

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 08**

**Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands
Policy Zone 08: Upton, Laneham**

POLICY: CONSERVE

Character Summary

The Policy Zone is predominantly flat low lying floodplain and follows a series of watercourses. The landform falls slightly in the east towards the River Trent. The area includes the North Beck corridor, which lies north of East Drayton and wraps around the southern edge of Treswell, Stokeham and Rampton, encompassing much of Laneham and Darlton along with a small number of farmsteads. It stretches towards Askham, Upton and along the northern edge of Tuxford in the west. The area is served mostly by tracks.

On the whole views are limited in extent due to the wooded nature of the watercourses and strong hedgelines along field boundaries, in the north-east views extend outwards to open fields of neighbouring Policy Zones.

The majority of the floodplain is small scale arable farmland with a significant presence of pastoral and rough grazing near to villages, both within and adjacent to the Policy Zone, and farms. An area of ridge and furrow pasture is evident close to East Drayton. Deciduous woodland blocks of varying size include Beast's Wood, Kirke's Ash Holt and Kirke's Plantation, dense scrub occurs along the water corridors. Hedgerows are large, particularly along tracks, and continuous, hedgerow trees are not a common occurrence.

There is evidence of biomass coppicing near to Darlton, a small sewage works near East Markham, and an old earthworks site [SINC; grassland] with associated museum east of Kingshaugh Farm.

Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 08: Upton, Laneham

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- North Beck with network of streams and associated woodland corridors.
- Arable landscape.
- Hedgerows and water channels as field boundaries.
- Small scale settlement.
- Small clumps/linear sections of woodland along watercourses.
- Improved and unimproved grassland adjacent to watercourses.
- Five SINCs; predominantly grassland.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features; the A1, the Doncaster to Newark railway line, industrial estate, large scale agricultural buildings and two sewage treatment works. Overall this gives a **strongly unified** visual appearance.

The Policy Zone largely encompasses North Beck and a series of tributary streams, the watercourses are wooded; linear sections and small clumps of deciduous woodland are evident, species include willow, ash and oak. The majority of the landscape is under arable use, with some of the larger fields more intensively farmed. Less intensive pastoral fields lie adjacent to settlement. Field boundaries generally comprise hedgerows and watercourses. Post and wire fencing has been used to fill gaps in hedgerows where they have deteriorated. Oak and ash trees commonly occur within some hedgerows, notably around grassland and pasture fields. The field pattern has mostly been lost south-west of Laneham and west of Darlton.

Settlement within the area is small scale including part of Upton, Darlton and most of Laneham, where dwellings reflect the local style and a number of buildings are listed, along with the fringes of Tuxford. Renovation of some older buildings is evident at Laneham. The overall cultural integrity is considered **good**.

Five SINCs fall within the Policy Zone, these are mostly grassland sites. Improved and unimproved grassland occurs alongside the water corridors. A continuous green network is provided across the area connecting to the surrounding landscape. The ecological integrity is defined as **strong** which overall gives a **very strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **strongly unified** area combined with a **very strong** functional integrity results in a **very good landscape condition** overall.

Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **unique/rare** to the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **strong** sense of place.

Visibility is described as **high** and the landform **dominant**. A **strong** sense of place with **high** visibility results in **very high landscape sensitivity** overall.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Conserve

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern, maintain existing watercourses/hedgerows including ancient hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary, create new hedgerows to replace post and wire fencing.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- **Conserve** and enhance woodland planting and grassland areas, seek to reinforce as appropriate to further strengthen these habitats.
- **Conserve** areas of improved and unimproved grassland, and areas of ridge and furrow.
- **Conserve** the biodiversity and setting of the designated SINCs, seek to enhance where appropriate.

Built Features

- **Conserve** the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate scale and design around the existing settlements of Upton, Darlton and Laneham. New development should respect the setting of these settlements.
- New development should take account of the distinctive ecological elements associated with North Beck and its tributary streams within the Policy Zone.
- **Conserve** and respect the local brick built vernacular in any new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

CONTEXT

Policy Zone: MN PZ 08
Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN18, MN21, MN22

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 Good |
|------------------|------------------|

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|-----------------------|------------------|
| Pattern of Elements: | Unified |
| Detracting Features: | Few |
| Visual Unity: | Strongly Unified |
| Ecological Integrity: | Strong |
| Cultural Integrity: | Good |
| Functional Integrity: | Very Strong |

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|--------------------|------------------|
| Sensitivity | Very High |
|--------------------|------------------|

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|----------------------|--------------|
| Distinctiveness: | Unique/Rare |
| Continuity: | Historic |
| Sense of Place: | Strong |
| Landform: | Dominant |
| Extent of Tree Cover | Intermittent |
| Visibility: | High |

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