

TW PZ 43 Grassthorpe River Meadowlands Policy: Conserve and Reinforce

Character Summary

This is largely a flat valley landscape rising gently to the west. The field pattern is semi-irregular with small sized fields of species-rich pasture.

Grassthorpe is a nucleated village characterised by red brick and pantile roofed buildings. There are three Listed Buildings within the village. Grassthorpe Beck is a prominent feature within the village with metal railings to the bridge across the road and mature trees along the road and beck.

Mixed species hedgerows are generally tall and bushy, some are trimmed. Species include Hawthorn, Field Maple, Elm, Elder, Blackthorn etc

Hedgerow trees are common, including Ash, Horse Chestnut, Beech, Lime and Sycamore within the village.

Views are generally restricted within the village by trees and hedgerows along roads and tracks.

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Small to medium-sized irregular fields of species rich pasture
- Strong mixed species hedgerows
- Hedgerow trees including Ash, Sycamore and Horse Chestnut
- Large mature trees along Grassthorpe Beck/Town Lane are a prominent feature
- Nucleated village characterised by red brick and pantile roofed buildings
- Restricted views within Grassthorpe and along roads/tracks with tall hedgerows

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The overall condition of this landscape is defined as **very good**.

The pattern of landscape elements is **coherent**. The area has **few** detracting features; these include isolated farm buildings which are in a poor state of repair, giving a neglected appearance. Overall this is a **visually unified** area.

Vernacular style houses are dominant in Grassthorpe. There are three Listed buildings within the village. The historic field pattern is still evident and hedgerows are generally well maintained, therefore the cultural integrity is **good**.

There are no SINC's or other ecological designations in the area. Mixed species hedgerows are largely intact and well maintained. Hedgerows are gappy in places. Hedgerows and streams provide a **moderate** network for wildlife. Tree cover is mostly within hedgerows and along watercourses.

A **moderate** network for wildlife and a **good** cultural integrity leads to a **strong** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife. An area that is **visually coherent** with a **strong** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife gives a **very good** landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **low**.

The historic time depth is evident throughout the area. The field pattern remains unchanged since the Sanderson Plan of 1835. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands RCA and the continuity / time depth is **historic** (post 1600), it has a **moderate** sense of place.

Views within Grassthorpe and along roads and tracks are generally restricted by trees and hedgerows. The landform is **apparent** and has **high tree cover** which gives a degree of enclosure which leads to **low** visibility of the area from outside the PZ.

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

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Conserve and Reinforce

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the traditional pattern of hedged fields.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture.
- **Reinforce** and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- Enhance visual unity through appropriate small-scale tree and woodland planting.
- **Conserve** and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.

Built Features

- Promote measures for **reinforcing** the traditional vernacular character of farm buildings.
- **Conserve** the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around existing settlement of Grassthorpe.
- **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.

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Sub Type: River Meadowlands
 Policy Zone: TW PZ 43
 Landscape Character Parcel TW27

Condition

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

Low Moderate High

Sensitivity

NB: Where one criterion is 'very good' this pushes the policy description into the next highest category.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition **Very Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Good

Functional Integrity: Strong

Sensitivity **Low**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Enclosed

Visibility: Low