

TW PZ 25 Beckingham River Meadowlands

Policy: Restore and Create

Character Summary

This is a completely flat landscape which is all less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area.

Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture in the centre of the area and a narrow strip of unimproved pasture to the edge of the river. There is a small industrial area (The Old Ship Yard) in the centre of the LCP adjacent to the River Trent. There is small scale oil extraction within this LCP.

There are no areas of woodland within the LCP, except for a narrow scrubby strip along the river edge containing mature Willow. There are small areas of scrubby woodland within the SINC's and within the MLA described below. Field boundary hedgerows are poor and out grown with an open base and are predominantly Hawthorn. Roadside hedgerows are more intact, mainly Hawthorn with mature trees including Ash and Oak.

There are 7 SINC's within the LCP – including Bole Ings, Bole Ings flood pasture, and Bole Ings drain, designated for their aquatic communities. There is one MLA - Bole Ings (126), which contains a small area of broad leaved woodland comprising Willow and Hawthorn. The hedgerows within the MLA site are generally strong and bushy comprising mainly Hawthorn.

The LCP contains many straight watercourses which follow field boundaries.

There is limited settlement within the area except for isolated farms. Some buildings contain vernacular features but others are modern. Industrial buildings tend to be modern fabricated units.

There are views of West Burton Power station to the south. Power lines pass through the length of the LCP. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are constrained by the built edge of the town of Gainsborough. Views to the east are constrained by rising topography and wooded ridge lines.

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PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- A predominantly large scale arable landscape
- Narrow strip of permanent pasture close to the river
- Views dominated by power stations and pylons
- Poorly maintained field boundary hedgerows
- Stronger roadside hedgerows with trees
- No woodland except for a thin strip adjacent to river edge
- Long distance views north and south across open landscapes, long distance views east and west constrained by landform to the west and built development of Gainsborough to the east.
- Water courses throughout the area

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

Landscape condition is defined as **moderate**. There is a **coherent** pattern of landscape elements with **some** detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power lines which cross the area from north to south. Overall this gives a **visually coherent** area.

The overall cultural integrity is described as **variable**, many of the internal historical filed boundaries have been removed. The historic pattern is still recognisable to the north although it has been lost to the southern end of the PZ.

There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to hedgerows and the Rivers edge. There are 7 SINCs in the PZ mostly designated for their aquatic communities. The integrity of the ecological network is defined as **moderate** which together with a **variable** cultural integrity overall gives a **moderate** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife.

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

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.

The landform is **insignificant** and this is an **open** landscape which leads to **moderate** visibility in and out of the PZ.

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

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Conserve and Create

Landscape Features

- **Create** internal field boundaries where these have been lost.
- **Restore** field boundaries where these are gappy and in poor condition
- **Conserve** the permanent grazing pasture adjacent to the river.
- **Conserve** mature woodland adjacent to river
- **Reinforce** and strength the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors
- Promote measures to reinforce the traditional pattern character of farm buildings using vernacular materials and styles
- **Create and restore** wet grassland (RSPB project in progress in this area)
- Enhance visual unity through appropriate small-scale tree and woodland planting

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape sub Type: River Meadowlands
Policy Zone: TW PZ 25
Landscape Character Parcel TW34

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: Moderate

Sensitivity

Moderate

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Insignificant

Extent of Tree Cover: Open

Visibility: Moderate

Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development to the western fringe close to Beckingham and around existing development along the riverside.
- 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 and industrial/commercial buildings