

# Creative Futures The Irk Valley

Outcomes of a  
participatory  
planning process

Legend for Maps  
Landscape Visions  
& Ecological Design

November 2003



## Introduction

Between February and June of 2003, community members and other stakeholders were invited to participate in the early stages of creating a long-term vision for sustainability in the Irk Valley in North Manchester<sup>1</sup>. The envisioning was carried out with participants from NGOs, community groups, academia, public and private sector organisations.



This legend accompanies the two maps, 'Creative Futures – the Irk Valley, Landscape Visions' and 'Creative Futures – the Irk Valley, Ecological Design' created from the outcomes of this process report. The landscape plans and maps for the Irk Valley and Moston Vale, their accompanying reports and this legend can be downloaded from <http://www.holocene.net/irk.htm>.

There are three legends. The first is for the ideas for 'Future possibilities' developed by participants. The second shows the 'Existing assets' highlighted in the process. The third is a legend for the historical sites highlighted on the map, and can form a basis for historical interpretation and signage.

The final heading in each table shows which category of the E.A.S.E.L.<sup>TM2</sup> the ideas fall under.

<sup>1</sup> This process was undertaken in partnership with the Irk Valley Project, as part of Ph.D. research into participatory planning, based in the Centre for Urban and Regional Ecology, University of Manchester. The DesignWays process was tested, facilitated by its developer, Joanne Tippett. Zinnia Clark, also based in CURE, assisted with community mapping.

<sup>2</sup> The E.A.S.E.L.<sup>TM</sup> is framework for organizing design information, created as a Mind Map with moveable branches under the headings: Economics, Activities, Social Capital, Elements and Settlements, Landscapes. Each heading can be expanded to a more detailed Mind Map with sub-headings, which act as DesignWays' architecture for organising participants' ideas.

## Legend – Future Possibilities for the Irk Valley

Icon #	Future Possibility	Location	Comments and Resources	E.A.S.E.L.
1	Community recycling facilities	Moston Brook Valley	There is a lack of recycling facilities in this area - composting activities could be tied into programmes at nearby schools, facilities could also be developed on an area of Derelict land in the area, develop programmes to enhance re-use and recycling of building materials. There is a need to consider sustainable transport to recycling facilities - are they near public transport, what bike facilities are available? Is it possible to rent a bike trailer from the facility to collect bulky materials? See <a href="http://www.wrap.org.uk/">http://www.wrap.org.uk/</a> - WRAP for more info on recycling schemes and markets.	Elements & Settlements
2	Model ecological urban renewal in buildings and infrastructure to support new development	Harpurhey/ Lightbowne/Moston	Planning guidance - best practice, guidelines for solar orientation, use housing market renewal fund to encourage new sustainable development, model, retrofit houses using solar energy, passive and active, encourage houses that are affordable to run through (e.g. energy efficient, water-use efficient) developing incentives for insulating houses, low water and energy use appliances, see <a href="http://www.solarforlondon.org/">http://www.solarforlondon.org/</a> for info on solar hot water for social housing - see <a href="http://society.guardian.co.uk/housing/story/0,7890,1072719,00.html">http://society.guardian.co.uk/housing/story/0,7890,1072719,00.html</a> for story about scheme to regenerate areas of Oldham with green and energy efficiency building	Elements & Settlements
3	Wind energy resource on high area	Harpurhey/ Lightbowne/Moston	These could include low cost Windsave windmills, once they are more widely available. See <a href="http://www.bwea.com">www.bwea.com</a>	Elements & Settlements
4	New housing development - ecological housing cluster	Moston Brook Valley		Elements & Settlements
5	Eco-industrial cluster	Harpurhey/ Lightbowne/Moston	Promote new light manufacturing in the area through eco-industrial clusters, encouraging reuse and recycling as well as linked manufacturing processes.	Elements & Settlements
6	Sustainable energy demonstration	Harpurhey/ Lightbowne/Moston		Elements & Settlements
7	Demonstration eco-house		Potential new houses on site to include an eco-demonstration home (could be housing for students), rehabilitation of college buildings could model sustainable building practices, and the campus could become a training ground fore eco-	Elements & Settlements

Icon #	Future Possibility	Location	Comments and Resources	E.A.S.E.L.
			construction and maintenance	
8	Community composting facilities	Moston Brook Valley		Elements & Settlements
9	Demonstration urban garden		Demonstrate opportunities for gardening in a small space, use of recycled materials to create garden features, and integrated pest management techniques, linked to composting facilities	Elements & Settlements
10	Demonstration sub-urban garden		Demonstrate gardening for wildlife, integrated pest management and gardening for food	Elements & Settlements
11	Community composting facilities		There are several allotments in this area, which could use compost. Consider a bicycle trailer delivery service to allotments, the whole programme could be tied in to school programmes at North Manchester School for Girls	Elements & Settlements
12	Plant Nursery	Moston Brook Valley	Community nursery, vegetable and herb starts and saplings for community forestry from ecological sewage treatment	Elements & Settlements
13	Plant Nursery	Lower Irk	Nursery for garden centre, linked to ecological treatment of sewage on site, suggest also sell integrated pest management packs for gardening in the area	Elements & Settlements
14	Plant Nursery	Middle Irk	Enhance existing nursery tied to Andrew Lane Gardens. Nursery for propagation of existing plant stock in Valley, especially from ancient woodland, this could tie into the existing community garden and gardening programmes at North Manchester General Hospital, suggest also sell integrated pest management packs for gardening in the area	Elements & Settlements
15	Ecological, local scale treatment of sewage	Harpurhey/ Lightbowne/Moston	A greenhouse/ecological sewage system ('living machine') for on site sewage, used as a science and engineering classroom and starter for forestry nursery - see <a href="http://www.oceanarks.org/">http://www.oceanarks.org/</a>	Elements & Settlements
16	Ecological, local scale treatment of sewage	Lower Irk	On site ecological sewage system for new buildings, integrated into eco-industrial development	Elements & Settlements
17	Ecological, local scale treatment of sewage	Harpurhey/ Lightbowne/Moston	Develop a community level ecological sewage system for new buildings	Elements & Settlements

Icon #	Future Possibility	Location	Comments and Resources	E.A.S.E.L.
18	Timber processing station	Lower Irk	This can be a training workshop, providing facilities for small scale enterprise and community workshops, can be used to process timber felled from Heaton Park, as well as from community forestry in the area, possible alternative location on derelict land near M60 and Heaton park	Elements & Settlements
19	Charcoal kilns	Lower Irk	These can be mobile, taken to areas for use when needed, but need a secure storage area, best kept with timber processing station, so that scraps can be turned into charcoal	Elements & Settlements
20 - 24	SUDS - Sustainable Urban Drainage	Harpurhey/ Lightbowne/Moston	Use clearance areas to develop pocket parks, integrated with SUDS to gather storm run off from roofs and from roads	Elements & Settlements
25 - 26	Pocket parks/ Allotments	Harpurhey/ Lightbowne/Moston	Develop community gardens and pocket parks where possible through clearance, as this area is lacking in accessible open space	Elements & Settlements
27	Arts and crafts garden	Moston Brook Valley	Area for growing materials for arts projects - -e.g. coppice willow, reeds, dye plants, as well as for displaying works	Elements & Settlements
28	Queen Road's tip - eco- retail redevelopment and fair trade café	Lower Irk	Suggestions for eco-retail include: ecological home store, nursery and garden centre, with education about sustainable gardening, eco/fair-trade café, and a store for local produce and crafts - such as wood products and charcoal	Elements & Settlements
29	Ecological housing and retrofit	Middle Irk	In Bay Tree Renewal Area, encourage ecologically sound retrofitting of housing, including non-toxic paints, good insulation, passive and active solar installations, new build high quality, adaptable ecological housing	Elements & Settlements
30	Salvaged and eco-building material depot	Lower Irk	This could act as a site for building materials from demolition and renovation to be sorted and resold, materials could include brick for landscaping, windows, doors, eventually this could become an urban resource for reused materials	Elements & Settlements
31	Small wind turbines on tower blocks	Lower Irk	Assess top of tower blocks for suitability for small wind turbines	Elements & Settlements
32	Art garden and performance area	Middle Irk	Includes areas for temporary display and outdoor sculpture	Elements & Settlements
33	Arts and crafts garden	Middle Irk	A garden growing dye and fibre plants - to link with the history of the area as dye works and fabric production	Elements & Settlements

Icon #	Future Possibility	Location	Comments and Resources	E.A.S.E.L.
34	Ecologically designed visitor's centre	Middle Irk	A centre for interpretation of the reservoirs, site of biological importance, history of the site and the bioremediation, and for arts and crafts activities using materials from the gardens	Elements & Settlements
34	Ecologically designed visitor's centre	Middle Irk	A centre for interpretation of the reservoirs, site of biological importance, history of the site and the bioremediation, and for arts and crafts activities using materials from the gardens - see Southport Eco Visitor Centre for inspiration and ideas	Social Capital
35	Farmers' Market	Middle Irk	Space for farmers' market as part of visitors attraction - once rehabilitated, this area could attract considerable numbers of visitors - this would be on the current area of contaminated land, which would be suitable for several structures and facilities	Social Capital
36	Farmers' Market	Moston Brook Valley	Temporary stalls can be set up in front of community pavilion, also used as an event to attract people to the Moston Vale Site	Social Capital
37	Community Pavilion	Moston Brook Valley	Community pavilion can be used for arts activities, performances, workshops and for refreshments for sporting events	Social Capital
38	Community composting facilities	Middle Irk		Elements & Settlements
39	Greenhouses and small scale agriculture	Middle Irk	This area has existing gardening programmes, and shows potential for enhanced gardening activity	Elements & Settlements
40	Community composting facilities	Upper Irk		Elements & Settlements
41	Ecologically designed visitor's centre	Upper Irk	Should be demonstration eco-building, paying particularly attention to water flows, as is near river and potential area for demonstration of SUDS from highway drainage - example is Southport's new visitors' centre	Elements & Settlements
42	SUDS - Sustainable Urban Drainage	Upper Irk	Develop SUDS to clean storm water run off from Motorway, particularly important as the Motorway is close to rivers, sites of biological importance and reservoirs	Elements & Settlements
43	SUDS - Sustainable Urban Drainage	Middle Irk	Develop SUDS as integral part of new developers in this important river side site	Elements & Settlements
44	Ecohousing	Middle Irk	Consider ecological design guidelines for further developments	Elements & Settlements



Icon #	Future Possibility	Location	Comments and Resources	E.A.S.E.L.
45	Ecohousing	Upper Irk	Consider ecological design guidelines for further developments	Elements & Settlements
46	Ecological Sewage treatment	Upper Irk	Consider on site ecological sewage treatment as part of integrated water management on new developments see <a href="http://www.oceanarks.org/">http://www.oceanarks.org/</a>	Elements & Settlements
47	Community forests	North East Cluster		Landscapes
48	Small Ponds	Moston Brook Valley	Possibility of developing community fishing clubs to manage ponds	Landscapes
49	Community forests	Moston Brook Valley	There is great potential for small-scale forestry activity, with coppicing, small orchard plantings, and stands of standard d trees. Care should be taken to maintain open feel of site and views across site.	Landscapes
50	Community forests	North East Cluster	Forestry can act as edge between buildings and Motorway	Landscapes
51	Wetland enhancement	North East Cluster	Area is already marshy, scope for wetland enhancement	Landscapes
52	Swales and enhanced water retention on site	North East Cluster		Landscapes
53	Bioremediation Raft and Science Pavilion for Reservoirs	Middle Irk	This raft is a constructed floating wetland, which pumps water over various zones of plants in order to clean it. The pavilion, which can be reached by the raft, allows for access to pond dipping, water quality testing and displays about water quality and bioremediation. See <a href="http://www.oceanarks.org">www.oceanarks.org</a> (Restorer Technology) for more info.	Elements & Settlements
54 - 55	Integrated Pest Management on golf course, islands of habitat for natural predators	Upper Irk and North East Cluster		Landscapes
56	Community gardens	Moston Brook Valley	Use clearance areas to develop pocket parks, creating space for community gardens, tie in with programmes to create community gardens in back lots of terrace houses	Elements & Settlements
57	Bridges crossing the Irk as art	Middle Irk		Elements & Settlements

Icon #	Future Possibility	Location	Comments and Resources	E.A.S.E.L.
58	Green links		Tree planting along road to create a corridor between areas of ancient woodland	Landscapes
59	Green links		Link Moston Vale plantings to Mancat campus	Landscapes
60	Green links		Link Moston Vale plantings to Mancat campus	Landscapes
61	Green links		Link areas of pocket parks and SUDS	Landscapes
62	Green links		Link areas of pocket parks and SUDS	Landscapes
63-64	Bridges crossing the Irk as art	Lower Irk	More bridges crossing the river are required, especially for pedestrian and bicycle access. As much as possible, these should be designed with a high attention to aesthetics, and become pieces of art in their own right.	Elements & Settlements
65	Bridges crossing brooks	North East Cluster	A bridge across the brook could become a piece of art in its own right.	Elements & Settlements
66	New tram stop near Queen's Tip Retail Park	Lower Irk		Elements & Settlements
67	Demonstration orchard	North East Cluster	Incorporate variety of old fashioned fruit trees, integrated pest management, area of forest garden.	Elements & Settlements
68	Demonstration garden	North East Cluster	Demonstrate opportunities for gardening in a small space, use of recycled materials to create garden features, and integrated pest management techniques, linked to composting facilities	Elements & Settlements
68	Integrated Pest Management as part enhanced gardening in the area			Landscapes
69	Wetland Enhancement	Upper Irk		Landscapes
70	Wetland Enhancement	Upper Irk		Landscapes
71	Integrated Pest Management			Landscapes
72	Integrated Pest Management	Moston Brook Valley		Landscapes
73	Integrated Pest Management	Harpurhey/ Lightbowne/Moston		Landscapes
74	Biological Enhancement	Middle Irk		Landscapes



Icon #	Future Possibility	Location	Comments and Resources	E.A.S.E.L.
75	Biological Enhancement			Landscapes
76	Artwork/Sculpture	Upper Irk	Link to Heaton Park	Social Capital
77 - 88	Artwork/Sculpture			Social Capital
89	Bio-monitoring	Moston Brook Valley		Activities
90	Integrated Pest Management as part of community orchards			Landscapes
91	Integrated Pest Management as part of demonstration gardens			Landscapes
92-108	Green streetscaping			Landscapes

## Legend – Future Possibilities for the Irk Valley

Icon #	Existing Asset	Location	Comments and resources	E.A.S.E.L.
1	Heaton Park The Farm Centre		Not sure of exact location - The Farm Centre at Heaton Park contains many farm animals and is open 10.30am - 3.30pm every day except Monday. Admission is free. Contact 0161 773 5388 Ext 201	Elements and Settlements
2	Abraham Moss High School and City College	Middle Irk		Social Capital
3	Recycling centre	Upper Irk	Glass, Paper, Aluminium Cans, Textiles, Plastic Bags, Plastic, Bottles, Books and Shoes	Elements and Settlements
4	Mancat	Harpurhey/Lightbowne/Moston		Social Capital
5	Recycling centre	Middle Irk	Aluminium Cans	Elements and Settlements
6	North Manchester Adult Learning Centre and North Manchester High School for Girls	North East Cluster		Social Capital
7	Recycling centre	Harpurhey/Lightbowne/Moston	Needs improvement - does not work very well at the moment, accepts Glass, Aluminium Cans, Textiles and Plastic Bottles	Elements and Settlements
8	Plant Hill Adult Learning Centre	Upper Irk		Social Capital
9	Heaton Park The Farm Centre	Upper Irk	A classroom is also available for hire and includes pond-dipping equipment (on request), materials, toys, and a small animal for children to observe and hold. In winter, wardens are available for tours and talks.	Social Capital
10	Organic brewery	Lower Irk	Marble Arch Brewery	Elements and Settlements
11	New Era Woodland at HMG Paints	Lower Irk	Good example of business engagement with local community through landscape rehabilitation	Landscapes
12	Sensory Gardens in Children's Hospital	North East Cluster		Elements and Settlements
13	Crowden Street Allotments	North East Cluster		Elements and Settlements
14	Blue Stone Road Allotments	Harpurhey/Lightbowne/Moston		Elements and Settlements
15	Broadhurst Allotments	Moston Valley		Elements and Settlements

Icon #	Existing Asset	Location	Comments and resources	E.A.S.E.L.
				Settlements
16	Nursing Home	Moston Valley		Social Capital
17	Manchester Craft and Design Centre		Opportunity to link craft programmes with retail and facilities in the Northern Quarter	Social Capital
18	SBI - Grade B - Bridle Road Wood and Pond Heaton Park	Upper Irk		Landscapes
19	SBI - Grade C - Heaton Park Reserve	Upper Irk		Landscapes
20	SBI - Grade C - Woodland near Heaton Hall	Upper Irk		Landscapes
21	SBI - Grade C - Lakeside Woodland, Heaton Park	Upper Irk		Landscapes
22	SBI - Grade B - Flushes near Alconbury Walk, Higher Blackeley	Upper Irk		Landscapes
23	SBI - Grade A - Broadman Brook, Blackeley	Upper Irk		Landscapes
24	SBI - Grade B - Blackeley Forest and Heaton Vale Reservoirs	Upper Irk		Landscapes
25	SBI - Grade C - Reservoirs at Bowker Vale Crumpsall	Upper Irk		Landscapes
26	SBI - Grade C - Boggart Hole Clough	North East Cluster		Landscapes
27	SBI - Grade C - Reservoirs at Harpurhey Road, Irk Valley	North East Cluster		Landscapes
28	SBI - Grade A - Railway Cutting at Moston	Moston Valley		Landscapes
29	Bowker Vale Reservoir	Upper Irk		Landscapes
30	Harpurhey Road Reservoir	North East Cluster		Landscapes
31	Fishing, boating lake	North East Cluster		Landscapes
32	Heaton Park Reservoir	Upper Irk		Landscapes
33	Boating lake	Upper Irk		Landscapes
34	Bridle Road Wood and Pond Heaton Park	Upper Irk		Landscapes
35		Upper Irk		Landscapes
36	Blackley Forest and Heaton Vale	Upper Irk		Landscapes

Icon #	Existing Asset	Location	Comments and resources	E.A.S.E.L.
	Reservoirs			
37	Harpurhey Reservoirs	Middle Irk		Landscapes
38	HMG Paints			Social Capital
39	Allotments	Middle Irk		Elements and Settlements
40	Allotments	Middle Irk		Elements and Settlements
41	Cheetham and Crumpsall Allotments	Middle Irk		Elements and Settlements
42	Cypress Street Allotments	Middle Irk		Elements and Settlements
43	The Healing Tree	Moston Valley	sells healing products	Elements and Settlements

## Historical Sites<sup>3</sup>

Icon #	Historical Site	Location
1	Moston Bank	Moston Brook
2	Moston House	Harpurhey/ Lightbowne
3	Old Weir	Moston Brook
4	Millpool	Moston Brook
5	Broadhurst Park	Moston Brook
6	Stepping Stone	Moston Brook
7	Witches' Cottage (former) and Witches' Stone	Moston Brook
8	Monsall Dye Works	Moston Brook
9	Canal portion of Moston Brook that previously fed into the dye works	Moston Brook
10	Sandstone Quarries	Lower Irk
11	Smedley Old Hall	Lower Irk
12	Travis Isle Mill	Lower Irk
13	Collyhurst Dye Works	Lower Irk
14	Little Green Brewery	Lower Irk
15	Vauxhall Gardens	Lower Irk
16	St-Michael's Flags – Former child cemetery	Lower Irk
17	Ragged Houses - Orphanages that supplied child labour	Lower Irk
18	Angel Meadows - Area known as Angel Meadows because of the number of child labourers. Engels studied in this area	Lower Irk
19	Clay Pits and Brick Works	Lower Irk
20	Cheetham Park	Lower Irk
21	Clay Pits and Brick Works	Lower Irk
22	Cricket Grounds and Bowling Greens	Middle Irk
23	Smedley Dye Works/Woodlands Mill	Middle Irk
24	Hendham Hall	Middle Irk
25	Queens Park	Lower Irk
26	Brierly Statue	Middle Irk
27	Cooperative Works	Middle Irk
28	Harpurhey Print and Dye Works	Middle Irk
29	Clarks Villa	Middle Irk
30	Crumpsall Park	Lower Irk
31	Brick Works	Lower Irk
32	Crumpsall Settlement	Lower Irk
33	Crumpsall Hall	Lower Irk
34	Manchester Workhouse	Lower Irk
35	Thistle Mill	Lower Irk
36	Prestwich Union Workhouse	Lower Irk
37	Chemical Works	Lower Irk
38	Union Mill	Lower Irk
39	Blackley Vale Mill	Upper Irk

<sup>3</sup> These are taken from participants' knowledge, historical maps (1849 Ordnance Survey) and the Sites and Monument Record, courtesy of the Department of Archaeology, University of Manchester.

Icon #	Historical Site	Location
40	Bowker Bank	Upper Irk
41	Booth Cottage	Upper Irk
42	Water Side Works	Upper Irk
43	Bowker Vale	Upper Irk
44	Reformatory	Upper Irk
45	Heaton Park	Upper Irk
46	Heaton Mills	Upper Irk
47	Lands End Bleach Works	Upper Irk
48	Calico Print Works	Upper Irk
49	Cooper Fold	Upper Irk
50	Pike Fold	Upper Irk
51	Blackley War Memorial	Upper Irk
52	Fulling Mill	Upper Irk
53	Boggart Hole Clough	Upper Irk
54	Tagged Spearhead	Upper Irk
55	Children's Hospital - historical character	North East Cluster
56	Hough Hall	Harpurhey/ Lightbowne