

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: MN PZ 10**

Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands

Policy Zone 10: Askham

POLICY: CONSERVE

Character Summary

The area is located south-east of Retford and east of Gamston, extending south of Upton down towards the A57 which skirts the northern fringe of East Markham and forms the southern boundary. The Policy Zone is intersected in the south-west by the Doncaster to Newark railway line and centrally by Askham Road [B road].

A low lying narrow stream corridor is flanked by undulating rounded landform with higher ground at the northern, eastern and western edges affording open views across the Policy Zone, however views at lower levels are enclosed.

The dominant land use is arable farmland with woodland clumps and hedgerows along ditches. Pastoral land is evident close to Askham at the centre of the Policy Zone. Woodland cover is limited with one deciduous plantation adjacent to the south-eastern boundary and a smaller block further west.

Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands – Policy Zone 10: Askham

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Agricultural landscape; intensive arable land with some isolated pastoral.
- Narrow hedged lanes.
- Railway line.
- Traditional settlements of Askham and Upton.
- Low tree cover.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape condition is very good. The pattern of elements is coherent with few detracting features, the most significant being the Doncaster to Newark railway line. Overall the area is **visually unified**.

Intensive arable farming is the predominant land use, there is a small amount of isolated pasture closer to Askham. The agricultural character of the landscape is bisected by the railway which cuts through the Policy Zone from south-east to north-west. Settlement is a relatively subtle feature; Askham village and the hamlet of Upton lie within the area, both are traditional in style, farmhouses are also of the local vernacular. Evidence of the historic field pattern is more apparent in the north where less rationalisation has occurred. Hedgerow field boundaries are generally intact and well maintained with occasional ash or oak trees, though some are unmanaged and a few completely overgrown forming narrow tree belts. The railway corridor is well-vegetated, of diverse age structure and scrubby in places. Tree cover is relatively low throughout the area. The overall cultural integrity is **good**.

Three SINCs are contained within the Policy Zone and comprise areas of grassland and pasture. The ecological integrity is defined as **moderate** which gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity gives a results in a **very good 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.

Undulating topography and intermittent tree cover affords a **moderate** visibility. The landform is considered **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility results in **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Conserve

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern, maintain existing 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.
- **Conserve** hedgerow planting [including ancient hedgerows] and tree belts, particularly along roadsides, also vegetation along the railway corridor, seek to reinforce and enhance as appropriate.
- **Conserve** areas of improved and unimproved grassland.
- **Conserve** the biodiversity and setting of the designated SINCs, seek to enhance where appropriate.

Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate design and scale around the existing small scale settlements of Askham and Upton. 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 10
Land Cover Parcel[s]: MN23

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 |
|------------------|------------------|

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Sensitivity | Moderate |
|--------------------|-----------------|

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

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