

## APPENDIX 2: Summary of the Nottingham Landscape Guidelines Summary

- A2.1 This regional level landscape character assessment was adopted in 1996. Closely linked with the Countryside Commission's Countryside Character Programme, the guidelines were intended to provide a framework to conserve and enhance the character of the countryside.
- A2.2 The Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines project advanced the method of landscape protection and focuses attention on the whole countryside area. It recognised all landscapes have their own character, whether emphasis is on conservation of high quality landscape or enhancement of more degraded areas. The priority is to enrich the quality of the whole countryside.
- A2.3 The Guidelines used the National Character Map of England (as produced by the Countryside Commission) as a basis, and sub-divided some areas to give greater regional detail. Each of the character areas was then described in detail in the report, including information such as physical and human influences on the landscape, the visual character of the landscape, landscape evolution and forces for change, landscape strategies and key recommendations, and advice on landscape guidelines.
- A2.4 Mansfield includes the following regional areas:
- Magnesium Limestone Ridge;
  - Sherwood Region;

### Magnesian Limestone Ridge

- A2.5 The Magnesian Limestone Ridge forms the southern most part of the narrow limestone ridge that extends north through Yorkshire. It is a distinctive band of rising ground, although it is never more than few miles wide. The land is shaped in the form of an elevated escarpment, mostly gently rolling but in places it is dissected by narrow, steep sided river valleys. Limestone as a building material is locally distinctive feature of the settlements.
- A2.6 The coalfield influences have spread across this area in places but the landscape retains a generally rural character with a clear distinction between urban and rural areas. The Magnesian Limestone Ridge is sub-divided into three landscape character types: Limestone Farmlands; Limestone Fringe; and River Meadowlands.

### *Limestone Farmlands*

- Gently rolling limestone escarpment
- Fertile soils support productive arable farmland
- Fields are large with a regular field pattern emphasised by well maintained hedges
- Limestone walls common along the escarpment
- Woodland consists of large blocks of woodland and belts of linear woodland
- Wooded horizons are common
- Large mining settlements associated with pit heaps and railways lines but form self contained urban blocks

- Smaller nucleated settlements are characterised by limestone buildings and include Linby, Papplewick and Teversal
- Landscape is still agricultural and rural in character as the woodland and hedges contain the encroaching industrial influences
- Strong impression of elevation and space on the edges of the escarpment where there are long views across adjoining character areas
- Strong sense of enclosure on the lower areas
- Woodlands are commonly coniferous plantations but there is a scattering of ancient woodland through the area
- Narrow river valleys dissect the escarpment

### *Limestone Fringe*

- Undulating topography
- A well wooded landscape gives a strong sense of enclosure
- Large mixed and broad-leaved woodland
- Estate woodlands and linear woodland belts are common
- Fields are medium to large scale
- Sparsely settled, largely inaccessible landscape due to a lack of access ways
- Large scale, undulating topography and pattern of large fields and estate woodlands combine to form a visually unified landscape with a strong sense of place.
- Lower slopes have an enclosed character and the higher rides have long open expansive views
- The quiet, secluded nature of the landscape type is a welcome contrast to adjoining busy and urbanised landscapes

### *River Meadowlands*

- The limestone ridge is drained by the River Leen and a series of smaller rivers which flow into the Idle Basin
- Narrow alluvial flood plains
- Meandering river channels create visual continuity along the length of the stream
- Marginal aquatic and bankside vegetation with riparian trees and scrub
- Grazing meadows with patches of wet grassland typically enclosed by ditches or wire fences
- Relic mills constructed from local limestone
- Few built features and no human settlement give an undisturbed character, although traffic noise can detract from this

### *Guidelines and Recommendations*

- Conserve the nucleated pattern of rural settlements and ensure new buildings reflect the local vernacular
- Conserve and strengthen the traditional pattern of hedged fields
- Identify opportunities for enhancing ecological diversity
- Initiate schemes for large-scale woodland planting to contain and soften urban development
- Conserve and restore the integrity of historic estate lands
- Restore the special character of the alluvial grasslands

- Retain and enhance the diversity of the river channel and bankside vegetation
- Promote riverside tree planting to strengthen the continuity of the river corridors
- Conserve all ancient woodland sites

### Sherwood

- A2.7 This regional character area is characterised by a wide and diverse range of landscapes including the historic Sherwood Forest and the expansive parklands of the Dukeries. It is a landscape with many historical associations including Newstead Abbey and Lord Byron, and the legend of Robin Hood.
- A2.8 Woodland is a strong feature in the area and includes coniferous forests and oak-birch woodland. The landform is rolling with scattered areas of grassland bracken and heath land. Narrow river corridors dissect the area, which is predominantly enclosed arable fields.
- A2.9 The coal industry had a major impact on the region and large pit heaps, railway lines and surface developments are clear in the landscape. The Sherwood Region has been sub-divided into six landscape character types: Forest Sandlands, Forest Estatelands, River Meadowlands, Settled Sandlands, Village Farmlands and Sandstone Estatelands. Forest Sandlands is the only landscape type within the study area.

### *Forest Sandlands*

- Undulating topography
- Well wooded with pine plantations and remnants of semi-natural woodland
- Industrialised landscape
- Large arable fields in a geometric pattern
- Views are frequently contained by wooded horizons
- Area of heathland including widespread occurrence of bracken, gorse and broom species
- Mining settlement and associated spoil heaps
- Hedgerows are hawthorn and neatly managed
- Ancient stag headed oaks on scrubby heaths

### *River Meadowlands*

- Meandering river channels with some defined by wooded edges
- Permanent pastures and flood meadow
- Fringing alder, willows and riparian scrub
- Alder and willow carrs
- Arable encroachment to river side edges, particularly the River Maun which fragments character
- Heathy character present to some river corridors reflecting adjacent Sherwood Sandstone. Acidic grassland, gorse, broom and birch are common
- Frequent urban and industrial uses such as mine sites, pit heaps and urban edges

### *Guidelines and Recommendations*

- Conserve and strengthen the distinctive and well wooded character of the landscape
- Restore and conserve areas of heathland and semi-natural woodland
- Conserve the remote character of the landscape by concentrating new development in existing settlements
- Woodland planting to soften urban edges
- Conserve all areas of historic parkland and seek opportunities restore parkland character
- Protect the visual integrity of the historic estate landscape
- Conserve the continuity of the riparian character of the landscapes
- Conserve pastoral character and alluvial grassland diversity
- Retain and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation