

## **S PZ 13 Osberton Estatelands with Plantations**

### **Policy: Conserve**

#### **Character Summary**

This is an area of gently undulating landform sloping down to the south and east towards the valley of the River Ryton. The area falls from a high point of 60 metres AOD to the south west corner to 20 metres AOD at the eastern edge. There is a flat central area on which a former 2nd WW airfield was located which has now been grassed over but some hardstanding remains. There are farm tracks thorough out the area.

Open views across the LCP are generally bounded by wooded skylines on distant ridgelines. Some medium distance views are interrupted by thin shelter belts of Scots Pine. To the south views are screened by both landform and woodland around Osberton Hall as this falls into the valley of the River Ryton. There are no views of the built edge of Worksop from this LCP.

Land use is mainly intensive arable production of cereal crops with a medium to large geometric field pattern but there are also improved pasture areas used for sheep and cattle grazing. There is one large central area of rough pasture east of east Thievesdale Wood. There is only one isolated residential development associated with farm properties.

The woodland areas consist of small deciduous woodlands with a high proportion of Oak and small clumps of coniferous woodland containing Scots Pine, as well as thin belts of Scots pine which are a distinct visual feature of this LCP. There are isolated parkland trees Oak, Pine and Ash and remnants of former avenues.

Road hedge boundaries are well maintained Hawthorn, with heathy species to the base of the hedges as well as hedgerows trees, mainly Oak. Internal field boundaries are mainly post and wire fences.

The field pattern present in the Sanderson pattern is still recognisable but there has been much removal of intervening hedgerows. Woodland boundaries are substantially the same but have been infilled with coniferous planting. The shelter belts are a recent addition.

Threats to the LCP include: further loss of the historic field pattern due to agricultural expansion, changes in the proportion of coniferous plantations due to removal of areas or replanting, and decline in condition of mature trees including avenue and parkland trees due to limited management.

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### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Large scale rolling topography
- Views enclosed by wooded skylines
- Estate plantations and belts of trees
- Large arable and grass fields
- Low cut hawthorn hedges
- Straight roads with wide grass verges
- Isolated brick built farmsteads and estate cottages
- Heathland species to base of hedgerows and in verges

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **very good**.

The PZ has a **coherent** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features. These include a sewage works to the south west of the area, some large scale recent farm buildings at Scofton and Carlton Forest Farm and the disused airfield to the centre of the area from which some hardstanding remains. Overall the PZ is **visually unified**.

The area consists mainly of intensively farmed arable fields with some areas of pasture used for cattle and sheep grazing. There are small deciduous woodlands with a high proportion of Oak, coniferous woodlands, and thin linear belts of Scot's pine which are a distinctive feature of the PZ. There are isolated parkland trees and remnants of former avenues. There is a good network of hedgerows providing connectivity of habitats and a **moderate** network for wildlife.

Cultural integrity is **good**. There is limited development in the area and many of the farm buildings present are red brick and pantile roofed. The field pattern present in the Sanderson Plan is still recognisable but there has been some hedgerow removal; some boundaries have been replaced with post and wire fences. Woodland boundaries are the same but have been infilled with coniferous planting.

A **moderate** ecological integrity with a **good** cultural integrity gives a **strong** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife. A **visually unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a **very good** landscape condition.

#### Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as **moderate**.

The elements of which the PZ is composed are characteristic of the Sherwood LCA and although there are recent features such as the 2<sup>nd</sup> WW airfield and isolated agricultural sheds overall the time depth is historic. The area has a **moderate** sense of place.

The landform of the area is **apparent** and the tree cover is **intermittent** giving a **moderate** visibility in and out of the area

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility gives a **moderate** sensitivity.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve

#### Landscape Features

- Identify opportunities for new tree and woodland planting on suitable sites
- Promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of new and existing woodlands
- Replace post and wire boundaries with hedgerows
- Promote heathland creation schemes where appropriate
- **Conserve** parkland landscape character and distinctive shelter belt planting

### CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Estatelands with Plantations

Policy Zone: S PZ 13

Landscape Character Parcel: 64

### Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE
Poor			
	Low	Moderate	High
	<b>Sensitivity</b>		

### 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

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

- **Conserve** well maintained roadside hedgerows

**Built Features**

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development to the south west of the Policy Zone / northern fringe of Worksop.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings