

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

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