

Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment
Sherwood: S PZ 22

Sherwood

Policy Zone 22: Scofton

POLICY: CONSERVE

Character Summary

The area is east of Worksop, immediately north of the B6079 [Retford Road] and west of the A1 and covers Scofton village and Osberton Park along with part of River Ryton corridor which passes through the south of the Policy Zone adjacent to the Chesterfield Canal.

Landform is gently undulating and rounded sloping southwards towards the River Ryton valley. Open views out to higher ground are afforded with some medium distance views towards wooded skylines. Woodland blocks within the Policy Zone also limit views in some directions. Distribution centres situated along the A57 are visible from the south.

Osberton Park is dominated by grazing sheep, beyond the parkland the predominant land use is arable. Fields are bounded by well maintained hawthorn hedgerows and interspersed with small blocks of mixed/deciduous woodland and coniferous stands. The Chesterfield Canal [SINC] runs through the south of the area. Individual parkland trees include sweet chestnut, beech, oak and sycamore.

Generally buildings have a vernacular character though there are some large scale agricultural sheds associated with farmsteads.

Sherwood – Policy Zone 22: Scofton

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Red brick farmhouse cottages.
- Osberton Hall, associated parkland and trees including the lime avenue.
- Mix of large scale arable delineated by well maintained hedgerows and some permanent improved pastoral farming.
- Modern agricultural built development.
- Small blocks of mixed/deciduous woodland and coniferous stands.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a **uniform** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features within the Policy Zone, the main one being modern agricultural buildings. Overall the area has a **strongly unified** visual appearance.

Intensive arable use and permanent improved pasture are the two main landuses. Field boundaries consist of a small number of gappy hawthorn hedgerows, with the occasional oak standard, and timber post and rail fencing, arable farming has had a significant effect upon the historic field pattern. Osberton Hall [stone built] and associated parkland with individual parkland trees is particularly notable and fairly dominant within the landscape. Buildings include red brick estate cottages and farmhouses of the local style. The impact of buildings is considered low. Overall the cultural integrity is defined as **good**.

Ecological habitats comprise linear sections of flood meadow, woodland groups, hedgerows and parkland. Ecological value is weakened by intensive arable farming, the reduction in hedgerows is also a result of farming intensification. The Chesterfield Canal [SINC] and River Ryton run through the southern part of the Policy Zone. The area has moderate tree coverage, species are mostly oak and Scots pine. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which overall gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **strongly unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity gives a **very good landscape condition**.

Sensitivity

The local building style and the presence of Osberton Hall, its parkland and formal features, such as the avenue of limes give the area local distinctiveness and are **characteristic** of the Sherwood region, Osberton Hall and historic parkland being a strong heritage asset of typical estate character. There is evidence of woodland, farmland and parkland management. The continuity/time depth is described as **historic** [post 1600], giving a **moderate** sense of place.

The **dominant** landform combined with **intermittent** tree cover/sense of enclosure leads to **high** visibility. A **moderate** sense of place with **high** visibility gives **high landscape sensitivity** overall.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Conserve

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** permanent pasture and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.
- **Conserve** woodland and individual parkland trees, seek to reinforce as appropriate.
- **Conserve** ecological diversity and biodiversity of the Chesterfield Canal and River Ryton corridors, enhance where appropriate.

Built Features

- **Conserve** the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around existing settlements while **conserving** and respecting the historic character and setting of Osberton Hall and surrounding parkland.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic enclosed boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style of red brick construction in any new development.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.

CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 22
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S60, S63, S68

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

Very Good

Pattern of Elements:	Uniform
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Strongly Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Strong

Sensitivity

High

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