Methodology for

Nottinghamshire Landscape Character Assessment

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C O N T E N T S

Appendices

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The revision of the Nottinghamshire Countryside Appraisal, first published as the Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines in 1997, is being co-ordinated by Nottinghamshire County Council's Landscape and Reclamation Team. The client for the pilot stage of the project was Nottinghamshire County Council's Conservation Group.

1.1 What is Landscape Character Assessment?

Natural England (formerly The Countryside Agency), the Government body established to conserve and enhance England's countryside, defines Landscape Character Assessment as follows:-

"Landscape Character Assessment provides a framework for understanding and describing an area in a systematic way, enabling us to make better judgements and decisions to help guide future changes in our countryside."

1.2 Why do the existing guidelines need to be revised?

The reasons why the existing guidelines need to be revised are as follows:-

- changes in Government legislation;
- development of GIS based systems;
- need for transparency of method.

2.0 CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

The recent developments in legislation may be summarised as follows:-

2.1 Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note Number 7 January 1992 The Countryside – Environmental Quality and Economic and Social Development

This document recognised, in paragraph 3.17, that some local authorities had devised Local Landscape Designations (LLDs) to:-

"Highlight particularly important areas of countryside that should be taken into account in planning decisions". These included locally devised designations *"which local authorities sometimes include in their Structure or Local Plans to denote areas to which special countryside protection or other policies apply".*

2.2 The Rural White Paper 1995

In 1995 the Government set out its policy to strengthen the distinctive character of the land and built environment in the Rural White Paper. This placed emphasis on the need to identify local characteristics and promoted a joint initiative by the Countryside Agency and English Nature to classify and map the cultural and natural dimensions of the landscape.

The output of this initiative, known as "The Joint Map" entitled "The Character of England – landscape, wildlife and natural features" was described as providing for the first time a comprehensive and consistent analysis of the English countryside that would help to guide future efforts to conserve and enhance it. This national study provided the framework around which local authorities set their more detailed assessments.

This has since been updated in 2005 and is now called "The Character of England – Landscape, Wildlife, Natural and Cultural Features".

2.3 Revision to PPG Note Number 7 1997

This revision further developed previous guidance and stated in para 2.14 that the priority was *"to find new ways of enriching the quality of the whole countryside whilst accommodating appropriate development, in order to complement the protections which designations offer"*. It attached significant weight to the countryside character approach, which it promoted as an important tool to accommodate this change without sacrificing local character. Para 2.15 stated *"it (CCA approach) can help ensure that development respects the distinctive character of the land and built environment".*

The revision of the PPG7 marked a change in emphasis with regard to the use and value of LLDs. Whilst the revision did not specifically preclude development plans from containing LLDs, it did place the onus on local authorities to carefully consider whether appropriate development and economic activity were being unduly restricted by LLDs.

2.4 Planning Policy Statement – PPS7 – 2004 Sustainable Development In Rural Areas

This document replaced the former PPG7 and marked a further change in emphasis in the use of LLDs.

Para 24 set out that:-

"The Government recognises and accepts that there are areas of landscape outside nationally designated areas that are particularly highly valued locally. The Government believes that carefully drafted, criteria-based policies in Local Development Documents, utilising tools such as landscape character assessment, should provide sufficient protection for these areas, without the need for rigid local designations that may unduly restrict acceptable, sustainable development and the economic activity that underpins the vitality of rural areas".

and Para 25:-

"LLDs should only be maintained or, exceptionally, extended where it can be clearly shown that criteria-based planning policies cannot provide the necessary protection. LLDs should state what it is that requires extra protection and why. When reviewing their local area-wide development plans

and LLDs, planning authorities should rigorously consider the justification for retaining LLDs. They should ensure that such designations are based on a formal and robust assessment of the qualities of the landscape concerned."

2.5   Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Joint Structure Plan – Adopted February 2006

The above document contained the following Policy 2/7 concerning Landscape Character:-

"Local Plans / development plan documents will define local landscape characteristics in accordance with the work of the Countryside Agency and Nottinghamshire County Council's Landscape Guidelines, to inform land allocations and assessment of development proposals. The landscape character approach will be used to promote the conservation and enhancement of local landscape character and distinctiveness and the maintenance of landscape diversity throughout the whole plan area."

It also states in the explanatory notes that a revised landscape character assessment is currently underway, and that in the interim period before the completion of the new landscape character assessment, the existing landscape guidelines and Mature Landscape Areas should still be referred to.

Policy 2/10 'Development in the Countryside' aims to protect the character and qualities of the countryside. It states:-

"The character and qualities of the countryside will be protected … development proposals must be located and designed to respect the character of the surrounding area …"

The policy goes on to highlight the importance of design which is in keeping with the existing character, and states:-

"In all cases, development proposals will be located and designed to respect the character of the surrounding area and priority will be given to the re-use of existing buildings and derelict land."

2.6   East Midlands Regional Plan

Policy 31 - Priorities for the Management and Enhancement of the Region's Landscape states that:-

The Region's natural and heritage landscape should be protected and enhanced by:-

Policy 31

Priorities for the Management and Enhancement of the Region's Landscape

The Region's natural and heritage landscape should be protected and enhanced by:

- *the promotion of the highest level of protection for the nationally designated landscapes of the Peak District National Park and the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty;*

- *the promotion of initiatives to protect and enhance the particular character of the Sherwood, Charnwood and Rockingham Forests;*

- *the establishment of criteria-based policies in Local Development Frameworks to ensure that development proposals respect intrinsic landscape character in rural and urban fringe areas, including, where appropriate, recognition of the value of tranquillity and dark skies; and*

- *the identification in Local Development Frameworks of landscape and biodiversity protection and enhancement objectives through the integration of Landscape Character Assessments with historic and ecological assessments.*

Where not already in place, Local Authorities should prepare Landscape Character Assessments to inform the preparation of Local Development Frameworks. These can also be used to develop Supplementary Planning Documents.

Paragraph 3.3.21 talks about the distinctive landscape character of Sherwood which is threatened by pressure from a range of factors and states that co-ordinated action is required to ensure that such distinctiveness is retained.

Paragraph 3.3.22 states that a regional level landscape character has been broadly defined in the Countryside Agency's publication Countryside Character Volume 4 1999 and gives an overview of what detailed landscape character assessments have already been carried out at a county level.

Paragraph 3.3.23 gives examples of the types of landscapes of character that need to be conserved or enhanced, such as remnant heathlands, ridge and furrow field patterns, and pre-enclosure landscape and parklands.

Paragraph 3.3.24 deals with Local Landscape Designations and states "understanding the importance of all landscapes and reducing the emphasis on local landscape designations will ensure that the character of one area is not protected at the expense of another". This approach continues to move away from the use of LLDs.

2.7 Summary

To summarise the changes in Government legislation, this continues to support the process of Landscape Character Assessment but is moving away

from the designation of Local Landscape Designations as a result of PPS7 statement to "rigorously consider the justification for retaining existing Local Landscape Designations."

With the commencement of production of Local Development Frameworks to replace existing Local Plans, local authorities have to decide on their approach.

3.0 DEVELOPMENT OF GIS BASED SYSTEMS

The original Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines, published in 1997, were developed as a result of a manual process of information collection begun in 1990 which was stored on a paper based system. Central to the process of Landscape Character Assessment is the analysis of the relationship between different landscape elements such as geology, soils, and settlement pattern in order to classify and describe the landscape. Since the start of the first assessment there have been major developments in the use of GIS software used for handling map-based information. This facilitates the process, storage and analysis of presentation of spatial data and is therefore particularly suited to LCA work.

4.0 THE NEED FOR TRANSPARENCY AND REPEATABILITY OF THE PROCESS

A paper-based system has two major disadvantages. Firstly it may be difficult for later interrogators of the system to understand the exact process by which the different character areas were derived. Secondly, if the process were to be repeated, there may be slight variations in classification achieved by different assessors. A GIS based system on the other hand should be more transparent in that it should be possible to break down the stages of the assessment process and see how different character areas are derived. Theoretically, because it is a computer-based system, given the same initial datasets, the same classification should be achieved every time.

5.0 WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE?

5.1 Introduction to the Nottinghamshire Countryside Appraisal

Research, survey and assessment work for the NCA began in 1989. This work was undertaken by the County Council's Rural Environment Group, located within the Environment Department.

The aim of the NCA was to provide a detailed information base and strategic overview of the county's rural environment around which environment planning, landscape management and other decisions could be made. The output of this work has been used to underpin the then Environment Department's work, not only in landscape protection and conservation but also in nature conservation, environmental appraisal, development control and the formulation of statutory and non-statutory plans. The outputs of the process are described below.

5.2 The Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines Document and the Landscape Types Plan

These documents were concerned with landscape conservation and the management of the county's landscape. The detailed methodology of the process is set out in "Nottinghamshire Countryside Appraisal Revised Methodology 1999". However, in summary, the project was adapted from work undertaken by the Warwickshire Landscape Partnership and was compatible with the Countryside Agency's Landscape Assessment Guidance at the time.

The process involved the classification of the landscape into a series of regional character areas and landscape sub types, which were described in detail in the document, including the visual character of the landscape.

The main drivers of change within each Landscape Character Area were assessed and this led to the development of a series of management strategies and key recommendations for each landscape type, along with detailed guidelines for the management of various landscape features and components.

5.3 Definition of Mature Landscape Areas – MLAs

This process was concerned with landscape protection within the county. The detailed methodology of the process is set out in "Nottinghamshire Countryside Appraisal Revised Methodology 1999". In summary, the process involved mapping the land use of the county using existing land use data and aerial photographs together with historical and ecological information. The following features were identified:-

mature deciduous woodland;
intact field patterns;
ancient species rich hedgerows;
permanent grassland;
heathland;
parkland;
mature river / stream courses.

The following features were excluded:-

urban development;
mineral extraction;
existing commercial forestry;
intensive agriculture.

This process gave an initial list of "areas least affected by adverse change". Detailed field survey work was carried out to look at identified features on the ground and the list was further refined. A set of criteria was established against which identified MLAs were tested. Once each MLA was finalised, a

written description, a representative photo or sketch, and a MLA plan with a clearly marked boundary were produced. There then followed a further period of consultation with the Local Planning Authorities on their MLAs, which were made formal with the adoption of the relevant Local Plan. (See Appendix 1 for list of existing local plan policies).

5.4   History of the Nottinghamshire Countryside Appraisal

The Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines and the Mature Landscape Area designations were first tested at a Local Plan Public Inquiry in 1992. Landscape policies arising from the NCA are included in local plans and planning inspectors have made a number of recommendations since as to how the work should be interpreted, applied and approved. The NCA has also been tested at both Minerals Local Plan Inquiries and Waste Local Plan Inquiries as well as those for individual projects.

In 1997 the council commissioned an independent and impartial study by David Tyldesley and Associates to review the MLA designations within the NCA. The review recommended that a countywide MLA policy framework should be retained and that MLAs continue to provide a systematic, consistent and rational basis for taking into account areas of countryside meriting special protection.

Obviously, there have been a number of changes in legislation during this time as discussed previously. The key issue is that, since MLAs are local landscape designations and therefore must be underpinned by a "formal and robust" assessment of landscape type and quality, this needs to be a more transparent process with the ability to be explained at Public Inquiry for example, and also one which does not unduly restrict development. These factors taken together reinforce the need for the review of the existing guidelines.

6.0   METHODOLOGY OF THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

6.1   Introduction

The detailed methodology of the original project described in the previous section is contained in "Nottinghamshire Countryside Appraisal, Revised Methodology 1999 – Section F Landscape Assessment Methodology" and consists of the following stages:-

Stage 1   Defining Regional Character Areas

Stage 2   Literature Review

Stage 3   Classification into Landscape Types

Stage 4   Preparation of Management Strategies, Key Recommendations and Landscape Guidelines

The detailed methodology of the pilot stage of current assessment will be described in the following sections and consisted of the following stages:-

Stage 1   Information Collection and Research

Stage 2   Definition of Regional Character Areas

Stage 3   Description of Landscape Character – Desk based and field based

Stage 4   Classification of Landscape Character Parcels into Draft Policy Zones

Stage 5   Description of Landscape Condition and Landscape Sensitivity – Desk based and field based

Section 6 Preparation of Policy Zones

6.2   Stage 1   Information Collection and Research

This stage involved a review of methods used by other organisations to carry out Landscape Character Assessments. It involved telephone discussions, visits and meetings, as well as review of published literature and review of information available on line, such as the Countryside Character network database. The following organisations were consulted directly:-

Staffordshire County Council	Meeting with Steve Potter and visit December 2003 to discuss methodology of Staffordshire Landscape Character Assessment.
Northamptonshire County Council	Meeting with Jason Longhurst – March 2004 to discuss methodology of Northamptonshire Landscape Characterisation.
Derbyshire County Council	Various meetings with Glynis Foster, Gary Ellis to discuss methodology of Derbyshire Landscape Character Assessment.
David Tydlesley and Associates	Telephone discussions and meetings with Anthony Brown, particularly with reference to Landscape Character work carried out in Scotland.
Lincolnshire County Council	Telephone discussions.
Leicestershire County Council	Telephone discussions.
Peak District National Park	Telephone discussions.

Authority

High Peak   Telephone discussions.
Borough Council

A Literature Review of published information produced by Warwickshire County Council and South Gloucestershire County Council also took place.

In addition, during the period of pilot study, Natural England (formerly the Countryside Agency) set up the Regional Landscape Forum in February 2005, which gathered together all Landscape Architects working on Landscape Character Assessment in the East Midlands to facilitate exchange of information.

In addition, the NCC Landscape and Reclamation Team worked closely with Jane Farmer and David Green of Jacobs Babtie, who had carried out the Kent County Council Landscape Appraisal.

This collaboration involved a presentation of the methodology of their project, as well as one to one tuition of the method including joint field survey work. Parts of the written documentation produced by Kent County Council was also used as a model for work by Nottinghamshire County Council and this is referred to in the relevant sections.

The team also received one to one training from Stephen Warnock on the production and interpretation of the Landscape Description Unit Map and its associated database.

6.3   Stage 2   Definition of Regional Character Areas

The areas within the Nottinghamshire County boundary that have been defined by the Countryside Agency on the 'Joint Map' are as follows:-

30   Southern Magnesian Limestone

38   Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield

39   Humberhead Levels

48   Trent and Belvoir Vales

49   Sherwood

69   Trent Valley Washlands

74   Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds

These character areas have been classified using geology, topography, soils, vegetation, field enclosure and settlement patterns.

6.4   Stage 3   Definition of the County Character Areas

6.4.1 Introduction

The decision was taken by Nottinghamshire County Council to further sub-divide these areas using 'The Living Landscapes Project' Methodology. This was developed by Stephen Warnock of the Department of Geography, University of Reading, and piloted in the Warwickshire Landscape Project. This decision was taken for the following reasons:-

•   The methodology builds on previous work carried out by the Countryside Agency. The Countryside Agency was the lead agency for mapping the landscape character of England at the 1:250,000 scale to produce the Joint Map and the GIS based landscape character framework and associated database for the whole of England. This is Level 1 of the Living Landscape Project Methodology.

•   The 'Living Landscapes Project' methodology is GIS based. GIS systems are used to assemble, analyse, present and store data.

•   The 'Living Landscapes Project' methodology is already established in use. In 2002 the approach had been used by 10 counties in England.

•   The 'Living Landscapes Project' methodology has already been used in adjacent counties with borders linking with Nottinghamshire including Derbyshire and Leicestershire. This would assist sharing of best practice between lead officers working on this project in neighbouring counties.

6.4.2 The 'Living Landscapes Project' Methodology

Level 2 of the 'Living Landscapes Project' considers landscape character at the 1:50,000 scale and the onus is on individual local authorities to undertake county ' district level assessments.

The full methodology is described in the 'Living Landscapes Project Handbook', Stephen Warnock 2002, but is summarised below.

The fundamental building block of the hierarchy at this level is the Landscape Description Unit (LDU). LDUs are distinct and relatively homogenous units of land, each defined by a series of attributes. There are four attributes at Level 1:-

•   Physiography

•   Ground Type

•   Land Cover

•   Cultural Pattern

At Level 2 each of the Level 1 attributes is split into two parts, giving a total of 8 attributes:-

• Physiography	→	• Landform • Geology
• Ground Type	→	• Geology • Soils
• Settlement	→	• Settlement Pattern • Farm Type (structure)
• Land Cover	→	• Tree Cover • Farm Type (cover)

Definitive attributes are derived through a process of overlay mapping. This process was previously carried out by physically overlaying a number of acetate sheets on top of one another. Undertaking the same process on GIS overcomes many of the physical problems associated with this method, as well as allowing greater scope for analysis of the data. The process allows broad patterns to be distinguished, which in turn make it possible to begin to understand the many factors that contribute to landscape character and define Landscape Character Types or Regional Character Areas.

This process was carried out on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council by Mark Diacono of Diacono Associates in March 2004 (and was later refined slightly by Stephen Warnock in December 2004). The outputs were a map of the County (Appendix 1) which divides the county into 11 Character Areas and an associated database.

The following Regional Character Areas were derived from this process:-

SH   Sherwood

ML   Magnesian Limestone

HL   Humberhead Levels (Idle Lowlands)

MN   Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands

DC   Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Coalfields

TV   Trent Valley

LW   Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds

ES   East Nottinghamshire Sandlands

SN   South Nottinghamshire Farmlands

VB   Vale of Belvoir

TW   Trent Washlands

Each LDU derived from the process has a 6-figure reference within the database. The database can be interrogated further to see the eight definitive attributes it is derived from and also to give a summary description of the LDU.

Example	LDU 382
	6 figure reference: SSD PSS
Written Description	Sloping undulating, soft sandstone / sandy drift, impoverished soils, low dispersal with farms, small farms, secondary woodland
Example	LDU 389
	6 figure reference: LFB MEP
Written Description	Vales and valley bottoms, other fluvial drift, deep sandy loamy soils, unsettled (meadow and marsh), large estates, estate plantations

Within the database, character areas are also divided further into generic sub-types, such as:-

- village farmlands
- village farmlands with ancient woodlands
- village farmlands with plantations
- meadowlands
- meadowlands with plantations
- estate farmlands
- estate farmlands with plantations

6.5   Stage 3   Description of Landscape Character

6.5.1 Introduction

The next stage of the process was to describe the landscape character of the Landscape Description Units.

In Nottinghamshire, some of the LDUs derived were large in extent and it was decided that they needed to be divided into more manageable units to survey their character in the field.   These smaller units are known as Landscape Character Parcels (LCPs).

6.5.2 <u>The Process of Definition of the LCPs</u>

For the Sherwood Landscape Character Area this process was originally carried out by a desk based manual process and was achieved by carrying out the following operations:-

Step 1	Overlay tracing sheets onto a 1:25,000 scale plan of LDU boundaries on an Ordnance Survey Base. This plan was also colour coded to show the descriptions given by Stephen Warnock to each LCP, e.g. Estatelands with plantations, Meadowlands with plantations. The major river valleys and the LDU boundaries were then traced off this plan.
Step 2	Check that all LDUs included are within the Regional Character Area derived from the database, e.g. Sherwood. Remove any LDU boundaries traced on that are not in the Regional Character Area being studied at that time.
Step 3	Sub-divide the LDUs using a desk based assessment of field pattern and land use based on the O.S. base. Group together areas which have regular geometric field patterns, or show a parkland landscape, or have been substantially modified due to mineral extraction for example.
Step 4	Overlay the traced sheet onto 1:25,000 scale plan of LDU boundaries on Historical Landscape Characterisation Summary Plan. (Refer to section 9.2) Amend any divisions made that obviously contradict the boundaries shown on the historical plan.
Step 5	Overlay tracing overlay onto 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey Base. Check boundaries of the identified areas. For practicality at the field assessment stage it may be necessary at this point to slightly amend the LCP boundaries to tie into features on the ground, such as major roads, field boundaries, Public Rights of Way. Also, the precise boundaries or urban areas should be checked at this stage with the latest District Plan, because these may be more up to date than the O.S. plan.
Step 6	Each identified LCP should then be given a unique reference number, e.g. S10: S identifying the County Character Area, such as Sherwood. 10 being the unique reference number for that LCP.

For later Landscape Character Areas the process was replaced by a GIS based system and was achieved by carrying out the following operations:-

Step 1	Produce a GIS base plan showing LDU boundaries on an Ordnance Survey Base.
Step 2	Re-draw LDU boundaries on screen moving the boundaries to the nearest physical feature that would be recognisable on the ground, such as a road, stream, field boundary. etc.
Step 3	These revised areas tied to a physical boundary will become LCPs where they are small enough, but in practice some were physically too large to visualise in the field. Therefore, larger areas are further subdivided on screen, again using a physical feature to form smaller area.
Step 4	The defined areas should be overlaid on screen with the Historical Landscape Characterisation Summary Plan to amend any divisions that obviously contradict the boundaries shown on the historical plan.
Step 5	Each identified LCP should then be given a unique reference number, e.g. S10:- S identifies the County Character Area such as Sherwood 10 the unique reference number for that LCP

6.5.3 Desk Based Landscape Character Assessment

Once the LCPs have been defined for a character area, a desk-based collection of information is carried out (refer to Appendix 3 which shows the checklist for this stage). Outputs include 3 GIS derived plans for use in the field which show:-

- OS base with boundary of the LCP shown;
- aerial photograph of the same area showing boundary; and
- plan of any Local Nature Reserves, SSSIs and former Mature Landscape Areas.

6.5.4 Field Based Landscape Character Assessment

The purpose of the field survey is to identify the key qualities and components of the landscape that cannot be determined by desk based assessment. The landscape character was assessed by completing a field survey sheet template for each LCP. (Refer to Appendix 4 which shows the field survey sheet and Appendix 5 which shows how the field survey sheet is completed.)

The NCC field survey sheet used was derived from the field sheet used for the original landscape character survey in the 1990s and survey sheets developed by other authorities, such as Kent County Council.

The survey itself was originally carried out by two assessors per LCP, one or both of which was a Landscape Architect but, with experience, this stage could be carried out by one Landscape Architect assessor.

Each LCP area was explored by car initially and footpaths walked where necessary to view inaccessible areas. Once the extent of the LCP could be visualised on the ground by the assessor(s), a suitable viewpoint was chosen to make the record. This was generally a high point in the LCP from which a typical view of the LCP and its components could be obtained.

The data was entered directly into a Map Info database using a laptop. A concise summary was also recorded in the field for each LCP.

A representative photograph of the landscape character, together with photos of any particular representative features, was taken for each LCP. The survey point and the photo point locations were fixed using a 6-figure GPS reference.

6.6   Stage 5   Classification of Landscape Character Parcels (LCPs) into Draft Policy Zones (DPZs)

Once the Landscape Character survey was complete, LCPs were then grouped together prior to the next survey stage to link areas of similar character. The field assessment of Landscape Condition and Landscape Sensitivity for each individual LCP was considered but it was thought to be too time consuming to repeat the process when there were obvious similarities between LCPs.

The grouping of the LCPs was a desk based process which involved the following stages:-

Step 1	List LCPs, also noting LDU reference, 6-figure reference and description, and land use identified in the field.
Step 2	Amalgamate similar areas using the above parameters.
Step 3	Tabulate the information collected and include reasons for amalgamation such as same LDU, similar land use; or reasons for retaining as a single unit such as being a distinct geographical feature such as a river valley. This is to provide a written record of how the LDUs were grouped into DPZs.
Step 4	Produce a GIS map of the above information.
Step 5	Each identified PZ should then be given a unique reference number, e.g. SH PZ 10:- SH identifies the County Character Area PZ Policy Zone 10 the unique reference number for that LCP

An example of this tabulated information is included as Appendix 6.

6.7 Stage 6 Assessment of Landscape Condition and Landscape Sensitivity

6.7.1 Desk Based Assessment of Landscape Condition and Sensitivity

Once the DPZs have been defined for a County Character Area, a desk based collection of information is carried out. (Refer to Appendix 7 which shows the checklist for this stage.)

6.7.2 Field Based Assessment of Landscape Condition and Sensitivity – Method 1

A method was trialled for the southern half of the Sherwood Regional Character Area using the valley of the River Maun as the dividing feature.

It was agreed not to separate out at the amalgamation stage areas formerly identified as Mature Landscape Areas. The sequence of operations is shown below.

The purpose of the field survey is to identify the key qualities and components of the landscape that cannot be determined by desk based assessment. The landscape condition and sensitivity was assessed by completing a field survey sheet for each DPZ (refer to Appendix 8 which shows a field survey sheet template and Appendix 9 which shows how the field survey sheets is completed).

The field survey sheet used was derived from a survey sheet developed by Kent County Council.

The survey itself was carried out by two assessors per DPZ, one or both of which was a Landscape Architect. If possible, it was found to be important to have two assessors to come to a mutual agreement on the data to be entered.

Each DPZ was explored by car (the assessors were not necessarily the same ones that had carried out the assessment of landscape character parcels). A suitable viewpoint was selected from those used previously for the landscape character field survey.

The data was entered directly into a Map Info database using a laptop.

If necessary a representative photograph of any particular features was taken. The survey point and photo locations were fixed using a 6-figure GPS reference.

6.7.3 <u>Modification to Methodology</u>

Once the whole of the Sherwood pilot area had been completed and results generated, it was felt that the qualities of the MLAs in terms of their high landscape condition and high sensitivity was being "diluted" within the much larger DPZ area. (In the landscape character stage they had largely stayed separate by virtue of their differing qualities from their neighbouring LCP).

Therefore, the northern area of the county using the valley of the River Maun as the dividing feature was trialled using a slightly different method as well as the previous one.

6.7.4 <u>Field Based Assessment of Landscape Condition and Sensitivity – Method 2</u>

This method was exactly the same as Method 1 except that, at the amalgamation stage, MLAs were considered as separate DPZ units at the outset.

A comparison of the two methods showed that when the MLAs were considered as separate entities they scored more highly, generally having scores of 18, 19 and 20 in the matrix.

6.7.5 <u>Modifications to Methodology</u>

It was agreed after the Sherwood pilot study that Method 2 was the more satisfactory one.

Although previously identified LLDs were used, the revised survey methodology provided justification for their continued recognition in comparison to the remainder of the character area.

6.7.6 <u>Future Work Necessary</u>

The MLAs were originally identified from desk based and field surveys undertaken before 1990. For the full methodology refer to "Nottinghamshire Countryside Appraisal Revised Methodology 1999". These MLAs need to be re-assessed because in certain situations development may have taken place which has removed part of the identified area; or changes in agricultural practice may have affected their boundaries.

This is a related but separate piece of work required as part of the new Landscape Character Assessment which will also involve input from an ecologist. The LDU boundaries may need to be modified as a result of this work.

6.8   Preparation of Policy Sheets

Once a landscape action has been derived from the field collection of data for each policy zone, the final stage is to collate this information into a summary document – the policy sheet.

The model for this process was work previously carried out by Kent County Council – references to documents produced by them are included at the end of this report.

The sequence of stages is as follows:-

Step 1	Write a character summary for the Policy Zone. This is based on information collected at the field survey stage. An example of this is included as Appendix 10.
Step 2	Set up policy sheet framework (see Appendix 11)
Step 3	To policy sheet add a representative photograph of the PZ selected from those taken at character survey stage.
Step 4	Annotate matrix to show policy.
Step 5	List key attributes derived from Condition and Sensitivity field sheet.
Step 6	Add a Landscape Condition description based on the Condition and Sensitivity field sheet.
Step 7	Add a Landscape Sensitivity description based on the Condition and Sensitivity field sheet.
Step 8	Add Policy actions. The former Nottinghamshire Landscape Character Assessment may be used as a guide for these policies, if an equivalent sub-area, e.g. River Meadowlands, exists; but the aim should be to develop policies specific to the PZ rather than generic policies. The actions are divided into landscape feature actions and built feature action.

6.9   Analysis of Data collected in the field for Landscape Condition and Landscape sensitivity.

The field collected data was used to derive a level for landscape condition in a range from very poor to very good. A numerical score was also determined.

The field collected data was also used to derive a level for landscape sensitivity in a range from very low to very high. A numerical score was also determined.

6.9.1 Software programme

A software programme was written and incorporated into the field data collection sheet. In this way the policy description was derived at the end of the site collection data.

6.9.2 <u>Analysis of Landscape Condition</u>

Landscape Condition is strongly influenced by the impact of external factors. The assessment of condition evaluates the pattern of the landscape and the presence of incongruous features on the unity of the landscape. It also evaluates how well the landscape functions as a habitat for wildlife and the condition of cultural or 'man-made' elements, such as enclosure, built elements and roads.

Condition is defined by an analysis of Visual Unity and Functional Integrity and is classified as very poor, poor, moderate, good and very good.

Visual unity, which may be significantly interrupted, interrupted, coherent, unified or strongly unified, is the result of an analysis of Pattern of Elements; for example the pattern of vegetation, enclosure, settlement, weighed against the number of detracting features in the landscape which may range from few to many. Using information collected on the field sheets, this may be unified, coherent or incoherent.

Functional integrity, which may be very weak, weak, coherent, strong or very strong, is an assessment of how the landscape functions and considers the human influence - Cultural integrity, which may range from poor to good, weighed against Ecological Integrity, which may range from weak to strong.

The matrices used to determine Landscape Condition are shown below. The attributes are given a numerical score.

EVALUATION MATRIX TO DETERMINE CONDITION

Visual Unity

	Many	**Some**	**Few**
Unified	coherent	unified	strongly unified
Coherent	interrupted	coherent	unified
Incoherent	significantly interrupted	interrupted	coherent

Pattern of Elements (vertical axis) — **Detracting Features** (horizontal axis)

Functional Integrity

	Weak	**Moderate**	**Strong**
Traditional	coherent	strong	very strong
Modified	weak	coherent	strong
Weak	very weak	weak	coherent

Cultural Integrity (vertical axis) — **Ecology** (horizontal axis)

Condition

	Weak	**Coherent**	**Strong**
Unified	moderate	good	very good
Coherent	poor	moderate	good
Interrupted	very poor	poor	moderate

Visual Unity (vertical axis) — **Functional Integrity** (horizontal axis)

Condition

	Very weak 2	Weak 3	Coherent 4	Strong 5	Very strong 6
Strongly Unified 6	moderate 8	good 9	very good 10	very good 11	very good 12
Unified 5	poor 7	moderate 8	good 9	very good 10	very good 11
Coherent 4	very poor 6	poor 7	moderate 8	poor 9	moderate 10
Interrupted 3	very poor 5	very poor 6	poor 7	moderate 9	Good 10
Significantly Interrupted 2	very poor 4	very poor 5	very poor 6	poor 7	moderate 8

Visual Unity (vertical axis label)

Functional Integrity

6.9.2 Analysis of Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape Sensitivity is a measure of the ability of a landscape to accept change without causing irreparable damage to the essential fabric and distinctiveness of that landscape. Sensitivity is defined by an analysis of Sense of Place and Visibility and is classified as very low, low, moderate, high and very high.

Sense of place, which may be very weak, weak, moderate, strong or very strong, is the result of the analysis of Distinctiveness and Time Depth / Continuity. Distinctiveness is defined by how much the key characteristics of an area contribute to its sense of place. For example in a landscape where hedgerows are a key characteristic, if the hedgerow network is intact the landscape can be described as distinct or characteristic. Some landscapes have features that may be considered 'unique' or 'rare', which will contribute to a strong sense of place; at other times characteristic features will be indistinct.

Time depth or continuity ranges from recent, through historic to ancient. Ancient landscapes are uncommon in Nottinghamshire but include those that have had very little human intervention or contain ancient and pre-historic features. Historic landscapes date from the medieval period onwards. This is when the pattern of most Nottinghamshire landscapes was established and is still discernable in some areas overlain by modern features.

Recent landscapes are those where historic elements have been replaced with new elements. They include reclaimed landscapes.

Visibility, which may be very low, low, moderate, high or very high, is the result of an analysis of landform and an assessment of whether this is Dominant, Apparent or Insignificant against Sense of Enclosure and whether this is Enclosed, Intermittent or Open.

The matrices used to determine Landscape Sensitivity are shown below. The attributes are given a numerical score.

EVALUATION MATRIX TO DETERMINE SENSITIVITY

Sense of Place

Distinctiveness	Recent 1	Historic 2	Ancient 3
Unique/Rare 3	moderate 4	strong 5	very strong 6
Characteristic 2	weak 3	moderate 4	strong 5
Indistinct 1	very weak 2	weak 3	moderate 4

Continuity

Visibility

Landform	Enclosed 1	Intermittent 2	Open 3
Dominant 3	moderate 4	high 5	very high 6
Apparent 2	low 3	moderate 4	high 5
Insignificant 1	very low 2	low 3	moderate 4

Sense of Enclosure

Sensitivity

	Very low 2	Low 3	Moderate 4	High 5	Very high 6
Very strong 6	moderate 8	high 9	very high 10	very high 11	very high 12
Strong 5	low 7	moderate 8	high 9	very high 10	very high 11
Moderate 4	very low 6	low 7	moderate 8	high 9	very high 10
Weak 3	very low 5	very low 6	low 7	moderate 9	high 10
Very weak 2	very low 4	very low 5	very low 6	low 7	moderate 8

Sense of Place (vertical axis label)

Visibility

6.9.3 Derivation of Landscape Policy

Landscape Condition and Landscape Sensitivity can then be plotted against each other as shown in the matrix below and a score derived for each attribute:-

EVALUATION MATRIX TO DETERMINE LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

	very low 6	low 7	moderate 8	high 9	very high 10
very good 10	very good condition very low sensitivity 16	very good condition low sensitivity 17	very good condition moderate sensitivity 18	very good condition high sensitivity 19	very good condition very high sensitivity 20
good 9	good condition very low sensitivity 15	good condition low sensitivity 16	good condition moderate sensitivity 17	good condition high sensitivity 18	good condition very high sensitivity 19
moderate 8	moderate condition very low sensitivity 14	moderate condition low sensitivity 15	moderate condition moderate sensitivity 16	moderate condition high sensitivity 17	moderate condition very high sensitivity 18
poor 7	poor condition very low sensitivity 13	poor condition low sensitivity 14	poor condition moderate sensitivity 15	poor condition high sensitivity 16	poor condition very high sensitivity 17
very poor 6	very poor condition very low sensitivity 12	very poor condition low sensitivity 13	very poor condition moderate sensitivity 14	very poor condition high sensitivity 15	very poor condition very high sensitivity 16

Condition (vertical axis label)

Sensitivity

It can then be considered what tasks are required for each attribute.

EVALUATION MATRIX TO DETERMINE LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Condition	very low	low	moderate	high	very high
very good	create sensitivity conserve condition	create sensitivity conserve condition	restore sensitivity conserve condition	conserve sensitivity conserve condition	conserve sensitivity conserve condition
good	create sensitivity conserve condition	create sensitivity conserve condition	restore sensitivity conserve condition	conserve sensitivity conserve condition	conserve sensitivity conserve condition
moderate	create sensitivity reinforce condition	create sensitivity reinforce condition	reinforce sensitivity reinforce condition	conserve sensitivity reinforce condition	conserve sensitivity reinforce condition
poor	create sensitivity create condition	create sensitivity create condition	restore sensitivity create condition	conserve sensitivity create condition	conserve sensitivity create condition
very poor	create sensitivity create condition	create sensitivity create condition	restore sensitivity create condition	conserve sensitivity create condition	conserve sensitivity create condition

Sensitivity

From the above a series of policy words can be derived as shown below:-

	Low	Moderate	High
Good	create sensitivity conserve condition Reinforce	restore sensitivity conserve condition Conserve and Reinforce	conserve sensitivity conserve condition Conserve
Moderate	create sensitivity reinforce condition Create and Reinforce	reinforce sensitivity reinforce condition Conserve and Create	conserve sensitivity reinforce condition Conserve and Restore
Poor	create sensitivity create condition Create	restore sensitivity create condition Restore and Create	conserve sensitivity create condition Restore

Condition (vertical axis) / *Sensitivity* (horizontal axis)

Each policy can be defined more precisely as follows:-

Conserve – actions that encourage the conservation of distinctive features and features in good condition.

Conserve and Reinforce – actions that conserve distinctive features and features in good condition, and strengthen and reinforce those features that may be vulnerable.

Reinforce – actions that strengthen or reinforce distinctive features and patterns in the landscape.

Conserve and Restore – actions that encourage the conservation of distinctive features in good condition, whilst restoring elements or areas in poorer condition and removing or mitigating detracting features.

Conserve and Create – actions that conserve distinctive features and features in good condition, whilst creating new features or areas where they have been lost or are in poor condition.

Restore – actions that encourage the restoration of distinctive features and the removal or mitigation of detracting features.

Restore and Create – actions that restore distinctive features and the removal or mitigation of detracting features, whilst creating new features or areas where they have been lost or are in poor condition.

Reinforce and Create – actions that strengthen or reinforce distinctive features and patterns in the landscape, whilst creating new features or areas where they have been lost or are in poor condition.

Create – actions that create new features or areas where existing elements are lost or are in poor condition.

7.0 PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE EXISTING DOCUMENT

7.1 Existing Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines

The existing Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines consists of a published document as well as The Landscape Types Plan. For each Regional Character Area the following information was provided:-

Section 1   Physical and Human Influences

Section 2   Visual Character of the Landscape

Section 3   Landscape Evolution and Change

Section 4   Landscape Strategies and Key Recommendations

Section 5   Landscape Guidelines – including species list

The above information was all text based. The above document contained very detailed information which should not be lost in the process of revision of the LCA.

7.2 Revised Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines

The revised document will consist of the following sections:-

Section 1 Physical and Human Influences

The section's 'Introduction' – the shape of the land and soils require only minor amendments. The landscape history section can be condensed and included as an Appendix.

Section 2 Visual Character of the Landscape

This will require minor updates to the 'Introduction'. The existing sub-divisions of the County Character Areas such as Sherwood – Forest Sandlands, Forest Estatelands, River Meadowlands, Settled Sandlands, Village Farmlands and Sandstone Estatelands will be replaced by generic sub-divisions generated by the Living Landscapes process.

For Sherwood these will be Estate Farmlands, Estate Farmlands with Plantations, Meadowlands, Meadowlands with Plantations, Village Farmlands, Wooded Estatelands and Wooded Farmlands.

The visual character of each of these will be described. A bullet point summary of the visual character of each LCP will be included on the Policy sheet. This will be able to be used in the same way as previous when commenting on planning applications.

<u>Section 3 Landscape Evolution and Change</u>

This section which details the drivers for change in the landscape such as agricultural policy, transportation, urban and industrial development, mineral extraction and tourism will require substantial updating to bring it into line with recent developments and legislation.

<u>Sections 4 and 5 Landscape Strategies and Key Recommendations</u>

These sections will be replaced by a Landscape Policy for each Policy Zone, such as Conserve, Reinforce, Restore and Create. A bullet point summary of the landscape actions is included on the data sheet particular to the Policy Zone.

Ultimately the revised Sherwood chapter will consist of the following:-

Section 1   Updated physical and human influences
Section 2   Visual character of the landscape
Section 3   Landscape evolution and change
Section 4   Policy Zone Descriptions
Appendices   Field Sheets – Character
                         – Condition and Sensitivity

As well as the following tables/figures:-

Species List
Figure – County Character Area
Figure – LDUs
Figure – LCPs
Figure – Policy Zones

8.0 WORK COMPLETED AUGUST 2009

8.1 East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment

The Client for the work was Natural England and it has been carried out by LDA Design Consulting LLP. It was issued in May 2009 and incorporates the Peak District National Park and Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. It consists of the following sections:-

Section 1   Introduction to the East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment

Section 2   Existing Landscape and Historic Landscape Character Assessments

Section 3   Foundations of the Landscape

Section 4   Regional Landscape Character Types

8.2   Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment

8.2.1   Introduction

The Client for this work was Bassetlaw District Council and it has been carried out by joint working between the County Council, Bassetlaw District Council and Consultants Faulks Perry Culley and Rech. It is due to be completed at the beginning of September 2009 and has defined Policy Zones for the 5 County Character Areas within Bassetlaw:

- Magnesian Limestone
- Sherwood
- Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands
- Trent Washlands
- Idle Lowlands

8.2.2   Methodology

The work has followed this methodology with the exception that, in the Magnesian Limestone, Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands and Idle Lowlands areas, Mature Landscape Areas have not been treated as distinct Policy Zones.

8.3   Greater Nottingham Landscape Character Assessment

8.3.1   Introduction

The Client for this work was NCC Spatial Planning Team and it has been carried out by Consultants TEP with technical assistance from Nottinghamshire County Council Landscape & Reclamation Team. It is due to be completed at the end of September 2009 and has defined Policy Zones for the 8 County Character Areas within Greater Nottingham. It includes the Erewash Valley, part of which is in Derbyshire.

- Vale of Belvoir
- Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Wolds
- South Nottinghamshire Farmlands
- Trent Valley
- Trent Washlands

- Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands
- Sherwood
- Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Coalfields
- Erewash Valley

8.3.2 Methodology

The work has not followed this methodology in that the Landscape Description Units were not further sub-divided into LCPs to survey them. Also, the method of deriving the landscape policies was different. However, the Policy sheets are of a similar format.

8.4 Trent Washlands Landscape Character Assessment

8.4.1 Introduction

The Client for this work was the NCC Minerals Planning Team and it was carried out by NCC Landscape and Reclamation Team. It was completed in July 2009. It followed this methodology and MLAs were considered as separate Policy Zones.

8.5 Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment

8.5.1 Introduction

This is being carried out by Newark and Sherwood District Council with technical assistance from NCC Landscape and Reclamation Team. It is due to be completed by the end of 2009. It has followed this methodology but MLAs have not been considered as separate Policy Zones.

9.0 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER DOCUMENTS

9.1 Local Biodiversity Action Plan

9.1.1 Introduction

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) process was launched in Nottinghamshire in 1997 and in 1998 'Action for Wildlife in Nottinghamshire : Local Diversity Action Plan for Nottinghamshire' was published in response to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) launched in 1994. The UK BAP was the UK's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity signed by 159 world governments at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

The LBAP document lists priority habitats and contains Habitat Action Plans for each habitat type. These detail current status of the habitat, threats, current initiatives to manage, targets for maintaining, restoring and expanding, and proposed actions. It also lists Species Action Plans. These detail current status of the species, threats, current initiatives, targets and proposed actions.

9.1.2 <u>Relationship between LBAP and Nottinghamshire Landscape Character Assessment</u>

At present there is no link between the targets or proposed actions in the LBA and the Policy Actions in the LCA. This could be achieved in future revisions of the document by:-

- making more reference to the LBAP priority habitats in the landscape character field survey sheets and particularly in the Landscape Condition survey sheets. For example in the Sherwood character area the following LBAP habitats are present:-

    - Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
    - Lowland Heathland
    - Oak-birch woodland
    - Planted coniferous woodland
    - Urban and post industrial habitat

    <u>Action</u>: add check LBAP priority habitats present to Checklist 3 and 7.

- making more reference to threats detailed in the LBAP habitat action plan when describing threats to Landscape Condition on the field survey sheet.

    <u>Action</u>: Add habitat action plans to desk based data collected for Condition and Sensitivity. Add to Checklist 7.

- making more reference to targets detailed in the LBAP habitat action plans in landscape actions identified in Policy sheets.

    <u>Action</u>: Refer to Habitat Action Plan targets when writing Landscape Actions on Policy sheet. Add to Checklist 7.

9.2 Nottinghamshire Historic Landscape Characterisation

9.2.1 <u>Introduction</u>

The Nottinghamshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (HLC) was carried out between 1998 and 2000 by the Environment Department of Nottinghamshire County Council with sponsorship from English Heritage. Its primary objective was the production of the Nottinghamshire Historic Landscape Character Map.

There was already a close relationship between the HLC and the existing Nottinghamshire Landscape Character Assessment, which contained a description of the evolution of the landscape in each character area. The HLC then developed this process to describe in more detail the historical depth or 'time depth' which is visible in today's landscapes and to map the historic landscape. Twenty one mapping categories were recognised and these are

described in 'The character of Nottinghamshire's Historic Landscape – The Nottinghamshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project 1998-2000'.

9.2.2 <u>The relationship between the HLC and the Nottinghamshire Landscape Character Assessment</u>

The HLC Plan has been used in the process of defining the LCPs (see paragraph 6.5.2) and boundaries of LCPs were amended where they obviously conflicted with the HLC polygons, for example defining an area of historic parkland.

The consideration of time depth feeds into the information collected at the landscape character survey stage where historic pattern is recorded on the field sheets and at the landscape condition and sensitivity survey stage where cultural integrity and sense of place are analysed.

9.3 Green Infrastructure Plans

9.3.1 <u>Introduction</u>

Green Infrastructure is described in the East Midlands Regional Plan adopted March 2009 as:-

"Networks of multi-functional green space which sit within and contribute to the type of high quality natural and built environment required to deliver sustainable communities. Delivering, protecting and enhancing these networks requires the creation of new assets to link with river corridors, woodlands, nature reserves, urban green spaces, historic sites and other existing assets."

The Regional Plan requires the production of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for all of the Growth Points in the East Midlands. For example the Green Infrastructure Plan for the 6Cs growth point is being produced by Consultants Chris Blandford Associates and includes the cities of Leicester, Derby and Nottingham.

A Green Infrastructure Plan has also been adopted as Interim Planning Guidance by Mansfield District Council in April 2009.

9.3.2 <u>Relationship between the Green Infrastructure Plans and Nottinghamshire Landscape Character Assessment</u>

Since the GIS relates to urban areas and the landscape character assessment process excludes urban areas from the study, these projects do not overlap but are inter-related. It is important that the agencies developing these strategies are familiar with the landscape character assessment work already carried out, so that the studies knit together effectively at the urban fringes.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

DPZs	Draft Policy Zones
GIP	Green Infrastructure Plan
GIS	Geographical Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LCA	Landscape Character Assessment
LCP	Landscape Character Parcel
LDDs	Local Development Documents
LDF	Local Development Framework
LDU	Landscape Description Unit
LLDs	Local Landscape Designations
LLP	The Living Landscapes Project
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance Note
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
PZ	Policy Zone
UKBAP	United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan

REFERENCES

Canterbury Landscape Appraisal
Kent County Council

Herne Bay and Whitstable Landscape Appraisal - June 2000
Kent County Council

Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland 2002
Published by the Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage

Mature Landscape Areas – Nottinghamshire
An independent Review and Analysis of the Designation by David Tyldesley and Associates 1997

Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Joint Structure Plan
Adopted February 2006

Nottinghamshire Countryside Appraisal
Nottinghamshire County Council – Revised Methodology 1999

The 'Living Landscapes Project' Handbook
Stephen Warnock 2002

The Nottinghamshire Historic Landscape Characterisation 1998-2000
Nottinghamshire County Council

The Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines
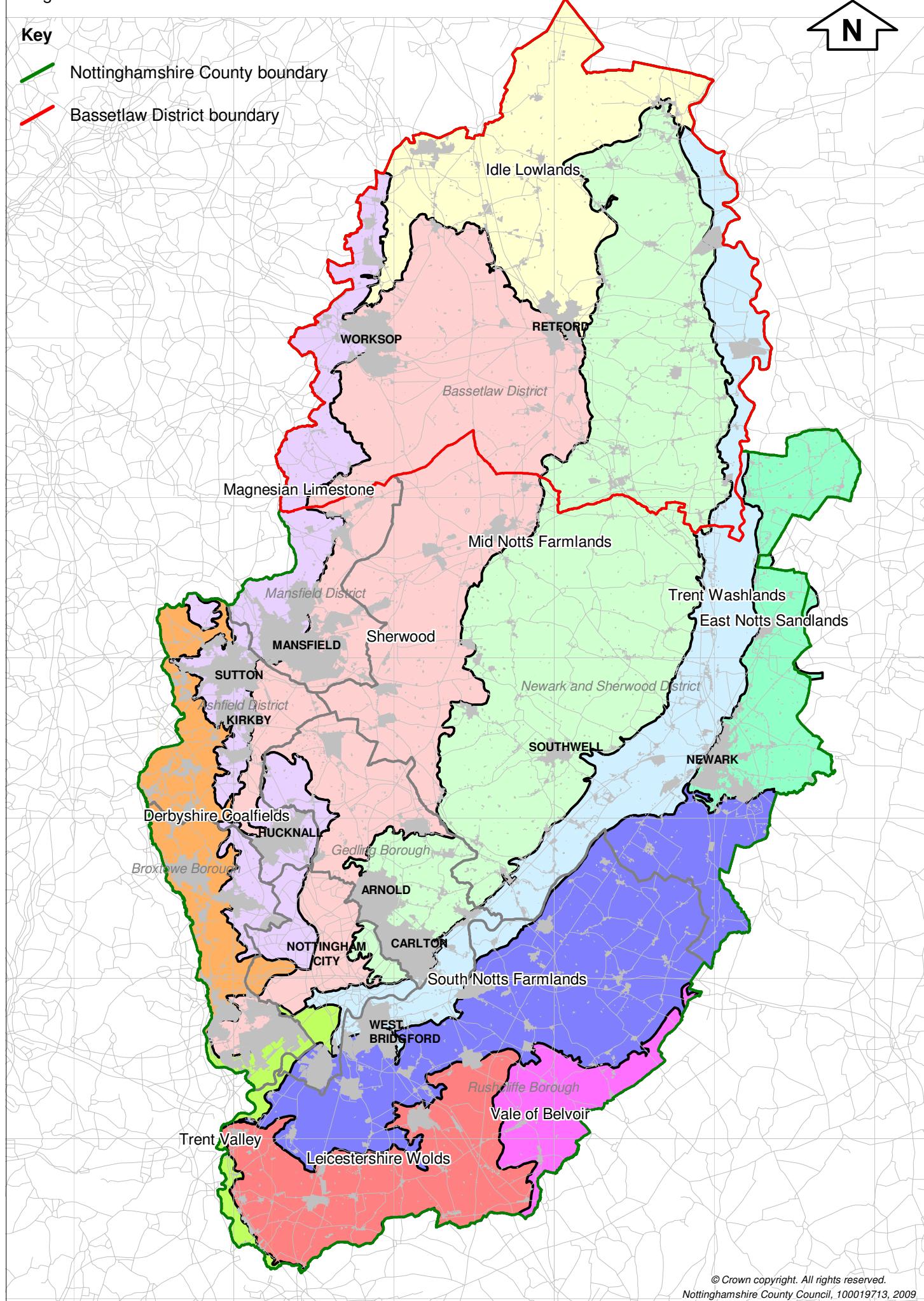Nottinghamshire County Council, published 1997

Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines (3 Volumes) – November 1993
Warwickshire County Council Countryside Commission

APPENDIX 1

Ashfield District Council	Ashfield Local Plan Review - Adopted 22nd November 2002	relevant MLA Policy EV4
Bassetlaw District Council	Bassetlaw Local Plan – Deposit Draft Approved October 2001	relevant MLA Policy 6/5
Broxtowe Borough Council	Broxtowe Local Plan September 2004	relevant MLA Policy E14
Gedling Borough Council	Gedling Borough Replacement Plan – Adopted July 2005	relevant MLA Policy ENV37
Mansfield District Council	Mansfield District Local Plan – Adopted November 1998	relevant MLA Policy NE8
Newark and Sherwood District Council	Newark and Sherwood Local Plan – Adopted 1999	relevant MLA Policy NE8
Rushcliffe Borough Council	Rushcliffe Borough Non-Statutory Replacement Local Plan – Adopted 14th December 2006	No policy

FIGURE 1
Regional Character Areas

Key

— Nottinghamshire County boundary

— Bassetlaw District boundary

Idle Lowlands

WORKSOP

RETFORD

Bassetlaw District

Magnesian Limestone

Mid Notts Farmlands

Mansfield District

MANSFIELD

Sherwood

SUTTON

Ashfield District

KIRKBY

Trent Washlands

East Notts Sandlands

Newark and Sherwood District

SOUTHWELL

NEWARK

Derbyshire Coalfields

HUCKNALL

Broxtowe Borough

Gedling Borough

ARNOLD

NOTTINGHAM CITY

CARLTON

South Notts Farmlands

WEST BRIDGFORD

Rushcliffe Borough

Vale of Belvoir

Trent Valley

Leicestershire Wolds

Appendix 3

Information to be collected/checked before character survey

	Information	Date checked
1.	Regional Landscape Description produced by The Countryside Agency (eg. Area 49 – Sherwood)	
2.	Existing description of Landscape Character type in NCC Landscape Guidelines, 1997.	
3.	1:25000 Ordnance Survey with contours – photocopy and trace boundary of survey area (or print from MapInfo)	
4.	Aerial photograph of area for file	
5.	Existing MLA boundaries and description for file	
6.	Sandersons map (where covered)	
7.	Local plan designations (re. vulnerability to change)	
8.	Ecological designations from GIS	
9.	Check boundaries against OS plan/aerial photo and assess during survey whether these need to be amended	
10.	Parish boundaries – on Ordnance Survey – check against hedgerows on site (possible Ancient Hedgerows)	
11.	Obtain Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings from Planweb	
12.	Additional information from heritage/archaeology and interpretation discussion with Jason Mordan/Ginni Baddeley – general discussion on character area to be surveyed (say a quarter of Sherwood area), before character survey carried out.	

T01/Checklist_Character.doc

LCPRef

CharType _____ **LDURef** _____ **Date** ____ **Surv** ____

Conditions _____ **OS East** ____ **OS North** ____

Location _____

1. Landform

Flat	☐	**Valley Side**	☐
Gently Undulating	☐	**Valley Floor**	☐
Strongly undulating	☐	**Plateau**	☐
Steep	☐		

Other natural features present: **River** ☐ _____   **Stream** ☐ _____

Description _____

Views _____

2. Landcover

Land Use

Open Farmland	☐	**Woodland**	☐
Farmland with Trees	☐	**Parkland**	☐
Farmland with woods	☐	**Wetland**	☐
Farmland - Arable	☐	**Open Water**	☐
Farmland - Pastoral	☐	**Urban**	☐
Farmland - Rough gra	☐	**Surburban**	☐
Farmland - Mixed	☐	**Village**	☐
Forestry broadleaved	☐	**Recreation or amenity**	☐
Forestry Conifer	☐	**Disturbed**	☐
Forestry Mixed	☐	**Mineral Workings**	☐
Nursery	☐	**Commercial**	☐
LUAllot	☐	**Industrial**	☐
Orchard	☐		

Description _____

Vulnerability _____

Woodland Cover

Extensive	☐	**Hedgerows (trees and shrubs)**	☐
Interlocking	☐	**Ditches**	☐
Linear	☐	**Walls**	☐
Fragmented	☐	**Fences**	☐
Hedge (shrubs)	☐	**Tree line, belts**	☐

Woodland Cover / Boundaries Description	
Vulnerability to change	

2. Historic Pattern

Pattern Type

Organic ☐ | **Planned** ☐ | **Unenclosed** ☐

Field Boundary Type		Field Size		Overall Pattern
No boundaries ☐		**Small** ☐		
Straight boundaries ☐		**Medium** ☐		
Curving sinuous ☐		**Large** ☐		

Transport Pattern - Route | Transport Pattern - Form | Transport Pattern - Verges

Trunk A Road ☐	**Tracks** ☐	**Straight** ☐	**Absent** ☐
B Road ☐	**Railway** ☐	**Winding** ☐	**Variable** ☐
C or unclassified ☐		**Sunken** ☐	**Uniform (wide/med/narrow)** ☐
			Ditched ☐

Settlement

Town ☐ | **Village** ☐ | **Hamlet** ☐ | **Isolated** ☐ | **Country house** ☐

Building Style

Vernacular ☐ | **Non-vernacular** ☐

Historic Pattern - Description	
Historic Pattern - Vulnerability to change	

Overall Character Summary Statement

APPENDIX 5

How to complete Landscape Character Parcel (LCP) Field Survey Sheet

LCP Ref – Record unique reference number prefixed by County Character Area initial, e.g. SH 01.

<u>County Character Prefix</u>

DC   Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Coalfields
ES   East Nottinghamshire Sandlands
IL   Idle Lowlands (Humberhead Levels)
LW   Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds
ML   Magnesian Limestone
MN   Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands
SH   Sherwood
SN   South Nottinghamshire Farmlands
TV   Trent Valley
TW   Trent Washlands
VB   Vale of Belvoir

Character Type   Add County Character Area from pull down menu.

Conditions   Record weather at time of survey, particularly note visibility.

Location   Record point where record made entered as a text field.

LDU ref   Record the underlying LDU in which the LCP is located. This will generate a short description of the key characteristics, e.g.:

LDU 202 Vales and valley bottoms, alluvium fen peat, gleyed soils, unsettled (meadow and marsh), large estates coverts and tree groups.
If you do not know this at the time of survey, add another number to allow you to progress, as this field is mandatory.

Date   Record date of record.

Surveyor   Record initials of surveyor(s).

OS East   Record 6 figure grid reference using hand held GPS.

OS North   Record 6 figure grid reference using hand held GPS.

Note: Some descriptions are already included within text boxes - the programme allows you to select one only, or a new description can be typed.

1. **LANDFORM**

Describe landform using pull down menu. Firstly, record all components of the landscape present by adding √ to box. Secondly, estimate the proportions of each component within the LCP.

Dominant (D)   approx 75 – 100%
Prominent (P)   approx 50 – 75%
Apparent (A)   approx 10 – 50%
Insignificant (I)   > 10%

<u>Description</u>

Add a written description of the landform in the text field, include the height range within area noting the highest points.

<u>Views</u>

Describe views from the record point towards N, E, S and W:

Are views beyond LCP?
Are they constrained by landform or vegetation, either within the LCP or beyond?
Are views open or enclosed?

2. **LANDCOVER**

Describe land use using pull down menu. Firstly, record all components of the landscape present by adding √ to box. Secondly, estimate the proportions of each component within the LCP, as above.

<u>Description</u>

Add a written description of the key land uses and add information to clarify any of the factors recorded above.

<u>Vulnerability</u>

List any drivers for change which are likely to have a particular effect on land uses in this LCP, such as intensification of agricultural production, mineral extraction, flood risk.

Woodland Cover

Describe the pattern of woodland cover of the area. Firstly, record the pattern present by adding √ to box. Secondly, estimate the proportions of pattern within the LCP.

<u>Description</u>

Add a written description of woodland cover, adding information to clarify any of the factors recorded above record dominant tree species. Describe vegetation cover in order of scale, woodlands, roadside hedges, field boundary hedges.

<u>Vulnerability</u>

List any drivers for change which are likely to have a particular effect on woodland in this LCP, e.g. decline of mature tree species due to lack of management, removal of hedgerow trees in field boundary hedges due to agricultural intensification.

Field Boundaries

Describe field boundary components. Firstly, record components present by adding √ to box. Secondly, estimate the proportions of different types of boundary within the LCP.

<u>Description</u>

Add a written description of field boundaries, adding information to clarify any of the factors recorded above. Record hedgerow species, note any mixed species hedgerows.

<u>Vulnerability</u>

List any drivers for change which are likely to have a particular effect on field boundaries, such as agricultural intensification.

3. **HISTORIC PATTERN**

<u>Pattern Type</u>

Firstly, select pattern type from:

Organic	Landscape which has not been enclosed in the 19th Century and has developed a pattern of land use since that time little by little, and not in any planned way.
Planned	Landscape which was enclosed in the 19th Century and has developed since then to a planned pattern.
Unenclosed	No agricultural enclosure in the 19th Century. Land remains open, e.g. moorland or common land.

If there is more than one pattern present, decide which is Dominant, Prominent, Apparent or Insignificant.

Field Boundary Type

Select boundary type; more than one type may be recorded.

Field Size

Record field size in comparison with the typical field size of the whole character area, e.g. Sherwood. Analysis of aerial photographs will be required at the desk top stage to determine this.

Overall Pattern

Select an overall pattern from the pull down menu which most closely resembles the LCP pattern.

Add text description to clarify the above or describe the pattern if it does not fit exactly into any of the above. It is important to record a pattern as this feeds into the information used to derive the policy zones.

Transport Pattern – Route

Add types of routes present. Add additional information to text field, e.g. road numbers.

Transport Pattern – Form

Add types of route pattern present; more than one pattern can be selected.

Transport Pattern – Verges

Add type of verges; more than one type can be selected.

Settlement Pattern

Record settlement size present within the LCP, if any settlement is present.

Building Style

Record whether vernacular building styles are present or are all buildings non-vernacular.

Historic Pattern Description

Desk based study will include analysis of historic maps, in particular Sanderson's Plan of 1835.

The text box should record how much of the historic field pattern in still intact and where it has been removed by recent development. It should describe any vernacular style of building, e.g. red brick and pantiled roofs.

Historic Pattern – Vulnerability to Change

This section should record the key drivers that have resulted in change of the historic pattern since 1835 and those occurring presently, such as reasons for loss of field pattern.

Overall Character Summary

A summary of all the preceding information should be recorded here to give a succinct synopsis of the LCP.

Representative Photograph

A photograph (or several) should be taken to indicate the key landscape character components of the LCP. A 6-figure grid reference and a further 6-figure reference to plot orientation are recorded in the field. This photograph need not be taken from the same position as the field survey record. As well as being attached to the character record, a photograph will also be used on the final policy sheet; so it is important that it is of good quality and its location accurately recorded.

Appendix 6

RATIONALE FOR AMALGAMATION OF LCPs INTO DPZs – TRENT WASHLANDS
(working south to north of the county)

Policy Zone	LCP and MLA Reference			LDU Ref	Cultural Name (if given)	Summary of Land Use for MLA Area only	Reason for Amalgamation	Reason for Retention as Distinct Unit
	LCP Ref	MLA Ref	MLA Name					
1	TW1			445	Meadowlands LWG MFG		Same LDU attributes and would be contiguous without residential development.	
	TW2			444	Meadowlands LWG MFG			
2	TW7			396	Meadowlands LWG MFG			Distinct geographical feature – river valley.
3	TW3			115	Village Farmlands LFB NFG		Same LDU attributes and would be contiguous without intervening river valley.	
	TW4			94	Village Farmlands LFB NFG			
	TW5			131	Village Farmlands LFB NFG			
4	TW6			440	Meadowlands LWG MET		Only separated initially for character survey due to size of area.	
5	TW8			204	Village Farmlands LFB NEG			Separate LDU to TW9 (Meadowlands).
6	TW10			207	Village Farmlands LFB NSG			Separate LDU to TW9 (Meadowlands).
7	TW11			108	Village Farmlands LFB NEG			Separate LDU to TW9 (Meadowlands).

Condition and Sensitivity Unit	LCP and MLA Reference			LDU Ref	Cultural Name (if given)	Summary of Land Use for MLA Area only	Reason for Amalgamation	Reason for Retention as Distinct Unit
	LCP Ref	MLA Ref	MLA Name					
8	TW13			109	Village Farmlands LFB NEG		Same LDU attributes and adjacent to each other, separated only by river valley.	
	TW14			120 440 107	Village Farmlands LFB NEG Meadowlands LWG MET Village Farmlands LFB NEG			
9	TW15			441	Village Farmlands LFB NSG			Separate LDU to TW6, 9, 12 and 19 (Meadowlands).
10	TW16			442	Meadowlands LWG MST			Separate LDU to TW15 and 17 (Village Farmlands) and different attributes to TW12 (Meadowlands).
11	TW17 TW20			404	Village Farmlands LFB NEG		Only separated initially for character survey due to size of area.	
12	TW18			132	Village Farmlands LFB NEG			Separate LDU to TW19 (Meadowlands).
13	TW21			439	Meadowlands LWG MET			Separate LDU to TW20 (Village Farmlands).
14	TW22			203	Village Farmlands LFD NSG			Separate LDU to TW19 (Meadowlands).
15	TW23			405	Village Farmlands LFB NSG			Separate LDU to TW21 (Meadowlands).
16	TW24			110	Village Farmlands LFB NSG			Separate LDU to TW25 (Meadowlands).

