

Sherwood

Policy Zone 33: Bothamsall

POLICY: CONSERVE

Character Summary

The area lies south of the Poulter valley and east of Blyth Road [A614] which forms the western boundary. The village of Bothamsall is located outside the Policy Zone boundary to the south-east and Elkesley lies in the north-east. The River Meden follows the south-eastern boundary but lies just outside the area. Clumber Park is located immediately west of the Policy Zone.

Topographically the Policy Zone is gently undulating with flat areas, sloping from higher ground in the east down towards the west. Elevated landform in the south allows open views across the area towards flatter, lower lying land in the north.

The northern section of the Policy Zone is dominated by interlocking areas of woodland and plantation, these are surrounded by arable fields which also occupy much of the reminding area. A pig farm covers part of the Policy Zone in the east, south of Normarton Larches Farm, an oil well is also located in close proximity, south-east of the farm. Spittalmoor Forest Farm is situated further south. Clumber Park Hotel is located on the western edge of the Policy Zone fronting Blyth Road [A614].

An historic avenue of trees remains along West Drayton Avenue which extends from Clumber in the west to West Drayton further east of the Policy Zone. This avenue now forms part of the Robin Hoods Way.

Sherwood – Policy Zone 33: Bothamsall

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensive open arable farmland with significant woodland and plantation blocks.
- Pig farm; part of adjacent Policy Zone.
- No settlement areas, only isolated farmhouses.
- Narrow hedged lanes.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a **unified** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features within the Policy Zone; an oil well, pylons and high voltage power lines. Overall the area has a **strongly unified** visual appearance.

Pig farming extends into the centre of the Policy Zone from the east, elsewhere the land is under intensive arable use interspersed with strong plantation and woodland blocks. There is some evidence of missing field boundaries in localised areas but generally the historic field pattern is intact. Woodland sometimes partially or entirely encloses fields. Two red brick farmhouses lie isolated within the landscape and no other settlement or development exists, pylons within the east being the only urban influence. The overall cultural integrity is considered **good**.

Two SINCs lie within the Policy Zone and comprise valuable roadside verges and coniferous plantation. Tree cover is moderate to high and largely mature; significant woodland and mixed plantation blocks extend throughout the area into the surrounding landscape. Where hedgerows remain they are generally well maintained, though gappy in some places, and connect into woodland and plantation across the Policy Zone, most notably in the east and west, providing a strong green infrastructure throughout. Trees are apparent along roadside verges, however hedgerow trees are rarely seen. Deciduous woodland is more evident in the north. The ecological integrity is described as **strong** which overall gives a **very strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **strongly unified** area with a **very strong** functional integrity gives a **very good landscape condition**.

Sensitivity

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

The Policy Zone has an enclosed nature and the landform is **apparent** resulting in **low** visibility. A **strong** sense of place combined with **low** visibility gives **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Conserve

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and enhance woodland/plantation blocks and connectivity across the area.
- **Conserve** and enhance hedgerow and tree planting along roadsides.
- **Conserve** ecological diversity and biodiversity of the designated SINCs, enhance where appropriate.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.

Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape.
- Contain new small scale development within existing field boundaries.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style of red brick construction.

CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 33
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S33

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

Sensitivity Moderate

Distinctiveness:	Unique/Rare
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Strong
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Enclosed
Visibility:	Low