storage and farmland irrigation.
- 3.5.27 There has been a trend of improvement in river water quality in the 6Cs sub-region, particularly since the 1990s. There is recent evidence of a slight downturn in quality, which may be due to recent weather conditions. Eutrophication, or excessive plant growth that results in lack of oxygen and reductions in fish and other aquatic populations as a result of rising nutrient concentrations, is increasingly an issue. Modern agricultural practices produce surpluses of nitrate and phosphorus in the soil, which can result in the pollution of rivers and groundwater through run off and field drainage. As a result, parts of the 6Cs sub-region are classified as 'Groundwater Nitrate Vulnerable Zones'. These are areas that are at risk of having a high nitrate concentration, and they are typically located in areas of intensive arable farming.

- 3.5.28 Floodplains and their Rivers carry out a valuable function in storing and conveying floodwaters to the sea. Rivers and their floodplains can be used to manage flood risk positively by making space available for water. Woodlands and wetlands in particular have the capacity to absorb rainwater, slow down the rate of runoff, and reduce the risk of flooding downstream. The liability of land to flood depends not only topography, but also on how well the soils in an area absorb rainfall, the type of vegetation cover present and how the land is managed. Flood risk is a major economic and social issue in low-lying areas developed on broad floodplains, such as the River Trent valley. Small tributary valleys are not free from risk, as they can be affected by unpredictable 'flash floods' of the type that devastated Louth (Lincolnshire) in 1920, and more recently Northampton, in 1998. Floodplain inundation can be widespread across arable tracts that border river channels, but is particularly damaging in urbanized parts of the floodplain, where housing is dense and drain or sewer systems are unable to cope with significantly raised groundwater levels.
- 3.5.29 The 6Cs sub-region for the most part has a mild climate with a moderate annual rainfall. The area is therefore not particularly prone to prolonged floods, although the Environment Agency identifies the floodplains of the Rivers Trent, Derwent and Soar as being at risk of inundation from a storm event with a 1:100 chance of occurring each year (see [Figure 3.4](#)). Extrapolations over the next 50 or so years suggest that the social, economic and environmental consequences of climate change could be severe (see paragraph 3.5.34 for more information on climate change in the sub-region) and it is also anticipated that the frequency of severe inland flood events, such as that of November 2000, is likely to increase significantly. The floodplain shown on [Figure 3.4](#) is the extent of the natural floodplain if there were no flood defences or certain other manmade structures and channel improvements. It comprises areas that could be flooded from a river by a flood that has a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 chance of happening each year. Specific areas prone to floods lie around the River Trent in Nottingham, and Derby and the River Soar in Leicester and Loughborough. Localised flooding within the 6Cs sub-region has sometimes become exacerbated due to mining subsidence or aggregate abstraction that has been carried out in the floodplains of the River Erewash, River Soar, the lower River Derwent and the River Trent. This has caused increased sediment movement, resulting in culverts, sluice gates and channels sometimes becoming blocked, and causing subsequent flooding. Disruption to natural drainage patterns caused by new development, and run off from hard surfaces can increase flood risks where surface water drainage is not carefully managed.

Air Quality

- 3.5.30 In the 6Cs sub-region, areas failing air quality standards have been designated as 'air quality management areas' around the M1 corridor and major road junctions, and in the cities of Derby, Leicester and Nottingham. Air pollution decreases with distance from the M1 corridor

and the centres of Derby, Leicester and Nottingham, particularly in the eastern portion of the 6Cs sub-region. Tree planting programmes, particularly the larger scale National Forest, Greenwood Community Forest, and the Sherwood Forest initiatives, are helping to improve air quality. Trees are beneficial to air quality as they remove particulate matter from the air, can absorb harmful gases and are a recognised means of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

- 3.5.31 In urban areas, fine particles, sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and ozone are the main pollutants affecting local air quality. In rural areas, ozone is the chief air pollutant. Methane emissions from mines and landfill sites can also be localised sources of pollution.
- 3.5.32 Industrial/manufacturing areas (including power stations) primarily contribute sulphur dioxide (SO₂), and air pollution from these sources is often concentrated downwind of where they are generated. This can cause harm to buildings and contribute to 'acid rain'. The large coal-fired power station at Ratcliffe-on-Soar contains measures to mitigate SO₂, ground level ozone and particulates, and the plant is compliant with the EU Large Combustion Plant Directive.
- 3.5.33 Mineral extraction and processing, whether limestone for cement manufacture or aggregates for construction, can cause localised reduction in air quality due to dust and particulates.
- 3.5.34 Naturally occurring radon gas also affects some small areas of Derbyshire where monitoring of radioactive emissions coming from underground rocks is necessary. Radon is a noxious gas and its presence has a bearing on land use, particularly on the use of land for development.

Climate Change

- 3.5.35 Drawing on the findings of the study 'Potential Impacts of Climate Change in the East Midlands'⁵⁵ published in 2004, the following implications may arise for the 6Cs sub-region:
- Warmer, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters, with more rain in total;
 - Increased flood risk in low-lying urban areas and high quality agricultural land, leading to the need to upgrade flood defences;
 - Increased winter flooding due to higher soil saturation from a greater number of storms;
 - Reduced summer availability of water for extraction from surface rivers, reservoirs and aquifers, and for the survival of wildlife. This could be to some extent offset by increased winter inflows of water to reservoirs and aquifers;
 - Higher temperatures leading to lower air quality and the resultant detrimental affects on respiratory conditions;
 - Increased need for water treatment of turbulent river flows after heavy rains; and
 - Increased soil erosion from flash floods.

⁵⁵ Potential Impacts of Climate Change in the East Midlands, An update of the report for East Midlands Sustainability Round Table, published in July 2000 (Water, B. 2004).

3.5.36 The 6Cs sub-region has a range of assets that have the potential to help adapt to and reduce the effects of climate change. For example:

- Outside of urban areas, the broad river valleys and floodplains with loamy soils provide space for flood attenuation;
- Agricultural land can be used for growing biofuels crops and siting of wind turbines;
- Current large-scale tree planting initiatives can help ameliorate air quality degradation from higher temperatures; and
- Increased use of navigable waterways and disused railways can contribute to more sustainable modes of transport and help reduce carbon emissions and air pollution.

3.6 Strategic GI Assets

3.6.1 Drawing on the mapping and assessment of assets relating to biodiversity, access and recreation, landscape character and historic environment, and natural processes and environmental systems, **Figure 3.6** summarises, in simplified form, the general extent and distribution of the following existing strategic GI assets within the 6Cs sub-region from a sub-regional perspective:

- Natural greenspace⁵⁶;
- Strategic accessible natural greenspace⁵⁷;
- Strategic countryside access routes⁵⁸;
- Historic environment assets⁵⁹; and
- Watercourses and waterbodies⁶⁰; and
- Predominantly undeveloped natural floodplain⁶¹.

3.6.2 The above strategic GI assets provide the foundation for developing a Strategic GI Network for the 6Cs sub-region as a whole. They also provide the starting point for mapping GI that contributes to the Strategic GI Networks for the Three Cities in **Volumes 4, 5, and 6** for the indicative areas shown on **Figure 3.6**.

⁵⁶ For the purposes of the mapping methodology presented in this report, 'natural greenspace' is defined as: land, water or geological features that have been colonised by plants and animals and are dominated by natural processes (as defined by English Nature in Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities).

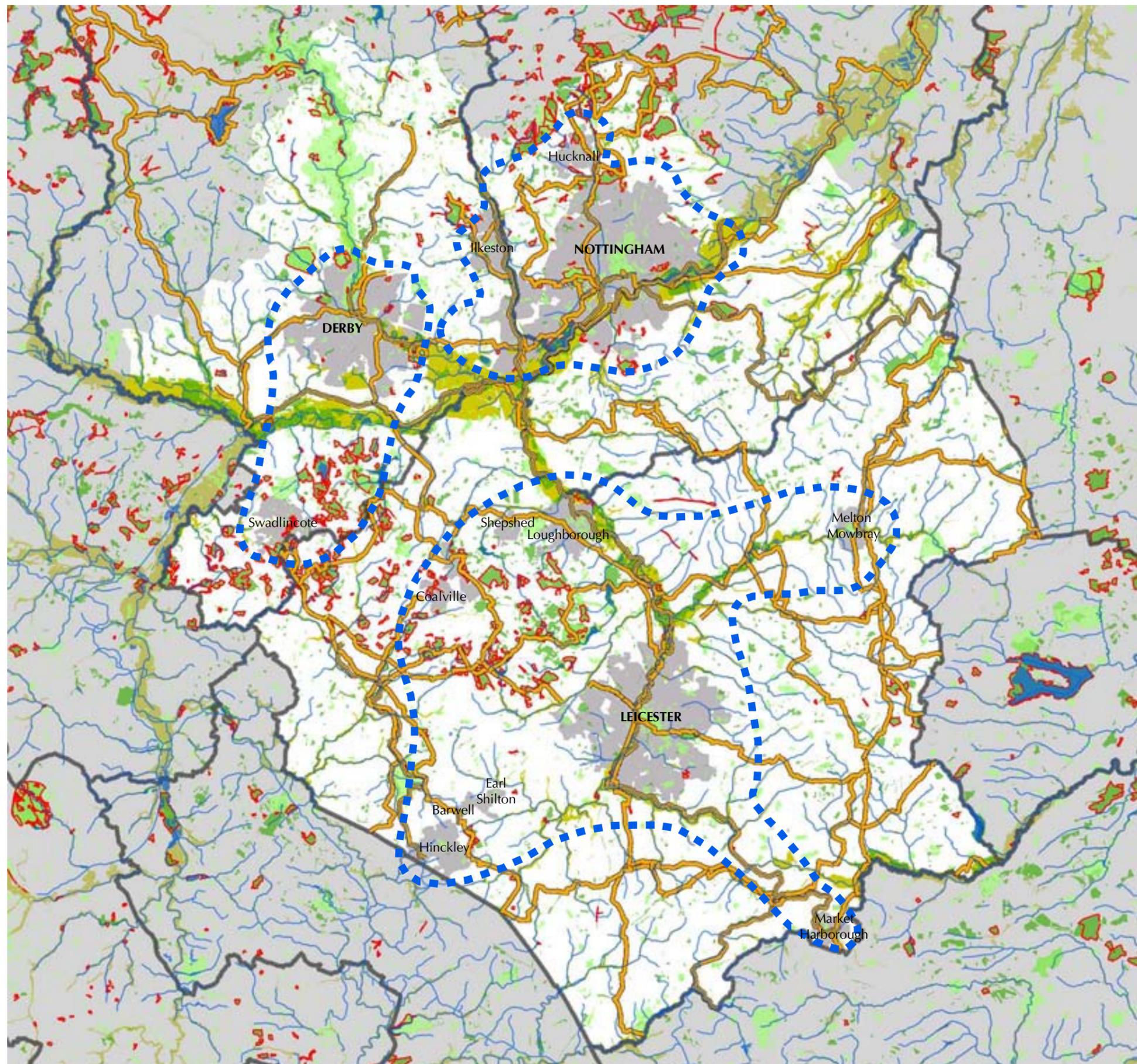
⁵⁷ For the purposes of the mapping methodology presented in this report, 'strategic accessible natural greenspace' is defined as natural greenspace greater than 2ha in size that is normally available for public access on foot, providing opportunities for open access for informal recreational activities.

⁵⁸ For the purposes of the mapping methodology presented in this report, 'strategic countryside access routes' are defined as: linear, generally off-road and car free routes, that are normally available for public access on foot, horseback or by cycle providing opportunities to access the countryside for informal recreation activities. It should be noted that Public Rights of Way have been considered to inform needs and opportunities. However, for presentational purposes they have not been mapped as part of the existing strategic GI assets.

⁵⁹ For the purposes of the mapping methodology presented in this report, 'historic environment assets' are defined as: designated historic environment assets including scheduled monuments, historic battlefields, conservation areas, listed buildings, world heritage sites, and parks and gardens of historic interest.

⁶⁰ For the purposes of the mapping methodology presented in this report, 'watercourses and waterbodies' are as defined by the meridian datasets for 'Lakes' and 'Rivers'.

⁶¹ For the purposes of **Figure 3.6**, the natural floodplain (the extent of the floodplain if there were no flood defences or certain other manmade structures and channel improvements) is shown only in predominantly undeveloped areas outside of the main settlements.



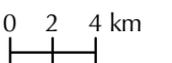
KEY



- Existing Natural Greenspace (see Figure 3.1)
- Existing Strategic Accessible Natural Greenspace (see Figure 3.2a)
- Existing Strategic Countryside Access Routes (see Figure 3.2a)
- Designated Historic Environment Assets (see Figure 3.3)
- Watercourses and Waterbodies (see Figure 3.4)
- Predominantly Undeveloped Natural Floodplain
- Indicative GI Network Areas

- Major Settlements
- County Boundaries

This Figure represents relevant available information provided by stakeholders at the time of the study, and may not be exhaustive. The accuracy of digital datasets received, which have been used in good faith without modification or enhancement, cannot be guaranteed. The Strategic GI Network Plan illustrates indicative GI assets at a strategic level, which do not necessarily indicate a constraint on development.



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4.0 GI FUNCTIONALITY AND NEEDS

4.1 General

4.1.1 The following assessment considers GI functionality and needs within the 6Cs sub-region in relation to:

- the connectivity of the natural greenspace network for wildlife;
- the accessibility of the natural greenspace network for people;
- the distinctiveness of the natural greenspace network;
- target areas for environmental benefits; and
- target areas for public benefits.

4.2 Connectivity of the Natural Greenspace Network for Wildlife

Functionality of Natural/Semi-Natural Habitats

4.2.1 A methodology for biodiversity opportunity network mapping developed by Natural England and the Wildlife Trusts⁶² was piloted in the 6Cs sub-region by CBA during early 2009⁶³. The pilot study tested approaches for assessing the functionality of existing natural greenspace networks to inform identification and mapping of opportunities for restoring and linking characteristic habitats in the context of relevant BAP targets. The pilot study found that while the approach set out in the methodology is sound, further work⁶⁴ would be required to develop and refine the methodology to enable its application as a robust tool to inform decision-making. Notwithstanding this, the principles of the biodiversity opportunity network mapping methodology were applied in developing the following strategic overview of biodiversity functionality and needs within the 6Cs sub-region.

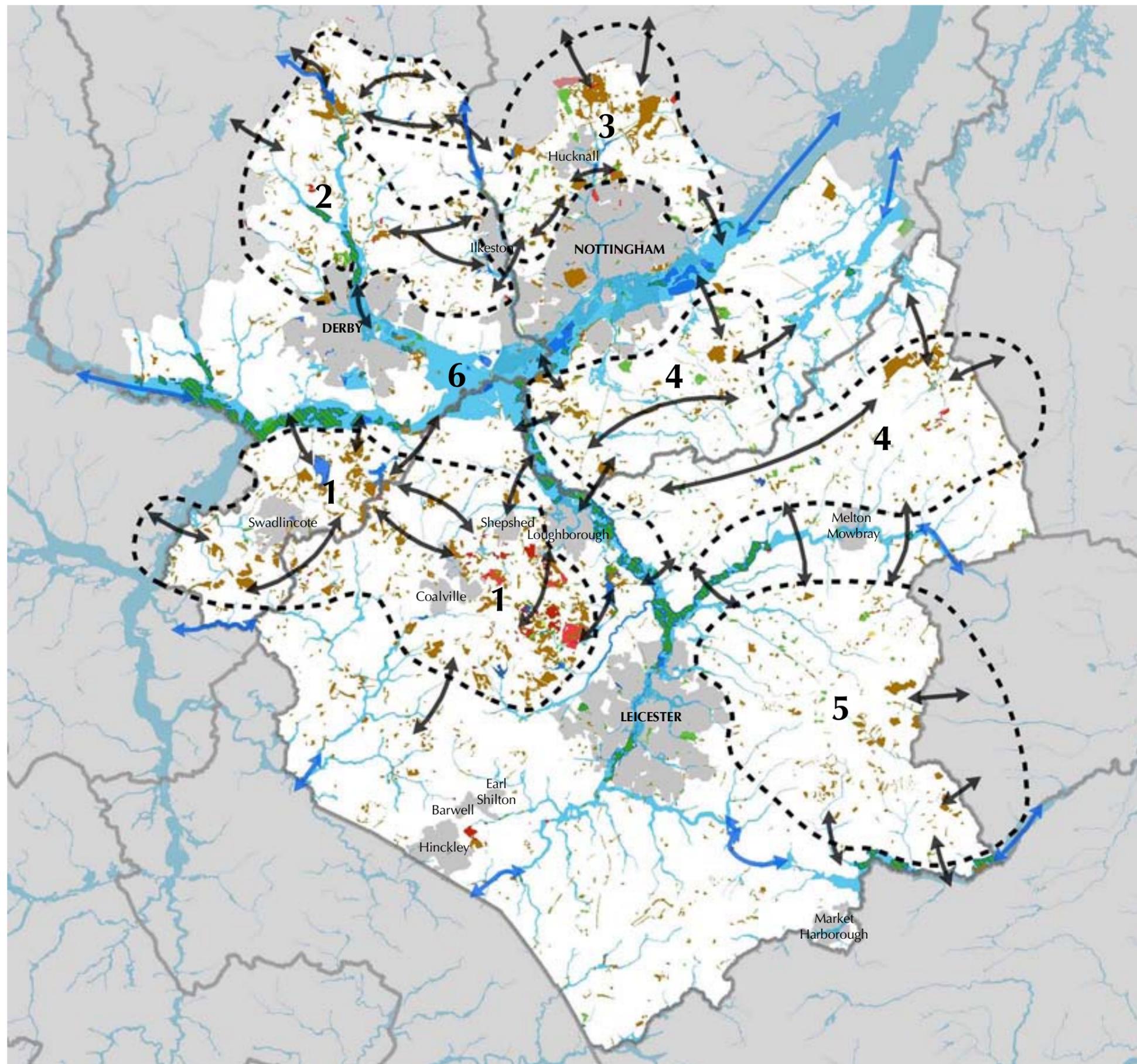
4.2.2 The connectivity of the natural greenspace network for wildlife from a sub-regional perspective is illustrated in **Figure 4.1a**. This shows that the **network of natural/semi-natural greenspaces** (as represented by broad groupings of priority habitat types) within the 6Cs sub-region is highly fragmented, with generally limited extensive areas of continuous habitat of high biodiversity value.

4.2.3 The value of natural/semi-natural habitats across the 6Cs sub-region is reflected in a range of designations, e.g. local wildlife sites. These sites play a key role in providing a connected and permeable landscape for wildlife. This also relies on appropriate land management at a finer scale. They also represent a network of the best existing habitat, which forms the basis for

⁶² Green Infrastructure for the Three Cities: A Methodology for Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping. Unpublished report prepared for and on behalf of Natural England and the Wildlife Trusts (Murray, G, 2008).

⁶³6Cs Growth Point Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Pilot Study. Unpublished report prepared for Natural England (CBA, 2009).

⁶⁴ Natural England are taking forward the recommendations of the CBA Pilot Study through further developmental work.



KEY

Sub-Regional Biodiversity Conservation & Enhancement Areas

Core areas with strategic needs for protecting, buffering, linking and restoring characteristic priority habitats to enhance connectivity of the natural greenspace network for wildlife

- 1 National Forest (including Charnwood Forest and Melbourne Parklands)**
- Woodland, Open Acid Habitat Networks
- 2 Derbyshire Peak Fringe, Lower Derwent & The Coalfields**
- Woodland, Open Acid, Open Neutral Habitat Networks
- 3 Greenwood Community Forest**
- Woodland, Open Acid Habitat Networks
- 4 Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds**
- Woodland Habitat Networks
- 5 Leighfield Forest**
- Woodland, Open Neutral Habitat Networks
- 6 Strategic River Corridors/Natural Floodplains**
- Wetland Habitat Networks

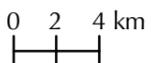
Strategic Needs for Linking Habitat Corridors

- Aquatic/Wetland Corridors
- Terrestrial Corridors

Natural/Semi-Natural Greenspaces (Priority Habitats)

- Open Calcareous**
(Lowland Calcareous Grassland)
- Open Acidic**
(Lowland Dry Acid Grassland; Lowland Heathland; Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture)
- Open Neutral**
(Calaminarian Grasslands; Lowland Meadows; Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land)
- Wetland**
(Eutrophic Standing Waters; Lowland Fens; Ponds; Reedbeds)
- Woodland**
(Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland; Wet Woodland; Wood Pasture & Parkland; National Inventory of Woodland and Trees)
- Open Neutral and Wet**
Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Major Settlements
- County Boundaries

This Figure represents relevant available information provided by stakeholders at the time of the study, and may not be exhaustive. The accuracy of digital datasets received, which have been used in good faith without modification or enhancement, cannot be guaranteed. The Strategic GI Network Plan illustrates indicative GI assets at a strategic level, which do not necessarily indicate a constraint on development.



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Figure 4.1a
Strategic GI Functionality & Needs - Connectivity of the Greenspace Network for Biodiversity

habitat expansion, both supporting development of landscape-scale initiative and of strengthened habitat networks at a more local scale.

Sub-Regional Biodiversity Conservation & Enhancement Areas

4.2.4 Notwithstanding the above, there are a number of broad areas within the 6Cs sub-region that support relatively high concentrations of natural/semi-natural habitats. For example, the relic woodlands associated with Leighfield Forest, or the remnants of open acidic grassland/heathland and woodland habitats associated with Charnwood Forest. The land depicted on [Figure 4.1a](#) as **Sub-Regional Biodiversity Conservation & Enhancement Areas** represents core areas with strategic needs for protecting, buffering, linking and restoring characteristic priority habitats to enhance connectivity of the natural greenspace network for wildlife. These Areas have been defined principally based on their having a relatively higher degree of associative value than other areas within the 6Cs sub-region, with a corresponding greater potential for providing ‘functional habitat networks’ for the dispersal of wildlife species. They are based on by the ‘Regional Biodiversity Conservation and Enhancement Areas’ identified in Diagram 6 of the East Midlands Regional Plan, as amended to reflect sub-regional circumstances and opportunities. The approach to conservation and enhancement of biodiversity within the six Areas should seek to:

- Safeguard existing assets;
- Optimise the condition of existing habitats through positive management, increasing their size and/or buffering;
- Extend, develop and strengthen ‘functional habitat networks’ and links by targeted habitat restoration or creation; and
- Modify agricultural/cropping systems in the wider countryside to increase resources for wildlife species and to make the farmed landscape more ‘permeable’ for dispersal of wildlife.

1. National Forest Sub-Regional Biodiversity Conservation & Enhancement Area

4.2.5 This includes the land broadly between Leicester and Burton-upon-Trent. It includes Charnwood Forest in the south east and the Melbourne Parklands in the north, and takes in part of the historic coalfield area around Coalville and Swadlincote in the south and south west. Woodland is relatively abundant throughout this area with Charnwood Forest having a particular concentration of ancient semi-natural woodland. It is part of In addition, Charnwood Forest also has concentrations of open acidic habitats, particularly acidic grassland and heathland. Reservoirs in both Charnwood Forest and the Melbourne Parklands provide important freshwater habitats, such as at Staunton Harold reservoir for example. Less abundant within this area, but locally important, are small areas of neutral grassland. As part of The National Forest, substantial amounts of planting of new woodland and other habitat creation has taken place and is ongoing within much of the area. For example, former mining activity,

including subsidence flashes, has provided grassland and heathland habitat creation opportunities. Part of The National Forest's vision is to link the remnant ancient forests of Needwood and Charnwood, which provides context for habitat connectivity in this area. The planting target in The National Forest is for woodland to eventually cover about a third of the Forest area. Considerable progress has been made as wooded cover has increased from 6% to 18% and more than 7 million trees have been planted. In addition, a minimum of 2% of other habitats will also be created in The National Forest.

2. Derbyshire Peak Fringe, Lower Derwent and The Coalfields Sub-Regional Biodiversity Conservation & Enhancement Area

- 4.2.6 This includes much of the area to the north of Derby on either side of the Lower Derwent valley extending to include the Derbyshire Peak Fringes and the Coalfields area to the west of the Erewash valley. Woodland is the most abundant habitat in this area, especially associated with the Derwent valley itself; however there are also smaller areas of acid (associated with sandstone ridges) and neutral grassland.

3. Greenwood Community Forest Sub-Regional Biodiversity Conservation & Enhancement Area

- 4.2.7 This area lies to the north of Nottingham and includes substantial areas of woodland and smaller areas of open acidic habitats, both acid grassland and heath associated with the southern extent of Sherwood Forest. Other habitats present within the area include mosaics of grassland, scrub and wetland associated with previously developed land, such as mining. Historically, heathland was characteristic of much of this area but much of this has been converted to agricultural use or coniferous plantations. Remnant areas or species of heathland are still present in some of the coniferous plantations within the area and there are opportunities for restoring and expanding this habitat in such circumstances. Many former coalfield sites have been planted as community woodlands and there are also opportunities for further expanding native woodland cover.

4. Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds Sub-Regional Biodiversity Conservation & Enhancement Area

- 4.2.8 The Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds Area comprise much of the land between the valleys of the Trent, Soar and Wreake, with the Vale of Belvoir to the north east. Woodland is the most abundant habitat in this area, and although most woodlands are relatively small they occur at relatively high frequency throughout the area. There are local concentrations of woodland, for example, near Keyworth and in the Belvoir and Croxton Park area in the east. Smaller areas of grassland, both neutral and acidic are also present. Parts of the area are also important for supporting relatively large populations of great crested newt.

5. Leighfield Forest Sub-Regional Biodiversity Conservation & Enhancement Area

4.2.9 This area lies to the east of Leicester and extends into Rutland. Woodland is the most abundant habitat type within the area and this is mostly quite scattered in distribution, although there is a particular concentration in the Loddington, Owston and Halstead area in what was historically Leighfield Forest. Leighfield Forest is characterised by concentrations of ancient semi-natural woodland. There are also smaller areas of neutral grassland, for example in the Burrough on the Hill area.

6. Strategic River Corridors/Floodplains Sub-Regional Biodiversity Conservation & Enhancement Area

4.2.10 These comprise the valleys of the rivers Trent, Soar, Derwent, Wreake and Welland represented by their floodplains. A range of wetland and aquatic habitats are present, including the river corridors themselves and floodplain grazing marsh. Eutrophic standing water is especially associated with disused gravel workings in the Trent valley, for example at Attenborough Nature Reserve to the south west of Nottingham. Smaller areas of other habitats, such as reedbed are also present.

Strategic Needs for Linking Habitat Corridors

4.2.11 **Strategic Needs for Linking Habitats Corridors** are identified on [Figure 4.1a](#). These corridors are indicative and have been defined principally on the basis of their potential, from a sub-regional perspective, to establish strategic linkages between habitats. Key criteria for determining these corridors include:

- Potential for linking small areas of similar habitats to reduce isolation;
- Potential for linking areas of similar habitats to reduce fragmentation;
- Potential for linking areas of habitats to create and enhance mosaics of semi-natural vegetation;
- Potential for providing linkages between larger mosaics of semi natural habitat at the landscape scale (e.g. The National Forest with the River Trent corridor) to strengthen the overall integrity and distribution of habitats throughout the 6Cs sub-region; and
- Potential for strengthening links between habitats associated with urban and suburban areas to the wider countryside.

4.2.12 The corridors illustrate the strategic need to provide functional linkages within or between Sub-Regional Biodiversity Conservation & Enhancement Areas to aid the dispersal of wildlife through the landscape within and beyond the 6Cs sub-region. The corridors may incorporate 'stepping stones' - existing biodiversity assets located within or along such links that could increase the effectiveness for wildlife dispersal. Some of the corridors are located between existing urban areas, for example those within and adjoining the Erewash Valley on the Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire border, and these may be particularly vulnerable to disruption

through expansion of urban land use development. The approach to conservation and enhancement of functional linking habitat corridors should seek to:

- Safeguard links from land use changes that would be a barrier to their function as dispersal corridors; and
- Improve the permeability of links through targeted habitat restoration or creation, and the modification of agricultural/cropping subsystems to increase resources for wildlife species and to make the farmed landscape more 'permeable' for dispersal of wildlife.

4.2.13 The linking habitat corridors are highlighted below in context of the Sub-Regional Biodiversity Conservation & Enhancement Areas:

1. National Forest - Strategic Needs for Linking Habitats Corridors

- West beyond to The National Forest outside of the 6Cs sub-region (including Needwood Forest);
- South-east to assets within the wider area (for example to the north of Hinckley);
- North and east to valleys of the Trent and Soar; and
- South-west of Loughborough to Bradgate Country Park, and Ratby.

Important internal links include those between:

- Coalville, Ashby-de-la-Zouch and East Midlands Airport area (between Charnwood Forest and Melbourne Parklands); and
- Swadlincote and Ashby de la Zouch.

2. Derbyshire Peak Fringe, Lower Derwent and The Coalfields - Strategic Needs for Linking Habitats Corridors

- North and west to the Peak District;
- South along the Derwent valley through Derby to the Trent Valley; and
- Eastwards to the Erewash valley and South Sherwood Forest Area.

Important internal links include:

- Derwent valley running north-south through the area and beyond; and
- East-west links to the west of Ilkeston and the north of Ripley.

3. Greenwood Community Forest - Strategic Needs for Linking Habitats Corridors

- Northwards to the rest of Sherwood Forest;
- Westwards to the Derbyshire Peak Fringe, Lower Derwent and The Coalfields Area; and
- Along the north and north-west edge of Nottingham.

4. Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds - Strategic Needs for Linking Habitats Corridors

- North, west and south to the valleys of the Trent, Soar and Wreake;
- North-east to the Vale of Belvoir; and

- East-west links within the area associated with ridges and scarps.

5. Leighfield Forest - Strategic Needs for Linking Habitats Corridors

- North and south to the Wreake and Welland Valleys;
- East towards Rutland Water; and
- South to Rockingham Forest.

6. Strategic River Corridors/Floodplains - Strategic Needs for Linking Habitats Corridors

- The Strategic River Corridors/Floodplains form a continuous existing network linking with biodiversity assets in the other five Areas and areas beyond the 6Cs sub-region, to form a sub-regional scale functional linking habitat corridor.

Other Areas

4.2.14 In parts of the 6Cs sub-region outside of the **Sub-Regional Biodiversity Conservation & Enhancement Areas** shown on [Figure 4.1a](#), such as south and southwest Leicestershire, biodiversity assets are relatively sparsely distributed and are less likely to form ‘functional habitat networks’. Such areas also present greater challenges in terms of the ease with which such networks could be developed or created. However, such areas do support patches of valuable biodiversity assets at a local scale, which offer opportunities for enhancement of the wider countryside for wildlife benefits.

Biodiversity Action Plan Needs

4.2.15 The Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) within the 6Cs sub-region (see [Figure 2.1d](#)) identify the need for action to conserve and enhance priority habitats and species. Each BAP sets out a series of action plans that provide a rationale for prioritising the conservation of particular habitats or species. The action plans provide an audit of the existing biodiversity resource, the threats these resources face and targets for the delivery of actions and initiatives to aid the conservation of these habitats and species.

4.2.16 [Appendix A3](#) provides a summary of the current targets relating to each of the BAPs within the 6Cs sub-region⁶⁵. Most of these targets relate to a delivery horizon of 2010, and future reviews of these BAP’s will be relevant to guiding GI delivery going forward. The methodology for biodiversity opportunity network mapping, developed by Natural England and the Wildlife

⁶⁵ It should be noted that the targets set out in [Appendix 4.1](#) relate to the whole area of each Biodiversity Action Plan, rather than as specific targets for the 6Cs growth point. Nevertheless, these targets represent the best available information for identifying priorities within the 6Cs Growth Point.

Trusts⁶⁶, piloted in the 6Cs sub-region by CBA has, where relevant, provided a key tool for translating the quantitative targets expressed in the BAPs (what is required and when) into target areas (where it is required). There are four key principles for informing the assessment of biodiversity needs:

- *Retention* – to retain the extent of existing resource and ensure there is no further loss resulting from either direct (e.g. development activities) or indirect (e.g. intensive agricultural practices) impacts;
- *Restoration* – ensure that the existing resource is in positive conservation management in order to retain its inherent biodiversity and ecological value;
- *Extension* – the creation of buffers, linkages or new habitats in direct association with existing habitat areas in order to protect the existing resource from influences (e.g. spray drift, water shed etc.) that could erode an existing site's biodiversity value; and
- *Creation* – the creation (including long term positive management) of new habitats to provide linkages and stepping stones for similar habitat types throughout their natural geographical range.

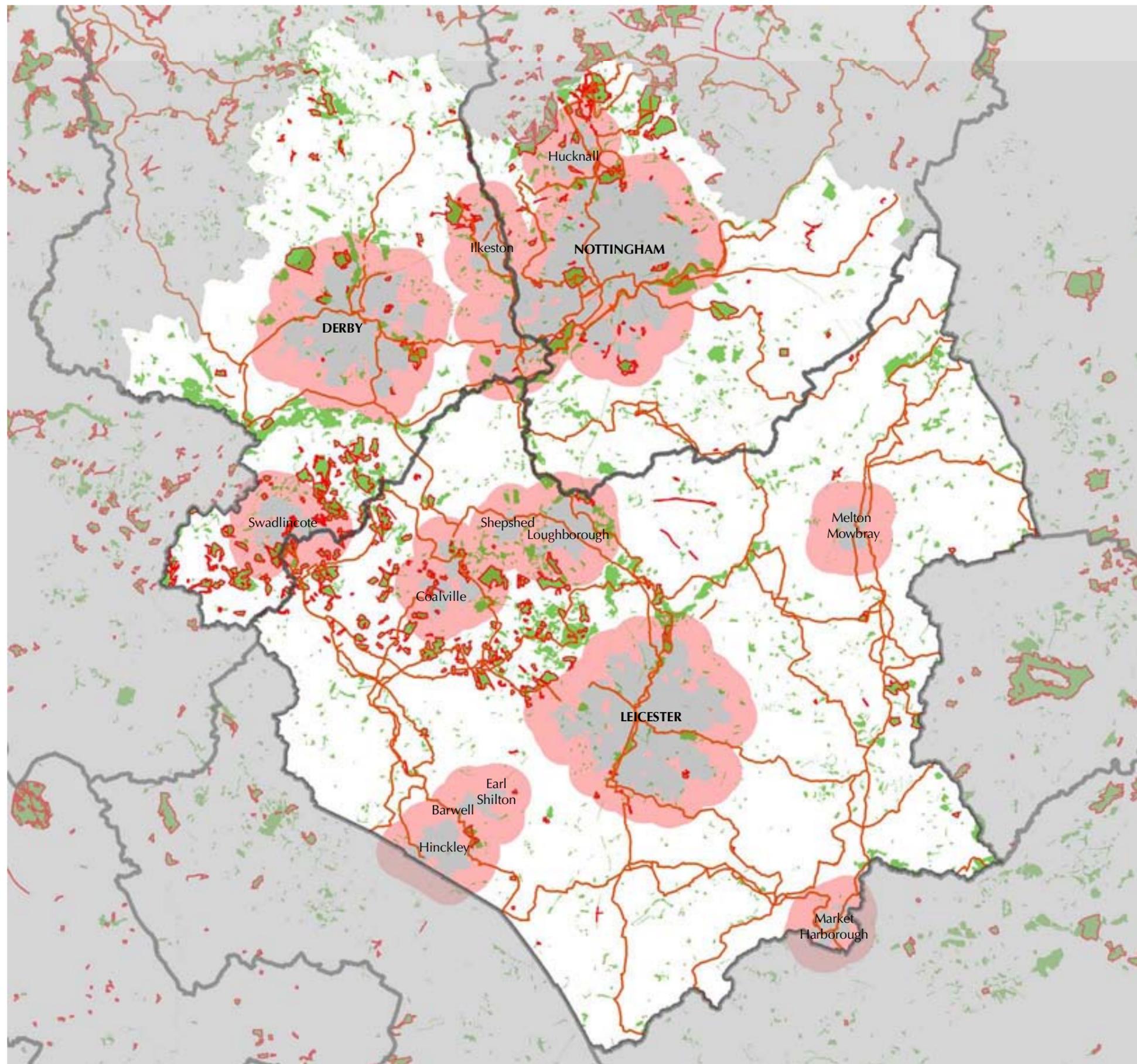
4.3 Accessibility of the Natural Greenspace Network for People

4.3.1 The accessibility of the natural greenspace network for people from a sub-regional perspective is illustrated in **Figure 4.1b**. This shows the parts of the existing **natural greenspace network** that provide larger areas of **strategic accessible natural greenspace**, natural greenspace greater than 2ha in size, and normally available for public access on foot, providing opportunities for open access for informal recreational activities (see **Figure 3.2a**). It also shows the connectivity of the strategic accessible natural greenspace in relation to existing **strategic countryside access routes** within the 6Cs sub-region (see **Figure 3.2a**).

Strategic Accessible Natural Greenspace Provision

4.3.2 **Figures 3.2b – 3.2f** (see **Section 3.3**) identify the location, distribution and catchments of strategic accessible natural greenspace in each of the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) size categories in relation to settlements proposed as the main locations for growth within the 6Cs sub-region. It also provides a strategic view of areas deficient in the provision of strategic accessible natural greenspace measured against the Standard. As mentioned in **Section 3.3**, although designed primarily for use in the urban context, the ANGSt model can also be used to assess how accessible natural greenspace in the wider countryside contributes to levels of provision for both urban and rural communities. Applying the Standard enables a consistent comparison to be made between the levels of accessible natural greenspace available to people across the sub-region.

⁶⁶ Green Infrastructure For The Three Cities: A Methodology For Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping. Unpublished report prepared for and on behalf of Natural England and the Wildlife Trusts (Murray, G, 2008)



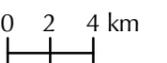
KEY



- Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zones
- Existing Natural Greenspace (see Figure 3.1)
- Existing Strategic Accessible Natural Greenspace (see Figure 3.2a)
- Existing Strategic Countryside Access Routes (see Figure 3.2a)

- Major Settlements
- County Boundaries

This figure represents relevant available information provided by stakeholders at the time of the study, and may not be exhaustive. The accuracy of digital datasets received, which have been used in good faith without modification or enhancement, cannot be guaranteed. The Strategic GI Network Plan illustrates indicative GI assets at a strategic level, which do not necessarily indicate a constraint on development.



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Figure 4.1b
Strategic GI Functionality & Needs - Accessibility of the Greenspace Network for People

Accessible Natural Greenspace Sites >500ha

- 4.3.3 **Figure 3.2f** shows that only a small share of communities living within the 6Cs sub-region (north of Hucknall and along part of the 6Cs' south east boundary) is served by greenspace sites greater than 500ha. These sites are located outside the boundary of the 6Cs sub-region. As a high proportion of the 1.9m population within the 6Cs sub-region live in high density settlements, this is a very significant deficiency from a sub-regional perspective. There is therefore a demonstrable need for new provision of this category of accessible natural greenspace, located where it is best able to meet the needs of the 6Cs sub-region as a whole.

Accessible Natural Greenspace Sites >100ha

- 4.3.4 **Figure 3.2e** shows that there is a lack of provision of sites greater than 100ha serving communities in the south and east of the 6Cs sub-region, including the City of Leicester and the towns of Hinckley (including Barwell and Earl Shilton), Market Harborough and Melton Mowbray. New provision is required to meet the needs of communities for this category of site.

Accessible Natural Greenspace Sites >20ha

- 4.3.5 **Figure 3.2d** shows that the greatest provision of accessible natural greenspace at the sub-regional scale comprises sites of between 20 and 100ha. However, the catchment of these sites is relatively small (2km) and consequently they typically cater for only comparatively small proportions of communities in urban areas. There are clusters of sites west of Nottingham and in the Derwent Valley. Some of these sites are located close to centres of population where the potential levels of use are likely to be high. In The National Forest/Charnwood Forest and Greenwood Forest areas there are clusters of sites which, although more remote from the larger centres of population, are likely to collectively provide more diverse opportunities for recreation and access, and are therefore likely to attract visitors from further afield. Beyond the above clusters of sites, notable areas that are deficient in accessible natural greenspace sites of between 20 and 100ha include Leicester, Market Harborough, and Melton Mowbray.

Summary of Accessible Natural Greenspace Provision

- 4.3.6 **Figure 3.2b** shows that none of the settlements proposed as the main locations for growth within the 6Cs sub-region currently meet the requirements of the ANGSt model in full, and that provision of strategic accessible natural greenspace at all tiers in the hierarchy is poorly distributed in relation to these settlements. Of the three cities, there is a general deficiency of larger accessible strategic natural greenspace around much of Leicester relative to Derby and

Nottingham. There is also a notable deficiency of provision around Market Harborough and Melton Mowbray relative to the other towns. In these areas, there is a need for the provision of new accessible natural greenspace alongside investment in the access route corridor network.

- 4.3.7 In common with other areas experiencing potentially high levels of growth, the available accessible natural greenspace sites within the 6Cs sub-region are likely to be under pressure from an increasingly large number of people, as there are relatively few sites to visit. This may have consequences for the carrying capacity of environmentally sensitive sites. Excessive visitor pressure could result in potentially harmful impacts on their condition and functionality, for example in terms of geodiversity, biodiversity or historic environment assets.
- 4.3.8 It is evident from the ANGSt analysis that there is currently a substantial deficiency in the provision of accessible natural greenspace close to the main centres of populations within the 6Cs sub-region. Without new provision, and the enhancement of existing sites, it is expected that this situation will become more pronounced as the 6Cs' population grows over the next 20-30 years. There is therefore a clear requirement to provide new accessible natural greenspace at all tiers of the ANGSt hierarchy located in proximity to the main centres of populations to meet the current and future needs of communities in the 6Cs sub-region.
- 4.3.9 There are currently 33 accessible natural greenspace sites with Green Flag awards in the 6Cs sub-region, the majority of which are located in and around the cities of Leicester and Nottingham, with one in Derby. These provide an indication of the good quality of a site in relation to the national benchmark provided by the Green Flag award scheme.
- 4.3.10 It is important to recognise the strategic role of accessible agricultural landscapes in the wider countryside beyond the specific sites of accessible natural greenspace considered in this Study. The contribution that footpaths, bridleways and other rights of way routes make to accessible greenspace provision within the 6Cs sub-region is examined below.

Countryside Access Route Network Provision

- 4.3.11 **Figure 3.2a** (see **Section 3.3**) identifies the extent of the promoted recreational routes, cycle network and navigable waterways that together form the strategic countryside access route network within the 6Cs sub-region, and highlights their relationship to the overall public rights of way network and existing strategic accessible natural greenspace. **Figure 4.1b** shows the role that the strategic countryside access route network plays in connecting the settlements proposed as the main locations for growth (identified as **Sub-Regional Countryside Access Enhancement Areas**) from a sub-regional perspective.

4.3.12 A high level review of gaps in the provision of strategic countryside access routes identifies the following needs and opportunities that would enhance the overall functionality of the network:

- *Sub-regional strategic connectivity* - development of a strategic network of greenways (multi-user, off-road and car-free routes) along strategic river corridors and canals, connecting the three cities and other main settlements with one another and strategic accessible natural greenspace sites;
- *Inter-urban areas connectivity* - development of a strategic network of inter-urban greenways connecting cities to the other cities and/or satellite settlements within their 'travel to work catchment areas' (such as a 'Nottingham-Derby Greenway' or a 'Leicester-Loughborough Greenway');
- *Urban-rural permeability* - creation of urban access route networks along green corridors connecting city centres and suburbs to the rights of way network/promoted recreational routes in and beyond the urban fringe;
- *Overcoming barriers to access* - provision of safe and convenient 'green bridge' crossings at major highways, rail corridors and rivers, where practical, to strengthen the connectivity and functionality of the strategic countryside access route network; and
- *Sustainable transport network integration* – promote greater use of public transport to accessible natural greenspace sites of sub-regional significance as an alternative to private cars and car travel (such as The National Forest, Charnwood Forest, Greenwood Forest and the Derwent Valley).

Areas with Greatest Need for Enhanced Countryside Access Provision

4.3.13 Taking into account the 6Cs sub-region's existing demographic patterns, and the spatial pattern of changes in population arising from the future growth proposed under the Government's Sustainable Communities Plan and the East Midlands Regional Plan, the countryside in and around the principal urban areas and sub-regional centres has the greatest demand, and therefore need, for enhanced provision of existing and new GI. These include areas of land that represent a significant resource for urban communities in the sub-region, comprising dynamic and complex mosaics of land uses and habitats. They are the immediate landscape setting for principal urban areas and sub-regional centres, have a critical role to play in linking town and country, and will experience major planned growth. By their definition, Sustainable Urban Extensions are likely to be located within these areas. For example, the zone around Greater Nottingham covers many of the potential locations for Sustainable Urban Extensions as identified in the Sustainable Urban Extension Study.⁶⁷ Existing GI resources in such areas are already experiencing urban edge issues, and are therefore likely to come under increasing pressure in the future.

4.3.14 In recognition of their strategic importance for delivery of GI from a sub-regional perspective, the countryside in and around the following settlements has been defined as **Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zones** (see [Figure 4.1b](#)):

⁶⁷ Sustainable Urban Extension Study for Greater Nottingham (Tribal Urban Studios, June 2008)
2010

- Derby Principal Urban Area;
- Swadlincote Sub-Regional Centre;
- Leicester Principal Urban Area;
- Coalville Sub-Regional Centre;
- Hinckley (including Barwell and Earl Shilton) Sub-Regional Centre;
- Loughborough (including Shepshed) Sub-Regional Centre;
- Market Harborough Sub-Regional Centre;
- Melton Mowbray Sub-Regional Centre;
- Nottingham Principal Urban Area;
- Hucknall Sub-Regional Centre; and
- Ilkeston Sub-Regional Centre.

4.3.15 The indicative extent of the Zones defined on **Figure 4.1b** is generic, and is simply intended to schematically illustrate the transition between urban and rural land uses around the principal urban areas and sub-regional centres.

4.3.16 Through investment in GI provision, the Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zones have the ability or potential to deliver a range of economic, environmental and social benefits related to the following GI themes or functions⁶⁸:

- **A bridge to the country** - linking housing, schools, health centres and hospitals, bus and train stations in urban centres to the existing/enhanced access network to connect with accessible greenspaces in the wider countryside;
- **A gateway to cities and towns** - providing an improved image, experience and sense of place through investment in an improved environmental quality for public rights of way and spaces;
- **A health centre** - contributing to health improvements and well-being through schools, hospitals and health centres promoting opportunities to access greenspaces for exercise as part of health programmes;
- **An outdoor classroom** - opportunities to provide environmental education through parks, nature reserves and farm-based activities;
- **A recycling and renewable energy centre** - helping address climate change through sustainable management of waste, water and pollution, production of energy crops and creation of woodland to act as carbon sinks;
- **A productive landscape** – recognising the role of urban fringe farmland in food production, processing of local produce and retail (farm shops) for urban areas;
- **A cultural legacy** - increasing awareness of historic features in the urban fringe landscape and how they contribute to sense of place for local communities;
- **A place for sustainable living** - ensuring that future development links with the urban area and addresses issues such as fly-tipping, indistinct boundaries, poor accessibility, fragmented landscapes, etc;
- **An engine for regeneration** – providing quality of life benefits through opportunities for community involvement through volunteering or gaining new skills in environmental improvement work, particularly within areas of multiple deprivation; and
- **A nature reserve** - strengthening biodiversity, geological and geomorphological conservation management for sites in and around urban areas.

