

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

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Large scale open landscape.
- Intensive arable farmland; drainage ditches dominant as field boundaries.
- Network of watercourses; Rivers Trent and Idle, Chesterfield Canal, Misterton Mother Drain and several minor drains and channels.
- Predominantly vernacular settlement; Misterton and West Stockwith [partly within a conservation area] including a number of listed buildings.
- Low tree and woodland cover.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

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 **visually coherent** area.

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 **variable**.

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 SINCs. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which overall gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually coherent** area combined with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **moderate landscape condition**.

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.

Very high visibility is afforded due to the flat open nature of the landscape. The scale of 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 historic field pattern, restoring existing drainage ditches/hedgerow boundaries where necessary. Seek opportunities to restore former hedgerow boundaries and historic field pattern where lost.
- **Conserve** existing hedgerows and tree planting, reinforce where appropriate.
- **Conserve** the ecological diversity, character and setting of Misterton Mother Drain [SSSI] and Chesterfield Canal [SSSI/SINC] and other designated SINC, enhancing biodiversity as appropriate. Also conserve the character and setting of the River Trent and River Idle.
- **Conserve** areas of permanent pasture, meadow and improved pasture south of Misterton.
- **Conserve** areas of rough grazing and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.

Built Features

- **Conserve** the open rural character of the Policy Zone by concentrating development around Misterton and West Stockwith.
- **Conserve** the local brick vernacular and reinforce in any new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.
- Conserve the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal.

CONTEXT

Policy Zone: IL PZ 01
Land Cover Parcel[s]: IL01, IL02, IL03, IL04, IL05

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
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Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Some

Visual Unity: Coherent

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Coherent

Sensitivity	Very High
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Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Dominant

Extent of Tree Cover: Open

Visibility: Very High

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