

Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 02

Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands

Policy Zone 02: Walkeringham

POLICY: CREATE

Character Summary

The area is located north-east of Retford and south-east of Doncaster encompassing the eastern half of Misterton in the north, Walkeringham and a collection of farmsteads at the centre and the hamlet of Bole in the south. Outside the Policy Zone, Beckingham and Saundby lie to the east and Gainsborough to the west. The A631 [section of dual carriageway] bisects the Policy Zone south of Beckingham and the A161 cuts through the area in the north serving Misterton. Several minor roads also transect the area. The Doncaster to Grimsby railway line runs north to east through the Policy Zone and partially bounds the western edge as does the Chesterfield Canal further north. The River Trent corridor lies immediately to the east and links the northern and southern areas of the Policy Zone.

Topographically the area is gently undulating in the north ascending towards higher ground in the west at Wooden Beck Hill. Further south the landform is more typical of open flood plain and is generally quite low lying. Open views are generally afforded to surrounding higher ground towards Morton and Gainsborough in the east, Sutton and West Burton Power Stations in the south and the villages of South Wheatley, Saundby and Beckingham in the west. Landform and surrounding woodland restrict views to a degree.

Mixed farmland is the dominant land use with pastoral land and rough grazing more evident close to watercourses and settlement. Disused mineral workings include Walkeringham Clay Pits [SINC] and a sewage works abuts the eastern boundary. There is no woodland in the north but a strong pattern of mixed hedgerows with many trees, mostly ash. Hedgerows tend to be more dense nearer to the village cores. Scrubby field boundaries adjacent to drainage ditches are more apparent further south.

Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 02: Walkeringham

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Fragmented landscape dominated by settlement, the railway and roads; A161, A631.
- Intensive arable farmland with pastoral in the smaller fields.
- Mix of vernacular and non-vernacular dwellings at Misterton and Walkeringham, though both include some listed buildings.
- Low tree cover.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape condition is very poor. There is an **incoherent** pattern of elements with **many** detracting features which fragment the area including the A631 and A161, the Doncaster to Grimsby railway line and a former oil depot, although this appears to have been grassed over. Overall this results in a **significantly interrupted** visual appearance.

The area encompasses highly intensive arable land throughout the centre and towards the south of the area where the historic field pattern is most noticeably lost. Pasture occupies smaller fields both in the north and near to settlement. Hedgerows are strong along roadsides but less managed along field boundaries particularly in the south, they appear more intact in the north. Ditches also form some field boundaries. Road and rail infrastructure are obvious features within the Policy Zone, dominating the east and fragmenting the landscape. The villages of Walkeringham and Misterton include a mix of vernacular and non-vernacular buildings and cover a relatively large proportion of the overall area, both have been subjected to expansion which has had a degree of impact upon their character, setting and surroundings. Therefore the Policy Zone retains a character of settlement surrounded by agriculture rather than one of settlement within an agricultural setting. A number of buildings are listed within the villages and the hamlet of Bole in the south. The overall cultural integrity is **variable**.

Five SINC's fall within the Policy Zone and include Chesterfield Canal, pond and grassland habitats. Tree cover is not significant though hedgerow trees are apparent and tree planting along the railway and A631 embankments, species are mostly ash and oak. The ecological integrity is described as **weak** which gives a **weak** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **significantly interrupted** area with a **weak** functional integrity gives a **very poor landscape condition** overall.

Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **indistinct** of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is **recent** [50 years] resulting in a **very weak** sense of place.

Moderate visibility is given due to the enclosed nature of the Policy Zone and the flat topography which is assessed as **dominant**. A **very weak** sense of place with **moderate** visibility equates to **very low landscape sensitivity** overall.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Create

Landscape Features

- **Create** new hedgerows and restore existing, seek opportunities to recreate historic field pattern where they have been lost. Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.
- Enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally, in particular along the A161, A631 and the railway, to **create** increased visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone.
- Conserve the ecological diversity and biodiversity of the designated SINC's, along with the character and setting of the Chesterfield Canal.

Built Features

- **Create** small scale woodland to contain and soften new built development, particularly at Misterton and Walkeringham.
- Conserve what remains of the open rural landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate design and scale around the existing settlement of Misterton, Walkeringham and Bole.
- **Create** new development which reflects the local brick built vernacular.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- Conserve the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal.

CONTEXT

Policy Zone: MN PZ 02
Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN01, MN05

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 Poor
------------------	------------------

Pattern of Elements: Incoherent

Detracting Features: Many

Visual Unity: Significantly Interrupted

Ecological Integrity: Weak

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Weak

Sensitivity	Very Low
--------------------	-----------------

Distinctiveness: Indistinct

Continuity: Recent

Sense of Place: Very Weak

Landform: Dominant

Extent of Tree Cover: Enclosed

Visibility: Moderate