

## **S PZ 54 West Drayton Village Farmlands Policy: Conserve and Reinforce**

### **Character Summary**

This Policy Zone consists of the villages of West Drayton and Rockley which are linked by pedestrian access but not by road. The Policy Zone is bounded to the west by the A1.

The core of West Drayton village is at the cross roads of Church Lane and Old London Road, where several of the red brick and pantiled buildings are listed. The village of Rockley extends from the Great North Road along Mill Lane and, again, many of the red brick and pantiled buildings and Jacket Mill are listed. There has been much infill development in both villages which is not in keeping with the vernacular style of the core of the villages, particularly along Church Lane. The villages are surrounded by unimproved species poor pasture. The historic field pattern is little changed since the Sanderson Plan of 1835.

The area contains a number of mature Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Oak standards. There is a small patch of deciduous woodland containing Ash, Scot's Pine and Silver Birch as the dominant species.

There are no SINCs within this Policy Zone.

Many of the trees in the area are mature and will become senescent if not managed. The unimproved pasture is always under threat of agricultural improvement or from building infill development, as are the mature hedgerows. The historic character of the village will decline if further development proceeds which is not in character with the style of the village cores.

# S PZ 54 West Drayton and Rockley Village Farmlands

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: village farmlands  
 Policy Zone: S PZ 54  
 Landscape Character Parcel: 55,56

## Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE
Poor			
	Low	Moderate	High

**Sensitivity**

## CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Red brick and pantiled cottages to the core of villages of West Drayton and Rockley
- Permanent unimproved pasture surround to villages
- Mature hedgerows and trees within village cores.

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **Good**

The Policy Zone is **visually coherent** in that the area has a consistent pattern of elements. There are **few** detracting features; these include traffic noise from the A1 and derelict buildings. Overall this gives a **visually unified** area. There are no Bio SINC sites but this area is a **moderate** habitat for wildlife because of its unimproved pasture and mature vegetation.

Cultural integrity is **variable** in that, although the core of the villages remains intact, there is evidence of recent infill development which is not in keeping and some properties have been allowed to decline in condition, giving a neglected appearance to the village in places. Overall this gives a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife

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

### Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as **Moderate**

The components of the landscape are **characteristic** of the Sherwood LCA. The time depth is **historic** (post 1600) giving a **moderate** sense of place overall. The core of villages contain listed buildings of red brick and pantiled style but much of the more recent infill development is not in keeping with the traditional vernacular style. The unimproved permanent pasture which surrounds the area is little changed since the Sanderson Plan of 1835.

The landform is **apparent** with interconnected and **intermittent** areas of mature vegetation 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

## SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

### Condition

**Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

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

## ACTIONS Conserve and Reinforce

### Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the intact historic pattern of hedged fields and unimproved permanent pasture around West Drayton and Rockley
- **Conserve** mature trees and hedgerows within the village core.

### Built Features

- **Conserve** the historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic enclosed boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Reinforce** the traditional architectural style of red brick construction in any new development