

Sherwood

Policy Zone 34: East of A614

POLICY: CONSERVE AND REINFORCE

Character Summary

The area is located south-east of Worksop, immediately east of the A614 and south of the A1 [Worksop Road] covering Babworth. The Poulter valley lies to the south and Forest Road runs along the east.

Topographically the Policy Zone is undulating, particularly in the north adjacent to the A1, becoming less so in the south. Views are open towards the north from higher ground and more enclosed towards the south where there is woodland in all directions.

Land use is predominantly arable with mostly well maintained hedgerow boundaries though these are sometimes gappy in places. Relatively large scale woodland blocks occupy the eastern edge and lies beyond the Policy Zone boundary to the north-west and south. Farmsteads feature within the area and a water storage reservoir is located towards the south.

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PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensive arable farmland bounded by narrow hawthorn hedgerows.
- Isolated cottages and farmhouses of red brick construction.
- Large scale deciduous woodland.
- Narrow hedge-lined lanes.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a coherent pattern of elements with some detracting features within the Policy Zone, including high voltage power lines, a reservoir and the A1. Overall this equates to a **visually coherent** area.

Intensive arable farming is the major landuse encompassed by field boundaries of narrow well trimmed hedgerows. Some of the field pattern is lost due to hedgerow removal to create larger fields. Built features comprise isolated cottages and farmhouses of red brick construction which respect the local vernacular. The overall cultural integrity is considered **good**.

There are no SINC's or other ecological designations within the area, however there is a good network of vegetation generally; a dense block of deciduous woodland in the east connects to a fairly intact pattern of hawthorn field boundaries. A small area of unimproved grassland is apparent in the south-west corner. The ecological integrity is defined as **moderate** which results in a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually coherent** area with a **strong** functional integrity leads to a **good landscape condition** overall.

Sensitivity

Deciduous woodland blocks, trimmed hedgerows and red brick farmhouses/cottages are some of the features which give the area local distinctiveness and are **characteristic** of the Sherwood region. Buildings are located close to woodland, limiting their impact on the surrounding landscape. The continuity/time depth is **historic** [post 1600] giving a **moderate** sense of place.

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

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Conserve and Reinforce

Landscape Features

- **Conserve and reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition, particularly along roadsides. Seek opportunities to restore historic field pattern/boundaries where these have been lost
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Enhance visual unity through further appropriate tree and woodland planting.
- **Conserve and reinforce** ecological diversity throughout the Policy Zone.

Built Features

- **Conserve and reinforce** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape.
- Contain small scale new development within historic enclosed boundaries.
- Create small scale woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of new development.

CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 34
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S82

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

Good

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Some

Visual Unity: Coherent

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

Sensitivity

Moderate

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Dominant

Extent of Tree Cover: Enclosed

Visibility: Moderate