

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment  
Magnesian Limestone Ridge: ML PZ 13**

## **Magnesian Limestone Ridge**

### **Policy Zone 13: Holbeck and Cuckney**

## **POLICY: CONSERVE AND REINFORCE**

### **Character Summary**

The area is located south-west of Worksop with the A60 following the eastern boundary before cutting through the Policy Zone at the south-east corner. Creswell lies immediately to the north-west and the Nottingham to Worksop railway line forms the western boundary before Nether Langwith abuts the area further south. Creswell Road [A616] bisects the area north-west to south-east, there are a number of additional minor roads criss-crossing the Policy Zone. Norton straddles the area in the south-east and immediately west of the River Poulter which follows part of the south-eastern boundary.

Topographically the Policy Zone is gently rolling and undulating with higher ground tending to be in the west, sloping gradually to the east and south where it descends to the River Poulter valley. Views are generally of medium distance, being limited by variations in landform, woodland blocks and vegetation. Views to the south-west are bounded by settlement at Nether Langwith.

Arable fields with strong well maintained hedgerow field boundaries [mainly hawthorn] occupy the majority of the Policy Zone with some pastoral land evident at its centre. Settlement generally occurs at the edges; Whaley Thorns at the south-west, Norton and Cuckney in the east, and farmsteads are scattered throughout the area. A number of buildings are listed. Creswell Crags [SINC and SSSI] encroaches into the area at the north-west corner, Old Hag [SINC] is located fairly centrally and Cuckney Dam [SINC] is adjacent to part of the river corridor in the south. Clumps of trees occur across the area with some individual trees in the west.

# Magnesian Limestone Ridge – Policy Zone 13: Holbeck and Cuckney

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CONTEXT

Policy Zone: ML PZ 13  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: ML22, ML23, ML24, ML25

## Condition

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

Low                      Moderate                      High

## Sensitivity

## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Expansive agricultural landscape with straight field boundaries.
- Sparse built development, stone buildings/red brick farmsteads and farmhouses/modern agricultural buildings.
- Creswell Crags [SINC and SSSI].
- Low tree cover of coniferous plantation, deciduous woodland and few individual field trees.

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Condition

The landscape condition is good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features, including major roads; A60, A616, A632 and a water treatment facility. Overall this equates to a **visually unified** area.

The overall historic structure of the landscape largely remains, however the field pattern has been rationalised significantly through changing farming practice. This has led to a more expansive landscape with some degradation through the loss of field boundaries. Existing field boundaries are mostly straight and bounded by well maintained hedgerows or in some cases post and wire fencing. There is little built development within the Policy Zone, what there is consists mainly of stone buildings, brick houses/farmhouses and farmsteads, some with modern agricultural units though these are less evident near to Holbeck. More recent non-vernacular properties are apparent at Cuckney [west] and at Norton [south]. A water treatment facility in the south-west is effectively screened by vegetation and landform. The overall cultural integrity is **good**.

There are two SINC[s] [the Old Hag and Cuckney Dam] within the area and Creswell Crags which is a designated SINC and SSSI. Tree cover is low and comprises clumps of semi-mature to mature coniferous plantation and deciduous woodland with odd individual field trees. Some young plantation is also evident. The ecological integrity is described as **weak** which overall gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **good landscape condition**.

### 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.

Although the landscape is open and quite large scale, the undulating topography and tree cover afford it **moderate** visibility only. The landform **apparent** landform. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **moderate** visibility results in **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

**Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Weak
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

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

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

### Conserve and Reinforce

#### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** hedgerows and **reinforce** where they have become gappy and are 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 where appropriate.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the ecological diversity of the designated SINC[s] and enhance where appropriate.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Enhance visual unity through further appropriate tree and woodland planting.

#### Built Features

- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by concentrating new small scale development around existing settlements to the east of the Policy Zone.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** existing shelter belts, create new woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the historic field pattern by containing new development within historic enclosed boundaries, restoring and reinforcing hedgerow boundaries where necessary and replacing post and wire fencing with new hedgerows.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the local stone/red brick built vernacular in new development.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.

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