

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

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

Sensitivity	Very Low
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Distinctiveness:	Indistinct
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Weak
Landform:	Insignificant
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Low