

## **Sherwood Landscape Policy Zone 18 - Blidworth and Rainworth Wooded Estatelands**

### **Policy: Conserve and Create**

This Landscape Policy Zone consists of an area which stretches from the former Calverton Colliery in the south to the villages of Rainworth and Blidworth in the north. The area is gently undulating with a height range of consistently between 90 and 135 metres.

The major land uses consist of commercial forestry plantations particularly to the south of the area. The forestry areas are publicly accessible with well maintained picnic areas and broad deciduous edges to the woodlands. To the centre and north, intensive arable farming predominates with regular medium to large fields of cereal crops. There is some permanent pasture used for sheep grazing and horse grazing nearer to the settlements of Blidworth and Rainworth. There is intensive rearing of chickens in poultry sheds. Facilities for leisure activities include a golf course to the south and sports fields near the villages. There is also evidence of the former coal mining industry with restored colliery spoil heaps at Calverton and Blidworth, disused mineral lines also cross the area. Busy roads pass through the area such as the A614, and the A617 Rainworth Bypass, away from these straight major routes are more winding routes often with 'sunken lanes' particularly around Blidworth.

The conifer woodlands are mainly Scot's Pine and Corsican Pine with edges of Ash, Beech, Birch, Holly and Oak. Coniferous game coverts are also dotted throughout the area. There are many isolated deciduous woodlands dominated by Oak and Sycamore some of which are ancient woodlands. Field boundary hedgerows are mostly trimmed but often gappy with limited hedgerow trees. Where present, these are Birch, Oak and Sycamore. Road hedgerows are stronger with large mature trees in places particularly along the minor roads.

The area has a heathland character, with patches of heathland within woodlands and along road verges. The plantations create the characteristic coniferous wooded skylines of the Sherwood region.

The historic field pattern has been lost in the areas of mineral extraction and forestry planting; many hedgerows have been removal or replacement with post and wire fences in the intensively farmed arable areas.

Built features include isolated farms with core buildings of red brick with slate roofs, and also stone buildings. Many farms have modern storage buildings around the perimeter e.g. Haywood Oaks Farm There is a small industrial estate north of Blidworth with modern buildings.

Threats to the area include clear felling of forestry areas causing a change on the character of these areas, further intensification of agriculture, expansion of industrial, and residential areas of Blidworth, as well as industrial and residential expansion of Rainworth particularly along the A617 Rainworth bypass.

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## PHOTOGRAPH



## CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Gently undulating topography
- Coniferous forestry plantations with deciduous margins to road edges
- Small deciduous woodlands dominated by Oak.
- Intensive arable farming in large to medium geometric fields
- Poor internal field boundaries, but stronger road edge boundaries with mature trees
- Rainworth Bypass (A617) crosses the north of the area, A614 runs north to south
- Isolated farms
- Heathland character, apparent to road verges. Heathland species present within woodlands and along disused mineral railway lines.
- Evidence of former coal mining, restored spoil heaps at Blidworth and Calverton
- Settlements of Bildworth and Rainworth

## 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 coniferous plantation woodland. There are **some** detracting features these include: busy roads including the A614, the A617 Rainworth Bypass and the built edge of urban areas of Rainworth and Blidworth. 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 in places and busy roads. Cultural integrity is **variable** in that the land use pattern is of the Sanderson's Plan of 1835 has been lost due to forestry planting and coal mining activities; where it does exist, many hedgerows have been removed. Fragments of deciduous woodlands that were present during the Sanderson's Plan (1835) remain, as well as isolated vernacular farm buildings.

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 regional Sherwood Landscape Character Area. 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 within woodlands.

The undulating landform is **apparent** with **intermittent** areas of woodland giving a **moderate** visibility of features in and out of the LPZ to the north, although the higher proportion of woodland in the south creates a more enclosed area. There are dominant views of the urban edges of Bildworth and Rainworth.

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

## CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Wooded Estate Lands  
Landscape Policy Zone: S LPZ 18  
Landscape Character Parcel: S1, S2, S11

### 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** and Reinforce field boundary and road hedgerows where these have become degraded or lost
- **Create** opportunities for restoring areas of heathland where appropriate
- **Create** small deciduous woodlands where appropriate

### Built Features

- **Conserve** the integrity and rural character of the landscape by concentrating new developments around the existing urban fringe of Blidworth and Rainworth
- **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 agricultural buildings