

# NORTH WEST LEEDS COUNTRY PARK AND GREEN GATEWAYS PROJECT

Country Parks Officer  
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# Vision

To Preserve, Improve and Promote  
Green Spaces and their Connectivity  
for  
People & Wildlife  
in  
North West Leeds

# Today A Concept – Tomorrow A Reality

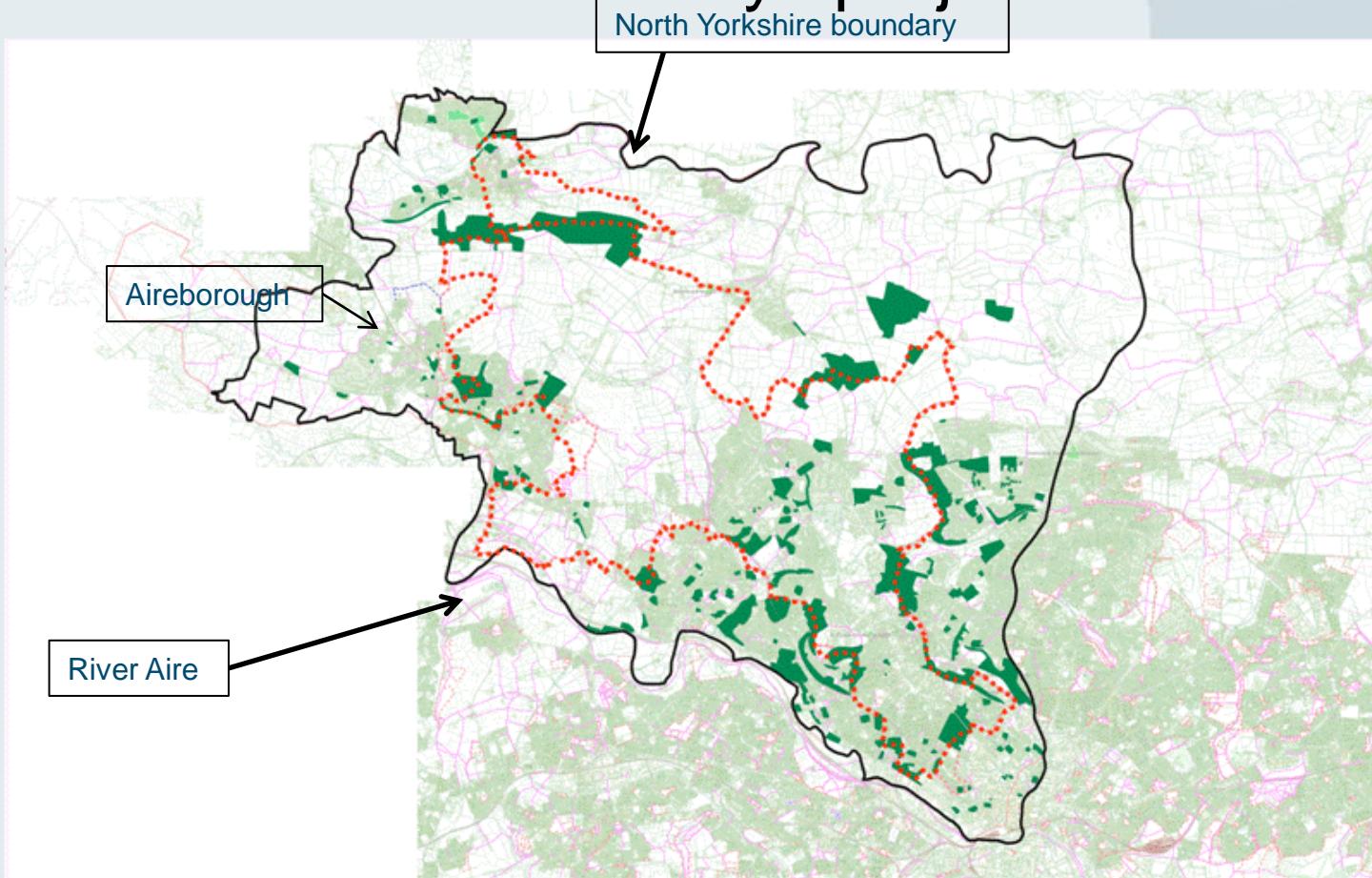
Now      Isolated green spaces and P&C  
land joined by Rights of Way

Future    Continuous area of publicly  
accessible green space from the  
city centre to the wider countryside

# Main Focus on existing Leeds Parks and Countryside Land

- The less formally managed areas of value to people and wildlife eg community parks, local green area, woodlands
- But, will include other land which shares the Vision for the NW Leeds Country park eg semi-natural green space, Leeds nature areas and sites of ecological or geological importance.

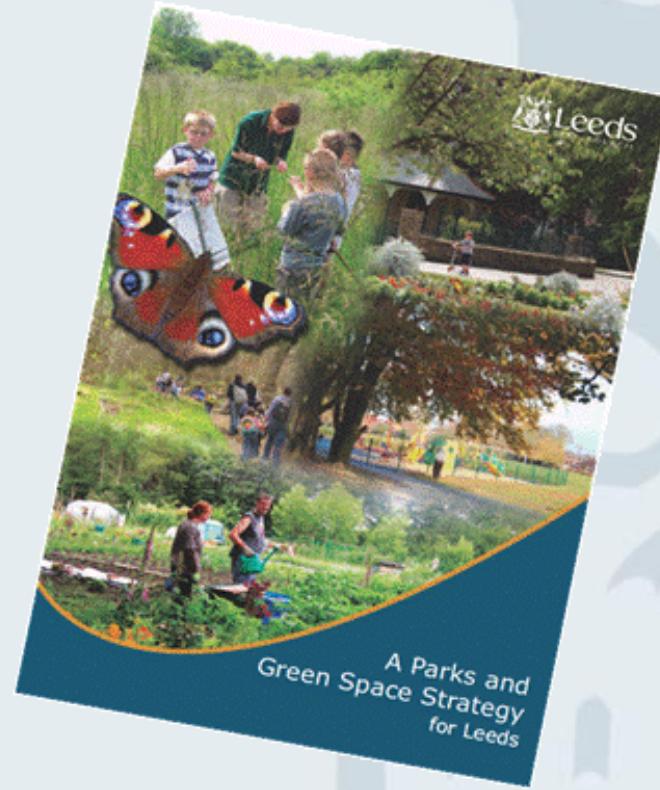
# Boundary of the Northwest Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways project



# Definition of a Green Space?

## Green Infrastructure/Green Corridors/Green Belt

- Sports pitches
- Nature reserves
- Public parks
- Road verges/hedgerows/street trees
- Railway embankments
- Rivers/canals/becks/lakes
- Farmland and other private land
- Brownfield
- Footpaths/cycleways/ towpaths
- Cemeteries
- Allotments
- Green roofs on buildings



Many different definitions, designations and classifications!

Category	Leeds Parks & Countryside Definition
City Park	Attract local urban communities and visitors from a wider catchment area
Country Park	Attract local village communities and visitors from a wider catchment area (in Green Belt area)
Community Park	Serve surrounding local communities (800m catchment)
Recreation Ground	Allows formal and informal recreation and often contains playing pitches and play areas (400m catchment)
Local Green Space	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas (200m catchment)
Woodlands	As above but predominantly woodland
Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Places for quiet contemplation and burial
Allotments	Opportunities for those wishing to grow their own produce
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Tennis courts, bowling greens, golf courses, sports pitches, school playing fields etc.
Provision for children & young	Play areas, skateboard parks, basketball, teenage shelters
Public Rights of Way	Access routes for walking, cycling and horseriding providing a means to link parks and green spaces etc.

Category	No. & Size in Leeds (P&C responsibility)	No. in NW Leeds Country Park & G.G. Project Area
City Park	4 740Ha.	1 Kirkstall Abbey Estate
Country Park	3 277Ha.	2 Chevin Forest Park, Golden Acre Park
Community Park	62 550Ha.	15 e.g. Grove Hill Park, Holt Park, Horsforth Hall Park, Kirk Lane Park, Micklefield Park, Nunroyd Park, Yeadon Tarn, The Hollies, Wharfemeadows Park
Recreation Ground	91 407Ha.	15 e.g. Bedquilts Rec. Ground, Butcher Hill Playing Fields, Tinshill Rec. Ground, West Park Playing Fields
Local Green Space	370 472Ha.	61 e.g. Engine Fields, Disused Railway off Bradford Road, Hanover Square, Holt Lane POS, Springfield Park
Woodland	73 490Ha.	28 e.g. Eccup Whin, Clayton Wood, Hunger Hills, Ireland Wood, Morris Wood
Cemeteries, disused churchyards, burial grounds	75 115Ha.	8 e.g. Yeadon Cem., Rawdon Crem., Lawnswood Cem/Crem., Guiseley Cem.
Allotments	99 95Ha.	14 e.g. Crowtrees allots., Burley Model allots.
Outdoor Sports Facilities	482 N/A	TBC
Provision for children/young	201 N/A	TBC
Public Rights of Way	814km	TBC

# Aim 1. Preserving Green Spaces

Keep the green spaces that already exists

- Parks & Countryside Land Adequately Preserved
- Non LCC Land – Liaison with planning services and private landowners (PPG17 & Natural Environment White Paper

# Aim 2. Improving the Quality of Green Spaces

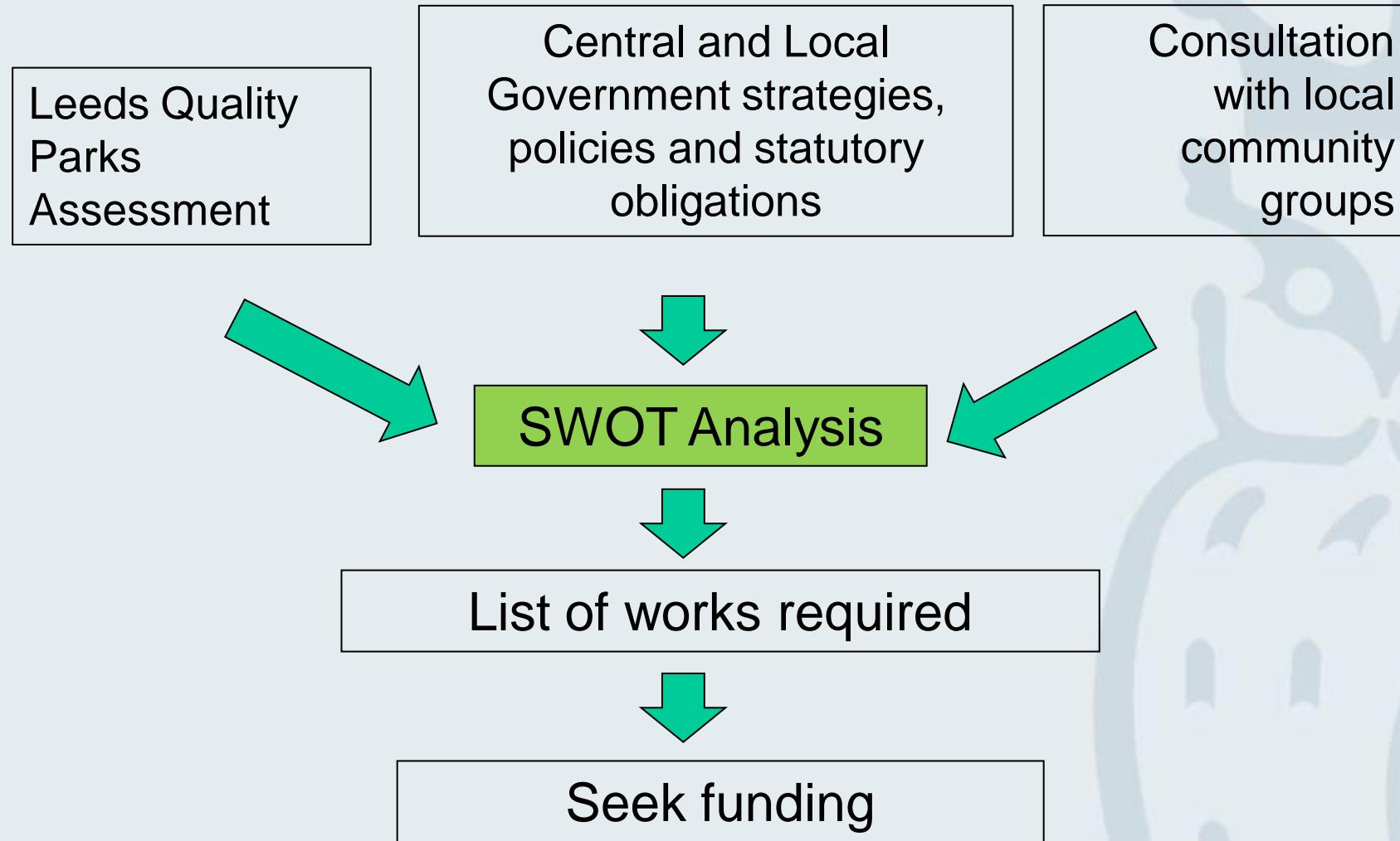
Balance the competing demands of people and wildlife

Use SWOT Analysis of internal Leeds quality park assessments based on Green Flag Criteria.

- Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Well maintained and Clean
- Sustainability
- Conservation and Heritage Features
- Community Involvement
- Marketing
- Management

Strengths	Weaknesses
Opportunities	Threats

# Works Programme & Funding



# Problems & Solutions for Green Space Quality

## Problems

- Fly-tipping and other rubbish
- Site vandalism and graffiti
- Ineffectual or lack of management for wildlife
- Little or no information on features of interest
- Path network, seating or entrance features
- Sense of connection to or responsibility for the green space from local community

## Solutions

- Erect entrance signage with green space name and LCC contact details
- Work with community groups to help clean up the green space and secure funding for path/wildlife/history improvement proj

# Aim 3. Promoting Green Spaces

- a) Promote the positive role of the connection between green space and wildlife – quality of life
  
- a) Encourage local people to discover the green spaces on their doorstep

a) Attempts to re-connecting people and wildlife

Natural England's ANGSt Model

Leeds City Council Core Strategy

# Natural England ANGSt Model (Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards)

Provision of Natural Green Space based on scientific research - led to Size and Distance criteria:

- No person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace of at least 2Ha.
- At least 1Ha. of Local Nature Reserve per 1000 population
- At least one accessible 20Ha. natural greenspace within 2km of home
- One accessible 100Ha. natural greenspace within 5km of home
- One accessible 500Ha. natural greenspace within 10km of home

# Assess the impact of applying the Accessible Natural Green Space Standards criteria in NW Leeds

When applying the standards we must remember the three underlying principles of ANGSt which are: -

- Improving access to greenspace
- Improving naturalness of greenspaces
- Improving connectivity with greenspaces

Then other factors come into play: -

- Consider if we can meet it through existing land (both P&C and non-LCC) – i.e. by changing how that land is managed
- Will new land be needed to address areas of deficit in natural green space provision

## b) Discover Green Spaces

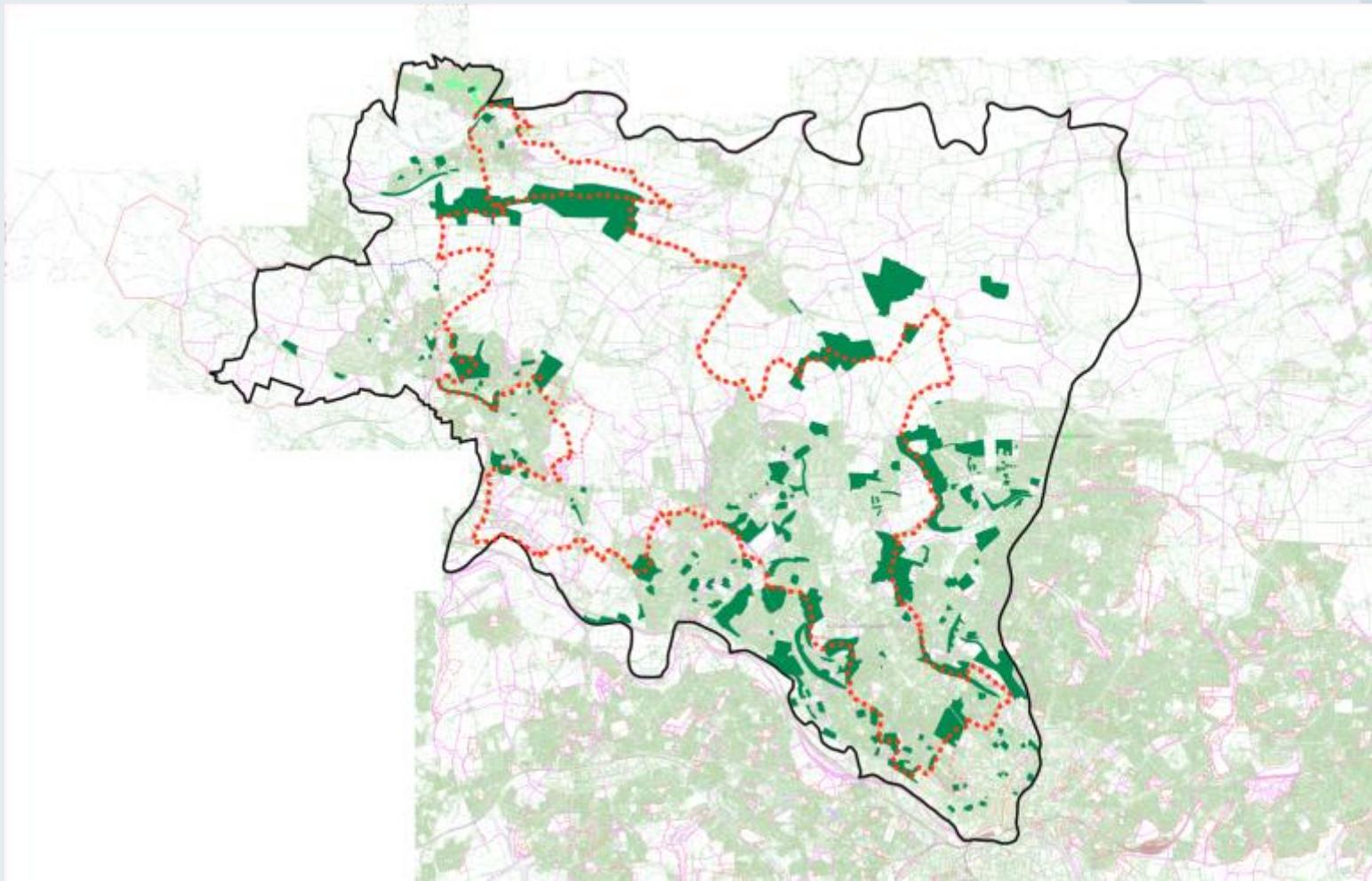
Instead of just promoting the green spaces in isolation from each other – identify a walking route or trail that connects them. This Trail project will promote isolated green spaces and the Rights of Way that connects them

The main Right of Way route will be known as the **NW Leeds Country Park & Green Gateway trail- 43 miles circular** .

However, this is of limited use to many people who just want easy access to local walks. Therefore, we will be encouraging areas to map out local circular walking routes in their area that connect to the main 43 mile trail.

All the walks will then go into a series of leaflets

# The Red Line of NW Leeds Trail



# Local Walk & Leaflet



# Project Issue

Natural England have a green infrastructure mapping project which has been taken into a strategy for Leeds City Region and Leeds (LDA Design 2009/2010 <http://www.lda-design.co.uk/portfolio/leeds-city-region-green-infrastructure-strategy/> )

However, the Leeds Core Strategy 2014 has not represented this adequately in its documents.

This needs picking up in Neighbourhood Plans.

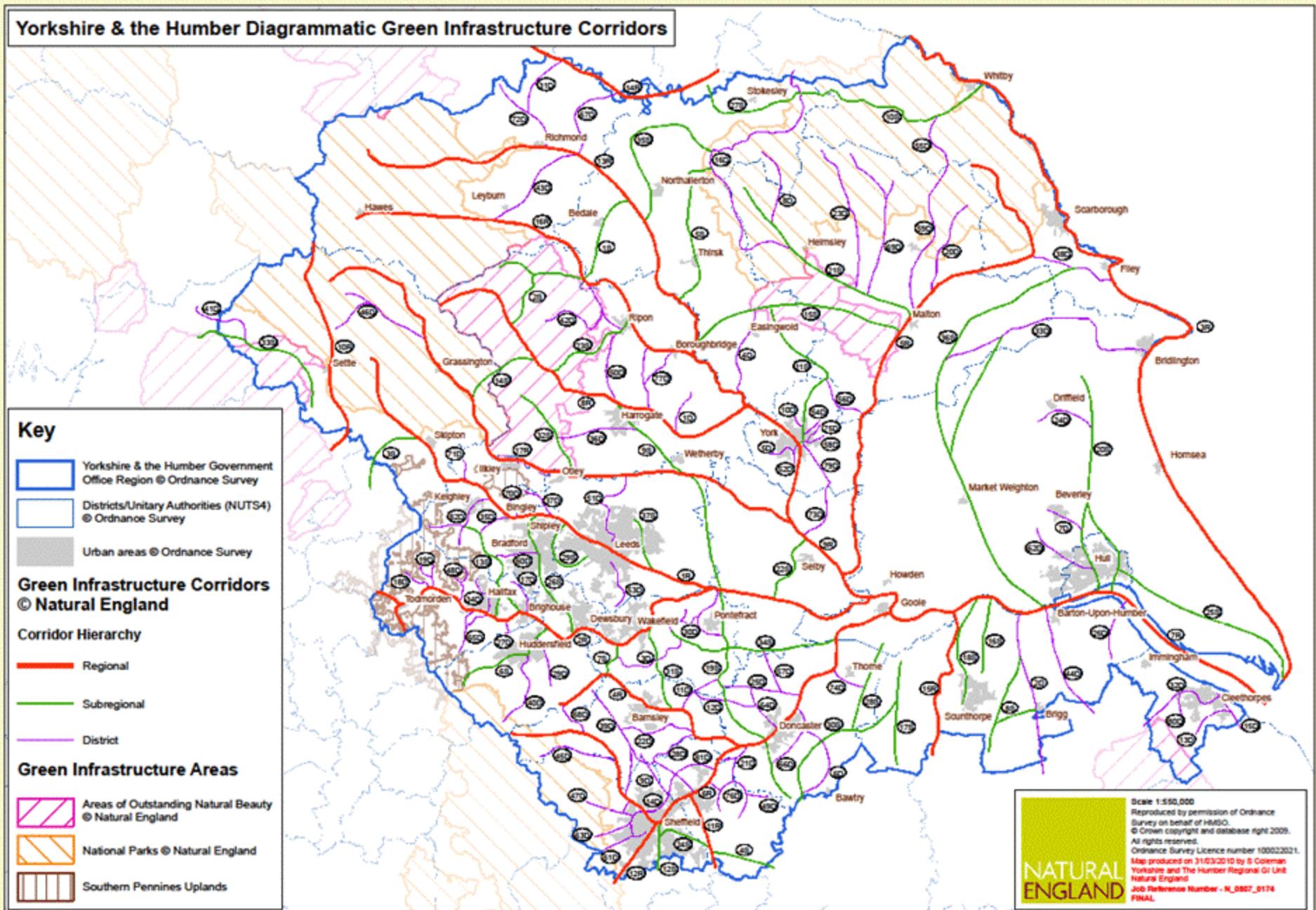
Comment added by Aireborough Neighbourhood Development Forum following discussion on the project and analysis of sustainability aspects of the site allocation plan

# Natural England's Green Infrastructure Mapping Project

- to help local authorities protect and create green infrastructure through their Local Development Frameworks (LDFs)
- Natural England worked in partnership with all local authorities in the region as well as other partners to ensure a consistent approach was taken to green infrastructure mapping
- Natural England is keen to see this evidence used to support projects and policy at both strategic and local levels.
- It has already been used by Leeds City Region to inform the “Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Leeds City Region” and also by Leeds City Council in their Core strategy: Leeds Local Development Framework

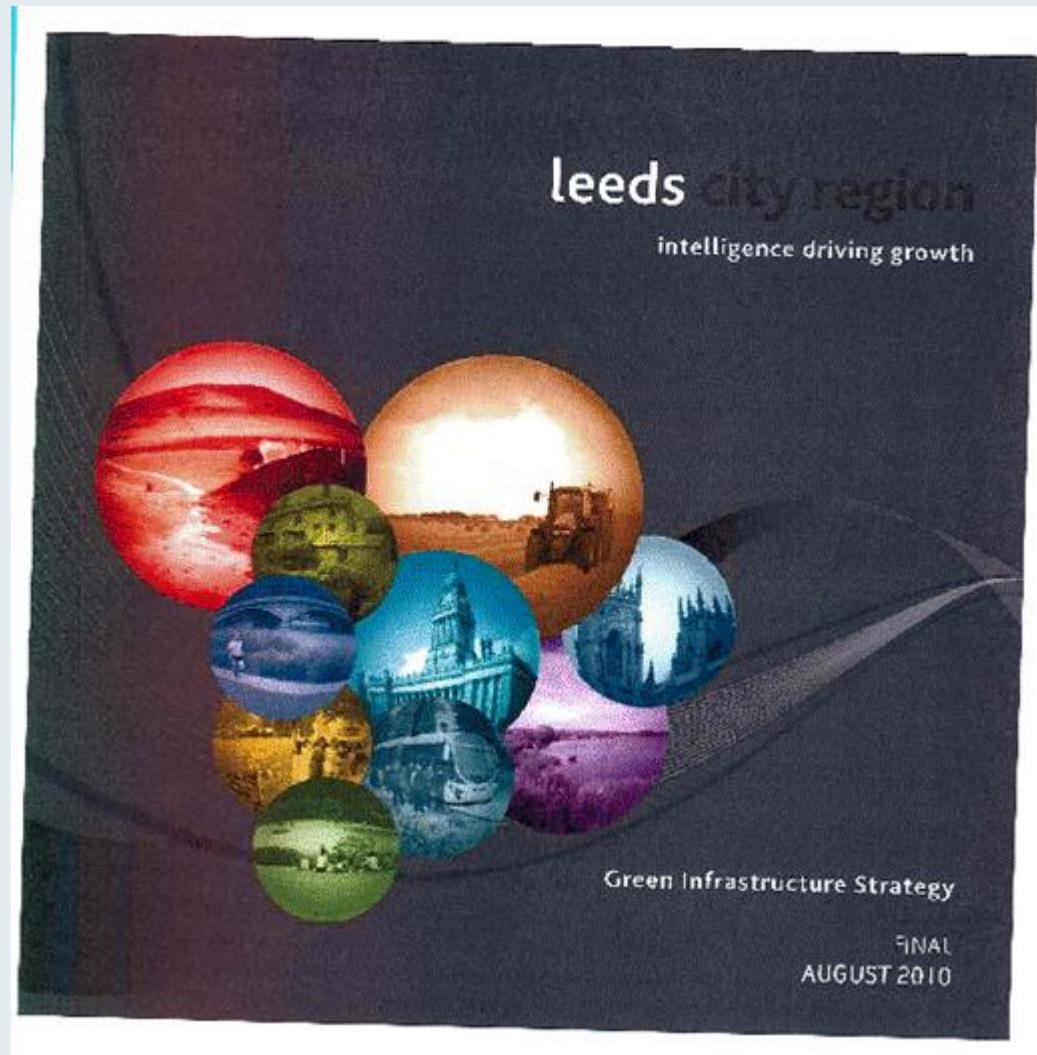
[www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk) and enter “green infrastructure”

Yorkshire & the Humber Diagrammatic Green Infrastructure Corridors



# Main Green Infrastructure Corridors - NW Leeds



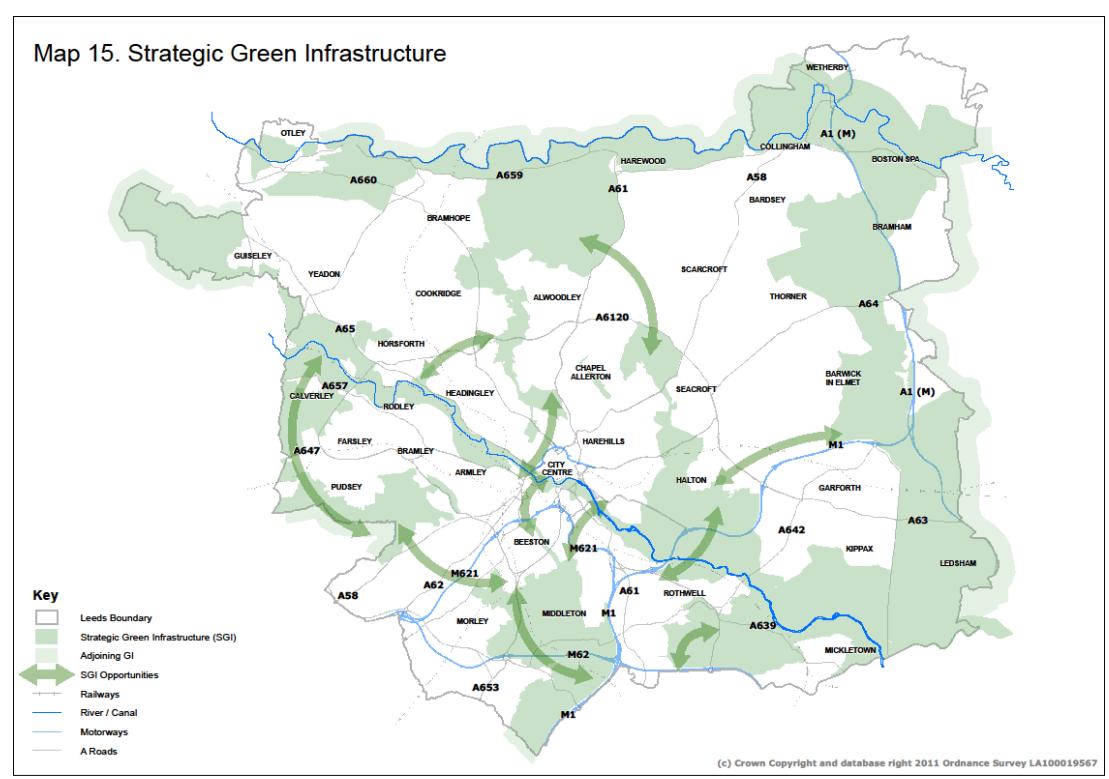
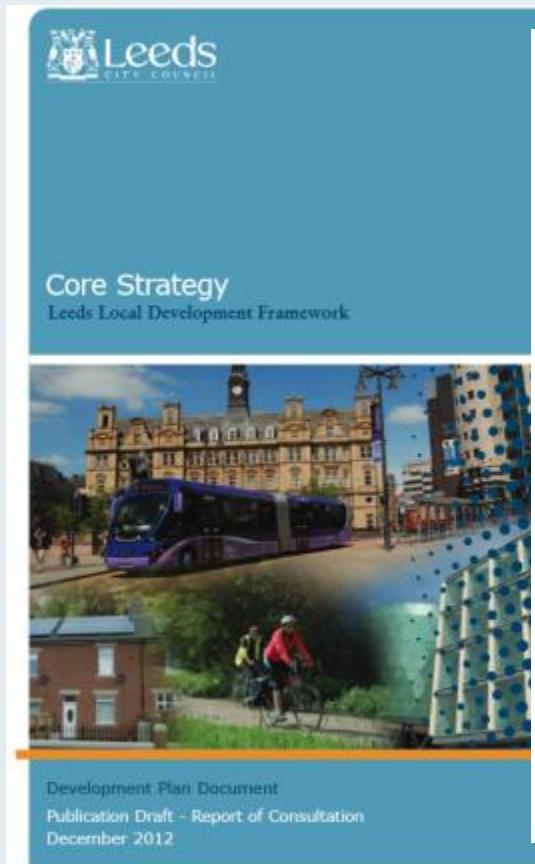


# “Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Leeds City Region”

“Traditionally, environmental planning has looked at the functions of green infrastructure in isolation, such as biodiversity, open space provision or public realm design. .... a green infrastructure approach considers how together these assets form an overall “system”.

... at the local level, using green corridors to link new settlements with existing green infrastructure assets has the potential to transform the prosperity and health of a community. Similarly, linking isolated habitats can help maintain populations of rare or threatened species by increasing their resilience to change.”

# Leeds Core Strategy – Poorly Mapped Infrastructure



# Making it Happen

## Key Partners

### Planning Services

Increased pressure on the green spaces?

Recognition of the Country Park concept and its underlying aim to meet the ANGSt criteria

Seek opportunities for improvements to quality and better connectivity through Community Infrastructure Levy?

# Key Partners

## Landowners

To open up new land to public access or promote existing access more widely

for example:

- Create the definite right of way linking East Busk Lane to the footpath that goes under the disused railway bridge to secure the NWLCP&GG trail

# Key Partners

## Local Community Groups

Help preserve the local green spaces that are important to them – and help identify works required

Lead external funding bids (with P&C support)

# Key Partners

## External Bodies

- Conservation Volunteers & Groundwork – experts working with community groups
- Healthy Walking initiatives – leaflets in GP surgeries and local libraries
- EA, Natural England & Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Buglife – wildlife corridors & waterways projects
- Universities – a big part of the local community and landowner

# Plan Priority

- Put the NW Leeds Country Park & Green Gateway trail and local routes connecting the green spaces ON THE MAP
- Make the trail a reality and the next stage of physically connecting the green spaces will be easier to work towards
- One or Two local community groups are needed to jointly fund a bid for re-creating the NW Leeds Country Park & Green Gateway trail and local routes
- Funding for signposting the NWLCP&GG trail, leaflets, podcast, some interpretation panels - and installing these signs/posts

# My present role

- Secure funding for NW Leeds Country Park & Green Gateway trail
- Management Plan & SWOT Analysis
- Help identify the main projects needing external funding per P&C green space site – so there is a list of opportunities awaiting funding