APPENDICES

Regional Character Area	Landscape Character Type
Nottinghamshire Coalfield	Coalfield Farmlands Village Farmlands Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands River Meadowlands
Magnesian Limestone Ridge	Village Farmlands Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands River Meadowlands Estate Farmlands
Vale of Belvoir	Village Farmlands
Nottinghamshire Wolds	Village Farmlands Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands River Meadowlands Meadowlands with Plantations Estate Farmlands
South Nottinghamshire Farmlands	Village Farmlands Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands River Meadowlands
Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands	Village Farmlands Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands River Meadowlands Meadowlands with Plantations Estate Farmlands
Sherwood	Village Farmlands River Meadowlands River Meadowlands with Plantations Estate Farmlands Estate Farmlands with Plantations Wooded Farmlands Wooded Estatelands
Trent Washlands	Village Farmlands River Meadowlands
Trent Valley	Village Farmlands River Meadowlands Wooded Meadowlands

REF:____

CHARACTER TYPE		**LDU REF**	
Date		**Surveyor**	
Conditions			
Location			
LANDFORM			
Flat		**Valley side**	
Gently undulating		**Valley Floor**	
Strongly undulating		**Plateau**	
Steep		**Other**	
Other features present:		**River**	**Stream**
Description			
Views			
LANDCOVER			
LAND USE			
Open Farmland		**Woodland**	
Farmland with Trees		**Parkland**	
Farmland with Woods		**Wetland**	
Farmland – Arable		**Open Water**	
Farmland – Pastoral		**Urban**	
Farmland – Rough grass		**Suburban**	
Farmland - Mixed		**Village**	
Forestry – broadleaved		**Recreation or amenity**	
Forestry – conifer		**Disturbed**	
Forestry Mixed		**Mineral Workings**	
Nursery		**Commercial**	
LU Allot		**Industrial**	
Orchard			
Description			
Vulnerability			
WOODLAND COVER			
Extensive		**Hedge (trees and shrubs**	
Interlocking		**Ditches**	
Linear		**Walls**	
Fragmented		**Fences**	
Hedge (Shrubs)		**Tree Line, belts**	

Description			
Vulnerability			
HISTORIC PATTERN			
TYPE			
Organic	**Planned**	**Unenclosed**	
Field boundary type	**Field size**	**Overall pattern**	
No boundaries	**Small**		
Straight boundaries	**Medium**		
Curving sinuous	**Large**		
Transport pattern -			
Route		**Form**	**Verges**
Trunk A road	**Tracks**	**Straight**	**Absent**
B road	**Railway**	**Winding**	**Variable**
C or unclassified	**Other**	**Sunken**	**Uniform (Wide/med/narrow)**
			Ditched
Settlement			
Town	**Village**	**Hamlet**	**Isolated**
Country House	**Other useful info:**		
Building style			
Vernacular		**Non-vernacular**	
Materials:			
Historic Pattern – Description			
Historic Pattern vulnerability to change			
Overall Character Summary			

LANDSCAPE CONDITION AND STRENGTH OF CHARACTER			
Distribution of features	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK
Distinctive Characteristics	MANY	MODERATE	FEW
Sense of place	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK
Strength of Character	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK
LANDSCAPE CONDITION			
Management	GOOD	MODERATE	POOR
Intact features	INTACT	MODERATE	FRAGMENTED
Loss/decline of features	LOW	MODERATE	MANY
Landscape Condition	GOOD	MODERATE	LOW
LANDSCAPE STRENGTH AND CONDITION SUMMARY			
KEY PRESSURES			

Existing Landscape Character Assessment in Nottinghamshire

In 1997 Nottinghamshire County Council published the "Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines" which divide the county into 10 Regional Landscape Character areas, further divided into landscape character sub types. The guidelines provide a description of the character areas with broad prescriptions for conservation, enhancement, restoration or creation of the landscape. As part of the survey work necessary to produce the above document, areas of the county "*least affected by adverse change"* were identified and these became known as Mature Landscape Areas or MLAs. These are a specific Local Landscape Designation for Nottinghamshire.

The need for change

The reasons why the existing guidelines need to be revised are as follows:-

- Changes in Government legislation
- Development of GIS based systems
- Need for transparency

Changes in Government legislation continue to support the process of Landscape Character Assessment but are moving away from the designation of Local Landscape Designations as a result of thePPS7 statement to "*rigorously consider the justification for retaining existing Local Landscape Designations*."

The Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Joint Structure Plan, 2006, states in policy 2/7;

"Local Plans / development plan documents will define local landscape characteristics in accordance with the work of the Countryside Agency and Nottinghamshire County Council's Landscape Guidelines, to inform land allocations and assessment of development proposals. The landscape character approach will be used to promote the conservation and enhancement of local landscape character and distinctiveness and the maintenance of landscape diversity throughout the whole plan area."

The East Midlands Regional Plan adopted in March 2009 states in policy 31;

"*Where not already in place, Local Authorities should prepare Landscape Character Assessments to inform the preparation of Local Development Frameworks. These can also be used to develop Supplementary Planning documents."*

This continues to move away from Local Landscape Designations.

The original Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines, published in 1997, were developed as a result of a manual process of information collection begun in 1990 which was stored on a paper based system. Central to the process of Landscape Character Assessment is the analysis of the relationship between different landscape elements such as geology, soils, topography, woodland cover, farm type and settlement pattern in order to classify and describe the landscape. Since the start of the first assessment there have been major developments in the use of GIS software used for handling map-based information. This facilitates the process, storage and analysis of presentation of spatial data and is therefore particularly suited to LCA work.

The new GIS based system should be more transparent the preceding paper based system in that it should be possible to break down the stages of the assessment process and see how different character areas are derived. Theoretically, because it is a computer-based system, given the same initial datasets, the same classification should be achieved every time.

Revised Methodology and Assessment

The County Council Landscape and Reclamation Team have commenced work on producing a more detailed Landscape Character Assessment replacing the existing MLA designation and guidelines. This is in the process of developing detailed landscape policy zones for the Regional Landscape Character Areas based on an assessment of character, condition and sensitivity of the existing landscape. The methodology of this process has been designed to be more transparent and objective than the previous approach. It is derived from a process of sifting physical and cultural characteristics using GIS, to define units of uniform landscape character. This is verified by site survey. The character units are then further assessed in terms of their condition and sensitivity, and finally policies or strategies are developed for future management and development of the landscape.

The new methodology has been tested through a pilot project which has focused on the Sherwood Landscape Character area. Further character assessment work has been undertaken in the Trent valley from Nottingham city north eastwards to the Retford area. Two separate landscape character surveys are now being undertaken for the Bassetlaw District Council area and for the remainder of the County.

Compatibility with other Landscape Character Assessments

Officers in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire have liaised to ensure compatibility as far as possible between the methodologies adopted across the 3 counties. Representatives are further able to liaise through the Landscape Character Network, which is administered by Natural England and through the Regional Landscape Character network, again administered through Natural England which is currently coordinating a Regional Landscape Character Assessment. The Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire approach are particularly compatible as directly comparable methodology has been adopted to derive the draft Landscape character units using sifting of GIS data

APPENDIX 4: Summary of the Nottingham Landscape Guidelines Summary

A4.1 This regional level landscape character assessment was adopted in 1996. 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.

A4.2 The Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines project advanced the method of landscape protection and focuses attention on the whole countryside area. It recognised all landscapes have their own character, whether emphasis is on conservation of high quality landscape or enhancement of more degraded areas. The priority is to enrich the quality of the whole countryside.

A4.3 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.

A4.4 The Greater Nottingham study area includes the following regional areas:

- Nottinghamshire Coalfield;
- Magnesium Limestone Ridge;
- Sherwood Region;
- Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands;
- Trent Washlands;
- South Nottinghamshire Farmlands;
- Nottinghamshire Wolds; and
- Vale of Belvoir.

Nottinghamshire Coalfield

A4.5 This area is defined by the underlying geology which consists of layers of shales and sandstones with seams of coal. The geology has affected the land use and settlement pattern of the whole area. It is heavily settled and industrialised, mainly as a result of coal mining. The land is gently undulating with a series of ridges and low valleys. Pockets of the past agricultural landscape are present although the land has a legacy of pit heaps, sprawling settlement and associated infrastructure. The area is characterised by a mosaic of disparate land uses but has a strong sense of character through its industrial heritage.

A4.6 Within this area two local character areas have been identified: Coalfield Farmlands and River Meadowlands.

Coalfield Farmlands

- Densely settled and heavily industrialised with closely spaced mining settlements and pit heaps, disused railway lines and mines
- Coal mining is the dominant influence on character
- Infrastructure routes of railways and canals are also a reminder of the industrial legacy

- Pockets of pastoral farmland with small to medium size fields
- A regular field pattern with thorn or wire fencing is characteristic of land which has been restored from open cast mining
- Undulating topography
- Heavy, poor draining soil is not good for arable farming
- Numerous small rivers and streams
- Small, broad leaved woodlands
- Hedgerows are often thick and species-rich
- Rows of red brick terraced housing common in settlements, which are often conspicuously built on hill tops
- The urban fringe is not well defined and land use is varied including horse paddocks, allotments and recreational land
- Some smaller, distinguishable settlements still retain a former mining character, such as Awsworth, Brinsley and Jacksdale
- The amalgamation of mining settlements into large urban areas is common due to commercial and retail development
- Narrow winding lanes and scattered red brick farmsteads give an impression of the former pattern and style of the landscape in some places through the area

River Meadowlands

- The meandering river channel of the River Erewash with its narrow floodplain dissects the undulating topography of the Nottinghamshire coalfield
- Contained by built development, settlement edges, pit heaps and railway embankments
- Pastures grazed by cattle and horses interspersed by patches of wet grassland and marsh
- Riverside vegetation includes alders and scrub and emphasises the meandering course of the river
- Hedgerows are hawthorn and willow and in places ditches form boundary features
- Urban fringe character due to the close proximity to industrial development
- Alluvial meadows are an important wildlife resource
- There are pockets of undisturbed grazing land which offer contrast to the otherwise busy and industrial landscape
- Upper Erewash, around Jacksdale forms the most extensive area of undisturbed river meadow
- Shallow lakes have been formed by subsidence, caused by mining
- Banks of the river channel are visually prominent in places

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
- Restore the character of the alluvial grasslands
- Enhance the diversity of the river corridor
- Consider opportunities for creating wet valley woodlands where appropriate

Magnesian Limestone Ridge

A4.7 The Magnesian Limestone Ridge forms the southern most part of the narrow limestone ridge that extends north through Yorkshire. It is a distinctive band of rising ground, although it is never more than few miles wide. The land is shaped in the form of an elevated escarpment, mostly gently rolling but in places it is dissected by narrow, steep sided river valleys. Limestone as a building material is locally distinctive feature of the settlements.

A4.8 The coalfield influences have spread across this area in places but the landscape retains a generally rural character with a clear distinction between urban and rural areas. The Magnesian Limestone Ridge is sub-divided into three landscape character types: Limestone Farmlands; Limestone Fringe; and River Meadowlands.

Limestone Farmlands

- Gently rolling limestone escarpment
- Fertile soils support productive arable farmland
- Fields are large with a regular field pattern emphasised by well maintained hedges
- Limestone walls common along the escarpment
- Woodland consists of large blocks of woodland and belts of linear woodland
- Wooded horizons are common
- Large mining settlements associated with pit heaps and railways lines but form self contained urban blocks
- Smaller nucleated settlements are characterised by limestone buildings and include Linby, Papplewick and Teversal
- Landscape is still agricultural and rural in character as the woodland and hedges contain the encroaching industrial influences
- Strong impression of elevation and space on the edges of the escarpment where there are long views across adjoining character areas
- Strong sense of enclosure on the lower areas
- Woodlands are commonly coniferous plantations but there is a scattering of ancient woodland through the area
- Narrow river valleys dissect the escarpment

Limestone Fringe

- Undulating topography
- A well wooded landscape gives a strong sense of enclosure
- Large mixed and broad-leaved woodland
- Estate woodlands and linear woodland belts are common
- Fields are medium to large scale
- Sparsely settled, largely inaccessible landscape due to a lack of access ways

- Large scale, undulating topography and pattern of large fields and estate woodlands combine to form a visually unified landscape with a strong sense of place.
- Lower slopes have an enclosed character and the higher rides have long open expansive views
- The quiet, secluded nature of the landscape type is a welcome contrast to adjoining busy and urbanised landscapes

River Meadowlands

- The limestone ridge is drained by the River Leen and a series of smaller rivers which flow into the Idle Basin
- Narrow alluvial flood plains
- Meandering river channels create visual continuity along the length of the stream
- Marginal aquatic and bankside vegetation with riparian trees and scrub
- Grazing meadows with patches of wet grassland typically enclosed by ditches or wire fences
- Relic mills constructed from local limestone
- Few built features and no human settlement give an undisturbed character, although traffic noise can detract from this

Guidelines and Recommendations

- Conserve the nucleated pattern of rural settlements and ensure new buildings reflect the local vernacular
- 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
- 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

<u>Sherwood</u>

A4.9 This regional character area is characterised by a wide and diverse range of landscapes including the historic Sherwood Forest and the expansive parklands of the Dukeries. It is a landscape with many historical associations including Newstead Abbey and Lord Byron, and the legend of Robin Hood.

A4.10 Woodland is a strong feature in the area and includes coniferous forests and oak-birch woodland. The landform is rolling with scattered areas of grassland bracken and heath land. Narrow river corridors dissect the area, which is predominantly enclosed arable fields.

A4.11 The coal industry had a major impact on the region and large pit heaps, railway lines and surface developments are clear in the landscape. The Sherwood

Region has been sub-divided into six landscape character types: Forest Sandlands, Forest Estatelands, River Meadowlands, Settled Sandlands, Village Farmlands and Sandstone Estatelands. Forest Sandlands is the only landscape type within the study area.

Forest Sandlands

- Undulating topography
- Well wooded with pine plantations and remnants of semi-natural woodland
- Industrialised landscape
- Large arable fields in a geometric pattern
- Views are frequently contained by wooded horizons
- Area of heathland including widespread occurrence of bracken, gorse and broom species
- Mining settlement and associated spoil heaps
- Hedgerows are hawthorn and neatly managed
- Ancient stag headed oaks on scrubby heaths

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
- Conserve the remote character of the landscape by concentrating new development in existing settlements
- Woodland planting to soften urban edges
- Conserve all areas of historic parkland and seek opportunities restore parkland character
- Protect the visual integrity of the historic estate landscape
- Conserve the continuity of the riparian character of the landscapes
- Conserve pastoral character and alluvial grassland diversity
- Retain and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation

<u>Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands</u>

A4.12 This area is characterised by small nucleated villages, isolated farms and quiet country lanes. The landform is undulating and the land use is agricultural. The woodlands and field pattern ensure the area has a rural character. There are few major population centres and industry is of little significance. A number of main highways cut through the area but small country lanes linking small settlements are more common. Settlements are well integrated into the landscape with small scale field patterns, unimproved pasture and species rich hedgerows.

A4.13 The area has a strong sense of enclosure as field patterns are well preserved and include ancient hedgerows, especially to the south. The landscape is well wooded and includes many ancient woodlands. Pockets of parkland and well wooded stream corridors add to the well wooded character.

A4.14 There are five sub-areas within the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Wooded Farmland; Dumble Farmlands; River Meadowlands; Village Farmlands; and

Pastoral Scarp and Terrace. Those within the study area are Dumble Farmlands and River Meadowlands.

Dumble Farmlands

- Steeply rolling landform
- Well defined pattern of hedged fields
- Meandering tree lined Dumble valleys
- Mixed agriculture
- Scattered small woodlands, sometimes ancient woodland
- Expanded commuter settlements and small traditional villages
- Busy commuter routes and quiet country lanes
- Remnant orchards are a feature in villages

River Meadowlands

- Flat, low lying river corridor
- Frequent permanent pasture and riparian trees
- Sparsely settled with few buildings
- Permanent pasture and areas of mixed agriculture
- Small scale, semi-irregular pattern of hedged fields
- Riparian trees and shrubs
- Tradition of willow pollarding
- Clumps of deciduous trees and small woodlands
- Some ridge and furrow grassland

Guidelines and Recommendations

- Conserve and strengthen the traditional rural character
- Conserve the historic pattern of hedges and fields
- Conserve the setting of the settlements
- Conserve and enhance the character and diversity of the ancient woodlands
- Identify opportunities to strengthen the existing level of woodland and hedgerow cover
- Conserve and strengthen the visual and ecological continuity of stream corridors
- Conserve the character of the Dumble valleys
- Promote better integration of new development in to the countryside
- Conserve the sparsely populated character of the area
- Retain and enhance river channel diversity
- Conserve riparian trees and woodland

Trent Washlands

A4.15 The Trent Washlands are principally formed from the broad valleys of the rivers Trent and Soar. The region is defined by alluvium and river terrace drift deposits. The Trent flows through large urban centres including Nottingham and these urban influences have dramatically altered the Rivers character.

A4.16 Away from the urban areas the settlement is characterised by a nucleated pattern of villages and farmsteads. These have a distinctive vernacular of red brick and pantile roofs, although modern development has introduced a sub-urban element to some settlements.

A4.17 Arable farmland covers much of the river corridor. Areas of riverside meadow and pasture have been reduced and only a narrow corridor of riverside grassland remains in the Trent Valley, although there are larger areas remaining in the Soar Valley. There is a rich archaeological heritage in this area including medieval villages, Roman Fort sites, ridge and furrow and crop markings.

A4.18 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 recurring pockets throughout the wider Trent Washlands.

Terrace farmlands

- Broad flat river terraces
- Regular pattern of medium to large sized fields, breaking down and becoming open in many areas
- Hedgerow trees are the main component of tree cover, with ash the principal species
- Willow pollards
- Predominantly arable with permanent pasture around settlements and roads
- Nucleated villages with traditional red brick and pantile roofed buildings
- Large power stations
- Sand and gravel quarries

River Meadowlands

- A flat low-lying riverine landscape characterised by alluvial meadows, grazing animals and remnant wetland vegetation
- Meandering river channels, often defined by flood banks
- Sparsely populated with few buildings
- Permanent pasture and flood meadow
- Steep wooded bluffs
- Willow holts
- Long sinuous hedges
- Pollarded willows
- Regular pattern of medium to large size arable fields, breaking down and becoming open in many areas
- Hedgerow trees main component of tree cover

Alluvial Estateland

- A well-wooded estate landscape on a level floodplain with a small number of low hills
- Flat topography with a few low hills
- Numerous blocks of small-scale deciduous and mixed woodland
- Intensively managed arable farmlands

- Large historic hall in an ornamental setting
- Permanent pastures with mature parkland trees
- Estate cottages and lodge houses

Alluvial Washland

- A flat, expansive and low-lying landscape of large arable fields bounded by a geometric pattern of drains, ditches and narrow lanes
- Flat, low-lying alluvial washlands
- Wide views and sense of spaciousness large arable fields
- Scattered bushes and groups of trees
- Geometric pattern of ditches, drains and narrow lanes
- High flood banks containing mature river channel
- Linear red brick settlements
- Sparse distribution of isolated farmsteads

River valley wetlands

- A diverse range of highly modified landscapes created by sand and gravel extraction
- Actively worked areas with disturbed ground and dry voids
- Flooded workings with large areas of open water
- Wetland habitats at different stages of maturity
- Recreational developments for water sports, country parks etc
- Areas of restored agricultural land, often poorly landscaped

Guidelines and Recommendations

- Conserve and restore the traditional pattern of hedged fields
- Promote measures for strengthening the existing level of tree cover
- Strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream corridors
- Conserve pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grassland
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pastureland
- Retain and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation
- Enhance visual unity through appropriate small scale woodland planting
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows
- Conserve and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape
- Conserve and strengthen the simple unity and spacious character of the landscape
- Identify opportunities for enhancing the overall wetland character of the landscape
- Conserve areas of historic parkland and seek opportunities for restoring pastoral character
- Conserve and strengthen the well-wooded character of the landscape
- The reclamation of sand and gravel sites to wetland habitats should take precedence over open water options

<u>South Nottinghamshire Farmlands</u>

A4.19 The South Nottinghamshire Farmlands extend over a relatively large tract of land between the southern edge of the Greater Nottingham conurbation and the urban edge of Newark. It is a tract of rolling lowland landscape dominated by arable farming. The area contains some of the highest quality agricultural land in the County and has a very strong arable tradition. The settlement pattern has a strong effect on the character of the landscape with large nucleated commuter villages and towns introducing a suburban influence to an otherwise distinctly rural landscape.

A4.20 A low level of woodland and regular pattern of medium to large-scale hedged fields has led to much of the landscape diversity and interest being associated with village-side pastoral landscapes and isolated pockets of mature parkland.

A4.21 The South Nottinghamshire Farmlands have been sub-divided into two sub-areas: Village Farmlands and Alluvial Levels.

Village farmlands

- A gently rolling agricultural landscape with a simple pattern of large arable fields and villages
- Gently rolling landform
- Simple pattern of large arable fields
- Neatly trimmed hawthorn hedges
- Nucleated villages with traditional red brick and pantile roofed buildings
- Suburbanised commuter villages and small towns
- Small-scale pastoral landscapes along village edges

Alluvial levels

- Flat, low-lying, uninhabited and often inaccessible landscape
- A strong sense of space, characterised by open areas of farmland and a remnant pattern of large hedged fields
- Flat low-lying landform
- Seasonally wet alluvial and peaty soils
- Open, spacious views, sometimes enclosed by rising ground
- Remnant pattern of large hedged fields defined by hedges or ditches
- Small broad leaved plantations
- Absence of farmsteads or other buildings

Guidelines and Recommendations

- Conserve and enhance the overall structure and traditional agricultural character of the landscape
- Conserve and strengthen the simple pattern of large hedged fields
- Identify opportunities for enhancing the structure and unity of the landscape through new tree and woodland planting
- Conserve the character and setting of village settlements
- Promote measures for achieving better integration of new and existing features in the countryside
- Consider options for converting arable farmland to permanent pasture

- Conserve the remote undeveloped character of the landscape
- Enhance visual unity through small-scale woodland planting and, where appropriate, by strengthening the traditional pattern of hedged fields

Nottinghamshire Wolds

A4.22 The Nottinghamshire Wolds region derives its name from its eastern areas, which are defined by a low boulder clay plateau and it is applied to elevated tracts of open land. The character of the Nottinghamshire Wolds is strongly influenced by the underlying geology and historical development of the region. This is reflected in its sparsely settled character and the tradition of livestock farming.

A4.23 Overall the region has a robust and distinctive character which is influenced by the presence of extensive areas of continuous pastoral and mixed agricultural land. A variety of historical and cultural associations emphasise the unity of the landscape including small red brick villages and farmsteads; narrow winding lanes; ridge and furrow; grasslands; deserted medieval village sites; permanent pastures; historic parklands; and species-rich hedgerows. 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.

Wooded clay wolds

- Distinctive rolling well-wooded landscape with few settlements or buildings
- Mildly dissected rolling plateau
- Well-defined pattern of hedged fields
- Filtered views created by hedgerow trees
- Field sized plantations and larger blocks of mixed woodland
- Pockets of permanent pasture associated with settlement
- Isolated farmsteads and small rural villages on margins of boulder clay deposits along streams
- Vernacular red brick and pantile buildings
- Network of narrow country lanes often lined by hedgerows and mature oak and ash trees

Clay wolds

- Mildly dissected rolling plateau
- Steep scarp slopes
- Well-defined small-scale pattern of hedged fields
- Species-rich permanent grasslands
- Abundance of ridge and furrow
- Small rural villages
- Vernacular red brick and pantile buildings
- Views vary from short and intimate to medium to long views over hedgerows

Wooded hills and scarps

- A distinctive and well-wooded landscape

- A series of steeply sloping hills and scarp slopes, characterised by an alternating pattern of pasture and woodland
- Steeply sloping hills and scarps
- Numerous broad-leaved woodlands, typically on hill tops and scarp slopes
- Unimproved permanent pastures, often with patches of scrub
- Thick, often overgrown mixed hedges
- Well-defined regular pattern of hedged fields on lower slopes

Village farmlands

- Low hills and markedly rolling landform
- Well-defined pattern of medium sized hedged fields
- Traditional pattern of mixed farms
- Localised areas of well-wooded landscape
- Pockets of pasture with mixed hedgerows around settlement
- Narrow valleys with unimproved pastures and wet meadows
- Historic pattern of small red brick villages and farmsteads

Recommendations and Guidelines

- Consider options for enhancing the broad-leaved character of existing woodlands
- Identify opportunities for new woodland planting on suitable sites
- Conserve the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape
- Conserve the traditional character and pattern of rural settlement
- Conserve all areas of permanent pasture and seek opportunities for restoring pastoral character
- Promote measures for conserving and enhancing the historic features and ecological diversity of grassland habitats
- Conserve the historic pattern and features of hedgerows and rural lanes
- Restore the traditional pastoral character and diversity of scarp grasslands
- Promote measures to enhance the semi-natural appearance and ecological diversity of scarp woodland
- Conserve and strengthen the visual and ecological continuity of stream corridors
- Conserve the character of village side pastoral landscapes
- Promote measures for achieving a better integration of new and existing development in the countryside

Vale of Belvoir

A4.24 The Vale of Belvoir lies to the south-east of the County, on the boundary with Leicestershire. Prominent escarpments form a backdrop to the broad low-lying Vale along its western and southern edges. The area has a strong physical and historical identity. It has traditionally been famous for its livestock farming, high quality pasture, and milk and cheese production.

A4.25 The low-lying Vale is physically distinct with escarpments framing its southern, western and northern sides. A nucleated settlement pattern of small red brick villages interlinked by narrow country lanes is an important component of the

area's unified rural character. The Vale is famous for its history of dairying and its character as a grazing belt. Although much of the Vale has been brought under cultivation, this tradition still prevails with large tracts of farmland still set to pasture. One distinct landscape type has been identified within the Vale of Belvoir; Vale Farmlands.

Vale Farmlands

- Level to gently undulating landform
- Medium to large scale field patterns
- Vernacular style red brick farmsteads and small rural villages
- Rural lanes, often with wide grassed verges
- Relatively extensive areas of grassland/pasture with grazing livestock
- Permanent pastures, sometimes with well preserved ridge and furrow
- Scattered distribution of hedgerow trees
- Smaller scale, more intimate landscapes adjacent to villages
- Localised areas of well-wooded parkland

Guidelines and Recommendations

- Conserve and restore the traditional pattern of land use and remote rural character of the landscape
- Conserve the historic settlement pattern of small rural villages
- Promote measures for maintaining the ecological diversity and historic character of the Vale pasture
- Identify opportunities for conversion of arable land back to pasture
- Conserve and strengthen the historic pattern and features of hedgerows and rural lanes

APPENDIX 5: TABLE 7.1: NBAP Habitats

HABITAT	LANDSCAPE FEATURES INCLUDED	IMPORTANCE	KEY THREATS
Canals	Structures for freight transport, conveying industrial and agricultural raw materials and products. Differ from rivers and streams by having relatively slow water flow and a uniform, shallow profile.	The canal network provides a habitat for aquatic and emergent plants, and associated invertebrates, fish and semiaquatic mammals.	• Unsympathetic development and engineering works • The addition of sheet piling to canal systems reduces bank habitat • The lack of sensitive maintenance practices on towpaths and adjoining land • Nutrient run-off from adjacent fields and discharge from sewage treatment works encouraging algal growth • Management of adjacent agricultural land, such as ploughing or strimming close to watercourse edge, and cattle damage to banks • Removal of hedgerows • The variety of leisure activities and the demands of specific user groups • The impact of recreational boating on aquatic plant populations • Bank disturbance by anglers can degrade wildlife habitat • The invasion and spread of alien and invasive species
Ditches	Narrow channels dug to hold or carry water, normally created for drainage to take water away from low lying areas, to help to drain water alongside roads or fields, or to channel water from a more distant source for crop irrigation	Similarly to canals these water channels provide a habitat for aquatic and emergent plants, and associated invertebrates, fish and semi-aquatic mammals.	• Inappropriate management • Run-off from adjacent fields and roads • Management of adjacent agricultural land, cattle damage to banks • Harsh vegetation management • The invasion and spread of alien and invasive species
Eutrophic and mesotrophic standing waters	Examples of standing waters are ponds, lakes, flooded gravel pits and reservoirs. Classified as Eutrophic or Mesotrophic according to the amount of plant nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen present in them.	Relatively few natural standing waters in Nottinghamshire, although a significant number of natural ponds and oxbows occur along the Trent floodplain. Important habitat for a variety of species.	• On-going fertiliser run-off • Pollution from organic matter, silt, hydrocarbons and heavy metals from farmland • Lowered water levels • Changes in surrounding land use, leading to the loss of adjacent habitats • The restoration of silted up ponds by dredging • Standing waters fed by surface runoff will suffer if this is diverted away from them by drainage systems • The in-filling of water bodies for agricultural improvement • Recreational uses such as angling, boating and water skiing • The introduction of inappropriate numbers and species of fish

Farmland	Arable farmland, arable field margins and improved grassland	Provide important habitats for many bird species, mammals such as the harvest mouse and insects.	The main factors affecting the county's arable field biodiversity are: • Crop density and time of planting • Reduction in mixed farming • Lack of field margins adequate to support birds, mammals and insects • Land drainage • Herbicide use prevents growth of annual seed-bearing and insect supporting plants • Insecticide use limits invertebrate number The main factors affecting the county's permanent grasslands in addition to those listed above include: • Early grass cutting • Over- and under-grazing • Lack of infrastructure support for stock farming • Modern worming treatments
Fens, marshes and swamps	Fens are mires, usually on peat. Marsh is a variable habitat type, but usually refers to grassland on mineral soil. Swamp is a habitat typically found in transitional zones between open water and exposed Land.	Important habitats for scarce insects such as Marsh Carpet moth and Dentated Pug moth and ground nesting birds	• Falling water tables • Inappropriate management • Declining flora and fauna within remaining fragments of fen • Agricultural runoff and other enrichment causing increased growth and dominance of vigorous plant species • Pollution of freshwater associated with fens and marshes • Restoration of worked-out gravel pits for recreational or agricultural use. • Climate change • Creation of ponds and lakes in inappropriate places
Hedgerows	Including ancient and/or species rich hedgerows	Important habitat for invertebrates, birds, and mammals such as bats, harvest mice, stoats, weasels and hares	• Loss and fragmentation due to intensified farming practices • Inappropriate management • Cutting hedges all at once • Disturbance of leaf litter, which is an important habitat • Chemical pollution from spray and fertiliser drift, and pesticides • Cultivation right up to hedge base • Automatic removal of dead wood from hedgerows

Lowland calcareous grassland	Calcareous grasslands are found in Nottinghamshire mainly on the shallow lime-rich soils of the Magnesian Limestone ridge in the west of the County.	Calcareous grasslands are often species-rich, including a wide variety of animals such as the Common Lizard.	• Clearance of grassland for industrial and urban development • Agricultural intensification • The lack of available livestock, leading to the invasion and spread of coarse grasses • Quarrying for limestone and subsequent land fill operations • Air pollution, in particular soil enrichment due to nitrogen deposition • Lack of incentives for private landowners to manage small grassland blocks • Increasing habitat fragmentation
Lowland dry acid grassland	Dry acid grassland comprises a mixture of wavy hair-grass, common bent, sheep's fescue, heath bedstraw and pill sedge occuring on nutrient-poor dry acid soils	Important for a range of specialist and declining fauna and a variety of reptiles and birds	• Lack of traditional management such as light grazing • Agricultural intensification • Loss, fragmentation and disturbance • Introduction and spread of non-native and other inappropriate plant species • The spread of bracken • Recreational pressure and proximity to urban areas • Atmospheric pollution, especially deposition of nitrogen compounds • Conversion to heathland and woodland
Lowland heath	Associated with Triassic sandstone ridges and outcrops. Includes dry heath an wet heath	Rapidly declining resource for ericaceous plant species	• Tree and scrub invasion • Invasion of bracken • Loss of structural diversity through lack of appropriate management • Nutrient enrichment • Damage from recreational demands • Uncontrolled fires • Fly tipping • Development, unlawful encroachment and introduction of garden escapes • Plant collecting • Falling water tables

Lowland wet grassland	Defined as periodically flooded pasture or meadow, and includes floodplain grassland, washlands and water meadows.	Important grazing marsh habitat for a variety of species	• Lack of knowledge about extent and quality of resource • Small size and fragmented nature of the overall resource • Agricultural intensification • Insufficient water supply • Poor water quality at some sites due to pollution of water courses • Lack of appreciation of the wildlife and wider benefits • Lack of funds for the rehabilitation of wet grassland
Mixed Woodland	Canopy species in ancient woodland mostly consists of Ash and Pedunculate oak	Ash woodland consists of a wide variety of trees and scrub, rich ground flora, and bird life including Tawny owls and Wood Peckers.	• The invasion and spread of non-native species • Removing dead wood • Inappropriate management • The use of inappropriate planting designs • The historical replacement of native broad-leaved trees • Loss to development • Air pollution • Impoverishment of surrounding countryside • Muntjac deer
Oak-birch woodland	Pedunculate oak and silver birch are the principal tree species, ground flora is dominated by wavy hair grass and bracken with a range of other grasses and herbs	Supports a high diversity of wildlife. Bats such as noctule and brown long-eared bat roost and hibernate in the trees. The woodlands also support a diverse fungal community	• The loss of forest to agriculture, mineral extraction and development • The replacement of native broad-leaved trees with non-native conifers • The increasing dominance of the woodland ground flora by bracken • Removing dead wood • Increasing summer droughts and reduction of water levels • Air pollution • Deer grazing • Inappropriate management • Conflicting interests between tourism and the conservation management

Parkland and wood pasture	Characterised by large, open-grown or high forest trees at various densities in a mosaic of grassland and/or woodland floras or, in the Sherwood context, this may be grass-heath or heather dominated sward.	Many ecologically valuable parklands in Nottinghamshire. Important habitats for flora and invertebrate fauna. Sherwood is internationally important for its saproxylic coleoptera (beetles associated with dead wood habitats) and supports many scarce moths	• Inappropriate management • Felling and removal of veteran trees • Poor practice in extraction techniques • Damage to ground flora and tree roots from excessive visitor pressure • Declining flora and fauna within the remaining fragments of wood pasture • Deposition of nitrous gasses • Increasing age of ancient trees • Neglect and loss of expertise of traditional tree management techniques • Loss of ancient trees through disease • Changes to ground-water levels leading to water stress and tree death • Pasture loss through conversion to arable • Pasture improvement through reseeding problems with over-grazing leading to bark browsing • High stocking levels (of livestock)
Planted coniferous woodland	This type of woodland includes all coniferous stands that are composed wholly or mainly of planted non-native conifer species and where native (broadleaved) trees make up less than 20% of the total cover, with the exception of yew and Scots pine.	Many planted forests have displaced other habitats that had significant biodiversity value, such as heathland or native woodland. But woodland rides and glades are important for vascular plants and invertebrates	There is no particular threat to the conifer resource as a whole although some factors could either reduce the existing wildlife interest of plantations or mean that potential improvements are not realised. These include: • Insect damage from imported pests can devastate forests • Prospect of shorter rotations or deferred thinning as timber processing becomes more efficient and timber markets change • Recreational pressures • Rides becoming overgrown and shaded

Reedbed	Composed largely of common reed, and are often associated with areas of open water, ditches, and other wetland habitats	They provide important habitats for a wide range of species. However reedbeds have suffered huge declines in postwar years and also declined substantially in terms of habitat quality	• Lack of knowledge about extent and quality of resource • Small size and fragmented nature of the overall reedbed resource • Insufficient water supply to reedbed sites due to flood protection schemes • Poor water quality at some sites due to pollution • Lack of appreciation of the wildlife and economic benefits
Rivers and Streams	Within Nottinghamshire there are 20 rivers designated as 'main river' by the Environment Agency. Of these only the Trent, Soar and Idle are classed as lowland rivers, with deep wide profiles and slow flows. The remaining watercourses are generally faster flowing with a mixture of habitat types.	Water courses provide important habitat for wildlife, but also important that adjoining habitats, extending to the whole floodplain, are considered. Many species need marsh and pond habitat as well to survive	• Physical modification and management for drainage • Abstraction of water from the river or groundwater • Diffuse or point source pollution • Use of adjoining land for intensive agriculture • Mineral extraction • The spread of non-indigenous species.
Unimproved neutral grassland	'Unimproved' grasslands occur in small fields as hay meadows and pastures, and as fragments on road verges, golf courses, churchyards and other non-agricultural land. Characterised by a mixture of grasses and herbaceous species	Nottinghamshire's unimproved grassland is declined and Lowland hay meadow is an internationally rare and threatened habitat, and some types are identified as a priority under European law.	• Agricultural improvement through drainage • The shift from hay making to silage production • Inappropriate management • Lack of aftermath grazing following cutting, • Supplementary stock feeding, • Application of herbicides and pesticides • Atmospheric nutrient input • Loss of species due to heavy grazing pressure

Urban and post-industrial habitats	Most urban areas contain a network of inter-linked green corridors and spaces, which the UK Biodiversity Action Plan divides into four main types: 1. Remnants of semi-natural habitats such as ancient woodland and river corridors. 2. Pre-industrial rural landscapes with arable land, meadows and villages. 3. Managed green space, such as parks, gardens, roadside verges and churchyards. 4. Naturally seeded urban areas such as demolition sites	Interlinked habitats in urban areas gives bats, kestrels, great crested newts and rare species such as ground nesting bees the mixture of breeding, foraging and sheltering areas they need	• The loss of 'brownfield' sites and green corridors to development • Unsympathetic urban regeneration and reclamation projects, particularly the use of non-native species in landscaping and planting schemes • Changes in industrial processes such as mining • Inappropriate management of greenspace • The decontamination of land of ecological importance • Damage to sites • Pollution of air, water and soil • Built development in flood plains, • The accidental or deliberate introduction of aggressive non-native plant species,
Wet broadleaved woodland	Wet broadleaved woodlands occur on poorly drained or seasonally wet soils and generally found along river valley floodplains and mostly comprise a canopy of alder or willow	Important habitat for wide variety of plant species making up the ground flora. A high diversity of invertebrates, such as craneflies, hoverflies and snails, are associated with wet woodland, whilst plantations of poplar in the County have been found to harbour a number of scarce moth species.	• Loss of woodland • Excessive abstraction from aquifers and surface waters • Flood prevention measures, river control and canalization • The excessive grazing of wet woodlands • Removing dead wood • Lack of appropriate management such as rotational felling or coppicing • The threat to alder from Phytophthora root disease. • Invasive or introduced species • Poor water quality

APPENDIX 6: LANDSCAPE EVOLUTION

This information has been taken from the Nottingham Landscape Guidelines published in 1997 undertaken by Nottinghamshire County Council.

Nottinghamshire Coalfield

*In common with the **Magnesian Limestone Ridge**, the landscape of the **Nottinghamshire Coalfield** has been undervalued and under researched. Often dismissed as an area which was untouched woodland until late in the Saxon period, and thereafter one of poor settlements on poor land, the principal interest has been its industrial heritage. Even this, however, has not received the depth of attention it deserves. This industrial character and the extent of the conurbation which has developed through industrialisation has acted as a barrier to study; so many easier, more immediately profitable areas of investigation are to hand. Indeed, the **Nottinghamshire Coalfield** is not any easy area to research, but the story of its landscape is no less interesting than that of any other region in Nottinghamshire.*

*Little can be said about the prehistoric and Roman landscapes of the **Nottinghamshire Coalfield**. The built-up character of much of the region, and its land uses and soils, do not produce the differential crop growth over buried archaeological remains which inform us so much about other areas of the County. Here, we are dependent upon upstanding remains, such as earthworks, and the discovery of objects. The presence of prehistoric hunter-gatherers and settled farmers is shown by stone tools and fabrication debris picked up on the surfaces of ploughed fields and the even more occasional metal tools. Recent reports of pottery and settlement remains encountered in the evaluation of proposed developments in the Coal Measures in Derbyshire illustrate the potential behind these discoveries and suggest that it is only a matter of time until more substantial evidence is revealed.*

*Evidence of Roman settlement is likewise limited to finds of pieces of pottery and hoards of coins. That these occur at all disproves earlier beliefs that this was an area which was unattractive to prehistoric and Roman settlement. Indeed, there is no evidence to suggest that the **Nottinghamshire Coalfields** did not share in the general pattern of landscape history of progressive woodland clearance, which intensified during the last millennium BC and resulted in a well cleared farming countryside during the Roman period. A concession may be made to the traditional interpretation, in that the extent of woodland recorded in Domesday Book in 1086, and the character of settlement during the Saxon period in so far as it can be discerned, suggest either that social and economic change at the end of the Roman period was dramatic in this region, or that the Roman landscape here included significant woods. Most probably, the truth lies somewhere between.*

*The evidence of Domesday Book is that the **Nottinghamshire Coalfield** was well-wooded in 1086. The recorded place names reflect this, with significant numbers, like Wansley or Brinsley, incorporating the element **leah**, meaning a clearing. Other names imply a low density of settlement leaving space for Scandinavian incomers, indicated by the **bi** element of **Kirkby**, or subsequent expansion reflected in elements such as **thorpe** or the English term **thwaite** in Estwait, the original form of Eastwood. Other names, however, may imply less wooded environments. Sutton, south farm or village, was with Kirkby within a district called Ashfield, of which the place-name elements imply open, cleared countryside. This is most likely to refer to the heaths on the adjacent **Magnesian Limestone Ridge**, but could be extended to include the fields of both communities which are likely to originate in the Roman cleared landscape.*

The place name Kirkby implies foundation in the late 9th or early 10th century. However, the presence of a church from which it took this name may suggest that this was a far older community, renamed by the new immigrants. This raises the possibility that other communities could have been renamed and thus be older than they appear. It has to be unlikely that the "Brown" whose name described the farm at Brinsley was any other than the Brown recorded as its owner in 1066. While this may support the argument for late settlement in the woodland of the region, it may derive from a late renaming. Renaming of communities, particularly to incorporate the names of local lords, appears to have been not uncommon from the late 9th century onwards. Current models of Early and Middle Saxon settlement are of a dispersed settlement pattern, not unlike that of the Roman period. By the 9th century, and more particularly from the 10th century, under the pressures of a rising population and the growing powers of local landlords, this dispersed pattern began to be replaced by one of nucleated villages, with people grouping together around the farm of the local lord or in other geographically favoured locations. While this nucleation does not appear to have been universal in the ***Nottinghamshire Coalfield****, which may explain the scatter of small communities particularly south of Selston, it may be another factor in the renaming or late character of the names of some communities. In all events, this nucleation was probably an influence in the formation of the larger villages of Sutton, Kirkby, Teversal and Greasley. At Selston, it seems that the process may never have been completed, which would be one explanation of the polyfocal community visible on post-Mediaeval maps.*

By 1086 much of the basic settlement pattern of the ***Nottinghamshire Coalfield*** *was established. Some communities were large nucleated villages, others can have been no more than farms. Some were barely, if at all, populated, possibly as a result of depredations at the time of William the Conqueror's military campaigns against the North in the years after 1067, more likely in consequence of poor harvests, high taxation and hunger. The entries for arable in the region show the same unspecialised mixed farming regime found elsewhere in Nottinghamshire at this date. A leaning towards animal husbandry may have been likely because of the availability of pasture in the woodland and on the moors of the* ***Magnesian Limestone Ridge*** *and in the Erewash Valley. Unfortunately, this cannot be confirmed from Domesday Book because in Nottinghamshire this did not record livestock or pasture. Only a little meadow was recorded in the region.*

Communities were generally sited on outcrops of sandstone within the Coal Measures, where soils were a little lighter and better drained for arable. Some were close to the junction of the Coal Measures and the Magnesian Limestone where they were able to exploit differing agricultural resources, with heathland grazing on the limestone and, as later sources show, arable and woodland grazing on the clays of the Coal Measures. Elsewhere a pattern which became more marked in subsequent centuries was emerging, in which settlements were located on the edges of blocks of woodland, with their fields to one side and the woodland on the other. Again, later sources enable the locations of much of the Domesday Book woodland to be identified. Most of this was recorded as being wood pasture and therefore of a fairly open character. Underwood (coppiced woods) is mentioned in six communities. This is one of the relatively few areas in Nottinghamshire where underwood appears in 1086.

The story of the Middle Ages in the ***Nottinghamshire Coalfield*** *is one of expanding settlement and the gradual degradation of its woodland. Under Henry II, along with the rest of Nottinghamshire north of the Trent, it was included under Forest Law. In 1232 Henry III redefined and reconfirmed the traditional boundaries of Sherwood Forest to the east of the* ***Nottinghamshire Coalfield*** *which was thereby disafforested. Only certain enclosed woods, or hays, notably Fulwood in Sutton in Ashfield and Willey Hay in Greasley parish, were left under the administration of the Forest officials and were accounted for at meetings of the Forest courts. Consequently, these were referred to as*

being part of Sherwood Forest, although they were physically outside of its boundaries. The generally well-wooded and empty character of the region in at least the early Middle Ages is reflected in the hunting parks set up by the nobility. At least six of these are known.

*The three centuries after the Norman Conquest were marked by a continuing rise in population. The **Nottinghamshire Coalfield** saw an expansion in settlement, with new farms and hamlets being established on the edges of woodland, such as Westwood and Underwood, continuing the process already begun in the Late Saxon period. Communities which were recorded as waste in 1086, like Eastwood and Newthorpe, were re-established and existing settlements grew. Open fields were reorganised or laid out for the first time. The woodland served as grazing, used in common between neighbouring communities.*

A limited reconstruction of the Mediaeval landscapes of Eastwood and Newthorpe may help illustrate the general situation of the period. This is based on a variety of documentary references and later maps, in particular an estate map of Eastwood dating to 1736. Eastwood was a small community throughout the Middle Ages; indeed Newthorpe, which exhibits some regulation or planning in its layout and was owned by Lenton Abbey, was probably larger. To the west of Eastwood lay its open fields, which at their maximum appear to have totalled at least five. North of the fields, along the side of the Beggarley Brook, were the main meadows, laid out in strips or doles. West again of both meadows and fields, running the length virtually of the parish beside the River Erewash, there was pasture land, described as meadow in 1736. In the north and east of the parish there was woodland in the Middle Ages. The northern area is probably to be identified as that called Cokehagh in 1450 and the pasture closes shown there in 1736 are likely to result from assarting. East of the village lay Fulwood, not to be confused with the royal wood of the same name mentioned above, which by 1736 was open common. This wood extended across into Newthorpe parish. By the late Middle Ages at least, an open, cultivated field stood between the woodland and Newthorpe village, probably carved out of the wood edge at some earlier date. Fulwood was grazed in common between the two communities. In the late 13th century Lenton Abbey made an agreement with the lord of the manor of Eastwood whereby the Abbey was permitted to enclose part of Fulwood and fell the trees therein. This provoked a complaint from the Rector of Eastwood that he was unable to exercise his right to pasture in that part of the wood, which was not upheld because the land was held to lie in Newthorpe. By the early 14th century there had also been clearances on the north of this woodland in Eastwood. Two areas beside the Eastwood to Newthorpe road called "the Breaches" in 1736 may be identified with "Le Breche" of 1318 and "Le Gressbreches" of 1482.

*These examples from Eastwood illustrate the process by which much woodland was cleared in the **Nottinghamshire Coalfield** during the Middle Ages, by piecemeal enclosure and felling on the one hand and by common grazing on the other. Assarting was recorded in Brinsley in 1249 and both new assarts and common of pasture were mentioned in 1250. Some of this pasture will have been for sheep; wool produced in Brinsley was mentioned in a document of 1281. By the beginning of the 14th century much of the region was opened up, with woodland becoming more and more confined to the more remote locations or degenerating towards grassy common heath. In contrast to the situation shown in 1086 by Domesday Book, by 1343, when Beauvale Priory was founded, there was so little land available that the endowment promised to it could not be fully achieved. Part of that endowment was the once royal wood of Willey Hay, which had been leased out for many years previously and clearly had long been converted to arable and grazing.*

*The documentary record is insufficient to permit an accurate estimate of the effect of the Black Death and subsequent visitations of plague in the **Nottinghamshire Coalfield**,*

but there is no reason to believe that it suffered any less than elsewhere. Equally, there is no evidence that any community in the region disappeared as a direct consequence of these pestilences. They did however usher in a period of protracted social and economic change, which produced a swing away from arable production towards animal husbandry. It is likely that this was easily accommodated in the ***Nottinghamshire Coalfield****, which may have already had a leaning in this direction because of the readily available pastures. The result was a movement towards enclosure which is largely unrecorded but spanned the later 15th to 17th centuries. Again, this may have been less revolutionary in the* ***Nottinghamshire Coalfield****, in that many fields may well have been enclosed, having been created as such in assarting the woodland. However, field boundaries in some locations, particularly adjacent to villages or hamlets, do seem to reflect the strip layout of former open fields.*

On the whole, there is little evidence that development in the ***Nottinghamshire Coalfield*** *was arrested by the difficulties of the later Middle Ages. Only at Kimberley does it appear that the community may have failed. In 1428 it was recorded that there were less than ten householders in the village, implying that its population had fallen, but this could have been no more than a formula to justify the transfer of the rights in Kimberley church to that of Greasley. Other evidence suggests that, however reduced, a community in Kimberley continued in existence through the following centuries. Otherwise, the clearance of woodland, or the maintenance of existing clearances, continued. By the early 16th century most of the woodland between communities, like Fulwood between Eastwood and Newthorpe, had been reduced to open common. These commons continued to be used by their neighbouring communities for grazing, and possibly also for temporary cultivation on the same "breck system" that operated in the* ***Sherwood*** *region and* ***Magnesian Limestone Ridge****. All this is illustrated by the complaint raised by Beauvale Abbey in 1535 on behalf of its tenants in all the surrounding communities, that the lord of the manor of Brinsley and his ancestors had denied them their rights of common pasture by enclosing part of "Brynnesley Woode otherwise More", of which enclosure part had been cast open and part remained enclosed. In 1667, when Dr Robert Thoroton wrote his "Antiquities of Nottinghamshire", he described the royal wood of Fulwood in Sutton in Ashfield as "an old decayed wood, now only a great common without wood".*

The great commons of the ***Nottinghamshire Coalfields*** *remained unenclosed until the late 18th century. By this time they had already begun to be picked at in a piecemeal way, particularly to provide houses for tenants many of whom were engaged most of the time in activities other than farming. As early as 1623, when the lord of the manor of Brinsley sold out, he insisted on being indemnified against "claims concerning cottages and enclosures built or taken in within 20 years from waste ground called Brynsley More". In 1736 the nucleus of what was to become New Eastwood was already in existence with some plots being described as being "took of the common". Eastwood Common in 1736 also shows that land use was developing also, for part had been separated off and was named Brockholes Leys, indicating an area of rotational grassland. In 1774 most of the commons were still open, by 1836 most had been enclosed. The last to go was Selston Common, enclosed after 1865 and provoking a storm of protest and riot.*

With the enclosure of the commons the basis of the modern agricultural landscape of the region was complete. This was a patchwork of fields of varying shapes and sizes according to their origin, larger and regular on the previous commons, smaller and more intricate with fuller hedges in older enclosures, with a scatter of hamlets and individual small farms interspersed between larger villages, and remnant patches of ancient woods reinforced by occasional ornamental planting. In 1798 the agricultural regime was described as being mixed but weighted towards arable, because the wetness of the clays made pastures difficult to maintain. Grass was often a rotational crop, therefore, being grown for between one and three years before being ploughed in. By the end of

the 19th century, with improved drainage and a large and growing market demand for animal products, grassland predominated. This balance has altered with post-World War II farming policies, with arable becoming quite extensive on the better soils and the loss of some hedgerows to accommodate modern machinery.

*But the modern landscape of the **Nottinghamshire Coalfield** is not agricultural; to most people's eyes it is industrial. Coal mining has a long history in this area and has long been an important component in its landscape. Coal claimed to come from here has been found on a Roman site in the Fens. The surface exposure of coal seams soon led into digging for it and the development of mines. Documents record mining in the region from the 13th century onwards, when it was already a principal fuel, for at least industrial purposes, in Nottingham. The industry grew very gradually over the centuries, becoming of considerable significance in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, although output was tiny by comparison with the 20th century. In consequence the region is littered with bell pits, shafts sunk to reach the more shallow seams. Many of these are levelled, but some are visible as circular mounds like those at Strelley, often with stands of trees on or around them as can be seen on Trowell Moor.*

The first expansion in industry, however, was in textiles, during the 18th century, with the expansion of framework knitting. The primary effect of this on the countryside was the erection of small rows of knitters' houses and of cottages, frequently on the edges of the commons. This was replicated a little later, as the coal industry expanded, in the building of colliers' cottages and rows. Both strengthened the local tradition of the part-time farmer, who cultivated a smallholding and kept some cattle and pigs in addition to knitting or mining. By the early 19th century the landscape was beginning to change under the stimulus of industry. The Cromford and Erewash Canals had been built, giving access to wider markets; villages were expanding and new settlements were appearing; roads had been turnpiked and networks of tramways, the most famous connecting Mansfield and Pinxton, were being developed to move coal from pits to loading stations on roads and canals.

The revolution came with the development of deep mining and the railways. From the 1830s the coal industry began a dramatic expansion which reached its climax in the last quarter of the century. There was a huge influx of population, and a massive building programme to house it, along with the development of ancillary industries, services, railways and other infrastructure to serve the coal mining and the new population. The result was the transformation of the landscape into one which appears to be largely built-up, with a conurbation extending out from Nottingham to Eastwood and ribbons and concentrations of settlement elsewhere. This pattern, reinforced by 20th century development, particularly housing and roads, of which the M1 is the most dominant, has dissected the agricultural landscape leaving it often as isolated blocks surrounded by urban and suburban settlement. Industry has also transformed part of the agricultural landscape, with opencast mining and waste heaps which, now restored, have introduced new contours, new field layouts and some new woodland.

*It is this urbanised and industrial landscape which has led to the underestimation of the landscape of the **Nottinghamshire Coalfield** and of the depth of its history. Even through this modern development, however, it is still possible to read the earlier landscapes. Much fascinating detail about these awaits discovery. Nevertheless, it is clear that the influence of the past is as present in the landscape here as anywhere else in Nottinghamshire.'*

Magnesian Limestone Ridge

*'There is still much to learn about the development of the landscapes of the **Magnesian Limestone Ridge**. Considered to have been a remote wooded area, of late interest to*

settlers, it has often been considered only as part of Sherwood Forest. While this latter is indeed true, it is not the whole story which, for the want of detailed study, can only be sketched in outline and with some imprecision.

Little coherent can be said about the prehistoric and Roman landscapes of the region. Evidence of some of the earlier human occupation and activity in the East Midlands, during the later Ice Ages and after, comes from Creswell Crags. The caves of the limestone gorge provided shelter for the hunter-gathers who 12,000 years ago moved through a landscape which was gradually changing from tundra to birch and pine forest and would eventually develop into mixed oak forest, with alder, oak, elm and lime. While Creswell is the best known and studied, other gorges in the Magnesian Limestone have caves which were occupied by both people and animals at these early dates, and also later. Human occupation of significance has yet to be demonstrated at Pleasley Vale, but the full potential of this gorge, which appears to be considerably filled, has not been explored.

*Later human activity on the **Magnesian Limestone Ridge** is indicated by the stone tools and fabrication debris of hunter-gatherer groups and of the first farmers and settlers of the Neolithic and the Early Bronze Age, which are found on the surfaces of ploughed fields. The effect of these people on the landscape can only be guessed, but it is to be expected that clearance for agriculture and the grazing of domesticated livestock, after 5000 BC, were the small beginnings of a long-term process of woodland diminution. Such human interference in the forests is often seen as the cause of a national decline in elm after 4000 BC and more locally of lime and pine and an increase in hazel after 1600 BC.*

*Modern land uses, and perhaps a lack of survey, have resulted in few cropmarks (differential crop growth over buried archaeological remains) in this region. There is however no reason to believe that it was any less favoured than others for settlement during later prehistory and the Roman period. It is to be expected that by the end of the first millennium BC the woodland here will have been substantially cleared and the brown earths cultivated. As in later generations, woodland may have been largely confined to those areas too steep to plough or too inaccessible for grazing. Such woodland as there was, during the Roman period at least, is likely to have been managed, much probably as coppice. Coppiced hazel from the Roman site at Menagerie Wood, in the **Sherwood** region outside Worksop, might have been brought in from here.*

*Roman settlement on the **Magnesian Limestone Ridge** is demonstrated by finds of Roman pottery and a number of coin hoards. Roman villas at Mansfield Woodhouse and Oldcotes will have been the centres for large estates. These lie outside the normal distribution of villas, and they may have more in common with the villas of Yorkshire which show a marked attraction to the Magnesian Limestone. At the risk of reading more than a mutual appreciation of the soil qualities of the limestone into this common choice of geology, this distribution may reflect a border territory of greater antiquity between the Iron Age tribes. This may be an origin for the long-lived importance of the north-western boundary of Nottinghamshire as a division between regions and kingdoms in the Saxon period.*

*What happened at the end of the Roman period is not clear, but the result was a dramatic change in the landscape of the **Magnesian Limestone Ridge**. The region will have shared in the general decline in population during the 4th and 5th centuries and experienced social and economic change as Roman institutions and organisations withered. Settlement contracted towards the western margins against the clays of the Coal Measures or river valleys, where there was a greater variety of resources. Woodland regenerated in some areas, particularly in those which were more marginal. This goes some way to explaining the well-wooded aspect of the north-western county*

border, for the boundary runs along the Magnesian Limestone to include only its eastern fringes in Nottinghamshire and the landscape here needs to be read against developments in Derbyshire. In other areas, perhaps greater in proportion, woodland regeneration was probably limited and the change was to limestone heath maintained by the grazing of stock. That large open areas survived into the Saxon period is indicated by the place names of Mansfield and Ashfield where the suffix "field" implies a landscape largely cleared of wood. While it may be possible to argue that such a name could originate in the heathland which was similarly developing on the Sherwood Sandstones nearby, later land use on the Magnesian Limestone points to a common visual impact. Ashfield is clearly a regional name, as may have been Mansfield; its prefix "ash" indicates the presence of ash trees. Another district name was Lindrick, as in Carlton in Lindrick. Here the name means "the ridge on which lime trees grow", but where the ridge was or how extensive the lime woods were cannot be identified, for this district clearly covered a wide area most of which lay in what is now South Yorkshire. Lime woods are also indicated in the place name Linby, the second element of which may point to Scandinavian settlement in the late 9th or early 10th century. That there was room to accommodate newcomers is shown by other names with the element bi and the frequency of names with the suffix leah, now "ley", found on the ***Magnesian Limestone Ridge*** *and adjoining* ***Nottinghamshire Coalfield****, which means "clearing". This also implies woodland, and perhaps rather more of it on the clays of the* ***Nottinghamshire Coalfield****, but does not necessarily imply the late settlement of West Nottinghamshire which earlier historians have deduced.*

In 1086 the ***Magnesian Limestone Ridge*** *was part of the most thinly populated part of Nottinghamshire. Most communities, particularly the larger ones in the south, were located along its western edge where they could both cultivate the Coal Measures clays and exploit the woodland, grazing and game of the Magnesian Limestone. In the north west of the County communities were on the whole small, situated by rivers or streams, and had small areas of arable while exploiting the woods and heaths on both the Magnesian Limestone and Sherwood Sandstone for grazing. Domesday Book records considerable tracts of woodland in the region, but much of this was wood pasture, which points to the mixture of heaths and woods already described, partly on the basis of the Domesday Book entries.*

The general emptiness of the region encouraged the Norman kings to bring it under Forest Law. It is likely that the southern part of the ***Magnesian Limestone Ridge****, the part entirely within Nottinghamshire, had been traditionally part of Sherwood. Assuming the "shire" of "Shire-wood" to equate with the County, this name can be little or no older than its first written appearance in the 10th century, when Nottinghamshire was first created. The meaning behind the name remains obscure. It may mean no more than the woodland on the border of the Shire; the woodland which distinguishes being within from being without the Shire. Alternatively, it may refer to much more ancient rights to its resources held by the King, nobility or communities elsewhere in the County. Under Henry II, Forest Law was extended across all of Nottinghamshire north of the Trent but this was cut back by Henry III in 1232 to embrace only the countryside of the* ***Magnesian Limestone Ridge*** *and the* ***Sherwood*** *region south of the River Meden. Northwards, however, the extensive royal woods and game preserves which extended into the Magnesian Limestone remained subject to the Forest officials, and to all intents and purposes still under Forest Law.*

Henry III's redefinition and reaffirmation of the traditional Forest was in part a response to the effect of rising population generating new settlement and expanding arable and grazing. As we have already seen, this process had begun much earlier on the ***Magnesian Limestone Ridge*** *but in the 12th and 13th centuries became more marked, with existing villages growing and new communities appearing, often with the name elements of Woodhouse or, less frequently here,* Moorhouse*. The comparative emptiness*

*of this region and the neighbouring **Sherwood** region in the 11th century, and the low value of their profits, made these suitable areas for the creation of hunting parks and donation for the establishment of monasteries. Of the twelve monasteries and nunneries founded in Nottinghamshire, eight were within or immediately adjacent to these two regions, with three being on the Magnesian Limestone and two more lying close by. By 1343 the last monastery in the County was founded at Beauvale. At this time there was so little land in the region that was not locked into the economies of other monastic estates or local manors and communities, that the endowment promised to this new foundation is unlikely to have been fully completed.*

*The woodland of the **Magnesian Limestone Ridge** was under continual pressure during the Middle Ages. Villages grew; Mansfield, the chief administrative centre in the south of the region since perhaps as early as the 7th century, became a market town, and Mansfield Woodhouse, Sutton, Kirkby and Hucknall Torkard became significant communities. In the north, however, village growth was more modest and much settlement expansion took the form of single farms or tiny hamlets carving their lands out of the woodland. Documents referring to the region regularly mention timber-cutting for building, usually carefully controlled by the King, and woodland clearance and encroachment by both individuals and communities. In 1349 the King himself cleared Linby Hay of timber to fence in his new park at Bestwood. By the later Middle Ages, woodland cover will have become very patchy except where conserved by the management of monastic estates and in the parks of a few lords who maintained detailed interest in the affairs of their estates. Even here, woods will have been sectors or compartments only within the parks which throughout the Middle Ages were increasingly turned over to tillage and the grazing of livestock. In general, it appears that more woods survived in the north of the region than in the south.*

*Communities on the **Magnesian Limestone Ridge** doubtless suffered as much as any other in the Black Death of 1349 and subsequent visitations of plague. The effect of these in the 14th century reduced the national population by over one third. In Nottinghamshire, it appears that outbreaks of disease were not consistent from one place to another; while one community might be struck badly, another might escape almost completely. Clear indication of both its presence and power in the region comes from the monasteries, the heads of which all succumbed in the year 1349-1350. There is however no evidence that any community in this region disappeared as a direct consequence of the plague. The 14th century epidemics did however usher in a period of protracted change in society and economy. With reduced population and social change, there was a swing away from arable production towards livestock husbandry. In the south of the **Magnesian Limestone Ridge**, where communities' arable was largely on the Coal Measures clays, this probably had comparatively little effect in landscape terms, as grazing was already the principal land use on the Magnesian Limestone. Wool, the fulling of it, the dyeing of it and the weaving of it, was an important industry in mediaeval Mansfield. In the north of the region and for those communities which were largely on the limestone, some reorganisation was probably necessary as over the 15th and 16th centuries a farming regime of convertible husbandry was established. How novel this was may be doubted, for it is likely that all the communities using the limestone heaths and woods followed the same practice as those involved on the Sherwood Sandstones, of making temporary enclosures and cultivating them for a fixed period of years after which they were allowed to revert to their former state. In these areas also, the need to enclose in order to achieve flexibility in land use may not have been pressing, as the fields of the smaller settlements and individual farms may have already been made up of closes originating in piecemeal assarts from woodland.*

*The 16th and 17th centuries saw a reinforcement of one form of landscape in the **Magnesian Limestone Ridge**, that of parks associated with the country houses of the nobility and gentry. The transfer of monastic sites and estates into lay hands was in part*

the foundation of this, as was the fashion for displaying status through building and ornamentation. Monastic woods and hedges at places like Newstead and Wallingwells did not disappear, therefore, but were maintained by the new owners and reinforced by new planting. New parks were added to ancient manor houses, as probably at Strelley during the 16th century and as at Annesley in the later 17th century, leaving the older mediaeval parks to the farmland they had already largely become. And new houses, such as Hardwick, just over the county boundary but with a park which crossed into Nottinghamshire, and Shireoaks, were equipped with parks and ornamental gardens. This parkland contributed and still contributes to the maintenance of a wooded aspect in the ***Magnesian Limestone Ridge****, which was reinforced by the larger ornamental gardens and plantations of the wealthy around their houses in the 18th and 19th centuries.*

With much of its area given over to common grazing, enclosure only became general in the ***Magnesian Limestone Ridge*** *during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. In that age of agricultural improvement and development, the common wastes were considered to be anachronistic and inefficient. The market for animal products was expanding. Industry was developing in West Nottinghamshire bringing in new population, and the canal and river network gave access to further afield. Laid out by surveyors, this enclosure landscape is still visible on the map and on the ground in the large regular and rectangular fields which contrast with the more piecemeal fields around their periphery.*

Animal husbandry dominated the agricultural economy of the region during the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, but the suitability of much of its soils for cultivation is reflected by a rise in arable from the late 19th century. Largescale conversion to arable during the Second World War was maintained thereafter by government and EEC farming policies. Increased mechanisation resulted as elsewhere, in the loss of hedgerow and other boundaries, but while sometimes locally dramatic this is less marked than in some other landscape regions in the County.

It was industry which created the modern landscape of the ***Magnesian Limestone Ridge****, particularly in the south. There had been industrial activity, small-scale and local, throughout the Middle Ages and after. Stone quarrying was perhaps the most significant of these, supplying prestige buildings such as churches and manor houses. Mansfield Stone in particular had a repute which extended well beyond the region. Equally, the local importance of charcoal and lime burning and of corn milling, powered by both wind and water, should not be ignored. As already mentioned, wool processing and cloth making were important and these were the foundation for the first phase of industrial expansion in the later 18th century and early 19th century, which centred on textile production. Through both the development of domestic framework knitting and the construction of textile mills, people were drawn into the region, beginning a rise in population. Many of the new mills and the houses of their workers in towns, villages and the countryside were built in local stone. This perpetuated the natural tradition of the region, which had begun with the houses of the nobility and gentry in the 16th and 17th centuries and had continued with the town houses of Mansfield and other larger communities. In a region where stone was more readily available than brick, it was natural that, as humbler dwellings were improved, stone should be used. By the end of the 18th century, even the most humble dwelling was likely to be built in stone or, depending on locality, stone and brick. In consequence, the farms and houses of the region still bestow upon it a distinctive building character.*

Some of the development for textile production was locally very significant, with large mill buildings and water engineering to power them, as may still be seen at Pleasley Mills, Nether Langwith, Mansfield and in the Leen Valley. The major and more general transformation came with the development of deep mining in the second half of the 19th century. Pit heads, waste heaps, and housing now become major landscape features and the rural, agricultural character of many villages was submerged. Even more

significantly, the infrastructure to serve the pits and their communities cut across and disrupted the earlier patterns of the landscape. The first example of this was the Mansfield - Pinxton tramway, linking Mansfield to the Cromford Canal, opened in 1819. This was followed later by tramways and railways which paid no particular respect to existing boundaries. After the Second World War, although railways continued to be important for bulk transport of coal in particular, they were overtaken for other purposes by road transport. Road construction and improvements and continued expansion of housing have therefore been major elements in more recent landscape development.

*For all the modern development, the **Magnesian Limestone Ridge** remains an area in which a long history can be seen in its landscape. Together with the **Nottinghamshire Coalfield**, the depth and interest of this landscape is too little appreciated. It is certainly under researched in almost every dimension, including its industrial heritage. Improving both the understanding and appreciation of the history of change and continuity, and of the forces behind these, is essential to maintaining and enhancing its landscape character.*

Landscape types could occur at any location within the country where there are similar physical resources and historical patterns of land use. In reality the landscape types possess a distinctively local character, because they share the broad characteristics of the regional character area, or represent a particular aspect of that character.'

Sherwood

*'The present landscape of the **Sherwood** region is dominated by the artefacts of aristocratic estates and agricultural reform, largely laid down in the 18th and early 19th centuries, and by those of late 19th and 20th century industry, particularly coal mining. This has been an area in which changes in land use, however long they took to effect, have been radical and clear cut, in contrast to the piecemeal evolution evident in other regions in Nottinghamshire. Underlying the long history of the **Sherwood** region, and a key determinant in the pattern of stability and change within it, is the essential character of its geology and resulting soils. The porosity of the Sherwood Sandstones and consequent fragility of the soils in general have placed limits upon the sustainability of farming here. Advances in agricultural methods from the 18th century until today may appear to have pushed out those limits but the qualities of the land continue to present agricultural challenges which can be overcome only at a cost, financial and environmental. It remains to be seen if this cost can be both supported and mitigated or if within the vastly complex modern economic structures there will be a reversion to land uses which respect the basic qualities of this region.*

*Traditionally, the **Sherwood** region has been regarded as an area where settlement and land use were restricted by poor soils, woodland and forest law. While these restraints must be acknowledged, this is anything but the full story which is far more interesting and complex.*

As in the rest of Nottinghamshire, a forest landscape will have developed here after the end of the Ice Ages. There is as yet scant direct evidence for the composition of this primeval forest but it may be surmised, on the basis of later millennia, to have been mixed birch and oak with a greater variety of species in the river valleys and on the less arid soils of its margins. The presence of early prehistoric hunter-gatherer groups is demonstrated by the occasional finding of stone tools on the surface of ploughed fields. With the exception of a possible burial mound at Haywood Oaks there is no evidence of the funerary and other ritual monuments which characterise the Neolithic and Bronze Age landscapes elsewhere. Again, occasional finds of objects, such as Beaker pottery at Thoresby, or of stone tools and stone axeheads, these latter being interestingly high in frequency in this region, testify to a continuing but sparse human presence, perhaps

focused on the river valleys. Even this, however, could have had some locally substantial effect upon the woodland cover, through slash and burn agriculture and more particularly the grazing of domestic animals, to produce thinnings and clearings and the establishment of pieces of heath.

*While clearance of woodland and the development of agriculture and settlement proceeded apace elsewhere, particularly in the Trent Valley and the regions adjacent to it, the **Sherwood** region appears to have been relatively unoccupied during most of the late prehistoric period. Indeed, it is possible that it constituted a border zone between the political, social and economic organisation of tribes. This does not mean that it was untouched, however. As woodland diminished elsewhere, its timber resource may have become more attractive, and its use as a source for animal fodder and for grazing, perhaps involving transhumance as place names hint in the post-Roman period, is likely to have increased with resulting local, and perhaps not so local, changes in woodland composition and extending clearance. As earlier, settlement in the river valleys should not be discounted.*

This picture changes dramatically with the Roman period. In the mid 1970s, aerial reconnaissance and photography over the north of the region suddenly revealed an integrated landscape of field boundaries, trackways and settlements, long since levelled. Subsequent research has shown that this landscape is substantially Roman in date, although Late Iron Age origins are possible. North of a line between Warsop and Bevercotes, this landscape is largely coherent and evidently planned, with more than one phase evident in some localities. Covering an area in excess of 100 sq miles, it extends into South Yorkshire. The social structure and economy represented by these remains is still under debate. Evidence from field walking and a limited number of excavations at Dunstan's Clump, Menagerie Wood near Worksop, and Chainbridge Road in Lound, indicates that most of the settlements were of low status, in contrast to those on its eastern margins in the Idle Valley or the villas known on the Magnesian Limestone to the west. Only one site producing objects of types normally associated with Roman villas has been identified so far in this area. As to the function of the fields, understanding is hampered by the acidity of the sandy soils which normally destroys bone so that evidence about livestock is largely lacking. Given the experience of both mediaeval and modern farmers in this region, long term arable cultivation may not have been sustainable despite the possibility of an almost virgin soil and a slightly warmer climate. An equally striking analogy, however, is the similarity in size between the fields of this Roman landscape and those of 16th and 17th century enclosure in the south of Nottinghamshire. Perhaps this, together with the mediaeval and more modern history in this region of grazing, particularly of sheep, may suggest a mixed agricultural regime of rotating crops, grasses and animal husbandry.

*Whatever the social and economic interpretation of this landscape may be, the evidence of the aerial photographs shows that the woodland of this area was substantially cleared by early in the Roman period. This clearance was not necessarily entire, however. The presence of coppiced hazel at Menagerie Wood, if not imported from another region such as the **Magnesian Limestone Ridge** immediately to the west, may hint at surviving pockets of wood which, on this evidence, are likely to have been carefully managed resources.*

*Woodland survival may have been somewhat greater in the more southerly areas of the **Sherwood** region. As one progresses south, the cropmarks of this Roman landscape become more disjointed until, as Nottingham is approached, they consist of occasional settlements and patches of fields. How far this is a valid observation, or if it is the product of variables in survey and modern land use or of post-Roman soil erosion, awaits further research. Pending this, it is still possible that this difference in cropmark density could reflect a difference in the intensity of Roman settlement and land use between the*

north and south of the region, with more woodland and presumably more heath produced by rough grazing surviving in the south.

The end of the Roman period was marked by another great turning of the landscape, in which the region became again relatively unpopulated and the Roman field systems largely abandoned. The date of this change and the reasons and processes involved are as yet unclear. General population decline and changes in social organisation and economy beginning in the later Roman period and continuing and developing in the 5th and 6th centuries are perhaps explanation enough. Soil exhaustion and erosion, contributing to the late Roman deposition of alluvium in the Trent Valley, may also have played a part. In all events the early Roman level of settlement and land use clearly became unsustainable. Settlement moved out of the region, probably relocating on the more fertile soils on its margins and beyond, and otherwise contracted to favourable sites in the river valleys. In consequence, woodland regenerated by expanding out from existing pockets and by establishing itself anew. The region was not given up, however. Apart from such farms as may have continued or developed in river valley locations, the communities around its margins used it as a grazing resource in balance with their arable on the clays and other soils of adjacent regions. This use explains the siting of many communities around the margins of the region where settlement is poised between the differing agricultural resources of contrasting geologies.

Thus it was that, in the centuries around and after the end of the Roman period, the landscape developed which is now thought of as characteristically Sherwood Forest. Low in population, with space enough to attract Scandinavian settlement in the late 9th and early 10th centuries, identifiable by place names ending in by, this was a countryside of large and smaller areas of dense and not so dense oak and birch wood and of large and small tracts of sandland heath with gorse, ferns and grass. The woods served as game reserves, sources of timber and smallwood, and as fodder and grazing, and were in smaller or greater part managed to these ends. Much of the heath originated in areas of Roman woodland clearance, particularly around the margins of the south of the region where place names incorporating the element feld, e.g. Mansfield, Ashfield, Farnsfield, may indicate open country at an early date, that was kept open by grazing and temporary small areas of cultivation.

It was to this landscape, and more particularly to the area south of the Meden, that the term Sherwood was applied. Assuming the "shire" of "Shire-wood" to equate with the County, this name can be little or no older than its first written appearance in the 10th century, when Nottinghamshire was first created. The meaning of this name remains uncertain. It may mean no more than the woodland on the border of the Shire, the woodland which distinguishes being within from being without the Shire. Alternatively, it may refer to much more ancient rights, to woodland resources held by the king, nobility, or communities within the County.

In 1086, the ***Sherwood*** *region was the most sparsely settled area of Nottinghamshire, low in arable, with much woodland almost wholly recorded as wood pasture, exploited by larger settlements around its rim and fewer smaller ones within it. Such was its emptiness that Norman kings soon brought it under Forest Law, probably consolidating existing royal rights, to maintain its stocks of deer and other game. Under Henry II, Forest Law was extended across all of Nottinghamshire north of the Trent, but this was cut back by Henry III to embrace only the countryside of woods and heaths on the Magnesian Limestone and the Sherwood Sandstones south of the Meden. However, extensive royal woods and game preserves north of the Meden and elsewhere remained subject to the Forest officials, effectively maintaining Forest Law over most of the region throughout the Middle Ages and later.*

Henry III's redefinition and reaffirmation of the traditional Forest was in part a response to the effects of rising population in generating new settlement and expanding arable agriculture. Initially, the emptiness of the Magnesian Limestone and Sherwood Sandstones and the low value of the profits there made these suitable areas for the creation of hunting parks, most famously by the king at Nottingham and Clipstone, and to be donated for the establishment of monasteries. Of the twelve monasteries and nunneries founded in Nottinghamshire, eight were within or immediately adjacent to this area, where sufficient unencumbered land was available to endow them without significant damage to the financial interest of their benefactors. Considerable blocks of land in the ***Sherwood*** *region thus passed into monastic control. The 12th and 13th centuries also saw the expansion of existing settlements and the creation of new ones, often marked by the epithet of Woodhouse, or less frequently in this region, Moorhouse. By 1300, while the region remained thinly settled and more apparently untamed than the rest of the County, there was little land which was not locked into the economies of royal or monastic estates or of local manors and communities.*

Indeed, however it may appear to modern communities, this was a highly managed environment in which the central dynamic was the sustainability of one economic regime, the maintenance of the traditional woodland and heathland resource, against the pressures of another, demanding land to till and grazing for animals. This tension is typified in the emparking of the largest of the royal parks in the County, at Bestwood, in 1350. Here from the first, as had developed in other royal and aristocratic parks, the enclosure encompassed a number of functions and land managements. There was woodland for timber and game, heath and grassland for grazing stock and deer, and rabbit warrens and arable fields for foodstuffs and fodder. Resources and activities which might be scattered through widely separated estates elsewhere were brought together in one locality created out of a single area of royal woodland and heath and held in balance by management. Even with positive management, much less without it, the woodland could not be maintained against the economic pressures towards clearance by felling, tillage and grazing.

Despite recovering from an apparent failure to replace trees felled in the 12th century, which led to a dearth of timber dating to the 14th century in buildings, and despite strict control of felling in the Royal woods of Birklands and Bilhaugh, royal interest in the maintenance of woods and heaths of the region was spasmodic. It was at best undermined by the private interests of the local nobility, who supplied the principal officials of the Forest, or by the ancient rights of communities to common pasture, and at worst negated by royal indifference or distraction by other concerns. Royal woods and lands were leased out or granted away, and the application of Forest Law became more a process of raising rents on lands long cleared by individuals and communities than a means of habitat conservation. Throughout the later 12th, 13th and 14th centuries, documentary references paint a picture of continual piecemeal enclosure, assarting and illegal encroachment by the great and the small, individuals and whole communities. Tree by tree almost, the woodland was gradually eroded. By the 16th century virtually only the core woods of the surviving royal estates and parks, Birklands, Bilhaugh, Roumwood, Mansfield, Clipstone, Bestwood, and a few others on monastic estates and elsewhere, remained. By the later 17th century, when royal rights in the Forest had been largely appropriated by the great landowners and after the best trees on the royal estates had been sold off by the Commonwealth, it was difficult to find useful timber in the surviving woods.

With so few settlements and so little permanent arable lying within the region, there is little trace of the social and economic changes of the period 1350 to 1600. The area did not remain untouched, however. It may be that the reduced demand for tillage from the reduced population in the 15th and early 16th centuries slowed the degradation of the woods by increasing grazing land outside the area and by decreasing any pressure to

change the traditional land uses within it. Equally, the growing importance of animal husbandry in this period could well have been met by the traditional common pasturage owned by communities within and adjacent to the region. Further, animal husbandry, particularly sheep raising, was already well established as a major enterprise on some monastic estates, Rufford Abbey's sheepwalk at Morton Grange in Babworth being the classic example.

Common pasture meant there was no need to enclose for animal husbandry, but the region shared in the trend towards farm engrossment and piecemeal enclosures nevertheless. Traditional agricultural practice had long involved supplementing the sometimes small areas of permanent arable, the infield, with temporary enclosures in the Forest. Within these, cultivation was allowed for a limited number of years after which the enclosure was thrown down, the fields levelled and the exhausted soil allowed to revert to scrub, heath and grass. This "Breck" system was to continue unchanged until formal enclosures arrived in the 18th and 19th centuries. For now, portions or all of the permanent arable were enclosed, primarily to allow for improved crop rotation and closer stock management. This produced the pattern of relatively small, hedged fields found close into villages bordering the region, particularly on the east, where enclosure was limited. Within the region, however, all or most of the comparatively small open arable fields might be enclosed. All the infield of Carburton, for example, had been enclosed by 1619 and was largely under grass. The region was not isolated from, nor unaffected by, the economic trends and changing agricultural practices of the day, therefore. Rather, both traditional land uses and an ability to adapt predisposed it to meet the changing economic order, when social organisation, agricultural knowledge and techniques developed so as to overcome the inherent difficulties presented by the land.

The foundation for economic growth and changes in the landscape was the dissolution of the monasteries. Grants or sales of the monastic sites and estates to leading members of the aristocracy and gentry gave power and influence in the region to a handful of families. For some 200 years these concentrated on converting or replacing monastic buildings, building and rebuilding, to produce great country houses and developing extensive parklands around them for ornament, sport and animal husbandry. The creation of a virtual chain of these properties through the region, from Wollaton, Annesley, Newstead, Rufford, Clumber, and Thoresby to Worksop, gave much of it a new name, "The Dukeries". After the Reformation the aristocratic landowners here began investing in new building and reordering and restocking their parks, and the 18th century in particular saw much new development. Many of the aristocratic landowners of this period became progressive agriculturists. They saw profit in timber and undertook large-scale plantation schemes both within their parks, where new species were also introduced and the woods served also as ornamentation, and on their estates at large. The legacy of this is still with us in the well-wooded aspect of significant parts of the region, for which these 18th century plantations were the foundation. They also invested in the development of agriculture on the sandlands, building upon the mixed farming regimes and diversification of crops, particularly root crops which had been introduced into the area by the beginning of the 17th century, and experimenting with fertilisers and crop rotations. Most importantly, they encouraged their tenant farmers to follow.

The result was the enclosure, through a succession of private Acts of Parliament, of most of the open heath and commons in the region and the creation of new farms outside the villages. With few existing land divisions to consider, much of this enclosure was geometrically laid out in field sizes considerably larger than those of earlier enclosed areas. Defined by fences or hedges, dominated by "quickset" hawthorn, this new "surveyor's" landscape is still a striking feature of the region, on the map and on the ground.

The region thus underwent a veritable "Agrarian Revolution" in the later 18th century. This was based on the intensification of animal husbandry, particularly sheep rearing, which was sustained by the cultivation of root crops and rotational grass, the fertility of the land being maintained by manure and early artificial fertilisers. As a consequence, in the early 19th century the ***Sherwood*** *region was the most advanced farming area of the County.*

The physical framework of this region's landscape, established at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th, has been essentially maintained through today. There have been significant alterations, however, and none more marked than the appearance of industry, particularly coal mining. The earliest modern industrial development was the Chesterfield Canal, cut across the region in the 1770s. But it was the advent of deep mining in the 1850s which brought the major impacts. Throughout the later 19th and 20th centuries coal mines were sunk progressively eastwards across the region, introducing often lofty pithead buildings and structures, and large-scale waste heaps, into the landscape. To house the miners and those who serviced them new villages were built and new estates which have virtually swallowed the original villages to which they were appended. Infrastructure was developed, initially railways and more latterly roads; Worksop and Mansfield developed as commercial centres. Such has been the extent and scale of mining and its associated development that much of the region has become synonymous with the coal industry.

In parallel with industrial development, the agricultural countryside remained relatively prosperous, responding to economic circumstances by changing balances in production. The basic reliance on animal husbandry saw the area through the 19th century. The First World War put emphasis on corn growing and, close to Nottingham and other towns, potatoes, followed by a reversion to livestock after the War. From the 1920s sugar beet began to replace turnips; by 1950 these had all but disappeared from the rotational repertoire. The Second World War again returned the emphasis to corn growing, but this time there was no substantial return to livestock. Government and European policies and the introduction of modern fertilisers have maintained the region's farmlands almost wholly under arable since. In many places this has brought alterations to the enclosed landscape through the demolition of hedgerows and boundaries to create wide open spaces suited to manoeuvring large machinery.

The industrial development and agricultural changes of the last 125 years are the latest additions to a long history of landscapes in this area. The combination of these with the landscapes created in the 18th and early 19th centuries, the parks, the woods, the Forestry Commission plantations and the enclosure fields, leaves a distinct impression on the modern visitor. Indeed, the ***Sherwood*** *region has always been the most distinctive region of Nottinghamshire.'*

Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands

'Little can be said about the early history of the landscape of the ***Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands****. The clay soils of the Mercia Mudstones are not on the whole sympathetic to the production of cropmarks, the results of differential crop growth over buried ditches, pits and other features which have revolutionised our understanding of the prehistoric and Roman periods in other regions such as the* ***Trent Washlands*** *and* ***Sherwood****. The rural character and remoteness of much of this region has also contributed to a lack of study and survey. In consequence, the archaeology of the* ***Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands*** *depends almost entirely upon objects recovered from the surface of ploughed fields and earthworks, which have to be interpreted against the wider background of landscape history deduced from evidence elsewhere.*

*The presence of people during prehistory is witnessed by stone tools, manufacturing debris and metal objects occasionally recovered after ploughing. It is reasonable to assume that the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands** will have been no less attractive to hunter-gathering groups and early farmers than other regions in Nottinghamshire, and that these will have had a comparable effect upon the woodland which developed after the end of the Ice Age. The composition of that woodland may be assumed to have varied with local soils and topography and to have been dominated by a mixture of oak, lime, ash and hazel. As human settlement consolidated and expanded, this woodland will have been increasingly cleared and its composition altered.*

*By the Roman period it is likely that most of the woodland will have been cleared and the land placed under cultivation. This is the conclusion to which the crop-mark evidence of the Trent Valley and the Sherwood Sandstones points; indeed it might be thought that the development of the Roman landscape on the relatively infertile soils of the Sherwood Sandstones is indicative that the better lands of the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands** had already been taken. It may be significant also that the Roman landscapes of the Sherwood Sandstones and the Trent Valley, on either side of the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**, share characteristics indicating large-scale planning. In both, crop marks reveal blocks of rectangular fields, enclosures and trackways, and, in both, these are orientated in much the same way. It might not be unreasonable to assume, therefore, that these field systems were part of one landscape, stretching across the Sherwood Sandstone, the Mercia Mudstones and the gravels of the Trent Valley. That we know about this landscape on the Sherwood Sandstone and in the Trent Valley only, and are largely ignorant of the details of the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands** in the Roman period, may be attributed to the limitations on the discovery of evidence which have prevailed on the clays of the Mercia Mudstones. Where evidence is available it is striking. In Laxton, Roman material has come from no fewer than seven locations within the parish, indicating a number of farms and at least one villa. Other villas are know at Southwell, where at least one other Roman site is known, and at Tuxford. Similarly, a quantity of Roman material has come from Darlton and South Wheatley. All of these have the common feature of having been looked at more closely because they are centres of interest. If the density of settlement implied by the evidence from Laxton, in the heart of the highest clay lands, is any guide then there is no reason to believe other than that the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands** was as well-peopled and its landscape as well-developed as anywhere else during the Roman period.*

*It is clear that the end of the Roman period brought great change, but we know little to provide detail of how this came about. Population decline and changes in social organisation, beginning in the Roman period and continuing into the 5th and 6th centuries, led to a retraction in cultivation and a refocusing of settlement towards the more easily worked land. The woodland regenerated on a large scale. Although there are a few objects of early Anglo-Saxon date from the region, there is at present little to suggest that the immigrants coming into South Nottinghamshire and the Trent Valley were initially interested in moving into the interior of the Mercia Mudstones. However, there is no evidence that this was a period of collapse and abandonment; on the contrary there are hints that Roman structures and settlement patterns endured. It is possible that the northern part of the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands** was initially incorporated into the early kingdom of Lindsey, which had British rather than Saxon origins. This might be the implication of some estates structures later recorded in Domesday Book and of the pattern of warfare between Mercia and Northumbria in the 7th century, in which Lindsey was a pawn. Particularly, significance must be attached to the mass baptism of the people of Lindsey by the missionary Paulinus at Tiowulfingacaester in 627. Tiowulfingacaester is identified as Littleborough, on the Trent in the adjacent **Trent Washlands**. This baptism was as much a political statement as a religious event and choice of site was undoubtedly intended to be symbolic of royal overlordship on both sides of the Trent. This would have been a pointless site had there not been a population*

*in the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands**. Another hint is given by the grant of a royal estate at Southwell to the Archbishop of York in 954. This embraced a number of the communities surrounding Southwell, where Southwell Minster was to be built, possibly on the site of an already existing church. Immediately adjacent to Southwell Minster is the site of a Roman villa. One possibility therefore is that, although the villa went out of use, its estate remained and was administered from a new centre nearby. This perpetuation of a sense of power and place from the Roman to later periods may be identifiable elsewhere in Nottinghamshire, particularly but not wholly in an association between some villas and churches. In this region, it appears possible that the estate of the Southwell villa survived as a unit into the late Saxon period, and it may well be that other estates also continued.*

*The changes to the landscape of the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands** were probably piecemeal and gradual. A number of place names refer to woodland but other activities are reflected on occasion, for example, "Wheatley" implies the cultivation of wheat in a clearing amongst woodland, whilst "Lambley" again indicates woodland but also the raising of sheep. Indeed Lambley is one of a group of place names in the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands** and **Trent Washlands** north and east of Nottingham which mention animals. Oxton, Calverton, Bulcote and Lambley all occur in the same district, and suggest the possibility that their names could have derived from particular responsibilities which communities had for pasturing royal herds. At all events the woodland which developed in the immediately post-Roman period is unlikely to have been left to nature. It will have been a valuable source for common grazing, gathering food, timber and wood. It will have been managed to one degree or another.*

*Current models of Early and Middle Saxon settlement patterns are of dispersed farms and some larger settlements, not dissimilar to the basic pattern of later prehistory and the Roman period. By the 9th century, and more particularly from the 10th century, under the pressures of a rising population and the growing powers of local landlords this dispersed pattern began to be replaced by one of nucleated villages, with people grouping together around the farm of the local lord or in other geographically favoured locations. Whether as a result of this process or as a product of earlier loss of population and reorganisation, the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands** developed a settlement pattern which was particularly geared to the use of local resources. Most of the settlements exploiting the region in fact lay on its fringes or even outside it. On the south and east, the villages lay on the gravels of the **Trent Washlands** where the best soils for cultivation were and where there was easy access to the meadows and pastures of the Trent flood plain. On the west, villages were frequently sited at the junction of the Mercia Mudstones and the Sherwood Sandstones, where the mixture of clay and sand in the soils again provided better tillage and the heaths of the sandstone provided open pastures. Although not insignificant in number, comparatively few communities occupied the heart of the clay land, often choosing sites in valleys, beside watercourses where soils on slopes were better drained. The territories of the peripheral communities ran back up onto the clays, to include the woodland resources here, while those within the core of the Mercia Mudstones developed more or less concentric patterns of land use, with the fields closest to the village, pastures beyond the fields and then woodland. The landscape of the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands** in the Later Saxon and Early Mediaeval periods, then, was one of communities and farmland separated by blocks and ribbons of woodland. In many instances, as later documentary references and the intricacy of boundary lines show, this woodland served the communities on either side of it as common grazing.*

*This is the picture of the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands** which can be seen in Domesday Book, a mixture of large and small communities with arable to match, much woodland and very little meadow. Most of the woodland was recorded as wood pasture, although there was a significant group of underwood (coppiced woods) in the north of*

the region. But recording place names such as Knapthorpe, Domesday Book also shows that expansion of settlement into the woodlands was well under way.

With rising population, this expansion continued in the 12th and 13th centuries. Villages grew, new settlements appeared distinguished by names which indicate their marginal locations, "Woodhouse", "Moorhouses", or their secondary status as in "thorpe". Arable fields were expanded at the expense of the woodland, which was further degraded by grazing. In common with the other wooded regions of Nottinghamshire, parks were enclosed to conserve game and provide sport for the king and nobility. Indeed, for several generations the whole of the ***Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands*** *was included under Forest Law, until it was deforested by Henry III in 1286. At Darlton, King John enclosed a park and built a hunting lodge at Kingshaugh, cutting across the rights of pasture in the wood which belonged to the villagers of Darlton and Ragnall Of the many other parks, large and small, enclosed by the nobility, one of the largest was the Archbishop of York's at Hexgrave, probably created in the early 13th century. This was one of three parks belonging to the Archbishop attached to his estate at Southwell. The second was at Norwood, just outside Southwell, and the third, New Park, was around the Archiepiscopal palace at Southwell, This last was probably not laid out until the 16th century when Hexgrave was no longer of sporting interest. As their names often indicate, particularly in the* ***Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands****, parks usually took in an area of woodland, but usually this was soon modified by clearances for grazing and even cultivation. This was the seed of the common fate of many parks in the later Middle Ages, to be converted into farmland.*

The ***Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands*** *has the distinction of being home to the archetype of midland mediaeval villages, at Laxton. The famous map of the parish, drawn up in 1635, gives a strong idea of the landscape here during the Middle Ages. There, on the slope above the stream, was the village, dominated by the castle which stood immediately behind it to the north. North and west of the castle was a small park with an orchard, fishponds, and horse and hay paddocks, more for exercise and pleasure than hunting, which will have taken place in East Park Wood along the north east of the parish continuous with Egmonton Wood, and in Hartshorn, a large block of wood pasture on the southern side of the community. East, west, south west and south of the village were the open fields. The East Field and the one to the south west, Mill Field, are likely to have been the original arable, to be joined by the West Field possibly during the 12th century. The South Field was the last to be created early in the 13th century. Along the stream as it ran across the top of the South Field were the principal meadows of the community, with other areas of meadow on the sykes, unploughed strips alongside the other arms of the Radbeck and more minor streams running through the open fields. Unploughed wide verges beside the trackways through the parish were also managed as meadow. