

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 09**

**Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

**Policy Zone 09: Shireoaks**

**POLICY: CREATE**

**Character Summary**

The area lies west of Worksop and the A57, the Sheffield to Lincoln railway line forms the northern boundary. Open countryside extends to both southwards and eastwards of the Policy Zone.

Landform is generally flat where the Chesterfield Canal [SINC] cuts through the Policy Zone south-east to north-west. The topography rises gently north of the canal. Views are relatively enclosed and restricted by properties at Shireoaks and by blocks of woodland.

A large proportion of Shireoaks is designated a conservation area, this covers much of the Policy Zone. Three minor roads cut through the area; Shireoaks Road, Shireoaks Row and Thorpe Road along which residential properties are situated. Small fields of pasture are located near to the housing. In addition to the Chesterfield Canal there are two further SINC's; Shireoaks Fishing Pond and Shireoaks Park Winter Garden. A marina sits adjacent to the canal in the north-east and there is a small amount of industry in the north-west.

# Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 09: Shireoaks

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 09  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML12

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE

Low                      Moderate                      High

### Sensitivity

## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Built development - Shireoaks village [conservation area].
- Chesterfield Canal [SINC] and associated marina.
- Water bodies including Shireoaks Fishing Pond and Shireoaks Park Winter Garden [SINC] and associated woodland planting.
- Fragmented tree cover.

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Condition

The landscape condition has been assessed as poor. There is an incoherent pattern of elements with some detracting features, including a marina, industrial units and a railway. Overall this equates to an area that is **visually interrupted**.

The major land use is housing and built elements comprising the canal, marina, in the north-east, and small scale industry in the north-west. A small amount of pasture is evident near to residential areas and is typically bounded by post and wire fencing, hedgerows are almost absent. Village buildings are a mix of vernacular, stone and red brick construction, and non-vernacular which is mostly more recent development. Several buildings at the historic core of Shireoaks are listed, including the church and village hall. Much of the Policy Zone lies within a conservation area. The overall cultural integrity is **variable**.

There are three SINC's within the Policy Zone; Chesterfield Canal, Shireoaks Fishing Pond and Shireoaks Park Winter Garden [channels and pools with woodland]. Tree cover is relatively low and fragmented, woodland clumps occur throughout the Policy Zone and are often associated with water bodies. A belt of deciduous woodland follows the canal corridor, there is also young plantation adjacent to the railway in the east. The ecological integrity is **moderate** which gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually interrupted** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **poor 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.

**Low** visibility is afforded since views are limited by settlement, which occurs throughout the Policy Zone, and a significant change in landform to the east of the area. The topography of the area is **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **low** visibility creates **low landscape sensitivity** overall.

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

Poor

Pattern of Elements:	Incoherent
Detracting Features:	Some
Visual Unity:	Interrupted
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

### Sensitivity

Low

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Enclosed
Visibility:	Low

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

### Create

#### Landscape Features

- **Create** new hedgerows and restore existing, seek opportunities to recreate the historic field pattern where feasible.
- Enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally to **create** increased visual unity and connectivity across the Policy Zone.
- Conserve the character, setting and biodiversity of the Chesterfield Canal corridor and other SINC's, **create** ecological enhancements where appropriate.

#### Built Features

- **Create** small scale woodland and tree planting to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of construction.
- Conserve the historic character of Shireoaks, **create** new small scale development that is sympathetic to both its character and setting.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new development within historic enclosed boundaries.
- Conserve the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal.

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