

Sherwood Landscape Policy Zone 15 - River Maun Meadowlands with Plantations

Policy: Conserve and Reinforce

This Landscape Policy Zone covers a narrow river corridor that contains the River Maun. This small water course flows in a north easterly direction from Mansfield Woodhouse in the west through Edwinstowe and up past the north western residential edge of Ollerton.

To the west the River Maun flows in a relatively enclosed river corridor, with low lying fields to the north and a steep and often wooded bank to the south. There are occasional sandstone outcrops to the southern bank. In contrast to the east of Edwinstowe, the area either side of the river is relatively flat and more open in character with medium sized arable fields both to the north and south of the river. The landscape is more fragmented here with loss of flood meadow to arable production.

Between the north eastern edge of Mansfield Woodhouse and Edwinstowe there is a stronger sense of wooded enclosure with mixed woodland along the southern bank. Willow trees fringe the edge of the banks of a series of man made fishing ponds to the north of Newlands and Cavendish Wood. These fishing ponds are at a slightly higher level than the river.

A camping and caravan site is located within the valley bottom to the south east of Lamp Pens Farm. A mineral railway line and pylons cut across the river near to Clipstone junction and a sewage works lies just west of Rainworth Water and Ollerton, adjacent to Carr Brecks Farm.

To the west of Kings Clipstone views tend to be contained within the valley, due to both woodland cover and the more meandering nature of the river in this area. To the east of Kings Clipstone views open out to the edge of Edwinstowe and to Sherwood Country Park in the south. To the east of Edwinstowe structures associated with Thoresby coal mine are also visible.

There are sections of bridleway either immediately adjacent or parallel to the water course for much of this Landscape Policy Zone, including a short section of the Robin Hood Way west of Edwinstowe.

Threats to this area include the increased pressure for parking close to fishing ponds which could disrupt the tranquillity of the River Maun. Lack of woodland management on the edge of the river corridor could also impact on the continued succession of trees as older trees are not replaced.

Sherwood Landscape Policy Zone 15 - River Maun Meadowlands with Plantations

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Narrow meandering river valley
- West of Edwinstowe - low lying fields to the north and steeper wooded valley side to the south
- Occasional sandstone outcrops to the southern bank
- Arable farming on flatter areas to the east
- Some willow, alder and riparian vegetation along the banks adjacent to the river
- Some views out to built edges railway, embankments, and woodland edges

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **good**. The Landscape Policy Zone contains a **coherent** pattern of elements with a **few** detracting features. These include the urban fringe, sewage works, pylons, and busy roads crossing the valley. Overall the landscape is **visually unified**.

The River Maun is a **moderate** habitat for wildlife with some areas of broadleaved woodland and outgrown hedgerows with trees along parts of the narrow valley. There are several SINC sites but ecological value has been reduced in areas of arable farming. Flood meadow has been lost to intensive arable farming and some straight sections of river suggest that the profile has been engineered. Hedgerows vary in condition, with some outgrown or fragmented and some stronger and trimmed.

The condition of heritage features is **variable**. There are some small areas of flood meadow and historic field boundaries. The location of the water meadows is still evident in the field pattern to the north of the river from Warren Farm to the east of Lamb Pens Farm. These meadows were created between 1816 and 1837 and they released water and sewage over farmland, greatly increasing agricultural production. Most of the farmhouses adjacent to this Landscape Policy Zone also date from this time.

Recent isolated development has generally had a negative impact on the valley.

Overall, this is a visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity which gives a **good** landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as **moderate**.

The components of this landscape such as tree cover, patches of heathy vegetation and the generally undeveloped land within the river corridor are **characteristic** features of Sherwood Landscape Character Area. However, the historic time-depth has largely been degraded by intensive arable farming, and some localised development around Edwinstowe, and Ollerton. Views are generally contained by the low landform and intermittent tree cover and visibility is **moderate**.

A **moderate** sense of place combined with a **moderate** visibility gives a **moderate** landscape sensitivity overall.

ACTIONS - Conserve and reinforce

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the pastoral character of the river valley.
- **Promote** measures for restoring arable land to pasture and flood meadow.
- **Conserve** and **reinforce** river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation.
- **Conserve** and **enhance** the ecological diversity and character of riparian woodland.

Built Features

- **Conserve** the sparsely settled character of the river corridor by avoiding development within the immediate flood plain of the River Maun.
- **Reinforce** the sense of place of the built environment by using materials and design that reflect the local character of the area.
- **Contain** new small scale development within historical field boundaries.

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Meadowlands with Plantations

Landscape Policy Zone: S LPZ 15

Land Cover Parcel: S27 S28

Condition

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

Low Moderate High

Sensitivity

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition Good

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

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