

Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and the 6Cs

Alison Hepworth
and
Charlotte Gault



Introduction

- Introduction to Green Infrastructure (GI)
- The regional Strategic approach to ensuring delivery of GI
- 6Cs – what is it?
- Including Biodiversity



Green Infrastructure (GI)

- A holistic approach to viewing the natural environment which acknowledges the multiple benefits and vital functions it provides for the economy, wildlife, local people, communities and cultural assets alike.

Green Infrastructure (GI)

- Network of green spaces and natural elements that intersperse and connect our cities
- Compliments and balances the built environment (in urban areas)
- Framework for sustainable communities and biodiversity (in rural areas)
- Links town and country and interconnects wider environmental processes (in-between)

What uses GI includes

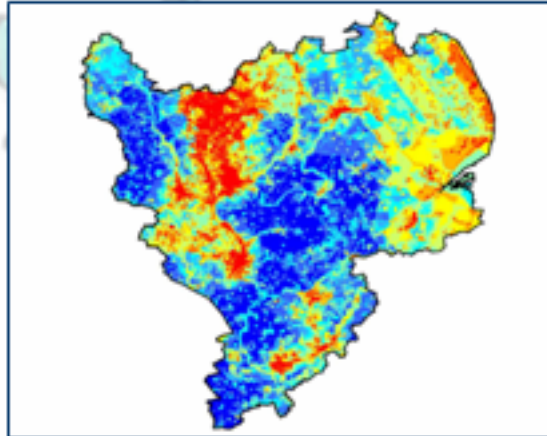
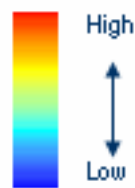
- GI includes (from the MKSM GI Guide):
Allotments, amenity space, green corridors, brown & green field sites, urban parks commons, children's play area, playing fields, cemeteries pocket parks, country parks, woodlands, historic parks, nature reserves, SSSIs, wildlife sites, water bodies, POS on development sites, agri-environment land, rights of way, cycle ways **etc.**

GI – The Strategic Approach

- EMRA Environment Group
- Regional Environment Strategy / Regional Spatial Strategy / RES
- Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS)
- IRS priorities for the Region
- *“to conserve and enhance the natural environment by tackling the biodiversity deficit and enhancing the environmental infrastructure”*
- For the whole East Midlands – not just growth areas/ points

The Public Benefit Mapping Project

- **Multiple Public Benefits**



Green Infrastructure (GI)

- Growth Points – CLG letter 26 October 2006 set clear conditions about planning and developing our Green Infrastructure.
- Clear benefits to collaborative approach to drive up standards and ambitions across the whole 3 Cities sub-area.
- Increase our capacity to deliver green infrastructure effectively and early in the programme

Growth Areas and Growth Points

- MKSM Growth Area (2003)
- October 06 4 new growth points (2006-16)
 - Lincoln 12,000 Grantham 6,000
 - Newark 6,000
 - 3 Cities (6C) Derby, Nottingham, Leicester
 - 81,000
- eco-towns?
- Sustainable Communities (Quality & Quantity)

6Cs – what is it?

- Three Cities and Three Counties
- South Nottinghamshire and Nottingham
- South Derbyshire and Derby
- Leicestershire and Leicester
- Programme Management Board (PMB)
- 3 Housing Market Area Boards (HMA)
- Strategic GI Project Board

Strategic GI Project Board

- Working alongside the three HMA Boards under the PMB
- Development of a Strategy Strategic GI delivery for the 6Cs Area
- GI Coordinator
- Raising awareness of this process to stakeholders

Including Biodiversity

- Targets, areas and sites – what we know

Opportunity mapping:

- Why do it?
- Phase 1 - developing a methodology
- Phase 2 - mapping the 6Cs
- Phase 3 - mapping the region

Targets, areas and sites



- Regional habitat targets
- Biodiversity Conservation and Enhancement Areas (BCAs and BEAs)
- Landscape-scale projects
- Nature Reserves and designated sites

Opportunity mapping



Why do it?

- Targeting delivery
- Regional and local spatial planning
- Defining 'environmental capacity'
- Mapping need and opportunity

Phase 1 - developing a methodology

- Natural England and The Wildlife Trusts joint project Sept 07 – June 08
- Identifying what we have
- Habitat buffering
- Suitability for habitat creation
- Potential networks
- Recommendations

Phase 2 - mapping the 6Cs

- Expanding the data-sets
- Developing the methodology
- Completing the map

- One of two pilots - The Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marsh rural pilot

Phase 3 - mapping the region

- Pilot completion in March 2009
- Development of a generic methodology
- Promotion across the region
- Links to 'new' RSS and to LAA indicators

...total regional coverage

