

**GREATER NOTTINGHAM
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study has looked at the landscape of Greater Nottingham and will provide part of the evidence base for the local authorities Local Development Frameworks (LDF). It will be used by the planning authorities to aid development control decisions on planning applications and to guide landscape enhancement where funding and opportunities allow.

The physical landscape varies considerably and includes land which has been influenced greatly by coal mining operations in the north which are largely characterised by restored spoil mounding and smaller areas of more rural character. To the west of Nottingham the land is often influenced by urban development comprising large settlements and smaller villages. To the east the land is a series of distinctive rolling hills and narrow incised river valleys (known as Dumbles) and larger wooded plantations which mark the start of the historic and distinctive Sherwood region. To the south the land is strongly associated with arable farmland with large areas of uniform farmland with few trees or woodlands. Hills known as 'The Wolds' are distinctive prominent features in the south; they often form a backdrop to more gently undulating farmland.

The document provides a way of assessing the varied landscape within Greater Nottingham and contains information about the character and condition of the landscape to provide a greater understanding of what makes the landscape within Greater Nottingham special. Landscape varies subtly across the whole county and this is the case within Greater Nottingham, The study has recognised this through the identification of 79 Draft Policy Zones (called Landscape Character Types within Erewash Borough).

A Draft Policy Zone (DPZ) is an individual area which has a unique sense of place although it shares similar characteristics to other areas within broader regional areas identified as part of the East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment.

The study has identified how well the landscape character areas could adapt to change without severe detrimental effect on their character and integrity. Particular emphasis has been placed on the transition between the settlements to the wider countryside. Future changes which threaten the landscape were identified during stakeholder engagement and whilst surveying on site and guidelines to ensure the preservation of local distinctiveness are provided.

This information will be used to help inform the aligned Core Strategy across the local authorities and will help to protect special landscapes and provides guidance on how to improve less special landscapes.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Distinction in landscape is created through the interplay between people and place and encompasses all land, not just land designated for its natural beauty. It arises from unique patterns and combinations of different components and elements.

1.2 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) came into effect in the UK in March 2007. The ELC was the first international convention on landscape and is dedicated exclusively to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe. It provides an international context for landscape and emphasises its importance alongside biodiversity and cultural heritage. The ELC definition of landscape is:

'Landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'.

1.3 Landscape character assessment is an important tool for implementing the ELC within the UK. Landscape character assessment is a decision-making tool which systematically classifies the landscape into distinctive areas based on the interaction between topography, geology, land use, vegetation pattern, and human influence. Its role is to ensure that future change does not undermine the characteristics or features of value within a landscape. Landscape character assessment is an approach that can make a significant contribution to the sustainable objectives of environmental protection; prudent use of natural resources; and maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations.

1.4 This report is a landscape character assessment of Greater Nottingham illustrated on Figure 1. It has focused on countryside around Nottingham covering the authorities of Ashfield District Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Nottingham City Council, Gedling Borough Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council and Erewash Borough Council (the latter being within Derbyshire).

1.5 Greater Nottingham is made up of the administrative boundaries of all the local authorities stated above, except Ashfield, where only the Hucknall part is included. However, for the purpose of this study the whole of Ashfield is included.

2.0 PURPOSE

- 2.1 In 1997 Nottinghamshire County Council published the 'Countryside Appraisal: Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines' which divided the county into 10 regional landscape character areas, further sub-divided into landscape types. The project advanced the method of landscape protection and focused attention on the whole countryside. It recognised all landscapes as having their own character, and whether emphasis should be placed on conservation or enhancement. The aspiration of the project was to enrich the quality of the whole countryside. As part of this process Mature Landscape Areas were identified. These were defined as areas 'least affected by adverse change.'
- 2.2 Recent changes in government legislation (PPS7) place greater emphasis on the use of landscape character assessments in informing criteria-based policy within Local Development Frameworks (LDFs). Therefore there is a need to review and update the Countryside Appraisal.
- 2.3 Nottinghamshire County Council's landscape team commenced the update of the assessment in 2003 and have undertaken the assessment of part of the study area. Erewash Borough Council is covered by the landscape character assessment carried out by Derbyshire County Council which was undertaken using the same method as that used within Nottinghamshire.
- 2.4 In February 2009, TEP was commissioned by Nottinghamshire County Council to undertake a Landscape Character Assessment of Greater Nottingham to address the areas not yet covered by Nottinghamshire County Council's Landscape and Reclamation Team or Derbyshire County Council. Figure 2 indicates the areas surveyed by each team.
- 2.5 The councils are aligning their Core Strategies in terms of timing and strategic content, and this document will provide an important part of the evidence base to support that process and to inform the Local Development Frameworks in Greater Nottingham and Ashfield more generally. It is also intended that the document will be used to aid development control decisions on planning applications and to guide actions on landscape enhancement, where resources allow.
- 2.6 This document researches and categorises features and characteristics of the landscape and has divided the study area into broad landscape types and more detailed landscape character areas. The study also focuses on the setting of built form within the landscape and on the transition from settlements to the wider countryside. Pressures which threaten the landscape character have been identified based on perceived pressures provided by the Greater Nottingham Partnership, regional and local planning policy and from consultation with local communities. Guidelines have been produced for positive change to ensure the preservation of local landscape distinctiveness.

3.0 APPLICATION OF THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Who is this document for?

3.1 This document is relevant to anyone who has an interest in landscape. The main applications for the document are considered to be:

- A technical document and evidence base to help inform landscape policies within local authorities' core strategies and local development documents;
- Providing key information to development control officers in helping to assess whether proposals are likely to make a positive contribution to local distinctiveness or whether they are likely to be detrimental in terms of scale, style and design. It will also help them to provide targeted ,landscape-related mitigation and conditions to accompany planning decisions;
- Providing key information for use by developers to help to develop designs and proposals which make a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness of an area;
- Providing broad guidelines which may help land managers to identify area-specific landscape management operations such as small-scale tree and woodland planting and boundary replacement;
- A comprehensive document that is easy to use by the general public who may have a personal interest in the landscape around where they live.
- Helping to promote what is special within the landscape of Greater Nottingham; and
- Providing a framework to assist local communities and parish councils who may wish to develop detailed parish level character assessments or detailed village design statements.

3.2 The landscape character assessment has been undertaken at a local level (1:25,000) and provides character based information at this scale. It is important to note that it is a strategic assessment rather than a field-by-field assessment and detailed decisions and assessments will still be required to consider specific local circumstances. For example new development proposed for a site will still require a landscape and visual assessment which includes an assessment of landscape character on a field-by-field basis.

3.3 The assessment has focused on the rural landscape and areas bordering urban areas; it has not assessed the character of towns or villages. The document makes reference to how settlements integrate with the surrounding landscape and any key elements or distinctive characteristics of these settlements where they are particularly evident within the landscape.

How to use this document

3.4 This document provides a detailed technical report of the landscape character of Greater Nottingham. It has been structured to enable users not to have to read the whole document to access information on a specific area or site.

- 3.5 The main report looks at the study area as a whole and highlights important planning designations, national and local designations and broad characteristics such as geology, soils, landform, hydrology, ecology and cultural heritage to build a picture of the character of the overall Greater Nottingham area.
- 3.6 Appendix 9 provides summary descriptions of the Regional Character Areas and detailed descriptions and profiles for the Draft Policy Zones (DPZs). It is this appendix which should be used when looking at the local character of a specific area or site. For clarity and ease of orientation the DPZs have been grouped under the relevant Regional Character Area. Use Appendix 10 if a site lies within Erewash Borough.
- 3.7 For example, for somebody wishing to know more about a parcel of land within Rushcliffe on the northern fringes of Aslockton, the first step would be to identify the sites location on a map. Referring to Figure 17 identify the Regional Character Area which it falls and review the key characteristics. This parcel of land would belong to the Regional Character Area: South Nottinghamshire Farmlands. Then look at Figure 18 to identify which DPZ the field falls within.
- 3.8 From this use Appendix 9 to identify the characteristics of the South Nottinghamshire Farmlands and the more detailed key characteristics of the DPZ: Aslockton Village Farmlands. The key characteristics set out what features give this area a sense of place. The landscape value judgements then explain how and why this landscape is distinct from others. This has informed the character guidelines. These guidelines in combination with the key characteristics can be used to understand what types of change could occur on the field which would retain or enhance the landscape character and what is likely to alter or be detrimental to the landscape character.
- 3.9 If a particular parcel of land lies on the boundary of DPZs the following should be noted. DPZ boundaries represent 'transitional areas' where key characteristics from the two adjacent areas may be present within the landscape. In considering character for a particular field/site on a DPZ boundary it will be important to review the descriptions and key characteristics for both areas and to consider the relative landscape values and guidelines when formulating or responding to proposals.
- 3.10 The landscape guidelines for each DPZ form a useful aid for assessing proposals. For example a proposal for infill housing could be assessed on whether it conserves the prominent village skylines or if it makes a positive contribution to local distinctiveness through the use of red brick or red pantile roofs.

4.0 STUDY OBJECTIVES

4.1 The main objectives of this study are:

- To review and update the Countryside Appraisal: Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines published in 1997;
- To promote awareness of Greater Nottingham's landscape;
- To carry out the work in accordance with the method developed by Nottinghamshire County Council and be consistent with the Derbyshire County Council approach at Erewash;
- To identify discrete areas of character and describe their main landscape characteristics;
- To assess the landscape condition, quality and significance of the areas;
- To consult with key stakeholders;
- To provide a series of recommendations and future strategies for the protection, conservation, enhancement and restoration of each landscape area;
- To identify a range of key issues and provide a knowledge base to enable informed and justified landscape related decisions; and
- To provide potential indicators that could form part of the LDF monitoring framework.

4.2 Landscape character is one of many issues which need to be taken into account in shaping the future of the area.

4.3 The identification of landscape character or its identified landscape value does not determine whether development will or will not be allowed in an area or on a site. Where development is needed to meet economic or sustainability objectives, this document will help to guide the form of development to ensure local distinctiveness and landscape quality are conserved and where possible enhanced.

5.0 METHOD

5.1 The framework GIS exercise on which this assessment has been based was undertaken by Steven Warnock of the Department of Geography at the University of Reading in 2004, using the 'Living Landscapes' Method that he developed. The key stages of the process are described as follows:

- Identification of regional character areas;
- Desk study;
- Interpolation of data and initial mapping of character areas;
- Field study;
- Classification and description; and
- Recommendations.

5.2 This section summarises the main approach taken to the landscape character assessment.

Desk study

5.3 Desk based research included a review of available relevant published documentation. This included national, regional and local planning policy, and relevant landscape and heritage documents including the Countryside Appraisal of Nottinghamshire.

5.4 Desk based research also included an assessment of relevant Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, aerial photography and the contributing Council's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data sets including landform, floodzones, ecological, landscape and heritage information.

Initial mapping

(Carried out by Stephen Warnock on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council)

5.5 The assessment has been carried out at two levels. The first level was a broad-level identification of Regional Areas (A list of these is provided within Appendix 1, these areas were sub-divided into smaller landscape character types also presented in Appendix 1). These are sub-divisions of the national Joint Character Areas and contain broadly similar characteristics. Undertaken to identify patterns in physiography, ground type, settlement pattern and land cover. This has been used within the East Midlands Regional Character Assessment. The second level is the identification of distinct units of character at a local level (typically using 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey base maps). These are called Landscape Description Units (LDU).

5.6 LDUs are homogenous units of land defined by a number of attributes which are derived from a series of GIS overlays. These identify areas of common characteristics. The LDUs were defined using various key components of the landscape including:

- Physiography – expression of the shape and structure of the landscape as influenced by both nature of the underlying geology and geological processes.

- Ground Type – soil forming environment which determines the surface pattern of vegetation and land use.
- Settlement Pattern – is the structural component of the cultural landscape reflected in the distribution of settlements; historic enclosure; and size of tenure of agricultural holdings.
- Land Cover – type of vegetation (natural and man-made) covering the land surface.

5.7 These are sub-divided into the following categories: landform; geology; soils; settlement pattern; farm type and tree cover. Through the use of GIS these patterns can be overlaid to identify areas of similar character. Each LDU has a 6 figure reference code which relates to each overlay, identified followed by a short written description.

Example	LDU 382
Written Description	6 figure reference: SSD PSS Sloping undulating, soft sandstone / sandy drift, impoverished soils, low dispersal with farms, small farms, secondary woodland
Example	LDU 389
Written Description	6 figure reference: LFB MEP Vales and valley bottoms, other fluvial drift, deep sandy loamy soils, unsettled (meadow and marsh), large estates, estate plantations

Interpolation of GIS data
(Carried out by TEP)

- 5.8 The GIS interpolation identified detailed and often small units of character across the study area. After a brief familiarisation visit to site, it was clear that many of the LDUs only displayed subtle differences in character such as the top, side and base of a hill.
- 5.9 To rationalise and identify broader areas of similar character, LDUs were analysed to establish units which had four or more attributes the same. In these cases it is likely that at a local level the character within each LDU would be similar and guidelines and descriptions closely correlated. This was verified as part of the field survey.
- 5.10 This analysis enabled draft Draft Policy Zones (DPZs) to be formulated along with specific notes of any areas of uncertainty. These areas formed the basis for the field study which verified, reviewed and refined the draft DPZs.

Field study

- 5.11 The detailed field study was carried out by Chartered Landscape Architects, both by car and on foot from publicly accessible locations. During this assessment consideration was given to individual elements such as built form, land use, landform, vegetation, hydrology, views and aesthetic factors and the interaction between them which cannot be determined by desk study alone. This allowed distinctions to be made between recognisable patterns in the landscape.
- 5.12 Key distinguishing characteristics were recorded on site using a standardised survey sheet, an example of which is included in Appendix 2. Representative photos were also taken for each DPZ and have been used to illustrate the character area descriptions. Survey locations were chosen to cover many of the LDUs which lie within each DPZ.

Classification and description

- 5.13 Following the field survey, the identified draft DPZs were refined. The information was collated to provide a factual description for each of the DPZs. The text describes the key elements which create a sense of place, the landscape's intactness from a visual and functional perspective, landform, land use and field pattern, and makes reference to ecology, archaeology and cultural heritage, built form and vegetation composition where appropriate.

Making recommendations

- 5.14 The first part of making recommendations for each DPZ was the assessment of landscape quality. This is a judgement regarding the condition of landscape features combined with the strength of landscape character. This is based on the combination of strength of character and landscape condition.
- 5.15 The method used by Nottinghamshire County Council for assessing landscape quality differed slightly, however the output of both methods produced similar landscape actions for each DPZ. The NCC method is summarised at Appendix 3.

Strength of Character:

- 5.16 This is determined by a range of criteria:
- An assessment of how characteristic features and elements combine to form a sense of place;
 - How distinctive and recognisable are the pattern of elements that make up the character, including both positive and negative elements;
 - Presence and quantity of distinctive features; and
 - Identification of landscapes containing historic patterns and features which may have declined or become fragmented thereby weakening character but which could be reinstated.
- 5.17 A three point scale has been used to make judgements as to strength of character: **Strong; Moderate; and Weak.**

- *Strong Character*
Strong character is defined as a consistent distribution of distinctive characteristics such as rock outcrops, hills, river floodplain, and woodland. These characteristics combine to create a strongly distinctive sense of place. Minor changes in land use or land cover would not necessarily detrimentally influence character. An example would be Gotham and West Leake Wooded Hills and Scarps where the hills (Wolds) and mature woodland on them are distinctive repetitive features which are consistent and exert a strong influence on the surrounding landscape. This creates a strong and distinctive sense of place.
- *Moderate Character*
Distinctive characteristics are consistent though the area although their distribution is less obvious or less frequent. The landscape still has a recognisable and distinctive character although it could be altered or weakened through minor changes in land use or land cover. An example would be Selston and Eastwood Urban Fringe Farmland where the agricultural land has few distinctive features and the sprawled settlement pattern does not contribute to the sense of place. However, the landscape history is still evident in the mining influences and relics contribute to the sense of place.
- *Weak Character*
A landscape where features and patterns are present which help to define character, however, there are often numerous influences none of which are overriding and many features show signs of alteration or decline. Even minor changes in land use or land cover could have a marked influence on the character of the area. An example would be at Fulwood Disused Workings where the landscape features are mixed and where elements are unified they are typically heavily influenced by man such as restored landform and plantation woodland.

Landscape Condition

- 5.18 A judgement is made by consideration of state or intactness of landscape features, elements and characteristics and how these combine to inform a positive visual impression. This includes elements such as hedgerows, woodlands, field pattern, urban influences, infrastructure and restored landscapes. Judgements of condition are made as to how identified characteristics positively influence the appearance of the landscape.
- 5.19 A three point scale was used to make judgements: **Good, Moderate and Poor**
- *Good Condition*
Features are well managed and are almost always intact and of consistent quality. There is little evidence of loss or decline in the condition of features. At Gotham and West Leake Wooded Hills and Scarps hedgerows and woodland are well managed, although there is some evidence of minor field boundary fragmentation in places. Where hedgerows have been replaced, the timber fencing is usually in good

condition. The agricultural land is well managed and features are intact with little sign of decline.

- *Moderate Condition*

Features are mostly well managed although in places there is evidence of decline in management and loss of features such as some fragmented hedgerows or dilapidated walls. At Selston and Eastwood Urban Fringe there is some evidence of hedgerow fragmentation and the use of wire fencing instead of hedgerows. The restoration of the coal mining landscapes has improved the condition of the landscape and this will improve further as the planting matures.

- *Poor Condition*

Few features are intact or well managed. Loss or decline of features is frequent. Boundaries such as hedgerows are rarely intact and other boundaries are often of variable style and condition. Such elements combine to give an untidy or disjointed appearance to the landscape. At Fulwood Disused Workings where hedgerows and woodland lack management in places, and due to industrial/mining intervention, field pattern is largely absent. Where field pattern remains it is often fragmented.

5.20 A landscape strategy matrix, shown in Table 5.1 is used as a basis for guiding landscape judgements and forming management recommendations for the character areas. This is a useful tool as it provides a consistent basis upon which judgements can be made. From both condition and strength of character judgements, the table can be used to identify an appropriate management strategy.

5.21 The strategic categories used in this assessment for landscape quality are:

- **Conserve**
- **Enhance**
- **Restore**
- **Create**

5.22 **Conserve:** where the landscape quality is considered to be good (due to good condition and strong character) and there should be an emphasis on protecting or safeguarding the key features and characteristics of the landscape in their present form.

5.23 **Enhance:** emphasis should be to improve existing features which may not be currently well-managed or where existing features are of good quality but could be of greater benefit if improved. This may include improvements to landscape management practices or the introduction or removal of elements or features in order to strengthen character and/or improve perceived condition.

5.24 **Restore:** emphasis should be on repairing or re-establishing features that have been lost or are in a state of severe decline.

5.25 **Create:** where the landscape quality is poor (due to poor condition and weak character) and the original landscape pattern is no longer evident. In such places there is a need to form new and different landscapes. An example of this is a landscape which has been heavily influenced by quarrying and industry, field pattern and features are no longer evident and the restored land has altered the land form.

Table 5.1 - Landscape quality and associated landscape strategy matrix.

Landscape Condition	Good	Moderate Enhance	Moderate - Good Conserve and Enhance	Good Conserve
	Moderate	Poor - Moderate Enhance and Restore	Moderate Enhance	Moderate - Good Conserve and Enhance
	Poor	Poor Restore/Create	Poor - Moderate Enhance and Restore	Moderate Enhance
		Weak	Moderate	Strong
		Strength of Landscape Character		

5.26 Using the information gathered in the desk and field studies and taking into account the overall management strategy from Table 4.1, landscape guidelines and management strategies were suggested for each DPZ. These are based on guidelines to conserve and protect the positive characteristics of the area and recommendations on how to enhance and restore aspects of the landscape to strengthen landscape character and reduce the influences of features which detract from landscape quality and condition.

6.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

6.1 This section identifies the planning policies that are of relevance to landscape and landscape character. These are important in identifying what aspects of landscape are currently considered to be of importance within policy and which may have an influence on the character of the landscape.

National Policy

6.2 Planning Policy Statement (PPS)1: *Delivering Sustainable Development* (2005) requires local planning authorities to adopt sustainable principles when writing Local Development Framework policies. It specifically states that high levels of protection should be afforded to the most valued townscapes, wildlife habitats, landscapes and natural resources. It emphasises the importance of good quality design which responds to local context and the protection of the character of the wider countryside within sustainable development proposals.

6.3 Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 2: *Green Belts* (1995) outlines the history and extent of Green Belts and explains their purpose. It describes how Green Belts are designated and their land safeguarded. It also sets out Green Belt land-use objectives and the presumption against inappropriate development.

6.4 Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 7: *Sustainable Development in Rural Areas* (2004) sets out the Government's objectives to ensure that good quality sustainable development respects and enhances the local distinctiveness and intrinsic qualities of the countryside. It confirms the need to protect the open countryside for the benefit of all and to raise the quality of the environment in rural areas.

6.5 PPS 7 recognises the importance of landscapes outside designations in providing valuable landscapes at the local level. It also stresses that landscape character assessment should be used as a tool for robust criteria-based policies rather than continuing with rigid often unduly restrictive local designations.

Regional Policy

The East Midlands Regional Plan 2009

6.6 The current Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands was published in March 2009 as the East Midlands Regional Plan. It provides a broad development strategy for the East Midlands up to 2026. It identifies the scale and distribution of new housing and priorities for the environment, transport, infrastructure, economic development, agriculture, energy, minerals, and waste treatment and disposal.

- 6.7 Policies of relevance to landscape character are set out below:
- 6.8 *Policy 1 Regional Core Objectives:* This policy states that to secure the delivery of sustainable development within the East Midlands, all strategies, plans and programmes having a spatial impact should meet certain core objectives. Those of relevance to this assessment are Policy c) to protect and enhance the environmental quality of urban and rural settlements and Policy g) to protect and enhance the environment.
- 6.9 *Policy 12 Development in the Three Cities sub-area:* Development should support the continued growth and regeneration of Derby, Leicester and Nottingham, and maintain and strengthen the economic, commercial and cultural roles of all three cities.
- 6.10 *Policy 26 Protecting and enhancing the Region's Natural and Cultural Heritage:* Sustainable development should ensure the protection, appropriate management and enhancement of the Region's natural and cultural heritage.
- 6.11 *Policy 28 Regional Priorities for Environmental and Green Infrastructure:* Local Authorities, statutory environmental bodies and developers should work with the voluntary sector, landowners and local communities to ensure the delivery, protection and enhancement of Environmental Infrastructure across the Region. Such infrastructure should contribute to a high quality natural and built environment and to the delivery of sustainable communities.
- 6.12 *Policy 31 Priorities for the Management and Enhancement of the Region's Landscape:* The Region's natural and heritage landscapes should be protected and enhanced by the establishment of criteria-based policies in Local Development Frameworks to ensure that development proposals respect intrinsic landscape character in rural and urban fringe areas. Local Development Frameworks should develop principles for landscape and biodiversity protection and enhancement objectives through the integration of Landscape Character Assessments with historic and ecological assessments. Local planning authorities should prepare Landscape character assessments to inform the preparation of Local Development Frameworks. These can also be used to develop Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 6.13 There are specific policies relating to the Three Cities Sub-Regional Strategy (SRS) to provide additional direction and guidance to Local Development Frameworks on issues that cross strategic planning boundaries and other Sub-Regional matters of importance in the Three Cities Sub-area. The area covered by the SRS within the Nottingham area includes Broxtowe Borough Council, Erewash Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council, Nottingham City Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council. In addition the SRS covers four Hucknall wards in Ashfield District which lie within the travel to work area and form part of the Greater Nottingham Partnership. The rest of Ashfield is included in the Northern SRS.

- 6.14 *Policy Three Cities SRS 2 Sub-Regional Priorities for Green Belt Areas:* The principle of the Nottingham-Derby and Burton-Swadincote Green Belt will be retained. However, as Nottingham has been identified as a Principal Urban Area the policy also states that Local Development documents will have to urgently review the policy to consider how to accommodate future growth requirements over at least the next 25 years.
- 6.15 *Policy Three Cities SRS 3 Housing Provision:* This policy states that provision for new housing levels over the 2006-2026 period for the Nottingham area will be 3,030 dwellings per annum, of which at least 2,040 should be within or adjoining the Nottingham principal urban area.
- 6.16 *Policy Three Cities SRS 5 Green Infrastructure and National Forest:* In considering major development proposals, especially those associated with the New Growth Point proposals, Local planning authorities and implementing agencies will coordinate the provision of enhanced and new green infrastructure. The proposed River Trent Park is highlighted as a strategic priority.
- 6.17 *Policy Northern SRS 4 Enhancing Green Infrastructure Through Development:* Local Planning Authorities in their LDFs and other strategies need to ensure that consideration is given to where the greatest public benefit would be gained through the enhancement of Green Infrastructure. The multiple benefits identified in the East Midlands Public Benefit Analysis project and other key strategic environmental opportunities set out in the Northern Coalfields Environmental Study and other relevant work should be used. The use of Green Infrastructure Plans will be used to achieve this.
- 6.18 *Policy Northern SRS 5 Sherwood Regional Park:* Local authorities should work together to promote the creation of a Sherwood Forest Regional Park, which may extend into the Three Cities Sub-area, by protecting and enhancing the distinctive landscape, natural and cultural and historic assets and other wider environmental, economic and social benefits.

Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan (adopted 2005)

- 6.19 The Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan was adopted in 2005 and is the primary guidance for the assessment and determination of mineral development proposals within the Greater Nottingham Study. Policies in the Local Plan seek to protect the Nottinghamshire landscape by only granting permission for mineral developments where visual impact can be kept to an acceptable level. These policies also allow the Council to impose appropriate screening and landscaping measures to protect visual amenity. Under policies M3.18-20 proposals for mineral developments that would destroy national or locally important nature conservation sites will not be allowed unless a need case is successfully demonstrated.

Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Local Plan (adopted 2002)

- 6.20 The Nottinghamshire Waste Local Plan was adopted in 2002. Policies in this Local Plan highlight the need to consider the impact of the development of waste management facilities on landscape character. Development proposals for waste facilities that would destroy landscape features such as woodland or important nature conservation sites will not be allowed unless a need case is successfully demonstrated. Policies in the Local Plan also seek to ensure that the design and layout of waste facilities are such that they minimise visual impact and appropriate screening measures are imposed.

Local Policy

- 6.21 There are 6 local planning authorities within the Greater Nottingham study area: Nottingham City Council; Broxtowe Borough Council; Gedling Borough Council; Rushcliffe Borough Council; Ashfield District Council and Erewash Borough Council. Each Council's development plans have numerous policies of relevance to this document, particularly in relation to the protection of local landscape areas and Green Belt urban expansion within the countryside.

Local Development Framework

- 6.22 In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 current Local Plans are to be replaced by Local Development Frameworks (LDF). All the local planning authorities within the study area have commenced preparation of their LDFs which will comprise a portfolio of documents covering issues such as housing, employment and retail as well as environment and landscape protection

Local Development Plans

- 6.23 No Development Plan Documents have yet been formally adopted. Several local authorities have prepared Supplementary Planning Documents. At present the statutory plans for the local authorities within the study area are listed below:

- Ashfield Local Plan Review, adopted November 2002
- Broxtowe Local Plan, adopted September 2004
- Gedling Borough Replacement Local Plan, adopted July 2005
- Nottingham Local Plan, adopted November 2005
- Rushcliffe Borough Non-statutory Replacement Plan, adopted December 2006
- Six saved policies from the Rushcliffe Borough Local Plan adopted 1996
- Erewash Borough Saved Policies Document, July 2008

- 6.24 Rushcliffe Borough Council started the process of producing a Statutory Replacement Local Plan, however following advice from the Government Office for the East of Midlands, withdrew the document and adopted it as non-statutory guidance on 14 December 2006. It forms the basis for

determining planning applications alongside the 6 saved policies from the Rushcliffe 1996 Local Plan.

- 6.25 There are no national landscape designations in the study area, such as National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The area's landscape is valued and protected by various development plan policies. There is general resistance to developments in the countryside or protected landscapes which would have an adverse effect on the appearance or character of the landscape. Policies of relevance to the landscape are listed in three sections below; the first section groups together the policies of different individual local authorities which have a similar purpose. The second section discusses policies specific to local authorities within the study area. The third addresses policies specific to Erewash Borough.

Policies Consistent Across the 5 Local Authorities

Green Belt

- 6.26 The Nottingham-Derby Green Belt was established to prevent the coalescence of the two cities and the towns in the Erewash valley. It surrounds the Nottingham built-up area and extends to over 60,000 hectares in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The East Midlands Regional Plan (RSS*, March 2008) reaffirm the principle of the Green Belt, but indicate that a strategic review of the Green Belt will need to be undertaken in the preparation of local development plan documents.
- 6.27 The countryside surrounding Nottingham was defined as the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt within the Green Belt Local Plan as adopted in 1989. All authorities have similar policies in their statutory development plans which seek to safeguard the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt against inappropriate development to maintain its openness.
- 6.28 It is important to note that Green Belt is a development control designation rather than related to landscape quality although a high quality landscape is an aspiration of such designation.

Protection of the Countryside

- 6.29 The majority of open countryside in the study area is designated as Green Belt. For open land not included within the Green Belt respective policies in Ashfield, Gedling and Rushcliffe's Local Plans seek to safeguard the open countryside against inappropriate forms of development to maintain its character and in particular its openness.

Mature Landscape Areas

- 6.30 Nottinghamshire County Council undertook a Countryside Appraisal to provide a strategic overview of the landscape of Nottinghamshire. One part of this appraisal has been the identification of Mature Landscape Areas (MLAs) first completed in 1992 and reviewed in 1997. MLAs comprise a local countryside designation which seeks to identify and protect those parts of Nottinghamshire's landscape which have been least affected by adverse change. They are considered to be amongst the most precious landscapes within Nottinghamshire which have remained relatively unchanged since the mid 19th century.

6.31 Out of the five local planning authorities within the Nottinghamshire part of the study area it is only Rushcliffe Borough Council that does not have a Mature Landscape Areas Policy in their Local Plan. Of the four planning local authorities that recognise Mature Landscape Areas the relevant development plan policies seek to restrict development that would have an adverse effect on the visual, historic or nature conservation importance of these landscape designations. MLAs have been designated throughout the study area and are illustrated on Figure 12.

Greenwood Community Forest

6.32 Greenwood Community Forest was established in 1991 by the Countryside Agency, Forestry Commission, and seven of Nottinghamshire's local authorities. Within the Greater Nottingham study area only Rushcliffe Borough Council is not part of the Greenwood Community Forest Partnership. Community Forests are intended to provide well-wooded landscapes for wildlife, living and working, recreation and education within urban fringe areas.

6.33 Nottingham City Council, Broxtowe Borough Council and Gedling Borough Councils each have specific policies that seek to support the provision of planted areas that will contribute to the Greenwood Community Forest. Ashfield Local Plan does not contain a specific policy but has a general note which explains the importance of the Greenwood Community Forest and how private developers could contribute to the scheme

Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows

6.34 Aside from Rushcliffe Borough Council the other local planning authorities within the study area have policies in their development plans which seek the preservation of important trees, hedgerows and woodland when making development control decisions. These wildlife habitats are recognised in the local plans as making a valuable contribution to the landscape character of the Local authorities.

6.35 The Rushcliffe Borough Council Non-Statutory Replacement Local Plan does not have a specific policy relating to tree or hedgerow preservation. Rather the Local Plan discusses the importance of tree, hedgerow and woodland preservation to the Borough under a general 'Natural Environment' section.

Conservation Areas

6.36 All local planning authorities have policies within their local plans which seek to ensure the preservation of conservation areas. The policies emphasise the importance of the distinctive character of conservation areas, many of which retain examples of traditional and locally distinctive built form and use of materials.

Historic Parks and Gardens

6.37 Nottingham City Council, Ashfield District Council and Gedling Borough Council all have policies for the protection of Historic Parks and Gardens. Historic Parks and Gardens are included within the Register of Parks and Gardens which is maintained by English Heritage. The policies state that

the each council will consult with English Heritage regarding any proposals which might affect an Historic Park and Garden.

Other Policies specific to individual Local Planning Authorities

Gedling Borough Council

Sherwood Forest

- 6.38 Areas to the north and east of the Borough between the villages of Calverton and Ravenshead are within the Sherwood Forest boundary. The Plan for Sherwood Forest published by Nottinghamshire County Council in July 1988 sets out policies and proposals for the area to conserve the natural environment and to encourage and accommodate tourism and leisure uses where appropriate. Policy R7 of the Gedling Borough Local Plan seeks to support the policies of the County Council by granting permission for appropriate leisure uses within the Sherwood Forest Plan Area.

Ravenshead Special Character Area

- 6.39 The Ravenshead Special Character Area lies to the west of Ravenshead to the east of the predominantly rural area of Newstead Abbey Park. This character area comprises detached dwellings, set within large plots and is said to provide '*an appropriate visual transition from the rural character of Newstead Abbey Park to the more typical and established urban form of Ravenshead*'. Policy ENV17 seeks to maintain the characteristics of the Ravenshead Special Character Area and prevent subdivision and development of large, mature gardens and the protection of landscape features.

Protection of the Ridgelines/Urban Fringe

- 6.40 The ridgelines which surround much of the urban area in Gedling are recognised as an important local landscape feature. Policy ENV32 seeks to protect the open character and visual quality of these ridgelines from inappropriate development.

Rivers

- 6.41 The Rivers Trent, Leen, Dover Beck, Ouse Beck, Lambley Dumble and Day Brook are important features in the Greater Nottingham landscape. Policy ENV40 places emphasis on ensuring that development does not adversely effect water quality or compromise the value of associated wildlife habitats.

Broxtowe Borough Council

Prominent Areas for Special Protection

- 6.42 Prominent Areas for Special Protection are hills and ridges recognised as attractive landscape features near the edge of the Greater Nottingham conurbation. Policy E13 seeks to protect the open character of the following areas;

- Catstone Hill ridge, Strelley;
- Stapleford Hill, Stapleford;

- Bramcote Hills and Bramcote Ridge;
- Burnt Hill, Bramcote; and
- Windmill Hill, Stapleford

Erewash Borough Council

- 6.43 The borough of Erewash, which is within Derbyshire, forms western part of the Greater Nottingham area.
- 6.44 The Erewash Local Plan was adopted in July 2005. Erewash Borough Council is currently working on LDF documents but the policies of the Local Plan, following application to the Secretary of State, have been saved and still form the statutory planning policies for the Borough as part of the Erewash Borough Saved Policies Document. The policies which are of relevance to the landscape are summarised below.
- 6.45 With specific reference to landscape character, Policy ENV16: *Landscape Character* states that development should recognise and accord with the landscape character area within which it is located, having regard to materials for construction, height of buildings, roof design, landscaping, means of access, density of development, sustainable patterns of development and traffic generation being appropriate for the location of the development.
- 6.46 Policy EV14: *Protection of Trees and Hedgerows* states that planning permission will not be given for development which would destroy hedgerows, areas of woodland, ancient woodland, trees protected by a TPO or trees in a conservation area.
- 6.47 Policy GB1: *Green Belt* states that within the Green Belt there will be a presumption against inappropriate development, except in very special circumstances where inappropriate development can be justified.

7.0 EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER STUDIES

- 7.1 This section provides a summary of existing information relating to the landscape character of Greater Nottingham. This includes broad scale, national and regional information. Where relevant, more localised studies, have been consulted and reviewed. This information provides a broad introduction to the landscape character of Greater Nottingham and highlights the main features of importance.
- 7.2 A national assessment provides broad character areas such as The Humber Levels or The Lincolnshire Wolds etc which provide a very broad indicator of where character changes. Regional or county level assessments are at a slightly finer grain than the national level but still provide a broad indicator of where character varies within a region or a county. These are useful for planning landscape planning and providing guidance at these scales. Local district or borough level assessments provide a more detailed context and are useful for borough wide planning projects and providing information on what the landscape is like within a local planning authority area. Character assessments can be undertaken at a finer level again such as on a field-by-field basis although these tend to be undertaken for proposals at specific sites and are at a very fine grain.
- 7.3 National and regional landscape assessments provide a broad context to the overall landscape character of the area. These studies include Natural England's (former Countryside Agency) Joint Character Areas as well as more detailed regional and county character assessments. The following paragraphs provide a summary of the key characteristics of the landscape character areas described in published assessments which cover the Greater Nottingham study area.

National

Countryside Agency Countryside Character Volume 4: East Midlands

- 7.4 This document was published in 1999 and divides the whole of England into broad landscape character areas. It recognises key overriding characteristics and identifies key pressures and forces for change within the landscape. There are seven national character areas within the study area. The areas are summarised as follows and illustrated on Figure 3.

Character Area 30-Southern Magnesian Limestone

- 7.5 This character area covers an area stretching north from Nottingham into Derbyshire. This area is described as a landscape formed by the two escarpments of the Upper and Lower Magnesian Limestone. The escarpments form quite a narrow ridge feature which acts as a distinct barrier between the industrial coalfields to the west and the lowland vales to the east. Throughout the length of the limestone belt are large fields and well wooded estates. River valleys and gorges cut through the ridge exposing the underlying rock. Nearer to Nottingham industrial influences are more prominent due to the availability of coal and other materials.

Character Area 38- Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire & Yorkshire Coalfield

- 7.6 This character area covers an area stretching along the western edge of the Greater Nottingham study area. It is described as an area which is heavily influenced by industrial activity with landscape features such as mine buildings, former spoil tips and iron and steel plants. The area comprises a complex mix of built up areas, industrial land, dereliction and farmed open countryside. There are substantial areas of intact agricultural land, many areas of woodland and semi-natural vegetation. The landscape is generally low, with variable hills, escarpments and broad valleys.

Character Area 48-Trent and Belvoir Vales

- 7.7 This character area covers a large swathe of land to the east of the study area. It is described as an open, arable and mixed farmed landscape. The area of farmland is centred on the River Trent. The Vales are defined in the west by a scarp slope dropping down to the wooded land of Sherwood and to the south by a distinct scarp rising up to Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds. Trimmed hedgerows line the fields but there are very few field trees and woodlands. Settlement in the area centres around the large market towns of Newark, Grantham, Southwell and Lincoln.

Character Area 49- Sherwood

- 7.8 This character area covers an area stretching north from Nottingham to the east of the Magnesian Limestone Ridge. Sherwood is described as an area which contains a wide range of landscapes including the historic heartlands of Sherwood Forest. Large areas of woodland and enclosed fields divided by treeless hedgerows lie to the west, whilst more open fields lie to the east adjacent to the Trent and Belvoir Vales. The landscape is also characterised by extensive parklands and estates of the Dukeries. The area is well known for its historic and cultural associations, including Lord Byron at Newstead Abbey, the Pilgrim Fathers and the legend of Robin Hood.

Character Area 50 – Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent

- 7.9 This character area covers the western extent of the study area within Erewash Borough. It is described as a transitional zone between the Peak District National Park and the industrialised Coal Measures. It includes outlying ridges separated by impressive sometimes gorge-like, river valleys. The Derwent Valley is prominent and a strategic focus for communication routes. Stock rearing and rough grazing are common with arable concentrated on valley sides in the south of the area. Hedgerows are the form of enclosure on lower ground with stone walls present above 200m. Woodlands include deciduous woodland on valley slopes; isolated copses on high ground; and large conifer plantations. 18th and 19th century stone and brick industry is present on the valley bottoms; other industrial influences include large-scale gritstone and limestone quarries. Small market towns and villages tend to be nestled in valley bottoms; characterised by stone cottages, churches and dispersed farmsteads on outlying enclosed land.

Character Area 69-Trent Valley Washlands

- 7.10 This character area covers an area to the south of the study area. The Trent Washlands is described as a linear landscape with the River Trent flowing through the middle. The character area consists of flat broad valleys associated with two tributaries, the Tame and the Soar. The Washlands landscape comprises pastoral and arable land intermixed with urban development. In pastoral areas, fields are small with full hedgerows but few hedgerow trees. Other stretches within the Washlands are more open arable land with large fields divided by low trimmed hedges. Constrained by the risk of flooding, settlement is concentrated on the sand and gravel terraces where drainage is better.

Character Area 74- Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds

- 7.11 This character area is to the south of the River Trent and covers an area in the south east of the study area. The Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds are essentially a range of undulating hills, broken by vales and dominated by boulder clay. In the west a moderately steep escarpment rises above the Soar Valley becoming steeper and more irregular in the north. Settlements in this area comprise small villages and farmsteads scattered across the countryside.

RegionalEast Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment

- 7.12 LDA Design was commissioned to complete the Regional Character Assessment of East Midlands. The document is currently being prepared and is due for completion shortly (May 2009). This assessment sits between the National Character Assessment, which identifies broad national joint character areas, and the local level assessment, which examines landscape character at a finer grain. It is useful for projects which are based at a regional level such as strategic planning projects.
- 7.13 To ensure the tiers of character assessment dovetail together to form an effective information base, the Greater Nottingham assessment, which focuses on the local level, has taken into account the available information from the emerging Regional Landscape Character Assessment. The draft regional character areas tie in closely with the previously identified regional areas within the county level *Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines* document. The Greater Nottingham character assessment uses the regional character areas as a basis for wider landscape change and examines the more local level changes within these areas to form Draft Policy Zones.
- 7.14 Figure 5 shows the emerging Regional Character Assessment character types.

CountyCountryside Appraisal: Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines

- 7.15 This county level assessment was published in 1997. 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.

7.16 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.

7.17 The regional character areas which cover the study area are summarised below; summaries of the more local landscape character types are presented at Appendix 4 and illustrated on Figure 4.

Nottinghamshire Coalfield

7.18 *'A densely settled, heavily industrialised regional characterised by closely spaced mining settlements, pit heaps and small pastoral farms.'*

7.19 The landscape types within this regional area are: Coalfields Farmlands and River Meadowlands.

Magnesian Limestone Ridge

7.20 *'A gently rolling, in places urbanised, agricultural landscape with a regular pattern of large fields and distinctive stone villages.'*

7.21 The Magnesian Limestone Ridge is sub-divided into three landscape character types: Limestone Farmlands, Limestone Fringe; and River Meadowlands.

Sherwood

7.22 *'A well-wooded, and in places industrialised region characterised by semi-natural woodlands and heaths, historic country estates, large pine plantations, mining settlements and a planned layout of roads and fields.'*

7.23 The Sherwood Region has been sub-divided into six landscape character types. Forest Sandlands is the only landscape type within the study area.

Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands

7.24 *'A rural agricultural region characterised by small nucleated red brick villages, narrow country lanes, ancient woodlands, wooded 'dumble' streams and a variable pattern of fields.'*

7.25 The landscape types within the study area are Dumble Farmlands and River Meadowlands.

Trent Washlands

7.26 *'A low-lying agricultural region associated with the broad valleys of the Trent and Soar, characterised by productive arable farming, meadowlands, small nucleated villages, market towns and cities, power stations and quarries.'*

- 7.27 Sub-areas within the Trent Washlands and within the study area include Terrace Farmlands, River Meadowlands, Alluvial Estatelands, Alluvial Washlands and River Valley Washlands. These are present as small reoccurring pockets throughout the wider Trent Washlands.

South Nottingham Farmlands

- 7.28 *'A prosperous lowland agricultural region with a simple rural character of large arable fields, village settlements and broad alluvial levels.'*

- 7.29 The South Nottinghamshire Farmlands have been sub-divided into two sub-areas: Village Farmlands; and Alluvial Levels.

Nottinghamshire Wolds

- 7.30 *'A sparsely settled and remote rural region characterised by rolling clay wolds, mixed farming, small red brick villages and narrow country lanes.'*

- 7.31 The Nottinghamshire Wolds is sub-divided into four distinct landscape types: Wooded Clay Wolds; Clay Wolds; Wooded Hills and Scarps; and Village Farmlands which all lie within the study area.

Vale of Belvoir

- 7.32 *'A low-lying clay vale with a strong tradition of dairying characterised by large hedged fields, small rural villages and wide views to rising ground.'*

- 7.33 One distinct landscape type has been identified within the Vale of Belvoir: Vale Farmlands.

The Character of Nottinghamshire's Historic Landscape

- 7.34 This document maps the local characteristics of the current landscape according to their known or likely functional origins. It demonstrates the influence of cultural behaviour and change in the structure and appearance of our landscape surroundings. The historic landscape character assessment under-pins the recognition and definition of landscape character and recommends guidelines for sustaining the historic environment now and in the future.

- 7.35 The Nottinghamshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment (HLCA) was completed in September 1999 by Nottinghamshire County Council in partnership with English Heritage. The primary output was the production of the Nottinghamshire Historic Landscape Character Map. This breaks down the landscape into urban areas, woodland, military area, mineral site and distinguishes field patterns. There are six different field patterns in the report: unenclosed open fields; fossilised open fields; reflecting open fields; regular geometric fields; irregular geometric fields; semi-regular field and unenclosed river meadows. The accompanying report discusses method of assessment and the findings of the mapping. It also discusses the meanings and uses of the information gathered. The result of the HLCA was a quantifiable overview of the historic landscape of Nottinghamshire.

7.36 The information in this report has been taken into consideration in the assessment of the landscape character undertaken through this project. The historic landscape where evident was considered in the desk study and field assessment. The findings of the HLCA report contributed to the recommended management guidelines which were formulated to shape the future of the county's landscape. The HLCA is illustrated on Figure 11.

8.0 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

8.1 The Greater Nottingham study area lies north of Leicestershire and east of Derbyshire. It incorporates Erewash Borough which is within Derbyshire.

8.2 This section addresses the physical factors which have an important influence on the landscape.

Geology

8.3 Geology is illustrated on Figure 6. Geological SINCs/Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) are illustrated on Figure 9 in addition to Biological Sites of Nature Conservation. There are numerous geological SINCS within the study area designated because they demonstrate distinctive features. RIGS are sites which are regionally important and are designated for their educational value, aesthetic value and historical significance in terms of important advances in earth sciences. SINCS are usually sites which are of more local significance for geology and often also have an element of wildlife value (described within the ecology section of this report).

8.4 Along the western boundary of the study area between Stapleford and Stanley is a region identified as the Nottinghamshire Coalfields. The geology of this area includes Coal Measures Strata, comprising shales and layers of sandstone alternating with stems of coal outcrop along the south-western edge of Nottinghamshire.

8.5 The Magnesian Limestone Ridge is to the east of the Northern Coalfields. This regional character area forms the southern most part of a narrow limestone ridge that extends from Nottingham northwest through the study area and continues northwards through Yorkshire to a point beyond Ripon. The composition of the Magnesian Limestone is compact partially crystalline rock and it is the relative hardness of this formation that determines land form.

8.6 The Magnesian Limestone Ridge is closely associated with a narrow swathe of softer Permian Rocks which outcrop along the western edge of the study area. The Permian rocks consist predominantly of red clays that give rise to a more subdued relief in comparison to the Magnesian Limestone. Both these beds diminish in thickness towards the southern end of the outcrop, before thinning out completely to the west of Nottingham. The limestone gives rise to a low escarpment which dips eastwards towards the overlying sandstone. The scarp is irregular in outline where many small streams have cut deep valleys into the underlying coal measures.

8.7 The Sherwood region is to the east of the Magnesian Limestone Ridge and extends from Nottingham northwards through the Borough of Gedling beyond the study area to the lowlands of the River Idle. This region comprises Permo-Triassic sandstones which rise as low hills along the eastern edge of the ridge. An outcrop of Permo-Triassic sandstones cover nearly a quarter of the Nottinghamshire County. This sandstone

formation is visible throughout the Sherwood region at points where it is exposed in cuttings, sites of mineral extraction and natural breaks in the landform such as rivers.

- 8.8 The Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands lie to the east of the Sherwood regions and extend northeast in a broad band through the Borough of Gedling. This region comprises a belt of Triassic rocks which consist of two formations: Waterstones and Mercia Mudstone. These rock formations form a low rolling escarpment that slopes eastwards. A prominent scarp slope along the western edge of the region overlooks the Sherwood Sandstone. The steeper part of this slope is composed of Mercia Mudstone with the gentler lower slopes being Waterstones. The combination accounts for the distinctively rolling nature of the land surface around Arnold and Gedling known locally as 'The Dumbles'.
- 8.9 Along the River Trent the area is characterised by a succession of river-borne materials reflecting the development of the river system. It mostly comprises flood gravels and more recent alluvial deposits. The gravels are notably coarse and mostly Bunter Pebble Bed debris whilst the alluvium is finer in texture and ranges from silty loam to light clay. The gravels include both outwash material and more recent riverine material. In combination they form a series of low terraces along the valley and include small 'islands' which are generally raised above the floodplain and are areas of more naturally dry land.
- 8.10 Within the southern part of the study area a belt of Triassic rocks are to the south of the River Trent between Gotham and Newark. These are the largest single geological formation within Nottinghamshire. The main rock type is Mercia Mudstone with a mix of reddish mudstone and hard sandstone 'skerries'. These are less pronounced than other places and result in a more uniform landform. The point where the Mercia Mudstone pass into shaley Rhaetic beds (a term for sediments laid down at the end of the Triassic period) is discernible by a low escarpment around Bunny and Keyworth.
- 8.11 Along the southern edges of Rushcliffe around Hickling, Colston Bassett and Langar is a low-lying clay vale. It is underlain by bluish grey mudstones and clays which alternate with layers of flaggy limestone. The softer Lower Lias beds have formed a subdued, gently rolling landform interspersed with small hillocks where thin bands of limestone exist. Rhaetic beds form a low escarpment to the south of the study area which although only between 5-10m in height is notable adjacent to the lower clay vale.
- 8.12 An area known as the Wolds lies either side of the Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire boundary and is closely associated with a dissected glacial plateau. The underlying Lias and Rhaetic beds are a series of mudstones and clays which outcrop along valley bottoms. The plateau thins out from Six Hills in Leicestershire and becomes gradually more dissected resulting in individual hills around West Leake and Gotham. These hills separate the Soar Valley from the low-lying basin of Ruddington Moor. Around Cropwell Bishop and Old Dalby is a steep scarp slope formed from an

outcrop of lower Lias clay beneath the mantle of glacial drift and provides a sharp contrast between the 'wolds' and the clay vales to the east.

Soils

8.13 The wide variety of landform and geology in Nottinghamshire contributes to a wide variety of different soils types. In Rushcliffe alluvial soils, with significant sand and gravel deposits characterise the areas of floodplain, whilst sand and gravel deposited by glaciers lie around East Leake. Much of the soils are the slightly calcareous clays of the Mercia Mudstones, but a thin band of hydraulic limestone outcrops along the escarpment from Gotham to Bunny, with heavy boulder clay in the south-west of the Borough. In Ashfield the coal measures produce acid soil types. They consist of grey shales alternating with bands of sandstone, limestone and seams of coal. The soil type in Gedling is mainly stoney clay loam or clay soils in the east, with sandy soils are dominant over much of the rest of the borough. Dark brown clay loam and silty clay loam soils are found on gentler slopes where the mudstone is overlain by thin fine loamy or fine silty drift. In Broxtowe the alluvial deposits in the Trent Valley comprise terraces of clay, silt, sands, fine and coarse gravels laid down in river floods. Much of the original Trent flood plain at Chilwell and Beeston has been built upon or been quarried for gravel at Attenborough. The underlying sandstone geology in parts of the borough produces low nutrient dry soils supporting acid grasslands, heath or oak-birch woodland.

8.14 The quality of the soils across the Greater Nottingham area is variable and ranges from grade 1, excellent quality to grade 4, poor quality. Rushcliffe is a large agricultural district and is predominantly covered by grade 2 farmland, which is considered very good. There are also large patches of grade 1 farmland in the north of the area and to the south west. There are only slim belts of grade 4. The borough of Gedling is predominantly grade 2 farmland although it has pockets of non-agricultural land and grade 1 farmland. Ashfield and Broxtowe are predominantly grade 4 farmland which is of poor quality. Both are covered by large areas of urban development and have some pockets of grade 1 and grade 2 farmland, but these are only small. Nottingham is predominantly urban land and contains only small pockets of non-agricultural land and grade 2 farmland. This is illustrated on Figure 7. Whilst the agricultural grade of land has not been used as a key attribute in defining character it is useful in providing possible indicators of what may be present on such land.

Landform

8.15 Landform within the Greater Nottingham area is varied and distinctive as highlighted within the geology and soils sections above. It encompasses areas of low-lying flat and open land, ridge lines, river corridors, gently undulating farmland, steeper rolling hills interspersed with small, fast flowing streams and artificial slopes of reclaimed mining spoil heaps.

Hydrology

- 8.16 The study area has a wide range of rivers, canals, lakes, reservoirs, streams and ditches through the landscape. This is illustrated on Figure 8.
- 8.17 The River Trent forms a significant feature meandering through Nottingham. The low lying land in the river valley has been quarried for the sands and gravels and flooding the area in the restoration process has led to the formation of large pools and lakes. These include Attenborough Nature Reserve (which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest SSSI) and Colwick Country Park. The National Water Sports Centre is an important feature adjacent to the Trent and Colwick Country Park on the edge of Nottingham.
- 8.18 The River Erewash forms the boundary between Broxtowe and Erewash and forms a shallow river valley, often through urban and urban fringe landscapes. The River Soar forms the eastern boundary of Rushcliffe and the River Smite and River Devon flow in the west of the study area.
- 8.19 The Grantham, Erewash and Nottingham Canals meander through the area, although the Grantham and Nottingham Canals are now disused. There are a number of lakes through the area, often associated with stately homes or formal parks. These include Garden Lake and Upper Lake at Newstead Abbey and Wollaton Park Lake. Moorgreen Reservoir is a significant hydrological feature in the landscape in northern Broxtowe.
- 8.20 Many streams and brooks flow through the area draining the land into the larger rivers. The streams in Gedling have formed steeply incised valleys in the soft geology and contribute to the distinctive area called the Dumbles. There is a myriad of ditches and dykes through the low-lying land of Rushcliffe draining the high grade, flat farmland.

Ecology and Biodiversity

- 8.21 The distribution of habitats and natural features across Greater Nottingham is influenced by the landform, geology, land uses both current and past and hydrology across the area. The range of habitats including lowland farmland, woodland, river valleys and restored land gives the Greater Nottingham area a wide diversity of wildlife. Ecological designations are illustrated on Figure 9.

Natural Areas

- 8.22 Natural England has identified Natural Areas covering the whole of England at a broad scale. These provide summaries of landscape character and broad flora and fauna variations across the country. The characteristics of these areas may manifest in distinctive landscapes although landscape is not the basis of their identification. Each Natural Area is unique and created through the interaction between natural and human influences. The following areas are of relevance to the Greater Nottinghamshire study area:

Natural Area 23- Southern Magnesian Limestone

- 8.23 This Natural Area is a narrow band of Magnesian Limestone that stretches north from Nottingham through the Greater Nottingham study area but is never more than five miles wide. The Magnesian Limestone is described as a soft rock which has weathered easily to form:

'rounded. It is an open landscape marked by historic limestone monuments and symbolised by ancient woodland and limestone grassland'

- 8.24 The soils are described as ideal for cultivation because they are light and dry; for this reason much of this area has been ploughed leaving only small remnants of the original vegetation. The unimproved grasslands and ancient woodlands provide valuable habitats for birds and insects such as the Brimstone Butterfly. Base-rich flushes, rivers and streams form important wetland features. Quarries, cuttings and natural outcrops expose important geological sections in the Permian Magnesian Limestone whilst limestone gorges and caves contain important Pleistocene sediments.

Natural Area 24- Coal Measures

- 8.25 The Coal Measures Natural Area is to the west of Nottingham and the Magnesian Limestone Ridge. The area is characterised by a number of towns and cities that developed largely as a result of the underlying coal fields. Between this network of towns and cities the landscape comprises ancient woodlands, valley wetlands and large arable fields.
- 8.26 The nature conservation interest of this Natural Area is described as lying in its *'range of habitats including the unique blend of urban plants and animals'*. Wildlife is dependent on land use and the area contains habitats which have been produced as a by-product of the industries which have historically dominated the area. Man-made features such as disused railway lines and canals are now used as wildlife corridors and form valuable refuges for nature.
- 8.27 These more urban habitats blend with the semi-natural habitats of the wider countryside which have been shaped by centuries of agriculture. The mixture of crops and livestock provides a range of habitats which are particularly important to birds including species such as Skylarks, Lapwings and Barn Owls.
- 8.28 This Natural Area comprises the lower catchments of the Rivers Derwent and Amber and the entire catchment of the River Ecclesbourne. The river valleys exert a strong influence on the landscape. *'The rivers and reservoirs provide important habitats for pondweeds, Great Crested Newts, migrating waders and breeding and wintering wildfowl. Mires and swamps are found along the river valleys.'* Woodland is infrequent although often concentrated on narrow steep-sided valleys with scattered isolated copses on higher ground.
- 8.29 *'Mixed stock rearing with rough grazing and permanent pasture is the main land cover in the area. The lower, undulating foothills have variable*

quality grassland while the steeper slopes are characterised by scrub and woodland. The pockets of unimproved neutral and marshy grassland areas attract a range of butterflies such as the Rare Brown Argus and the Green Hairstreak, and birds including Grey Partridge.

Natural Area 32- Sherwood

8.30 This Natural Area lies on a band of Sandstone stretching from Nottingham northwards through the Greater Nottingham study area. This area encompasses the remnant heartlands of Sherwood, historically managed as heath and wood pasture. Land use in this area is dominated by agriculture and conifer plantations although there are a number of important habitats remaining. These include heathlands, ancient broadleaved woodlands, wet woodlands and wood pasture.

8.31 Wetlands are scarce in Sherwood, but a few rivers flow across this area's incised valleys and there are several ornamental lakes associated with the landscaped Dukeries Estates. Some of these contain important features such as reedbeds and marsh which provide habitats for wildlife, particularly breeding and wintering wildfowl.

Natural Area 33- Trent Valley and Rises

8.32 This Natural Area lies to the south of the study area. Its underlying geology gives rise to a fertile soil ideal for agriculture. Although a large part of the area is described as being under intensive agriculture there are a number of important habitats remaining. These include neutral grassland, which is the most common type of unimproved grassland, and a number of acidic and calcareous grassland sites associated with local differences of geology.

8.33 Wet floodplain grasslands along the Soar and Trent rivers are said to *'support some of the richest wildlife and are important for many breeding birds such as the Redshank'*. This area is poorly wooded but significant concentrations of important sites are scattered throughout. Important woodlands present include ancient semi-natural stands, wet woodland and parkland. Standing water habitats of particular wildlife interest are restored gravel pits, reservoirs and canals; but there are no natural large standing waters. In this area there are also:

'numerous gravel pits along the River Trent and its main tributaries of which some have been restored to provide habitat for breeding and wintering birds such as Reed Warblers. Many of these gravel pits and reservoirs have a diversity of associated habitats such as marsh, swamp and reedbeds. Rivers, streams and their associated habitats are also a significant feature of the Natural Area, and are dominated by the Rivers Trent and Soar'.

Nature Conservation

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

8.34 In the study area there are a number of sites designated for their national importance for nature conservation. The majority of these include former quarries, railway cuttings, clay pits and gravel pits around the industrial

districts of Ashfield and Broxtowe to the west. To the south around Rushcliffe there are important nature conservation sites relating to former industrial works such as plaster pits and clay pits but also significant marshland and pastures associated with either the network of rivers and tributaries or clay-loam soils.

- 8.35 There are a number of sites within the study area that are of interest for their scientific and natural features. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are designated under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. In Greater Nottingham there are 28 SSSIs.
- 8.36 Greater Nottingham has 657 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and 108 Derbyshire Wildlife Sites designated for their local contribution to ecology. This places a degree of protection on such areas and ensures that development where necessary on such sites must make necessary accommodation of wildlife interest and minimise direct damage or disturbance.

Local Nature Reserves

- 8.37 There are 36 Local Nature Reserves (LNR) across the study area. These are designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 to preserve features of interest and to provide opportunities for further research and to encourage public to appreciate nature. These sites represent easily accessible natural areas and are particularly beneficial for education.

Local biodiversity targets

- 8.38 The Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan identifies a number of habitats which are important within Greater Nottingham. These reflect the varied natural conditions present within the borough and range from heathland, grassland, woodland, rivers, streams and industrial habitats. Table 7.1 presented at Appendix 5 highlights all the habitats in the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan which are of importance within the study area.
- 8.39 Many of the areas of high nature conservation value have distinctive landscapes. However it is not necessarily the case that high nature conservation value equates to high landscape value or distinctive views. The presence of nature conservation interest or potential has not been considered as a landscape characteristic within this assessment.

Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

Heritage

Scheduled Monuments

- 8.40 Scheduled Monuments are nationally designated under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the site and its immediate landscape setting are included within this designation and must be preserved, where possible in-situ and in good condition. There are over 74 Scheduled Monuments within the study area. Some of the areas of high archaeological or cultural value have distinctive landscapes. However it is not necessarily the case that high heritage value equates to high landscape value or distinctive views. The presence of cultural

heritage interest has only been described with character descriptions where it is a distinctive component of the landscape character of a particular area.

Listed Buildings

- 8.41 Greater Nottingham has over 3,657 buildings of architectural, historical, or landscape interest which provide social, cultural and aesthetic history, including entries that are Grade 1 or outstanding interest, Grade II* and Grade II. Where present they contribute to the character of settlements within or adjoining the countryside. Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Historic Parks and Gardens are designated under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Area) Act 1990.

Conservation Areas

- 8.42 Areas with high concentrations of listed buildings or where the collective built form contributes strongly to the character and heritage of a place are often designated as Conservation Areas. The designation of a Conservation Area is based upon the contribution of buildings, historic layout of roads, paths and boundaries; characteristic building and paving materials; a particular combination or style of building uses; public and private spaces, such as gardens, parks and greens; and trees and street furniture, which contribute to particular views to give a distinctive character or street scene. Conservation Areas give broader protection than listing individual buildings: all the features within the area are recognised as integral parts of its character and are therefore protected.
- 8.43 The districts within Greater Nottingham have 99 designated Conservation Areas, designated for architectural merit and special character.
- 8.44 Heritage features are vulnerable to change. It is important that the most valuable sites and structures are protected and local planning policies seek to preserve sites of historical importance and ensure that the case for preservation is fully considered when assessing all proposals for new development. Archaeological designations are illustrated on Figure 10.

Historic Parks and Gardens

- 8.45 There are 18 registered historic parks with the Greater Nottingham area. Policies within Local Plans seek to ensure that the special character of historic parks and gardens, together with their setting, are protected from inappropriate development.
- 8.46 Historic Parks and Gardens within Greater Nottingham are often large and associated with large halls and deer parks or estates. Their presence can exert an influence on the surrounding landscape character.

Landscape Evolution

- 8.47 The Nottingham Landscape Guidelines published in 1997 provided detailed summaries of the landscape evolution of each regional character area. These are presented at Appendix 6.

9.0 FORCES FOR CHANGE WITHIN GREATER NOTTINGHAM

9.1 Greater Nottingham's landscape is constantly changing through human activity and natural processes. These include natural colonisation of grassland and heathland to woodland; urban expansion; infill development; restoration of former mines and quarries; and rural diversification. The cumulative effects of these processes can considerably alter the character of the landscape.

9.2 The descriptions of character at each survey point within the GIS dataset include reference to key pressures derived from a review of relevant planning policies and consultation with key stakeholders at a consultation event. In addition, individual discussions with Council Officers were held to identify the main pressures within each authority. The pressures relate to land use, agricultural trends and development pressures. This section provides a summary of the main pressures identified through these interviews. A detailed summary of the interviews is provided at Appendix 7.

9.3 The main pressures that were identified that have potential to influence the landscape character of Greater Nottingham are:

- Climate Change;
- Agriculture;
- Housing development;
- Employment;
- Tourism;
- Infrastructure;
- Minerals and Waste Management; and
- Renewable Energy.

Climate Change

9.4 Research has identified trends and emerging patterns of climate change across the world. Within the UK the implications for climate change include¹:

- Global temperature rises of between 1.8 to 4 degrees centigrade above 1990's levels by end of 21st century, with UK rises anticipated at 2 to 3.5 degrees by 2080;
- Greater warming in the south and east of the UK than the west and north;
- Increasing temperatures resulting in milder winters and high summer temperatures;
- An increase in sea levels by 26-86cm by 2080 with extreme high water level incidences 10 to 20 times more frequent increasing coastal flood risk;
- Changes in rainfall patterns with wetter winters and drier summers with the greatest changes anticipated for the south and east of the UK where summer rainfall could reduce by 50%; and
- Reduction in snowfall by 60-80% by 2080.

¹ www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/about/ukeffect

9.5 These changes may manifest themselves in changes within the natural environment. These may include changes in habitats and a decline of flora and fauna which are unable to adapt quickly enough to the changing habitat conditions. Some of the changes that may affect landscape character² include:

- Alterations to wetland habitat as a result of more extreme and increased high water events leading to a greater emphasis on new wetlands as part of sustainable urban drainage systems;
- Decreased summer rainfall may increase pressure for retaining winter rainfall encouraging investments in new reservoirs;
- River defences and engineering to rivers to reduce flooding during wetter winters;
- Damage to natural wetland ecosystems which may dry out during drier summers;
- Shifts in agriculture as a result of longer drier summers resulting in growth of more drought tolerant planting and increased focus on biomass fuel planting to increase renewable forms of energy production;
- Concentration of developments near to public transport to reduce fuel use;
- Competition with native species from invasive species which are able to expand their habitat ranges with increasing temperatures;
- Alterations to migrant bird habitats of mudflats and salt marshes through rising water levels and changes in bird migration patterns as a result of rising temperatures;
- Increases in extreme weather events may damage woodlands and trees through stress from waterlogging in winter and drought conditions in summer;
- Pressures and conflict between coastal defences and wildlife value along coastlines as sea level rises threaten coastal towns and villages;
- Increased incidents of pests and diseases able to migrate further north as temperatures increase, such as the possible increasing incidence of Bleeding Canker on Horse Chestnuts;
- Potential increases in the risk of fire during longer drier summers affecting heathland and coastal habitats; and
- Increases in housing adaptations for improved energy efficiency and changes in building design to improve energy efficiency such as photovoltaic cells.

Agriculture

9.6 Agriculture is of considerable significance in terms of its effect on the local landscape. There is a general trend across the Greater Nottingham authorities for diversification of farm-based activities that could lead to a change in traditional field patterns and farming methods. A change in focus within farming may result in future changes in land management including amalgamation of farms and field expansion which will have a continued influence over the countryside.

² www.jncc.gov.uk

- 9.7 National guidance seeks to encourage farm-based diversification to provide both economic benefits and enhance the rural environment.
- 9.8 Equestrian activities are an increasingly popular form of countryside recreation and, coupled with commercial livery services, are often considered acceptable within an agricultural setting. These uses can introduce new opportunities for employment and for diversification of the rural economy, providing an acceptable conversion of formerly agricultural premises. However, the cumulative effect of equestrian activities and farm diversification can redefine the agricultural landscape, particularly through the division of existing fields into individual paddocks defined by post and wire or more substantial fencing and provision of stables and liveries. This is evident along urban fringes across the study area.

Agricultural land management

- 9.9 The Environmental Stewardship Scheme is a key component of the EU funded Rural Development Programme for England 2007-2013. The scheme is administered by Natural England on behalf of DEFRA. Its primary objectives are to support sustainable agriculture in the countryside.³ The scheme helps landowners to: conserve wildlife; maintain and enhance landscape quality and character; protect the historic environment and natural resources; and to promote public access and understanding of the countryside. The scheme is split into three elements: Entry Level Stewardship (ELS), Organic Level Stewardship (OLS) and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS). ELS is based on straightforward land management; OLS is focused on organic farming systems; and HLS involves more complex and time-intensive management where farmers may need additional advice and support.
- 9.10 On entering one of the schemes, farmers are able to choose from a range of options. DEFRA has developed additional information based on the Joint Character Areas (published by Natural England formerly the Countryside Agency). Guidance notes are provided for each character area to help farmers identify the projects they should target within their area to protect landscape character.
- 9.11 The key forces for change in agriculture and agricultural land management, particularly where farmers are not part of Environment Stewardship Schemes are likely to be:
- Developments associated with farm diversification;
 - The loss of traditional buildings and the re-use of existing buildings;
 - Increased levels of road traffic;
 - Change to patterns of land ownership with a move towards larger land holdings;
 - Conversion of former farmhouses and agricultural buildings into private residences;
 - Decline in the maintenance and condition of hedgerows;
 - Increasing use of fencing, particularly post and wire;
 - Pressure for new uses related to livery and equestrian activities;

³ www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/default.aspx

- Increase in the cultivation of bio-fuel crops;
- Decline in traditional land management practices;
- Loss of ponds through drainage or lack of management; and
- Continued pressures on urban fringe farmland from recreational activities, trespass, vandalism and fly tipping.

Housing development

- 9.12 The study area is part of the Greater Nottingham Growth Point which places an emphasis on sustainable development and growth. All authorities have been given figures for new housing through the East Midlands Regional Plan. The area likely to see the greatest change from new housing is Rushcliffe, where a large proportion of new housing will be on 'greenfield' land. The borough also has to potentially accommodate an Eco-town within the wider countryside.
- 9.13 A joint Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) has been prepared for Greater Nottingham which has reviewed all the sites brought forward for consideration as part of the LDF process. Whilst approximately two thirds of the housing can be achieved within the existing built up areas there is a need for development on greenfield land and redevelopment of 'brownfield' sites (mostly former collieries and quarries) within the wider countryside. Larger villages and those closest to the main urban areas are likely to have considerable pressure for expansion. In some authorities where villages and towns are tightly constrained by Green Belt a review of the boundaries will be undertaken as part of the LDF process.
- 9.14 Larger regeneration schemes are mostly focused on brownfield colliery and former industrial sites such as Calverton Colliery; Cotgrave Colliery; Stanton Tip; Gedling Colliery; and Annesley Colliery. These schemes would include new roads; open space; housing and employment.
- 9.15 A sustainable urban extension study was undertaken for Greater Nottingham which identified 12 possible locations for a sustainable urban extension. The report concluded that the following locations should be considered: Top Wighay Farm; north of Papplewick Lane, Hucknall; North of Stapleford; Whyburn House Farm, Hucknall; North of Redhill; Edwalton, Rushcliffe; Clifton Pastures, Rushcliffe; between Toton and Stapleford; Toton Sidings; near Stapleford, Broxtowe; west of Ilkeston; and Stanton Ironworks, Ilkeston.
- 9.16 The key forces for change on the landscape related to built development are likely to be:
- Infill development around villages;
 - Loss of areas of greenfield land around largest urban areas;
 - Expansion of settlements within or immediately adjacent to the Green Belt; and
 - Regeneration schemes on brownfield land such as Gedling and Stanton Colliery, altering townscape and views.

Employment

- 9.17 An employment land study has been completed with a limited update in 2009 to bring it up to date with the recently issued RSS; at present authorities do not know their required allocation for this type of land. Whilst most anticipate that employment uses will be accommodated within brownfield sites and in the urban areas, there may be a requirement for new greenfield sites. Other changes may be through expansion of existing employment sites; those on urban fringes or existing as larger developments within the countryside are likely to have the greatest effect on landscape character.
- 9.18 The key forces for change in the provision for employment likely to affect the rural landscape are:
- The requirement to provide land for the expansion of existing businesses;
 - The redevelopment of agricultural buildings for new employment uses;
 - Continued employment development close to the motorway;
 - The need for continued development at major developed sites in the Green Belt; and
 - The need to provide additional employment land at appropriate sites to meet the future employment needs in the study area.

Tourism

- 9.19 Most of the study area is likely to experience minor changes and initiatives to improve tourism within their areas which will have localised effects on landscape character.
- 9.20 The key project which is likely to effect the greatest change is the Trent River Park which focuses on the establishment of the river as a key destination for tourism and improving access. There are a number of proposals for improvements to existing canals. The Erewash Canal improvements focus on improving access and tourist facilities; the Grantham Canal is at feasibility stage to look at re-establishing it as a navigable canal. Other potential changes include minor interventions and initiatives within the area known as Greenwood Community Forest which will provide areas of publicly accessible open space.
- 9.21 The key forces for change on the landscape related to tourism are likely to be:
- Demand for additional recreational facilities at popular locations;
 - New open spaces associated with reclamation of brownfield sites;
 - The visual intrusion associated with carparks and visitor centres e.g signage;
 - Increased recreational activity leading to erosion and disturbance to sensitive habitats and species;
 - Increased levels of traffic and the 'honey-pot' effect;
 - Increased demand for visitor accommodation such as caravan parks, hotels and leisure complexes; and
 - Increased pressure for tourist facilities associated with the River Trent Park.

Infrastructure

- 9.22 All authorities are likely to see at least minor changes to road networks to facilitate development. The main changes are concerned with the potential provision of new rail links at Gedling such as the new passenger rail line and stations from the former Gedling Colliery to the Nottingham-Grantham rail line and a new passenger rail line and station from the Robin Hood Line (near Bestwood) to Calverton; potential tram extensions to link settlements into Nottingham City Centre and new access roads such as Gedling Access Road; and the dualling of the A46 (Fosse Way) and A453.
- 9.23 The key forces for change related to infrastructure are likely to be:
- Demand for new infrastructure resulting in isolation and fragmentation of the landscape;
 - Loss of mature vegetation such as trees as part of road improvement works;
 - Alterations to the landscape through the provision of mitigation planting;
 - Higher noise levels and visual impact/loss of tranquillity in rural areas associated with the impact of infrastructure works;
 - Upgrading of existing infrastructure to greater vehicle load capacities;
 - Urbanisation of rural roads to accommodate increasing traffic; and
 - Upgrading of footpaths/cycleways in rural locations.

Minerals and waste management

- 9.24 The study area has a close historic association with the coal mining industry although much of the land has since been restored or is brownfield land in the process of being restored. Consultation reported that the likelihood of future coal extraction is low.
- 9.25 Sand and gravel extraction along the River Trent is common with evidence of both restored gravel pits now used for recreation and nature conservation and existing quarrying activities. This is likely to continue and parts of Erewash, Rushcliffe and Gedling may experience future pressure for new sand and gravel quarries.
- 9.26 The key forces for change related to minerals and waste are likely to be:
- Effects on the viability of agricultural holdings through the loss of land if minerals are worked;
 - Alterations to the landscape through restoration, such as increase in water through restoration of gravel pits;
 - The loss of best and most versatile agricultural land; and
 - Effects on locally valuable and high quality landscapes and sites in the Green Belt.

Renewable energy

- 9.27 National policy is placing a greater emphasis on the promotion of renewable energy sources such as wind farms. Regional policy emphasises that by 2020 at least 20% of electricity supplied in the East Midlands should be provided from renewable energy sources currently the

figure is just 2%.⁴ The East Midlands Regional Plan recognises that this is an ambitious target but states that it is achievable and that the figure is not static and will be kept under continuous review.

- 9.28 Regional policy encourages planning authorities to develop plans and strategies to promote and encourage, rather than restrict, the use of renewable energy resources. Criteria should be developed specifically relating to wind turbines to guide development to locations with anticipated acceptable effects on local amenity, views and the character of the surrounding landscape.
- 9.29 None of the authorities reported any noticeable trends in renewable energy development within their area. The majority stated that there have been applications for individual wind turbines for private and commercial properties. Within Rushcliffe there have been a number of applications and permissions for monitoring masts which may result in future pressure for wind farms.
- 9.30 Within the Three Cities Region (of which Nottingham is part) the main focus is on sustainable energy identified as local distribution of networks for electricity and heat using Combined Heat and Power (CHP). It states that whilst potential for large-scale wind development is limited, small-scale developments at a business park level should be encouraged. It also stated that energy generation from waste would be appropriate.
- 9.31 Key forces for change resulting from future renewable energy include:
- Changes in the nature of views towards facilities;
 - Changes to the appearance of buildings and new development through local energy sources on buildings;
 - Small-scale hydro-electric schemes on the Trent;
 - Biodigesters on the Trent Floodplain or similar where fields and agricultural land holdings are large in size;
 - Increase in monitoring masts; and
 - Possible local level industrial developments such as CHP.

⁴ The East Midlands Regional Plan to 2021

10.0 SUMMARY OF THE DESK STUDY FINDINGS

10.1 Following the collation of detailed baseline information and interpolation, the potential landscape characteristics of the borough are described as:

- Prominent low-lying floodplains of the Rivers Trent and Soar;
- Undulating plateau and series of distinctive hills around Gotham and West Leake;
- Broad-scale intensive arable farmland across much of Rushcliffe;
- Prominent vales and escarpments;
- Distinctive narrow valleys and wooded streams around the 'Dumbles';
- Large scale plantation and ancient woodlands to the north of the study area;
- Land heavily influenced by current and past mining operations;
- Prominent urban fringes around Nottingham;
- Concentrations of mature parkland with mature specimen trees and woodlands;
- Areas of newly establishing woodland and open space on former colliery sites;
- Small nucleated villages often with red brick and pantile roofs although stone is used within villages in the north of the study area;
- Expanded commuter settlements close to Nottingham;
- Frequent urban influences from roads, railways and industry including prominent power stations; and
- Areas of pasture often demonstrating an historic field pattern, particularly close to smaller rural settlements.

10.2 The summary characteristics arising from the desk study were tested during the field surveys and public consultation.

11.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 11.1 A stakeholder workshop was held at County Hall on 6th April 2009. The purpose of the workshop was to gain greater understanding of what aspects of Greater Nottingham's landscape stakeholders view as valuable, how they perceive landscape change over the past 20 years and how they expect it to change within the next 20 years.
- 11.2 To provide validity to the consultation process, stakeholders from a range of different specialisms were invited to the event including landscape architects, planners, heritage specialists, nature conservation specialists and regeneration officers (including the Growth Point manager). It was also considered important to include those individuals and organisations that may use and interpret the landscape character assessment to give them opportunities to input into its development and a clear understanding of its purpose.
- 11.3 The workshop was held as an interactive session where those attending were split into smaller break-out group to discuss various topics. A facilitator was present within each group to record what was discussed. Table 11.1 below sets out the agenda for each workshop.

Table 11.1: Agenda and Activities for Stakeholder Workshop

Theme	Questions asked
Valued views and landscapes	Which landscapes do you value within the study area? Which views do you consider to be the most distinctive?
Purpose: To allow stakeholders to identify areas and views that they particularly value ensuring that these are considered within surveys.	
Landscape change	What has changed within the landscape over the past 20 years? What do you think will change in the landscape over the next 20 years?
Purpose: To allow stakeholders to consider how the landscape today has been shaped and to consider the potential landscape adaptations that may be required to accommodate future change.	
Landscape character areas	Do you agree with the describing words for the character areas? Do you think that the boundary of each area is correct? Do you think the name used to describe the area is appropriate?
Purpose: To gain initial broad consensus on the areas proposed and to identify potential amendments to boundaries.	

- 11.4 The key findings from the consultation are summarised below. Where appropriate these findings have been incorporated into the character descriptions and key pressures section for each landscape character area.

Valued landscapes

- 11.5 When asked which landscapes were most valued, stakeholders talked in depth about the types and variety of landscapes within the study area. The significant impact of agriculture in shaping the landscape was recognised by stakeholders, with particular reference to areas such as Rushcliffe where gently rolling farmland is a key characteristic. In contrast to the agricultural landscape, the large areas of woodland to the north of the study area, of which a significant proportion is plantation were viewed as valuable particularly as a recreational resource.
- 11.6 Ridges were highly valued for the long views they afforded over the landscape and the sense of connectivity these views provided to other landscape areas. The change in landscape scale across the study area from enclosed to open was seen as important offering a variety of different experiences.
- 11.7 The river valleys and in particular the Trent were seen to be a key landscape asset however, some stakeholders felt that these river corridors were in many instances underutilised. This has been reflected in the proposal to develop a coherent River Park Plan for the Trent Valley allowing for a more coordinated approach to its development and management. These river corridors provide a significant recreational resource when considered in conjunction with the large open water landscapes (created from former mineral extraction) scattered along their length such as Attenborough Nature Reserve and Colwick Country Park. These rivers and streams are also responsible for the creation of the Dumbles in Gedling which is a steep sided rolling landscape felt to be particularly distinctive by the majority of stakeholders.
- 11.8 In addition to wetland habitats such as Attenborough, numerous Country Parks and public open spaces have also been created as a result of the areas' industrial legacy including sites such as Ruddington Country Park and Bestwood; such sites are now viewed as valuable landscape assets.
- 11.9 Other features which were considered of importance included the numerous historic parks and gardens and the large stately properties and abbeys associated with them; the network of canals; distinctive church spires; and the significant change in landscape character at the Vale of Belvoir which forms a clear marker to the edge of the Greater Nottingham area.

Valued views

- 11.10 The most valued views were identified as the vantage points from the many ridges within the area. Within Rushcliffe the ridges provide long views over the low lying farmland landscape. The many linear roads such as the A52 and A46 within Rushcliffe were also felt to provide long views over the landscape. Ridges at Burton Joyce and Porchester were also specifically noted.
- 11.11 The north of the study area was generally felt to be more enclosed with views typically being from hills and ridges looking down into valleys in

contrast to the longer views of the more open landscape in the south. Views to woodland were also more apparent in the north of the area.

- 11.12 In addition to views over open landscapes, views to the built heritage of the area in particular landmarks such as Nottingham and Belvoir Castle and Wollaton Hall were noted as important.

Landscape change over the past 20 years

- 11.13 Stakeholders reported a number of key positive changes that have occurred within the landscape. The restoration of former mining areas was seen as important and stakeholders acknowledged that these areas were now regenerating well, making a positive contribution to the landscape, particularly in the areas of Broxtowe and Gedling. Gravel and sand extraction along the river corridors were also seen as an opportunity for wildlife and recreation with sites such as Attenborough making a positive landscape change. General improvements to river corridor landscapes were noted although, conversely, some of the new flood defence works were seen to have had a negative impact on character.
- 11.14 Generally stakeholders felt that development within the area had, to date been well contained with the majority of new development on the urban fringe with limited expansion into new 'green field' locations. Development of tall buildings within the city was felt to be creating a wall round it cutting it off visually and physically from its surrounding landscape. The reported recent trend of infilling larger gardens with built development in areas such as Mapperley was also seen to be a negative change.
- 11.15 Recent road improvements along the M1 and recent work along the A46 where large scale clearance of trees and hedgerows has been undertaken were felt to have had a considerable negative impact on landscape perceptions.
- 11.16 Changes in agricultural practices were generally thought to have had a negative impact on the landscape. Loss of hedgerows and hedgerow trees due to large-scale agriculture practices and subsequent creation of bigger fields was felt to have impacted on the perception of the area as a wooded landscape. Diversification of crops has also resulted in change; increased production of rapeseed forms a patchwork of yellow and green fields across the landscape. Farm buildings have also increased in size with large outbuildings now being dominant features in the landscape. Horse culture within the area was also felt to have expanded with numerous consecutive fields now grazed by horses.

Landscape change over the next 20 years

- 11.17 Housing allocations required through the designation of Nottingham as a Growth Point within the 6Cs Growth Point was seen as a key driver for change. The allocation requires large-scale expansion of new housing development around Nottingham's urban fringe coupled with the proposed creation of a possible Eco-town south of Nottingham in the borough of Rushcliffe. Although development was largely seen as negative, several stakeholders identified that this provided the opportunity

for the introduction of green infrastructure benefits. It was felt that the continued introduction of large buildings within the landscape including farm outbuildings and industrial/commercial units such as IKEA will all result in change.

- 11.18 Impacts of climate change were acknowledged by stakeholders in relation to the type and range of species that are able to grow in the area. Climatic changes may result in a reduction of those species natural to the area with a change to species more suited to a warmer, wetter climate. Pressures to introduce wind turbines into the landscape to help mitigate against the effects of climate change may also result in landscape change.
- 11.19 Flooding along the River Trent has increased over the last 10 years and this has been addressed by the introduction of new flood defences which have resulted in a change to the natural river corridor landscape. Further engineered flood defences may be introduced in the future.
- 11.20 Further mineral extraction within the area has not been discounted; this may be through the reworking of existing/former extraction sites or through the creation of new ones to meet the desire to provide aggregates within the area.
- 11.21 The impact of agriculture was identified as being largely negative by stakeholders over the last 20 years. However, the introduction of the Environmental Stewardship scheme was highlighted as likely to have a positive impact on the landscape through more sensitive farming practices and the possible reinstatements of lost features such as hedgerows and hedgerow trees. The move towards local food growing and a greater understanding of food miles may affect the nature of local farming practices.
- 11.22 There are several park and ride schemes operating on the urban fringes of Nottingham on its key approaches. Potential creation of further park and ride sites may result in landscape change. The extension of the tram system will create new routes within the city but its creation will result in the loss of some habitats. Provisions to replace lost habitats and reduce road traffic will all have an effect on landscape character. The completion of current road improvement programmes and the potential for further improvements in the future were considered to have a negative effect on the landscape.
- 11.23 Large scale coniferous plantations can be found within the north of the study area of which a significant proportion are within Forestry Commission ownership. Changes within woodland management procedures within the organisation such as increased native planting and increased open space will change how these woodlands are viewed.

Landscape character areas

- 11.24 Broad areas derived from the Landscape Description Units (LDUs) interpolation mapping to form Draft Policy Zones (DPZ), which were presented at the consultation. Due to the scheduling of the consultation

event, prior to the completion of field survey, key words describing the potential character within each DPZ were not available. However, the interpolation mapping exercise identified that the DPZs broadly align with the sub-types of the regional character areas identified within the Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines Countryside Appraisal. Therefore, characteristic features identified within this study were used as a basis for discussion for stakeholder discussion.

- 11.25 Each group was asked to consider the characteristics of each DPZ and decide whether they agreed or disagreed with the statements. Stakeholders were also invited to comment on whether they felt the boundaries were appropriate, suggest DPZ names and provide any other comments that they felt were relevant to each area.
- 11.26 The boundaries discussed have been used to form the basis of field survey and along with comments put forward during consultation and changes identified on site used to form the DPZ. Table 11.2 lists the Character types/DPZs presented at the workshop.

Table 11.2: Character types/DPZs presented

Regional Character Area	Landscape Character Type
Nottinghamshire Coalfields	Coalfield Farmlands River Meadowlands
Magnesian Limestone Ridge	Limestone Farmlands Limestone Fringe River Meadowlands
Vale of Belvoir	Vale Farmlands
Nottinghamshire Wolds	Wooded Clay Wolds Clay Wolds Wooded Hills and Scarps Village Farmlands
South Nottinghamshire Farmlands	Alluvial Levels Village Farmlands
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands	Dumble Farmlands River Meadowlands
Sherwood	Forest Sandlands
Trent Washlands	River Valley Wetlands Alluvial Estatelands Terrace Farmlands River Meadowlands

- 11.27 During consultation it was generally felt that the summaries provided were broadly accurate; amendments to names and also potential minor boundary changes to be considered during field survey were identified. This information will be used to inform the development of the DPZs. Table 10.3 presented at Appendix 8 summarises the responses and comments relating to the Landscape Character Types/DPZs presented at the workshop.

12.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

12.1 This section includes a commentary of the differences between the key features of the landscape character identified as part of the desk based research and those noted within the field study. It then goes on to provide a broad overview of the character of Greater Nottingham. A summary of the regional character Area and detailed descriptions and landscape guidelines for each DPZ are presented at Appendix 9 with the descriptions for Landscape Character Types within Erewash Borough presented at Appendix 10.

12.2 The field study confirmed the assumptions made following the desk study stage that many of the LDU boundaries were difficult to determine on site whilst broader areas following the amalgamation of LDUs into DPZs at the interpolation stage were more apparent in the landscape. In a few areas the character changes were more defined and required sub-division and refinement of the LDU boundaries.

Regional Character Areas

12.3 These are distinct geographically unique areas that share common physical associations which impart a strong sense of unity and place within an area. Summaries of this character have been based upon the descriptions provided within the Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines which have been reviewed and updated as part of this study. These summaries are presented at Appendix 9.

Landscape Description Units

12.4 Landscape description units are identified through the patterns of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use, settlement form and farm type. At the local level these units represent more local patterns of character that contribute strongly to a 'sense of place'. A summary of character for each landscape description unit is provided within a mapped GIS dataset which describes the different components of character from which the unit was derived. LDUs are illustrated on Figure 13.

Draft Policy Zones

12.5 A Draft Policy Zone (DPZ) is an individual discrete area of character. It has a unique identity although it shares similar characteristics to other areas within the broader regional area. DPZs are usually an amalgamation of LDUs where 4 or more of the 6 topics used for their identification are similar and the changes in character are not evident during field study.

12.6 Within larger LDUs such as LDU421 which extends from Keyworth to Flintham, the DPZs are formed as a sub-division of the wider LDU based on characteristics and combinations of individual landscape characteristics identified within the field study. The interpolation of LDUs is illustrated on Figure 14 and DPZ's are illustrated on Figure 17. Field survey points are illustrated on Figure 15 and Photograph locations are illustrated on Figure 16.

13.0 MONITORING FRAMEWORK

- 13.1 Task MS4 within the brief requires key indicators for monitoring change within each landscape character area to be provided.
- 13.2 The Rural White Paper for England emphasised the need to have good information about the state of our countryside and how it is changing. The emphasis is on ensuring that criteria-based policies within local planning documents are effective in ensuring that the quality of the countryside is maintained or enhanced. The Rural White Paper set out ambitious aims which committed the government to publishing a measure of landscape change for the countryside.
- 13.3 Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning places emphasis on ensuring that core strategies have clear arrangements for monitoring and reporting.
- 13.4 The target of monitoring should be to demonstrate that any change within a landscape does not adversely affect the strength of character or condition of landscape features set out within each landscape character area. As described within Chapter 12, new sustainable development should make a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness of an area and should conserve or enhance the quality of the rural environment.
- 13.5 Policies and development proposals could affect the landscape in two ways: through subtle cumulative effects of small-scale development which overtime changes or alters landscape character; or through changes in management or development which cause the loss or degradation of features which are of value or which define the local distinctiveness which leads to a reduction in landscape quality.⁵
- 13.6 To successfully monitor the effectiveness of criteria-based policies the key objective is to identify how the policies perform in conserving, enhancing and restoring landscape elements that contribute to the key characteristics of each landscape character area.
- 13.7 In May 2002, the former Countryside Agency (now Natural England) commissioned the Countryside Quality Counts project (CQC)⁶ which sought to produce guidance on the most appropriate way of monitoring change within the landscape.
- 13.8 The report recommended that a single indicator of change be devised which encompassed both landscape quality and landscape character. It was identified through extensive stakeholder research that the contribution landscape character makes to the countryside informs the overall quality of the land.

⁵ Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment. Chris Blandford Associates: September 2006

⁶ Countryside Quality Counts Tracking change in the English countryside, Nottingham University Consultants Ltd (June 2004)

- 13.9 The CQC report sets out the best practice approach to monitoring. It is this approach which should be used and adapted to suit local circumstances to monitor change within each landscape character area. The document identified the main attributes which contribute to landscape character and provided guidance on how change within these attributes could be assessed.
- 13.10 These themes were broadly used as the basis upon which analysis of change on landscape character areas could be assessed. The assessment incorporated these themes into judgements of character change.
- 13.11 The CQC report recommended that the analysis should be based on the key characteristics for each landscape character area. It highlighted that landscape character is an important part of the general framework for decision-making on environmental issues. It explained that the concept of character provides a robust foundation for the development of a more general indicator of change in countryside quality. The report identified seven themes which combine to define landscape character and are the most appropriate to use for identifying landscape change:
- Woodland;
 - Boundary features;
 - Agriculture;
 - Settlement Pattern;
 - Semi-natural habitats;
 - Historical Features; and
 - River and Coastal.
- 13.12 The Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment recommended an approach based on the CQC project. It also recommended that the key characteristics chosen should be:
- Central to the distinctive character of each landscape character area;
 - Likely to experience change either in their coverage or condition; and
 - Capable of being monitored against the recommendations and landscape descriptions within each character area.
- 13.13 This recognised that each landscape character area is likely to be different and not all of the seven themes listed within paragraph 12.11 above may be relevant in an individual character area.
- 13.14 To be able to usefully use characteristics as key indicators, they need to be expressed in terms of desired trends and the desired direction of the chosen indicator must be known. The report recommended seeking assistance from local stakeholders to play a role in choosing appropriate indicators and to potentially help to monitor change.

13.15 The key characteristics within each character area should be evaluated based on the following⁷:

- The extent or stock of characteristic elements;
- A measure of whether these are in good condition and appropriately managed;
- The extent and form of new elements within the countryside; and
- A measure of key factors affecting the 'countryside experience'.

13.16 The first two have been covered within each landscape character area's description and highlighted within the landscape capacity description. These should be evaluated during the monitoring process to determine whether they are still fundamental to the character of the area. The judgements on strength of character and condition for each landscape character area should also be reviewed. It is important to note how the features have changed and whether it has reinforced or weakened landscape character or quality. Baseline photographs provided within the character area sheets can be used to provide the baseline character. Judgements can then grouped into the following three categories:

- Category A: character areas which show that change has been consistent with conserving or enhancing landscape character. Some of the key features may show change which is inconsistent but which could be judged to have not affected the strength of character;
- Category B: Character areas which show some change which is inconsistent with character. More than one of the key features of change is inconsistent with the published character description. These are judged as having altered the existing character; and
- Category C: A character area which shows a marked change in the key characteristics which contribute to the character and that the change is different to what is recommended to conserve, enhance or restore landscape character. This may include areas which are currently in a degraded state which have been positively restored but that restoration has altered the nature and character of the land.

13.17 In addition process indicators which could be used to monitor change could include⁸:

- Identification and monitoring of change within uptake/coverage of landscape enhancement schemes;
- Quality and coverage of landscape in design and access statements. These should demonstrate how a proposal positively contributes to landscape character of an area;
- Change in the coverage/completion of landscape-scale management plans which make a positive contribution to achieving the recommendations provided within each character area.

⁷ Countryside Quality Counts Tracking change in the English countryside, Nottingham University Consultants Ltd (June 2004)

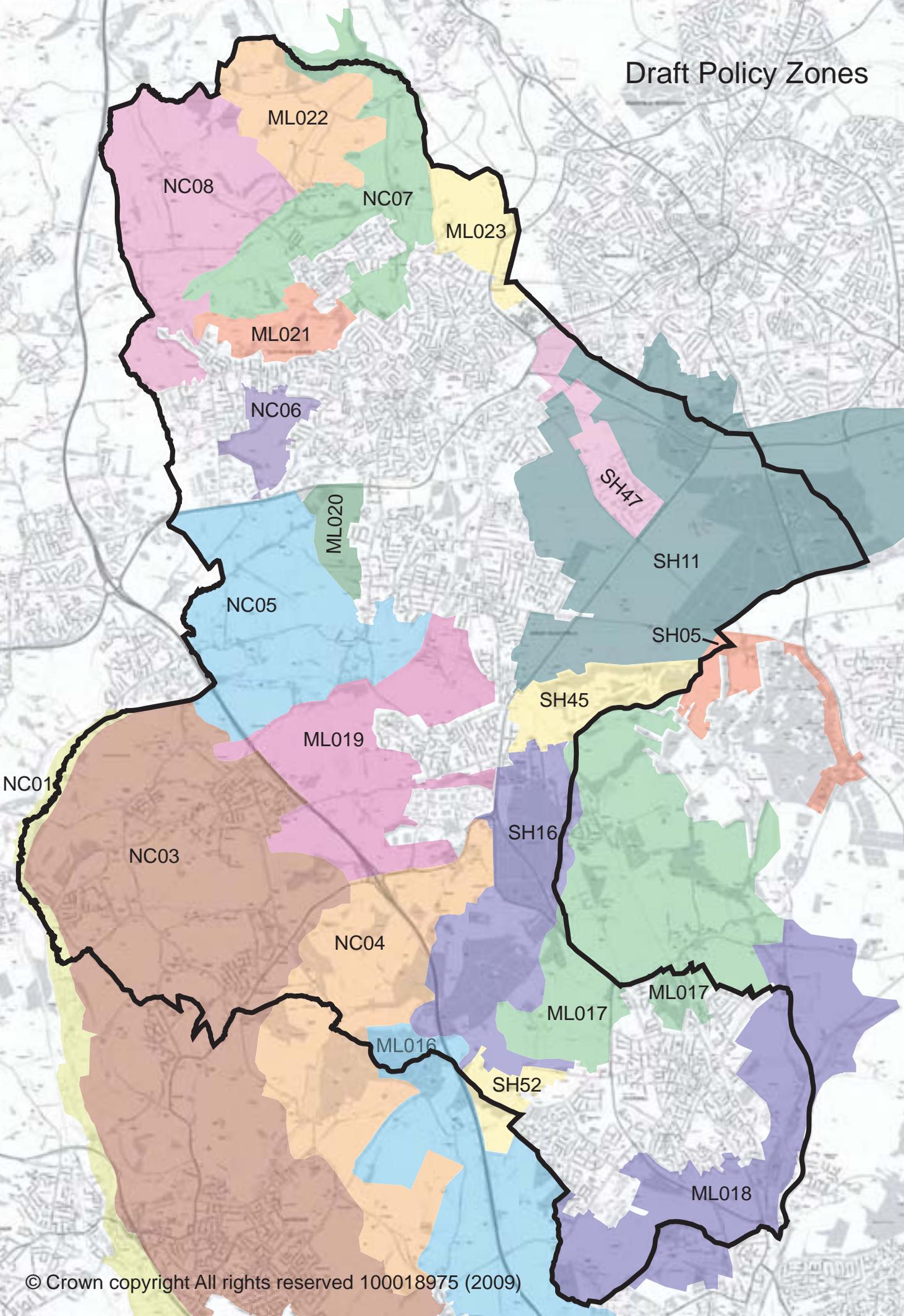
⁸ Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment. Chris Blandford Associates: September 2006

- 13.18 The CQC report identified that the national review of countryside change should be undertaken every 5 years. It is proposed that the review and monitoring at a local scale be undertaken after the publication of the national review of countryside change. However, to undertake the same level of monitoring at a local level is likely to be a resource intensive process. It is recommended that a brief field-based assessment be carried out to determine whether key characteristics and descriptions remain valid for each area, particularly along character area boundaries. This should be done in combination with the process indicators to assess the effectiveness of landscape character policies in maintaining local countryside character and distinctiveness within each character area.
- 13.19 There may also be scope to include some monitoring during determination of planning applications, for example during review of Design and Access Statements. A simple record of whether landscape issues were presented may be made by a short scoring system (such as zero for not relevant; 1 for acceptable; 2 for good; and 3 for excellent). Trends in coverage of landscape matters could then be reviewed over periods of time. This form of monitoring involves greater officer time but provided it is kept simple and as part of the overall determination process may be able to be accommodated relatively easily.

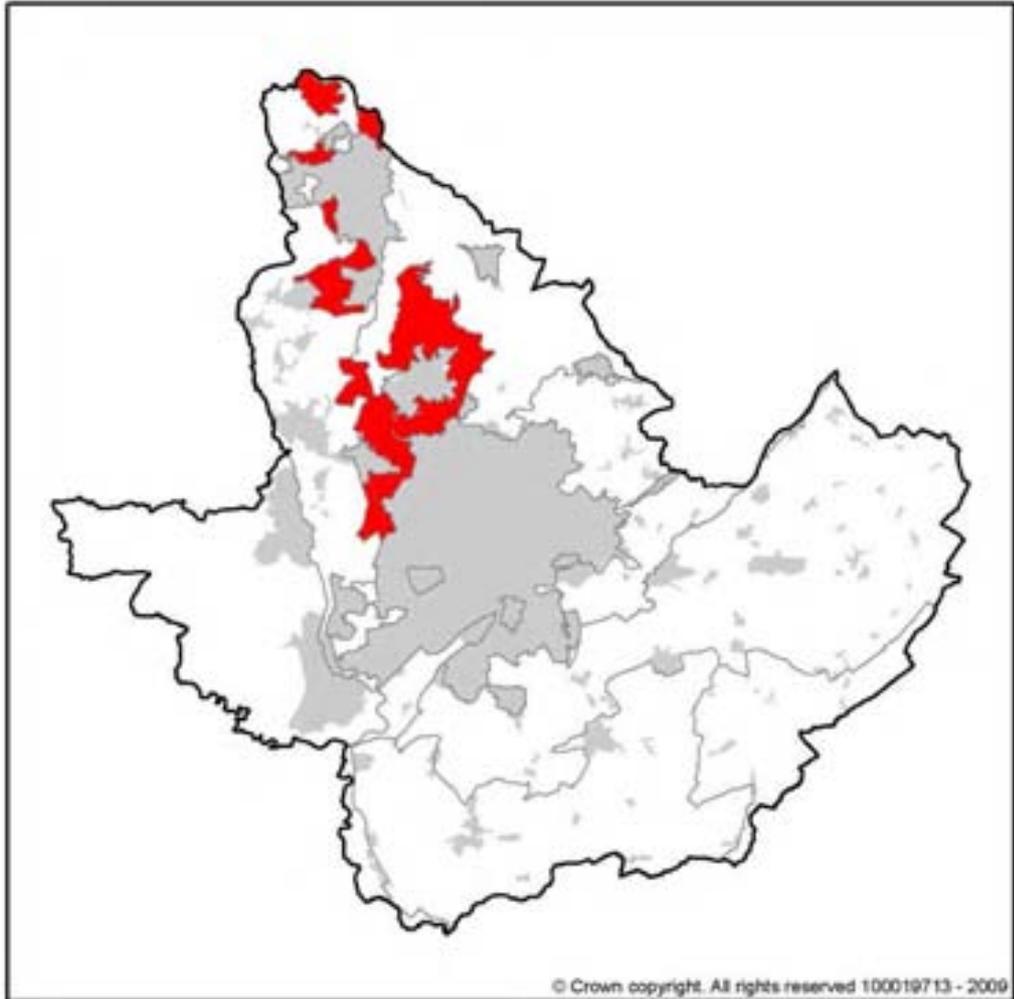
14.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 14.1 This study was undertaken to provide evidence to inform Greater Nottingham's aligned Local Development Framework (LDF). It is also intended to help development control decisions on planning applications; to inform negotiation of planning obligations; and to guide actions on landscape enhancement where resources allow.
- 14.2 The study has demonstrated that there is a wealth of distinctive landscapes in Greater Nottingham offering a diversity of experience to stakeholders who clearly express the value they place on landscapes. The study builds upon the long-standing excellence of landscape assessment in Nottinghamshire and the resulting character assessment provides a strong basis for planning and landscape management.
- 14.3 The desk-based aspect of this study analysed available GIS mapped data and published documents to establish the landscape context of the study area and identify elements considered of value. GIS interpolation of this information was carried out to identify any recognisable patterns of similar character across the study area under the themes of geology, landform, soils, settlement pattern and form and vegetation pattern. This identified Landscape Description Units which show detailed variations in character often not readily identifiable within field surveys. Where 4 or more attributes within landscape description units were similar they were amalgamated. Draft Policy Zones (DPZs) were produced from this.
- 14.4 Field surveys have been used to verify these findings and to enable minor adjustments to DPZ boundaries to be made based on aesthetic aspects and the visual interaction between landscape features which were not evident from the desk based study.
- 14.5 The assessment has identified 79 DPZs which all have a unique and distinctive character.
- 14.6 Each DPZ identifies and lists the key features which make it special and provides a judgement on the condition of the landscape and its strength of character. These enable judgements to be made regarding what landscape actions are required to conserve, enhance, restore or create distinctiveness within each DPZ.
- 14.7 A stakeholder engagement workshop was undertaken to gain wider views on landscape change within Greater Nottingham over the past and next 20 years. Comments regarding the character of the landscape have been incorporated into the DPZ descriptions.
- 14.8 A monitoring framework has been recommended to ensure that changes over time can be properly assessed against the DPZ descriptions included at Appendix 9 and 10 of this report.

Draft Policy Zones



MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE RIDGE



DPZ within this Regional Character Area:

- ML015** **Strelley Plateau**
 - ML016** **Nuthall Wooded Farmland**
 - ML017** **Linby Wooded Farmland**
 - ML018** **River Leen Corridor**
 - ML019** **Kirby Quarry, Portland Park and Rise Hill**
 - ML020** **Kirby Plateau**
 - ML021** **Brierley Forest Park**
 - ML022** **Sutton Plateau**
 - ML023** **Skegby Upland Plateau**
-

MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE RIDGE

Key Characteristics

- Narrow limestone ridge never more than a few miles wide extending from Nottingham toward Ripon in Yorkshire;
 - Narrow belt of Permian rocks comprising two divisions,; the Magnesian Limestone and Permian Marl;
 - The hard Magnesian limestone determines the distinctive landform whilst areas of softer marl (predominately red clays) have a more subdued relief;
 - Low escarpment dipping gently eastwards under overlying Triassic sandstones, whilst the western slope is defined by a steep irregular profiled scarp slope (profile caused by small streams);
 - Productive free draining calcareous soils developed on limestone and less productive soils on Permian Marl which often are subject to waterlogging;
 - In the north, pronounced dip slope which forms a series of rolling summits the highest being 200mAOD at Huthwaite; to the south where limestone is thinner the relief is less pronounced;
 - Deep valleys present along western slopes where streams have cut into the underlying coal measures;
 - Coalfield influences are evident with large mining settlements and associated restored pit heaps;
 - Regular dispersal of large estates, enclosed commons and small rural villages often containing locally distinctive limestone buildings;
 - Modern settlements contain older stone centres, red brick terraces and newer suburban development;
 - Distinctive villages such as Linby, Papplewick and Teversal using local pinkish-yellow limestone in building construction;
 - Well-defined pattern of hedged fields and large estate woodlands;
 - Regular pattern of medium to large scale fields mostly used for intensive arable farming;
 - Hedgerows are the common field boundary although stone walls are present on higher land;
 - Small pockets of surviving unenclosed commons and older enclosure smaller semi-regular fields is evident around villages;
 - On lower lying land a strong sense of enclosure and seclusion is created through the combination of woodland, coverts, parkland and tree belts and a lack of public access;
 - On higher land there are extensive views towards the Derbyshire Coalfield; and
 - In places the land is less enclosed by trees and landform and is more open in character; in contrast around Annesley Woodhouse woodland is more prominent and provides a strong sense of enclosure.
-

Guidelines and Recommendations

- Conserve the nucleated pattern of rural settlements and ensure new buildings reflect the local vernacular;
 - Conserve the internal open space, such as village greens, gardens and paddocks and irregular outline of villages;
 - Conserve the frequency and character of farmsteads within settlements;
 - 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;
 - Conserve river valley woodlands and encourage the creation of new woodland;
 - 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; and
 - Conserve the pastoral character of meadows along the river banks.
-

ML016 Nuthall Lowland, Wooded Farmland



CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Magnesian Limestone Ridge
LDU reference: 234
DPZ Reference: ML016



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Low-lying, gently undulating landform
- The underlying geology is Magnesian Limestone
- There are small ponds scattered through the area and a lake to the south of Nuthall, but other than this there are few hydrological features
- The area has an urban fringe character as it is influenced by the M1 and the urban fringes of Nottingham, Nuthall, Watnall and Hucknall, however, pockets of land with an uninterrupted rural character also exist
- Land use is agricultural, predominantly arable farming
- Field sizes are generally large and the fields have an irregular pattern
- The historic field pattern has been modernised and lost throughout most of the area
- Hedgerows are mostly in good condition and well managed, although in places severe management has led to fragmentation
- There are few hedgerow trees which, in combination with large fields, gives the farmland an open character
- Medium sized blocks of woodland are common through the area and there are blocks of ancient woodland, such as Sellers Wood, which is managed as a Local Nature Reserve
- Common woodland species include oak, ash, elm, hazel and hawthorn with ground level flora including bluebells, wood anemone and orchids
- There are some small patches of wetland vegetation around field and woodland ponds
- Dense, scrubby vegetation and tree planting marks the line of the M1 and although it is audible, the passing traffic is not often visible
- Large, isolated farms with large outbuildings are dotted through the area
- Industrial development on the urban edges have an urbanising influence on the rural character, although views are often filtered by woodland and tree planting
- Views are open over the large arable fields but are restricted by the woodland blocks and planting along the M1
- There are some longer distance views to the wooded slopes of the rising land to the north
- Infrastructure routes are a common feature through the area with the M1 passing through the length of the DPZ, and the A610, B600 and B6009 also pass through the area
- The four tall red brick chimneys of Watnall brickworks form distinctive features in the landscape



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS																									
Condition																									
<p>This is a low lying agricultural landscape with an undulating landform. It has a rural character, although this is weakened by the close proximity of urban fringes and the infrastructure routes. The large fields and low hedgerows give a predominantly open character although the landscape sometimes has an enclosed character where woodland restricts views and where the landform dips. Arable fields are large and bordered by well managed hedgerows. In places the hedgerows are very severely managed and appear thin and low. Gaps have started appearing and the hedgerows are becoming fragmented.</p> <p>Medium sized blocks of woodland characterise this area, often in dips in the landform. These woodlands are mostly deciduous and include species such as oak, ash and elm. They are geometrically shaped and in 2 instances, the motorway passes through woodland. Sellers Wood is ancient woodland and has a rich variety of flora and fauna. Geology is important in this woodland as there is a fault through the woodland with shale on one side and magnesian limestone on the other. This produces different soil types and vegetation patterns within the woodland.</p> <p>The condition of the landscape is MODERATE. The landscape is well managed through agricultural practices, although in places the severe management style has had an adverse effect on hedgerow condition. The woodlands are intact and in good condition. They provide good screening for the M1 where the motorway passes through them, but this has a detrimental effect on the woodland pattern.</p>																									
Landscape Strength																									
<p>The DPZ is on low ground and is bordered by large urban areas and large areas of woodland in adjoining DPZs. Consequently, there are few views into the area and the zone of visual influence is mostly self-contained. From within the DPZ, there are views over the arable fields and to the wooded slopes beyond. There are glimpsed views over the DPZ from the M1.</p> <p>The strength of character is MODERATE. There is an even distribution of features and a coherent pattern to the landscape, although it is interrupted by the M1. The farmland does not have a strong sense of place but the regular woodland blocks, especially the mature woodland contribute to the distinctiveness of the area.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>MODERATE <i>Enhance</i></td> <td>MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i></td> <td>GOOD <i>Conserve</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moderate</td> <td>POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i></td> <td>MODERATE <i>Enhance</i></td> <td>MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poor</td> <td>POOR <i>Restore/Create</i></td> <td>POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i></td> <td>MODERATE <i>Enhance</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Weak</td> <td>Moderate</td> <td>Strong</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Landscape strength</td> </tr> </table> <p>The overall landscape strategy is ENHANCE</p>		MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	GOOD <i>Conserve</i>	Good				Moderate	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	Poor	POOR <i>Restore/Create</i>	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>		Weak	Moderate	Strong		Landscape strength		
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LANDSCAPE ACTIONS																									
<p><i>Landscape features</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the woodland through management of maturing trees and new planting where appropriate • Conserve the valuable quality of the mature and ancient woodland for its landscape value • Enhance the distribution of hedgerow trees across the DPZ • Enhance the field pattern through replacement of hedgerows which have been lost • Enhance the condition of the hedgerows through less intensive management and replacement planting where they are fragmenting • Conserve and enhance the planting along the M1 to ensure views to the motorway are filtered • Restore any woodland lost through road improvement works associated with the M1 • Enhance the hedgerow and woodland planting surrounding the urban edges to strengthen the rural character • Conserve field ponds and enhance wetland vegetation around the margins <p><i>Built form</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the vernacular character of the large, detached, red brick farmhouses • Protect the rural character of the area through resisting extended development of large barns and outbuildings around farmhouses <p><i>Other development/ structures in the landscape</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the Watnall Brick Works chimneys as features in the landscape • Enhance the planting around industrial areas and business parks on the urban edges to filter view to these urban elements 																									

ML017 Linby Wooded Farmland



CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Magnesian Limestone Ridge
LDU reference: 358
DPZ Reference: ML017



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Flat to gently undulating natural land although restored mineral working sites create artificial elevations in the landform
- Small streams flow through the area and there are some small, artificial water bodies in the north of the area, on restoration land
- The DPZ has an urban fringe farmland character, influenced by restored land, agricultural and pockets of recreation land
- The urban fringe of Hucknall does not have a strong influence on the area, despite its close proximity, because of woodland and dense hedgerows.
- Field sizes are medium to large and usually irregular in shape
- Hedgerows are often fragmented and are low and scrubby in places
- Large woodland blocks enclose pockets of farmland
- New areas of plantation and regenerating scrub on restored landscapes will add to the woodland content of the area as they mature
- Woodland belts follow the linear features through the landscape, such as the railway embankment, the streams and roads
- An avenue of trees lines Station Avenue from Newstead village to Newstead Abbey
- The extensive woodland blocks at Newstead Abbey and Annesley Plantation are visible in the adjoining DPZ areas and contribute to the wooded character
- The settlement of Newstead has a clear mining heritage and is characterised by rows of uniform red brick terraced housing
- The settlement of Linby has an older rural character; the properties are a mix of small terraces and cottages and large, detached properties. They often use local stone as a key building material and have red pantile roofs
- The Gatehouse of Newstead Abbey adjacent to the restored colliery spoil heaps forms a distinctive interesting feature in the landscape
- Large industrial warehouses are a feature on the edge of the settlements
- Large redbrick isolated farmsteads are dispersed through the landscape and are often surrounded by large outbuildings, or in some cases, caravan sites, although these are often well screened from view
- Overhead power lines are a common feature crossing the farmland
- Views are open over the farmland but restricted and enclosed by the blocks of woodland
- There are long views from the recreational footpaths which cross the restored colliery mounds over the young woodland and the farmland beyond



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS																									
Condition																									
<p>The landscape is characterised by flat and open farmland enclosed by pockets by woodland blocks. Artificial hills where the mining landscape has been restored are prominent features. The DPZ has an urban fringe and restored land character. The urban fringe of Hucknall is visible in the south of the area. Infrastructure routes, such as the A611, the railway and overhead electricity lines have an urbanising influence on the farmland through the area.</p> <p>The land use is agricultural, predominantly arable. The field sizes are large and the field pattern is irregular. The historic field pattern has been lost and a modern, modified field pattern now exists. There are areas of historic woodland associated with Newstead Abbey in the area. The mining heritage in the landscape is evident through the built form, distinctive landform and mining relicts. The historical association with Newstead Abbey is evident in the stone buildings, avenues of trees and views to extensive deciduous woodland.</p> <p>There are several large blocks of woodland in this area which give an enclosed character to the DPZ. These include Aldercar Wood and Quarry Banks. There are large areas of young plantation woodland on restored landscape adjacent to Newstead which will mature and increase the woodland content of the DPZ further. There are few hedgerows trees and hedgerows are often fragmented; consequently the landscape appears open and expansive between the woodland blocks.</p> <p>The condition of the landscape is MODERATE. There is evidence of fragmenting hedgerows and in places hedgerows have been removed to form larger fields. There is clear evidence of landscape restoration on the ex-mining areas which is improving the condition of the area, however, the planting is young and the landform is clearly artificial and there is still potential for improvement and greater integration into the landscape.</p>																									
Landscape Strength																									
<p>The zone of visual influence is limited in this DPZ by woodland blocks within the area and in the surrounding landscape. There are views over the DPZ from the high points on the restored spoil heaps and there are views through the character area from the A611, but it is otherwise an enclosed landscape from which it is difficult to view the landscape from the publicly accessible routes.</p> <p>The landscape has a MODERATE character strength. The pockets of farmland enclosed by woodland blocks do not have a unique character although features are regularly distributed. The restored landscapes and the mining heritage visible in the landscape contribute to the sense of place, as do stone buildings associated with Newstead Abbey Estate. The character is slightly disjointed due to the high number of separate influences which reduces character strength.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>MODERATE <i>Enhance</i></td> <td>MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i></td> <td>GOOD <i>Conserve</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moderate</td> <td>POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i></td> <td>MODERATE <i>Enhance</i></td> <td>MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poor</td> <td>POOR <i>Restore/ Create</i></td> <td>POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i></td> <td>MODERATE <i>Enhance</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Weak</td> <td>Moderate</td> <td>Strong</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Landscape strength</td> </tr> </table> <p>The overall landscape strategy is ENHANCE</p>		MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	GOOD <i>Conserve</i>	Good				Moderate	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	Poor	POOR <i>Restore/ Create</i>	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>		Weak	Moderate	Strong		Landscape strength		
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LANDSCAPE ACTIONS																									
<p><i>Landscape features</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the condition of the hedgerows through replacement planting where fragmentation is occurring • Enhance the landscape pattern through replacement of hedgerows where they have been lost • Enhance the condition of the woodlands through maintenance and management • Enhance mining spoil heap restoration through more tree planting to help integrate them into the landscape • Conserve the hedgerow trees where they exist and increase their number through new planting where appropriate, particularly along roads and around arable fields • Conserve the distinctive avenue of trees along Station Avenue • Conserve the form and character of historic woodland associated with Newstead Abbey Estate <p><i>Built form</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the mining heritage in the settlement of Newstead through conservation of the relics of mining machinery and provision of landscape history interpretation • Enhance the urban fringes through planting to soften and filter views to the urban edges • Conserve the traditional village character of Linby through use of similar building styles and materials in any new development • Conserve and enhance the landscape vegetation which filters views to Hucknall urban fringe as it contributes to separation between Hucknall urban area and the DPZ <p><i>Other development/ structures in the landscape</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the wooded nature of the railway line • Ensure any future infrastructure developments do not contribute to a significant cumulative impact • Conserve and enhance viewpoints on the colliery mounds to enable views across the DPZ 																									

ML018 River Leen Corridor



CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Magnesian Limestone Ridge
LDU reference: 451
DPZ Reference: ML018



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Low lying land with a flat to gently undulating landform
- The River Leen flows through the area and there are a series of small pools and lakes adjacent to the river, although these features are not openly apparent in the landscape
- Mill Lake is a feature of Bestwood Country Park in the south of the area although this is only locally apparent because of the surrounding woodland
- The area is located between the urban fringes of Hucknall and North Nottingham but woodland, hedgerows and scrubby vegetation often filters views to the urban edges
- Land use is predominantly mixed farming, although there are large areas of rough grassland, recreation land and an airfield which is now a testing area for Rolls Royce
- Pasture is common adjacent to the river, with arable fields on higher ground away from the river
- Areas of recreation land are also common including the area around Mill Lake, two golf courses and a recreation centre
- The historic field pattern has been lost and a modern and modified pattern now exists across most of the area, although there are small patches of semi-regular field patterns and strips of historic woodland
- The field pattern is medium sized and fields are geometrically shaped, with larger fields to the north
- Field boundaries are predominantly hedgerows, although timber and post and wire fencing is also common, especially in grazing areas
- Where hedgerows exist they are often fragmented, scrubby and low giving the farmland an open character
- Hedgerow trees are not numerous but there is evidence of planting of new trees in some areas which will increase in significance as they mature
- Woodland is characteristically linear in this DPZ as it follows features such as the urban edges, a disused railway line which passes through the area and the river
- Woodland and riparian, scrubby vegetation is common along the river and around the pools and lakes
- Closely managed linear woodland is a feature of the golf courses
- The disused airfield consists of a wide expanse of rough grassland surrounded with a scattering of industrial warehouses, which are not visible in the wider landscape due to surrounding woodland
- The DPZ is surrounded by settlements including Hucknall, Nottingham and Bestwood Village
- The low lying nature of the land and the wooded nature of the area means the urban edges are not significant features
- There is some ribbon development along the B road through the area which has a localised urbanising impact
- Two wood pole electricity lines and lighting columns form vertical features which are visible in the landscape
- Views within the DPZ are open across the farmland but often enclosed by linear woodland around the water bodies, golf course and disused railway line
- There are views to rising land and woodland in adjacent DPZs
- There are longer views from Forest Lane in the north of the area across the farmland and to the woodland on rising ground in adjacent DPZs



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

This is an urban fringe DPZ which is low lying and influenced by linear features such as the River Leen, the disused railway line, the disused airfield and roads. Hydrological features including the River Leen, Mill Lake and other pools and lakes are influential features in this DPZ, although they are not highly visible due to the associated woodland and riparian vegetation which encloses them.

Farming, rough grassland and recreational land are all common land uses in this DPZ. There is a mix of arable and pasture land with larger arable fields common on higher ground. Timber fencing or post and wire fencing is common around pasture fields where hedgerows have been removed or are fragmented. Hedgerows which exist are often low and scrubby. The historic field pattern has generally been lost due to field size expansion and changing agricultural practice.

The woodland is characteristically linear in this DPZ. Deciduous woodland and riparian vegetation follow the River Leen and dense scrubby vegetation follows the line of the disused railway. Linear woodland also characterises the golf courses. Dense deciduous woodland borders Mill Lake in Bestwood Country Park and there is an area of parkland and woodland to the south of the airfield.

The condition of the landscape is **MODERATE**. The hedgerows are often fragmented and scrubby or have been removed completely. The landscape in the recreational areas is well managed and generally in good condition, which increases the overall judgement to moderate.



Landscape Strength

The zone of visual influence is limited in this DPZ. It is a low-lying, enclosed landscape and there are few views over the hydrological features, other than from public rights of way which pass close by. There are longer views across farmland from Forest Lane in the north of the area. There are views out to the rising land to the south and east, where woodland blocks on the ridgelines are features in the views.

Overall the strength of character is **MODERATE**. There are few distinctive characteristics or significant features through the farmland to give the area a strong sense of place. The river, lakes and pools contribute to the sense of place, although they are not highly visible. Urbanising features such as overhead lines, the airfield and lighting columns weaken the landscape pattern which has an effect on the overall landscape character strength.

Landscape Condition	Good	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	GOOD <i>Conserve</i>
	Moderate	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>
	Poor	POOR <i>Restore/Create</i>	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>
		Weak	Moderate	Strong
Landscape strength				

The overall landscape strategy is **ENHANCE**

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

- Enhance the condition of existing hedgerows through new planting and careful management
- Create new hedgerows to replace those which have been lost in the past and encourage planting along lines of existing fencing
- Enhance the tree cover through planting of more hedgerow trees especially around arable fields
- Conserve and enhance belts of linear woodland which are characteristic of the area
- Conserve the parkland character around Mill Lake and in the area to the south of the airfield
- Enhance the woodland planting around the urban edges to enhance an increasing rural character to the area
- Enhance the condition of the grazing land through replacement of post and wire fencing with timber fencing, or hedgerows where possible

- Conserve and enhance riparian woodland along the river and around the pools and lakes through continued management
- Built form*
- Conserve the areas of countryside through resisting further ribbon development along the roads
 - Conserve the nucleated character of the settlements by placement of any new development in existing villages and settlements
- Other development/ structures in the landscape*
- Enhance the landscape condition through screening of vertical elements, such as lighting columns, by roadside tree planting to reduce urbanising effects of these features

ML019 Kirkby Quarry, Portland Park and Rise Hill



CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Magnesian Limestone Ridge
LDU Reference: 224, 59 and 60
DPZ Reference: ML019



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- An area strongly associated with limestone quarrying south of Kirkby in Ashfield and west of Annesley Woodhouse
- Landform is disturbed in part by current and past quarrying activity, where quarrying has ceased land has been restored
- Landform is typically strongly undulating with steep slopes in places. Slopes are often more uniform on areas of restored land
- Landscape is influenced by many urban elements and has a predominantly urban fringe character
- Small watercourses are localised features on low ground at the base of slopes
- Watercourses are typically characterised by woodland, rough grassland and scrub at the margins
- Land use at Annesley Woodhouse quarry comprises associated workings with water bodies and bare ground
- Outside the quarry, land use is a mixture of agriculture, recreational land, woodland and scrub
- Portland Park is a recreational area and important for wildlife
- Pockets of naturally regenerated scrub and gorse on steeper slopes are common
- Field pattern is modified and of modern origin and not present within the quarry and Portland Park
- Fields towards the edges of the DPZ are irregular in size and shape. Fields at Rise Hill are medium sized and irregular in shape
- Field boundaries are mostly hedges; occasional timber fences are present
- Views are typically enclosed by landform, with longer and more open views possible from higher ground
- Overhead lines and pylons are prominent built features
- Motorway and moving traffic are urbanising features visible to the south west
- There is a prominent individual high point at Rise Hill with adjacent more low-lying open farmland
- Overall character is influenced by urban fringes of Annesley and Kirkby in Ashfield
- Urbanising elements are frequent in the landscape and notable at settlement edges
- Prominent roofline on high ground at Nuncargate south of Portland Park
- Railway line on embankment and new housing development are prominent to the north east of Portland Park and Rise Hill



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

A strongly undulating landscape interrupted and influenced by quarrying and extraction industry. Where quarrying activity has ceased areas have been remediated and restored largely as natural recreation areas. There are limestone outcrops and gorse scrub at Annesley Woodhouse Quarry SSSI. The area comprises many urbanising features and adjoins development in most directions. The area adjoins Kirkby Vales character area to the north which is more rural in nature.

Land use is a mix of quarry, woodland, arable farming and pasture. Fields vary in size throughout the area with the majority being irregular in shape and pattern. As much of the area is restored land, farmland has a modern field pattern. Field boundaries are typically hedges although these are often fragmented and replaced by fencing closer to urban fringes.

Woodland comprises large irregular blocks of predominantly broadleaved woodland which is infrequent in the landscape, Although where present it is a prominent and a defining feature. The largest is an irregular shaped woodland block at Portland Park on the northern edge of the area.

The landscape condition varies from **POOR** to **MODERATE** within area. Where present hedgerows are generally intact with some localised fragmentation. Woodland typically is immature or developing having regenerated on disrupted land and forms part of recreation or nature conservation sites which are well managed.



Landscape Strength

Extraction industry has influenced and remodelled much of this landscape. Disturbed or modified ground is a prominent feature. Where land has been restored or has naturally re-colonised 'natural' areas have resulted which are important for recreation and ecology.

Undulating land and sharp changes in level are notable and often restrict views. Urban fringes, railway and motorway on embankment also restrict or enclosure views. Views from Portland Park and immediate surroundings are enclosed by woodland, Rise Hill and development on the fringe of Annesley Woodhouse on a ridgeline.

The strength of landscape character is **POOR**. Some features are distinctive but these have only a localised effect. Features are typically scattered and inconsistent across the landscape. The pattern of agriculture is in pockets and at the edges of the area and the landscape is influenced by many urbanising features.

	MODERATE Enhance	MODERATE - GOOD Conserve and Enhance	GOOD Conserve
Good			
Moderate	POOR - MODERATE Enhance and Restore	MODERATE Enhance	MODERATE - GOOD Conserve and Enhance
Poor	POOR Restore/ Create	POOR - MODERATE Enhance and Restore	MODERATE Enhance
	Weak	Moderate	Strong

Landscape strength

The overall landscape strategy is **CREATE**.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

- Landscape features*
- Conserve and enhance areas dedicated to informal recreation, where land is reinstated encourage recreational use to integrate with the character of existing recreational areas
 - Conserve and enhance diversity of existing 'natural' areas and important sites for wildlife and landscape
 - Create and enhance field patterns following the pattern of former field boundaries where they have been disrupted by industrial activity
 - Create and enhance new areas of woodland planting particularly at urban fringes and to mitigate views of urbanising built elements
 - Conserve hedgerows and encourage infill planting within gaps rather than erection of timber fencing
 - Conserve areas of rough grassland and gorse scrub where present on steeper slopes
 - Conserve Rise Hill as a local landmark
 - Create and enhance the woodland cover in the area to filter views to the moving traffic and motorways
- Built form*
- Create and enhance tree cover where possible at urban fringes to reduce the prominence of buildings
 - Create wooded fringes to new development to reduce its visual prominence in the landscape

ML020 Kirkby Plateau



CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Magnesian Limestone Ridge

LDU Reference: 10

DPZ Reference: ML020



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- A flat broad plateau adjacent the urban fringes of Kirkby and Sutton
- Land falls sharply at the edge of the plateau to the south and west towards the Kirkby Vales
- A semi-rural character influenced by prominent urban elements at the settlement edges and adjacent open countryside
- Land use is predominantly arable farming
- Field pattern is eroded and has been modified to comprise large unenclosed fields
- Field pattern is irregular and sweeps down west facing slopes at the edge of the plateau
- Field boundaries are often open in the central plateau.
- There are field boundary hedges present but these are predominantly at the edges of the character area and alongside Doles Lane
- No significant woodland in the character area
- Prominent settlement edge extends onto the plateau at the eastern boundary of the DPZ
- There is a footpath and track across the central part which is enclosed by high hedges
- Public footpath is at the edge of the plateau which offers opportunities for expansive westerly views
- Typically extensive panoramic views across very large open fields to the west. Views from Doles Lane are restricted by boundary hedges
- Large-scale industrial buildings adjacent to the M1 are notable features in the background of panoramic views in a westerly direction
- Built development within the DPZ is agricultural and restricted to, Mowlands Farm, at Doles Lane.
- Modern housing and contemporary buildings at Ashfield school are prominent features on the skyline on the northeast and eastern edges
- The adjoining DPZ of Kirkby Vales is predominantly rural in character and is a prominent part of views to the west which reinforces this as a semi-rural landscape
- Adjoins the A38 dual carriageway at its northern edge



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

An elevated broad plateau with large open fields and semi-rural character. The eastern side of the plateau adjoins development at Kirkby and Sutton in Ashfield which has an influence on the character of these areas. Built development within the character area is restricted to one farm at Doles Lane. Further west the area adjoins open countryside and overlooks lower ground to the south west.

Land use is largely arable farming focussed around a central farm. Fields tend to be large in size and with a modern modified field pattern. Hedges have been removed to enlarge fields. Remnants of former field boundaries in the form of undulations, tracks or different crop/ploughing direction can be seen.

There is no woodland within the character area. There are small clumps of scrub in the southern part of the DPZ. Other vegetation includes grass verges at roadsides and field margins. There are few hedgerows in the area although where present these are largely intact. Hedgerow trees are infrequent.

The landscape condition is **POOR**. Hedgerows and woodland are largely absent from the area. This area has few characteristic landscape features and is managed principally for farming purposes. It is influenced by urban elements at settlement fringes which are openly viewed across the level plateau.



Landscape Strength

This raised ground is notable from the surrounding area to the west as part of an area of strongly undulating ground. Views from the edges of settlements at the eastern edge extend across the level open plateau. The edge of the plateau falls sharply and obscures some views of lower ground to the west while more distant high ground is visible on the horizon. From the edge of the plateau open expansive views over long distances are possible incorporating views towards Pinxton and development adjacent the M1.

The strength of character of this area is **MODERATE**. The openness and elevated level landform are distinctive and consistent features the effects of which are heightened by the lack of tree and hedgerow cover. The pattern of arable farming is also consistent with some notable influence from urban fringe development.

	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	GOOD <i>Conserve</i>
Great			
Moderate	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>
Poor	POOR <i>Restore/ Create</i>	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>
	Weak	Moderate	Strong
	Landscape strength		

The overall landscape strategy is **ENHANCE AND RESTORE**.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

- Landscape features*
 - Conserve the open character of the plateau particularly at the western edge
 - Enhance field pattern and reinstate some field boundaries where practical with hedges , whilst maintaining open character
 - Enhance tree cover at the urban edges of the plateau to reduce their prominence
 - Restrict new woodland planting where it might affect the openness of views on sloping ground at the edge of the plateau
 - Conserve existing hedgerows and encourage infill planting within gaps
- Built form*
 - Conserve the semi-rural and undeveloped character of the plateau through careful siting of development to ensure it is not prominent within the landscape
 - Avoid changes and development at the western edge of the plateau where land slopes steeply and change would be visually prominent in wide views
- Other development/ structures in the landscape*
 - Conserve the hedge-lined and enclosed character of the public footpath at Doles Lane

ML021 Brierley Forest Park



CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Magnesian Limestone Ridge
LDU Reference: 278
DPZ Reference: ML021



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Prominent man-made landform of a restored former colliery comprising a raised woodland covered mound comprising 'engineered' slopes of even gradient
- The landscape is primarily for recreation on the urban fringes of Sutton in Ashfield. Large areas of immature woodland plantation and grassland are prominent although urban elements are generally visible in the many views from the park
- Brierley Waters, a large man-made pool is a localised feature at the base of the southern slopes of the mound
- Land use is a mixture of woodland plantation and grassland
- Woodland comprises predominantly broadleaf species typically arranged in blocks and with trees in grid pattern. Woodland is interspersed with a series of public footpaths and open grassland
- Field pattern is largely absent in this landscape having been removed during its mining past
- Remnant field boundary hedges are occasionally present notably at the northern park perimeters
- Prominent extensive woodland plantation covers the slopes of mounded high ground
- Rides and surfaced paths up to a high point and viewing area at the top of the hill
- Tracks enclosed by woodland
- Woodland cover will increase as it matures and will create a more heavily wood landscape
- Largely enclosed by the urban areas of Sutton in Ashfield, Huthwaite and Stanton Hill
- One distinctive red brick former factory building and the roofline of houses on the edge of Sutton at the southern edge of the character area are prominent on raised ground
- Views enclosed by woodland on low ground with panoramic views from the top of the colliery mound across urban areas to the south and to the north open countryside and high ground at the former Silver Hill colliery to the north
- The park contains a visitor centre and car parking. There are several incidental art installations throughout the park together with furniture and interpretation signage
- Other recreational land use includes a golf course north of Brierley Forest Park which is characterised by highly managed linear woodland



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

This character area is a restored landscape which is heavily influenced by man. It covers the site of the former Sutton colliery and Brierley spoil tip. It is a relatively small area which is associated with recreation. Brierley Hill Park covers approximately 250 acres and forms the majority of this character area. The park also comprises Greenwood Community Forest which is within the park and a golf course to the northwest. Land within the park is typically sloping. Rising land culminates at a high point and with pockets of rough grassland, wild flora meadows and substantial blocks of developing plantation woodland.

The historical field pattern has largely been lost due to mining activity although some remnant hedgerows and lanes are evident at Rooley Lane and at the edges of the DPZ. Mostly land is open between woodland blocks. The adjacent land to the northwest is a golf course and laid to greens and fairways which are interspersed with woodland blocks and hedgerows but these do not follow historic field patterns.

The landscape condition is **MODERATE**. This is a designed landscape which brings disused industrial land back into use for recreation. Hedgerows, grassland and woodland areas are well managed for recreation and nature conservation. This is a relatively modern landscape where no legible field pattern is notable. The prominent landscape features present, are predominantly man-made and recent in origin.



Landscape Strength

The former colliery spoil mound is a significant landscape feature visible over long distances particularly from the northwest. Views are typically over long distances from the high ground although more enclosed by woodland on lower ground. Urban elements are frequent in views in other directions as the character area is bounded by built development on three sides by the Sutton in Ashfield, Stanton Hill and Huthwaite. The roofline of housing at the northern fringes of Sutton is on raised ground overlooking Brierley Hill Park and is prominent on the sky line. From the top of the spoil mound panoramic views are possible and overlook the adjacent character areas the north; the lower-lying River Meden valley; and Stanley undulating farmland.

The strength of character of the area is **MODERATE**. This DPZ is distinctive as a modern designed recreational landscape. The new woodland covered former spoil tip is a prominent feature within the surrounding area forming a backdrop to views. The hills and woodland blocks interspersed with grassland are distinctive and provide a sense of place although around the golf course, this is slightly weaker.

	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	GOOD <i>Conserve</i>
Good			
Moderate	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>
Poor			
	POOR <i>Restore/Create</i>	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>
	Weak	Moderate	Strong
	Landscape strength		

The overall landscape strategy is **ENHANCE**.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

- Landscape features*
- Enhance and manage large blocks of developing woodland as they will contribute to a wooded landscape character in the future
 - Conserve old remnant hedges and where possible create links to new woodland
 - Conserve and enhance the diversity of species within large-scale woodland plantations; new planting should also have a range of species in its mix
 - Conserve the network of rides and paths through the DPZ
 - Enhance new woodland by careful management, selectively thinning trees and groups to encourage a natural appearance
 - Conserve remnant hedgerows and encourage infill planting within gaps rather than erection of timber fencing
 - Conserve areas of rough grassland and encourage future management for amenity and species diversity
- Built form*
- Conserve views out to focal buildings through management of vegetation along boundaries
 - Conserve the naturalistic, low key character of Brierley Forest Park Visitor Centre and car parking, and ensure this is continued to any future expansion
- Other development/ structures in the landscape*
- Conserve and enhance art installations and interpretation within public open spaces
 - Conserve land within this area for primarily leisure and recreational use
 - Conserve and enhance the wooded boundaries adjacent to the urban fringes to screen them from the DPZ.

ML022 Sutton and Teversal Plateau



CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Magnesian Limestone Ridge
LDU Reference: 219
DPZ Reference: ML022



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Gently rolling landform rising to a broad plateau with an open character
- Simple agricultural landscape where urban elements are infrequent
- Remnant features of past mining are notable in the landscape. The top of a tall chimney and former mining workings at Pleasley are features of the horizon in north east views
- Disused railway is used for informal recreation. It is a localised feature on lower ground and enclosed by linear woodland and scrub
- Land use predominantly arable interspersed with woodland
- Field pattern is mostly of modern origin comprising large regular fields with trimmed hedges
- Field boundaries comprise hawthorn hedges occasionally broken and with open gaps and few hedgerow trees
- Large woodland blocks are prominent on the horizon in views particularly north
- Woodland plantation is prominent covering raised landform of mining spoil heap at former collieries of Silverhill and Pleasley
- Wide views over large open fields on the plateau
- Longer views are possible where land slopes down from the edge of the plateau
- Urban elements are infrequent in the landscape and where present they are not visually prominent, often screened by mature trees. Some enclosure is created by rolling landform
- Built form is restricted to infrequent individual farms and edge of the small rural village of Teversal
- Teversal is not visually prominent in the landscape situated on lower slopes and screened by trees
- Few roads and those present are hedge-lined narrow country lanes
- Use of limestone in buildings and walls is a notable feature at Teversal
- Overhead electricity lines are notable on low ground between hills
- The rural village of Teversal extends into the southern tip of the DPZ and is characterised by a distinctive church and older buildings constructed from limestone and enclosed by tall stone walls
- The DPZ includes the historic outer extent of the Hardwick Hall estate parkland and woodland



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

An area of gently rolling farmland which rises to an elevated open plateau comprising predominantly medium to large arable fields bounded by trimmed hedgerows.
 Land use is predominantly arable farming. Fields are medium to large in size and regular in shape. The majority of farming is arable in a modern modified and geometric field pattern. Hedgerow removal to increase field size has occurred in places.

Woodland comprises blocks of varying sizes and a mix of broadleaved and conifer woodland. The most significant blocks are at Newbound on the northern edge of the character area which extends into the more heavily wooded landscape further northwards. Remnant features of past mining are present in the landscape within the DPZ and those adjoining. The domed woodland-covered landform of former colliery spoil mounds are prominent features in views and these comprise some of the highest points in the locality.

The landscape condition is **GOOD**. Hedgerows are managed and largely intact, although there is some evidence of field boundary removal and fragmentation. The agricultural land is uniformly managed and simple in layout and its characteristic features are intact.



Landscape Strength

This DPZ is a simple agricultural landscape on raised gently rolling and undulating landform. From high ground within the DPZ the nature of views varies; there are open views from the edge of the plateau although some views are restricted by hedgerows and landform. Views are often enclosed by woodland and hedges from the rounded plateau. In the southern part where land gently undulates and slopes towards the fringes of Teversal village views are more open. The plateau and rounded hills of former colliery spoil mounds form the backdrop and feature on the horizon in views from settlements to the south east.

The character of landscape area is **STRONG**. The simple pattern of this agricultural landscape is distinctive and consistent across the character area.

Landscape Condition Poor Moderate Good	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	GOOD <i>Conserve</i>
	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>
	POOR <i>Restore/ Create</i>	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>
	Weak	Moderate	Strong

Landscape strength

The overall landscape strategy is **CONSERVE**.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

- Landscape features*
- Conserve the simple, unified pattern of the rural agricultural landscape
 - Conserve field boundary hedges and encourage restoration of fragmented sections
 - Enhance and create wildlife corridors and links within the network of existing hedgerows and woodland through tree and hedgerow planting schemes
 - Conserve and enhance the diversity of existing woodland through ongoing management. Ensure any new woodland plantations comprise predominantly native broadleaf woodland species
 - Conserve the wooded track which follows the disused railway for recreational purposes and wildlife corridor
 - Conserve the distinctive gentle rolling landform and openness of the raised plateau
 - Conserve the parkland and woodland at Hardwick Hall for its historic landscape value
- Built form*
- Conserve the open countryside character. Built form is not prominent in this landscape and any new developments should be restricted to existing settlements as far as possible. Development generally should avoid adverse effects on open countryside
 - Conserve the existing settlement pattern where rooflines are typically below the crest of hills and ridgelines
 - Conserve the local building style in rural locations and encourage the use of traditional building materials. Any new development should make a positive contribution to the local vernacular on the villages
 - Conserve the nucleated small character of villages
- Other development/ structures in the landscape*
- Conserve the narrow winding character of rural lanes enclosed by road side hedges
 - Conserve views to focal points on the horizon such as former colliery sites at Pleasley and Silverhill

ML023 Skegby Plateau



CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Magnesian Limestone Ridge
LDU Reference: 244
DPZ Reference: ML023



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- An area of farmland on land raising to a broad plateau which extends east beyond the study area
- Land falls sharply at the western edge where the character area adjoins the River Meden valley
- An area of predominantly rural character but influenced by urban elements visible at the edge of Skegby and Sutton in Ashfield
- Land use is primarily arable farming with some pasture and woodland
- On plateau areas fields are large, hedges are typically trimmed and low between fields and adjacent roads
- Field pattern varies throughout the area. It is mostly of modern origin and modified pattern but there is some older, open field patterns at the western edge
- Fields are medium to large in size, regular and geometric in shape. Fields are smaller in the western section where the pattern of enclosure is older
- There are localised variations where there is equestrian land use. Grazing paddocks tend to be smaller, enclosed by timber fences; and regular and geometric in shape
- Fields are typically bounded by low thorn hedges which are generally intact
- Hedges line roadsides and are sometimes raised with narrow or no verges creating 'sunken' lanes
- Woodland is not a strong characteristic of the landscape and there are few hedgerow trees. There are no significant woodlands in the area
- Tree groups are generally restricted to areas close to urban fringes and farms
- Low hedges allow unrestricted views over open fields and towards urban fringes
- Views are sometimes restricted by gently rising landform, some views from lower ground are more enclosed by steeper slopes
- Built development is limited within the area, restricted to a small group of dwellings at the southeastern edge and scattered farms
- The northern fringes of Skegby adjoin the character area at the southern edge and have a localised urbanising influence in adjacent parts of the character area
- Infrequent individual farms within the character area are on high ground.
- The roofline of neighbouring settlements is typically below the height of mature trees and is not a prominent feature in views
- Overhead lines are prominent on high ground and in large open fields
- Rural public footpaths cross the area through open fields on high ground and are evident as breaks within fields of crops



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

A rural area on raised ground to the north of Skegby. There are large arable fields on high relatively flat or gently sloping land bounded by hedges. Overhead electricity lines are prominent on the skyline of the raised plateau and open fields. Land use is predominantly arable farming. Fields are mostly medium to large in size with the majority of arable land being laid out in a modified field pattern. Land to the west of the character area has smaller, medium sized fields although these are also regular in size and shape.

There are no significant woodlands in the character area. Tree cover is limited to the urban fringes and adjacent residential properties and farms. There are few hedgerow trees and infrequent copses or areas of scrub at the base of slopes and around settlements. Intact hedgerows are present across the area.

The area has a sense of openness because of the elevated position, sparse development and lack of tree cover.

The landscape condition is **GOOD**. The arrangement of this agricultural landscape is simple and regular. Features are intact and consistent throughout the character area. Hedgerows and field pattern are managed largely for arable farming although there is some localised variation in field boundary type where there is equestrian use.



Landscape Strength

This DPZ is a plateau adjacent the River Meden valley character area. The nature of views from within the area is varied. Views are unrestricted across large open fields from higher points although sloping and rounded landform restricts long distance views. Views are enclosed where land is more steeply sloping at the edges of the character area. Views into the River Meden valley are possible from the western edge of the character area.

The character strength of the area is **STRONG**. The area has a small number of characteristic features such as plateau landform, field size and shape, trimmed hedges and limited tree cover. These are consistent throughout the area which reinforces the strength of landscape character.

	Good	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	GOOD <i>Conserve</i>
Moderate	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	
Poor	POOR <i>Restore/ Create</i>	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	
	Weak	Moderate	Strong	

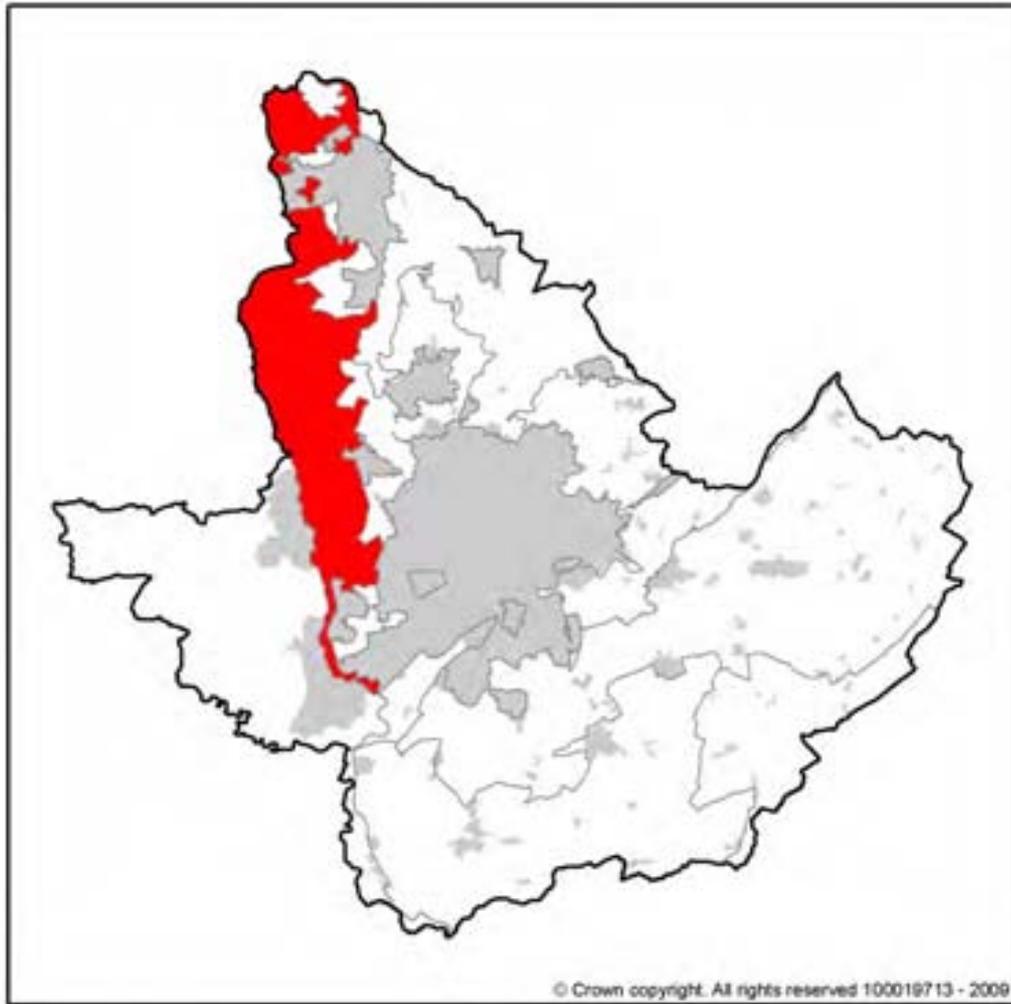
Landscape strength

The overall landscape strategy is **CONSERVE**.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

- Landscape features*
- Conserve the simple and regular field pattern of the rural agricultural landscape
 - Conserve field boundary hedges and encourage restoration of any fragmented sections
 - Enhance and create wildlife corridors to link with existing hedgerows and also increase numbers of hedgerow trees whilst maintaining an open character
 - Conserve the distinctive gentle rolling landform and openness of the raised plateau through careful siting of woodland planting and built form
 - Conserve and enhance tree cover at the edge of settlements, individual farms or dwellings
- Built form*
- Conserve the open countryside character. Built form is not prominent in this landscape and any new developments should be restricted to existing settlements as far as possible. Development generally should avoid adverse effects on open countryside and particularly sloping edges of the plateau
 - Conserve the existing settlement pattern where rooflines are typically below the crest of hills and ridgelines
 - Enhance views of settlement edges and increase tree cover in these areas to minimise effects of development on the landscape
- Other development/ structures in the landscape*
- Conserve the narrow and enclosed character of rural lanes, conserve road- side hedges
 - Conserve long views from high points by ensuring the viewpoint remain open

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COALFIELDS



DPZ within this Regional Character Area:

- NC01** **Erewash River Corridor**
 - NC02** **Babbington Rolling Farmland**
 - NC03** **Selston and Eastwood Urban Fringe Farmland**
 - NC04** **Moorgreen Rolling Woodland**
 - NC05** **Kirkby Coalfield Farmlands/Kirkby Vales**
 - NC06** **Fulwood Restored Works**
 - NC07** **Stanley and Silverhill**
 - NC08** **River Meden Valley**
-

Key Characteristics

- Heavily industrialised region associated with a broad belt of exposed, coal bearing rocks along the eastern fringe of the Pennines;
 - Undulating landform owing to differential weathering of hard sandstones and less resistant shales although a more subdued profile is present to the south due to an absence of large areas of sandstones;
 - Highest point is at Huthwaite where land is just above 200mAOD. The land falls to the north, west and through the limestone escarpment to the east;
 - Soils are stagnogleys and vary from clayey to loamy texture and are frequently waterlogged;
 - Many minor streams draining into the Erewash have created dissected and undulating land with many small hills and ridges and in places steep sided valleys;
 - Erewash is a prominent watercourse within a broad valley and has a strongly meandering course;
 - The landscape has experienced constant change since the industrial revolution with frequent relics of the mining industry such as pit heaps and sprawling urban settlements a reminder of this;
 - Many land uses with a mosaic of farmland, settlements, industrial artefacts, modern commercial areas, derelict land and areas of newly restored land;
 - Remnants of an agricultural past although the landscape is dominated by urban and industrial activity;
 - Frequent large mining settlements with red brick terraces a common feature;
 - Prominent sometimes sprawling urban fringes exert a strong influence over the area;
 - Frequent urban fringe uses particularly close to settlements such as horse paddocks, allotments, playing fields and other leisure uses;
 - Commercial and industrial development is frequent along main roads interconnecting areas;
 - Pockets of more rural character characterised by small vernacular settlements and semi-regular pattern of small to medium fields;
 - Some smaller rural villages remain at Cossall, Bagthorpe, Awsworth, Brinsley, Jackdale and Stanley;
 - Network of narrow winding lanes bordered by intact hedgerows around smaller rural settlements;
 - Tradition of small pastoral farms particularly on wetter soils although arable is present in places;
 - Pockets of permanent pasture and wet grassland and marsh along watercourses; and
 - Areas of restored land characterised by establishing woodland, grassland and, where restored to farmland, a regular pattern of fields bounded by hedgerows.
-

Guidelines and Recommendations

- Conserve and enhance the overall unity and distinctive small-scale character of the landscape;
 - Conserve the landscape pattern formed by small lanes and hedgerows;
 - Conserve the pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing grassland diversity;
 - Identify opportunities for small scale woodland and tree planting;
 - Promote measures for retaining and enhancing the distinctive local character of the mining villages;
 - Restore and enhance the visual continuity of the river corridor through small scale riparian planting;
 - Restore the character of the alluvial grasslands along river corridors;
 - Enhance the diversity of the river corridor through riverside tree planting; and
 - Consider opportunities for creating wet valley woodlands where appropriate.
-

NC01 Erewash River Corridor



CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Nottinghamshire Coalfield

LDU Reference: 30, 63 & 64

DPZ Reference: NC01



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Narrow low alluvial floodplain lying in a broad valley
- The underlying geology comprises shales and layers of sandstone alternating with seams of coal. The river is set within a relatively deep cut valley along the crest of a local anticline in the underlying coal measures which exposed coal seams along the valley sides. The profitable nature of these seams resulted in significant mining activity in the area
- The meandering river channel of the Erewash is not visually prominent although the effects of its presence are clearly seen in the landscape e.g. wetland habitats and marginal bank side vegetation
- Subsidence from coal has led to the formation of several shallow lakes along the river corridor which are largely open although scrub woodland is beginning to establish along the banks
- The Erewash Canal is parallel to the western boundary of the DPZ, originally created to give access to wider markets for coal and textiles
- Urban fringe character which is strongly influenced by surrounding built and industrial development along the valley sides. In certain locations, the river is heavily enclosed by urban development
- Low lying floodplain pasture is frequently used as grazing meadow primarily for horses and cattle
- Arable farming is evident on the valley slopes. Where field boundaries are present these are mainly formed by well managed hedgerows. Field boundaries are often irregular due to influence from the meandering river corridor
- Typical wetland habitats such as reeds, rushes, ponds and open water are characteristic features
- Native woodland dominated by wet woodland species such as alder and willow is characteristic of the area. Young regeneration scrub is also common
- Belts of linear woodland are often used on the valley sides and along the railway corridor to screen and filter views of transport infrastructure, industry, large warehouses and residential expansion
- A railway line runs along the length of the river corridor on a raised embankment
- There are several sewage treatment plants situated within the DPZ which are visible above boundary vegetation
- A large viaduct to the west of Awsworth along the line of a disused railway line provides a historic remnant of the area's industrial past and is prominent in the DPZ



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

A narrow low lying alluvial floodplain heavily enclosed by urban and industrial development and transportation routes. The broad valley sides rising from the valley floor are characterised by pockets of arable farmland, recreational open space and large scale industry and residential settlement. Remnant features of its industrial heritage such as the railway bridge near Awsworth are prominent in the landscape.

The valley floor is frequently used as grazing meadow for horses and cattle which provides a contrast to the surrounding urban setting. Wet woodland habitats along the river valley filter views. Valuable wetland habitats such as reed beds, ponds and open water are frequently distributed along the length of the river forming a valuable ecological resource. The valley channel becomes strongly meandering in places such as at Ilkeston

The area was subject to rapid urban development from the 1830s when the coal industry began a dramatic expansion resulting in a large influx of population, a mass house building programme and the development of ancillary services such as rail routes. The railway today runs along the length of the valley raised in most instances on an embankment making it a prominent feature within the landscape. In particular the large railway sidings at Toton are visible landscape features although screened to some degree by their enclosure by embankments. The river itself is low-lying and not visually prominent.

The landscape condition is **MODERATE**. There is evidence of management of the landscape with consideration towards the sensitive ecological habitats which have a naturalistic appearance. The various urban influences surrounding and within the river corridor e.g. sewage treatment works also have an effect on the overall perception of the landscape.



Landscape Strength

The strength of character of this landscape area is **STRONG**. This DPZ is a narrow alluvial floodplain lying in a broader valley associated with the River Erewash. The sloping sides of the valley and enclosed nature of views are strong characterising features. Woodland filters views along the valley floor. Views to the surrounding urban areas are visible from the valley, these settlements also provide views into the area from towns such as Ilkeston situated on the valley sides. There are views into the area from the elevated Nottingham Canal. Further glimpses can also be seen when crossing over bridges spanning the valley.

The wetland habitats and scrub woodland are distinctive features of the valley floor. Features associated with former industrial use, such as the viaduct, also give a strong sense of place.

	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	GOOD <i>Conserve</i>
Good			
Moderate	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>
Poor	POOR <i>Restore/Create</i>	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>
	Weak	Moderate	Strong
	Landscape strength		

The overall landscape strategy is to **CONSERVE AND ENHANCE**

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

- Conserve the distinctive flood plain character of the river valley
- Conserve and enhance the enclosed feel of the river corridor along the valley sides
- Conserve the predominantly pasture grazing on the valley floor
- Conserve and enhance the long views along the valley by managing the distribution of woodland to ensure views are not obscured
- Conserve and enhance the diversity of wetland habitats which add visual interest to the area
- Conserve and enhance the areas of linear woodland and riparian vegetation along the river corridor

Built form

- Ensure that further built development does not affect the character of the valley and suitable mitigations measures are put in place for larger developments, such as woodland planting to soften and screen it

Other development/ structures in the landscape

- Conserve historic features associated with the former use of the area such as the viaduct railway bridge near Awsworth.

NC03 Selston and Eastwood urban fringe farmland



CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Nottinghamshire
Coalfield
LDU reference: 227
DPZ Reference: NC03



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- The area has a strongly undulating landform
- An artificial rise in the landform created by the restoration of a former mining spoil heap is prominent in the west of the area
- The coal measures underlying the area have had a significant impact on the land use in the past, which is still visible in the restored landscapes and coal mining relics
- Small streams transect the area and have created shallow valleys where they have eroded softer rocks
- There are many settlements in the area, giving the DPZ an urban fringe character
- Land use is agricultural, including a mix of pastoral and arable farming
- Field sizes are medium to large and geometrically shaped
- The field pattern is predominantly a modern, modified pattern although there is some evidence of the former smaller, narrow, linear field pattern to the north of Bagthorpe and adjacent to the settlement edges
- Hedgerows commonly border the fields and are generally well maintained, although some are fragmented or have been lost through field size expansion
- There are no large blocks of woodland in this area, although there are views to larger plantation woodlands in adjoining DPZs
- Mature linear woodland follows the streams
- Small clumps of woodland and frequent hedgerow trees combine to give the area a partially wooded appearance
- New woodland planting is a feature on restored mineral workings which will increase the woodland cover in the area as they mature
- There are frequent infrastructure routes: A, B and smaller roads criss-cross the area and overhead lines are visible on the skyline
- Settlements are a frequent feature of this DPZ and include Eastwood, Brinsley, Underwood, Jacksdale and Selston, although views to the urban fringes are often filtered by hedgerows and undulations in the landform
- Settlements have strong associations with the mining past of the area and characteristically include rows of red brick terraced housing
- Modern settlement expansion and ribbon development along the roads has contributed to a strong urban influence on the area
- Red brick properties with a modern style are common on the settlement edges
- There are some large, red brick farm houses scattered through the landscape
- Eastwood Hall, Brinsley Hall, Wansley Hall and Selston Hall are all features of the landscape although Eastwood
- Views are medium distance over the patchwork of agricultural land and settlement fringes
- There are longer views towards the west as the landform falls towards the River Erewash valley
- The mining heritage associated with this area is clear in the landscape, and includes the Brinsley Headstocks and Durban House Heritage Centre, which was formally the offices of the mine owners
- The DPZ has a strong connection to DH Lawrence and the mining landscape formed a key component in his literary works; there are heritage trails based on his life and works through the area



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS																													
Condition																													
<p>This DPZ is a densely settled landscape with prominent remnants of its industrial heritage associated mining. It is characterised by sprawling settlements, although a significant proportion of the land continues to be used for agricultural production. The area is associated with outcropping coal measures which give an undulating landform, drained by numerous small rivers and streams. Many areas of farmland are surrounded on two sides by built development but the urban edge is often filtered by dense hedgerows or the undulating landform.</p> <p>The heavy, poor draining soils have tended to constrain agricultural improvement and consequently pastoral farming is characteristic of the area. Fields are semi-regular and often enclosed by thick, species rich hedgerows, although the restored land commonly has a more regular field pattern and single species hedgerows, or wire fencing. The original field pattern and rural settlement pattern has largely been altered by mining related development.</p> <p>Woodland is infrequent in this DPZ. There are small broadleaved woodlands scattered through the landscape and woodland and dense riparian vegetation follows the line of the streams. In combination with hedgerow trees, these features combine to give a partially wooded character.</p> <p>The landscape condition is MODERATE. There is some evidence of hedgerow fragmentation and the use of wire fencing instead of hedgerows. The restoration of the coal mining landscapes has improved the condition of the landscape and this will improve further as the planting matures.</p>																													
Landscape Strength																													
<p>The undulating topography gives some long views over the patchwork of agricultural fields and settlements. There are views over the area from the east, as the land rises beyond the Ereshash valley. From within the area there are views to the large plantation woodland to the west of the DPZ and to the surrounding settlements, often on ridgelines, such as Selston, Underwood, Bagthorpe and Westwood.</p> <p>The strength of character is MODERATE. The agricultural land has few distinctive features and the sprawled settlement pattern does not contribute to the sense of place. However, the landscape history is still evident in the mining influences and relics contribute to the sense of place.</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="1002 1108 1404 1400"> <tr> <td></td> <td>MODERATE <i>Enhance</i></td> <td>MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i></td> <td>GOOD <i>Conserve</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moderate</td> <td>POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i></td> <td>MODERATE <i>Enhance</i></td> <td>MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poor</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>POOR <i>Restore/Create</i></td> <td>POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i></td> <td>MODERATE <i>Enhance</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Weak</td> <td>Moderate</td> <td>Strong</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Landscape strength</td> </tr> </table> <p>The overall landscape strategy is ENHANCE</p>		MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	GOOD <i>Conserve</i>	Good				Moderate	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	Poor					POOR <i>Restore/Create</i>	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>		Weak	Moderate	Strong		Landscape strength		
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	Landscape strength																												
LANDSCAPE ACTIONS																													
<p><i>Landscape features</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the pattern of hedged fields • Enhance the hedgerow pattern by replacement planting where hedges are becoming fragmented • Enhance the woodland cover through the area by identifying opportunities for small-scale woodland planting, especially on settlement fringes • Enhance the restored coal mining landscapes to ensure they become successfully integrated into the wider landscape through management of the plantation woodland • Conserve the dense, species rich hedgerows which border the pastoral fields and enhance the single species thorn hedgerows on the restored land • Conserve areas of woodland along streams and enhance these features with planting where appropriate • Conserve and enhance the remaining pastoral landscapes through non-intensive management to ensure they retain their present character <p><i>Built form</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the distinctive local character of the mining villages such as the uniform rows of red brick terraces • Enhance the urban edges through identifying opportunities for hedgerow or tree planting to filter views to the urban fringe • Restrict further urban edge expansion and promote measures to achieve a better integration of settlements into the wider landscape through planting of small groups of hedgerow trees and careful placement of built development to reduce its prominence in the landscape <p><i>Other development/ structures in the landscape</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the mining heritage in the landscape, such as the Brinsley Headstocks and Durban House which contribute to the literary associations to D.H. Lawrence 																													

NC04 Moorgreen Rolling Woodland



CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Nottinghamshire Coalfield

LDU reference: 380

DPZ Reference: NC04



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- A rolling landform which includes enclosed valleys, steep slopes and wooded plateaus
- Moorgreen Reservoir is a significant feature in the centre of this DPZ
- There are a number of small streams flowing through the area, along the enclosed valleys
- The area has a rural character
- Land use is agricultural with arable farming on the valley slopes and plateaus and pasture land along the valley floor
- Pockets of farmland are nestled between large woodland blocks
- Field sizes are larger on the slopes and plateaus and are smaller and narrower along the valleys
- The historic field pattern has mostly been modified or modernised in this area, although there are some pockets of fields with historic enclosure still evident
- The smaller fields in the valley floors often have dense, well maintained hedgerows, while the larger arable fields have a high number of fragmented hedges
- In the north of the area there is evidence of hedgerow removal; lines of isolated trees passing through large fields are the only remnant of the former field boundaries
- This is a well wooded DPZ and includes woodland belts, smaller clumps of deciduous woodland and large plantation woodlands
- Coniferous and mixed woodland blocks are a significant feature in the area and include High Park Wood, Morning Springs and Willey Wood
- Woodland is common on the ridgelines and tree belts often form the skyline
- Dense riparian vegetation and woodland borders the streams
- The village of Greasley lies in the area and the church tower is a distinctive feature, visible through the trees
- The spire of St Michael and All Angels Church at Underwood is prominent on the horizon
- Large, red brick farmhouses and smaller farm workers cottages are dispersed through this rural landscape
- Historic sites in the area include the remains of Greasley Castle, Beauvale Priory and Felley Priory
- There are long and open views across the rolling landscape from the ridgelines
- From the ridgelines views extend over the reservoir and the wooded slopes, and there are some long views to the settlement of Eastwood to the south and Underwood to the north
- Views from the valleys are over short distances as they are channelled or restricted by the landform, giving the landscape an enclosed character



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

This DPZ is characterised by a rolling landform and a high woodland content. It has a rural character and there are few urban influences. Views are long and open from the high points, becoming more enclosed within the valleys where views are channelled by landform and woodland. Small streams transect the area and Moorgreen Reservoir is a distinctive feature.

Land use is predominantly agricultural. There are small areas of rough grassland and pasture in the valleys, where horse grazing is common. A long, narrow, irregular field pattern is characteristic in these areas. Hedgerows are scrubby but generally well maintained and there are sections of post and wire fencing. On the valley slopes and plateaus arable farming is predominant and the field pattern is larger but still irregular in shape. The hedgerows are often in poor condition, low, fragmented and scrubby around the arable fields. There is evidence of hedgerow removal in the landscape.

Woodland is a significant feature of this DPZ. There are large blocks of plantation woodland, mostly coniferous. There are also large areas of deciduous woodland bordering the reservoir. Woodland belts follow the streams and woodland is also common along the ridgelines. The larger deciduous woodland blocks, such as High Park Wood, are areas of historic woodland.

The condition of the area is **MODERATE**. The woodland is well managed and the plantation woodland is well integrated into the landscape. The hedgerows are occasionally very fragmented or have been removed which weakens the landscape condition. The replacement of hedgerows with timber or post and wire fencing also has an adverse effect on landscape condition.



Landscape Strength

This DPZ has a wide zone of visual influence. The wooded slopes are distinctive features in the landscape and are visible from the surrounding DPZs. From within the area, there are long views from the high points over the rolling landscape and woodland, with some views to Eastwood on the lower, flatter landform to the south west of the area. The church spire at Underwood is a prominent feature on the horizon to the north. The church tower at Greasley is locally prominent on approaches to the village.

The character of the DPZ is **STRONG**. The extensive woodland and reservoir are distinctive features in the landscape. The wooded farmland and the small streams through the distinctively enclosed valleys contribute to the sense of place. There are few urbanising influences or discordant features to deteriorate landscape character.

	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	GOOD <i>Conserve</i>
Good			
Moderate	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>
Poor	POOR <i>Restore/Create</i>	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>
	Weak	Moderate	Strong

Landscape strength

The overall landscape strategy is **conserve and enhance**

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

- Landscape features*
- Conserve the wooded character of the landscape through continued careful management of the plantation woodland, including sensitive felling and replanting schemes
 - Conserve the wooded ridgelines which are a distinctive feature
 - Conserve the historic deciduous woodland blocks e.g. High Park Wood
 - Conserve and enhance the woodland belts along the streams through replanting of ageing trees
 - Enhance the condition of the hedgerows through replanting where they are fragmented
 - Enhance the landscape pattern through replacement planting of hedgerows which have been lost where possible
 - Conserve the character of the farmland through protection of existing hedgerows and resisting further field size expansion
 - Conserve the condition of the reservoir as a significant landscape feature and a popular recreational facility
 - Conserve historic patterns of enclosure along the watercourses and in the west of the area
- Built Form*
- Conserve the rural character through concentrating new development in existing settlements
 - Conserve the rural village character of Greasley by ensuring any infill or extensions to buildings reflect the style and scale of village buildings
 - Conserve the distinctive character of the red brick farmhouses and farm workers cottages by ensuring they remain isolated in the landscape and by limiting the scale and number of farm outbuildings expansions
 - Conserve and enhance settlement fringes to ensure they remain indistinct in the landscape

NC05 Kirkby Coalfield Farmlands/Kirkby Vales



CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Nottinghamshire Coalfields
LDU Reference: 224
DPZ Reference: NC05



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- The area has a strongly undulating landform
- A semi-rural character; urban elements are prominent surrounding the area and have an influence on the local landscape although on lower ground and between hills their effects are reduced
- Land use is agricultural, including a mix of pastoral and arable farming
- Field sizes are medium to large and geometrically shaped
- The field pattern is predominantly a modern, modified pattern
- Hedgerows commonly border the fields and are generally well maintained, although some are fragmented or have been lost through field size expansion. Hedgerows typically contain trees
- Field pattern in places sweeps down the slopes and is a distinctive feature
- Field boundaries are mostly hedgerows on the slopes with some timber fences
- Woodland is typically linear and follows the base of slopes, watercourses and a dismantled railway
- Linear woodland at The Dumbles to the south of the A38 is a strong feature
- Enclosed views on low ground between hills with extensive panoramic views from upper slopes to the south east.
- Industrial buildings and retail village along the A38 corridor are prominent features in views north
- Built form is typically restricted to scattered farms although the area extends to the urban fringes of Kirkby in Ashfield to the east which is on higher ground and has a localised influence on character
- Infrequent individual farms within the character area often on the slopes or high ground
- No strongly distinctive building style although red brick and render are common building materials
- Overhead lines are prominent features on the skyline
- Major roads are prominent, M1 at the western edge and A38 to the north



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

Undulating and rolling semi-rural landscape with arable fields on slopes. Linear woodland is common to the west of Kirkby in Ashfield. The landscape comprises predominantly rural agricultural land although it is influenced by urban elements in the surrounding areas which are prominent from view points on undulating land.

Land use is a mix of woodland, arable farming and pasture. Fields are mostly medium to large in size with the majority of arable farming of a modern field pattern. Field shape is often irregular with meandering boundaries following landform contours.

Woodland is typically linear following the line of a watercourse at The Dumbles and disused railway through the area. There is a substantial area of young plantation woodland adjacent the A38; its northern edge is planted in regular field sized blocks and provides some screening to the road. Other woodland includes smaller copses around farms and settlement edges. Hedgerow trees and hedgerows are present throughout the area.

The landscape condition is **MODERATE**. Hedgerows are generally intact and well managed, although woodland at The Dumbles seems overgrown and unmanaged in places. The agricultural land is managed largely for modern farming and there is some evidence of field boundary hedge removal to increase field size, although irregular field boundaries following landform remain features of this DPZ.



Landscape Strength

This area is notably undulating and rolling which creates channelled and enclosed views on low ground in a narrow valley and more extensive wide views from high ground. Upper slopes and high ground are prominent in views from the surrounding areas. Large buildings within industrial and retail development are notable in the background of views northwards.

The character strength of this area is **MODERATE**. Landform is distinctive and a consistent feature in the landscape. The landuse pattern of agricultural land is also consistent with scattered individual farms. Linear woodland is a significant landscape.

	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	GOOD <i>Conserve</i>
Good			
Moderate	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>
Poor			
	POOR <i>Restore/ Create</i>	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>
	Weak	Moderate	Strong
	Landscape strength		

The overall landscape strategy is **ENHANCE**.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

- Landscape features*
 - Conserve the distinctive pattern of undulating land with linear woodlands
 - Conserve the irregular field patterns following landform
 - Conserve 'natural' woodlands and increase species diversity of any new woodlands. New woodlands should primarily comprise native broadleaf species
 - Conserve and enhance ongoing management of The Dumbles woodland and watercourse as significant landscape features
 - Conserve hedgerows and encourage infill planting within gaps
 - Enhance woodland and hedgerow planting adjacent to road corridors to provide long term screening
 - Conserve the undeveloped nature of the majority of the area and seek to reduce the effects of surrounding urbanising features by the establishment of linear woodland and reinstatement of hedgerows and hedgerow trees
- Built form*
 - Conserve the pattern of scattered farmsteads and outbuildings throughout the landscape. Any new agricultural developments should fit within the existing development pattern and avoid prominent locations on high ground
- Other development/ structures in the landscape*
 - Enhance views north by introducing woodland/tree cover to filter views of new industrial development

NC06 Fulwood Restored Works



CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Nottinghamshire Coalfield

LDU Reference: 223

DPZ Reference: NC06



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- A relatively small enclosed area of undulating land
- Steeply sloping in places and rising to a broad plateau of partly restored land
- The DPZ largely comprises an area of former industry and landfill site
- A small watercourse and marshy ground is present at the base of slopes
- Has an urban fringe character and is influenced by adjoining development
- Land use is a mixture of rough grassland, farmland, vacant and derelict land and young plantation woodland
- Farmland is often on sloping land close to development
- The central part of the area comprises a fenced enclosure with some restored grassland, young plantation woodland blocks and spoil heaps
- Field pattern is mostly disrupted by former industrial use although pockets of older field pattern is evident at the outer edges where fields sweep down and across the slopes, forming a distinctive feature
- Field boundaries are predominantly mature hedgerows with infrequent hedgerow trees
- Woodland is typically young plantations on restored land and focussed around the perimeters
- More natural areas of scrub and trees are present along the base of slopes and adjacent to ditches and watercourse
- Development adjoins the character area on all sides and is prominent on the rising ground beyond the DPZ
- Views from paths on lower ground are restricted by rising landform while extensive panoramic views west are possible from higher ground
- No significant areas of built development in the DPZ although surrounding buildings are prominent in most views
- The prominent roofline of the modern housing on higher ground is visible on the settlement edge
- Industrial development to the south west is prominent in views from adjacent slopes
- Overhead lines are features on low ground



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

An area of varied uses at the western edge of Sutton in Ashfield and bordered by development on all sides with an overriding urban fringe character. Lower lying land is predominantly at the perimeters of the DPZ and is typically farmland, while the central part rises to a plateau. The uppermost part of the raised ground comprises largely rough grassland, spoil and bare disturbed ground which is enclosed by fencing and is a prominent unnatural feature in the landscape. Rough grassland and blocks of young woodland are also present.

Fields are medium to small and irregular in shape, sometimes due to hedgerow removal. Field pattern is modified and of modern origin. Fields are typically bounded by mature native hedgerows which are often tall and contain very few trees.

Substantial blocks of plantation woodland are prominent on restored sloping land typically adjacent to development. Woodland mixes comprise predominantly broadleaf tree and shrub species. Other vegetation includes smaller copses at the base of slopes and waterside trees or scrub.

The overall condition of this landscape is **POOR**. Hedgerows and woodland lack management in places and due to industrial/mining intervention, field pattern is largely absent. Where field pattern remains it is often fragmented.



Landscape Strength

This DPZ is prominent within the surrounding area because of its raised and disturbed landform resulting from its use as landfill. From within the DPZ and the surrounding area there are views of slopes bare ground. Built development and urbanising elements are frequent and prominent in views of the surrounding area although limited to a recycling centre within the area to the north. Industrial development is prominent in views to the west on neighbouring land.

The character of the area is **WEAK**. Landscape features are mixed and where elements are unified they are typically heavily influenced by man such as restored landform and plantation woodland. However, future landscape restoration is anticipated to continue across the whole area and in time woodland blocks will mature and become significant features. Consequently the character of this DPZ will evolve and improve.

	Good	MODERATE - GOOD Conserve and Enhance	GOOD Conserve
Moderate	POOR - MODERATE Enhance and Restore	MODERATE Enhance	MODERATE - GOOD Conserve and Enhance
Poor	POOR Restore/Create	POOR - MODERATE Enhance and Restore	MODERATE Enhance
	Weak	Moderate	Strong
		Landscape strength	

The overall landscape strategy is RESTORE or CREATE.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

- Landscape features*
- Conserve remnant older field patterns within the DPZ such as those with a regular geometric pattern in the south of the DPZ
 - Restore field boundaries where appropriate to make links with existing pattern at the base of the slopes
 - Conserve the grazing land on lower slopes at the edge of Sutton
 - Restore upper slopes and derelict land; this should include woodland blocks, hedgerows and individual trees
 - Conserve developing plantation woodland and create new areas of woodland
 - Conserve and augment the diversity of broadleaf woodland plantations on hills
 - Create public viewpoints at highpoints and along ridgelines to allow wide panoramic views over the surrounding areas
 - Restore field hedgerows and encourage infill planting within gaps
 - Enhance and restore areas of rough grassland and riparian scrub adjacent to the watercourse at the base of slopes
 - Create new field boundaries following former field patterns on restored land
- Built form*
- Reduce views to large scale industrial development from within the character area by providing screen planting on lower slopes.
 - Reduce the prominence of buildings on ridgelines by interspersing with tree planting along residential roads

NC07 Stanley and Silverhill



CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Nottinghamshire Coalfield

LDU Reference: 288, 289

DPZ Reference: NC07



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Strongly undulating ground with prominent hills and ridges interspersed with steep narrow valleys
- Distinctive woodland covered domed hill, on a restored spoil heap at former Silverhill colliery
- Largely agricultural landscape of rural character where urban elements and villages are infrequent although urban influences extend into the area at Fackley
- Land use is a mixture of woodland and agriculture with a recreational area at Silverhill
- Open space at Silverhill comprises predominantly rough grassland and plantation woodland
- Agricultural land extends throughout the area on slopes and rolling fields; pasture and grazing is often at the base of slopes close to small watercourses
- Field pattern is mostly of modern origin although pockets of older field systems such as semi regular field patterns and patterns reflecting open fields are present
- Field pattern in places sweeps down the slopes and is a distinctive feature
- Field boundaries are mostly hedgerows and often enclose narrow lanes on raised banks
- Woodland is generally on high ground although there are smaller pockets of woodland on lower ground as establishing scrub at settlement fringes
- Prominent extensive woodland plantation covers the slopes and high ground at Silverhill. Woodland cover increases on steep scarp slopes to the north and around Hardwick Hall
- Rides and areas of open land interspersed between plantation woodland and Silverhill
- Enclosed views on low ground between hills
- Settlements of Stanley and Fackley are small and on lower ground between hills. Other built development is typically restricted to scattered farms
- Infrequent individual farms within the DPZ. Older buildings are distinctive stone built farmhouses, cottages and barns
- Extensive 360° panoramic views from a viewpoint at the top of Silverhill colliery mound
- Parked caravans at Fackley are prominent in views from slopes at Silverhill open space
- Hardwick Hall is a prominent feature on wooded slopes and parkland in views north



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

Distinctive undulating and rolling landform interspersed with woodland and farmland on slopes. An area associated in part with coal mining and land at the former Silverhill colliery has been reclaimed as public open space. The re-modelled landform of the colliery spoil mound is a prominent feature in the landscape and offers opportunities to experience wide panoramic views in all directions.

Land use is a mix of plantation woodland, arable farming and pasture. Fields are predominantly medium to large in size with the majority of farmland being a modern field pattern. Pockets of fields reflecting open field system and semi-regular geometric patterns are present. Older field patterns are generally used for pasture.

Woodland comprises large blocks of conifer and broadleaf plantation at Silverhill. In other areas woodland largely comprises broadleaf species. There are smaller scattered copses and linear woodlands at the base of slopes and alongside small watercourses. Hedgerow trees are infrequent. Intact hedgerows are present across the area. Pockets of regenerating scrub are often around village fringes or on the base of slopes.

The landscape condition is **GOOD**. Hedgerows and woodland are well managed, although there is some localised evidence of field boundary fragmentation. Field pattern is interrupted where land has been restored from colliery. This is a designed landscape with new features and managed for recreational use. The agricultural land is well managed and features are intact; there is evidence of historical field patterns indicating minimal alteration to the landscape.



Landscape Strength

This DPZ comprises distinctive undulating landform with prominent hills. The hill at Silverhill is the most significant and is visible over long distance from the surrounding area and it often forms a backdrop to views. From high ground within the DPZ there are open expansive views. Wooded slopes continue north towards the historic landscape surrounding Hardwick Hall. This area has a relationship with land further north and outside the study area. Urban elements are infrequent in the landscape and views of settlements are often restricted by landform. Building types are mixed, stone and red brick are used as materials in some older buildings including agricultural barns.

The strength of character of this area is **MODERATE**. The hills are a distinctive and consistent feature. The pattern of arable, pasture and woodland is also consistent with limited urban influences.

		MODERATE - GOOD Conserve and Enhance	GOOD Conserve
Good	MODERATE Enhance	MODERATE - GOOD Conserve and Enhance	GOOD Conserve
Moderate	POOR - MODERATE Enhance and Restore	MODERATE Enhance	MODERATE - GOOD Conserve and Enhance
Poor	POOR Restore/Create	POOR - MODERATE Enhance and Restore	MODERATE Enhance
	Weak	Moderate	Strong
	Landscape strength		

The overall landscape strategy is **CONSERVE** and **ENHANCE**.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

- Landscape features*
- Conserve the distinctive pattern of hills with large blocks of woodland on high ground
 - Conserve the older field patterns such as those reflecting open systems and the semi regular patterns
 - Conserve the public open space and ensure appropriate ongoing management of the developing landscape at Silverhill
 - Conserve field patterns which sweep down the hills
 - Ensure any new conifer planting includes belts of broadleaf woodland to increase species diversity and integration
 - Conserve hedgerows and encourage infill planting within gaps rather than erection of timber fencing
 - Conserve areas of rough grassland and scrub where present at the base of slopes and adjacent watercourses
- Built form*
- Conserve the undeveloped character of the area. Any future changes should reflect existing development patterns and be primarily focussed within settlement areas
 - Avoid development on high ground and ridgelines
 - Where appropriate encourage the use of red brick and stone in new buildings and extensions
 - Enhance the fringes of Fackley to reduce urban influence on the landscape in this area through woodland and hedgerow tree planting
- Other development/ structures in the landscape*
- Conserve the narrow enclosed character of rural lanes with channelled views between hills

NC08 River Meden Valley



CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Nottinghamshire Coalfield

LDU Reference: 288, 278

DPZ Reference: NC08

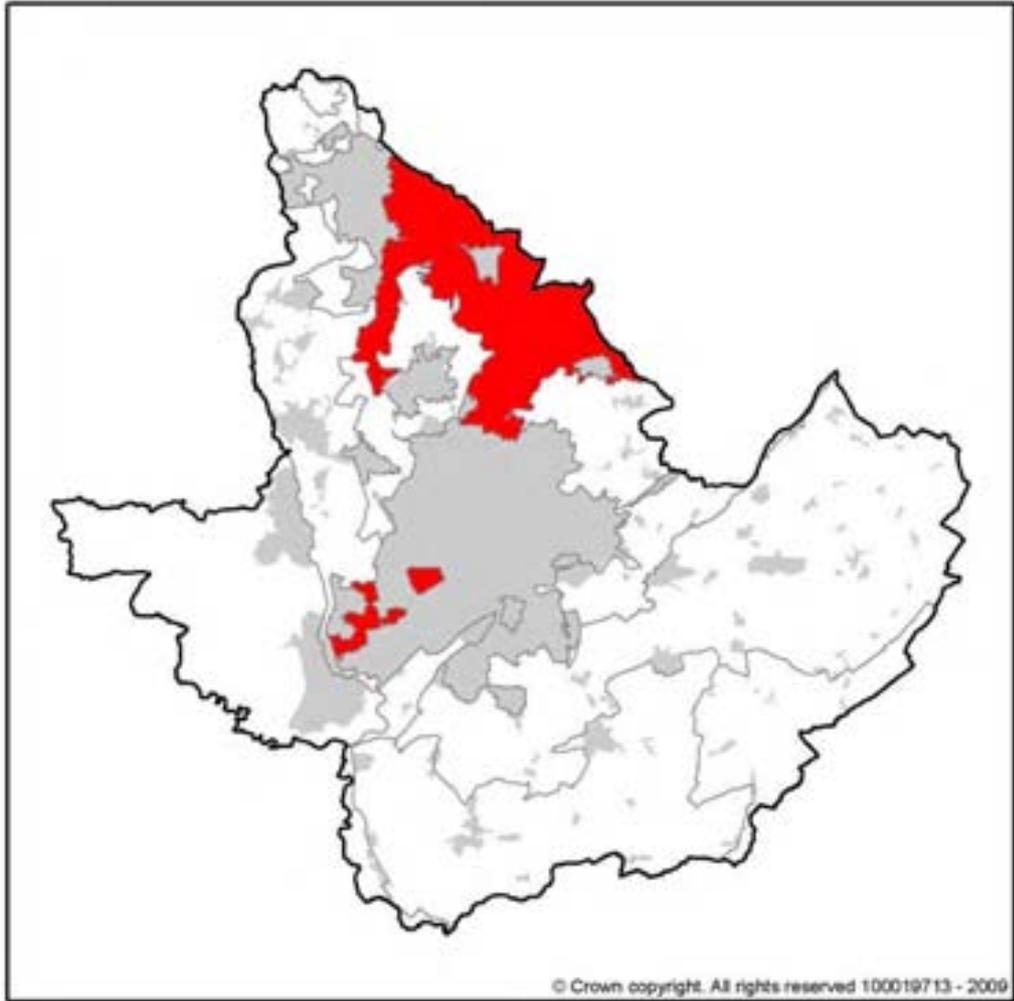


CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Gently sloping narrow valley landform
- Encompasses the River Meden and minor tributaries at the base of the valley. The watercourses are localised features although often not visible in the landscape
- Predominantly rural character in the north but extends to urban fringes in the southern part of the DPZ
- Raised linear feature of the railway embankment with scrub woodland is a feature through the area
- Land use is a mixture of arable and pasture with some pockets of woodland
- Field pattern is typically irregular and not well defined in places. There are large open fields on slopes and in places they extend down the valley slopes and boundaries follow contours along the valley
- Horse grazing land is present throughout the area which is enclosed by a mixture of timber and electrified fences and hedgerows. Grazing land extends up to the watercourse edge
- Small woodlands are present; these are prominent when at the top of valley slopes and are often linear
- Woodland and scrub-lined watercourses and disused railway lines form prominent linear features in the landscape
- Built development is sparse and typically restricted to scattered farmsteads and the urban fringes of Stanton Hill and Skegby
- Built form is not prominent in the northern part of the character area and where present it is typically on lower valley slopes with only rooflines visible. Further south it is more frequent and visible at the edge of settlements however sloping valley sides tend to channel and restrict views of development from within the DPZ
- Buildings with red pantile roofs are a common feature. In contrast, farm buildings at Newbound are typically built from pale coloured limestone
- Older buildings are notably constructed from limestone and have red tiled roofs. Limestone walls are an infrequent localised feature.
- Small clusters of buildings, cottages and farmhouses are typical to the north of the area
- Scattered farmsteads and small villages of Stanley and Teversal
- Enclosed views on low ground; there are a few opportunities for long views along more open sections of the valley
- B roads cross the character area at Skegby and Stanton Hill and have an urbanising effect on these areas. There are many narrow country lanes which are sunken in places and often enclosed by hedges



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS																									
Condition																									
<p>This DPZ is a shallow valley associated with the River Meden, with arable, pasture farmland and pockets of woodland. Urbanising elements are infrequent in the northern part of the character area. The southern part of the character area extends up to the urban fringes of settlements at Skegby and Stanton Hill and except for development at the northern edge of Stanton Hill, built development predominantly comprises individual properties and farms.</p> <p>Land use is a mix of woodland, arable and pasture farmland with areas close to farmsteads and the urban fringe used as paddocks for grazing horses. Fields pattern is mixed and mostly irregular although there are some localised areas of regular fields. Field size is varied tending to follow the shape of landform</p> <p>Woodland is predominantly linear following watercourses and disused railway lines although there are also small pockets of scrub and woodland throughout the area. Hedgerows are frequent across the area and typically adjacent to roads. Pockets of regenerating scrub are present at village fringes and base of slopes.</p> <p>The landscape condition is MODERATE. Hedgerows generally are well managed where present although there is some field boundary fragmentation. Woodland is typically unmanaged and 'scrubby'. In some areas hedgerows have been replaced by timber fencing. Grazing land on urban fringes is often enclosed by thicket and scrub rather than managed hedges, which makes it appear slightly untidy.</p>																									
Landscape Strength																									
<p>Views are typically restricted over short distances from within the valley. The sloping valley sides enclose and channel views along the valley. Scrub and trees alongside watercourses and on valley slopes further channel views. Long views are possible along the valley on higher ground and where tree and shrub cover is sparse.</p> <p>The strength of character of this landscape area is MODERATE. The sloping sides of the valley and enclosed nature of views are strong characterising features. Grassland interspersed with scrubby linear woodland is also a unifying feature throughout the character area. Increasing urban influences weaken the character to the south of the area.</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="1002 1153 1404 1444"> <tr> <td></td> <td>MODERATE <i>Enhance</i></td> <td>MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i></td> <td>GOOD <i>Conserve</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good</td> <td>POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i></td> <td style="border: 2px solid black;">MODERATE <i>Enhance</i></td> <td>MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moderate</td> <td>POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i></td> <td>POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i></td> <td>MODERATE <i>Enhance</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poor</td> <td>POOR <i>Restore/Create</i></td> <td>POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i></td> <td>MODERATE <i>Enhance</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Weak</td> <td>Moderate</td> <td>Strong</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Landscape strength</td> </tr> </table> <p>The overall landscape strategy is ENHANCE.</p>		MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	GOOD <i>Conserve</i>	Good	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	MODERATE - GOOD <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	Moderate	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>	Poor	POOR <i>Restore/Create</i>	POOR - MODERATE <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	MODERATE <i>Enhance</i>		Weak	Moderate	Strong		Landscape strength		
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	Weak	Moderate	Strong																						
	Landscape strength																								
LANDSCAPE ACTIONS																									
<p><i>Landscape features</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the distinctive enclosed character of the river valley • Conserve the older field patterns where they remain and the irregular patterns on slopes • Conserve the predominantly pasture and grazing land uses on steeper slopes • Conserve field patterns which sweep down the hills • Conserve and enhance long views along the valley through careful management of existing vegetation • Conserve the existing level of woodland and ensure that any new planting includes predominantly broadleaf species; this planting should be small in scale, along the base of slopes and should not interrupt long views • Conserve hedgerows and encourage infill planting within gaps rather than erection of timber fencing • Conserve areas of rough grassland where present on steeper scarp slopes <p><i>Built form</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the rural character of the area, any new developments should fit within the existing pattern building density and styles of existing villages • Conserve the vernacular character of buildings particularly in more rural areas • Around Newbound encourage the use of limestone and red tile roofs for new buildings and extensions • Ensure that any new development avoids high ground at valley sides to reduce its visibility • Enhance hedgerow and tree planting in the south of the area to screen views to the urban fringe and reinforce the rural character, reducing the differences in character between the north and the south 																									



DPZ within this Regional Character Area:

- SH060** **Beeston and Stapleford Urban Fringe**
- SH061** **Bramcote Wooded Hills**
- SH062** **Wollaton Park**

Key Characteristics

- This Regional Character Area has a wide and diverse range of landscapes including the heartland of the historic Sherwood Forest and extensive parklands and large estates;
 - It is associated with a broad belt of Permo-Triassic sandstones although this narrows and is faulted to the south along the Trent Valley around Stapleford;
 - The Permo-Triassic sandstone contains two formations: Lenton Formation (bright red, fine-grained sandstone with local clayey bands) and Sherwood Sandstone (brownish-red, coarse grained sandstones with extensive quartzite pebble beds).
 - Pebble beds and red sandstones are frequently exposed in cuttings, sandpits and natural bluffs;
 - The loose-textured nature of sandstones gives rise to a highly porous dry ground surface;
 - Markedly undulating landform;
 - Few rivers and landscape characterised by a general absence of surface drainage
 - River valleys where present include alluvial corridors which open out to marshy flats in some places;
 - Where present wetland and water features contrast strongly with the dryness of the plateaus which separate the river valleys;
 - Past coal mining operations have had a significant influence on character through the presence of mining settlements and former pits;
 - Ravenshead is a distinctive settlement built on former 'waste' (heathy woodland); it is now a large commuter settlement characterised by large houses set within well-wooded grounds;
 - Restored pit heaps are notable in the landscape often having an engineered landform and establishing woodland. As planting matures the woodland content of the area will increase;
 - Mostly arable farming with a regular geometric field pattern. Boundaries are low regularly trimmed hedgerows. There is a general absence of hedgerow trees within these landscapes;
 - Bracken, gorse and broom in hedgerows contributes to the impression of a dry and sometimes arid landscape;
 - Extensive plantations of Corsican and Scots pine are a feature. In places broadleaved woodland belts have been planted to soften the edges;
 - Along woodland fringes acidic grassland, bracken, gorse, broom and small amounts of heather have established;
 - Woodland and heath reflect the formerly extensive forest and 'waste';
 - Broadleaved woodlands are generally smaller in size and regularly distributed across the landscape. The largest concentration is to the east of Newstead Abbey and around Birklands and Billhaugh;
 - Ancient stag oaks are particular features within this landscape;
 - The undulating landform allows views of varying distance, with long views from the highest ground and contained views along the dry valleys;
 - A strong sense of wooded enclosure and frequent views of wooded skylines; and
 - A contrasting pattern of open farmland and more enclosed woodland areas.
-

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;
 - Provide woodland planting to soften urban edges;
 - Conserve the patchwork of more enclosed woodland and more open farmland;
 - Encourage the planting of hedgerow trees within open farmland areas;
 - Conserve hedgerows as the main form of enclosure around fields;
 - Strengthen the broadleaved character of plantation fringes, ensuring any alterations or new plantation woodlands contain broadleaved species along their fringes;
 - Conserve the views of wooded skylines;
 - Ensure restoration of any remaining pits or industrial land includes woodland planting to integrate into the surrounding landscape;
 - New woodland planting should contain oak-birch woodland species; and
 - Conserve the landscape features such as acidic woodland, gorse, broom and heathland, where present, along the fringe of woodlands.
-

S PZ 5 Newstead Wooded Estatelands

PHOTOGRAPH



CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Sherwood
 Policy Zone: S PZ 5
 Landscape Character Parcel: S13

Condition

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

CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Gently undulating topography
- Improved permanent pasture
- Medium, geometric arable fields
- Mature hedgerows with trees
- Deciduous woodland with a Rhododendron under storey in places
- Large detached residential properties set in woodland, with stone boundary walls to road frontage
- Heath land character, particularly apparent on road verges
- Isolated farms
- Busy roads – A60, A 6020

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **Moderate**

.The PZ has a **coherent** pattern of elements as much of the area is woodland , arable farmland, or improved pasture. There are **some** detracting features these include the busy A60 and B6020. Overall this is a **visually coherent** area. The woodland is an extension of the Newstead Abbey woodland but is not part of the Newstead Park SINC Ref 1/34 but due to its interconnection with the adjacent woodland and heath land habitats the area provides a **moderate** habitat for wildlife with more disturbance due to the housing within it. The cultural integrity is **variable** in that the historic field pattern of the farmed area to the north shown in Sanderson's Plan of 1835 remains but the extension of housing into the woodland area has resulted in some mature trees being removed.

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

Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as **Low**

The components of the landscape are **characteristic** of the Sherwood LCA. The time depth is **historic** (post 1600) overall giving a **moderate** sense of place overall. There are remnants of older pre Sanderson woodland within this area.

The undulating landform is **apparent**. The woodland area is enclosed giving a **low** visibility into and out of this part of the area but the northern farmed area is more open with views out to the north to the wooded ridgelines of the Sherwood area.

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

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

Low

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Enclosed
Visibility:	Low

ACTIONS – Create and Reinforce

Landscape Features

- Conserve the ecological diversity of the deciduous woodland and individual mature trees.
- Conserve areas of heath land and acidic grassland within the woodland areas.
- **Reinforce** native species under storey by removing Rhododendron to the interior of the woodland
- **Create** new areas of heath land and acid grassland where appropriate.
- **Create** new small deciduous woodland where appropriate

Built Features

- Locate any new small scale development in the more wooded area where it is well screened, retain existing stone walls
- **Create** small scale woodland/tree planting to soften new development, preferably in advance of development

S PZ 5 Newstead Wooded Estate lands

Policy: Create and Reinforce

This Policy Zone falls into two distinct areas, firstly an area of arable farming and permanent improved pasture between the boundary of Newstead Abbey and the B6020: and secondly an area of woodland stretching north to south along the A60 in which a number of large detached houses are located.

The farmed area consists of large geometric fields used for the production of cereals, the hedgerows are generally strong, mostly Hawthorn, with mature trees. The field pattern reflects the historic pattern shown in the Sanderson map of 1835. There is a small area of heath land to the north of the PZ. Settlement consists of isolated farms and an extension of the housing estate within Hagg Nook Wood. This estate, off High Leys Close, is in a more open landscape than the earlier phase but is screened from the A6020 by a belt of coniferous trees.

The woodland area is an extension of the Newstead Abbey woodland, species include mature Beech, Birch, Oak, Sycamore and Scot's pine with a Rhododendron under storey in places, elsewhere there is a ground flora of acidic grassland and heath land species. Large detached properties are located within this area well screened from the busy A60 by this woodland.

S PZ 11 Lindhurst Wooded Farmlands

PHOTOGRAPH



CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Sherwood
 Policy Zone: S PZ 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

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 heath land 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 this 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 heath land character in the presence of heath land 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 PZ. There are dominant views of the urban edges of Mansfield and Kirkby in Ashfield.

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

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

S PZ 11 Lindhurst Wooded Farmlands

Policy: Conserve and Create

This 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 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.

S PZ 16 Annesley Wooded Estatelands

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Gently undulating topography
- Coniferous plantation woodlands
- Deciduous woodland fringes to plantations with mature trees – Oak
- Limited hedgerows varying in quality from good to poor
- Intensive arable farming with large fields
- Settlements of Annesley Pit village and Newstead
- Restored Annesley Pit and colliery infrastructure.
- Isolated farmhouses
- Busy major roads
- Heath land character, particularly apparent along woodland rides

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **Good**

The area has a **coherent** pattern of elements with large swathes of plantation woodland fringed by areas of intensive arable production, there are **few** detracting features these include visual disturbance and noise of busy roads including the M1. Overall this gives a **visually unified** area. There are a number of SINCs in the area mainly designated for their grassland habitats. Overall the area is a **moderate** habitat for wildlife because although the coniferous woodland is a less diverse habitat than deciduous woodland it still provides shelter. Cultural integrity is **variable** in that the land use pattern of the Sanderson Plan of 1835 has been obliterated in the forested areas, in the farmed areas many internal boundaries have been removed due to agricultural intensification. However fragments of historic landscapes remain within the villages of Annesley and Newstead

A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **Good** landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as **Low**

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. An ancient monument, a Motte and Bailey, remains protected between the dual lanes of the A611.

The undulating landform is **apparent** and the **enclosed** nature of the woodland gives a **low** visibility of features within the PZ. However panoramic views are available from the high points of Liever's Hill and Misk Hill.

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

ACTIONS – Reinforce

Landscape Features

- Conserve deciduous woodland to road edges with mature trees
- Conserve aquatic habitats within deciduous woodland areas
- **Reinforce** the field pattern of hedgerows in the southern area where these have become degraded or lost
- Create opportunities for restoring areas of heath land within coniferous plantations where appropriate

Built Features

- Conserve the character and architectural style of Annesley and Newstead villages
- Promote sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve the existing field pattern where it exists by locating new small scale development within the existing field boundaries
- Create small scale woodland/tree planting to soften new development, preferably in advance of development

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Sherwood
Policy Zone: S PZ 16
Landscape Character Parcel: S71, S81

Condition

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

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Enclosed
Visibility:	Low

S PZ 16 Annesley Wooded Estatelands

Policy: Reinforce

This Policy Zone extends from Annesley in the north to the edge of Hucknall in the south. It consists of a north/ south sandstone ridge which reaches a height of between 175 and 180 metres at its highest point.

The land use of the area is approximately 75 % commercial forestry plantation, composed of the Annesley Plantation and Park Forest plantations on the central ridge of high ground. Other land uses include permanent improved pasture used for cattle grazing, for example near Annesley Pit village in the north, around Mosley Farm. There is intensive production of cereal crops, brassicas, and oil seed rape to the perimeter of the wooded plantations. There are smaller areas of deciduous woodland scattered within the coniferous woodlands and there are fringes of deciduous woodland to the plantations where they border the busy major roads that pass through the area, these areas include mature Oak trees. A segment of the M1 passes through the west of the area.

To the north the reclaimed Annesley colliery spoil tip borders on the area and there are remains of the infrastructure of the colliery.

The only significant area with hedgerows is to the south of the PZ, to the north west of Hucknall, which vary in quality from gappy to good. The historic field pattern has largely been obliterated by the forestry plantations there are fragments of the pattern remaining in the south of the area but there has been much removal of field boundaries within these areas. The area retains its heath land character with bracken to road edges and sections of heath land vegetation along woodland rides.

The only significant residential settlements in the area are the villages of Annesley and Newstead. There are also isolated farms within the area such as at Misk Hill. Other built development includes a small industrial estate at Newstead.

There are views out from the high points of Lievers Hill and Misk Hill, else where views are restricted by woodland.

Threats to the area include the expansion of Sherwood Business Park which lies immediately to the north west of the Policy Zone and changes to the management of the forested areas which would change the character of this Zone.

S PZ 45 Kirkby Forest Wooded Farmlands

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Gently undulating topography
- Golf course with intensively managed greens and fairways
- Oak, Birch woodland on golf course with bracken under storey
- Heath and roughs on golf course with heather, bracken broom, and gorse
- Coniferous wooded ridge line known as Robin Hood Hills
- Springs to base of ridge line
- Permanent unimproved pasture to the west
- Arable farmland to the west
- Isolated farms

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **Very Good**.

The PZ has a **unified** pattern of elements in that the majority of the area consists of Holinwell golf course with intensively managed amenity grassland areas surrounded by heath land grassland and woodland. There are **few** detracting features the only ones being car parking and vehicular traffic on the golf course. Overall this gives a **strongly visually unified** area. The golf course area is designated as SINC 2/225 for its heath land habitat. The mosaic of heath land, acid grassland and woodland make this PZ a **moderate** habitat for wildlife. Cultural integrity is **variable** in that the Sanderson's Plan pattern has been removed by the golf course development but an earlier landscape type has been recreated in places.

A **strongly visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **very good** landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as **Moderate**

The undulating landform is **apparent** with **intermittent** areas of woodland giving a **moderate** visibility into and out of the area. Views are **enclosed** by the wooded ridgeline to the north but are **open** to Newstead Abbey to the south. The sense of place is **moderate**.

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

ACTIONS – Conserve

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the ecological diversity of the mosaic of acid grassland, heath land and woodland within the golf course,
- Avoid use of exotic tree species within the golf course
- **Conserve** areas of heath land and acid grassland to the west of the area outside the golf course
- **Conserve** wetland habitats
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture to the west of the area.

Built Features

- Promote sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Sherwood
Policy Zone: S PZ 45
Landscape Character Parcel: S 13, S71, S76

Condition

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

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition **Very Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Unified
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Strongly 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

S PZ 45 Kirkby Forest Wooded Farmlands

Policy: Conserve

This Policy Zone consists of a south facing slope reaching a height of 185 metres along its north eastern edge, close to the A611, down to 120 metres in the south east, close to the border with Newstead Abbey Park.

The upper level of the ridge, known as Robin Hood Hills is a steep bank clothed with coniferous woodland – mostly Scot's Pine with some Birch. Much of the remainder of the area is managed as the Hollinwell Golf Course. The Golf course has been developed working in partnership with the Sherwood Forest Trust to achieve Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets for lowland dry acid grassland and lowland heath land, The area consists of intensively managed amenity grassland fairways surrounded by belts of Birch, Rowan, Oak and Scot's Pine woodland with roughs of Heather, Gorse, Bracken and Broom. There is an area of woodland with Beech to the centre of the course. The River Leen rises in this area at the Hollinwell and feeds the lakes of Newstead Abbey Park. The remainder of the PZ, to the western end, is acid grassland uses as permanent pasture and arable farmland.

The only residential settlements within the area are isolated farm buildings at the western end of the PZ. Other buildings include the Golf Club house and other buildings on the golf course which are of modern design.

The Sanderson pattern has been removed in the majority of the area but the sympathetic management of the golf course has recreated its former heath land character.

The main threat to the area is a change in the management philosophy of the golf course which would change the landscape character of the area completely. Also, unimproved permanent pasture could be removed to the southern section due to agricultural intensification.

S PZ 47 Coxmoor Wooded Farmlands

Policy: Conserve and Create

This Policy Zone consists of a gently undulating area rising to a high point of 165 metres at Hamilton Hill.

Land use in the PZ can be divided into three main areas. To the south is the Coxmoor Golf course which consists of intensively managed greens and fairways surrounded by a mosaic of acid grassland with heather, bracken, gorse, and broom and Ash, Rowan and Oak trees. To the centre of the area is a belt of unimproved and improved permanent pasture with some patches of arable farming and a disused sand quarry. This area has recently been bisected by the Mansfield and Ashfield Regeneration Route (MARR). To the North of the PZ is Kingsmill Reservoir. Disused mineral railway lines also pass through the area.

There are limited areas of woodland within the PZ these consist of narrow belts of deciduous woodland which screen the golf course and to the north riparian woodland including Willow and Poplar which form a fringe around the edge of the reservoir. To the central area hedgerows to the pasture areas are mature and bushy with mixed species with some standard trees. The MARR route has been planted with native species hedgerows which tie in to those of the Sherwood Landscape Character Area of the Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines.

There is limited residential settlement in the area this consists of isolated residential properties and isolated farms. Other buildings include facilities associated with the reservoir such as the adventure centre and buildings on the Golf course.

The historic field pattern shown in the Sanderson plan of 1835 has been removed by the construction of the golf Course and reservoir but was until recently intact in the central area. However with the construction of the MARR route this is starting to break down with the development of industrial and commercial buildings along the route. An older heathland landscape has been recreated on the golf course due to sympathetic management in partnership with the Sherwood Forest Trust.

The area is under threat of industrial and commercial development extending from the eastern edge of Kirkby in Ashfield and from the southern edge of Mansfield. The development along the MARR route will continue to break down the historic pattern of the area.

S PZ 47 Coxmoor Wooded Farmlands

PHOTOGRAPH



CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Sherwood
 Policy Zone: S PZ 47
 Landscape Character Parcel: S74,75

Condition

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

CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Gently undulating topography
- Golf course with intensively managed greens and fairways
- Heath land roughs on golf course with heather, bracken broom, and gorse
- Permanent unimproved and improved pasture to the centre of area
- Arable farmland to the centre
- Tall bushy mixed species hedgerows to centre
- Isolated farms and residential settlements
- Kingsmill Reservoir with fringe of riparian woodland
- Busy roads - MARR route
- Industrial and commercial development to north and west

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as Moderate

The PZ has a **coherent** pattern of elements in that it divides into three distinct sections: Kingsmill Reservoir to the north, a central area of pasture, and Coxmoor Golf Course to the south. There are **some** detracting features, these include industrial and commercial development to the west and north and the busy MARR route passing through the central pastoral area, overall this gives a **visually coherent** area. The golf course area is designated as SINC 2/225 for its heathland habitat as well as the reservoir Ref 2/226. The mosaic of heathland, acid grassland and woodland to the golf course and the aquatic reservoir habitat make this PZ a **moderate** habitat for wildlife. Cultural integrity is **variable** in that the Sanderson Plan pattern has been removed by the golf course development but an earlier landscape type has been recreated and the pattern is intact to the central area although this is being broken down by development along the MARR route.

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

Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as Moderate

The undulating landform is **apparent** with the bushy hedgerows to the central area giving a **moderate** visibility into and out of the area. Views are open to the industrial development to the north and west. The sense of place is **moderate**.

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

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition

Moderate

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Some
Visual Unity:	Coherent
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Moderate

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 the mosaic of acid grassland, heath land and woodland within the golf course,
- Avoid use of exotic tree species within the golf course
- **Conserve** remains of the intact historic field pattern with mature bushy hedgerows to the centre of the area.
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture to the west of the area.
- **Conserve** riparian woodland to the reservoir area.

Built Features

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Promote sensitive siting of new industrial and commercial buildings
- Contain new development within historic field boundaries where possible
- **Create** small scale woodland/tree planting to soften new development, preferably in advance of development.

S PZ 52 Watnall Coppice Wooded Estatelands

PHOTOGRAPH



CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Gently to steeply undulating topography
- Deciduous woodlands dominated by Oak and Birch
- Distinct heath land character present as woodland field layer.
- Unimproved and improved permanent pasture with cattle grazing
- Moderate intensity arable farming with medium to small fields
- Bushy hedgerows with mature trees including Oak
- Isolated farms
- M1 motorway corridor

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **Good**

The PZ has a **unified** pattern of elements as the majority of the area is farmland. However there are **some** detracting features These include the area being bisected by the M1 motorway corridor, and a large housing estate immediately to the south east of the site. Despite this overall this is a **visually unified** area. Watnall Coppice woodland is designated as a SINCR ref 2/72. The woodland, permanent pasture, and interconnecting hedgerows with trees provide a **moderate** habitat for wildlife. Cultural integrity is **variable** in that the historic field pattern is still recognisable in the present day pattern but has broken down towards the motorway corridor, some field boundaries have been removed to the north east of the area.

A **visually unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **good** 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 are remnants of an older heath land landscape prior to agricultural enclosure.

The undulating landform is **apparent** and with **intermittent** tree cover provided by the woodland and bushy hedgerows which gives a moderate visibility into and out of the area. There are panoramic views beyond the area from Beacon Hill.

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

ACTIONS – Conserve and Reinforce

Landscape Features

- **Conserve** the ecological diversity of small woodlands and mature hedgerows throughout the area
- **Conserve** the intact historic field pattern and permanent pasture
- Seek opportunities to convert arable areas to permanent pasture where appropriate
- Create opportunities for restoring areas of heath land where appropriate
- Create small deciduous woodlands where appropriate

Built Features

- **Conserve** and **reinforce** the existing field pattern by locating new small scale development within the existing field boundaries
- Promote sensitive design and siting of new agricultural buildings
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of farm buildings using vernacular building styles.

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Sherwood
Policy Zone: S PZ 52
Landscape Character Parcel: S 81

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

Good

Pattern of Elements:	Unified
Detracting Features:	Some
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

S PZ 52 Watnall Coppice Wooded Estate lands

Policy: Conserve and Reinforce

This Policy Zone consists of an area bisected by the M1 motorway corridor. It ranges in height from 151 metres at the top of Beacon Hill to the north east and drops steeply down to 125 metres near to the motorway corridor.

Land use in the area consists of permanent unimproved pasture around Beacon Hill and to the south of the area, which is used for grazing cattle on Beacon Hill. There are areas of improved permanent pasture and also moderate intensity cereal production. There are also some small areas of oil seed rape. A strip of woodland known as Watnall Coppice straddles the centre of the area and a smaller area of woodland clothes the steep bank of Beacon Hill. There is also recent woodland planting to the rear of the housing estate which abuts the area.

Watnall Coppice is a mixed deciduous woodland consisting of Ash, Birch, Oak and Sycamore with a shrubby understorey. A small stream flows through this woodland area. The woodland to the slopes of Beacon Hill is mainly Birch with a bracken field layer. The area has an underlying heath land character and this is evident in the field layer of the older woodland areas.

The historic field pattern shown in Sanderson's Plan of 1835 is still recognisable in the present day pattern although nearer to the motorway it has been lost, to the north east some intervening boundaries have also been removed. The only settlement within the area is Coppice Farm on the western side of the Motorway.

The outer perimeter of the residential area of Hucknall is immediately adjacent to the south east boundary and the main threat to the area is the expansion of this housing. There is also the threat of loss of permanent unimproved pasture due to agricultural intensification.