4.3.17 Within the Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zones, land is widely used by urban communities as a resource for informal, and often unauthorised, recreation leading to conflicts with other land uses. Additionally, the poor permeability of some built up areas can

⁶⁸ Key functions as described in Countryside Agency's vision for the Countryside in and around Towns (2005) 2010

be a barrier to accessing the surrounding countryside. These Zones would benefit from the adoption of a strategic and co-ordinated approach to managing access for urban communities into the surrounding countryside. It is envisaged that the Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zones would encompass a network of interlinked and multifunctional greenspaces that connect with city/town centres, public transport nodes, and major employment and residential areas, including new sustainable urban extensions. A careful balance will need to be struck between creation of new GI and the need to safeguard existing natural and cultural features that contribute to the character and value of the wider agricultural landscape. Further work is required at the local level to identify specific opportunities for integrating GI provision into local development and delivery plans within individual Zones.

4.4 Distinctiveness of the Natural Greenspace Network

4.4.1 The great diversity of the landscapes within the 6Cs sub-region, together with the rich evidence of the area's cultural heritage contained therein, provides a distinctive context and sense of place for the natural greenspace network. Sustaining and enhancing the condition of landscapes and historic environment assets is an important element of GI delivery.

4.4.2 At the national level, the Countryside Quality Counts (CQC) study⁶⁹ has monitored changes in the underlying condition and quality of the English landscape within the framework of National Character Areas. The CQC approach is based on evaluating the magnitude of change (assessed as 'stable' or 'changing') and then its direction (assessed as 'consistent' or 'inconsistent') with the vision for the National Character Area for each of the following main elements or themes that determine landscape character:

- Woodlands and trees;
- Boundary Features;
- Agricultural land cover;
- Settlement and development patterns;
- Semi-natural habitats;
- Historic features; and
- River and coastal features.

4.4.3 Each National Character Area in England was allocated to one of four categories, based upon quantitative and qualitative analysis of spatial and tabular data related to the above themes, the significance of which was judged and validated by local stakeholders. The categories are:

- **'Maintained'** if the character of the area is already strong and largely intact, and the changes observed for the 'key' themes served to sustain it, or simply because the lack of change meant that the important qualities are likely to be retained in the long term;

⁶⁹ CQC is sponsored by Natural England, in partnership with DEFRA and English Heritage: <http://countryside-quality-counts.org.uk/jca>.

- **‘Enhancing’** if the changes in the ‘key’ themes tended to restore the overall character of an area, or to strengthen it;
- **‘Neglected’** if the character of an area has been weakened or degraded by past change, and the changes observed in the ‘key’ themes have not had the effect of restoring the desired qualities that made the area distinct. National Character Areas have also been described as ‘neglected’ if significant opportunities to restore or strengthen character remain; and
- **‘Diverging’** if the change in the ‘key’ themes appeared to be transforming the character of the area so that either its distinctive qualities are being lost, or significant new patterns are emerging.

4.4.4 The CQC study has made an assessment of countryside changes for two periods: 1990-1998 and 1999-2003. The headline indicators for the most recent monitoring period in relation to the 17 National Character Areas within the 6Cs sub-region are set out in the **Table 3.8** below:

Table 3.8 – CQC Indicator in relation to the National Character Areas within the 6Cs Sub-Region

National Character Areas	CQC Indicator
30: Southern Magnesian Limestone	Maintained (agriculture, river and coastal)
38: Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield	Neglected (boundary features, agriculture, semi-natural habitats, historic features)
48: Trent and Belvoir Vales	Diverging (agriculture, settlement and development)
49: Sherwood	Neglected (boundary feature, agriculture)
50: Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent	Diverging (settlement and development)
68: Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands	Maintained (agriculture, semi-natural habitats, river and coastal)
69: Trent Valley Washlands	Diverging (agriculture, settlement and development)
70: Melbourne Parklands	Enhancing (trees and woodland, agriculture)
71: Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield	Enhancing (trees and woodland)
72: Mease/Sence Lowlands	Maintained (trees and woodland, settlement and development, river and coastal)
73: Charnwood	Diverging (settlement and development)
74: Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds	Maintained (trees and woodland, agriculture, settlement and development, semi-natural habitats, historic features, rivers and coastal)
75: Kesteven Uplands	Maintained (boundary features, agriculture, settlement and development, semi-natural habitats)
89: Northamptonshire Vales	Neglected (trees and woodland, boundary features, agriculture, river and coastal)
93: High Leicestershire	Maintained (boundary features, agriculture, settlement and development, semi-natural habitats, historic features, rivers and coastal)
94: Leicestershire Vales	Diverging (settlement and development)
95: Northamptonshire Uplands	Maintained (trees and woodland, boundary features, agriculture, settlement and development, semi-natural habitats, historic features, rivers and coastal).

4.4.5 These findings highlight the strategic need for interventions to sustain and enhance the condition of landscapes throughout the 6Cs sub-region.

Landscape Strategies for the 6Cs Sub-Region

4.4.6 The published Landscape Character Assessments for each County recommend guidelines for protecting the distinctiveness of the sub-region's rich and diverse landscapes, and enhancing the condition of these landscapes where necessary. For the purposes of this Study, the guidelines for each respective Landscape Character Type/Area identified within the County Landscape Character Assessments were grouped together into Consolidated Landscape Character Types identified within the 6Cs sub-region (see [Section 3.4](#)). These guidelines are presented in [Appendix A4](#) and together with the guidance provided by the East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment they provide a tool for informing the design of GI in ways that sustain the distinctiveness of the landscape.

4.5 Target Areas for Environmental Benefits

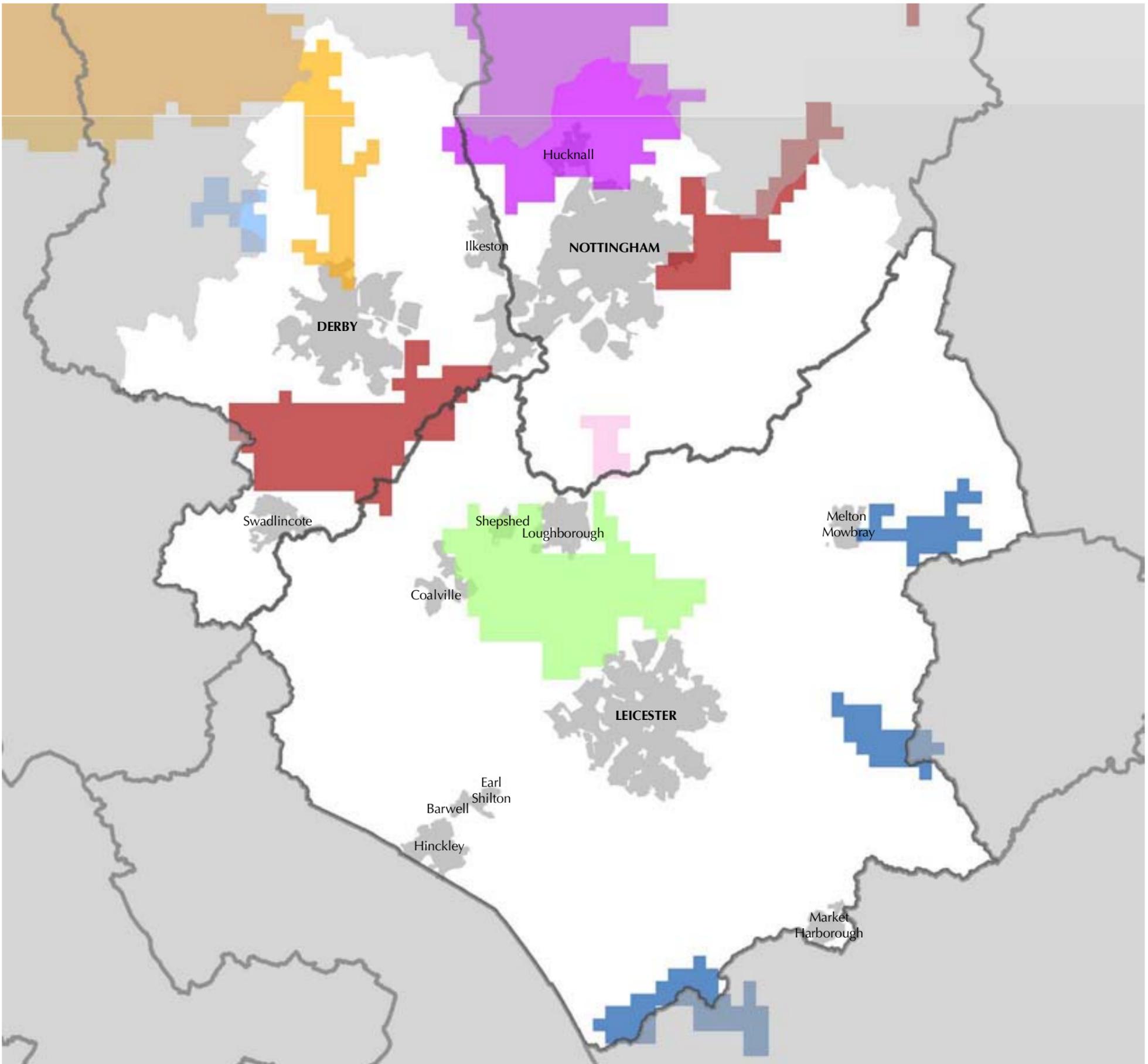
4.5.1 Within the 6Cs sub-region, Natural England has defined six target areas within which applications for public funding under the Higher Level Environmental Stewardship scheme are encouraged:

- Peak District and Derwent;
- Sherwood;
- Mercaston;
- Trent;
- East Leake;
- Soar and Charnwood; and
- Stanford, Loddington and Melton.

4.5.2 These target areas are shown on [Figure 4.2](#). The target areas represent strategic areas, identified and agreed by relevant stakeholders, which would benefit from investment in sustainable environmental land management to address specific needs for biodiversity, landscape character and historic environment conservation and enhancement, and for natural resource protection. A brief summary of each of the target areas is set out below⁷⁰:

4.5.3 The National Forest is a target area for Higher Level Environmental Stewardship schemes. The National Forest's Changing Landscapes Scheme (CLS) is a flexible scheme which offers a generous level of funding to any landowner for the creation of new woodlands and associated habitats. The CLS also funds habitat creation and management based on Natural England's Higher Level Environmental Stewardship scheme, but which, through the CLS, can be paid for outside Natural England's grant regime. This means that, in addition to new woodland, which must be designed in accordance with Forestry Commission (FC) England Woodland Grant Scheme guidelines, land entered into the CLS may incorporate other habitats including parkland, wood pasture, meadows and unimproved grassland, orchards, hedgerows and

⁷⁰For further information see: East Midlands: Higher Level Stewardship Theme Statement – www.naturalengland.org.uk.



KEY

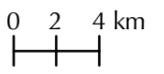


High Level Environmental Stewardship Target Areas (indicative)

- Peak District & Derwent Valley
- Sherwood
- Mercaston
- Trent
- East Leake
- Soar and Charnwood
- Stanford, Launde and Melton

- Major Settlements
- County Boundaries

This Figure represents relevant available information provided by stakeholders at the time of the study, and may not be exhaustive. The accuracy of digital datasets received, which have been used in good faith without modification or enhancement, cannot be guaranteed. The Strategic GI Network Plan illustrates indicative GI assets at a strategic level, which do not necessarily indicate a constraint on development.



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Figure 4.2
 Strategic GI Needs - High Level Environmental Stewardship Target Areas

wetlands. The CLS requires competitive bids from landowners, with the elements of the schemes drawn from a standard and publicised working costs menu. For each item there is a prescribed maximum price which will be paid. A CLS application will be judged according to design and content and upon the overall contribution which it will make to National Forest objectives, (as described in The National Forest Strategy 2004 – 2014 and the Delivery Plan 2009-2014).

Peak District and Derwent

- 4.5.4 The Peak District and Derwent Valley is important for its significant contribution to Geodiversity, Biodiversity, Landscape, Historic Environment and Resource Protection. Within the 6C's sub-region, the Lower Derwent valley provides a transition zone between the Peak District uplands and the Derbyshire lowlands, following the river through to Derby City. This area is particularly important for biodiversity and historic environment, encompassing the internationally designated Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. It also has a high coverage of ancient semi-natural woodlands and lowland meadows and is nationally important for woodland birds.

Sherwood

- 4.5.5 The Sherwood Target Area is important for its significant contribution to Biodiversity, Historic Environment and Access. This area contains nationally and internationally significant habitats, including lowland heath and semi-natural woodlands. This area is also of high importance due to the presence of nationally important assemblages of arable birds. It is of high historic importance including scheduled and undesignated historic features that are considered to be at above average risk, many of these features are associated with the historic parks and gardens of the Dukeries. There are also significant access opportunities within this area.

Mercaston

- 4.5.6 The Mercaston Target Area is important for its significant contribution to Biodiversity and the Historic Environment. This area includes a relatively high density of designated and non-designated medieval earthwork sites, particularly field systems and associated archaeological features.

Trent

- 4.5.7 The Trent Target Area is important for its significant contribution to Biodiversity, Historic Environment and Access. It covers a significant proportion of the region's existing grazing marsh habitat and provides important habitats for several species of important farmland bird,

including lapwing, snipe and redshank. Lagoons created by the aggregates industry from sand and gravel extraction provide regionally important habitats for over wintering wildfowl and breeding bird populations and parts of the area have been identified as being priority areas for provision of permissive access. The Trent area is particularly rich in important historic features, associated with human use and occupation of the Trent and its floodplain over several millennia.

East Leake

- 4.5.8 The East Leake Target Area is important for its significant contribution to Biodiversity and the Historic Environment. It includes a relatively high density of designated and non-designated medieval earthwork sites, particularly field systems and associated archaeological features. This area also includes important areas for biodiversity, particularly old meadows and pastures.

Soar and Charnwood

- 4.5.9 The Soar and Charnwood Target Area is important for its significant contribution to Geodiversity, Biodiversity, Resource Protection and Access. Within this area an important mosaic of habitats (most notably acid grassland, lowland heathland, grazing marsh and fen) occur that support nationally important assemblages of farmland birds. The Area connects directly with Loughborough, Coalville and Leicester, thus offering excellent recreational opportunities for targeted permissive linear and educational access.

Stanford, Loddington and Melton

- 4.5.10 The Stanford, Loddington and Melton Target Area is important for its significant contribution to the Historic Environment, Resource Protection and Biodiversity. This area captures a number of nationally important medieval earthworks, a significant battlefield, deserted villages, field systems and associated archaeological features. In addition this area also provides significant opportunities to improve the water quality and the condition of vulnerable wetland habitats by addressing sources of diffuse agricultural pollution adjacent to the Grand Union Canal.

4.6 Strategic Public Benefits of Green Infrastructure Provision

- 4.6.1 It is increasingly recognised that investment in GI such as accessible natural greenspace networks and other 'green assets' can provide a wide range of multiple public benefits for both rural and urban communities. For example:

- Improved health as a result of increased physical activity, such as walking;
- Improved sense of community and more cohesive communities;
- Reduced crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour;

- Opportunities for exercise, sport, active recreation, spiritual well-being/quiet contemplation;
- Community resources for learning and training and social interaction;
- Opportunities for community involvement;
- Leisure facilities and visitor attractions;
- Sense of place and distinctive local identity;
- Improved environmental quality (air/water quality, local climate control, noise attenuation);
- Sustainable drainage and flood migration;
- Opportunities to protect, recreate and rehabilitate damaged landscapes/habitats;
- Opportunities to understand, protect and manage historic landscapes;
- Enhanced geodiversity
- Enhanced biodiversity;
- The protection, management and enhancement of historic and natural sites and areas;
- Improved and sustained land values;
- Reduced land management costs;
- Support regeneration potential, and
- Economic benefits (workforce recruitment/retention, attract businesses/inward investment).

4.6.2 The East Midlands Public Benefit Mapping Project⁷¹ gathered evidence from 27 different sectors, all relevant to the East Midlands Integrated Regional Strategy's objectives, in order to map where:

- There is the greatest need for the public benefits GI brings;
- There is the greatest opportunity for GI to support sustainable economic growth;
- Such needs and opportunities can be met in parallel; and
- Greatest multiple public benefit in terms of social, environmental, economic and multiples outcomes exist.

4.6.3 The maps are presented, each with a narrative, outlining areas of particular priority for GI, together with a short discussion on the limitations of the data. Inevitably there are limitations imposed by the geographic focus of the data, and in some cases, time has passed since data was collected. Significant areas for future development are discussed in relation to each map; and are summarised at the end of this study.

4.6.4 The East Midland's public benefit maps provide a strategic overview of where investment in GI is most likely to deliver greatest public benefit in the region. It should be noted that these maps should be considered in the context of the East Midlands Public Benefit Mapping Project as a whole, in particular in relation to the Project's constraints and limitations⁷². The public benefits mapping can help target actions in relation to:

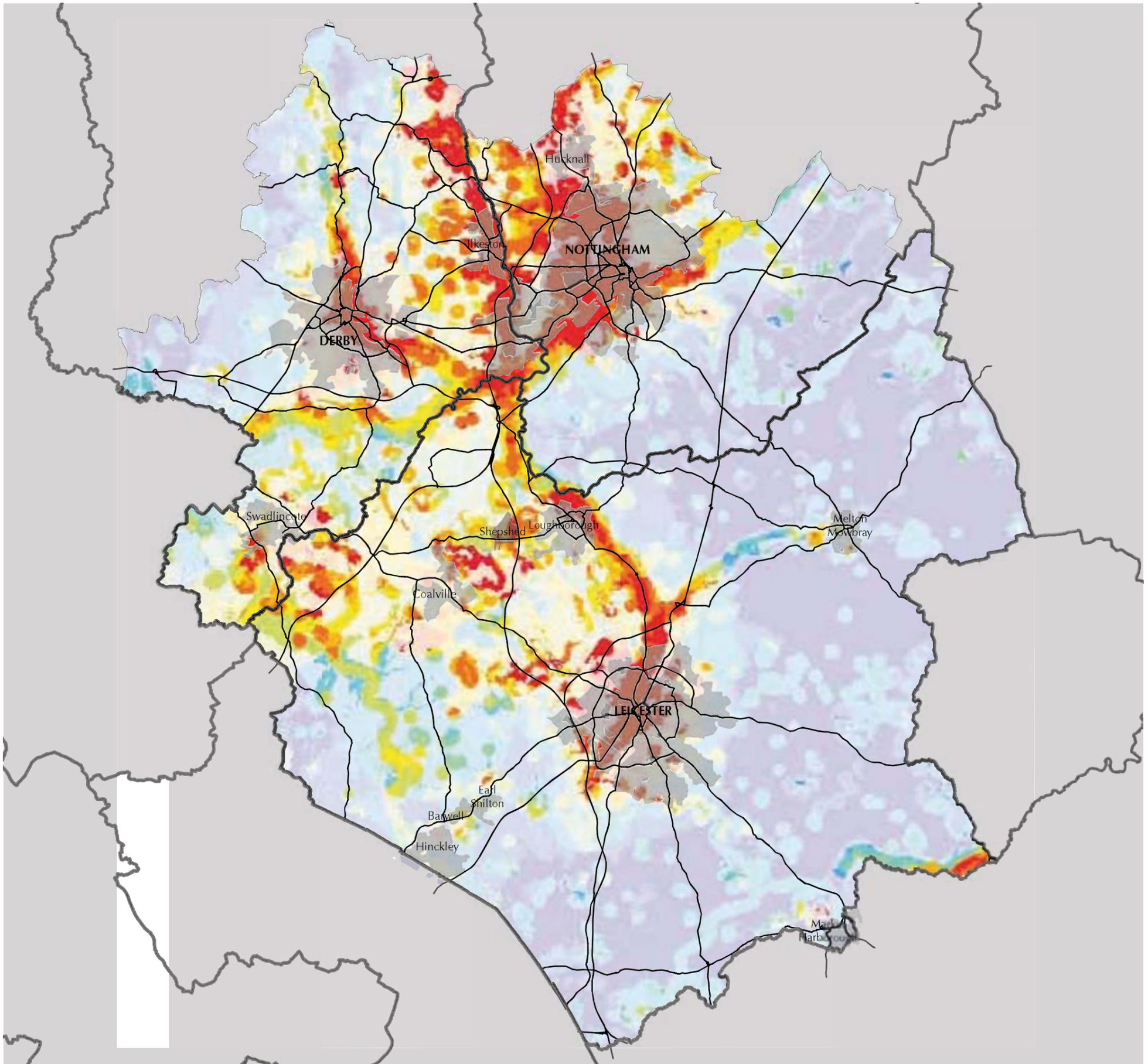
- Provision of new or enhanced GI for areas of present and future deficit;
- Management of existing GI resources to increase their usefulness (multifunctionality);
- Conservation of key GI resources which contribute to the region's environmental infrastructure; and
- Improving connectivity of existing GI resources where they are presently fragmented.

⁷¹ Green infrastructure for the East Midlands – A Public Benefit Mapping Project (East Midlands Regional Assembly, 2006).

⁷² Green Infrastructure for the East Midlands – A Public Benefit Mapping Project can be downloaded from <http://www.emra.gov.uk/publications/housing-planning-and-transport/environment/green-infrastructure-in-the-east-midlands-a-public-benefit-mapping-project>.

4.6.5 The areas with greatest potential to provide combined multiple public benefits (emphasising top 30% environmental benefits) from investment in GI provision within the Study Area are shown on **Figure 4.3**⁷³.

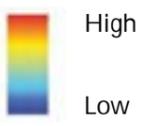
⁷³ Map 31C 'Combined Multiple Public Benefit Emphasising Top 30% Environmental Benefits' was taken from Green Infrastructure for the East Midlands – A Public Benefit Mapping Project (East Midlands Regional Assembly, 2006). Reproduced with the permission of the East Midland Regional Assembly.



KEY

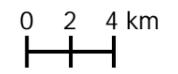


Potential for Combined Multiple Public Benefits
 (As per Map 31c of the Green Infrastructure
 for the East Midlands - A Public Benefit Mapping Project,
 East Midlands Regional Assembly, 2006)



-  Major Settlements
-  County Boundaries
-  Major Roads/Railways

This figure represents relevant available information provided by stakeholders at the time of the study, and may not be exhaustive. The accuracy of digital datasets received, which have been used in good faith without modification or enhancement, cannot be guaranteed. The Strategic GI Network Plan illustrates indicative GI assets at a strategic level, which do not necessarily indicate a constraint on development.



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Figure 4.3
 Strategic Public Benefits
 of GI Provision

5.0 GI OPPORTUNITIES

5.1 Strategic GI Opportunities Identified by Stakeholders

5.1.1 Two well-attended stakeholder workshops were held in January 2009 to inform the Baseline Information Review and Strategic GI Audit. A wide range of stakeholders involved in the planning and delivery of GI across the sub-region, including representatives of government agencies, regional bodies, local authorities and environmental interest groups, participated in the workshops. See [Appendix A5](#) for a detailed record of the stakeholder consultation process.

5.1.2 Following review and discussion of existing Strategic GI Assets within the 6Cs sub-region, the workshops identified areas with strategic needs and opportunities for enhanced GI provision. Stakeholders highlighted the following key thematic opportunities for enhanced GI provision within the 6Cs sub-region:

Access and Recreation Opportunities

5.1.3 Key opportunities identified by stakeholders for investment in access and recreation assets included:

- Strategic River Corridors;
- Canal corridors;
- Other waterways;
- Urban fringe land – around existing settlements and at locations where growth occurs;
- Increasing connectivity by creating multifunctional GI provision in and linking urban areas;
- The National Forest – Long Distance Trail;
- Erewash Valley - cycle and pedestrian corridor;
- Charnwood Forest Regional Park initiative;
- East Derbyshire Woodland Project, and
- Leighfield Forest.

Biodiversity and Natural Processes/Environmental Systems Opportunities

5.1.4 Key opportunities identified by stakeholders for investment in biodiversity assets and natural processes/environmental systems included:

- River corridors, especially the strategic corridors of the Rivers Trent, Soar, Derwent, Erewash and Wreake;
- River Trent Washlands;
- Melbourne Parklands;
- Reservoirs;
- Canal corridors;
- Woodlands and forests;
- Wetlands;
- Sites of interest for their geodiversity;
- Woodlands - The National Forest and other forests/woodlands;

- Agricultural land improved through stewardship schemes (ELS/HLS);
- Grasslands;
- Disused railway lines;
- New mineral sites; and
- Agricultural land improved through environmental stewardship (ELS/HLS).

Landscape Character and the Historic Environment Opportunities

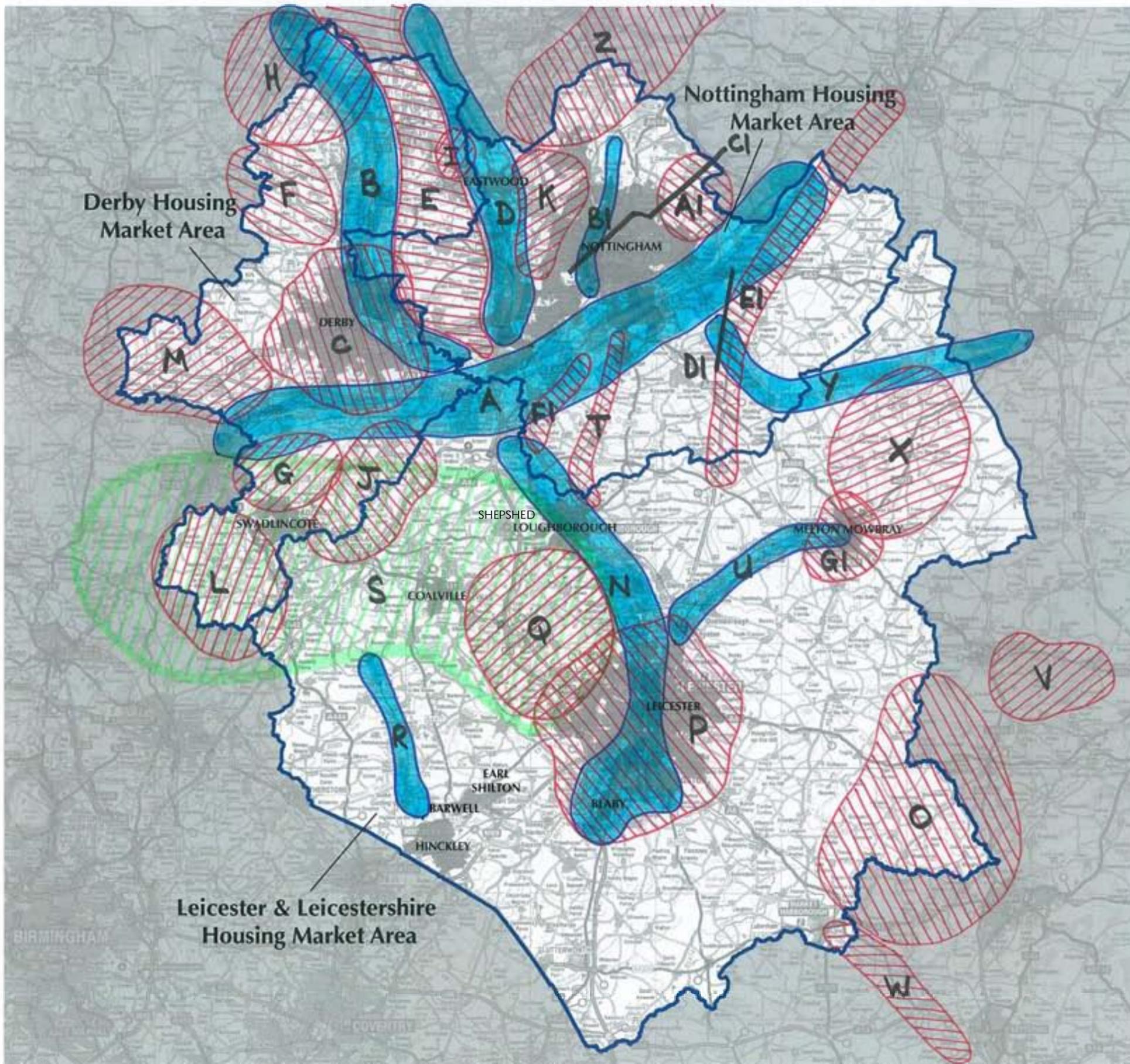
5.1.5 Key opportunities identified by stakeholders for investment in landscape character and historic environment assets included:

- Strategic River Corridors;
- Historic Estate Parklands - The Melbourne Parklands;
- M1 Corridor;
- Trunk road network;
- The National Forest;
- Urban fringe areas around settlements;
- Charnwood Forest;
- The River Soar Valley;
- Trent Washlands;
- Disused Railway Corridors;
- Derwent Valley World Heritage Site;
- Grantham Canal;
- Ashby Canal; and
- Bosworth Historic Battlefield.

Integrated GI Opportunities

5.1.6 Stakeholders used the thematic opportunities mapping to define areas with greatest needs and opportunities for enhanced GI provision within the 6Cs sub-region. These areas are shown on **Figures 5.1a** and **5.1b**. In summary, the following are key areas that stakeholders considered would most benefit from strategic investment in multifunctional GI:

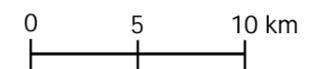
- Strategic River Corridors (the washlands/floodplains of the River Trent, River Soar, River Wreake, River Derwent and the River Erewash);
- Canal corridors (the Grantham Canal, Ashby Canal, Cromford Canal, Grand Union Canal and Erewash Canal);
- Charnwood Forest;
- The National Forest;
- The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site;
- Erewash Valley;
- Greenwood and Sherwood Forests;
- The Derby/Nottingham “Countryside Gap”;
- Swadlincote “Countryside Gap”;
- The Melbourne Parklands;
- Peak District Fringe landscapes;
- Trunk Road corridors;
- Urban fringes, Green Wedges and Green Belts, and
- Woodlands.



KEY

The information presented on this map is derived from the records of the 6Cs GI Strategy stakeholder workshops. Details of the key findings of the workshops for each Housing Market Area are available separately.

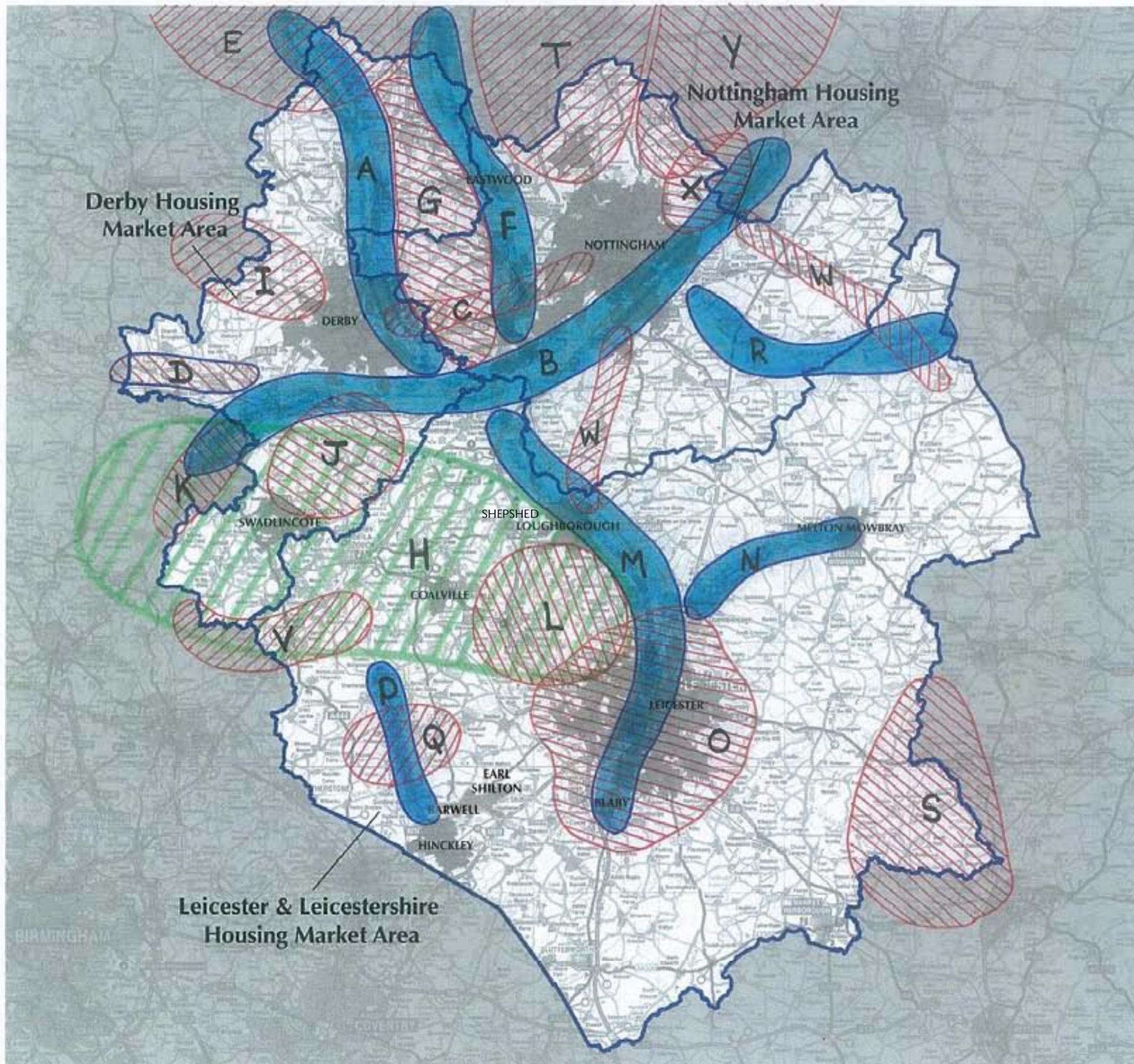
- [A] TRENT VALLEY CORRIDOR
- [B] DERWENT VALLEY CORRIDOR
- [C] DERBY GREEN WEDGES
- [D] RIVER EREWASH CORRIDOR
- [E] DERBY/NOTTINGHAM COUNTRYSIDE GAP/COALFIELDS
- [F] NW DERBY PARKLANDS
- [G] SWADLINCOTE COUNTRYSIDE GAP
- [H] PEAK FRINGE WOODLANDS
- [I] CODNOR PARK
- [J] MELBOURNE PARKLANDS
- [K] HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP TARGET AREA/LAKES
- [L] SPORTS ZONE
- [M] DERBYSHIRE CLAYLANDS
- [N] RIVER SOAR CORRIDOR
- [O] LEIGHFIELD FOREST
- [P] STEPPING STONES PROJECT
- [Q] CHARNWOOD FOREST REGIONAL PARK
- [R] ASHBY CANAL
- [S] THE NATIONAL FOREST
- [T] GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY
- [U] RIVER WREAKE CORRIDOR
- [V] RUTLAND WATER
- [W] BRAMPTON VALLEY WAY
- [X] RIVER EYE HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP
- [Y] GRANTHAM CANAL GI PARTNERSHIP
- [Z] SHERWOOD PARK/HEATHLAND PARTNERSHIP
- [AI] GEDLING COUNTRY PARK/DUMBLES
- [BI] RIVER LEEN CORRIDOR
- [CI] CALVERTON MINERAL LINE
- [DI] COTGRAVE MINERAL LINE
- [EI] A46 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT
- [FI] A453 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT
- [GI] MELTON MOWBRAY GREEN WEDGES
- [] Housing Market Areas
- [] Major Settlements



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Figure 5.1a
GI Opportunities identified by Stakeholder Workshops - 29th January 2009

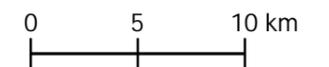


KEY

The information presented on this map is derived from the records of the 6Cs GI Strategy stakeholder workshops. Details of the key findings of the workshops for each Housing Market Area are available separately.

- A DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE
- B TRENT RIVER CORRIDOR
- C DERBY/NOTTINGHAM ACCESS CORRIDOR
- D RIVER DOVE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR
- A LOWER DERWENT FLOOD RISK STRATEGY
- E PEAK FRINGE GRASSLANDS
- B NOTTINGHAM FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME
- F RIVER EREWASH CORRIDOR
- G COALFIELDS
- H NATIONAL FOREST
- I MARKEATON AND MERKASTON BROOK
- J MELBOWNE PARKLANDS PROJECT
- K CENTRAL RIVERS INITIATIVE
- L CHARNWOOD FOREST
- M RIVER SOAR CORRIDOR
- N RIVER WREAKE CORRIDOR
- O STEPPING STONES PROJECT/GREEN WEDGES
- P ASHBY CANAL /BURBASE COMMON
- Q BOSWORTH GROUP
- R GRAITHAM CANAL CORRIDOR
- S LEIGHFIELD
- T GREENWOOD COMMUNITY FOREST
- U AMBER VALLEY ROUTEWAYS
- V RIVER MEASE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION
- W DISUSED RAILWAY CORRIDOR
- X DUMBLES
- Y SHERWOOD FOREST EXTENSION SOUTH

- Housing Market Areas
- Major Settlements



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Figure 5.1b
GI Opportunities identified by Stakeholder Workshops - 30th January 2009

5.1.7 A number of specific existing projects/initiatives were also identified by stakeholders as key mechanisms for the delivery of strategic GI at the sub-regional scale:

- The OnTrent initiative;
- Derwent Flood Risk Strategy;
- Grantham Canal Partnership;
- Hinckley and Bosworth GI Strategy;
- Environmental Stewardship;
- Public Rights of Way Improvement Plans;
- Greenspace/Open Space Strategies;
- Leicester City Council Infrastructure Study;
- CPRE Tranquillity Mapping;
- Local Plans/LDF Core Strategies – especially concerning locations identified for growth;
- Stepping Stones GI Project Delivery Plan;
- Grantham Canal Partnership;
- River Trent to Cotgrave GI Masterplan (Nottingham City Council, Rushcliffe BC, Inland Waterways);
- Leicester and Leicestershire HMA Growth Infrastructure Plan
- British Waterways and Natural England; and
- South Derbyshire Greenway Strategy (2007).

5.1.8 It should be noted that while the above lists reflect workshop discussions, they are not exhaustive.

5.1.9 The outcomes from the workshops were reviewed and, where considered appropriate to the strategic scale of the study, the identified opportunities were integrated into the development of the overall Strategy. Some key messages from the stakeholder consultation included:

- The need for additional datasets to inform the Strategic GI Networks for the Three Cities work (particularly district level PPG17 open space/green space typologies);
- The range of opportunities identified, where appropriate, should be incorporated into **Volumes 4, 5, and 6**, and the Sub-Regional Strategic Framework; and
- Bringing forward the Strategic GI Networks for the Three Cities work in advance of the preparation of the GI Framework/Action Plan.

**APPENDIX A1
SUB-REGIONAL POLICY/GUIDANCE &
GI STUDIES/STRATEGIES DOCUMENT REVIEW**

SUB-REGIONAL POLICY/GUIDANCE & GI STUDIES/STRATEGIES DOCUMENT REVIEW

Sub-Regional Policy/Guidance

Policy Document/Strategy	Date of Publication	Website for Further Information	Overview
The Three Cities Sub-Regional Strategy – set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands (RSS8) –	2009	www.emra.gov.uk	<p>The Strategy provides additional direction and guidance to Local Development Frameworks on issues that cross strategic planning boundaries and other Sub-Regional matters of importance in the Three Cities Sub-area. It sets out a context for the sustainable regeneration and growth of the Sub-area, and takes into account and is consistent with the 6Cs Growth Point designation. The vision for the Sub-area is:</p> <p><i>'The Three Cities Sub-area will be an area where the principles of sustainability are implemented through new development and regeneration. This will involve the significant strengthening of the complementary roles of the 3 Principal Urban Areas by providing new jobs, homes, services, community facilities and green and environmental infrastructure in and around them. The role of Sub-Regional Centres will be maintained through appropriate development, and the needs of other settlements requiring regeneration will be met in a sustainable way. Natural and cultural assets will be protected and enhanced.'</i></p>
6Cs Growth Point Programme of Development	2008	www.leicestershiretogether.org/nov08_pod_refresh_app_f_strategic_gi_v2.2.pdf	The 6Cs Growth Point Programme of Development sets out the 6Cs Strategic GI Project Board's approach to delivery of investment in strategic GI within the Growth Point.
Derbyshire Local Transport Plan	2000	www.derbyshire.gov.uk	The Local Transport plan sets out the Councils proposals for transport for a 5 year period based on thorough reviews of transport needs within the county.
Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011	2006	www.leics.gov.uk	This Plan sets out the transport strategy for the County, which is based on a thorough review of transport needs, and details a five year implementation programme.
Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011	2006	www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk	The plan sets out the aims, objectives and strategies for achieving more sustainable and integrated transport throughout Nottinghamshire.

Policy Document/Strategy	Date of Publication	Website for Further Information	Overview
East Derbyshire, South Derbyshire and, West Derbyshire and High Peak Greenway Strategies	respectively 1998 (currently under review), 2006 and 2008	www.derbyshire.gov.uk	The Greenway Strategies outline proposals for the development of a strategic network of greenways. This network links directly into settlements and to the public transport interchanges, continues through communities to join other routes, and provides a linear transport route from settlements into the wider countryside or to demand destinations.. The strategies form part of the Local Transport Plan for Derbyshire.
The National Forest Strategy 2004-14	2004	http://www.nationalforest.org	Since the original Strategy was published in 1994, much has changed in the Forest itself and in the context within which it is being created. This revised Strategy looks ahead to anticipate the opportunities and challenges for the Forest over the next 10 years. The Strategy retains the overall Forest vision (Appendix 2) and the original Forest boundary. It is not a site-specific blueprint for the Forest, but provides the framework within which a wide range of individuals and partner organisations can participate in its creation.
The National Forest Delivery Plan 2009-14	2009	http://www.nationalforest.org	The Delivery Plan sets out how The National Forest will continue to be created, managed and valued to 2014 and beyond. It lays out an ambitious but realistic set of activities, reflecting the breadth and balance of the National Forest Strategy 2004 – 2014. The Delivery Plan was developed through an extensive consultation exercise,
Lowland Derbyshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Addendum 2001	http://www.ukbap.org.uk	Provides guidance and priorities for action to conserve significant species and habitats. It is linked to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the priority habitats and species identified within it for conservation and enhancement. It also takes account of additional locally significant habitat and species and set out actions for their conservation and enhancement.
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Version 2, 2002	http://www.ukbap.org.uk	Provides guidance and priorities for action to conserve significant species and habitats. It is linked to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the priority habitats and species identified within it for conservation and enhancement. It also takes account of additional locally significant habitat and species and set out actions for their conservation and enhancement.

Policy Document/Strategy	Date of Publication	Website for Further Information	Overview
Nottingham Local Biodiversity Action Plan	1998	http://www.ukbap.org.uk	Provides guidance and priorities for action to conserve significant species and habitats. It is linked to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the priority habitats and species identified within it for conservation and enhancement. It also takes account of additional locally significant habitat and species and set out actions for their conservation and enhancement.
The National Forest Local Biodiversity Action Plan	2004	http://www.ukbap.org.uk	Provides guidance and priorities for action to conserve significant species and habitats. It is linked to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the priority habitats and species identified within it for conservation and enhancement. It also takes account of additional locally significant habitat and species and set out actions for their conservation and enhancement. It is the first BAP to be prepared for an area which already has its own intrinsic conservation interest but which is also creating a major new landscape and adding a whole new layer of conservation opportunities.
The Landscape Character of Derbyshire	2003	www.derbyshire.gov.uk	This work is intended to inform planning policy at the regional, county and local level, development control and countryside management. A total of 39 Landscape Character Types (LCTs) are identified within 10 National Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). Written descriptions for the landscape character types, supported by photographs and tables, have been published.
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Landscape and Woodland Strategy	2001, Addendum 2006.	www.leics.gov.uk	The Strategy identifies 18 distinctive character areas within three authorities. It provides guidelines for conserving and enhancing these distinctive landscapes and expanding the woodland cover of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland in ways appropriate to each landscape character area. The Strategy sits within the context of the Structure Plan and seeks to give guidance on issues which are outside the planning control process but which affect the appearance and character of the landscape.
Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines	1998	www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk	In 1997 Nottinghamshire County Council published the Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines which included a Nottinghamshire Landscape guidelines Landscape Types Plan viewable as an interactive map, developed following a Landscape Character Assessment exercise for the whole county of Nottinghamshire. The character assessment seeks to understand the factors that make one area distinct from another, by a structured examination of geology, topography, soils, vegetation cover, and the influence of human exploitation of the land. It operates by grouping areas of similar character into a series of

Policy Document/Strategy	Date of Publication	Website for Further Information	Overview
			regional character areas and landscape types. The Landscape and Reclamation Team is now using the Countryside Agency/Scottish Natural Heritage Landscape Character Assessment guidance for England and Scotland 2002 to review the Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines in line with recent government guidance.
Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Historic Landscape Characterisation	June 2010	www.leicestershire.gov.uk	<p>The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland HLC project analysed the rural and urban historic landscape character of the study area, presenting a detailed description of its past and present landscapes and generating a data set intended to inform appropriate and effective management strategies.</p> <p>The study concluded that the development of GI strategies and the delivery of individual projects should give careful consideration to the wider landscape context and its historic character, the latter often fundamental to its form, sense of place and local distinctiveness. In addition, as well as creating the opportunity to link individual heritage assets, GI projects pass through landscape, the character of which is a tangible product of centuries of human interaction with the natural and physical environments. HLC can aid in the provision of this context and inform how projects might relate to or affect (including enhancing) the character of the historic landscape.</p>

District/Borough GI Studies and Strategies

Policy Document/Strategy	Date of Publication	Website for Further Information	Overview
Blaby District Character Assessment	2008	www.blaby.gov.uk	The Landscape Character Assessment forms a key part of the evidence base that will inform the Council's planning policies. It involves systematic analysis, description and classification of the landscape and helps to identify important landscapes (and townscapes). This helps develop appropriate recommendations for its future conservation and management.
A Green Infrastructure Study for Hinckley and Bosworth.	2008	www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk	This Strategy forms the basis for developing a strategic green infrastructure sites and network plan for the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. It identifies existing green infrastructure networks and corridors, including water based networks (blue infrastructure), within and around the Borough's settlements. It provides mapping to show areas of green infrastructure needs and identifies where there are opportunities for green infrastructure to be created or enhanced to deliver socio-economic and environmental benefits. The Strategy is intended to also inform spatial planning and the prioritising/targeting of funding.
City of Nottingham Green Infrastructure Study	In progress	www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk	The GI Study will identify existing and anticipated future GI deficits, and consider the need for GI provision throughout the City.
East Staffordshire Green Infrastructure Study	2008	www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk	This report forms the component outputs for the green infrastructure evidence base. It provides evidence to help inform the selection of potential locations for growth in the Borough, and identifies and addresses existing and anticipated future green infrastructure deficits. The report also provides a vision and opportunities to achieve a significant net gain in green infrastructure value across the Borough through the creation, enhancement and sustainable management of new and existing resources. The National Forest is a priority area in the East Staffordshire's GI Strategy and plays an important role as a cross regional link between both the 6Cs and East Staffordshire (Burton-upon-Trent) Growth Points.
Northamptonshire GI Strategic Framework	2006	www.nmrpenvironmentalcharacter.org.uk/	The Northamptonshire Strategy was commissioned by the River Nene Regional Park, supported by the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and is part of an ongoing commitment to green infrastructure development and delivery across the Milton Keynes South Midland Sub Region and the wider East Midlands Region. It seeks to take a proactive approach to environmental

Policy Document/Strategy	Date of Publication	Website for Further Information	Overview
			protection and enhancement whilst embracing economic regeneration and growth. The strategy was developed in partnership with INTERREG ¹ /SPARC ² , English Nature, the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, the Environment Agency, Sport England, Northamptonshire County Council and the other local authorities within and close to the boundaries of Northamptonshire.
Ashfield Greenspace Strategy	2005	www.ashfield-dc.gov.uk	The Green Space Strategy will provide a focus for the continued improvement of green spaces in Ashfield and provide guidance on the provision of new green space and associated facilities through the development process. The strategy focuses on publicly accessible green space, including allotments and cemeteries.
Broxtowe Greenspace Audit and Strategy 2009-2019	2008	www.broxtowe.gov.uk	The Greenspaces Strategy is an assessment of the provision and standard of the Borough's green spaces, which are owned by Broxtowe Borough Council and its partners, and the needs and aspirations of the users of those spaces, both residents and visitors alike. It analyses supply and demand and draws together a set of standards for how parks and green spaces should be provided, maintained and improved, in order to deliver our vision. The strategy then applies this vision and standards to an action plan of priorities.
Erewash Draft Green Space Strategy	2007	www.erewash.gov.uk	The Strategy's aims are to provide a diverse network of attractive and welcoming green spaces that are well managed and maintained, Attract a broader spectrum of the population and serve to enhance the quality of life for those who live, work and play in the borough.
Hinckley and Bosworth Green Space Strategy Audit of Provision	2005	www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk	This document details the green space provision of individual settlements within the borough and makes recommendations based upon the analysis of this provision. The document was updated by the Hinckley and Bosworth Green Space Strategy Audit of Provision in 2007 which provides more detailed information about the provision of green space in individual settlements within the borough. The Strategy will shortly be superseded by the Council's updated and reviewed PPG17 Study.

¹ INTERREG IIIC is an EU-funded programme that helps Europe's regions form partnerships to work together on common projects.

² SPARC was a partnership of organisations aimed at promoting the integrated management of river corridors in northern Europe by providing advice and understanding for regenerating river basins, and enhancing their natural, cultural, and historic environments.

Policy Document/Strategy	Date of Publication	Website for Further Information	Overview
Leicester City Council Greenspace Strategy 2008-2015	2007	www.leicester.gov.uk	This strategy sets out Leicester City Council's vision for using its green space, and the goals it want to achieve, plus the resources, methods and time needed to meet these goals.
Oadby and Wigston Parks and Open Spaces Strategy	2006	www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk	<p>The purpose of this strategy is to set out a philosophy and framework for the provision and care of open land within the Borough.</p> <p>The primary goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify the existing amount, type and spread of the Borough's open space • To understand the needs of communities and stakeholders with regard to open space • To produce principles and guidance for the future of open space • To recommend priorities for action to redress deficiencies, maintain standards and meet needs and demands.
Amber Valley PPG17 Study – Assessing Needs and Opportunities	Date unknown	www.ambervalley.gov.uk	The specific purpose of the study is to enable Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC) to develop up to date standards and policies for open space, sport and recreation.
Blaby PPG17 Study	2009	www.blaby.gov.uk	This study is an audit of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the Blaby District and is used to inform the Council's Core Strategy and land use allocations. The audit meets the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) and provides evidence in support of the Council's spatial planning policies.
Charnwood PPG 17 Study	In progress	www.charnwood.gov.uk	The study will address the requirements of PPG17, which sets out government guidance in relation to open spaces, and calls for local authorities to set standards for open spaces that recognise both the present level of provision, and local people's views and aspirations regarding the present and future provision.
City of Derby PPG17 Open Space Audit	In progress	www.derby.gov.uk	The study will address the requirements of PPG17, which sets out government guidance in relation to open spaces, and calls for local authorities to set standards for open spaces that recognise both the present level of provision, and local people's views and aspirations regarding the present and future provision.
City of Leicester PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for Leicester City	2007	www.leicester.gov.uk	The study provides Leicester City Council with an open space, sports and recreation needs assessment and audit analysed and completed in line with the requirements of "Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space Sport

Policy Document/Strategy	Date of Publication	Website for Further Information	Overview
			and Recreation”, and following the methodology set out in “Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17”.
City of Nottingham PPG17 Open Space Audit	In progress	www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk	The study will address the requirements of PPG17, which sets out government guidance in relation to open spaces, and calls for local authorities to set standards for open spaces that recognise both the present level of provision, and local people’s views and aspirations regarding the present and future provision.
Erewash Borough Council PPG17 Study	2006	www.erewash.gov.uk	This work examined the provision of parks, children’s play, natural green space, green corridors, allotments, burial grounds, amenity green space, outdoor and indoor sports, and civic space. Each site was assessed and evaluated against agreed criteria, and the results were then compared with the feedback from an extensive public consultation (including consultation with stakeholder groups, and with young people) to determine what the standards of provision should be.
Gedling Borough PPG17 Recreational Open Space Assessment Report	2004	www.gedling.gov.uk	This report is the assessment of informal recreational open space in the Borough of Gedling. It is part of a wider recreational open space study. The Open Spaces study, whilst solely looking at identifying existing sites has been carried out in accordance with PPG17
Harborough District Council PPG17 Open Space and Recreation Provision Study	2004	www.harborough.gov.uk	This study aims to provide a clear picture of existing and future needs for open space and sport and recreation in Harborough and the current ability to meet those needs in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility. The study is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002).
Melton PPG17 Open Space and Recreation Assessment	2006	www.melton.gov.uk	The specific objective of this study is to provide a comprehensive audit and analysis of open space in Melton Borough. The assessment of open space and the subsequent strategy and action plan will allow the Council to strategically plan for the improvement, access and protection of this land. The information from this study will be used to inform the preparation of the Melton Local Development Framework (MLDF) in terms of open space policies and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for MLDF policies at Public Inquiries • Prioritise investment in open spaces (including the use of Section 106 contributions) • Support funding applications for the improvement development of key sites

Policy Document/Strategy	Date of Publication	Website for Further Information	Overview
			mentioned in this document and the strategy and action plan This assessment identifies current provision, sets out key issues and identifies where there is unmet demand. The subsequent strategy and action plan will provide local standards for future provision, strategy objectives for the provision of open space and a site by site list of possible future developments.
North West Leicestershire PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Assessment	Date unknown	www.nwleics.gov.uk	The study provides Leicester City Council with an open space, sports and recreation needs assessment and audit analysed and completed in line with the requirements of "Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation", and following the methodology set out in "Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17".
Oadby and Wigston PPG17 Open Spaces and Recreational Facilities Assessment of the Borough	2003	www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk	This study was carried out in line with the requirements of PPG17 in order to provide evidence in support of policies contained in the emerging Local development framework and Local Development Documents.
Rushcliffe PPG17 Study	Date unknown	www.rushcliffe.gov.uk	The study provides Leicester City Council with an open space, sports and recreation needs assessment and audit analysed and completed in line with the requirements of "Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation", and following the methodology set out in "Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17".
South Derbyshire PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment	2005	www.south-derbys.gov.uk/	The study was undertaken based on current national guidance set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) and includes an assessment of the three main leisure provision areas; built facilities, outdoor sports pitches & open space provision. It audited what already exists, identifies shortfalls and offers guidance on how these shortfalls can be addressed, particularly in dealing with new developments. It is intended as an objective basis for negotiation and a reference point for challenges. Government guidance states negotiations with developers should be based upon a sound and up to date survey.

CORRIDOR/AREA-SPECIFIC GI STUDIES AND STRATEGIES

Trent Link - River Trent to Cotgrave Green Infrastructure Master Plan	2009	www.rushcliffe.gov.uk	<p>The masterplan proposals are the result of the River Trent to Cotgrave Green Infrastructure Study, which was commissioned by the Grantham Canal Partnership to look at the creation of a green infrastructure landscape corridor between the River Trent and Cotgrave Country Park. Key features of the Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a navigable link between the River Trent and the Grantham Canal • the provision of multi-user trails • improved visitor facilities and • improved facilities for walkers, cyclists, anglers, bird watchers, horse riders and boaters. <p>The Partnership is comprised of Lincolnshire CC, Leicestershire CC, Nottinghamshire CC, South Kesteven, Melton Mowbray, Rushcliffe DC/Boroughs, Natural England, British Waterways and Inland Waterways.</p>
Trent River Park Vision and Action Plan	2008	www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1424	<p>The Trent River Park is the name given to a broadly defined area along the River Trent, within and adjacent to the Nottingham City conurbation. The Vision and Action Plan for the Trent River has been developed to co-ordinate the organisations currently undertaking work within the park boundaries and to bring forward a series of key projects to promote and enhance the Trent River Park. The Vision and Action Plan is intended to ensure that there is 'added value' in all the proposals brought forward by partner organisations. In order to ensure this, the document also sets out a clear recommendation for the long-term management and governance arrangements to ensure that the Trent River Park project has 'leadership' and a strong management structure to ensure that co-ordination of activity is achieved across the Trent River Park. This leadership and management structure is intended to be the basis for committed stakeholder involvement to deliver long lasting change in the Trent River Park to realise the vision and achieve the potential of the area.</p>
Trent Valley Way Feasibility Study	Date unknown	www.ontrent.org.uk	<p>This feasibility study looks at the potential for a long-distance trail along the Trent Valley. Its main focus is to evaluate the potential of the network for tourism purposes and residents access. An evaluation will be made of potential social and environmental impacts as well as potential economic benefits to local communities. The study will also consider the following:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of tourism potential • Estimation of demand along the route • Costs of signage and promotion • Public opinion along the route • Social impact
Stepping Stones Project - Creating a Green and Prosperous Future: A Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan	2008	www.leics.gov.uk	The Stepping Stones Partnership sets out to "...create a multifunctional, biodiverse and resilient network of countryside and urban green infrastructure that supports a vibrant and competitive economy so that everyone living in and visiting the area may enjoy and participate in a high quality of life". The Strategy provides guidance for the activity of the Stepping Stones Project and its partners in the delivery of landscape-scale GI over the next 20 years. The Stepping Stones Project has been running from Leicestershire County Council since 1992 and represents a partnership working in and around Leicester that aims to improve greenspace and make high quality GI available to all. The GI Delivery Plan aims to both complement and support the planned growth ensuring that the quality of life and quality of place for those living in, working in and visiting the Central Leicestershire area is protected and improved. The Plan also aims to inform the development of LDFs and Area Action Plans along with other local plans and strategies, and assist in the implementation of those plans by providing baseline evidence and information for policy formulation, project development and delivery. It is complemented by the Stepping Stones Action Plan.
River Soar and Grand Union Canal Strategy	Work in Progress	www.riversoarstrategy.com	This is an emerging strategy commenced late in 2008. It assesses the current position, issues and future opportunities for the River Soar and the Grand Union Canal Leicester Line, which extends from Loughborough Meadows, north of Loughborough to Kilby Bridge, south of Leicester. It provides a detailed assessment of the state/condition of the river corridor and proposes a series of actions based around the themes of a Green Waterway, a Visible Waterway and an Accessible Waterway. It considers how the corridor might be managed to balance environmental and community needs with new development and creation of new public realm. The Strategy takes a multifunctional approach to the provision of infrastructure.

SITE MASTERPLANNING GI STRATEGIES

Nottingham Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy	Work in Progress	www.nottinghamgateway.com	The Nottingham Gateway is a proposal for a Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) close to Clifton in the Borough of Rushcliffe, south of Nottingham. A Green Infrastructure Strategy is currently being prepared as part of the masterplanning of the development. The Strategy places particular emphasis on establishing links with the existing green infrastructure network within the area and aims to assist in the assimilation of the development into the landscape.
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APPENDIX A2
SOURCES OF GI ASSET MAPPING DATA USED FOR VOLUME 3

SOURCES OF GI ASSET MAPPING DATA USED FOR VOLUME 3

Datasets used in the preparation of the Stage 1 Baseline Information Review and GI Audit are subject to licence arrangements with the individual suppliers and are subject to copyright. Requests for data should be addressed to the appropriate suppliers.

Dataset	Owner	Data Source/Supplier
BASE MAPPING		
6Cs sub-region Boundary	6Cs Strategic GI Board	Sharon Jefferies, 6Cs Growth Point GI Development Co-ordinator Leicestershire County Council County Hall (room 500) Glenfield LE3 8TE
HMA Boundaries	Indicative boundaries created by Chris Blandford Associates	Chris Blandford Associates
1:250,000 OS Raster Map	Ordnance Survey	Forestry Commission Operational Support Mapping and Geographic Information Unit Silvan House 231 Corstorphine Road Edinburgh EH12 7AT
Meridian data - A Roads - County Council Region - District Council Region - Dula region (settlements) - Lake Region - Motorways - Rail Lines - Rivers	Ordnance Survey	Richard Venables Forestry Commission Operational Support Mapping and Geographic Information Unit Silvan House 231 Corstorphine Road Edinburgh EH12 7AT
BIODIVERSITY NETWORK MAPPING		
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	Natural England	Brian Crumley Natural England Data Services Science Services Team Northminster House Peterborough PE1 1UA
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	Natural England	See above
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Natural England	See above
National Nature Reserves	Natural England	See above
National Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats	Natural England	See above
Local Nature Reserves	Natural England	See above
Derbyshire Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust East Mill Bridgefoot

Dataset	Owner	Data Source/Supplier
		Belper Derbyshire DE56 1XH
Leicestershire Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	Leicestershire Wildlife Trust	Leicestershire Environmental Resources Centre (LERC) Holly Hayes 216 Birstall Road Birstall Leicestershire LE4 4DG
Nottinghamshire Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	Nottinghamshire Biological Record Centre	Rob Johnson Natural History Museum Wollaton Park Nottingham Nottinghamshire NG8 2AE
Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust	Ann Hall Conservation Technical Assistant Derbyshire Wildlife Trust East Mill Bridgefoot Belper Derbyshire DE56 1XH
Leicestershire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves	Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust	Andy Lear Conservation Officer Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Brocks Hill Environment Centre Washbrook Lane Oadby, LE2 5JJ
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	Gary Craggs Conservation Administrator Conservation Policy and Planning Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust The Old Ragged School Brook Street Nottingham, NG1 1EA
ACCESS PROVISION NETWORK MAPPING		
Nottinghamshire Access Land	Nottinghamshire County Council	http://www.magic.gov.uk/ or Gareth Austin Nottinghamshire County Council Trent Bridge House Fox Road West Bridgford Nottingham NG2 6BJ
Peak District National Park boundary	Natural England	http://www.magic.gov.uk/ or Graham Murray Regional GIS Team Natural England East Midlands Block 6 & 7 Government Buildings Chalfont Drive

Dataset	Owner	Data Source/Supplier
		Nottingham NG8 3SN
National Trails	Natural England	Brian Crumley Natural England Data Services Science Services Team Northminster House Peterborough PE1 1UA
Access Land (includes Registered Common Land)	Natural England	Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (www.magic.gov.uk)
Derbyshire Rights of Way	Derbyshire County Council	Kerry Turner Derbyshire County Council
Derbyshire Greenways/Promoted Routes	Derbyshire County Council	Wayne Bexton Greenways & Countryside Officer Derbyshire Countryside Service Derbyshire County Council County Hall Matlock DE4 3AG
Leicester City Rights of Way	Leicestershire County Council	Paul Standley Leicester City Council New Walk Centre, Welford Place Leicester LE1 6ZG
Leicestershire Rights of Way	Leicestershire County Council	Edwin McWilliam Leicestershire County Council County Hall (room 500) Glenfield LE3 8TE
Leicestershire Long Distance Promoted Paths	Leicestershire County Council	Edwin McWilliam Leicestershire County Council County Hall (room 500) Glenfield LE3 8TE
Nottingham City Rights of Way	Nottingham City Council	Kieran Fitzsimmons GIS Analyst Geographical Information Services Environment and Regeneration Nottingham City Council Exchange Buildings Smithy Row Nottingham NG1 2BS
Nottinghamshire Rights of Way	Nottinghamshire County Council	See above
Nottinghamshire Promoted Routes	Nottinghamshire County Council	See above
The National Forest	The National Forest Company	Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (www.magic.gov.uk)
The National Forest access map, woodland layer and boundary	The National Forest Company	Annette McGrath Research & Monitoring Officer National Forest Company Enterprise Glade Bath Yard, Moira, Swadlincote, DE12 6BA
Leicestershire Country	Leicestershire County Council	Bill Carter

Dataset	Owner	Data Source/Supplier
Parks		Countryside Manager Leicestershire County Council County Hall (room 500) Glenfield LE3 8TE
Derbyshire Country Parks	Derbyshire County Council	Kerry Turner Derbyshire Countryside Service Derbyshire County Council County Hall Matlock DE4 3AG
Nottinghamshire Country Parks/Green Estates	Indicative Boundary created by CBA	Chris Blandford Associates
Nottingham Green Estates	Nottinghamshire County Council	Gareth Austin Nottinghamshire County Council Trent Bridge House Fox Road West Bridgford Nottingham NG2 6BJ
National Trust Land - 24 hr Open Access and Limited Access Land Datasets	National Trust	Mike Renow-Clarke The National Trust Heelis Kemble Drive Swindon SN2 2NA
Forestry Commission Woodland	Forestry Commission	Graham Bull Woodland Surveys Unit Biometrics, Surveys and Statistics Division Forest Research Northern Research Station Roslin Midlothian EH25 9SY Scotland
National Inventory of Woodland and Trees (NIWT)	Forestry Commission	Forest Research Northern Research Station Roslin Midlothian EH25 9SY
Woodland Trust Access Land	Woodland Trust	The Woodland Trust Autumn Park Dysart Road Grantham Lincolnshire NG31 6LL
Leicestershire National Cycleway Network	Leicestershire County Council	Edwin McWilliam Leicestershire County Council County Hall (room 500) Glenfield LE3 8TE
Leicester City Cycle Routes	Leicester City Council	Paul Standley Leicester City Council New Walk Centre, Welford Place Leicester LE1 6ZG
Nottingham City National Cycle Routes	Nottingham City Council	Nottinghamshire County Council Trent Bridge House Fox Road West Bridgford

Dataset	Owner	Data Source/Supplier
		Nottingham, NG2 6BJ
Nottinghamshire Sustrans	Nottinghamshire County Council	Nottinghamshire County Council Trent Bridge House Fox Road West Bridgford Nottingham NG2 6BJ
Derbyshire Cycle Routes	Derbyshire County Council	Derbyshire County Council County Hall Matlock DE4 3AG
Extent of Navigable River	British Waterways	British Waterways
ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTER AND LOCAL DISTINCTIVENESS MAPPING		
Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest	English Heritage	Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (www.magic.gov.uk)
Scheduled Monuments	English Heritage	See above
World Heritage Sites	English Heritage	Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (www.magic.gov.uk)
Listed Buildings	English Heritage	Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (www.magic.gov.uk)
Battlefields	English Heritage	Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (www.magic.gov.uk)
Conservation Areas – Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire County Council	Nottinghamshire County Council Trent Bridge House Fox Road West Bridgford Nottingham NG2 6BJ
Conservation Areas - Leicestershire	Leicestershire County Council	Leicestershire County Council County Hall (room 500) Glenfield LE3 8TE
Conservation Areas – Derbyshire	Derbyshire County Council	Derbyshire County Council County Hall Matlock DE4 3AG
High Level Environmental Stewardship Target Areas (indicative)	Natural England	Graham Murray Regional GIS Team Natural England East Midlands Block 6 & 7 Government Buildings Chalfont Drive Nottingham NG8 3SN
Derbyshire CC Landscape Character Types	Derbyshire County Council	Derbyshire County Council County Hall Matlock DE4 3AG
Derbyshire CC Landscape Character edited (D12 masked)	Created by Chris Blandford Associates	Chris Blandford Associates
Nottinghamshire CC Landscape Character Types	Nottinghamshire County Council	Nottinghamshire County Council Trent Bridge House Fox Road West Bridgford

Dataset	Owner	Data Source/Supplier
		Nottingham NG2 6BJ
Leicestershire CC Landscape Character Areas	Leicestershire County Council	Leicestershire County Council County Hall (room 500) Glenfield LE3 8TE
ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS AND NATURAL RESOURCES		
Topographical Map (pdf)	Courtesy of the Environment Agency	Environment Agency Sapphire East 550 Steetsbrook Road Solihull B91 1QT
Indicative Floodplain	Environment Agency	See above
Soils	National Soils Resources Institute (NSRI)/Natural England	Brian Crumley GI Data Specialist Geographic Information Framework Teamlet Evidence Team Natural England Northminster House Peterborough PE1 1UA
Geology (250k)	British Geological Survey	Hannah Ross GI Data Specialist Geographic Information Framework Teamlet Evidence Team Natural England Northminster House Peterborough PE1 1UA Keith Ambrose British Geological Survey Keyworth Nottingham NG12 5GG

**APPENDIX A3
BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN HABITAT TARGETS
WITHIN THE 6Cs SUB-REGION**

BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN HABITAT TARGETS WITHIN THE 6CS SUB-REGION

Leicestershire and Rutland BAP

Habitat	Targets (by 2010)
Broadleaved woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further loss of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) Restore 100ha of Plantation on Ancient Woodlands sites(PAWS) Create 100ha of new broadleaved woodland (outside National Forest)
Wet woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No loss of wet woodland SSSIs and Wildlife Sites Increase wet woodland by 10ha
Lowland wood pasture and parkland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring 3 wood pasture and parkland sites into appropriate management, including restoration of pollarding, new tree planting and grazing Create 10ha of new wood pasture adjacent to existing sites
Neutral grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No loss of neutral grassland SSSIs and Wildlife Sites Bring 50 neutral grassland SSSIs and Wildlife Sites into positive management Create 500ha of new neutral grassland
Calcareous grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance through management 10 calcareous grassland SSSIs or Wildlife Sites Create 40ha of new calcareous grassland
Heath Grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No loss from SSSIs or Wildlife Sites Restore 40ha using appropriate management Create 100ha of heath grassland targeted within Charrwood Forest and adjoining existing habitat
Hedgerows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance through management 250km of ancient species-rich hedgerow Plant 170 km of new hedgerow
Field margins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create 750km of arable field margin Create 15km beetle banks Create 135 km conservation headlands Create 1km cultivated field margins
Floodplain wetland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain existing floodplain wetland Wildlife Sites Enhance through management 15 wetland Wildlife Sites Create 50 ha of floodplain wetland
Reedbed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No loss of reedbed SSSIs and Wildlife Sites Enhance management of all reedbed Wildlife Sites Create 10ha of new reedbed, prioritising

Habitat	Targets (by 2010)
Eutrophic standing water, ponds, lakes, canals and reservoirs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create or restore 100 ponds • No loss of notable aquatic plant communities from canal SSSIs and Wildlife Sites
Mesotrophic lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further loss of characteristic aquatic and marginal plant species • Restore water quality within existing lakes
Fast flowing streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore four degraded stream habitats
Mature trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate 300 mature tree Wildlife Sites • Create 3000 new pollards
Urban habitat (Leicester)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the value of wildlife corridors and the habitat network • Improve access to information on biodiversity • Encourage monitoring and recording of wildlife • Draw attention to the need to make greenspace and natural areas accessible • Develop the network of nature reserves
Roadside verges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate all Roadside Verge Nature Reserves as Wildlife Sites • Designate a further 25 road verge Wildlife Sites
Rocks and built structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and advise on management of 5 rock and built structure Wildlife Sites
Sphagnum ponds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No loss
Springs and flushes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify 10 spring and flush Wildlife Sites and enhance with appropriate management

Leicester BAP

The Leicester BAP does not include any quantitative targets, and is therefore not considered here.

Nottinghamshire BAP

Habitat	Targets
Mixed ash dominated woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain extent of habitat • Maintain and improve habitat by appropriate management (70% of total resource by 2010, 100% by 2015) • Improve condition of relict habitat (16ha by 2010) • Increase the area of mixed ash dominated woodland
Oak-birch woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain extent of habitat through appropriate management • Develop detailed inventory of habitat resource and target for expansion
Wet broadleaved woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain extent of habitat • Maintain and improve habitat by appropriate management (100% by 2010)
Wood pasture and parkland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete ancient tree survey develop register of ancient trees • Use survey and register to identify ancient trees to be protected with TPOs and brought under positive management • Maintain extent and favourable condition of habitat • Achieve favourable or unfavourable recovering condition on all wood pasture and parkland SSSIs currently in unfavourable condition by 2010 • Establish restoration management on 30% of undesignated wood pasture and parkland by 2010, with the aim of achieving favourable or unfavourable recovering condition by 2012 • Initiate creation of 150ha of new wood pasture and parkland by 2010 • Promote and extend replacement planting • Undertake surveys of key species groups associated with wood pasture and parkland by 2009 • Pollard appropriate oaks to increase resource and address skewed age structure
Unimproved neutral grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain extent of habitat • Maintain and improve habitat by appropriate management (70% of total resource by 2010, 100% by 2015) • Improve condition of relict habitat (800ha by 2010, 1264ha by 2015) • Increase the area of unimproved neutral grassland
Lowland calcareous grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain extent of habitat • Maintain and improve habitat by appropriate management (70% of total resource by 2010, 100% by 2015) • Improve condition of relict habitat (125ha by 2010, 175ha by 2015) • Increase the area of calcareous grassland

Habitat	Targets
Lowland dry acid grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain extent of habitat • Maintain and improve habitat by appropriate management (80% of total resource by 2010, 100% by 2015) • Improve condition of relict habitat (500ha by 2010/2015) • Increase the area of lowland dry acid grassland
Lowland heathland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain extent of habitat • Maintain and improve habitat by appropriate management (80% of total resource by 2010, 100% by 2015) • Improve condition of relict habitat (500ha by 2010/2015) • Increase the area of lowland heathland
Farmland: Arable farmland, arable field margins and improved grassland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reverse declines of farmland birds • Treble the number of agri-environment schemes (from 2003 baseline) by 2010 • Improve hare populations
Hedgerows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop inventory of ancient and species-rich hedgerows, including retention orders and work to prevent loss • Achieve favourable condition of 10% of hedgerows by 2010 • Increase species-rich hedgerows by 50km by 2015 • Achieve favourable management of 200km of all hedgerow types by 2010 • At least, maintain overall numbers of hedgerow trees
Lowland wet grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain extent of habitat • Maintain and improve habitat by appropriate management (660ha by 2015) • Improve condition of relict habitat (211ha by 2010, 1910ha by 2015) • Increase the area of lowland wet grassland
Fens marshes and swamps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain extent of habitat(s) • Maintain and improve habitat(s) by appropriate management • Improve condition of relict habitat and increase the area of fen, marsh and swamp (100ha by 2010/2015)
Reedbed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain extent of habitat • Maintain and improve habitat by appropriate management (70% of total resource by 2010, 90% by 2015) • Improve condition of relict habitat and expand habitat (200ha by 2010/2015)
Eutrophic and mesotrophic standing waters (including ponds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain extent of habitat(s) • Maintain and improve management of habitat(s), 50% of resource by 2010, 75% by 2015. • Create 150 new ponds by 2010

Habitat	Targets
Rivers and streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain habitat and species diversity of all rivers and streams • Enhance habitat and species diversity of 100km of main river through sensitive management by 2010 • Identify opportunities for restoring natural structure to stretches of main rivers • Restore natural flow where possible • Improve water quality of main rivers currently below optimum standards by 1 General Quality Assessment (GMQ) class by 2010
Canals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate principles of biodiversity planning into maintenance and engineering work • Maintain existing environmental quality of canals • Ensure good managements of canalside hedgerows • Improve bank habitat through use and development of alternatives to sheet piling • Collate records and carry out surveys for notable species • Ensure use of appropriate seed mixtures after works • Pursue opportunities for creation of off-line reserves for aquatic plant communities • Maintain and improve water quality
Ditches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a baseline by collating records and conducting surveys • Maintain and improve environmental quality of ditches • Enhance quality of habitats, including sustainable water use, improved water quality and extension of quality habitats • Increase liaison with Internal Drainage Boards and landowners over ditch management
Urban and post-industrial sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and confirm status of all urban and post-industrial sites of nature conservation value • Establish and maintain networks of wildlife sites and corridors in all urban areas by 2010 • Ensure all inhabitants of urban areas have access to wildlife rich areas within ¼ mile • Secure sympathetic management of as near to 100% as possible of urban SINC's by 2010
Planted coniferous woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement UK Forestry Standards • Avoid new woodland on sites of nature conservation value • Develop conservation value through restructuring and diversification • Develop systems for monitoring nature conservation value of planted coniferous woodland • Identify habitats of value in and around planted coniferous woodland, develop action plans for these and ensure these are taken into account in forest planning • Complete biodiversity audit of 50% of resource by 2010 • Incorporate prescriptions in forest plans for all important habitats and species identified in audit by 2010 • Increase diversity of native species • Include biodiversity targets in forest design plans for 30% of resource by 2010 • Maintain and increase the extent of open areas

Habitat	Targets
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="526 231 1406 258">• Incorporate objectives for increasing structural diversity in all forest plans<li data-bbox="526 263 1010 290">• Maintain and create new water bodies<li data-bbox="526 295 1032 322">• Link habitats of value to create networks

Lowland Derbyshire BAP

Habitat	Targets (2010 unless otherwise stated)
Lowland mixed broadleaved woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve positive management of, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1640ha of ASNW 1260ha of PAWS 100ha of secondary woodland 1000ha of new planted woodland • Initiate creation of 500ha of new lowland mixed broadleaved woodland, prioritising sites adjoining or linking existing ancient woodland sites
Wet woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate measures to achieve favourable management of all SSSIs where wet woodland is a notified interest, and 80% of other wet ASNW • Estimate extent of more recent secondary wet woodland and identify target for appropriate management • Estimate extent of more wet PAWS and identify target for appropriate management • Identify priority areas for action to reduce woodland fragmentation and identify target for creation of new wet woodland
Wood pasture, parkland and ancient trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain extent of habitat(s) • Achieve favourable or unfavourable recovering condition of 65% of resource Restore favourable condition in 2 sites • Expand 1 site • Carry out management work on 15 trees outside parkland
Heathland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and maintain extent of existing resource • Bring resource into favourable condition • Restore 12has • Extend and enhance to create heathland on appropriate sites • Create 10ha, especially to link or extend existing site
Semi-natural grasslands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase II survey of all sites • Evaluate sites for designation as County Wildlife Sites • Review and secure sympathetic management of, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neutral grassland – 50% by 2008, 75% by 2010 - Calcareous grassland – 2 Wildlife Sites and road verges - Dry acid grassland – 50% • Recreate 50ha of neutral and dry acid grassland and 25ha of calcareous grassland • Restore 200ha of neutral, 100ha of dry acid and 25ha of calcareous grassland

Habitat	Targets (2010 unless otherwise stated)
Ancient and species-rich hedgerows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all important hedgerows are marked on LBAP alert maps and protected by the planning system • Bring additional 100km of hedgerow into favourable management • Identify areas where additional hedgerow planting is needed • Plant 50km of species-rich hedgerow
Field margins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand area of cultivated low input field margins by 65ha • Expand area of field margins providing wild bird seed by 150ha • Expand area of flower-rich field margins providing pollen and nectar by 90ha • Expand area of buffer strips in arable fields by 400ha • Expand area of permanent grass margins by 100ha
Floodplain grazing marsh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all sites that qualify are designated as SSSI or Wildlife Site • Bring 250ha of floodplain grazing marsh into appropriate management • Create/restore 50ha of floodplain grazing marsh and bring into appropriate management
Lowland swamp, mires, fens and reedbeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all sites that qualify are designated as SSSI or Wildlife Site • 100ha of reedbeds over 2ha into appropriate management • 50 ha of swamp, mire and fen into appropriate management • Create 30ha each of reedbed and swamp, mire and fen, ideally greater than 2ha in size
Rivers and streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all sites that qualify are designated as SSSI or Wildlife Site • Get 300km of rivers and streams into appropriate management • Carry out restoration schemes on 10km of river
Standing open waters, ponds, lakes and canals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate measures to achieve favourable management of all SSSIs where standing open water is a notified interest, and 50% of standing open water Wildlife Sites • Identify priority areas and target for pond creation • Increase are of standing open water under sympathetic long term management for nature conservation in the Trent Valley

National Forest BAP

Habitat	Targets (2010)
Ancient semi-natural woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlarge 15 ASNW • Bring 15 ASNW into management
Wet woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all existing woodlands over 0.5ha are in favourable condition • Increase the area of wet woodland by 50ha
Lowland wood pasture and parkland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore/bring back into management 150ha of wood pasture and parkland
Neutral grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all sites of nature conservation importance are in favourable condition
Lowland dry acid grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all sites of nature conservation importance are in favourable condition • Increase extent of habitat by 20ha
Lowland heathland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the extent of lowland heathland through restoration and re-creation by 40ha • Ensure all heathland sites are appropriately managed
Ancient and species-rich hedgerows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore 20km of hedgerow each year • Plant 5km of new hedgerow trees/shrubs each year
Field margins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish 2-6m margins on 10% of farms • Establish 6m margins along 10% of the length of watercourses
Roadside verges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage local authorities to designate Roadside Verge Nature Reserves where justified (2 per year)
Wet grassland and floodplain grazing marsh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-create at least 50ha of floodplain grazing marsh • Create/manage 100 ha of wet grassland
Reedbeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all reedbeds over 0.5ha are managed for their wildlife • Create 40ha of new reedbed
Linear waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore 30km of river corridor • Work with Central Rivers Initiative and On Trent to restore rivers and riverside habitats along the Trent and Thame • Achieve targets set out in the British Waterways BAP • Create 50km of buffer strips adjacent to ditches and streams
Open water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore 5 water bodies each year • Create 1 new water body of at least 1ha each year • Create 5 small ponds each year
Plantation woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant 1560-1950ha of trees • Initiate at least one major project per year to enhance wildlife value or a particular species

Habitat	Targets (2010)
Orchards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish 1 new orchard each year• Bring 5 traditional orchards into management
Urban	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote and support 2 new 'urban wildlife' projects each year

**APPENDIX A4
STRATEGIC GI NEEDS –
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE/AREA STRATEGIES**

STRATEGIC GI NEEDS - LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE/AREA STRATEGIES

WOODED FARMLANDS									
Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)							
		Wooded Slopes and Valleys (D)	Wooded Farmlands (D)	Wooded Estatelands(D)	Wooded Estatelands (N)	Wooded Hills and Scarps (N)	Forest Sandlands (N)	Charnwood Forest (L)	Belvoir Scarp (L)
Woodlands and Trees	Conserve and restore ancient woodland and restock with locally occurring native species								
	Promote linked extensions to ancient woodland								
	Re-establish and enhance physical links between existing isolated woodland and hedgerows								
	Manage and enhance hedgerow trees								
	Manage scrub and secondary woodland to link with existing habitats and woodland								
	Encourage the removal of coniferous plantation woodland where opportunities arise								
	Conserve and manage mature/veteran trees within hedgerows								
	Conserve and renew ornamental plantations and individual parkland trees								
	Conserve and enhance tree groups that occur within and around rural settlements and isolated farmsteads								
	Enhance the semi-natural appearance and ecological diversity of broad-leaved woodland								
	Plant new woodland, utilising locally native trees and shrubs								
	Maintain the pattern of alternating areas of unimproved pasture and woodland								
	Conserve and restore areas of semi-natural oak woodland								
	Create new areas of semi-natural oak woodland								
	Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species								
Promote large-scale woodland planting to contain and soften urban development.									

WOODED FARMLANDS									
Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)							
		Wooded Slopes and Valleys (D)	Wooded Farmlands (D)	Wooded Estatelands(D)	Wooded Estatelands (N)	Wooded Hills and Scarps (N)	Forest Sandlands (N)	Charnwood Forest (L)	Belvoir Scarp (L)
Boundary Features	Conserve and enhance the hedgerow network through the retention and proper management of hedges and hedgerow trees								
	Encourage the retention and restoration of traditional drystone walls								
	Conserve primary field boundaries								
River Features	Enhance the visual and ecological continuity of river corridors								
	Conserve fast-flowing streams through appropriate vegetation management								
Semi-natural habitats	Manage permanent pastures sensitively, using low input methods								
	Restore grassland between areas of woodland where lost								
	Conserve and restore areas of heathland								
	Restore unimproved permanent pasture								
	Conserve pastoral character								
Settlement & Development patterns	Conserve the remote rural character								
	Enhance landscapes around urban edges, mine sites and industrial development								
	Concentrate new development around existing settlements								
	Conserve vernacular character								
	Conserve settlement pattern								
	Improve visitor management to relieve local recreational pressures								

RIVER VALLEY MEADOWLANDS/FARMLANDS

Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)								
		Riverside Meadows(D)	Wet Pasture Meadows (D)	River Meadowlands	River Valley Wetlands (N)	Soar Valley (L)	Trent Valley (L)	Welland Valley (L)	Wreake Valley (L)	Terrace Farmlands (N)
Woodlands and Trees	Conserve the existing woodland resource through improved management									
	Increase woodland cover in small blocks, whilst respecting the historical and ecological features which are important to the area's character									
	Promote measures for strengthening the existing level of tree cover									
	Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species									
	Ensure that a balance is maintained between new woodland planting and areas of nature conservation value									
	Encourage the continuing practice of pollarding to maintain the traditional riparian character of the landscape									
	Enhance visual unity through appropriate small-scale tree and woodland planting									
	Increase tree cover through planting of small woodlands and wet woodland including streamside willows									
	Increase tree cover through new hedgerow tree planting and field corner planting									
	Conserve old willow pollards alongside watercourses through improved management.									
	Protect the parklands, woodlands and tree groups which contribute strongly to the unspoilt character of the areas around Lockington and Hemington									
Boundary Features	Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows									
	Reinstate hedgerows that once marked the historic extent of the floodplain									

RIVER VALLEY MEADOWLANDS/FARMLANDS

Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)								
		Riverside Meadows(D)	Wet Pasture Meadows (D)	River Meadowlands	River Valley Wetlands (N)	Soar Valley (L)	Trent Valley (L)	Welland Valley (L)	Wreake Valley (L)	Terrace Farmlands (N)
	Restore the traditional pattern of hedged fields and enhance tree cover through hedgerow tree and small-scale woodland planting on the terraces									
	Conserve and restore the hedgerow network through improved hedgerow management and new hedgerow planting including hedgerow trees									
	Improve management of hedgerows and hedgerow trees									
River Features	Ensure the visual and ecological connectivity of river corridors by management, natural regeneration and planting of riparian trees.									
	Retain and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation									
	The reclamation of sand and gravel sites to wetland habitats should take precedence over open water options									
	Create new wetland landscapes through positive habitat creation and management									
	Restore pastoral character through the creation of meadows and wet pastures									
	Conserve the existing wetland habitats and identify opportunities for creating new ones									
	Seek opportunities to diversify the visual and ecological character of existing open water areas by increasing the number and variety of wetland landscapes									
	Encourage new streamside scrub and willow fringe planting where appropriate									
	Support the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland BAP in seeking to identify floodplain site(s) for wetland habitat creation									
	Enhance the appearance of the local landscape through carefully designed restoration schemes wherever further extractive									

RIVER VALLEY MEADOWLANDS/FARMLANDS										
Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)								
		Riverside Meadows(D)	Wet Pasture Meadows (D)	River Meadowlands	River Valley Wetlands (N)	Soar Valley (L)	Trent Valley (L)	Welland Valley (L)	Wreake Valley (L)	Terrace Farmlands (N)
	development is necessary									
	Seek to establish, in partnership with others, an agreed plan for a broad range of environmental improvements to the Soar and Trent Valleys									
	Encourage the retention of open drainage ditches, small streams and other wetland habitats									
	Conserve and enhance the traditional valley floodplain landscape									
Semi-natural habitats	Conserve pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands									
	Restore unimproved permanent pasture									
	Maintain ponds									
	Promote the creation of reedbeds and other floodplain wetland habitats as afteruses for mineral extraction sites									
	Conserve and enhance the remaining species-rich wetland meadows									
Agricultural Land Cover	Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture									
	Proposals for the agricultural restoration of land should seek to reinstate the structure and characteristic features (including willow holts, wet woodlands, and small broad-leaved woodlands).									
	Obtain high quality restoration schemes for mineral workings with a high proportion of land returned to permanent grassland wherever feasible									
	Ensure that where new mineral workings are necessary, restoration schemes respect the pattern of the local landscape and contribute to an overall increase in tree cover and wetland habitats									

RIVER VALLEY MEADOWLANDS/FARMLANDS										
Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)								
		Riverside Meadows(D)	Wet Pasture Meadows (D)	River Meadowlands	River Valley Wetlands (N)	Soar Valley (L)	Trent Valley (L)	Welland Valley (L)	Wreake Valley (L)	Terrace Farmlands (N)
Settlement & Development patterns	Conserve and strengthen the simply unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape									
	Enhance the appearance of the local landscape through well designed and adequately mitigated schemes wherever further infrastructure of extractive development is necessary									
	Conserve the character and setting of village settlements									

ROLLING SETTLED/ESTATE FARMLANDS

Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)										
		Settled Farmlands (D)	Village Farmlands (N)	Alluvial Estatelands (N)	Dumble Farmlands (N)	Alluvial Levels (N)	Upper Soar (L)	Laughton Hills (L)	Knipton Bowl (L)	Estate Farmlands (D)	Village Estate Farmlands (D)	
Woodlands and Trees	Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species											
	Ensure new woodland does not conflict with features (e.g. ridge and furrow) that help to define landscape character											
	Identify opportunities for enhancing the structure and unity of the landscape through new tree and woodland planting											
	Conserve and enhance the well wooded character of the area through continuing woodland management and tree planting											
	Increase woodland cover in small blocks which respect the existing pattern and balance of the landscape											
	Conserve tree cover within and around rural settlements and parkland and ensure long term tree cover through new hedgerow and parkland tree planting											
	Enhance the existing woodland resource through improved management											
	Increase woodland cover in small to medium sized blocks											
	Increase tree cover through new planting of scrub and willow fringe to streams											
	Conserve and strengthen the well-wooded character of the landscape											
	Enhance the structure and unity of the landscape through new tree and woodland planting											
	Enhance visual unity through small-scale woodland planting and, where appropriate, strengthening the traditional pattern of hedged fields											
	Promote linked extensions to ancient woodland by natural regeneration and plating											
	Re-establish and enhance physical links between existing isolated woodland and hedgerows											
	Conserve and renew ornamental plantations and individual parkland trees											

ROLLING SETTLED/ESTATE FARMLANDS												
Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)									Estate Farmlands (D)	Village Estate Farmlands (D)
		Settled Farmlands (D)	Village Farmlands (N)	Alluvial Estatelands (N)	Dumble Farmlands (N)	Alluvial Levels (N)	Upper Soar (L)	Laughton Hills (L)	Kniproton Bowl (L)			
	Conserve and enhance the tree groups that occur within and around rural settlements and isolated farmsteads											
Boundary Features	Ensure the management and enhancement of hedgerow trees through selection and natural regeneration, or by planting											
	Ensure the conservation and management of mature/veteran trees within hedgerows											
	Promote hedgerow reinstatement initiatives											
	Ensure continuing tree cover through the regeneration and replanting of hedgerow trees											
	Strengthen the agricultural hedged character of the landscape through improved hedgerow management											
	Encourage improved management of hedgerows and hedgerow trees											
River Features	Ensure the visual and ecological connectivity of river corridors by management, natural regeneration and planting of riparian trees.											
	Enhance the amenity and ecological value of the River Soar corridor											
Semi-natural habitats	Restore areas of former grassland											
	Identify opportunities for enhancing the visual and ecological diversity of the landscape											
	Restore unimproved permanent pasture											
	Maintain ponds											
	Manage and manage field boundaries											
Agricultural Land Cover	Conserve and strengthen the simple pattern of large hedged fields											
	Conserve areas of historic parkland and seek opportunities for restoring pastoral character											
	Consider options for converting arable farmland to permanent pasture											
	Conserve pastoral character											
	Conserve historic field pattern											

ROLLING SETTLED/ESTATE FARMLANDS											
Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)									
		Settled Farmlands (D)	Village Farmlands (N)	Alluvial Estatelands (N)	Dumble Farmlands (N)	Alluvial Levels (N)	Upper Soar (L)	Loughton Hills (L)	Kniproton Bowl (L)	Estate Farmlands (D)	Village Estate Farmlands (D)
Settlement & Development patterns	Conserve the character and setting of farms and village settlements										
	Conserve and enhance the historic pattern of hedgerows and rural lanes										
	Conserve and restore the traditional character of Dumble valleys										
	Promote measures for achieving better integration of new and existing development in the countryside										
	Promote measures for achieving better integration of new and exiting features in the countryside (such as strengthening the pattern of hedged fields and woodland cover)										
	Locate new settlement, where possible, within existing settlement in order to conserve the nucleated pattern										
	Conserve and enhance the rural character										
	Conserve the character and setting of estate settlement and ensure that new development is designed and sited sympathetically to complement and reinforce that										
	Conserve the remote undeveloped character of the landscape										
	Conserve settlement pattern										
	Conserve vernacular character										
	Conserve historic features										

COALFIELD FARMLANDS					
Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)			
		Coalfield Estatelands (D)	Coalfield Farmlands (N)	The Coalfield (L)	Coalfield Village Farmland (D)
Woodlands and Trees	Increase woodland cover in blocks of all sizes (except in the Coleorton historic mining area where only small scale planting works are appropriate).				
	Conserve and restore all ancient woodland sites and restock with locally occurring native species				
	Promote linked extensions to ancient woodland by natural regeneration and planting				
	Re-establish and enhance physical links between existing isolated woodland and hedgerows				
	Conserve and renew ornamental plantations and individual parkland trees				
	Ensure the conservation and management of mature/veteran trees within hedgerows				
	Encourage the management of scrub and secondary woodland to link with existing habitats and woodland				
	Ensure management and enhancement of hedgerow trees – through selection and natural regeneration, or by planting				
	Identify opportunities for small-scale tree and woodland planting				
Boundary Features	Ensure the management and enhancement of hedgerow trees through selection and natural regeneration, or by planting				
	Conserve and enhance the hedgerow network through improved hedgerow management and new planting				
River Features	Enhance the visual and ecological continuity of river corridors through management, natural regeneration and planting of riparian trees				
Semi-natural habitats	Encourage creation of new areas of heathland on derelict land and as part of restoration schemes for mineral workings				
	Ensure that post-industrial sites of ecological value are conserved				
Agricultural Land Cover	Conserve and strengthen the small-scale pattern of hedged fields and lanes				
	Conserve pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing grassland diversity				

COALFIELD FARMLANDS					
Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)			
		Coalfield Estatelands (D)	Coalfield Farmlands (N)	The Coalfield (L)	Coalfield Village Farmland (D)
Settlement & Development patterns	Obtain high quality restoration schemes for mineral workings with a high proportion of land restored to woodland wherever feasible				
	Enhance the appearance of local landscape through well designed and adequately mitigated schemes wherever further infrastructure of extractive development is necessary				
	Conserve and enhance the tree groups that occur within and around rural settlements and isolated farmsteads				
	Conserve historic features				
	Promote measures for retaining and enhancing the distinctive local character of mining villages				

PLATEAUX/ESTATE FARMLANDS				
Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)		
		Plateau Estate Farmlands (D)	High Leicestershire(L)	Cottesmore Plateau (L)
Woodlands and Trees	Increase woodland cover in medium to large blocks and provide links between ancient semi-natural woodlands			
	Re-establish and enhance physical links between existing isolated woodland and hedgerows			
	Conserve and renew ornamental plantations and individual parkland trees			
	Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species			
	Ensure that new woodland does not conflict with features (e.g. ridge and furrow) that help to define landscape character			
	Conserve and enhance the existing woodland resource through improved woodland management with targeting of the Leicestershire County Council small woodland management grant			
	Increase woodland cover in blocks of all sizes and provide links between ancient semi-natural woodlands, whilst respecting the importance of ridge and furrow, village remains and unfenced gated roads to the character of the area			
	Promote linked extensions to ancient woodland by natural regeneration and planting			
	Small scale woodland planting			
	Increase tree cover through new hedgerow and parkland tree planting			
Boundary Features	Strengthen the hedged field pattern through improved hedgerow management and restoration/replanting of degraded hedgerows			
	Encourage new hedgerow tree planting to increase tree cover in areas with few hedgerow trees and maintain long term cover in areas with existing hedgerow trees.			
	Encourage the retention and restoration of traditional dry stone wall boundaries			
	Ensure the management and enhancement of hedgerow trees - through selection and natural regeneration, or by planting			
	Ensure the conservation and management of mature/veteran trees within hedgerows			
	Improve management of hedgerows and hedgerow trees			
	Conserve primary field boundaries			

PLATEAUX/ESTATE FARMLANDS				
Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)		
		Plateau Estate Farmlands (D)	High Leicestershire(L)	Cottesmore Plateau (L)
Semi-natural habitats	Manage species-rich limestone grassland verges to maintain and enhance their diversity, and re-create species diversity on adjoining verges where possible			
	Encourage creation of new areas of calcareous grassland habitat on land that has been used for mineral working			
Agricultural Land Cover	Retain and enhance remaining field ponds through improved management and encourage the restoration of old field ponds where appropriate			
	Manage field boundaries			
Settlement & Development patterns	Conserve and enhance tree groups that occur within and around rural settlements and isolated farmsteads			
	Conserve historic field pattern			
	Conserve rural character			
	Conserve settlement pattern			
	Conserve vernacular character			

MOORS, HEATHS AND COMMONS				
Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)		
		Enclosed Moors and Heaths (D)	Gritstone Heaths and Commons (D)	Sandstone Slopes and Heaths (D)
Woodlands and Trees	Conserve and enhance the tree groups that occur within and around rural settlements and isolated farmsteads			
	Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species			
	Ensure a balance is maintained between new woodland planting and areas of nature conservation value			
	Where opportunities arise the removal of coniferous plantation woodland should be encouraged			
Boundary Features	Manage roadside vegetation			
Semi-natural habitats	Manage semi-natural habitats			
	Restore unimproved permanent pasture			
Agricultural Land Cover	Conserve pastoral character			
Settlement & Development patterns	Conserve and enhance the tree groups that occur within and around the rural settlements and isolated farmsteads			
	Conserve rural character			
	Conserve settlement pattern			
	Conserve vernacular character			

LOWLAND FARMLANDS							
Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)					
		Lowland Village Farmlands (D)	Vale Farmlands (N)	Mease/Sence Lowlands (L)	Lutterwrth Lowlands (L)	Vale of Belvoir (L)	Langley Lowlands (L)
Woodlands and Trees	Increase woodland cover in small to medium sized blocks						
	Promote linked extensions to ancient woodland by natural regeneration and planting						
	Re-establish and enhance physical links between existing isolated woodland and hedgerows.						
	Enhance the visual and ecological continuity of river corridors by management, natural regeneration and planting or riparian trees.						
	Conserve and renew ornamental plantations and individual parkland trees.						
	Refer to National Forest Strategy and Guidance.						
	Increase tree cover through the regeneration and replanting of hedgerow trees and scrub and willow fringe to streams						
	Increase woodland cover through planting in blocks of all sizes						
	Increase tree cover through new hedgerow tree planting						
	Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long lived species						
	Conserve and enhance the tree groups that occur within and around rural settlements and isolated farmsteads						
	Ensure new woodland does not conflict with features (e.g. ridge and furrow) that help to define landscape character						
	Conserve the existing woodland resource through improved management						
Boundary Features	Conserve and enhance hedges and hedgerow trees through improved management and appropriate new planting.						
	Maintain and strengthen the existing hedgerow network through improved standards of hedgerow management and new planting						
	Strengthen the hedged agricultural landscape through improved hedgerow management						
	Conserve primary field boundaries						
River Features	Manage river and stream corridors						
	Encourage the continuing practice of pollarding to maintain the traditional riparian character of the landscape						

LOWLAND FARMLANDS							
Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)					
		Lowland Village Farmlands (D)	Vale Farmlands (N)	Mease/Sence Lowlands (L)	Lutterwrth Lowlands (L)	Vale of Belvoir (L)	Langley Lowlands (L)
Semi-natural habitats	Manage field margins						
	Manage roadside vegetation						
Agricultural Land Cover	Retain and enhance remaining field ponds through improved management and encourage the restoration of old field ponds where appropriate						
	Conserve historic features						
	Promote measures for maintaining the ecological diversity and historic character of the vale pastures						
	Identify opportunities for conversion of arable land back to pasture						
	Conserve and strengthen the historic pattern and features of hedgerows and rural lanes						
Settlement & Development patterns	Conserve the rural character						
	Conserve settlement pattern						
	Conserve vernacular character						
	Ensure that restoration schemes for mineral workings respect the pattern of the local landscape and contribute to an overall increase in tree cover						
	Minimise the impact of futures quarry extensions through sensitive design and mitigation measures						
	Conserve the historic settlement pattern of small rural villages						

CLAY WOLD FARMLANDS				
Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)		
		Clay Wolds (N)	Wooded Clay Wolds (N)	The Wolds (L)
Woodlands and Trees	Increase woodland cover in blocks of all sizes			
	Increase tree cover through new hedgerow tree planting			
	Consider options for enhancing the broad-leaved character of existing woodlands			
	Identify opportunities for new woodland planting on suitable sites			
Boundary Features	Strengthen the agricultural hedged character of the landscape through improved hedgerow management			
	Conserve and strengthen the pattern of field hedgerows and associated tree cover			
Semi-natural habitats	Promote measures for conserving and enhancing the historic features and ecological diversity of grassland habitats			
Agricultural Land Cover	Retain and enhance remaining field ponds through improved management and encourage the restoration of old field ponds where appropriate			
	Conserve all areas of permanent pasture and seek opportunities for restoring pastoral character			
	Conserve the historic pattern and features of hedgerows and rural lanes			
Settlement & Development patterns	Conserve the traditional character and pattern of rural settlement			
	Conserve the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape			

LIMESTONE FARMLANDS			
Feature	Strategies	County Landscape Character Type/Area (D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, L = Leicestershire)	
		Limestone Fringe (N)	Limestone Farmlands (N)
Woodlands and Trees	Initiate schemes for large-scale woodland planting to contain and soften urban and industrial development		
	Promote large-scale woodland planting as a means of enhancing visual unity and mitigating urban development		
Boundary Features	Conserve and strengthen the traditional pattern of hedged fields		
Semi-natural habitats	Identify opportunities for enhancing ecological diversity		
Settlement & Development patterns	Promote measures for conserving and strengthening local vernacular character		
	Initiate schemes for conserving and restoring the integrity of historic estatelands		

APPENDIX A5 RECORD OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Stage 1: Baseline Audit of Strategic GI Assets

Stakeholder Workshops, January 2009

The following record of stakeholder consultation carried out as part of Stage 1 includes:

Workshop Summary:

- Background
- Format and approach
- Key findings of the HMA discussion groups
- Key findings of the themed discussion groups

Discussion Group Handouts:

- Biodiversity/Environmental Systems
- Access/Recreation
- Landscape Character/Historic Environment
- Strategic green infrastructure needs and opportunities

Key Findings of Stakeholder Workshops, 29th January 2009:

- List of attendees
- Biodiversity/Environmental Systems
- Access/Recreation
- Landscape Character/Historic Environment
- Derby Housing Market Area: Strategic Green Infrastructure Needs and Opportunities
- Nottingham Housing Market Area: Strategic Green Infrastructure Needs and Opportunities
- Leicester Housing Market Area: Strategic Green Infrastructure Needs and Opportunities

Stakeholder Workshops, 30th January 2009:

- List of attendees
- Biodiversity/Environmental Systems
- Access/Recreation
- Landscape Character/Historic Environment
- Derby Housing Market Area: Strategic Green Infrastructure Needs and Opportunities
- Nottingham Housing Market Area: Strategic Green Infrastructure Needs and Opportunities
- Leicester Housing Market Area: Strategic Green Infrastructure Needs and Opportunities

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



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

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Background

Workshops were held with stakeholders on 29th and 30th January 2009 to consider the Baseline Audit of existing green infrastructure in the 6Cs sub-region and identify the needs and opportunities that exist for GI to be enhanced or new provided to meet existing and future demands. The workshops involved a broad range of stakeholders involved in the delivery of green infrastructure in the sub-region including representatives of government agencies, regional bodies, special interest organisations and local authorities.

This report provides a brief overview of the findings of the discussion groups. A full report will be presented to the 6Cs GI Strategy Steering Group when the evaluation of the workshops is complete.

Format and approach

The workshops events were held over two days and were chaired by Alison Hepworth, of the East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) and 6Cs Project Board Chair. Presentations were made on each day by the 6Cs Strategic GI Co-Coordinator, Sharon Jefferies, and by CBA Director Dominic Watkins. These set out the approach being taken to the development of the Strategy and explained the purpose and approach to the workshop sessions. The morning workshop sessions were organised around each of the GI Strategy themes and were comprised of participants with specialist interest in each subject area. Afternoon workshops were organised by area, based on the three Housing Market Areas (Leicester and Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire). Participants were therefore able to contribute information and knowledge about their specialised technical field of knowledge, and to the needs and opportunities for GI provision specific to their area of geographical interest.

The workshops enabled discussion groups to validate the baseline information being applied in the development of the GI Strategy and Action Plan. A number of suggestions were made about additional data that is available and where data can be obtained.

Key Findings of the HMA Discussion Groups

Feedback from the workshops identified key areas of needs and opportunities for GI investment in the 6Cs Growth Point area. Key areas identified for investment in multi-functional green infrastructure include:

- Strategic River Corridors, notably the River Trent, River Soar, River Meake, River Derwent and the River Erewash
- Canal corridors – notably the Grantham Canal, Ashby Canal, Cromford Canal, Grand Union Canal and Erewash Canal
- Charnwood Forest
- The National Forest
- The Derwent Valley Mills WHS
- Erewash Valley
- Greenwood and Sherwood Forests
- The Trent Washlands
- The Derby/Nottingham “Countryside Gap”

- Swadlincote “Countryside Gap”
- The Melbourne Parklands
- Peak District Fringe landscapes
- Trunk Road corridors
- Urban fringes, Green Wedges and Green Belts
- Woodlands

Some specific projects/initiatives were recognised as potentially significant mechanisms for the delivery of strategic GI at the sub-regional scale. These include:

- OnTrent initiative
- The Stepping Stones Project
- Derwent Flood Risk Strategy
- Grantham Canal Partnership
- Hinckley and Bosworth GI Strategy
- Environmental Stewardship
- Public Rights of Way Improvement Plans (PROWIPs)
- Greenspace/Open Space Strategies
- Leicester City Council Infrastructure Study
- Tranquillity Mapping (CPRE)
- District Local Plans/LDFs/Core Strategies – especially concerning locations identified for growth
- Stepping Stones Project Delivery Plan
- Grantham Canal Partnership
- River Trent to Cotgrave GI Masterplan (Notts City Council, Rushcliffe BC, Inland Waterways, British Waterways and Natural England)
- South Derbyshire Greenway Strategy (2007) (currently under review)

Key Findings of the Themed Discussion Groups

Access and Recreation

Discussion groups identified key sub-regional scale accessible GI resources in the 6Cs Growth Point:

- Strategic River Corridors
- The National Forest
- Charnwood Forest
- Erewash Valley
- Disused railway lines
- Other river corridors
- Cycle Network – National Cycle Network and local routes
- Canal network
- Public Rights of Way

Key opportunities identified for investment in accessible greenspace and access networks include:

- Strategic River Corridors
- Canal corridors
- Other waterways
- Urban fringe land – around existing settlements and at locations where growth occurs
- Increasing connectivity between assets and places, notably by creating multi-functional Green Lanes
- GI provision within development sites
- The National Forest – Long Distance Trail
- Erewash Valley - cycle and pedestrian corridor
- Charnwood Forest Regional Park initiative
- Disused railway corridors
- East Derbyshire Woodland Project
- Leighfield Forest

Biodiversity and Environmental Systems

Discussion groups identified key sub-regional scale biodiversity data that could be used to inform the development of the 6Cs GI Strategy and Action Plan. These include:

- Sites designated for their importance to biodiversity (SSSIs, SINC, LNRs)
- Assets of local biodiversity significance/importance (LBAP data)
- Ancient Woodland Inventory
- National Inventory of Woodlands and Trees
- Water bodies – open standing water
- Sites of geodiversity interest

Key opportunities for investment in biodiversity assets include:

- River corridors, especially the strategic corridors of the Rivers Trent, Soar, Derwent, Erewash and Wreake
- River Trent Washlands
- Melbourne Parklands
- Reservoirs
- Canal corridors
- Woodlands and forests
- Wetlands
- Sites of interest for their geodiversity
- Woodlands - The National Forest and other forests/woodlands
- Agricultural land improved through stewardship schemes (ELS/HLS)
- Grasslands
- Disused railway lines
- New mineral sites
- Agricultural land improved through environmental stewardship (ELS/HLS)

Landscape and the Historic Environment

The discussion groups identified key information that would contribute to the development of the 6Cs Strategy and Action Plan, including the following:

- Buildings at Risk Registers
- Historic Landscape information (HLC)
- Registered historic battlefields, e.g. Bosworth, and sites beyond the 6Cs boundary, e.g. Naseby and East Stoke
- Ancient Woodland
- Historic attractions
- Tranquillity mapping (CPRE)

Some of the key opportunities identified by the discussion groups for investment in Landscape and Historic Environment GI include:

- Strategic River Corridors
- Castle Donington/ East Midlands Airport area of the Melbourne Parklands
- Historic Estate Parklands - The Melbourne Parklands
- M1 Corridor
- Trunk road network
- The National Forest
- Erewash Valley World Heritage Site
- Canal corridors
- Bosworth Battlefield

The groups identified the following specific areas and assets that would benefit from investment through the GI Strategy and Action Plan:

- River Corridors
- Urban fringe areas around settlements
- Charnwood Forest
- The River Soar Valley
- Trent Washlands
- Disused Railway Corridors
- The National Forest
- Trunk road corridors
- Strategic river corridors
- Canal corridors – Grantham Canal and Ashby Canal
- Historic battlefields

DISCUSSION GROUP HANDOUTS

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Stage 1: Baseline Audit of Strategic GI Assets
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BIODIVERSITY/ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS - DISCUSSION GROUP

OVERVIEW OF THE EXISTING STRATEGIC ASSETS MAPPING

Objectives

- To identify existing assets of biodiversity value at the sub-regional scale
- To identify existing assets that provide ecosystem services at the sub-regional scale
- To provide a known baseline showing the spatial extent and distribution (connectivity) of existing biodiversity / ecosystem assets
- To identify concentrations of and gaps in the extent and distribution of existing biodiversity assets

What is included and why?

- Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) key habitat data supplied by the Wildlife Trusts for Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, and Natural England (each supplied as a separate dataset). These datasets provide the best available knowledge relating to the extent and distribution of semi-natural habitats considered to be the most valuable for biodiversity, as defined by the UKBAP.
- The Environment Agency's indicative floodplain mapping to provide a geophysical context for the 6Cs growth point area (soils and geology maps are being used separately as part of the opportunity mapping process).

What is not included and why?

- No species data is included because the selection of key habitat types includes criteria relating to their structural and functional role in supporting key biodiversity species.
- No data specifically relating to (statutorily or non-statutorily) designated sites, as this data does not differentiate between habitat types.

OVERVIEW OF THE STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES MAPPING

Objectives

- To identify where and what opportunities exist to create new biodiversity assets or to enhance existing ones
- To identify where new or enhanced key biodiversity assets could be provided to address deficiencies in the quantity or distribution of key biodiversity habitat types.



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- To identify opportunities to link existing fragmented habitats and develop larger, more robust habitat networks.
- To develop functional networks of natural greenspace that operates both within the 6Cs growth point area as well as connecting to adjoining areas.

How were the opportunities defined?

- Opportunities have been identified by mapping the existing biodiversity resource.
- Using the methodology set out in Natural England and the Wildlife Trust's "Green Infrastructure For The Three Cities: A Methodology For Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping" as the basis for analysing existing the data.
- Adding 1km buffers around existing assets, to indicate the degree of connectivity between them.
- Soil and geology maps were inspected to inform the identification of appropriate general opportunity areas. The use of geophysical data to further refine the extent of appropriate habitat opportunity areas is ongoing.

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BIODIVERSITY/ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS – 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?

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If so, where can this data be sourced from?

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Where are the main existing strategic biodiversity corridors and natural
resources/environmental systems in and around the Growth Point that need to be recognised in
the development of the GI Strategy? *Please draw on the map provided and list below (cross-referenced to the map).*

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Which features, sites/habitats and species are the most valuable and need to be recognised in
the development of the Strategy?

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PRINCIPLES

Biodiversity

- Seek to halt and reverse habitat fragmentation and species isolation of existing biodiversity assets by buffering existing sites and creating new wildlife corridors between them
- Identify areas for habitat restoration and re-establish them at a landscape scale (taking into account the historical dimension of the landscape)
- Consider the appropriate management of wildlife corridors that are important for the migration and dispersal of wildlife and for the linking of habitats
- Promote the restoration and reestablishment of habitats and species in accordance with Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets and Biodiversity Conservation and Enhancement zone maps for the Region
- Balance the conservation and enhancement of the environment with increasing accessibility and use of natural and cultural assets
- Consider delivering landscape scale biodiversity corridors by linking local schemes and/or flagship projects

Natural Processes and Environmental Systems

- Green Infrastructure (GI) should, as far as possible, work with and contribute to natural processes and systems.
- Creative enhancement of water courses as features for recreation and biodiversity can also benefit flood storage capacity, e.g. wetlands
- Opportunities should be taken to improve local environments and contribute to sustainable development through providing GI, e.g. create new woodlands to improve air quality, reduce noise and light pollution and to act as long term carbon sinks to offset carbon emissions and reduce the impact of global climate change

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

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

ACCESS/RECREATION - DISCUSSION GROUP

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.

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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)

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

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER/HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT - DISCUSSION GROUP

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.

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.
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- 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.

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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)

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STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES - DISCUSSION GROUPS

**OVERVIEW OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
INVESTMENT MAP**

Objectives

- To discuss needs and opportunities at the sub-regional scale for investment in strategic GI
- To identify on maps corridors/areas in and around the Growth Point where investment in strategic green infrastructure should be targeted
- To identify the multi-functionality of the GI investment corridors/areas

The map comprises:

- Biodiversity/Environmental Systems – Strategic Opportunity Mapping
- Access/Recreation – Strategic Opportunity Mapping
- Landscape Character/Historic Environment – Strategic Opportunity Mapping
- Public Benefit - Social/Economic Needs Mapping

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IDENTIFYING STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Looking at the preliminary opportunity mapping, and taking into account the Interim Strategic GI Criteria attached, which corridors/areas in and around the Growth Point do you think investment in strategic green infrastructure should be targeted from a sub-regional perspective?

Please mark up the map provided and list below (cross-referenced to the map).

GI Investment Corridor/Area		GI Functionality*		GI Criteria Met? (list by No.)
Map Ref.	Name	Primary	Secondary	

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GI Investment Corridor/Area		GI Functionality *		GI Criteria Met? (list by No.)
Map Ref.	Name	Primary	Secondary	

***Suggested GI Functions:**

- Wildlife habitat/corridor
- Sport and recreation
- Cultural heritage experiences
- Event venue/meeting place
- Health and well-being
- Environmental protection
- Sustainable drainage and flood protection
- Climate change mitigation
- Access corridor
- Education and training
- Landscape/townscape structure
- Renewable energy/resources
- Green produce and food production
- Integration of new and existing communities



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INTERIM STRATEGIC GI CRITERIA

1. Strengthening the Connectivity of the Sub-regional GI Network.

How will the project create a significant linkage in the sub-regional GI network?

- *Will it either bridge a gap or provide a 'stepping stone' or corridor between individual GI sites?*
- *How will it enhance connectivity for people and wildlife?*

2. Serving the Needs of Communities for Accessible GI.

How accessible is the project to planned new housing growth?

- *How will its position serve both existing and new communities.*
- *How will the project improve or facilitate access to existing assets?*
- *What new amenities or facilities will be provided?*

3. Creation of Distinctive or Iconic GI Assets. (Wow! factor)

How will the project contribute to or enhance local distinctiveness or landscape character?

- *How will the project create or contribute to a special sense of place?*
- *How will the project act as a destination for visitors from outside the sub-region?*

4. Partnership Working

Is the project proposed by a partnership?

- *Who are the partners involved and which is the lead organisation?*
- *Is there cross local authority/boundary working?*
- *How does the project engage local stakeholders?*

5. Delivering Multiple Benefits.

How is the project going to deliver GI that is designed holistically to high standards of quality and sustainability?

- *How will it deliver social and economic as well as environmental benefits?*
- *How does the project deliver new or additional functions not currently provided?*

6. Working at the Landscape Scale.

Please explain how the project is a landscape scale initiative?

- *How does it promote an integrated approach to the strategic planning and management of GI assets?*

7. Delivering Regional Priorities.

How does the project assist in delivering the priorities or aspirations of Regional Policy?

8. In what other ways is the project strategic?

Impress us!

(Interim criteria developed by the 6Cs Strategic GI Project Board)

KEY FINDINGS OF WORKSHOPS, 29TH JANUARY 2009

List of attendees

6Cs GI Strategy Stakeholder Workshop 29th January 2009 - Leicester				
No.	Board member	Organisation	Name	Job Title
Facilitators		CBA	Dominic Watkins	Director/Environmental Planner
		CBA	Ollie Kelly	Senior Associate/Landscape Planner and Manager
		CBA	Chloe Cova	Landscape/Greenspace Planner
		CBA	Bills Wadsworth	Associate/Ecologist
		CBA	Richard Bickers	Ecologist
	✓	6Cs Growth Point	Sharon Jefferies	GI Development Co-ordinator
	✓	EMRA	Alison Hepworth	Chair GI Board
	✓	Leicestershire County Council	Tony Lockley	Team Leader - Environmental Action
1		6Cs Growth Point	Emma Grady	Leicester & Leicestershire HMA Co-ordinator
2		6Cs Growth Point	John Bloxsom	6Cs Growth Point Programme Manager
3		Anglian Water Services Ltd	Mick Galey	Planning Liaison Manager
4		Anglian Water Services Ltd	Denise Harding	Planning Advisor
5		British Waterways	Helen Edwards	Planner
6		CPRE	Lisa Hopkinson	Regional Policy Officer
7		Derby City Council	Steve Medlock	Head of Park Services
8		Derby City Council	Beverley Rhodes	Environment Project Officer
9		Derby City Council	Nicky Goodyear	Senior Planning Officer
10		Derbyshire County Council	Claire O'Reilly	Countryside Access Improvement Officer
11		Derbyshire County Council	Glynis Foster	Senior Landscape Architect
12		Derbyshire County Council	David Barrett	Archaeologist
13		Derbyshire County Council	Tom French	Ecologist
14	✓	East Midlands Environment Link	Ed Green	Chair/Chief Exec Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
15		EMDA	Richard Crosthwaite	Planning Advisor
16	✓	English Heritage	Ann Plackett	Regional Planner
17		English Heritage	Tom Gilbert-Wooldridge	Territory Planner
18		Environment Agency	Andrew Heaton	Principal Officer (Biodiversity)

19	✓	Environment Agency	Tim Pickering	External Funding Specialist FRM
20	✓	Forestry Commission	David Bole	Vice-chair GI Board
21	✓	GOEM	Alex Bowness	Senior Advisor
22		Grantham Canal Partnership	Kevin Mann	Regeneration Manager
23		Homes and Communities Agency	Jane Tricker	Investment Manager - East Midlands
24		Independent geoconservation consultant	Julie Harrald	
25	✓	Leicester City Council	Bob Mullins	Standards & Development Manager
26		Leicester City Council	Elizabeth Oxborough	Senior Planner
27		Leicester City Council	Helen O'Brien	Nature Conservation Officer
28	✓	Leicestershire County Council	Lesley Eddleston	Senior Landscape Architect
29		Leicestershire County Council	Edwin McWilliam	Countryside Service Policy & Promotions Officer
30		Leicestershire County Council	Richard Clark	Senior Planning Archaeologist
31		Leicestershire County Council	Sue Timms	Senior Ecologist
32		National Farmers' Union	Paul Tame	Regional Environment Advisor
33	✓	National Forest	Simon Evans	Chief Officer Land Use
34		National Trust	Matt Doran	Regional External Affairs Manager
35		Natural England	Dave Parker	Senior Specialist Access
36	✓	Natural England	David Lepper	Communities Senior Specialist
37		Natural England	Karen Devonport	Senior Specialist Regional Planning & Landscape
38		Nottinghamshire County Council	Gareth Broome	Countryside Services Manager
39		Nottinghamshire County Council	Heather Stokes	Head of Strategic Planning
40		Nottinghamshire County Council	Ursilla Spence	Senior Archaeological Officer
41		Notts HMA	Matt Gregory	HMA Co-ordinator
42		Scott Wilson	Sheila Banks	Principal Environmental Scientist
43		Scott Wilson	Simon Betts	Principal Planner
44		Stepping Stones	Sam Forster	Project Manager
45		Sustrans	Patrick Davies	

46		The Woodland Trust	Heather Swift	Regional Policy Officer
47		William Davis Ltd	Robert Jays	Planner
48		Wilson Bowden Developments	Richard Henderson	Senior Planner
49		Woodland Trust	Christopher Williams	Woodland Officer

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BIODIVERSITY/ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS - KEY FINDINGS OF THE DISCUSSION GROUPS

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?

- *Sites designated for their importance to biodiversity (SSSIs, SINCs, LNRs)*
- *Assets of local biodiversity significance/importance (LBAP data)*
- *Ancient Woodland Inventory*
- *Water bodies*
- *Geodiversity assets*

If so, where can this data be sourced from?

- *Severn Trent Water holds data in respect of general water bodies*
- *LBAP data – Local Environmental Records Centres*

Where are the main existing strategic biodiversity corridors and natural resources/environmental systems in and around the Growth Point that need to be recognised in the development of the GI Strategy?

- *River corridors*
- *River Trent Washlands*
- *Reservoirs*
- *Canal corridors*
- *Woodlands and forests*
- *Wetlands*
- *Woodlands, The National Forest and other forests/woodlands*
- *Grasslands*

Which features, sites/habitats and species are the most valuable and need to be recognised in the development of the Strategy?

- *Rivers and river corridors*

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- *Areas where there are concentrations of habitats, e.g. Charnwood*
- *Key geodiversity assets*
- *Grasslands*
- *Woodland*
- *Wetlands*
- *Sandstone Ridge – Ilkeston*

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 in the strategic biodiversity network in and around the Growth Point?

- *River corridors, especially the strategic corridors of the Rivers Trent, Soar, Derwent, Erewash and Wreake*
- *River Trent Washlands*
- *Melbourne Parklands*
- *Reservoirs*
- *Canal corridors*
- *Woodlands and forests*
- *Wetlands*
- *Woodlands, The National Forest and other forests/woodlands*
- *Agricultural land improved through stewardship schemes (ELS/HLS)*
- *Grasslands*
- *Disused railway lines*
- *New mineral sites*
- *Agricultural land improved through environmental stewardship (ELS/HLS)*

What do you think are the three main challenges for the management of existing features, sites/habitats and species of nature conservation importance in and around the Growth Point that need to be recognised in the development of the GI Strategy?

- *Implementation of long term maintenance*
- *Funding, especially in the current economic climate*
- *New development risks further fragmentation of existing habitats*
- *Climate change*
- *Landscape scale change arising from growth*
- *Enhancing the connectivity of resources*
- *Early delivery of high profile exemplar projects*
- *The need for political and organisational support*
- *Managing people's expectations for the delivery of effective GI*

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ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

- *Extensive housing and other growth represents significant threats to biodiversity habitat and its connectivity.*
- *Roads present barriers to biodiversity corridors.*
- *The 6cs has a rich geodiversity which represents a significant GI resource. Information about local geodiversity strategies and initiatives is available from the British Geological Society (BGS).*

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Stage 1: Baseline Audit of Strategic GI Assets

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ACCESS/RECREATION - KEY FINDINGS OF THE DISCUSSION GROUPS

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

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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?

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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Stage 1: Baseline Audit of Strategic GI Assets

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

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*
- *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*

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- *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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Stakeholder Workshops, 29th January 2009

Derby Housing Market Area

STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES – KEY FINDINGS OF DISCUSSION GROUPS

OVERVIEW OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT MAP

Objectives

- To discuss needs and opportunities at the sub-regional scale for investment in strategic GI
- To identify on maps corridors/areas in and around the Growth Point where investment in strategic green infrastructure should be targeted
- To identify the multi-functionality of the GI investment corridors/areas

The map comprises:

- Biodiversity/Environmental Systems – Strategic Opportunity Mapping
- Access/Recreation – Strategic Opportunity Mapping
- Landscape Character/Historic Environment – Strategic Opportunity Mapping
- Public Benefit - Social/Economic Needs Mapping

IDENTIFYING STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Looking at the preliminary opportunity mapping, and taking into account the Interim Strategic GI Criteria attached, which corridors/areas in and around the Growth Point do you think investment in strategic green infrastructure should be targeted from a sub-regional perspective?

Please mark up the map provided and list below (cross-referenced to the map).

GI Investment Corridor/Area		GI Functionality*		GI Criteria Met? (list by No.)
Map Ref.	Name	Primary	Secondary	
A	Trent Valley Washlands	Landscape	Wildlife Recreation/access Cultural Climate change mitigation	Not recorded
B	Derwent Valley	Cultural Heritage	Flood protection Wildlife Access (cycling) Education Landscape	Not recorded
A	Trent Valley	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
C	Derby Green Wedges	Landscape/townscape	Access Sport/recreation Flood protection Green produce Education/training	Not recorded
D	Erewash Canal	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
E	Derby/Notts "Countryside Gap"	Landscape/townscape (Green Belt break between Derby/Notts)	Health and well being	Not recorded
F	NW Derby Parklands	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
G	Swadlingcote "Countryside Gap"	Landscape/townscape (Green Belt break between Derby/Notts)	Health and well being	Not recorded
E	Coalfield Parklands	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
I	Codnor Park	Cultural Heritage	Health and well being Access (canal)	Not recorded
J	Melbourne Parklands	Landscape character	Wildlife Cultural heritage Education/training	Not recorded

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



GI Investment Corridor/Area		GI Functionality*		GI Criteria Met? (list by No.)
Map Ref.	Name	Primary	Secondary	
			Access	
A	Trent Water Park	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
H	Peak Fringe Landscape	Wildlife	Landscape Sport/recreation	Not recorded
G	Swadlingcote and National Forest Green Wedge	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
D	Erewash Valley	Access	Wildlife Sport/recreation	Not recorded
L	Noisy Sports Zone	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
M	Derbyshire Claylands	Landscape character	Green produce	Not recorded
E	Coalfields	Landscape character	Access Health and well being	Not recorded
S	National Forest	Landscape character	Access Health and well being	Not recorded

*Suggested GI Functions:

- Wildlife habitat/corridor
- Sport and recreation
- Cultural heritage experiences
- Event venue/meeting place
- Health and well-being
- Environmental protection
- Sustainable drainage and flood protection
- Climate change mitigation
- Access corridor
- Education and training
- Landscape/townscape structure
- Renewable energy/resources
- Green produce and food production
- Integration of new and existing communities

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



Stage 1: Baseline Audit of Strategic GI Assets

Stakeholder Workshops, 29th January 2009

Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area

STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES - KEY FINDINGS OF THE DISCUSSION GROUPS

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GI Investment Corridor/Area		GI Functionality*		GI Criteria Met? (list by No.)
Map Ref.	Name	Primary	Secondary	
N	River Soar Valley/River Trent	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
O	Leighfield Forest	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
P	Steeping Stones Project	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
Q	Charnwood Forest	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
R	Ashby Canal	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
S	National Forest	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
T	Great Central Railway	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
U	River Wreake	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
V	Rutland Water	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
W	Brampton Valley Way	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
X	River Eye Valley area	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
Y	Grantham Canal	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
G1	Melton Mowbray Green Wedges	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded

*Suggested GI Functions:

- Wildlife habitat/corridor
- Sport and recreation
- Cultural heritage experiences
- Event venue/meeting place
- Health and well-being
- Environmental protection
- Sustainable drainage and flood protection
- Climate change mitigation
- Access corridor
- Education and training
- Landscape/townscape structure
- Renewable energy/resources
- Green produce and food production
- Integration of new and existing communities

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



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

Nottingham Housing Market Area

STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES - KEY FINDINGS OF THE DISCUSSION GROUPS

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6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



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GI Investment Corridor/Area		GI Functionality*		GI Criteria Met? (list by No.)
Map Ref.	Name	Primary	Secondary	
Y	River Trent to Cotgrave GI Masterplan	Wildlife habitat/corridor	Access corridor	Not recorded
A	Trent River Park	Wildlife habitat/corridor	Sport and recreation	Not recorded
Z	Sherwood Park	Landscape/townscape structure	Sport and recreation	Not recorded
Z	Heartland Partnership	Wildlife habitat/corridor	Landscape/townscape structure	Not recorded
D	Erewash Corridor	Wildlife habitat/corridor	Access corridor	Not recorded
Y	Grantham Canal Restoration	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
C1	Calverton Mineral Line	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
D1	Cotgrave Mineral Line	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
A1	Gedling Country Park	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
E	Higher Level Stewardship - Enhanced Access Provision	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
K	Lake Improvement Project	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



GI Investment Corridor/Area		GI Functionality*		GI Criteria Met? (list by No.)
Map Ref.	Name	Primary	Secondary	
B1	River Leen Corridor	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
A1	Dumbles	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
E1	A46 Corridor	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
F1	A453 Corridor	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded

*Suggested GI Functions:

- Wildlife habitat/corridor
- Sport and recreation
- Cultural heritage experiences
- Event venue/meeting place
- Health and well-being
- Environmental protection
- Sustainable drainage and flood protection
- Climate change mitigation
- Access corridor
- Education and training
- Landscape/townscape structure
- Renewable energy/resources
- Green produce and food production
- Integration of new and existing communities

KEY FINDINGS OF WORKSHOPS, 30TH JANUARY 2009

List of attendees

6Cs GI Strategy Stakeholder Workshop 30th January 2009 - Nottingham				
No.	Board member	Organisation	Name	Job Title
Facilitators		CBA	Dominic Watkins	Director/Environmental Planner
		CBA	Ollie Kelly	Senior Associate/Landscape Planner and Manager
		CBA	Chloe Cova	Landscape/Greenspace Planner
		CBA	Bills Wadsworth	Associate/Ecologist
		CBA	Richard Bickers	Ecologist
	✓	6Cs Growth Point	Sharon Jefferies	GI Development Co-ordinator
	✓	EMRA	Alison Hepworth	Chair GI Board
	✓	Leicestershire County Council	Tony Lockley	Team Leader - Environmental Action
1		6Cs Growth Point	John Bloxsom	6Cs Growth Point Programme Manager
2		6Cs Growth Point	Sarah Banks	Derby HMA Co-ordinator
3		6Cs Growth Point	Ann Coffin	Growth Point Transportation Co-ordinator
4		Amber Valley Borough Council	Anthony Udeni	Sustainability Officer
5		Ashfield Planning Officer	Lisa Bell	Principal Planning Officer
6		Blaby District Council	Rob Thornhill	Planning Policy Officer
7		British Geological Survey	Keith Ambrose	
8		Broxtowe Borough Council	Sarah Woods	Planning Officer (DC)
9		Charnwood Borough Council	Francoise Scire	Senior Ecologist
10		Charnwood Borough Council	Richard Brown	Principal Planning Officer
11		Charnwood Borough Council	Sally Eden	Landscape Architect
12	✓	Derby City Council	David Slinger	Environment Team Leader
13	✓	Derbyshire County Council	Barry Joyce	Conservation & Design Manager
14	✓	East Midlands Biodiversity Partnership	Charlotte Gault	Chair
15		Environment Agency	Rebecca Brunt	Biodiversity Officer
16		Environment Agency	Alison Baker	Senior Environmental Project Co-ordinator
17	✓	Environment Agency	Tim Pickering	External Funding Specialist FRM
18		Environment Agency	Penny Thorpe	Planning Liaison Team Leader
19		Environment Agency	Naomi Wing	Development Control Officer
20		Gedling Borough Council	Ian Bussey	Planning Officer

21	✓	GreenSpace East Midlands	Ron Marquand	Forum Manager
22	✓	Greenwood Community Forest Partnership	Malcolm Hackett	Project Manager
23		Groundwork Derby & Derbyshire	Tim Brooks	Community Wildspaces Officer
24		Harborough District Council	Lesley Aspinall	Planning Officer
25		Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council	Andy Killip	Planning Policy Officer
26	✓	Leicester City Council	Richard Welburn	Head of parks and greenspaces
27		Leicester City Council	Anne Provan	Riverside Development Officer
28		Leicester City Council	Helen O'Brien	Nature Conservation Officer
29		Leicestershire County Council	Peter Williams	Head of Environmental Management
30		Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership	Debbie Alston	Biodiversity Project Officer
31		Melton Borough Council	Ryan Astill	Planning Policy Officer
32		National Forest	Sam Lattaway	
33		Natural England	Caroline Harrison	Planning & Conservation Advisor
34		Nottingham City Council	Paul Tansey	Planning Policy Officer
35		Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group	Chris Jackson	Biodiversity Officer
36		Nottinghamshire County Council	Nick Crouch	Senior Nature Conservation Officer
37		Nottinghamshire County Council	Andy Wickham	Acting Service Manager, Conservation
38		Nottinghamshire County Council	Sally Gill	Service manager spatial planning
39		Nottinghamshire County Council	Nina Hillyer	Planning Officer
40		NW Leicestershire District Council	Emma Bentick	Planning Officer (Graduate Trainee)
41		NW Leicestershire District Council	Alison Booth	Senior Planning Officer
42		Oadby & Wigston Borough Council	Helen Gregory	Countryside & Biodiversity Officer
43		Oadby & Wigston Borough Council	Jamie Carr	Planning Officer
44		Rushcliffe Borough Council	Liz Beardsley	Planning Policy Officer
45		South Derbyshire District Council	Kevin Exley	Planning Policy Officer (Sustainability)
46		Stepping Stones Project	Andy Jackson	Project Manager

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



Stage 1: Baseline Audit of Strategic GI Assets

Stakeholder Workshops, 30th January 2009

BIODIVERSITY/ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS - KEY FINDINGS OF THE DISCUSSION GROUPS

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?

- *Phase 1 habitat survey data*
- *LBAP data*
- *River Sence corridor*
- *Grand Union Canal*
- *Woodland (NIWT data)*
- *The National Forest – areas of new planting*

If so, where can this data be sourced from?

- *Forestry Commission - new planting in the Forest area.*

Where are the main existing strategic biodiversity corridors and natural resources/environmental systems in and around the Growth Point that need to be recognised in the development of the GI Strategy?

- *Rivers and river corridors*
- *Wetlands*
- *Calcareous areas (North Nottinghamshire)*
- *Sandstone Ridge – Ilkeston*
- *Geodiversity assets - RIGS*

Which features, sites/habitats and species are the most valuable and need to be recognised in the development of the Strategy?

- *Rivers*
- *Wetlands*
- *Charnwood Forest*
- *Woodland*

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



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 in the strategic biodiversity network in and around the Growth Point?

- ***Wetlands***
- ***Calcareous areas (North Nottinghamshire)***
- ***Sandstone Ridge – Ilkeston***
- ***Geodiversity assets - RIGS***
- ***Great Crested Newts – South East Nottingham***

What do you think are the three main challenges for the management of existing features, sites/habitats and species of nature conservation importance in and around the Growth Point that need to be recognised in the development of the GI Strategy?

- ***Funding***
- ***Safeguarding existing assets***
- ***Restrictions arising from land ownership***
- ***Lack of sufficiently robust planning policies***
- ***Winning political support***

ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

- ***Difficulties can arise with multifunctional use of some GI assets due to conflicts that can arise between management objectives.***

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

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*
- *Millennium 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)*

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*

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



- *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?

- *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*

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



- *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.*

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

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?

- *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 Society (BGS)*

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



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***
- ***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?

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



- *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*

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



Stage 1: Baseline Audit of Strategic GI Assets
Stakeholder Workshops, 30th January 2009

Derby Housing Market Area

STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES - KEY FINDINGS OF DISCUSSION GROUPS

OVERVIEW OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT MAP

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6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



IDENTIFYING STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Looking at the preliminary opportunity mapping, and taking into account the Interim Strategic GI Criteria attached, which corridors/areas in and around the Growth Point do you think investment in strategic green infrastructure should be targeted from a sub-regional perspective?

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GI Investment Corridor/Area		GI Functionality*		GI Criteria Met? (list by No.)
Map Ref.	Name	Primary	Secondary	
A	Derwent Valley Mills WHS	Cultural Heritage	Not recorded	Not recorded
B	Transforming the Trent Valley	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
C	Derby/Nottingham Access Corridor	Sport and recreation	Not recorded	Not recorded
D	Water for Wildlife in the Dove Valley	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
A	Lower Derwent Flood Risk Strategy	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
E	Peak Fringe Grasslands	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
B	Nottingham Flood Alleviation Scheme	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
F	River Erewash	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
G	Coalfields	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
C	Multi User Access Links	Access corridor	Integration of new and existing communities	Not recorded
A	Derwent Strategy	Sustainable drainage and flood protection	Not recorded	Not recorded
U	Amber Valley Routeway – Rights of Way	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
A	Derwent Valley Mills WHS	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
H	National Forest	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
I	Markeaton and Merkaston Brooks Initiative	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



GI Investment Corridor/Area		GI Functionality*		GI Criteria Met? (list by No.)
Map Ref.	Name	Primary	Secondary	
J	Melbourne Parkland Project	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
No Ref.	City Park	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
K	Central Rivers Initiative	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
B	Trent/Mersey Canal	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
H	National Forest Park	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
J	National Cycle Network/national Forest Link	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
V	River Mease SAC	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded

*Suggested GI Functions:

- Wildlife habitat/corridor
- Sport and recreation
- Cultural heritage experiences
- Event venue/meeting place
- Health and well-being
- Environmental protection
- Sustainable drainage and flood protection
- Climate change mitigation
- Access corridor
- Education and training
- Landscape/townscape structure
- Renewable energy/resources
- Green produce and food production
- Integration of new and existing communities

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



Stage 1: Baseline Audit of Strategic GI Assets
Stakeholder Workshops, 30th January 2009

Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area

STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES - KEY FINDINGS OF THE DISCUSSION GROUPS

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6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



IDENTIFYING STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Map Ref.	Name	GI Functionality*		GI Criteria Met? (list by No.)
		Primary	Secondary	
O	Stepping Stones Project /Rothley Brook	All except 9,12,13	Not recorded	All
M	Leicester River Corridor	All except 12,13	Not recorded	All
O	Stepping Stones Green Wedges - Other	All except 12	Not recorded	All
M	River Soar	All	Not recorded	All
N	River Wreake	All except 12	Not recorded	All
O	Access Links from SUEs into Leicester	All except 12,13	Not recorded	All
L	Charnwood Forest	All	Not recorded	All
H	National Forest	All	Not recorded	All
No Ref.	Ashton Green	All	Not recorded	All
O	Thurmaston Link	All except 13,14	Not recorded	All except 3
P	Burbage Common and Ashby Canal	All except 13	Not recorded	All
S	Leighfield	1,2,3,4,5,10,12	Not recorded	Limited
Q	Bosworth Group	All except 12,14	Not recorded	Limited
R	Grantham Canal	All except 4,8,12,13	Not recorded	In part

6Cs Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy



Stage 1: Baseline Audit of Strategic GI Assets

Stakeholder Workshops, 30th January 2009

Nottingham Housing Market Area

STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES - KEY FINDINGS OF THE DISCUSSION GROUPS

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- Biodiversity/Environmental Systems – Strategic Opportunity Mapping
- Access/Recreation – Strategic Opportunity Mapping
- Landscape Character/Historic Environment – Strategic Opportunity Mapping
- Public Benefit - Social/Economic Needs Mapping



IDENTIFYING STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Looking at the preliminary opportunity mapping, and taking into account the Interim Strategic GI Criteria attached, which corridors/areas in and around the Growth Point do you think investment in strategic green infrastructure should be targeted from a sub-regional perspective?

Please mark up the map provided and list below (cross-referenced to the map).

GI Investment Corridor/Area		GI Functionality*		GI Criteria Met? (list by No.)
Map Ref.	Name	Primary	Secondary	
A,B,F, M,N	Strategic River Corridors	All	All	Not recorded
B	Wetland Habitat Creation	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
Y	Sherwood Forest Expansion South	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
T	Greenwood Community Forest	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
F	Erewash	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
No Ref.	Sandstone Hills (Broxtowe area)	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
R	Grantham Canal	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
W	Disused Railway	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
No ref.	A453 Clifton SUE	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded
X	Dumbles	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded

*Suggested GI Functions:

- Wildlife habitat/corridor
- Sport and recreation
- Cultural heritage experiences
- Event venue/meeting place
- Health and well-being
- Environmental protection
- Sustainable drainage and flood protection
- Climate change mitigation
- Access corridor
- Education and training
- Landscape/townscape structure
- Renewable energy/resources
- Green produce and food production
- Integration of new and existing communities

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