

Sherwood

Policy Zone 32: Clumber

POLICY: CONSERVE

Character Summary

The area is bounded by the B6034 to the west and the A614 to the east. Netherfield Lane connects the A616 and A614 near to the southern boundary. The landform of this Policy Zone is gently undulating with Clumber Lake to the centre of the area which is fed by the River Poulter. There are medium distance views with frequent wooded skylines, views are more enclosed within the wooded areas.

The Policy Zone consists of over 75% of the parkland landscape of Clumber Park [National Trust] and Thoresby Park [Pierrepoint family since 1600] which are visitor attractions with their associated woodland, lakes, roads, tracks and footpaths. There are small areas of arable and pastures. There are also areas of heathland within the parkland grazed by rare breed cattle and sheep.

There are extensive areas of coniferous woodland with deciduous edges; species including Scots Pine, oak, beech, hawthorn and sycamore. Arable farmland contains clumps of mature trees and there are mature parkland trees within grassed areas. A particular landscape feature is the double lime avenue on the entrance road from the A614 into Clumber Park. Rhododendron is common as an understorey species in woodland areas.

Hardwick Village contains estate houses belonging to the Clumber and are generally red brick with pantiled roofs. Existing red brick and pantiled buildings within Clumber Park are also used to house visitor facilities such as a café, National Trust shop, bicycle hire etc. the Clumber site also contains a walled kitchen garden and associated glass houses and outbuildings. There is also a church within the Clumber estate.

Threats include loss of hedgerows due to increased arable land use; some loss of parkland due to additional coniferous planting, spread of rhododendrons within the understorey replacing native species, and additional visitor pressure on the parklands resulting in the expansion of facilities.

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PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Undulating landform.
- Sparsely settled landscape.
- Views framed by woodland edges.
- Extensive broadleaved, mixed and coniferous woodlands.
- Country houses set in ornamental parklands [Clumber is grade 1 listed].
- Narrow man-made lakes along river valleys.
- Extensive areas of unenclosed heaths.
- Unfenced minor roads.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a **coherent** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features within the Policy Zone; the A614, caravan parks and a radio mast. Overall the area has a **unified** visual appearance.

The Policy Zone generally comprises large areas of parkland with woodland; Clumber and Thoresby Parks. Clumber has a grade 1 listing on the English Heritage Register for Parks and Gardens. Areas of farmland are principally contained within the south and north-east and include both arable and pasture. Pleasure grounds and gardens associated with the estates are strong landscape features along with buildings and structures which are constructed of red brick and stone; Thoresby Hall and Hotel [grade 1], remnant parts of Clumber House, the chapel, several gatehouses [some listed], Clumber bridge and Hardwick Village, also part of the Clumber estate. Some conversion works to outbuildings are evident at Clumber to provide visitor facilities, however all works reflect the local vernacular. Field boundaries are inconsistent with the majority of fields defined by woodland and plantation blocks. Hedgerows are more apparent in the south. The overall cultural integrity is considered **good**.

Extensive areas of coniferous, mixed and broadleaved woodland cover at least half of the Policy Zone. The age structure is diverse; including mature areas and evidence of replanting schemes. A number of the parkland trees are veterans. Heathland areas are apparent within the parkland and are mostly grazed. A range of habitats occur at Clumber particularly and are well maintained by the National Trust and the Forestry Commission. A significant area at Clumber [1000 acres] has SSSI status. A double avenue of lime trees is an exceptionally striking feature aligning the single public road which bisects Clumber Park [Lime Tree Avenue]. The ecological integrity is described as **strong** which overall gives a **very strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **very strong** functional integrity gives a **very good landscape condition** overall.

Sensitivity

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are **unique/rare** of the Sherwood region and the continuity/time depth has been assessed as **ancient** [pre 1600], giving a **very strong** sense of place.

The Policy Zone has an enclosed nature with views to, from and within the area being limited by frequent and extensive woodland and plantation. Longer 'designed' views are afforded at key locations such as Lime Tree Avenue and across Serpentine Lake at Clumber toward the Poulter in the east. When combined with a **dominant** landform this results in **moderate** visibility. A **very strong** sense of place combined with **moderate** visibility gives **very high landscape sensitivity** overall.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Conserve

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** all areas of historic parkland and landscape features contained within it. Seek opportunities for restoring parkland character.
- Identify opportunities for conserving and restoring areas of heathland and semi natural oak woodland.
- **Conserve** and enhance woodland/plantation blocks and connectivity across the area.
- **Conserve** and enhance hedgerow and tree planting.
- **Conserve** ecological diversity and biodiversity of all habitats, enhance where appropriate.
- Grade 1 status of the parkland would preclude any inappropriate development.

Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and undeveloped character of the landscape.
- **Conserve** and protect buildings and other built features, their character and setting, within the parkland
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style of red brick and stone construction.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.

CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 32
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S35

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:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Strong
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Very Strong

Sensitivity

Very High

Distinctiveness:	Unique/Rare
Continuity:	Ancient
Sense of Place:	Very Strong
Landform:	Dominant
Extent of Tree Cover	Enclosed
Visibility:	Moderate

**Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment
Sherwood: S PZ 32**