

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
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Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Some

Visual Unity: Coherent

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Coherent

Sensitivity	High
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Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Dominant

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: High