Condition and Sensitivity Unit	LCP and MLA Reference			LDU Ref	Cultural Name (if given)	Summary of Land Use for MLA Area only	Reason for Amalgamation	Reason for Retention as Distinct Unit
	LCP Ref	MLA Ref	MLA Name					
17	TW25 TW28			415 415	Meadowlands LWG MFT		Only divided initially for character survey due to size of area.	
18	TW26			403	Village Farmlands LFB NFG			Separate LDU to TW25, 27 and 28 (Meadowlands).
19	TW27			401	Meadowlands LWG MFT			Separate LDU to TW26 (Village Farmlands).
20	TW29			274	Village Farmlands LFB NFG			Separate LDU to TW28 (Meadowlands).
21	TW30			199	Village Farmlands LFB NFT			Separate LDU to TW28 (Meadowlands). Separate attributes to TW32, different LDU to TW31 (Meadowlands).
22	TW31			198	Meadowlands LWG MFT			Separate attributes to TW33, different LDU to TW30 (Village Farmlands).
23	TW32			200	Village Farmlands LFB NEG			Separate attributes to TW30, different LDU to TW33 (Meadowlands).
24	TW33			202	Meadowlands LWG MEG			Separate attributes to TW31, different LDU to TW32 (Village Farmlands).
25	TW34			408	Meadowlands LWG MFT			Separate attributes to TW33 (Meadowlands) and different LDU to TW32.

RATIONALE FOR AMALGAMATION OF LCPs – TRENT WASHLANDS
(working south to north of the county)

Condition and Sensitivity Unit	LCP and MLA Reference			LDU Ref	Cultural Name (if given)	Summary of Land Use for MLA Area only	Reason for Amalgamation	Reason for Retention as Distinct Unit
	LCP Ref	MLA Ref	MLA Name					
26	TW13	025	Gunthorpe	109	Village Farmlands LWG MET			MLA
27	TW12	023	Caythorpe & Gonalston	440	Meadowlands LFB NEG			MLA
28	TW19	001	Stoke Hill	440	Meadowlands LWG MET			MLA
29	TW16	032	Upton Hall	442	Meadowlands LWG MST			MLA
30	TW19	002	Farndon	440	Meadowlands LWG MET			MLA
31	TW16	033	Micklebarrow Hill	442	Meadowlands LWG MST			MLA
32	TW16	034	Kelham Hills	442	Meadowlands LWG MST			MLA
33	TW19	OO4	Newark West	440	Meadowlands LWG MET			MLA
34	TW18	003	Newark South West	132	Village Farmlands LFB NEG			MLA
35	TW20	009	South Muskham	404	Village Farmlands LFB NEG			MLA
36	TW22	020	Holme and Slough Park	203	Village Farmlands LFD NSG			MLA

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Condition and Sensitivity Unit	LCP and MLA Reference			LDU Ref	Cultural Name (if given)	Summary of Land Use for MLA Area only	Reason for Amalgamation	Reason for Retention as Distinct Unit
	LCP Ref	MLA Ref	MLA Name					
37	TW19	010	Winthorpe West	440	Meadowlands LWG MET			MLA
38	TW24	016	Collingham West	110	Village Farmlands LFB NSG			MLA
	TW25			415	Meadowlands LWG MFT			MLA
39	TW25	014	Carlton Holme	415	Meadowlands LWG MFT			MLA
40	TW25	008	Carlton	415	Meadowlands LWG MFT			MLA
	TW26			403	Village Farmlands LFB NFG			MLA
41	TW26	019	The Holmes	403	Village Farmlands LFB NFG			MLA
	TW28			415	Meadowlands LWG MFT			MLA
42	TW25	121	Girton West	415	Meadowlands LWG MFT			MLA
43	TW27	051	Normanton on Trent and Grassthorpe	401	Meadowlands LWG MFT			MLA
44	TW28	122	Fledborough Holme	415	Meadowlands LWG MFT			MLA
45	TW28	123	Duneham	415	Meadowlands LWG MFT			MLA
	TW31		Laneham	198	Meadowlands LWG MFT			MLA

Condition and Sensitivity Unit	LCP and MLA Reference			LDU Ref	Cultural Name (if given)	Summary of Land Use for MLA Area only	Reason for Amalgamation	Reason for Retention as Distinct Unit
	LCP Ref	MLA Ref	MLA Name					
46	TW30	064	Laneham	199	Village Farmlands LFB NFT			MLA
47	TW31	124	Laneham	198	Meadowlands LWG MFT			MLA
	TW30			199	Village Farmlands LFB NFT			
	TW28		Cottam	415	Meadowlands LWG MET			MLA
48	TW31	125	Littleborough	198	Meadowlands LWG MFT			MLA
49	TW33	018	The Ferries	202	Meadowlands LWG MEG			MLA
50	TW34	126	Bole Ings	408	Meadowlands LWG MFT			MLA
51	TW9			440	Meadowlands LWG MET			Area kept separate due to size of LDU but contiguous with PZ4
52	TW12			440	Meadowlands LWG MET			Area kept separate due to size of LDU but contiguous with PZ4
53	TW19			440	Meadowlands LWG MET			Area kept separate due to size of LDU but contiguous with PZ4

Appendix 7

Information to be collected/checked before Condition and Sensitivity survey

	Information	Date checked
1.	1:25000 Ordnance Survey with contours – photocopy and trace boundary of survey area (or print from MapInfo)	
2.	Hard copy of LCP character survey sheets	
3.	Obtain ecological information from GIS – list SSSIs, SINCs, LNRs etc and Ancient Woodlands on page 3 of survey sheet	
4.	Aerial photograph of area – print off with ecological boundaries and MLAs overlaid	
5.	MLA information – scan map and add description to file (from Character survey file).	
6.	Sandersons map (where covered) – photocopy relevant page	
7.	Check boundaries against OS plan/aerial photo and assess during survey whether these need to be amended	
8.	Obtain Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings from Planweb (or from character survey desktop info.) and add to file/page 8 and 9 of survey sheet	
9.	Information from heritage/archaeology and interpretation discussion with Jason Mordan/Ginni Baddeley – follow on from initial meeting – more in depth discussion, including the Buildings Survey Officer.	

T01/Checklist_Con&Sens.doc

LANDSCAPE CONDITION and SENSITIVITY (report)

	DPZ Ref [ ]
Draft Character Type [ ]	**Date** [ ] **Surveyor** [ ]
Land Cover Parcel Ref(s) [ ]	
Conditions [ ]	**OS East** [ ] **OS North** [ ]
Location [ ]	

LANDSCAPE CONDITION   **DPZ Ref** [ ]

Visual Unity - assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of the following

Pattern of Elements

Describe the extent of uniform or unifying features / coherent or incoherent pattern of elements, are these intact, interrupted or fragmented?   [ ]

Detracting Features (Presence of Incongruous Features) - Negative contribution to strength of char. area

[ ]

Overall how would you rate the amount of detracting features in the area?   [ ]

Visual Unity Score [ ]   *this score equates to..* [ ]

Functional Integrity - How does this area function as a habitat for wildlife?

Ecological Integrity:

Extent and type of semi-natural habit

[ ]

Ecological Bases

[ ]

Intensity of Land Use

[ ]

Additional Notes [ ]

Overall, how does this area function as a habitat for wildlife?   [ ]

Cultural Integrity:

Tree cover

[ ]

Extent

[ ]

Age Structure

[ ]

Field Boundaries

[ ]

Built Features

[ ]

Additional Notes [ ]

Overall Cultural Integrity [ ]

Functional Integrity Score [ ]   *this score equates to..* [ ]

Impact of Built Development (does not feed into a matrix)

How does development demonstrate or respect the local vernacular, character and sense of place?

Impact of built development

Impact of Recent Land Use (does not feed into a matrix

What type of land use changes are likely to affect the landscape?

Impact of recent land use change

Overall Condition Summary Statement

Condition Overall Score   *this score equates to..*

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY   **DPZ Ref**

Sense of Place: How do the Key Characteristics contribute to local distinctiveness and continuity?

Woodlands   NB. re Continuity: Recent-50years, Historic-post 1600, Ancient-pre 1600

Distinctiveness   **Continuity**

Hedgerow and Hedgerow Trees

Distinctiveness   **Continuity**

Other Vegetation

Distinctiveness   **Continuity**

Field Boundaries

Distinctiveness   **Continuity**

Buildings

Distinctiveness   **Continuity**

Highways

Distinctiveness   **Continuity**

Other Features

Distinctiveness   **Continuity**

Settlements

Distinctiveness   **Continuity**

Final distinctivene   **Final Continuity**

To support final di   **To support final co**

Sense of Place Score   *this score equates to..*

Visibility

Views typically limited to within LDU or beyond it ?

Scale of Landform and Landscape elements ?

How wooded is the landscape ?

Views Score   *this score equates to..*

Sensitivity Overall Score   *this score equates to..*

Landscape Policy Score   *this score equates to Landscape Polic*

Appendix 9

How to complete Landscape Condition and Landscape Sensitivity field survey sheet

DPZ Ref – Record unique reference number prefixed by County Character Area initial and PZ for Policy Zone e.g. SH PZ 01.

County Character Prefix

DC	Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Coalfields
ES	East Nottinghamshire Sandlands
IL	Idle Lowlands (Humberhead Levels)
LW	Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds
ML	Magnesian Limestone
MN	Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands
SH	Sherwood
SN	South Nottinghamshire Farmlands
TV	Trent Valley
TW	Trent Washlands
VB	Vale of Belvoir

Draft Character Type – Add County Character type from pull-down menu.

Land Cover Parcel Ref(s) – *Note* this should be labelled "Landscape Character Parcel ref".

Record all LCPs included in this Policy Zone.

Conditions – Record weather at time of survey, particularly note visibility.

Location – Record point where record made in the text field (limited to 30 text characters).

Date – Record date of record.

Surveyor – Record initials of Surveyor(s).

OS East – Record a 6 figure grid reference using hand held GPS.

OS North – Record a 6 figure grid reference using hand held GPS.

Landscape Condition

Visual Unity – assess the overall unity of the Landscape and note the significance of the following:

Pattern of Elements – Record using pull-down menu whether the landscape components which make up the whole of the Policy Zone are:

Unified (3)   - Where landscape components such as fields, boundaries etc. are very uniform in type.

Coherent (2)   - Components are neither completely uniform or completely incoherent.

Incoherent (1) - Where landscape components are very different throughout the area.

Detracting Features – Record visual features which contribute negatively to the strength of character, such as:

     Power lines
     Busy roads
     Derelict buildings
     Industrial uses
     Mineral extraction

Overall how would you rate the amount of detracting features in the area? Record using pull-down menu from:
     Many   **(1)**
     Some   **(2)**
     Few   **(3)**

The factors recorded above will generate a Visual Unity score and a Visual Unity description, which is the sum of the factors above, e.g.: Unified pattern and few detracting features equals an overall score of "**6** – Strongly Unified".

Functional Integrity – How does this area function as a habitat for wildlife?

Ecological Integrity – Extent and type of semi-natural habit (note: should read habitat). Record the types of habitat present as with a Phase 1 habitat survey – deciduous woodland, open water, unimproved grassland etc, riparian vegetation.

Ecological Bases – Record any designated areas within the Policy Zone, such as SSSI's, LNRs etc. Record unique reference and main reason for designation, e.g.: 5/132 Littleborough Lagoons – Grassland, Open Water and Carr.

Intensity of Land Use – Record intensity of use and land use type e.g.: arable, grazing pasture.

Overall, how does this area function as a habitat for wildlife?

Select from: Strong   **(3)**
            Moderate   **(2)**
            Weak   **(1)**

Additional notes – Add any additional comments as necessary to clarify choice. This information is checked by an Ecologist at the Policy Sheet stage to ensure that this is correct.

Cultural Integrity

Tree cover – Describe the type of woodland present and record species. If there are named woodlands, describe each of these in turn where possible.

Extent – Describe the extent if tree cover within the area (no coverage, low or moderate coverage). Use an aerial photograph to assess this.

Age Structure – Describe the age structure of the different components of woodland, and mature trees such as: over mature, mature, regenerating, newly planted.

Field Boundaries – Note types of field boundaries present e.g.: hedgerows, walls, post and rail fences, and record their condition.

Built features – Note type of built features within the PZ and record construction materials. Note names of vernacular buildings where possible.

Overall cultural integrity –   Chose a category from a pull-down menu:

Good   **(3)**
Variable   **(2)**
Poor   **(1)**

Additional notes – Record any additional notes as necessary to clarify choice.

The programme then calculates a Functional Integrity score and gives a functional integrity description e.g.: Moderate habitat for wildlife and good cultural integrity equals a score of **5** – Strong functional integrity.

Impact of built development – describe how any development noted respects the local vernacular style, note any particular buildings of historic interest, listed buildings etc.

Impact of built development – Chose low, moderate or high from pull down menu.

Impact of recent land-use changes – describe any obvious recent changes, and assess the degree of impact for any changes listed.

Impact of land-use change – Assess overall impact.

Overall Condition Summary Statement – Condense the information collected into a succinct summary of the Landscape condition.

The programme generates an overall condition score and a text description at this point.

<u>Landscape Sensitivity</u>

Sense of place – How do the key characteristics contribute to local distinctiveness and continuity?

<u>Woodlands</u> – Describe woodlands in text box:

> Record Distinctiveness: Indistinct
> > Characteristics
> > Unique/Rare

> This is in comparison with the whole of the Character Area e.g. Sherwood

> Record Continuity:
> > Recent – 50 years
> > Historic – Post 1600
> > Ancient – Pre 1600

<u>Hedgerows and Hedgerow trees</u> - Describe hedgerows in text box
- Record distinctiveness
- Record continuity

<u>Field Boundaries</u>   - Describe buildings in text box
- Record distinctiveness
- Record continuity

<u>Highways</u>   - Describe highways in text box
- Record distinctiveness
- Record continuity

<u>Other Features</u>   - Describe any other features in text box
- Record distinctiveness
- Record sensitivity

<u>Settlements</u>   - Describe any settlements in text box
- Record distinctiveness
- Record sensitivity

Having gone through this process, record the:

<u>Final distinctiveness</u> – record which is the most commonly occurring "distinctiveness" category.
Add any notes to support the final score in the text box.

<u>Final continuity</u> – record the most commonly occurring "continuity" category. Add any notes to support the final score in the text box.

The computer programme generates a "Sense of Place" score, together with a text description of this score, e.g.:

Final distinctiveness Characteristic (score **2**) + final continuity – Historic (score **2**) equals: **4** – Sense of Place – Moderate

Visibility

Views typically limited to within an LDU or beyond it should read "to within Policy Zone or beyond it".

Scale of Landform and Landscape elements

This may be described as:

Dominant– **(3)**
Apparent – **(2)**
Insignificant – **(1)**

This is used to describe the topography of the PZ. Insignificant has only been used to describe areas where the whole zone does not vary in altitude by more than 2 metres.

How wooded is the Landscape?

This may be described as:

Enclosed– **(1)**
Intermittent– **(2)**
Open– **(3)**

These figures are used to describe how woodland would screen any features set in the landscape.
A steeply undulating area which is open would have a high view score, because features within it would be very visible. A text based description is also generated in this case – very high visibility.
A flat area which is well wooded will have a low view score, because any features within it would not be very visible. A text based description is also generated in this case – very low visibility.

An overall sensitivity score is generated by the software programme, together with a text description e.g.:

Moderate sense of place **(4)** + Moderate view score **(4)** = **(8)** Moderate sensitivity.

Finally, the combined scores, when added together, generate a Landscape Policy Score, together with a text policy description e.g.:
Condition **10** + Sensitivity **8** equals **18** - "Conserve" Landscape action.

18-20	Conserve
17,18	Conserve and Reinforce
17,18	Conserve and Restore
15,16,17	Reinforce
15,16,17	Restore
16	Conserve and Create
14,15	Restore and Create
14,15	Create and Reinforce
12-14	Create

Appendix 10

TW PZ 1 Gamston and Edwalton River Meadowlands
Policy: Conserve and Create

<u>**Character Summary**</u>

This area is made up of two small narrow belts of land that lie on the suburban fringes of Edwalton and Gamston to the east of the city of Nottingham. To the north the urban edge of West Bridgford forms the western boundary. The southern section is contained by more recent housing development in Gamston to the east and the housing of Edwalton to the west.

North of the A52 the area is flat and low lying with some medium and small scale fields grazed by ponies. Field boundaries are a mixture of post and wire, timber post and rail fence and out grown hawthorn hedgerows.

South of the A52 is a narrow stretch of land along the Grantham Canal. This canal was opened in 1797 and for over one hundred years it was used for transporting coal, lime and stone between Nottingham and Grantham. The canal is no longer navigable and in the 1970s road construction for the Gamston Lings Bar road severed the canal corridor. The canal is a SINC site that is noted for good aquatic plant life and its tow path now provides a recreational route for the surrounding residential areas of Gamston.

To the south against the A52 lies Edwalton Golf Course which has a belt of mixed woodland which screens views out into the wider landscape. The golf course is highly maintained and gently undulates over fairways to the south. There is a small piece of mature woodland and scrub to the north of Edwalton Primary School and a playing field to the south of the school.

To the north roadside hedgerows are generally in good condition, with ditches running along side slightly elevated roads such as Regatta Way. Pony shelters, jumps, and stables are found within these smaller fields. Elsewhere the suburban influence is evident with allotments, former sewage works and other recreational land use near to the housing within Gamston and Edwalton.

PHOTOGRAPH

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type:
Policy Zone:X PZ XX
Landscape Character Parcel:

Condition

Good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE
Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE
Poor	CREATE	RESORE & CREATE	RESTORE
	Low	Moderate	High

Sensitivity

CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

-

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as

.

Condition   **XXXX**

Pattern of Elements:

Detracting Features:

Visual Unity:

Ecological Integrity:

Cultural Integrity:

Functional Integrity:

Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as

Sensitivity   **XXXX**

Distinctiveness:

Continuity:

Sense of Place:

Landform:

Extent of Tree Cover

Visibility:

ACTIONS – XXXXXXXX

-

TW PZ 1 – Gamston and Edwalton River Meadowlands

PHOTOGRAPH

CONTEXT

Eastern edge of the City of Nottingham
NCC Landscape Sub Type: River Meadowlands
Policy Zone: TW PZ 1
Land Cover Parcel TW1 and TW2

Condition

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

Low   Moderate   High

Sensitivity

CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Flat and low lying land drained by ditches & a small watercourse
- Medium sized arable fields
- Small scale fields grazed by horses
- Remnant sections of the Grantham Canal
- Views of urban edge of Nottingham
- Golf course and other urban edge amenity land uses

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

This is a narrow swathe of land that lies either within or adjacent to the urban edge of Nottingham. It has a **coherent** pattern of elements with **some** detracting features within the PZ such as post and wire fencing, makeshift pony shelters and a short low bridge section across the A52, which is a busy main road. Overall this gives a **visually coherent** area.

The Grantham Canal is no longer navigable having been severed by the A52. Lack of dredging and the maintenance of the associated canal structures, such as locks as fully operational elements, have led to a loss of cultural integrity and the remaining features are retained as relics as opposed to working structures.

The canal corridor is well maintained as a recreational route and the canal itself is a SINC site noted for its good aquatic plant community. The landscape along the canal on the edge of Gamston and within the golf course is generally in good condition with the established tree planting and with the maintained green open space appearing well used. The ecological network is therefore described as **moderate,** which overall leads to a **coherent** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife

A **visually coherent** area with **coherent** habitat for wildlife gives a **moderate** landscape condition

Landscape Sensitivity

Some of the **characteristic historic** and ecological features of this Trent Washlands landscape are still in evidence, such as the meandering Grantham Canal and associated wetland and marsh plant communities fringing the margins of the canal. Part of the tow path along the line of the canal is now used as a footpath which connects Edwalton to Gamston. These features give the area a **moderate** sense of place

The proximity to the urban edge and more recent residential development has also led to a more indistinct feel to this area. The degree of visibility is also **moderate** due to containment by built edges and intermittent belts of tree planting, such as that around the edges of the Edwalton Golf Course and the A52, and the gently undulating landform. There are some views beyond the PZ from the fields within the northern area to the wooded hills to the North.

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

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition   Moderate

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

Sensitivity   Moderate

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve and Create

- **Create** new hedgerows along existing field boundaries particularly where these are currently post and wire fences.
- **Conserve** and enhance pattern of existing meadowland hedges, particularly primary hedgerows alongside roads, footpaths and bridleways.
- Enhance the appearance and visual unity of urban fringes and settlement edges with new tree and woodland planting to create filtered views.
- **Conserve** the canal side character and biodiversity of the Grantham canal and restore historical, visual and access links with the River Trent.
- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grassland
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture