

Idle Lowlands

Policy Zone 10: Ranskill

POLICY: CONSERVE AND REINFORCE

Character Summary

The area is located east of the A614 and A1, south of Bawtry and Bircotes. Scrooby lies at the north-eastern tip, other settlement within the area includes Ranskill, Torworth and Sutton-cum-Lound. Barnby Moor lies immediately west of the area. Serlby Hall and Parkland is in the west beyond which the River Ryton corridor bounds the Policy Zone, wrapping around the north and west. The A638 and Doncaster to Newark railway cut through the area, minor roads also criss cross throughout. Landform is generally flat and low lying becoming more gently undulating and rounded towards the west of the Policy Zone with slight undulations evident in the east. Open views to wooded skylines are given to the south and east, these are more restricted to the north and west by topography and woodland.

Mixed farmland is the major land use of the area with arable fields dominating the landscape. There is evidence of permanent pasture throughout the Policy Zone though areas of rough grazing tend to be nearer settlements such as Scrooby, Ranskill and Retford. Serlby Park lies in the north near to Serlby Golf Course which covers a significant part of the landscape to the west. An industrial area and sewage works lie just outside Ranskill village. Vernacular architecture is evident within both Scrooby and Ranskill, there are also a number of isolated farms in the south and west.

Scrooby Top Quarry [SSSI] is an active sand and gravel pit in the north. South and east of this there are several reclaimed pits, now ponds and wetlands used for recreational purposes, many of these are SINC; Ranskill Wetlands, Ranskill Gravel Pits, Mattersey Sand Pit and Mattersey Flooded Sand Pit, also Mattersey Hill Marsh [SSSI] and Daneshill Lakes and Woodland [LNR]. In the southern part of the Policy Zone there is evidence of further current and disused mineral workings; an active Tarmac aggregates site lies adjacent to the former Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits [SSSI/SINC], now a recreational facility. Fragmented woodland blocks and scattered trees across farmland throughout Langwell Plantation is at the centre, Neal's Covert Plantation is at the north-west of the Policy Zone, hedgerows are prominent as field boundaries and along roadsides, ditches are more apparent in the south-west.

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PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Open arable farmland with some pastoral; divided by hedgerows with interlocking woodland.
- Reclaimed extraction pits; now valuable wildlife and recreational resources.
- Isolated farmsteads; farmhouses of red brick construction.
- Vernacular settlement at Scrooby and Ranskill.
- Serlby Hall [grade I listed] and parkland incorporating Serlby Golf Course.
- Doncaster to Newark railway.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape condition is good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with some detracting features within the Policy Zone, including the A638, Doncaster to Newark railway and low voltage power lines. Overall the area is **visually coherent**.

The historic field pattern is relatively intact and encompasses arable and permanent pasture. Fields are generally bounded by a strong hedgerow network and some interlocking woodland blocks and belts giving a moderate tree cover overall. While many of the hedgerows are well trimmed and maintained, some are gappy and have been allowed to deteriorate. Fencing is used to enclose pastoral fields and to supplement hedgerows in poor condition.

Settlement includes the villages of Ranskill, Torworth and Scrooby [partly within a conservation area] which have traditional vernacular cores with peripheral modern dwellings, both vernacular and non-vernacular. Sutton-cum-Lound contains more urban estate housing of a non-vernacular style. Farmhouses are of red brick construction and metal sheds have often replaced more traditional farm buildings causing them to stand out from the character of the area which, overall is largely retained. A number of listed buildings are contained within the Policy Zone including Scrooby Church [grade II] and Serlby Hall [grade I]. Former mineral extraction sites are regenerating and therefore becoming less detracting elements in the landscape. The cultural integrity is assessed as **variable**.

Tree belts are evident along the railway corridor and roadsides, throughout the Policy Zone dominant species are oak, willow, sycamore and Scots pine with beech and lime [avenues] a prominent feature at Serlby Park. Ecological designations comprise Scrooby Top Quarry and Mathersey Hill Marsh, both SSSI status, and a further six SINC's. The ecological integrity is **strong** which gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually coherent** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity gives 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 considered **moderate** and views are typically limited to 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. Seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern/boundaries where these have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Enhance visual unity through further appropriate tree and woodland planting. **Reinforce** tree belts along roadsides and railway corridor as appropriate.
- **Conserve** the ecological diversity and setting of the designated SSSIs and SINC's and **reinforce** as appropriate.
- **Conserve and reinforce** historic field pattern, restoring hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** the historic Serlby Parkland and **reinforce** as appropriate.

Built Features

- **Conserve** the historic character and setting of Serlby Hall and associated parkland.
- **Conserve and reinforce** the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around Scrooby, Torworth, Ranskill, Sutton-cum-Lound and the northern edge of Retford, also along the A638 [Great North Road].
- Create woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.
- **Conserve** the local built vernacular and **reinforce** in new development.

CONTEXT

Policy Zone: IL PZ 10
Land Cover Parcel[s]: IL32, IL33, IL34, IL35, IL39

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

Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment
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- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.