

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 02**

Magnesian Limestone Ridge

Policy Zone 02: Langold

POLICY: REINFORCE

Character Summary

The area lies adjacent to Oldcotes village, just north of Langold. Both the A60 and A634 cut through the Policy Zone, north-south and east-west respectively. Olcotes Dyke follows the extent of the southern boundary, an area of wet grassland is adjacent to this.

Landform is relatively flat north of the A634 and slopes gently east to west. The land falls quite steeply south of the A634 towards Oldcotes Dyke. Open views are afforded towards wooded skylines in both the north and west. Visibility beyond the southern boundary is limited by Oldcotes.

Flat open arable fields occupy most of the area. A coach depot is located on the western edge of Oldcotes; a traditional style village containing a mix of vernacular and non-vernacular dwellings. A large scale public house which is not in-keeping with the character of the village lies at the A60/A634 junction.

There is relatively low tree cover across the Policy Zone, mostly being confined to the river corridor and scattered trees near to Oldcotes. Hedgerows are generally quite gappy or non-existent.

Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 02: Langold

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensive large scale arable farmland.
- Small scale pastoral farmland.
- Oldcotes village – a mix of architectural styles including some traditional red brick/stone construction.
- Landscape fragmented by roads.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape condition is good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features; the A60 and A34 cross the area north-south and east-west respectively, Oldcotes lies in the south-east corner and a coach depot is located at the western end of the A634. Overall this equates to a **visually unified** area.

Much of the historic field pattern is lost, existing internal hedgerows are poor and gappy, though those aligning the A60/A634 are generally intact. Arable farmland is the major land use with some pasture in the south. Buildings are mostly contained within the village of Oldcotes and include a mix of vernacular and non-vernacular styles. The public house at the A60/A634 junction appears out of proportion with the rest of the village and is not characteristic of the area. The coach depot is an incongruous feature on the fringe of the Policy Zone. Overall the cultural integrity is considered **good**.

There are no SINC's or other ecological designations within the area. Tree cover is relatively low being limited to Oldcotes Dyke which follows the southern boundary, and scattered deciduous trees near to Oldcotes, ranging from semi-mature to mature. There is also a margin of wet grassland adjacent to the river. The ecological integrity is defined as **weak** which overall gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity leads to a **good landscape condition**.

Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Magnesian Limestone region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

The scale of landform has been assessed as **insignificant** and visibility is considered **low** although there are some open views towards wooded skylines in the north and west, views to the south are restricted by Oldcotes village. A **moderate** sense of place with **low** visibility equates to **low landscape sensitivity** overall.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Reinforce

Landscape Features

- **Reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition, particularly along roadsides. Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost and to introduce hedgerow trees.
- **Reinforce** and strengthen the continuity of ecological diversity of the river corridor [Oldcotes Dyke].
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Enhance and **reinforce** visual unity through appropriate small scale tree and woodland planting.

Built Features

- Create woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.
- Conserve and **reinforce** the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around existing settlements of Oldcotes and Langold.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style and **reinforce** this in new development.

CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 02
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML02

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 **Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Weak

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Coherent

Sensitivity **Low**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Insignificant

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Low

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