

TW PZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands

Policy: Conserve

Character Summary

This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area.

The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, and follows the course of the river.

The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.

The area has an intermittent tree cover. Willow trees and riparian vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape. The fields are enclosed by mature, well maintained, bushy Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Willow standard trees.

There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station.

The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.

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PHOTOGRAPH –



CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Flat topography
- A narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture following the course of the River Trent
- Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses
- Well maintained, bushy, Hawthorn hedgerows with Willow and Ash hedgerow trees
- Grass flood bank

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

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

The pattern of landscape elements is **unified**. The area has few detracting features. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. Overall this is a **strongly visually unified** area

The historic field pattern is still evident therefore the cultural integrity is **good**. Although the area has no SINC designations the trees, improved and unimproved pasture, and riparian vegetation provide a **moderate** network of wildlife habitats.

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 has a **very good** landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**.

The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west. 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.

There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station. The landform is **apparent** and has **intermittent 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 a **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve

Landscape Features

- Promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands
- **Conserve** and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation
- **Conserve** pollarded Willows and seek opportunities to re-pollard Willows to maintain the traditional riparian character of the landscape
- Seek opportunities to re-create historic field boundaries
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture
- **Conserve** and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows
- **Conserve** and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape

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.

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape SubType: River Meadowlands
Policy Zone: TW PZ 48
Landscape Character Parcel: TW 31

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:	Unified
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:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate