

Sherwood Landscape Policy Zone 51 - Rainworth Heath Wooded Farmlands with Wooded Estate lands

Policy: Conserve

This Landscape Policy Zone lies to the northeast of Mansfield and south of Clipstone. Sherwood Forest Golf Course dominates the south western area. The area to the north east has been disturbed by mineral activity and is crossed by dismantled mineral railway lines. The former Rufford junction lies to the south of Vicar Pond Country Park which is now a fishing lake. Pylons run west to east to the south of Vicar Pond. To the north eastern area there are small areas of deciduous woodland and pine woodland and some pasture.

The Sherwood Forest Golf Course landform is undulating and areas between the fairways and greens are managed to retain heathland. Scots Pine, Birch and Oak are the dominant tree species. There are clumps of trees and a linear band of trees runs along the western edge of the golf course – this is Oak/Birch woodland with some Sycamore and Scots Pine. Bracken, Gorse, Broom and Heather are common within acidic grassland areas.

The Landscape Policy Zone area is largely shown as unenclosed heathland on Sandersons Plan of 1835. The area to the north east has been disturbed by mineral activity but heathland has successfully been restored in some areas – particularly Clipstone Heath. Although the fairways and greens look manicured, the heathland character of the golf course has been successfully retained.

The Policy Zone has two designated SSSIs and four SINCS. The eastern half of the Sherwood Forest Golf Course is designated as a SSSI and a SINC, described as a large mosaic of sandland habitats with notable faunal and floral interests. Clipstone Heath SSSI to the north east of the golf course is described as an important area of dry acid heathland. Vicar Pond and Mansfield Colliery Railway are also designated SINCS.

A bridleway runs along the western edge of the golf course and up to Vicar Pond. The Mansfield Trail runs along the old mineral line.

Threats to the area include a change in management of the golf course and other heathland areas and loss of pasture to arable land use.

Sherwood LPZ 51 - Rainworth Heath Wooded Farmlands with Wooded Estatelands

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- The Sherwood Forest Golf Course is a dominant feature, characterised by heathland vegetation
- Woodland dominated by Oak, Birch and Scots Pine
- Linear belts of trees
- Vicar Pond (part of Vicar Water Country Park) – well used fishing pond
- Old mineral railway lines and areas disturbed by coal mining
- Acidic grassland and heathland habitats

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The Landscape condition is defined as **very good**. The area has as **coherent** pattern of elements with few detracting features. Although the north eastern area is dissected by disused mineral lines, overall the visual unity is **unified**.

There are two SSSIs and four SINCS within the area. Ecological integrity is **strong** and there are good wildlife corridors within the site and linking to adjacent areas.

Cultural integrity is **variable**. The historic heathland landscape is still evident on the golf course site but the historic landscape to the north of this has been destroyed by mineral activity.

A **visually unified** area with a **very strong** functional integrity/ habitat for wildlife gives a **very good** landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity

Sandersons Plan of 1835 shows large areas of open heathland. Although mineral activity has altered the landform to the northeast, heathland has been re-established – particularly within Sherwood Forest Golf Course and Clipstone Heath SSSIs/SINCS. The old mineral lines have also been designated as SINCS.

Overall the features are **characteristic** of Sherwood with an **historic** time depth (post 1600) and the area has a **moderate** sense of place.

There are open views along the fairways within the golf course, but generally trees and woodland do not allow long distance views out of the site. To the north, views are generally restricted by woodland and the railway embankment to the south and east, Clipstone to the north, and the spoil heap to the west.

Views within the site are enclosed by the woodland. The apparent landform and intermittent tree cover give a **moderate** visibility within the site.

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

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Conserve

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the ecological diversity and character of the heathland habitats within the Sherwood Forest Golf Course, on Clipstone Heath, and other SINCS
- **Conserve** the ecological diversity around Vicar Pond
- **Conserve** areas of grassland/pasture
- Avoid use of exotic species on the golf course

Built Features

- Conserve local vernacular style – any extensions to the golf club house should be in keeping with the local character

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Wooded Farmlands

Landscape Policy Zone: S LPZ51

Land Cover Parcels: SH21

Condition

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

N.B. Where one criterion is 'very good' this pushes the policy description into the next highest category.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition **Very Good**

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Few

Visual Unity: Unified

Ecological Integrity: Strong

Cultural Integrity: Variable

Functional Integrity: Strong

Sensitivity **Moderate**

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Apparent

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Moderate