

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 11**

Magnesian Limestone Ridge

Policy Zone 11: Worksop

POLICY: CONSERVE AND REINFORCE

Character Summary

The Policy Zone covers an area west and south-west of Worksop and extends south of Shireoaks towards Hodthorpe where it straddles the A60. The A619 bisects the area east to west.

Topographically the Policy Zone is predominantly flat with some gentle undulation, rising from the north-east towards the higher ground in the south-west, descending at both the River Ryton and Chesterfield Canal corridors.

Open arable farmland with some pasture, generally with hedgerow field boundaries, occupies a large proportion of the Policy Zone. Some extensive field rationalisation has taken place to accommodate the rise in agricultural land use. An area of parkland is evident in the north and includes Scratta Wood and Shireoaks Park Wood, both designated SINC's and part of a conservation area. A number of additional SINC's occur across the Policy Zone including the disused Lady Lee Quarry in the north-east of the area. There are a small number of industrial buildings at Steetley, though they are of quite large scale otherwise the area is relatively sparsely populated with farmsteads and isolated dwellings. The River Ryton and Chesterfield Canal run through a section in the north of the Policy Zone, there is also a campsite and allotments in the extreme east, and a nursery located centrally.

Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 11: Worksop

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensive arable farmland.
- Large scale development at Steetley.
- Vernacular farmsteads and farm buildings.
- Utilitarian agricultural barns.
- Chesterfield Canal [SINC].
- Steetley Wood Spoil Tip [SINC].

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape condition is good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with some detracting features, including the former Steetley Colliery, the A60/A57, high and low voltage power lines, railways lines, a former quarry and a caravan site. This leads to a **visually coherent** area overall.

Hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees are sometimes gappy, most notably in the north-west. The historic field pattern is partially intact, arable fields are bounded by trimmed hedgerows, ditches are also evident between fields in the south. The area is dominated by intensive agriculture with a small amount of permanent pasture. Redevelopment at Steetley is small scale yet visually dominant due to the building size, though this is a former works site and its impact is relatively localised. Built features consist of traditional stone farm buildings, red brick farmsteads and isolated dwellings and utilitarian agricultural barns. A small number of buildings are listed. The south-east corner of the Policy Zone is designated a Special Landscape and Heritage Area. The cultural integrity is considered **good**.

A number of SINC[s] [13 in total] fall within the area and include various woodlands, Chesterfield Canal and Steetley Wood Spoil Tip. Large scale agricultural use means that woodland blocks tend to be small and are often associated with water bodies, channels, the River Ryton and the canal. The ecological integrity is **moderate** giving a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually coherent** area combined with a **strong** functional integrity results in a **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.

Moderate visibility is afforded, some views are limited by wooded areas within the Policy Zone, however the urban edge of Worksop is apparent to the east. Landform is considered to be **apparent**. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **moderate** visibility gives **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Conserve and Reinforce

Landscape Features

- **Conserve and reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition, particularly along roadsides. Seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern/boundaries where these have been lost and introduce more hedgerow trees.
- **Conserve and reinforce** the ecological diversity of the designated SINC[s] where appropriate.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.

Built Features

- Enhance visual unity and soften built development through further appropriate tree and woodland planting.
- **Conserve and reinforce** the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlements of Worksop and Shireoaks.
- Create woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.
- **Conserve** the local built stone vernacular and **reinforce** this in new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.

CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 11

Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML14, ML15, ML16, ML17, ML18

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: Some

Visual Unity: Coherent

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