

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 08**

**Magnesian Limestone Ridge  
Policy Zone 08: Shireoaks**

**POLICY: CREATE**

**Character Summary**

The area is located west of Worksop with the A57 cutting through from south-east to north-west. The Sheffield to Lincoln railway line defines the southern Policy Zone boundary, Shireoaks village lies either side of this.

Topographically the area is quite flat and varies between 50 and 55m. Open views towards wooded skylines are afforded in both the north and east. Views are enclosed by settlement in the south and west.

Open arable farmland, with little evidence of field boundaries, occupies most of the Policy Zone. Fox Covert [SINC] is an isolated mosaic habitat situated in the north beyond the A57 which crosses the area. Shireoaks village dominates the southern part of the area where housing is mostly non-vernacular and is set amongst small blocks of woodland. A scrap yard is located in the north-west corner.

# Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 08: Shireoaks

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Large scale open arable farmland with little or no field boundaries.
- Shireoaks village containing mostly non-vernacular dwellings but some are of the traditional style.
- Isolated farmsteads.
- Low tree coverage overall.

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Condition

The landscape condition is very poor. The pattern of elements within the Policy Zone is incoherent with many detracting features, including the A57, Shireoaks village, a scrap yard, disused mineshafts and a railway. Overall this area is **significantly interrupted** visually.

Arable farmland and housing dominate the majority of the Policy Zone. The field pattern is largely lost, particularly in the north, due to intensive agricultural farming, and what little remains tends to be quite fragmented, although the hedgerow bounding the A57 is intact. Buildings are mostly urban non-vernacular housing with the odd vernacular dwelling visible. There are some modern commercial buildings and isolated farmsteads. The overall cultural integrity is **poor**.

Tree cover is generally low and comprises deciduous and mixed plantation woodland and scrubby woodland blocks. Fox Covert [SINC] is an isolated mixed habitat within the area. A fishing lake is evident within one of the wooded areas. The ecological integrity is described as **weak** which gives a **very weak** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A visually **significantly interrupted** area with a **very weak** functional integrity equates to a **very poor landscape condition** overall.

### Sensitivity

Any features are **indistinct** of the Magnesian Limestone region and the continuity/time depth is described as **recent** [50 years] giving a **very weak** sense of place.

Views are open to the north towards higher ground and woodland beyond the Policy Zone boundary whereas views towards the south are limited by housing, affording **moderate** visibility. The scale of landform is **apparent**. A very **weak sense** of place combined with **moderate** visibility results in **very low landscape sensitivity**.

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

### Create

#### Landscape Features

- **Create** new hedgerows and restore existing, seek opportunities to recreate historic field pattern where feasible, contain new development within historic boundaries.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally to **create** increased visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone.

#### Built Features

- **Create** woodland to contain and soften built development, particularly commercial development, preferably in advance of development.
- Conserve what remains of the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new small scale development around Shireoaks.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new development within historic enclosed boundaries.
- **Create** new development which respects the local built stone vernacular.
- Sensitive design and siting of new commercial buildings.

## CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 08  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML11

## 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 Poor**

Pattern of Elements:	Incoherent
Detracting Features:	Many
Visual Unity:	Significantly Interrupted
Ecological Integrity:	Weak
Cultural Integrity:	Poor
Functional Integrity:	Very Weak

**Sensitivity**                      **Very Low**

Distinctiveness:	Indistinct
Continuity:	Recent
Sense of Place:	Very Weak
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 08**