

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment**  
**Sherwood: S PZ 28**

**Sherwood**

**Policy Zone 28: Meden Vale and Church Warsop**

**POLICY: CONSERVE**

**Character Summary**

The area stretches from Lound Hall in the east to Church Warsop in the west along the Meden and Maun valleys. It almost bisects the Sherwood character region south of Clumber and Thoresby Estates and north of Sherwood Forest Country Park. Thoresby Lake falls within the Policy Zone in the west.

Both the River Meden and Thoresby Lake have gently sloping sides, further east the flat valley floor is evident between the Meden and Maun valleys.

Views tend to be medium distance either towards surrounding higher ground or woodland and plantation blocks which occur frequently adjacent to the river corridors. Some views are limited by residential development at Meden Vale and by the reclaimed slopes of the former Welbeck Colliery.

Essentially the Policy Zone comprises small areas of pasture, flood meadow and arable alongside the watercourses. Part of the historic landscape of Thoresby Park encroaches into the area from the north; mature parkland trees stand close to the Lake and deer graze to the waters edge. Most field boundaries are post and wire fencing, though a few gappy hawthorn hedgerows are also present. Small areas of settlement are contained within the area; Lound Hall Training Centre, Houghton Hall Farm and Houghton are located close to the River Maun while the small villages of Perlethorpe and Budby are located close to the River Meden along with Gleadthorpe Grange further west.

## Sherwood – Policy Zone 28: Meden Vale and Church Warsop

### PHOTOGRAPH



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- River Meden, River Maun, Thoresby Lake.
- Linear sections of flood meadow.
- Deciduous woodland belts aligning the river corridor.
- Mix of oak and poplar with heathland understorey.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### Condition

The landscape condition is very good. The Policy Zone contains a **coherent** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features including the urban areas of Meden Vale, Church Warsop and Market Warsop, Welbeck Colliery. Although busy roads, the A616 and A614 are minor detractions running perpendicular to the valley. Overall the landscape is **visually unified**.

The River Meden dominates the Policy Zone, subsequently the area is not intensively used. There are relatively few buildings or structures within the area, farm buildings are mainly red brick with slate or pantile roofs. Urban areas at nearby settlements Meden Vale, Church Warsop and Market Warsop are more modern in style. The historic field pattern is still evident in part though several hedgerows have been replaced by post and wire fencing. The overall cultural integrity is considered **good**.

Linear sections of flood meadow follow the watercourse, some is used for pastoral farming and some amenity grassland occurs near to settlement. Generally there is good vegetation connectivity along the valley between deciduous woodland belts and hedgerow field boundaries adjacent to the Policy Zone. Waterfowl is characteristic of the area. Tree coverage is moderate and of diverse age structure, oak and poplar are the dominant species and occur with heathland understorey in less wooded areas. A significant strip of riparian vegetation follows the River Meden comprising mature willow, poplar with understorey. One SINC, a woodland block, is contained within the Policy Zone along with two nature reserves; The Bottoms [riparian habitats along the River Meden] and Budby Carr [mixed plantation woodland]. The ecological integrity is defined as **strong** which gives a **very strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area combined with a **very strong** functional integrity gives a **very good landscape condition**.

#### Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Sherwood region and the continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

The presence of the River Meden prevents intrusive landuse or development. Dense woodland along the majority of the valley helps to further protect the river as a habitat, although the tree cover is noticeably sparse between Meden Vale and Budby, where arable and pastoral land is farmed right up to the water's edge.

**Moderate** visibility is afforded due to the wooded enclosure of the Policy Zone. The landform is considered **dominant**. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **moderate** visibility gives **moderate** landscape sensitivity overall.

### LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

#### Conserve

##### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the character, pattern, ecological diversity and biodiversity of the River Meden corridor and surrounding flood meadow, seek to enhance as appropriate.
- **Conserve** the structure of existing woodland and flood meadow and seek to enhance and reinforce as necessary to encourage greater habitat diversity as appropriate.

##### Built Features

- **Conserve** the rural character of the landscape by respecting the scale and setting of existing settlements.
- New development should take account of the distinctive ecological elements within the Policy Zone.

### CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 28  
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S29, S30, S31

### 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

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Very Good</b>
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Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Strong

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Very Strong

<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
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Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Dominant

Extent of Tree Cover: Enclosed

Visibility: Moderate