

S PZ 21 Elkesley Meadowlands with Plantations/ Estate Farmlands

Policy: Conserve

Character summary

A flat river valley landscape located to the south of the settlement of Elkesley.

The River Poulter meanders east to west through the area, semi-enclosed by Willow, Poplar and Alder fringes. This small-scale riverside landscape contains mainly unimproved meadows along both sides of the river with a few fields of arable and occasional amenity grassland further to the north and south. Fields are defined by tall, bushy, mixed hedgerows of Hawthorn, with Field Maple, Blackthorn, Elder and Rose with occasional Ash and Oak standards. A mature Poplar plantation is located to the south of the village.

There are woodland clumps and corner copses surviving from the Sanderson's plan period. Brick and pantile roofed cottages are prevalent within this LCP, many of which are listed.

The Robin Hood Way crosses the river along the western edge of the area.

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PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Meandering river channel, sometimes defined by woodland fringes
- Permanent pasture and flood meadow
- Fringing Alder, Willows and riparian scrub
- Tall, bushy, mixed hedgerows
- Alder plantations

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The landscape condition of the area is defined as **good**. The area has a **coherent** pattern of elements and **few** visual detractors; the only one being some visibility of the traffic on the A1 located further east and a power line crossing the area, outside the policy zone. Overall this gives a **visually unified** area.

The River Poulter is semi-enclosed with Alder, Poplar and Willow fringes. Small fields of improved and unimproved meadows are enclosed by tall, bushy mixed hedgerows of Hawthorn, Field Maple, Blackthorn, Elder and Rose with occasional Ash and Oak standards. Some hedgerows have grown out and others have been replaced by post and wire fencing. A mature poplar plantation is located to the south of the village. The mature trees, hedgerows, meadow, and permanent pasture provide a **moderate** network of wildlife habitats. There is a low coverage of trees within the area with no evidence of young or newly planted trees. Field boundaries are tall mixed deciduous hedgerows, which are dense and bushy, some have grown out into individual trees and the gaps filled in by post and wire fencing.

Elkesley village consists largely of brick buildings with pantile roofs, many of which are listed buildings. Brick and pantile roofed cottages and farmsteads are prevalent in the area. There has been some new development on the edge of the village within the PZ; therefore the cultural integrity is **good**.

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

Landscape Sensitivity

The historic field pattern is evident throughout the area; a large proportion of the field pattern, and the trees and woodland fringes along the river, are shown on the Sanderson Plan. However there has been some loss of field pattern to arable farming and a sports field to the south of the village.

The assemblage of mature trees, tall hedgerows and permanent pasture is unique and rare within the Sherwood LCA as a whole with an **historic** (post 1600) time depth, overall this leads to a **strong** sense of place.

Views are often limited by trees and tall hedgerows. There are limited views of the A1 to the east. The landform is **insignificant** and tree cover **intermittent** giving a **low** visibility in and out of the area overall.

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

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the pastoral character and ecological diversity
- **Conserve** and reinforce the ecological diversity and character of riparian habitats and permanent pasture
- **Conserve** existing hedgerows and seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern with new hedgerow planting
- Seek opportunities to restore hedgerows to field boundaries
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture,

Built Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries
- **Conserve** the historic character and setting of Elkesley – new development should respect the scale, design and materials used traditionally
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Estate farmlands, Meadowlands with Plantations,
Policy Zone: S PZ 21

Landscape Character Parcel: S26, S41, S43

Condition

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

Low Moderate High

Sensitivity

NB: where one criterion is 'very good' this pushes the policy descriptions into the next highest category

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: Unique/rare

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Strong

Landform: Insignificant

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Low