

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

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:	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.