

S PZ 36 Poulter Valley Meadowlands with Plantations

Policy: Conserve

Character Summary

This LCP consists of the narrow valley of the River Poulter and is generally flat with land sloping gently down to the River. Views are often enclosed by woodland to the south, but there are more open views to the north and west enclosed by wooded skylines.

Land use is predominantly woodland with small areas of pasture and arable land. There is a significant wetland to the west of the LCP surrounded by scrubby vegetation to the valley sides. Pylons run from north to south to the west of the LCP. The Robin Hood Way crosses the area with footbridges across the river. A bridleway runs from the A614 in the west to Crookford Farm in the east. There is a timber recycling centre at Crookford Hill which extends in to the river valley

The woodland is of mixed types, including coniferous plantations dominated by Scots Pine, Poplar plantations also with Oak and Ash, and some patches of deciduous heathy woodland dominated by Birch. Elkesley Wood is mixed deciduous with Oak, Ash and Poplar. The river is fringed with Alder, Willow and Poplar. Unusually for the Sherwood region the woodland comes down to the river's edge rather than being in an open valley.

The boundaries in the LCP are mainly post and rail in the east; there are some post and wire in area near to pylons in western area. There are strong hawthorn hedgerows adjacent to bridleway in the west.

The river valley woodland shapes are reminiscent of the Sanderson Plan, although the woodland planting does not generally date from this age.

Threats include the loss of woodland or pasture areas due to arable farming expansion, clearance or additional planting of plantations, flooding of the woodland - this area was severely flooded in 2007, and lack of management of the woodland.

S PZ 36 Poulter Valley River Meadowlands with Plantations

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Continuous belt of woodland along river valley
- Deciduous woodland,
- Coniferous plantations
- Poplar plantations
- Some views to wooded ridgelines
- Heathy vegetation along tracks and rides

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The condition of the PZ is assessed as **very good**. The pattern of elements is **visually unified** as the area consists almost entirely of woodland. There are **few** detracting features; the only ones being a small timber recycling centre, low voltage power lines and a small section of the A614 which cuts into the area. Overall this gives a **strongly visually unified** area.

The cultural integrity is described as **poor** as there are limited features but the overall woodland pattern is reminiscent of the Sanderson Plan, although much of the planting is recent. In ecological terms this area forms a **strong** corridor between Clumber Park and the West Drayton woodland areas. There are 2 Bio SINC sites: Poulter Valley Plantation and East Drayton Woodland, and Clumber Park SSSI. Overall the PZ has a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife.

A **strongly visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **very good** landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity

The sensitivity of the PZ is assessed as **moderate**. The river valley is unlike the Maun and the majority of the Meden valley which is open and meanders through a flood plain in that it is well wooded to the river's edge. There is limited access to the PZ and its undisturbed nature, together with its wooded character, gives the area a **strong** sense of place.

The landform is **apparent** and **enclosed** by the woodland, giving a **low** visibility in and out of the area.

A **strong** sense of place with a **low** visibility leads to a **moderate** Landscape sensitivity

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of the riparian woodlands
- Promote heathland creation schemes to the boundaries the coniferous plantations areas along rides and pathways
- **Conserve** the river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation as well as wetland areas

Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and undisturbed character of the river corridor
- New development should take account of the distinctive ecological elements within the Policy Zone.

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Meadowlands with Plantations
Policy Zone: S PZ 36
Land Cover Parcel: 26

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: | Unified |
| Detracting Features: | Few |
| Visual Unity: | Strongly Unified |
| Ecological Integrity: | Strong |
| Cultural Integrity: | Poor |
| Functional Integrity: | Coherent |

Sensitivity

Moderate

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