

## **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Idle Lowlands: IL PZ 07**

### **Idle Lowlands**

### **Policy Zone 07: Lound**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE AND REINFORCE**

### **Character Summary**

The Policy Zone includes the built areas of Mattersey Thorpe, in the north, Mattersey and Lound. Sutton-cum-Lound is located immediately beyond the southern boundary of the area, Ranskill lies further west adjacent to the Doncaster to Newark railway. The River Idle forms much of the eastern boundary.

Topographically the Policy Zone is low lying, flat river valley floor becoming more rounded and gently undulating in the south-west. Artificial mounds [spoil heaps] in the east are evidence of current mineral operations. Views are generally medium distance with frequently wooded skylines.

Several large wetland areas and ponds including Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits [SSSI/SINC] are located in the east, this former gravel works site is now an extensive well-wooded wetland habitat with strong recreational value, however mineral workings are ongoing in the vicinity. A number of additional ecological designations occur within the Policy Zone. Mixed farmland comprising pastoral, rough grazing and open arable fields is dominant throughout. Small deciduous/coniferous woodland blocks and tree belts are characteristic of the area. Scattered trees are notable across farmland at the centre and north-west of the area. Field boundaries tend to be intact well maintained hawthorn hedgerows, although pastoral fields are mainly bound by fencing.

Settlement is relatively small scale and dotted around the Policy Zone as described above, there are also several isolated farmsteads located centrally and stretching northwards. Amenities include those associated with Mattersey College and the tourist attraction of Mattersey Priory. The Nottinghamshire County Council traveller site is located at Daneshill in the south-west.

## Idle Lowlands – Policy Zone 07: Lound

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Low lying flat river valley floor.
- Mixed open farmland with some scattered trees.
- Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits [SSS]/SINC; a strong well wooded feature of both landscape and ecological value.
- Small deciduous and coniferous woodland blocks and tree belts.
- Small scale settlement; Lound, Mattersey, Mattersey Thorpe and farmsteads.
- A series of reclaimed spoil tips in the east.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is good. Within the Policy Zone is a coherent pattern of elements with some detracting features, including evidence of mineral extraction [sand pits], a scrap yard and a travellers site. Overall the area is **visually coherent**.

Settlement comprises Lound, which takes a linear form and is predominantly of the local vernacular, Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe which are of similar character each having a village traditional core but contain more peripheral modern style housing. Part of Lound is within a conservation area and encompasses several listed buildings, Mattersey All Saints Church is grade I listed and Mattersey Priory a designated SAM. Farmhouses are of red brick construction but agricultural buildings tend to be of more modern style. The major land use is arable farmland with some pasture [enclosed by fencing] and forestry which creates a strong sense of enclosure in parts of an otherwise open landscape. Several reclaimed spoil tips are an obvious landscape feature but becoming more congruous with the overall character of the area. The cultural integrity is considered **variable**.

A number of ecological designations fall within the Policy Zone, including Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits [SSS] and a further six SINCs. Hedgerows are mixed in their condition but, combined with field margins and the wide roadside verges, generally provide a good green network. Other vegetation includes isolated belts and blocks of woodland, tree avenues are evident at Lound. The ecological integrity is assessed as **strong** which gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually coherent** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity results in a **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] resulting in a **moderate** sense of place.

Visibility is assessed as **moderate** as views are typically contained within the Policy Zone. Landform is assessed as **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility equates to **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve and Reinforce

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** and **reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition, replace fencing with new hedgerow planting. Seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern/boundaries where these have been lost.
- **Conserve** the ecological diversity and setting of the Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits [SSS] and other designated SINC and **reinforce** as appropriate.
- Seek opportunities to enhance and **reinforce** planting associated with the reclaimed spoil tips where appropriate.
- Conserve pastoral farmland and seek to revert arable land to permanent pasture.
- Conserve isolated woodland belts/blocks and tree avenues.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the traditional character of Lound, Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe, **reinforce** the local vernacular in any new development.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the open rural character of the Policy Zone by concentrating new small scale development around Lound, Mattersey and Mattersey Thorpe.
- Create woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the historic field pattern by containing new development within historic enclosed field boundaries, restoring field boundaries where necessary.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: IL PZ 07  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: IL24, IL25, IL26, IL27

#### 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** **Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Some
Visual Unity:	Coherent
Ecological Integrity:	Strong
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Strong

**Sensitivity** **Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate