

## **S PZ 20 Walesby Forest Estate Farmlands with Plantations / Meadowlands with Plantations Policy: Conserve**

### **Character Summary**

This area is known as Walesby Forest, and includes a large International Outdoor Educational Activity Centre located to the west of the village of Walesby.

This is a predominantly flat open river valley landscape containing areas of mixed woodland (Scots Pine, Larch and Oak) to the north and south, heathland and acidic grassland to the east, and permanent pasture and rough grassland to the west. Areas of permanent pasture with scattered standard Birch and Pine trees are located through the central part of the area. Within these pasture areas are heathy sections. The permanent pasture to the east of the river is used for amenity uses associated with the Activity Centre.

The River Maun here, known as Whitewater, meanders northwards through the area joining the River Meden for a short section where the Robin Hood Way crosses both rivers to the north. The river is a strong feature surrounded by linear strips of flood meadow, riparian vegetation and pollarded willows.

The River Maun's eastern bank is steep in places with grass, scattered trees and gorse. Here a distinctive sandstone outcrop, known locally as Robin Hood's Cave, is thought to be an area where Robin Hood once sheltered.

Conjure Alders Woodland is a remnant of a more ancient landscape. Field boundaries consist of post and wire fences with a few overgrown and gappy hedgerows.

There are several SINC sites including Walesby Wood, Gosling Carr and Conjure Alders, Bothamsall.

Pylons run through the area from north to south. Whitewater Lane encloses the area to the south. The activity centre complex contains a variety of non-vernacular buildings, lodges and camping areas located to the south of the area within large open fields surrounded by woodland plantations.

The Robin Hood Way runs through the north and along the north east boundary of the area.

# S PZ 20 Walesby Forest Estate Farmlands with plantations/ River Meadowlands with Plantations

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Flat, open river valley
- Meandering river with distinctive sandstone outcrop
- Low lying flood meadows
- Alder and Willow and other riparian vegetation,
- Heathland and permanent pasture
- Mixed deciduous woodland
- Walesby Forest International Outdoor Educational Activity Centre

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The Landscape condition is defined as **good**. There is a **coherent** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features; these include pylons which run from north to south along the eastern edge of the area, and a static caravan site is located adjacent to the activity centre. The buildings associated with the Activity Centre, to the south, although modern in appearance are well screened by woodland. Overall this is a visually unified area.

There are several SINC's within the PZ including: Walesby Wood, Gosling Carr and Conjure Alders, Bothamsall. There are numerous small blocks of mixed woodland, areas of permanent pasture with scattered trees, heathland, and the River Maun bordered by linear sections of flood meadow which is grazed by sheep. Hedgerows are few and tend to be overgrown or gappy in places. Field boundaries along the Robin Hood Way are timber post and rail. The mixed woodland, trees, hedgerows, flood meadow, heathland and permanent pasture provide a **moderate** network of wildlife corridors.

Cultural integrity of the area is **variable**. The area contains historic features associated with the legend of Robin Hood and remnants of the historic Conjure Alder Woodland exist to the north, which is present on the Sanderson Plan. However, other historic east west field boundaries have been removed. The permanent pasture located to the east of the River Maun is used for amenity uses associated with the Activity Centre and much of the woodland is also managed for amenity use. The policy zone has a **moderate** intensity of recreational use.

A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife gives a **good** landscape condition

### Landscape Sensitivity

The historic field pattern shown on the Sanderson Plan is still evident despite the areas recreational use. The assemblage of mixed woodland, trees, hedgerows, flood meadow, heathland and permanent pasture is unique and rare within the Sherwood area but overall the features contained are **characteristic** with an **historic** (post 1600) time depth. Overall the area has a **strong** sense of place

Views out of the area are often limited by woodland and overgrown hedgerows. There are open views along the River Maun valley and long distance views to the A614 in the west. The **apparent** landform with **intermittent** tree cover gives a **moderate** visibility overall.

A **strong** sense of place and a **moderate** visibility gives a **high** landscape sensitivity overall

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the pastoral character and ecological diversity
- **Conserve** river corridor diversity and marginal riverside vegetation
- **Conserve** and enhance the ecological diversity and character of woodland, riparian habitats, heathland, and permanent pasture
- **Conserve** existing hedgerows and seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern with new hedgerow planting, particularly within the heathland habitats.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new development within historic boundaries

### Built Features

- Seek opportunities to restore woodland, riparian habitats, heathland and permanent pasture when considering new development
- New development should reflect the local vernacular of the Sherwood region.

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: River Meadowlands with Plantations, Estate Farmlands with plantations

Policy Zone: S PZ 20

Land Cover Parcel: S28, S29, S31, S44

## Condition

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

Low

Moderate

High

## Sensitivity

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

**Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Strong

### Sensitivity

**High**

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