

Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 09

Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands

Policy Zone 09: East Drayton

POLICY: CONSERVE

Character Summary

The area is bisected by watercourses [included at Policy Zone 08], the northern section extends from north of Laneham wrapping around the south of Stokeham where it encompasses East Drayton before stretching north to the east of Nether Headon. The southern area extends westwards from the south of Laneham towards East Markham and Tuxford and is divided by the A57. Part of Dunham on Trent and Ragnall also fall within the Policy Zone. Industry adjacent to the River Trent beyond the Policy Zone boundary is visible in the east. The land rises towards Askham and East Markham in the west limiting views in that direction.

Landform is fairly flat in the north rising from the east to higher ground in the north-west. In the south the landscape is gently rolling. Views are generally open towards the north, east and south due to low tree cover and flat landform but are sometimes interrupted by landscape elements such as mature hedgerows alongside roads and ditches and isolated farmsteads.

Arable farmland is interspersed with small villages and isolated farmsteads, large scale biomass plantations are located in the north and south near to Farhill Farm. Small areas of pasture are evident including those close to Darlton and Ragnall. Hedgerows align the fields, sometimes alongside ditches which are large in the south. Tree cover is quite low; trees are rarely seen in hedges and woodland clumps are generally small occurring at the edge of fields or along tracks. Fruit cultivation is apparent at America Farm, located south of the A57. Adjacent to the A57 lies the mediaeval village of Whimpton.

Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 09: East Drayton

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Irregularly shaped agricultural fields; intensive arable farmland dominant.
- Strongly trimmed well maintained hedgerows, particularly along roadsides.
- Network of streams and ditches across the landscape.
- Small areas of settlement; predominantly of traditional style, including listed buildings.
- Low tree cover.
- Large scale flat landscape with open views.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape condition is moderate. The pattern of elements is coherent with few detracting features including high and low voltage overhead power lines and busy roads; A57, A6075. Overall this equates to a **visually unified** area.

The historic field pattern has been predominantly lost leaving irregularly shaped agricultural fields. Whilst arable is dominant there is some pasture evident. Hedgerows are strongly trimmed and well maintained, particularly along roadsides. Field boundaries are mostly intact but some have been allowed to deteriorate or have grown out completely, examples of this occur alongside some of the ditches. Hedges have been allowed to grow taller in the south-west.

Settlement is dotted across the area; East Drayton, Laneham, Dunham-on-Trent, Darlton and Ragnall, and is mostly of traditional character although some non-vernacular dwellings are evident at Laneham. Recent development immediately west of East Drayton respects the local style; the historic part of the village lies within a conservation area. Several buildings within the area are listed, in particular at Ragnall, Darlton and East Drayton. The cultural integrity is considered **variable**.

Two SINC's lie within the Policy Zone. Tree cover is generally low consisting mostly of small clumps around isolated farmsteads and areas of settlement and short stretches of trees along field boundaries where streams or ditches are present. The ecological integrity is defined as **weak** which gives a **weak** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area combined with a **weak** functional integrity results in 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] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

Very high visibility is afforded owing to the flat landscape and limited tree cover across the Policy Zone. The landform has been assessed as **dominant**. A **moderate** sense of place with **very high** visibility results in **very high landscape sensitivity** overall.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Conserve

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern, maintain existing drainage ditches/hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.
- **Conserve** and enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally to improve visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone yet retaining open views.
- **Conserve** hedgerow planting along roadsides, seek to reinforce and enhance as appropriate.
- **Conserve** areas of ridge and furrow.
- **Conserve** the biodiversity and setting of the designated SINC's, seek to enhance where appropriate.

Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate scale and design around the existing settlements of East Drayton, Laneham, Dunham-on-Trent, Darlton and Ragnall. New development should respect the setting of these settlements.
- **Conserve** and respect the local brick built vernacular in any new development.
- Create woodland areas to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

CONTEXT

Policy Zone: MN PZ 09
Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN20, MN27

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	Moderate
------------------	-----------------

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Weak

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Weak

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

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Dominant

Extent of Tree Cover: Open

Visibility: Very High