

TW PZ 44 Fledborough Holme River Meadowlands

Policy: Conserve

Character Summary

This is a riverside landscape located within the Trent Valley floodplain. The area is located on the western bank of the River Trent, to the east of the settlement of Fledborough. The area comprises of a small area of lightly grazed common land that lies within and around a small oxbow. The Trent Viaduct and the decommissioned Upper Marnham Power Station site are located to the south, outside the policy zone area.

The area generally has a flat topography with a raised grass flood bank along the northern edge of the area. This is a low-lying area of unimproved permanent pasture with a slightly wetter area to the west containing Willows and Thorns. The species-rich meadow includes species such as Sorrel, Great Burnet, Daisy, Dandelion, Crested Dogs Tail and Meadow Fox Tail.

There are open views to the north, south and east. Views to the west are enclosed by Fledborough village and the surrounding landform. The views to the south are dominated by the Trent Viaduct and the power station site. Powerlines run from the north to the south across the centre of the area.

The area has one SINC site which is Fledborough Holme, a small oxbow and unimproved pasture, and a length of the River Trent.

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PHOTOGRAPH –



CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Flat, open topography
- Irregular fields of species-rich flood meadow and pasture
- Small area of “holme” grassland
- Unimproved pasture with wetter areas containing Willow and Thorn
- Small oxbow
- Trees and riparian vegetation associated with ditches and watercourses
- Open views

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, pylons run from the north to the south through the centre of the area. The Trent Viaduct dominates views to the south. Overall this is a **strongly visually unified** area.

This is an intact landscape that is in very good condition. The historic field pattern is evident throughout the area; therefore the cultural integrity is **good**.

The area has one SINC site, which is Fledborough Holme. The areas of Willow and Thorn, unimproved pasture, flood meadow and other riparian habitats provide a **moderate** network of wildlife corridors.

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

Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**.

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). The area has a **moderate** sense of place created by the small oxbow, unimproved pasture, flood meadow, trees, and the adjacent historic settlement.

There are open views to the north, south and west. The views to the west are enclosed by the settlements of Fledborough and the rising landform to the far west. The landform is **insignificant** and has limited tree cover which leads to **moderate** visibility of the area from outside the PZ.

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

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the traditional pattern of hedged fields to the south-west of the area and seek opportunities to reinforce the historic field pattern with new hedgerow planting where appropriate
- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture
- **Conserve** and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors
- **Conserve** and protect the open and sparsely settled character of “holme” grassland
- Enhance visual unity through appropriate small-scale tree and woodland planting
- **Conserve** and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Sub Type: River Meadowlands
Policy Zone: TW PZ 44
Landscape Character Parcel TW28

Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Moderate	CREATE	RESTORE & CREATE	RESTORE
Poor			
	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:	Strongly Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Strong

Sensitivity **Moderate**

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

Built Features

- 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.