

# Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment

## Table of Contents

### Executive Summary

1. Introduction and Methodology
2. Sherwood
3. Magnesian Limestone Ridge
4. Idle Lowlands
5. Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands
6. Trent Washlands

### Figures

1. Regional Character Areas
2. Policy Zones – All Areas

### Sherwood

#### Figures

1. Soils and Geology – Sherwood
2. Landscape Description Units – Sherwood
3. Landscape Character Parcels – Sherwood
4. Sherwood Policy Zone Map – Sherwood

#### Sherwood Policy Zones

- Sherwood PZ 21: Elkesley Meadowlands with Plantations/Estate Farmlands
- Sherwood PZ 33: Bothamsall
- Sherwood PZ 36: Poulter Valley Meadowlands with Plantations Policy
- Sherwood PZ 39: Blyth
- Sherwood PZ 22: Scofton –
- Sherwood PZ 29: Meden Vale and Church Warsop
- Sherwood PZ 37: Hodsock Estatelands with Plantations
- Sherwood PZ 54: West Drayton Village Farmlands
- Sherwood PZ 13: Osberton Estatelands with Plantations
- Sherwood PZ 35: Bothamsall Estate Farmlands
- Sherwood PZ 38: Ryton Valley River Meadowlands
- Sherwood PZ 20: Walesby Forest Estate Farmlands with Plantations/Meadowlands with Plantations
- Sherwood PZ 24: Ranby Estatelands with Plantations
- Sherwood PZ 23: Babworth Park Estatelands with Plantations
- Sherwood PZ 30: Worksop
- Sherwood PZ 34: East of A614
- Sherwood PZ 30: Babworth
- Sherwood PZ 55: Gamston
- Sherwood PZ 27: Ollerton Estate Farmlands Policy
- Sherwood PZ 28: Meden Vale and Church Warsop

- Sherwood PZ 32: Clumber
- Sherwood PZ 53: Milton River Meadowlands
- Sherwood PZ 31: Worksop
- Sherwood PZ 56: Kirton River Meadowlands
- Sherwood PZ 57: Gamston Airport Village Farmlands Policy

## **Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

### **Figures**

1. Soils and Geology – Magnesian Limestone Ridge
2. Landscape Character Parcels - Magnesian Limestone Ridge
3. Landscape Description Units - Magnesian Limestone Ridge
4. Policy Zones - Magnesian Limestone Ridge

### **Magnesian Limestone Ridge Policy Zones**

- Magnesian Limestone Ridge PZ 04: Carlton-in-Lindrick
- Magnesian Limestone Ridge PZ 07: Worksop
- Magnesian Limestone Ridge PZ 12: Welbeck
- Magnesian Limestone Ridge PZ 03: Langold
- Magnesian Limestone Ridge PZ 06: Carlton-in-Lindrick
- Magnesian Limestone Ridge PZ 09: Shireoaks
- Magnesian Limestone Ridge PZ 01: Langold
- Magnesian Limestone Ridge PZ 05: Langold
- Magnesian Limestone Ridge PZ 02: Langold
- Magnesian Limestone Ridge PZ 13: Holbeck and Cuckney
- Magnesian Limestone Ridge PZ 08: Shireoaks
- Magnesian Limestone Ridge PZ 10: Worksop
- Magnesian Limestone Ridge PZ 11: Worksop
- Magnesian Limestone Ridge PZ 14: Nether Langwith

## **Idle Lowlands**

### **Figures**

1. Soils and Geology - Idle Lowlands
2. Landscape Character Parcels - Idle Lowlands
3. Landscape Description Units - Idle Lowlands
4. Policy Zones - Idle Lowlands

### **Idle Lowlands Policy Zones**

- Idle Lowlands PZ 01: Misterton
- Idle Lowlands PZ 03: Misterton
- Idle Lowlands PZ 02: Misson
- Idle Lowlands PZ 04: Everton
- Idle Lowlands PZ 05: Scrooby
- Idle Lowlands PZ 06: Wiseton
- Idle Lowlands PZ 07: Lound
- Idle Lowlands PZ 08: Retford

- Idle Lowlands PZ 09: Retford
- Idle Lowlands PZ 10: Ranskill
- Idle Lowlands PZ 11: Harworth
- Idle Lowlands PZ 12: Carlton-in-Lindrick

## **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

### **Figures**

1. Soils and Geology - Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands
2. Landscape Description Units - Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands
3. Landscape Character Parcels - Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands
4. Policy Zones - Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands

### **Mid-Nottinghamshire Policy Zones**

- Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands PZ 01: Gringley-on-the-Hill
- Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands PZ 02: Walkeringham
- Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands PZ 03: Beckingham
- Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands PZ 04: Clarbrough
- Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands PZ 05: Leverton
- Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands PZ 06: Treswell
- Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands PZ 07: Stokeham
- Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands PZ 08: Upton, Laneham
- Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands PZ 09: East Drayton
- Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands PZ 10: Askham
- Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands PZ 11: Tuxford
- Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands PZ 12: Normanton-on-Trent

## **Trent Washlands**

### **Figures**

1. Soils and Geology - Trent Washlands
2. Landscape Description Units - Trent Washlands
3. Landscape Character Parcels - Trent Washlands
4. Policy Zones - Trent Washlands

### **Policy Zones**

- Trent Washlands PZ 17: Besthorpe River Meadowlands
- Trent Washlands PZ 18: Low Marham, Carlton and Sutton-on-Trent River Meadowlands
- Trent Washlands PZ 20: Dunham on Trent Village Farmlands
- Trent Washlands PZ 21: Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham Village Farmlands
- Trent Washlands PZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands
- Trent Washlands PZ 23: Sturton-le-Steeple Village Farmlands
- Trent Washlands PZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands
- Trent Washlands PZ 35: Beckingham River Meadowlands
- Trent Washlands PZ 43: Grassthorpe River Meadowlands

- Trent Washlands PZ 44: Fledborough Holme River Meadowlands
- Trent Washlands PZ 45: Dunham Laneham River Meadowlands
- Trent Washlands PZ 46: Church Laneham River Meadowlands
- Trent Washlands PZ 47: Laneham Cottam River Meadowlands
- Trent Washlands PZ 48: Littleborough River Meadowlands
- Trent Washlands PZ 49: The Ferries River Meadowlands
- Trent Washlands PZ 50: Bole Ings River Meadowlands

**Bassetlaw District Council**

**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT – BASSETLAW,  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

**August 2009**

## CONTENTS

### Executive Summary

- 1.0 Introduction and Methodology
- 2.0 Sherwood
- 3.0 Magnesian Limestone Ridge
- 4.0 Idle Lowlands
- 5.0 Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands
- 6.0 Trent Washlands

## FIGURES

- 1 Regional Character Areas - *All areas*
- 2 Policy Zones - *All areas*
- 3 Soils and Geology - *Sherwood*
- 4 Landscape Description Units - *Sherwood*
- 5 Landscape Character Parcels - *Sherwood*
- 6 Policy Zones - *Sherwood*
- 7 Soils and Geology - *Magnesian Limestone Ridge*
- 8 Landscape Description Units - *Magnesian Limestone Ridge*
- 9 Landscape Character Parcels - *Magnesian Limestone Ridge*
- 10 Policy Zones - *Magnesian Limestone Ridge*
- 11 Soils and Geology - *Idle Lowlands*
- 12 Landscape Description Units - *Idle Lowlands*
- 13 Landscape Character Parcels - *Idle Lowlands*
- 14 Policy Zones - *Idle Lowlands*
- 15 Soils and Geology - *Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands*
- 16 Landscape Description Units - *Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands*
- 17 Landscape Character Parcels - *Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands*
- 18 Policy Zones - *Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands*
- 19 Soils and Geology - *Trent Washlands*
- 20 Landscape Description Units - *Trent Washlands*
- 21 Landscape Character Parcels - *Trent Washlands*
- 22 Policy Zones - *Trent Washlands*

## APPENDICES

- A Methodology [Prepared by Nottingham County Council]
- B2 - 6 Landscape Character Assessment Survey Sheets
- C2 - 6 Summary Tables [Landscape Character Parcels into Draft Policy Zones]
- D2 - 6 Landscape Condition and Sensitivity Assessment Survey Sheets

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment has defined the landscape character of the administrative area of Bassetlaw District Council [BDC] and will form part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework [LDF]. It will be used by BDC to aid development control decisions on planning applications.

The document provides an objective methodology for assessing the varied landscape within Bassetlaw and contains information about the character, condition and sensitivity of the landscape to provide a greater understanding of what makes the landscape within Bassetlaw locally distinctive. The study has recognised this by the identification of Policy Zones across the 5 Landscape Character Types represented in Bassetlaw. Figure 1 shows the Landscape Character Types for the whole county.

For each of the Policy Zones a series of Policy sheets has been developed which detail a landscape action for each Policy Zone. The landscape actions are defined as follows:-

**Conserve** – actions that encourage the conservation of distinctive features and features in good condition.

**Conserve and Reinforce** – actions that conserve distinctive features and features in good condition, and strengthen and reinforce those features that may be vulnerable.

**Reinforce** – actions that strengthen or reinforce distinctive features and patterns in the landscape.

**Conserve and Restore** – actions that encourage the conservation of distinctive features in good condition, whilst restoring elements or areas in poorer condition and removing or mitigating detracting features.

**Conserve and Create** – actions that conserve distinctive features and features in good condition, whilst creating new features or areas where they have been lost or are in poor condition.

**Restore** – actions that encourage the restoration of distinctive features and the removal or mitigation of detracting features.

**Restore and Create** – actions that restore distinctive features and the removal or mitigation of detracting features, whilst creating new features or areas where they have been lost or are in poor condition.

## Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment

**Reinforce and Create** – actions that strengthen or reinforce distinctive features and patterns in the landscape, whilst creating new features or areas where they have been lost or are in poor condition.

**Create** – actions that create new features or areas where existing elements are lost or are in poor condition.

Figure 2 is a summary of the landscape actions for the whole of the Bassetlaw District Council area.

### How to use this document

This document describes the landscape character of the Bassetlaw District Council administrative area, which consists of 5 different County Character Areas. The report has been structured to enable users not to have to read the whole document to access the information they need, but are able to go directly to the key information.

Each chapter of the report covers a distinct character area, and describes the broad characteristics of the area, such as:

- Geology
- Soils
- Landform
- Hydrology
- Ecology
- Cultural Heritage

It then describes the main factors that have brought about change in the character area, and considers the trends and pressures that may produce change in the future. It then includes policy sheets which summarise the key characteristics of each Policy Zone.

For example, if a user wants to know about an area of land south of Retford, the first step would be to determine which Landscape Character Area the site falls into. In the first place, refer to an enlarged version of Figure 1 to determine if the area is in the Sherwood Character area or the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands Character area. If, as in this case, the area is in Sherwood, refer to an enlarged version of Figure 6, which is overlaid on to an OS base to check which Policy Zone the site falls into, in this case SH PZ 57.



## Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment

Then consult the appropriate character description for SH PZ 57 – Gamston Airport – to obtain a summary of the field data collected about the area.

The following analysis sheet describes the key criteria which have been used to define the landscape condition, which in this case is “*Moderate*”. The Policy Sheet then describes the key criteria that have been used to define landscape sensitivity, which in this case is also “*Moderate*”. These factors have been used to derive a Landscape Policy – in this case “*Conserve and Create*” or “*actions that conserve distinctive features and features in good condition, whilst creating new features or areas where they have been lost or are in poor condition*”. Landscape actions are then listed at the base of the policy sheet, these are divided into actions relating to landscape features and built features.

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

- 1.1 When applied to the landscape, the notion of “character” is not a concept that merely concerns itself with aspects of scenic quality. The character of the landscape derives from a complex interaction of a wide range of physiological and historical phenomena. These include geology, topography, soils, ecology, archaeology, architecture, local customs and culture as well as the pattern of land use, settlement and fields. It is the varied interaction between these factors which produces the local and regional variations in character for which the English landscape is famous. The diversity of that character is a central part of our landscape heritage and vital to people’s appreciation and enjoyment of the countryside.
- 1.2 The landscape that we see today is a product of its historical evolution, reflecting the underlying physical resource and the changing nature of human exploitation of the land. The landscape will, of course, continue to change and evolve, reflecting the changing priorities and demands that society places on it. Over recent decades, however, these priorities and demands have often degraded rather than improved the fabric of the landscape. There is now a general consensus that positive action is needed to reverse this trend, and that this should place a high value on conserving and enhancing the inherent character and diversity of our landscapes.
- 1.3 It is the responsibility of Local Authorities to undertake county and district level assessments of the landscape character. These assessments play an integral role not only within the wider planning framework, offering guidance from the outset with key aims and objectives to help guide development, but during the planning process itself providing a useful tool and checklist for both the local authority and the design team.

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**

- 1.4 This landscape character assessment has been carried out at the request of Bassetlaw District Council and covers the district of Bassetlaw. It relates to the evolving landscape character assessment for the whole of the county of Nottinghamshire and other associated county wide documents including the Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan and the Nottinghamshire Historic Landscape Characterisation. The methodology for Nottinghamshire Landscape Character Assessment, prepared by Nottinghamshire County Council [NCC], has been used to assess the landscape character of Bassetlaw District. A copy of the full methodology is contained at Appendix A. All information contained at the introductory paragraphs within each of the following 5 chapters is specific to Bassetlaw unless stated otherwise.

### **Context**

- 1.5 Bassetlaw District covers five National Character Areas [NCAs] as defined by Natural England; Southern Magnesian Limestone [30], Humberhead Levels [39], Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands [45], Trent and Belvoir Vales [48] and Sherwood [49]. At a county level, Regional Character Areas [RCAs] have been defined by Nottinghamshire County Council. While these relate to the NCAs, which cover much broader areas, they do not have exactly the same boundaries and have been created using the 'Living Landscapes Project' methodology. This is a GIS based process which is not only associated with the NCA work carried out by Natural England but is an established methodology used by counties across the country, including Derbyshire and Leicestershire both of which border Nottinghamshire. A total of five RCAs fall within Bassetlaw; Sherwood, Magnesian Limestone Ridge, Idle Lowlands, Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands and Trent Washlands (Figure 1 shows these character areas in the context of the whole county). Each RCA forms a separate chapter within this Landscape Character Assessment. The RCAs are further divided into Landscape Description Units [LDUs], these are homogenous units within the broader RCAs.

### **Landscape Character Assessment**

- 1.6 Within each Regional Character Area the LDUs are subdivided into manageable survey units known as Landscape Character Parcels [LCPs]. Each LCP is assessed in terms of its individual landscape character in accordance with the methodology. A photograph which is representative of the character of each LCP is also taken and its location recorded. This information is detailed on the Landscape Character Assessment field survey sheets for each Regional Character Area which are included at the relevant Appendix.

### **Draft Policy Zones**

- 1.7 Following on from the Landscape Character Assessment of each LCP a number of Draft Policy Zones [DPZs] are created using the completed survey information. Key characteristics are tabulated to help determine which LCPs may or may not be grouped together to form a DPZ, for instance LCPs with obvious similarities become one distinct DPZ. The DPZs combine either one or more LCP depending upon the similarities of their attributes. A table showing the derivation of each DPZ for each Regional Character Area is included at the relevant Appendix. [N.B. on the summary tables - under Landform/Landuse/Building Style etc. plain text denotes dominant or prominent characteristics and italics denote apparent or insignificant characteristics.]

### **Landscape Condition and Sensitivity Assessment**

- 1.8 The DPZs are assessed in terms of their Landscape Condition and Sensitivity in accordance with the methodology. This information is detailed on the Landscape Condition and Sensitivity Assessment field survey sheets for each Regional Character Area, which are included at the relevant Appendix, and forms the basis of the Landscape Policy for each Zone. It is at this stage, once the survey process is complete, that the Draft Policy Zones become Policy Zones.

### **Policy Zones**

- 1.9 A series of Policy Sheets, one per Policy Zone, covering each Regional Character Area within the District of Bassetlaw, have been produced and are set out within the relevant chapters 2 – 6, these are supported by a plan showing the resultant Policy for each Zone. Each Policy Sheet includes an overall character summary, specific characteristic features, a matrix and summary of the landscape condition and sensitivity and a representative photograph. Finally, a series of landscape actions is defined for each Policy Zone. An overarching plan of all Policy Zones within Bassetlaw has also been produced [Figure 2].
- 1.20 Collectively these provide a Policy Framework for the conservation and restoration of Sherwood, Magnesian Limestone Ridge, Idle Lowlands, Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands and Trent Washlands falling within Bassetlaw. This framework will help to ensure that landscape character is reflected in the many decisions and actions that affect its continuing evolution. The intention is not to fossilise change, but to provide a context that will enable policy making, planning and landscape management decisions to be made which respect and sustain the diversity and character of our countryside.

## **2.0 SHERWOOD**

### **2.1 PHYSICAL AND HUMAN INFLUENCES**

#### **Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The Sherwood region is characterised by a wide and diverse range of landscapes including the heartland of the historic Sherwood Forest and the extensive parklands and large estates of the Dukeries. The area, rich with historical, ecological and landscape features, is intrinsically linked to a number of historical themes including the internationally renowned Robin Hood legend. The region runs northwards from Nottingham to the lowlands of the River Idle. It is located between the heavily populated Magnesian Limestone Ridge and Nottinghamshire Coalfield regions to the west, and the more rural areas of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region to the east. The region is entirely confined within Nottinghamshire, almost half of the area falls within the district of Bassetlaw.

#### **The Shape of the Land**

- 2.1.2 The region is closely associated with a broad belt of Permo-Triassic sandstones which, like the adjoining mudstones, run northwards through the length of Nottinghamshire and beyond into South Yorkshire. This belt of country, which averages 10-12 kilometres in width, narrows at its southern extremity where the outcrop thins and is faulted out along the Trent Valley. Towards the northern end of the outcrop, where the region passes into the Idle Lowlands, the Permo-Triassic bedrock is largely overlain by alluvial and fluvio-glacial drift. Within Sherwood itself the sandstones rise as a line of low hills along the eastern edge of the Magnesian Limestone Ridge. These hills dip gently eastwards, but due to the softness of the underlying rock they seldom assume the character of a bold escarpment.
- 2.1.3 The outcrop of Permo-Triassic sandstones covers nearly a quarter of the County and comprises two recognisable formations. The lower of these is the Lenton formation [formerly the Lower Mottled Sandstone] consisting of bright red, fine-grained sandstone with local clayey bands. The upper division, now called the Sherwood Sandstone formation [formerly the Bunter Pebble Beds], comprises a much greater thickness of brownish-red, coarse-grained sandstones with extensive beds of quartzite pebbles. These pebble beds and red sandstones, often showing well-developed current bedding, are frequently exposed in cuttings, sandpits and natural bluffs throughout the region. The loose-textured nature of both sandstones also makes them highly porous and as a consequence the land surface is prevailingly dry. The lower sandstone rests on an impervious bed of Permian Marl, however,

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Sherwood**

and this forms the base of an extensive aquifer which has, since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, provided a major source of water supply. The western fringe of the region extends on to Permian Marl in the vicinity of Welbeck.

- 2.1.4 The Sherwood Sandstone typically gives rise to a markedly undulating topography, which, apart from a few larger rivers, is characterised by a general absence of surface drainage. Most of these rivers, including the Ryton, Poulter, Meden and Maun, rise on the Magnesian Limestone Ridge and flow across the region in a general south-west to north-east direction before turning northwards into the River Idle. The reason these rivers maintain their flow is that their valleys lie just below the water table. All of these valleys are defined by narrow alluvial corridors, which in places open out into wide marshy flats. The latter are particularly well-developed below the confluence of the Meden and Maun, while long narrow man-made lakes are a feature at Clumber and Welbeck. These wetland and water features contrast strongly with the dryness of the broad stretches of plateau-like country that separate the river valleys. The flanks of these low, rounded hills are nearly everywhere sculptured by numerous dry valleys, thought to have been formed by the melting of snow at a time when the climate was much colder.

### **Soils** [to be read in conjunction with Figure 3]

- 2.1.5 A range of soil types has developed within the region, the majority being well-drained sandy soils. Well-drained coarse loamy soils are found on the lower slopes of the dry valleys in accumulations of head [recent colluvium or wind-blown material]. Podzolised soils are found locally, particularly under woodland around the Clumber area.
- 2.1.6 On the eastern boundary of the region there are pockets of Mercia Mudstone; in these areas the soils are surface and ground water gleys. The soils have very slightly stoney clay loam surface horizons, and cropping limitations are imposed by the heavy texture and soil wetness.

### **Landscape History**

- 2.1.7 The present landscape of the Sherwood region is dominated by the artefacts of aristocratic estates and agricultural reform, largely laid down in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and by those of late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century industry, particularly coal mining. This has been an area in which changes in land use, however long they took to effect, have been radical and clear cut, in contrast to the piecemeal evolution evident in other regions in Nottinghamshire. Underlying the long history of the Sherwood region, and a key determinant in the pattern of stability and change within it, is the essential character of its geology and resulting soils. The porosity of

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Sherwood**

the Sherwood Sandstones and consequent fragility of the soils in general have placed limits upon the sustainability of farming here. Advances in agricultural methods from the 18<sup>th</sup> century until today may appear to have pushed out those limits but the qualities of the land continue to present agricultural challenges which can be overcome only at a cost, financial and environmental. It remains to be seen if this cost can be both supported and mitigated or if within the vastly complex modern economic structures there will be a reversion to land uses which respect the basic qualities of this region.

- 2.1.8 Traditionally, the Sherwood region has been regarded as an area where settlement and land use were restricted by poor soils, woodland and forest law. While these restraints must be acknowledged, this is anything but the full story which is far more interesting and complex.
- 2.1.9 As in the rest of Nottinghamshire, a forest landscape will have developed here after the end of the Ice Ages. There is as yet scant direct evidence for the composition of this primeval forest but it may be surmised, on the basis of later millennia, to have been mixed birch and oak with a greater variety of species in the river valleys and on the less arid soils of its margins. The presence of early prehistoric hunter-gatherer groups is demonstrated by the occasional finding of stone tools on the surface of ploughed fields. There is no evidence of the funerary and other ritual monuments which characterise the Neolithic and Bronze Age landscapes elsewhere. Again, occasional finds of objects, such as Beaker pottery at Thoresby, or of stone tools and stone axeheads, the latter being interestingly high in frequency in this region, testify to a continuing but sparse human presence, perhaps focused on the river valleys. Even this, however, could have had some locally substantial effect upon the woodland cover, through slash and burn agriculture and more particularly the grazing of domestic animals, to produce thinnings and clearings and the establishment of pieces of heath.
- 2.1.10 Whilst clearance of woodland and the development of agriculture and settlement proceeded apace elsewhere, the Sherwood region appears to have been relatively unoccupied during most of the late prehistoric period. Indeed, it is possible that it constituted a border zone between the political, social and economic organisation of tribes. This does not mean that it was untouched, however. As woodland diminished elsewhere, its timber resource may have become more attractive, and its use as a source for animal fodder and for grazing, perhaps involving transhumance as place names hint in the post-Roman period, is likely to have increased with resulting local, and perhaps not so local, changes in woodland composition and extending clearance. As earlier, settlement in the river valleys should not be discounted.
- 2.1.11 This picture changes dramatically with the Roman period. In the mid 1970s, aerial reconnaissance and photography over the north of the region suddenly revealed an integrated landscape of field boundaries, trackways and settlements, long since levelled. Subsequent research has shown that this landscape is substantially Roman in date, although

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Sherwood**

Late Iron Age origins are possible. North of a line between Warsop and Bevercotes, this landscape is largely coherent and evidently planned, with more than one phase evident in some localities. Covering an area in excess of 100 sq miles, it extends into South Yorkshire. The social structure and economy represented by these remains is still under debate. Evidence from field walking and a limited number of excavations at Menagerie Wood near Worksop and Chain Bridge Lane in Lound, indicates that most of the settlements were of low status, in contrast to those on its eastern margins in the Idle Valley or the villas known on the Magnesian Limestone to the west. Only one site producing objects of types normally associated with Roman villas has been identified so far in this area. As to the function of the fields, understanding is hampered by the acidity of the sandy soils which normally destroys bone so that evidence about livestock is largely lacking. Given the experience of both mediaeval and modern farmers in this region, long term arable cultivation may not have been sustainable despite the possibility of an almost virgin soil and a slightly warmer climate. An equally striking analogy, however, is the similarity in size between the fields of this Roman landscape and those of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century enclosure in the south of Nottinghamshire. Perhaps this, together with the mediaeval and more modern history in this region of grazing, particularly of sheep, may suggest a mixed agricultural regime of rotating crops, grasses and animal husbandry.

- 2.1.12 Whatever the social and economic interpretation of this landscape may be, the evidence of the aerial photographs shows that the woodland of this area was substantially cleared by early in the Roman period. This clearance was not necessarily entire, however. The presence of coppiced hazel at Menagerie Wood, if not imported from another region such as the Magnesian Limestone Ridge immediately to the west, may hint at surviving pockets of wood which, on this evidence, are likely to have been carefully managed resources.
- 2.1.13 Woodland survival may have been somewhat greater in the more southerly areas of the Sherwood region. South of Bassetlaw the cropmarks of this Roman landscape become more disjointed. It is possible that this difference in cropmark density could reflect a difference in the intensity of Roman settlement and land use between the north and south of the region, with more woodland and presumably more heath produced by rough grazing surviving in the south.
- 2.1.14 The end of the Roman period was marked by another great turning of the landscape, in which the region became again relatively unpopulated and the Roman field systems largely abandoned. The date of this change and the reasons and processes involved are as yet unclear. General population decline and changes in social organisation and economy beginning in the later Roman period and continuing and developing in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries are perhaps explanation enough. Soil exhaustion and erosion may also have played a part. In all events the early Roman level of settlement and land use clearly became unsustainable.

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Sherwood**

Settlement moved out of the region, probably relocating on the more fertile soils on its margins and beyond, and otherwise contracted to favourable sites in the river valleys. In consequence, woodland regenerated by expanding out from existing pockets and by establishing itself anew. Apart from such farms as may have continued or developed in river valley locations, the communities around the region's margins used it as a grazing resource in balance with their arable on the clays and other soils of adjacent regions. This use explains the siting of many communities around the margins of the region where settlement is poised between the differing agricultural resources of contrasting geologies.

- 2.1.15 Thus it was that, in the centuries around and after the end of the Roman period, the landscape developed which is now thought of as characteristically Sherwood Forest. Low in population, with space enough to attract Scandinavian settlement in the late 9<sup>th</sup> and early 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, identifiable by place names ending in 'by', this was a countryside of large and smaller areas of dense and not so dense oak and birch wood and of large and small tracts of sandland heath with gorse, ferns and grass. The woods served as game reserves, sources of timber and smallwood, and as fodder and grazing, and were in smaller or greater part managed to these ends. Much of the heath originated in areas of Roman woodland clearance, particularly around the southern margins of the region, was kept open by grazing and temporary small areas of cultivation.
- 2.1.16 It was to this landscape, and more particularly to the area south of the Meden, that the term Sherwood was applied. Assuming the "shire" of "Shire-wood" to equate with Nottinghamshire, this name can be little or no older than its first written appearance in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, when Nottinghamshire was first created. The meaning of this name remains uncertain. It may mean no more than the woodland on the border of the Shire. Alternatively, it may refer to much more ancient rights, to woodland resources held by the king, nobility, or communities within Nottinghamshire.
- 2.1.17 In 1086, the Sherwood region was the most sparsely settled area of Nottinghamshire, low in arable, with much woodland almost wholly recorded as wood pasture, exploited by larger settlements around its rim and fewer smaller ones within it. Such was its emptiness that Norman kings soon brought it under Forest Law, probably consolidating existing royal rights, to maintain its stocks of deer and other game. Under Henry II, Forest Law was extended across all of north Nottinghamshire, but this was cut back by Henry III to embrace only the countryside of woods and heaths on the Magnesian Limestone and the Sherwood Sandstones south of the Meden. However, extensive royal woods and game preserves north of the Meden and elsewhere remained subject to the Forest officials, effectively maintaining Forest Law over most of the region throughout the Middle Ages and later.



- 2.1.18 Henry III's redefinition and reaffirmation of the traditional Forest was in part a response to the effects of rising population in generating new settlement and expanding arable agriculture. Initially, the emptiness of the Magnesian Limestone and Sherwood Sandstones and the low value of the profits there, made these suitable areas for the creation of hunting parks and to be donated for the establishment of monasteries. Of the twelve monasteries and nunneries founded in Nottinghamshire, eight were within or immediately adjacent to this area, where sufficient unencumbered land was available to endow them without significant damage to the financial interest of their benefactors. Considerable blocks of land in the Sherwood region thus passed into monastic control. The 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries also saw the expansion of existing settlements and the creation of new ones. By 1300, while the region remained thinly settled and more apparently untamed than the rest of the district, there was little land which was not locked into the economies of royal or monastic estates or of local manors and communities.
- 2.1.19 Indeed, however it may appear to modern communities, this was a highly managed environment in which the central dynamic was the sustainability of one economic regime, the maintenance of the traditional woodland and heathland resource, against the pressures of another, demanding land to till and grazing for animals. Royal and aristocratic parks encompassed a number of functions and land managements. There was woodland for timber and game, heath and grassland for grazing stock and deer, and rabbit warrens and arable fields for foodstuffs and fodder. Resources and activities which might be scattered through widely separated estates elsewhere were brought together in one locality created out of a single area of royal woodland and heath and held in balance by management. Even with positive management, much less without it, the woodland could not be maintained against the economic pressures towards clearance by felling, tillage and grazing.
- 2.1.20 Despite recovering from an apparent failure to replace trees felled in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, which led to a dearth of timber dating to the 14<sup>th</sup> century in buildings, and despite strict control of felling in the Royal woods of Birklands and Bilhaugh, royal interest in the maintenance of woods and heaths of the region was spasmodic. It was at best undermined by the private interests of the local nobility, who supplied the principal officials of the Forest, or by the ancient rights of communities to common pasture, and at worst negated by royal indifference or distraction by other concerns. Royal woods and lands were leased out or granted away, and the application of Forest Law became more a process of raising rents on lands long cleared by individuals and communities than a means of habitat conservation. Throughout the later 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, documentary references paint a picture of continual piecemeal enclosure, assarting and illegal encroachment by the great and the small, individuals and whole communities. Tree by tree almost, the woodland was gradually eroded. By the 16<sup>th</sup> century virtually only the core woods of the surviving royal estates and parks, Birklands, Bilhaugh, Rourwood, a few others on monastic estates and elsewhere, remained.

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Sherwood**

By the later 17<sup>th</sup> century, when royal rights in the Forest had been largely appropriated by the great landowners and after the best trees on the royal estates had been sold off by the Commonwealth, it was difficult to find useful timber in the surviving woods.

- 2.1.21 With so few settlements and so little permanent arable lying within the region, there is little trace of the social and economic changes of the period 1350 to 1600. The area did not remain untouched, however. It may be that the reduced demand for tillage from the reduced population in the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries slowed the degradation of the woods by increasing grazing land outside the area and by decreasing any pressure to change the traditional land uses within it. Equally, the growing importance of animal husbandry in this period could well have been met by the traditional common pasturage owned by communities within and adjacent to the region. Further, animal husbandry, particularly sheep raising, was already well established as a major enterprise on some monastic estates.
- 2.1.22 Common pasture meant there was no need to enclose for animal husbandry, but the region shared in the trend towards farm engrossment and piecemeal enclosures nevertheless. Traditional agricultural practice had long involved supplementing the sometimes small areas of permanent arable, the infield, with temporary enclosures in the Forest. Within these, cultivation was allowed for a limited number of years after which the enclosure was thrown down, the fields levelled and the exhausted soil allowed to revert to scrub, heath and grass. This “Breck” system was to continue unchanged until formal enclosures arrived in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. For now, portions or all of the permanent arable were enclosed, primarily to allow for improved crop rotation and closer stock management. This produced the pattern of relatively small, hedged fields found close into villages bordering the region, particularly on the east, where enclosure was limited. Within the region, however, all or most of the comparatively small open arable fields might be enclosed. All the infield of Carburton, for example, had been enclosed by 1619 and was largely under grass. The region was not isolated from, nor unaffected by, the economic trends and changing agricultural practices of the day, therefore. Rather, both traditional land uses and an ability to adapt predisposed it to meet the changing economic order, when social organisation, agricultural knowledge and techniques developed so as to overcome the inherent difficulties presented by the land.
- 2.1.23 The foundation for economic growth and changes in the landscape was the dissolution of the monasteries. Grants or sales of the monastic sites and estates to leading members of the aristocracy and gentry gave power and influence in the region to a handful of families. For some 200 years these concentrated on converting or replacing monastic buildings, building and rebuilding, to produce great country houses and developing extensive parklands around them for ornament, sport and animal husbandry. The creation of a virtual chain of these properties through the region, from Clumber and Thoresby to Worksop, gave much of it a new name, “The Dukeries”. After the Reformation the aristocratic landowners here began investing

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Sherwood**

in new building and reordering and restocking their parks, and the 18<sup>th</sup> century in particular saw much new development. Many of the aristocratic landowners of this period became progressive agriculturists. They saw profit in timber and undertook large-scale plantation schemes both within their parks, where new species were introduced and the woods served also as ornamentation, and on their estates at large. The legacy of this is still with us in the well-wooded aspect of significant parts of the region, for which these 18<sup>th</sup> century plantations were the foundation. They also invested in the development of agriculture on the sandlands, building upon the mixed farming regimes and diversification of crops, particularly root crops which had been introduced into the area by the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and experimenting with fertilisers and crop rotations. Most importantly, they encouraged their tenant farmers to follow.

- 2.1.24 The result was the enclosure, through a succession of private Acts of Parliament, of most of the open heath and commons in the region and the creation of new farms outside the villages. With few existing land divisions to consider, much of this enclosure was geometrically laid out in field sizes considerably larger than those of earlier enclosed areas. Defined by fences or hedges, dominated by “quickset” hawthorn, this new “surveyor’s” landscape is still a striking feature of the region, on the map and on the ground.
- 2.1.25 The region thus underwent a veritable “Agrarian Revolution” in the later 18<sup>th</sup> century. This was based on the intensification of animal husbandry, particularly sheep rearing, which was sustained by the cultivation of root crops and rotational grass, the fertility of the land being maintained by manure and early artificial fertilisers.
- 2.1.26 The physical framework of this region’s landscape, established at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup>, has been essentially maintained through today. There have been significant alterations, however, and none more marked than the appearance of industry, particularly coal mining. The earliest modern industrial development was the Chesterfield Canal, cut across the region in the 1770s. But it was the advent of deep mining in the 1850s which brought the major impacts. Throughout the later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries coal mines were sunk progressively eastwards across the region, introducing often lofty pithead buildings and structures, and large-scale waste heaps, into the landscape. To house the miners and those who serviced them new villages were built and new estates which have virtually swallowed the original villages to which they were appended. Infrastructure was developed, initially railways and more latterly roads; Worksop developed as a commercial centre.
- 2.1.27 In parallel with industrial development, the agricultural countryside remained relatively prosperous, responding to economic circumstances by changing balances in production. The basic reliance on animal husbandry saw the area through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The First World

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Sherwood**

War put emphasis on corn growing and potatoes, followed by a reversion to livestock after the War. From the 1920s sugar beet began to replace turnips; by 1950 these had all but disappeared from the rotational repertoire. The Second World War again returned the emphasis to corn growing, but this time there was no substantial return to livestock. Government and European policies and the introduction of modern fertilisers have maintained the region's farmlands almost wholly under arable since. In many places this has brought alterations to the enclosed landscape through the demolition of hedgerows and boundaries to create wide open spaces suited to manoeuvring large machinery.

- 2.1.28 The industrial development and agricultural changes of the last 125 years are the latest additions to a long history of landscapes in this area. The combination of these with the landscapes created in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the parks, the woods, the Forestry Commission plantations and the enclosure fields, leaves a distinct impression on the modern visitor.

## **2.2 VISUAL CHARACTER OF THE LANDSCAPE**

### **Introduction**

- 2.2.1 The character of the Sherwood region is strongly influenced by a number of factors. The high level of woodland cover and strong heathy character provide a reminder of the formerly extensive areas of forest and “waste”. A range of features combine to produce a distinctive and sometimes unified landscape; these include rolling landform, scattered areas of grass, bracken and heather heathland, excellent examples of lowland oak/birch woodland, large mature coniferous forests, enclosed arable farmlands, narrow river corridors and ornamental parklands.
- 2.2.2 The undulating landform ensures views of varying distance. Frequently these are of well-wooded skylines; however, in the more open arable areas they are often confined to the crests of the dry valleys. The arable farmlands are, in places, totally devoid of tree cover with the geometric patterns of low hawthorn hedgerows imparting a distinctive, but rather uniform character to the landscape. To the north of the region, farmland becomes the most dominant landscape element; the extent and pattern of woodland cover is markedly different from the landscapes located further south. Scattered pockets of parkland add diversity to the landscape, creating a strong historical sense of place.

### **Landscape Character Parcels**

- 2.2.3 The Sherwood region has been divided into 76 Landscape Description Units [LDUs] of which 25 fall within the Bassetlaw District [Figure 4]. Eight of these units are classed as ‘urban land use’, the remaining 17 were then subdivided into 30 Landscape Character Parcels [LCPs] [Figure 5]. The completed Landscape Character Assessment field survey sheets are included at Appendix B2. This information was then tabulated to help determine the Draft Policy Zone [DPZ] boundaries in preparation for the Landscape Condition and Sensitivity Survey contained at section 2.4.

## **2.3 LANDSCAPE EVOLUTION AND CHANGE**

### **Introduction**

- 2.3.1 This section examines the main forces that have brought about change and evolution within the Sherwood region over recent decades. It does this by discussing how the current structure and pattern of land use has developed, paying particular regard to agriculture, woodland, transport, urban/industrial development, mineral extraction and tourism. It also considers the trends and pressures that may produce landscape change in the future.

### **Agriculture**

- 2.3.2 Historically, agriculture on the sandlands of the Sherwood region has had a more tenuous hold than in other parts of the district. Poor quality soils, with limited moisture retention properties, have created a relatively unstable base to the agricultural economy and this has, over the years, produced wide variations in the pattern and nature of land use. These instabilities have continued into the present century and, to an extent, are still present in the current agricultural system.
- 2.3.3 The sandstone areas are not generally capable of sustaining high quality pasture, and as a consequence most agriculturally productive land has been put to arable use. Before the Second World War arable land was mostly under fodder crops. The sandy soils, highly permeable parent rock and low rainfall averages meant that the chief management aim was to increase the water-holding capacity of the soil. This was done through liberal applications of farmyard manure, the turning in of green crops and the traditional practice of folding sheep in fields. Economic hardships experienced in the 1920s and 1930s led to the abandonment of many sandland farms. Many areas of present heathland originate from these abandoned landholdings.
- 2.3.4 Since the 1940s, technological innovations in agriculture have led to the development of intensive, high input agricultural systems. These systems have overcome many of the traditional constraints to agriculture and have, for the last few decades at least, placed the agricultural economy on a more secure footing. The widespread use of irrigation, coupled with heavy dressings of lime, potassium and phosphorus and also frequent seasonal applications of nitrogen, has ensured consistent yields at levels that were previously unobtainable.
- 2.3.5 The principal crops of the region are cereals, particularly barley and wheat, with potatoes, sugar beet, oilseed rape, field beans, dry peas, carrots and linseed also being grown. Livestock operations are found within most of the parishes of the region.

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Sherwood**

- 2.3.6 As already noted, there are a number of constraints to agricultural production, the severity of these constraints varying widely in response to physical factors such as soil type. Much of the arable land is easily worked; however, compaction and panning can occur if soils are worked too soon after heavy rain. There is also a danger of wind erosion, especially during spring and autumn. The generally low available water capacities of the sandland soils and relatively low rainfall average mean that yields are often lowered by drought.
- 2.3.7 The majority of agricultural land within the region is classified by MAFF as having moderate limitations to agricultural use. The higher quality soils, with sandy loam or loamy sand textures, have better moisture retention capacities and occur in the northern areas of the region. The lower quality agricultural land occurs extensively to the south of the Maun Valley where limitations are imposed by the susceptibility of soil to drought and the presence of pebbles.
- 2.3.8 The heavy reliance on fertiliser and irrigation inputs has created problems that now question the long-term sustainability of the current agricultural system. The Sherwood Sandstone outcrop overlies an extensive aquifer that is utilised as a public drinking water supply. There are concerns about the capacity of the aquifer to supply water for irrigation purposes and this is reflected in the limited availability of water abstraction licences. A more severe problem than this has been associated with the high inputs of nitrogenous fertiliser. Nitrate contamination of the aquifer has now exceeded statutory limits at a number of boreholes.
- 2.3.9 The problems associated with contamination of the aquifer have led to much of the region being designated as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone [NVZ]. The NVZ scheme aimed to reduce nitrate levels by encouraging farmers to restrict applications of both organic and inorganic fertilisers. In addition, four Nitrate Sensitive Areas [NSAs] were designated within Sherwood including Barnby Moor at Retford. The NSA scheme was a voluntary agreement whereby landowners could receive financial payments for reducing nitrate leaching by changing their farming practices. Some or all of their fields falling within the NSA boundary could be entered into the scheme. The overall effect of the NSA scheme has been a reduction in fertiliser and manure applications for certain crops. This has given rise to a reduction in the area of potatoes grown within the NSAs, but has been compensated for by increases elsewhere. With regard to the NVZ scheme, it is doubtful that farming in the future will be significantly affected. There may, however, be little expansion in the area devoted to sheep and pigs because of reduced limits on organic manure.

**Trees and Woodland**

- 2.3.10 The woodland cover of Sherwood is higher now than for many centuries. In 1086 the greatest concentration of woodlands in the County lay within the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region, to the east. The Sherwood Sandstones were of secondary importance despite the presence of Sherwood Forest. The lowest levels of woodland cover are thought to have occurred in the 18<sup>th</sup> century largely as a result of clearance in the preceding centuries.
- 2.3.11 Landscape improvement, game preservation, timber production and fuel supply were the main reasons for increases in woodland cover during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Landscape considerations were particularly influential, with many of the houses, parks and great estates being established on the agriculturally poor sandland soils. Planting was very elaborate and on a large scale, and preceded the laying out of the modern agricultural landscapes that we see today. Currently the Sherwood region is the most wooded part of the district, a large proportion of which is coniferous.
- 2.3.12 There are significant variations in the distribution and pattern of woodland across the region. These variations are one of the most important factors in determining its landscape character. The area between the Maun Valley and Worksop represents the most densely wooded area of the County. This contains the remnants of the historic Sherwood Forest, the emparked lands of the Dukeries, the broad-leaved estate lands and the coniferous infill plantations established in the last 60 years.
- 2.3.13 The main sources of land for post-1920 woodland planting have come from agriculture and waste, the light sandy soils being easily converted to woodland. Plantations were established as large management units by both the Forestry Commission and private estates. Large-scale planting by the Forestry Commission began in the late 1920s and a fivefold 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 to create greater ecological and visual diversity. There have been significant increases in woodland cover within the parkland areas, with the planting and extension of existing parkland trees and plantations. Smaller-scale gains in woodland cover have been made from the planting of former industrial areas and coal tips.
- 2.3.14 Three ancient woodlands, as identified by the 1990 English Nature Inventory of Ancient Woodlands, are found within the region. The areas identified as ancient woodland at Birklands, Bilhaugh and Buck Gates are remnants of the historic Sherwood Forest and contain the best examples of oak-birch woodland in the County, they are also designated SSSIs.



2.3.15 The Ministry of Defence leases a large area of woodland and heathland from the Thoresby Estates, and this is managed in association with Natural England and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.

### **Transportation**

2.3.16 A number of major roads have had an impact upon the region, the most prominent being the A614, which runs in a north-south direction through much of the area before terminating east of Worksop where it connects to the A1. The A60 also runs north-south, whilst the A617 and A620 cut across the region in an east-west direction. The A1 runs through the northern part of Sherwood. A dense network of railway lines were developed to serve the needs of the coal industry. Contraction of this industry in recent decades has led to many of these becoming derelict.

### **Urban and Industrial Development**

2.3.17 The main urban areas are located along the southern and western fringes of the region and include the urban edge of Warsop and Worksop. Along the eastern fringe of the region are Ollerton and East Retford.

2.3.18 The coal industry has played a central role in the economic life of large parts of the region, where much of the area was traditionally dependent upon mining employment. This included the larger town of Worksop as well as the numerous mining villages.

2.3.19 In order to provide new job opportunities and to encourage the economic regeneration of the mining areas the redevelopment of redundant collieries for employment purposes is encouraged. Green after uses, including agriculture, forestry and recreation, are the preferred options for certain rural collieries and spoil tips.

### **Mineral Extraction**

2.3.20 The principal mineral resources exploited in the region are deep-mined coal and Sherwood Sandstone. Both forms of extraction have had a considerable impact on the economy and environment of the region, particularly coal extraction.

2.3.21 Many of the pits in the region were established during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when technical advances in the mining industry enabled wider exploitation of the deep coal

resource. A number of the pits were located next to existing villages and on green field sites in the more rural areas away from the main centres of population. This led to the enlargement of the existing villages and the creation of a number of isolated and free-standing mining communities. Examples of such colliery settlements include that at Edwinstowe, at the southern edge of the district. It was developments like this which brought industrial landscapes into the heart of the region.

- 2.3.22 A number of environmental issues are associated with coal extraction, particularly that of visual intrusion. The visual impact of mine-head developments and spoil disposal is enormous, with many spoil heaps being established prior to current planning legislation when little attention was given to environmental considerations. More recent permissions seek to minimise the visual impact of tipping through attention to grading and shaping details and so reduce the “engineered” appearance of many pit heaps. The Sherwood region has a naturally rolling landform; the opportunities to integrate pit heaps into the landscape are therefore perhaps greater than in certain other parts of the district. Priority is therefore given to the early reclamation of the external visible faces of pit heaps.
- 2.3.23 The premature closure of pits has had major environmental consequences for reclamation, as existing programmes can no longer be achieved. The County Council, UK Coal and the Forestry Commission are working together to develop new proposals to restore such spoil heaps to a mixture of forestry, heathland and public open space.
- 2.3.24 Sandstone extraction generally leaves a moderately deep void and little on-site material, and the options for infilling are limited due to the need to protect the aquifer. Low-level reclamation may be feasible; however, the resulting landform may be unsuitable both visually and in management terms. The area is unsuitable for agricultural after uses because of inherently poor soil types. Woodland and nature conservation after uses are often the most appropriate. Reclamation conditions are favourable for the establishment of native oak and birch woodland and also for the re-creation of heathland habitats.

### **Tourism**

- 2.3.25 Sherwood Forest is one of the major tourist attractions in Nottinghamshire, attracting in excess of one million visitors each year. There are a number of tourist facilities, including a visitor centre at the Sherwood Forest Country Park, car parks and a number of surfaced footpaths. The Forestry Commission promotes public access within Sherwood Pines, a large block of woodland near Edwinstowe. Walking, cycling and horse-riding are the most popular activities. The presence of the Center Parcs holiday village, also near Edwinstowe, is a major tourist attraction. This complex remains one of the regions largest employers. The tourism

industry is likely to play an increasing role in the economy of the Sherwood region, particularly since the decline of the mining industry.

## **2.4 POLICY ZONES**

### **Draft Policy Zones**

- 2.4.1 Following on from the Landscape Character Assessment of each LCP a total of 25 Draft Policy Zones [DPZs] were created [Figure 6]. A table showing the derivation of each DPZ is included at Appendix C2. A subsequent Landscape Condition and Sensitivity Assessment was then undertaken of each DPZ, this information is detailed on the Landscape Condition and Sensitivity Assessment field survey sheets which are included at Appendix D2.

## 2.5 SPECIES LIST

2.5.1 The following list includes native tree and shrub species that are commonly found within Sherwood and are suitable for inclusion in planting schemes. These are important for determining the area's regional character. A range of other native species may also be appropriate to particular locations or sites. In these cases professional advice should be sought.

● Dominant Species                      ○ Other Species Present

<b>TREES</b>	<b>Woodlands/ Plantations</b>	<b>Hedges</b>	<b>Hedgerow Trees</b>	<b>Wet Areas/Streamsides</b>	<b>Individual/ Parkland Trees</b>
Alder (Common)	○			●	
Ash	○	○	●	●	
Beech	○				
Birch (Downy)	○				
Birch (Silver)	●	○	○		
Cherry (Wild)		○	○		
Crab Apple		○			
Elm (English)		○			
Elm (Wych)	○	○	○		
Lime (Small Leaved)	○				
Lime (Large Leaved and Hybrid)		○	○		
Maple (Field)		●	○		
Oak (Common)	●	●	●		
Oak (Sessile)	○		○		
Pine (Scots)	●		○		

## Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Sherwood

● Dominant Species                      ○ Other Species Present

<b>TREES</b>	<b>Woodlands/ Plantations</b>	<b>Hedges</b>	<b>Hedgerow Trees</b>	<b>Wet Areas/Streamsides</b>	<b>Individual/ Parkland Trees</b>
Rowan	○		○		
Sweet Chestnut	○		○		
Willow (Crack)	○			●	
Willow (White)				○	

<b>SHRUBS</b>	<b>Woodlands/ Plantations</b>	<b>Hedges</b>	<b>Hedgerow Trees</b>	<b>Wet Areas/Streamsides</b>
Blackthorn		●		
Buckthorn (Purging)		○		
Broom	○	○		
Dogwood (Common)		○		
Gorse	○	○		
Hawthorn	○	●	○	○
Hawthorn (Midland)		○		
Hazel	○	●		
Holly	○	●		
Privet (Wild)		○		
Rosa Sp.	○	○		
Spindle		○		

## **3.0 MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE RIDGE**

### **3.1 PHYSICAL AND HUMAN INFLUENCES**

#### **Introduction**

- 3.1.1 The Magnesian Limestone Ridge forms the southern most part of a narrow limestone ridge that extends from Nottingham along the western edge of the County to Oldcotes, then northwards through Yorkshire to a point beyond Ripon, where the ridge disappears under a thick mantle of glacial drift. Although never more than a few miles in width, this region forms a distinct belt of rising ground along the eastern fringe of the Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire Coalfields. In the central and southern parts of the region, coalfield influences spread onto the limestone ridge and large mining settlements with their associated pit heaps, now restored, are now a prominent feature in the landscape.
- 3.1.2 Despite the impact of coal mining and more recent urbanisation of the landscape, the Magnesian Limestone Ridge still retains a very distinctive character which reflects the traditional pattern of land use and settlement within the region. In order to fully understand the character of the region, however, it is necessary to understand the factors that have contributed to its formation. The underlying geology, for example, has a strong influence on the character of the landscape, not only affecting landform, soils and vegetation, but also the human activities dependent upon it. The appearance of the land is in turn shaped by the results of man's activities, which have changed natural vegetation patterns to suit human needs and introduced man-made elements into the landscape.

#### **The Shape of the Land**

- 3.1.3 The Magnesian Limestone Ridge is closely associated with a narrow belt of Permian rocks which outcrop along the western edge of the County. These rocks comprise two divisions, the Magnesian Limestone and the Permian Marl. The Magnesian Limestone is a compact, partially crystalline rock which provides good building stone, it is the relative hardness of this formation that determines the lie of the land. The softer Permian Marl, which consists predominantly of red clays, generally gives rise to a more subdued relief, the essential trend of which is controlled by the underlying limestone. Both beds diminish in thickness towards the southern end of the outcrop.
- 3.1.4 The Magnesian Limestone gives rise to a low escarpment which dips eastwards under the overlying Triassic sandstones of the Sherwood formation. The western edge of this

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

escarpment is defined by a steep scarp slope overlooking the Nottinghamshire Coalfield. This scarp has an irregular outline in many places, where small streams draining westwards off the ridge have cut deep valleys into the underlying Coal Measures.

- 3.1.5 The limestone escarpment has a pronounced dip slope, with an average fall of 90 metres from the western edge of the region to its junction with the overlying Sherwood Sandstone formation in the east. The higher parts of this dip slope form a series of rolling summits which are particularly prominent in the south and to the south-west of Bassetlaw where they average 170 metres in height. The prominence of the escarpment in this area is due to the thickness and compactness of the limestone, where the limestone becomes thinner and more sandy in composition and the topography becomes less pronounced.
- 3.1.6 The limestone Nottinghamshire is largely hidden beneath the Permian Marl, which gives rise to a more subdued, gently rolling landform. Within this area the main topographic features of any note are a series of deep, narrow valleys cut into the underlying limestone by larger streams originating higher up the dip slope in Derbyshire. Prominent valleys have been formed by the River Poulter at Nether Langwith, the Milford Brook at Creswell, and the River Ryton at Shireoaks near Worksop. At Creswell, the Milford Brook occupies a gorge bounded by limestone cliffs. This gorge, known as Creswell Crags, is famous for its caves which have yielded important evidence of prehistoric man.

### **Soils [to be read in conjunction with Figure 7]**

- 3.1.7 On the Magnesian Limestone, fertile, free-draining calcareous brown earth soils have developed. The soils have a fine loamy texture with a characteristic brown subsoil overlying the limestone. The soils are productive and easy to work, supporting a wide range of crops. The soils developed on the Permian Marl have a much heavier texture, with slowly permeable clay subsoils placing limitations on their agricultural use. These soils, which are found around Worksop can remain waterlogged for long periods in winter and spring. However, with drainage and good management they can produce moderate yields of cereals.

### **Landscape History**

- 3.1.8 There is still much to learn about the development of the landscapes of the Magnesian Limestone Ridge. Considered to have been a remote wooded area, of late interest to settlers, it has often been considered only as part of Sherwood Forest. While this latter is indeed true, it is not the whole story which, for the want of detailed study, can only be sketched in outline and with some imprecision.

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

- 3.1.9 Little coherent can be said about the prehistoric and Roman landscapes of the region. Evidence of some of the earlier human occupation and activity in the East Midlands, during the later Ice Ages and after, comes from Creswell Crags. The caves of the limestone gorge provided shelter for the hunter-gatherers who 12,000 years ago moved through a landscape which was gradually changing from tundra to birch and pine forest and would eventually develop into mixed oak forest, with alder, oak, elm and lime. While Creswell is the best known and studied, other gorges in the Magnesian Limestone region also have caves which were occupied by both people and animals at these early dates, and later.
- 3.1.10 Later human activity on the Magnesian Limestone Ridge is indicated by the stone tools and fabrication debris of hunter-gatherer groups and of the first farmers and settlers of the Neolithic and the Early Bronze Age, which are found on the surfaces of ploughed fields. The effect of these people on the landscape can only be guessed, but it is to be expected that clearance for agriculture and the grazing of domesticated livestock, after 5000 BC, were the small beginnings of a long-term process of woodland diminution. Such human interference in the forests is often seen as the cause of a national decline in elm after 4000 BC and more locally of lime and pine and an increase in hazel after 1600 BC.
- 3.1.11 Modern land uses, and perhaps a lack of survey, have resulted in few cropmarks [differential crop growth over buried archaeological remains] in this region. There is however no reason to believe that it was any less favoured than others for settlement during later prehistory and the Roman period. It is to be expected that by the end of the first millennium BC the woodland here will have been substantially cleared and the brown earths cultivated. As in later generations, woodland may have been largely confined to those areas too steep to plough or too inaccessible for grazing. Such woodland as there was, during the Roman period at least, is likely to have been managed, much probably as coppice. Coppiced hazel from the Roman site at Menagerie Wood, in the Sherwood region outside Worksop, might have been brought in from here.
- 3.1.12 Roman settlement on the Magnesian Limestone Ridge is demonstrated by finds of Roman pottery and a number of coin hoards. Roman villas, including that at Oldcotes would have been the centre for a large estate. Lying outside the normal distribution of villas, it may have more in common with the villas of Yorkshire which show a marked attraction to the Magnesian Limestone. At the risk of reading more than a mutual appreciation of the soil qualities of the limestone into this common choice of geology, this distribution may reflect a border territory of greater antiquity between the Iron Age tribes. This may be an origin for the long-lived importance of the north-western boundary of Nottinghamshire as a division between regions and kingdoms in the Saxon period.



## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

- 3.1.13 What happened at the end of the Roman period is not clear, but the result was a dramatic change in the landscape of the Magnesian Limestone Ridge. The region will have shared in the general decline in population during the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries and experienced social and economic change as Roman institutions and organisations withered. Settlement contracted towards the western margins against the clays of the Coal Measures or river valleys, where there was a greater variety of resources. Woodland regenerated in some areas, particularly in those which were more marginal. This goes some way to explaining the well-wooded aspect of the north-western county border, for the boundary runs along the Magnesian Limestone to include only its eastern fringes in Nottinghamshire and the landscape here needs to be read against developments in Derbyshire. In other areas, perhaps greater in proportion, woodland regeneration was probably limited and the change was to limestone heath maintained by the grazing of stock.
- 3.1.14 In 1086 the Magnesian Limestone Ridge was part of the most thinly populated area of Nottinghamshire. Most communities, particularly the larger ones in the south, were located along its western edge where they could both cultivate the Coal Measures clays and exploit the woodland, grazing and game of the Magnesian Limestone. In the north west of the County communities were on the whole small, situated by rivers or streams, and had small areas of arable while exploiting the woods and heaths on both the Magnesian Limestone and Sherwood Sandstone for grazing. Domesday Book records considerable tracts of woodland in the region, but much of this was wood pasture, which points to the mixture of heaths and woods already described, partly on the basis of the Domesday Book entries.
- 3.1.15 The general emptiness of the region encouraged the Norman kings to bring it under Forest Law. It is likely that the southern part of the Magnesian Limestone Ridge, the part entirely within Nottinghamshire, had been traditionally part of Sherwood. Assuming the “shire” of “Shire-wood” to equate with the County, this name can be little or no older than its first written appearance in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, when Nottinghamshire was first created. The meaning behind the name remains obscure. It may mean no more than the woodland on the border of the Shire; the woodland which distinguishes being within from being without the Shire. Alternatively, it may refer to much more ancient rights to its resources held by the King, nobility or communities elsewhere in the County. Under Henry II, Forest Law was extended across all of Nottinghamshire north of the Trent but this was cut back by Henry III in 1232 to embrace only the countryside of the Magnesian Limestone Ridge and the Sherwood region south of the River Meden. Northwards, however, the extensive royal woods and game preserves which extended into the Magnesian Limestone remained subject to the Forest officials, and to all intents and purposes still under Forest Law.
- 3.1.16 Henry III’s redefinition and reaffirmation of the traditional Forest was in part a response to the effect of rising population generating new settlement and expanding arable and grazing. As

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

we have already seen, this process had begun much earlier on the Magnesian Limestone Ridge but in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries became more marked, with existing villages growing and new communities appearing. The comparative emptiness of this region and the neighbouring Sherwood region in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, and the low value of their profits, made these suitable areas for the creation of hunting parks and donation for the establishment of monasteries. Of the twelve monasteries and nunneries founded in Nottinghamshire, eight were within or immediately adjacent to these two regions, with three being on the Magnesian Limestone and two more lying close by. At this time there was so little land in the region that was not locked into the economies of other monastic estates or local manors and communities, that the endowment promised to this new foundation is unlikely to have been fully completed.

- 3.1.17 The woodland of the Magnesian Limestone Ridge was under continual pressure during the Middle Ages due to village growth and settlement expansion by way of individual farms and hamlets. Documents referring to the region regularly mention timber-cutting for building, usually carefully controlled by the King, and woodland clearance and encroachment by both individuals and communities. By the later Middle Ages, woodland cover will have become very patchy except where conserved by the management of monastic estates and in the parks of a few lords who maintained detailed interest in the affairs of their estates. Even here, woods will have been sectors or compartments only within the parks which throughout the Middle Ages were increasingly turned over to tillage and the grazing of livestock. In general, it appears that more woods survived in the north of the region than in the south where village and community growth was more significant.
- 3.1.18 Communities on the Magnesian Limestone Ridge doubtless suffered as much as any other in the Black Death of 1349 and subsequent visitations of plague. The effect of these in the 14<sup>th</sup> century reduced the national population by over one third. In Nottinghamshire, it appears that outbreaks of disease were not consistent from one place to another; while one community might be struck badly, another might escape almost completely. Clear indication of both its presence and power in the region comes from the monasteries, the heads of which all succumbed in the year 1349-1350. There is however no evidence that any community in this region disappeared as a direct consequence of the plague. The 14<sup>th</sup> century epidemics did however usher in a period of protracted change in society and economy. With reduced population and social change, there was a swing away from arable production towards livestock husbandry. In the south of the Magnesian Limestone Ridge, where communities' arable was largely on the Coal Measures clays, this probably had comparatively little effect in landscape terms, as grazing was already the principal land use on the Magnesian Limestone. In the north of the region and for those communities which were largely on the limestone, some reorganisation was probably necessary as over the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries a farming regime of convertible husbandry was established. How novel this was may be doubted, for it

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

is likely that all the communities using the limestone heaths and woods followed the same practice as those involved on the Sherwood Sandstones, of making temporary enclosures and cultivating them for a fixed period of years after which they were allowed to revert to their former state. In these areas also, the need to enclose in order to achieve flexibility in land use may not have been pressing, as the fields of the smaller settlements and individual farms may have already been made up of closes originating in piecemeal assarts from woodland.

- 3.1.19 The 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries saw a reinforcement of one form of landscape in the Magnesian Limestone Ridge, that of parks associated with the country houses of the nobility and gentry. The transfer of monastic sites and estates into lay hands was in part the foundation of this, as was the fashion for displaying status through building and ornamentation. Monastic woods and hedges at places like Wallingwells did not disappear, therefore, but were maintained by the new owners and reinforced by new planting. New parks were added to ancient manor houses leaving the older mediaeval parks to the farmland they had already largely become. New houses, such as Shireoaks Hall, were equipped with parks and ornamental gardens. This parkland contributed and still contributes to the maintenance of a wooded aspect in the Magnesian Limestone Ridge, which was reinforced by the larger ornamental gardens and plantations of the wealthy around their houses in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 3.1.20 With much of its area given over to common grazing, enclosure only became general in the Magnesian Limestone Ridge during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. In that age of agricultural improvement and development, the common wastes were considered to be anachronistic and inefficient. The market for animal products was expanding. Industry was developing in West Nottinghamshire bringing in new population, and the canal and river network gave access to further afield. Laid out by surveyors, this enclosure landscape is still visible on the map and on the ground in the large regular and rectangular fields which contrast with the more piecemeal fields around their periphery.
- 3.1.21 Animal husbandry dominated the agricultural economy of the region during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but the suitability of much of its soils for cultivation is reflected by a rise in arable from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Largescale conversion to arable during the Second World War was maintained thereafter by government and EEC farming policies. Increased mechanisation resulted as elsewhere, in the loss of hedgerow and other boundaries, but while sometimes locally dramatic this is less marked than in some other landscape regions in the County.
- 3.1.22 It was industry which created the modern landscape of the Magnesian Limestone Ridge, particularly in the south. There had been industrial activity, small-scale and local, throughout the Middle Ages and after. Stone quarrying was perhaps the most significant of these, supplying prestige buildings such as churches and manor houses. Equally, the local

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

importance of charcoal and lime burning and of corn milling, powered by both wind and water, should not be ignored. As already mentioned, wool processing and cloth making were important and these were the foundation for the first phase of industrial expansion in the later 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, which centred on textile production. Through both the development of domestic framework knitting and the construction of textile mills, people were drawn into the region, beginning a rise in population. Many of the new mills and the houses of their workers in towns, villages and the countryside were built in local stone. This perpetuated the natural tradition of the region, which had begun with the houses of the nobility and gentry in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and had continued with other larger communities. In a region where stone was more readily available than brick, it was natural that, as humbler dwellings were improved, stone should be used. By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, even the most humble dwelling was likely to be built in stone or, depending on locality, stone and brick. In consequence, the farms and houses of the region still bestow upon it a distinctive building character.

- 3.1.23 Some of the development for textile production was locally very significant, with large mill buildings and water engineering to power them, as may still be seen at Nether Langwith. The major and more general transformation came with the development of deep mining in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Pit heads, waste heaps, and housing now become major landscape features and the rural, agricultural character of many villages was submerged. Even more significantly, the infrastructure to serve the pits and their communities cut across and disrupted the earlier patterns of the landscape. The later addition of tramways and railways paid no particular respect to existing boundaries. After the Second World War, although railways continued to be important for bulk transport of coal in particular, they were overtaken for other purposes by road transport. Road construction and improvements and continued expansion of housing have therefore been major elements in more recent landscape development.
- 3.1.24 For all the modern development, the Magnesian Limestone Ridge remains an area in which a long history can be seen in its landscape. Together with the Nottinghamshire Coalfield, the depth and interest of this landscape is too little appreciated. It is certainly under researched in almost every dimension, including its industrial heritage. Improving both the understanding and appreciation of the history of change and continuity, and of the forces behind these, is essential to maintaining and enhancing its landscape character.
- 3.1.25 Landscape types could occur at any location within the country where there are similar physical resources and historical patterns of land use. In reality the landscape types possess a distinctively local character, because they share the broad characteristics of the regional character area, or represent a particular aspect of that character.

## **3.2 VISUAL CHARACTER OF THE LANDSCAPE**

### **Introduction**

- 3.2.1 The Magnesian Limestone Ridge is a settled agricultural region whose character is strongly influenced by the nature of the underlying geology. This is reflected not only in the shape of the land, but also in the associated pattern of land use and settlement. The land is shaped in the form of an elevated escarpment, for the most part gently rolling, but in places deeply dissected by narrow, steep-sided river valleys, while the historical development of the region is reflected in the surface pattern of large estates, enclosed commons and small rural villages. Together with the unifying influence of limestone as a locally distinctive building material, these are the regional characteristics that differentiate the Magnesian Limestone Ridge from surrounding areas.
- 3.2.2 The spread of the coal industry into the Magnesian Limestone Ridge during the 20<sup>th</sup> century was associated with the development of new mining settlements throughout the region. However, despite the distinctly urban style of these settlements, most are fairly self-contained, and in most areas there has been little development within the intervening countryside. Consequently, the Magnesian Limestone Ridge remains essentially rural in character and even in the more heavily urbanised parts of the region there is usually a marked distinction between the built environment and the surrounding countryside. Local variation in landscape character thus continues to be determined largely by differences in the physical make-up of the region, rather than the degree of urbanisation in any particular area.

### **Landscape Character Parcels**

- 3.2.3 The Magnesian Limestone Ridge has been divided into 53 Landscape Description Units [LDUs] of which 13 fall within the Bassetlaw District [Figure 8]. Three of these units are classed as 'urban land use', the remaining 10 were then subdivided into 27 Landscape Character Parcels [LCPs] [Figure 9]. The completed Landscape Character Assessment field survey sheets are included at Appendix B3. This information was then tabulated to help determine the Draft Policy Zone [DPZ] boundaries in preparation for the Landscape Condition and Sensitivity survey contained at section 3.4.

### **3.3 LANDSCAPE EVOLUTION AND CHANGE**

#### **Introduction**

- 3.3.1 This section examines the main forces that have brought about change and evolution within the Magnesian Limestone Ridge over recent decades. It does this by discussing how the current structure and pattern of land use has developed, paying particular regard to agriculture, woodland, transport, industrial/residential development and mineral extraction. It also considers the trends and pressures that may produce landscape change in the future.

#### **Agriculture**

- 3.3.2 Although the Magnesian Limestone Ridge has been exploited for its productive soils and natural resources since Palaeolithic times, the area has traditionally been sparsely settled, and has been subject to fluctuating populations over time.
- 3.3.3 During the Middle Ages, there was a move away from arable cropping towards grazing, mainly by sheep, in large unenclosed commons. This continued up to the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, when the commons were enclosed. Animal husbandry dominated the economy during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first half of 20<sup>th</sup> century, but the suitability of the soils for cultivation meant that this gradually gave way to arable production. The Second World War was probably the most significant period of change as large areas of land were ploughed up for arable cropping. Most of the region contains high quality agricultural land, with poorer areas located between Worksop and Langold.
- 3.3.4 In the river valleys, wet meadows and pastoral land uses have continued to be dominant, whilst elsewhere on the free-draining soils most of the land is cultivated, particularly to the north of the area. Other areas where pasture is present are around Holbeck and Cuckney, indicating heavier and less well-drained soils. Arable crops include wheat, oats and barley, with a smaller acreage of potatoes, sugar beet, peas and beans.
- 3.3.5 Farm holdings in the area are generally moderate to large, and the regular field pattern indicates a recent enclosure, typically bounded by well-trimmed hawthorn hedges. Mechanisation has resulted in some loss of hedgerows and other boundaries, but whilst this is locally significant, overall it is less marked than in many other regions in the County.

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

### **Trees and Woodland**

- 3.3.6 A significant proportion of woodland is associated with a number of parkland estates, which developed from earlier monastic estates. Outside of the parkland areas woods are generally scattered. Today the region has a low proportion of coniferous woodland, and is one of the only areas in the County whose woodland area decreased during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Losses have been due mainly to urban, industrial, and new road development. The historical development of the Magnesian Limestone Ridge has meant that a number of ancient woodlands remain, including Cow Close Wood, Lord Stubbins Wood, Owday Wood and Rough Piece.

### **Industrial and Mineral Extraction**

- 3.3.7 The area is associated with coal mining and limestone quarrying. Limestone is the only hard rock of any economic interest within the County widely used in road construction and as a building material. The softer stone is more suitable for ornamental stonework.
- 3.3.8 Reclamation of existing quarries by filling is rare because of poor access, lack of soil conservation and groundwater problems. Within urban areas quarry floors have often been built on.
- 3.3.9 The region formed the initial location in the County of deep-coal mining into the concealed coalfield, with the first of such collieries being established at Shireoaks in 1859. As with the Coal Measures, deep mining has had a significant impact upon this area, both in the legacy of spoil heaps and associated colliery development and also in the network of railway lines used to serve the mines. The decline of the industry, with 25 pits closed in Nottinghamshire since 1980, has caused economic disruption and further changes to the local landscape. There are no active mines remaining within the area and reclamation is ongoing, as well as measures to counter subsidence problems. Various initiatives remain under way to stimulate economic regeneration of the coalfield with a wider range of amenity is being explored.

### **Urbanisation**

- 3.3.10 Historically the Magnesian Limestone Ridge has been the most thinly populated part of the County. At the time of the Domesday Book, most communities were located along the western edge where the exposed coalfield could be exploited as well as the grazing and game of the Magnesian Limestone. To the north west, communities were focused on rivers or streams, and the bulk of the area was left as wood pasture.

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

- 3.3.11 The first phase of industrial expansion occurred in the later 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, centred on textile production. The major transformation in urban and industrial development came with the development of deep mining in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 3.3.12 Today, the region retains a rural character within the Bassetlaw district, with the exception of Worksop, settlement consists mainly of villages. Shireoaks, Langwith and Warsop are specifically associated with coal mining. Further south the region is now densely populated with main urban areas centred around the industrial base.
- 3.3.13 Roads, railways and the Chesterfield Canal have made a significant impact on the Magnesian Limestone Ridge. The A57, A60 and A634 are dominant roads serving the region within Bassetlaw. The railway network includes lines from Worksop to Mansfield and from Worksop to Sheffield in the west and Lincoln in the east. North of Worksop the area is poorly served by rail. Some of the former mineral lines have been converted to greenways. The former dominance of freight on rail has been overtaken by the more environmentally damaging road freight since the Second World War.

### **3.4 POLICY ZONES**

#### **Draft Policy Zones**

- 3.4.1 Following on from the Landscape Character Assessment of each LCP a total of 14 Draft Policy Zones [DPZs] were created [Figure 10]. A table showing the derivation of each DPZ is included at Appendix C3. A subsequent Landscape Condition and Sensitivity Assessment was then undertaken of each DPZ, this information is detailed on the Landscape Condition and Sensitivity Assessment field survey sheets which are included at Appendix D3.



### 3.5 SPECIES LIST

3.5.1 The following list includes native tree and shrub species that are commonly found within the Magnesian Limestone Ridge and are suitable for inclusion in planting schemes. These are important for determining the area's regional character. A range of other native species may also be appropriate to particular locations or sites. In these cases professional advice should be sought.

● Dominant Species                      ○ Other Species Present

<b>TREES</b>	<b>Woodlands/ Plantations</b>	<b>Hedges</b>	<b>Hedgerow Trees</b>	<b>Wet Areas/Streamsides</b>	<b>Individual/ Parkland Trees</b>
Alder (Common)	○	○	○	●	
Ash	●	○	●	●	
Aspen	○	○		○	
Beech	○	○	○		
Birch (Silver)	○	○	○		
Cherry (Wild)	○	○	○		
Chestnut (Sweet)	○				
Coniferous Sp.	○				
Crab Apple	○	○	○		
Elm (English)	○	○	○		
Elm (Wych)	○	○	○		
Hornbeam	○				
Lime (Small Leaved)	○	○	○		
Lime (Large Leaved and Hybrid)	○	○	○		

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

● Dominant Species      ○ Other Species Present

<b>TREES</b>	<b>Woodlands/ Plantations</b>	<b>Hedges</b>	<b>Hedgerow Trees</b>	<b>Wet Areas/Streamsides</b>	<b>Individual/ Parkland Trees</b>
Maple (Field)	○	●	○		
Oak (Common)	●	○	●	○	○
Oak (Pendunculate)	○				
Sycamore	○				
Willow (Crack)	○	○	○	●	
Willow (White)	○	○	○	○	
Yew	○				

<b>SHRUBS</b>	<b>Woodlands/ Plantations</b>	<b>Hedges</b>	<b>Hedgerow Trees</b>	<b>Wet Areas/Streamsides</b>
Blackthorn	○	○		○
Blackthorn (Purging)		○		
Dogwood (Common)	○	○		
Guelder Rose	○	○		○
Hawthorn	●	●	○	○
Hawthorn (Midland)	○	○	○	
Hazel	○	○		
Holly	○	○	○	
Ivy	○			
Osier	○	○		○

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

● Dominant Species      ○ Other Species Present

<b>SHRUBS</b>	<b>Woodlands/ Plantations</b>	<b>Hedges</b>	<b>Hedgerow Trees</b>	<b>Wet Areas/Streamsides</b>
Privet (Wild)	○	○		
Rosa Spp.	○	○		
Willow (Goat)	○	○		○
Willow (Grey)	○	○		○

## **4.0 IDLE LOWLANDS**

### **4.1 PHYSICAL AND HUMAN INFLUENCES**

#### **Introduction**

- 4.1.1 The Idle Lowlands, or the Humberhead Levels, form the southern part of an extensive low-lying region which extends northwards from Bassetlaw to the Humber Estuary. Much of this region consists of sparsely inhabited levels and former carrlands, which are now intensively cultivated for arable production. Most of the settlements in the region are located on “islands” of higher ground, including the lower-lying sandlands between Retford and Doncaster. Within Bassetlaw the Idle Lowlands are closely associated with the basin of the River Idle and its tributary, the Ryton. These basins, which extend to approximately 160 square kilometres, are roughly triangular in shape, with their southern apex at Retford. They are bordered by the Sherwood region to the south west, and by the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands to the east.
- 4.1.2 Despite the draining of the levels and the impact of coal mining in the Doncaster area, the Idle Lowlands still retain a distinctive character which is reflected in the range and pattern of different landscapes that occur within the region. In order to fully appreciate the nature of these landscapes, it is necessary to understand the factors that have contributed to their formation. The underlying geology, for example, has a strong influence on the character of the landscape, not only in the way in which it affects landform, soils and vegetation, but also in the human activities dependent upon it. The appearance of the land is in turn shaped by the results of man’s activities, changing natural vegetation patterns to suit human needs and introducing man-made elements into the landscape.

#### **The Shape of the Land**

- 4.1.3 To understand the physical influences that have shaped the character of the Idle Lowlands, it is necessary to look at the wider regional picture. The greater part of the region, which drains to the Humber Estuary, is floored by a variable thickness of fluvio-glacial and lacustrine drift, overlain in places by more recent deposits of alluvium and peat. These deposits originated some 18,000 years ago during the last Ice Age, when ice sheets blocked the Humber to the north. When the ice sheets retreated, rivers and streams were left flowing in an unstable, braided manner across the now dry lake floor. Since the whole area was only a little above sea level, these slow moving rivers and streams deposited successive banks of silt, sand and gravel. As sea levels began to rise at the end of the Ice Age [(7,000 years ago)], alluvium was deposited over the lowest-lying areas and peat began to develop where drainage was

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**

### **Idle Lowlands**

impeded. This was essentially the beginning of the marsh and fen landscape, which persisted in modified form until recent times.

- 4.1.4 The most extensive tracts of flat, low-lying land, or levels, occur in the area to the north of Gringley on the Hill. This area, which extends northwards well beyond the district boundary, is associated with a broad, vaguely defined plain, formerly occupied by the River Idle. Levels also occur elsewhere in the region, but for the most part they occur on a smaller scale, often in basins contained by higher ground. Despite the fact that they have nearly all been comprehensively drained, the levels of the Idle Lowlands continue to be one of the most distinguishing features of the region.
- 4.1.5 Where the underlying drift is not covered by alluvium and peat it tends to form areas of land that are raised above the surrounding levels. This drift consists mainly of fluvio-glacial sands and gravels, and in the Doncaster area it forms a series of low rounded hills and terraces. Many of these sandlands are raised by no more than a few metres, but where they are surrounded by lower-lying levels this is often enough to create the impression of being on a low hill. This effect is particularly apparent at Misson, where the village is situated on an “island” of higher ground surrounded by former wetland.
- 4.1.6 Around the edge of the region, where the drift starts to thin out, the underlying Permo-Triassic bedrock is revealed as a series of higher ridges, often fringed by lower-lying sandlands. These ridges, which for the most part rise to over 30 metres in height, are orientated in a general north-south direction, reflecting the overall structural alignment of the region. There are three distinct bands of Permo-Triassic strata. The oldest is the Magnesian Limestone, which forms a gently rising escarpment along the western fringe of the region. The limestone dips eastwards and is overlain by a less well-defined belt of Triassic sandstone. This is an extension of the Sherwood Sandstone formation which takes its name from the region to the south. The sandstone is heavily dissected into a series of discrete hills and ridges, separated by low-lying alluvial basins. Two of these, at Whitewater Common and the valley of the River Torne, separate the sandstone hills from the adjoining limestone escarpment. Where it is not covered in drift, the sandstone is characterised by numerous dry valleys which reflect the freedraining nature of the underlying bedrock. Some of the higher hills, which rise to 40 metres or more, have a capping of glacial drift. The wooded Barrow Hills, for example, form a particularly prominent local feature. Elsewhere the covering of fluvio-glacial drift creates a more rounded and rolling topography which merges gradually into the adjoining lower-lying terraces.
- 4.1.7 To the south of the Barrow Hills, another enclosed alluvial basin separates the Sherwood Sandstone from the next ridge of high ground to the east of Retford. The latter is formed by a belt of Mercia Mudstone, which defines the eastern edge of the region. The mudstone forms a

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Idle Lowlands**

prominent escarpment, which again dips gently eastwards, this time into the Trent Valley. The escarpment is truncated along its northern edge, and between Everton and Misterton there is a pronounced scarp which overlooks the flat carrlands to the north.

- 4.1.8 An outlier of Mercia Mudstone occurs just beyond the county boundary to form another area of high ground between Haxey and Epworth. This area is joined to Debdhill above Misterton by a slightly raised ridge of blown sand, which separates the Idle levels from the washlands of the River Trent.

### **Soils, Vegetation and Land Use [to be read in conjunction with Figure 11]**

- 4.1.9 The pattern of soils in the Idle Lowlands shows a very close relationship to the underlying geology. Free-draining sandy rocks, in places affected by groundwater, have developed on the fluvio-glacial sandlands, while heavier gleyed soils and peat have formed in the intervening alluvial levels.
- 4.1.10 The sandlands, despite their inherently low fertility, are well suited for arable and horticultural cropping. The light sandy soils are easily worked and with adequate manuring, or dressing of artificial fertiliser, are capable of growing a wide range of crops. The fact that the Idle sandlands have historically supported a traditional agricultural economy is reflected in the pattern of small rural settlements in the area. These are nearly all located on dry sites next to lower-lying terraces, which in the past were affected by seasonal waterlogging. The watertable has been extensively lowered in these areas by arterial drainage, however, and the terraces are now cropped in much the same way as the surrounding dry sandlands.
- 4.1.11 Where the fluvio-glacial drift thins to reveal the underlying Sherwood Sandstone, the soils tend to be thinner and more impoverished. Such soils, which are particularly common in the Sherwood region to the south, occur on the Barrow Hills and on the low plateau to the north and west of Bawtry. Both these areas have always been of marginal agricultural value and consequently the land has only been brought into cultivation in relatively recent times.
- 4.1.12 A significant area of the sandstone has never been agriculturally improved and is currently used for commercial forestry. Historically, however, the soils would have supported a dry heathland habitat, perhaps with scattered remnants of seminatural oak woodland. Heathland develops naturally on nutrient poor acidic soils, known as podsols. These are formed when minerals and organic matter are leached out of soil surface horizons by rainfall. Podsolised subsoils can still be found in places under remnants of semi-natural woodland and elsewhere on land cleared for agriculture in recent decades. No large areas of heathland have survived,

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**

### **Idle Lowlands**

but their former extent is reflected by the widespread occurrence of bracken and other remnant heathy vegetation.

- 4.1.13 A very different range of soils has developed on the alluvial levels, and historically these supported a quite different pattern of land use from the adjoining sandlands. On the lowest-lying sites along the River Idle, and on the former carrlands to the east of Misson, peaty soils have developed over the underlying alluvial and fluvio-glacial drift. Although most of this flat land is now drained by pumps into the embanked River Idle, these soils would have been severely waterlogged in their natural state. It is only since the advent of arterial drainage that these areas have been brought into intensive agricultural use. The dark humus topsoils are inherently fertile and easily worked and a wide range of root and horticultural crops, with cereals, is now grown on the Idle carrlands. Where drainage has only been partially effective, as along the Idle between Newington and Scrooby, much of the land is still managed as permanent pasture.
- 4.1.14 Slowly permeable clayey soils are found along the valley of the River Ryton at Whitewater Common and on the levels adjoining the River Idle to the east of Lound. Such soils are well suited to grassland and the traditional pattern of land use has, until recently, been for permanent pasture. Arable cropping is now more common, but despite the effects of drainage these low-lying areas are still affected by seasonal flooding. Permanent pasture is still the dominant land use along much of the Ryton Valley between Scrooby and Blyth.

#### **Landscape History**

- 4.1.15 Descriptions of the Idle Lowlands are mostly based upon the Roman landscapes of marsh and fen, and the modern history of agricultural improvement following drainage. Such accounts pay scant attention to the variety in even the medieval landscapes, let alone the long and complex history of earlier millennia. The region does, however, have a long and interesting history of human occupation, some of which can still be read in the present day landscape, although the changed environment increasingly demands a knowledgeable eye, while much is still buried awaiting further study.
- 4.1.16 The prehistoric landscapes of the Idle Lowlands mainly lie buried beneath and within the alluvium and peat that cover much of the region. The early hunter-gathering communities lived in a landscape of rivers and woodland at first characterised by oak, elm and hazel, which after 5000 BC became dominated by alder, oak, lime and hazel. Evidence of their presence comes from stone tools found in the upcast of drainage ditches, in gravel quarries and on the surfaces of modern ploughed fields where, as at Misterton, the dried-out peat has eroded to

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**

### **Idle Lowlands**

expose the sand and gravel ridges which afforded suitable places for seasonally occupied encampments.

- 4.1.17 The disappearance of elm after 3000 BC is a nationally recognised phenomenon which is often attributed to the effect on woodland composition of the first farmers, in clearing woodland for tillage and by grazing. Neolithic stone axeheads, perhaps symbolic of such clearance, have come from Everton, Scaftworth, Misson and Misterton, along with occasional stone tools of the same date elsewhere. By about 2300 BC, however, a phase of reduced drainage was under way with peat growing in a filled-in river channel at Misterton. Much of the evidence for Neolithic activity therefore must lie beneath prehistoric and later alluvium and peat deposits. The same must be true for the Bronze Age also, for while there is evidence of a major clearance of woodland in the pollen record around 1600 BC, and lime declines around 1000 BC, the artefactual evidence consists of some stone tools and, from Sutton and Misson, bronze axeheads. Many more metal tools, however, have been found in the wider region of the Humberhead Marshes, beyond the county boundary. As tree pollen diminishes, so that of cultivated plants and grass rises, indicating mixed farming with both arable and grazing. This was not necessarily a story of continual expansion though; at Scaftworth it appears that woodland regenerated in the later Bronze Age.
- 4.1.18 If the history of the landscape of the Idle Lowlands during earlier prehistory must, necessarily, be somewhat general, that of the region during late prehistory and the Roman period is more sharply focused. Archaeological sites and the palaeo-environmental record both show a landscape which was substantially cleared of woodland. Settlements revealed in cropmarks [the product of a differential crop growth over buried pits and ditches recorded on aerial photographs] are found wherever the sands and gravels rise above the valley floors and along the margins of the region. Often positioned towards the edges of these higher sandy areas, the settlements are surrounded by long rectangular field systems, like those of the Sherwood region to the west. These fields in places run into the valley floor, where they have been shown on occasion to be buried under and within alluvium and peat. Equally there are strong hints that fields may have stopped well short of the river bank, suggesting a zone of waterside meadows or common grazing. Indeed, it appears likely that the sites of settlement were chosen to be central to both the arable on the exposed better-drained sands and the pastures on the lower wetter ground. Insect remains, preserved in the waterlogged fill of a Roman timber-lined well at Wild Goose Cottage, Lound, indicate an established grassland environment in the Idle Valley, which was virtually devoid of trees. That timber was available at probably no great distance, however, is shown by the timber lining of this well, which was of oak which had grown rapidly in open conditions. The similarity of this timber to that of the more modern Sherwood Forest may suggest the Sherwood region as a point of origin, together with the likelihood that it represents an area of woodland regeneration. A block of woodland was also present in the early Roman period at Scaftworth. Here, two phases of



## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**

### **Idle Lowlands**

Roman road, probably that from Lincoln to Doncaster which ran across the Idle Lowlands from Drakeholes to Bawtry, were carried over wet ground on timber causeways partly keyed into the stumps of the trees which had been felled in and around its path. In addition to oak, timber and wood of poplar, willow and alder were present.

- 4.1.19 The Idle Lowlands, then, was a landscape of settlements, fields and pastures with occasional small woods during the Roman period. It also appears to have been prosperous, for some of the settlements seen in the cropmarks are large and complex. They are similar to those of the Trent Valley, rather than the small settlements of the interior of the neighbouring Sherwood region. Like the settlements of the Trent Valley, they produce a greater range and wealth of objects in contrast to the relative poverty of sites on the Sherwood Sandstone. However, even before the end of the period, circumstances had begun to change. The virtually complete clearance of woodland within the region, and further afield, exposed land to erosion. Consequently, more alluvium was deposited in the Idle Valley. The late Roman period saw a marked increase in this alluviation, possibly because of exhaustion and damage to the vulnerable soils of the adjacent Sherwood region or perhaps due to the introduction of the heavy plough which more effectively broke up the ground. Combined with rising groundwater due to climatic fluctuations and changing sea levels, the lower land became wetter and more liable to overbank flooding. The margins of cultivation were pushed back, therefore, and field boundaries and probably farmsteads were buried in alluvium. Large areas of peat began to develop. In some areas woodland regenerated; the Roman road at Scaftworth was buried in alluvium and alder dominated woodland grew up.
- 4.1.20 Undoubtedly, this environmentally triggered change in land use and landscape was reinforced and maintained by the social and economic changes at the end of the Roman period. What actually happened remains unclear, but within a general context of falling population and a withering and transformation of Roman administrative structures, it appears that settlement and agriculture may have been pulled back from the more difficult marginal land to focus on more fertile areas. The poorer soils were not abandoned, however, but used at a lesser intensity of grazing, woodland and game. The situation, then, was one in which land use was reorganised and adapted to new conditions over a number of generations. Within the Idle Lowlands it would appear likely that settlement contracted on to the higher ground along the edges of the region and on "islands" above the wetter ground on the floor of the basin.
- 4.1.21 However, apart from occasional objects we have no tangible traces of early Post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlement in the region. Place names we do have, and some of these, such as Finningley, meaning "the clearing of the fen dwellers" and Mattersey, where the suffix ey means island, reflect the wet, marshy and wooded conditions which then characterised the landscape. Current models of Early and Middle Saxon settlement patterns are of dispersed farms and some larger settlements, not dissimilar to those of late prehistory and the Roman

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**

### **Idle Lowlands**

period. By the late 9<sup>th</sup> century and more particularly the 10<sup>th</sup> century, under the pressures of a rising population and the growing power of local landowners, people began to group together around the farm of the local lord or at other geographically favoured sites to form nucleated villages. In the Idle Lowlands this process will have been strongly influenced by the availability of dry sites. This must be one reason why, despite the large size of some parishes, there does not appear to be much new settlement within the region. True, it is within a wider area where Scandinavian place names are frequent, suggesting space for incomers in the late 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, and some of the communities involved with the Idle Valley do bear such names, especially along the west where the region abuts Sherwood. Most of these latter communities, however, included lands outside of the Idle Valley where conditions for arable were better, and were sited on the valley edge for convenience of access to the cultivated fields on one side and to the grazing and wetland resources of the Idle Lowlands on the other. Within the region itself only Lound, a “clearing”, which may imply contrasting woodland nearby, or Mattersey Thorpe, where thorpe implies a satellite settlement, are suggestive of late new communities.

- 4.1.22 Contrary to expectation, perhaps, and in contrast to the usual commentaries of historians, the Idle Lowlands were not an area of markedly low population in 1086. Communities here were not generally smaller than many others recorded in Domesday Book in Nottinghamshire. Certainly, if the statistics are reduced to numbers of people per square mile the figures appear low. But on a direct comparison of community against community on the basis of both population and areas under the plough, the region appears to fall comfortably within the average. This is not merely a product of the more extensive arable land available around the edge of the region. Even some of those whose lands lay wholly within the Idle Lowlands could boast respectable extents of arable; Mattersey, for example, had some 780 acres under plough, and Misson some 540 acres. Population and extents of arable were interdependent and were related to the area of dry ground available. Despite the extent of the wetlands there is no hint of specialisation in the economy of the region. Meadow is recorded in a number of communities, on a level of frequency equalled only by the Trent Valley, and fisheries appear at Misson and at Gringley on the Hill, where 1000 eels a year were caught. Fishing in By Carrdyke is also mentioned. Beyond these activities, unexceptional in a riverine context, there is nothing which relates to the considerable area of wetland. At first sight it might be thought possible that it was included under the wood pasture recorded in most Idle Lowlands communities, especially when calculations based on the dimensions of this in Finningley give a notional 5760 acres. However, comparison of the extents given across the region range from 1190 acres at Sutton through to ten acres at Everton and Misson. It seems more likely therefore that these entries do represent woodland rather than moor, and that the resources of the latter were not recorded, just as grassland pasture and livestock across the County as a whole were not included in Domesday Book. Equally, these entries do indicate that there

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**

### **Idle Lowlands**

were areas of woodland within the Idle Lowlands in 1086 and that these were significant landscape elements in some places.

- 4.1.23 The landscape of 1086 set the basic pattern for the Idle Lowlands for the remainder of the Middle Ages and beyond. Within this, there were fluctuations in the nature and intensity of land use under the influence of social, economic and climatic change. The continued rise in general population until the late 13<sup>th</sup> century will have meant villages increasing in size, with arable fields being reorganised and, where possible, extended. Woodlands will have been diminished. After the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, climatic deterioration and rising sea levels raised groundwater levels again and increased flooding, expanding the area of marsh and forcing changes in land use. The stress that this will have induced in communities was relieved by the decline in population in the late 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, impelled by the Black Death in 1349 and subsequent outbreaks of plague, from which the region probably suffered equally with the rest of Nottinghamshire. Just as important was the swing away from arable production to animal husbandry which was dominant in the agricultural economy from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Wetter land therefore could be readily converted to pasture and a level of prosperity thereby maintained. While a number of villages in the wider region of the Humberhead Levels declined and died during the later Middle Ages and after, those within the Idle Lowlands were able to respond to the changing circumstances and survive.
- 4.1.24 Major landscape change came with the draining of the levels, progressively undertaken from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This is not to say that the importance of drainage was not understood in the Middle Ages and earlier but, lacking technology and unable to take a regional approach, ditching at these dates was only of minor local significance. Even so, the economic value of the wetlands to the communities of the Idle Lowlands should not be underestimated. They offered a variety of resources which were as well exploited and managed as the woodland, heaths, pastures or tillage elsewhere. These resources will have spanned the whole range appropriate to the types of wetland present; fishing, wildfowling, wood and fuel are but a few. Little of this appears in the documentary records except occasional mentions, such as of 4 acres of turbary [peat cutting for fuel] in Lound in 1345 or the 40 acres of the same on an estate with lands in Misterton and Clarborough in 1564. By far the most important use of the wetter land was for meadow and pasture. The qualities of these varied with the ground conditions, which were recognised in description and presumably, therefore, in usage and valuation. This must be the significance of the categorisation given in 1527 of the lands of an estate in Everton as 100 acres of [arable] land, 100 of meadow, 200 of pasture, 100 of heath, 200 of "more", and 200 of marsh. Each of these represents areas of different habitats and ecology, exploited and managed in differing ways. Meadow appears in the documents of most Idle Lowlands communities usually in relatively small quantities, although it appears to have been significant in Scaftworth and Everton in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Much of the other pastures, heaths, moors and marshes was pastured in common between communities and

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**

### **Idle Lowlands**

their members. Illustrative of this is a dispute of 1290 in Misson which concerned common pasture in 2,000 acres of wood, pasture and moor. In the same year, when the freeholders of Misterton took their lords of the manor to court for having enclosed 20 acres of moor belonging to the common pasture, it was found that the lords were no more than commoners in the moor alongside the freeholders. The moors and marshes of the region, then, were not untamed wilderness but an environment which was used and maintained to best advantage within an integrated farming regime.

4.1.25 Small wonder, then, that the first large-scale drainage scheme, undertaken by Vermuyden between 1626 and 1628, provoked long-lasting protest and violence from the communities of the Idle Lowlands and the wider region. At Misterton enclosure of 1,000 acres of common and the flooding of other areas of carrland denied these lands to 200 families. Their complaint about this in 1634 pointed out that they employed 46 ploughs and kept 1000 cattle besides sheep and pigs, but without access to the North Carr and Thack Carr they were bereft of all means of livelihood. Leaving aside the abrogation of commoners' rights to an alien group of investors in Vermuyden's project, it is clear that the loss of common pasture in the wetlands threatened the traditional economic structures of the region.

4.1.26 Vermuyden's work was limited in success, and the completion of the drainage of the Idle Lowlands was eventually brought about piecemeal through the improvement of existing ditches and the digging of new ones in enclosing parishes. Apart from limited small-scale enclosure adjacent to villages and in some open fields, this was a region of late enclosure, carried out under Parliamentary Acts in the later 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. This produced a landscape of large, regularly laidout, rectangular fields defined by hedges, with roads of standardised widths following straight lines. In the carrs and wetlands, fields or blocks of fields are defined by ditches, often laid out on a grid, with a lack of relief and a sense of openness accentuated by a lack of hedges, which is relieved by the occasional bankside trees and small plantations. Enclosure and drainage allowed the creation of new farms outside of the villages. In the 1760s Jonathan Acklom of Wiseton Hall led the way on his estate, which included lands in Wiseton, Mattersey, Everton, Misson and Scrooby, by pursuing a plan of building farmhouses and extensive outbuildings in brick in central positions within new units of land. In an unconscious echo of the past, slightly elevated locations were selected for these farmsteads to keep them above flood levels. Intended to be both practical and ornamental, these farms included new trees and plantations. Others followed suit on their estates, adding isolated farm buildings and small plantations to the overall landscape and developing the movement towards building in brick and tile. By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century it was normal to build anew in these materials, and mud and stud timber structures were fast disappearing, rebuilt or refaced, as the "traditional" character of the region's buildings became established.

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**

### **Idle Lowlands**

- 4.1.27 The late 18<sup>th</sup> century also saw an addition to the countryside in the form of the Chesterfield Canal. The Idle had long been a commercial river from West Stockwith to Bawtry, which had developed into a significant inland port during the Middle Ages. By the 1760s, however, the demands of the market and the inconvenience of transporting goods into and out of the hinterland of Bawtry led to the design of a canal to link Chesterfield with the Trent at West Stockwith. Begun in 1771, the Chesterfield Canal runs around the eastern margin of the region, making a discreet contribution to the landscape and reinforcing, through bridges, locks and associated knots of buildings, its red brick character.
- 4.1.28 Drainage was not effectively completed until the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, aided by efficient pumping, ditch management and changes in sea level. Agriculturally, however, the region remained one of essentially mixed farming, with a heavy emphasis on animal husbandry: sheep and arable on the drier sandlands and cattle on the wetter levels. This situation persisted until the Second World War when the emphasis swung to arable production, which has since been maintained under Government and European farming policies. Despite these changes, the essentially rural character of the region has been maintained down to the present day.

## **4.2 VISUAL CHARACTER OF THE LANDSCAPE**

### **Introduction**

- 4.2.1 The Idle Lowlands are a varied low-lying region characterised by carrs, levels and rolling sandland. The pattern of landscape within the region is closely related to the inherent capability of the land, particularly with regard to the natural constraints of drainage and soil fertility. As a consequence, differences in landscape character tend to be reflected more by variations in land use and settlement than by marked topographic changes. Although these differences have been blurred by agricultural intensification, individual landscapes can still be recognised in the pattern of woodlands, fields and settlement across the region. Most areas of former heath and wetland, for example, remain sparsely inhabited and many are still largely inaccessible by road. This is in marked contrast to the settled agricultural character of the adjoining sandlands. Even here, however, the poorest areas of former heath can still be distinguished by the late enclosure pattern, plantations and large isolated farmsteads.

### **Landscape Character Parcels**

- 4.2.2 The Idle Lowlands region has been divided into 35 Landscape Description Units [LDUs] all of which fall within the Bassetlaw District [Figure 12]. Five of these units are classed as 'urban land use', the remaining 30 were then subdivided into 47 Landscape Character Parcels [LCPs] [Figure 13]. The completed Landscape Character Assessment field survey sheets are included at Appendix B4. This information was then tabulated to help determine the Draft Policy Zone [DPZ] boundaries in preparation for the Landscape Condition and Sensitivity survey contained at section 4.4.

### **4.3 LANDSCAPE EVOLUTION AND CHANGE**

#### **Introduction**

- 4.3.1 It is clear from the preceding sections that evolving patterns of land use have played a major part in shaping the landscape over many centuries. Although change can be sudden and dramatic, as in the case of wetland drainage, it is more often incremental, and it is this gradual evolution of the landscape that is an essential part of a healthy, living countryside. When considering proposals for landscape conservation, therefore, the aim should not be to return to a particular point in time but rather, by analysing the forces for change, to strike a balance between unavoidable change and ensuring that regional diversity and local distinctiveness are maintained, and where necessary enhanced.
- 4.3.2 This section examines the main forces that have brought about change within the Idle Lowlands over recent decades and assesses whether these forces are having a positive or a negative impact on the character and quality of the landscape. This is done with particular regard to agriculture, trees and woodlands, urban and industrial development and mineral extraction. It is also the purpose of this section to consider the trends and pressures that may influence landscape change in the future.
- 4.3.3 The trend towards arable intensification has been facilitated by more efficient drainage of the carrs and levels. Together with the effects of water abstraction from the underlying aquifer, this has reduced ground water levels throughout the region to such an extent that former wetlands are becoming deeply desiccated. This has been particularly severe in the Idle Valley upstream of Misson, where extensive areas of former meadowland and pasture have been ploughed up and brought into arable cultivation since 1945. These changes have had a major impact on the character and quality of the landscape. Large areas of permanent pasture and grazing animals, in many cases supporting a rich diversity of wildlife, have disappeared to be replaced by ploughed fields and intensively managed crops.
- 4.3.4 Arable intensification has also been instrumental in altering the fabric of the landscape through the removal of hedges and the creation of large fields to facilitate the use of modern farm machinery. In places, most notably in the Valley Carrs and Levels, this has fragmented the overall unity of the landscape, leaving isolated features such as remnant gappy hedgerows and dead or dying trees set within an open arable farmland. Such features not only appear out of scale with their surroundings, but often impart an impression of dereliction and decline.

**Agriculture**

- 4.3.5 Prior to the Second World War, the Idle Lowlands were primarily a mixed farming region, with a heavy emphasis on animal husbandry. Market gardening was a feature on the fertile peat soils around Misson, Gringley on the Hill and Misterton, and in the vicinity of Retford. During the War, the emphasis swung towards arable production and this situation has been reinforced ever since under Government and European farming policies.
- 4.3.6 Alongside the demise of mixed farming, horticulture has also declined in the region and arable cultivation is now the dominant land use throughout the Idle Lowlands. The principal crops grown are cereals, potatoes and sugar beet, with oil seed rape grown as a break crop on the sandlands.
- 4.3.7 Although further agricultural expansion is now less likely, declining incomes and continued uncertainty in the short term may result in further intensification of production on existing farmland. This could lead to continued agricultural improvement of older grasslands and further loss of hedgerows. In the longer term, new incentives may encourage more environmentally sensitive farming, with perhaps a return to more traditional mixed farming regimes. In the last 25 years a number of factors have resulted in a reversal of some of the more damaging aspects of agricultural policy; the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy [CAP] led to a series of measures designed to reduce the level of agricultural surpluses, including the compulsory Set-Aside scheme introduced in 1988.
- 4.3.8 Along with the recognition that there is no longer a need for ever-increasing food production, there has also been growing acceptance of the need to reverse the damaging effects of agricultural intensification on the environment. At the same time, the need to maintain the farmer's income is recognised, and as a result a number of schemes have been established to provide financial incentives for environmentally sensitive farming. These range from payments for managing land in a traditional way or for re-creating certain habitats to hedgerow management.

**Trees and Woodland**

- 4.3.9 Historically, woodland cover within the Idle Lowlands has been fairly sparse. Today there is still a relatively low cover of woodland with slightly over half being broad-leaved. Between the 1930s and 1980s the region experienced an overall decrease in woodland cover which contrasts with the increases experienced at a county and national level. Over half of this woodland loss was to agriculture and rough grazing. The character and pattern of woodland cover varies throughout the region with the majority tending to be located on the sandlands,



## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**

### **Idle Lowlands**

which support most of the commercial forestry. Elsewhere woodlands are generally small plantations, with holts characteristic of the river valleys, and patches of remnant semi-natural woodland and scrub a feature of the Carrlands. Hedgerow trees are also an important component of the region's tree cover in some areas, despite losses caused by Dutch elm disease during the period 1960-1980.

#### **Urban and Industrial Development**

- 4.3.10 The Idle Lowlands is primarily an agricultural region and this is reflected in the settlement pattern of mainly small rural villages. With increasing numbers of people wanting to live in a high quality environment within commuting distance of their urban workplace, there has been considerable pressure for new housing in these villages. In many places this development is poorly designed and appears "tacked onto" existing settlements. Although this is due partly to the fact that the style does not reflect local traditions, it is also because of the siting and layout of the development and its relationship to existing buildings and village open space.
- 4.3.11 Cumulatively, new development has had a suburbanising effect in many of the villages in the Idle Lowlands. This is reflected not only in the design and layout of modern dwellings, but also in successive infilling of internal village space and unimaginative ornamental planting. Village character is also changing as a result of conversion of redundant farm buildings, the "gentrification" of existing dwellings and the imposition of suburban tastes on the rural environment.
- 4.3.12 The main urban areas in the Idle Lowlands are the historic market town of East Retford and the mining settlement of Harworth/Bircotes.

#### **Transportation**

- 4.3.13 A number of major roads have an impact on the region, the most prominent being the A1 which is highly visible across the more open landscapes. The impact of the road is likely to increase as there are proposals to upgrade to motorway standard. The other major routes are the A614 and A638. In terms of rail transport, the East Coast Main Line runs through the middle of this region. No commercial waterways are found within the Idle Lowlands, although the Chesterfield Canal, which is currently used for recreational purposes only, runs along the eastern edge.

**Mineral Extraction**

- 4.3.14 Mineral extraction has had a considerable impact on the Idle Lowlands, with the principal resources exploited being sand and gravel within the Idle Valley and coal in the sandlands. The impact of extraction operations varies from site to site, although the most common concerns tend to be noise and dust pollution from extraction and transportation, and visual intrusion upon the landscape.
- 4.3.15 Sand and gravel extraction in the region accounts for one third of Nottinghamshire's total production, with active quarries at Misson, Lound, Scrooby and Bellmoor. The majority of sand and gravel extracted is from alluvial deposits with the exception of Scrooby where it is of glacial origin.
- 4.3.16 Low-level reclamation which does not involve the importation of fill has been achieved at a number of sites. In Nottinghamshire, restoration of sand and gravel workings to water has been the most notable method, with an estimated 800 hectares reclaimed to this use by 1988. However, reclamation to water has raised a number of issues, particularly with the impact on landscape character, after-use and long-term management. Where workings have not breached the water table, reclamation has been possible by respreading the overburden and soil across the quarry floor. The most notable example of this can be found at Misson, where nearly 250 hectares had been reclaimed by 1988. Reclamation involving fill has also been undertaken at a number of sites. In areas which have experienced a loss of high quality agricultural land as a result of extraction, there is still a strong presumption towards agricultural restoration. On the sandlands, where the majority of agricultural land is of poorer quality, reclamation to native woodlands and heathland is generally preferred. The future of sand and gravel extraction within the Idle Lowlands remains uncertain due to declining resources. Harworth coal pit, the only one within the Idle Lowlands region, ceased production in 2006.

#### **4.4 POLICY ZONES**

##### **Draft Policy Zones**

- 4.4.1 Following on from the Landscape Character Assessment of each LCP a total of 12 Draft Policy Zones [DPZs] were created [Figure 14]. A table showing the derivation of each DPZ is included at Appendix C4. A subsequent Landscape Condition and Sensitivity Assessment was then undertaken of each DPZ, this information is detailed on the Landscape Condition and Sensitivity Assessment field survey sheets which are included at Appendix D4.

#### 4.5 SPECIES LIST

4.5.1 The following list includes native tree and shrub species that are commonly found within the Idle Lowlands and are suitable for inclusion in planting schemes. These are important for determining the area's regional character. A range of other native species may also be appropriate to particular locations or sites. In these cases professional advice should be sought.

● Dominant Species      ○ Other Species Present

<b>TREES</b>	<b>Woodlands/ Plantation</b>	<b>Hedges</b>	<b>Hedgerow Trees</b>	<b>Wet Areas/Streamsid</b>	<b>Individual/ Parkland Trees</b>
Alder (Common)			○	○	
Ash	○	○	●		○
Beech	○				○
Birch (Silver)	○		○		○
Chestnut (Horse)	○				○
Crab Apple	○	○	○		
Elm (English)		○			
Elm (Wych)		○	○		
Larch (European)	○				
Lime					○
Oak (Common)	○	○	●		○
Oak (Sessile)	●				
Pine (Corsican)	○				
Pine (Scots)	○				○
Poplar	○			○	
Spruce	○				
Sycamore	○		○		○

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Idle Lowlands**

<b>TREES</b>	<b>Woodlands/ Plantations</b>	<b>Hedges</b>	<b>Hedgerow Trees</b>	<b>Wet Areas/Streamsides</b>	<b>Individual/ Parkland Trees</b>
Willow (Crack)	●	○	○	●	
Willow (White)	○		○	○	



**Dominant Species**



**Other Species Present**

<b>SHRUBS</b>	<b>Woodlands/ Plantations</b>	<b>Hedges</b>	<b>Hedgerow Trees</b>	<b>Wet Areas/Streamsides</b>
Beech		○		
Blackthorn	○	●		○
Buckthorn (Purging)		○		
Broom		○		
Coniferous Sp. (property boundaries within towns)		○		
Dogwood (Common)		○		
Gorse		○		
Hawthorn	●	●	○	○
Hazel	○	○		
Holly		○	○	
Privet (Wild)	○	○		
Rosa Sp.	○	○		
Spindle		○		
Willow (Goat)				○
Willow (Grey)	○	○		○

## **5.0 MID-NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FARMLANDS**

### **5.1 PHYSICAL AND HUMAN INFLUENCES**

#### **Introduction**

- 5.1.1 The Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands forms a discrete area within Nottinghamshire, extending in a broad band from the edge of Nottingham north to the Idle Lowlands. It is bounded to the west by the Sherwood region and to the east by the lowlands of the Trent Washlands. Small nucleated villages, isolated farmsteads and quiet country lanes are important components of the region's character, along with undulating landform, hedged fields and woodland. These features, and the fact that the area is dominated by agriculture, ensure that the region has a traditional rural character. This is reflected in the pattern of settlement and enclosure.

#### **The Shape of the Land**

- 5.1.2 The Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands is closely associated with a broad belt of Triassic rocks that run northwards through the length of the Bassetlaw to Gringley-on-the-Hill and Misterton. These rocks comprise two formations: Waterstones, consisting of thinly bedded sandstones and siltstones separated by layers of mudstone, and the Mercia Mudstone [formerly known as the Keuper Marl] comprising a great thickness of stratified reddish mudstones with occasional bands of hard sandstone, known locally as "skerry". Both formations are overlain by alluvial and fluvio-glacial drift in the Idle Lowlands, which borders the region to the north and north west. This covering of drift also extends along the Trent Valley to the east.
- 5.1.3 Like the rock formations above and below it, the Mercia Mudstone gives rise to a low rolling escarpment that slopes gently eastwards in general conformity with the underlying bedrock. A well-marked scarp slope overlooks the Sherwood Sandstone along the western edge of the outcrop. The Waterstones form the lower, and on the whole gentler, portion of this slope, while the upper, and often much steeper, slope is composed of Mercia Mudstone, with its more resistant skerry bands. These bands, where they are well-developed, give rise to a much more varied and undulating topography as well as giving added prominence to the scarp slope.
- 5.1.4 Owing to the impervious nature of the underlying mudstones, the escarpment has become heavily dissected by numerous streams, each occupying a well-defined valley. Many of these valleys are floored by alluvium, especially in the central part of the region to the east of Tuxford, where the dip slope has a more subdued relief. South of this area an increasing

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

number of streams have cut through the Mercia Mudstone to expose the underlying Waterstones. The various becks and streams occupy shallower valleys, than those south of the district.

### **Soils** [to be read in conjunction with Figure 15]

- 5.1.5 Dark brown stoney clay loam or clay soils cover most of the region's land surface. Dark reddish brown sandy silt loam and clay loam soils occur on the lower beds of the Mercia Mudstone group to the west. Dark brown clay loam and silty clay loam soils are found on gentler slopes in the east, where the mudstone is overlain by thin fine loamy or fine silty drift. Tongues of reddish/greyish river alluvium are found in the beck valleys. Stoney soils can be found where the skerries come close to the surface.

### **Landscape History**

- 5.1.6 Little can be said about the early history of the landscape of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands. The clay soils of the Mercia Mudstones are not on the whole sympathetic to the production of cropmarks, the results of differential crop growth over buried ditches, pits and other features which have revolutionised our understanding of the prehistoric and Roman periods in other regions such as the Trent Washlands and Sherwood. The rural character and remoteness of much of this region has also contributed to a lack of study and survey. In consequence, the archaeology of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands depends almost entirely upon objects recovered from the surface of ploughed fields and earthworks, which have to be interpreted against the wider background of landscape history deduced from evidence elsewhere.
- 5.1.7 The presence of people during prehistory is witnessed by stone tools, manufacturing debris and metal objects occasionally recovered after ploughing. It is reasonable to assume that the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands will have been no less attractive to hunter-gathering groups and early farmers than other regions in Bassetlaw, and that these will have had a comparable effect upon the woodland which developed after the end of the Ice Age. The composition of that woodland may be assumed to have varied with local soils and topography and to have been dominated by a mixture of oak, lime, ash and hazel. As human settlement consolidated and expanded, this woodland will have been increasingly cleared and its composition altered.
- 5.1.8 By the Roman period it is likely that most of the woodland will have been cleared and the land placed under cultivation. This is the conclusion to which the crop-mark evidence of the Trent Valley and the Sherwood Sandstones points; indeed it might be thought that the development

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

of the Roman landscape on the relatively infertile soils of the Sherwood Sandstones is indicative that the better lands of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands had already been taken. It may be significant also that the Roman landscapes of the Sherwood Sandstones and the Trent Valley, on either side of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands, share characteristics indicating large-scale planning. In both, crop marks reveal blocks of rectangular fields, enclosures and trackways, and, in both, these are orientated in much the same way. It might not be unreasonable to assume, therefore, that these field systems were part of one landscape, stretching across the Sherwood Sandstone, the Mercia Mudstones and the gravels of the Trent Valley. That we know about this landscape on the Sherwood Sandstone and in the Trent Valley only, and are largely ignorant of the details of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands in the Roman period, may be attributed to the limitations on the discovery of evidence which have prevailed on the clays of the Mercia Mudstones. Where evidence is available it is striking. In Laxton, Roman material has come from no fewer than seven locations within the parish, indicating a number of farms and at least one villa. Other villas are known at Tuxford. Similarly, a quantity of Roman material has come from Darlton and South Wheatley. All of these have the common feature of having been looked at more closely because they are centres of interest. If the density of settlement implied by the evidence from Laxton, in the heart of the highest clay lands, is any guide then there is no reason to believe other than that the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands was as well populated and its landscape as well developed as anywhere else during the Roman period.

- 5.1.9 It is clear that the end of the Roman period brought great change, but we know little to provide detail of how this came about. Population decline and changes in social organisation, beginning in the Roman period and continuing into the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries, led to a retraction in cultivation and a refocusing of settlement towards the more easily worked land. The woodland regenerated on a large scale. Although there are a few objects of early Anglo-Saxon date from the region, there is at present little to suggest that the immigrants coming into South Nottinghamshire and the Trent Valley were initially interested in moving into the interior of the Mercia Mudstones. However, there is no evidence that this was a period of collapse and abandonment; on the contrary there are hints that Roman structures and settlement patterns endured. It is possible that the part of Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands within Bassetlaw was initially incorporated into the early kingdom of Lindsey, which had British rather than Saxon origins. This might be the implication of some estates structures later recorded in Domesday Book and of the pattern of warfare between Mercia and Northumbria in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, in which Lindsey was a pawn. Particularly, significance must be attached to the mass baptism of the people of Lindsey by the missionary Paulinus at Tiowulfingacaester in 627. Tiowulfingacaester is identified as Littleborough, on the Trent in the adjacent Trent Washlands. This baptism was as much a political statement as a religious event and choice of site was undoubtedly intended to be symbolic of royal overlordship on



## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

both sides of the Trent. This would have been a pointless site had there not been a population in the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands.

- 5.1.10 The changes to the landscape of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands were probably piecemeal and gradual. A number of place names refer to woodland but other activities are reflected on occasion, for example, "Wheatley" implies the cultivation of wheat in a clearing amongst woodland. The woodland which developed in the immediately post-Roman period is unlikely to have been left to nature. It will have been a valuable source for common grazing, gathering food, timber and wood. It will have been managed to one degree or another.
- 5.1.11 Current models of Early and Middle Saxon settlement patterns are of dispersed farms and some larger settlements, not dissimilar to the basic pattern of later prehistory and the Roman period. By the 9<sup>th</sup> century, and more particularly from the 10<sup>th</sup> century, under the pressures of a rising population and the growing powers of local landlords this dispersed pattern began to be replaced by one of nucleated villages, with people grouping together around the farm of the local lord or in other geographically favoured locations. Whether as a result of this process or as a product of earlier loss of population and reorganisation, the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands developed a settlement pattern which was particularly geared to the use of local resources. Most of the settlements exploiting the region in fact lay on its fringes or even outside it. On the south and east, the villages lay on the gravels of the Trent Washlands where the best soils for cultivation were and where there was easy access to the meadows and pastures of the Trent flood plain. On the west, villages were frequently sited at the junction of the Mercia Mudstones and the Sherwood Sandstones, where the mixture of clay and sand in the soils again provided better tillage and the heaths of the sandstone provided open pastures. Although not insignificant in number, comparatively few communities occupied the heart of the clay land, often choosing sites in valleys, beside watercourses where soils on slopes were better drained. The territories of the peripheral communities ran back up onto the clays, to include the woodland resources here, while those within the core of the Mercia Mudstones developed more or less concentric patterns of land use, with the fields closest to the village, pastures beyond the fields and then woodland. The landscape of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands in the Later Saxon and Early Mediaeval periods, then, was one of communities and farmland separated by blocks and ribbons of woodland. In many instances, as later documentary references and the intricacy of boundary lines show, this woodland served the communities on either side of it as common grazing.
- 5.1.12 This is the picture of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands which can be seen in Domesday Book, a mixture of large and small communities with arable to match, much woodland and very little meadow. Most of the woodland was recorded as wood pasture, although there was a significant group of underwood (coppiced woods) in the north of the region. Domesday

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

Book also shows that expansion of settlement into the woodlands was well under way due the recording of place names.

- 5.1.13 With rising population, this expansion continued in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Villages grew and new settlements appeared. Arable fields were expanded at the expense of the woodland, which was further degraded by grazing. In common with the other wooded regions of the district, parks were enclosed to conserve game and provide sport for the king and nobility. Indeed, for several generations the whole of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands was included under Forest Law, until it was deforested by Henry III in 1286. At Darlton, King John enclosed a park and built a hunting lodge at Kingshaugh, cutting across the rights of pasture in the wood which belonged to the villagers of Darlton and Ragnall. As their names often indicate, particularly in the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands, parks usually took in an area of woodland, but usually this was soon modified by clearances for grazing and even cultivation. This was the seed of the common fate of many parks in the later Middle Ages, to be converted into farmland.
- 5.1.14 The Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands has the distinction of being home to the archetype of midland mediaeval villages, at Laxton. The famous map of the parish, drawn up in 1635, gives a strong idea of the landscape here during the Middle Ages. There, on the slope above the stream, was the village, dominated by the castle which stood immediately behind it to the north. North and west of the castle was a small park with an orchard, fishponds, and horse and hay paddocks, more for exercise and pleasure than hunting, which will have taken place in East Park Wood along the north east of the parish continuous with Egmonton Wood, and in Hartshorn, a large block of wood pasture on the southern side of the community. East, west, south west and south of the village were the open fields. The East Field and the one to the south west, Mill Field, are likely to have been the original arable, to be joined by the West Field possibly during the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The South Field was the last to be created early in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Along the stream as it ran across the top of the South Field were the principal meadows of the community, with other areas of meadow on the sykes, unploughed strips alongside the other arms of the Radbeck and more minor streams running through the open fields. Unploughed wide verges beside the trackways through the parish were also managed as meadow. Beyond the fields there was in 1635 a zone of enclosed fields, then under grass. The names of these closes clearly indicate, as much as their position, that they were cut out of the woodland, probably in the piecemeal process of clearance known as assarting. Whether these assarts were originally intended for arable or pasture cannot be ascertained. Either would have been appropriate, although some theories about land organisation might suggest pasture. One area of pasture was the common, on the north-western tip of the parish. This too was originally woodland, as its name "Westwood Common" implies, part of a substantial wood contiguous with that of Wellow and Ompton. Hartshorn also was probably grazed. At the opposite, north-eastern, end of the parish was a separate, off-shoot

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

community, Laxton Moorhouse. This settlement developed its own set of open fields, but some of its occupants farmed strips in the South Field also. Finally, as will have been apparent already, the margins of Laxton were substantially wooded with Westwood, Hartshorn, woodland between Laxton and Moorhouse north of the meadows, and East Park Wood all in the vicinity.

- 5.1.15 By 1300 plough lands in the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands were at their maximum extent. Under pressure from a high population almost any land that could produce a crop was cultivated. In Laxton, poorer, wetter land normally used for meadow, including sykes, was ploughed. But the climate was deteriorating and in 1349 the Black Death arrived, ushering in a period of protracted difficulty. The Black Death and repeated visitations of plague during the 14<sup>th</sup> century reduced the national population by over one third, and it appears that the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands bore its share of this loss. With reduced population and social change, there was a turning away from arable production. Marginal plough lands and pastures were restored to grassland, leaving ridge and furrow on the sykes at Laxton, and open field rotations were reorganised to allow for larger fallows, temporary grass and the creation of closes of more permanent grass. Vacant tenancies were engrossed into occupied farms, creating more differential between large and small farms. With land exchanges, the tendency for larger farms to be made up of consolidated blocks of land within the open fields grew. Overall, the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries saw the establishment of convertible husbandry, with a more balanced, mixed farming regime.
- 5.1.16 Some communities were so weakened by the difficulties of the later 14<sup>th</sup> and early 15<sup>th</sup> centuries that their viability was completely undermined. The Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands saw a number of villages either completely or virtually disappear, in the course of the later 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Some of these were settlements of considerable antiquity. A number were the more marginal communities developed in the centuries of expansion from the 10<sup>th</sup> century on. Although at least 13 communities failed in this period and many other villages shrank in size, the majority survived. The open field system was inherently flexible and could be readily adapted to changes in economic need, with areas being taken in and out of cultivation according to market demands. The economy of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands thus remained one of mixed farming, still with quantities of arable, until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.1.17 However, doubtless because of the resilience of the open field system and the swings in demand and profitability, which never quite made one agricultural strategy preferable to another, and made landowners think twice about the expense of enclosure, society here was inclined to be conservative. This is illustrated by the long endurance of bare fallows. The land itself also imposed certain restrictions on development. With the onset of colder, wetter conditions in the later 13<sup>th</sup> century the clay soils of the Mercia Mudstones had become that

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

much more difficult to work and crop yields had declined. This was probably a significant factor in the demise of some communities in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries and remained a problem until the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- 5.1.18 Although there was an amount of piecemeal enclosure, the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands were not generally enclosed until the later 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. This was the age of agricultural improvement, when open fields were seen as anachronistic and an impediment to progress, and enclosure was promoted through Acts of Parliament to overcome any objectors. Laid out by surveyors, the field systems created through Parliamentary enclosure tend to be larger and more regular than those of preceding centuries, although in these clay lands the long-established physical frameworks of the open fields had to be taken into account. Nevertheless, it was still an expensive business and took time to become general. The clay fields of Rampton were still unenclosed in 1835, and North Wheatley and parks at Treswell and Askham were enclosed the following year. At Laxton enclosure has never been completed. Behind this pattern lies the fact that at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands was regarded as backward in agricultural terms and farming was less profitable than in other regions.
- 5.1.19 The retraction of arable in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries undoubtedly saw an expansion of woodland particularly in the southern half of the region. To this was added the planting associated with the parks and gardens around the houses of the nobility and gentry laid out during the succeeding centuries. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century plantations were added throughout the region both for timber and as game coverts, particularly in peripheral areas of parishes. During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries also, the villages were rebuilt in brick. Beginning in earlier centuries with the houses of the nobility and gentry, it became usual for the humblest of dwellings to be built in brick by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Gradually over the course of these two centuries the old style timber frame buildings of mud and stud construction and thatched roofs were replaced or encased in brick with tile roofs. Local clay pits were often the source of the bricks. The new farms of the enclosed landscapes created in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, standing apart from the old villages, were built in brick. Since they were newly established at a time when agriculture was making new strides they often replicate the “model farm” concept with outbuildings and farmhouse convenient to one another around a quadrangle.
- 5.1.20 The advent of piped under-soil drainage during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and enclosure brought improvements to the region. The farming regime remained mixed, however, with extensive crop rotation on a field-by-field basis. Some new crops were tried, hops being a big business in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, but in the main it was the traditional arable-livestock balance that prevailed. With the collapse of grain prices caused by foreign importation in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, this balance swung towards animal husbandry, with more grassland and feed crops.

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

Apart from a temporary swing towards arable during the First World War, this remained the situation until the 1940s. Post-war government and EEC agricultural policies then placed emphasis on arable, resulting in a marked decline in livestock. This has produced considerable landscape change as many 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure hedges and many earlier ones have been uprooted to enable the use of large machinery.

- 5.1.21 While it would be easy to believe that the modern landscape of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands is the product of the last few hundred years, this would be a complete misreading of what it has to tell us. It is not only at Laxton that a long history may be seen in the village, its fields and its woods, and a comparable longevity in the shapes and features of the countryside is apparent throughout the region. Even the relative openness of the landscape in the north of the district is an ancient characteristic.

## **5.2 VISUAL CHARACTER OF THE LANDSCAPE**

### **Introduction**

- 5.2.1 The Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands is an area of undulating landscape with a distinctively rural, agricultural character. Arable farming is the predominant land use on the clay soils, where mixed farming prevails. The historical pattern of land use and settlement is influenced by the physical characteristics of the region, particularly its soils. It is also influenced by its geographical relationship with adjacent regions where different physical conditions occur. Many villages have been established along the margins of the Mercia Mudstone outcrop where a wider range of physical resources is accessible. A more limited range of resources has historically been available to the inhabitants of the central parts of the region, consequently a sparser settlement pattern is evident.
- 5.2.2 The region is relatively remote from major population centres and has a well-defined and largely undeveloped rural character. Industry is of little significance save for the occasional clay quarry and brick works. A number of main highways cross the area, but typically roads are narrow country lanes linking the scattered nucleated settlements. The villages are well integrated into the surrounding countryside with small-scale field patterns, unimproved pastures, species-rich hedgerows and remnant orchards forming common features along their edges.
- 5.2.3 A characteristic of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands is the strong sense of enclosure which exists over most of the region. Field patterns have remained largely intact although they have

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

become somewhat eroded in the most intensively farmed areas, especially to the north and east. Ancient hedgerows are scattered throughout, hedgerow trees are usually ash and oak and have a localised importance in the landscape.

- 5.2.4 The landscape has a generally well-wooded character except over tracts of land to the far north and east. Woodlands tend to be mainly deciduous or mixed and are typically small to medium in size. A special feature of the area is the many ancient woodlands, often prominently sited on hilltops and rising ground. Scattered pockets of parkland add to this well-wooded character, along with the many tree-lined streams which drain the area from west to east.

### **Landscape Character Parcels**

- 5.2.5 The Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region has been divided into 62 Landscape Description Units [LDUs] of which 17 fall within the Bassetlaw District [Figure 16]. One of these units is classed as 'urban land use', the remaining 16 were then subdivided into 32 Landscape Character Parcels [LCPs] [Figure 17]. The completed Landscape Character Assessment field survey sheets are included at Appendix B5. This information was then tabulated to help determine the Draft Policy Zone [DPZ] boundaries in preparation for the Landscape Condition and Sensitivity survey contained at section 5.4.

### **5.3 LANDSCAPE EVOLUTION AND CHANGE**

#### **Introduction**

- 5.3.1 This section examines the main forces that have brought about change and evolution within the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands over recent decades. It does this by discussing how the current structure and pattern of land use has developed, paying particular regard to agriculture, woodland, transport, industrial/residential development and mineral extraction. It also considers the trends and pressures that may produce landscape change in the future.

#### **Agriculture**

- 5.3.2 The economy of the region is dominated by agriculture with most farmland being of medium agricultural quality. Pockets of higher quality land occur to the west and east of the region on loamy drift and in the alluvial valley bottoms.
- 5.3.3 A large proportion of the farmland in the region is under arable rotation. Wheat is by far the most frequent crop, with barley a close second. The local climate and the nature of the soil mean that autumn sown crops are usually a more feasible option than those sown in spring. Peas and root crops such as sugar beet and potatoes are grown as part of rotations on the lighter, higher quality agricultural land.
- 5.3.4 The main change in agricultural practice since the Second World War has been the swing from a mixed agricultural economy to one dominated by arable farming, with an associated increase in holding size. The scale of permanent pasture has vastly reduced since 1939. The majority of pastures are now found south of the district and elsewhere along watercourses and settlement edges. Traditionally, cattle farming was widespread and in the 1930s strong corridors of pasture flanked most of the beck valleys. The character of these features has changed with significant areas now used for cropping. A change in grassland management has also occurred, present day management being more intensive and often involving two or more annual silage crops compared to the un-intensive hay crop taken 50 years ago.
- 5.3.5 Wheat has remained constant as the dominant arable crop since the 1930s. Oats, once a frequent component of arable rotations in the region, have become much less common, and superseded in importance by barley. Root crops, then as now, play a small role as break crops. Clover was widely planted as a break crop in the 1930s, being second only to wheat in terms of arable area. Clover crops are now uncommon with oilseed rape and field beans taking their place.

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

5.3.6 Horticulture has a similar distribution now to that of the 1930s, although it is much reduced in area. Small areas of horticulture are scattered through the region, occupying a small percentage of the total farmed area. A major change in the rural economy has been associated with the dramatic decrease in the area of orchard land. In the 1930s expansive orchards were found in the region with concentrations occurring around North Wheatley [101 ha] and Tuxford [162ha]. Remnant orchards are, however, a feature of many of the smaller village settlements and are suggestive of their past importance to the local land-based economy.

### **Woodland/Tree Cover**

5.3.7 The Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands is a relatively well-wooded landscape containing many deciduous woodlands and a high proportion of the County's ancient semi-natural woodland. At the beginning of the present millennium the region was the most wooded part of Nottinghamshire despite the presence of Sherwood Forest to the west. However, in more recent times large-scale planting in Sherwood has meant that the area has been overtaken in terms of the proportion of woodland that it contains. Small and medium woodlands are scattered throughout although in the north and east, woodlands are less common.

5.3.8 Deciduous woodland is the dominant woodland type across the region and includes a relatively high number of ancient semi-natural woodlands. These vary in size from the small, linear woods along the valleys to the large blocks of woodland like Wellow Park, which is 130 ha in extent. Ash, field maple, hazel, oak, hawthorn and wych elm are typical deciduous woodland species.

5.3.9 Between 1920 and the present day there has been a slight but perceptible change in the nature of woodland cover in the region. 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 1920s there has been an overall increase in the hectare-age of woodland in the region but a decrease in the area of ancient semi-natural woodland.

5.3.10 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, with ash, oak and willow the dominant species.



## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

### **Transportation**

- 5.3.11 A small number of main roads affect the region, crossing the area in a west to east direction. These are linked to the rural settlements by a comprehensive network of country lanes. The A1 and A57 are the only trunk roads and these converge at the busy Markham Moor roundabout on the western fringe of the region.
- 5.3.12 Running parallel to the A1 is the main London railway line. The Gainsborough-Sheffield rail link traverses the northern half of the region and a freight link to Cottam power station spurs off this to the east. A further freight line bisects the area south of Tuxford linking Ollerton to High Marnham power station.

### **Urban and Industrial Development**

- 5.3.13 The Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands is a sparsely populated region, the settlement pattern is formed by numerous small nucleated villages and isolated farmsteads.
- 5.3.14 Industrial development and mineral extraction are closely linked within the region as a whole, with most activity confined to the area south of the A1. There are no collieries in the Bassetlaw area.
- 5.3.15 Clay quarrying and associated brickworks form the most important industrial activity with Nottinghamshire supporting a locally significant brick manufacturing industry. Kirton is the largest active clay pit in Nottinghamshire with a permitted area of 80 hectares, which will eventually be partially landfilled and restored to agricultural use.
- 5.3.16 Oil has been found in the carboniferous sandstone which underlies the Mercia Mudstone. Active fields in the region are to be found at Kirklington, Egmanon, South Leverton, Bevercotes [Farleys Wood] and Beckingham in the north. In landscape terms winning oil is not very obtrusive as the necessary landtake is small. The plant is minimal and is generally screened by low earth mounds and/ or trees. Following exploitation, land is restored to its former use. It is likely that further exploration for oil will take place in the area.

## **5.4 POLICY ZONES**

### **Draft Policy Zones**

- 5.4.1 Following on from the Landscape Character Assessment of each LCP a total of 14 Draft Policy Zones [DPZs] were created [Figure 18]. A table showing the derivation of each DPZ is included at Appendix C5. A subsequent Landscape Condition and Sensitivity Assessment was then undertaken of each DPZ, this information is detailed on the Landscape Condition and Sensitivity field survey sheets which are included at Appendix D5.

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

**5.5 SPECIES LIST**

5.5.1 The following list includes native tree and shrub species that are commonly found within the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands and are suitable for inclusion in planting schemes. These are important for determining the area's regional character. A range of other native species may also be appropriate to particular locations or sites. In these cases professional advice should be sought.

● Dominant Species                      ○ Other Species Present

<b>TREES</b>	<b>Woodlands/ Plantations</b>	<b>Hedges</b>	<b>Hedgerow Trees</b>	<b>Wet Areas/Streamsides</b>	<b>Individual/ Parkland Trees</b>
Alder (Common)				●	
Ash	●	○	●	●	
Aspen	○				
Birch (Silver)	○				○
Cherry (Wild)	○				
Crab Apple	○	○	○		
Elm (English)		○	○		○
Elm (Wych)	●	○			○
Horse Chestnut	○		○		○
Lime (Small Leaved)	○				
Lime (Large Leaved and Hybrid)	○		○		
Maple (Field)	●	○	○	○	○
Oak (Common)	●	○	●	○	
Oak (Sessile)	○		○		
Pine (Scots)	○				
Sycamore	○				

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

● Dominant Species      ○ Other Species Present

<b>TREES</b>	<b>Woodlands/ Plantations</b>	<b>Hedges</b>	<b>Hedgerow Trees</b>	<b>Wet Areas/Streamsid</b>	<b>Individual/ Parkland Trees</b>
Willow (Crack)	○		○	●	
Willow (Goat)	○				
Willow (White)	○		○	●	

<b>SHRUBS</b>	<b>Woodlands/ Plantations</b>	<b>Hedges</b>	<b>Hedgerow Trees</b>	<b>Wet Areas/Streamsid</b>
Ash		○		
Blackthorn	●	●		○
Buckthorn (Purging)	○	○		
Dogwood (Common)	○	○		○
Elder		○		
Guelder Rose	○	○		○
Hawthorn	●	●	○	●
Hawthorn (Midland)	○	○		○
Hazel	●	○		
Holly	○	○		
Ivy		○		
Maple (Field)		○		
Oak (Common)		○		
Osier	○			○
Privet (Wild)	○	○		
Rosa Sp.	○	●		○
Rubus Sp.		○		

# **Nottinghamshire County Landscape Character Assessment**

## **The Trent Washlands Chapter**

Landscape and Reclamation Team  
Communities Department  
Nottinghamshire County Council

## **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction and Methodology  
Extent of the survey area
  
- 2.0 The Trent Washlands  
Regional Landscape Character Area
  
- 2.1 Physical and Human Influences
  
- 2.2 Visual Character of the Landscape
  
- 2.3 Landscape Evolution and Change
  
- 3.0 Landscape Policy Sheets 1-53
  
- 4.0 Conclusions

## FIGURES

- 1 County Landscape Character Areas
- 2 Soils and Geology - Trent Washlands
- 3 Landscape Description Units - Trent Washlands
- 4 Landscape Character Parcels - Trent Washlands
- 5 Policy Zones - Trent Washlands
- 6 Policy Map - Trent Washlands
- 7 County Landscape Character Subtypes - Trent Washlands

## **APPENDICES**

**A** - Methodology

**B** - Landscape Character Assessment Field Survey Sheets - Trent Washlands

**C** - Summary Tables (The amalgamation of Landscape Character Parcels into Draft Policy Zones)

**D** - Landscape Condition and Sensitivity Field Survey Sheets - Trent Washlands

**E** - Trent Washlands – Complete Landscape History section

**F** - Comments from NCC Ecologist relating to habitat restoration

**G** - Species List for the Trent Washlands



## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Introduction and Methodology

This Landscape Character Assessment was commissioned and funded by the Minerals and Waste Planning Team, Communities Department of Nottinghamshire County Council. It was carried out by the Landscape and Reclamation Team, Communities Department of Nottinghamshire County Council. The methodology for the assessment was developed by NCC and trialled in a pilot project for the Sherwood Regional Landscape Character Area and it is included as Appendix A of this document.

### 1.2 Purpose of the document

This LCA will eventually form the **Trent Washlands** chapter of the complete LCA for the whole of the County. The completed document will replace the existing Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines published in 1998. This document is being completed by a number of different agencies, and is expected to be complete by the end of 2009.

The **Trent Washlands** chapter is being produced to form part of the Minerals Core Strategy and the Minerals Development Control Policies Document which are part of the Local Development Framework which will replace the existing Minerals Local Plan.

The Minerals Core Strategy will set out overall approach to future minerals extraction in Nottinghamshire. Key issues will include estimates of how much mineral needs to be provided to meet expected demand over the next 10-15 years, what types of sites are suitable and where in broad terms should new or extended mineral sites be located. Recent revisions to the new planning system now mean that the Core Strategy may allocate strategic sites.

The Minerals Development Control Policies will be prepared at the same time as the Core Strategy. This document will set out policies for controlling development and making sure environmental standards are met. Policies will therefore cover issues such as traffic, noise and dust as well as policies aimed at protecting important wildlife, heritage sites and landscapes.

### 1.3 Context

The **Trent Washlands** covers 1 National Character Areas [NCA] as defined by Natural England; Trent and Belvoir Vales [48]. At a county level County Character Areas (CCAs) have been defined by NCC these relate to the NCAs, which cover much broader areas, but do not have exactly the same boundaries. The CCAs have been created using the 'Living Landscapes Project' methodology. This is a GIS based process which not only relates to the NCA work carried out by Natural England but is an established methodology used by counties across the country, including Derbyshire and Leicestershire both of which border Nottinghamshire. Figure 1 shows these character areas in the context of the whole county. Each County Character Area forms a separate chapter within this Landscape Character Assessment. The CCAs are further divided into Landscape Description Units [LDUs] these are homogenous units within the broader CCAs.

### 1.4 Landscape Character Assessment

Within each County Character Area, the LDUs are subdivided into manageable survey units known as Landscape Character Parcels (LCPs). Each LCP is assessed in terms of its individual landscape character in accordance with the methodology. A photograph which is representative of the character of each LCP is also taken and its location recorded. This information is detailed on the Landscape Character Assessment Field survey sheets for each County Character Area, which are included at the relevant Appendices.

The **Trent Washlands** have been divided into 30 Landscape Description Units (LDUs) as shown on Figure 2. These LDUs were then subdivided into 34 Landscape Character Parcels (LCPs) as shown on Figure 3. The Landscape Character of each LCP has been surveyed and described in accordance with the methodology included as Appendix A. A representative photograph of each LCP was also taken and the associated 6 figure grid reference is recorded. This information is detailed on the Landscape Character Assessment survey sheets which are included as Appendix B of this document.

### 1.5 Draft Policy Zones

Following on from the Landscape Character Assessment of each LCP, a number of Draft Policy Zones (DPZs) were created using the completed survey information. Key characteristics were tabulated to help determine which LCPs may or may not be grouped together to form a DPZ, for instance LCPs with obvious similarities become one distinct DPZ. The DPZs combine either one or more LCP depending upon the similarities of their attributes. A table showing the derivation of each DPZ is included at the relevant appendix. A total of 53 DPZs were derived for the **Trent Washlands**, the table showing how they were amalgamated is included as Appendix C.

## 1.6 Landscape Condition and Sensitivity Assessment

The DPZs were assessed in terms of their condition and sensitivity in accordance with the methodology. This information was detailed on the Landscape Condition and Sensitivity assessment field sheets for each County Character Area, and forms the basis of Landscape Policy for each zone.

For the **Trent Washlands**, this information is detailed on the Landscape Condition and Sensitivity field survey sheets, which are included as **Appendix D** of this document.

## 1.7 Policy Zones

A series of Policy Sheets, one per Policy Zone, have been produced. These are supported by a plan showing the resultant policy for each Zone. Each Policy sheet includes an overall character summary, specific characteristic features, a matrix and summary of the Landscape Condition and Sensitivity, and a representative photograph.

Finally, a series of Landscape actions is defined for each Policy Zone. Collectively, this provides a Policy Framework for the conservation and restoration of the **Trent Washlands**.

A series of 53 Policy sheets covering the whole of the **Trent Washlands** was produced. A key plan is included as Figure 6. These collect together the key information for each Policy Zone, and are presented as Section 3 of this document.

This framework will help to ensure that landscape character is reflected in the many decisions and actions that affect its continuing evolution. The intention is not to fossilise change, but to provide a context that will enable policy making, planning and landscape management decisions to be made which respect and sustain the diversity and character of the countryside.

## 2.0 The Trent Washlands

### 2.1 Physical and human influences

#### Introduction

The **Trent Washlands** is principally formed from the broad valleys of the River Trent. The region is defined by alluvial and river terrace drift deposits and occupies around 10 % of the County. The Trent flows in a great arc through a number of counties including Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire before eventually discharging into the North Sea, via the Humber. Stoke-on-Trent, Burton on Trent, Nottingham, Newark and Gainsborough are the main population centres located along its course.

#### The shape of the land

In Nottinghamshire the valley of the Trent strikes through the County from end to end over a distance of 80 kilometres. Throughout its length this valley, which has an average width of 2-3 kilometres, is floored by a succession of river-borne materials, each reflecting a stage in the development of the river system. The materials consist primarily of older flood gravels of varying age, covered in places by more recently deposited alluvium. While the gravels are predominantly coarse and composed mainly of Bunter Pebble Bed debris, the alluvium is of much finer texture, varying from silty loam to light clay.

The gravels include both outwash material derived from the retreating pleistocene ice fronts, and more recent riverine deposits. Together these form a series of low terraces which occur mainly along the edge of the valley, but also as "islands" in the midst of the river floodplain. Most of these terraces are raised by a metre or more, providing areas of naturally dry land surrounded by river alluvium. In places the alluvial floodplain forms extensive areas of flat, low-lying land that would have been subject to periodic flooding prior to the advent of arterial drainage schemes. Alluvial deposits also flank the many smaller tributary streams which flow into the valley, mainly from the low mudstone hills to the west.

The Trent Valley in Nottinghamshire has been cut almost entirely in Mercia Mudstone, and for part of its length the region is flanked on either side by steep slopes to form a shallow trench. These slopes are particularly well developed between Long Eaton and Newark, where for long stretches they represent an old line of degraded river bluffs. In places, especially on the east bank, steep, often wooded river cliffs are a prominent feature rising above the flat alluvial floodplain. They are best developed at Clifton and Radcliffe, and again between Gunthorpe and East Stoke.

Downstream from Newark, the region broadens out, while the slopes rising from its edge gradually decrease in height and steepness until the valley becomes almost indiscernible from the adjacent lowland areas. In its lowest section beyond

Gainsborough the valley opens out onto a broad plain which stretches away northwards to the Humber estuary. This almost level area of former washland, lying at, or in places just below, sea level, is flooded by a variable thickness of silty marine alluvium.

## **Soils**

Soils developed on glaciofluvial deposits and river terraces within the main river corridor have predominately coarse loamy textures, often with sandy sub-soils overlying gravel. The larger and more extensive terraces that flank the river corridor downstream from Newark are dominated by deep permeable sandy and coarse sandy soils in glaciofluvial drift. The alluvial soils of the Trent consist of mottled clayey and clay loam soils, developed in greyish and brownish alluvium. Downstream of Gainsborough deposits of shallow coarse silty material overlie the marine alluvium.

## **Landscape history**

This is the region with the most dynamic and complex environment in Nottinghamshire, where both human and natural activities have interacted not just to create successions of landscapes, but to change the actual form of the land. The region contains a rich resource of archaeological remains, many of which are visible on the surface as differential crop growth over buried ditches, pits and other infilled disturbances of the subsoil. The geology and soils of the region are particularly favourable to the development of these cropmarks, which have been recorded through aerial reconnaissance and photography. We now know that invisible archaeological remains also exist, buried in or beneath alluvium deposited by the Trent, and that organic remains which would normally decay may be preserved in the wet conditions of this burial. Such preservation is also a feature of ancient river channels which are to be found buried in many locations on the flood plain of the Trent. It is possible to deduce a great deal about past ecological circumstances and human land use from the tree trunks, brushwood, leaves, pollen, beetles, spiders, molluscs and other remains of flora and fauna found in the deposits filling these palaeochannels, or within flood deposits and archaeological remains. Much new evidence about the palaeoenvironments of the region has been gathered in recent years, giving new insight into the development of the river valley landscape. Research into the environmental and human history of the **Trent Washlands** continues. This brief overview of that history can not do justice to the detail of new evidence being revealed or to the studies involved, which are already considerable. But however much we know now, we have only made a beginning. A full description of the landscape history of the **Trent Washlands** is included as Appendix E of this document.

## 2.2 Visual Character of the Landscape

### Introduction

The historical pattern of land use and settlement within the region is closely linked to the physical character of the valleys, with settlements along the Trent situated on the margins of the valley and the raised river terraces. The free-draining soils, water supplies and ease of communication have attracted people and settlement to the region at all dates.

The Trent flows through the large urban centres of Nottingham and Newark in Nottinghamshire. The urban edges of Nottingham and Newark have radically altered the character of the river corridors locally. A number of other pressures have greatly affected the traditional character of the region. These include the impact of power stations and pylon lines, mineral extraction, urban encroachment, road and rail developments and agricultural intensification. These changes have led to alterations in the traditional pattern of land use and a fragmentation of landscape structure in many areas. Away from the urban areas settlement is characterised by a nucleated pattern of villages and isolated farmsteads. These have retained their distinctive vernacular character, being of red brick and pantile roof construction. Modern houses have, however, been constructed in most settlements, introducing a suburban character to many villages, especially those situated close to the main cities and towns.

Arable cultivation now dominates large areas of the river corridors, whereas previously it was confined to the river terraces. Within the Trent corridor a narrow band of riverside grassland is all that remains of a once extensive tract of meadowland and pasture. The meandering river channels are dominant components of the river corridor landscapes; however, along the Trent, high floodbanks often shield the river from view. Within the Trent corridor the river is most visible where associated with the steep wooded bluffs of the Trent Trench, upstream of East Stoke. In this area, and many others, the traditional riverine character of the valleys has been retained. The strength and unity of this character is greatest where there are features such as flood meadows, grazing animals, wooded bluffs, willow holts, mixed hedgerows, historical settlements, permanent pastures and irregular field pattern. Many areas are also rich with archaeological and historical features including deserted medieval villages, Roman fort sites, ridge and furrow, and crop marks.

The **Trent Washlands** Regional Character Area has been divided by the desk based character assessment into 30 Landscape Description Units as shown in Figure 3. These fall into two distinct landscape types **Village Farmlands** and **River Meadowlands**, as shown on Figure 7. These have been classified generically which means that, theoretically, the landscape types could occur at any location within the country where there are similar physical resources and historical patterns of land use. In reality the landscape types possess a

distinctively local character, because they share the broad characteristics of the regional character area, or represent a particular aspect of that character.

### **Village Farmlands**

A flat low-lying agricultural landscape characterised by a traditional pattern of hedged fields and nucleated village settlements

#### **Characteristic features**

- Broad flat river terraces
- Regular pattern of medium-to large-sized fields, breaking down and becoming open in many areas
- Hedgerow trees main component of tree with cover with Ash being the principle species
- Willow pollards
- Predominantly arable with permanent pasture around settlements and roads
- Nucleated villages with traditional red brick and pantile roofed buildings
- Large power stations
- Sand and gravel quarries

#### **Landscape description**

These are flat, intensively farmed landscapes located on river terrace deposits within the Trent river corridors. Topographically, the low lying terraces are of variable prominence, with the better-pronounced terraces rising up to 2 metres above the level of the surrounding alluvium. In the Trent Valley the majority of the terraces are located along the western flank of the river, downstream from Nottingham as far north as Sturton le Steeple. The river terrace deposits are found upstream of Sutton Bonnington. The river terraces provide dry sites for the nucleated pattern of village settlements, just above the level of the river floodplain. Other settlements within the river corridors are found at the valley margins along the fringe of the mudstone landscapes. Most of the smaller villages and farmsteads have retained their traditional character, being of red brick and pantile roof construction. However, modern housing styles have introduced a suburban character to certain of the larger villages. Narrow hedged lanes link many of the settlements. These run across the terraces to the river in a number of places. The river itself is often not a dominant feature. Flat terrain, floodbanks and hedgerows contrive to shield it from view.

There has been a strong tradition of cropping on the high quality terrace soils. This tradition has continued, with the terraces now dominated by intensive arable production, typically within a regular pattern of medium to large fields. This pattern is now highly variable due to field rationalisation. Where hedgerows are intact and well managed, summer views are rarely of any distance, the level landform and hedgerows helping to restrict longer distance views. More open views across the landscape are experienced in many areas, due to a break down in the field pattern, leading to a loss of continuity and character.



Where the field pattern is well defined the occurrence of hedgerow trees enhances the enclosed nature of the landscape and gives structure and form. Ash is the most numerous and widespread species, Oak is also found throughout. Willow is found along stream lines, ditches, and in many hedgerows. Willow pollards are a special feature found throughout the landscape and are particularly prevalent in the more intact enclosed areas. Mature Horse Chestnut trees are found in many parts of the landscape, especially in roadside hedges close to settlements. Hedgerows are mainly strong, trimmed, and Hawthorn, becoming low and gappy on the margins of the more degraded areas. Although hedgerows are dominated by Hawthorn, mixed species hedges are found locally throughout.

Although the village farmlands are dominated by arable farming, grassland landscapes are an important feature, usually being located adjacent to the red brick villages. These pastoral areas have a particularly strong character and are often associated with small irregular field patterns, mature hedgerow trees, strong and often mixed hedgerows, willow pollards, and small pockets of parkland. Some of the grassland contains ridge and furrow. These areas represent the most diverse and undisturbed parts of the landscape and are particularly worthy of protection. They are often associated with areas of historical and wildlife interest.

Small-scale broad-leaved woodlands are scattered throughout the landscape. These are generally small in size and do not constitute a major component of the landscape character. Hedgerow trees are the most important element of the landscape's overall tree cover.

There are relatively large tracts of landscape where field patterns have become poorly defined, fragmented or lost. The loss of field pattern has led to the development of more open landscapes with field edges defined by roads, stream lines and ditches. Remnant field hedgerows and hedgerow trees are often out of scale with the landscape and swamped by growing crops in summer. Occasional Ash trees provide reminders of the former landscape structure. Power stations,



pylon lines and mineral workings are even more prominent and visible when viewed from these open areas.

The Village Farmlands landscapes have a distinctly urban fringe character adjacent to the western edge of Newark and built areas of south Nottingham. Residential edges, industrial parks, railway lines and sewage works are a feature of these areas, along with landscaped embankments and formal parks.

### **River Meadowlands**

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 meadow
- 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

#### **Landscape description**

These landscapes are located on flat, low-lying alluvial floodplains within the Trent river valleys, and the lower reach of the Devon. Few buildings are found in these sparsely settled landscapes because of the risk of inundation by flood waters. The River Meadowlands are characterised by areas of alluvial meadow and riverside pasture, flood meadows, extensive common grasslands, meandering river channels and steep wooded bluffs. The character and unity of the river corridors have broken down in recent decades, largely as a result of flood protection works which have allowed the arable conversion of large tracts of alluvial meadowland.



Significant areas of intact river corridor have survived along various sections of the Trent. These areas possess a peaceful, undisturbed pastoral character with meandering river channels, permanent pastures, flood meadows, willow holts and grazing animals. This gives the landscape a strong sense of place and a feeling of naturalness. Along the Trent Trench steeply inclined wooded bluffs form a dramatic backdrop to the river and contain ash, oak, sycamore, poplar, alder and

willow species. The bluffs are particularly pronounced on the east bank where they are undercut by the river. The flood meadows are sometimes associated with shingle beds. Old willows are locally important throughout the landscape. Remnant patches of marginal wetland vegetation fringe the river channels in some areas, enhancing the riparian character of the valleys. Willow holts are located at a number of points along the rivers; these increase diversity in the landscape and add to the strong sense of place.

The grasslands are often defined by long sinuous hedges which now mark the boundary with the arable landscapes. Much of the grassland runs in a strip parallel to the river protected by floodbanks; this is particularly so in the Trent Valley downstream from Cromwell where the river becomes tidal. The raised floodbanks confine views to the river channel and exclude the surrounding landscape and disrupt visual continuity. The pasture itself is featureless except for patches of fringing riparian scrub. Extensive areas of intact river meadowland are found near Sutton on Trent. These "Holme" grasslands are located on both sides of the river and have a spacious, open and treeless character.

Large areas of the River Meadowlands have now been converted to arable land. This encroaches to the river channel edges in many areas disrupting the unity of the river corridors, particularly along the Trent. Away from the river the landscape is defined by medium to large scale regular and semi-irregular field patterns. Field rationalisation has led to the loss of hedgerows in many areas, producing open landscapes with a very weak riverine character.

Despite only the occasional small deciduous woodland and Willow holt, the overall impression is of a well treed landscape. Ash, Oak and Willow hedgerow trees are the most important components of the overall tree cover. These enhance the sense of enclosure and allow filtered views down the valleys. Numerous Willow-lined streams flowing into the main river channels are also prominent landscape features, as are old Willow pollards which occur widely.

Although there are a few buildings located within the River Meadowlands, numerous mineral extraction sites and large power stations are located close by. These developments have a large impact upon the character of the landscape, further increasing the sense of disunity.

## 2.3 Landscape Evolution and Change

### 2.3.1 Introduction

This section examines the main forces that have brought about change and evolution within the **Trent Washlands** over recent decades. It does this by discussing how the current structure and pattern of land use has developed, paying particular regard to agriculture, woodland, transport, industrial/residential development, mineral extraction and tourism. It also considers the trends and pressures that may produce landscape change in the future, such as climate change, which has the potential to affect all of the above trends.

### 2.3.2 Agriculture

The traditional character of the Trent Valley between the border of Derbyshire and Newark has been one of mixed farming, serving the demands of the large population centres. Before the Second World War permanent pastures flanked the meandering river channel and carpeted the low-lying alluvial areas. These were the natural flood plains and washlands. Arable production was confined to the low terraces where the risk of inundation was less, occupying around 40% of the total area. Downstream of Newark the proportion of arable land was significantly less, with over 75% of the valley set to permanent pasture. An almost continuous ribbon of grassland therefore extended along the alluvial deposits of the Trent.

The character of the valley has changed radically in recent decades. Modifications involving floodbanks, the isolation of the Colwick loop, and the building of sluices have now allowed the encroachment of arable farming to the flood banks. Agricultural intensification has led to a dramatic increase in the area of arable land and the loss of almost 70 % of permanent grassland within the region. Much of this was prime water meadow.

Through its agricultural land classification work, DEFRA has identified most of the region as being of medium quality agricultural land. However, there are significant areas of high quality agricultural land, located on the river terraces between Stoke Bardolph and Low Marnham and to the north of the region in the vicinity of West Stockwith. The cropping potential of the arable land within the **Trent Washlands** is therefore generally good, particularly where free from flooding on the terraces. Much of the existing grassland area adjacent to the Trent is classified as low quality, again due to flooding constraints.

There has also been an important change in the way grasslands are managed, with the making of silage rather than hay. Many grass fields have been agriculturally improved, though not necessarily by ploughing and reseeding. The use of fertilisers and herbicides is now widespread, which has led to a general decline in the floristic interest of the grassland. However, less improved permanent grassland still forms a significant, although decreased, component of the region.

Cereals are the principal crops grown, accounting for almost two thirds of production. Other significant crops include oil seed rape, sugar beet, potatoes, horticultural crops, peas, and crops for stock feed. Livestock operators are found within most of the parishes in the region. There is a wide range of farm sizes.

With regard to the future, the general national trend towards farm diversification is likely to lead to a change in traditional field patterns and farming methods in the **Trent Washlands**. Equestrian activities are an increasingly popular form of countryside recreation, and coupled with commercial livery services, are often considered acceptable within an agricultural setting. These uses can introduce new opportunities for employment and diversification of the rural economy, providing an acceptable conversion of former agricultural premises. However, the cumulative effect of equestrian activities can redefine the agricultural landscape, particularly through the division of existing fields into individual paddocks, defined by post and wire fencing and provision of stables and liveryes. This process is evident in the **Trent Washlands**, particularly around the eastern urban fringe of Nottingham.

Support for energy crops is likely to change the agricultural landscape of England, with predictions that biomass crops could cover 20% of farmland by 2040. The use of Willow as an energy crop is already being recorded as a land use in the Trent Valley, and is likely to increase.

### 2.3.3 Woodland/tree cover

Historically the **Trent Washlands** have been the least wooded part of the County. The total woodland cover now stands at 1.73 % (County: 7.27%). 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 of the Trent Trench. Small willow holts are a feature of the River Meadowlands, wet woodlands are found within old sand and gravel workings, and a scattered distribution of small broad-leaved woodlands occurs elsewhere. The region has the lowest proportion of coniferous woodland in the County, at 1.5%. Mixed woodlands account for 5.5% of the total, new plantations 8.0% and broad-leaved woodlands 84.5%.

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 the principal component of the region's tree cover, with Ash, Oak and Willow the dominant species.

### 2.3.4 Infrastructure

A number of roads have an impact including the A1 which runs in a north-side direction through part of the region. Imminent road improvement schemes include the widening of the A46 between Newark and Widmerpool.

The River Trent is a major transport route along which 250,000 tonnes of mainly gravel excavated from the Trent Valley is exported.

A number of railway lines dissect the area with the east coast main line running in a north-south direction through the region. The Nottingham to Lincoln line runs via Newark whilst two railway lines traverse the region in the vicinity of Gainsborough. Feeder lines supply power station sites at Cottam and West Burton.

The River Trent is a commercial waterway downstream from Nottingham providing a direct link to Gainsborough and the Humber Ports along with commercial waterways in Yorkshire. There are two leisure canals that join with the Trent, the Beeston Canal at Nottingham and the Chesterfield Canal at West Stockwith in the north of the County. The Grantham Canal is no longer navigable and is cut off from the Trent at West Bridgford, but plans are currently at a feasibility stage to look at re-establishing it as a navigable canal.

### **2.3.5 Urban and industrial development**

The main urban areas within the region are centred on Nottingham and Newark. Past industrial and residential expansion of these areas has led to the coalescence of outlying villages and the loss of historical settlement pattern and rural character.

There is a continuing demand for land to accommodate new housing within Nottinghamshire. The East Midlands Regional Plan (Adopted March 09) defines 5 Principal Urban Areas (PUAs) which include Nottingham. These are settlement conurbations that can develop into sustainable urban communities where people will wish to work and invest. Sub Regional Centres (SRGs) are also identified which include Newark in the Northern sub area. These perform a complementary role to the PUAs and have potential to accommodate further growth.

In addition to these, the plan identifies New Growth Points where there is considered to be the potential to accelerate the delivery of new housing. The 3 Cities 3 Counties Growth point includes Nottingham and Newark parts of which are located in the **Trent Washlands**.

The plan identifies 100,600 new dwellings to be provided within Nottinghamshire Districts between 2006 – 2026, this comprises 36,600 in the outer Nottingham Housing Market Area HMA which includes the Newark Growth Point, 57,000 in the Nottingham Core HMA which includes the Nottingham Growth Point and 7000 in the Bassetlaw District Council Area.

Limited provision will be made for residential development in selected villages as identified in the Local Development Frameworks. Permission for affordable housing in rural areas will be in addition to allocations in the East Midlands Regional Plan.

Areas in the south of the **Trent Washlands** fall into the Nottinghamshire – Derby Greenbelt where there are greater restraints to development but this greenbelt is subject to review over the next 25 years.

East Midlands Regional policy also seeks to confine economic activity to, and adjacent to, the Principal Urban Area, since they have the greater needs and greater potential in terms of available labour and services. Provision will also be made for a limited amount of employment development in villages as identified in Local Development Frameworks. There are a number of areas within the region with proposals for future economic development.

The rehabilitation and conversion of old farm buildings to high quality residential dwellings is now widespread. The occupiers of these buildings are largely from the affluent service classes and their arrival has caused shifts in the economic and social structure of the countryside. The impact of these changes is only just being felt. If the trend continues there may be further consequences for the future pattern and character of the rural landscape.

Although new developments are being confined to the existing urban areas where possible, it is clear that economic and social factors will continue to exert pressure on rural areas of the region.

### 2.3.6 Energy

The power generating industry warrants separate consideration due to its enormous impact on the landscape of the region. There are two functioning coal-fired power stations located in the **Trent Washlands**, Cottam, and West Burton. (High Marnham has now been decommissioned). Their combined output amounts to 20% of the UK's generating capacity. The proximity of productive coalfields, a good water supply, adequate communications and favourable topography were the main factors in their siting, coal is now imported from outside the region.

The power stations and associated web of high voltage power lines constitute the most dominant and visually intrusive landscape features within the river valley corridors. In the Trent Valley the only areas where an observer can be out of sight of a power station are between West Bridgford and Fiskerton, and to the south and east of Besthorpe.

National Power are currently constructing a power station at Staythorpe on a redundant energy site. This will be a combined cycle gas turbine station (CCGT). It will produce enough electricity to power around 2 million homes. This is in line with the former Structure Plan policies for use and re-use of existing energy sites. The nature, location and scale of further developments will be dependant on future national and international economic factor. It is unlikely, however, that the development of gas powered plants will proceed, gradually replacing coal production capacity and reducing the life expectancy of existing power generation plant.

## Renewable Energy

National policy is placing a greater emphasis on the promotion of renewable energy sources, such as wind-farms. The East Midlands Regional Plan states that by 2020, at least 20% of electricity supplied in the East Midlands should be provided from renewable energy sources. Currently, the figure is just 2%.

Regional policy encourages planning authorities to develop plans and strategies to promote and encourage (rather than restrict) the use of renewable energy resources. There are likely to be future applications for the location of wind-farms in the Trent Valley. These structures have the potential to change the landscape character of the **Trent Washlands**, particularly the more sparsely settled northern areas.

The power generation industry will continue, therefore, to be a dominant feature of the region.

### 2.3.7 Minerals: sand and gravel

Mineral extraction has had a considerable impact on the region. Nottinghamshire is the largest producer of sand and gravel in the East Midlands. Over 80% of the County's resources are derived from the alluvial (river terrace) sand and gravels of the Trent Valley. The deposits have an average thickness of 5-8 metres producing yields of 60-80,000 tonnes per hectare. There are a large number of active quarries, including sites at Holme Pierrepont, Hoveringham, Langford Lowfields, Cromwell, Besthorpe, Girton and Rampton. Individual quarries commonly exceed 150 ha in size. The total area of quarries and permitted land in the region is approximately 17.5 km<sup>2</sup>.

The degree to which the workings and associated processing plant affect the quality of the landscape varies from site to site. Tree and earth bank screens have been successful on certain sites. However, there are still many which have a detrimental effect on landscape quality. Plant, buildings, workings and the transportation of materials are visually intrusive. Dust, noise, pollution and dereliction of land are often associated with mineral extraction.

Past mineral workings have been reclaimed to a variety of different afteruses. Langford Lowfields and parts of Besthorpe are also to be put to nature conservation purposes. Holme Pierrepont, Hoveringham, Crankly and Girton all have water-based afteruses. Restoration to agriculture using PFA has been, or will be, occurring on sites at Hoveringham, Cromwell, Besthorpe, Girton and Rampton.

Before the 1970s the majority of workings were reclaimed to water, usually to quite poor standards. Reclamation to agriculture did not occur until the first PFA schemes were established, and accounted for only 30% of the reclaimed land in the Trent Valley before the 1980s. The 1984 Nottinghamshire Sand and Gravel Local Plan, later incorporated into the Minerals Local Plan, sought to ensure that

most allocations could be reclaimed to agriculture and encouraged the continued development of PFA infilling schemes. The proportion of land reclaimed to agriculture doubled to 60% during the 1980s. The main strategy of the Plan was to avoid the proliferation of further water areas.

Government guidance has now reduced the emphasis on agricultural restoration. This is a reflection of recent policies aimed at reducing overall levels of agricultural production. There is, however, still a strong presumption to protect the highest quality agricultural land and avoid water-based reclamation where there is already an abundance of water. The uncertain future for the power industry outlined in the previous section also has implications for reclamation to agriculture, with long-term supplies of PFA now less certain.

The allocations made in the Nottinghamshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework currently in preparation estimates that new allocations in excess 58 million tonnes will be required by 2016.

For the **Trent Washlands** this means an allocation of                    ha to maintain a 10 year landbank for the industry. It is clear that sand and gravel operations will continue to have a major impact on the landscape of the **Trent Washlands** with the level of land take destined to increase for the foreseeable future.

### 2.3.8 Tourism

A key project which is likely to have a great effect in attracting tourists to the area is the Trent River Park being promoted by Nottinghamshire City Council. This aims to develop the river as a regeneration corridor, and improve access to the river. The full length of the park extends 21 kilometres, from the east to the west of the City of Nottingham, but it impacts on the **Trent Washlands** from the western City boundary, as far as Gunthorpe.

### 2.3.9 Climate Change

Research has identified trends and emerging patterns of global climate change. Within the UK, implications for climate change include:

- Global temperature increases of between 1.8 and 4 degrees centigrade above the 1990s levels by the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, with UK increases anticipated at 2 to 3.5 degrees by 2080.
- Greater warming in the South and East of the UK, rather than the West and North.
- Increasing temperatures resulting in milder winters and high summer temperatures.
- An increase in sea levels by 26-86 cm, by 2080. Extreme high water incidences 10 to 20 times more frequent, increasing coastal flood risks.



- Changes in rainfall patterns, with wetter winters and drier summers. The greatest changes are anticipated for the South and East of the UK, where summer rainfall could reduce by 50%, and snowfall reduced by 60 – 80% by 2080. (1)

These changes have the potential to impact on all other drivers for change in the future. The East Midlands Sustainability Round Table published a report highlighting the potential impact of climate change in the East Midlands. (2) The issues of the most relevance to the landscape character of the **Trent Washlands** include:

### **Built Development**

- Increased development on land away from locations such as river corridors and low lying areas that are at risk from flooding.
- Sustainable design and layout of new development to result in less use of water, energy and raw materials.

### **Infrastructure**

- Pressure for renewable energy infrastructure, such as wind turbines to reduce emissions
- Demand for new riverine defence works in response to tidal surges and high waves.

### **Minerals and Waste**

- Reducing the amount of waste land filled and increasing the amount of waste recycled and composted.

### **Agricultural and Land Management**

- Increased risk of river flooding and loss of land as a result of rising sea levels and coastal erosion.
- Changing weather conditions leading to longer growing seasons and the ability to grow different types of crops.
- The introduction of energy crops to provide an sustainable source of fuel.
- Gradual changes in flora and fauna in response to warmer, wetter conditions and more disturbed weather patterns.

## **Forestry and Woodland**

- Sustainability of forest tree species may alter due to changes in climatic conditions.
- Lengthy period of drought and dry conditions may lead to an increased risk of upland forest fire.

## **Tourism and Recreation**

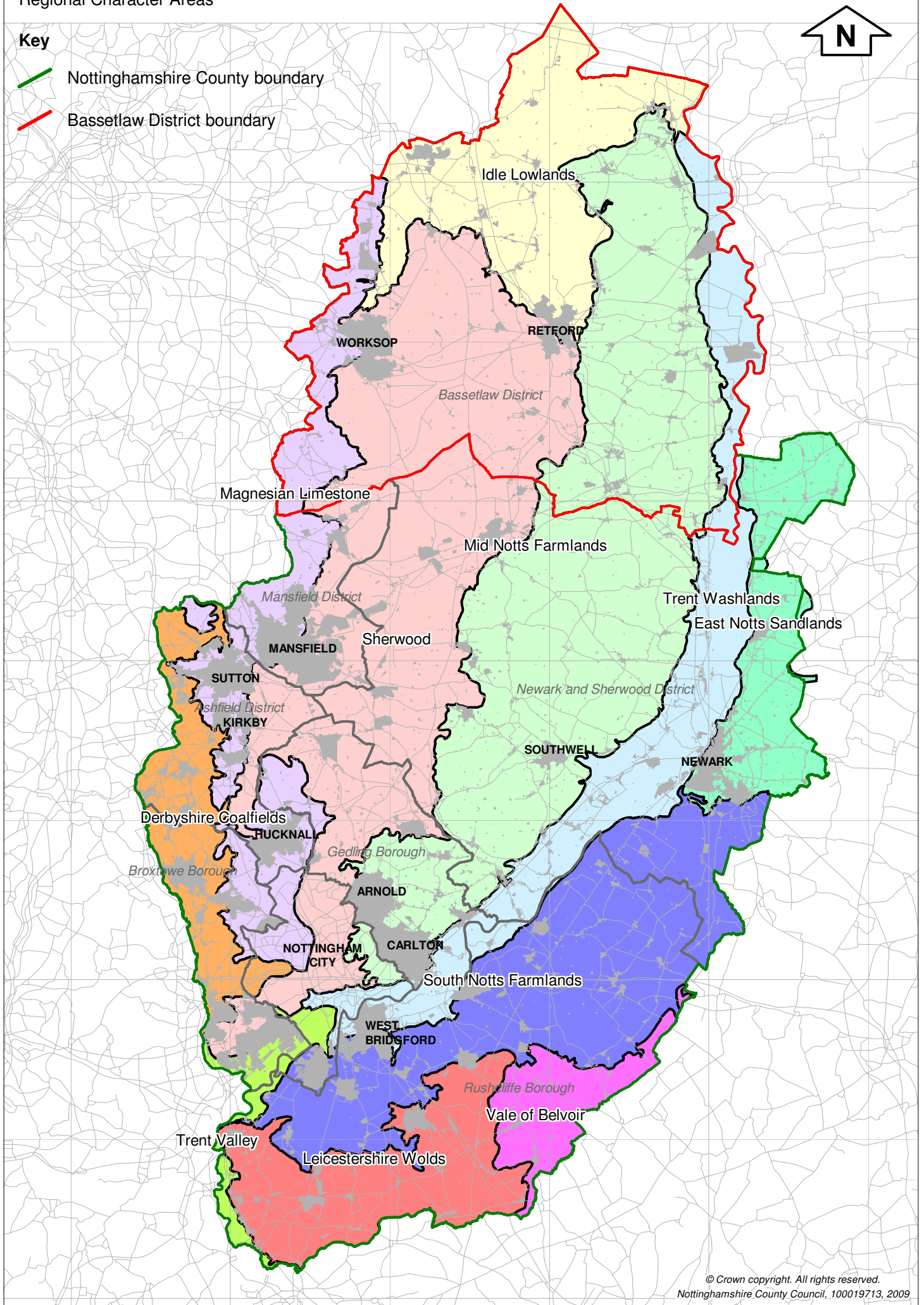
- Increased number of visitors to the countryside due to higher temperatures.

(1) [www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/about/ukeffect](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/about/ukeffect)

(2) The potential impact of climate change in the East Midlands (2004)  
[www.emra.gov.uk/publications/regional-communities-policy/climatechange](http://www.emra.gov.uk/publications/regional-communities-policy/climatechange)





**FIGURE 1**  
Regional Character Areas












**FIGURE 2**  
Policy Zones - All Areas within Bassetlaw

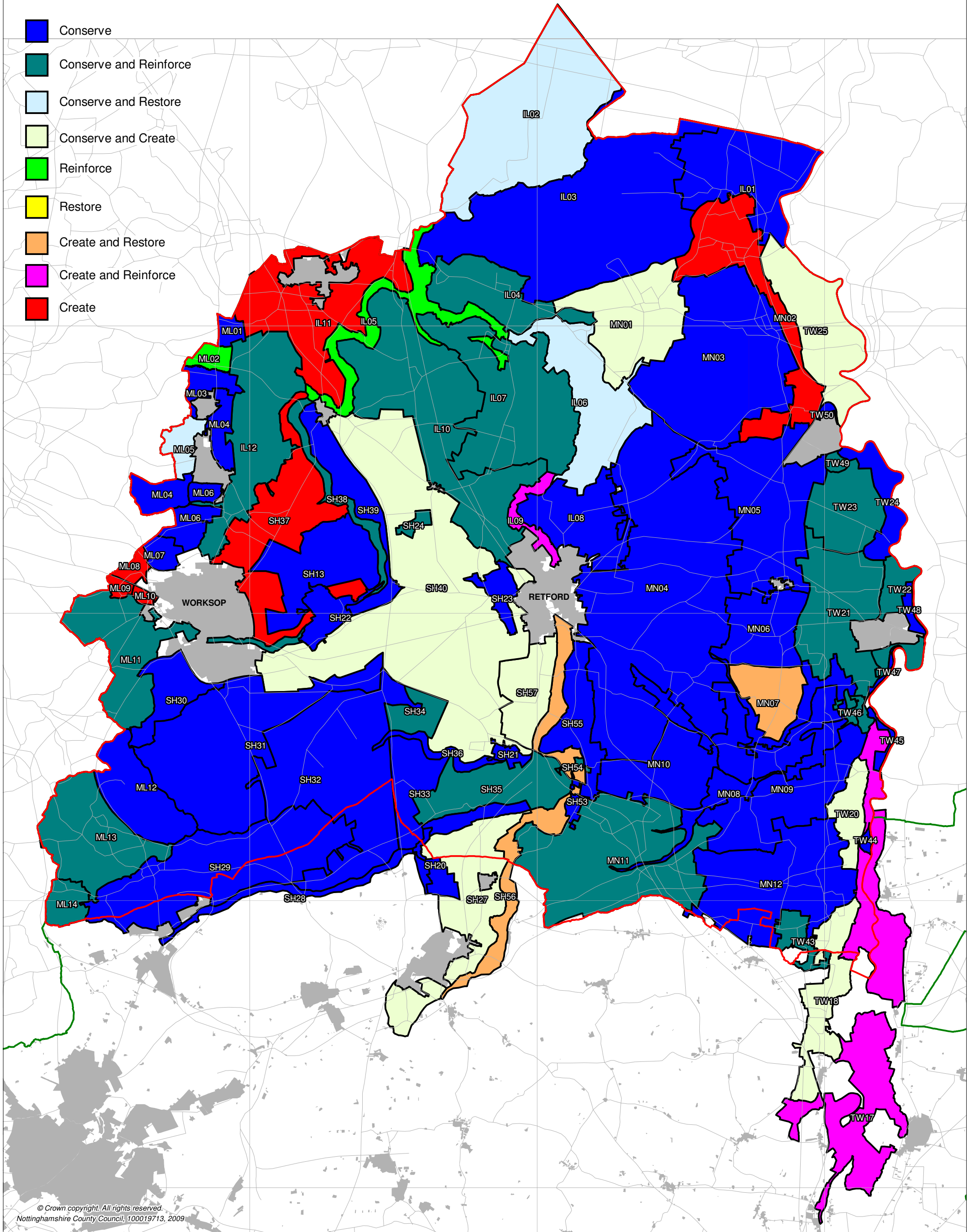
**Key**

-  Nottinghamshire County boundary
-  Bassetlaw District boundary



**POLICIES**




-  Conserve
-  Conserve and Reinforce
-  Conserve and Restore
-  Conserve and Create
-  Reinforce
-  Restore
-  Create and Restore
-  Create and Reinforce
-  Create

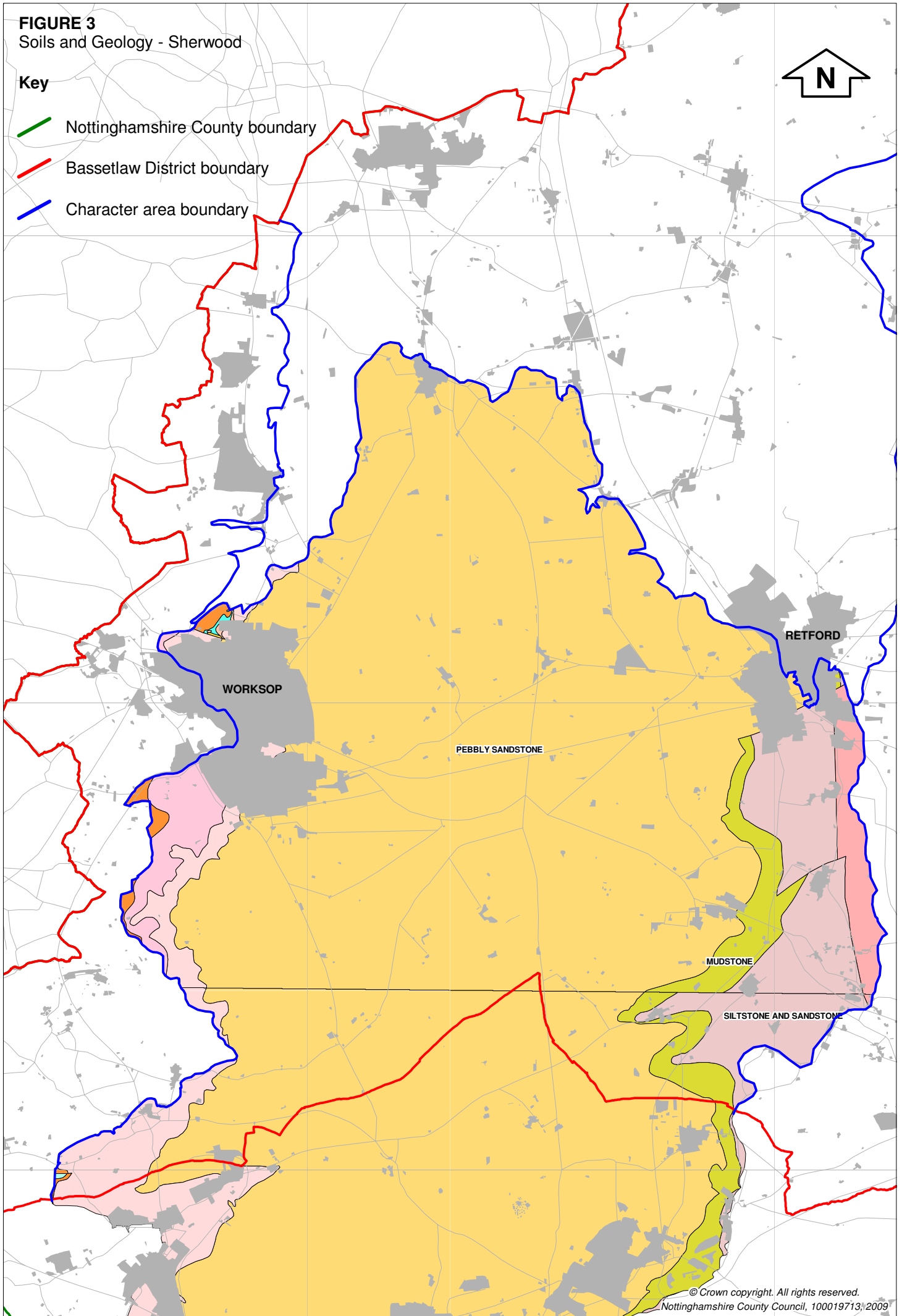




**FIGURE 3**  
Soils and Geology - Sherwood

**Key**

-  Nottinghamshire County boundary
-  Bassetlaw District boundary
-  Character area boundary






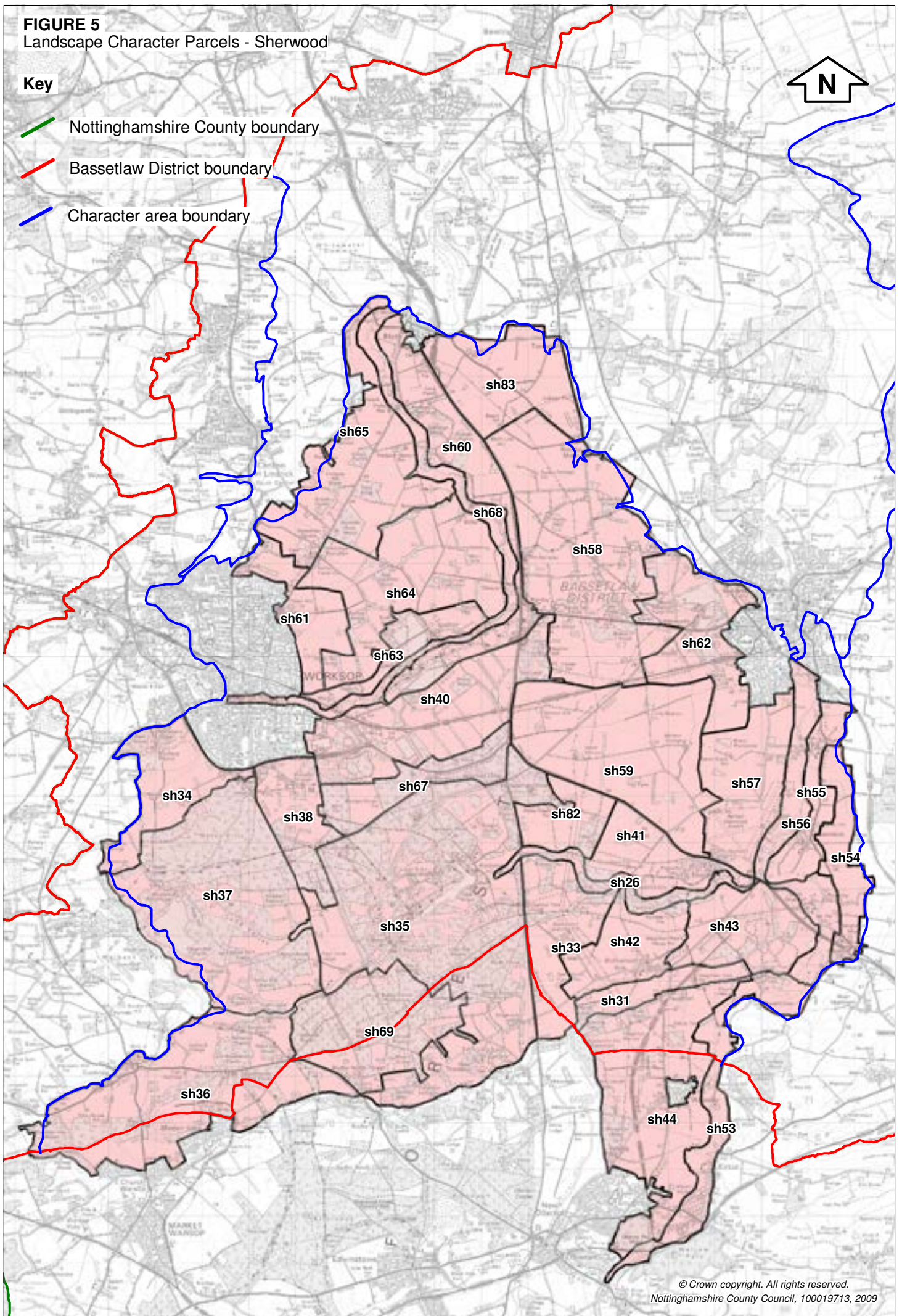




**FIGURE 5**  
Landscape Character Parcels - Sherwood

**Key**

-  Nottinghamshire County boundary
-  Bassetlaw District boundary
-  Character area boundary





## S PZ 21 Elkesley Meadowlands with Plantations/ Estate Farmlands

Policy: Conserve

### Character summary

A flat river valley landscape located to the south of the settlement of Elkesley.

The River Poulter meanders east to west through the area, semi-enclosed by Willow, Poplar and Alder fringes. This small-scale riverside landscape contains mainly unimproved meadows along both sides of the river with a few fields of arable and occasional amenity grassland further to the north and south. Fields are defined by tall, bushy, mixed hedgerows of Hawthorn, with Field Maple, Blackthorn, Elder and Rose with occasional Ash and Oak standards. A mature Poplar plantation is located to the south of the village.

There are woodland clumps and corner copses surviving from the Sanderson's plan period. Brick and pantile roofed cottages are prevalent within this LCP, many of which are listed.

The Robin Hood Way crosses the river along the western edge of the area.

# S PZ 21 Elkesley Meadowlands with Plantations/ Estate farmlands

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Meandering river channel, sometimes defined by woodland fringes
- Permanent pasture and flood meadow
- Fringing Alder, Willows and riparian scrub
- Tall, bushy, mixed hedgerows
- Alder plantations

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The landscape condition of the area is defined as **good**. The area has a **coherent** pattern of elements and **few** visual detractors; the only one being some visibility of the traffic on the A1 located further east and a power line crossing the area, outside the policy zone. Overall this gives a **visually unified** area.

The River Poulter is semi-enclosed with Alder, Poplar and Willow fringes. Small fields of improved and unimproved meadows are enclosed by tall, bushy mixed hedgerows of Hawthorn, Field Maple, Blackthorn, Elder and Rose with occasional Ash and Oak standards. Some hedgerows have grown out and others have been replaced by post and wire fencing. A mature poplar plantation is located to the south of the village. The mature trees, hedgerows, meadow, and permanent pasture provide a **moderate** network of wildlife habitats. There is a low coverage of trees within the area with no evidence of young or newly planted trees. Field boundaries are tall mixed deciduous hedgerows, which are dense and bushy, some have grown out into individual trees and the gaps filled in by post and wire fencing.

Elkesley village consists largely of brick buildings with pantile roofs, many of which are listed buildings. Brick and pantile roofed cottages and farmsteads are prevalent in the area. There has been some new development on the edge of the village within the PZ; therefore the cultural integrity is **good**.

A **visually unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a **good** landscape condition.

### Landscape Sensitivity

The historic field pattern is evident throughout the area; a large proportion of the field pattern, and the trees and woodland fringes along the river, are shown on the Sanderson Plan. However there has been some loss of field pattern to arable farming and a sports field to the south of the village.

The assemblage of mature trees, tall hedgerows and permanent pasture is unique and rare within the Sherwood LCA as a whole with an **historic** (post 1600) time depth, overall this leads to a **strong** sense of place.

Views are often limited by trees and tall hedgerows. There are limited views of the A1 to the east. The landform is **insignificant** and tree cover **intermittent** giving a **low** visibility in and out of the area overall.

A **strong** sense of place with a **low** visibility gives a **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve

#### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the pastoral character and ecological diversity
- **Conserve** and reinforce the ecological diversity and character of riparian habitats and permanent pasture
- **Conserve** existing hedgerows and seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern with new hedgerow planting
- Seek opportunities to restore hedgerows to field boundaries
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture,

#### Built Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries
- **Conserve** the historic character and setting of Elkesley – new development should respect the scale, design and materials used traditionally
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Estate farmlands, Meadowlands with Plantations,  
Policy Zone: S PZ 21

Landscape Character Parcel: S26, S41, S43

## Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low Moderate High

## Sensitivity

NB: where one criterion is 'very good' this pushes the policy descriptions into the next highest category

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition **Very Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Strong




Sensitivity **Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Unique/rare
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Strong
Landform:	Insignificant
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Low












**FIGURE 6**  
Policy Zones - Sherwood

**Key**

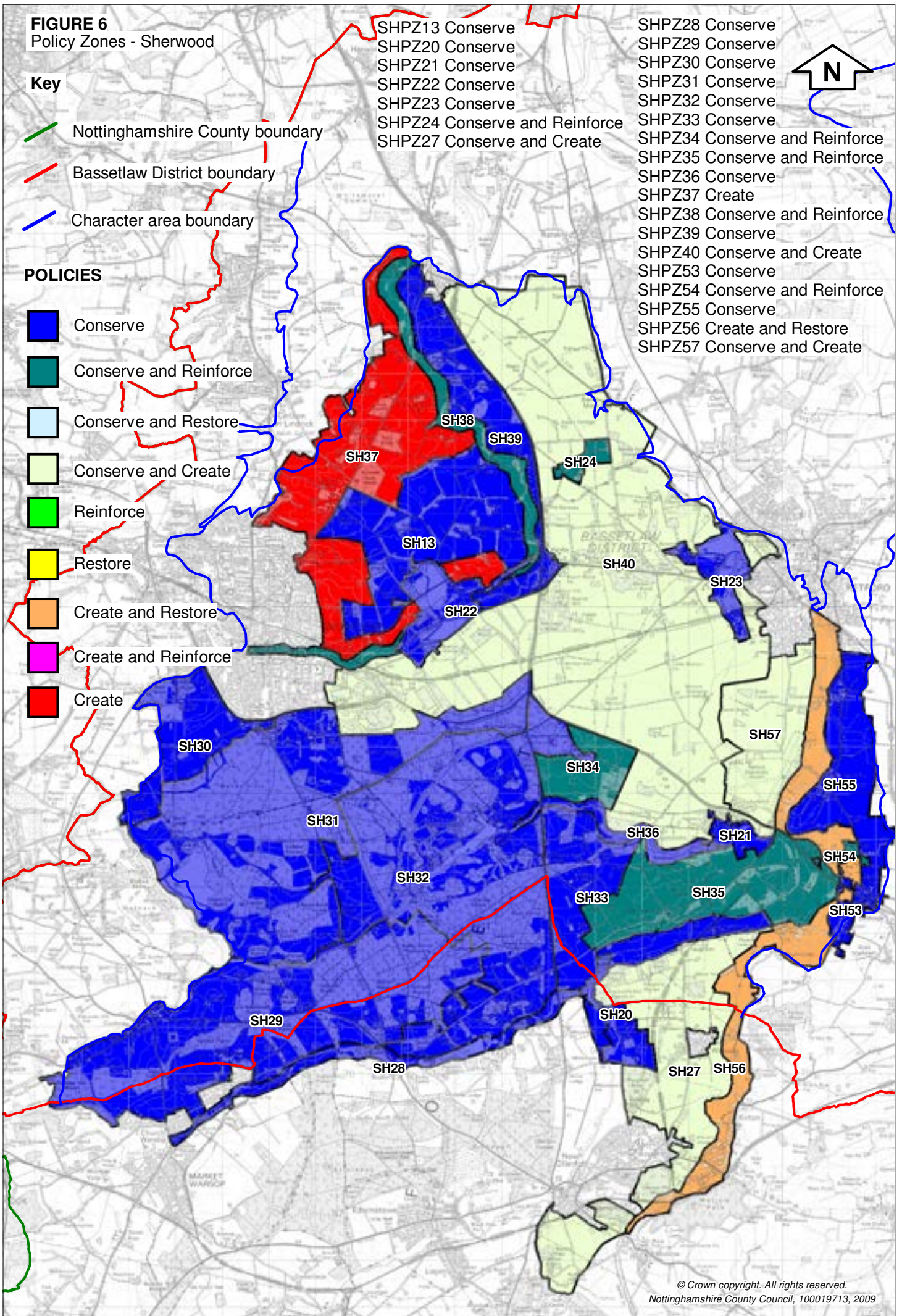
-  Nottinghamshire County boundary
-  Bassetlaw District boundary
-  Character area boundary

**POLICIES**

-  Conserve
-  Conserve and Reinforce
-  Conserve and Restore
-  Conserve and Create
-  Reinforce
-  Restore
-  Create and Restore
-  Create and Reinforce
-  Create

- SHPZ13 Conserve
- SHPZ20 Conserve
- SHPZ21 Conserve
- SHPZ22 Conserve
- SHPZ23 Conserve
- SHPZ24 Conserve and Reinforce
- SHPZ27 Conserve and Create

- SHPZ28 Conserve
- SHPZ29 Conserve
- SHPZ30 Conserve
- SHPZ31 Conserve
- SHPZ32 Conserve
- SHPZ33 Conserve
- SHPZ34 Conserve and Reinforce
- SHPZ35 Conserve and Reinforce
- SHPZ36 Conserve
- SHPZ37 Create
- SHPZ38 Conserve and Reinforce
- SHPZ39 Conserve
- SHPZ40 Conserve and Create
- SHPZ53 Conserve
- SHPZ54 Conserve and Reinforce
- SHPZ55 Conserve
- SHPZ56 Create and Restore
- SHPZ57 Conserve and Create



## **Sherwood**

### **Policy Zone 33: Bothamsall**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE**

### **Character Summary**

The area lies south of the Poulter valley and east of Blyth Road [A614] which forms the western boundary. The village of Bothamsall is located outside the Policy Zone boundary to the south-east and Elkesley lies in the north-east. The River Meden follows the south-eastern boundary but lies just outside the area. Clumber Park is located immediately west of the Policy Zone.

Topographically the Policy Zone is gently undulating with flat areas, sloping from higher ground in the east down towards the west. Elevated landform in the south allows open views across the area towards flatter, lower lying land in the north.

The northern section of the Policy Zone is dominated by interlocking areas of woodland and plantation, these are surrounded by arable fields which also occupy much of the reminding area. A pig farm covers part of the Policy Zone in the east, south of Normarton Larches Farm, an oil well is also located in close proximity, south-east of the farm. Spittalmoor Forest Farm is situated further south. Clumber Park Hotel is located on the western edge of the Policy Zone fronting Blyth Road [A614].

An historic avenue of trees remains along West Drayton Avenue which extends from Clumber in the west to West Drayton further east of the Policy Zone. This avenue now forms part of the Robin Hoods Way.



## Sherwood – Policy Zone 33: Bothamsall

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensive open arable farmland with significant woodland and plantation blocks.
- Pig farm; part of adjacent Policy Zone.
- No settlement areas, only isolated farmhouses.
- Narrow hedged lanes.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a **unified** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features within the Policy Zone; an oil well, pylons and high voltage power lines. Overall the area has a **strongly unified** visual appearance.

Pig farming extends into the centre of the Policy Zone from the east, elsewhere the land is under intensive arable use interspersed with strong plantation and woodland blocks. There is some evidence of missing field boundaries in localised areas but generally the historic field pattern is intact. Woodland sometimes partially or entirely encloses fields. Two red brick farmhouses lie isolated within the landscape and no other settlement or development exists, pylons within the east being the only urban influence. The overall cultural integrity is considered **good**.

Two SINC's lie within the Policy Zone and comprise valuable roadside verges and coniferous plantation. Tree cover is moderate to high and largely mature; significant woodland and mixed plantation blocks extend throughout the area into the surrounding landscape. Where hedgerows remain they are generally well maintained, though gappy in some places, and connect into woodland and plantation across the Policy Zone, most notably in the east and west, providing a strong green infrastructure throughout. Trees are apparent along roadside verges, however hedgerow trees are rarely seen. Deciduous woodland is more evident in the north. The ecological integrity is described as **strong** which overall gives a **very strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **strongly unified** area with a **very strong** functional integrity gives a **very good landscape condition**.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **unique/rare** of the Sherwood region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600], giving a **strong** sense of place.

The Policy Zone has an enclosed nature and the landform is **apparent** resulting in **low** visibility. A **strong** sense of place combined with **low** visibility gives **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and enhance woodland/plantation blocks and connectivity across the area.
- **Conserve** and enhance hedgerow and tree planting along roadsides.
- **Conserve** ecological diversity and biodiversity of the designated SINC's, enhance where appropriate.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape.
- Contain new small scale development within existing field boundaries.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style of red brick construction.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 33  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S33

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

#### Sensitivity

NB: where one criterion is 'very good' this pushes the policy descriptions into the next highest category

#### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition Very Good

Pattern of Elements:	Unified
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Strongly Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Strong
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Very Strong

#### Sensitivity Moderate

Distinctiveness:	Unique/Rare
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Strong
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Enclosed
Visibility:	Low

## **S PZ 36 Poulter Valley Meadowlands with Plantations**

### **Policy: Conserve**

#### **Character Summary**

This LCP consists of the narrow valley of the River Poulter and is generally flat with land sloping gently down to the River. Views are often enclosed by woodland to the south, but there are more open views to the north and west enclosed by wooded skylines.

Land use is predominantly woodland with small areas of pasture and arable land. There is a significant wetland to the west of the LCP surrounded by scrubby vegetation to the valley sides. Pylons run from north to south to the west of the LCP. The Robin Hood Way crosses the area with footbridges across the river. A bridleway runs from the A614 in the west to Crookford Farm in the east. There is a timber recycling centre at Crookford Hill which extends in to the river valley

The woodland is of mixed types, including coniferous plantations dominated by Scots Pine, Poplar plantations also with Oak and Ash, and some patches of deciduous heathy woodland dominated by Birch. Elkesley Wood is mixed deciduous with Oak, Ash and Poplar. The river is fringed with Alder, Willow and Poplar. Unusually for the Sherwood region the woodland comes down to the river's edge rather than being in an open valley.

The boundaries in the LCP are mainly post and rail in the east; there are some post and wire in area near to pylons in western area. There are strong hawthorn hedgerows adjacent to bridleway in the west.

The river valley woodland shapes are reminiscent of the Sanderson Plan, although the woodland planting does not generally date from this age.

Threats include the loss of woodland or pasture areas due to arable farming expansion, clearance or additional planting of plantations, flooding of the woodland - this area was severely flooded in 2007, and lack of management of the woodland.

# S PZ 36 Poulter Valley River Meadowlands with Plantations

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Continuous belt of woodland along river valley
- Deciduous woodland,
- Coniferous plantations
- Poplar plantations
- Some views to wooded ridgelines
- Heathy vegetation along tracks and rides

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The condition of the PZ is assessed as **very good**. The pattern of elements is **visually unified** as the area consists almost entirely of woodland. There are **few** detracting features; the only ones being a small timber recycling centre, low voltage power lines and a small section of the A614 which cuts into the area. Overall this gives a **strongly visually unified** area.

The cultural integrity is described as **poor** as there are limited features but the overall woodland pattern is reminiscent of the Sanderson Plan, although much of the planting is recent. In ecological terms this area forms a **strong** corridor between Clumber Park and the West Drayton woodland areas. There are 2 Bio SINC sites: Poulter Valley Plantation and East Drayton Woodland, and Clumber Park SSSI. Overall the PZ has a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife.

A **strongly visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **very good** landscape condition.

### Landscape Sensitivity

The sensitivity of the PZ is assessed as **moderate**. The river valley is unlike the Maun and the majority of the Meden valley which is open and meanders through a flood plain in that it is well wooded to the river's edge. There is limited access to the PZ and its undisturbed nature, together with its wooded character, gives the area a **strong** sense of place.

The landform is **apparent** and **enclosed** by the woodland, giving a **low** visibility in and out of the area.

A **strong** sense of place with a **low** visibility leads to a **moderate** Landscape sensitivity

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of the riparian woodlands
- Promote heathland creation schemes to the boundaries the coniferous plantations areas along rides and pathways
- **Conserve** the river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation as well as wetland areas

### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and undisturbed character of the river corridor
- New development should take account of the distinctive ecological elements within the Policy Zone.

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Meadowlands with Plantations  
Policy Zone: S PZ 36  
Land Cover Parcel: 26

## Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

## Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition **Very Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Unified
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Strongly Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Strong
Cultural Integrity:	Poor
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

### Sensitivity **Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Unique/rare
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Strong
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Enclosed
Visibility:	Low

## **Sherwood**

### **Policy Zone 39: Blyth**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE**

### **Character Summary**

The area lies to the east of Worksop and immediately west of the A1 which forms the eastern boundary. Blyth village is located at the northern tip of the Policy Zone. The River Ryton corridor defines the western boundary. Ranby village is also within the Policy Zone although the A1 separates it from the main area.

Landform is rounded and gently undulates before descending gradually from the A1 in the east towards the River Ryton in the west. Open views out to higher ground are afforded along with medium distance views, some with wooded skylines.

Land use is mainly arable farmland with some pastoral in the south. The field pattern is fragmented by small to medium sized woodland blocks of mixed, deciduous and coniferous species, smaller copses are evident in the south. Field boundaries are generally well maintained hawthorn hedgerows, though these are sometimes gappy in the far north. The Chesterfield Canal [SINC] runs through Ranby and the southern part of the area adjacent to Retford Road [B6079]. Buildings within the Policy Zone have a notable vernacular character.



## Sherwood – Policy Zone 39: Blyth

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Highly intensive arable farmland.
- River Ryton corridor.
- Chesterfield Canal – a designated SINCC.
- The A1 transport corridor.
- Small to medium blocks of mixed, deciduous and coniferous woodland fragmenting the historic field pattern.
- Osberton Hall and Parkland.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a **coherent** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features within the Policy Zone including the A1, low voltage power lines and modern agricultural sheds. Overall the area has a **unified** visual appearance.

Generally the historic field pattern is intact and contains predominantly highly intensive arable farmland with some pasture in the south. Fields are bounded by low trimmed hawthorn hedges with occasional oak trees. Aside of Ranby village, which is separated from the main part of the Policy Zone by the A1, there is little built development within the area and is mostly red brick farmhouses and farm buildings, though there are some modern agricultural sheds. Osberton Hall and associated parkland is located in the south-west. The Policy Zone retains a rural character despite the close proximity of the A1. Overall the cultural integrity is **good**.

Woodland blocks connect to the field boundaries and are evident along roadside verges, providing a good green network across the area. Overall the tree cover is relatively low and of mature age. Although pine appears to be the dominant species, larch/beechn/ash/birch/oak/poplar are also evident. The River Ryton corridor forms the western boundary while Chesterfield Canal [SINCC] runs through the south of the area reinforcing the traditional character of the Policy Zone. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which overall gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity results in a **very good landscape condition**.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Sherwood region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600], giving a **moderate** sense of place.

**Apparent** landform and **intermittent** tree cover affords open views which are contained and restricted by woodland blocks both within and along the boundaries of the DPZ resulting in **moderate** visibility overall. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **moderate** visibility equates to **moderate landscape sensitivity**.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern, restoring and reinforcing existing poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary. Seek to increase number of hedgerow trees.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.
- **Conserve** blocks of woodland, coniferous stands and parkland trees, seek to reinforce as necessary.
- **Conserve** the character, setting and biodiversity of the River Ryton and Chesterfield Canal corridors.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by concentrating new small scale development around Blyth and Ranby.
- **Conserve** and respect the historic character and setting of Osberton Hall and surrounding parkland.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style of red brick construction.
- **Conserve** the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 39  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S60

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

#### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition

**Very Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

#### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**  
**Sherwood: S PZ 39**

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**  
**Sherwood: S PZ 22**

**Sherwood**

**Policy Zone 22: Scofton**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The area is east of Worksop, immediately north of the B6079 [Retford Road] and west of the A1 and covers Scofton village and Osberton Park along with part of River Ryton corridor which passes through the south of the Policy Zone adjacent to the Chesterfield Canal.

Landform is gently undulating and rounded sloping southwards towards the River Ryton valley. Open views out to higher ground are afforded with some medium distance views towards wooded skylines. Woodland blocks within the Policy Zone also limit views in some directions. Distribution centres situated along the A57 are visible from the south.

Osberton Park is dominated by grazing sheep, beyond the parkland the predominant land use is arable. Fields are bounded by well maintained hawthorn hedgerows and interspersed with small blocks of mixed/deciduous woodland and coniferous stands. The Chesterfield Canal [SINC] runs through the south of the area. Individual parkland trees include sweet chestnut, beech, oak and sycamore.

Generally buildings have a vernacular character though there are some large scale agricultural sheds associated with farmsteads.

## Sherwood – Policy Zone 22: Scofton

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Red brick farmhouse cottages.
- Osberton Hall, associated parkland and trees including the lime avenue.
- Mix of large scale arable delineated by well maintained hedgerows and some permanent improved pastoral farming.
- Modern agricultural built development.
- Small blocks of mixed/deciduous woodland and coniferous stands.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a **uniform** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features within the Policy Zone, the main one being modern agricultural buildings. Overall the area has a **strongly unified** visual appearance.

Intensive arable use and permanent improved pasture are the two main landuses. Field boundaries consist of a small number of gappy hawthorn hedgerows, with the occasional oak standard, and timber post and rail fencing, arable farming has had a significant effect upon the historic field pattern. Osberton Hall [stone built] and associated parkland with individual parkland trees is particularly notable and fairly dominant within the landscape. Buildings include red brick estate cottages and farmhouses of the local style. The impact of buildings is considered low. Overall the cultural integrity is defined as **good**.

Ecological habitats comprise linear sections of flood meadow, woodland groups, hedgerows and parkland. Ecological value is weakened by intensive arable farming, the reduction in hedgerows is also a result of farming intensification. The Chesterfield Canal [SINC] and River Ryton run through the southern part of the Policy Zone. The area has moderate tree coverage, species are mostly oak and Scots pine. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which overall gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **strongly unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity gives a **very good landscape condition**.

#### Sensitivity

The local building style and the presence of Osberton Hall, its parkland and formal features, such as the avenue of limes give the area local distinctiveness and are **characteristic** of the Sherwood region, Osberton Hall and historic parkland being a strong heritage asset of typical estate character. There is evidence of woodland, farmland and parkland management. The continuity/time depth is described as **historic** [post 1600], giving a **moderate** sense of place.

The **dominant** landform combined with **intermittent** tree cover/sense of enclosure leads to **high** visibility. A **moderate** sense of place with **high** visibility gives **high landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** permanent pasture and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.
- **Conserve** woodland and individual parkland trees, seek to reinforce as appropriate.
- **Conserve** ecological diversity and biodiversity of the Chesterfield Canal and River Ryton corridors, enhance where appropriate.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around existing settlements while **conserving** and respecting the historic character and setting of Osberton Hall and surrounding parkland.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic enclosed boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style of red brick construction in any new development.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 22  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S60, S63, S68

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

#### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition                      Very Good

Pattern of Elements:	Uniform
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Strongly Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Strong

Sensitivity                      High

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Dominant
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	High

## **Sherwood**

### **Policy Zone 29: Meden Vale and Church Warsop**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE**

### **Character Summary**

The area is located south of Worksop, immediately between the Poulter valley, at the north, and the Meden valley at the south. The A60 runs north-south through the west and the B6034 runs north-south through the east; these roads are connected by the A616 which bisects the Policy Zone south-east to north-west. The village of Budby lies to the south-east, Cuckney and Norton are located towards the north-west. Church Warsop and Meden Vale lie at the south-western boundary.

Generally the landform is rounded and gently undulating, rising to a ridgeline north of Church Warsop before descending sharply in both the north and south towards the Rivers Poulter and Meden respectively. There are localised steep sections around the spoil heap [north-west of Meden Vale] where land has been worked, this has been restored to grassland. Views are mostly medium distance towards wooded skylines. Views of Welbeck Park are gained from the north and of built settlement from the south. Internal wooded areas create some enclosed views within the core of the Policy Zone.

The Policy Zone comprises mainly arable fields on the lower ground, woodland is evident at the ridgeline. The fringe of Welbeck Estate features in the east along with a corner of Clumber Park Estate [Carburton] in the far north-east. Remnants of historic features include avenues, clumps of trees and lodges. Broad Lane, a historic lane which possibly separated the two estates, runs east-west and is now part of the Robin Hood Way. Recreational activity is fairly low key in the area; horse riding, walking and cycling. Plantations are generally mixed and coniferous. Stone vernacular farmhouses, estate lodges and walls are characteristic of the area, however both Church Warsop and Meden Vale have a non-vernacular urbanising influence.

## Sherwood – Policy Zone 29: Meden Vale and Church Warsop

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Medium scale arable farmland.
- Intensive pig farming and a small amount of rough grazing.
- Lady Margaret Hall, part of the Welbeck Estate.
- Stone and red brick built farmhouses and dwellings.
- Coniferous and deciduous woodland blocks.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is good. There is a **coherent** pattern of elements and **few** detracting features within the Policy Zone, including low voltage power lines, agricultural sheds, the A616, and spoil heaps and the mineral railway associated with Welbeck Colliery. Overall this leads to a **visually unified** area.

Landuse is mainly medium scale arable farming with some rough grazing. A pig farm is located close to Meden Vale. Buildings tend to be of stone or red brick construction, though stone is more dominant. Lady Margaret Hall [stone built], part of the Welbeck Estate, lies within the Policy Zone. The urban estates of Meden Vale and Church Warsop are apparent and of modern non-vernacular style. The overall cultural integrity is considered **variable**.

The historic field pattern has declined due to mineral workings and the need to create larger arable fields, these are bounded by hawthorn hedgerows which are well trimmed although gappy in places. No hedgerow trees are apparent. The Policy Zone has moderate tree cover and combines mature woodland blocks with more recently planted areas of both deciduous and coniferous species. There is some heathland along field and woodland boundaries, acid grassland occurs along road verges and beneath woodland. There are no SINCs or other ecological designations within the Policy Zone. The ecological integrity has been assessed as **moderate** which gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area and **coherent** functional integrity gives a **good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Sherwood region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

Visibility is **high** due to the open views to wooded higher ground beyond the boundary of the Policy Zone and the **dominant** undulating landform. A **moderate** sense of place with **high** visibility results in **high landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** woodland blocks and reinforce as necessary.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern, restoring and reinforcing poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Seek opportunities to create areas of heathland where appropriate.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlements of Meden Vale and Church Warsop. Create small scale woodland/tree planting to soften new development, preferably in advance of development.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of stone/ red brick construction in any new development.
- **Conserve** and respect the historic character and setting of Lady Margaret Hall and surroundings.
- Contain new development within historic field boundaries.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 29  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S36, S69

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

**Condition** **Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Coherent

**Sensitivity** **High**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Dominant

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: High

## **S PZ 37 Hodsock Estatelands with plantations**

### **Policy: Create**

#### **Character Summary**

This is an area of gently undulating landform the highest point of which is 71 metres sloping down to valley of the River Ryton to the north and south of the LCP.

Views are open to surrounding wooded skylines from the higher areas, views are enclosed by landform in the lower valley areas and views to the west are enclosed by Worksop.

Land use is mainly intensive arable production of cereal crops with a medium to large geometric field pattern. A large golf course is located to the west of Worksop; a network of bridleways and agricultural tracks crosses the area. Bassetlaw District Council depot and yard, a working sand and gravel quarry, a disused sand and gravel quarry used as a household waste recycling centre, caravan storage and sales warehousing for lorry storage are all located on the B6045. There are isolated farms and isolated residential properties through out the LCP. Woodlands consist of plantations and shelter belts with small mixed woodland patches to steeper slopes.

Large coniferous plantation woodlands include Fifty Acres Wood and other small deciduous woodlands which include Beech, Sycamore, Oak, Birch, and Sweet Chestnut. Roadside hedgerows are well maintained mostly Hawthorn with Elder, Holly and heathy species to the base. Field boundary hedgerows are predominantly Hawthorn with some hedgerow trees including Oak. There are patches of heathland vegetation along trackways and non-native planting to the golf course.

The field pattern present in the Sanderson pattern is still recognisable but there has been removal of intervening hedgerows. Woodland boundaries are substantially the same but Fifty Acres Wood has expanded from its original boundary and been infilled with conifer plantation.

There are a number of listed buildings in the area around Hodsock but the development along the B6045 is recent.

Threats to the LCP include further loss of the historic field pattern due to agricultural expansion and further encroachment of coniferous plantations into farmland.

# S PZ 37 Hodsock Estatelands with Plantations

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Medium to large geometric field pattern
- Open views of wooded ridgelines from high points of LCP
- Coniferous plantation woodlands and shelter belts
- Small deciduous woodlands
- Low cut Hawthorn hedgerows
- Gently undulating topography
- Isolated brick built farms and estate cottages
- Straight roads with grass verges
- Patches of heathland vegetation particularly along lanes and trackways

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The condition of the PZ is assessed as **very poor**. The pattern of elements is **Incoherent**, and there are **many** detracting features along the B6045 such as disused and an active sand and gravel extraction site, warehousing and storage sheds, large caravan sales park and other light industrial uses many with tall palisade security fences Overall this gives a **significantly visually interrupted** area.

The cultural integrity is described as **variable** as there are limited cultural features but the overall pattern is reminiscent of the Sanderson Plan although much of the plantation planting within the woodland boundaries is recent. A golf course is a recent feature. In ecological terms this area forms a **moderate** network for wildlife There are 4 Bio SINC sites - Carlton sand quarry; Long Wood, Hodsock; Kegham End Plantation and Hundred Acre Wood; and a heathland register site - Red Barn disused sand pit which overall gives a **coherent** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife.

A **strongly visually interrupted** area with a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a **very poor** landscape condition.

### Landscape Sensitivity

The sensitivity of the PZ is assessed as **Moderate**. There are a number of listed buildings around Hodsock but more recent development does not respect the vernacular character. Although features on the Sanderson map of 1835 is still recognisable many internal hedgerow boundaries have been removed. This area has features that are **characteristic** of the Sherwood LCA and of an **historic** time depth (Post 1600), overall the sense of place is **moderate**.

The landform is **apparent** with **intermittent** woodland giving a **moderate** visibility both in and out of the area.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility leads to a **moderate** Landscape sensitivity.

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Create

### Landscape Features

- Identify opportunities for new tree and woodland planting on suitable sites
- Identify opportunities for heathland creation where appropriate
- Promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of new and existing woodlands

### Built Features

- Protect the sparsely settled and undeveloped character of the landscape concentrating new development to the north-east of the Policy Zone
- Screen existing development on B6045
- Create areas of woodland to contain and soften new development preferably in advance of development

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Estatelands with Plantations  
Policy Zone: S PZ 37  
Land Cover Parcel: 61 and 65

## Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low Moderate High

## Sensitivity

Where one criterion is 'very poor' this pushes the policy description into the next highest category.

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition **Very Poor**

Pattern of Elements:	Incoherent
Detracting Features:	Many
Visual Unity:	Significantly Interrupted
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

### Sensitivity **Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate



## **S PZ 54 West Drayton Village Farmlands Policy: Conserve and Reinforce**

### **Character Summary**

This Policy Zone consists of the villages of West Drayton and Rockley which are linked by pedestrian access but not by road. The Policy Zone is bounded to the west by the A1.

The core of West Drayton village is at the cross roads of Church Lane and Old London Road, where several of the red brick and pantiled buildings are listed. The village of Rockley extends from the Great North Road along Mill Lane and, again, many of the red brick and pantiled buildings and Jacket Mill are listed. There has been much infill development in both villages which is not in keeping with the vernacular style of the core of the villages, particularly along Church Lane. The villages are surrounded by unimproved species poor pasture. The historic field pattern is little changed since the Sanderson Plan of 1835.

The area contains a number of mature Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Oak standards. There is a small patch of deciduous woodland containing Ash, Scot's Pine and Silver Birch as the dominant species.

There are no SINC's within this Policy Zone.

Many of the trees in the area are mature and will become senescent if not managed. The unimproved pasture is always under threat of agricultural improvement or from building infill development, as are the mature hedgerows. The historic character of the village will decline if further development proceeds which is not in character with the style of the village cores.

# S PZ 54 West Drayton and Rockley Village Farmlands

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: village farmlands  
 Policy Zone: S PZ 54  
 Landscape Character Parcel: 55,56

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE
Poor			
	Low	Moderate	High

**Sensitivity**

## CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Red brick and pantiled cottages to the core of villages of West Drayton and Rockley
- Permanent unimproved pasture surround to villages
- Mature hedgerows and trees within village cores.

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **Good**

The Policy Zone is **visually coherent** in that the area has a consistent pattern of elements. There are **few** detracting features; these include traffic noise from the A1 and derelict buildings. Overall this gives a **visually unified** area. There are no Bio SINC sites but this area is a **moderate** habitat for wildlife because of its unimproved pasture and mature vegetation.

Cultural integrity is **variable** in that, although the core of the villages remains intact, there is evidence of recent infill development which is not in keeping and some properties have been allowed to decline in condition, giving a neglected appearance to the village in places. Overall this gives a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife

A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **good** landscape condition

### Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as **Moderate**

The components of the landscape are **characteristic** of the Sherwood LCA. The time depth is **historic** (post 1600) giving a **moderate** sense of place overall. The core of villages contain listed buildings of red brick and pantiled style but much of the more recent infill development is not in keeping with the traditional vernacular style. The unimproved permanent pasture which surrounds the area is little changed since the Sanderson Plan of 1835.

The landform is **apparent** with interconnected and **intermittent** areas of mature vegetation giving a **moderate** visibility in and out of the area.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility leads to a **moderate** landscape sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

**Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Coherent

### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

## ACTIONS Conserve and Reinforce

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the intact historic pattern of hedged fields and unimproved permanent pasture around West Drayton and Rockley
- **Conserve** mature trees and hedgerows within the village core.

### Built Features

- **Conserve** the historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic enclosed boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Reinforce** the traditional architectural style of red brick construction in any new development

## **S PZ 13 Osberton Estatelands with Plantations**

### **Policy: Conserve**

#### **Character Summary**

This is an area of gently undulating landform sloping down to the south and east towards the valley of the River Ryton. The area falls from a high point of 60 metres AOD to the south west corner to 20 metres AOD at the eastern edge. There is a flat central area on which a former 2nd WW airfield was located which has now been grassed over but some hardstanding remains. There are farm tracks thorough out the area.

Open views across the LCP are generally bounded by wooded skylines on distant ridgelines. Some medium distance views are interrupted by thin shelter belts of Scots Pine. To the south views are screened by both landform and woodland around Osberton Hall as this falls into the valley of the River Ryton. There are no views of the built edge of Worksop from this LCP.

Land use is mainly intensive arable production of cereal crops with a medium to large geometric field pattern but there are also improved pasture areas used for sheep and cattle grazing. There is one large central area of rough pasture east of east Thievesdale Wood. There is only one isolated residential development associated with farm properties.

The woodland areas consist of small deciduous woodlands with a high proportion of Oak and small clumps of coniferous woodland containing Scots Pine, as well as thin belts of Scots pine which are a distinct visual feature of this LCP. There are isolated parkland trees Oak, Pine and Ash and remnants of former avenues.

Road hedge boundaries are well maintained Hawthorn, with heathy species to the base of the hedges as well as hedgerows trees, mainly Oak. Internal field boundaries are mainly post and wire fences.

The field pattern present in the Sanderson pattern is still recognisable but there has been much removal of intervening hedgerows. Woodland boundaries are substantially the same but have been infilled with coniferous planting. The shelter belts are a recent addition.

Threats to the LCP include: further loss of the historic field pattern due to agricultural expansion, changes in the proportion of coniferous plantations due to removal of areas or replanting, and decline in condition of mature trees including avenue and parkland trees due to limited management.

## S PZ 13 Osberton Estatelands with Plantations

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Large scale rolling topography
- Views enclosed by wooded skylines
- Estate plantations and belts of trees
- Large arable and grass fields
- Low cut hawthorn hedges
- Straight roads with wide grass verges
- Isolated brick built farmsteads and estate cottages
- Heathland species to base of hedgerows and in verges

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **very good**.

The PZ has a **coherent** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features. These include a sewage works to the south west of the area, some large scale recent farm buildings at Scofton and Carlton Forest Farm and the disused airfield to the centre of the area from which some hardstanding remains. Overall the PZ is **visually unified**.

The area consists mainly of intensively farmed arable fields with some areas of pasture used for cattle and sheep grazing. There are small deciduous woodlands with a high proportion of Oak, coniferous woodlands, and thin linear belts of Scot's pine which are a distinctive feature of the PZ. There are isolated parkland trees and remnants of former avenues. There is a good network of hedgerows providing connectivity of habitats and a **moderate** network for wildlife.

Cultural integrity is **good**. There is limited development in the area and many of the farm buildings present are red brick and pantile roofed. The field pattern present in the Sanderson Plan is still recognisable but there has been some hedgerow removal; some boundaries have been replaced with post and wire fences. Woodland boundaries are the same but have been infilled with coniferous planting.

A **moderate** ecological integrity with a **good** cultural integrity gives a **strong** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife. A **visually unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a **very good** landscape condition.

#### Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as **moderate**.

The elements of which the PZ is composed are characteristic of the Sherwood LCA and although there are recent features such as the 2<sup>nd</sup> WW airfield and isolated agricultural sheds overall the time depth is historic. The area has a **moderate** sense of place.

The landform of the area is **apparent** and the tree cover is **intermittent** giving a **moderate** visibility in and out of the area

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility gives a **moderate** sensitivity.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve

#### Landscape Features

- Identify opportunities for new tree and woodland planting on suitable sites
- Promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of new and existing woodlands
- Replace post and wire boundaries with hedgerows
- Promote heathland creation schemes where appropriate
- **Conserve** parkland landscape character and distinctive shelter belt planting

### CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Estatelands with Plantations

Policy Zone: S PZ 13

Landscape Character Parcel: 64

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE
Poor			
	Low	Moderate	High
	<b>Sensitivity</b>		

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition

**Very Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

#### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

- **Conserve** well maintained roadside hedgerows

**Built Features**

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development to the south west of the Policy Zone / northern fringe of Worksop.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings

## **S PZ 35 Bothamsall Estate Farmlands**

### **Policy: Conserve & Reinforce**

#### **Character Summary**

This is a gently undulating arable landscape that lies between the River Poulter to the far north and the River Meden to the south. The rivers both meander west to east along the edges of the area towards the River Idle, which is outside the policy zone area to the east. To the south a ridgeline runs from across the area from the A614 in the west to the settlement of Bothamsall in the east. From this ridgeline, the land slopes gently to the north east forming the valley side of the River Poulter and more steeply southwards to the River Meden. To the east there are artificially created high points within the restoration scheme of the former Bevercotes Colliery which has been restored in part by the Forestry Commission for amenity use.

This well-wooded, and in places industrialised, landscape is characterised by large-scale intensively farmed arable fields, pine plantations, remnants of semi-natural woodland, pasture and localised heathland within the rides of the coniferous forests.

The former Bevercotes colliery site contains a high proportion of commercial forestry with adjacent mature deciduous woodland (Lawn Covert) surrounded by later forestry plantings. The mature areas of deciduous woodland contain Lime avenues to the colliery estate roads. Further west there are smaller areas of coniferous woodland and copses with deciduous fringes (Scots Pine, Oak, Holly). In general, the deciduous woodland is confined to fringes along the River Meden and the edges of coniferous woodlands.

West Drayton Avenue runs from east to west across the centre of the area and in parts forms a distinct visual feature within the landscape. The avenue is in poor condition with remnants of over-mature trees including Horse Chestnut, Sweet Chestnut and Oak.

The views within the area are varied and are either contained by close belts of woodland or by wooded fringes at a greater distance. Long distance views are enclosed in all directions by coniferous woodland rather than landform.

The roadside hedges (Hawthorn, Holly, Ivy) are low and well trimmed. There are some hedgerow trees including Ash, Holly and Oak. In the eastern part hedgerows are predominantly Hawthorn with some post and rail fences and few trees. Field boundaries consist of Hawthorn and are gappy and generally less well maintained. Some pasture lies close to farmsteads, village fringes and within smaller areas of coniferous woodland.

Bothamsall Village is located in the centre of the area. This small nucleated village has a historic core with red brick and pantile buildings, a number of which are listed. The area has a number of isolated red brick farmhouses to the north and west. To the east the former Bevercotes colliery site has obliterated the agricultural landscape pattern, but remnants of earlier woodland, such as Lawn Covert, have survived. The surrounding agricultural landscape is interspersed with other land uses, such as the former Bevercote colliery site, Houghton Kennels Farm, and a small oil well to the west of Bothamsall village.

There are several SINC sites including: Poulter Valley Plantation, Bothamsall Scrub, Bothamsall Lane Verges, Lawn Covert, West Drayton Woodland and Markham Moor Grasslands. A Motte and Bailey Castle, known as Castle Hill, lies to the west of Bothamsall Village. Castle Hill is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and has mature Oak trees to its central mound.

The Robin Hood Way passes north-south through the centre of the area.

# S PZ 35 Bothamsall Estate Farmlands

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Gently undulating topography
- Medium to large-scale geometric arable fields
- Low hawthorn hedges
- Views framed by rising ground and woodland edges
- Small, nucleated, red brick villages
- Reclaimed colliery site
- Large coniferous plantations with heathland rides

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The Landscape condition is defined as **good**. The area has **few** detracting features, which include the A1 which cuts across the eastern corner of the area. Power lines cut across the area to the west. There is also a disused airfield within the PZ with concrete hardstanding remaining in places. Overall the PZ is **visually unified**.

There are several SINC's within the area including Poulter Valley Plantation, Bothamsall Scrub, Bothamsall Lane Verges, Lawn Covert, West Drayton Woodland and Markham Moor Grasslands.

There are a number of small to medium-sized mixed deciduous woodland blocks, coniferous plantations, heathland to the rides of coniferous woodland, and some areas of grazed pasture. Open water occurs in the Meden valley to the east and lakes within the restored colliery area. This generally open arable landscape provides a network of wildlife corridors that is considered to have a **moderate** ecological integrity.

There is moderate tree coverage with a diverse age structure. There has been recent planting at the former colliery site, whereas the semi-natural woodland areas are over-mature and in decline.

Cultural integrity is **variable** in that the area contains the intact village core of Bothamsall with many listed buildings as well as restored colliery areas where most of the former historic field pattern has been lost. A Motte and Bailey Castle known as Castle Hill lies to the west of Bothamsall village. Castle Hill is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and has mature oak trees to its central mound.

A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity/ habitat for wildlife gives a **good** landscape condition.

### Landscape Sensitivity

A number of existing areas of woodland are shown on the Sanderson Plan. The field pattern to the west of the area is mainly intact with little expansion of Bothamsall village. To the east the field pattern has been totally lost due to the former colliery and associated development, overall the features are **characteristic** of Sherwood with an **historic** time depth (post 1600) and the area has a **moderate** sense of place.

There are long distance views enclosed by coniferous woodland on skylines to the east. The views within the area are varied and are either contained by close belts of woodland or by wooded fringes at a greater distance. Generally, long distance views in all directions, are enclosed by coniferous woodland rather than landform. The apparent landform and intermittent tree cover give a **moderate** visibility in and out of the area.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility gives a **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Conserve and Reinforce

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** and **Reinforce** the ecological diversity and character of semi-natural woodland habitats
- **Conserve** and **Reinforce** existing hedgerows and seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern with new hedgerow planting and trees
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to mixed woodland, permanent pasture and heathland
- **Conserve** and **Reinforce** West Drayton Avenue and seek opportunities strengthen with additional avenue planting

### Built Features

- Contain new development in the east of the Policy Zone within existing hedgerow boundaries
- **Conserve** and **Reinforce** the historic character and setting of Bothamsall – new development should respect the scale, design and materials used traditionally in the village
- New development of the derelict Bevercotes Colliery should take account of the distinctive landscape and ecological elements within the former colliery site. Seek opportunities to reinforce the local landscape character where appropriate

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: estate farmlands

Draft Policy Zone: S DPZ 35

Land Cover Parcel: S42, S43

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low Moderate High

### Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

**Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Coherent

### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

## **S PZ 38 Ryton Valley River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Conserve and Reinforce**

#### **Character Summary**

This LCP consists of a narrow floodplain through which the River Ryton flows from Blyth to Worksop. The Chesterfield Canal runs through the LCP for a small section on the south. There are open views out of the LCP into open farmland for most of its length. Landform encloses longer distance views. Within Worksop urban development encloses the narrow river corridor.

Land use consists of new residential areas within Worksop to the south of the area; also warehouses and light industrial buildings on the outskirts of Worksop. The land use changes abruptly to pasture areas between Worksop urban edge and Osberton Park. Further north cereal production predominates at the edge of the flood plain. Tracks and bridleways cross the area.

Small deciduous woodlands with Poplar plantations occur throughout the length of the river beyond Osberton Park, as well as small holts of Willow, Polar and Ash. Many of these are SINC's. Road hedgerows are generally well maintained, mostly Hawthorn with some Elder and Oak trees. Most internal field boundaries are post and wire fences rather than hedgerows.

Many of the Holt woodlands have remained intact since the Sanderson Plan, e.g. Ash Holt, but the Poplar Plantations are a recent addition. Irregularly shaped fields to the river's edge reflect the Sanderson Plan pattern but internal divisions have been removed. Historic features are stone bridges to farm tracks which cross the rivers. The Chesterfield Canal has bridges, locks, stone architectural features and a lock keeper's cottage to the outskirts of Worksop.

Threats to the area include flooding of the narrow valley; also mature trees to the river's edge are over-mature and are immediately next to farmed areas, which puts them under pressure. Stone bridges may be damaged by the heavy farm traffic using the tracks. There may be further expansion of the built edge of Worksop.



# S PZ 38 Ryton Valley River Meadowlands

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Meandering river channel defined by a thin band of riparian vegetation – containing Ash, Alder, Poplar and Willow
- Permanent pasture and flood meadow bordering the river, as well as arable fields
- Alder and Willow Holts
- Small Poplar plantations along river valley
- Stone bridges across river.
- Chesterfield canal with associated vernacular features

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The condition of the PZ is assessed as **good**. The pattern of elements is **visually coherent** as the area has a consistent pattern of elements through out its length, there are **some** detracting features which are mostly on the urban fringes of Worksop. Overall this gives a **visually coherent** area. There are 7 Bio SINC sites Low Wood, Hodsock; Ash Holt and Hodsock/Red Bridge; Plantation Lane, Blyth; Ash Holt, Hodsock; Chequer Bottoms, Osberton Woodland and Chesterfield Canal, which in ecological terms makes this area a **moderate** for wildlife corridor between Blyth and Worksop.

Cultural integrity is **variable** in that there are degraded areas on the fringes of Worksop but once outside this area the field and woodland pattern is consistent with historic maps. Overall this gives a **strong** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife

A **visually coherent** area with a **strong** functional integrity gives a **good** landscape condition.

### Landscape Sensitivity

The sensitivity of the PZ is assessed as **Moderate**. Once beyond the urban fringes of Worksop the river valley is **characteristic** of the Sherwood LCA with only a thin strip of riparian woodland along the rivers edge, Features within the valley such as the Willow holts are shown on the Sanderson map of 1835. The time depth is **historic** ( post 1600) giving a **moderate** sense of place overall .

The landform is **apparent** with interconnected and **intermittent** small woodland areas giving a **moderate** visibility in and out of the area.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility leads to a **moderate** landscape sensitivity

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve and Reinforce

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** and **Reinforce** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of the river corridor
- Seek opportunities for converting arable land to permanent pasture along river edge
- **Conserve** and enhance the ecological diversity of riparian woodland
- **Reinforce** and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation
- Replace internal field boundaries with hedgerows

### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled character of the river corridor
- New development should take account of the distinctive landscape elements within the Policy Zone.
- **Conserve** and **Reinforce** the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: River Meadowlands

Policy Zone: S PZ 38

Land Cover Parcel: 68

## Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low Moderate High

## Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition **Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Some

Visual Unity: Coherent

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Strong

### Sensitivity **Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

# **S PZ 20 Walesby Forest Estate Farmlands with Plantations / Meadowlands with Plantations**

## **Policy: Conserve**

### **Character Summary**

This area is known as Walesby Forest, and includes a large International Outdoor Educational Activity Centre located to the west of the village of Walesby.

This is a predominantly flat open river valley landscape containing areas of mixed woodland (Scots Pine, Larch and Oak) to the north and south, heathland and acidic grassland to the east, and permanent pasture and rough grassland to the west. Areas of permanent pasture with scattered standard Birch and Pine trees are located through the central part of the area. Within these pasture areas are heathy sections. The permanent pasture to the east of the river is used for amenity uses associated with the Activity Centre.

The River Maun here, known as Whitewater, meanders northwards through the area joining the River Meden for a short section where the Robin Hood Way crosses both rivers to the north. The river is a strong feature surrounded by linear strips of flood meadow, riparian vegetation and pollarded willows.

The River Maun's eastern bank is steep in places with grass, scattered trees and gorse. Here a distinctive sandstone outcrop, known locally as Robin Hoods Cave, is thought to be an area where Robin Hood once sheltered.

Conjure Alders Woodland is a remnant of a more ancient landscape. Field boundaries consist of post and wire fences with a few overgrown and gappy hedgerows.

There are several SINC sites including Walesby Wood, Gosling Carr and Conjure Alders, Bothamsall.

Pylons run through the area from north to south. Whitewater Lane encloses the area to the south. The activity centre complex contains a variety of non-vernacular buildings, lodges and camping areas located to the south of the area within large open fields surrounded by woodland plantations.

The Robin Hood Way runs through the north and along the north east boundary of the area.

# S PZ 20 Walesby Forest Estate Farmlands with plantations/ River Meadowlands with Plantations

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Flat, open river valley
- Meandering river with distinctive sandstone outcrop
- Low lying flood meadows
- Alder and Willow and other riparian vegetation,
- Heathland and permanent pasture
- Mixed deciduous woodland
- Walesby Forest International Outdoor Educational Activity Centre

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The Landscape condition is defined as **good**. There is a **coherent** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features; these include pylons which run from north to south along the eastern edge of the area, and a static caravan site is located adjacent to the activity centre. The buildings associated with the Activity Centre, to the south, although modern in appearance are well screened by woodland. Overall this is a visually unified area.

There are several SINC's within the PZ including: Walesby Wood, Gosling Carr and Conjure Alders, Bothamsall. There are numerous small blocks of mixed woodland, areas of permanent pasture with scattered trees, heathland, and the River Maun bordered by linear sections of flood meadow which is grazed by sheep. Hedgerows are few and tend to be overgrown or gappy in places. Field boundaries along the Robin Hood Way are timber post and rail. The mixed woodland, trees, hedgerows, flood meadow, heathland and permanent pasture provide a **moderate** network of wildlife corridors.

Cultural integrity of the area is **variable**. The area contains historic features associated with the legend of Robin Hood and remnants of the historic Conjure Alder Woodland exist to the north, which is present on the Sanderson Plan. However, other historic east west field boundaries have been removed. The permanent pasture located to the east of the River Maun is used for amenity uses associated with the Activity Centre and much of the woodland is also managed for amenity use. The policy zone has a **moderate** intensity of recreational use.

A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife gives a **good** landscape condition

### Landscape Sensitivity

The historic field pattern shown on the Sanderson Plan is still evident despite the areas recreational use. The assemblage of mixed woodland, trees, hedgerows, flood meadow, heathland and permanent pasture is unique and rare within the Sherwood area but overall the features contained are **characteristic** with an **historic** (post 1600) time depth. Overall the area has a **strong** sense of place

Views out of the area are often limited by woodland and overgrown hedgerows. There are open views along the River Maun valley and long distance views to the A614 in the west. The **apparent** landform with **intermittent** tree cover gives a **moderate** visibility overall.

A **strong** sense of place and a **moderate** visibility gives a **high** landscape sensitivity overall

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the pastoral character and ecological diversity
- **Conserve** river corridor diversity and marginal riverside vegetation
- **Conserve** and enhance the ecological diversity and character of woodland, riparian habitats, heathland, and permanent pasture
- **Conserve** existing hedgerows and seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern with new hedgerow planting, particularly within the heathland habitats.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new development within historic boundaries

### Built Features

- Seek opportunities to restore woodland, riparian habitats, heathland and permanent pasture when considering new development
- New development should reflect the local vernacular of the Sherwood region.

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: River Meadowlands with Plantations, Estate Farmlands with plantations

Policy Zone: S PZ 20

Land Cover Parcel: S28, S29, S31, S44

## Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low

Moderate

High

## Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

**Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Strong

### Sensitivity

**High**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Strong
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

## **S PZ 24 Ranby Estate lands with plantations**

### **Policy: Conserve and Reinforce**

#### **Character Summary**

This is gently undulating estate land with a regular geometric field pattern of arable farmland.

Ranby Hall, an 18<sup>th</sup> century Georgian country house, is located at the centre of the area. The Hall functions as an Antiques Centre and Ranby Hall Stud breeding high quality sports horses. The Hall is surrounded by a mix of post and rail fenced paddocks together with remnants of estate parkland and avenue trees. This nucleus of grazed pasture and mature stands of trees is surrounded by arable farmland with trimmed hedges and a great number of mature Beech, Oak and Sycamore trees. Small woods are located along roadsides to the north and west.

The area is enclosed by country lanes to the north and east, the Chesterfield canal to the south, and the A1 to the west.

# S PZ 24 Ranby Estatelands with Plantations

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Gently undulating estateland
- Geometric arable farmland with strong shrubby hedgerows
- Mature trees and permanent pasture
- Small areas of mixed deciduous woodland
- Country house and stud set in remnant historic parkland

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The landscape condition is defined as **good**. The PZ has a **unified** pattern of elements with **some** detracting features. These include high voltage cables crossing the area from north to south, and there is constant noise and some visibility of the traffic on the A1 to the west, overall the PZ is **visually unified**.

The area consists mainly of arable farmland with a nucleus of grazed pasture and mature stands of trees around the Hall complex which contains a number of listed buildings. Small linear belts of deciduous woodland connect into hedgerow field margins providing a reasonably good connectivity of habitats and a **moderate** habitat for wildlife. Mature woodland is in decline in parts, and hedgerows vary in condition. Some hedgerows have been replaced by post and wire fencing.

Cultural integrity is **variable**. There are intact listed buildings and structures with a strong vernacular style however the field pattern is being degraded by the removal of hedgelines to form horse paddocks. The Chesterfield Canal is designated as SINC in this area and also is of interest for its vernacular features such as locks and bridges.

A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a **good** landscape condition.

### Landscape Sensitivity

The **historic** time–depth is evident throughout the area, a large proportion of the mixed woodland and field pattern is shown on the Sanderson Plan. However there has been some loss of parkland around Ranby Hall and loss of avenue planting from the crossing point on the Chesterfield Canal.

The assemblage of listed buildings, pasture, and mature woodland and trees is **unique and rare** within the Sherwood LCA, overall this gives a **strong** sense of place.

The landform of the area is **insignificant** and the tree cover is **intermittent** giving open views out of the area in most directions.

A **strong** sense of place with a **low** visibility gives a **moderate** sensitivity

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Conserve and reinforce

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** and **reinforce** ecological diversity and character of woodland and permanent pasture
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** integrity of small woodland areas and permanent pasture habitats
- **Conserve** existing hedgerows and seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern with new hedgerow planting.
- **Create** small scale woodlands and carry out appropriate tree planting to reduce the visual impact of the A1
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to estate parkland, permanent pasture and heathland

### Built Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new development within historic boundaries
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the historic character and setting of Ranby Hall
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings
- **Conserve** architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Estatelands with Plantations  
Policy Zone: S PZ 24  
Land Cover Parcel: S58

## Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low

Moderate

High

## Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

**Good**

Pattern of Elements: Unified

Detracting Features: Some

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Coherent

### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Unique/rare

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Strong

Landform: Insignificant

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Low

## **S PZ 23 Babworth Park Estatelands with Plantations**

### **Policy: Conserve**

#### **Character Summary**

This is gently undulating wooded estateland located to the west of Retford. The area encompasses Babworth Park, and Retford Golf Club.

The Babworth Park estate is situated in the centre of the area. Babworth Hall is an 18<sup>th</sup> century country house with surrounding parkland created by Humphry Repton during the 1790s. The Park is on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest (Grade II). The Hall is now in divided private ownership.

The Hall is surrounded by remnant parkland and permanent pasture with mature trees of Oak and Lime, giving way to arable land in the north-west. Some of the pasture is grazed by horses. There is mature, mixed broadleaved woodland of Beech and Sycamore, and coniferous woodland located on steeper ground to the east. To the south within the golf course are patches of acid Oak / Birch woodland with Sweet Chestnut over Bracken, with some acidic turf on the greens and fairways containing Heath Bedstraw and Sorrel species.

There are a number of historic and listed buildings located to the south west of the Hall including All Saints Church and the former Rectory.

The A620 Babworth Road cuts east to west across the centre of the area. The railway line linking Retford to Worksop runs east west through the southern part of the area.

The Chesterfield Canal and Cuckoo Way run along the northeast boundary of the area.

Views are contained by woodland to the east and west and by more distant woodland to the south. Views to the north are contained by landform and wooded skyline.

## S PZ 23 Babworth Park Estatelands with plantations

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Gently undulating topography
- Views enclosed by wooded skylines
- Mature trees and permanent pasture
- Mixed deciduous woodland
- Country house set in remnant historic parkland

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Landscape Condition

The Landscape condition is defined as **very good**. There is a **coherent** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features, these include the busy A620 Babworth Road which crosses the centre of the area. High voltage cables are visible to the far west, overall this gives a visually unified area.

The area around Babworth Hall consists mainly of grazed pasture with mature stands of trees and giving way to arable farmland to the northwest. Mature woodland is located around the Hall, with larger areas to the east. These woodlands connect with hedgerow field margins providing a strong connectivity of habitats. There are other isolated clumps of woodland within horse grazed pastures. Overall the area provides a **moderate** habitat for wildlife.

The mature woodland and parkland trees do not appear to be in decline. The hedgerows are mainly hawthorn and well maintained. Some hedgerows have been replaced by post and wire fencing.

Cultural integrity is **good**. There are intact listed buildings and structures with a strong vernacular style.

A **visually unified** area with a **very strong** functional integrity/ habitat for wildlife gives a **very good** landscape condition.

#### Landscape Sensitivity

The **historic** time–depth is evident throughout the area, a large proportion of the mixed woodland and field pattern is shown on the Sanderson Plan. However there has been some loss of parkland and pasture to arable farming near to the Hall.

The assemblage of historic, listed buildings, pasture, mature woodland and parkland trees is **unique and rare** within the Sherwood LCA overall the area has a **strong** sense of place.

There are long distance views from Babworth Hall southwards to the A1. Other views within the area tend to be **enclosed** by mature woodland or the **apparent** landform. This gives a **low** visibility in and out of the area

A **strong** sense of place and a **low** visibility gives a **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve

#### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** ecological diversity and character of woodland, permanent pasture and parkland landscapes
- **Conserve** integrity of woodland areas and permanent pasture habitats
- **Conserve** existing hedgerows and seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern with new hedgerow planting.
- **Create** small scale woodlands and carry out appropriate tree planting to restock existing woodland
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to estate parkland, permanent pasture or heathland

#### Built Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries while **conserving** and respecting the historic character and setting of Babworth Hall and associated parkland.
- The design and maintenance of new and existing recreational facilities within the parkland should reflect the local landscape character

### CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Estatelands with plantations  
Policy Zone: S PZ 23  
Land Cover Parcel: S62

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low Moderate High

### Sensitivity

NB: Where one criterion is 'very good' this pushes the policy description into the next highest category.

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

**Condition** **Very Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Very Strong

**Sensitivity** **Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Unique/rare

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Strong

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Enclosed

Visibility: Low

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**  
**Sherwood: S PZ 30**

**Sherwood**

**Policy Zone 30: Worksop**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The area lies immediately south-west of Worksop and north of Welbeck Estate. The A57 forms the eastern boundary of the Policy Zone, beyond which is the urban edge of Worksop. Mansfield Road [A60] bounds the area to the north.

Landform is gently rounded and undulating with flatter areas around Broad Lane. Worksop Manor sits on higher ground in the north. Views tend to be medium distance with frequently wooded skylines, though there are some longer distance views from the higher points.

The Policy Zone is mostly a network of well managed arable fields enclosed by hawthorn hedgerows interspersed with woodland plantations. The formal parkland, with individual trees, attached to Worksop Manor also appears to be well managed. Smaller fields bounded by livestock fencing are evident north of Hawk's Nest, there is also some unimproved pasture north of Broad Lane. Scattered woodland clumps are mostly Scots pine and oak mix, a strong coniferous belt stretches along the field boundary east of Broad Lane. Drainage ditches are apparent along some of the field boundaries.



## Sherwood – Policy Zone 30: Worksop

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensive arable farmland.
- Worksop Manor with associated estate buildings and parkland.
- Woodland blocks including West Wood and Menagerie Wood.
- Strong hedgerow field boundaries with occasional hedgerow trees.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a coherent pattern of elements and few detracting features within the area, namely two busy roads; the A60 and A57. Overall this equates to a **visually unified** area.

The Policy Zone comprises intensive arable farmland and parkland/woodland associated with Worksop Manor. The historic field pattern is intact with hedgerow boundaries, mostly hawthorn, and occasional young hedgerow trees, these are reinforced by post and wire fencing in places. Buildings include Worksop Manor and Manor Park House, both stone built. Associated with these are estate cottages and the gatehouse, also in stone. Other development of the local architectural style is red brick dwellings and farmhouses, some with fairly utilitarian barns. A cemetery is located at the north-eastern corner of the area. The overall cultural integrity is **good**.

Two woodland blocks are prominent in the north of the area; West Wood and Menagerie Wood. Smaller fragmented plantations are dotted across the Policy Zone. Oak, Scots pine and beech are the dominant species, maple and sycamore are also evident. Mature parkland trees at Worksop Manor are mostly oak. Ponds occur within the woodland and some flood meadow is apparent. There is an area of designated ancient woodland at Sloswick Springs in the south-west, otherwise there are no SINC's or other ecological designations. The ecological integrity is defined as **moderate** which gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity results in a **very good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Sherwood region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

There are views beyond the Policy Zone boundary to the south and south-west, however views to the north are more limited. Overall, **moderate** visibility is afforded. The landform has been assessed as **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility gives **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the historic field pattern, restoring hedgerow boundaries where necessary. Create new hedgerows to replace post and wire fencing. Seek opportunities to increase hedgerow trees.
- **Conserve** ancient woodland and woodland block structure, reinforce as necessary.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development to the north of the Policy Zone/southern fringe of Worksop.
- **Conserve** and respect the historic character and setting of Worksop Manor, its estate and surrounding parkland.
- Contain new development within historic field boundaries.
- Seek opportunities to revert arable farmland to permanent pasture.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 30  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S34

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

#### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition

**Very Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

#### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**  
**Sherwood: S PZ 30**

## **Sherwood**

### **Policy Zone 34: East of A614**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE AND REINFORCE**

### **Character Summary**

The area is located south-east of Worksop, immediately east of the A614 and south of the A1 [Worksop Road] covering Babworth. The Poulter valley lies to the south and Forest Road runs along the east.

Topographically the Policy Zone is undulating, particularly in the north adjacent to the A1, becoming less so in the south. Views are open towards the north from higher ground and more enclosed towards the south where there is woodland in all directions.

Land use is predominantly arable with mostly well maintained hedgerow boundaries though these are sometimes gappy in places. Relatively large scale woodland blocks occupy the eastern edge and lies beyond the Policy Zone boundary to the north-west and south. Farmsteads feature within the area and a water storage reservoir is located towards the south.

## Sherwood – Policy Zone 34: East of A614

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensive arable farmland bounded by narrow hawthorn hedgerows.
- Isolated cottages and farmhouses of red brick construction.
- Large scale deciduous woodland.
- Narrow hedge-lined lanes.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with some detracting features within the Policy Zone, including high voltage power lines, a reservoir and the A1. Overall this equates to a **visually coherent** area.

Intensive arable farming is the major landuse encompassed by field boundaries of narrow well trimmed hedgerows. Some of the field pattern is lost due to hedgerow removal to create larger fields. Built features comprise isolated cottages and farmhouses of red brick construction which respect the local vernacular. The overall cultural integrity is considered **good**.

There are no SINC's or other ecological designations within the area, however there is a good network of vegetation generally; a dense block of deciduous woodland in the east connects to a fairly intact pattern of hawthorn field boundaries. A small area of unimproved grassland is apparent in the south-west corner. The ecological integrity is defined as **moderate** which results in a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually coherent** area with a **strong** functional integrity leads to a **good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Deciduous woodland blocks, trimmed hedgerows and red brick farmhouses/cottages are some of the features which give the area local distinctiveness and are **characteristic** of the Sherwood region. Buildings are located close to woodland, limiting their impact on the surrounding landscape. The continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

**Moderate** visibility is afforded due to the wooded enclosure of the Policy Zone. The topography is considered **dominant**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility results in **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve and Reinforce

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve and reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition, particularly along roadsides. Seek opportunities to restore historic field pattern/boundaries where these have been lost
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Enhance visual unity through further appropriate tree and woodland planting.
- **Conserve and reinforce** ecological diversity throughout the Policy Zone.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve and reinforce** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape.
- Contain small scale new development within historic enclosed boundaries.
- Create small scale woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 34  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S82

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low

Moderate

High

#### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition

**Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Some

Visual Unity: Coherent

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

#### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Dominant

Extent of Tree Cover: Enclosed

Visibility: Moderate

## **Sherwood**

### **Policy Zone 40: Babworth**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE AND CREATE**

### **Character Summary**

The Policy Zone covers an extensive area stretching between Worksop and Retford, descending to the Poulter valley in the far south. The A1 forms part of the western boundary and cuts through the area further south and east. The Retford Road [B6079] forms the north-western boundary, this connects to Straight Mile [A620] which runs through the centre of the area towards Retford immediately east of the Policy Zone. The B6420 runs from the east to the south-west.

Landform is flat in places, particularly in the north and east, otherwise it is gently undulating and slopes towards the River Ryton and Chesterfield Canal in the west and north-west, and towards the River Poulter in the south. There is a steeply sloping wooded area around Ordsall village immediately south-east of Retford. Medium distance views are afforded which are restricted by woodland blocks within and surrounding the Policy Zone, strong roadside hedgerows and woodland associated with river corridors. Some longer distance views are apparent in the east due to landform though these remain limited by riverside woodland along the Poulter valley in the south.

The landscape is mostly arable farmland delineated by hawthorn hedgerows, though belts of Scots pine are also common field boundaries. A number of farmsteads [some buildings are listed] are dotted throughout the Policy Zone, these are generally adjacent to shelter belts and small clumps of woodland. Small pastoral areas are evident near to Ranby and within Babworth Park in the east. There is also some rough horse grazing towards the east/Retford. Remnants of parkland, including avenue trees, are apparent at Ranby Hall, north of the A620, Ranby prison is situated further east. Both B&Q/Wilkinson distribution depots and Manton Enterprise Zone are located in the western section of the Policy Zone, the restored Manton Colliery site is also in this area. The Chesterfield Canal runs east-west through the north, while the railway cuts through the Policy Zone south of the A620, north of Elkesley village located in the south-east.

## Sherwood – Policy Zone 40: Babworth

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensive large scale arable farmland.
- Good field boundaries of hedgerows with trees or shelter belts connecting to small woodland blocks.
- Landscape fragmented by busy roads including the A1/A20/B6079.
- Former Manton colliery site.
- Ranby Hall.
- Ranby prison.
- Babworth Hall and parkland.
- Morton Park and Chesterfield Canal [SINCs].

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is moderate. There is a **coherent** pattern of elements with **some** detracting features within the Policy Zone including low/high voltage power lines, busy roads, the reclaimed mineral workings at Manton, industrial development in the west and modern agricultural sheds. Overall the area has a **coherent** visual unity.

Arable land dominates the area with some pastoral towards the east, including that at Babworth Park, fields are generally bounded by low trimmed hawthorn hedgerows, which are gappy in places, or by shelter belts [often Scots pine]. Hedgerow trees are mostly oak, though ash and pine are also evident. Fragmentation of the overall landscape is caused by the busy road network across the Policy Zone and the railway towards the south. However the area retains a rural character away from the roads. The road network and large scale commercial development [particularly in the west], along with localised developments such as Manton colliery and Ranby prison has lead to the loss of the historic field pattern, and some woodland, in parts of the Policy Zone. Built development includes isolated farmsteads and the village of Elkesley, where there is both vernacular and non-vernacular housing. Numerous buildings within the Policy Zone are listed, a number of these fall within Elkesley. New development is quite localised around existing settlement but does not always respect the local style. Overall the cultural integrity is **variable**.

Four SINCs fall within the Policy Zone including Chesterfield Canal and Morton Park. Woodland clumps of mixed/deciduous/coniferous species [including beech, yew, oak and Scots pine] often interlock with field boundaries providing a green network across the area, otherwise woodland blocks tend to be relatively small and scattered giving a low tree coverage overall. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which overall gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually coherent** area with a **coherent** functional integrity results in a **moderate landscape condition**.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Sherwood region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600], giving a **moderate** sense of place.

Views are generally contained within the Policy Zone by the landform which falls towards the east or by wooded ridgelines in the west. The landform is apparent and tree cover **intermittent** which results in **moderate** visibility. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **moderate** visibility equates to a **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve and Create

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the historic field pattern, restoring hedgerow boundaries and **creating** new hedgerows where necessary.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture.
- Enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally to **create** increased visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone.
- **Create** new hedgerows along existing roads and railway lines.
- **Conserve** the character, setting and biodiversity of the Chesterfield Canal corridor and Morton Park, **create** ecological enhancements where appropriate.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by concentrating small scale new development around transport corridors, **create** woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- **Conserve** and respect the historic character and setting of Morton Park/Babworth Park/Ranby Hall and surroundings.
- **Conserve** the local built vernacular of stone/red brick construction in new development.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.
- Conserve the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 40  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S40, S41, S58, S59, S62

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High  
**Sensitivity**

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition                      Moderate

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Some
Visual Unity:	Coherent
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

#### Sensitivity                      Moderate

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**  
**Sherwood: S PZ 40**

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**  
**Sherwood: S PZ 55**

**Sherwood**

**Policy Zone 55: Gamston**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The area is located south of Retford and east of Gamston airport. The River Idle forms much of the western boundary, while the eastern boundary follows existing field boundaries. The A638 bisects the Policy Zone north to south. The A57 meets the A1 at the far south of the area below Markham Moor.

Topographically the Policy Zone is flat and low-lying in the east becoming more gently undulating further west before sloping towards the River Idle valley at the western [and part of the] southern boundaries. Views are more extensive across the flatter landscape in the east becoming more limited by landform and vegetation in the west.

Arable farmland is dominant across the area and biomass crop production is also a prominent land use in the east. Small areas of pasture are apparent across the area but more so in the west. The Policy Zone encompasses the villages of Gamston and Eaton, and the smaller hamlets of White Houses and Markham Moor which are located at the northern and southern extremities respectively.



## Sherwood – Policy Zone 55: Gamston

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensive arable farmland with biomass crop production.
- Medium sized fields; little of the historic field pattern remains.
- Deteriorating hedgerows infilled with post and wire fencing.
- Mature hedgerow trees.
- Settlement areas of a small scale, built in the local vernacular.
- Busy roads; A1, A57, A638.
- Low tree cover; small deciduous and coniferous woodland clumps.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is good. There is a **coherent** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features within the Policy Zone; the recently constructed A57 junction with the A1 and A638, services. Overall the area has a **unified** visual appearance.

The historic field pattern has been noticeably rationalised, particularly in the east, due to the increase in intensive arable farming and the introduction of biomass crops. This has resulted in some irregular shaped fields in places. Fields are divided by trimmed hedgerows which are often gappy and supplemented by post and wire fencing. Occasional hedgerow trees are evident; mostly mature oak and ash. Hedgerow trees remain apparent in the east where some hedgerows have been either lost or removed. Settlement includes Gamston and Eaton, both traditional style villages, along with smaller hamlets; Markham Moor and White Houses. More recent development is evident at the fringe of White Houses and also at the A57/A1 junction, however these are at the northern and southern edges of the Policy Zone and therefore bear little impact on the overriding character of the area. Farmhouses tend to be near to settlement and are generally of red brick construction. The overall cultural integrity is considered **variable**.

Tree cover is generally considered low comprising small scattered clumps of deciduous and coniferous planting predominantly towards the west and the wooded corridor of the River Idle along the western boundary of the Policy Zone. Age structure is mixed and some woodland blocks contain more mature canopy trees with a younger understorey. A short coniferous tree belt is evident at Horman's Holt, north of Gamston. There are no SINC's or other ecological designations within the Policy Zone. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which overall gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Sherwood region and the continuity/time depth has been assessed as **historic** [post 1600], giving a **moderate** sense of place.

The extent of tree cover is **intermittent** and the landform **dominant** resulting in **high** visibility which affords distant views north to south along the flatter areas in the east. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **high** visibility gives **high landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** what remains of the historic field pattern, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary, replacing post and wire fencing with new hedgerow planting.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- **Conserve** and enhance woodland/plantation clumps and connectivity generally across the area.
- **Conserve** hedgerow trees and seek opportunities to plant more, particularly along roadsides.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by concentrating new small scale development around Gamston and Eaton.
- **Conserve** the character and setting of Gamston, Eaton, White Houses and Markham Moor – new development should respect the scale, design and materials used traditionally in the settlements.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style of red brick construction.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 55  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S52, S53

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

#### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition

**Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Coherent

#### Sensitivity

**High**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Dominant

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: High

## **S PZ 27 Ollerton Estate Farmlands**

### **Policy: Conserve and Create**

#### **Character Summary**

This is an arable landscape located to the north and south-west of the settlement of Ollerton and New Ollerton. The gently rounded topography has localised flatter areas to the north-east. Ollerton Pit Woods occurs in the southeast of this area; this former colliery spoil heap is a dominant feature within the landscape. The River Maun runs along the northern edge of the area.

The area is dominated by medium to large-scale intensively farmed arable fields, with isolated areas of sheep pasture and occasional intensive livestock sheds further to the south.

The area has a varied woodland pattern. There are blocks of broadleaved woodland (Birch, Ash, and Oak) to the north, and a large coniferous plantation (Scots Pine, Birch) with broadleaved margins to the west. To the south of Ollerton, Ollerton Pit Woods, and Ollerton Hills are comprised of large blocks of mixed deciduous woodland (Birch, Ash, Oak and Willow) located within intensively farmed areas.

Although woodland is an important feature, the area has no strong sense of wooded enclosure; farmland is the dominant component of the landscape. Views to the west are enclosed by woodland. The area has some open views, but most views are restricted by landform, vegetation and housing.

Large geometric fields are enclosed by low hawthorn hedgerows with some Oak and Ash occurring as hedgerow trees. Hedgerows are generally intact but are gappy and lost in some localised parts. An ancient parish hedgerow runs along Beards Belt located along Robin Hood Way, located north of Walesby Village.

Walesby Village is located in the centre of the area. This small nucleated village has a historic core with red brick buildings and some more recent suburban development. The larger settlements of Ollerton, New Ollerton and Boughton are located further south. The area has a number of isolated farmsteads to the north adjacent to the River Maun. This predominantly agricultural landscape is interspersed with other land uses such as a caravan park, a large agricultural distribution centre and Sherwood Castle Holiday Village. The Robin Hood Way runs across the northern end of the area, to the north of Walesby.

There are several SINC sites including Haughton Decoy and Boughton Break Ride as well as 3 heathland register sites.

Threats to the area include further loss of field boundaries due to agricultural expansion with additional built structures, and expansion of settlements of Walesby, Ollerton and Boughton.

# S PZ 27 Ollerton Estate Farmlands

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Gently rounded topography
- Medium to large-scale semi-irregular field pattern, enclosed by low hawthorn hedges some in poor condition
- Occasional hedgerow trees
- Views framed by rising ground and woodland edges
- Small, nucleated, red brick villages
- Mining settlements with associated reclaimed colliery spoil heaps

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The landscape condition is defined as **moderate**. The pattern of elements is **coherent** and the area has **some** visual detractors, these include an agricultural distribution centre and chicken sheds located to the north of Walesby village. There are a number of intensive livestock sheds to the south of the policy zone. A limited number of busy roads cross the area and power lines cut across the area to the south, overall the visual unity is **coherent**.

There are several SINC's within the area including Houghton Decoy and Boughton Break Ride. An ancient parish hedgerow runs along Beards Belt located along Robin Hood Way, north of Walesby Village.

This intensively farmed arable landscape contains a number of small to medium-sized mixed deciduous woodland blocks and coniferous plantations to the north, south and west. There are a few areas of grazed pasture. Medium to large-scale arable fields are enclosed by low hawthorn hedgerows with occasional trees (Oak and Ash). Hedgerows are generally intact in the north and south, but are gappy and lost in parts around settlements and further south. The mixed woodland, trees, and hedgerows provide a network of wildlife corridors that is considered to have **moderate** ecological integrity. There is a low coverage of trees with some newly planted trees associated with villages, new developments and the restored colliery spoil tip.

This agricultural landscape is interspersed with other land uses such as a caravan park, a large agricultural distribution centre and Sherwood Castle Holiday Village. The Robin Hood Way runs across the northern end of the area, to the north of Walesby. Cultural integrity is **variable**. Walesby is a small nucleated village with a historic core with red brick buildings and some suburban influences. The larger settlements of Ollerton, and Boughton also have an older historic core but have more recent residential expansion which dominates the southern end of the area. There are a number of isolated red brick farmsteads, adjacent to the River Maun.

A **visually coherent** area with a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a **moderate** landscape condition

### Landscape Sensitivity

The trees and woodland associated with the River Maun and Houghton Decoy are shown on the Sanderson Plan. The historic field pattern has been replaced by medium to large-scale intensively farmed arable fields. The features of the area are **characteristic** of the Sherwood region and of an **historic** time depth (post 1600), the sense of place is **moderate**.

Views to the west are enclosed by woodland. The area has some open views, but most are restricted by landform, vegetation and housing, overall the visibility in and out of the area is **moderate**.

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS -Conserve and Create

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the ecological diversity and character of woodland habitats
- **Conserve** existing hedgerows and seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern with new hedgerow planting
- Seek opportunities to restore hedgerows with some hedgerow trees where appropriate to field boundaries
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to mixed woodland, permanent pasture, and heathland

### Built Features

- New development should be contained within historic field boundaries
- **Conserve** the historic character and setting of Walesby – new development should respect the scale, design and materials used traditionally in the Policy Zone and be contained near to the existing settlements of Walesby and Ollerton.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Estate Farmlands

Policy Zone: S PZ 27

Land Cover Parcel: S44, S70

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE
Poor			

Low Moderate High

### Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

Moderate

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Some

Visual Unity: Coherent

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Coherent

### Sensitivity

Moderate

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**  
**Sherwood: S PZ 28**

## **Sherwood**

### **Policy Zone 28: Meden Vale and Church Warsop**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE**

### **Character Summary**

The area stretches from Lound Hall in the east to Church Warsop in the west along the Meden and Maun valleys. It almost bisects the Sherwood character region south of Clumber and Thoresby Estates and north of Sherwood Forest Country Park. Thoresby Lake falls within the Policy Zone in the west.

Both the River Meden and Thoresby Lake have gently sloping sides, further east the flat valley floor is evident between the Meden and Maun valleys.

Views tend to be medium distance either towards surrounding higher ground or woodland and plantation blocks which occur frequently adjacent to the river corridors. Some views are limited by residential development at Meden Vale and by the reclaimed slopes of the former Welbeck Colliery.

Essentially the Policy Zone comprises small areas of pasture, flood meadow and arable alongside the watercourses. Part of the historic landscape of Thoresby Park encroaches into the area from the north; mature parkland trees stand close to the Lake and deer graze to the waters edge. Most field boundaries are post and wire fencing, though a few gappy hawthorn hedgerows are also present. Small areas of settlement are contained within the area; Lound Hall Training Centre, Houghton Hall Farm and Houghton are located close to the River Maun while the small villages of Perlethorpe and Budby are located close to the River Meden along with Gleadthorpe Grange further west.

## Sherwood – Policy Zone 28: Meden Vale and Church Warsop

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- River Meden, River Maun, Thoresby Lake.
- Linear sections of flood meadow.
- Deciduous woodland belts aligning the river corridor.
- Mix of oak and poplar with heathland understorey.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. The Policy Zone contains a **coherent** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features including the urban areas of Meden Vale, Church Warsop and Market Warsop, Welbeck Colliery. Although busy roads, the A616 and A614 are minor detractions running perpendicular to the valley. Overall the landscape is **visually unified**.

The River Meden dominates the Policy Zone, subsequently the area is not intensively used. There are relatively few buildings or structures within the area, farm buildings are mainly red brick with slate or pantile roofs. Urban areas at nearby settlements Meden Vale, Church Warsop and Market Warsop are more modern in style. The historic field pattern is still evident in part though several hedgerows have been replaced by post and wire fencing. The overall cultural integrity is considered **good**.

Linear sections of flood meadow follow the watercourse, some is used for pastoral farming and some amenity grassland occurs near to settlement. Generally there is good vegetation connectivity along the valley between deciduous woodland belts and hedgerow field boundaries adjacent to the Policy Zone. Waterfowl is characteristic of the area. Tree coverage is moderate and of diverse age structure, oak and poplar are the dominant species and occur with heathland understorey in less wooded areas. A significant strip of riparian vegetation follows the River Meden comprising mature willow, poplar with understorey. One SINC, a woodland block, is contained within the Policy Zone along with two nature reserves; The Bottoms [riparian habitats along the River Meden] and Budby Carr [mixed plantation woodland]. The ecological integrity is defined as **strong** which gives a **very strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area combined with a **very strong** functional integrity gives a **very good landscape condition**.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Sherwood region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

The presence of the River Meden prevents intrusive landuse or development. Dense woodland along the majority of the valley helps to further protect the river as a habitat, although the tree cover is noticeably sparse between Meden Vale and Budby, where arable and pastoral land is famed right up to the water's edge.

**Moderate** visibility is afforded due to the wooded enclosure of the Policy Zone. The landform is considered **dominant**. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **moderate** visibility gives **moderate** landscape sensitivity overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the character, pattern, ecological diversity and biodiversity of the River Meden corridor and surrounding flood meadow, seek to enhance as appropriate.
- **Conserve** the structure of existing woodland and flood meadow and seek to enhance and reinforce as necessary to encourage greater habitat diversity as appropriate.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the rural character of the landscape by respecting the scale and setting of existing settlements.
- New development should take account of the distinctive ecological elements within the Policy Zone.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 28  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S29, S30, S31

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Very Good</b>
------------------	------------------

Pattern of Elements:                      Coherent

Detracting Features:                      Few

Visual Unity:                                      Unified

Ecological Integrity:                      Strong

Cultural Integrity:                              Good

Functional Integrity:                      Very Strong

<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
--------------------	-----------------

Distinctiveness:                              Characteristic

Continuity:    Historic

Sense of Place:                                      Moderate

Landform:    Dominant

Extent of Tree Cover                              Enclosed

Visibility:    Moderate

## **Sherwood**

### **Policy Zone 32: Clumber**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE**

### **Character Summary**

The area is bounded by the B6034 to the west and the A614 to the east. Netherfield Lane connects the A616 and A614 near to the southern boundary. The landform of this Policy Zone is gently undulating with Clumber Lake to the centre of the area which is fed by the River Poulter. There are medium distance views with frequent wooded skylines, views are more enclosed within the wooded areas.

The Policy Zone consists of over 75% of the parkland landscape of Clumber Park [National Trust] and Thoresby Park [Pierrepoint family since 1600] which are visitor attractions with their associated woodland, lakes, roads, tracks and footpaths. There are small areas of arable and pastures. There are also areas of heathland within the parkland grazed by rare breed cattle and sheep.

There are extensive areas of coniferous woodland with deciduous edges; species including Scots Pine, oak, beech, hawthorn and sycamore. Arable farmland contains clumps of mature trees and there are mature parkland trees within grassed areas. A particular landscape feature is the double lime avenue on the entrance road from the A614 into Clumber Park. Rhododendron is common as an understorey species in woodland areas.

Hardwick Village contains estate houses belonging to the Clumber and are generally red brick with pantiled roofs. Existing red brick and pantiled buildings within Clumber Park are also used to house visitor facilities such as a café, National Trust shop, bicycle hire etc. the Clumber site also contains a walled kitchen garden and associated glass houses and outbuildings. There is also a church within the Clumber estate.

Threats include loss of hedgerows due to increased arable land use; some loss of parkland due to additional coniferous planting, spread of rhododendrons within the understorey replacing native species, and additional visitor pressure on the parklands resulting in the expansion of facilities.

## Sherwood – Policy Zone 32: Clumber

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Undulating landform.
- Sparsely settled landscape.
- Views framed by woodland edges.
- Extensive broadleaved, mixed and coniferous woodlands.
- Country houses set in ornamental parklands [Clumber is grade 1 listed].
- Narrow man-made lakes along river valleys.
- Extensive areas of unenclosed heaths.
- Unfenced minor roads.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a **coherent** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features within the Policy Zone; the A614, caravan parks and a radio mast. Overall the area has a **unified** visual appearance.

The Policy Zone generally comprises large areas of parkland with woodland; Clumber and Thoresby Parks. Clumber has a grade 1 listing on the English Heritage Register for Parks and Gardens. Areas of farmland are principally contained within the south and north-east and include both arable and pasture. Pleasure grounds and gardens associated with the estates are strong landscape features along with buildings and structures which are constructed of red brick and stone; Thoresby Hall and Hotel [grade 1], remnant parts of Clumber House, the chapel, several gatehouses [some listed], Clumber bridge and Hardwick Village, also part of the Clumber estate. Some conversion works to outbuildings are evident at Clumber to provide visitor facilities, however all works reflect the local vernacular. Field boundaries are inconsistent with the majority of fields defined by woodland and plantation blocks. Hedgerows are more apparent in the south. The overall cultural integrity is considered **good**.

Extensive areas of coniferous, mixed and broadleaved woodland cover at least half of the Policy Zone. The age structure is diverse; including mature areas and evidence of replanting schemes. A number of the parkland trees are veterans. Heathland areas are apparent within the parkland and are mostly grazed. A range of habitats occur at Clumber particularly and are well maintained by the National Trust and the Forestry Commission. A significant area at Clumber [1000 acres] has SSSI status. A double avenue of lime trees is an exceptionally striking feature aligning the single public road which bisects Clumber Park [Lime Tree Avenue]. The ecological integrity is described as **strong** which overall gives a **very strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **very strong** functional integrity gives a **very good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **unique/rare** of the Sherwood region and the continuity/time depth has been assessed as **ancient** [pre 1600], giving a **very strong** sense of place.

The Policy Zone has an enclosed nature with views to, from and within the area being limited by frequent and extensive woodland and plantation. Longer 'designed' views are afforded at key locations such as Lime Tree Avenue and across Serpentine Lake at Clumber toward the Poulter in the east. When combined with a **dominant** landform this results in **moderate** visibility. A **very strong** sense of place combined with **moderate** visibility gives **very high landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** all areas of historic parkland and landscape features contained within it. Seek opportunities for restoring parkland character.
- Identify opportunities for conserving and restoring areas of heathland and semi natural oak woodland.
- **Conserve** and enhance woodland/plantation blocks and connectivity across the area.
- **Conserve** and enhance hedgerow and tree planting.
- **Conserve** ecological diversity and biodiversity of all habitats, enhance where appropriate.
- Grade 1 status of the parkland would preclude any inappropriate development.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and undeveloped character of the landscape.
- **Conserve** and protect buildings and other built features, their character and setting, within the parkland
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style of red brick and stone construction.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 32  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S35

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

#### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition

Very Good

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Strong
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Very Strong

#### Sensitivity

Very High

Distinctiveness:	Unique/Rare
Continuity:	Ancient
Sense of Place:	Very Strong
Landform:	Dominant
Extent of Tree Cover	Enclosed
Visibility:	Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**  
**Sherwood: S PZ 32**



## **S PZ 53 Milton River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Conserve**

#### **Character Summary**

This Policy Zone consists of the village of Milton and its surrounding fields. The River Maun flows northwards to the west of the village. There are open views from the village to the west towards the restored Bevercotes Colliery and its surrounding woodland. To the east, views are bounded by the escarpment which forms the edge of the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands. The height range within the area is between 23 and 43 metres.

The village itself consists of a core of red brick and pantiled roofed buildings. Much of the more recent development, although not all, is in keeping in terms of materials with the older parts of the village, for example the water treatment works at the southern end of the village is a 1960s style building complex. Areas of unimproved, species poor, permanent pasture are associated with the village; much of which shows evidence of ridge and furrow landform. The historic field pattern around the village is little changed since the Sanderson Plan of 1835.

The River Maun valley has a fringe of riparian vegetation including Ash, Elder, and Hawthorn, particularly to the northern end of the area. Road hedge hedgerows are mature with mixed species and they also contain mature trees, mostly Ash. There are mature field boundary hawthorn hedgerows to the east of village.

There is one SINC to the north of the area, Markham Moor Grasslands, which is described as 'rough species rich grassland along the River Maun.'

Threats to the area include the flooding of the River Maun valley. Many of the trees are mature and will become senescent if not managed. The unimproved pasture is always under threat of agricultural improvement or from building infill development.

# S PZ 53 Milton River Meadowlands

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: River Meadowlands  
 Policy Zone: S PZ 53  
 Landscape Character Parcel: 56

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE
Poor			
	Low	Moderate	High

**Sensitivity**

## CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Valley of the River Maun with a thin border of riparian woodland including mature trees
- Red brick and pantiled houses to the core of the village
- Permanent unimproved pasture with evidence of ridge and furrow landforms around village
- Mature trees and hedgerows to road verges

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **very good**

The policy zone is **visually coherent** in that the area has a consistent pattern of elements. There are **few** detracting these include traffic noise from the A1 and derelict farm buildings Overall this gives a **visually unified** area. There is 1 Bio SINC site, Markham Moor grasslands, which is described as 'a rough, species rich grassland along the River Maun.' In ecological terms the mature vegetation and unimproved pasture make this area a **moderate** habitat for wildlife

Cultural integrity is **good** in that the field and hedgerow pattern is consistent with historic maps and the core of the village with its red brick and pantiled cottages remains intact. Overall this gives a **strong** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife

A **visually unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity gives a **very good** landscape condition.

### Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as **moderate**

The components of the landscape are **characteristic** of the Sherwood LCA. The time depth is **historic** (post 1600) giving a **moderate** sense of place overall. The red brick and pantiled cottages form the core of the village and are surrounded by areas of permanent pasture with evidence of ridge and furrow. The field pattern is little changed since the Sanderson Plan of 1835.

The landform is **apparent** with interconnected and **intermittent** areas of mature vegetation giving a **moderate** visibility in and out of the area.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility leads to a **moderate** landscape sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition **Very Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

### Sensitivity

### **Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

## ACTIONS – Conserve

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the intact historic pattern of hedged fields and unimproved permanent pasture around Milton
- Promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- **Conserve** river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation.
- **Conserve** mature trees and hedgerows within the village core.

### Built Features

- **Conserve** the historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic enclosed boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style of red brick construction in any new development

## **Sherwood**

### **Policy Zone 31: Worksop**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE**

### **Character Summary**

The area lies south of Worksop and predominantly east of the B6034 which forms part of the western boundary. Clumber Park is located immediately to the east. The A57 cuts through the north-eastern section of the Policy Zone. The Sheffield to Lincoln railway line runs east to west through Worksop north of the area.

Topographically the Policy Zone is gently undulating with low rounded hills. Higher ground is in the west, sloping down towards the east. The landscape affords medium distance views with frequent wooded skylines, being more enclosed in wooded areas. The Policy Zone is contained by coniferous plantations at the east, south and west. Northward, views are restricted by scrub upon the restored slopes of Manton Colliery [beyond the Policy Zone boundary], this also filters views of the urban edge of Worksop.

The area is dominated by interlocking blocks of woodland with some parkland [Welbeck] and arable fields both irregular and geometric. There is also some pasture adjacent to the Poulter valley. Broadleaved woodlands generally comprise oak, birch, sweet chestnut, hornbeam and yew, the mixed woodlands are dominated by Scots pine with birch. Hedgerow field boundaries are fragmented overall, some isolated hedgerow trees are apparent, post and wire fencing has been used to delineate the field pattern where hedgerows no longer exist.

Two golf courses are evident; Worksop Golf Course in the north [includes a SINC], and College Pines Golf Course in the west. Worksop College is an impressive architectural feature within the landscape, mature trees are evident within the grounds.

## Sherwood – Policy Zone 31: Worksop

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Mixed Scots pine and birch woodland blocks.
- Single species (Scots pine/birch) woodland blocks/plantations.
- Worksop College and grounds.
- Welbeck Parkland.
- Worksop Golf Course and College Pines Golf Course.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is **very good** with a coherent pattern of elements. There are few detracting features, the main one being individual dwellings along Ollerton Road which are not characteristic of the region. The Policy Zone is a **visually unified** area.

Much of the historic field pattern has been lost, where hedgerows exist around the arable land they are generally strong and well maintained although some are gappy. Hedgerows have been replaced by post and wire fencing where the land is grazed. Welbeck Park also falls within the Policy Zone, boasting parkland trees of mainly oak species. Worksop College is an impressive red brick building in the area, other buildings include farmhouses and cottages of both red brick and stone construction. There is no evidence of recent development. The cultural integrity is considered **good**.

Intensity of landuse is relatively low, the majority being mixed woodland [Scots pine and birch with some oak and hawthorn] with heathland understorey, and some commercial plantations of Scots pine and blocks of birch woodland. In general the woodland shows evidence of management, with felling of mature trees and planting of new trees. Two designated SINCS fall within the Policy Zone; Top Wood/Great Whin Covert and Coach Road Plantation and Kidney Clump. There is some intensive arable farmland along the fringes of the plantations and some small scale pastoral areas used for horse grazing. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity gives a **very good landscape condition**.

#### Sensitivity

Worksop College and isolated farms are some of the features which give the area local distinctiveness and are **characteristic** of the Sherwood region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

**Moderate** visibility is afforded due to the enclosed nature of the Policy Zone. The landform has been assessed as **dominant**. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **moderate** visibility results in **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the remaining historic field pattern, restoring hedgerow boundaries where necessary. Create new hedgerows to replace post and wire fencing.
- **Conserve** and enhance the wooded character of the area, in particular the single species blocks.
- Seek opportunities to create areas of heathland where appropriate.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development to the north of the Policy Zone/southern fringe of Worksop.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- **Conserve** the character and architectural style of Worksop College and ensure this is respected in any new development.
- **Conserve** and protect the historic character and setting of Welbeck Park and its boundaries.
- **Conserve** the local built vernacular of red brick/stone construction in new development.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 31  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S37, S38, S67

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low

Moderate

High

### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition

**Very Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

#### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Dominant

Extent of Tree Cover: Enclosed

Visibility: Moderate

## **S PZ 56 Kirton River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Create and Restore**

#### **Character Summary**

This is a narrow PZ which follows the valley of the Rivers Idle and Maun to the northern half and the Boughton Dyke to the southern section. The river is marked by a strong band of riparian vegetation, including mature Willows and Alder. This LCP is at the junction of the Sherwood Landscape Character Area and the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands LCA to the east; land form rises steeply to the east immediately outside the LCP boundary. To the east views are closed by the wooded ridgeline and there are distant views to the east of the coniferous wooded ridgelines of Sherwood.

Land uses to the northern section include grazing on permanent and improved pasture adjacent to the river corridor; there are small pockets of arable farming. These land uses continue in the southern section but nearer to Ollerton industrial and commercial uses become more prevalent. There is a large industrial estate at Boughton located on both sides of the A 6097. The village of Kirton lies approximately to the centre of the LCP. This has a core of red brick and pantile roofed buildings and a stone church. Newer infill development alongside the A6097 has been less in keeping with the character of the village core. Other industrial land uses to the south include part of the former Ollerton Colliery with associated mineral lines. Other transport routes pass through the area including the A6097, part of the A1 and part of the East Coast main railway line.

Vegetation within the area consists of the riparian woodland, but limited woodland outside this area. Hedgerows are variable. They are strong mixed species hedgerows with mature trees in some areas, such as along the lane between Kirton and Walesby, but within the grazed areas close to the river they have been removed in some places and replaced by post and wire fences.

The historic pattern has been degraded by the removal of field boundaries in much of the area and completely removed to the southern end due to industrial development. However, to the west of Kirton evidence of the strip field system remains intact.

Threats to the area include further industrial expansion, expansion of urban areas such as Retford, Kirton and Ollerton; intensification of agriculture, decline of woodland due to poor management and maintenance, and additional biomass planting.

# S PZ 56 Kirton River Meadowlands

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Meandering river channel defined by bands of riparian vegetation consisting of mature Alder, and Willow
- Permanent and improved pasture and flood meadow
- Alder and Willow carrs and holts
- Industrial and commercial development along transport corridors
- Kirton village core red brick and pantile roofed
- Former colliery sites and urban edges apparent

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **poor**.

The PZ has a **coherent** pattern of elements arranged along the river corridor but with **many** detracting features. These include post industrial areas, recent industrial estates, and busy roads and other transport routes passing through the corridor. Overall the PZ is **visually interrupted**.

The area consists of open areas of permanent and improved pasture with small areas of arable production. The main area of woodland is the fringe of riparian vegetation bordering the Boughton Dyke, the River Maun and River Meden which provides a connectivity of habitats and a **moderate** network for wildlife with its associated small woodlands, holts and carrs. There are 3 SINC sites along the valley as well as 4 others associated with post industrial landscapes or road verges.

Cultural integrity is **variable**. The field pattern present in the Sanderson Plan is still recognisable to the north part of the PZ but there has been some hedgerow removal. To the south of the PZ the historic pattern has been obliterated by industrial development. To the centre the strip field pattern survives to the east of the village of Kirton with sinuous roads connecting the villages within the valley.

A **moderate** ecological integrity with a **variable** cultural integrity gives a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife. A **visually interrupted** area with a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a **poor** landscape condition.

### Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as **moderate**.

The elements of which the PZ is composed are characteristic of the Sherwood LCA and although there are recent features such as the industrial estates and infill development in Kirton, overall the time depth is historic and older patterns in the landscape remain. The area has a **moderate** sense of place.

The landform of the area is **apparent** and the tree cover including hedgerows is **intermittent** giving a **moderate** visibility in and out of the area. Views to the east are contained by the strong ridge line to the east of Kirton. At higher points there are views to the distant wooded ridgelines of the Sherwood region. View along the valley these are limited by water side vegetation. A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility gives a **moderate** sensitivity.

## ACTIONS – Create and Restore

### Landscape Features

- **Restore** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture
- **Restore** and enhance the ecological diversity of riparian woodlands
- **Restore** and enhance river channel diversity and marginal river side vegetation

### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled character of the river corridors concentrating new small scale development along transport corridors
- New development should protect the historic core of Kirton and respect its scale, design and traditional materials
- **Create** new development using the traditional architectural style of red brick construction
- Sensitive design and siting of new commercial and industrial buildings taking account of the distinctive landscape elements within the Policy Zone

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: River Meadowlands

Policy Zone: S PZ 56

Land Cover Parcel: S 53 and S 56

## Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

## Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

**Poor**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Many
Visual Unity:	Interrupted
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

## **S PZ 57 Gamston Airport Village Farmlands Policy: Conserve and Create**

### **Character Summary**

The LCP has a gently undulating landform rising from east to west. The southern area on which Gamston Airport is located is much flatter. Distant views are contained by the undulating land form. There are distant views to the east as far as the Trent Valley. Land use is predominately intensive arable farming, mainly oil seed rape and cereals. The other mainland use is the airfield to the south which is surrounded by light industrial and commercial uses to its perimeter. There are several small woodlands, many dating back to at least 1835, with Oak as the dominant species; the exception being Eaton Bogs Wood which is more mixed species. Roadside hedgerows are generally dense and well maintained, consisting of Hawthorn with isolated standard trees including Oak and Sycamore. There are some areas of mixed species hedgerow on Ollerton Road and along farm tracks. Field boundary hedgerows are more variable in quality and mainly Hawthorn.

The only residential property in the LCP is the isolated Eaton Brecks Farm which is of vernacular style. The airport buildings are of recent development. The historic pattern present on the Sanderson Plan has been removed to the south due to the development of the airfield. To the centre and north many hedgerows have been removed, although the historic pattern is still recognisable. Threats to the area include the expansion of the airport and its associated development, agricultural intensification, further removal of woodland or additional coniferous woodland, or additional biomass planting.



# S PZ 57 Gamston Airfield Village Farmlands

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Gently rolling topography
- Airfield with associated infrastructure and commercial and light industrial development to perimeter
- Medium to large-scale semi-irregular field pattern
- Small deciduous woodlands
- Hawthorn road and field boundary hedgerows
- Views framed by rising ground and woodland edges

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **moderate**.

The PZ has a **coherent** pattern of elements with **some** detracting features. These include light industrial and commercial development around the perimeter of the airfield, and the airfield itself with its associated infrastructure. Overall the PZ is **visually coherent**.

The area consists mainly of small fragments of deciduous woodland surrounded by intensively farmed arable fields, used for cereal and oil seed rape production. There is a good network of hedgerows providing connectivity of habitats and a **moderate** network for wildlife.

Cultural integrity is **variable**. The field pattern present in the Sanderson Plan is still recognisable to the north but there has been some hedgerow removal. Most of the woodlands on the Sanderson plan are still present, and they have remained deciduous rather than being infilled with conifers. To the south of the PZ the historic pattern and a larger woodland has been obliterated by the development of the airfield.

A **moderate** ecological integrity with a **variable** cultural integrity gives a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife. A **visually coherent** area with a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a **moderate** landscape condition.

### Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as **moderate**.

The elements of which the PZ is composed are characteristic of the Sherwood LCA and although there are recent features, such as the airfield development, overall the time depth is historic. The area has a **moderate** sense of place.

The landform of the area is **apparent** and the tree cover including hedgerows is **intermittent** giving a **moderate** visibility in and out of the area. There are longer distance views to the east including into the Trent Valley. Views to the north, south and west are more contained by landform. There are long distance views to the south from Gamston Airport.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility gives a **moderate** sensitivity.

## ACTIONS – Conserve and Create

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** hedgerows, **creating** new sections where these are gappy and in poor condition. Seek opportunities to restore historic field pattern/boundaries where these have been lost and introduce more hedgerow trees.
- **Create** tree and woodland planting as a means of enhancing the structure and unity of the landscape.
- **Create** heathland creation where appropriate.

### Built Features

- **Conserve** the distinctive vernacular character of existing farm buildings.
- **Conserve** the sparsely settled character of the landscape by concentrating new development around Gamston Airfield.
- **Create** new woodland planting to contain and soften new development preferably in advance of development.

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Village Farmlands

Policy Zone: S PZ 57

Land Cover Parcel: S 57

## Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE
Poor			
	Low	Moderate	High
	<b>Sensitivity</b>		

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

**Moderate**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Some

Visual Unity: Coherent

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Coherent

### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent




Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

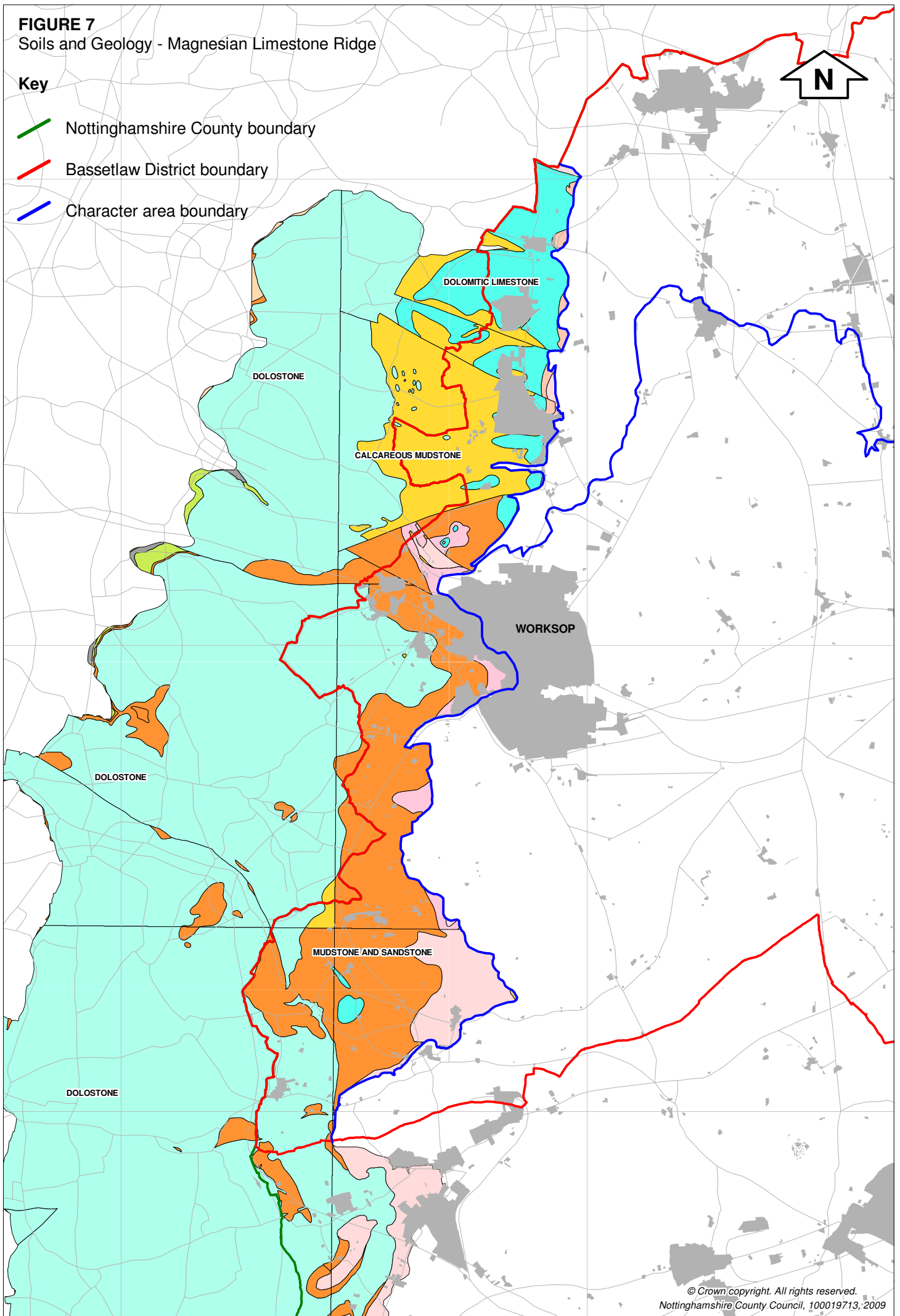
Visibility: Moderate



**FIGURE 7**  
Soils and Geology - Magnesian Limestone Ridge




**Key**

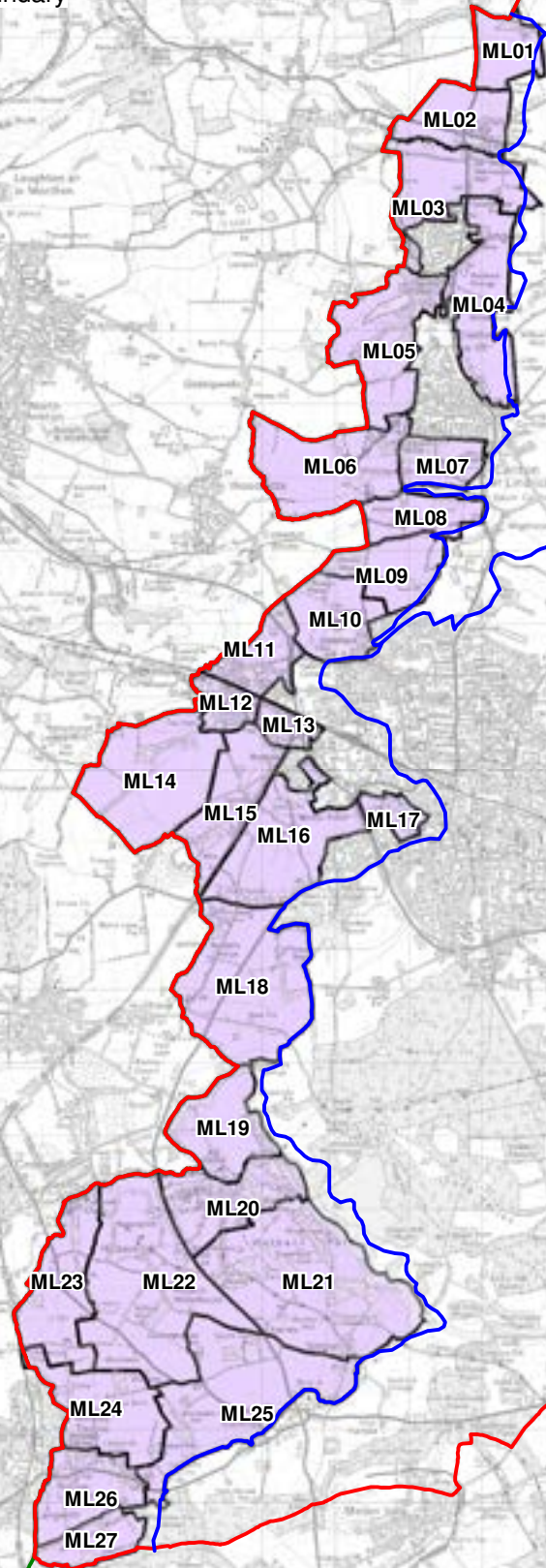
-  Nottinghamshire County boundary
-  Bassetlaw District boundary
-  Character area boundary



**FIGURE 9**  
Landscape Character Parcels - Magnesian Limestone Ridge

**Key**

-  Nottinghamshire County boundary
-  Bassetlaw District boundary
-  Character area boundary






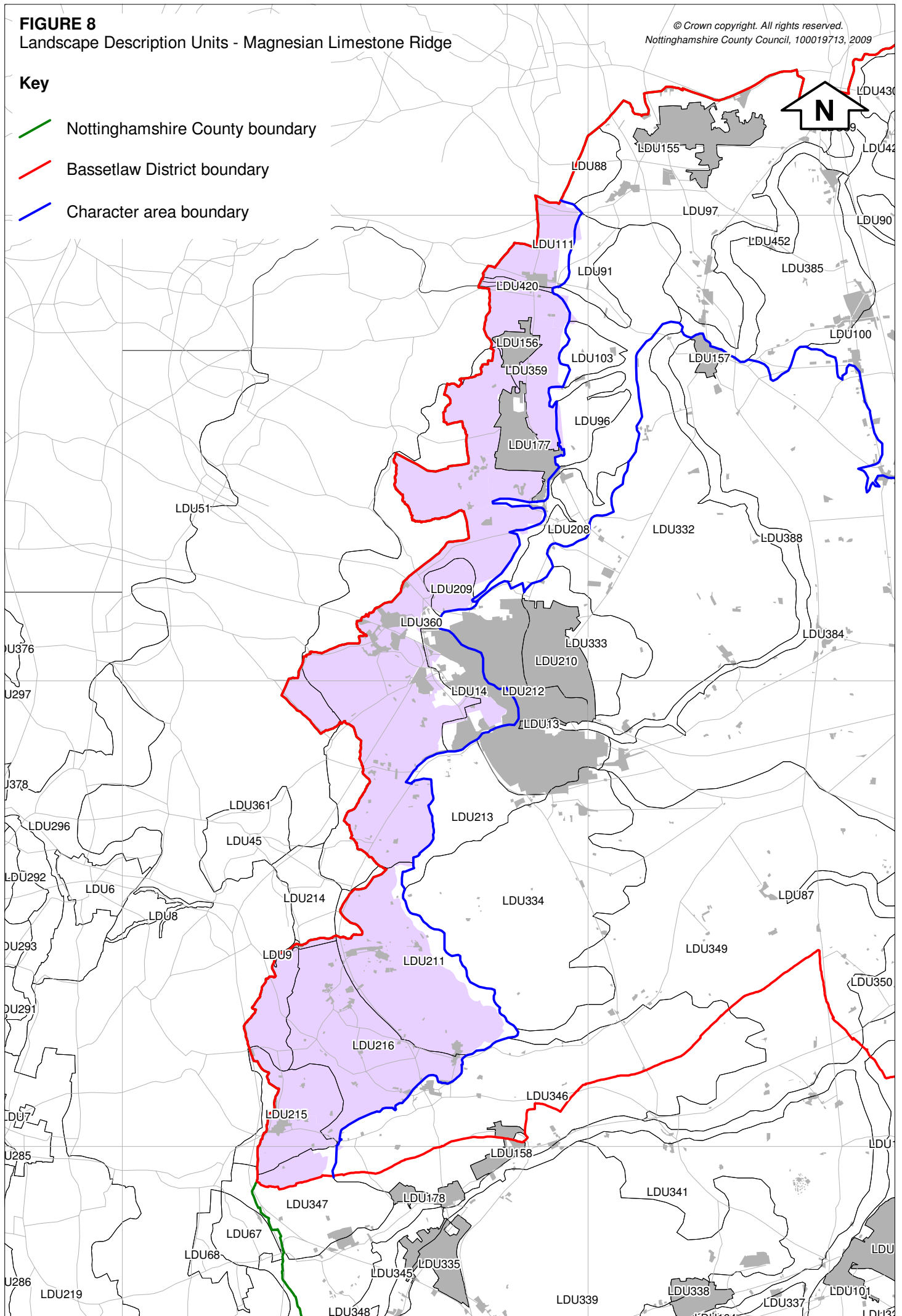


**FIGURE 8**  
Landscape Description Units - Magnesian Limestone Ridge

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved.  
Nottinghamshire County Council, 100019713, 2009

**Key**

-  Nottinghamshire County boundary
-  Bassetlaw District boundary
-  Character area boundary



**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 04**

**Magnesian Limestone Ridge  
Policy Zone 04: Carlton-in-Lindrick**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The area lies immediately east of Langold and west of Carlton-in-Lindrick. Langold Country Park is located north and west of the Policy Zone.

Landform is gently undulating and rounded. Both Langold and Carlton sit on higher ground towards which open views from the west are afforded. There are more open views to varied landscape further east from the east side of Langold. Existing housing development outside the Policy Zone has a visual impact due to the relatively flat and open nature of the area. The former pit heap is prominent on the skyline in the north-west.

Overall the area is rural in character, the dominant element being flat open medium scale arable farmland bounded by hawthorn hedgerows which are mostly intact, some also with trees. There are isolated deciduous woodland blocks, a number of SINCs, and Hodsock Grange which comprises a small collection of vernacular architecture and is listed. Few other landscape features of note exist within the Policy Zone.

# Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 04: Carlton-in-Lindrick

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 04  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML04, ML06

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low Moderate High

### Sensitivity

## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Large scale flat arable landscape.
- A series of SINCs – mostly deciduous/historic species-rich woodlands.
- Strong trimmed hedgerow field boundaries.
- Urban edges of Langold and Carlton-in-Lindrick.
- Isolated farmsteads and scattered dwellings.

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features; stockyard at the Ashes woodland [SINC], the A60 and low voltage power lines. Overall this gives a **strongly unified** visual appearance.

Arable farmland is the major land use with a strongly trimmed hedgerow network that is largely intact, particularly near Langold. Hedgerows have deteriorated towards Carlton-in-Lindrick, although more hedgerow trees are apparent. Some pastoral land is evident near to the woodland and properties within the area. Built elements include Hodstock Grange, a stone building with pantile roof and outbuildings and Roxholme Grange, a large country house of red brick construction and non-vernacular red brick dwellings. North Carlton does not respect the local style. Large scale utilitarian agricultural sheds occur around farmsteads at the Ashes and Wallingwells Wood. The overall cultural integrity is **good**.

Six SINCs are present within the Policy Zone including deciduous woodland and historical species-rich woodland blocks connected either by hedgerows, ditches or watercourses. Small fragmented coniferous and deciduous plantations occur within the agricultural landscape. Overall the tree cover is of mature age structure and relatively low in extent. The ecological integrity is defined as **moderate** which overall gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **strongly unified** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity results in a **very good landscape condition** overall.

### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Magnesian Limestone region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

**High** visibility is afforded due to the open nature of the area, housing at Langold beyond the Policy Zone boundary is visible along with the former pit heap to the north-west. The landform has been assessed as **dominant**. A **moderate** sense of place with **high** visibility gives **high landscape sensitivity** overall.

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

Very Good

Pattern of Elements:	Unified
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Strongly Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Strong

### Sensitivity

High

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Dominant
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	High

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

### Conserve

#### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern, restoring hedgerows where necessary.
- **Conserve** the SINCs and enhance where appropriate.
- Seek opportunities to reinforce hedgerows where gappy and in poor condition, seek opportunities to increase the number of hedgerow trees.
- **Conserve** pastoral land and seek further opportunities to restore arable landscape to pasture.

#### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around existing settlements of Langold and Carlton-in-Lindrick.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- **Conserve** the local built vernacular of red brick/stone construction in new development.
- Create woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 07**

**Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

**Policy Zone 07: Worksop**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The area abuts the north-western edge of Worksop and is bounded to the south by the B6041 and along the north and west by Owday Lane.

Views into the Policy Zone from both the B6041 and Owday Lane are limited by the landform which slopes away from a central high point and woodland/plantation blocks. Southward views are defined by the urban fringes of Worksop.

Arable farmland dominates the landscape to the north, west and south-west, whilst parkland occupies the south-east. This parkland is known as Gateford Hall Park and encompasses Gateford Hall and Gateford Hill, both vernacular listed buildings set amongst planting blocks, permanent improved pasture and many individual scattered trees. California farm, also listed, is located further west.

There are two significant woodland blocks; Dog Kennel Plantation, and Rough Piece which is designated ancient woodland and also a SINC. Tree avenues and hedgerows bound the field pattern linking across the area to the woodland and plantation blocks providing relatively good connectivity. Some field boundaries have been lost due to farming intensification.

# Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 07: Worksop

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Gateford Hall Park – listed building and associated parkland including many mature trees.
- Strong rural character with isolated farmsteads.
- Intact well maintained perimeter hedgerows aligning the roads.
- Clear views into the Policy Zone [which lies on higher ground] from the south/urban fringe of Worksop.
- Woodland and plantation blocks across the area.

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. The pattern of elements is coherent with few detracting features, the key one being the B6041 which runs along the southern Policy Zone boundary. Overall this gives a **visually unified** area.

Much of the historic field pattern is lost as arable farming has intensified. Some permanent improved pastoral land is apparent within areas of parkland in the south-east. Gateford Hall Park is a heritage asset which dominates the area, the listed building [stone construction] and encompassing parkland are key features of the Policy Zone. The rural character is retained within the area although there is pressure from recent development immediately east of the Policy Zone. Overall, the cultural integrity is **good**.

Hawthorn hedgerows align the roads, several plantation and woodland blocks, tree avenues and scattered trees across the parkland give low to moderate tree cover of mature age structure. There is an area of designated ancient woodland [Rough Piece] in the north-west which is also a SINCE and younger planting along the Policy Zone boundaries. Woodland species include oak, ash, sycamore and sweet chestnut. The ecological integrity is defined as **moderate** which overall gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity results in a **very good landscape condition** overall.

### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **unique/rare** to the Magnesian Limestone region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **strong** sense of place.

Visibility is described as **moderate** and the landform **apparent**. A **strong** sense of place with **moderate** visibility gives **high landscape sensitivity** overall.

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

### Conserve

#### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the historic field pattern, restoring existing hedgerow boundaries where necessary. Seek opportunities to restore former hedgerow boundaries and historic field pattern where lost.
- **Conserve** the ancient woodland, SINCE and other woodland/plantation blocks, enhance where appropriate.
- **Conserve** existing hedgerows, enhance where appropriate.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture and seek to restore arable farmland to pastoral.

#### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the northern fringes of Worksop.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- **Conserve** and respect the historic character and setting of Gateford Hall and associated parkland and mature trees.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style and construction materials/methods in new development.
- Create woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.

## CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 07  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML10

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

**Very Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

### Sensitivity

**High**

Distinctiveness: Unique/Rare

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Strong

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 12**

## **Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

### **Policy Zone 12: Welbeck**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE**

### **Character Summary**

The area lies south-west of Worksop between the A60 which forms the western boundary and Gouldsmeadow Lake/Shrubbery Lake/Great Lake which follow the eastern boundary, extending from Bismarck Plantation, north of Gouldsmeadow Lake, to the weir where Great Lake joins Carburton Forge. The village of Norton straddles the southern boundary.

Landform is gently undulating in the north and south with a flatter area at its centre and slopes towards the lakes in the east. There are two higher points in the southern part; Lambing Cabin Clump and Bunker's Hill. Generally views are limited by wooded enclosure in the south and further by high stone walls in the central area. Medium distance views towards wooded skylines are more apparent in the north.

Large open arable fields with few field boundaries are dominant in both the northern and southern areas of the Policy Zone. Areas of former parkland are evident in the south with individual field trees and clumps of trees dotted throughout. Welbeck Estate and Abbey occupy the central part of the Policy Zone where many of the buildings and structures are listed. There are a number of connecting woodlands [including Cow Close Wood, designated ancient woodland], plantations and formal tree planting within the Estate curtilage. Some permanent pasture exists and is contained by stone walls.



# Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 12: Welbeck

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- The Welbeck Estate, including visitor facilities and the abbey ruins.
- Large scale intensive arable and pastoral farmland.
- Extensive fields – absence of hedgerows.
- Stone buildings and field boundaries within the Estate.
- More recent brick built development at Norton.
- Small woodland blocks, tree avenues and individual parkland trees.
- Welbeck Lake [SNC and SSSI].

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features, including low level power lines, car parking for Welbeck Estate commercial units and an area of derelict car parking. Overall this results in a **visually unified** area.

The Welbeck Estate sits within large scale intensive arable and pastoral farmland. Much of the historic field pattern has been removed with fields extending to the edge of wooded areas, hedgerows are mostly absent yet in some cases the hedgerow trees remain. Field boundaries throughout the estate are commonly stone built and delineate residential curtilage and pasture. The estate comprises stone buildings and structures, many of which are listed, core buildings now accommodate visitor facilities and a number of the estate buildings have been converted to private residences. Remains of the abbey exist and are conserved in situ. Newer brick-built development at Norton straddles the southern edge of the Policy Zone, there are also a number of listed buildings here. The cultural integrity is described as **good** overall.

Within the area there are two designated SINC, deciduous woodland and mixed plantation, Welbeck Lake is a SINC and SSSI and Cow Close Wood is designated Ancient Woodland. Tree cover is moderate across the area, consisting of isolated clumps and woodland blocks, avenues and parkland trees, and is generally semi-mature to mature with younger planting amongst established blocks. Although farming has intensified, parts of the north and south retain their wooded character and include areas of parkland. The ecological integrity is considered to be **strong** which overall gives a **very strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area combined with a **very strong** functional integrity equates to a **very good landscape condition**.

### Sensitivity

The Welbeck Estate and surroundings are key features which give the area local distinctiveness are **unique/rare** to the Magnesian Limestone region and the continuity/time depth is **ancient** [pre 1600] giving a **very strong** sense of place.

Visibility is **low** due to the enclosed nature of the Policy Zone, views of the estate are restricted due to the woodland blocks and tree cover across the area. Landform has been assessed as **apparent**. A **strong** sense of place combined with **low** visibility results in **high landscape sensitivity** overall.

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

### Conserve

#### Landscape Features

- Seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern/boundaries where these have been lost and introduce more hedgerow trees.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.
- **Conserve** ecological designations and Cow Close Wood [ancient woodland], enhance biodiversity where appropriate.

#### Built Features

- **Conserve** the historic parkland character and integrity of Welbeck Estate and its surroundings, any future development should continue to be sympathetic towards its historic character, setting and scale.
- **Conserve** the sparsely settle and rural character of the landscape by concentrating new small scale development around existing settlement at Norton.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new development within historic enclosed boundaries.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style and construction materials/methods in new development.

## CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 12  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML19, ML20, ML21

## Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

## Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition                      Very Good

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Strong
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Very Strong

Sensitivity                      High

Distinctiveness:	Unique/Rare
Continuity:	Ancient
Sense of Place:	Very Strong
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Enclosed
Visibility:	Low

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 12**

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 03**

**Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

**Policy Zone 03: Langold**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The area lies directly north and north-east of Langold, which forms part of the southern boundary, and south of Oldcotes. The A60 cuts north-south through the centre of the Policy Zone.

Topographically, the area is generally flat, descending gently from the west to the east and falling more sharply in the far north towards Oldcotes Dyke. Views are quite open towards frequently wooded skylines and the urban edges of Oldcotes and Langold.

Distinct land uses are intensive arable farmland, Hermaston Hall and associated parkland east of the A60, and Goldthorpe Farm; an isolated farmstead the main building of which is listed. There are three main woodland blocks within the Policy Zone which are covered by statutory ecological designations, including Dyscarr Wood [SSSI/SINC], Cow Wood and Burntout Wood, both SINC. Oldcotes Mill Grassland, also a SINC, is contained within the area. Whilst tree cover is relatively moderate, there are few field boundaries and no hedgerow trees.

# Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 03: Langold

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Large, flat and open arable landscape.
- Small scale pastoral landscape and historic parkland associated with Hermeston Hall.
- Allotments.
- Red brick farmhouses and traditional stone dwellings.
- Deciduous woodland blocks, most of which are designated.

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features, including the A60, a telecommunication mast and low voltage power lines. Overall the area is **visually unified**.

Arable farmland is fairly intensive and the main land use with few internal field boundaries, although intact hedgerows (mostly hawthorn) align the roads. There is also some pastoral land and parkland with individual trees at Hermeston Hall. Allotments occupy an area to the south. Traditional stone buildings are evident within the area, these materials are reflected in more modern dwellings nearby, though the red brick farmhouse (listed) at Goldthorpe is dominated by utilitarian agricultural sheds. The overall cultural integrity is **good**.

There are four SINC's within the Policy Zone; Cow Wood, Burntout Copse, Oldcotes Mill Grassland and Dyscarr Wood Marsh. Additionally, Dyscarr Wood is both a SINC and SSSI. Tree cover is generally moderate and of varying age structure, it is concentrated in the south-west and north of the area and is mostly deciduous with some coniferous species present. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which overall gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity gives a **very good landscape condition** overall.

### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Magnesian Limestone region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

The visibility is **moderate** due to areas of woodland and the built edge of Langold, the scale of landform is considered **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility results in **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

### Conserve

#### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the pastoral landscape associated with Hermeston Hall and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.
- **Conserve** SINC's and enhance where appropriate.
- Seek opportunities to restore historic field pattern with hedgerow planting.
- **Conserve** the historic parkland and landscape character of Hermeston Hall.
- **Conserve** area of allotments in the south of the Policy Zone which add to the character of Langold.

#### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by concentrating new small scale development around the existing settlements of Langold and Oldcotes.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style of red brick/stone construction in new development.
- Create woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.

## CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 03  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML03

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

**Very Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent




Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate












**FIGURE 10**  
Policy Zones - Magnesian Limestone Ridge

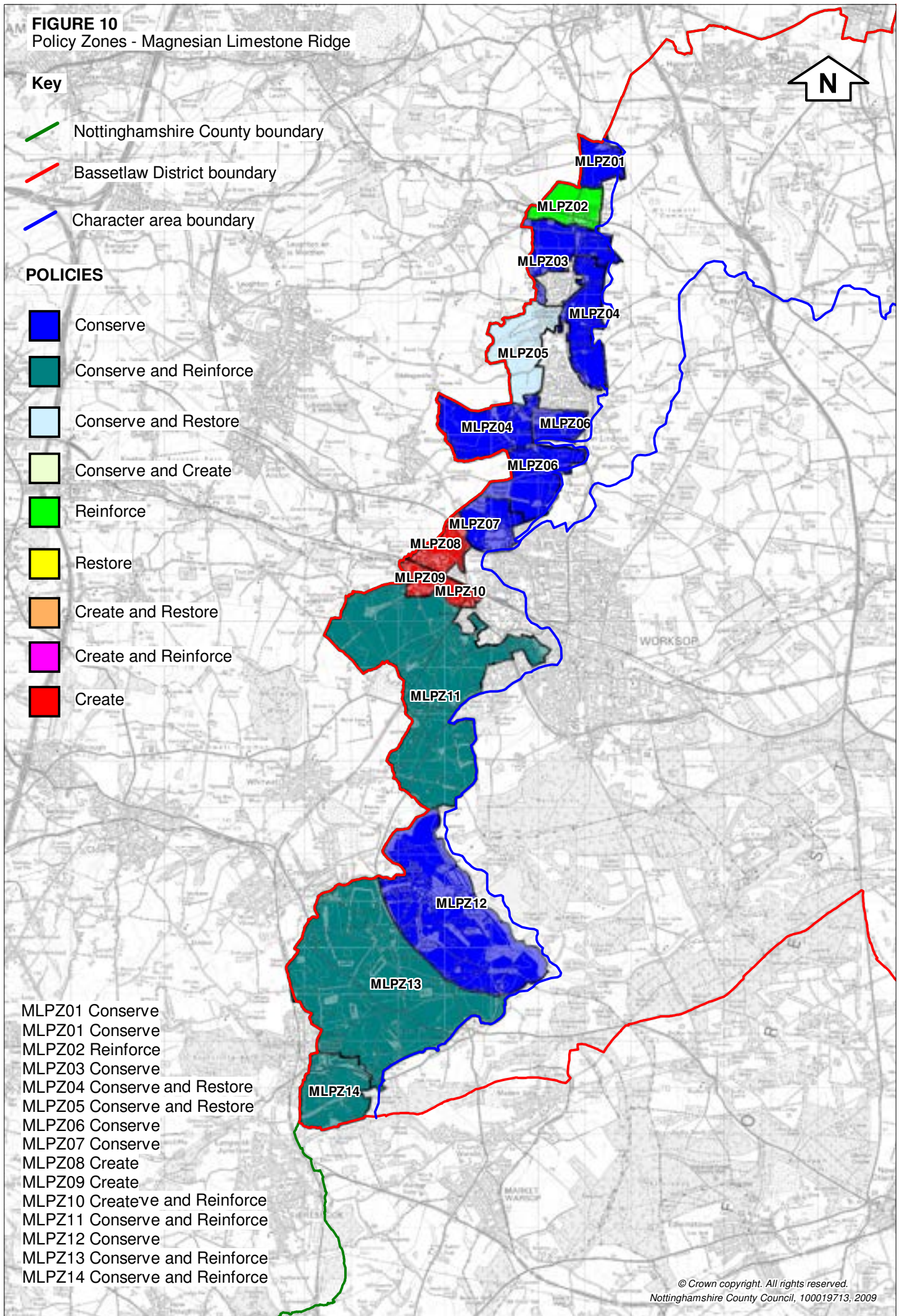
**Key**

-  Nottinghamshire County boundary
-  Bassetlaw District boundary
-  Character area boundary

**POLICIES**

-  Conserve
-  Conserve and Reinforce
-  Conserve and Restore
-  Conserve and Create
-  Reinforce
-  Restore
-  Create and Restore
-  Create and Reinforce
-  Create

- MLPZ01 Conserve
- MLPZ01 Conserve
- MLPZ02 Reinforce
- MLPZ03 Conserve
- MLPZ04 Conserve and Restore
- MLPZ05 Conserve and Restore
- MLPZ06 Conserve
- MLPZ07 Conserve
- MLPZ08 Create
- MLPZ09 Create
- MLPZ10 Create and Reinforce
- MLPZ11 Conserve and Reinforce
- MLPZ12 Conserve
- MLPZ13 Conserve and Reinforce
- MLPZ14 Conserve and Reinforce



**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 06**

**Magnesian Limestone Ridge  
Policy Zone 06: Carlton-in-Lindrick**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The area is located west of the A60, Worksop lies to the south and Carlton-in-Lindrick to the north.

Topography is predominantly flat, the edge of Worksop lies on higher ground in the south. Views are generally limited to within the Policy Zone due to its wooded nature. Carlton-in-Lindrick and the A60 corridor are evident to the east.

Intensive arable farmland dominates the area, horse grazing and pastoral landscape is also evident. Fields are bounded by hedgerows which are mostly intact. Two isolated stone built vernacular farmsteads; Holme House Farm [with modern large scale outbuildings] and Carlton Hall Farm, are located within the Policy Zone. There appears to have been little change in land use therefore the rural character is retained overall.

The area includes significant woodland blocks, a number of which are ecological SINC's. These include Carton Wood, Wallingwells Wood, Owday Wood and Nabs Ashes Wood.

## Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 06: Carlton-in-Lindrick

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 06  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML07, ML08, ML09

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Predominantly open arable landscape with some pastoral land.
- Strong field pattern with trimmed hedgerow boundaries.
- Stone farmhouses.
- Deciduous woodland and plantation blocks, including four designated SINC's.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. The pattern of elements is coherent with few detracting features, namely the A60 to the east. Overall this gives a **visually unified** area.

A strong rural character is afforded due to the historic field pattern being largely intact. This is bounded by strongly trimmed hedgerows, some with hedgerow trees. Some hedgerows are fragmented but these are in the minority. Arable land dominates the area, though there is some permanent pasture. Buildings include vernacular stone farmhouses with outbuildings and utilitarian agricultural sheds. The overall cultural integrity is **good**.

Four SINC's, Carton Wood, Wallingwells Wood, Owday Wood and Nabs Ashes Wood, a mix of deciduous woodland and plantation, are located within the Policy Zone and contribute significantly to the overall tree cover of approximately 25%. The ecological integrity is defined as **moderate** which overall gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity results in a **very good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** to the Magnesian Limestone region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

The visibility is considered **moderate** visibility and the landform **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility gives **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition

**Very Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

#### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern, restoring/reinforcing hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** the SINC's and enhance where appropriate.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing adjacent settlements of South Carton, Carlton-in-Lindrick and Worksop.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- Create woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style of stone construction in new development.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 09**

**Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

**Policy Zone 09: Shireoaks**

**POLICY: CREATE**

**Character Summary**

The area lies west of Worksop and the A57, the Sheffield to Lincoln railway line forms the northern boundary. Open countryside extends to both southwards and eastwards of the Policy Zone.

Landform is generally flat where the Chesterfield Canal [SINC] cuts through the Policy Zone south-east to north-west. The topography rises gently north of the canal. Views are relatively enclosed and restricted by properties at Shireoaks and by blocks of woodland.

A large proportion of Shireoaks is designated a conservation area, this covers much of the Policy Zone. Three minor roads cut through the area; Shireoaks Road, Shireoaks Row and Thorpe Road along which residential properties are situated. Small fields of pasture are located near to the housing. In addition to the Chesterfield Canal there are two further SINC's; Shireoaks Fishing Pond and Shireoaks Park Winter Garden. A marina sits adjacent to the canal in the north-east and there is a small amount of industry in the north-west.



# Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 09: Shireoaks

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Built development - Shireoaks village [conservation area].
- Chesterfield Canal [SINC] and associated marina.
- Water bodies including Shireoaks Fishing Pond and Shireoaks Park Winter Garden [SINC] and associated woodland planting.
- Fragmented tree cover.

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Condition

The landscape condition has been assessed as poor. There is an incoherent pattern of elements with some detracting features, including a marina, industrial units and a railway. Overall this equates to an area that is **visually interrupted**.

The major land use is housing and built elements comprising the canal, marina, in the north-east, and small scale industry in the north-west. A small amount of pasture is evident near to residential areas and is typically bounded by post and wire fencing, hedgerows are almost absent. Village buildings are a mix of vernacular, stone and red brick construction, and non-vernacular which is mostly more recent development. Several buildings at the historic core of Shireoaks are listed, including the church and village hall. Much of the Policy Zone lies within a conservation area. The overall cultural integrity is **variable**.

There are three SINC's within the Policy Zone; Chesterfield Canal, Shireoaks Fishing Pond and Shireoaks Park Winter Garden [channels and pools with woodland]. Tree cover is relatively low and fragmented, woodland clumps occur throughout the Policy Zone and are often associated with water bodies. A belt of deciduous woodland follows the canal corridor, there is also young plantation adjacent to the railway in the east. The ecological integrity is **moderate** which gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually interrupted** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **poor landscape condition** overall.

### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Magnesian Limestone region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

**Low** visibility is afforded since views are limited by settlement, which occurs throughout the Policy Zone, and a significant change in landform to the east of the area. The topography of the area is **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **low** visibility creates **low landscape sensitivity** overall.

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

### Create

#### Landscape Features

- **Create** new hedgerows and restore existing, seek opportunities to recreate the historic field pattern where feasible.
- Enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally to **create** increased visual unity and connectivity across the Policy Zone.
- Conserve the character, setting and biodiversity of the Chesterfield Canal corridor and other SINC's, **create** ecological enhancements where appropriate.

#### Built Features

- **Create** small scale woodland and tree planting to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of construction.
- Conserve the historic character of Shireoaks, **create** new small scale development that is sympathetic to both its character and setting.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new development within historic enclosed boundaries.
- Conserve the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal.

## CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 09  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML12

## Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

## Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

**Condition**                      **Poor**

Pattern of Elements:	Incoherent
Detracting Features:	Some
Visual Unity:	Interrupted
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

**Sensitivity**                      **Low**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Enclosed
Visibility:	Low

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 09**

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 01**

**Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

**Policy Zone 01: Langold**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The area is located north of Langold and immediately west of the A60 (Malpas Hill). It is traversed by a minor road, a track and a disused railway. The village of Styrrup lies to the east.

Topography is gently undulating from the south-east corner leading to a plateau in the north-west. Open views to ridgelines in the south and east are apparent. There are also views to higher ground in the west.

Mixed use arable farming is the major land use, with some pasture and set aside in irregular field patterns. The area encompasses two woodlands; Clatticar Wood and Oldcotes Disused Railway, both are designated SINC. Although the railway is dismantled, a line cutting across the landscape is evident. Park House, an isolated vernacular farmhouse with some modern non-vernacular outbuildings, lies at the southern boundary of the Policy Zone. No other buildings or settlement is contained within the area. Hedgerow condition is generally strong and well maintained along the A60 but is quite gappy within the field pattern itself.

## Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 01: Langold

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Large scale arable farmland.
- Clatticar Wood – deciduous woodland [SINC].
- Oldcotes Disused Railway [SINC].
- Park House and non-vernacular outbuildings.
- Open views towards ridgelines in the south and east.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features within the Policy Zone, including high voltage power lines, the A60 and fly tipping at Clatticar Wood. Overall this equates to a **visually unified** area.

Arable farmland dominates the area with some pasture in the north and south. The historic field pattern is largely intact although fields have been rationalised. The former railway line is evident in the landscape. Park House, of red brick construction, and surrounding outbuildings are the only built features within the area. The overall cultural integrity is **good**.

Two SINCs fall within the Policy Zone; Clatticar Wood, deciduous woodland and Oldcotes Disused Railway which affords a diverse range of habitats. Tree cover is fairly low and of a mature age structure, comprising a deciduous woodland blocks of ash, birch, holly and hazel species. Hedgerows are fragmented, though some connect to the woodland areas, whereas roadside hedgerows are intact. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which overall gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity gives a **very good landscape condition**.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Magnesian Limestone region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

**High** visibility is afforded due to the low tree cover allowing open views towards ridgelines in the south and east. The scale of landform is **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **high** visibility results in **high landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.
- **Conserve** the ecological diversity of Clatticar Wood and Oldcotes Disused Railway, enhance where appropriate.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around existing surrounding settlements of Styrrup and Langold.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new development within historic enclosed boundaries, restoring hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style of stone/red brick construction in new development
- Create areas of woodland to contain and soften new development preferably in advance of development

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 01  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML01

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

#### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Very Good</b>
------------------	------------------

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>High</b>
--------------------	-------------

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Open

Visibility: High

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 05**

**Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

**Policy Zone 05: Langold**

**POLICY: CONSERVE AND RESTORE**

**Character Summary**

The area is located immediately west of Langold and the A60. It is bisected east-west by Rotherham Balk.

Landform is gently undulating and rounded, rising south of Rotherham Balk and north towards Langold Farm. Views are relatively restricted by woodland in the north but open up towards Rotherham Balk in the south.

Three distinct elements are contained within the area; Langold Country Park, a former pit heap and arable farmland. Woodland blocks are dominant throughout and include part of Dyscarr Wood, a designated SINC and SSSI. A number of recreational facilities are afforded at the Country Park which has a partial municipal character. It is dominated by an extensive central lake, Langold Lake, also a SINC. The pit heap at the centre of the area is a prominent feature and generally has an engineered appearance. This has been restored but the coniferous and broadleaved plantation is still young. Arable landscape in the south is largely flat and open and is of medium scale.

Broadleaved woodland is mainly contained in the north of the area and associated with the historic park.

# Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 05: Langold

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Langold Country Park and Lake [SINC].
- Former pit heap, now restored.
- Medium scale arable landscape.
- Wet woodland/ Species-Rich Woodland/Calcareous Woodland – all designated.
- Mature deciduous woodland and young plantation woodland.

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Condition

The landscape condition is moderate. The pattern of elements is incoherent with few detracting features, namely high voltage power lines. Overall there is a **coherent** visual unity.

Langold Country Park is a dominant element of the Policy Zone and is of historic significance locally, the lake is apparent on Sanderson's map. Intensive arable landscape in the south follows the historic field pattern in part, however much of this has been removed. Where hedgerows occur they generally have oak standards within them. The pit heap at the centre of the area is a more recent feature with a partial engineered appearance. The overall cultural integrity is **variable**.

There are three SINC's associated with Langold Country Park [including the recreational lake] which form a prominent link right across the Policy Zone. Dyscarr Wood is another designated SINC and also a SSSI. The planting is mostly mature, although the restoration plantation covering the pit heap is still quite young. The ecological integrity is defined as **moderate** which overall gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually coherent** area combined with a **coherent** functional integrity results in a **moderate landscape condition** overall.

### Sensitivity

Langold Country Park and the former pit heap are some of the features which give the area local distinctiveness are **unique/rare** to the Magnesian Limestone region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **strong** sense of place.

The **dominant** landform and relatively wooded nature of the area affords **moderate** visibility. A **strong** sense of place with **moderate** visibility gives **high landscape sensitivity** overall.

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

### Conserve and Restore

#### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the character and setting of the Country Park and **restore/enhance** individual features as necessary.
- **Conserve** the historic field pattern by restoring and replanting hedgerow field boundaries where necessary, seeking opportunities to recreate where lost.
- **Conserve** the SINC's and SSSI and **restore/enhance** where appropriate.
- Seek opportunities to **restore** arable farmland to pastoral.

#### Built Features

- **Conserve** historical built features associated with the Country Park and **restore** as necessary.

## CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 05  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML05

## Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

## Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

**Moderate**

Pattern of Elements:	Incoherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Coherent
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

### Sensitivity

**High**

Distinctiveness:	Unique/Rare
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Strong
Landform:	Dominant
Extent of Tree Cover	Enclosed
Visibility:	Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 02**

**Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

**Policy Zone 02: Langold**

**POLICY: REINFORCE**

**Character Summary**

The area lies adjacent to Oldcotes village, just north of Langold. Both the A60 and A634 cut through the Policy Zone, north-south and east-west respectively. Olcotes Dyke follows the extent of the southern boundary, an area of wet grassland is adjacent to this.

Landform is relatively flat north of the A634 and slopes gently east to west. The land falls quite steeply south of the A634 towards Oldcotes Dyke. Open views are afforded towards wooded skylines in both the north and west. Visibility beyond the southern boundary is limited by Oldcotes.

Flat open arable fields occupy most of the area. A coach depot is located on the western edge of Oldcotes; a traditional style village containing a mix of vernacular and non-vernacular dwellings. A large scale public house which is not in-keeping with the character of the village lies at the A60/A634 junction.

There is relatively low tree cover across the Policy Zone, mostly being confined to the river corridor and scattered trees near to Oldcotes. Hedgerows are generally quite gappy or non-existent.

## Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 02: Langold

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensive large scale arable farmland.
- Small scale pastoral farmland.
- Oldcotes village – a mix of architectural styles including some traditional red brick/stone construction.
- Landscape fragmented by roads.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features; the A60 and A34 cross the area north-south and east-west respectively, Oldcotes lies in the south-east corner and a coach depot is located at the western end of the A634. Overall this equates to a **visually unified** area.

Much of the historic field pattern is lost, existing internal hedgerows are poor and gappy, though those aligning the A60/A634 are generally intact. Arable farmland is the major land use with some pasture in the south. Buildings are mostly contained within the village of Oldcotes and include a mix of vernacular and non-vernacular styles. The public house at the A60/A634 junction appears out of proportion with the rest of the village and is not characteristic of the area. The coach depot is an incongruous feature on the fringe of the Policy Zone. Overall the cultural integrity is considered **good**.

There are no SINC or other ecological designations within the area. Tree cover is relatively low being limited to Oldcotes Dyke which follows the southern boundary, and scattered deciduous trees near to Oldcotes, ranging from semi-mature to mature. There is also a margin of wet grassland adjacent to the river. The ecological integrity is defined as **weak** which overall gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity leads to a **good landscape condition**.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Magnesian Limestone region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

The scale of landform has been assessed as **insignificant** and visibility is considered **low** although there are some open views towards wooded skylines in the north and west, views to the south are restricted by Oldcotes village. A **moderate** sense of place with **low** visibility equates to **low landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Reinforce

##### Landscape Features

- **Reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition, particularly along roadsides. Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost and to introduce hedgerow trees.
- **Reinforce** and strengthen the continuity of ecological diversity of the river corridor [Oldcotes Dyke].
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Enhance and **reinforce** visual unity through appropriate small scale tree and woodland planting.

##### Built Features

- Create woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.
- Conserve and **reinforce** the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around existing settlements of Oldcotes and Langold.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style and **reinforce** this in new development.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 02  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML02

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

#### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

**Condition** **Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Weak

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Coherent

**Sensitivity** **Low**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Insignificant

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Low



**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 02**

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 13**

## **Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

### **Policy Zone 13: Holbeck and Cuckney**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE AND REINFORCE**

### **Character Summary**

The area is located south-west of Worksop with the A60 following the eastern boundary before cutting through the Policy Zone at the south-east corner. Creswell lies immediately to the north-west and the Nottingham to Worksop railway line forms the western boundary before Nether Langwith abuts the area further south. Creswell Road [A616] bisects the area north-west to south-east, there are a number of additional minor roads criss-crossing the Policy Zone. Norton straddles the area in the south-east and immediately west of the River Poulter which follows part of the south-eastern boundary.

Topographically the Policy Zone is gently rolling and undulating with higher ground tending to be in the west, sloping gradually to the east and south where it descends to the River Poulter valley. Views are generally of medium distance, being limited by variations in landform, woodland blocks and vegetation. Views to the south-west are bounded by settlement at Nether Langwith.

Arable fields with strong well maintained hedgerow field boundaries [mainly hawthorn] occupy the majority of the Policy Zone with some pastoral land evident at its centre. Settlement generally occurs at the edges; Whaley Thorns at the south-west, Norton and Cuckney in the east, and farmsteads are scattered throughout the area. A number of buildings are listed. Creswell Crags [SINC and SSSI] encroaches into the area at the north-west corner, Old Hag [SINC] is located fairly centrally and Cuckney Dam [SINC] is adjacent to part of the river corridor in the south. Clumps of trees occur across the area with some individual trees in the west.

# Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 13: Holbeck and Cuckney

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 13  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML22, ML23, ML24, ML25

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Expansive agricultural landscape with straight field boundaries.
- Sparse built development, stone buildings/red brick farmsteads and farmhouses/modern agricultural buildings.
- Creswell Crags [SINC and SSSI].
- Low tree cover of coniferous plantation, deciduous woodland and few individual field trees.

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Condition

The landscape condition is good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features, including major roads; A60, A616, A632 and a water treatment facility. Overall this equates to a **visually unified** area.

The overall historic structure of the landscape largely remains, however the field pattern has been rationalised significantly through changing farming practice. This has led to a more expansive landscape with some degradation through the loss of field boundaries. Existing field boundaries are mostly straight and bounded by well maintained hedgerows or in some cases post and wire fencing. There is little built development within the Policy Zone, what there is consists mainly of stone buildings, brick houses/farmhouses and farmsteads, some with modern agricultural units though these are less evident near to Holbeck. More recent non-vernacular properties are apparent at Cuckney [west] and at Norton [south]. A water treatment facility in the south-west is effectively screened by vegetation and landform. The overall cultural integrity is **good**.

There are two SINC[s] [the Old Hag and Cuckney Dam] within the area and Creswell Crags which is a designated SINC and SSSI. Tree cover is low and comprises clumps of semi-mature to mature coniferous plantation and deciduous woodland with odd individual field trees. Some young plantation is also evident. The ecological integrity is described as **weak** which overall gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **good landscape condition**.

### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Magnesian Limestone region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

Although the landscape is open and quite large scale, the undulating topography and tree cover afford it **moderate** visibility only. The landform **apparent** landform. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **moderate** visibility results in **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

**Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Weak
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

### Conserve and Reinforce

#### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** hedgerows and **reinforce** where they have become gappy and are in poor condition, particularly along roadsides. Seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern/boundaries where these have been lost and introduce more hedgerow trees where appropriate.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the ecological diversity of the designated SINC[s] and enhance where appropriate.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Enhance visual unity through further appropriate tree and woodland planting.

#### Built Features

- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by concentrating new small scale development around existing settlements to the east of the Policy Zone.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** existing shelter belts, create new woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the historic field pattern by containing new development within historic enclosed boundaries, restoring and reinforcing hedgerow boundaries where necessary and replacing post and wire fencing with new hedgerows.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the local stone/red brick built vernacular in new development.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 13**

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 08**

**Magnesian Limestone Ridge  
Policy Zone 08: Shireoaks**

**POLICY: CREATE**

**Character Summary**

The area is located west of Worksop with the A57 cutting through from south-east to north-west. The Sheffield to Lincoln railway line defines the southern Policy Zone boundary, Shireoaks village lies either side of this.

Topographically the area is quite flat and varies between 50 and 55m. Open views towards wooded skylines are afforded in both the north and east. Views are enclosed by settlement in the south and west.

Open arable farmland, with little evidence of field boundaries, occupies most of the Policy Zone. Fox Covert [SINC] is an isolated mosaic habitat situated in the north beyond the A57 which crosses the area. Shireoaks village dominates the southern part of the area where housing is mostly non-vernacular and is set amongst small blocks of woodland. A scrap yard is located in the north-west corner.

# Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 08: Shireoaks

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Large scale open arable farmland with little or no field boundaries.
- Shireoaks village containing mostly non-vernacular dwellings but some are of the traditional style.
- Isolated farmsteads.
- Low tree coverage overall.

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Condition

The landscape condition is very poor. The pattern of elements within the Policy Zone is incoherent with many detracting features, including the A57, Shireoaks village, a scrap yard, disused mineshafts and a railway. Overall this area is **significantly interrupted** visually.

Arable farmland and housing dominate the majority of the Policy Zone. The field pattern is largely lost, particularly in the north, due to intensive agricultural farming, and what little remains tends to be quite fragmented, although the hedgerow bounding the A57 is intact. Buildings are mostly urban non-vernacular housing with the odd vernacular dwelling visible. There are some modern commercial buildings and isolated farmsteads. The overall cultural integrity is **poor**.

Tree cover is generally low and comprises deciduous and mixed plantation woodland and scrubby woodland blocks. Fox Covert [SINC] is an isolated mixed habitat within the area. A fishing lake is evident within one of the wooded areas. The ecological integrity is described as **weak** which gives a **very weak** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A visually **significantly interrupted** area with a **very weak** functional integrity equates to a **very poor landscape condition** overall.

### Sensitivity

Any features are **indistinct** of the Magnesian Limestone region and the continuity/time depth is described as **recent** [50 years] giving a **very weak** sense of place.

Views are open to the north towards higher ground and woodland beyond the Policy Zone boundary whereas views towards the south are limited by housing, affording **moderate** visibility. The scale of landform is **apparent**. A very **weak sense** of place combined with **moderate** visibility results in **very low landscape sensitivity**.

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

### Create

#### Landscape Features

- **Create** new hedgerows and restore existing, seek opportunities to recreate historic field pattern where feasible, contain new development within historic boundaries.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally to **create** increased visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone.

#### Built Features

- **Create** woodland to contain and soften built development, particularly commercial development, preferably in advance of development.
- Conserve what remains of the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new small scale development around Shireoaks.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new development within historic enclosed boundaries.
- **Create** new development which respects the local built stone vernacular.
- Sensitive design and siting of new commercial buildings.

## CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 08  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML11

## Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

## Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

**Condition**                      **Very Poor**

Pattern of Elements:	Incoherent
Detracting Features:	Many
Visual Unity:	Significantly Interrupted
Ecological Integrity:	Weak
Cultural Integrity:	Poor
Functional Integrity:	Very Weak

**Sensitivity**                      **Very Low**

Distinctiveness:	Indistinct
Continuity:	Recent
Sense of Place:	Very Weak
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 08**

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 10**

**Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

**Policy Zone 10: Worksop**

**POLICY: CREATE**

**Character Summary**

The area lies between Worksop and Shireoaks. Chesterfield Canal follows the southern boundary, the A57 cuts through in the east and crosses the railway line from Mansfield which connects to the Sheffield to Lincoln line running along the northern boundary of the Policy Zone. Rhodesia lies at its south-eastern tip.

Generally the topography of the area is dictated by a former spoil heap which has created a rounded landform of engineered appearance within an otherwise flat landscape. The spoil heap rises from 45m to 79m and dominates most views.

The spoil heap occupies most of the area. This has been restored, with young woodland plantation, scrub and rough grassland present. Infrastructure features prominently immediately to the east by way of the railway and the A57. Tranker Wood [SINC] exists at the eastern corner and extends eastwards beyond the Policy Zone boundary.



## Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 10: Workop

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Former spoil heap, now restored and planted.
- Railway and A57 bisecting the area.
- Utilitarian industrial units.
- Tranker Wood [SINC].

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very poor. There is an incoherent pattern of elements with many detracting features, including a spoil heap, a railway line, the A57 and industry. Overall this results in an area that is **significantly interrupted**.

A former spoil heap dominates the area therefore the historic field pattern no longer exists. Though it generally has an engineered appearance it has been restored and planted which is still establishing. Both the railway and the A57 cut through the Policy Zone interrupting the landscape east of the tip, industry flanks the railway and A57. The overall cultural integrity is considered **poor**.

Tranker Wood [SINC], mature deciduous woodland, encroaches into the area from the east, however the majority lies outside the Policy Zone boundary. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** though the habitat for wildlife/functional integrity is **weak**. A visually significantly interrupted area with a weak functional integrity results in a very **poor landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Magnesian Limestone region and the continuity/time depth is **recent** [50 years] giving a **weak** sense of place.

The **dominant** landform of the spoil heap creates a **high** visibility. A **weak** sense of place combined with **high** visibility results in **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Create

##### Landscape Features

- **Create** new hedgerows where possible, along roads and railway lines, replace post and wire fencing with hedgerows as necessary.
- Enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally to **create** increased visual unity and connectivity across the Policy Zone.
- Create limestone grassland habitats where appropriate.
- Conserve Tranker Wood and **create** enhancements as appropriate.

##### Built Features

- **Create** small scale woodland and tree planting to contain and soften industrial development adjacent to the railway and A57 and potential future development within the Policy Zone.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 10  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML13

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

#### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition

**Very Poor**

Pattern of Elements:	Incoherent
Detracting Features:	Many
Visual Unity:	Significantly Interrupted
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Poor
Functional Integrity:	Weak

#### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Recent
Sense of Place:	Weak
Landform:	Dominant
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	High

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 11**

**Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

**Policy Zone 11: Worksop**

**POLICY: CONSERVE AND REINFORCE**

**Character Summary**

The Policy Zone covers an area west and south-west of Worksop and extends south of Shireoaks towards Hodthorpe where it straddles the A60. The A619 bisects the area east to west.

Topographically the Policy Zone is predominantly flat with some gentle undulation, rising from the north-east towards the higher ground in the south-west, descending at both the River Ryton and Chesterfield Canal corridors.

Open arable farmland with some pasture, generally with hedgerow field boundaries, occupies a large proportion of the Policy Zone. Some extensive field rationalisation has taken place to accommodate the rise in agricultural land use. An area of parkland is evident in the north and includes Scratta Wood and Shireoaks Park Wood, both designated SINC's and part of a conservation area. A number of additional SINC's occur across the Policy Zone including the disused Lady Lee Quarry in the north-east of the area. There are a small number of industrial buildings at Steetley, though they are of quite large scale otherwise the area is relatively sparsely populated with farmsteads and isolated dwellings. The River Ryton and Chesterfield Canal run through a section in the north of the Policy Zone, there is also a campsite and allotments in the extreme east, and a nursery located centrally.

# Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 11: Worksop

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensive arable farmland.
- Large scale development at Steetley.
- Vernacular farmsteads and farm buildings.
- Utilitarian agricultural barns.
- Chesterfield Canal [SINC].
- Steetley Wood Spoil Tip [SINC].

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Condition

The landscape condition is good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with some detracting features, including the former Steetley Colliery, the A60/A57, high and low voltage power lines, railways lines, a former quarry and a caravan site. This leads to a **visually coherent** area overall.

Hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees are sometimes gappy, most notably in the north-west. The historic field pattern is partially intact, arable fields are bounded by trimmed hedgerows, ditches are also evident between fields in the south. The area is dominated by intensive agriculture with a small amount of permanent pasture. Redevelopment at Steetley is small scale yet visually dominant due to the building size, though this is a former works site and its impact is relatively localised. Built features consist of traditional stone farm buildings, red brick farmsteads and isolated dwellings and utilitarian agricultural barns. A small number of buildings are listed. The south-east corner of the Policy Zone is designated a Special Landscape and Heritage Area. The cultural integrity is considered **good**.

A number of SINC[s] [13 in total] fall within the area and include various woodlands, Chesterfield Canal and Steetley Wood Spoil Tip. Large scale agricultural use means that woodland blocks tend to be small and are often associated with water bodies, channels, the River Ryton and the canal. The ecological integrity is **moderate** giving a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually coherent** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity results in a **good landscape condition** overall.

### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Magnesian Limestone region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

**Moderate** visibility is afforded, some views are limited by wooded areas within the Policy Zone, however the urban edge of Worksop is apparent to the east. Landform is considered to be **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **moderate** visibility gives **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

### Conserve and Reinforce

#### Landscape Features

- **Conserve and reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition, particularly along roadsides. Seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern/boundaries where these have been lost and introduce more hedgerow trees.
- **Conserve and reinforce** the ecological diversity of the designated SINC[s] where appropriate.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.

#### Built Features

- Enhance visual unity and soften built development through further appropriate tree and woodland planting.
- **Conserve and reinforce** the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlements of Worksop and Shireoaks.
- Create woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.
- **Conserve** the local built stone vernacular and **reinforce** this in new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.

## CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 11  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML14, ML15, ML16, ML17, ML18

## Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

## Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

**Condition**                      **Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Some
Visual Unity:	Coherent
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Strong

**Sensitivity**                      **Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 14**

**Magnesian Limestone Ridge  
Policy Zone 14: Nether Langwith**

**POLICY: CONSERVE AND REINFORCE**

**Character Summary**

The area is located south-west of Worksop, north of Mansfield and just west of the A60. Nether Langwith abuts most of the north-western and western boundaries, falling outside the Policy Zone at the west and within the Policy Zone at the north, south of which the A632 cuts east to west through the area. Cuckney Hay Wood abuts the majority of the east/south-eastern and south-western boundaries.

Landform slopes gently from higher ground in the west down towards the east with Nether Langwith slightly elevated in the north. Views are generally enclosed due to extensive woodland cover and surrounding settlement.

Land use is mainly arable fields, bound by intact hedgerows, with woodland blocks. Boon Hills Wood and part of Cuckney Wood [both SINCs] extend across the middle of the area, Lady's Grove, also a SINC, lies along part of the southern boundary, Lord Stubbins Wood [designated ancient woodland, SINC and SSSI] lies immediately south of this. Mineral workings remain apparent in the south-east with some surrounding disturbed agricultural land associated with quarrying activity. Langwith Lodge is located on the north-eastern boundary beyond The Lake and adjacent woodland containing ponds. Three farmsteads are situated within the Policy Zone; Brook House Farm, Boon Hills Farm and Top Farm.

## Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 14: Nether Langwith

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 14  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML26, ML27

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

#### Sensitivity

### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensive arable farmland with some pasture and horse grazing.
- Nether Langwith Quarry in the south-east.
- Vernacular and non-vernacular [particularly at Nether Langwith] buildings and properties.
- Three main woodland blocks.
- The Lake and fishing ponds in the north-east corner.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features, including low voltage power lines, the A632 and a quarry in the south-east. Overall this gives a **visually unified** area.

The landscape has lost some of its historic structure through the removal of hedgerows, quarrying in the south-east and the expansion of Nether Langwith. Hedgerow field boundaries have been allowed to deteriorate in the north, though elsewhere they appear robust and well maintained. Arable farmland is dominant and intensive, some pasture is evident and includes horse grazing. Buildings generally comprise red brick farmhouses with modern outbuildings, red brick properties, and stone buildings fronting the A632, more recent dwellings are set further back from the roadside. A number of buildings contained within the area are listed. The overall cultural integrity is **good**.

There are nine SINC's within the area of differing types of habitat. Tree cover is relatively low and is divided into three main blocks. It is mostly mature though there is some younger planting around the lake in the north-east and the fishing ponds. The ecological integrity has been assessed as **moderate** which gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity results in a **very good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features that give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Magnesian Limestone region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

**Low** visibility is afforded due to woodland at the south and east of the area and settlement at the north and west. The topography is considered to be **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **low** visibility equates to **low landscape sensitivity** overall.

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition

**Very Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Strong

#### Sensitivity

**Low**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Enclosed
Visibility:	Low

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve and Reinforce

##### Landscape Features




- **Conserve** hedgerows and **reinforce** where they have become gappy and are in poor condition, particularly along roadsides. Seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern/boundaries where these have been lost and introduce more hedgerow trees where appropriate.
- **Conserve and reinforce** the ecological diversity of the designated SINC's.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture and **reinforce** by seeking opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- **Conserve** existing woodland blocks and enhance visual unity of the Policy Zone through further appropriate tree and woodland planting.

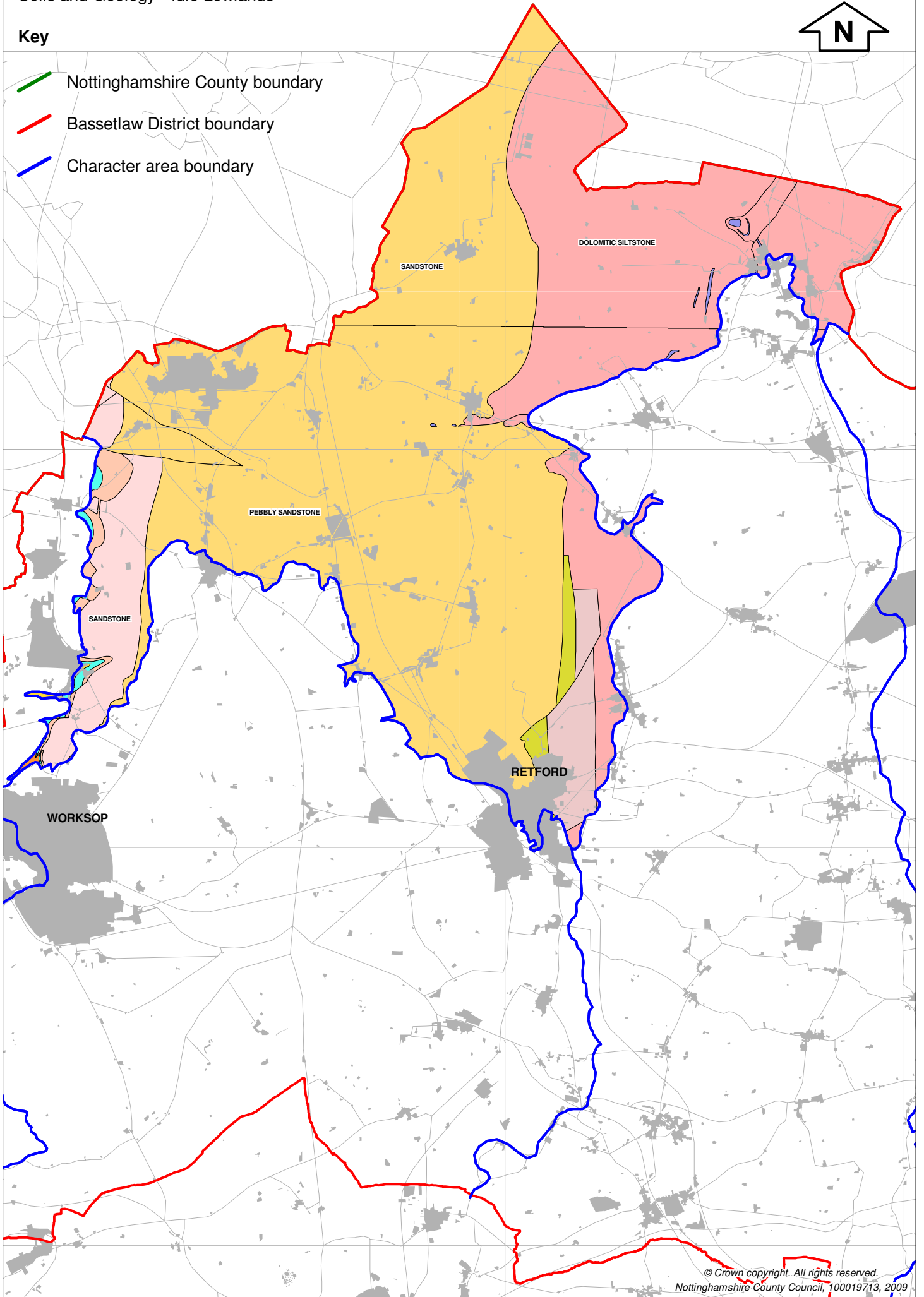
##### Built Features

- **Conserve and reinforce** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by concentrating new small scale development around Nether Langwith and existing development.
- Create woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- **Conserve** the local built vernacular and **reinforce** in new development.

**FIGURE 11**  
Soils and Geology - Idle Lowlands

**Key**

-  Nottinghamshire County boundary
-  Bassetlaw District boundary
-  Character area boundary






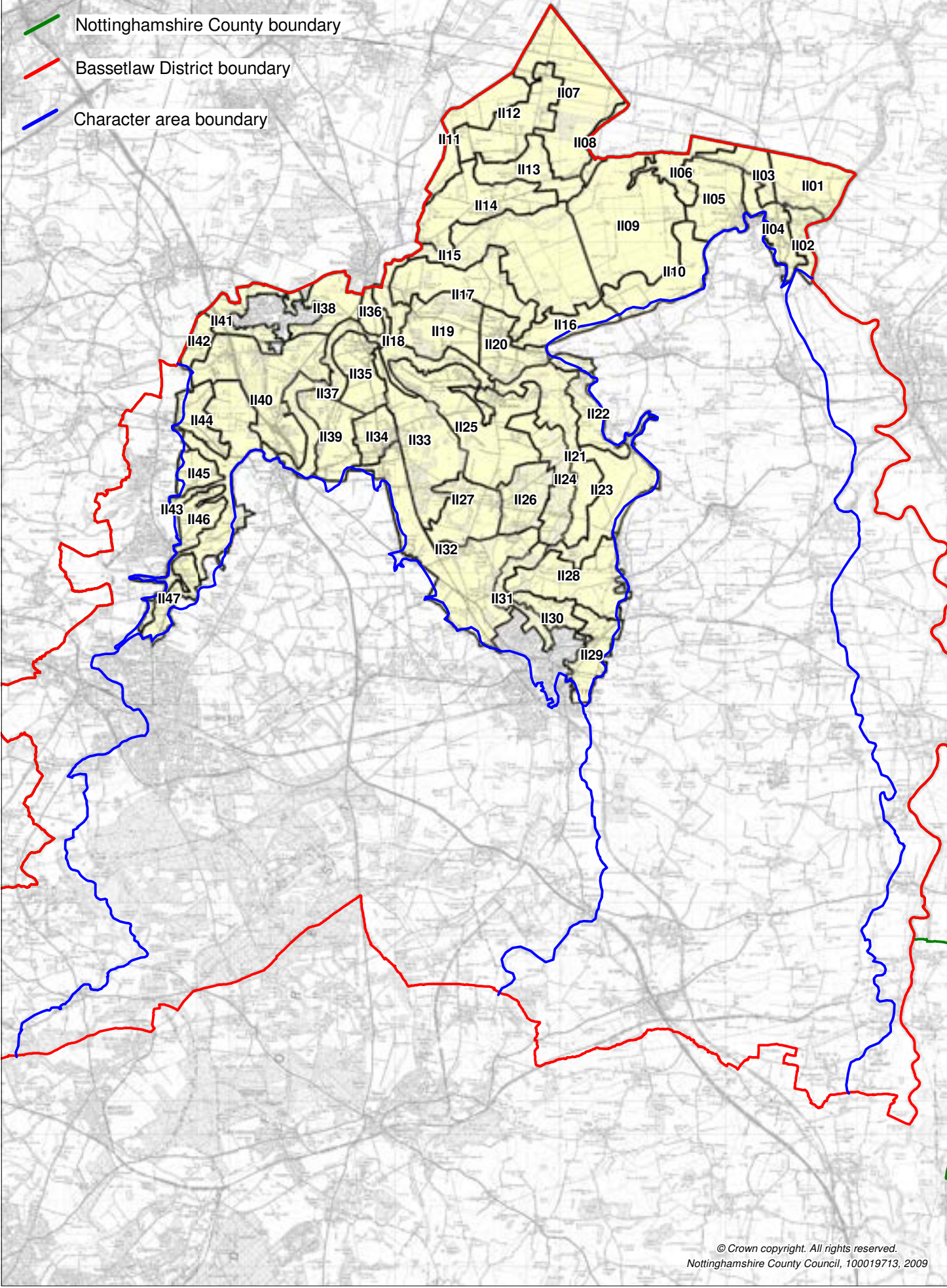


**FIGURE 13**  
Landscape Character Parcels - Idle Lowlands



**Key**

-  Nottinghamshire County boundary
-  Bassetlaw District boundary
-  Character area boundary












**FIGURE 14**










Policy Zones - Idle Lowlands

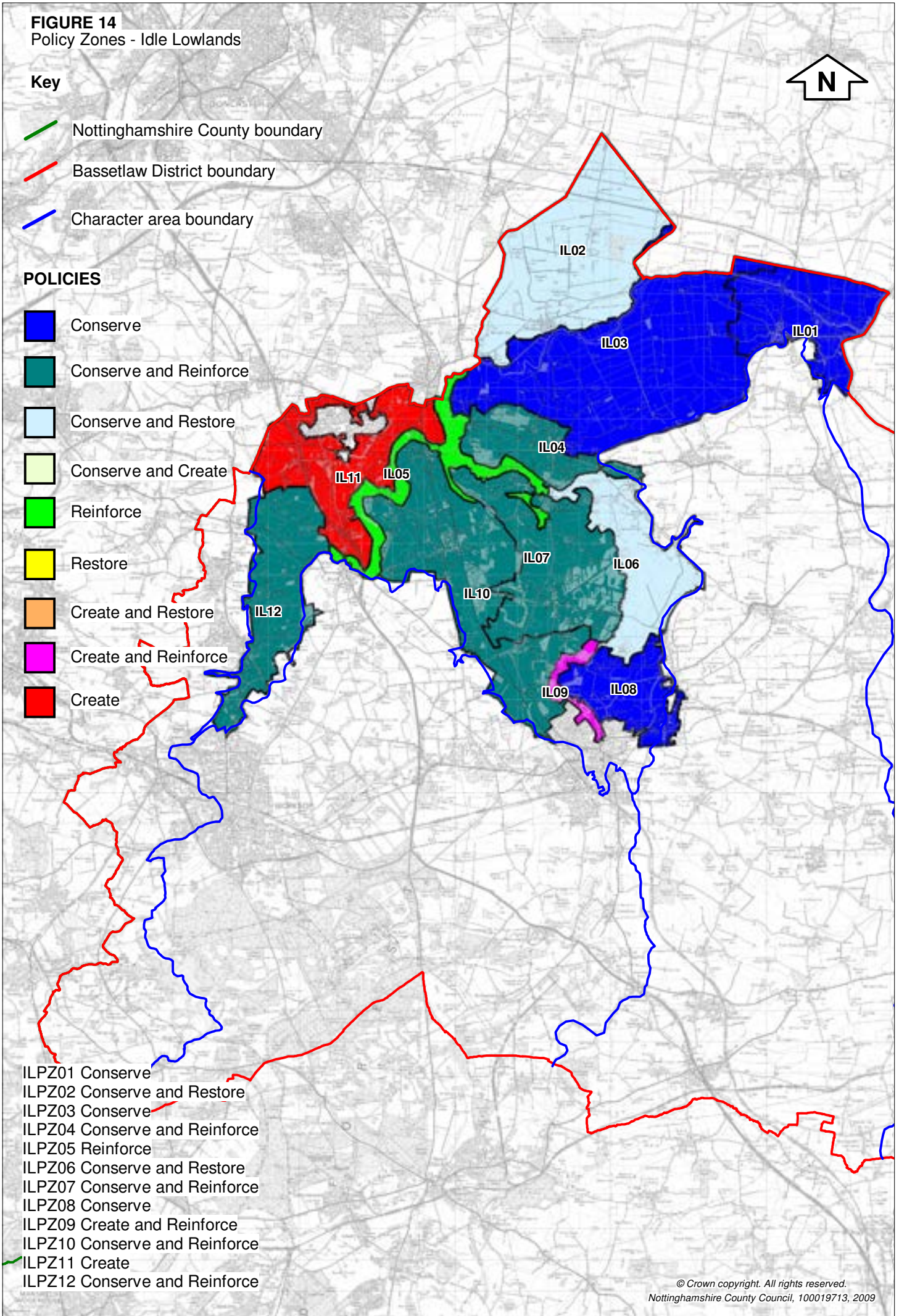


**Key**

-  Nottinghamshire County boundary
-  Bassetlaw District boundary
-  Character area boundary

**POLICIES**

-  Conserve
-  Conserve and Reinforce
-  Conserve and Restore
-  Conserve and Create
-  Reinforce
-  Restore
-  Create and Restore
-  Create and Reinforce
-  Create



- ILPZ01 Conserve
- ILPZ02 Conserve and Restore
- ILPZ03 Conserve
- ILPZ04 Conserve and Reinforce
- ILPZ05 Reinforce
- ILPZ06 Conserve and Restore
- ILPZ07 Conserve and Reinforce
- ILPZ08 Conserve
- ILPZ09 Create and Reinforce
- ILPZ10 Conserve and Reinforce
- ILPZ11 Create
- ILPZ12 Conserve and Reinforce

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Idle Lowlands: IL PZ 01**

### **Idle Lowlands**

### **Policy Zone 01: Misterton**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE**

### **Character Summary**


The area is located south-east of Doncaster and encompasses Misterton village. The River Trent follows the eastern boundary and Chesterfield Canal forms the south-western boundary, the River Idle flows through the northern area of the Policy Zone.

Topographically the Policy Zone is a relatively flat river valley floor with some gentle undulations. The railway sits on slightly higher ground cutting through the area in the east. Views are generally quite open, though vegetation along water courses running through the Policy Zone interrupts these and restricts views to a degree. Buildings contained within Misterton also limit views towards the south-east. At the extremities of the area views are open towards ridgelines beyond the Policy Zone boundaries.

The main land use is arable farmland. West Stockwith, a linear settlement adjacent to the River Trent, is located in the east along with an associated marina. A large business park is also located within the east. Misterton Golf Club lies at the centre of the Policy Zone, the village itself is also linear in nature aligning the A161, and displays a mix of vernacular and non-vernacular architecture. Mixed farmland is more apparent in the south comprising pastoral, rough grazing and arable, agricultural buildings and some industrial units are also a prominent feature within the south. Isolated farmsteads are evident, particularly in the south and west.

Drainage ditches occur across the area and form the majority of field boundaries, although hedgerows do exist, some with occasional trees. Typically vegetation takes the form of tree belts along the river and canal corridors, and also along the railway line.

## Idle Lowlands – Policy Zone 01: Misterton

<p><b>PHOTOGRAPH</b></p> 	<p><b>CONTEXT</b></p> <p>Policy Zone: IL PZ 01 Land Cover Parcel[s]: IL01, IL02, IL03, IL04, IL05</p> <p><b>Condition</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Good</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">REINFORCE</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">CONSERVE &amp; REINFORCE</td> <td style="padding: 5px; background-color: #cccccc;">CONSERVE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Moderate</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">CREATE &amp; REINFORCE</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">CONSERVE &amp; CREATE</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">CONSERVE &amp; RESTORE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Poor</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">CREATE</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">RESTORE &amp; CREATE</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">RESTORE</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <span style="margin-right: 20px;">Low</span> <span style="margin-right: 20px;">Moderate</span> <span>High</span> </p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sensitivity</b></p>	Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE	Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE	Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE																
Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE																										
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE																										
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE																										
<p><b>CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large scale open landscape.</li> <li>Intensive arable farmland; drainage ditches dominant as field boundaries.</li> <li>Network of watercourses; Rivers Trent and Idle, Chesterfield Canal, Misterton Mother Drain and several minor drains and channels.</li> <li>Predominantly vernacular settlement; Misterton and West Stockwith [partly within a conservation area] including a number of listed buildings.</li> <li>Low tree and woodland cover.</li> </ul>	<p><b>SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #92d050;"><b>Condition</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>Moderate</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pattern of Elements:</td> <td>Coherent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Detracting Features:</td> <td>Some</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Visual Unity:</td> <td>Coherent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ecological Integrity:</td> <td>Moderate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cultural Integrity:</td> <td>Variable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Functional Integrity:</td> <td>Coherent</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #92d050;"><b>Sensitivity</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>Very High</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Distinctiveness:</td> <td>Characteristic</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Continuity:</td> <td>Historic</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sense of Place:</td> <td>Moderate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Landform:</td> <td>Dominant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extent of Tree Cover</td> <td>Open</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Visibility:</td> <td>Very High</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	Pattern of Elements:	Coherent	Detracting Features:	Some	Visual Unity:	Coherent	Ecological Integrity:	Moderate	Cultural Integrity:	Variable	Functional Integrity:	Coherent	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Very High</b>	Distinctiveness:	Characteristic	Continuity:	Historic	Sense of Place:	Moderate	Landform:	Dominant	Extent of Tree Cover	Open	Visibility:	Very High
<b>Condition</b>	<b>Moderate</b>																												
Pattern of Elements:	Coherent																												
Detracting Features:	Some																												
Visual Unity:	Coherent																												
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate																												
Cultural Integrity:	Variable																												
Functional Integrity:	Coherent																												
<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Very High</b>																												
Distinctiveness:	Characteristic																												
Continuity:	Historic																												
Sense of Place:	Moderate																												
Landform:	Dominant																												
Extent of Tree Cover	Open																												
Visibility:	Very High																												
<p><b>LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS</b></p> <p><b>Condition</b></p> <p>The landscape condition is moderate. Within the Policy Zone there is a coherent pattern of elements with some detracting features; West Burton Power Station in the distance, large industrial and farm sheds and low and high voltage power lines. Overall this results in a <b>visually coherent</b> area.</p> <p>The Policy Zone maintains a strong open character of predominantly intensive arable farmland divided mostly by drainage ditches though there are some hedgerows either well trimmed or gappy. Some rough grazing is evident near to built areas. Settlement is largely vernacular with modern influences and generally takes a linear form fronting roads and lanes with the exception of the recent housing development Newells Terrace which is uncharacteristic of the area. A number of red brick farmhouses and dwellings are dotted throughout the Policy Zone. Metal sheds have replaced some traditional farm buildings and industrial development occurs alongside the River Trent. Several buildings within Misterton are listed including Grade I listed All Saints Church and Grade II* listed South Engine House. The overall cultural integrity is <b>variable</b>.</p> <p>Tree cover is low, comprising linear tree belts along the railway corridor and scattered trees across the farmland and at roadsides where hedgerows have been removed. A number of ecological designations lie within the Policy Zone; Misterton Mother Drain [SSSI] and a particularly important section of the Chesterfield Canal [SSSI/SINC] between Misterton and West Stockwith, along with a further 4 SINC's. The ecological integrity is described as <b>moderate</b> which overall gives a <b>coherent</b> habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A <b>visually coherent</b> area combined with a <b>coherent</b> functional integrity gives a <b>moderate landscape condition</b>.</p>	<p><b>LANDSCAPE ACTIONS</b></p> <p><b>Conserve</b></p> <p><u>Landscape Features</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Conserve</b> the historic field pattern, restoring existing drainage ditches/hedgerow boundaries where necessary. Seek opportunities to restore former hedgerow boundaries and historic field pattern where lost.</li> <li><b>Conserve</b> existing hedgerows and tree planting, reinforce where appropriate.</li> <li><b>Conserve</b> the ecological diversity, character and setting of Misterton Mother Drain [SSSI] and Chesterfield Canal [SSSI/SINC] and other designated SINC's, enhancing biodiversity as appropriate. Also conserve the character and setting of the River Trent and River Idle.</li> <li><b>Conserve</b> areas of permanent pasture, meadow and improved pasture south of Misterton.</li> <li><b>Conserve</b> areas of rough grazing and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.</li> </ul> <p><u>Built Features</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Conserve</b> the open rural character of the Policy Zone by concentrating development around Misterton and West Stockwith.</li> <li><b>Conserve</b> the local brick vernacular and reinforce in any new development.</li> <li>Contain new development within existing field boundaries.</li> <li>Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.</li> <li>Conserve the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal.</li> </ul>																												
<p><b>Sensitivity</b></p> <p>Features which give the area local distinctiveness are <b>characteristic</b> of the Idle Lowlands region and the continuity/time depth is <b>historic</b> [post 1600] giving a <b>moderate</b> sense of place.</p> <p><b>Very high</b> visibility is afforded due to the flat open nature of the landscape. The scale of the landform is considered <b>dominant</b>. A <b>moderate</b> sense of place with <b>very high</b> visibility equates to <b>very high landscape sensitivity</b> overall.</p>																													

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Idle Lowlands: IL PZ 01**

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**

### **Idle Lowlands: IL PZ 03**

## **Idle Lowlands**

### **Policy Zone 03: Misterton**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE**

### **Character Summary**

The area is located between Misson in the north-west, Misterton in the east, Gringley-on-the-Hill in the south and Bawtry in the west. The River Idle runs through the northern area forming part of the north-eastern boundary along the northern boundary of the Policy Zone and is flanked in part by the Idle Washlands [SSSI], and a number of SINC; Slaynes Lane Washland, North Carr Drain, Barrier Bank, Delve Drain and Everton Carr Drains. Gringley Pumping Station lies adjacent to the river. Chesterfield Canal forms much of the southern boundary before traversing further southwards. Everton and Harwell are located south of the Policy Zone, the Bawtry Road bounds part of the south-western edge.

Topographically the Policy Zone consists of a flat valley floor. The landform rises gently towards Gringley-on-the-Hill in the south, Harworth in the west and Misterton in the east. The southern edge is contained by higher ground at Gringley. Long distance views are afforded to both the east and west becoming more restricted towards the south by higher ground. Views northwards are interrupted by hedgerows and woodland belts.

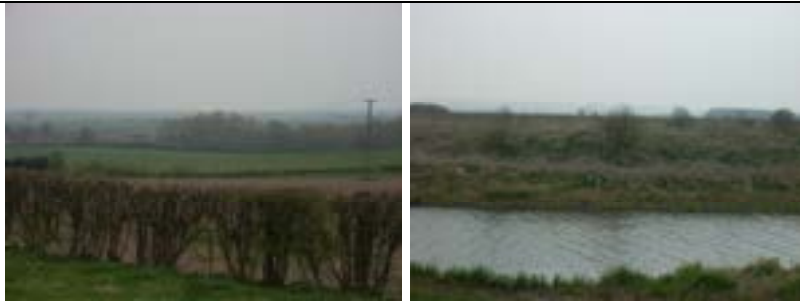
Intensive arable farmland occupies the majority of the Policy Zone, fields are separated by drainage ditches or hedgerows which are generally intact but gappy and unmanaged in places and encompass occasional hedgerow trees. Notable ditches comprise Fox Covert Drain and Carr Road Drain, both designated SINC. A small amount of pastoral land and rough grazing are evident in the far south. Several farms are located along the southern edge of the area.

A former extraction pit, Shaw's Ponds [SINC], is located in the south amongst a small woodland block. Further small plantations are apparent across the Policy Zone and woodland clumps are often associated with farmsteads, there are also several individual trees dotted across the farmland. Both the river and canal corridors support a strong green infrastructure.



## Idle Lowlands – Policy Zone 03: Misterton

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- River Idle and Washlands [SSSI], Chesterfield Canal [SINC].
- Numerous drains of which several are designated SINC.
- Flat valley floor.
- Intensive open arable farmland divided by intact hedgerows and ditches.
- Isolated farmsteads of red brick construction.
- Shaws Ponds [SINC]; former extraction pit with associated woodland.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features within the Policy Zone including evidence of mineral extraction [spoil heaps], pylons and masts. Overall the area is **visually unified**.

Land use is mostly arable with some pasture, large open fields are divided by generally well maintained hedgerows and a network of ditches which, combined with the River Idle and Chesterfield Canal corridors, linear tree belts and isolated woodland blocks, provide a strong green infrastructure. Some hedgerows are supplemented by fencing where gaps occur, particularly at grazed/pastoral areas. Built elements are generally farmsteads and small groups of cottages in the local vernacular. Settlement is concentrated and does not form a prominent feature within the landscape. Some traditional farm buildings have been replaced with larger metal sheds however these are mostly within the valley floor and effectively screened by trees and woodland. The cultural integrity is assessed as **good**.

A total of five SINC and three SSSIs, including part of the River Idle Washlands and woodland at the Misson Training Area, lie within the Policy Zone. Generally tree cover is low as a percentage of the Policy Zone due to its extensive coverage. The ecological integrity is **moderate** which overall gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity gives a **very good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Idle Lowlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

The open nature of the Policy Zone offers **very high** visibility. The landform is considered **dominant**. A **moderate** sense of place with **very high** visibility equates to **very high landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the ecological diversity, setting and character of the River Idle and Chesterfield Canal corridors, the Idle Washlands [SSSI], Misson Training Area woodland [SSSI] and designated SINC. Enhance biodiversity where appropriate.
- **Conserve** drainage ditches/hedgerow field boundaries and the historic field pattern, restoring where they have been lost.
- **Conserve** pastoral farmland and seek opportunities to restore arable to permanent pasture.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the open sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by concentrating new small scale development around existing settlement located at the boundaries of the Policy Zone, while being sympathetic to the scale and extent of existing settlement.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new development within historic enclosed boundaries.
- **Conserve** the local brick vernacular of isolated buildings and reinforce in any new development.
- **Conserve** the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: IL PZ 03  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: IL06, IL08, IL09, IL10, IL15, IL16, IL17

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

**Sensitivity**

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

**Condition**                      **Very Good**

Pattern of Elements:                      Coherent

Detracting Features:                      Few

Visual Unity:                      Unified

Ecological Integrity:                      Moderate

Cultural Integrity:                      Good

Functional Integrity:                      Strong

**Sensitivity**                      **Very High**

Distinctiveness:                      Characteristic

Continuity:                      Historic

Sense of Place:                      Moderate

Landform:                      Dominant

Extent of Tree Cover                      Open

Visibility:                      Very High

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Idle Lowlands: IL PZ 03**

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Idle Lowlands: IL PZ 02**

### **Idle Lowlands**

### **Policy Zone 02: Misson**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE AND RESTORE**

### **Character Summary**

The area is located south-east of Doncaster, extending from the northernmost extremity of the district [and county] boundary to Misson village which lies within the Policy Zone at the southern edge. Although just outside the district boundary, Bawtry lies further south-west of Misson.

Landform is generally flat across the area rising towards the north-east where higher ground lies beyond the Policy Zone boundary. Mineral excavations have created artificially raised areas which are evident in the south. Views are relatively open towards wooded skylines, although due to the scale of the area these are restricted in some places by vegetation within the Policy Zone itself.

Open arable farmland dominates the landscape with some pastoral and rough grazing in the north, east and south. The pastoral enclosures are often adjacent to isolated farmsteads. A large woodland, Misson Training Area [SSSI and SINC] lies in the east, numerous smaller blocks are dotted throughout the area including Rugged Butts [SINC] in the south-west. Drainage ditches feature strongly and provide field boundaries, many are covered by ecological designations including Misson Bank Line [SSSI] in the south-east. Narrow tree belts and hawthorn hedgerows also align the fields. The Misson Rocket Site sits at the centre of the area, this is a commercial development characterised by large metal storage sheds. There is also a sewage treatment works, a business/industrial park and a cemetery near to Misson itself. A number of active and redundant sand pits occur in the south and western edge, several of the disused pits, particularly in the west, are now ponds.



## Idle Lowlands – Policy Zone 02: Misson

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Large scale open landscape.
- Intensive arable farmland; drainage ditches dominant as field boundaries.
- Mineral extraction pits.
- Predominantly vernacular settlement; Misson, includes several listed buildings.
- Low tree and woodland cover.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is moderate. There is a coherent pattern of elements with some detracting features within the Policy Zone, namely industry, evidence of mineral extraction [spoils heaps] and masts. Overall the area is **visually coherent**.

Intensive arable farmland dominates the Policy Zone and although fields are generally bounded by drainage ditches there is still a relatively strong hedgerow pattern across the landscape. Hedgerows tend to be either well trimmed or unmanaged and have been left to grow taller at roadsides. Smaller areas of pasture and rough grazing are located close to settlement and generally enclosed by fencing. Mineral extraction pits, both working and redundant, are located close to Misson.

Settlement consists of isolated farmsteads and Misson village which generally has a strong vernacular character with some peripheral non-vernacular buildings. Industrial buildings associated with Misson Mill are however in contrast to the predominant traditional style. The village contains a number of listed buildings including the church which is Grade I listed. The resulting cultural integrity is **variable**.

Although small woodland blocks and belts are spread over the landscape and individual trees are scattered within the areas of farmland, tree cover is relatively low with more ornamental species close to built areas. Several ecological designations lie within the area including two SSSIs; Misson Training Area and Misson Line Bank, and six SINC. Some acid grassland is also apparent. The ecological integrity is assessed as **moderate** which overall gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually coherent** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **moderate landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Idle Lowlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

Visibility is considered to be **high** and the scale of landform **dominant**. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **high** visibility results in **high landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve and Restore

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the open rural character of the landscape and **restore** redundant mineral extraction sites, enhancing reclaimed spoil tips where appropriate.
- **Conserve** the designated SSSIs and SINC, **restoring** and enhancing where appropriate.
- Seek opportunities to **restore** arable farmland to pasture.
- **Conserve** drainage ditches/hedgerow field boundaries and the historic field pattern, **restoring** where they have been lost.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the open rural character of the Policy Zone by concentrating development of appropriate design and scale around Misson.
- **Conserve** the local brick vernacular in Misson and reinforce in any new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- Sensitive design and siting of new commercial and agricultural buildings.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: IL PZ 02

Land Cover Parcel[s]: IL07, IL11, IL12, IL13, IL14

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition                      Moderate

Pattern of Elements:                      Coherent

Detracting Features:                      Some

Visual Unity:                      Coherent

Ecological Integrity:                      Moderate

Cultural Integrity:                      Variable

Functional Integrity:                      Coherent

#### Sensitivity                      High

Distinctiveness:                      Characteristic

Continuity:                      Historic

Sense of Place:                      Moderate

Landform:                      Dominant

Extent of Tree Cover                      Intermittent

Visibility:                      High

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**  
**Idle Lowlands: IL PZ 04**

**Idle Lowlands**

**Policy Zone 04: Everton**

**POLICY: CONSERVE AND REINFORCE**

**Character Summary**

The Policy Zone encompasses Harwell village and Everton, along with Scaftworth located at the western edge. Each of these settlements have largely retained their traditional form and vernacular architecture. Bawtry Road [A631] bisects the area east to west. The Chesterfield Canal runs along part of the eastern edge, this is crossed by Eel Pool Road which bounds the area further south. The River Idle forms part of the western boundary adjacent to Scaftworth.

The rounded landform is quite steeply undulating in the south becoming more gentle as it rises towards the higher ground of Barrow Hills in the north. Open views are afforded to both the east and west and towards wooded skylines in the north and south.

Arable farmland dominates the Policy Zone with small pockets of pastoral, and areas of rough grazing associated with an equestrian centre in the west. Woodland is a prominent feature throughout and comprises Barrow Hills Plantation [including the Disused Barrow Hills Sand Pit [SSSI], adjacent to Harwell], Lings Wood and Warren Plantation, all of which are designated SINCs. Field boundaries are predominantly well maintained hawthorn hedgerows. A nursery is located at the edge of Everton containing a small willow coppice and Christmas tree plantation. Several isolated farms are dotted across the Policy Zone.

## Idle Lowlands – Policy Zone 04: Everton

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: IL PZ 04  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: IL19, IL20

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

#### Sensitivity

### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Largely traditional settlement areas; Harwell, Scaftworth and Everton.
- Open views
- Intensive arable landscape with pockets of pasture and rough grazing.
- Well maintained hedgerow field boundaries.
- Large scale woodland blocks, some designated SINC's.
- River Idle and Chesterfield Canal [SINC] corridors.
- Red brick farmhouses.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is good. Within the Policy Zone is a coherent pattern of elements and few detracting features, namely the A631 and low voltage power cables. Overall the area is **visually unified**.

Belts of deciduous woodland connect into hedgerows which create well defined field boundaries to predominantly arable fields. Some pastoral land and rough grazing is also evident. Fences occur around settlements and grazed fields. Farmsteads are mostly of the traditional red brick construction with some metal agricultural buildings replacing more traditional ones. These are evident on higher ground and form a detracting feature from some locations within the Policy Zone. Isolated farm buildings are dotted along the roadside. Modern residential development occurs at the fringes of Everton, Scaftworth and Harwell, however both Everton and Harwell boast a vernacular core. The overall cultural integrity is **variable**.

Ecological designations comprise Barrow Hills Sand Pit [SSSI] and three SINC's which are woodland/plantation and contribute to the large areas of mixed woodland are located in both the north and south. Planting becomes more ornamental around Everton, Scaftworth and Harwell. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which overall gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area combined with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Idle Lowlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

Visibility is assessed as **moderate** due to the undulating landform which is considered **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility results in **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition

**Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

#### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve and Reinforce

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the hedgerow pattern and **reinforce** with new planting where these are gappy/in poor condition and to replace fencing. Seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern/boundaries where these have been lost and introduce further hedgerow trees where appropriate.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the ecological diversity of the River Idle corridor, Barrow Hills Sand Pit [SSSI] and other designated SINC's, enhancing where appropriate.

##### Built Features

- Enhance visual unity and soften built development through additional woodland and landscape planting; this applies to both the existing settlement of Everton, Scaftworth and Harwell, and new development.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the rural character of the Policy Zone by concentrating new development around the existing settlements of Harwell, Everton and Scaftworth.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the historic field pattern by containing new development within historic enclosed boundaries.
- **Conserve** the local brick built vernacular and reinforce this in new development.
- **Conserve** the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**  
**Idle Lowlands: IL PZ 05**

**Idle Lowlands**

**Policy Zone 05: Scrooby**

**POLICY: REINFORCE**

**Character Summary**

The Policy Zone comprises the River Idle in the east and the River Ryton in the west. Scrooby and Scaftworth lie centrally in the north, further east Everton and Mattersey flank the Idle corridor. The Ryton wraps around the northern edge of Scrooby and flows southwards past Serlby Park in the east, to Blyth. The A614 forms part of the northern boundary along the Ryton corridor, the A638 and railway line cross the Ryton further east and the A1 crosses the river in the south.

Topographically the river corridors are low lying with surrounding flood plain. Views are generally filtered due to vegetation stretching along the watercourse, however there are some medium distance views towards higher ground at Everton and Barrow Hill in the north and Mattersey Thorpe in the south.

The predominant land use aside of the watercourses is flood meadow and arable farmland. A small scale biomass crop production and associated hard-standing is evident in the east. In the east fields are bounded mostly by drainage ditches though there are some short sections of hawthorn hedgerow, whereas in the west field boundaries are mainly large hawthorn and beech hedges. A tree belt aligns the railway corridor adjacent to Railway Drain [SINC]. A large lake sits in the south surrounded by wetland. There is a small area of rough grazing near to Serlby Hall Estate, the grounds of which encompass Selby Hall Golf Club.

## Idle Lowlands – Policy Zone 05: Scrooby

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- River Ryton and River Idle corridors.
- Low lying land with surrounding flood plain and flood meadow habitat.
- Low intensity farmland.
- Serlby Hall Estate and Parkland.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the Policy Zone. Overall this gives a **strongly unified** visual appearance.

A narrow winding river channel forms this Policy Zone providing wetland and floodplain habitats. Farming is low intensity with some permanent pasture and arable compartments bounded mostly by drainage ditches. The hedgerow pattern is fairly weak, though what little there is appears to be well maintained and grazed areas are enclosed with fencing. Overall there is little built development consisting of Scrooby and Scaftworth in the north and red brick farmhouses. Serlby Park is a prominent landscape feature to the east and stands apart from the rest of the Policy Zone in character, the estate gate house remains. The overall cultural integrity is considered **good**.

Three SINC's are contained within the Policy Zone including Serlby Park Wetlands, Scrooby Common and Gibbert Hill [acidic grassland] and Railway Drain, Scrooby for its noteworthy flora. Tree cover is generally low and woodland blocks isolated, a significant plantation lies at the edge of Serlby Park with more ornamental planting, parkland trees and avenues contained within the parkland itself. Other vegetation comprises linear sections of flood meadow, and willow is dominant along the riverside. There is also short rotation biomass coppicing evident in the east. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which results in a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity overall. A **strongly unified** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity gives a **very good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **indistinct** of the Idle Lowlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] resulting in a **weak** sense of place.

Due to the winding nature of the Policy Zone, landform is assessed as **insignificant** and the visibility **low**. A **weak** sense of place combined with **low** visibility gives **very low landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Reinforce

##### Landscape Features

- **Reinforce** hedgerows where necessary, seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern where this has been lost and introduce hedgerow trees where appropriate.
- **Reinforce** the rural character of the Policy Zone by concentrating new development around existing settlement.
- **Reinforce** the historic field pattern by containing new development within historic enclosed boundaries.
- Enhance and **reinforce** visual unity across the Policy Zone through further appropriate tree and woodland planting.

##### Built Features

- Conserve and **reinforce** the rural character of the landscape by respecting the scale and setting of Scrooby and Scaftworth.
- **Reinforce** the local brick vernacular in new built development.
- **Reinforce** the ecological diversity of the River Ryton and River Idle corridors and the designated SINC's, enhancing where appropriate.
- **Reinforce** the character, setting and historic integrity of Serlby Hall Estate and Parkland as appropriate.
- New development should take account of the distinctive ecological elements within the Policy Zone.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: IL PZ 05  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: IL18, IL37

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Very Good</b>
------------------	------------------

Pattern of Elements:	Unified
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Strongly Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Strong

<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Very Low</b>
--------------------	-----------------

Distinctiveness:	Indistinct
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Weak
Landform:	Insignificant
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Low

## **Idle Lowlands**

### **Policy Zone 06: Wiseton**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE AND RESTORE**

### **Character Summary**

The Policy Zone extends from Mattersey in the north towards Hayton in the south-east of the area and is largely bounded by the River Idle to the west and the Chesterfield Canal to the east. The area encompasses Wiseton village and Wiseton Hall with its associated parkland. Clayworth lies immediately east of the canal and Retford is further south.

Landform is relatively flat, undulating gently in the south-west and the north. Open views out towards higher ground are generally afforded, though in the north and west views tend to be of wooded skylines.

Arable farmland dominates the Policy Zone, however mineral extraction is evident towards the south where spoil tips are located and a conveyor takes excavated material to the works located west of the Policy Zone. Parkland associated with the Wiseton Estate, a small hamlet covered by a Conservation Area Order, is a key feature in the east, mature mixed woodland forms part of the parkland and a cricket pitch lies at the Estate's edge along with areas of horse grazing associated with the local stables. Settlement is fairly spread out across the area with several isolated farmsteads, particularly in the east.

Drainage ditches form the majority of field boundaries although hedgerows align some fields and the roads, these are generally well-defined further south but sparse and poorly maintained in the north. Key ditches include; Long Road West Drain, Black Syke Drain, Common Drain and Meadow Drain. Willow and ash are dominant species along the river corridor. A number of mature oaks are scattered across the central farmland.

## Idle Lowlands – Policy Zone 06: Wiseton

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: IL PZ 06  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: IL21, IL22, IL23

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High  
**Sensitivity**

### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Open landscape affording distant views.
- Large scale arable farmland divided by ditches and hedgerows, some scattered trees within fields.
- Wiseton Estate, parkland and village; includes a Conservation Area and listed buildings – strong character overall.
- A series of reclaimed spoil tips in the south.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is moderate. There is a coherent pattern of elements in the Policy Zone and some detracting features, including former spoil heaps associated with mineral extraction and masts. Overall the area is **visually coherent**.

Land use is mostly intensive arable with trimmed hedges and occasional hedgerow trees, supplemented with fencing where gaps occur. Some pastoral is also evident. As field are now large scale the historic field pattern is generally lost, however evidence of the Sanderson pattern remains near to Wiseton, the main settlement within the Policy Zone. Several listed buildings are contained within Wiseton village and the Estate which is a conservation area. Built in the local vernacular, these hamlets contribute strongly to the overall character of the area through their collection of red brick farmhouses, traditional farm buildings and estate cottages. Wiseton Hall and parkland also form a significant feature of the Policy Zone. A number of former spoil tips are evident in the landscape but these have been reclaimed and are therefore becoming more congruent with the area as a whole. The overall cultural integrity is **variable**.

The River Idle and the Chesterfield Canal, a section of which is designated a SSSI, form strong linear features both ecological and visual. There is also an extensive network of drainage channels throughout the area which divide the fields. Vegetation comprises woodland belts; typically oak, ash and willow with tree avenues, orchards and parkland trees near Wiseton, species include lime, beech, horse chestnut. Other habitats include grassland and wetland areas. The ecological integrity is assessed as **moderate** which overall gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife and functional integrity. A **visually coherent** area combined with **coherent** functional integrity results in a **moderate landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Idle Lowlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] resulting in a **moderate** sense of place.

**High** visibility offers clear westward views. The landform is considered **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **high** visibility equates to **high landscape sensitivity** overall.

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition

Condition	<b>Moderate</b>
Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Some
Visual Unity:	Coherent
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

#### Sensitivity

Sensitivity	<b>High</b>
Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Open
Visibility:	High

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve and Restore

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the rural and open character of the landscape, seek opportunities to **restore** the arable farmland to pasture.
- **Conserve** existing hedgerows and restore where in poor condition. Seek opportunities to **restore** the historic field pattern/drainage ditches and hedgerow boundaries where they have been lost.
- **Conserve** the ecological diversity of the River Idle and Chesterfield Canal, and other wildlife habitats across the Policy Zone, seek to enhance as appropriate.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the historic character and setting of the Wiseton Estate, its associated parkland and Wiseton village, **restore/enhance** features as appropriate/necessary.
- New development should be of appropriate design, scale and siting.
- **Conserve** the local brick vernacular and reinforce in new built development.
- **Conserve** the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal.

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Idle Lowlands: IL PZ 07**

### **Idle Lowlands**

### **Policy Zone 07: Lound**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE AND REINFORCE**

### **Character Summary**

The Policy Zone includes the built areas of Mattersey Thorpe, in the north, Mattersey and Lound. Sutton-cum-Lound is located immediately beyond the southern boundary of the area, Ranskill lies further west adjacent to the Doncaster to Newark railway. The River Idle forms much of the eastern boundary.

Topographically the Policy Zone is low lying, flat river valley floor becoming more rounded and gently undulating in the south-west. Artificial mounds [spoil heaps] in the east are evidence of current mineral operations. Views are generally medium distance with frequently wooded skylines.

Several large wetland areas and ponds including Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits [SSSI/SINC] are located in the east, this former gravel works site is now an extensive well-wooded wetland habitat with strong recreational value, however mineral workings are ongoing in the vicinity. A number of additional ecological designations occur within the Policy Zone. Mixed farmland comprising pastoral, rough grazing and open arable fields is dominant throughout. Small deciduous/coniferous woodland blocks and tree belts are characteristic of the area. Scattered trees are notable across farmland at the centre and north-west of the area. Field boundaries tend to be intact well maintained hawthorn hedgerows, although pastoral fields are mainly bound by fencing.

Settlement is relatively small scale and dotted around the Policy Zone as described above, there are also several isolated farmsteads located centrally and stretching northwards. Amenities include those associated with Mattersey College and the tourist attraction of Mattersey Priory. The Nottinghamshire County Council traveller site is located at Daneshill in the south-west.



## Idle Lowlands – Policy Zone 07: Lound

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Low lying flat river valley floor.
- Mixed open farmland with some scattered trees.
- Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits [SSS]/SINC; a strong well wooded feature of both landscape and ecological value.
- Small deciduous and coniferous woodland blocks and tree belts.
- Small scale settlement; Lound, Mattersey, Mattersey Thorpe and farmsteads.
- A series of reclaimed spoil tips in the east.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is good. Within the Policy Zone is a coherent pattern of elements with some detracting features, including evidence of mineral extraction [sand pits], a scrap yard and a travellers site. Overall the area is **visually coherent**.

Settlement comprises Lound, which takes a linear form and is predominantly of the local vernacular, Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe which are of similar character each having a village traditional core but contain more peripheral modern style housing. Part of Lound is within a conservation area and encompasses several listed buildings, Mattersey All Saints Church is grade I listed and Mattersey Priory a designated SAM. Farmhouses are of red brick construction but agricultural buildings tend to be of more modern style. The major land use is arable farmland with some pasture [enclosed by fencing] and forestry which creates a strong sense of enclosure in parts of an otherwise open landscape. Several reclaimed spoil tips are an obvious landscape feature but becoming more congruous with the overall character of the area. The cultural integrity is considered **variable**.

A number of ecological designations fall within the Policy Zone, including Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits [SSS] and a further six SINC. Hedgerows are mixed in their condition but, combined with field margins and the wide roadside verges, generally provide a good green network. Other vegetation includes isolated belts and blocks of woodland, tree avenues are evident at Lound. The ecological integrity is assessed as **strong** which gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually coherent** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity results in a **good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Idle Lowlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] resulting in a **moderate** sense of place.

Visibility is assessed as **moderate** as views are typically contained within the Policy Zone. Landform is assessed as **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility equates to **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve and Reinforce

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** and **reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition, replace fencing with new hedgerow planting. Seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern/boundaries where these have been lost.
- **Conserve** the ecological diversity and setting of the Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits [SSS] and other designated SINC and **reinforce** as appropriate.
- Seek opportunities to enhance and **reinforce** planting associated with the reclaimed spoil tips where appropriate.
- Conserve pastoral farmland and seek to revert arable land to permanent pasture.
- Conserve isolated woodland belts/blocks and tree avenues.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the traditional character of Lound, Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe, **reinforce** the local vernacular in any new development.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the open rural character of the Policy Zone by concentrating new small scale development around Lound, Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe.
- Create woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the historic field pattern by containing new development within historic enclosed field boundaries, restoring field boundaries where necessary.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: IL PZ 07  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: IL24, IL25, IL26, IL27

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low Moderate High

### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

**Condition** **Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Some

Visual Unity: Coherent

Ecological Integrity: Strong

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Strong

**Sensitivity** **Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**  
**Idle Lowlands: IL PZ 08**

**Idle Lowlands**

**Policy Zone 08: Retford**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The area wraps around the north-east and east of Retford between the Chesterfield Canal, which forms much of the eastern boundary before traversing south-west through the Policy Zone, and the River Idle and Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits [SSSI/SINC] in the west. Hayton village and Clarborough are located east of the area.

Generally the Policy Zone is a low lying river valley floor rising slightly towards Retford which sits on higher ground immediately south. Views are quite open towards higher ground in the north becoming more restricted in the south due to high hedges lining roads and field boundaries.

Arable farmland extends across the landscape with some rough grazing, pastoral is particularly apparent in the west. The Lincoln to Sheffield railway line runs through the eastern section of the area. Isolated farmsteads are a feature within the south and south-west of the Policy Zone, in the vicinity of Retford. Recreational facilities are available at Bolham, which encompasses Bolham Hall and Manor, and further south, closer to Retford.

Drainage ditches are common field boundaries, though hedgerows are more prominent centrally and further west where ditches are mostly along roadsides. Hedgerows are generally well maintained, they have been allowed to grow quite tall in some areas and encompass occasional trees. Woodland cover is quite fragmented, with scattered trees being apparent across the open farmland.

## Idle Lowlands – Policy Zone 08: Retford

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Mixed open farmland divided by drainage ditches and well maintained hedgerows with occasional trees. Individual trees are evident within the fields.
- Low lying river valley floor.
- Bolham Hall and Manor; includes recreational facilities.
- Isolated red brick farmsteads.
- Lincoln to Sheffield railway corridor.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a unified pattern of elements with some detracting features within the Policy Zone, including the A620, Smeath Road and pylons. Although outside the area, a commercial development located at the edge of Retford is also considered a detracting feature. Overall the area is **visually unified**.

There is evidence of the historic field pattern throughout the Policy Zone, hedgerows are strong with occasional willow and ash trees. Fields are also divided by a network of ditches. Built development is limited and largely vernacular comprising large houses i.e. Bolham Hall, red brick farmhouses with a mix of traditional and modern farm buildings and few residential dwellings. Mixed farmland is dominant with an area of pig farming and some rough grazing, the livestock are enclosed by fencing. The overall cultural integrity is **good**.

Through tree cover is low there is a relatively good green infrastructure provided by tree belts interlocking with hedgerows and several isolated woodland blocks and plantations of Scots Pine throughout the Policy Zone. Scattered oak trees are also evident across the farmland. Ecological designations include four SINC's. The ecological integrity is **moderate** which gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity overall. A **visually unified** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity gives a **very good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Idle Lowlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] resulting in a **moderate** sense of place.

**Moderate** visibility is afforded due to views generally being contained within the Policy Zone, and the landform is considered **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility results in **moderate** landscape sensitivity overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** permanent pasture and seek opportunities to restore arable farmland to pastoral.
- **Conserve** and enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally to improve visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone.
- **Conserve** the ecological diversity and setting of the designated SINC's, seeking to enhance where appropriate.
- **Conserve** the historic field pattern, maintain existing strong hedgerow structure, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary and reinforce with additional hedgerow trees as appropriate.
- **Conserve** network of drainage ditches.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the north-eastern fringe of Retford.
- **Conserve** and be sympathetic towards the local architectural style in any new development.
- **Conserve** and respect the character, setting and historic integrity of Bolham Hall and Manor House.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- Create woodland areas to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: IL PZ 08  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: IL28, IL29, IL30

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High  
**Sensitivity**

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition

**Very Good**

Pattern of Elements: Unified

Detracting Features: Some

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

#### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**  
**Idle Lowlands: IL PZ 09**

**Idle Lowlands**

**Policy Zone 09: Retford**

**POLICY: CREATE AND REINFORCE**

**Character Summary**

The area is a narrow strip of land located between the hamlet of Tiln in the north and the north-western edge of Retford in the south. Sutton-cum-Lound is located south-west and Barnby Moor is further west. The Policy Zone is bounded along its eastern edge by the River Idle creating a flat valley floor across much of the area. Medium distance views are afforded with frequently wooded skylines, particularly towards the north.

Large scale pig farming occupies the north of the area while permanent pasture and flood meadow extend across the south. A series of water bodies lie adjacent to the river channel including part of the disused Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits [SSSI] and numerous fishing lakes associated with the Coarse Fishing Centre located in the south of the Policy Zone.

Woodland strips are evident across the Policy Zone, and tend to connect to larger blocks which surround the water bodies. Species include oak, birch and willow becoming more coniferous towards Retford. Drainage ditches are apparent as field boundaries in the north, fences are more prominent in the south around pastoral land.

## Idle Lowlands – Policy Zone 09: Retford

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- River Idle corridor.
- Flat valley floor.
- Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits [SSSI/SINC] and a series of further man-made water bodies; associated with the Coarse Fishing Centre.
- Mixed farmland including large scale pig farming.
- Drainage ditches dividing fields along with hedgerows, fencing to pasture and pig farm.
- Woodland blocks and belts associated with water bodies.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is moderate. Within the Policy Zone is a coherent pattern of elements and with some detracting features, including high and low voltage power lines and a campsite. Overall the area is **visually coherent**.

A narrow Policy Zone alongside the River Idle corridor with significant ecological features. A large proportion of land use is dominated by recreational facilities including man-made fish ponds and associated caravan site, mixed farmland encompassing large scale pig farming extends across the remainder of the Policy Zone. Field boundaries are predominantly drainage ditches with fencing providing livestock enclosures. The temporary caravans and low quality buildings which support the recreation are of functional design and layout and do not respect the character of the region as a whole. The cultural integrity is assessed as **poor**.

Wetland habitats are a fairly extensive feature throughout the area comprising the River Idle, part of the Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits [SSSI/SINC] along with several fishing lakes. Woodland is generally located around the wetlands and comprises oak, ash, willow and birch species, with belts of trees and scrub [willow dominant] along the river corridor. Overall the tree cover is considered low. The ecological integrity is considered to be **strong** which gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity overall. A **visually coherent** area combined with a **coherent** functional integrity results in a **moderate landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **indistinct** of the Idle Lowlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **weak** sense of place.

Visibility is considered to be **moderate** and the landform **apparent**. A **weak** sense of place with **moderate** visibility results in **low landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Create and Reinforce

##### Landscape Features

- **Create** woodland and landscape planting to **reinforce** existing vegetation and the overall character of the Policy Zone.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** drainage ditches/hedgerows where they have become gappy and are in poor condition. Seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern/boundaries where these have been lost.
- **Create** new hedgerows to replace fencing.
- Seek opportunities to **create** further habitats to increase and **reinforce** the ecological diversity and biodiversity throughout the Policy Zone.
- **Conserve** the ecological diversity and setting of the Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits [SSSI] and **reinforce** as appropriate.
- **Create** a balance between recreational and conservational needs and opportunities while **reinforcing** what currently exists.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the traditional character of the surrounding settlements of Sutton-cum-Lound and Bamby Moor, **reinforce** the local vernacular in any new development.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the open rural character of the Policy Zone by concentrating new small scale development around Sutton-cum-Lound and Bamby Moor at the boundaries of the Policy Zone.
- New development should take account of the distinctive ecological elements within the Policy Zone.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: IL PZ 09  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: IL31

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

#### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
------------------	-----------------

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Some

Visual Unity: Coherent

Ecological Integrity: Strong

Cultural Integrity: Poor

Functional Integrity: Coherent

<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Low</b>
--------------------	------------

Distinctiveness: Indistinct

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Weak

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Idle Lowlands: IL PZ 09**

## **Idle Lowlands**

### **Policy Zone 10: Ranskill**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE AND REINFORCE**

### **Character Summary**

The area is located east of the A614 and A1, south of Bawtry and Bircotes. Scrooby lies at the north-eastern tip, other settlement within the area includes Ranskill, Torworth and Sutton-cum-Lound. Barnby Moor lies immediately west of the area. Serlby Hall and Parkland is in the west beyond which the River Ryton corridor bounds the Policy Zone, wrapping around the north and west. The A638 and Doncaster to Newark railway cut through the area, minor roads also criss cross throughout. Landform is generally flat and low lying becoming more gently undulating and rounded towards the west of the Policy Zone with slight undulations evident in the east. Open views to wooded skylines are given to the south and east, these are more restricted to the north and west by topography and woodland.

Mixed farmland is the major land use of the area with arable fields dominating the landscape. There is evidence of permanent pasture throughout the Policy Zone though areas of rough grazing tend to be nearer settlements such as Scrooby, Ranskill and Retford. Serlby Park lies in the north near to Serlby Golf Course which covers a significant part of the landscape to the west. An industrial area and sewage works lie just outside Ranskill village. Vernacular architecture is evident within both Scrooby and Ranskill, there are also a number of isolated farms in the south and west.

Scrooby Top Quarry [SSSI] is an active sand and gravel pit in the north. South and east of this there are several reclaimed pits, now ponds and wetlands used for recreational purposes, many of these are SINCs; Ranskill Wetlands, Ranskill Gravel Pits, Mattersey Sand Pit and Mattersey Flooded Sand Pit, also Mattersey Hill Marsh [SSSI] and Daneshill Lakes and Woodland [LNR]. In the southern part of the Policy Zone there is evidence of further current and disused mineral workings; an active Tarmac aggregates site lies adjacent to the former Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits [SSSI/SINC], now a recreational facility. Fragmented woodland blocks and scattered trees across farmland throughout Langwell Plantation is at the centre, Neal's Covert Plantation is at the north-west of the Policy Zone, hedgerows are prominent as field boundaries and along roadsides, ditches are more apparent in the south-west.

## Idle Lowlands – Policy Zone 10: Ranskill

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: IL PZ 10  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: IL32, IL33, IL34, IL35, IL39

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Open arable farmland with some pastoral; divided by hedgerows with interlocking woodland.
- Reclaimed extraction pits; now valuable wildlife and recreational resources.
- Isolated farmsteads; farmhouses of red brick construction.
- Vernacular settlement at Scrooby and Ranskill.
- Serlby Hall [grade I listed] and parkland incorporating Serlby Golf Course.
- Doncaster to Newark railway.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with some detracting features within the Policy Zone, including the A638, Doncaster to Newark railway and low voltage power lines. Overall the area is **visually coherent**.

The historic field pattern is relatively intact and encompasses arable and permanent pasture. Fields are generally bounded by a strong hedgerow network and some interlocking woodland blocks and belts giving a moderate tree cover overall. While many of the hedgerows are well trimmed and maintained, some are gappy and have been allowed to deteriorate. Fencing is used to enclose pastoral fields and to supplement hedgerows in poor condition.

Settlement includes the villages of Ranskill, Torworth and Scrooby [partly within a conservation area] which have traditional vernacular cores with peripheral modern dwellings, both vernacular and non-vernacular. Sutton-cum-Lound contains more urban estate housing of a non-vernacular style. Farmhouses are of red brick construction and metal sheds have often replaced more traditional farm buildings causing them to stand out from the character of the area which, overall is largely retained. A number of listed buildings are contained within the Policy Zone including Scrooby Church [grade II] and Serlby Hall [grade I]. Former mineral extraction sites are regenerating and therefore becoming less detracting elements in the landscape. The cultural integrity is assessed as **variable**.

Tree belts are evident along the railway corridor and roadsides, throughout the Policy Zone dominant species are oak, willow, sycamore and Scots pine with beech and lime [avenues] a prominent feature at Serlby Park. Ecological designations comprise Scrooby Top Quarry and Mathersey Hill Marsh, both SSSI status, and a further six SINC. The ecological integrity is **strong** which gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually coherent** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity gives a **good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Idle Lowlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] resulting in a **moderate** sense of place.

Visibility is considered **moderate** and views are typically limited to within the Policy Zone. Landform is assessed as **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility equates to **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition

**Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Some
Visual Unity:	Coherent
Ecological Integrity:	Strong
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Strong

#### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve and Reinforce

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve and reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition. Seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern/boundaries where these have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Enhance visual unity through further appropriate tree and woodland planting. **Reinforce** tree belts along roadsides and railway corridor as appropriate.
- **Conserve** the ecological diversity and setting of the designated SSSIs and SINC and **reinforce** as appropriate.
- **Conserve and reinforce** historic field pattern, restoring hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** the historic Serlby Parkland and **reinforce** as appropriate.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the historic character and setting of Serlby Hall and associated parkland.
- **Conserve and reinforce** the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around Scrooby, Torworth, Ranskill, Sutton-cum-Lound and the northern edge of Retford, also along the A638 [Great North Road].
- Create woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.
- **Conserve** the local built vernacular and **reinforce** in new development.



**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**  
**Idle Lowlands: IL PZ 10**

- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**  
**Idle Lowlands: IL PZ 11**

**Idle Lowlands**

**Policy Zone 11: Harworth**

**POLICY: CREATE**

**Character Summary**

The area wraps around Harworth and Bircotes in the north and extends towards Blyth in the south and the A60 in the west. The River Ryton forms the eastern, and part of the southern, boundary. Both the A1[M] and the A614 transect the Policy Zone, numerous minor roads also cross the area throughout. The A631 partially borders the north of the area and the A634 runs along the south adjacent to the Ryton corridor. Styrrup is located in the west, there are a small number of dwellings fronting the A614 and farmsteads are apparent across the Policy Zone.

Landform is predominantly rounded and gently undulating with flatter areas in the north. Open views towards higher ground and wooded skylines are given in the north and west, becoming more restricted further south due to tree and hedgerow cover.

Arable and mixed farmland extends across the northern section of the Policy Zone while coal extraction [Harworth Colliery] dominates the central and southern area, though there is some arable farmland to the east and west of the colliery site. Evidence of small mineral workings is also apparent in the north. There is a sewage works in the north-west and also a redundant railway nearby.

Coniferous and deciduous woodland blocks are generally small scale and include Droversdale Wood [SINC] in the north. More substantial woodland blocks are evident in the west. Coniferous planting is more prominent across spoil heaps located at the centre of the Policy Zone. Hawthorn hedgerows provide field boundaries and are dominant alongside roads running through the area.

## Idle Lowlands – Policy Zone 11: Harworth

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Harworth Colliery [abandoned], other smaller mineral workings, associated spoil tips some of which have been reclaimed.
- A landscape fragmented by roads.
- Pockets of arable and mixed farmland.
- Small scale deciduous and coniferous woodland blocks and belts [including SINCs], coniferous planting across reclaimed spoil tips.
- Styrrup Quarry [SSSI].
- Non-vernacular housing dominant.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very poor. The pattern of elements is described as incoherent as there are many detracting features; industrial and commercial land uses, evidence of mineral extraction [spoil heaps], busy roads including the A1 and A614. Overall the Policy Zone is **significantly interrupted visually**.

Essentially, land use combines intensive arable pockets with former coal mining, including the recently abandoned Harworth Colliery, evidenced in several spoil tips which remain dominant across the landscape, although some have been reclaimed and are now planted with coniferous species. Settlement also forms a significant part of the Policy Zone and is largely modern and quite uncharacteristic of the region, though the small village of Styrrup retains its traditional form and character. Both Harworth and Bircotes have developed adjacent to the colliery site creating a sizeable urban area of non-vernacular housing. Vernacular buildings are generally limited; there are a few red brick farmhouses and cottages, however these get somewhat lost among the colliery buildings and industrial sheds, and the unsympathetic development at Harworth and Bircotes. The cultural integrity is considered **poor**.

Ecological designations comprise five SINCs which include Blyth Wood [remnant ancient woodland] and a SSSI; Styrrup Quarry. Vegetation includes isolated blocks and belts of deciduous woodland throughout the area and notably along roadsides and adjacent to settlement, however the Policy Zone generally affords low tree cover. Field boundaries consist of gappy hedgerows and ditches, with fences around grazed and pastoral compartments. The ecological integrity is **moderate** which overall gives a **weak** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually significantly interrupted** area combined with a **weak** functional integrity results in a **very poor landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **indistinct** of the Idle Lowlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **weak** sense of place.

Landform is assessed as **apparent** and the visibility **moderate**. A **weak** sense of place combined with **moderate** visibility results in **low landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Create

##### Landscape Features

- **Create** new hedgerows and restore existing, seek opportunities to restore historic field pattern where feasible, contain new development within historic boundaries.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally to **create** increased visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone, in particular along transport corridors.
- Conserve the ecological diversity, biodiversity and setting of Styrrup Quarry [SSSI] and other designated SINCs.

##### Built Features

- **Create** small scale woodland to contain and soften existing built development, particularly at Harworth and Bircotes.
- Conserve what remains of the rural landscape by concentrating new small scale development around Harworth and Bircotes.
- **Create** new development which reflects the local brick built vernacular.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: IL PZ 11

Land Cover Parcel[s]: IL36, IL38, IL40, IL41, IL42

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

**Condition** **Very Poor**

Pattern of Elements: Incoherent

Detracting Features: Many

Visual Unity: Significantly Interrupted

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Poor

Functional Integrity: Weak

**Sensitivity** **Low**

Distinctiveness: Indistinct

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Weak

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

## **Idle Lowlands**

### **Policy Zone 12: Carlton-in-Lindrick**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE AND REINFORCE**

### **Character Summary**

The area is located south of Styrrup and the A1[M], extending to the northern fringe of Worksop. Langold and Carlton-in-Lindrick lie beyond the A60 west of the Policy Zone. Both North Carlton and South Carlton partially fall within the area.

Topographically the Policy Zone is gently undulating and rounded with flatter areas in the west. Views are relatively open towards higher ground and wooded skylines.

The landscape comprises mostly arable farmland with small areas of permanent pasture and rough grazing evident. Settlement is relatively sparse with the hamlet of Wigthorpe located in the south, part of which is a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument [SAM] due to mediaeval settlement remains. There are few isolated dwellings and farmsteads throughout the Policy Zone.

Hodsock Priory, with surrounding parkland, lies at the centre of the Policy Zone and encompasses a number of parkland trees, in the north there is parkland associated with Hodsock Priory Estate [SINC]. Oldcotes Sunday Market and garden centre lie adjacent to the A634 which runs east to west through the north of the area, and Oldcotes Dyke and Oldcotes Disused Railway [SINC] encroach into the north-west where there is also a sewage works. A recreational ground lies at the far south and evidently serves the Gateford estate located outside the Policy Zone.

Hawthorn hedgerows are the dominant field boundaries though drainage ditches are common in the north-west. Fences are prominent around the grazed areas of land. Scattered mature trees and small woodland blocks comprising mostly oak and pine are evident, including Hodsock Plantation [SINC] in the east. Processing works at nearby Hodsock Cottage is effectively screened by tree belts. A number of other designated SINCs are present including; Ash Holt, Toad Holes Wood, Styrrup with Oldcotes Hedge, Fish Pond Plantation, Welbrook Plantation, Carlton-in-Lindrick Marsh, Carlton Lake and Marsh, Hardwick Ashes and Nab's Ashes Marsh.

## Idle Lowlands – Policy Zone 12: Carlton-in-Lindrick

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Mostly arable with small areas of pastoral and rough grazing.
- Sparse settlement; Wigthorpe [partial SAM] and isolated dwellings and farmsteads.
- Hodsock Priory with associated parkland.
- Urban edge of Worksop and Carlton-in-Lindrick.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features within the Policy Zone, namely the A634 and low voltage power lines. Overall the area is **visually unified**.

Mostly arable fields are generally divided by a good green network provided by hedgerows interconnected with woodland belts, blocks of woodland tend to be isolated. Pastoral fields are enclosed with fencing which also supplements deteriorating and fragmented hedgerows, though a high proportion of the hedgerow boundaries are fairly strong and intact with the occasional ash tree.

The vernacular differs from that of the region generally; small hamlets and cottages are predominantly stone built rather than red brick which appears throughout the Idle Lowlands. Hodsock Priory [grade II] is located at the heart of the Policy Zone displaying tree lined avenues with extensive grazing. Its Tudor gatehouse is grade I listed. There are some strong cultural influences particularly around Hodsock and Wigthorpe where historic character is retained. This is less evident in the north where the land is under more intensive arable use. The urban edge [housing] of Worksop and Carlton-in-Lindrick spills into the Policy Zone from the west. Other built elements are mostly related to agriculture or the sewage works, however neither are especially prominent. Buildings to the edges of the Policy Zone in the south are mainly screened by woodland belts. The cultural integrity is assessed as **variable**.

Ten SINC's fall within the Policy Zone including Ash Holt, an area of ancient woodland at Styrrup. A moderate tree cover is afforded across the area, species become more ornamental around Hodsock Priory. The ecological integrity is **moderate** which gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area combined with a **coherent** functional integrity results in a **good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Idle Lowlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] resulting in a **moderate** sense of place.

Visibility is **moderate** and views are generally contained within the Policy Zone. Landform is assessed as **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility results in **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve and Reinforce

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve and reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition. Seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern/boundaries where these have been lost and introduce more hedgerow trees. **Reinforce** with new planting to replace fencing.
- **Conserve** pastoral farmland and seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture.
- **Conserve and reinforce** the ecological diversity of the designated SINC's where appropriate.

##### Built Features

- Enhance visual unity and soften built development through additional woodland and landscape planting; this applies to both existing settlement [particularly at the western boundary] and new development.
- **Conserve and reinforce** the sparsely settled and open rural character of the Policy Zone by concentrating new development around Hodsock, Wigthorpe, the northern edge of Worksop and the southern extent of Carlton-in-Lindrick.
- **Conserve** the local stone built vernacular, particularly that at Hodsock and Wigthorpe, and reinforce this in new development.
- **Conserve and reinforce** the character, setting and historical integrity of Hodsock Priory and associated parkland.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: IL PZ 12  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: IL43, IL44, IL45, IL46, IL47

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Good</b>
------------------	-------------

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Coherent

<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
--------------------	-----------------

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

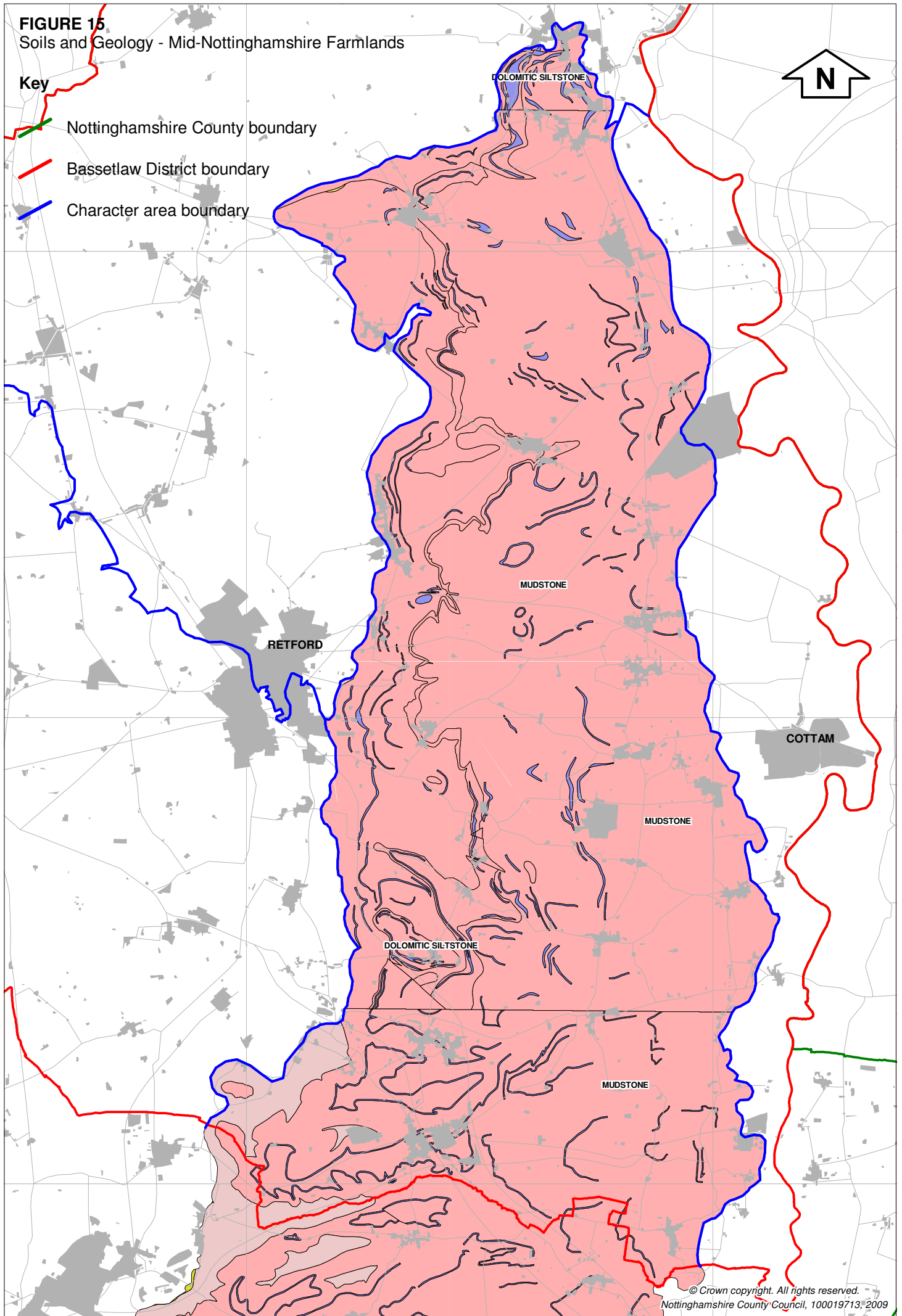
Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

**FIGURE 15**  
Soils and Geology - Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands






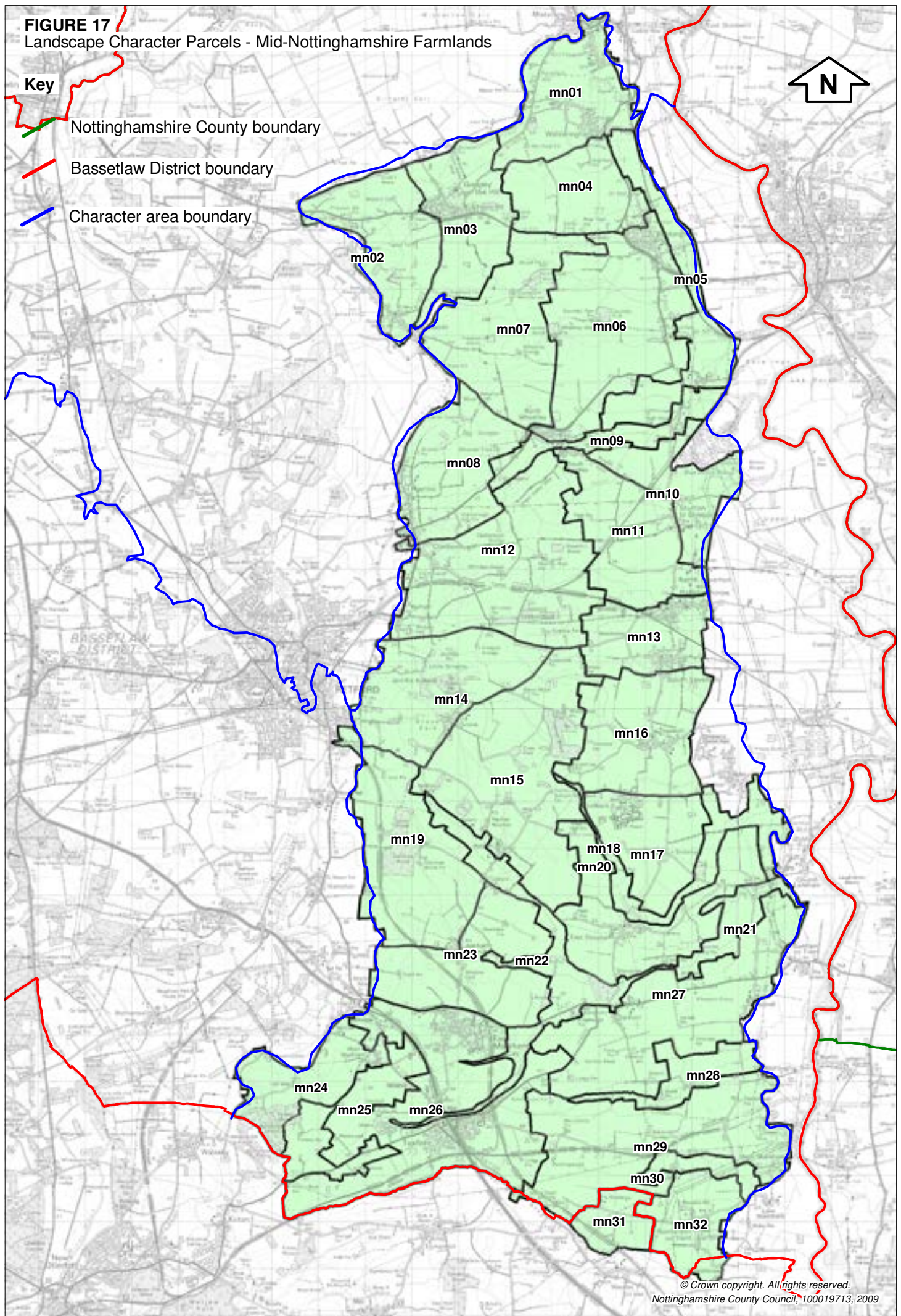




**FIGURE 17**  
Landscape Character Parcels - Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands

**Key**




-  Nottinghamshire County boundary
-  Bassetlaw District boundary
-  Character area boundary














**FIGURE 18**  
Policy Zones - Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands

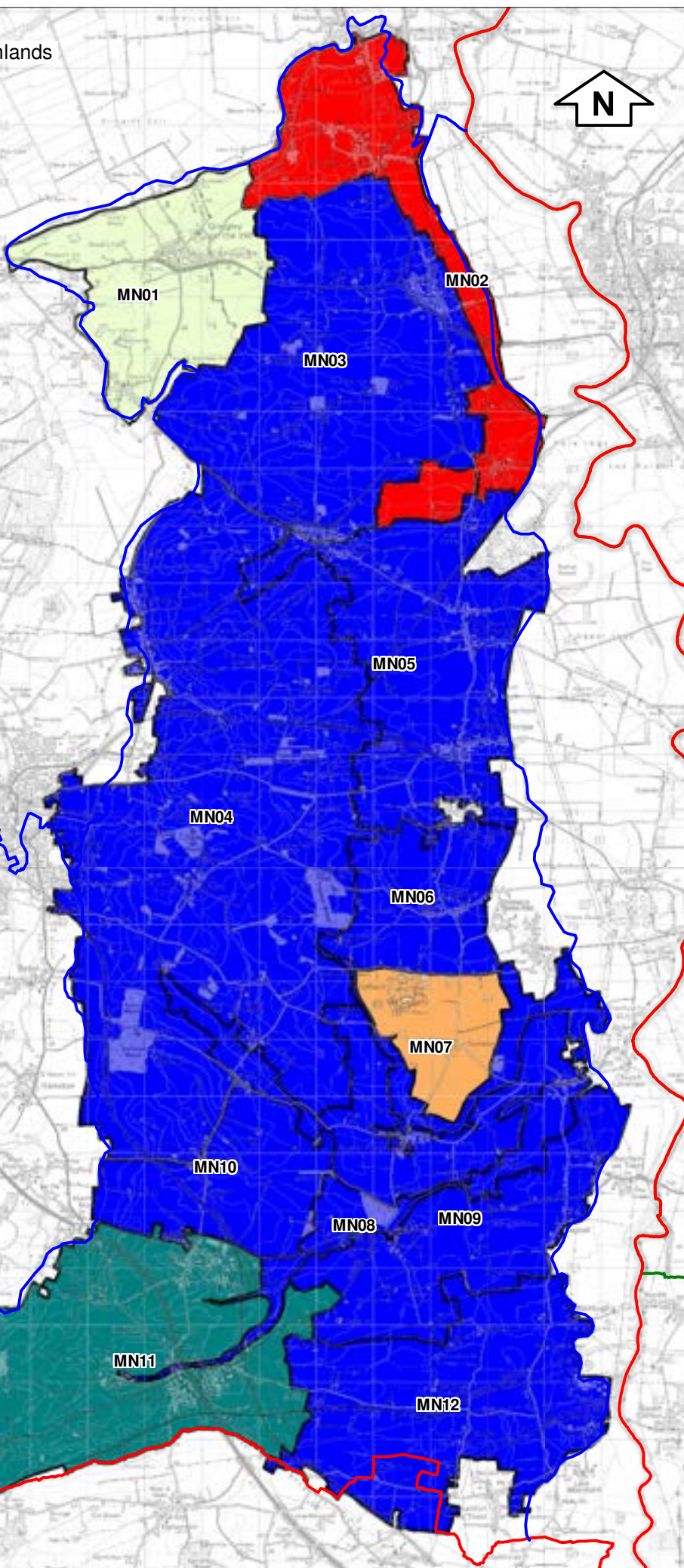
**Key**

-  Nottinghamshire County boundary
-  Bassetlaw District boundary
-  Character area boundary



**POLICIES**

-  Conserve
-  Conserve and Reinforce
-  Conserve and Restore
-  Conserve and Create
-  Reinforce
-  Restore
-  Create and Restore
-  Create and Reinforce
-  Create



- MNPZ01 Conserve and Create
- MNPZ02 Create
- MNPZ03 Conserve
- MNPZ04 Conserve
- MNPZ05 Conserve
- MNPZ06 Conserve
- MNPZ07 Restore and Create
- MNPZ08 Conserve
- MNPZ09 Conserve
- MNPZ10 Conserve
- MNPZ11 Conserve and Reinforce
- MNPZ12 Conserve

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 01**

**Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands  
Policy Zone 01: Gringley-on-the-Hill**

**POLICY: CONSERVE AND CREATE**

**Character Summary**

The area is located north-east of Retford and south-east of Doncaster encompassing the villages of Gringley on the Hill, Clayworth and Wiseton which are predominantly in the local vernacular. Chesterfield Canal follows the northern boundary and runs through the Policy Zone close to the western boundary. The Gainsborough Road [A631] bisects the area and a number of minor roads criss cross the landscape throughout.

Gringley sits on a ridgeline at the highest point within the Policy Zone. The landform is otherwise rolling, undulating more strongly at higher levels, and descends to Chesterfield Canal in the north and Clayworth in the south. Views are relatively open to the north, south and west from higher ground at Gringley. The rolling topography limits views from lower ground.

Arable farmland dominates the area south of the A631 whereas further north that landscape is a mix of arable and pasture. Isolated areas of woodland occur throughout the Policy Zone including Scot's Wood [SINC]. Field boundaries are mostly bounded by hedgerows and ditches. Noteworthy hedgerow examples are at Clayworth Road, Wood Lane and Taylor's Bridge. Several small commercial sites, i.e. Mill Hill, are located within the Policy Zone, there is also a disused pit, industrial facilities and sewage works towards the north near Beacon Hill and Gringley Gorse woodland.

## Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 01: Gringley-on-the-Hill

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: MN PZ 01  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN02, MN03

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- An agricultural landscape dominated by arable farmland with smaller areas of pasture.
- Predominantly vernacular settlement; Gringley on the Hill, Clayworth, Wiseton, partly covered by statutory designations.
- A weak pattern of variable hedgerow field boundaries.
- Small frequent blocks of deciduous woodland and coniferous plantation.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is moderate. There is a **coherent** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features within the Policy Zone namely sewage works and a radio mast. Overall this equates to a **visually unified** area.

The Policy Zone encompasses Clayworth and Gringley on the Hill, both are traditional in character and include several listed buildings, most of which are at Gringley. Clayworth falls entirely within a Conservation Area [CA] whereas Gringley is only partly covered by a CA order. More recent development is evident in both villages though this is relatively insignificant. There are some older non-vernacular dwellings in the western part of Gringley. Wiseton, including Wiseton Park abuts the western boundary, permanent pasture with parkland trees is evident here. Immediately east of Gringley is Beacon Hill, a designated SAM. Deterioration of the historic field pattern is apparent between the settlement areas where arable land now dominates. Pasture occurs near to Gringley within smaller fields bounded by well managed hedgerows although these are not characteristic of the Policy Zone. Hedgerow field boundaries are otherwise variable in their condition and create a weak pattern; some are gappy or outgrown and others have been removed with just the hedgerow trees remaining. Ditches are also a feature along field boundaries. The overall cultural integrity is considered **variable**.

Small coniferous plantations [pine]/deciduous [mostly ash] and mixed woodland blocks appear frequently across the area, many of which are connected by ditches. Areas of deciduous woodland lie adjacent to Wiseton and Gringley. Tree cover is generally low and of diverse age structure ranging from established woodland blocks to newer plantations, hedgerow trees tend to be mature. Three SINC's fall within the Policy Zone. The ecological integrity is described as **weak** which gives a **weak** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **weak** functional integrity gives a **moderate landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] resulting in a **moderate** sense of place.

Intermittent tree cover affords **moderate** visibility across the Policy Zone. Landform is considered **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility leads to **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
------------------	-----------------

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Weak

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Weak

<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
--------------------	-----------------

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve and Create

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the remaining field pattern, restoring hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Create** new hedgerows seeking opportunities to restore the historic field pattern where this has been lost.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture, meadow and improved pasture and seek opportunities to revert arable land to pastoral.
- Enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally to **create** increased visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone.
- **Conserve** the ecological diversity and biodiversity of the designated SINC's and **create** ecological enhancements where appropriate.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating small scale new development around the existing settlements of Gringley-on-the-Hill, Clayworth and Wiseton.
- **Create** woodland to contain and soften urban development, preferably in advance of construction.
- **Conserve** the historic character of existing settlement, **create** new development that is sympathetic to both character and setting.
- **Conserve** the local built vernacular and **create** new development that reflects this.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- **Conserve** the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal.



**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 02**

**Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

**Policy Zone 02: Walkeringham**

**POLICY: CREATE**

**Character Summary**

The area is located north-east of Retford and south-east of Doncaster encompassing the eastern half of Misterton in the north, Walkeringham and a collection of farmsteads at the centre and the hamlet of Bole in the south. Outside the Policy Zone, Beckingham and Saundby lie to the east and Gainsborough to the west. The A631 [section of dual carriageway] bisects the Policy Zone south of Beckingham and the A161 cuts through the area in the north serving Misterton. Several minor roads also transect the area. The Doncaster to Grimsby railway line runs north to east through the Policy Zone and partially bounds the western edge as does the Chesterfield Canal further north. The River Trent corridor lies immediately to the east and links the northern and southern areas of the Policy Zone.

Topographically the area is gently undulating in the north ascending towards higher ground in the west at Wooden Beck Hill. Further south the landform is more typical of open flood plain and is generally quite low lying. Open views are generally afforded to surrounding higher ground towards Morton and Gainsborough in the east, Sutton and West Burton Power Stations in the south and the villages of South Wheatley, Saundby and Beckingham in the west. Landform and surrounding woodland restrict views to a degree.

Mixed farmland is the dominant land use with pastoral land and rough grazing more evident close to watercourses and settlement. Disused mineral workings include Walkeringham Clay Pits [SINC] and a sewage works abuts the eastern boundary. There is no woodland in the north but a strong pattern of mixed hedgerows with many trees, mostly ash. Hedgerows tend to be more dense nearer to the village cores. Scrubby field boundaries adjacent to drainage ditches are more apparent further south.

## Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 02: Walkeringham

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Fragmented landscape dominated by settlement, the railway and roads; A161, A631.
- Intensive arable farmland with pastoral in the smaller fields.
- Mix of vernacular and non-vernacular dwellings at Misterton and Walkeringham, though both include some listed buildings.
- Low tree cover.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very poor. There is an **incoherent** pattern of elements with **many** detracting features which fragment the area including the A631 and A161, the Doncaster to Grimsby railway line and a former oil depot, although this appears to have been grassed over. Overall this results in a **significantly interrupted** visual appearance.

The area encompasses highly intensive arable land throughout the centre and towards the south of the area where the historic field pattern is most noticeably lost. Pasture occupies smaller fields both in the north and near to settlement. Hedgerows are strong along roadsides but less managed along field boundaries particularly in the south, they appear more intact in the north. Ditches also form some field boundaries. Road and rail infrastructure are obvious features within the Policy Zone, dominating the east and fragmenting the landscape. The villages of Walkeringham and Misterton include a mix of vernacular and non-vernacular buildings and cover a relatively large proportion of the overall area, both have been subjected to expansion which has had a degree of impact upon their character, setting and surroundings. Therefore the Policy Zone retains a character of settlement surrounded by agriculture rather than one of settlement within an agricultural setting. A number of buildings are listed within the villages and the hamlet of Bole in the south. The overall cultural integrity is **variable**.

Five SINC's fall within the Policy Zone and include Chesterfield Canal, pond and grassland habitats. Tree cover is not significant though hedgerow trees are apparent and tree planting along the railway and A631 embankments, species are mostly ash and oak. The ecological integrity is described as **weak** which gives a **weak** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **significantly interrupted** area with a **weak** functional integrity gives a **very poor landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **indistinct** of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is **recent** [50 years] resulting in a **very weak** sense of place.

**Moderate** visibility is given due to the enclosed nature of the Policy Zone and the flat topography which is assessed as **dominant**. A **very weak** sense of place with **moderate** visibility equates to **very low landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Create

##### Landscape Features

- **Create** new hedgerows and restore existing, seek opportunities to recreate historic field pattern where they have been lost. Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.
- Enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally, in particular along the A161, A631 and the railway, to **create** increased visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone.
- Conserve the ecological diversity and biodiversity of the designated SINC's, along with the character and setting of the Chesterfield Canal.

##### Built Features

- **Create** small scale woodland to contain and soften new built development, particularly at Misterton and Walkeringham.
- Conserve what remains of the open rural landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate design and scale around the existing settlement of Misterton, Walkeringham and Bole.
- **Create** new development which reflects the local brick built vernacular.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- Conserve the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: MN PZ 02  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN01, MN05

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

#### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

**Condition**                      **Very Poor**

Pattern of Elements:      Incoherent

Detracting Features:      Many

Visual Unity:              Significantly Interrupted

Ecological Integrity:      Weak

Cultural Integrity:        Variable

Functional Integrity:      Weak

**Sensitivity**                      **Very Low**

Distinctiveness:          Indistinct

Continuity:                Recent

Sense of Place:          Very Weak

Landform:                Dominant

Extent of Tree Cover      Enclosed

Visibility:                Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 03**

**Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

**Policy Zone 03: Beckingham**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The area is located west of Gainsborough and north-east of Retford and stretches from Walkeringham in the north to North Wheatley just beyond the A620 in the south. The A631 crosses the centre of the area east to west and is joined by the A620 at Beckingham which runs south and west before skirting North Wheatley. Beckingham Road [A161] and the Doncaster to Grimsby railway line follow much of the eastern boundary. The villages of Beckingham, Saundby and North Wheatley lie within the Policy Zone. Gringley on the Hill is located just outside the area at the north-western corner and similarly West Burton Power Station at the south-eastern corner.

Topographically the landscape is gently undulating and rolling, generally descending from the west towards the east. Wheatley Grange sits on a high point in the south-west. Views of the surrounding landscape to the north and west are limited by landform, woodland and settlement within the Policy Zone, views to the east and south are less restricted however. More extensive views are afforded eastwards from higher points within the Policy Zone.

Land use is almost entirely arable farmland with some fruit growing in the south and small pastoral fields associated with farms and Walkeringham at the northern fringes, and interspersed through the centre and south including that at Saundby Park. Woodland is scattered with larger more prominent blocks in the south including Beckingham Wood [SINC]. Hedgerows are generally continuous and well maintained with frequent hedgerow trees. Several minor watercourses cross the Policy Zone.

## Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 03: Beckingham

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensive arable farmland with hedgerow field boundaries; generally intact though some are fragmented/outgrown or have been removed.
- Oil investigation works.
- Settlement comprises scattered villages predominantly, with isolated farmsteads, and includes several listed buildings.
- Scattered blocks of woodland/plantation.
- Narrow hedged lanes with verges and ditches/scrub.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a **coherent** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features including the A161/A620/A631 and several oil wells. Overall this results in a **visually unified** area.

Intensive arable farmland dominates the Policy Zone and encompasses some localised oil investigation works. Fields are generally bounded by hedgerows [predominantly hawthorn/blackthorn, evidence of field maple and other species] which are mostly intact although some are fragmented, have been removed or are outgrown. The historic field pattern appears more evident closer to areas of settlement; Beckingham, North Wheatley, Saundby, Walkeringham. Hedgerow loss is apparent south of Walkeringham, north of North Wheatley and west of Saundby. Villages show evidence of expansion, tending to have a vernacular core [generally red brick construction] with peripheral new build. Isolated red brick farmhouses occur across the Policy Zone and several buildings within Beckingham, North Wheatley and Saundby are listed. More modern development lies further east, adjacent to the A161/A631, and in the south which hints towards the local style. The overall cultural integrity is **good**.

Blocks of woodland and plantation are scattered, tree cover is also associated with the water channels and boundary hedgerows and is mainly ash with some oak. A total of 8 SINCs are identified, these include woodland sites and areas of valuable ground flora. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity gives a **very good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] resulting in a **moderate** sense of place.

Intermittent tree cover offers **moderate** visibility which is further limited by field boundaries. The landform is considered **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility equates to **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new development within historic enclosed boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- **Conserve** and enhance woodland/plantation blocks, seek to reinforce as appropriate and improve connectivity across the area.
- **Conserve** hedgerow planting along roadsides, seek to reinforce and enhance as appropriate.
- **Conserve** the biodiversity and setting of the designated SINCs, seek to enhance where appropriate.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate design and scale around the existing settlements of Beckingham, Saundby and North Wheatley.
- **Conserve** and respect the local brick built vernacular in any new development.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: MN PZ 03  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN04, MN06, MN07

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition

**Very Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

#### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 04**

**Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

**Policy Zone 04: Clarborough**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The Policy Zone lies to the east of Retford, stretching from North Wheatley down to Askham, south-east of Gamston. Chesterfield Canal follows the north-western boundary as far as Hayton. A network of minor roads serves the Policy Zone in general and the A620 cuts through the area in the north connecting North Wheatley, Clarborough and Retford. The Doncaster to Newark and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines also traverse the area.

Landform is strongly undulating with several high points, descending steeply in the west towards the Chesterfield Canal and Retford. Further south the landscape is more gently undulating and rounded, sloping down towards Gamston and Eaton Woods. Views are relatively open to surrounding landscape and wooded skylines from higher ground, becoming more restricted by topography and scattered woodland in lower lying parts.

Rolling arable land is dominant with large woodland blocks and plantations. Pastoral farmland occurs near to areas of settlement and farmsteads. The larger villages of Clarborough and Hayton lie close to the western boundary and numerous smaller villages and hamlets are scattered throughout the area; Welham, Little Gringley, Grove, Nether Headon and Headon. Several isolated granges and farmhouses are also encompassed within the Policy Zone. Recreational facilities comprise Clarborough Nature Reserve, Headon Park, Treswell Wood Nature Reserve and reservoirs near to both Clarborough Grange and Grove.



## Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 04: Claborough

<p><b>PHOTOGRAPH</b></p> 	<p><b>CONTEXT</b></p> <p>Policy Zone: MN PZ 04 Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN08, MN12, MN14, MN15, MN19</p> <p><b>Condition</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Good</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">REINFORCE</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">CONSERVE &amp; REINFORCE</td> <td style="padding: 5px; background-color: #cccccc;">CONSERVE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Moderate</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">CREATE &amp; REINFORCE</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">CONSERVE &amp; CREATE</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">CONSERVE &amp; RESTORE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Poor</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">CREATE</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">RESTORE &amp; CREATE</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">RESTORE</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <span style="margin-right: 20px;">Low</span> <span style="margin-right: 20px;">Moderate</span> <span>High</span> </p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sensitivity</b></p>	Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE	Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE	Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE		
Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE												
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE												
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE												
<p><b>CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed agricultural landscape with strong hedgerow field boundaries; some outgrown.</li> <li>Good woodland cover.</li> <li>Settlement comprises hamlets and villages, predominantly of the local vernacular and includes a number of listed buildings.</li> <li>Many ecological designations; SSSIs and SINC.s.</li> </ul>	<p><b>SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr style="background-color: #92d050;"> <th style="text-align: left;">Condition</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Very Good</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pattern of Elements:</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Unified</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Detracting Features:</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Few</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Visual Unity:</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Strongly Unified</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Ecological Integrity:</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Strong</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Cultural Integrity:</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Good</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Functional Integrity:</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Very Strong</td> </tr> </table>	Condition	Very Good	Pattern of Elements:	Unified	Detracting Features:	Few	Visual Unity:	Strongly Unified	Ecological Integrity:	Strong	Cultural Integrity:	Good	Functional Integrity:	Very Strong
Condition	Very Good														
Pattern of Elements:	Unified														
Detracting Features:	Few														
Visual Unity:	Strongly Unified														
Ecological Integrity:	Strong														
Cultural Integrity:	Good														
Functional Integrity:	Very Strong														
<p><b>LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS</b></p> <p><b>Condition</b></p> <p>The landscape condition is very good. There is a <b>unified</b> pattern of elements with <b>few</b> detracting features; several radio masts, Ladywell Rise industrial park and the Doncaster to Newark and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines. Overall this results in a <b>strongly unified</b> visual appearance.</p> <p>An intensive arable and pastoral landscape where the historic field pattern is evident, particularly in the west near to Retford. Fields are separated by strong hedgerows, mostly hawthorn, and interspersed with woodland/plantation blocks providing a good green infrastructure. Hedgerows have become outgrown among the smaller field network adjacent to Retford. Removal of field boundaries at the centre of the Policy Zone is apparent where fields are larger and irregularly shaped. Settlement comprises traditional hamlets, which appear to remain unchanged, and the villages of Claborough and Hayton, located at the western boundary, where newer development tends to reflect the local vernacular. A number of buildings throughout the area are listed. The overall cultural integrity is assessed as <b>good</b>.</p> <p>Numerous ecological designations covering a variety of habitats fall within the Policy Zone; 11 SSSIs/SINC.s including ancient woodland, grassland, and 11 SINC.s including grassland, woodland and hedgerows. Woodland unifies the Policy Zone and is mainly deciduous with oak and ash dominant in the south, birch and sycamore become more common further north. Ash and sycamore feature as hedgerow trees and occasional field oaks occur across the area. The ecological integrity is considered <b>strong</b> which gives a <b>very strong</b> habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A <b>strongly unified</b> area with a <b>very strong</b> functional integrity gives a <b>very good landscape condition</b> overall.</p>	<p><b>Condition</b></p> <p>The landscape condition is very good. There is a <b>unified</b> pattern of elements with <b>few</b> detracting features; several radio masts, Ladywell Rise industrial park and the Doncaster to Newark and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines. Overall this results in a <b>strongly unified</b> visual appearance.</p> <p>An intensive arable and pastoral landscape where the historic field pattern is evident, particularly in the west near to Retford. Fields are separated by strong hedgerows, mostly hawthorn, and interspersed with woodland/plantation blocks providing a good green infrastructure. Hedgerows have become outgrown among the smaller field network adjacent to Retford. Removal of field boundaries at the centre of the Policy Zone is apparent where fields are larger and irregularly shaped. Settlement comprises traditional hamlets, which appear to remain unchanged, and the villages of Claborough and Hayton, located at the western boundary, where newer development tends to reflect the local vernacular. A number of buildings throughout the area are listed. The overall cultural integrity is assessed as <b>good</b>.</p> <p>Numerous ecological designations covering a variety of habitats fall within the Policy Zone; 11 SSSIs/SINC.s including ancient woodland, grassland, and 11 SINC.s including grassland, woodland and hedgerows. Woodland unifies the Policy Zone and is mainly deciduous with oak and ash dominant in the south, birch and sycamore become more common further north. Ash and sycamore feature as hedgerow trees and occasional field oaks occur across the area. The ecological integrity is considered <b>strong</b> which gives a <b>very strong</b> habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A <b>strongly unified</b> area with a <b>very strong</b> functional integrity gives a <b>very good landscape condition</b> overall.</p>														
<p><b>Sensitivity</b></p> <p>Features which give the area local distinctiveness are <b>unique/rare</b> of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is <b>historic</b> [post 1600] resulting in a <b>strong</b> sense of place.</p> <p><b>Moderate</b> visibility is afforded due to tree cover and landform which is assessed as <b>apparent</b>. A <b>strong</b> sense of place combined with <b>moderate</b> visibility results in <b>high landscape sensitivity</b> overall.</p>	<p><b>Sensitivity</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr style="background-color: #92d050;"> <th style="text-align: left;">Sensitivity</th> <th style="text-align: right;">High</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Distinctiveness:</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Unique/Rare</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Continuity:</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Historic</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Sense of Place:</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Strong</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Landform:</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Apparent</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Extent of Tree Cover</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Intermittent</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Visibility:</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Moderate</td> </tr> </table>	Sensitivity	High	Distinctiveness:	Unique/Rare	Continuity:	Historic	Sense of Place:	Strong	Landform:	Apparent	Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent	Visibility:	Moderate
Sensitivity	High														
Distinctiveness:	Unique/Rare														
Continuity:	Historic														
Sense of Place:	Strong														
Landform:	Apparent														
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent														
Visibility:	Moderate														
<p><b>LANDSCAPE ACTIONS</b></p> <p><b>Conserve</b></p> <p><u>Landscape Features</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Conserve</b> historic field pattern, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.</li> <li>Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.</li> <li><b>Conserve</b> and enhance woodland/plantation blocks, seek to reinforce green infrastructure and habitat creation where appropriate.</li> <li><b>Conserve</b> the biodiversity and setting of the designated SSSIs and SINC.s, seek to enhance where appropriate.</li> <li><b>Conserve</b> permanent, improved and unimproved pasture.</li> </ul> <p><u>Built Features</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Conserve</b> the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Hayton and Claborough at the western boundary of the Policy Zone and small scale development of appropriate design around existing hamlets.</li> <li><b>Conserve</b> and respect the local brick built vernacular in any new development.</li> <li>Contain new development within existing field boundaries.</li> </ul>	<p><b>LANDSCAPE ACTIONS</b></p> <p><b>Conserve</b></p> <p><u>Landscape Features</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Conserve</b> historic field pattern, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.</li> <li>Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.</li> <li><b>Conserve</b> and enhance woodland/plantation blocks, seek to reinforce green infrastructure and habitat creation where appropriate.</li> <li><b>Conserve</b> the biodiversity and setting of the designated SSSIs and SINC.s, seek to enhance where appropriate.</li> <li><b>Conserve</b> permanent, improved and unimproved pasture.</li> </ul> <p><u>Built Features</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Conserve</b> the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Hayton and Claborough at the western boundary of the Policy Zone and small scale development of appropriate design around existing hamlets.</li> <li><b>Conserve</b> and respect the local brick built vernacular in any new development.</li> <li>Contain new development within existing field boundaries.</li> </ul>														

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 05**

### **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

#### **Policy Zone 05: Leverton**

### **POLICY: CONSERVE**

#### **Character Summary**

The area extends south of North Wheatley to South Leverton which straddles the southern boundary. Located within the Policy Zone are Sturton le Steeple, North Leverton with Habbleshthorpe and South Wheatley. It wraps around but excludes West Burton Power Station in the east. A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area and the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines transect the area towards the north and south respectively.

Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary. Views are fairly enclosed in the north by vegetation and hedgerow boundaries. Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east.

The landscape is a mix of arable and pastoral farmland, arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub. The Policy Zone also encompasses the site of the mediaeval village of West Burton, the remains of an historic church at South Wheatley, North Leverton Windmill; a tourist attraction, and a sewage works north of Wheatley Beck.

## Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 05: Leverton

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages.
- A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.
- Generally well managed hedgerow field boundaries with occasional hedgerow trees.
- Predominantly vernacular settlement though some newer and older non-vernacular development is evident.
- Isolated farmsteads.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is good. Within the Policy Zone there is a **coherent** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features comprising the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines, high voltage power lines and pylons and a sewage works. This gives a **visually unified** area overall.

The field pattern is partially intact, rationalisation is more notable at the centre where the land is under intensive arable use. A network of becks extends across the area, the water channels are flanked by vegetation which connects into hedgerow field boundaries. Most hedgerows are well maintained, where gaps occur they have been in-filled with fencing or left. Trees are apparent in the hedgerows though some are over mature and not being replaced. Smaller areas of pasture and rough grazing surround the becks and villages, an area of parkland style pasture with individual trees is located north of South Leverton.

Settlement within the Policy Zone is predominantly traditional although both North Leverton and South Wheatley comprise a mix of vernacular buildings with both modern and older non-vernacular development, newer buildings tend to be at the village edges. Isolated farmsteads are evident across the area and a number of buildings throughout the Policy Zone are listed. The overall cultural integrity is **variable**.

Two SINC's lie within the Policy Zone and comprise areas of grassland. Tree cover is relatively low and is concentrated along watercourses and the railway embankments [younger scrub], small deciduous clumps lie near to settlement areas. Oak and ash are dominant with some willow along the watercourses. There are no significant blocks of woodland within the Policy Zone. The ecological integrity is assessed as **moderate** which gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity results in a **good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] resulting in a **moderate** sense of place.

Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered **dominant** and affords **high** visibility across the Policy Zone in general. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **high** visibility results in **high landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern, maintaining existing watercourses/hedgerows including ancient hedgerows, restoring and reinforcing where necessary, create new hedgerows to replace infill fencing.
- **Conserve** hedgerow trees and replace where necessary.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture and parkland area near to South Leverton, seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- **Conserve** tree cover and landscape planting, enhance and reinforce where appropriate to increase the green infrastructure and wildlife habitats across the Policy Zone.
- **Conserve** areas of improved and unimproved pasture and grassland and areas of ridge and furrow.
- **Conserve** the biodiversity and setting of the designated SINC's, seek to enhance where appropriate.

##### Built Features

- Enhance visual unity and soften built development through additional woodland and landscape planting; this applies to both the existing settlements and new development.
- **Conserve** the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate scale and design around the existing settlements of Sturton-le-Steeple, North Leverton, Habbleshthorpe, and South Wheatley.
- **Conserve** and respect the local brick built vernacular in any new development.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: MN PZ 05

Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN09, MN10, MN11, MN13

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

**Condition** **Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Coherent

**Sensitivity** **High**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Dominant

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: High

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 05**

- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 06**

**Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

**Policy Zone 06: Treswell**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The area lies east of Retford and covers the area from South Leverton to Retford Road, which forms the southern boundary, encompassing Treswell. West Burton Power Station and Rampton village are located to the west. Other minor roads transect the Policy Zone.

Lee Beck bisects the open rolling farmland into north and south facing slopes, the landform descends towards the Trent valley in the east. Higher ground is evident in the north-east of the Policy Zone. Higher ground in the west affords limited views which are contained by topography and the built form of Treswell.

Aside of Treswell, the landscape comprises arable farmland with some unimproved permanent pasture close to the village and towards the east of the Policy Zone. Scattered groups of trees and scrub are evident along roadsides and watercourses, however there is no significant woodland.

## Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 06: Treswell

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Arable farmland with trimmed well maintained hedgerow field boundaries.
- Narrow hedged lanes.
- Traditional village of Treswell, includes listed buildings.
- Meadow areas including Ashton's Meadow [SSSI/INC].
- Generally low tree cover, although trees along the beck provide a sense of wooded views within a landscape that has no significant blocks of woodland.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good and the pattern of elements **coherent** with **few** detracting features, namely a radio mast. Overall this gives a **visually unified** area.

The landscape comprises mostly arable farmland with trimmed, well maintained hedgerows delineating fields, though some have been allowed to grow out. Hedgerow trees are more common in the south. Isolated areas of pasture are also apparent. The Policy Zone largely retains a rural character, the field pattern has generally been affected by hedgerow removal and lack of hedgerow management. Rationalisation of fields is most notable to the west of Treswell.

Treswell is a traditional village encompassing several listed buildings. Recent development is evident which reflects the local vernacular, however some earlier development within the village is not traditional and dilutes the overall architectural vernacular slightly. There is also a small amount of recent development at South Leverton. Overall the cultural integrity is **good**.

Within the Policy Zone an area of improved meadow is covered by SINC status, Ashton's Meadow is a designated SSSI and SINC. Tree cover is generally low throughout the area consisting of a wooded edge to the beck corridor [including Lee Beck] and limited tree planting near to Treswell, otherwise there are no areas or blocks of woodland within the Policy Zone. The ecological integrity is defined as **moderate** which overall gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity results in a **very good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

Visibility is described as **moderate** and the landform **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility gives **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the historic field pattern, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- **Conserve** tree cover and landscape planting, enhance and reinforce where appropriate to increase green infrastructure throughout the Policy Zone.
- **Conserve** the biodiversity and setting of existing ecological designations including Ashton's Meadow [SSSI/SINC], seek to enhance where appropriate.
- **Conserve** areas of unimproved grassland.

##### Built Features

- Enhance visual unity and soften built development through additional woodland and landscape planting; this applies to both the existing settlement of Treswell and South Leverton, and new development.
- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate scale and design around the existing settlements of Treswell and South Leverton.
- **Conserve** and respect the local brick built vernacular in any new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: MN PZ 06  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN16

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

#### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Very Good</b>
------------------	------------------

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
--------------------	-----------------

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 07**

**Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

**Policy Zone 07: Stokeham**

**POLICY: CREATE AND RESTORE**

**Character Summary**

The area is located south-east of Retford and south of Treswell, encompassing the villages of Stokeham and Woodbeck. Rampton Hospital also occupies a significant proportion of the Policy Zone. Retford Road forms the northern boundary while the North Beck corridor bounds the area to the east, south and west. Cottam Power Station is a dominant feature in the east.

Landform is reasonably flat and slopes gently from the north-west to the south-east enabling open views over the Policy Zone, particularly within and across the eastern section. Views are interrupted by built elements including Rampton Hospital, immediately south of Woodbeck.

Aside of the large hospital site and villages, land use is mostly arable with scattered woodland blocks including Retford Road Wood, deciduous woodland and designated SINC. Hedgerows are generally well maintained although hedgerow trees are sparse, linear scrub with trees is evident alongside field ditches. More ornamental type planting occurs close to Woodbeck and the hospital complex.

## Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 07: Stokeham

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensive arable farmland.
- Predominantly flat open landscape.
- Well maintained hedgerow field boundaries.
- Narrow hedged lanes.
- Traditional village of Stokeham, includes listed buildings.
- Two SINC; deciduous woodland and grazed grassland.
- Small blocks of woodland.
- North Beck and associated woodland.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is poor. There is a **coherent** pattern of elements with **many** detracting features within the Policy Zone including high voltage power lines, a hospital complex and sewage works. Overall this equates to a **visually interrupted** area.

Intensive arable farmland extends across the Policy Zone with some areas of pasture. Field boundaries are generally well managed hawthorn hedgerows with few missing sections and occasional hedgerow trees. Much of the historic field pattern is lost through rationalisation, road construction and new development. Although a significant feature of the area, Rampton Hospital is not considered to be characteristic within this agricultural context causing some impact upon the traditional setting of Stokeham village which is in relatively close proximity. Several properties at Stokeham are listed, generally along Retford Road. Woodbeck, an area of non-vernacular housing lies immediately north the hospital site. The hospital complex is not visible from the south where the agricultural character is retained. The overall cultural integrity is assessed as **variable**.

Two SINC; are located within the area and include a deciduous woodland and grazed grassland. Tree cover within the area is quite low, woodland blocks tend to be small and are limited to the north of the Policy Zone. Hedgerows connect into both these and the wooded corridor of North Beck which surrounds much of the Policy Zone. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually interrupted** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **poor landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is **recent** [50 years] giving a **weak** sense of place.

**High** visibility is afforded due to the flat landform and open nature of the landscape. The topography has been assessed as **apparent**. A **weak** sense of place with **high** visibility leads to **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Create and Restore

##### Landscape Features

- **Restore** hedgerow field boundaries where necessary, seek opportunities to **create** new hedgerows and restore seek to **restore** historic field pattern.
- **Create** new hedgerows along roadsides where appropriate
- Seek opportunities to **restore** arable land to pastoral.
- Conserve the ecological diversity and setting of the designated SINC; **create** enhancements where appropriate.
- Conserve woodland blocks and seek to **create** new woodland planting as appropriate.

##### Built Features

- Conserve the predominantly open rural character of the landscape by concentrating appropriate small scale development around the existing settlements of Stokeham and Woodbeck.
- **Create** woodland areas and tree planting to contain and soften built development, particularly around Rampton Hospital, and to increase visual unity and habitat provision across the Policy Zone.
- Conserve the local brick built vernacular and seek to **create** new development which reflects this and is of appropriate scale.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: MN PZ 07  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN17

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

#### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition	Poor
-----------	------

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Many
Visual Unity:	Interrupted
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

Sensitivity	Moderate
-------------	----------

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Recent
Sense of Place:	Weak
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Open
Visibility:	High



**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 07**

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 08**

**Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands  
Policy Zone 08: Upton, Laneham**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The Policy Zone is predominantly flat low lying floodplain and follows a series of watercourses. The landform falls slightly in the east towards the River Trent. The area includes the North Beck corridor, which lies north of East Drayton and wraps around the southern edge of Treswell, Stokeham and Rampton, encompassing much of Laneham and Darlton along with a small number of farmsteads. It stretches towards Askham, Upton and along the northern edge of Tuxford in the west. The area is served mostly by tracks.

On the whole views are limited in extent due to the wooded nature of the watercourses and strong hedgelines along field boundaries, in the north-east views extend outwards to open fields of neighbouring Policy Zones.

The majority of the floodplain is small scale arable farmland with a significant presence of pastoral and rough grazing near to villages, both within and adjacent to the Policy Zone, and farms. An area of ridge and furrow pasture is evident close to East Drayton. Deciduous woodland blocks of varying size include Beast's Wood, Kirke's Ash Holt and Kirke's Plantation, dense scrub occurs along the water corridors. Hedgerows are large, particularly along tracks, and continuous, hedgerow trees are not a common occurrence.

There is evidence of biomass coppicing near to Darlton, a small sewage works near East Markham, and an old earthworks site [SINC; grassland] with associated museum east of Kingshaugh Farm.

## Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 08: Upton, Laneham

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- North Beck with network of streams and associated woodland corridors.
- Arable landscape.
- Hedgerows and water channels as field boundaries.
- Small scale settlement.
- Small clumps/linear sections of woodland along watercourses.
- Improved and unimproved grassland adjacent to watercourses.
- Five SINCs; predominantly grassland.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features; the A1, the Doncaster to Newark railway line, industrial estate, large scale agricultural buildings and two sewage treatment works. Overall this gives a **strongly unified** visual appearance.

The Policy Zone largely encompasses North Beck and a series of tributary streams, the watercourses are wooded; linear sections and small clumps of deciduous woodland are evident, species include willow, ash and oak. The majority of the landscape is under arable use, with some of the larger fields more intensively farmed. Less intensive pastoral fields lie adjacent to settlement. Field boundaries generally comprise hedgerows and watercourses. Post and wire fencing has been used to fill gaps in hedgerows where they have deteriorated. Oak and ash trees commonly occur within some hedgerows, notably around grassland and pasture fields. The field pattern has mostly been lost south-west of Laneham and west of Darlton.

Settlement within the area is small scale including part of Upton, Darlton and most of Laneham, where dwellings reflect the local style and a number of buildings are listed, along with the fringes of Tuxford. Renovation of some older buildings is evident at Laneham. The overall cultural integrity is considered **good**.

Five SINCs fall within the Policy Zone, these are mostly grassland sites. Improved and unimproved grassland occurs alongside the water corridors. A continuous green network is provided across the area connecting to the surrounding landscape. The ecological integrity is defined as **strong** which overall gives a **very strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **strongly unified** area combined with a **very strong** functional integrity results in a **very good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **unique/rare** to the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **strong** sense of place.

Visibility is described as **high** and the landform **dominant**. A **strong** sense of place with **high** visibility results in **very high landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern, maintain existing watercourses/hedgerows including ancient hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary, create new hedgerows to replace post and wire fencing.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- **Conserve** and enhance woodland planting and grassland areas, seek to reinforce as appropriate to further strengthen these habitats.
- **Conserve** areas of improved and unimproved grassland, and areas of ridge and furrow.
- **Conserve** the biodiversity and setting of the designated SINCs, seek to enhance where appropriate.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate scale and design around the existing settlements of Upton, Darlton and Laneham. New development should respect the setting of these settlements.
- New development should take account of the distinctive ecological elements associated with North Beck and its tributary streams within the Policy Zone.
- **Conserve** and respect the local brick built vernacular in any new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: MN PZ 08  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN18, MN21, MN22

#### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

#### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Very Good</b>
------------------	------------------

Pattern of Elements:	Unified
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Strongly Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Strong
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Very Strong

<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Very High</b>
--------------------	------------------

Distinctiveness:	Unique/Rare
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Strong
Landform:	Dominant
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	High

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 08**

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 09**

**Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

**Policy Zone 09: East Drayton**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The area is bisected by watercourses [included at Policy Zone 08], the northern section extends from north of Laneham wrapping around the south of Stokeham where it encompasses East Drayton before stretching north to the east of Nether Headon. The southern area extends westwards from the south of Laneham towards East Markham and Tuxford and is divided by the A57. Part of Dunham on Trent and Ragnall also fall within the Policy Zone. Industry adjacent to the River Trent beyond the Policy Zone boundary is visible in the east. The land rises towards Askham and East Markham in the west limiting views in that direction.

Landform is fairly flat in the north rising from the east to higher ground in the north-west. In the south the landscape is gently rolling. Views are generally open towards the north, east and south due to low tree cover and flat landform but are sometimes interrupted by landscape elements such as mature hedgerows alongside roads and ditches and isolated farmsteads.

Arable farmland is interspersed with small villages and isolated farmsteads, large scale biomass plantations are located in the north and south near to Farhill Farm. Small areas of pasture are evident including those close to Darlton and Ragnall. Hedgerows align the fields, sometimes alongside ditches which are large in the south. Tree cover is quite low; trees are rarely seen in hedges and woodland clumps are generally small occurring at the edge of fields or along tracks. Fruit cultivation is apparent at America Farm, located south of the A57. Adjacent to the A57 lies the mediaeval village of Whimpton.

## Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 09: East Drayton

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Irregularly shaped agricultural fields; intensive arable farmland dominant.
- Strongly trimmed well maintained hedgerows, particularly along roadsides.
- Network of streams and ditches across the landscape.
- Small areas of settlement; predominantly of traditional style, including listed buildings.
- Low tree cover.
- Large scale flat landscape with open views.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is moderate. The pattern of elements is coherent with few detracting features including high and low voltage overhead power lines and busy roads; A57, A6075. Overall this equates to a **visually unified** area.

The historic field pattern has been predominantly lost leaving irregularly shaped agricultural fields. Whilst arable is dominant there is some pasture evident. Hedgerows are strongly trimmed and well maintained, particularly along roadsides. Field boundaries are mostly intact but some have been allowed to deteriorate or have grown out completely, examples of this occur alongside some of the ditches. Hedges have been allowed to grow taller in the south-west.

Settlement is dotted across the area; East Drayton, Laneham, Dunham-on-Trent, Darlton and Ragnall, and is mostly of traditional character although some non-vernacular dwellings are evident at Laneham. Recent development immediately west of East Drayton respects the local style; the historic part of the village lies within a conservation area. Several buildings within the area are listed, in particular at Ragnall, Darlton and East Drayton. The cultural integrity is considered **variable**.

Two SINC lie within the Policy Zone. Tree cover is generally low consisting mostly of small clumps around isolated farmsteads and areas of settlement and short stretches of trees along field boundaries where streams or ditches are present. The ecological integrity is defined as **weak** which gives a **weak** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area combined with a **weak** functional integrity results in a **moderate landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

**Very high** visibility is afforded owing to the flat landscape and limited tree cover across the Policy Zone. The landform has been assessed as **dominant**. A **moderate** sense of place with **very high** visibility results in **very high landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern, maintain existing drainage ditches/hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.
- **Conserve** and enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally to improve visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone yet retaining open views.
- **Conserve** hedgerow planting along roadsides, seek to reinforce and enhance as appropriate.
- **Conserve** areas of ridge and furrow.
- **Conserve** the biodiversity and setting of the designated SINC, seek to enhance where appropriate.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate scale and design around the existing settlements of East Drayton, Laneham, Dunham-on-Trent, Darlton and Ragnall. New development should respect the setting of these settlements.
- **Conserve** and respect the local brick built vernacular in any new development.
- Create woodland areas to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: MN PZ 09  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN20, MN27

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
------------------	-----------------

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Weak

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Weak

<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Very High</b>
--------------------	------------------

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Dominant

Extent of Tree Cover: Open

Visibility: Very High

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 10**

**Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

**Policy Zone 10: Askham**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The area is located south-east of Retford and east of Gamston, extending south of Upton down towards the A57 which skirts the northern fringe of East Markham and forms the southern boundary. The Policy Zone is intersected in the south-west by the Doncaster to Newark railway line and centrally by Askham Road [B road].

A low lying narrow stream corridor is flanked by undulating rounded landform with higher ground at the northern, eastern and western edges affording open views across the Policy Zone, however views at lower levels are enclosed.

The dominant land use is arable farmland with woodland clumps and hedgerows along ditches. Pastoral land is evident close to Askham at the centre of the Policy Zone. Woodland cover is limited with one deciduous plantation adjacent to the south-eastern boundary and a smaller block further west.

## Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 10: Askham

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Agricultural landscape; intensive arable land with some isolated pastoral.
- Narrow hedged lanes.
- Railway line.
- Traditional settlements of Askham and Upton.
- Low tree cover.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. The pattern of elements is coherent with few detracting features, the most significant being the Doncaster to Newark railway line. Overall the area is **visually unified**.

Intensive arable farming is the predominant land use, there is a small amount of isolated pasture closer to Askham. The agricultural character of the landscape is bisected by the railway which cuts through the Policy Zone from south-east to north-west. Settlement is a relatively subtle feature; Askham village and the hamlet of Upton lie within the area, both are traditional in style, farmhouses are also of the local vernacular. Evidence of the historic field pattern is more apparent in the north where less rationalisation has occurred. Hedgerow field boundaries are generally intact and well maintained with occasional ash or oak trees, though some are unmanaged and a few completely outgrown forming narrow tree belts. The railway corridor is well-vegetated, of diverse age structure and scrubby in places. Tree cover is relatively low throughout the area. The overall cultural integrity is **good**.

Three SINCs are contained within the Policy Zone and comprise areas of grassland and pasture. The ecological integrity is defined as **moderate** which gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity gives a results in a **very good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] resulting in a **moderate** sense of place.

Undulating topography and intermittent tree cover affords a **moderate** visibility. The landform is considered **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility results in **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.
- **Conserve** and enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally to improve visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone.
- **Conserve** hedgerow planting [including ancient hedgerows] and tree belts, particularly along roadsides, also vegetation along the railway corridor, seek to reinforce and enhance as appropriate.
- **Conserve** areas of improved and unimproved grassland.
- **Conserve** the biodiversity and setting of the designated SINCs, seek to enhance where appropriate.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate design and scale around the existing small scale settlements of Askham and Upton. New development should respect the setting of these settlements.
- **Conserve** and respect the local brick built vernacular in any new development.
- Create woodland areas to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: MN PZ 10  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN23

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Very Good</b>
------------------	------------------

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
--------------------	-----------------

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate



**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 10**

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 11**

### **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**

#### **Policy Zone 11: Tuxford**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE AND REINFORCE**

### **Character Summary**

The area is located south of Retford encompassing the larger settlements of Tuxford and East Markham, and smaller villages including West Markham, Bevercotes and several farms. It straddles the A1 at East Markham and Tuxford, the Doncaster to Newark railway line intersects the Policy Zone close to the southern boundary. The A57 forms much of the northern boundary while the southern boundary follows Goosemoor Dyke.

Generally the landform is rolling with large rounded hills in the west. A series of more undulating ridges are apparent in the eastern half of the Policy Zone. Higher ground lies in the west which descends towards the east. Wider views are afforded from higher ground, particularly at the centre of the Policy Zone. Views are more limited in the east and west by topography and settlement allowing relatively enclosed views from lower ground.

Open arable farmland dominates the west of the Policy Zone where fields are delineated by well maintained hedgerows, these have been allowed to grow taller alongside roads and tracks. A significant woodland area; Bevercotes Park and Farley's Wood occupies the south-west corner.

In the east the land use is more diverse comprising arable farmland, and pasture which is close to East Markham and Tuxford; prominent settlement adjacent to the A1. Small areas of industrial and commercial development are located near to Tuxford and several small settlements, including farms, are dotted throughout the area. Field boundaries are predominantly shrubs rather than hedges and are often gappy with no trees apparent, however tree cover is relatively strong within the towns.

## Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 11: Tuxford

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Open arable farmland.
- Small traditional settlements, including listed buildings.
- Unmanaged internal hedgerows.
- Strong well-maintained hedgerows along roadsides.
- Single large woodland block encompassing an area of ancient woodland.
- A1 and railway line.
- Warehousing.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with some detracting features across the Policy Zone; a radio mast, high voltage power lines, an industrial estate/warehouses, the Doncaster to Newark railway line and the A1. Overall this gives a **visually coherent** area.

The overall landscape is fragmented by infrastructure, namely the A1 and railway line, and settlement including East Markham and Tuxford which has expanded and encompasses areas of warehousing south and west of the town. Village centres tend to be quite traditional with more modern development at the edges. Tuxford comprises more non-vernacular buildings than other settlements within the Policy Zone. Vernacular dwellings and farmsteads are of red brick construction, although agricultural outbuildings are modern in style. High brick walls are evident around some properties at East Markham. A number of buildings are listed in the villages and along Great North Road. Generally much of the historic field pattern is lost due to the intensive arable land use. Some isolated pasture occurs within the area. The overall cultural integrity is considered **good**.

One large woodland block is present comprising an area of ancient woodland, Bevercotes Park [SSSI/SINC] surrounded by coniferous and deciduous plantation. There are further SINC's within the Policy Zone including Leys Lane verge. Elsewhere tree cover is relatively low consisting of mature oak and ash within hedges, particularly in the west and becoming less so in the east, along watercourses and around fishing ponds. A strong elm avenue aligns the access road through Milton in the north. Hedgerows are well maintained along roads and lanes whereas internally many are fragmented and unmanaged or have been removed. Post and wire fencing has been used to infill gappy hedgerows. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which overall affords a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually coherent** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity equates to a **good landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

Visibility is assessed as **moderate** and the landform **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility results in **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve and Reinforce

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** and **reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition, particularly internal hedgerows. Seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern/boundaries where these have been lost and introduce more hedgerow trees. **Reinforce** with new planting to replace post and wire fencing.
- **Conserve** permanent pastoral farmland, seek opportunities to revert arable to pasture.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the ecological diversity of Bevercotes Park [SSSI/SINC] and other designated SINC's where appropriate.
- **Conserve** hedgerow trees and tree avenues, **reinforce** as appropriate.
- **Conserve** areas of unimproved grassland, **reinforce** as appropriate.

##### Built Features

- **Reinforce** visual unity and soften built development through additional woodland and landscape planting; this applies to both existing settlement and new development.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the sparsely settled and open rural character of the Policy Zone by concentrating new development of appropriate design and scale around the existing settlements of East Markham and Tuxford, also along transport corridors.
- **Conserve** the local brick built vernacular and **reinforce** this in new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- Sensitive design and siting of new commercial buildings, associated particularly with Tuxford.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: MN PZ 11  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN24, MN25, MN26

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

**Condition** **Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Some

Visual Unity: Coherent

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

**Sensitivity** **Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 11**

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 12**

**Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands  
Policy Zone 12: Normanton-on-Trent**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The area is located south-east of Retford, east of Tuxford and south of the A57 and encompasses High Marnham, Skegby and the larger settlement of Normanton on Trent in the south. Fledborough Beck flows through the north of the Policy Zone, Goosemoor Beck forms the south-western boundary and the Trent valley lies outside the area to the east. The Doncaster to Newark railway intersects the landscape from south to south-west close to the Policy Zone boundary. Great North Road and the A1 lie further south beyond the extent of the area.

Topographically the Policy Zone is quite flat in the north and south and gently undulating in the central area stretching from higher ground in the west to the lower levels in the east. Views from the flatter northern area are generally enclosed by woodland scrub, elsewhere views towards High Marnham which is visually dominated by cooling towers of the decommissioned power station, Normanton and the railway embankment are afforded although these are sometimes interrupted by field boundaries. Extensive views are offered from the south particularly towards the north and west, though not from within Normanton itself. Views tend to be broken by farmsteads, hedgerows and clumps of trees.

Arable land is dominant throughout apart from the southern area where Normanton on Trent occupies a significant proportion of the landscape. Small parcels of pasture are evident across the majority of the area including a reasonable amount close to Normanton. Hedgerows associated with pastoral land are generally continuous and well maintained. Hedgerows generally are variable in their condition, often ditched and contain the odd mature tree. The site of the mediaeval village of Woodcotes is located close to Wells Farm and Woodcoates at the centre of the Policy Zone.

## Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 12: Normanton-on-Trent

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Marnham power station.
- Open arable farmland.
- Vernacular building style throughout the Policy Zone and at Normanton-on-Trent.
- Site of the mediaeval village of Woodcotes.
- Ditch/watercourse network across the area, sometimes alongside hedgerows.
- Long distance views.
- Pylons and high voltage overhead power lines.
- Railway line.
- Narrow hedged lanes.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is moderate and comprises a coherent pattern of elements with some detracting features, including the Doncaster to Newark railway line, Marnham power station, pylons and high voltage power lines. Overall this equates to a **visually coherent** area.

The landscape is predominantly arable farmland with some pastoral located near to farmsteads and settlement. Generally fields have been rationalised due to farming intensification though the historic field pattern remains evident where fields are smaller [pasture]. Normanton-on-Trent has a traditional village core and new development appears to respect the local vernacular. A number of buildings are listed both within the village and throughout the Policy Zone, including Marnham Hall and several brick built farmsteads. The cultural integrity is assessed as **variable**.

There is no significant woodland present but small clumps of oak and ash dotted intermittently across the Policy Zone, Normanton has a reasonable amount of tree cover associated with private gardens and pastoral land. Hedgerows are mainly hawthorn with some ash evident, these are intact around pastoral fields but tend to be fragmented in places elsewhere, particularly in the east, and have been allowed to deteriorate along roadsides and in some cases removed altogether. Some fields are bounded by ditches/watercourses as well as hedgerows. Hedgerow trees are generally ash and oak. Vegetation along the railway corridor is of diverse age structure and scrubby in places. There are no SINCs or other ecological designations within the Policy Zone. The ecological integrity is **moderate** which gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually coherent** area combined with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **moderate landscape condition** overall.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] resulting in a **moderate** sense of place.

**Very high** visibility is afforded owing to the flat open landscape and low tree cover across the area. The landform is considered **dominant**. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **very high** visibility gives **very high landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern, maintain existing drainage ditches/hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.
- **Conserve** and enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally to improve visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone yet retaining long distance views.
- **Conserve** hedgerow planting along roadsides, also vegetation along the railway corridor, seek to reinforce and enhance as appropriate.
- **Conserve** areas of improved and unimproved grassland.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement areas.
- **Conserve** and respect the local brick built vernacular in any new development.
- Create woodland areas to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.
- **Conserve** and respect the historic character and setting of the mediaeval site of Woodcotes village.
- **Conserve** and respect the character and setting of Mamham Hall.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: MN PZ 12

Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN28, MN29, MN30, MN31, MN32

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low

Moderate

High

### Sensitivity

### SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

#### Condition

Moderate

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Some

Visual Unity: Coherent

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Coherent

#### Sensitivity

Very High

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate




Landform: Dominant

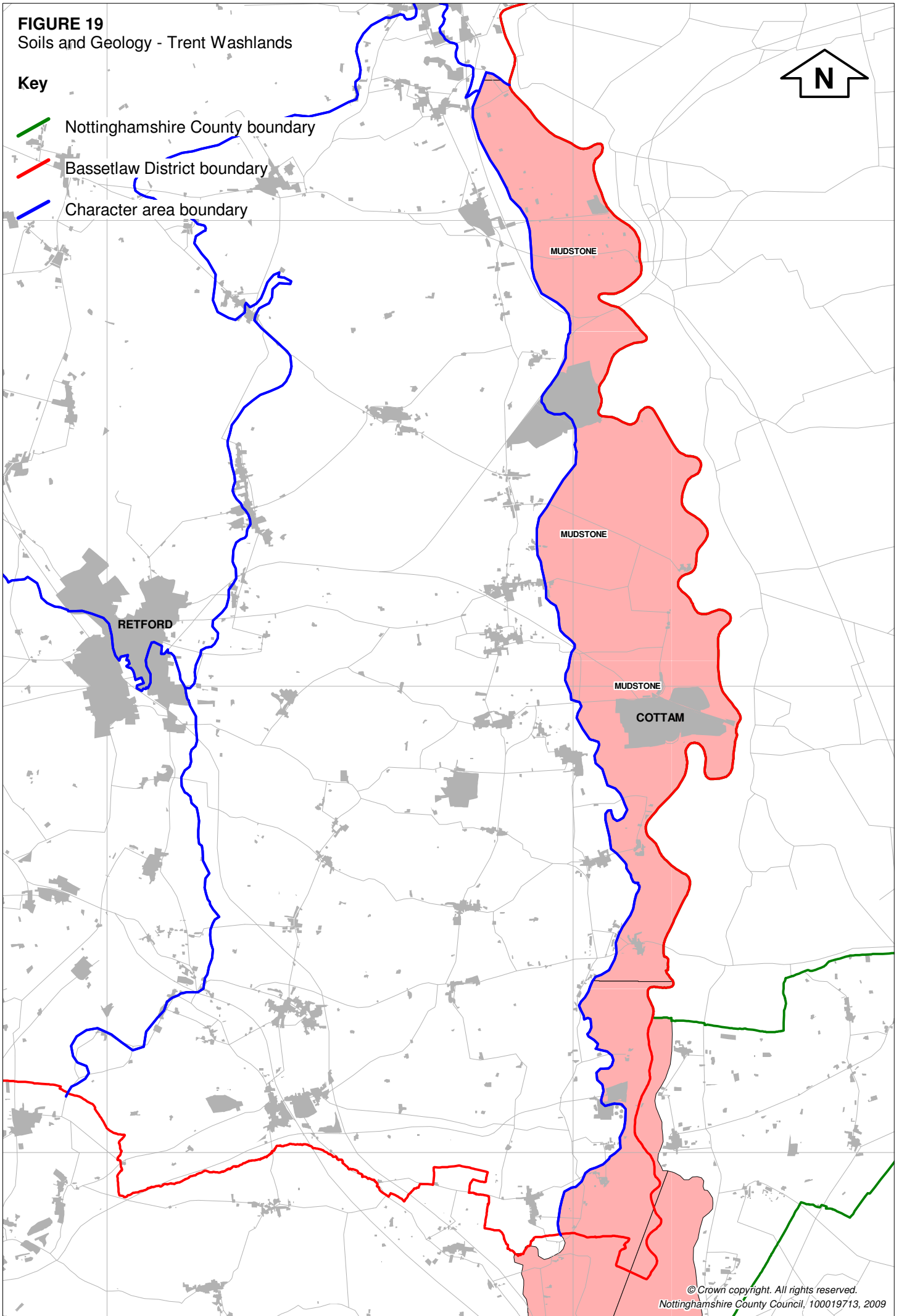
Extent of Tree Cover: Open

Visibility: Very High

**FIGURE 19**  
Soils and Geology - Trent Washlands

**Key**

-  Nottinghamshire County boundary
-  Bassetlaw District boundary
-  Character area boundary






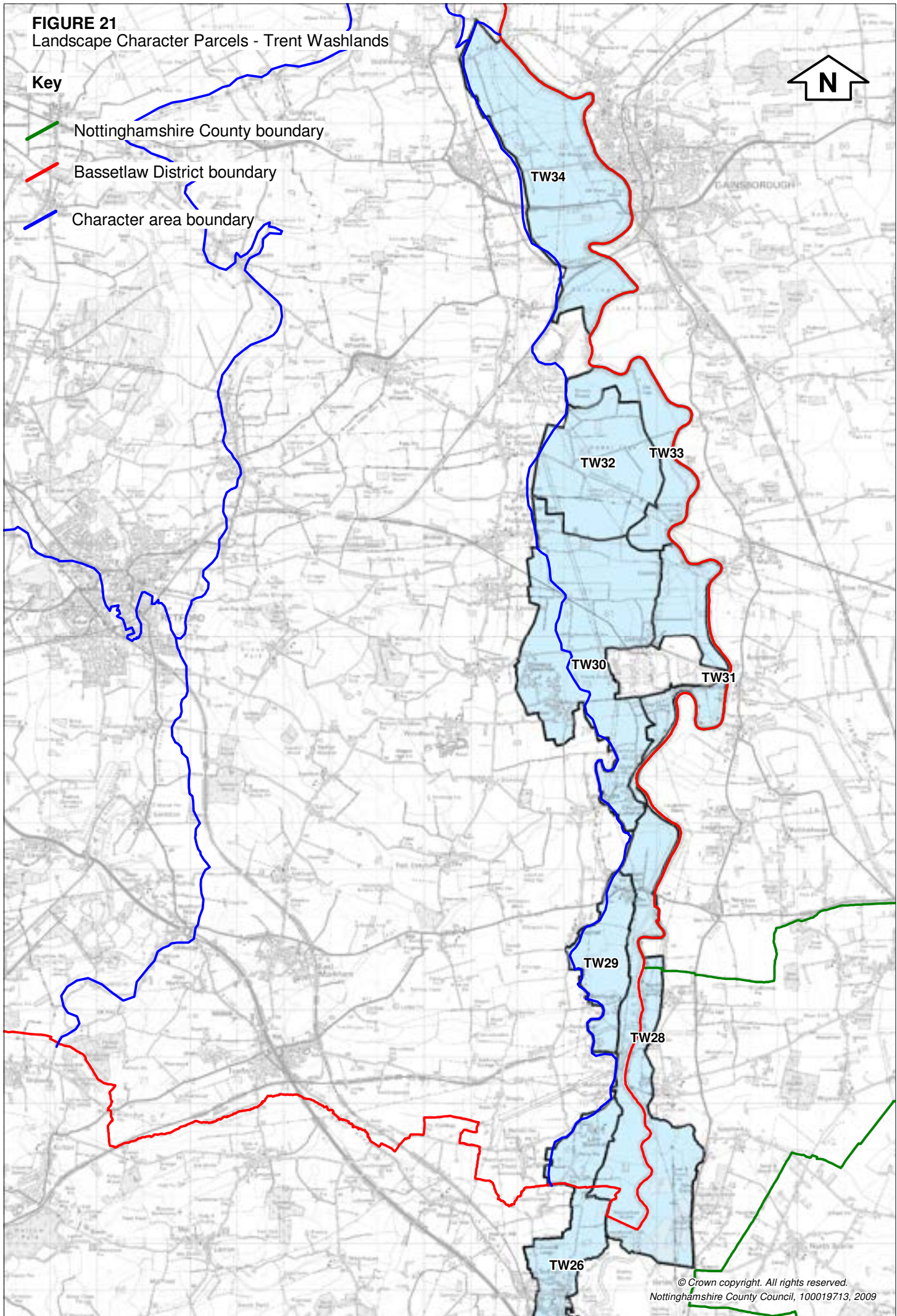




**FIGURE 21**  
Landscape Character Parcels - Trent Washlands

**Key**




-  Nottinghamshire County boundary
-  Bassetlaw District boundary
-  Character area boundary














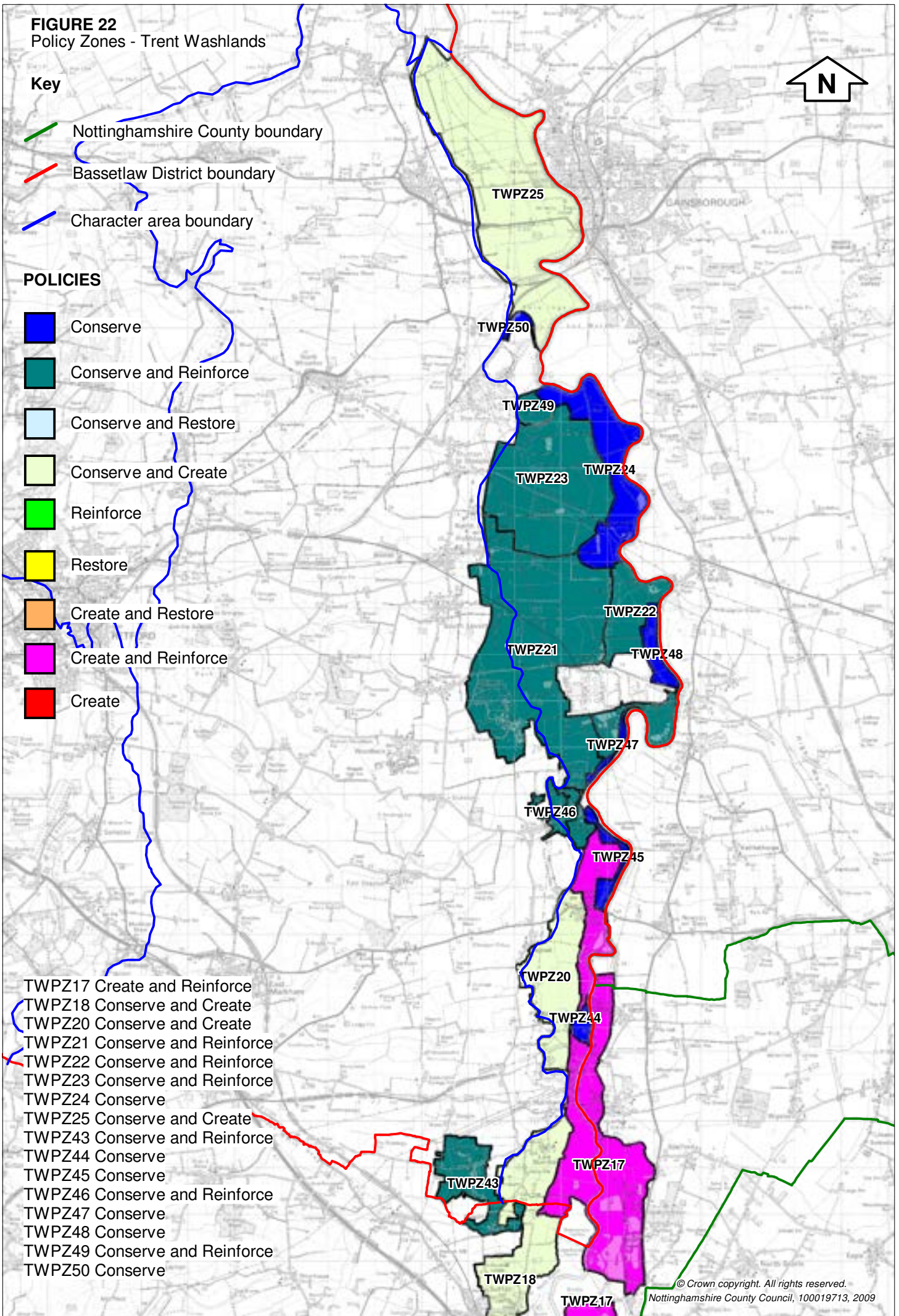
**FIGURE 22**  
Policy Zones - Trent Washlands

**Key**

-  Nottinghamshire County boundary
-  Bassetlaw District boundary
-  Character area boundary

**POLICIES**

-  Conserve
-  Conserve and Reinforce
-  Conserve and Restore
-  Conserve and Create
-  Reinforce
-  Restore
-  Create and Restore
-  Create and Reinforce
-  Create



- TWPZ17 Create and Reinforce
- TWPZ18 Conserve and Create
- TWPZ20 Conserve and Create
- TWPZ21 Conserve and Reinforce
- TWPZ22 Conserve and Reinforce
- TWPZ23 Conserve and Reinforce
- TWPZ24 Conserve
- TWPZ25 Conserve and Create
- TWPZ43 Conserve and Reinforce
- TWPZ44 Conserve
- TWPZ45 Conserve
- TWPZ46 Conserve and Reinforce
- TWPZ47 Conserve
- TWPZ48 Conserve
- TWPZ49 Conserve and Reinforce
- TWPZ50 Conserve

## **TW PZ 17 – Besthorpe River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Create and Reinforce**

#### **Character Summary**

This is a large scale, low lying landscape which follows the meandering course of the River Trent. Mineral extraction and intensive arable farming are the dominant land uses within this area. Several sand and gravel quarries are situated to the eastern bank along the Trent River Valley. There is a large active quarry to the north of Girton Grange and open areas of water at Cromwell. Some of the smaller water bodies are used for recreational purposes such as sailing and fishing and some have established nature reserves such as Besthorpe Nature Reserve.

Arable fields are medium to large and at the time of survey were used for cereal and oil seed rape production. Areas of pasture are fragmented and relatively small with some linear stretches along the river. Grassed flood bunds follow the line of the Trent and several small water courses and ditches drain into the river.

Some of these former gravel extraction sites, such as those around Girton, have been restored to open water and others to wetland habitats surrounded by both recent woodland planting and some regenerating scrub. Hedgerow trees are more frequent in primary hedgerows, the most common species being Ash. Hawthorn, Ash and Willow tend to follow lines of water courses.

There is little settlement in this area being a low lying flood plain. Villages tend to be situated on the slightly higher land on the periphery of the adjoining policy area. There are open views south west from the area around Besthorpe to low wooded hills. Pylons tend to be particularly prominent against the skyline and the cooling towers of High Marnham power station, although they are outside this area, are visible.



## **TW PZ 18 – Low Marnham, Carlton and Sutton on Trent River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Conserve and Create**

#### **Character Summary**

The northern part of the Policy Zone is a flat, open landscape which is largely in arable use. The area to the south, around the linear settlements of Carlton on Trent and Sutton on Trent, is a smaller scale landscape with fields of pasture. There is also an orchard and garden nursery between these villages.

Newer infill development is found within these areas and there are a few isolated dwellings that are generally farms to the south of Low Marnham.

Tree cover consists of narrow belts of trees along the A1 and planting around water bodies. There are some mature parkland trees associated with Carlton Hall.

A few hedgerows have hedgerow trees mostly Ash with a few Oak, Poplar and Willow. Ingram Lane connects Grassthorpe to Sutton and is a very narrow lane with mixed species hedgerows.

The field pattern is made up of semi regular fields to the south east and around Low Marnham with a modified field pattern elsewhere.

There are long distance views out across the arable landscape to the wooded skylines to the east with some views of the cooling towers at High Marnham power station to the north.



# TW PZ 18 Low Marnham, Carlton and Sutton on Trent Village Farmlands

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- A flat, low lying landscape.
- Medium scale fields in arable production.
- Smaller fields of pasture around villages
- Red brick and pantile roofed villages.
- Narrow lanes often enclosed by mixed species hedges.

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The overall condition of this landscape is defined as **moderate**. There are **some** detracting features in this area which include industrial units west of the A1 and west of Carlton on Trent. There is also a short section of the A1 and a railway line within this area, overall it is a **visually coherent** area.

There is one small SINC site - Low Marnham Grassland - within this area but away from the settlements of Carlton and Sutton, fields are in intensive arable use. Field boundaries are trimmed within arable areas with some thicker hedges along lanes and within fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees tend to be Ash. The ecological integrity of the area is **moderate**.

The built features are generally the village settlements that have traditional redbrick village cores with more recent infill housing. Field patterns tend to be more intact in those fields around the village settlements with large modified fields to the north giving a **variable** cultural integrity.

A **moderate** network for wildlife and a **variable** cultural integrity leads to a **coherent** functional integrity /habitat for wildlife. An area which is **visually coherent** with a **coherent** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife gives a **moderate** landscape condition.

### Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**. The small woodland copses and the hedged lanes are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands RCA and the red brick houses and walls within the core of the village settlements are generally **historic** which gives a **moderate** sense of place.

There are some longer distance views out across the flat landscape to the cooling towers of High Marnham power station to the north but, generally, this is a landscape with **moderate** visibility where only the limited tree cover around villages and within hedges screens views.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** degree of visibility leads to **moderate** landscape sensitivity

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Conserve and Create

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the traditional pattern of hedged fields and seek opportunities to recreate the historic field pattern.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture.
- Promote measures for strengthening the level of tree cover by **creating** small scale woodlands and hedgerow tree planting where appropriate.
- **Reinforce** and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- **Conserve** and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.

### Built Features

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- **Conserve** the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around existing settlements of Low Marnham, Carlton and Sutton on Trent.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural or industrial/commercial buildings.

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Sub Type: Village Farmlands  
Policy Zone: TW PZ 18  
Landscape Character Parcel TW26

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

**Condition** **Moderate**

Pattern of Elements:      Coherent

Detracting Features:      Some

Visual Unity:              Coherent

Ecological Integrity:      Moderate

Cultural Integrity:        Variable

Functional Integrity:      Coherent

**Sensitivity** **Moderate**

Distinctiveness:          Characteristic

Continuity:                Historic

Sense of Place:          Moderate

Landform:                Insignificant

Extent of Tree Cover      Open

Visibility:                 Moderate

## **TW PZ 20 Dunham on Trent Village Farmlands Policy: Conserve and Create**

### **Character Summary**

This is a flat, arable landscape with a large geometric field pattern. Hedgerows are gappy and missing in places.

Around Dunham on Trent there is a smaller scale pastoral landscape where small fields are enclosed by bushy mixed species hedgerows.

There is some sub-division of fields for horses adjacent to Dunham and around Manor House in Fledborough.

There is little tree cover apart from occasional hedgerow trees, roadside trees and trees along the railway embankment to the south. To the south of this lies a storage area associated with High Marnham power station. A lagoon in this area is designated as a SINC with “an excellent variety of wetland habitats”.

Varied species trees have been planted along roadsides – these include Ash, Horse Chestnut, Lime and Rowan.

Pylons dominate the skyline to the west and south. High Marnham power station dominates views to the south. The wooded railway embankment to the north of the power station helps to reduce the visual impact to some extent. There are long distance views to wooded skylines in the east and distant views to Cottam and West Burton power stations in the north

# TW PZ 20 Dunham on Trent Village Farmlands

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Predominantly a large scale arable landscape
- Small scale pastoral landscape around Dunham
- Views dominated by power stations and pylons
- Hedgerows often missing or gappy
- Some hedgerow trees and roadside trees present
- Busy road to the north (A57)
- Nucleated village characterised by red brick and pantile roofed buildings
- Long distance views across open landscape

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The overall condition of this landscape is defined as **moderate**. There are **some** detracting features which include the power stations and pylons which dominate views. The busy A57 runs west to east through Dunham. The area is visually **coherent** overall.

The small scale historic field pattern is relatively intact around Dunham on Trent to the north, with pasture areas enclosed by tall bushy hedgerows. South of Dunham many historic field boundaries have been removed and hedgerows are in decline. Field boundaries are often marked by ditches with little riparian vegetation. Cultural integrity is therefore **variable**. Some roadside tree planting has taken place, with species not always appropriate to the area. High Marnham power station lagoon has been designated as a SINC. Tree cover is largely confined to roadsides, hedgerows and the disused railway embankment to the south which provides a good wildlife corridor, the ecological network is **moderate**.

A **moderate** network for wildlife and a **variable** cultural integrity leads to a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife. An area which is **visually coherent** with a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a **moderate** landscape condition.

### Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**. The historic time-depth is evident around Dunham on Trent where the historic field pattern is intact, although the busy A57 detracts from this. South of Dunham the historic time-depth has largely disappeared with the removal of field boundaries and the creation of a flat open landscape. The area as a whole has a **moderate sense of place**.

Isolated houses and buildings within Dunham on Trent are largely **characteristic** in architectural style of the Trent Washlands RCA. Views are largely long distance due to the **lack of tree cover** particularly to the Cottam and West Burton Power stations to the north.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** degree of visibility leads to **moderate** landscape sensitivity

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve and create

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the intact historic pattern of hedged fields and pasture around Dunham on Trent.
- **Create** new hedgerows to replace those lost and plant hedgerow trees where appropriate.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/wet grassland.
- **Reinforce** the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Seek opportunities to **create** small woodland areas to reduce visual impact of power stations.

### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Dunham on Trent.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural or industrial/commercial buildings.

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Sub Type: Village Farmlands  
Policy Zone: TW PZ 20  
Landscape Character Parcel TW29

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

**Moderate**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Some
Visual Unity:	Coherent
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Insignificant
Extent of Tree Cover	Open
Visibility:	Moderate



## **TW PZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands**

### **Policy: Conserve and Reinforce**

#### **Character Summary**

This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The village cores consist of red brick buildings with pantile roofs

The major agricultural land use is cereal and oil seed rape production. There are several camping and caravan parks within the LCP.

There is very limited tree cover within the area. The only small woodlands are north of Rampton around Manor House, north east of Rampton at Rampton Thorns, and Fleet Plantation south of Cottam Power Station. There is some scrub and tree cover along the railway line that cuts across from the south east to the north west past Cottam Power Station

There are mature trees in association with the historic village cores. There are mixed species road side hedges including Hawthorn, Rose, Elder with mature trees - predominantly Ash, but also Willow and Oak. These hedgerows vary in their standard of maintenance. Field boundaries are trimmed, mixed species hedgerows, predominantly Hawthorn with mature trees -mostly Ash, but also Willow and Oak.

There are various small ponds, water courses and ditches dotted throughout the area with associated riparian vegetation

Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east.

There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

**PHOTOGRAPH**



**CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES**

- A predominantly large scale arable landscape
- Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham
- Views dominated by power stations and pylons
- Well trimmed mature hedgerows to internal field boundaries, with trees
- Less well maintained road side hedges, with trees
- Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.
- Limited small woodlands
- Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines

**LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS**

**Landscape Condition**

Landscape Condition is defined as **good**. There is a **coherent** pattern of landscape elements with **few** detracting features within the PZ , the detractors include power lines and freight traffic on mineral lines. Overall this gives a **visually unified** area.

The historic field pattern is intact around the villages of Rampton, Church Laneham and Cottam. Outside the villages some of the field boundaries shown on Sanderson’s plan of 1835 are intact but intervening boundaries have been removed. The overall cultural integrity is described as **variable**

There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands. There are two SINC’s in the PZ designated for aquatic and bankside vegetation and neutral grassland. The ecological network is defined as **moderate** which combined with as **variable** cultural integrity gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a **good landscape condition**

**Landscape Sensitivity**

Landscape Sensitivity is defined as **moderate**. The features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as **historic** (post 1600) which gives a **moderate** sense of place

There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. The landform is **insignificant** and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a **moderate** visibility. A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility leads to **low landscape sensitivity**

**LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Conserve and Reinforce**

**Landscape Features**

- **Conserve** the traditional pattern of hedges, fields and pasture around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham
- Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/wet grassland
- **Reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly along road sides.
- **Reinforce** and strengthen the continuity of ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors
- **Conserve** mature hedge lines along tracks, and promote measures for increasing existing tree cover.

**Built Features**

- **Conserve** the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlements of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

**CONTEXT**

NCC Landscape Type: Village Farmlands  
 Policy Zone: TW PZ 21  
 Landscape Character Parcel TW30

**Condition**

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

**Sensitivity**

**SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS**

**Condition**

**Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual unity	Unified
Cultural Integrity	Variable
Ecological Integrity	Moderate
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

**Sensitivity**

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place	Moderate
Landform	Insignificant
Extent of Tree Cover	Open
Visibility:	Moderate

## **TW PZ 22 - Cottam River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Conserve and Reinforce**

#### **Character Summary**

This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. The northern half of the LCP shows a regular geometric and irregular field pattern. The southern section has a more irregular pattern.

Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.

The largest area of scrub and woodland within the LCP is the Coates Wetland SINC to the north of the LCP. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the river banks; species include Willow, Ash and Hawthorn. Internal field hedges are well trimmed in the pasture areas but some hedges are fragmented between arable fields; species are predominantly Hawthorn with Rose, Elder and Ash

There are two SINCs within this area designated for their aquatic communities: Cottam Wetlands, mentioned above, made up of marshy grassland, swamp and a mosaic of wetlands, and Coates Wetland which is a group of pools with rough grazing. There are two MLAs within the LCP Littleborough (125) and Laneham / Cottam (124). A small portion of the Dunham Laneham (123) MLA is also contained within the south of the area.

This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations.

Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

**PHOTOGRAPH**



**CONTEXT**

NCC Landscape Type - River Meadowlands  
 Policy Zone: TW PZ 22  
 Landscape Character Parcel TW31

**Condition**

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE
Poor			
	Low	Moderate	High
	<b>Sensitivity</b>		

**CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES**

- This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields to the west and pasture fields along the course of the River Trent and to the south
- Views are dominated by Cottam power station
- Mature trees are confined to the riverside and wetland areas and the hedgerows of pasture fields in particular
- Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river
- There are long distance views along the River Trent to the North and South, views are bounded by elevated wooded ridgelines to the east
- The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village

**LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS**

**Landscape Condition**

Landscape condition is defined as **good**. There is a **coherent** pattern of landscape elements with **few** detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power station infrastructure and pylons. Overall this gives a **visually unified** area.

The overall cultural integrity is defined as **variable**. There is moderate tree cover which consists mainly of bands of riverside vegetation. There are 2 SINC sites within the PZ designated for their aquatic interest. The integrity of the ecological network is defined as **moderate**, which together with a **variable** cultural integrity gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife / functional integrity.

A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity/ habitat for wildlife gives a **good** landscape condition

**Landscape Sensitivity**

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as **historic** (post 1600) which gives a **moderate** sense of place.

Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, and long views to the north and south contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

The landform is **insignificant** and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure leads to a **moderate** visibility

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility leads to a landscape of **moderate** landscape sensitivity

**SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS**

**Condition**

**Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity	Unified
Cultural Integrity	Variable
Ecological Integrity	Moderate
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

**Sensitivity**

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of place	Moderate
Extent of Tree Cover	Open
Landform	Insignificant
Visibility:	Moderate

**LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve and Reinforce**

**Landscape Features**

- **Conserve** the traditional historic pattern of hedges, and fields.
- **Conserve** permanent grazing pasture close to the River Trent.
- **Conserve** mature trees to the rivers edge.
- Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/ wet grassland.
- **Reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly around arable fields.
- **Reinforce** and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- **Conserve** and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.

**Built Features**

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Cottam.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

## **TW PZ 23 - Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands Policy: Conserve and Reinforce**

### **Character Summary**

This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area.

Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.

There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP; the only 2 small areas being Fenton Gorse and the woodland south of Cow Pasture Lane. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area, species include Elder, Elm, Hawthorn, Hazel, and Rose. These also contain mature trees, species include Ash and Willow. The roadside hedgerows and internal field boundaries are more fragmented and poorly maintained, species include Hawthorn predominantly, also Elder, Hazel, Rose and Holly.

There are no MLAs with in the area and 1 SINC.

Small water courses are present through out the area; some of these contain aquatic vegetation.

There is very limited settlement within the area and this comprises isolated farms and one residential property Littleborough Cottage. These are a mix of vernacular and non vernacular styles.

Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.

**PHOTOGRAPH**



**CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES**

- This is a flat landscape less than 5metres AOD
- Views are dominated by West Burton and Cottam Power Stations to the north and South
- Mature trees are limited and confined to small woodlands and field access tracks
- The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties
- Field access track hedgerows are mature and of mixed species with mature trees
- Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy
- Watercourses are present throughout the PZ

**LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS**

**Landscape Condition**

Landscape condition is defined as **good**. There is a **unified** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall this gives a **strongly visually unified** area.

The overall cultural integrity is **variable**.

The tree cover is poor, the integrity of the ecological network is **weak** which together with a **variable** cultural integrity gives a **weak** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife overall.

A **strongly visually unified** area with a **weak** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a **good** landscape condition.

**Landscape Sensitivity**

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as **historic** (post 1600) which gives a **moderate** sense of place.

Cottam Power Station to the South and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation. The landform is **insignificant**, there is poor tree cover which leads to a **moderate** visibility both in and out of the PZ.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility leads to a landscape of **moderate** sensitivity

**LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Conserve and Reinforce**

**Landscape Features**

- **Reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly to road edges and field boundaries.
- **Conserve** mature hedgerows to field access tracks.
- **Reinforce** and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Seek opportunities to create small woodlands to reduce visual impact of power stations.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/ wet grassland.
- **Conserve** and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.

**Built Features**

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

**CONTEXT**

NCC Landscape Type: Village farmlands  
 Policy Zone: TW PZ 23  
 Landscape Character Parcel TW32

**Condition**

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

**Sensitivity**

**SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS**

**Condition** **Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Unified
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity	Strongly unified
Cultural Integrity	Variable
Ecological Integrity	Weak
Functional Integrity:	Weak

**Sensitivity** **Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Insignificant
Extent of Tree Cover	Open
Visibility:	Moderate

## **TW PZ 24 - Littleborough River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Conserve**

#### **Character Summary**

This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds.

Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape.

There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP. The only woodland area is a narrow strip to the west of Littleborough. There are mature trees, species include Ash, Beech Oak, and Willow, and mature hedgelines including Holly within the settlement of Littleborough. Out Ings SINC contains some scrubby woodland. Mature trees are present in the riverside vegetation, species include Ash, Oak Sycamore, and Willow. Field boundary hedgerows are weak and gappy. The hedgerow species is predominantly Hawthorn; trees include Oak and Sycamore. The field access tracks have stronger, more mature hedgerows, species include Elder, Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn and Rose with mature trees including Ash.

There are 4 SINC's within the area - including Littleborough Lagoons and Out Ings, both designated for their aquatic communities. The Ferries MLA (18) forms the northern end of the LCP.

The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, and other water courses drain into this.

The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in red brick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction.

West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation.



# TW PZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south
- Views are dominated by West Burton power station
- Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village
- Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river
- There are long distance views to the north and south , views are bounded by elevated ridgelines to the east
- The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough , characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

Landscape condition is defined as **very good**. There is a **unified** pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall this gives a **strongly visually unified** area.

The overall cultural integrity is **good** due largely to the maturity of vegetation and time depth of the ancient settlement of Littleborough

Tree cover is low, there are 4 SINCS in the area mostly designated for their aquatic communities, the integrity of the ecological network is **moderate** which together with a **variable** cultural integrity gives a **strong** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife overall

A **strongly visually unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a **very good** landscape condition

### Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/ time depth is described as **historic** (post 1600)' although the settlement of Littleborough is ancient, which gives a **moderate** sense of place.

West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The landform is **insignificant**, there is poor tree cover/ sense of enclosure which leads to **moderate** visibility.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility leads to a landscape of **moderate** Sensitivity

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** permanent grazing pasture adjacent to the River Trent and change arable land to permanent pasture where appropriate.
- **Conserve** mature trees to river edge, and within the village of Littleborough
- **Reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly to field boundaries
- **Reinforce** and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors
- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grassland
- **Conserve** and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows

### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Littleborough
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Sub Type: River Meadowlands  
Policy Zone: TW PZ 24  
Landscape Character Parcel TW33

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low Moderate High

### Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

**Condition** **Very good**

Pattern of Elements:	Unified
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity	Strongly unified
Cultural Integrity	Good
Ecological Integrity	Moderate
Functional Integrity:	Strong

**Sensitivity** **Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Insignificant
Extent of Tree Cover	Open
Visibility:	Moderate



## **TW PZ 25 Beckingham River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Restore and Create**

#### **Character Summary**

This is a completely flat landscape which is all less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area.

Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture in the centre of the area and a narrow strip of unimproved pasture to the edge of the river. There is a small industrial area (The Old Ship Yard) in the centre of the LCP adjacent to the River Trent. There is small scale oil extraction within this LCP.

There are no areas of woodland within the LCP, except for a narrow scrubby strip along the river edge containing mature Willow. There are small areas of scrubby woodland within the SINC's and within the MLA described below. Field boundary hedgerows are poor and out grown with an open base and are predominantly Hawthorn. Roadside hedgerows are more intact, mainly Hawthorn with mature trees including Ash and Oak.

There are 7 SINC's within the LCP – including Bole Ings, Bole Ings flood pasture, and Bole Ings drain, designated for their aquatic communities. There is one MLA - Bole Ings (126), which contains a small area of broad leaved woodland comprising Willow and Hawthorn. The hedgerows within the MLA site are generally strong and bushy comprising mainly Hawthorn.

The LCP contains many straight watercourses which follow field boundaries.

There is limited settlement within the area except for isolated farms. Some buildings contain vernacular features but others are modern. Industrial buildings tend to be modern fabricated units.

There are views of West Burton Power station to the south. Power lines pass through the length of the LCP. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are constrained by the built edge of the town of Gainsborough. Views to the east are constrained by rising topography and wooded ridge lines.

# TW PZ 25 Beckingham River Meadowlands

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- A predominantly large scale arable landscape
- Narrow strip of permanent pasture close to the river
- Views dominated by power stations and pylons
- Poorly maintained field boundary hedgerows
- Stronger roadside hedgerows with trees
- No woodland except for a thin strip adjacent to river edge
- Long distance views north and south across open landscapes, long distance views east and west constrained by landform to the west and built development of Gainsborough to the east.
- Water courses throughout the area

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Condition

Landscape condition is defined as **moderate**. There is a **coherent** pattern of landscape elements with **some** detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power lines which cross the area from north to south. Overall this gives a **visually coherent** area.

The overall cultural integrity is described as **variable**, many of the internal historical filed boundaries have been removed. The historic pattern is still recognisable to the north although it has been lost to the southern end of the PZ.

There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to hedgerows and the Rivers edge. There are 7 SINCS in the PZ mostly designated for their aquatic communities. The integrity of the ecological network is defined as **moderate** which together with a **variable** cultural integrity overall gives a **moderate** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife.

A **visually coherent** area with **moderate** functional integrity/ habitat for wildlife overall gives a **moderate** landscape condition

### Sensitivity

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/ time depth is described as **historic** (post 1600) which gives a **moderate** sense of place.

The landform is **insignificant** and this is an **open** landscape which leads to **moderate** visibility in and out of the PZ.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility leads to **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Conserve and Create

### Landscape Features

- **Create** internal field boundaries where these have been lost.
- **Restore** field boundaries where these are gappy and in poor condition
- **Conserve** the permanent grazing pasture adjacent to the river.
- **Conserve** mature woodland adjacent to river
- **Reinforce** and strength the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors
- Promote measures to reinforce the traditional pattern character of farm buildings using vernacular materials and styles
- **Create and restore** wet grassland ( RSPB project in progress in this area)
- Enhance visual unity through appropriate small-scale tree and woodland planting

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape sub Type: River Meadowlands  
Policy Zone: TW PZ 25  
Landscape Character Parcel TW34

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

### Moderate

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Some

Visual Unity: Coherent

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Moderate

### Sensitivity

### Moderate

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Insignificant

Extent of Tree Cover: Open

Visibility: Moderate

**Built Features**

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development to the western fringe close to Beckingham and around existing development along the riverside.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural and industrial/commercial buildings

## **TW PZ 43 Grassthorpe River Meadowlands Policy: Conserve and Reinforce**

### **Character Summary**

This is largely a flat valley landscape rising gently to the west. The field pattern is semi-irregular with small sized fields of species-rich pasture.

Grassthorpe is a nucleated village characterised by red brick and pantile roofed buildings. There are three Listed Buildings within the village. Grassthorpe Beck is a prominent feature within the village with metal railings to the bridge across the road and mature trees along the road and beck.

Mixed species hedgerows are generally tall and bushy, some are trimmed. Species include Hawthorn, Field Maple, Elm, Elder, Blackthorn etc

Hedgerow trees are common, including Ash, Horse Chestnut, Beech, Lime and Sycamore within the village.

Views are generally restricted within the village by trees and hedgerows along roads and tracks.

# TW PZ 43 Grassthorpe River Meadowlands

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Small to medium-sized irregular fields of species rich pasture
- Strong mixed species hedgerows
- Hedgerow trees including Ash, Sycamore and Horse Chestnut
- Large mature trees along Grassthorpe Beck/Town Lane are a prominent feature
- Nucleated village characterised by red brick and pantile roofed buildings
- Restricted views within Grassthorpe and along roads/tracks with tall hedgerows

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The overall condition of this landscape is defined as **very good**.

The pattern of landscape elements is **coherent**. The area has **few** detracting features; these include isolated farm buildings which are in a poor state of repair, giving a neglected appearance. Overall this is a **visually unified** area.

Vernacular style houses are dominant in Grassthorpe. There are three Listed buildings within the village. The historic field pattern is still evident and hedgerows are generally well maintained, therefore the cultural integrity is **good**.

There are no SINC's or other ecological designations in the area. Mixed species hedgerows are largely intact and well maintained. Hedgerows are gappy in places. Hedgerows and streams provide a **moderate** network for wildlife. Tree cover is mostly within hedgerows and along watercourses.

A **moderate** network for wildlife and a **good** cultural integrity leads to a **strong** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife. An area that is **visually coherent** with a **strong** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife gives a **very good** landscape condition.

### Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **low**.

The historic time depth is evident throughout the area. The field pattern remains unchanged since the Sanderson Plan of 1835. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands RCA and the continuity / time depth is **historic** (post 1600), it has a **moderate** sense of place.

Views within Grassthorpe and along roads and tracks are generally restricted by trees and hedgerows. The landform is **apparent** and has **high tree cover** which gives a degree of enclosure which leads to **low** visibility of the area from outside the PZ.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **low** degree of visibility leads to **low** landscape sensitivity.

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Conserve and Reinforce

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the traditional pattern of hedged fields.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture.
- **Reinforce** and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- Enhance visual unity through appropriate small-scale tree and woodland planting.
- **Conserve** and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.

### Built Features

- Promote measures for **reinforcing** the traditional vernacular character of farm buildings.
- **Conserve** the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around existing settlement of Grassthorpe.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Sub Type: River Meadowlands  
Policy Zone: TW PZ 43  
Landscape Character Parcel TW27

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE
Poor			

Low Moderate High

### Sensitivity

NB: Where one criterion is 'very good' this pushes the policy description into the next highest category.

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

**Condition** **Very Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

**Sensitivity** **Low**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Enclosed

Visibility: Low

## **TW PZ 44 Fledborough Holme River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Conserve**

#### **Character Summary**

This is a riverside landscape located within the Trent Valley floodplain. The area is located on the western bank of the River Trent, to the east of the settlement of Fledborough. The area comprises of a small area of lightly grazed common land that lies within and around a small oxbow. The Trent Viaduct and the decommissioned Upper Marnham Power Station site are located to the south, outside the policy zone area.

The area generally has a flat topography with a raised grass flood bank along the northern edge of the area. This is a low-lying area of unimproved permanent pasture with a slightly wetter area to the west containing Willows and Thorns. The species-rich meadow includes species such as Sorrel, Great Burnet, Daisy, Dandelion, Crested Dogs Tail and Meadow Fox Tail.

There are open views to the north, south and east. Views to the west are enclosed by Fledborough village and the surrounding landform. The views to the south are dominated by the Trent Viaduct and the power station site. Powerlines run from the north to the south across the centre of the area.

The area has one SINC site which is Fledborough Holme, a small oxbow and unimproved pasture, and a length of the River Trent.

# TW PZ 44 Fledborough Holme River Meadowlands

## PHOTOGRAPH –



## CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Flat, open topography
- Irregular fields of species-rich flood meadow and pasture
- Small area of “holme” grassland
- Unimproved pasture with wetter areas containing Willow and Thorn
- Small oxbow
- Trees and riparian vegetation associated with ditches and watercourses
- Open views

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The overall condition of this landscape is defined as **very good**.

The pattern of landscape elements is **coherent**. The area has **few** detracting features, pylons run from the north to the south through the centre of the area. The Trent Viaduct dominates views to the south. Overall this is a **strongly visually unified** area.

This is an intact landscape that is in very good condition. The historic field pattern is evident throughout the area; therefore the cultural integrity is **good**.

The area has one SINC site, which is Fledborough Holme. The areas of Willow and Thorn, unimproved pasture, flood meadow and other riparian habitats provide a **moderate** network of wildlife corridors.

A **moderate** network for wildlife and a **good** cultural integrity leads to a **strong** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife. An area that is **strongly visually unified** with a **strong** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife gives a **very good** landscape condition.

### Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**.

The historic time depth is evident throughout the area, the field pattern remains unchanged since the Sanderson Plan of 1835. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands RCA and the continuity/time depth is **historic** (post 1600). The area has a **moderate** sense of place created by the small oxbow, unimproved pasture, flood meadow, trees, and the adjacent historic settlement.

There are open views to the north, south and west. The views to the west are enclosed by the settlements of Fledborough and the rising landform to the far west. The landform is **insignificant** and has limited tree cover which leads to **moderate** visibility of the area from outside the PZ.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** degree of visibility leads to **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the traditional pattern of hedged fields to the south-west of the area and seek opportunities to reinforce the historic field pattern with new hedgerow planting where appropriate
- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture
- **Conserve** and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors
- **Conserve** and protect the open and sparsely settled character of “holme” grassland
- Enhance visual unity through appropriate small-scale tree and woodland planting
- **Conserve** and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Sub Type: River Meadowlands  
Policy Zone: TW PZ 44  
Landscape Character Parcel TW28

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE
Poor			
	Low	Moderate	High

### Sensitivity

NB: Where one criterion is ‘very good’ this pushes the policy description into the next highest category.

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition **Very Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Strongly Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Strong

### Sensitivity **Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Insignificant
Extent of Tree Cover	Open
Visibility:	Moderate

**Built Features**

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.



## **TW PZ 45 Dunham Laneham River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Conserve**

#### **Character Summary**

This is a pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent, to the east of the settlement of Church Laneham.

The area has a generally flat topography except for a grass flood bank which follows the course of the River.

The area generally consists of linear strips of improved grassland, with a small area of unimproved permanent pasture to the north. There has been some encroachment of arable fields to the west of the area.

The area has an intermittent tree cover. Trees and riparian vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape and include Willow, Ash, Horse Chestnut and Hawthorn. There is a line of pollarded Willow trees to the south of the area.

The field boundaries are post and wire fencing to the north and dense mixed species hedgerows with mature Willow trees to the south.

The views to the north are enclosed by mature Willow trees and by Laneham and Church Laneham villages. To the south, the area is enclosed by the settlement of Dunham on Trent. There are open views to the east and west.

A public right of way runs along the western bank of the River.

**PHOTOGRAPH –**



**CHARACTERISTIC VSUAL FEATURES**

- Flat topography
- Linear strips of improved and unimproved pasture which follow the course of the River Trent
- Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses
- Pollarded willows
- Grass flood bank

**LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS**

**Landscape Condition**

The overall condition of this landscape is defined as **very good**.

The pattern of landscape elements is **unified**. The area has **few** detracting features. Overall this is a **strongly visually unified** area.

The historic field pattern is evident and the hedgerows are generally intact therefore the cultural integrity is **good**.

The area has one SINC site - Dunham Drain, a drain with a lush growth of emergent vegetation. The trees, species-rich hedgerows, improved and unimproved pasture and riparian vegetation along watercourses provide a **moderate** network of wildlife habitats.

A **moderate** network for wildlife and a **good** cultural integrity leads to a **strong** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife. An area that is **strongly visually unified** with a **strong** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife gives a **very good** landscape condition.

**Landscape Sensitivity**

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**.

The historic time–depth is evident. There has been some encroachment of arable farmland to the west, but the field pattern remains largely unchanged since the Sanderson Plan of 1835. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands RCA and the continuity / time depth is **historic** (post 1600). The area has a **moderate** sense of place.

The views to the north are enclosed by mature Willow trees and by Laneham and Church Laneham villages; to the south, the area is enclosed by the settlement of Dunham on Trent. There are open views to the east and west.

The landform is **insignificant** and has limited tree cover which leads to **moderate** visibility of the area from outside the PZ.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** degree of visibility leads to a **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

**LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve**

**Landscape Features**

- **Conserve** existing hedgerows and seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern with new hedgerow planting.
- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture.
- **Conserve** and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation.
- **Conserve** pollarded Willows and seek opportunities to re-pollard Willows to maintain the traditional riparian character of the landscape.
- Enhance visual unity through appropriate small-scale tree and woodland planting.
- **Conserve** and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.
- **Conserve** and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.

**CONTEXT**

NCC Landscape Sub Type: River Meadowlands  
 Policy Zone: TW PZ 45  
 Landscape Character Parcel: TW 30

**Condition**

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE
Poor			
	Low	Moderate	High

**Sensitivity**

NB: Where one criterion is 'very good' this pushes the policy description into the next highest category.

**SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS**

**Condition** **Very Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Unified
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Strongly Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Strong

**Sensitivity** **Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Insignificant
Extent of Tree Cover	Open
Visibility:	Moderate

**Built Features**

- **Conserve** the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around existing settlements of Church Laneham and Dunham on Trent
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

## **TW PZ 46 Church Laneham River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Conserve and Reinforce**

#### **Character Summary**

This is a flat, low-lying pastoral landscape located to the east of the settlement of Laneham, and to the west of the settlement of Church Laneham. The River Trent flows northwards along the north-east boundary of the area. A stream flows from the south west to the north east across the area, along the southern side of Church Laneham.

The area consists of small irregular fields of improved and unimproved pasture. There is a small arable field to the north and, to the east, there is one field of ridge and furrow. River bunds follow the stream around Church Laneham and the western bank of the River.

There are mature Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation along ditches and open channels of water. The area has mature stands of Willow with occasional Poplar trees. To the south, there is a row of large pollarded Crack Willows along roads and streams.

The fields and lanes are enclosed by well maintained, species-rich hedgerows (Hawthorn, Bramble spp, Blackthorn, Wych Elm, Elder, Ash and Field Maple) with occasional Ash standard trees. To the east, there is a large bushy hedgerow (Hawthorn, Elder, Blackthorn, Rose spp, Hop and Ash) along Moor Lane; and a possibly ancient hedgerow (Hawthorn, Field Maple, English Elm, Elder and Rose spp) with Oak and Ash standard trees along Clayhough Lane.

The Trent Valley Way runs from the south west to the north east across the centre of the area.

**PHOTOGRAPH –**



**CONTEXT**

NCC Landscape Sub Type: River Meadowlands  
 Policy Zone: TW PZ 46  
 Landscape Character Parcel: TW 30

**Condition**

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE
Poor			
	Low	Moderate	High

**Sensitivity**

**CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES**

- Flat topography
- Improved and unimproved pasture
- Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses
- Pollarded willows
- Well maintained, species-rich hedgerows, some ancient

**LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS**

**Landscape Condition**

The overall condition of this landscape is defined as **good**.

The pattern of landscape elements is **coherent**. The area has **few** detracting features, pylons run from the north to the south along the centre of the area; and there is a caravan and camping site located to the north of the area. Overall this is a **visually unified** area.

The historic field pattern is evident and the hedgerows are generally intact along the roads and adjacent to the villages therefore the cultural integrity is **variable**.

The area has no SINC designations. The trees, species-rich hedgerows, improved and unimproved pasture and riparian vegetation along watercourses provide a **moderate** network of wildlife habitats.

A **moderate** network for wildlife and a **variable** cultural integrity leads to a **coherent** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife. An area that is **visually unified** with a **coherent** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife has a **good** landscape condition.

**Landscape Sensitivity**

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**.

The historic time–depth is evident. The small field boundaries have survived the intensification of farming which has occurred to the far north, outside the Policy Zone area, and the field pattern remains largely unchanged since the Sanderson Plan of 1835. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands RCA and the continuity / time-depth is **historic** (post 1600). The area has a **moderate** sense of place.

The views are enclosed to the north of the area by large mature Willow trees. The views in the south of the area are enclosed to the north and west by trees and the villages of Laneham and Church Laneham. There are open views to the south and east. The landform is **insignificant** and has limited tree cover which leads to **moderate** visibility of the area from outside the PZ.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** degree of visibility leads to a **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

**SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS**

**Condition**

**Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

**Sensitivity**

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Insignificant
Extent of Tree Cover	Open
Visibility:	Moderate

**LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Conserve and Reinforce**

**Landscape Features**

- **Conserve** existing hedgerows and seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern with new hedgerow planting.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** pasture areas and seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture.
- Promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation.
- **Conserve** pollarded Willows and seek opportunities to re-pollard Willows to maintain the traditional riparian character of the landscape.
- **Conserve** and seek measures to protect the character of village-side pastoral sites.
- **Conserve** ridge and furrow features.
- **Conserve** and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.

**Built Features**

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around existing settlements of Church Laneham.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

## **TW PZ 47 Laneham Cottam River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Conserve**

#### **Character Summary**

This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the north of the settlement of Church Laneham and to the south of Cottam Power Station.

The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, following the course of the river.

The area consists of a narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.

Trees and riparian vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape and include Willow, Elder, Ash, Crab Apple, Hawthorn and Blackthorn. There is a line of pollarded Willow trees to the south of the area. This is a generally open riverside landscape with few field boundaries.

The views to the north are dominated by Cottam Power Station. There are open views to the east. The views to the south and west are enclosed by the grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area.

The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.

**PHOTOGRAPH –**



**CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES**

- Flat topography
- A narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture following the course of the River Trent
- Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses
- Pollarded willows
- Grass flood bank

**LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS**

**Landscape Condition**

The overall condition of this landscape is defined as **very good**.

The pattern of landscape elements is **unified**. The area has **few** detracting features. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far north, outside the Policy Zone area. Overall this is a **strongly visually unified** area

The historic field pattern is still evident; therefore the cultural integrity is **good**. Although the area has no SINC designations the trees, improved and unimproved pasture, and riparian vegetation provide a **strong** network of wildlife habitats.

A **strong** network for wildlife and a **good** cultural integrity leads to a **very strong** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife. An area that is strongly **visually unified** with a **very strong** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife has a **very good** landscape condition.

**Landscape Sensitivity**

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**.

The historic field pattern is still evident; the grass flood protection bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands RCA and the continuity / time depth is **historic** (post 1600). The area has a **moderate** sense of place.

The views to the north are dominated by Cottam Power Station. There are open views to the east. The views to the south and west are enclosed by the grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area. The landform is **insignificant** and has limited tree cover which leads to **moderate** visibility of the area from outside the PZ.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** degree of visibility leads to a **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

**LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve**

**Landscape Features**

- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture.
- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- **Conserve** and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation.
- **Conserve** pollarded Willows and seek opportunities to re-pollard Willows to maintain the traditional riparian character of the landscape.
- Enhance visual unity through appropriate small-scale tree and woodland planting.
- **Conserve** and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.
- **Conserve** and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.

**Built Features**

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.

**CONTEXT**

NCC Landscape Sub Type: River Meadowlands  
 Policy Zone: TW PZ 47  
 Landscape Character Parcel: TW 30, TW 31

**Condition**

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE
Poor			
	Low	Moderate	High

**Sensitivity**

NB: Where one criterion is 'very good' this pushes the policy description into the next highest category.

**SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS**

**Condition** **Very Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Unified
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Strongly Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Very Strong

**Sensitivity** **Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Insignificant
Extent of Tree Cover	Open
Visibility:	Moderate



## **TW PZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Conserve**

#### **Character Summary**

This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area.

The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, and follows the course of the river.

The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.

The area has an intermittent tree cover. Willow trees and riparian vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape. The fields are enclosed by mature, well maintained, bushy Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Willow standard trees.

There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station.

The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.

**PHOTOGRAPH –**



**CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES**

- Flat topography
- A narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture following the course of the River Trent
- Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses
- Well maintained, bushy, Hawthorn hedgerows with Willow and Ash hedgerow trees
- Grass flood bank

**LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS**

**Landscape Condition**

The overall condition of this landscape is defined as **very good**.

The pattern of landscape elements is **unified**. The area has few detracting features. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. Overall this is a **strongly visually unified** area

The historic field pattern is still evident therefore the cultural integrity is **good**. Although the area has no SINC designations the trees, improved and unimproved pasture, and riparian vegetation provide a **moderate** network of wildlife habitats.

A **moderate** network for wildlife and a **good** cultural integrity leads to a **strong** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife. An area that is strongly **visually unified** with a **strong** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife has a **very good** landscape condition.

**Landscape Sensitivity**

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**.

The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands RCA and the continuity / time depth is **historic** (post 1600). The area has a **moderate** sense of place.

There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station. The landform is **apparent** and has **intermittent tree cover** which leads to **moderate** visibility of the area from outside the PZ.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** degree of visibility leads to a **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

**LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve**

**Landscape Features**

- Promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands
- **Conserve** and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation
- **Conserve** pollarded Willows and seek opportunities to re-pollard Willows to maintain the traditional riparian character of the landscape
- Seek opportunities to re-create historic field boundaries
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture
- **Conserve** and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows
- **Conserve** and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape

**Built Features**

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.

**CONTEXT**

NCC Landscape SubType: River Meadowlands  
 Policy Zone: TW PZ 48  
 Landscape Character Parcel: TW 31

**Condition**

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE
Poor			
	Low	Moderate	High

**Sensitivity**

NB: Where one criterion is 'very good' this pushes the policy description into the next highest category.

**SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS**

**Condition** **Very Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Unified
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Strongly Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Strong

**Sensitivity** **Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

## **TW PZ 49 The Ferries River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Conserve and Reinforce**

#### **Character Summary**

This a flat area of pasture and fields used for oil seed rape production, crossed by hedgerows which reflect the historic field pattern.

The area of pasture is generally circular shaped, reflecting the shape of a former meander of the River Trent which is located to the east. The site of the medieval village of West Burton is located immediately to the west outside the Policy Zone area. West Burton Power Station is situated immediately to the north, again outside the Policy area. Catchwater Drain runs along the eastern edge of the area. A grassed flood defence bund separates the area from the River.

There is an area of broadleaved woodland (Willow, Hawthorn), known as the Burton Round Woodland, to the south east of the area which reflects the circular shape of the meander. Trees within this area are over mature and in decline; species include Willow and Hawthorn. There is riparian vegetation along the Catchwater Drain and a stream within the Policy Zone which includes pollarded Willows. The hedgerows consist mostly of Hawthorn and are in a variable condition and gappy in places.

There is no built development within the area.

Views out of the area are constrained by the flood banks, woodland and the power station to the north.

**PHOTOGRAPH –**



**CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES**

- A predominantly flat, pastoral landscape
- View to the north dominated by West Burton power station
- Small woodlands of mature trees and riparian vegetation along drains
- Pollarded willows to drains
- Field boundary hedgerows gappy and in decline

**LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS**

**Landscape Condition**

The landscape condition is defined as **good**.

There is a **coherent** pattern of landscape elements with **few** detracting features within the PZ; the main detracting feature is the Power Station outside the PZ. Overall this gives a **visually unified** area.

The historic field pattern is intact within the PZ in comparison with historic maps but the area of woodland has reduced in size; hedgeline quality is declining. The cultural integrity is described as **variable**.

There is limited tree cover overall, mature trees are confined to the Burton Round woodland and bands of vegetation along the drainage features including pollarded Willow. Hedge rows vary in quality. There are no SINC's in the PZ. The ecological integrity is defined as **moderate**, which gives a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife.

A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a **good** landscape condition

**Landscape Sensitivity**

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**.

The features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands and the continuity time depth is described as **historic** (post 1600) which gives a **moderate** sense of place. However the integrity of the historic pattern is declining due to tree and hedgerow removal and change from a pastoral land use to arable production.

The landform is **insignificant** and there is limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a **moderate** visibility of the area in and out of the PZ. A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility leads to **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

**LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Conserve and Reinforce**

**Landscape Features**

- **Conserve** the historic pattern of hedges, and fields.
- **Reinforce** meadowland hedgerows where these are in decline and gappy along field boundaries.
- **Reinforce** and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- **Conserve** existing pollarded Willows and re-pollard willows where appropriate.
- **Conserve** existing mature woodland and seek opportunities to increase existing tree cover around the perimeter of the central fields.
- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture.
- **Conserve** and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.

**Built Features**

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.

**CONTEXT**

NCC Landscape Sub Type: River Meadowlands  
 Policy Zone: TW PZ 49  
 Landscape Character Parcel: TW 33

**Condition**

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

**Sensitivity**

**SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS**

**Condition** **Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

**Sensitivity** **Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Insignificant
Extent of Tree Cover	Open
Visibility:	Moderate

## **TW PZ 50 Bole Ings River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Conserve**

#### **Character Summary**

The Policy Zone consists of an area of pasture, the shape of which reflects a former meander of the River Trent which lies to the east of the Policy Zone.

The rough grassland is floristically rich including meadowsweet, sorrel, vetches, buttercup, willow herb and invasive species such as thistles and nettles. Parts of the grassland are scrubbing over with Hawthorn and Elder. A small area of broadleaved woodland lies to the north consisting of Willow and Hawthorn thicket. Hedgerows which follow field boundaries are generally strong, tall and bushy consisting mainly of Hawthorn.

There are no SINC's within the area.

There is no built development within the area.

Views to the south are dominated by West Burton Power Station outside the Policy Zone and the river is screened from the site by flood banks.

# TW PZ 50 Bole Ings River Meadowlands

## PHOTOGRAPH –



## CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- A predominantly flat, pasture area being invaded by scrub
- View to the south dominated by West Burton Power Station
- Small woodlands of mature trees
- Field boundary hedgerows tall and bushy

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The landscape condition is defined as **very good**.

There is a **unified** pattern of landscape elements with **few** detracting features within the PZ; the main detracting feature is the Power Station to the south outside the PZ. Overall this gives a **strongly unified** area.

The historic field pattern is intact within the PZ in comparison with historic maps but the area of woodland has reduced in size, hedgeline quality is declining in that they are not being maintained. The cultural integrity is described as **good**.

There is limited tree cover overall, mature trees are confined to the small woodland. Hedge rows are tall and bushy. There are no SINC's in the PZ. The ecological integrity is defined as **strong**, which gives a **very strong** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife.

A strongly **visually unified** area with a **very strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a very **good** landscape condition

### Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**.

The features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands and the continuity time depth is described as **historic** (post 1600) which gives a **moderate** sense of place.

The landform is **insignificant** and there is a limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a **moderate** visibility in and out of the PZ. A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility leads to **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the historic pattern of hedges and fields.
- **Conserve** existing mature woodland and seek opportunities to increase existing tree cover.
- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture.
- Retain and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation.
- **Conserve** and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.
- **Conserve** and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.

### Built Features

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Sub Type: River Meadowlands  
Policy Zone: TW PZ 50  
Landscape Character Parcel: TW 34

## Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE
	Low	Moderate	High

## Sensitivity

NB: Where one criterion is 'very good' this pushes the policy description into the next highest category.

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition Very Good

Pattern of Elements:	Unified
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Strongly unified
Ecological Integrity:	Strong
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Very Strong

### Sensitivity Moderate

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Insignificant
Extent of Tree Cover:	Open
Visibility:	Moderate