

S PZ 27 Ollerton Estate Farmlands

Policy: Conserve and Create

Character Summary

This is an arable landscape located to the north and south-west of the settlement of Ollerton and New Ollerton. The gently rounded topography has localised flatter areas to the north-east. Ollerton Pit Woods occurs in the southeast of this area; this former colliery spoil heap is a dominant feature within the landscape. The River Maun runs along the northern edge of the area.

The area is dominated by medium to large-scale intensively farmed arable fields, with isolated areas of sheep pasture and occasional intensive livestock sheds further to the south.

The area has a varied woodland pattern. There are blocks of broadleaved woodland (Birch, Ash, and Oak) to the north, and a large coniferous plantation (Scots Pine, Birch) with broadleaved margins to the west. To the south of Ollerton, Ollerton Pit Woods, and Ollerton Hills are comprised of large blocks of mixed deciduous woodland (Birch, Ash, Oak and Willow) located within intensively farmed areas.

Although woodland is an important feature, the area has no strong sense of wooded enclosure; farmland is the dominant component of the landscape. Views to the west are enclosed by woodland. The area has some open views, but most views are restricted by landform, vegetation and housing.

Large geometric fields are enclosed by low hawthorn hedgerows with some Oak and Ash occurring as hedgerow trees. Hedgerows are generally intact but are gappy and lost in some localised parts. An ancient parish hedgerow runs along Beards Belt located along Robin Hood Way, located north of Walesby Village.

Walesby Village is located in the centre of the area. This small nucleated village has a historic core with red brick buildings and some more recent suburban development. The larger settlements of Ollerton, New Ollerton and Boughton are located further south. The area has a number of isolated farmsteads to the north adjacent to the River Maun. This predominantly agricultural landscape is interspersed with other land uses such as a caravan park, a large agricultural distribution centre and Sherwood Castle Holiday Village. The Robin Hood Way runs across the northern end of the area, to the north of Walesby.

There are several SINC sites including Haughton Decoy and Boughton Break Ride as well as 3 heathland register sites.

Threats to the area include further loss of field boundaries due to agricultural expansion with additional built structures, and expansion of settlements of Walesby, Ollerton and Boughton.

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PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Gently rounded topography
- Medium to large-scale semi-irregular field pattern, enclosed by low hawthorn hedges some in poor condition
- Occasional hedgerow trees
- Views framed by rising ground and woodland edges
- Small, nucleated, red brick villages
- Mining settlements with associated reclaimed colliery spoil heaps

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The landscape condition is defined as **moderate**. The pattern of elements is **coherent** and the area has **some** visual detractors, these include an agricultural distribution centre and chicken sheds located to the north of Walesby village. There are a number of intensive livestock sheds to the south of the policy zone. A limited number of busy roads cross the area and power lines cut across the area to the south, overall the visual unity is **coherent**.

There are several SINC's within the area including Houghton Decoy and Boughton Break Ride. An ancient parish hedgerow runs along Beards Belt located along Robin Hood Way, north of Walesby Village.

This intensively farmed arable landscape contains a number of small to medium-sized mixed deciduous woodland blocks and coniferous plantations to the north, south and west. There are a few areas of grazed pasture. Medium to large-scale arable fields are enclosed by low hawthorn hedgerows with occasional trees (Oak and Ash). Hedgerows are generally intact in the north and south, but are gappy and lost in parts around settlements and further south. The mixed woodland, trees, and hedgerows provide a network of wildlife corridors that is considered to have **moderate** ecological integrity. There is a low coverage of trees with some newly planted trees associated with villages, new developments and the restored colliery spoil tip.

This agricultural landscape is interspersed with other land uses such as a caravan park, a large agricultural distribution centre and Sherwood Castle Holiday Village. The Robin Hood Way runs across the northern end of the area, to the north of Walesby. Cultural integrity is **variable**. Walesby is a small nucleated village with a historic core with red brick buildings and some suburban influences. The larger settlements of Ollerton, and Boughton also have an older historic core but have more recent residential expansion which dominates the southern end of the area. There are a number of isolated red brick farmsteads, adjacent to the River Maun.

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

Landscape Sensitivity

The trees and woodland associated with the River Maun and Houghton Decoy are shown on the Sanderson Plan. The historic field pattern has been replaced by medium to large-scale intensively farmed arable fields. The features of the area are **characteristic** of the Sherwood region and of an **historic** time depth (post 1600), the sense of place is **moderate**.

Views to the west are enclosed by woodland. The area has some open views, but most are restricted by landform, vegetation and housing, overall the visibility in and out of the area is **moderate**.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS -Conserve and Create

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the ecological diversity and character of woodland habitats
- **Conserve** existing hedgerows and seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern with new hedgerow planting
- Seek opportunities to restore hedgerows with some hedgerow trees where appropriate to field boundaries
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to mixed woodland, permanent pasture, and heathland

Built Features

- New development should be contained within historic field boundaries
- **Conserve** the historic character and setting of Walesby – new development should respect the scale, design and materials used traditionally in the Policy Zone and be contained near to the existing settlements of Walesby and Ollerton.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Estate Farmlands

Policy Zone: S PZ 27

Land Cover Parcel: S44, S70

Condition

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

Low Moderate High

Sensitivity

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition Moderate

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Some

Visual Unity: Coherent

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Coherent

Sensitivity Moderate

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate