

Sherwood

Policy Zone 40: Babworth

POLICY: CONSERVE AND CREATE

Character Summary

The Policy Zone covers an extensive area stretching between Worksop and Retford, descending to the Poulter valley in the far south. The A1 forms part of the western boundary and cuts through the area further south and east. The Retford Road [B6079] forms the north-western boundary, this connects to Straight Mile [A620] which runs through the centre of the area towards Retford immediately east of the Policy Zone. The B6420 runs from the east to the south-west.

Landform is flat in places, particularly in the north and east, otherwise it is gently undulating and slopes towards the River Ryton and Chesterfield Canal in the west and north-west, and towards the River Poulter in the south. There is a steeply sloping wooded area around Ordsall village immediately south-east of Retford. Medium distance views are afforded which are restricted by woodland blocks within and surrounding the Policy Zone, strong roadside hedgerows and woodland associated with river corridors. Some longer distance views are apparent in the east due to landform though these remain limited by riverside woodland along the Poulter valley in the south.

The landscape is mostly arable farmland delineated by hawthorn hedgerows, though belts of Scots pine are also common field boundaries. A number of farmsteads [some buildings are listed] are dotted throughout the Policy Zone, these are generally adjacent to shelter belts and small clumps of woodland. Small pastoral areas are evident near to Ranby and within Babworth Park in the east. There is also some rough horse grazing towards the east/Retford. Remnants of parkland, including avenue trees, are apparent at Ranby Hall, north of the A620, Ranby prison is situated further east. Both B&Q/Wilkinson distribution depots and Manton Enterprise Zone are located in the western section of the Policy Zone, the restored Manton Colliery site is also in this area. The Chesterfield Canal runs east-west through the north, while the railway cuts through the Policy Zone south of the A620, north of Elkesley village located in the south-east.

Sherwood – Policy Zone 40: Babworth

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensive large scale arable farmland.
- Good field boundaries of hedgerows with trees or shelter belts connecting to small woodland blocks.
- Landscape fragmented by busy roads including the A1/A20/B6079.
- Former Manton colliery site.
- Ranby Hall.
- Ranby prison.
- Babworth Hall and parkland.
- Morton Park and Chesterfield Canal [SINCs].

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape condition is moderate. There is a **coherent** pattern of elements with **some** detracting features within the Policy Zone including low/high voltage power lines, busy roads, the reclaimed mineral workings at Manton, industrial development in the west and modern agricultural sheds. Overall the area has a **coherent** visual unity.

Arable land dominates the area with some pastoral towards the east, including that at Babworth Park, fields are generally bounded by low trimmed hawthorn hedgerows, which are gappy in places, or by shelter belts [often Scots pine]. Hedgerow trees are mostly oak, though ash and pine are also evident. Fragmentation of the overall landscape is caused by the busy road network across the Policy Zone and the railway towards the south. However the area retains a rural character away from the roads. The road network and large scale commercial development [particularly in the west], along with localised developments such as Manton colliery and Ranby prison has lead to the loss of the historic field pattern, and some woodland, in parts of the Policy Zone. Built development includes isolated farmsteads and the village of Elkesley, where there is both vernacular and non-vernacular housing. Numerous buildings within the Policy Zone are listed, a number of these fall within Elkesley. New development is quite localised around existing settlement but does not always respect the local style. Overall the cultural integrity is **variable**.

Four SINCs fall within the Policy Zone including Chesterfield Canal and Morton Park. Woodland clumps of mixed/deciduous/coniferous species [including beech, yew, oak and Scots pine] often interlock with field boundaries providing a green network across the area, otherwise woodland blocks tend to be relatively small and scattered giving a low tree coverage overall. The ecological integrity is described as **moderate** which overall gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A **visually coherent** area with a **coherent** functional integrity results in a **moderate 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.

Views are generally contained within the Policy Zone by the landform which falls towards the east or by wooded ridgelines in the west. The landform is apparent and tree cover **intermittent** which results in **moderate** visibility. A **moderate** sense of place combined with **moderate** visibility equates to a **moderate landscape sensitivity** overall.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Conserve and Create

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the historic field pattern, restoring hedgerow boundaries and **creating** new hedgerows where necessary.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture.
- Enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally to **create** increased visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone.
- **Create** new hedgerows along existing roads and railway lines.
- **Conserve** the character, setting and biodiversity of the Chesterfield Canal corridor and Morton Park, **create** ecological enhancements where appropriate.

Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by concentrating small scale new development around transport corridors, **create** woodland to contain and soften built development, preferably in advance of development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.
- **Conserve** and respect the historic character and setting of Morton Park/Babworth Park/Ranby Hall and surroundings.
- **Conserve** the local built vernacular of stone/red brick construction in new development.
- Sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings.
- Conserve the architectural features of the Chesterfield Canal.

CONTEXT

Policy Zone: S PZ 40
Land Cover Parcel[s]: S40, S41, S58, S59, S62

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 Moderate

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Some
Visual Unity:	Coherent
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

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 40