

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 03**

Magnesian Limestone Ridge

Policy Zone 03: Langold

POLICY: CONSERVE

Character Summary

The area lies directly north and north-east of Langold, which forms part of the southern boundary, and south of Oldcotes. The A60 cuts north-south through the centre of the Policy Zone.

Topographically, the area is generally flat, descending gently from the west to the east and falling more sharply in the far north towards Oldcotes Dyke. Views are quite open towards frequently wooded skylines and the urban edges of Oldcotes and Langold.

Distinct land uses are intensive arable farmland, Hermaston Hall and associated parkland east of the A60, and Goldthorpe Farm; an isolated farmstead the main building of which is listed. There are three main woodland blocks within the Policy Zone which are covered by statutory ecological designations, including Dyscarr Wood [SSSI/SINC], Cow Wood and Burntout Wood, both SINC. Oldcotes Mill Grassland, also a SINC, is contained within the area. Whilst tree cover is relatively moderate, there are few field boundaries and no hedgerow trees.

Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 03: Langold

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Large, flat and open arable landscape.
- Small scale pastoral landscape and historic parkland associated with Hermeston Hall.
- Allotments.
- Red brick farmhouses and traditional stone dwellings.
- Deciduous woodland blocks, most of which are designated.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features, including the A60, a telecommunication mast and low voltage power lines. Overall the area is **visually unified**.

Arable farmland is fairly intensive and the main land use with few internal field boundaries, although intact hedgerows (mostly hawthorn) align the roads. There is also some pastoral land and parkland with individual trees at Hermeston Hall. Allotments occupy an area to the south. Traditional stone buildings are evident within the area, these materials are reflected in more modern dwellings nearby, though the red brick farmhouse (listed) at Goldthorpe is dominated by utilitarian agricultural sheds. The overall cultural integrity is **good**.

There are four SINC's within the Policy Zone; Cow Wood, Burntout Copse, Oldcotes Mill Grassland and Dyscarr Wood Marsh. Additionally, Dyscarr Wood is both a SINC and SSSI. Tree cover is generally moderate and of varying age structure, it is concentrated in the south-west and north of the area and is mostly deciduous with some coniferous species present. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which overall gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity gives a **very good landscape condition** overall.

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 visibility is **moderate** due to areas of woodland and the built edge of Langold, the scale of landform is considered **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place with **moderate** visibility results in **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Conserve

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the pastoral landscape associated with Hermeston Hall and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.
- **Conserve** SINC's and enhance where appropriate.
- Seek opportunities to restore historic field pattern with hedgerow planting.
- **Conserve** the historic parkland and landscape character of Hermeston Hall.
- **Conserve** area of allotments in the south of the Policy Zone which add to the character of Langold.

Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by concentrating new small scale development around the existing settlements of Langold and Oldcotes.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style of red brick/stone construction in new development.
- Create woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.

CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 03
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML03

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