

Sherwood Landscape Policy Zone 11 - Lindhurst Wooded Farmlands

Policy: Conserve and Create

This Landscape Policy Zone is a gently undulating area which extends from the valley of Rainworth Water at 110 metres in the south to the built edge of Mansfield in the north at 167 metres; and from the edge of Kirkby in Ashfield in the west to the village of Rainworth in the east. The highest point is at Coxmoor Plantation which is at 190 metres.

Land use in the area includes intensive arable production of cereals and oil seed rape as well as coniferous plantation woodland with smaller areas of deciduous woodland. There is some horse grazing on improved pasture to the southern fringes of Mansfield. There is also intensive pig production in the area around Rushley Farm. The recently built Mansfield and Ashfield Regeneration Route (MARR) cuts through the north of the Landscape Policy Zone, commercial and industrial development is beginning to be located along this route.

The main concentration of woodland is in the centre of the area and consists of Normanshill Wood and Thieves Wood to the west of the A60, and Harlow Wood is to the east of the A60. Both of these areas are commercial forestry plantations with wide margins of broad leaved trees particularly where they abut transport corridors. Caudwell Wood to the north of MARR is a deciduous woodland with Oak, Sweet Chestnut as the dominant species, also with Ash, Birch, and Sycamore and a shrubby under storey with a heathland species field layer. The smaller Stone Hills Plantation and Coxmoor Plantations are also coniferous woodlands with broad leaved margins. There is a small section of riparian woodland to Foul Evil Brook to the east of the area which includes Alder, Birch and Willow. The area as a whole has a distinct heath land character and there are several heath land register sites in the area.

Field boundaries vary in quality through out the area. Road hedgerows are also variable but very good in places such as on Caudwell Road where there are mature trees including Ash, Oak and Sycamore within the hedgerows. The most mature and species rich hedgerows are along farm tracks, such as those to Lindhurst Farm and Black Scotch Farm, these also contain mature trees including sections of Holly.

Historical maps of the area show that the whole of the eastern section was unclosed heath land except for the area around the present day Lindhurst Farm and the western area was enclosed fields. This pattern is still recognisable in the modern day landscape although there has been much removal of intervening boundaries due to agricultural intensification.

There is limited residential settlement within the area, there is small housing estate within Harlow Wood and a section of ribbon development along Coxmoor Road. There are also many isolated farms which tend to have a vernacular core of red brick and pantiled roofs but with modern agricultural buildings surrounding them. There is built development at Portland Training College within Harlow Wood and Fountaindale School within Thieves Wood.

Threats to the area include uncontrolled expansion of industrial and commercial buildings along the MARR route and expansion around the West Nottinghamshire College site, as well as extension of industrial and residential areas to the edge of Kirkby in Ashfield and Mansfield.

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PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Gently undulating topography
- Coniferous forestry plantations with deciduous margins to road edges
- Deciduous woodlands with Oak, Sweet Chestnut dominant
- Intensive arable farming in large geometric fields
- Mixed species hedgerows with mature trees to farm tracks
- MARR route crosses the north of the area
- Built edge of Mansfield and Kirkby in Ashfield to the north and west
- Isolated farms and limited settlement.
- Heath land character, particularly to road verges ,heath land species present on woodland rides.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **Moderate**

The area has a **coherent** pattern of elements mainly large geometric arable fields and blocks of plantation woodland, there are **some** detracting features these include telecommunications masts on high points, busy roads including the A60 and MARR route and the built edge of nearby urban areas. Overall this gives a **visually coherent** area. There are a number of SINC's and heathland sites in the area. Overall this is a **moderate** habitat for wildlife, although connectivity is reduced by poor hedgerows and busy roads. Cultural integrity is **variable** in that the land use pattern is still recognisable to the west from Sanderson's plan of 1835 but many hedgerows have been removed. Many of the woodlands existed at the time of Sanderson's Plan but they have been more infilled with conifer planting in recent times so that only their boundary shape remains.

A **visually coherent** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **moderate** landscape condition

Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as **Moderate**

The components of the landscape are **characteristic** of the Sherwood LCA. The time depth is **historic** (post 1600) giving a **moderate** sense of place overall. There is evidence of the pre-enclosure heathland character in the presence of heathland species to road edges and woodland rides.

The undulating landform is **apparent** with **intermittent** areas of woodland giving a **moderate** visibility of features in and out of the LPZ. There are dominant views of the urban edges of Mansfield and Kirby in Ashfield.

A **moderate** sense of place and a **moderate** visibility leads to a **moderate** landscape sensitivity overall.

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Wooded Farmlands
Landscape Policy Zone (LPZ): S LPZ 11
Landscape Character Parcel: S74,S75,S77,S78,S79,S80

Condition

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

ACTIONS – Conserve and Create

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the ecological diversity of small deciduous woodlands throughout the area
- **Conserve** farm track hedgerows with mature trees including Holly
- **Create** and reinforce field boundary and road hedgerows where these have become degraded or lost
- **Create** opportunities for restoring areas of heath land where appropriate
- **Create** small deciduous woodlands where appropriate

Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled character of the landscape by concentrating new developments around the existing urban fringe of Mansfield and Kirkby in Ashfield to the north and west.
- **Create** small scale woodland/tree planting to soften new development, preferably in advance of development
- **Conserve** the existing field pattern by locating new small scale development within the existing field boundaries
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Promote sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings