

North West Landscape Matters:
New Perspectives on People, Places & Nature
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A regional landscape 'strategy' refresh: some personal thoughts

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Outline

1996 NW Regional
Landscape Strategy

A new 'strategy for
landscape in the
North West?



1996 North West Landscape Strategy:

The Brief

Commissioner

Sustainability North West

Objective

..fuller articulation of a
“green and pleasant
region”

Sponsors

Countryside Commission,
English Nature, United
Utilities



Remit

- Review landscape condition
- Appraise current strategic environmental initiatives
- Identify scope for co-ordination, reinforcement and innovation



1996 North West Landscape Strategy: The Approach

Broad definition of landscape

Landscape = habitat + man

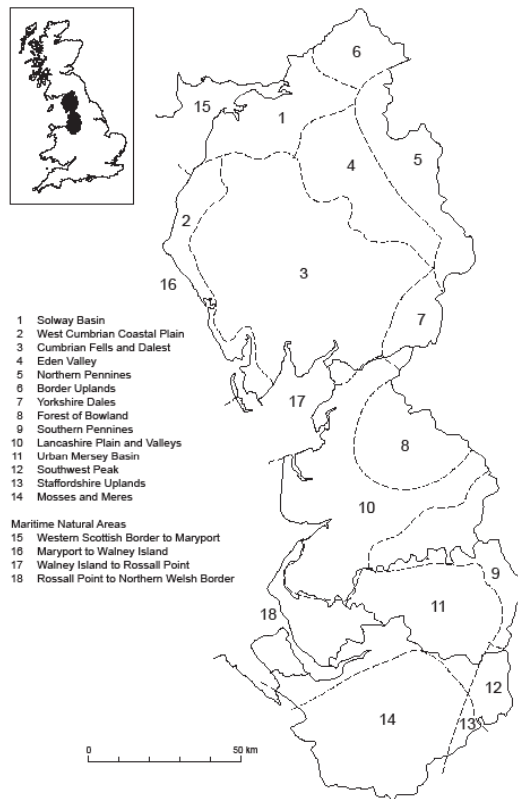
Close integration with the regional policy framework

North West Regional Planning Guidance Themes	
Natural Environment	Built Environment
Natural Heritage Coast Urban Fringe Water and Air Quality Non-Energy Minerals	Built Heritage Recreation and Sport Energy Urban Greenspace Derelict Land

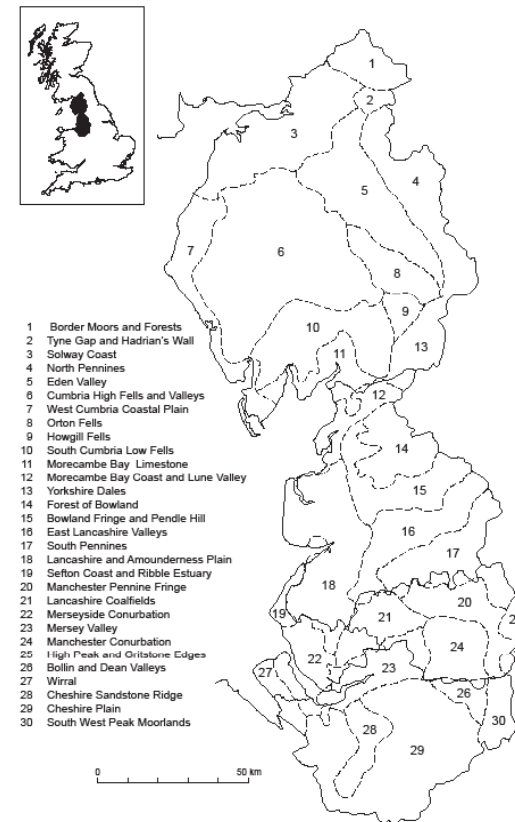
Value of planning at the regional scale

1996 North West Landscape Strategy: The Approach

Natural Areas

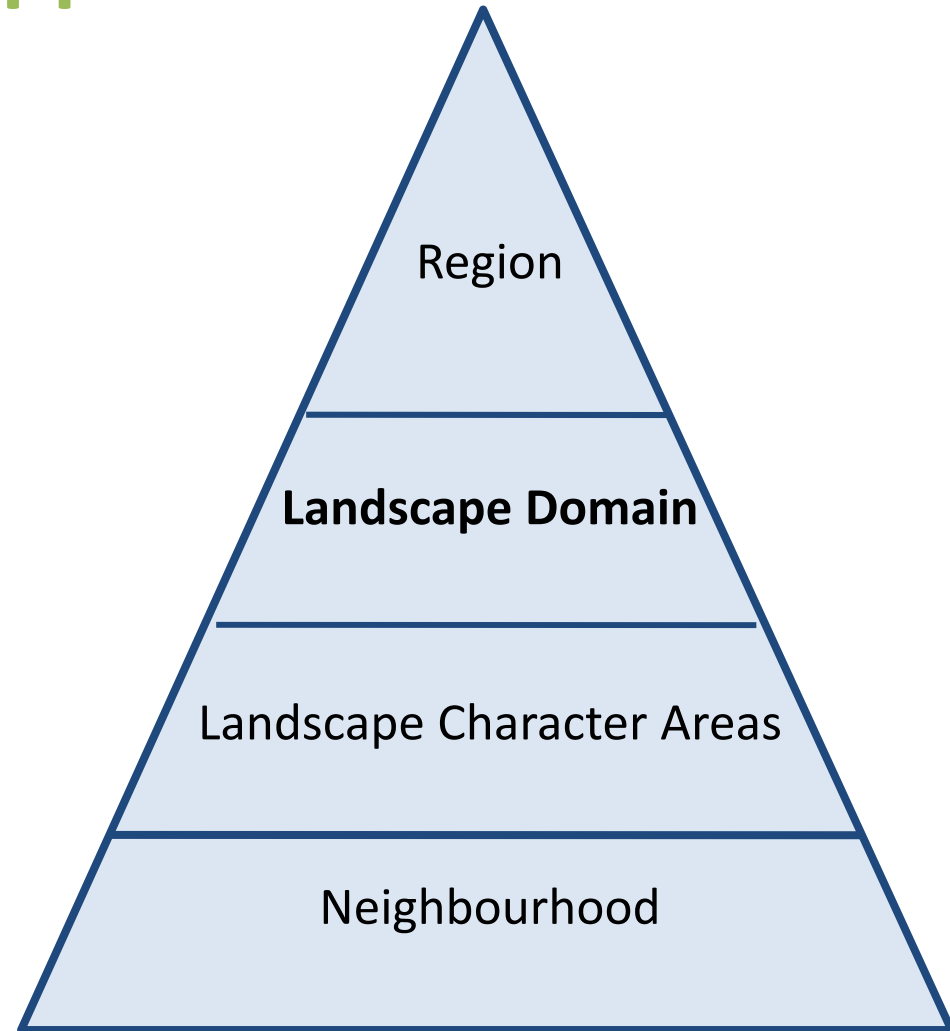


Countryside Character Areas

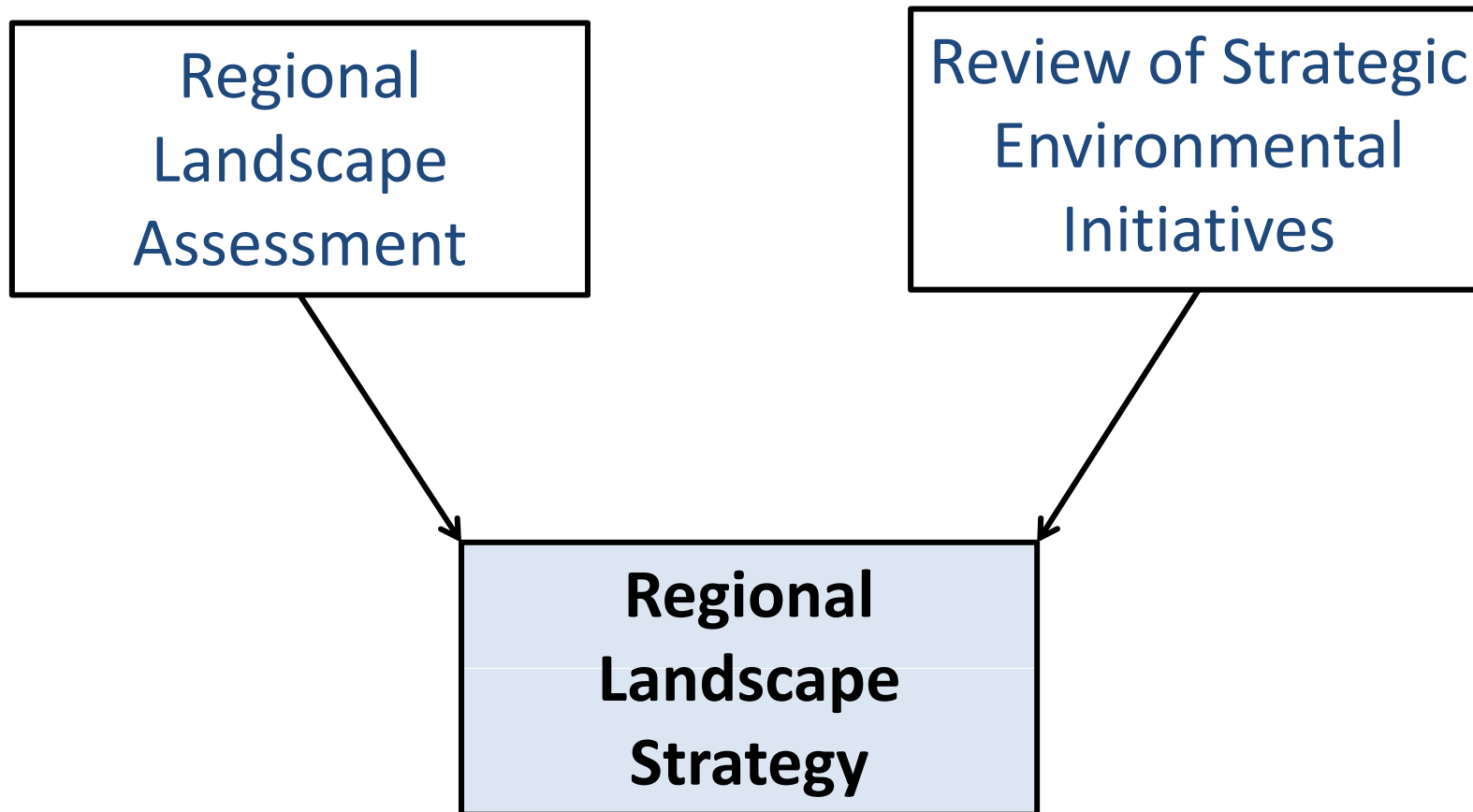


1996 North West Landscape Strategy: The Approach

Domain	Criteria
Coast	Character areas abutting coast or estuary
Urban Core	Character areas over 90% urbanised
Urban Fringe	Character areas abutting the Urban Core and/or over 25% urbanised
Rural Lowland	Character areas contiguous with CIS Arable/Pastoral zones but not Urban Core
Rural Upland	Character areas contiguous with CIS Upland/Marginal zones



1996 North West Landscape Strategy: The Approach



1996 North West Landscape Strategy:

The Strategy

North West Economic Strategy Objectives	Regional Landscape Strategy Objectives	Regional Planning Guidance Environmental Themes
Improving the region's environmental assets	<i>Protection and enhancement of environmental assets</i>	Natural heritage The Coast Built Heritage Urban Greenspace
Improving and maintaining water quality	<i>Improvement of environmental quality (air, water and land)</i>	Water and air quality Landscape in eth urban fringe
Improving the environment in prominent areas of dereliction	<i>Reclamation and reuse of derelict and despoiled land</i>	Derelict, contaminated and unstable land
	<i>More sustainable resource management</i>	Energy Non-energy minerals Waste
Develop European centres for leisure and tourism	<i>Improving opportunities for leisure, recreation and tourism</i>	Recreation and sport Urban Greenspace
Improving the region's image by promotion and marketing of assets	<i>Projecting a positive regional image</i>	

1996 North West Landscape Strategy:

The Strategy

Domain Guidance

Environmental Profile

Environmental Initiatives

Environmental Future

Priorities for Action

- *Environmental assets*
- *Environmental quality*
- *Derelict and despoiled land*
- *Recreation leisure and tourism*
- *Image*

Regional Guidance

Key Issues

- *Environmental assets*
- *Environmental quality*
- *Derelict and despoiled land*
- *Recreation leisure and tourism*
- *Image*

Action for SNW

Coordination

Reinforcement

Innovation

1996 North West Landscape Strategy: Application

£20 m 'Greening the North West' Millennium Fund Bid

ENWEB regional information resource

Regional policy development

Sub-regional partnership working

Regional research



1996 North West Landscape Strategy:

Limitations

Non statutory status

Changing regional arrangements

No new resources

Strategy 'overload'?

Loss of SNW champion

A New 'Landscape' Strategy for the North West

Need?

- *'Coordination, strategic reinforcement and innovation'* still relevant concerns
- New ELC obligation to take a forward looking and action-orientated approach to *'landscape protection, enhancement, restoration and creation'*
- Other calls for strategic thinking and integrated environmental action
 - UN Convention on Biological Diversity*
 - UN Framework Convention on Climate Change*
 - WHO Commission on Health and Environment*
 - EU Water Framework Directive*
 - EU CAP reform*
 - RCEP Urban Environment Report*

.....

A New 'Landscape' Strategy for the North West

Need?

- Significant future landscape challenges
 - *climate change*
 - *biodiversity*
 - *energy security*
 - *landscape obsolescence*
 - *soils*
 - *erosion of tranquillity*
 - *health*
 -



A New 'Landscape' Strategy for the North West

Scope?

Broad scope still stands

North West Regional Planning Guidance Themes	
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Should this list change?

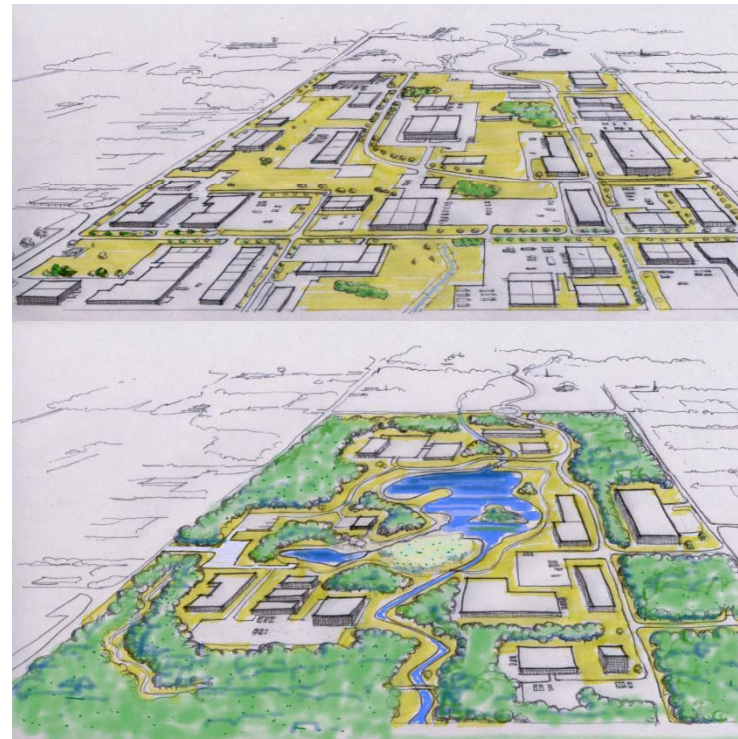
A New 'Landscape' Strategy for the North West

Scope?

'Landscape' is a helpful umbrella for integrating environmental action

Is 'green infrastructure' a more appropriate term in the current context?

Are there other alternatives which should be considered?



**Green Infrastructure can give us new solutions -
Natural Economy North West**

A New 'Landscape' Strategy for the North West

Scope?

Regional and domain level
consideration still has a
place

Do you agree?

Natural England Biotopes

- Coastal
- Lowland
- Upland
- Urban

A New 'Landscape' Strategy for the North West

Mechanisms?

Embed 'landscape' concerns in new Integrated Regional Strategy

But also produce a linked daughter document....

A new NW Regional Landscape Framework

- *Coordinating County Green Infrastructure Strategies*
- *Assessing 'landscape' coverage - addressing gaps in strategic thinking and integrated action*
- *Adding value by inputting a domain perspective*

Do you agree that a separate landscape framework is needed?

What role should it play?

A New 'Landscape' Strategy for the North West

Mechanisms?

Framework to be commissioned
by the North West Landscape
Partnership which is

- a) *An informal grouping of NW stakeholders*
- b) *An formal grouping of NW stakeholders supported by a project officer*
- c) *A new high profile NW organisation modelled on the Mersey Basin Campaign with delivery capability and a 'think tank' role*

and championed /supported by:

- a) *Natural England*
- b) *4NW*
- c) *NWDA*

What are your views on these options?

Are there alternatives that should also be considered?

- [Jonathan Porter & Alison Farmer](#)