

## **S PZ 38 Ryton Valley River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Conserve and Reinforce**

#### **Character Summary**

This LCP consists of a narrow floodplain through which the River Ryton flows from Blyth to Worksop. The Chesterfield Canal runs through the LCP for a small section on the south. There are open views out of the LCP into open farmland for most of its length. Landform encloses longer distance views. Within Worksop urban development encloses the narrow river corridor.

Land use consists of new residential areas within Worksop to the south of the area; also warehouses and light industrial buildings on the outskirts of Worksop. The land use changes abruptly to pasture areas between Worksop urban edge and Osberton Park. Further north cereal production predominates at the edge of the flood plain. Tracks and bridleways cross the area.

Small deciduous woodlands with Poplar plantations occur throughout the length of the river beyond Osberton Park, as well as small holts of Willow, Polar and Ash. Many of these are SINC's. Road hedgerows are generally well maintained, mostly Hawthorn with some Elder and Oak trees. Most internal field boundaries are post and wire fences rather than hedgerows.

Many of the Holt woodlands have remained intact since the Sanderson Plan, e.g. Ash Holt, but the Poplar Plantations are a recent addition. Irregularly shaped fields to the river's edge reflect the Sanderson Plan pattern but internal divisions have been removed. Historic features are stone bridges to farm tracks which cross the rivers. The Chesterfield Canal has bridges, locks, stone architectural features and a lock keeper's cottage to the outskirts of Worksop.

Threats to the area include flooding of the narrow valley; also mature trees to the river's edge are over-mature and are immediately next to farmed areas, which puts them under pressure. Stone bridges may be damaged by the heavy farm traffic using the tracks. There may be further expansion of the built edge of Worksop.

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## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Meandering river channel defined by a thin band of riparian vegetation – containing Ash, Alder, Poplar and Willow
- Permanent pasture and flood meadow bordering the river, as well as arable fields
- Alder and Willow Holts
- Small Poplar plantations along river valley
- Stone bridges across river.
- Chesterfield canal with associated vernacular features

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The condition of the PZ is assessed as **good**. The pattern of elements is **visually coherent** as the area has a consistent pattern of elements through out its length, there are **some** detracting features which are mostly on the urban fringes of Worksop. Overall this gives a **visually coherent** area. There are 7 Bio SINC sites Low Wood, Hodsock; Ash Holt and Hodsock/Red Bridge; Plantation Lane, Blyth; Ash Holt, Hodsock; Chequer Bottoms, Osberton Woodland and Chesterfield Canal, which in ecological terms makes this area a **moderate** for wildlife corridor between Blyth and Worksop.

Cultural integrity is **variable** in that there are degraded areas on the fringes of Worksop but once outside this area the field and woodland pattern is consistent with historic maps. Overall this gives a **strong** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife

A **visually coherent** area with a **strong** functional integrity gives a **good** landscape condition.

### Landscape Sensitivity

The sensitivity of the PZ is assessed as **Moderate**. Once beyond the urban fringes of Worksop the river valley is **characteristic** of the Sherwood LCA with only a thin strip of riparian woodland along the rivers edge, Features within the valley such as the Willow holts are shown on the Sanderson map of 1835. The time depth is **historic** ( post 1600) giving a **moderate** sense of place overall .

The landform is **apparent** with interconnected and **intermittent** small woodland areas giving a **moderate** visibility in and out of the area.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility leads to a **moderate** landscape sensitivity

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve and Reinforce

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** and **Reinforce** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of the river corridor
- Seek opportunities for converting arable land to permanent pasture along river edge
- **Conserve** and enhance the ecological diversity of riparian woodland
- **Reinforce** and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation
- Replace internal field boundaries with hedgerows

### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled character of the river corridor
- New development should take account of the distinctive landscape elements within the Policy Zone.
- **Conserve** and **Reinforce** the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: River Meadowlands

Policy Zone: S PZ 38

Land Cover Parcel: 68

## Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	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: Variable

Functional Integrity: Strong

### Sensitivity

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate