

Strategic Plan for Greenwood

*guiding the creation
of Nottinghamshire's
Community Forest*



Greenwood

Strategic Plan for Greenwood

September 2000

Key Partners

The Countryside Agency
Forestry Commission
Ashfield District Council
Broxtowe Borough Council
Gedling Borough Council
Mansfield District Council
Newark & Sherwood District Council
Nottingham City Council
Nottinghamshire County Council

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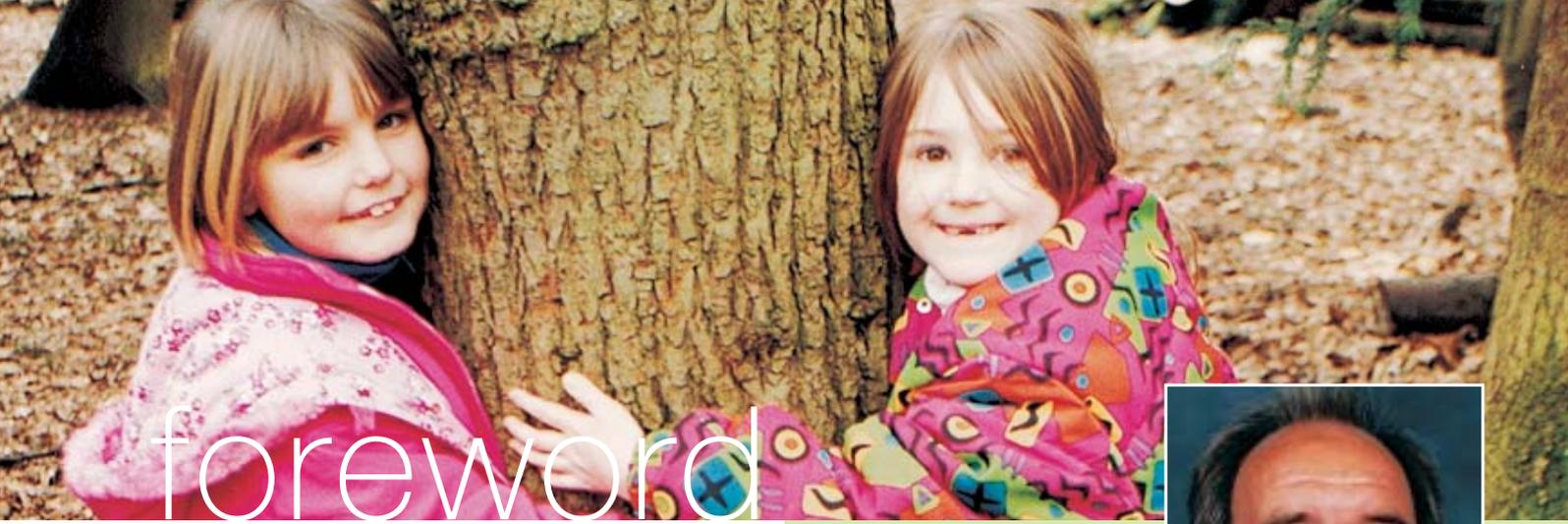
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Greenwood



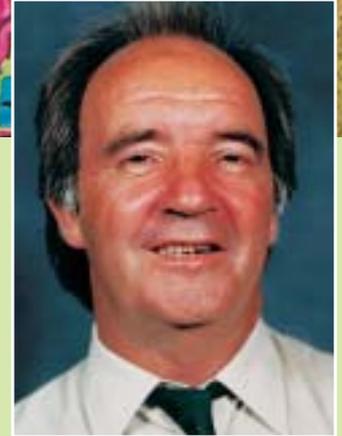
foreword

In 1991 a partnership of Local Authorities and National Bodies embarked on possibly the biggest and most ambitious undertaking in the history of Nottinghamshire. The idea was to transform almost one-fifth of the county for the benefit of all who live in or near it.

Although many things have changed since then, Greenwood - Nottinghamshire's Community Forest, has grown from just a vision to tangible results. May be its because the concept, like all good ideas is simple, a countryside on our doorstep; may be its because people can see the beneficial effects from creating extensive well-wooded areas around built-up areas; may be its because opportunities for economic prosperity, biodiversity, education, health, social enrichment and improved quality of life can be captured and harnessed; or may be its because it can be seen as a sound investment for ourselves and our children to pass on to future generations. Whatever the reasons, Greenwood is making a real difference to people's lives and their environment.

The Strategic Plan sets out what is to be done, why and how. It puts forward strategies to guide the creation and development of the Community Forest over the next three decades. It is hoped that the Plan will stimulate interest and enthusiams from all sectors of the community. I commend it to you.

David Brennan
Greenwood Partnership Manager



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The Strategic Plan is a document that tries to bring to life the Community Forest concept. A strength of the Plan is that it is all about working in "partnership" with various organisations and local communities, and it is essential that this approach continues over the forthcoming years.

Greenwood - is Nottinghamshire's Community Forest. A forest that will benefit everyone, whether they be in the city, the towns or the vilages in the open countryside. Lets all work together to make sure it becomes a reality.

Councillor Gordon Skinner
*Chair of Greenwood Partnership Board
Nottinghamshire County Council*



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executive summary

What is the Strategic Plan for Greenwood?

The "Strategic Plan for Greenwood" has been prepared by Greenwood's Key Partners, reviewing and revising the original Forest Plan published in June 1994. The Key Partners are made up of local representatives from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors, working through various advisory groups. It has the backing of Government and two national partners - The Countryside Agency and the Forestry Commission.

The Strategic Plan provides an environmental framework which describes the Greenwood area - taking account of landscape characteristics; biodiversity; agriculture; forestry; countryside access, recreation; urbanisation pressures; environmental education; and the arts, culture and tourism. It justifies the rationale for a Community Forest and identifies the strategies and the main players which will help achieve the Community Forest over the next 25 years.

Where is the Community Forest?

Greenwood is Nottinghamshire's Community Forest. It is becoming a rich mosaic of land uses and wildlife habitats set in 161 square miles stretching from Nottingham in the south, to the countryside beyond Mansfield in the north. It presently covers 19% of Nottinghamshire, and over a million people live within or close to it.

What is its purpose?

The mission of the Strategic Plan is to:-

"Create a multi-purpose forest with a rich mixture of woods, farmland, open spaces and settlements in Nottinghamshire, contributing towards sustainable development and providing a better environment for people to use, cherish and enjoy now and for generations to come".

What is it aiming to do?

The general aims are listed under six headings:

Woodland Cover

The aim is to create an average 30% woodland cover, with various targets set for different types of land-use.

Biodiversity

The aim will be for existing important countryside habitats to be conserved, enhanced and then appropriately managed in line with Nottinghamshire's Biodiversity Action Plan and with the agreement of the relevant owner. Existing woodland will be developed to be more diverse and, where appropriate, any new woodland should be planted with native species and be mainly broad-leaved in character.

Countryside Access

The first aim will be to increase the number of existing woodland that can be accessed easily by all kinds of people, and to improve the quality of access. The second focus will be on creating new woodland with access and provision for recreation, such as Forest Parks and community woodlands. The third aim will be to create or re-open good quality walking, cycling and riding networks for leisure, recreation and commuting.

Agriculture

The aim will be to provide a range of choices and support mechanisms to help farmers to diversify their land management operations to:

- ◆ integrate woodland planting into farm businesses;
- ◆ increase permissive access; and to
- ◆ take up opportunities in the farm-based leisure industry.

Economic Prosperity

The aim will be to provide, alongside other strategic plans, the necessary environmental regeneration to create the right environment to:

- ◆ generate inward investment into the region, and
- ◆ stimulate economic activity and employment, specifically related to woodland and the woodland product and around leisure and tourism.

Community

The first aim will be to instil a social inclusion and community development process which empowers all local communities to play an active role in the planning, design and management of Greenwood, to engender, ownership, respect and responsibility, and to deliver appropriate improvements. The second aim will be reduce the environmental impact of everyday life and provide alternative choices to improve people's quality of life.

How will it be done?

The Strategic Plan identifies five inter-connected strategies:-

Landscape Regeneration Strategy based around:

- ◆ Landscape Character Guidelines
- ◆ Derelict and degraded land
- ◆ Road, rail and valley corridors
- ◆ Countryside around towns

Countryside Access Strategy based around:

- ◆ Access for all
- ◆ Recreational routes
- ◆ Multi-purpose greenways
- ◆ Meeting user requirements

Community Involvement Strategy based around:

- ◆ Community participation
- ◆ Education and awareness
- ◆ Community activities
- ◆ Community development

Sustainable Development Strategy based around:

- ◆ Nature conservation
- ◆ Carbon storage
- ◆ Wood as a source of renewable energy
- ◆ Healthy living
- ◆ Conserving land and water
- ◆ Woodland and farm diversification
- ◆ Encouraging a working countryside

Sense of Place Strategy based around:

- ◆ Countryside character
- ◆ Heritage and culture of local areas
- ◆ Experiencing the forest
- ◆ Creating a "Centre of Excellence"

Who will do the work?

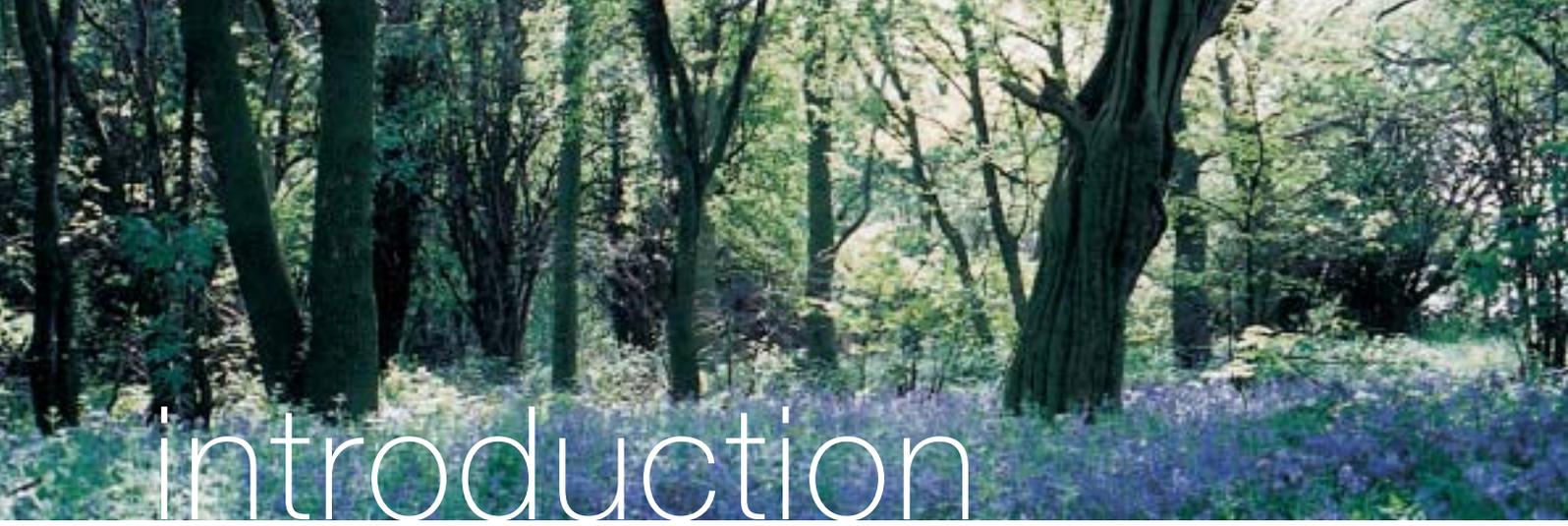
The implementation of the Strategic Plan is based on the concepts of voluntary participation and working in partnership. The main actors involved in environmental regeneration and countryside management will be engaged by the Greenwood Partnership to work with a range of agencies, farmers, landowners and communities to deliver projects and achieve improvements on the ground.

Where will the funding come from?

Funding for the Community Forest will come from a variety of sources which will probably change and evolve with time. At present, the main sources of funding are likely to come from:

- ◆ The Countryside Agency (various grants),
- ◆ Forestry Commission (Woodland Grant Scheme),
- ◆ Local Authorities (Capital and Revenue Funds),
- ◆ Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Farm Woodland Premium Scheme, Countryside Stewardship Scheme),
- ◆ East Midlands Development Agency (Single Regeneration Budget),
- ◆ Central Government (New Initiatives),
- ◆ European Commission (ERDF and ESF),
- ◆ National Lottery (especially New Opportunities Fund),
- ◆ Coalfield Regeneration Trust,
- ◆ Landfill Operators (Landfill Tax Credit Scheme),
- ◆ Corporate Sponsorship, and
- ◆ Private and Voluntary Sector contributions (cash and "in-kind").





introduction

a vision for the new millennium

The Strategic Plan for Greenwood has been prepared by Greenwood's Key Partners, reviewing and revising the original Forest Plan published in June 1994.

The original Forest Plan was the result of 2 years of research, consultation and discussion with a wide range of representatives from organisations in the public, voluntary and private sectors, as well as many individual experts and local community representatives. Their shared experience, ideas and knowledge were invaluable in shaping the original Plan.

In 1999, the the Key Partners were requested by Government to review the original Forest Plan, in the light of changing circumstances and differing priorities. However, it was felt that the good work that was completed between 1991 and 1994 should not be discarded, but should provide the backbone to a new up-dated edition.

In March 1999, a consultation paper was circulated, entitled the "Key Issues Report" - regarding lessons learnt, new approaches and certain aspects that have changed in the last few years. Following comments and opinions received from this document, a draft Plan was produced and circulated to all interested parties between September 1999 and December 1999. In addition, a highly productive Consultation Day took place on 9 November 1999, at the International Clothing Centre, Hucknall. Verbal and written correspondence have been incorporated where appropriate into the final draft.

In essence, the purpose of the Strategic Plan is to :

- ◆ Introduce the Community Forest concept;
- ◆ Confirm the rationale for a Community Forest in Nottinghamshire;
- ◆ Promote and nurture the Community Forest vision into the 21st Century;
- ◆ Identify the strategies which will achieve the Community Forest;
- ◆ Guide and influence land-use policies;
- ◆ Strengthen, support and help shape positive policies for the countryside;
- ◆ Seek the commitment and support of the main actors, and the participation and involvement of communities;
- ◆ Establish a programme of targets and delivery mechanisms.

The Strategic Plan can be summed up as an environmental framework that is based on the concepts of voluntary participation and working partnership.



it's already happening

In 1998, The Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) appointed Environmental Resource Management (ERM) to evaluate the national programme of Community Forests. The final report entitled "Scenario Analysis of Community Forestry in England 1993-1997" illustrated that, nationally, the Community Forest programme has been a major success.

Compared to other areas of the country, Community Forests had planted three times as many trees, with up to six times as many woodlands with public access.

It was overwhelmingly accepted by DETR Ministers in November 1998, stating,

"It makes good reading, confirming the basic rightness of the approach..."

In terms of Greenwood, there have been some significant achievements delivered since it's establishment in 1991 (Map 1)





- ◆ 638 hectares of new woodland, well over a million trees have been planted.
- ◆ 283 hectares of existing woodland have been brought into management.
- ◆ 206 hectares of woodland and 137 hectares of heathland, limestone grassland and wetland have been opened up for recreation and access.
- ◆ 578 kilometres of routes have been opened up or improved for recreation and access.
- ◆ 241 hectares of heathland, limestone grassland and wetland habitats have been created and/or managed.
- ◆ 184 kilometres of hedgerows have been created and/or restored.
- ◆ 436 hectares of derelict land has been reclaimed.
- ◆ 4,000 volunteer days have been achieved every year, from a wide range of local people involved in community projects.
- ◆ up to 300 schools have been involved in creating Greenwood.
- ◆ around 80 farmers have been actively involved in creating and/or managing woodland or hedgerows.
- ◆ There will be the largest lowland planting scheme in England for 30 years in and around Greenwood, through the work of Nottinghamshire County Council and Forest Enterprise in reclaiming and planting several British Coal Tips.



Map 1 - Achievements to Date

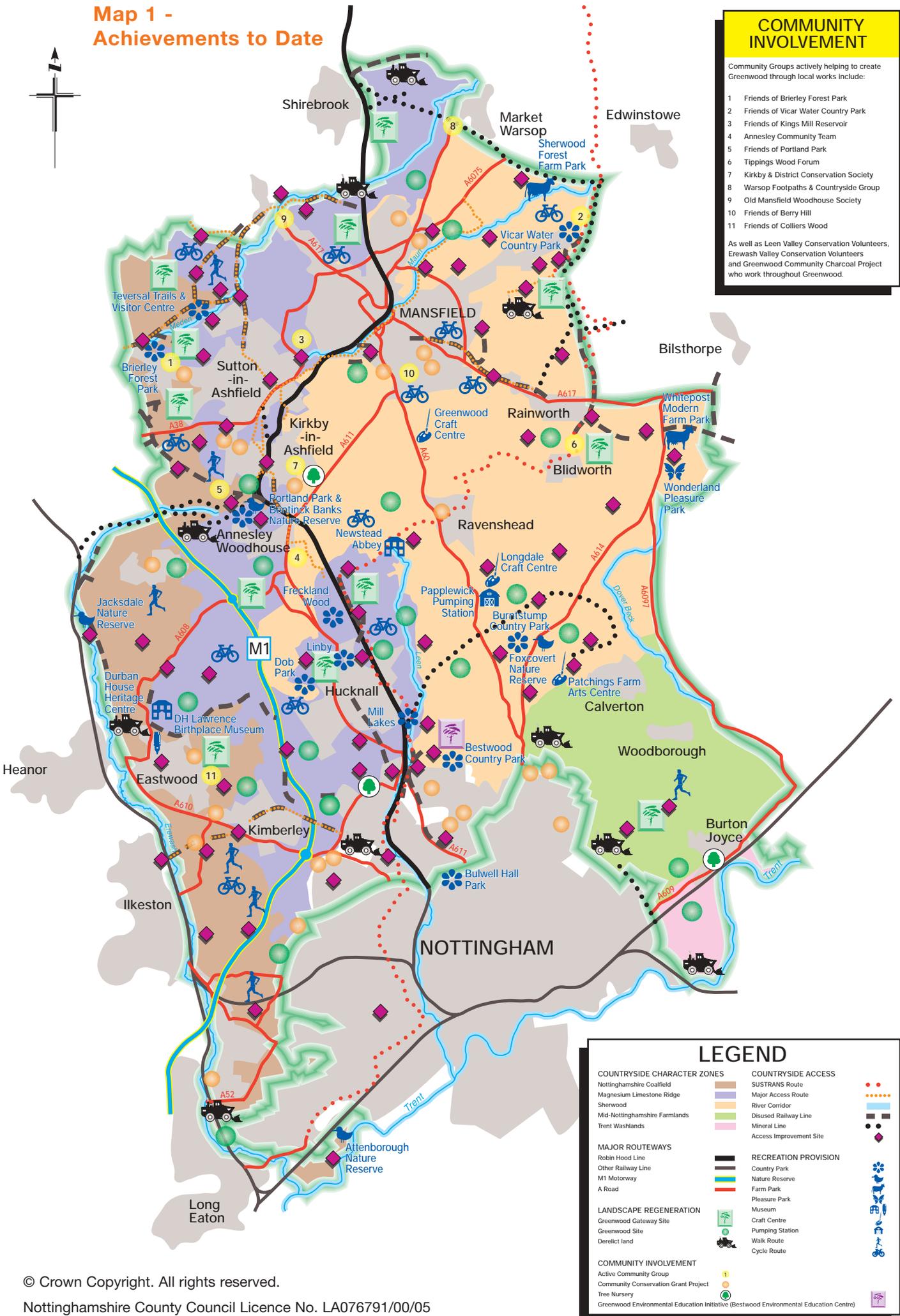


COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community Groups actively helping to create Greenwood through local works include:

- 1 Friends of Brierley Forest Park
- 2 Friends of Vicar Water Country Park
- 3 Friends of Kings Mill Reservoir
- 4 Annesley Community Team
- 5 Friends of Portland Park
- 6 Tippings Wood Forum
- 7 Kirkby & District Conservation Society
- 8 Warsop Footpaths & Countryside Group
- 9 Old Mansfield Woodhouse Society
- 10 Friends of Berry Hill
- 11 Friends of Colliers Wood

As well as Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers, Erewash Valley Conservation Volunteers and Greenwood Community Charcoal Project who work throughout Greenwood.



LEGEND

COUNTRYSIDE CHARACTER ZONES	COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS	
Nottinghamshire Coalfield	Sustrans Route	
Magnesium Limestone Ridge	Major Access Route	
Sherwood	River Corridor	
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands	Disused Railway Line	
Trent Washlands	Mineral Line	
	Access Improvement Site	
MAJOR ROUTEWAYS	RECREATION PROVISION	
Robin Hood Line	Country Park	
Other Railway Line	Nature Reserve	
M1 Motorway	Farm Park	
A Road	Pleasure Park	
	Museum	
LANDSCAPE REGENERATION	Craft Centre	
Greenwood Gateway Site	Pumping Station	
Greenwood Site	Walk Route	
Derelict land	Cycle Route	
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT		
Active Community Group		
Community Conservation Grant Project		
Tree Nursery		
Greenwood Environmental Education Initiative (Bestwood Environmental Education Centre)		

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national context

Forests for the communities

To many people the word "forest" conjures up an image of dense, closely grown trees stretching as far as the eye can see. Eight-hundred years ago, in mediaeval times, it meant something quite different. Then, the great forests of England were not trees, but a magnificent mix of woods, heaths, farmland, wetlands, ponds and streams. Here also were settlements - hamlets, villages and small towns - where people lived and worked. Today, the concept of Community Forests is breathing new life into this ancient meaning of the word. This echo from our past is now set to become a signpost to a better future.

Community Forests cover large areas around the edges of towns and cities. They are not continuous planting of trees but a rich mix of wooded landscapes and land-uses, including farmland, villages, leisure enterprises, nature areas and public open space. The aim is to create well-wooded landscapes for wildlife, work and education, with new opportunities for recreation, all on the doorstep of half of England's population.

The "Forests for the Community" programme which consists of 12 Community Forests in England is now over five years into implementation. Established by The Countryside Agency (then the Countryside Commission) and the Forestry Commission in partnership with a range of local partners, much as been achieved in the first few years. In total over 6,000 hectares of new woodland has been planted, along with numerous benefits to the landscape and to local people. Importantly, Community Forests have become a mainstay of environmentally-led regeneration and sustainability.

Each Community Forest has a non-statutory Plan, approved by Government which describes the proposals for developing that Forest over the next 30 years and guides implementation.

In each Forest the Countryside Agency, the Forestry Commission and 58 local authorities have appointed

The 12 Community Forests are:

Forest of Avon around Bristol

Forest of Mercia in south Staffordshire

Great North Forest in south Tyne and Wear and north-east Durham

Great Western Community Forest around Swindon

Greenwood north of Nottingham

Forest of Marston Vale to the south of Bedford

Mersey Forest on Merseyside

Red Rose Forest in Greater Manchester

South Yorkshire Forest near Sheffield

The Tees Forest around Cleveland

Thames Chase to the east of London

Watling Chase in Hertfordshire /north London



Map 2

dedicated Teams to oversee the management and implementation. Many other national and local organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors have become involved and are now supporting the partnerships. All are valued partners, critical to the success of the Forests.



national aims and objectives

The aim of the national programme of Community Forests is to achieve major environmental improvements around towns and cities, creating beautiful areas rich in wildlife, with associated provision for access, leisure and education, thereby making them more attractive places to live, do business and enjoy leisure time.

The national corporate objectives agreed by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) has adopted are to:

- ◆ regenerate the environment within green belt, or equivalently areas, where it is public policy to keep it open, and help to ensure that it is permanently green and open;
- ◆ improve the landscape, including reclamation of derelict land, to create a visually exciting and functionally diverse environment;
- ◆ increase opportunities for sport and recreation and for artistic and cultural events, and access;
- ◆ protect areas of high-quality landscape, and areas of historical or archaeological interest;
- ◆ protect sites of nature conservation value and create new opportunities for nature conservation;
- ◆ provide new opportunities for educational use of the area, and ensure the mosaic of habitats in the Forest can be used for the environmental education needs of the surrounding schools, also that urban schools are not disadvantaged in meeting the needs of the National Curriculum;

- ◆ protect the best agricultural land and increase opportunities for farm diversification elsewhere in accordance with Government agricultural and local planning policies;
- ◆ establish supplies of local timber and woodland products;
- ◆ create jobs in the new woodland initiatives, both management of woodland and use of the raw materials.
- ◆ create jobs in the leisure industry developed in and around the Community Forest.
- ◆ sustain other local jobs by providing an outstanding environment as a comparative economic advantage over competitor areas;
- ◆ seek private sector support to implement the Forest and to invest in leisure and other relevant services;
- ◆ give public and private sector confidence in the long-term prospects for the area and to provide a proper base for investment.
- ◆ improve the environment near housing and local industry, enhancing the value of properties and businesses;
- ◆ achieve a high level of local community commitment to the concept and community involvement in the implementation;
- ◆ complement the Government's priorities for inner cities, by providing for associated leisure and open space needs at the physically closest locations;
- ◆ remain flexible in the light of changes, such as in the leisure market.

current policy framework

Internationally, the Rio Earth Summit of 1992 acknowledged the essential nature of forestry for the well-being of the planet and marked the first ever global agreement on forest principles. The need to make future development sustainable was clearly recognised. Community Forests embrace the Government's four objectives of:

- ◆ social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- ◆ effective protection of the environment;
- ◆ prudent use of natural resources; and
- ◆ maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

Nationally, the Government has begun a programme of devolution in Scotland and Wales, and regionalisation in the creation of regional development agencies and assemblies in England. There has also been an increasing emphasis on "sustainability" as a fundamental attribute of Government-funded regeneration and development programmes. The Community Forests offer the regional development agencies a tried and tested model that combines a strategic mechanism for delivering environmental improvements alongside sustainable economic regeneration.

Community Forests operate in a climate of Common Agricultural Policy reforms through Agenda 2000 which is designed to pave the way for European Union enlargement and, in relation to agriculture, to address international trade concerns by bringing EU farm prices nearer to world market prices. This simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy is a further step towards decoupling farm support from production, and to pave the way for a new "second pillar of the CAP" designed to promote environmental action, forestry and rural development.

The introduction of the new Rural Development Regulations provides the framework for making rural development a "second pillar" of the CAP as more resources are diverted from mainstream CAP support. The Regulation is a small step in the transition towards fully integrating agricultural policy with rural policy to meet the environmental, social and economic needs of rural areas. The Regulation brings together nine separate measures into a single framework which provides the foundation on which to build a long-term, integrated, rural policy linking agriculture, forestry and support for the wider rural economy.



The Countryside Agency

On 1 April 1999 the Countryside Commission became the Countryside Agency, merging with the national functions of the Rural Development Commission. The Countryside Agency is the new statutory body working:

- ◆ to conserve and enhance the countryside;
- ◆ to promote social equity and economic opportunity for the people who live there; and
- ◆ to help everyone, wherever they live, to enjoy this national asset.

The Countryside Commission's publication "England's Trees and Woods" (1993) expresses the Agency's overall policy remains valid as an overall context for increasing tree cover in England, especially through the principles of multi-purpose forestry embraced by the Community Forests. A new policy context for the regeneration of the countryside in and around towns, "Linking Towns and Country" was published in March 1999, in which the multi-purpose, strategic, community-based partnerships pioneered by Community Forests are flagships.

The Countryside Agency's objectives cover the full breadth of sustainable development - social, economic and environmental - and the Agency intends to use Community Forests to test innovative approaches. The urban and rural "White Papers" to be published in 2000 will be very important in setting the context for this work. The broader framework brought about by the merger with the Rural Development Commission will allow the Countryside Agency to make full use of the Community Forests as test-beds for a wide range of policies.





Forestry Commission

The Government decided following devolution that the Forestry Commission would continue to be the department with responsibility for forestry throughout Great Britain. The Forestry Commission is now organised to meet the requirements of devolution with structures in place to serve the needs of England, Scotland and Wales, drawing upon central resources where needed. These arrangements allow the Forestry Commission to develop policies tailored to the particular needs and circumstances of each country. In England this will involve building on the England Forestry Strategy, launched in December 1998.

The England Forestry Strategy sets out the Government's strategic priorities and programmes over the next five to ten years. It demonstrates the strengthened commitment to social forestry in England as well as focusing on areas of greatest opportunity and need. The strategy has four key programmes: Forestry for Rural Development; Forestry for Economic Regeneration; Forestry for Recreation, Access and Tourism and Forestry for the Environment and Conservation. The delivery of these programmes can be greatly assisted through the Community Forest programme and the Forests will remain major partners with the Forestry Commission in achieving these goals. The Community Forests are therefore seen as a major delivery mechanism to achieve large scale, multi-purpose, sustainable forestry where it is most required.

Forest Enterprise, together with the Forestry Commission, have set up the Land Regeneration Unit, with the aim of greater involvement in restoring derelict land, targeting, where possible, within the Community Forest areas. This innovative approach is opening up a significant number of opportunities

where substantial areas of new woodlands are already planned or under way.

The Countryside Agency and the Forestry Commission remain committed to the Forests for Community programme. They will continue to be national lead partners. Their roles as national lead partners are undiminished.

Resources

Creating Community Forests is not dependent upon large-scale changes in land ownership. The main approach is to encourage farmers, landowners and businesses to consider the opportunities which the forests might present, while at the same time recognising the essential role that productive and profitable farming will continue to have for the landscape, wildlife and recreation within the Community Forest areas.

Finance for the development of Community Forests comes from a number of sources. Grants from the Forestry Commission, the Countryside Agency, MAFF, the DETR and other bodies help with planting, management, restoration of derelict land and provision of facilities for sport and recreation. Further money comes from local government and industry.

Private investment will be attracted from companies who see a market potential such as those for wood products or in the leisure sector. Resources from the voluntary sector have an equally valuable role. Sound business partnerships are the key for those responsible for planning, developing and managing a Community Forest.

Since the establishment of the programme, Community Forests have drawn in substantial funds from other sources such as the National Lottery, Europe, landfill tax, business sponsorship, developers' contributions for projects on the ground, and donations from charitable trusts for land acquisitions and tree planting. The gearing ratio, for example, of the Countryside Agency's expenditure on Community Forest teams and project work is excellent. The forests are well placed to make the most of new funding opportunities, offering strategic vision, local, regional and national partnerships and a proven record of delivery.





local context

the place

Greenwood is Nottinghamshire's Community Forest. It is becoming a rich mosaic of land uses and wildlife habitats set in 161 square miles stretching from Nottingham in the south, to the countryside beyond Mansfield in the north. It includes the settlements of Sutton-in-Ashfield, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Blidworth, Rainworth, Newstead, Hucknall, Eastwood, Kimberley and Calverton. (Map 3)

Greenwood is also well placed to serve people living in the River Trent corridor from Derby to beyond Nottingham, including south of the river into Clifton and Rushcliffe, the towns in the Erewash Valley in Derbyshire, as well as the more rural northern and eastern fringes into Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood and Gedling. It presently covers 19% of Nottinghamshire, and over a million people live within or close to it.

An "Area of Study" of 43,800 hectares was agreed by Key Partners as a basis for the Community Forest, after public consultation in 1993. It has now been agreed to extend the boundary to cover the green corridors into the city of Nottingham. Greenwood covers much of the Coalfield area, with some 15% urbanised, 11% derelict or industrially damaged and the remainder being farmland.

the partnership

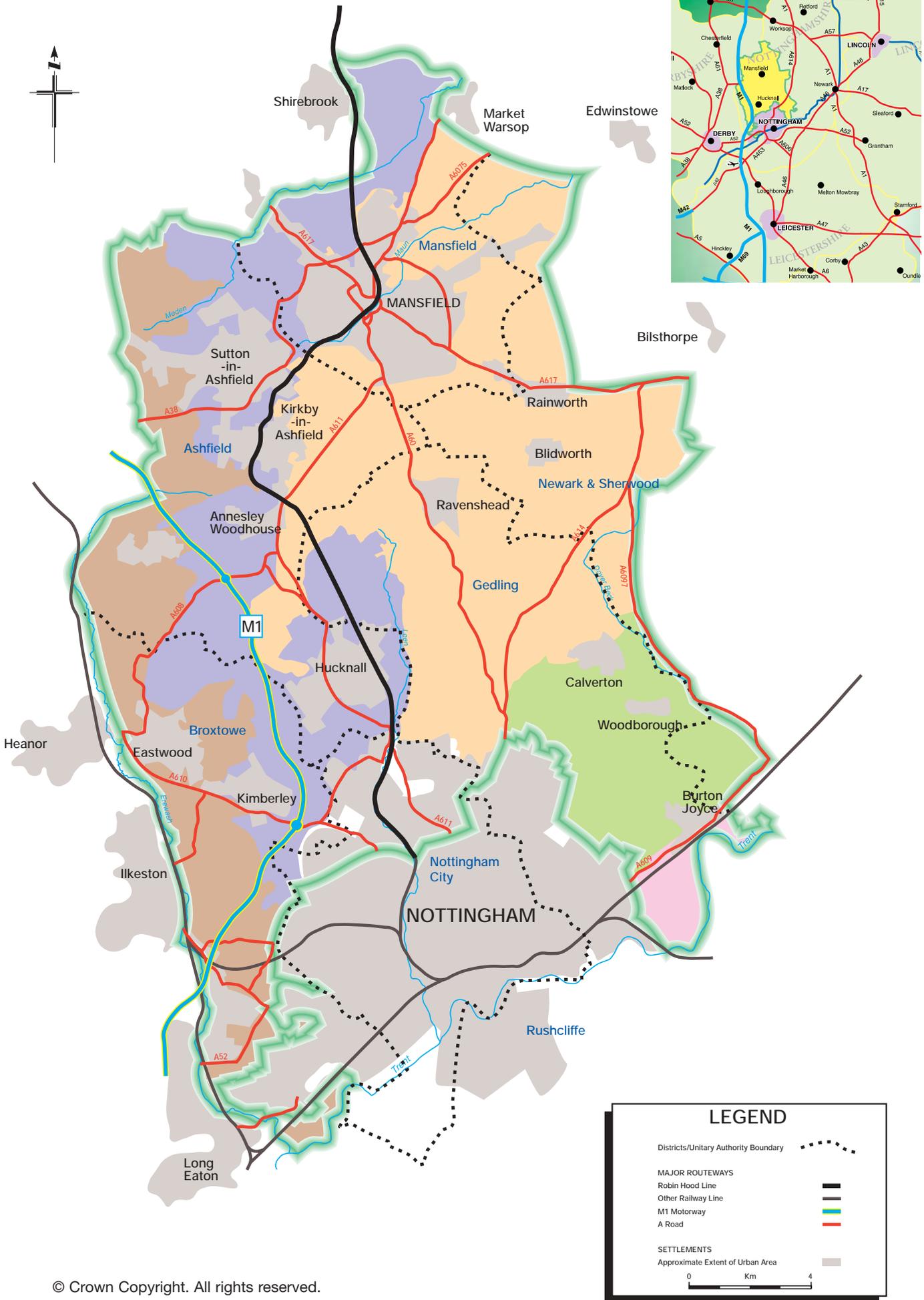
The Key Partners of Greenwood are as follows:

- ◆ The Countryside Agency;
- ◆ Forestry Commission;
- ◆ Nottinghamshire County Council;
- ◆ Ashfield District Council;
- ◆ Broxtowe Borough Council;
- ◆ Gedling Borough Council;
- ◆ Mansfield District Council;
- ◆ Newark & Sherwood District Council;
- ◆ Nottingham City Council;

Greenwood is overseen by a Partnership Board (representing Council Members) and a Partnership Executive (which includes Officers from Local Authorities and representatives from other relevant bodies, such as the Country Landowners Association and the National Farmers Union). In addition, a number of "Strategy Groups", "Working Groups" and "Advisory Forums" support the partnership structure.

In its wider sense, Greenwood is also inclusive of key Programme Delivery Partners: such as the Groundwork Trust (Ashfield & Mansfield, Greater Nottingham, and Newark & Sherwood); British Trust for Conservation Volunteers; Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust; Sherwood Forest Trust; Land Managers; Farmers; Community Groups; and Individuals.

Map 3 - Greenwood in the East Midlands



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the spatial policy & development framework

The Strategic Plan interacts within the wider spatial policy, strategic planning and development frameworks.

- ◆ Greenwood is supported by the new Regional Development Agency - East Midlands Development Agency (emda) - and is specifically mentioned in the Regional Economic Development Strategy.
- ◆ The East Midlands Regional Assembly - has a wider sustainable development role based on the "Integrated Regional Strategy" and the "Regional Planning Guidance for the Spatial Development of the East Midlands". Greenwood is listed as a main delivery mechanism.
- ◆ Greenwood sits comfortably in the "Nottinghamshire Structure Plan Review" (1996) which sets out strategic land-use policies for future development within the County;
- ◆ The review of the District's "Local Plans" which sets out detailed land-use policies within each Local Authority have confirmed the Community Forest concept.
- ◆ The "Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Nottinghamshire" (1998) has also been completed, listing the Community Forest as a key contributor.
- ◆ The "Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines" (1998), which combines the Countryside Character Programme with Natural Areas to form various regional character zones, has also been produced;
- ◆ The Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs) for the Lower Trent and Erewash and the Idle and Torne have been drafted identifying the Community Forest as a key player in the development of its environmental strategies and action plans for integrated land, air and water management in important sub-regional catchment areas;

the communities

Since the Community Forest will serve those who live outside it as well as those within it, the fact that the boundary of the Community Forest cuts across parish, ward and town boundaries does not matter. The population living in the Greenwood and within an 8 km hinterland is over 1,180,000, with nearly 500,000 households.

Over a third of these people do not own or have regular use of a car, and this is generally more pronounced in urban than rural areas, and has an obvious implication for the ways in which public access to the Community Forest can be improved. Over 20% of the local Nottinghamshire population have retired, and over 5% are unemployed.

The communities within Greenwood are very diverse. Past legacies have created a contrasting array of socio-economic groupings in the area and pockets of rural and urban deprivation sit alongside the rich and well-off. The area is characterised by densely populated urban areas in Nottingham, Mansfield and Sutton-in-Ashfield, Kirkby-in-Ashfield and Hucknall, with a selection of suburban areas and villages and smaller farm and commuter settlements.



- ◆ The Sherwood Study has been established which aims to bring a range of statutory and non-statutory organisations together, including the Community Forest, to form a shared vision and develop a comprehensive programme of priorities and actions which will help to enhance and enrich this important geographical area;
- ◆ The Nottinghamshire Sandlands Land Management Initiative, sponsored by The Countryside Agency has recently been designated. This will work with farmers and rural communities to test and demonstrate how farming systems can respond, from the "bottom up", to the changing demands on agriculture in ways that will maintain a healthy, attractive environment and contribute to rural economies and communities; and
- ◆ Greenwood also fits within the active progress, at district and county level, of the development of Local Agenda 21 strategies.

Moreover, the Strategic Plan will operate within the context of statutory plans, but will also provide wide-ranging and much long-term advice on land management issues for achieving the creation of Greenwood.

The Strategic Plan will:

- ◆ Strengthen, support and help to shape positive policies for the countryside in the Greenwood;
- ◆ Guide the local interpretation of planning policies;
- ◆ Identify opportunities for achieving policy aims through practical initiatives; and
- ◆ Be a material consideration in the determination of relevant planning applications.

However, supporting the Community Forest concept will not be a means of achieving approval for otherwise unacceptable development. The decision will still lie solely with the Local Planning Authority and each proposal will be judged on its merit.

To ensure that Greenwood provides the best possible opportunities for landowners and farmers whilst safeguarding their interests, a number of working principles have been established.

These are:

- Participation by farmers and landowners in the Community Forest is, and will remain, entirely voluntary.
- There will be no compulsory purchase of land for Community Forest purposes.
- There will be no support for the planting of trees on tenanted land without the willing agreement of both landlord and tenant.
- The creation of a Community Forest does not alter the present legal position and statutory rights with regard to access. There will be no obligation on farmers, or landowners, to provide additional access and the public will not have any right of entry on to private land which does not already exist or is not willingly entered into by the farmer and landlord.



forest wide vision

taking stock

Landscape Character

Greenwood's landscape types can be divided into five distinct zones: Nottinghamshire Coalfield; Magnesian Limestone Ridge; Sherwood; Mid-Nottinghamshire (Dumbles) Farmland; and the Trent Washland (Map 4).

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COALFIELD

"A densely settled, industrial landscape characterised by mining settlements and pit heaps, intermixed with pastoral farmland"

Characteristic Features:

- ◆ Varied undulating topography
- ◆ Closely spaced mining settlements
- ◆ Pockets of pastoral farming
- ◆ Small to medium-sized hedged fields
- ◆ Network of narrow lanes
- ◆ Mine sites, pit heaps and disused railway lines
- ◆ Rows of red brick terrace housing
- ◆ Scattered, small broad-leaved woodlands

Commentary:

Despite being an urbanised and, in places, degraded landscape, the coalfield farmlands does have a distinct character, as reflected in its small-scale and semi-regular pattern of fields, lanes and settlements. This character is perhaps best represented in areas, such as that between Brinsley and Selston, where there is a intermingling of pastoral farmland, mining settlements and open space. In many places, however, the essential structure of the landscape has been disrupted, or simply overwhelmed, by agricultural intensification, opencast mining, or recent urban and industrial development.

These changes have resulted in both an erosion of local distinctiveness and a gradual decline in the overall unity of the landscape.

The coalfield farmlands is an extremely variable landscape and, while certain areas may have survived relatively intact, the continuing impact of urban development and the legacy of opencast mineral extraction is threatening to destroy the very fabric of the landscape. Although there is a need to conserve existing features and patterns, there is also considerable scope for landscape enhancement, particularly in relation to the effective mitigation of existing and future development.



The overall approach to management should thus involve a combination of conservation and enhancement - to conserve those features that contribute to local distinctiveness, while at the same time looking for opportunities to enhance the small-scale character and overall unity of the landscape.

The river meadowlands is characterised by riparian trees and grazing meadows with patches of wet grasslands and marshes. The development of the underlying coalfield however, has had a major impact on the character and quality of the landscape,

particularly in the lower part of the Erewash Valley. Views from the river corridor are often contained by settlement edges, pit heaps, or railway embankments, while opencasting has completely modified the landscape in a number of areas. This is reinforced by the presence of overgrown and gappy hedgerows, wire fences, weed infested pasture and patches of scrub, all of which create an impression of dereliction and neglect.

Despite its many detractive features, there is considerable potential for enhancing the character and continuity of the landscape, particularly with regard to mitigating the impact of urban and industrial development. The general approach to management should thus involve a combination of restoration and enhancement to develop the visual and ecological continuity of the river corridor landscape.

Trees and Woodland:

The evidence contained within the Domesday Book is that the Nottinghamshire Coalfield was well-wooded, as indicated by place names like Eastwood and Underwood. Other place names, however, suggest less wooded environments, such as Kirkby-in-Ashfield and Sutton-in-Ashfield. Piecemeal enclosure and felling during the Middle Ages led to large-scale woodland clearance, and by the mid-19th century contemporary maps show hardly any woodland surviving. Tree-lined river corridors have remained until the present day, although the upper reaches of the River Meden and the River Erewash are mostly treeless.



Woodland cover has remained fairly constant at around 4% throughout the 20th century with the distribution pattern being one of small, often ancient broad-leaved woodlands. Over 80% of the woodlands are less than one hectare in size. Examples of these small ancient woodlands include Watnall Wood, Dove Dale Wood, Copsy Wood and parts of Millington Spring.

MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE RIDGE

"A gently rolling, and in places urbanised agricultural landscape, characterised by large hedged fields, estate woodlands and small limestone villages".

Characteristic Features:

- ◆ Gently rolling limestone escarpment
- ◆ Fertile soils supporting productive arable farmland
- ◆ Regular pattern of large hedged fields
- ◆ Larger estate woodlands and belts of trees
- ◆ Views often framed by wooded skyline
- ◆ Nucleated pattern of small stone villages
- ◆ Limestone buildings with orange pantile roofs
- ◆ Large self-contained mining settlements
- ◆ Mine sites with associated pit heaps and railway lines

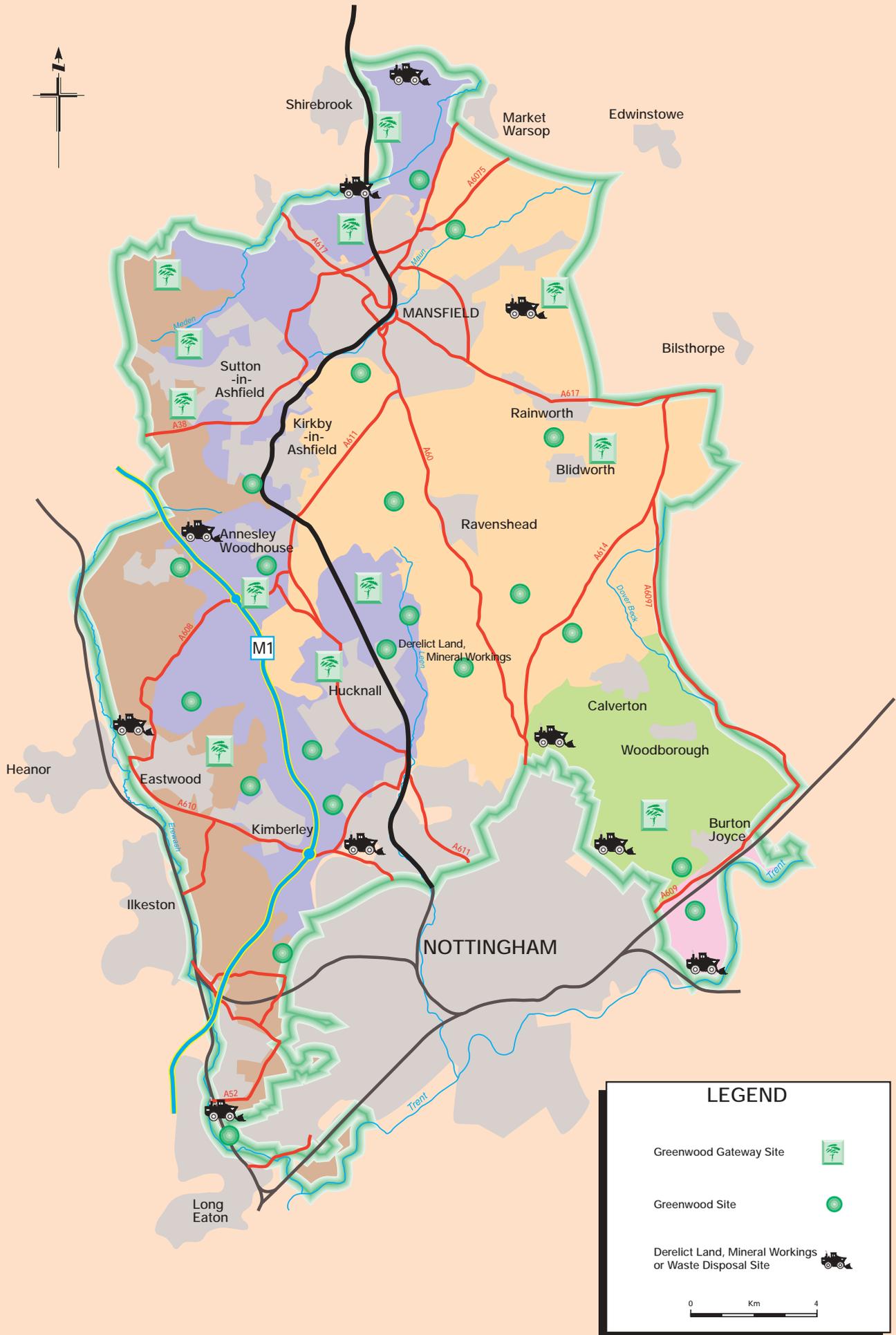
Commentary:

The limestone farmlands have a distinct character that is controlled by the relationship between landform, field pattern and tree cover. The ordered pattern of medium to large-sized fields is a particularly dominant and unifying element, but almost everywhere this is complemented by a larger-scale pattern of estate woodlands. The latter provide a sense of proportion and balance without detracting from the distinctive, open rolling character of the limestone escarpment. While the unity of this pattern remains intact, the general trend towards arable intensification and the decline of more traditional mixed farming enterprises has led to a significant decline in the overall condition of the landscape. The majority of hedgerows, for example, no longer have a stock control function and many of these are gappy, or dying out at the base.



As a result of intensification, the structure of the landscape is beginning to break down in some areas. This trend is exacerbated in places by the impact of coal mining and the associated urbanisation of the landscape. All the mines have now closed, but the urbanised settlement pattern, huge pit heaps and other

Map 4 - Landscape Characteristics



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associated infrastructure remain as an enduring and visually intrusive legacy.

It is clear, therefore, that not only is the general condition of the landscape poor and in decline, but that urban intrusion is also an issue in many areas. Consequently, although the priority should be to conserve and strengthen the locally distinctive character of the landscape, there is also scope for landscape enhancement.

The overall management approach should be a combination of conservation and enhancement - to conserve those features that contribute to local distinctiveness, while at the same time looking for opportunities to enhance the quality and character of the landscape.

The limestone fringe is a rather diffuse landscape, which overall has a variable character, depending on the proportion of woodland cover and the way in which this is sited in relation to the underlying landform. The nature of the landform in the limestone fringe tends to emphasise the prominence of woodlands and, where there is good balance between woodland cover and open land, these two elements combine to create a strong sense of containment and unity. This in turn reinforces the secluded character of the landscape and helps to mitigate the impact of urban development.



In contrast, where there are few woodlands, or the pattern of tree cover has become fragmented, this distinctive character is usually less obvious, while urban influences tend to be more intrusive. A major source of disturbance in the limestone fringe is from traffic movement and noise from the M1 motorway, which passes along high ground through the middle of the area.

There is, therefore, considerable potential for landscape enhancement, particularly with regard to the creation of new landscape features, although opportunities should also be sought for restoring locally distinctive features, such as parkland and belts of trees.

The overall approach to management in the limestone fringe should thus involve a combination of restoration and enhancement - to restore those features which contribute to local distinctiveness, while at the same time enhancing the overall unity of the landscape through appropriate large-scale woodland planting.

Trees and Woodland:

The region currently has a woodland cover of slightly over 6%. A significant proportion of this woodland is associated with a number of parkland estates, which developed from earlier monastic estates. Outside of the parkland area, woods are generally scattered, with ash predominating due to its preference for the calcium-rich soils found over limestone.

The region today has a low proportion of coniferous woodland, and is one of the only areas in the County whose woodland areas decreased during the 20th century, to 7.6%. Losses have been due mainly to urban, industrial and new road development. Areas where woodland cover has increased include plantation woodlands near Annesley Woodhouse. The historical development of the Magnesian Limestone Ridge has meant that a number of ancient woodlands remain, including Willey Spring, High Park Wood, Boon Hills Wood, Lord Stubbins Wood, Ouday Wood and Rough Piece.

SHERWOOD

"An undulating, well-wooded and in places industrialised landscape characterised by large arable fields, pine plantations and remnants of semi-natural woodland and heath"

Characteristic Features:

- ◆ Dissected undulating topography
- ◆ Frequent views of wooded skylines
- ◆ Strong heathy character reflected in the widespread occurrence of bracken, gorse and broom
- ◆ Geometric field pattern of large-scale arable and root crops

- ◆ Scattered number of large outdoor pig units
- ◆ Planned layout of straight roads
- ◆ Neatly trimmed hawthorn hedgerows
- ◆ Large pine plantations
- ◆ Mining settlement and associated spoil heaps
- ◆ Scrubby semi-natural woodland and heaths with ancient stag headed oaks

Commentary:

Rolling landform, extensive pine plantations, large areas of broad-leaved woodland, intensively managed farmlands and widespread heathy character constitute the distinguishing features of this landscape. The overall structure is constructed from a patchwork of alternating areas of dense woodland and open farmland with a strong sense of wooded enclosure.



Urban and industrial development associated with the mining industry, the legacy of its subsequent decline and the more general spread of towns into the countryside, have created pressures for change within the forest sandlands landscape.

Character is particularly strong where associated with semi-natural woodland and areas of grass, bracken and heathland. These features are instrumental in retaining an historical sense of continuity in the landscape, providing a remainder of the formerly extensive areas of forest. The approach advocated in the strategy is therefore to conserve and strengthen the distinctive healthy and well-wooded character of the landscape. Priorities include conserving the region's remote rural character and enhancing landscapes around urban edges, mine sites and industrial development.

Trees and Woodland:

The Sherwood region is the most wooded part of the County with approximately 22% of it's area covered by woodland. Of the total amount of woodland found within the region, 50% is coniferous, 32% is broad-leaved, 16% is mixed and 2% new plantation. Large pine plantations dominate the area to the south and



east of Mansfield, with numerous smaller-scale woodlands of broad-leaved and mixed species. The area above the Maun Valley represents the most densely wooded area of the County, with the remnants of the historic Sherwood Forest, the emparked lands of the dukeries and the coniferous plantations, all having a crucial role to play on the character of the landscape.

Large-scale planting by the Forestry Commission began in the late 1920's and a five-fold increase in the area of predominantly pine woodland has occurred since that time. Many of these early plantations are now reaching economic maturity and will be progressively felled in a way that restructures the forest blocks, providing opportunities for ecological and visual diversity. Smaller-scale gains in woodland cover have been made from the planting up former industrial areas and coal tips.

The area contains 3 ancient woodlands and contain the best examples of oak-birch woodland in the County. Designated as SSSI's these extensive woodlands account for nearly 16% of the total ancient woodland in Nottinghamshire.

MID-NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (DUMBLES) FARMLAND

"A distinctively rolling landscape characterised by mixed agriculture, wooded dumble valleys and well-defined pattern of hedged fields".

Characteristic Features

- ◆ Steeply rolling topography
- ◆ Well-defined pattern of hedged fields
- ◆ Meandering tree-lined dumble valleys
- ◆ Mixed agriculture
- ◆ Scattered small woodlands, sometimes ancient in origin
- ◆ Expanded commuter settlements and small traditional villages

- ◆ Busy commuter roads and quiet country lanes
- ◆ Selection of orchards

Commentary

The character and structure of the Dumbles Farmlands is closely related to the physiographic features of the land and its proximity to greater Nottingham. The steeply rolling landform, narrow dumble valleys and tradition of mixed farming are the main components of the landscape, along with the well-defined pattern of hedged fields, small rural settlements and scattered broad-leaved woodlands. The wooded dumble streams are a particular local characteristic.



The landscape has retained its strong and distinctive rural character, despite the pressures arising from the urban expansion of Nottingham. These have created the greatest forces for change within the Dumbles Farmlands, although there have also been changes associated with agriculture. Suburban development has spread from Nottingham and now envelopes many of the villages that lie to the south of Dover Beck. The growth of this commuter belt has eroded the traditional settlement character of the area, although its visual impact is limited to some extent by the steeply rolling topography.



Further from the city the traditional rural character of the landscape is much stronger. The influence of Nottingham is much less with small red brick villages,

quiet country lanes and historic market settlements dominating the rural scene. The approach advocated involves a combination of conservation and enhancement - to conserve the traditional pattern of rural settlement, land use and enclosure whilst seeking to enhance the distinctive character of the dumble valleys.

Trees and Woodland

The region has around 4% of total woodland cover. Small and medium woodlands are scattered throughout, although they are more common in the south, north of Nottingham. Deciduous woodland comprise 63% of the wooded area, mixed woodlands cover 22%, conifers 10% and new plantations 5%. Some 50 or so ancient semi-natural woodlands are located within the region. These vary in size from the small, linear woods along the dumbles to the large blocks of woodland like Wellow Park. Ash, field maple, hazel, oak, hawthorn and wych elm are typical deciduous woodland species.

Historically, agricultural intensification has led to a number of established woodlands being cleared or reduced in size. However, many new woodlands have been planted, often small ones of less than one hectare. The end result is that since the 1920's there has been an overall increase in the hectareage of woodland in the region but a decrease in the area of ancient semi-natural woodland.

Dutch elm disease had a major impact upon the landscape during the period 1960-1980, leading to the loss of virtually all hedge and roadside elms. Despite this loss hedgerow trees still form an important component of the region's tree cover.

TRENT WASHLANDS

"A flat low-lying riverine landscape characterised by alluvial meadows, grazing animals and remnant wetland vegetation"

Characteristic Features

- ◆ Meandering river channels, often defined by flood banks
- ◆ Sparsely populated with few buildings
- ◆ Permanent pasture and flood meadows
- ◆ Steep wooded bluffs
- ◆ Willow holts
- ◆ Long sinuous hedges
- ◆ Pollarded willows

- ◆ Regular pattern of medium to large size arable fields, breaking down and becoming open in many areas
- ◆ Hedgerow trees main component of tree cover.

Commentary

Located on low-lying alluvial floodplains, the characteristic features of the river meadowland are mature, meandering river channels, alluvial meadows and riverside pastures, steep wooded bluffs, wet vegetation and riverside trees.



Collectively these features create distinctive river corridor landscapes with a strong sense of visual and ecological continuity. The landscapes often have a peaceful and undisturbed character that is reinforced by the presence of moving water and grazing animals. The landscapes possess a special quality and a strong impression of naturalness. The encroachment of arable farming and other developments have led to a fragmentation of this character and a loss of continuity within the river corridors.

The overall approach advocated is therefore one of conservation and restoration - to conserve areas where this traditional riverine character is still strong, and elsewhere to strengthen the continuity of the river corridors by restoring pastoral character and other features and habitats.



Trees and Woodland

Historically the Trent Washlands have been the least wooded part of the County. The total woodland cover now stands at just below 2%. The character and pattern of woodland cover vary throughout the region. The largest areas of woodland in this region are located on the steep valley bluffs. Small willow holtis are a distinguishing feature of the river meadowlands. The region has the lowest proportion of coniferous woodland in the County, at 1.5%, with mixed woodland accounting for 5.5% and broad-leaved woodlands at 84.5% of the total.

Mature Landscape Area's (MLAs)

In addition, to the general understanding and appreciation of landscape character Nottinghamshire County Council have also identified 33 Mature Landscape Areas (MLAs) within Greenwood. These MLAs are important countryside designations and comprise a series of traditional landscape features worth conserving.

Biodiversity

Put simply, biodiversity means the variety of life. It is all about the range of living things that are maintained through a delicate balance of ecological processes. However, the natural diversity of species is increasingly under threat, largely as a result of human development.

Conserving biodiversity has been recognised as an important process, not just to save rare and threatened species, but to make sure that earth's life support system is retained. It is therefore about conserving the range of existing natural habitats and species that we may think as "everyday" things, and restoring or recreating varieties that we had thought were lost.



While climate and geology ultimately determine which plants and animals we see around us, human activities have altered the original distributions and

habitat associations of species to such a degree that the modern landscape of Greenwood is almost complete man-made. About 6,000 years ago, when Neolithic farmers first began to have a significant impact on the countryside, Greenwood, like most of Britain, was almost completely wooded. From this time onwards, however, the "wildwood" was gradually eroded to make way for crops, grazing, animals and settlements, with successive cultures having a greater and greater impact.



Because most of Greenwood was originally wooded, many species found here today are characteristics of forest conditions. Where the original forest cover has been removed, species characteristics of habitats such as grassland, wetland and heath have colonised, which would previously have been restricted to natural gaps in the "wildwood". There are no areas remaining in Greenwood free from the effects of man. Those which have been modified only to a limited extent are referred to by ecologists as "semi-natural", and it is these which are of the greatest importance for biodiversity.



At present, Greenwood contains 26 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and 4 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), which include various ancient woodland, wetland and heathland habitats, as well as areas of exposed rock and species-rich limestone grassland.

These are important "gene pools" for local flora and fauna adapted to local environmental conditions (Map 5).

In addition, there are several hundred ecological and geological sites of local and regional importance - Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) - which are being studied, recorded and listed providing a non-statutory designation on which to consider future land-use decisions.

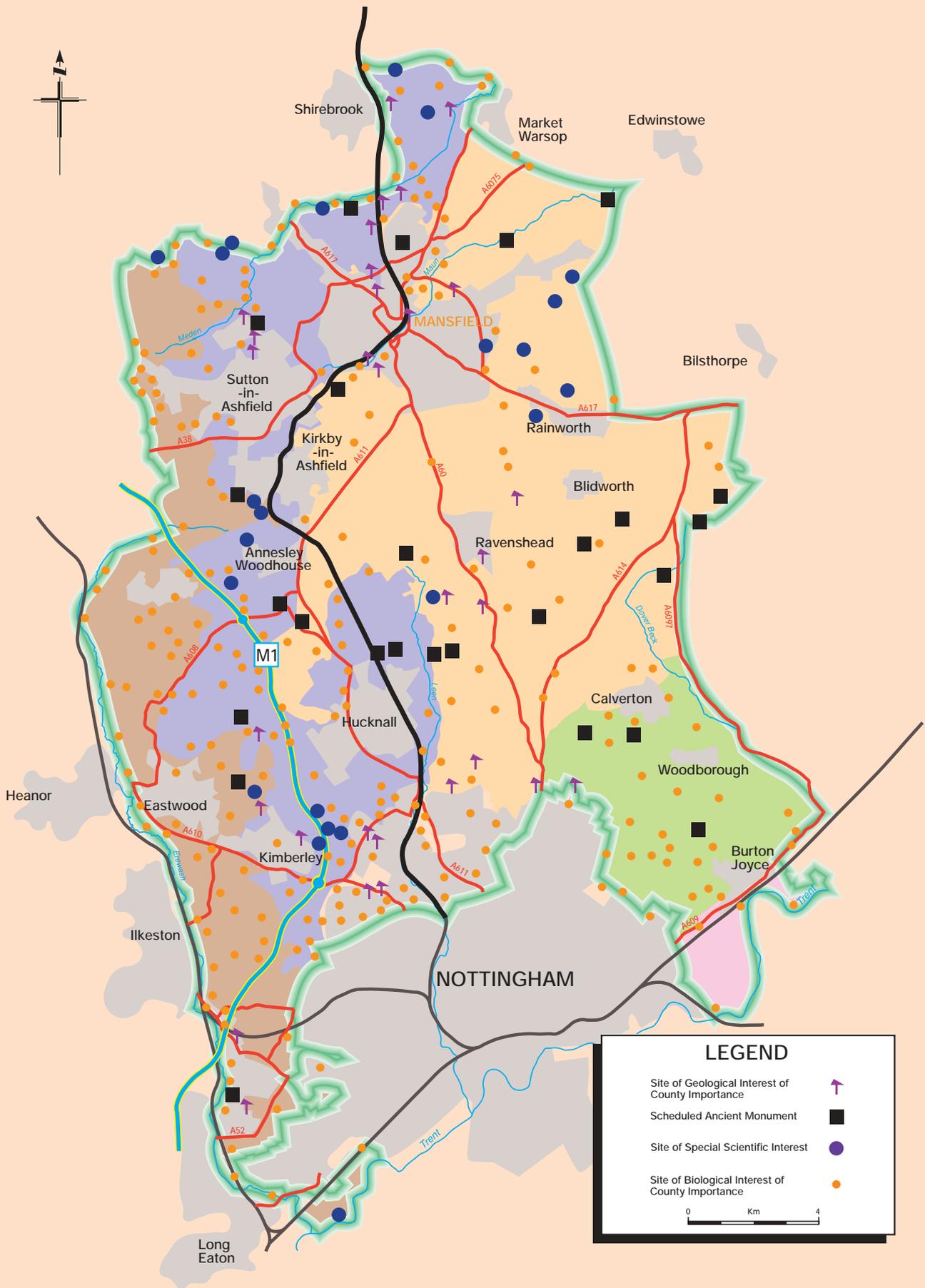
Agriculture

Most of the Community Forest area is used for agriculture. The farming is quite diverse in enterprise, size and field pattern. Only 15% of the farmland is classified as Grade 2 (under the Agricultural Land Classification) and this is mainly on the Magnesian Limestone. A similar proportion - 18% - is classified as Grade 4 on virtually all the Nottinghamshire Coalfield area with a high proportion of soils disturbed by opencast quarrying. The remaining 67% is Grade 3, on the Sandstone in the central and eastern parts of the Community Forest.

There are over 400 farm holdings in the Community Forest area. The average size of holding is around 50 ha, but over half of holdings are below 20 ha with around 15% of holdings over 100 ha. Nearly half of all farms are based in the cereals and general cropping category. Farms on the sandy soils tend to be larger than those to the west along the Erewash Valley, whereas clayland farms in the south-east tend to be smaller. Overall around 68% of agricultural land is farmed by its owners and approximately 32% is rented. These figures mask the complexity of the situation, as many farmers both own and rent land. In addition, there are complicated patterns of family management of farms. There is also a strong element of part-time farming in the area, particularly in the urban-fringe and along the Erewash.



Map 5 - Sites of Wildlife, Conservation and Historical Interests



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Research suggests that farm incomes in the Community Forest area reflect those of the region as a whole. Whilst crop output has increased in the last 10 years, the value received by the producer for that crop has been reduced. In real terms, net farm incomes have declined with arable farms particularly vulnerable. One effect of this decline is the erosion of the capital base of the farm enterprise, simply because income has not made a return on capital.



Furthermore, agriculture faces uncertainty and change arising from the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, and from other international policies. Many farmers, particularly in the Sandlands because of its inherent nature, have evolved a "high input - high output" system of farming, specialising in root crops, along with a move towards other forms of farming, such as outdoor pig units. These developments have important implications since most of the Sandlands has a particular problem with the nitrate concentration within the underlying aquifer, and has been declared a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone under the EC Directive.

Forestry & Woodland Economy

The other major use of open land in the Community Forest area is forestry. In 1994, around 13% of the non-urban area is wooded and this comprises a number of large coniferous plantations. Most of the plantations (45% of the total) are owned by or leased to Forest Enterprise. A further 21% is managed for production by its private owners. The remaining amount of woodland is used for recreation and by wildlife, or left unmanaged.



Forestry has been relatively unprofitable in recent times. This is partly because, unlike much of agriculture, it has no shield from recessions, and has suffered from the gales of 1987 and 1990. It also suffered from relatively difficult taxation regimes. However, timber prices over the last half century have slightly more than matched inflation and are at least expected to hold their own well into the next century. In addition to traditional markets for timber and wood products, prospects for new markets are emerging - Short Rotation Coppice (SRC) and wood chip for energy usage, and chemical feedstock, for example. There are also traditional markets, such as charcoal and coppice products which are expanding to meet changing public tastes.



Archaeology & History

The area of Greenwood is rich in archaeological remains and historical traditions. The Nottinghamshire Archaeological Sites and Monuments Records and Nottinghamshire Historic Buildings Records held by Nottinghamshire County Council identify 26 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, as well as 31 Sites of Geological Importance.

Prehistoric and Roman settlement remains are known in many locations on the Trent Valley gravel's and the Sherwood sandstones. It is likely that by this time, the "Wildwood" had been cleared from most of the areas. The clays and the limestone areas were equally densely settled, as indicated by objects recovered from development works, and the surface of ploughed fields.

For the post-Roman period, the heritage of the area can be read in the villages, monastic sites, deserted mediaeval settlements, parish and field boundaries and ridge and furrow operations, which mark the development of communities within and around the Greenwood in the high Middle Ages. Much of the

former Royal hunting forest falls within Greenwood and consisted of varying proportions of heath and oak-birch scrub. To the north of Greenwood lies the "Major Oak" and the core remnants of Sherwood Forest. This provides historical connections (although not entirely proven) with Robin Hood and romanticised stories that have now been established in local folklaw.



On the Nottinghamshire Coalfield, wood pasture was more common here and as there was little natural building stone in much of the area, parish woods on the boundaries of villages were cherished as renewable sources of timber down the centuries. Villages such as Underwood (the Coppiced Wood) are evidence of this.

The Greenwood area was transformed during the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries by agricultural enclosures and the reorganisations of larger estates. The latter was often accompanied by significant increases in woodland planting, during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, as at Newstead Abbey. Down the centuries, Greenwood has been the inspiration for painters, writers and poets, such as D.H. Lawrence and Lord Byron. Their names and their work have been embraced by local people and incorporated into local cultures. A sense of a "literary landscape" has been created. Literary historians and enthusiasts come from all over the world to see D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum in Eastwood and Lord Byron's burial ground at Hucknall.

The more recent industrial heritage is particularly evident in the west of Greenwood and is a focus for community identity. This area abounds with former textile mills, canals, railways and colliery sites, all with associated features worth keeping. Indeed, many of these are of high conservation value as identifiable areas or as a series of linked sites.



Countryside Access & Recreation



Overall, Greenwood contains 332 km of registered rights of way, as well as numerous permissive routes, notably on Forest Enterprise landholdings. The current distribution of rights of way shows a marked concentration in the western part of the area. In addition, there are 88 km of bridleways, yet the lack of sufficient circular bridleway routes causes some problems for horseriders and for cyclists having to use busy roads. (Map 6)



A number of studies have been carried out to identify existing demand and potential provision for the active enjoyment of Greenwood for recreation and tourism, most notably a study conducted by David Tydesley

Associates - "Countryside Recreation and Access Overview, Nottinghamshire" (1998). This study recognised 11 Recreation Resource Areas (RRAs) within Greenwood, analysing a number of factors that impact on identifiable local areas (Map 7)

NOTTINGHAM WEST COALFIELD

This area has quite a dense network of footpaths and bridleways, as well as paths along the Nottingham Canal and River Erewash. These features and the industrial /mining heritage have been drawn upon by the Broxtowe Borough Council, which promotes seven of its twelve published walks in this area.

Cycling is promoted via a published network of routes, with reference to an additional but limited number of bridleways which are considered less suitable for cycling, but which can be used for horse riding. Bramcote Hills park is an area which is intensively used by local residents, catering for the demand for a countryside experience. This is linked to the promoted cycle and footpath routes referred to above.



The Broxtowe Borough Local Plan identifies six "Greenways" (links between urban areas and the countryside) to be created in this area, and approximately 20% have been implemented to date. These form part of a number of longer distance trails which are also safeguarded. The forthcoming Local Plan review is likely to increase the number of Greenway proposals. The opportunity exists to co-ordinate these with development proposals and allocations.

Attenborough Nature Reserve lies in the Trent Valley nearby to the south. Although outside this RRA, it is an important facility, meeting many needs of the nearby settlements. Broxtowe Borough Council are

considering the possibility of a foot/cycle bridge across the River Trent in this area.



NOTTINGHAM NORTH-WEST

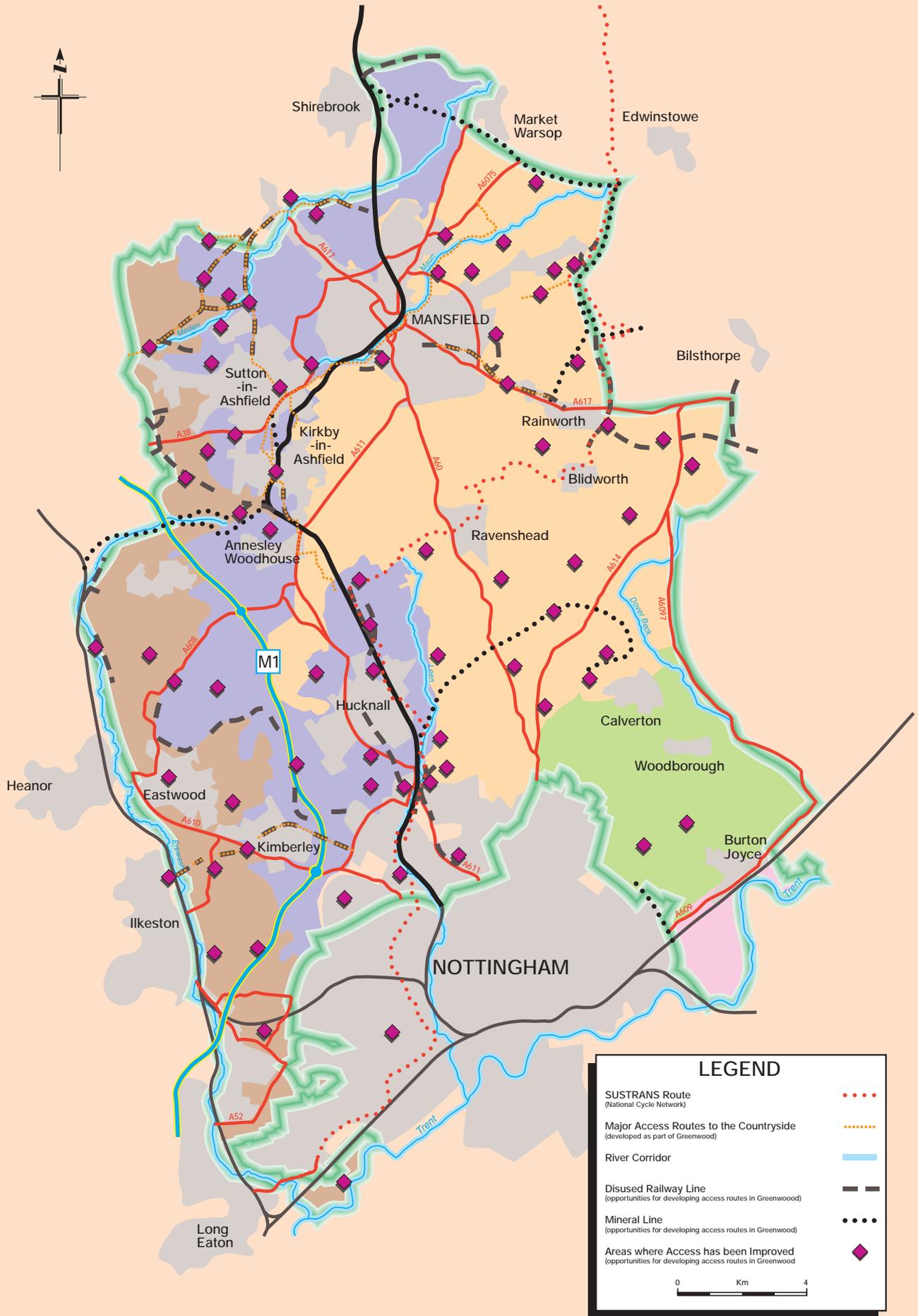
This area provides informal recreational opportunities - for walking, cycling and horse-riding - on the reasonably good coverage of footpaths and bridleways. Cycling is assisted by the provision of routes alongside Dob Park (Greenwood's first Forest Park) and the Hucknall bypass. Two Greenways are proposed by the Broxtowe Borough Local Plan. There are reasonable prospects of these being completed in the foreseeable future via a combination of grant and private developer finance.

NOTTINGHAM NORTH

Reclamation and landscaping of former mining areas has resulted in the provision of a number of recreational resources: Bestwood Country Park (managed jointly by Nottinghamshire County Council and Gedling Borough Council), the Mill Lakes area, Hucknall golf course and the restored Linby colliery tip, all of which are located close to urban areas. Access to the area is assisted by the Robin Hood railway station at Hucknall, and will be further enhanced in the future with the Nottingham Express Transit system. A stretch of the 'National Cycle Network' runs through the area, via Mill Lakes Country Park and making use of the disused rail line parallel to the B683. Routes along the River Leen are being exploited as part of the Corridors to the Countryside Initiative.



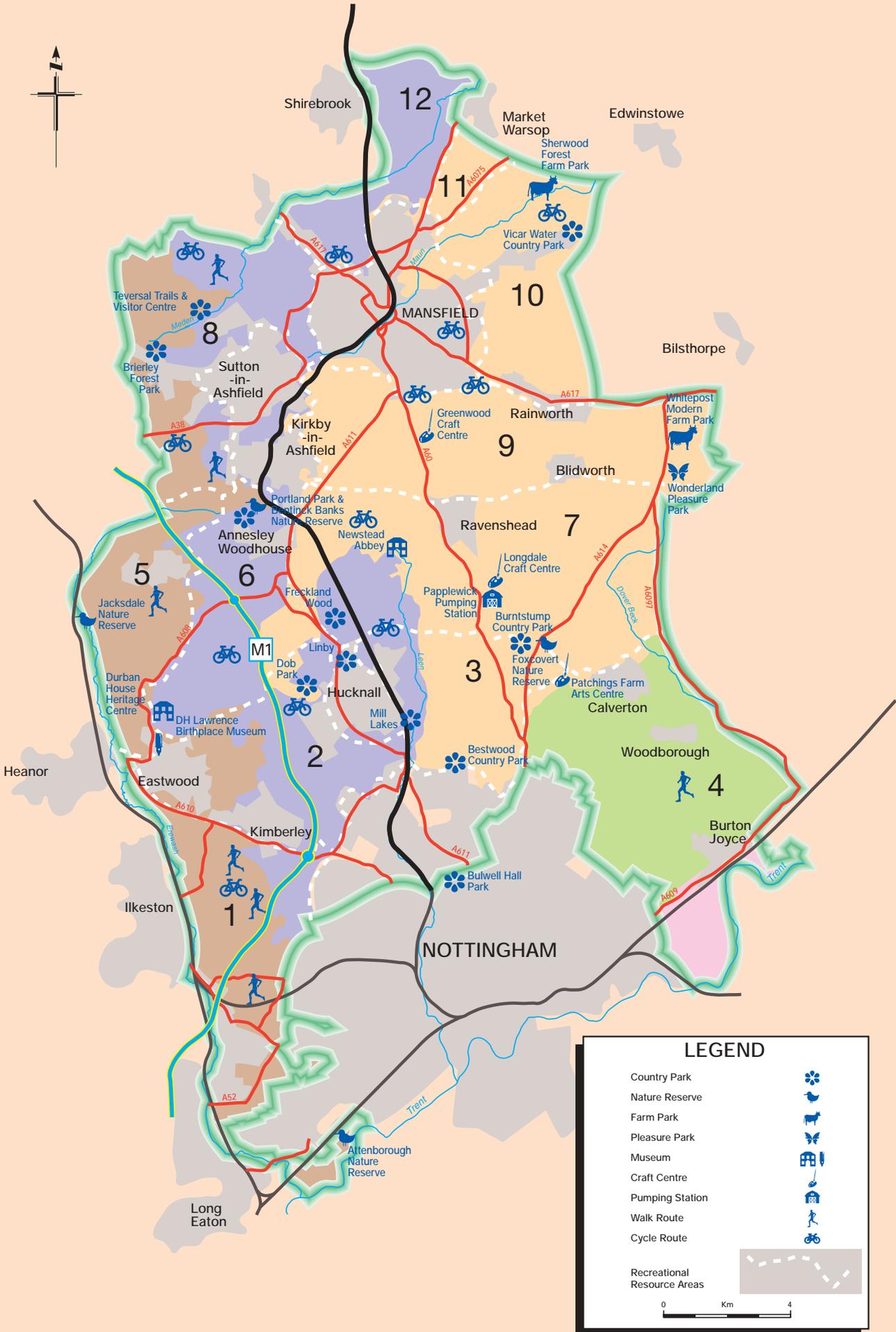
Map 6 - Countryside Access



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Map 7 - Recreational Resource Areas



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Burntstump Country Park, in the north-east of the RRA some distance away from residential areas, is a facility managed by Gedling Borough Council. Enhancement of links from Burntstump to the Sherwood Historic Core (RRA 13) are proposed by policy P28 of the County Council's "Plan for Sherwood Forest". Gedling Borough Council have recently published a useful booklet detailing a number of footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes within the Borough which contain information relating to all of the above provision, and seeking to accommodate different user groups.



THE DUMBLES

A good coverage of footpaths and bridleways are well used by walkers and horse-riders, with the undulating features of this RRA providing views and variation. This area contains a network of attractive minor roads which offer cycling opportunities relatively close to the city, although the hilly nature of this area is a limiting factor on this recreational pursuit. The majority of the routes are promoted by Gedling Borough Council.

A significant long term opportunity exists at Gedling colliery tip, where planning permission for coal recovery is linked to the creation of a substantial Forest Park on the urban fringe. There is also the possibility of access links to the countryside beyond, and some, more formal, recreation provision. The current Gedling Local Plan protection of open spaces and rights of way is likely to be enhanced by the development of a cycling strategy concurrently with the forthcoming Local Plan review.



Colwick Country Park lies a short distance away to the south in the Trent Valley. The National Watersports Centre at Holme Pierrepont is also outside the RRA, and is on the opposite side of the River Trent, but is a major influence nevertheless. Rushcliffe Borough Council are considering the long-term possibility of a cycle/foot bridge over the Trent.

EREWASH COALFIELD

This area, dominated in the past by the deep-mining industry, contains a fairly dense network of inter-village footpaths, offering informal countryside access to local residents along the Erewash Valley, in both Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Bridleway provision is less comprehensive, but the area has other features such as the reclaimed Moorgreen colliery tip, now renamed "Colliers Wood" in the south. The most notable visitor attraction is the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum, located on the north-western side of Eastwood, which links with published walks in the area.

ANNESLEY SOUTH

This area includes woodland and open farmland, which are utilised for informal recreation by walkers, cyclists and horse-riders utilising footpaths (some not definitive, but well used), bridleways and forest/woodland trails.



Portland Country Park is a substantial recreational and nature conservation resource, with a visitor centre, between Kirkby and Annesley. Moorgreen reservoir is a significant visual amenity, and is used for informal recreation, but is of less importance for formal recreational use. There are stables and fishing pools near Whyburn House Farm. Non-car access is afforded by the Robin Hood rail line in area 7, to the east with a station at Newstead. A cyclepath/bridleway has been provided alongside the A608 between the M1 and A611, which links to Kirkby-in-Ashfield.

RAVENSHEAD/HAYWOOD

This area contains a number of managed recreational resources: Newstead Abbey and grounds, Longdale Arts and Craft Centre, Papplewick Pumping Station, Patchings Farm, and Kirkby Forest golf course. All these managed facilities offer tea rooms/refreshment opportunities.

Newstead Abbey, owned and run by the City Council, is a particularly popular visitor attraction, the grounds offering extensive walking opportunities. Public transport access to the Abbey is possible via the Robin Hood line (Newstead station), and via buses from Nottingham and Mansfield -although the former entails a reasonably lengthy walk.

Further east Blidworth Woods, Sansom Wood and Heywood Oaks are Forest Enterprise plantations which have waymarked forest trails for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. Access to these sites, again, is predominantly by car, with parking available in numerous small car parks. This area also contains part of the Robin Hood Way walking route, and a section of the "National Cycle Network".



The latter, also open to walkers, utilises a disused railway line between Linby and Newstead villages, and is known as the Linby Trail. It is an important ecological corridor. Access along the River Leen corridor is also proposed to be enhanced via the Corridors to the Countryside Initiative.

THE ASHFIELDS

In addition to a fairly dense network of footpaths, the area includes part of the Teversal and Pleasley walking and cycling trails, which extend into Derbyshire. The Teversal trail has a visitor centre owned by Ashfield District Council and run by a local community group. Opportunities are also available for informal recreational use and access to the community woodland at Brierley Forest Park which is owned and run by Ashfield District Council. The Park includes a visitor centre at the Huthwaite end.



A number of minor and lightly-trafficked roads, together with the picturesque village of Teversal, offer further pleasant cycling opportunities. These are likely to be enhanced by proposals for leisure routes extending from the urban fringe (e.g. at the current Sutton landfill site, Huthwaite) into the open countryside; there is the potential to create links from the Fulwood area of Sutton to the Five Pits Trail in Derbyshire. Hardwick Hall is some 400m north of the boundary of this RRA, in Derbyshire, and it is likely that visitors to the area will be drawn to this country park. There are tea shops/refreshment opportunities at Teversal visitor centre and at Hardwick Hall.



Ashfield District Council have recently acquired the grounds of Skegby Hall, which may be opened for public access in the future. Silverhill colliery tip is currently being restored, and will provide access amongst the forestry areas, linking to the Teversal Trails.

MANSFIELD SOUTH

In the west of this area Harlow Wood and Thieves Wood - divided by the A60 - are popular walking, horse-riding and off-road cycling areas, with waymarked trails. There is a well used visitor centre at Thieves Wood and an associated coffee shop at Portland College. A cycle link between Kirkby and Mansfield is also provided alongside the A611. Kingsmill Reservoir, close to the boundary with RRA 8, provides both informal and formal recreation.

Recreational users of this forest area can walk or ride out, away from the main road (A60) on footpaths and bridleways, from Mansfield in the north or from Ravenshead to the south. From Mansfield, some links are included in the Trails Strategy for Mansfield. Several small car parks accommodate car-borne visitors. The "National Cycle Network" crosses the RRA between Blidworth and Rainworth, utilising a disused mineral railway line.



Further east, on the A614, White Post Farm Centre is a tourist attraction catering principally for car-borne family day visitors. The Robin Hood Way/Southwell Trail, running west from White Post Farm, is a popular walking and cycling route, with several informal picnic spots. In the west of the area, Sutton Parkway railway station is close to the start of the Maun Valley Trail, leading to Mansfield.



MANSFIELD EAST

The River Maun, running north-east through the areas from Mansfield, provides an attractive corridor for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders, with several footpaths and bridleways affording circular route options. The Mansfield Local Plan safeguards this route as well as the Mansfield Way out to Rainworth, and a walking route from Clipstone to Warsop. The western boundary of the RRA is the (former) mineral rail line serving Clipstone colliery, which will continue this stretch of the "National Cycle Network". The reclamation of former coal mining land is offering recreational opportunities of local importance - notably Vicar Water Country Park and the golf course south of Clipstone.



The Mansfield tip complex is proposed as a major recreational area in the Local Plan. In addition to the routes referred to above, the Mansfield Trails Strategy prepared by Mansfield District Council proposes links between the above features and routes.

WARSOP NORTH AND EAST

This RRA includes part of what remains of Sherwood Forest, although it is the less intensively used western area - some distance from the visitor centre and car parks. Nevertheless, it is used by walkers (it includes a section of the Robin Hood Way), horse-riders and cyclists - perhaps those seeking a little more in the way of solitude. The eastern boundary is

a bridleway through Sherwood Forest Country Park which coincides with a section of the "National Cycle Network".

There is little else in the way of distinguishing recreational resources in this area. There is a notable lack of minor roads - thus limiting on-road cycling opportunities; and although it includes part of the River Meden, river bank access is restricted for much of its length for recreational purposes. The proposals of the Mansfield Local Plan and Trails Strategy seek to address this. The woodland to the north of the area contains permissive walking routes, many leading out from Warsop and providing valuable links to fill gaps in the statutory rights of way.

Urbanisation Pressures

In general, the last 30 years has seen a remarkable expansion of industrial and housing areas, at the expense of the surrounding countryside. Around 15% of Greenwood is urbanised. Greenwood's urban-fringe environment's have been significantly affected by past and present industry and general development, with 27 waste tips, 24 active and disused mineral extraction sites and many sewage works. In the past two decades Nottinghamshire's industrial base has been sharply eroded.



The most important casualty so far has been the coal mining industry. Indeed, over 20 pits have closed leaving their mark on the area. The Coalfield Task Force Report (1998) identifies clearly the socio-economic problems and difficulties that this has caused. The dramatic decline in the deep-mine coal industry in Nottinghamshire is having a major impact on the social and economic prosperity of communities in Greenwood. However, the pressures for open-cast extraction are likely to continue. In all, Greenwood has some 500 hectares of derelict land.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COALFIELD

This area is densely populated with old colliery sites and mining settlements rarely out of view, which gives a persistent urban-fringe effect. The region skirts the edge of Sutton-in-Ashfield and Nottingham, but the only other settlements of any size are Eastwood and Kimberley, the remainder being mining villages and other small settlements. Widespread ribbon development creates the impression of a greater level of urbanisation than is actually the case and future development is now restricted by Green Belt policies.



Although the traditionally dominant coal industry has declined, urban expansion continues, and the impact of car ownership has had a significant effect on this already well-populated area. The M1 bisects the area between Trowell and Strelley, and between Selston and Pinxton. Other major roads include the A610 between Kimberley and Eastwood, and the A38 connecting Sutton-in-Ashfield with the M1. Local routes between settlements are becoming congested as road traffic increases; the historic pattern of winding roads and lanes is often inadequate for the volume of traffic. There have been proposals to widen the M1 and improve the A6002 between Stapleford and Trowell Moor, whilst Awworth and Cossall have recently been by-passed.

More recent industrial development, new housing and large out-of-town retail outlets tend to spread along the highways network. This gives the impression of a never-ending urban sprawl with few breaks between.

The urban fringes are also under pressure from the more mobile urban population which has increasing leisure time to spend away from home.



MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE RIDGE

The first phase of urbanisation occurred in the late 18th century and early 19th century, centred on textile production. The major transformation came with the development of deep mining in the second half of the 19th century. The agricultural character of many villages was submerged by the presence of pit heads, waste heaps and industrial housing. The infrastructure which served the pits was superimposed on earlier patterns of the landscape, for example the Mansfield-Pinxton tramway was followed by numerous mineral lines.



Today, this is a very densely populated area and the main centres are Hucknall, Kirkby-in-Ashfield and Sutton-in-Ashfield, centred around their industrial base and reflecting familiar urban development pressures. Roads and railways have made a significant impact on the landscape. The M1 passes through the area and is crossed by the A38 and A616. The railways have left their legacy, yet many of them have been converted to trails as at Teversal/Pleasley and Linby/Newstead. The Robin Hood Line is now operational, providing a passenger service that links the heart of Nottingham to Mansfield and beyond.



SHERWOOD

The main urban areas are located along the southern and western fringes of the region and include the north edge of Nottingham, Ravenshead, Blidworth, Rainworth and Mansfield. The coal industry has played a central role in the economic life of large parts of the region, with much of the area traditionally dependent upon mining employment. However, the last 20 years have seen a significant contraction of the coal mining industry, in fact there are now no active pits in this area of Greenwood.

The extraction of the underlying sandstone has also promoted economic and urban development. There are now just 6 active and 4 dormant quarries in the whole of the Sherwood region. Extraction has created major scars on the landscape, leaving a deep hole and little on-site material. The options for returning to agricultural after-use is poor because of inherently poor soils, and the potential for infilling are limited due to the need to protect the aquifer.



Many mining areas suffer from a poor physical environment with large areas of derelict land and a history of housing neglect. In addition, small settlements have suffered from poor services and social isolation. However, the area also has within it some idyllic villages, such as Papplewick and a major commuter settlement at Ravenshead, both portray

signs of affluence on a grand scale. Continued pressures for infill development within selected villages and major urban expansion, especially around the north edge of the City, has been growing steadily over the last few years.



The area has a number of major roads that pass through, the most prominent being the A614 and the A60 which both run north to south in parallel with each other. To provide better east to west links into Mansfield, a by-pass is being created at Rainworth. A dense network of railway lines was developed many years ago, to serve the power stations in the Trent Valley, these have now become disused.



MID-NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (DUMBLES) FARMLAND

This area is a sparsely populated region where Calverton, Woodborough, Burton Joyce, Lambley and Lowdham are the main settlements in Greenwood. South of the Dover Beck a number of busy minor routes link these settlements to Nottingham. The influence of Nottingham is much in evidence, pressurising commuter villages to expand and develop.

Elsewhere, the settlement pattern is formed by small nucleated villages and isolated farmsteads. Industrial development and mineral extraction has made its mark on the area. Gedling colliery and Calverton colliery

have both closed leaving areas of infrastructure and dereliction. The clay quarry at Dorket Head is still active, but will be followed by a major waste disposal scheme.

TRENT WASHLANDS

The area of the Trent Washlands that is within Greenwood has not been significantly affected by urbanisation. However, there is increasing pressure from the Nottingham conurbation to accommodate new housing within the Trent Valley. This pressure will need to be consolidated with the fact that most of the southern area adjacent to the City is covered by Green Belt policies.



A key road out of the City is the A609 towards Lowdham linking up to the A6097. Parallel with this runs the Nottingham to Lincoln railway line. The River Trent still operates as a commercial waterway downstream from Nottingham providing direct links to Gainsborough, the commercial waterways of Yorkshire and the Humber Ports.

Environmental Education

There are more than 400 schools in Greenwoods catchment area within Nottinghamshire. Environmental education takes many forms, from formal schooling to further and higher education, and continuing education in adult life. In Nottinghamshire, there are well established environmental initiatives such as "Trailblazer" which is run by Nottinghamshire County Council and the City Council, with the area is being used as an "outdoor classroom" by local education centres at Bestwood Country Park and at Thieves Wood with help from the public and voluntary sector.



However, as an integral part of sustainable development, there is a need to encourage more education, awareness-raising and understanding of environmental issues to engender ownership, respect and responsibility into present and future generations. The Community Forest, with its matrix of interacting farms, woodland and wildlife, is an excellent teaching resource and ideal mechanism to enable communities to observe nature and wildlife, to recognise the sensitivities and complexities, to appreciate the local countryside and to help shape their future environment.

Arts, Culture & Tourism

The people and places within Greenwood have clear links with the arts and historical characters. In 1995 "The Arts Survey" was produced for the Greenwood Partnership which provided a comprehensive Photo 51 understanding of the potential possibilities and an appreciation of the relevant art-related organisations, bodies and groups. In terms of culture, the eastern area has strong connections with forests and the local culture and people's psyche has been absorbed by this, reflected in the local stories, legends and place names (and public houses) associated with Robin Hood and his band of merry men. In the west, the links to Lord Byron and D.H. Lawrence have created an emotional tie to the "Literary Landscape" portrayed in their works.

This set of circumstances have created a culture that relates to the arts and to legends. Local groups, particularly around Blidworth and Rainworth, have gained inspiration from this and have been supported by East Midlands Arts, Local Authorities and the voluntary sector, to develop art and craft-related activities. Local commerce and enterprise has also taken inspiration, with local craft centres, such as

Longdale Arts Centre and Patchings Art Farm, dotted around Greenwood and places such as D.H. Lawrence Birthplace, Durban House in Eastwood, Hardwick Hall in the north and Newstead Abbey being recognised as tourist attractions.

Not to forget that just to the north of Greenwood lies the Major Oak and Sherwood Forest Visitor Centres, along with major attractions such as Clumber Park, Rufford Park and Centre Parcs.





forest wide vision

looking to the future

The creation of Greenwood is a massive undertaking the like of which has never been attempted before. It is big and it is radically different. What it can offer is the opportunity to harness some of the forces for change and to guide them in a particular direction to meet many of the area's needs and to create something we can be proud of. The Greenwood Partnership and its working partners have a major task in front of them.

Yet, if one looks back in time, the area was once a true forest. A forest that was a collection of patchwork fields, woodlands, heaths, coppices and settlements. A forest that is now embedded in the nation's heritage; A forest that is known throughout the world; A forest called Sherwood.

In the early 1990's the Sherwood Initiative was formed to recreate some of the missing parts and build on the surviving high quality landscapes that are located in and around the Greenwood area, and especially to the north of Mansfield and the Dukeries. An outcome of this has been the creation of the Sherwood Forest Trust which has concentrated on delivering some of the practical aspects, including work on habitat conservation and restoration, especially heathland.

In recent times, it has been increasingly recognised that the Sherwood area is under intense environmental and socio-economic pressures. Agriculture, tourism and traffic has intensified, along with the closure of various coal tips. The latter bringing with it serious unemployment and social exclusion. As a response, a comprehensive range of public, private and voluntary sector organisations have come together to support the development of the Sherwood Study, which aims to form a shared vision which tries to reconcile these issues and balances environmental, economic and social needs and demands.

Indeed, hundreds of years on, with only fragments of Sherwood remaining, the opportunities have now arisen to redress the environmental loss and establish a forest landscape once more where local people take ownership and be proud of.

Changes in farming, a clearer understanding of the multi-purpose nature of forests and much wider public support for environmental issues have all contributed to create a positive attitude towards landscape change in the countryside. The idea of the creation of Greenwood has been well received by local people, who have already committed thousands of volunteer hours to the cause.



Agriculture is expected to remain the major land use in the area. A closer integration of farming and forestry will enhance and reinforce the existing character of these areas. Where there is space it will be possible to establish large blocks of trees but in others a more traditional, enclosed agricultural landscape will be achieved, with copses and small woods planted between fields bordered by hedgerows.

More fundamental change will be needed to improve the large areas of dereliction. These difficult sites, which are very often very close to built-up areas, will be used to create extensive new community woodlands for public recreation and enjoyment. Derelict old mineral lines will be restored providing access from the urban areas into the countryside to supplement existing footpaths and bridleways.



Imaginative woodland designs will ensure the creation of attractive wooded settings for walking, cycling, horse-riding, family picnics, rest and relaxation. The opportunities for physical recreation will have positive effects on cardio-vascular and muscular-skeletal health, and all round fitness levels. Woodland will be used to screen and absorb noise and pollutants, as well as containing active pursuits such as motorcycling, orienteering, and mountain biking, to be catered for in purpose designed sites without spoiling the quiet enjoyment of the countryside which many people seek.



Greenwood will create a setting that will provide a range of opportunities for tourism. Existing and new attractions in the south of Greenwood, close to Greater Nottingham, will benefit from being set within a well-wooded landscape. An advantage of this is that it provides a range of choices and alternatives that benefit local people through local employment,

and reduces many of the capacity problems seen in the major attractions further north.

Some areas will support important habitats and species, enhancing biodiversity. Alongside woodland, existing sites of nature conservation and ecological value will be safeguarded and enhanced. Areas of Oak/birch woodland, lowland heaths and unimproved grassland will be enhanced and enriched, contributing to Greenwood's landscapes.



A rich and diverse biodiversity mix, created by developing networks and linkages, will provide scope for education and opportunities for schools to study nature close at hand. Greenwood will contribute to the conservation of local archaeological remains and link them in trails to help people understand how the landscape evolved.

New life will be breathed into old neglected woodlands. Ancient stands of oak will once more grace the landscape. Woodlands will once more provide timber for farmers and landowners to use for building, fencing and fuel. As woodland are increasingly brought back into use, they will begin to contribute to the local economy and support wider employment opportunities off the farm.



Major landscape change which addresses dereliction, removing the legacy of the industrial past and creating attractive environments, will provide, at a relatively low-cost, an immediate image-boost for the region. Greenwood will help the region to promote itself as a location for business and people, enabling inward investment and economic revitalisation and providing a green competitive edge.



The creation of Greenwood will have a role in storing carbon and offsetting carbon emissions, helping ameliorate global warming. Major areas of woodland provide local atmospheric benefits too; filtering air pollutants, reducing noise, acting as windbreaks, providing shelter and reducing heating requirements to adjacent buildings.

As the name Community Forest implies, the idea of community participation and community benefit are central to the process. The Greenwood Partnership will encourage local communities and individuals to get involved in developing proposals and undertake practical projects, events and activities.



This achieves:-

- ◆ Stewardship, so that people feel they have an interest in Greenwood by participating in its development;
- ◆ a valuable pool of ideas, skills and local knowledge;
- ◆ time, energy and experience to help shape the Community Forest;
- ◆ local responsibility for decisions, and even management by agreement, on defined sites;
- ◆ development of greater understanding of environmental issues at a local level, in language that people can understand;
- ◆ links between town and country, to develop mutual understanding, reducing vandalism and trespass, as well as fostering community spirit.

The process of Greenwood's development will be gradual and naturalistic. Many of the benefits will not be fully realised in a single lifetime. However, trees planted this year could within 5 years have grown to more than 2 m high, making a considerable impact on landscapes and providing a woodland experience for many people, especially children. Benefits from managing woodland will become apparent almost immediately and, with the development of new and enhanced recreational provision, it will become clear that Greenwood is really beginning to grow and take shape.

In 15 years time, the young trees will be more than 5 m high and their leafy canopies will be starting to close, giving a true woodland appearance. After 30 years the initial development of Greenwood will be complete. It will become a thriving, regional asset, its creation an affirmation of our faith in the future. Greenwood will be a substantial and sustainable resource, a great green legacy for our children's children and beyond.



community forest strategy

our mission

The Community Forest mission statement is to:-

"Create a multi-purpose forest with a rich mixture of woods, farmland, open spaces and settlements in Nottinghamshire, contributing towards sustainable development and providing a better environment for people to use, cherish and enjoy now and for generations to come".

our general aims

WOODLAND COVER

For Greenwood to become a Community Forest there will need to be a significant change to the landscape. The original idea of a Community Forest was to increase woodland cover to between one third and two-thirds of the overall area. Because of the area's particular set of circumstances, and as a result of the fact that the concept of Greenwood is about radical change through influencing, negotiating, inspiring and grant-aiding projects, a target has been agreed of an average:

- ◆ 30% woodland cover.

It is suggested that any substantial planting or natural regeneration of woodland must be on open ground outside the cities, towns and main villages. In this context, there lies around 34,000 hectares (ha) of non-urban land within the area, and 30% of this is around 10,200 ha. If one takes away land already dominated by woodland, then just under 6,000 ha of land is required to achieve the target of 30% woodland cover. Therefore, the general aim is to encourage around:

- ◆ 5750 ha of land to be developed into well-managed, wooded landscapes.

Of this amount, it is anticipated that:

- ◆ 2,800 ha will come from land which is presently farmed or in recreational use;
- ◆ 2,500 ha will be disused or derelict land (including mineral workings and waste disposal sites); and
- ◆ 450 ha will be from local small sites (including existing public open space, transport corridors, open space on industrial land and land designated for new development).

BIODIVERSITY

The aim will be for existing important countryside habitats to be conserved, enhanced and then appropriately managed in line with Nottinghamshire's Biodiversity Action Plan and with the agreement of the relevant owner.

Existing woodland will be developed to be more diverse and where appropriate be mainly broad-leaved in character.

COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS

The first aim will be to increase the number of existing woodland that can be accessed easily by all kinds of people, and to improve the quality of access.

The second focus will be on creating new woodland with access and provision for recreation, such as Forest Park and community woodlands.

The third aim will be to create or re-open good quality walking, cycling and riding networks for leisure, recreation and commuting.

AGRICULTURE

The aim will be to provide a range of choices and support mechanisms to help farmers to diversify their land management operations to:

- ◆ integrate woodland planting and other habitat creation into farm businesses;
- ◆ increase permissive access; and to take up opportunities in the farm-based leisure industry.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

The aim will be to provide the necessary environmental regeneration to enable, along with other players, to:

- ◆ generate inward investment into the region, and
- ◆ stimulate economic activity and employment around tourism and the rural development

COMMUNITY

The first aim will be to instil a social inclusion and community development process which empowers all local communities to play an active role in the planning, design and management of Greenwood, to engender, ownership, respect and responsibility, and to deliver appropriate improvements.

The second aim will be reduce the environmental impact of everyday life and provide alternative choices to improve people's quality of life.



our strategies

The Greenwood Partnership has agreed to concentrate its work around five inter-connected strategic strands:-



STRATEGIC THEME A

Focus on landscape regeneration for the countryside and woodland to create healthy, attractive and stimulating environments for inward investment where people will want to live and work.



STRATEGIC THEME B

Improve countryside access to the forest area so that all people can benefit from the outcomes.



STRATEGIC THEME C

Ensure through education and consultation that the community is involved in deciding what is to be done and in making it happen.



STRATEGIC THEME D

Acting to promote sustainable development.



STRATEGIC THEME E

Creating a sense of place where people feel that the area's special to them.



Landscape Regeneration Strategy

Landscape Characteristics

It has been increasingly recognised that all landscapes have their own character and that the priority lies in enriching the whole of the countryside,

and people's enjoyment of it, by conserving its local diversity and distinctiveness.

In 1998 Nottinghamshire County Council prepared and published the Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines which identified various Countryside Character Areas and Landscape Types, that takes into account, not just the visual phenomenon, but geology, topography, soils, ecology, archaeology, landscape history, land-use, architecture and cultural associations.

These factors have worked over time to develop unique landscapes that should be cherished and conserved, strengthening the character of Nottinghamshire's countryside. The guidelines should be integrated into all decisions that have an impact on that character.

Derelict & Degraded Land

The countryside environment around many towns and villages, has suffered from problems associated with derelict and degraded land for many years. Not all urban-fringe areas have been seen as major opportunities for development, many have been described as liabilities with little potential unless some form of reclamation, redemption or restoration takes place. A "Derelict and Degraded Land Survey of Small Sites" was completed in 1998 by Nottinghamshire County Council which identified sites of varying states of degradation.

In addition, the closure of several coal mines in the last decade has identified large areas of dereliction in need of investment. Nottinghamshire County Council, British Coal and Forest Enterprise are working in partnership to reclaim and restore to woodland four coal tips within Greenwood. Although this working arrangement is providing dividends, more work still needs to be done on other sites of dereliction.

Strategic Corridors

It has been increasingly recognised that transport corridors of strategic importance influence potential inward investment. Improvements to the environments adjacent to corridors can give a highly positive image and experience to prospective businesses thinking about relocating or re-investing. It can also demonstrate that improvements are happening, that investment from other parties is taking place, and that the area is changing for the better.

Countryside Around Towns

The Community Forest covers the countryside around towns. This countryside, some of it within Green Belt, is under intense pressures from its location on the urban-fringe, the effect of social exclusion and as a result of external influences related economic restructuring and urban development. These pressures certainly have an affect on landscape quality and need to be addressed.



Landscape Regeneration Proposals (LRP)

LRP1: Work with Local Planning Authorities and all relevant agencies to create an average woodland cover :

- 25% in the Nottinghamshire Coalfield area;
- 30% in the Magnesian Limestone Ridge area;
- 40% in the Sherwood area;
- 20% in the Mid-Nottinghamshire(Dumble) Farmland area;
- 10% in the Trent Washland area

LRP2: Support the implementation of individual "Landscape Strategies" set out in the Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines, in particular the conservation management, restoration and extension of existing and new woodland, heathland and hedgerows.

LRP3: Work with agencies and developers to reclaim derelict and disused sites on the urban-fringe, within 2 kilometres of the edge of built-up areas, into small community woodlands, establishing key gateway sites into the wider countryside.

LRP4: Assist in the restoration of former mineral and landfill sites, to create larger Forest Parks.

LRP5: Work with partners on the planning, design and management of woodland areas, in line with The UK Forestry Standard.

LRP6: Support the establishment of small-scale broad-leaved woodland to enrich the existing green wedges into urban areas and create the illusion of an enveloping forest.

LRP7: Encourage the creation of large-scale woodland planting on appropriate sites of up to 20 hectares or more, softening urban development, restoring the forest character and providing linkages with existing woodland blocks.

LRP8: Support the establishment of structural woodland planting, defined as linear blocks between 5 metres and 20 metres, as a means of enhancing and greening strategic corridors to create an early impression of forest cover, helping to screen industry, housing and agricultural landscapes.

Strategic Corridors include :

- ◆ Road: M1, A610, A52, A608, A611, A60, A614, A38;
- ◆ Rail: Robin Hood Line; and
- ◆ River Valley's: Trent, Erewash, Leen, Maun and Meden.



Countryside Access Strategy

Access For All

Greenwood must be accessible to all sections of the community and where necessary special provision should be made for those user-groups currently under-

represented in the countryside. This means developing woodland schemes in conjunction with public transport and providing for the needs of cyclists, horse-riders, runners, walkers, disabled people as well as the car user. The emphasis will be one of creating multi-purpose routes or Greenways, rather than demarcation between different users. The Robin Hood Line that runs from Nottingham to Worksop and the planned Nottingham Express Transit from the City to Hucknall will significantly improve access from the main conurbation to Greenwood. Interaction between these two transport modes and the access network is crucially important.

It should be noted that the development of Greenwood does not alter the current legal position with regard to access. There will be no obligation on farmers or landowners to provide additional access, and the public will not have any right of entry on to private land which does not already exist. It is important, however, to liaise with farmers and landowners to increase public access wherever possible and practicable.

Recreational Routes

It has been identified that Greenwood has many different small geographical areas with different access and recreational needs and requirements. One continuous theme, however, is to develop and enhance a network of recreational routes to enable easy access to "gateway" sites and the wider forest area. It is recognised that recreational access to the countryside and other land not in public ownership will continue to be primarily by the public rights-of-way system. It will be the single most important means of getting into and enjoying the forest. By the new millennium, the Countryside Agency wants to see England's rights-of-way legally defined, properly maintained and well publicised, and for everyone who wishes to explore the countryside to be aware of their basic rights and responsibilities.

Another exciting opportunity surrounds the existence of the many disused railway /mineral lines in Greenwood. For a number of reasons, these abandoned lines link centres of population (villages, towns or the city itself) with sites which are now in some form of dereliction, due to the coalfield closures. Ready-made routes have therefore been established and defined, which give reasonably good access to the wider countryside.

In addition, the river valley corridors provide additional opportunities for countryside access and recreation. This point has been taken forward by Local Authorities and the Environment Agency, along with many voluntary-sector agencies. In particular, the Corridors to the Countryside around Greater Nottingham (Trent and Leen) and the Mansfield Trail Strategy (Maun and Meden valley's) both centre on improving access and informal recreation.

User Requirements

It is important to recognise that the people who use the countryside access network will have certain requirements. Facilities, such as appropriate car parking with associated turning facilities for horse boxes, public transport interchange provision, cycle-hire facilities, picnic sites, toilets, refreshment areas and park and ride sites, need to be encouraged. In addition, user's need to feel safe, secure and fully informed through interpretative material. Routes need to lead to an attractive destination point and many feel more comfortable with smaller, recognisable circular routes.

Countryside Access Proposals (CAP)

CAP1: Enable all individuals to access the open countryside, wherever practical and possible.

CAP2: Liaise with farmers and landowners to encourage them to provide public access to existing woods and historic parklands through voluntary agreements.

CAP3: Ensure that, wherever possible, quality countryside access for cycling, walking, horse-riding and opportunities for people with disabilities is incorporated into new woodland planting, especially the provision of circular routes.

CAP4: Support Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and other local agencies to properly define, maintain, manage and enhance the rights-of-way network (adopted in the Countryside Agency's Milestone's Approach).

CAP5: Seek the re-use of the disused railway/mineral lines to form multi-purpose "Greenways", wherever possible and whilst maintaining their ecological value, linking town and country, and into the wider recreational routes network.

CAP6: Encourage the development of new and existing non-statutory trail networks on a district, county and regional basis, working with Local Planning Authorities and developers to secure and build-up strategic and tactical connections to the wider recreational routes network.

CAP7: Encourage the provision of countryside access along river valley corridors of the Trent, the Leen, the Erewash, the Maun and the Meden, through a co-ordinated partnership approach and linking into the wider recreational routes network.

CAP8: Ensure that the recreational routes network provide effective connections to small community woodlands, Forest Parks or existing Country Parks, and integrates with sustainable transport modes, such as the Robin Hood Line, bus services and the Nottingham Express Transit.

CAP9: Encourage an adequate provision of facilities for user groups, such as car parking, cycle hire, toilets, picnic areas, refreshments and interpretative information at appropriate locations, especially at public transport interchanges.

CAP10: Support a multi-agency approach that co-ordinates countryside access provision in a consistent and effective way, providing good quality information that is promoted and marketed to the general public.



Community Involvement Strategy

Community Participation

Community participation in decision-making should be a balanced mix of community consultation and community action. The former is generally defined as stopping

short of decision-making, though the community will influence what happens, whereas the latter involves local responsibility for decisions as well as direct delivery. The mix between the two will depend on particular sites and certain other factors. However, overall involvement must be far more than simple information-giving, occasional consultation and involving volunteers in management tasks. Wherever possible, it should be an interaction in which communities not only respond to issues, but also raise them; where they are concerned with positive ideas for Greenwood's development as well as problems.

Education & Awareness

One rewarding way of engaging the community is through contact with schoolchildren and their parents, relatives and teachers. A great deal of work can be done through the Local Education Authorities and other organisations to help schools and other educational establishments improve their environmental value of their grounds and thereby recruit the future custodians of Greenwood.

Wider informal education and awareness for all ages are also important activities that should be ongoing, so that people are constantly being given the chance to make positive contributions to Greenwood and their environment.

Community Activities

A prime intention of Greenwood is to allow all people to enjoy it, either actively, in competitive sports or passively for quiet recreation and enjoyment. By its very nature, a wooded landscape is capable of absorbing a wide range of different needs and activities, from formal to informal, intensive to relaxed, quiet to noisy. The potential exists to minimise the conflict between land users, various sporting and recreational pursuits and local groups, and at the same time provide opportunities for local people to directly benefit.

Community Development

Local community groups interested in a specific site (e.g. Forest Park) or a specialised topic (e.g. Recycling), should be encouraged to consider their remit and generate new ways of locally working. Better and more appropriate improvements or activities will be forthcoming. It is also paramount to look at the long-term success and sustainability of their work. In this respect, community groups should be able to develop into organisations that can take on future challenges. This may mean establishing a small charitable trust or a co-operative, or may be just setting up and running a management committee.

The Community Forest can, therefore, stimulate a community development process that not only addresses issues surrounding long-term sustainability of sites or activities, but can also help groups grow and prosper. Local groups may then be interested in other areas such as community-based enterprises or food co-ops.



Community Involvement Proposals (CIP)

- CIP1: Equal opportunities for all communities and individuals, in all areas of Greenwood's development, will be the basis for community involvement.
-
- CIP2: Encourage and support the active involvement and participation of local communities in the planning, design, implementation and management of appropriate sites, events and activities, taking account of existing habitat and ecological importance.
-
- CIP3: Enhance and support the existing mechanisms and structures to consult community groups, voluntary-sector organisations and other interested groups, such as farmers in the development of Greenwood.
-
- CIP4: Develop and promote closer liaison and co-operative working between environmental education establishments, programme delivery agents and environmental information services, through a Greenwood Education Forum.
-
- CIP5: Support the development of enhanced educational facilities, services and materials relevant to the countryside environment, to meet needs and requirements of children and young people.
-
- CIP6: Develop an on-going and two-way information service to increase general awareness and community support of Greenwood and the value of trees and woodland.
-
- CIP7: Support and encourage the use of Greenwood for recreation, leisure and sport through careful planning and appropriate zoning and area management, which balances other activities, uses and biodiversity.
-
- CIP8: Enable the provision of co-ordinated interpretative information and material which informs and educates individuals on the appropriate recreational, leisure and sporting activities and events.
-
- CIP9: Support the development of "Friends of Groups" , local community groups, tree wardens and other relevant organisations to share experience and encourage best practice.
-
- CIP10: Work with partners to help support the development of local community groups, so they can grow and establish new ways of working to sustainably manage their site/activities in the medium to long-term.



Sustainable Development Strategy

Biodiversity

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Nottinghamshire was produced in 1998. This sets a new framework for nature conservation, identifying

various habitat and species action plans. Biodiversity conservation is vital to the development of local, regional, national and global policies and actions, and it is therefore important that this should be part of a strategy for sustainable development.

Carbon Storage

Research has shown that carbon dioxide is playing a lead role in heating up the earth's atmosphere, resulting in global climate change which could lead to major changes in the way we live our lives. The establishment of new areas of woodland and better management of existing woods plays an important role in removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, by transferring it into oxygen or through storage in plant matter. In effect, creating carbon credits. These two processes help to reduce the impact carbon dioxide has on global climate change, helping to deliver sustainable development.

Renewable Energy

Many forms of energy - coal, oil, natural gas and nuclear - have serious "knock-on" effects in terms of pollutants and will run out at some foreseeable date in the future. The burning of wood is an alternative approach, although it must be borne in mind that this will provide a carbon debit in the short-term. In terms of Greenwood, the technology now exists to generate heat and electricity in an efficient and cost-effective manner through the burning of wood. Examples are now being established, such as ABRE (Arable Biomass Renewable Energy) at Eggborough, North Yorkshire which utilise Short-Rotation Coppice (SRC) to generate electricity, and Boughton Pumping Station which is heated by a wood-chipped boiler.

Healthy Living

Greenwood can help to create the right living environment for local people to improve their quality of life. In particular, Greenwood can provide the right physical infrastructure which can be used by many people for cycling, running, walking and other sporting activities in the local countryside. There are also

opportunities to enable people to use these facilities in a more pro-active way, encouraging the more vulnerable sectors of the community to participate in all different ways.

Land & Water Conservation

Greenwood contains part of the Sherwood Natural Area. A significant characteristic of this area is the underlying sandstone geology which supports the presence of an important ground water aquifer and dictates the prevailing soil condition. The aquifer is suffering from a high level of over-use and high concentrations of nitrates which has led to the designation of this area as a "Nitrate Vulnerable Zone" under the EC Nitrate Directive (EEC 1991). The soils need a high input of water to support agricultural production and suffer from water and wind erosion.

A Working Countryside

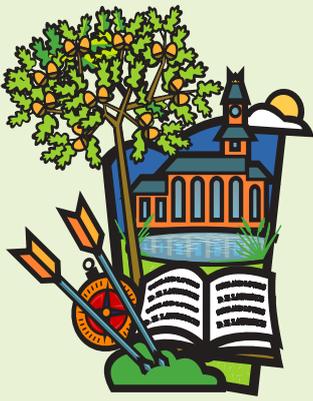
It must be recognised that the countryside is a working environment, and that many landowners, land managers and farmers see themselves as a business operation, as well as being custodians of the countryside.

A major challenge for the Community Forest is to be able to provide the right advice, information and incentives for farmers and land managers to develop new woodland and habitat creation, without compromising their working incomes. Furthermore, many land holdings often contain existing woodland, hedgerows and other important habitats, such as heathland, and it is also important to enable proper management of these areas, with farmers and land managers receiving appropriate returns.

Many small towns and villages once supported a thriving working population. However, due to economic restructuring, the decline of coal mining and a reduction in farm returns, unemployment has become a major problem. There is an important need to look at additional ways of employing people. There is the potential to use the woodland environment as an asset and a resource to create additional tourism attractions, with associated ancillary services, and also provide further training and employment opportunities, and at the same time play a role in regenerating the local environment.

Sustainable Development Proposals (SDP)

- SDP1: Support the implementation of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Nottinghamshire, in particular, work with other organisations to deliver the Habitat Action Plans for:
- ◆ Oak/Birch Woodland,
 - ◆ Lowland Heathland,
 - ◆ Unimproved Neutral Grassland,
 - ◆ Lowland Wet Grassland,
-
- SDP2: Work to conserve and enhance Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and adopt a policy of presumption against planting where it would be contrary to the interests of biodiversity.
-
- SDP3: Wherever possible, plant new woodland in a way that is large enough (over 2 hectares) to support viable populations of woodland flora and fauna, and link up into a network of habitats with similar ecological interest to increase the overall size of continuous habitat, encouraging species diversity.
-
- SDP4: Assist and support various interested organisations and individuals in offsetting their carbon emissions by creating, or helping to manage, the long-term provision of woodland.
-
- SDP5: Seek new ways to engage organisations and individuals in the development of wood (Short Rotation Coppice or forest-residue) as a source of fuel for renewable energy.
-
- SDP6: Provide opportunities for active and passive recreation in the open countryside, as a springboard to involve socially excluded people in the forest, and as a way of improving health and facilitating lifestyle changes to all sections of the wider community.
-
- SDP7: Work with land managers and relevant agencies to provide a range of alternative land management operations, so as to improve land and water conservation, especially in the Sherwood area.
-
- SDP8: Support the development of a co-ordinated communications approach to provide farmers with relevant information and a range of appropriate choices on the integration of agriculture, woodland and wildlife management practices.
-
- SDP9: Encourage and facilitate the creation and management of farm woodlands as an integral part of productive agricultural holdings, through expert advice, support and assistance.
-
- SDP10: Enable the development of farm diversification as part of a productive holding, subject to proposals being compatible with Community Forest objectives and statutory development plans.
-
- SDP11: Work with land managers, statutory bodies and other interested parties to mitigate problems with farming on the urban-fringe.
-
- SDP12: Encourage the development of employment and training opportunities connected to woodland and countryside management, to enable people to enter/re-enter employment and also to promote the start-up of community enterprises or self-employed businesses.
-
- SDP13: Encourage Local Planning Authorities, developers and various agencies to actively promote and utilise woodland planting, as a means of improving the energy efficiency of buildings, ameliorating air and noise pollution and as a way of reducing problems associated with rainfall and surface water run-off.



Sense of Place Strategy

Countryside Character

The countryside, from the urban-fringe to deep rural areas, has a range of countryside characteristics. These have been reported in previous sections from

Nottinghamshire County Council's publication "Countryside Appraisal - Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines", demonstrating the breadth of visual and emotional experiences within Greenwood. Extrapolated from this work are key countryside characteristic recommendations which should be part of any "Sense of Place Strategy".

Culture & Heritage

Greenwood has a long history of settlements and a rich heritage of archaeological remains and cultural experiences. The literary connections in the west, the farming traditions in the east, the Robin Hood legend in the north and now a growing interest in the area's industrial archaeology, as an educational and cultural resource in its own right and, increasingly, as a focus for tourism and recreation. These cultural connections should be recognised and supported, along with the protection of the most important archaeological features, enriching people's experience of living in a Community Forest.

Experiencing The Forest

The theme of the forest will create clear links to the area's past history and it's future potential. Greenwood can identify with this to provide a green backcloth for tourism and recreation in Nottinghamshire. The linkages with the forest experience can also remove old preconceptions around safety and security. The new forest landscape will not only be a leisure resource for local people, but will also bring investment and wealth to the area by stimulating local economic development and supporting local support services.

Creating a "Centre of Excellence"

By establishing a focal point which encapsulates the full width and breadth of the Community Forest concept in Greenwood, there will be the ability to maximise energies and demonstrate potential and possibilities.



Sense of Place Proposals (SPP)

- SPP1: Support the implementation of the "Landscape Guidelines" established for each countryside character area as set out in the Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines.
-
- SPP2: Encourage the development and re-instatement of local festivals, traditions, events, produce, crafts and the arts and explore the potential, through working with local people, amenity groups and civic societies, for visitor attractions.
-
- SSP3: Support the provision of publicity information that promotes a local area's "sense of place", and helps to increase awareness and visitor attractions.
-
- SPP4: Work with partners, to increase opportunities for sustainable tourism activities throughout Greenwood, with particular emphasis on the countryside around the urban-fringe and industrial heritage.
-
- SPP5: Develop a number of woodland "themes" for public enjoyment, for example: to enable local people to mark the millennium, to experience forests from other countries and for communities to have opportunities to commemorate, remember or celebrate something of local value and special to them.
-
- SSP6: Develop environmental art features, sculptures and sensory trails in a woodland setting, to provide an interactive forest experience.
-
- SSP7: Tourism development linked to the waterways of Greenwood will be encouraged through public, private and voluntary sector partnerships.
-
- SPP8: Encourage and support the promotion of appropriate small-scale, locally-run enterprises to service the needs of visitors to attractions within Greenwood, in association with Local Planning Authorities and other relevant agencies.
-
- SPP9: Establish a "Centre of Excellence" within Greenwood, working with Key Partners and Local Planning Authorities to demonstrate the main elements of the Community Forest concept.

implementation

our main actors

In order to achieve the objectives of the Strategic Plan and secure the smooth running of this public programme, a great deal of negotiation, development and management will be needed. These efforts are categorised under two broad headings - partnership and liaison, and marketing and promotions. The main actors with whom partnerships are to be sought are listed and discussed below. The liaison necessary to forge these partnerships is then outlined.

Farmers and landowners

Perhaps most important of all, the key people in achieving Greenwood are farmers and landowners, without whose active support and involvement the new forest will not come into being. To help maintain and enhance agricultural viability in the forest area is a central objective of the Plan. It is recognised that farming will remain the major land use in Greenwood. The changes still in process under the review of the Common Agricultural Policy and Rural Development Regulations are creating such uncertainty that farmers cannot make decisions to plant trees, but the expectation is that farmers will join in over the long term, because of changes in the levels of support for intensive farming. Without a significant level of assistance, farmers and landowners will not be persuaded to take part in creating woodlands. Grants and incentives (local tender schemes) from the Forestry Commission, The Countryside Agency and MAFF are likely to be the most important ones to farmers and landowners.

Government Agencies

As the principle sources of grant-aid and as the originators of national policies which set the context for Community Forests, Government Agencies will also be critical to success. Their main role is to provide grants and to help steer the project. **The Countryside Agency** has a commitment to funding the development of the project as well as to grant-aid its work on the ground. The **Forestry Commission's** grants will be the main incentives to establish new woodlands, but their vast experience will also be important. Both will continue to take the leading role in developing Greenwood. It is hoped that **Forest Enterprise** will also set an example in the enlightened creation and management of public access woodland, by this means encouraging the gradual conversion of farmland which is sought through the normal market in land. Other agencies are being encouraged to participate.

The East Midland Development Agency (emda) - the Regional Development Agency for the East Midlands - and the **East Midland Regional Assembly** will play an important role in providing the contextual policy framework in which Greenwood will sit. The Greenwood Partnership will work to demonstrate positive benefits of Greenwood and the massive potential in terms of sustainable development and economic regeneration, so that overall strategic policies can reflect Greenwood and that resources can be attracted, via emda's range of supporting grants (SRB).

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, through its grants and advisory service, will be involved closely in validating the potential for forestry on farms and through the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme and Countryside Stewardship Scheme (and their successors). The Greenwood Partnership will forge a close relationship with the Ministry's - **Farming and Rural Conservation Agency** - in dealing with farmers and landowners, particularly in the integration of new forestry enterprises with farming activities.

Sport England (East Midlands Region), acting for the national Sports Council, will assist the Greenwood Partnership by promoting and developing sporting opportunities identified by current research. It will also assist, where appropriate, with grants towards sports facilities, events and projects.

The **Environment Agency** through its LEAPs will with the Greenwood Partnership to develop opportunities for countryside recreation, access, interpretation and habitat management along key river corridors.

English Nature will give guidance on nature conservation and English Heritage on conservation at archaeological and historic sites, and may also assist with grants in some circumstances.

Central Government

There are three main Departments which play a part in enabling Greenwood to become a reality. The **Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR)** will support the Community Forest by grant-aiding the range of environmental improvements - large or small - if they can deliver appropriate and measurable outcomes. The **Department of Trade and Industry** will be consulted by the project in realising the early economic potential of the Forest's establishment and assist the development of forestry, timber and tourism enterprises through its Small Firms Advisory Service and Enterprise Initiative, and their successors. The **Department of Education & Employment and Employment Services** has an increasing range of initiatives for training and for the long-term unemployed, through New Deal and other Welfare to Work Initiatives with which the project may become

involved, on the advice of the local authority partners.

On a regional level, the **Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM)** will have a pivotal role to play.

National Lottery Bodies

Under the directions issued by the National Lottery Etc. Act 1993 and as amended by the National Lottery Act 1998, various funding bodies have been created which will play an important role in the development of Greenwood. At this moment in time, three funding bodies are of particular relevance - the **Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)**, the **Sports Lottery Fund (SLF)** and the newly established **New Opportunities Fund (NOF)**.

The HLF body is important because of the significant natural heritage which is seen in this area, especially in terms of Sherwood's lowland heath and ancient semi-natural woodland. The SLF body should be engaged because of the potential of increasing and enhancing informal sporting and recreational activity. NOF will, however, be the most important body since its priorities on supporting healthy living, developing greenspace and promoting sustainable communities, fits closely with the Community Forest Strategy.

In addition to these three bodies, there is also the potential of small, active community groups and volunteers to be supported by the "**Awards for All**" Scheme and the Community Awards from the **National Lottery Charities Board (NLCB)**.

Other agencies

The non-governmental organisations with significant parts to play are the

- ◆ **East Midlands Tourist Board,**
- ◆ **The Learning & Skill Council, and**
- ◆ **Agricultural Training Board.**

The Greenwood looks to these bodies for advice, grants, training expertise and joint ventures.

Local Government

Present **Local Authority partners** have expressed their wish to be at the forefront of implementing the Plan. Their prime role will therefore be as active partners in funding schemes and as initiators of



environmental improvements in their areas, which takes practical responsibility for making it happen. They also have critical subsidiary roles; via their planning and development remits; the provision and management of recreational facilities; more general countryside and visitor management; support for the arts in Greenwood; planting trees on council-owned sites; as Local Education Authorities; and in a host of other ways.

The **towns** and **parish councils**, as elected and accountable bodies with both a statutory remit and a strong corporate interest in their settlements, will be approached individually for discussion as to their local role in creating Greenwood. The Greenwood Partnership will support these bodies with direct advice and, increasingly as resources allow, through the appointment of trained volunteers.

Health Sector

It is important that the variety of organisations within the field of health and healthy living, especially in the areas of prevention and rehabilitation, are actively engaged in the Community Forest. Several studies have now been completed which provide quantifiable evidence of improvements to health (mental or physical) as a direct result of being exposed to a countryside environment. Moreover, the Community Forest provides, at relatively little costs, a way of improving people's lifestyles and all-round fitness levels through projects, such as GP referrals.

Representative Bodies

Two of the bodies in this category, the **Country Landowners Association** and the **National Farmers Union**, have a clear role to play, in that they represent the majority of owners and tenants who are looked to for tree planting on their land. The Greenwood Partnership look to continuing and strengthening this fruitful relationship, by enabling these two bodies to establish a specially-formed group of members - a Land Managers Panel - which will provide a forum for more positive action on the ground. We will also continue to seek the views of the **Tenant Farmers Association** and the **Women Farmers union**.

Another important representative and enabling body is **East Midlands Arts**. Much of the argument in this Plan is aimed at minds, but the human spirit is at least

as important a matter to be considered. The arts are concerned with the spirit and that 'sense of place' earlier noted. The arts have a very important role to play, not only in celebrating the new forest as it is created, but in actively bringing it about. East Midlands Arts will be a strong partner in this.

Voluntary Sector

Organisations to be involved fall into five categories: community, environmental, professional, recreational and representative. Groups sometimes fall into more than one of these categories, so are placed here in relation to their main role in implementing this Plan.

Several environmental groups are already very active in the Greenwood. **The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers** will assist the project by enabling local communities and individuals to get involved in practical projects; in training voluntary tree wardens; and in providing, via its Affiliation Scheme, much-needed support for local volunteer groups as they are formed. It will use its particular expertise in working with disabled volunteers.

The Groundwork Trust in Ashfield and Mansfield, Newark and Sherwood and Greater Nottingham will take a prime role in working with all sectors of local communities to improve their environment. They are able to provide design and management advice, as well as assistance with putting together funding packages. They have a particular interest in the urban forestry aspects of this Plan.

Mansfield District Council's **Action Mansfield** project will be important in involving community groups, interest groups, individuals and schools in local practical projects, activities and events, which improve peoples understanding and enjoyment of the countryside in and around Mansfield.

The **Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust** already manages woodlands and other important wildlife sites in the Greenwood and will, resources permitting, add others. They will seek to buy or lease selected sites and will contribute their knowledge and expertise to the Greenwood's plans to re-create habitats, such as heathlands, grasslands and riverine woodlands. The Trust is also increasingly interested in educational projects.



The **Sherwood Forest Trust**, arising from the Sherwood Initiative, is actively engaged in the restoration and recreation of the historic features of the ancient and traditional landscape of Sherwood Forest. It will work with land managers to develop new working practices and operations to restore some missing parts, especially oak/birch woodland, heathland and hedgerows. It will have a key role in the future development of the forest.

The **Woodland Trust** owns a number of small woods in the Greenwood (Oldmoor Wood, Holly copse and Brickyard Plantation, near Strelley, Jacklin's Wood, Teversal and a sites near Calverton and Lambley). It will become the project's 'buyer of first resort' in respect of other existing neglected woods; and for farms for afforestation, particularly those at 'gateways' into the Greenwood. In this, it will draw on its income, raise funds through sponsorship and be assisted by grant-aid from other agencies. The Trust has experience to offer in the involvement of local communities in woodland management activities.

The Woodland Trust's unique Licence Planting Scheme will be promoted for smaller sites. The scheme is a 25-year agreement under which the landowner provides the land and necessary access, while the Trust provides trees and management. The costs are shared equally after grant aid has been claimed.

The **Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group** has a long record of promoting active conservation within the farming community and is viewed as the farmers' conservation group; its advice and participation will be valuable.

The **Council for the Protection of Rural England** has been involved in countryside issues and contributions to the development of this Plan. It will continue to act as a watchdog for the environment with particular respect to proposals for increased leisure and economic activity in the forest area. As a campaigning group, it is one of many organisations which will monitor the planned afforestation and its effects on the countryside.

The Greenwood Partnership will develop further links with professional organisations such as the Landscape Institute, Royal Institute of British Architects, Institute of Chartered Foresters, Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, Royal Town Planning Institute and the Chartered Institute of Marketing, to encourage their continued participation in and support.

The range of recreational bodies is wide. For sports, contact will continue to be made with the **East Midlands Sports Federation**, on behalf of the various interests and governing bodies. For the three main means of enjoying informal recreation in the countryside, the Greenwood Partnership will look to building stronger links with the:

◆ **Ramblers Association**, ◆ **British Horse Society**, and ◆ **Cyclists Touring Club**.

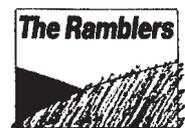
Business Sector

The importance of farmers and landowners has already been noted. There is, of course, a major role for the rest of the business sector. The Greenwood Partnership looks to private businesses for support in at least four ways. They will help to make sure that the project is properly planned and organised, through the annual Business Plan. They will financially sponsor particular elements of the 'Programme of Activities' in the Action Plan. They will then apply their great business experience and rigour to assisting in the management of Greenwood itself.

The fourth contribution will be longer term. Businesses are entrepreneurial by axiom. As they identify opportunities to develop further income-earning activities, they will provide the investment which is sought to achieve the project's economic aims.

Local Communities

Local people are a key ingredient within the Community Forest formula. Local communities can lend direct support, they can raise funds for local projects, they can look over newly created sites, they can run events, they can manage activities and they can talk to others about Greenwood. They put the community, into Community Forest.





implementation

new organisations

Key Partners have made a commitment to seek to create two new partner organisations:

- ◆ a **Woodland Owners' Association** or **Woodland Product Co-operative**, and
- ◆ a network of volunteers and community groups named "**Friends of the Greenwood**".

The **Woodland Owners' Co-operative** will meet several needs identified in discussions with farming organisations. With over 300 small neglected woodlands and the prospect of farmers and landowners planting new small woodlands, there is a clear opportunity to achieve economies of scale in marketing their produce. Other potential and useful functions would include:

- ◆ the means for landowners/farmers (and their families) who seek 'off-farm' income to bid jointly for afforestation contracts,
- ◆ joint purchasing of plants and materials for afforestation on members farms,
- ◆ offering to members specialist forestry machinery from a central pool and/or from other members (a parallel development to the existing arrangements for hiring agricultural machinery),
- ◆ adding value to members' forest produce,
- ◆ providing countryside and visitor management services on agreed contract terms (analogous to the Upland Management services in National Parks).

The '**Friends of the Greenwood**' would also meet identified needs in ways which need not duplicate or threaten the work of other current voluntary bodies. Subject to the results of careful market research, it could, in principle, serve the following functions:

- ◆ provide a wide 'intelligence-gathering' network complementary to and supportive of the Tree Warden Scheme, e.g. sites and site ownership's;
- ◆ fund-raising in the private business sector;
- ◆ recruitment channel for volunteers for site-works;
- ◆ disseminate information and best practice;
- ◆ in conjunction with the police and local authorities, run Woodland Watch schemes and provide part-time voluntary warden and ranger services.

There will also be an investigation into the appropriateness of supporting the development of a **Forest Development Agency** which could provide new opportunities of directly generating resources and implementing practical projects. From a local standpoint, it could work to deliver activities and services to support the development of Greenwood, such as a "**small woodland management service**", and be able to access funding and sponsorship that will provide the right amount of resources to make it happen. Moreover, this does not necessarily need to be an entirely new organisations, it could be picked up by a more well established trust that is evolving at the same time.



implementation

delivering the plan

Greenwood Partnership Team

The Key Partners involved in Greenwood have the task of co-ordinating, steering and directing a programme of activities that will establish the Community Forest. A dedicated Team of professionals will service the Key Partners, provide executive functions and undertake certain key activities.

The Partnership Team is employed by the Nottinghamshire County Council on behalf of the Partnership, and all financial transactions are conducted in accordance with Nottinghamshire County Council's Financial Regulations and Codes of Procedure. In effect, Nottinghamshire County Council acts as the "Accountable Body".

The Partnership Team will nurture and keep alive the vision held within the Strategic Plan for Greenwood in all its working activities. It will:

- ◆ Strive to enable the Greenwood Partnership to achieve its mission and objectives set within the Strategic Plan.
- ◆ Provide a strategic overview of environmental development within Greenwood.
- ◆ Play a full role in the sustainable development and regeneration of Greenwood, through active participation on advisory forums and working groups.
- ◆ Secure additional partnership funding from existing funding sources, and attract significant resources from new external funding bodies.
- ◆ Fully involve the wider Greenwood Partnership of public, private, voluntary sector organisations, and individuals and communities necessary for effective delivery of the Strategic Plan.

- ◆ Act as a catalyst and facilitator, ensuring that existing and new projects are developed and delivered.
- ◆ Co-ordinate, monitor and review projects by developing an annual Action Plan to improve performance and delivery.
- ◆ Be an active contributor to the national programme of Community Forests.
- ◆ Position the Greenwood as an innovative, high performance environmental initiative in Nottinghamshire and within the family of Forests, nationally.
- ◆ Develop effective lines of communication throughout the Greenwood Partnership, and beyond.
- ◆ Provide impartial advice and support.
- ◆ Undertake its work in an open, efficient and accountable way.
- ◆ Respect business confidence.
- ◆ Seek maximum value for money and strive for excellence.
- ◆ Produce an annual Partnership Team Business Plan, and
- ◆ Review the Strategic Plan, as and when necessary.

The Partnership Team is responsible for the successful development, management and leadership of the Community Forest. They will play a crucial role in:

- ◆ Pilot, new and innovative ideas, utilising the Community Forest as a test-bed,
- ◆ Empowering and enabling the wider community to reap the benefits of the local countryside, participating in the planning, design, implementation and management of environmental improvements,

- ◆ Be responsible for overall programme management - project appraisal, project co-ordination, project monitoring and project evaluation,
- ◆ Develop of a corporate public relations and marketing approach, and
- ◆ Provide an important resource procurement role which will aim to bring external funds and corporate sponsorship into the Greenwood Partnership.

Programme Delivery Partners

In addition to these activities, the Partnership Team will work with various Programme Delivery Partners to undertake direct delivery of projects. A number of "agreements" and "accords" will provide an effective framework to guide operating procedures and practices. Some Programme Delivery Agents will come and go, and others will be created as another means of effective delivery of the Community Forest objectives.

A Centre of Excellence

Greenwood will work with Partners, various funding bodies, Programme Delivery Partners and other interested groups to create a "Centre of Excellence". The aim will be to create a single-site complex that will be built along environmentally sustainable principles using "state-of-the-art" building design technology. It will support key services related to the Community Forest (Forest Development Agency etc.), as well as providing a practical demonstration and visitor attraction facility.

The "Centre of Excellence" will aim to provide a quality experience which will raise awareness, inspire and change people's perceptions and lifestyles for the better and create enthusiasm for carrying forward many of the activities that are being pursued within Greenwood. In the long-term, the "Centre of Excellence" will become financially self-contained, with additional revenue being generated to resource future Community Forest activities.

The Action Plan Approach

Experience since 1994 has brought about an approach which will create a more pro-active, focused and programmed way of delivering projects and activities. An Action Plan which sets out priorities and targets for the next five years (reviewed annually) will be completed on a year-by-year basis by the Greenwood Partnership Team.

A programme of actions and activities will then be developed that will go towards achieving the set targets. The Action Plan will be produced by the Greenwood Partnership Team, with the assistants of Programme Delivery Partners, and will form the future basis to the implementation strategy behind the creation of Greenwood.

The DETR and the National Partners have identified the set of priorities on which to evaluate the success of the Community Forest, over the next five years.

These are:

Priority 1:

Creating Well-Designed Woodland

- a. of at least 20 hectares in size
- b. on smaller sites with full public access
 - I. immediately adjacent to housing;
 - II. connected to other woodland sites and/or;
 - III. part of a recreational path network.
- c. on sites which are damaged or reclaimed

Priority 2:

Securing Access to, and Good Management of, Existing Woodlands which meet the same criteria above.

Priority 3:

Creating or re-opening good quality walking/cycling/riding networks for leisure, recreation and/or commuting.

Priority 4:

Securing involvement in the Community Forest by a wide range of local communities, especially those presently socially excluded from their environment. This involvement will aim to focus on awareness raising, education, training and empowerment.

Priority 5:

Securing financial and in-kind investment from local businesses and external sources to support major restoration and recreation projects leading to environmental regeneration, and to develop a woodland economy.

Priority 6:

Creating woodland on other additional sites where there are significant landscape, heritage and/or biodiversity gains.

Priority 7:

Securing landscape, heritage and bio-diversity benefits on the non-wooded parts of the Community Forest where opportunities are presented by new development or on agricultural land or reclaimed land.

Abbreviations

DETR	Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions
ERM	Environmental Resource Management
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
CAP	Common Agriculture Policy
EU	European Union
EC	European Commission
LEAP	Local Environment Agency Plan
SSSIs	Sites of Specific Scientific Importance
MLAs	Mature Landscape Areas
LNRs	Local Nature Reserves
SINCs	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
SRC	Short Rotation Coppice
RRAs	Recreation Resource Areas
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
EMDA	East Midlands Development Agency
SRB	Single Regeneration Budget
GOEM	Government Office for the East Midlands
HLF	Heritage Lottery Funds
SLF	Sport Lottery Funds
NOF	New Opportunities Fund
NLCB	National Lottery Charities Board

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