

Sherwood

Policy Zone 39: Blyth

POLICY: CONSERVE

Character Summary

The area lies to the east of Worksop and immediately west of the A1 which forms the eastern boundary. Blyth village is located at the northern tip of the Policy Zone. The River Ryton corridor defines the western boundary. Ranby village is also within the Policy Zone although the A1 separates it from the main area.

Landform is rounded and gently undulates before descending gradually from the A1 in the east towards the River Ryton in the west. Open views out to higher ground are afforded along with medium distance views, some with wooded skylines.

Land use is mainly arable farmland with some pastoral in the south. The field pattern is fragmented by small to medium sized woodland blocks of mixed, deciduous and coniferous species, smaller copses are evident in the south. Field boundaries are generally well maintained hawthorn hedgerows, though these are sometimes gappy in the far north. The Chesterfield Canal [SINC] runs through Ranby and the southern part of the area adjacent to Retford Road [B6079]. Buildings within the Policy Zone have a notable vernacular character.

Sherwood – Policy Zone 39: Blyth

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Highly intensive arable farmland.
- River Ryton corridor.
- Chesterfield Canal – a designated SINCC.
- The A1 transport corridor.
- Small to medium blocks of mixed, deciduous and coniferous woodland fragmenting the historic field pattern.
- Osberton Hall and Parkland.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape condition is very good. There is a **coherent** pattern of elements with **few** detracting features within the Policy Zone including the A1, low voltage power lines and modern agricultural sheds. Overall the area has a **unified** visual appearance.

Generally the historic field pattern is intact and contains predominantly highly intensive arable farmland with some pasture in the south. Fields are bounded by low trimmed hawthorn hedges with occasional oak trees. Aside of Ranby village, which is separated from the main part of the Policy Zone by the A1, there is little built development within the area and is mostly red brick farmhouses and farm buildings, though there are some modern agricultural sheds. Osberton Hall and associated parkland is located in the south-west. The Policy Zone retains a rural character despite the close proximity of the A1. Overall the cultural integrity is **good**.

Woodland blocks connect to the field boundaries and are evident along roadside verges, providing a good green network across the area. Overall the tree cover is relatively low and of mature age. Although pine appears to be the dominant species, larch/beechn/ash/birch/oak/poplar are also evident. The River Ryton corridor forms the western boundary while Chesterfield Canal [SINCC] runs through the south of the area reinforcing the traditional character of the Policy Zone. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which overall gives a **strong** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity results in a **very good landscape condition**.

Sensitivity

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

Apparent landform and **intermittent** tree cover affords open views which are contained and restricted by woodland blocks both within and along the boundaries of the DPZ resulting in **moderate** visibility overall. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **moderate** visibility equates to **moderate landscape sensitivity**.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Conserve

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** historic field pattern, restoring and reinforcing existing poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary. Seek to increase number of hedgerow trees.
- **Conserve** permanent pasture and seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.
- **Conserve** blocks of woodland, coniferous stands and parkland trees, seek to reinforce as necessary.
- **Conserve** the character, setting and biodiversity of the River Ryton and Chesterfield Canal corridors.

Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by concentrating new small scale development around Blyth and Ranby.
- **Conserve** and respect the historic character and setting of Osberton Hall and surrounding parkland.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- **Conserve** the traditional architectural style of red brick construction.
- **Conserve** the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal.

CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 39
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S60

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: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

Sensitivity

Moderate

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate

Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment
Sherwood: S PZ 39