

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 07**

Magnesian Limestone Ridge

Policy Zone 07: Worksop

POLICY: CONSERVE

Character Summary

The area abuts the north-western edge of Worksop and is bounded to the south by the B6041 and along the north and west by Owday Lane.

Views into the Policy Zone from both the B6041 and Owday Lane are limited by the landform which slopes away from a central high point and woodland/plantation blocks. Southward views are defined by the urban fringes of Worksop.

Arable farmland dominates the landscape to the north, west and south-west, whilst parkland occupies the south-east. This parkland is known as Gateford Hall Park and encompasses Gateford Hall and Gateford Hill, both vernacular listed buildings set amongst planting blocks, permanent improved pasture and many individual scattered trees. California farm, also listed, is located further west.

There are two significant woodland blocks; Dog Kennel Plantation, and Rough Piece which is designated ancient woodland and also a SINC. Tree avenues and hedgerows bound the field pattern linking across the area to the woodland and plantation blocks providing relatively good connectivity. Some field boundaries have been lost due to farming intensification.

Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 07: Worksop

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Gateford Hall Park – listed building and associated parkland including many mature trees.
- Strong rural character with isolated farmsteads.
- Intact well maintained perimeter hedgerows aligning the roads.
- Clear views into the Policy Zone [which lies on higher ground] from the south/urban fringe of Worksop.
- Woodland and plantation blocks across the area.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape condition is very good. The pattern of elements is coherent with few detracting features, the key one being the B6041 which runs along the southern Policy Zone boundary. Overall this gives a **visually unified** area.

Much of the historic field pattern is lost as arable farming has intensified. Some permanent improved pastoral land is apparent within areas of parkland in the south-east. Gateford Hall Park is a heritage asset which dominates the area, the listed building [stone construction] and encompassing parkland are key features of the Policy Zone. The rural character is retained within the area although there is pressure from recent development immediately east of the Policy Zone. Overall, the cultural integrity is **good**.

Hawthorn hedgerows align the roads, several plantation and woodland blocks, tree avenues and scattered trees across the parkland give low to moderate tree cover of mature age structure. There is an area of designated ancient woodland [Rough Piece] in the north-west which is also a SINC and younger planting along the Policy Zone boundaries. Woodland species include oak, ash, sycamore and sweet chestnut. The ecological integrity is defined as **moderate** which overall gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity results in a **very good landscape condition** overall.

Sensitivity

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

Visibility is described as **moderate** and the landform **apparent**. A **strong** sense of place with **moderate** visibility gives **high landscape sensitivity** overall.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Conserve

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the historic field pattern, restoring existing hedgerow boundaries where necessary. Seek opportunities to restore former hedgerow boundaries and historic field pattern where lost.
- **Conserve** the ancient woodland, SINC and other woodland/plantation blocks, enhance where appropriate.
- **Conserve** existing hedgerows, enhance where appropriate.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture and seek to restore arable farmland to pastoral.

Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the northern fringes of Worksop.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- **Conserve** and respect the historic character and setting of Gateford Hall and associated parkland and mature trees.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style and construction materials/methods in new development.
- Create woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.

CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 07
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML10

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

High

Distinctiveness: Unique/Rare

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Strong

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate