

## **S PZ 56 Kirton River Meadowlands**

### **Policy: Create and Restore**

#### **Character Summary**

This is a narrow PZ which follows the valley of the Rivers Idle and Maun to the northern half and the Boughton Dyke to the southern section. The river is marked by a strong band of riparian vegetation, including mature Willows and Alder. This LCP is at the junction of the Sherwood Landscape Character Area and the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands LCA to the east; land form rises steeply to the east immediately outside the LCP boundary. To the east views are closed by the wooded ridgeline and there are distant views to the east of the coniferous wooded ridgelines of Sherwood.

Land uses to the northern section include grazing on permanent and improved pasture adjacent to the river corridor; there are small pockets of arable farming. These land uses continue in the southern section but nearer to Ollerton industrial and commercial uses become more prevalent. There is a large industrial estate at Boughton located on both sides of the A 6097. The village of Kirton lies approximately to the centre of the LCP. This has a core of red brick and pantile roofed buildings and a stone church. Newer infill development alongside the A6097 has been less in keeping with the character of the village core. Other industrial land uses to the south include part of the former Ollerton Colliery with associated mineral lines. Other transport routes pass through the area including the A6097, part of the A1 and part of the East Coast main railway line.

Vegetation within the area consists of the riparian woodland, but limited woodland outside this area. Hedgerows are variable. They are strong mixed species hedgerows with mature trees in some areas, such as along the lane between Kirton and Walesby, but within the grazed areas close to the river they have been removed in some places and replaced by post and wire fences.

The historic pattern has been degraded by the removal of field boundaries in much of the area and completely removed to the southern end due to industrial development. However, to the west of Kirton evidence of the strip field system remains intact.

Threats to the area include further industrial expansion, expansion of urban areas such as Retford, Kirton and Ollerton; intensification of agriculture, decline of woodland due to poor management and maintenance, and additional biomass planting.

# S PZ 56 Kirton River Meadowlands

## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Meandering river channel defined by bands of riparian vegetation consisting of mature Alder, and Willow
- Permanent and improved pasture and flood meadow
- Alder and Willow carrs and holts
- Industrial and commercial development along transport corridors
- Kirton village core red brick and pantile roofed
- Former colliery sites and urban edges apparent

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

### Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **poor**.

The PZ has a **coherent** pattern of elements arranged along the river corridor but with **many** detracting features. These include post industrial areas, recent industrial estates, and busy roads and other transport routes passing through the corridor. Overall the PZ is **visually interrupted**.

The area consists of open areas of permanent and improved pasture with small areas of arable production. The main area of woodland is the fringe of riparian vegetation bordering the Boughton Dyke, the River Maun and River Meden which provides a connectivity of habitats and a **moderate** network for wildlife with its associated small woodlands, holts and carrs. There are 3 SINC sites along the valley as well as 4 others associated with post industrial landscapes or road verges.

Cultural integrity is **variable**. The field pattern present in the Sanderson Plan is still recognisable to the north part of the PZ but there has been some hedgerow removal. To the south of the PZ the historic pattern has been obliterated by industrial development. To the centre the strip field pattern survives to the east of the village of Kirton with sinuous roads connecting the villages within the valley.

A **moderate** ecological integrity with a **variable** cultural integrity gives a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife. A **visually interrupted** area with a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a **poor** landscape condition.

### Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as **moderate**.

The elements of which the PZ is composed are characteristic of the Sherwood LCA and although there are recent features such as the industrial estates and infill development in Kirton, overall the time depth is historic and older patterns in the landscape remain. The area has a **moderate** sense of place.

The landform of the area is **apparent** and the tree cover including hedgerows is **intermittent** giving a **moderate** visibility in and out of the area. Views to the east are contained by the strong ridge line to the east of Kirton. At higher points there are views to the distant wooded ridgelines of the Sherwood region. View along the valley these are limited by water side vegetation. A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** visibility gives a **moderate** sensitivity.

## ACTIONS – Create and Restore

### Landscape Features

- **Restore** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture
- **Restore** and enhance the ecological diversity of riparian woodlands
- **Restore** and enhance river channel diversity and marginal river side vegetation

### Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled character of the river corridors concentrating new small scale development along transport corridors
- New development should protect the historic core of Kirton and respect its scale, design and traditional materials
- **Create** new development using the traditional architectural style of red brick construction
- Sensitive design and siting of new commercial and industrial buildings taking account of the distinctive landscape elements within the Policy Zone

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: River Meadowlands

Policy Zone: S PZ 56

Land Cover Parcel: S 53 and S 56

## 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

**Poor**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Many
Visual Unity:	Interrupted
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