

## **TW PZ 22 - Cottam River Meadowlands**

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

#### **Character Summary**

This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. The northern half of the LCP shows a regular geometric and irregular field pattern. The southern section has a more irregular pattern.

Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.

The largest area of scrub and woodland within the LCP is the Coates Wetland SINC to the north of the LCP. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the river banks; species include Willow, Ash and Hawthorn. Internal field hedges are well trimmed in the pasture areas but some hedges are fragmented between arable fields; species are predominantly Hawthorn with Rose, Elder and Ash

There are two SINCs within this area designated for their aquatic communities: Cottam Wetlands, mentioned above, made up of marshy grassland, swamp and a mosaic of wetlands, and Coates Wetland which is a group of pools with rough grazing. There are two MLAs within the LCP Littleborough (125) and Laneham / Cottam (124). A small portion of the Dunham Laneham (123) MLA is also contained within the south of the area.

This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations.

Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

**PHOTOGRAPH**



**CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES**

- This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields to the west and pasture fields along the course of the River Trent and to the south
- Views are dominated by Cottam power station
- Mature trees are confined to the riverside and wetland areas and the hedgerows of pasture fields in particular
- Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river
- There are long distance views along the River Trent to the North and South, views are bounded by elevated wooded ridgelines to the east
- The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village

**LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS**

**Landscape Condition**

Landscape condition is defined as **good**. There is a **coherent** pattern of landscape elements with **few** detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power station infrastructure and pylons. Overall this gives a **visually unified** area.

The overall cultural integrity is defined as **variable**. There is moderate tree cover which consists mainly of bands of riverside vegetation. There are 2 SINC sites within the PZ designated for their aquatic interest. The integrity of the ecological network is defined as **moderate**, which together with a **variable** cultural integrity gives a **coherent** habitat for wildlife / functional integrity.

A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity/ habitat for wildlife gives a **good** landscape condition

**Landscape Sensitivity**

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as **historic** (post 1600) which gives a **moderate** sense of place.

Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, and long views to the north and south contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

The landform is **insignificant** and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure leads to a **moderate** visibility

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

**LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve and Reinforce**

**Landscape Features**

- **Conserve** the traditional historic pattern of hedges, and fields.
- **Conserve** permanent grazing pasture close to the River Trent.
- **Conserve** mature trees to the rivers edge.
- Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/ wet grassland.
- **Reinforce** hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly around arable fields.
- **Reinforce** and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- **Conserve** and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.

**Built Features**

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Cottam.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- **Conserve** historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- **Conserve** and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

**CONTEXT**

NCC Landscape Type - River Meadowlands  
Policy Zone: TW PZ 22  
Landscape Character Parcel TW31

**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**

**Good**

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

**Sensitivity**

**Moderate**

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of place	Moderate
Extent of Tree Cover	Open
Landform	Insignificant
Visibility:	Moderate