

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 01**

**Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands
Policy Zone 01: Gringley-on-the-Hill**

POLICY: CONSERVE AND CREATE

Character Summary

The area is located north-east of Retford and south-east of Doncaster encompassing the villages of Gringley on the Hill, Clayworth and Wiseton which are predominantly in the local vernacular. Chesterfield Canal follows the northern boundary and runs through the Policy Zone close to the western boundary. The Gainsborough Road [A631] bisects the area and a number of minor roads criss cross the landscape throughout.

Gringley sits on a ridgeline at the highest point within the Policy Zone. The landform is otherwise rolling, undulating more strongly at higher levels, and descends to Chesterfield Canal in the north and Clayworth in the south. Views are relatively open to the north, south and west from higher ground at Gringley. The rolling topography limits views from lower ground.

Arable farmland dominates the area south of the A631 whereas further north that landscape is a mix of arable and pasture. Isolated areas of woodland occur throughout the Policy Zone including Scot's Wood [SINC]. Field boundaries are mostly bounded by hedgerows and ditches. Noteworthy hedgerow examples are at Clayworth Road, Wood Lane and Taylor's Bridge. Several small commercial sites, i.e. Mill Hill, are located within the Policy Zone, there is also a disused pit, industrial facilities and sewage works towards the north near Beacon Hill and Gringley Gorse woodland.

Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 01: Gringley-on-the-Hill

PHOTOGRAPH



CONTEXT

Policy Zone: MN PZ 01
Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN02, MN03

Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low Moderate High

Sensitivity

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- An agricultural landscape dominated by arable farmland with smaller areas of pasture.
- Predominantly vernacular settlement; Gringley on the Hill, Clayworth, Wiseton, partly covered by statutory designations.
- A weak pattern of variable hedgerow field boundaries.
- Small frequent blocks of deciduous woodland and coniferous plantation.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape condition is moderate. There is a **coherent** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features within the Policy Zone namely sewage works and a radio mast. Overall this equates to a **visually unified** area.

The Policy Zone encompasses Clayworth and Gringley on the Hill, both are traditional in character and include several listed buildings, most of which are at Gringley. Clayworth falls entirely within a Conservation Area [CA] whereas Gringley is only partly covered by a CA order. More recent development is evident in both villages though this is relatively insignificant. There are some older non-vernacular dwellings in the western part of Gringley. Wiseton, including Wiseton Park abuts the western boundary, permanent pasture with parkland trees is evident here. Immediately east of Gringley is Beacon Hill, a designated SAM. Deterioration of the historic field pattern is apparent between the settlement areas where arable land now dominates. Pasture occurs near to Gringley within smaller fields bounded by well managed hedgerows although these are not characteristic of the Policy Zone. Hedgerow field boundaries are otherwise variable in their condition and create a weak pattern; some are gappy or outgrown and others have been removed with just the hedgerow trees remaining. Ditches are also a feature along field boundaries. The overall cultural integrity is considered **variable**.

Small coniferous plantations [pine]/deciduous [mostly ash] and mixed woodland blocks appear frequently across the area, many of which are connected by ditches. Areas of deciduous woodland lie adjacent to Wiseton and Gringley. Tree cover is generally low and of diverse age structure ranging from established woodland blocks to newer plantations, hedgerow trees tend to be mature. Three SINC's fall within the Policy Zone. The ecological integrity is described as **weak** which gives a **weak** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **weak** functional integrity gives a **moderate landscape condition** overall.

Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] resulting in a **moderate** sense of place.

Intermittent tree cover affords **moderate** visibility across the Policy Zone. Landform is considered **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility leads to **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition	Moderate
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Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Weak

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Weak

Sensitivity	Moderate
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Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Conserve and Create

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the remaining field pattern, restoring hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Create** new hedgerows seeking opportunities to restore the historic field pattern where this has been lost.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture, meadow and improved pasture and seek opportunities to revert arable land to pastoral.
- Enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally to **create** increased visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone.
- **Conserve** the ecological diversity and biodiversity of the designated SINC's and **create** ecological enhancements where appropriate.

Built Features

- **Conserve** the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating small scale new development around the existing settlements of Gringley-on-the-Hill, Clayworth and Wiseton.
- **Create** woodland to contain and soften urban development, preferably in advance of construction.
- **Conserve** the historic character of existing settlement, **create** new development that is sympathetic to both character and setting.
- **Conserve** the local built vernacular and **create** new development that reflects this.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- **Conserve** the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal.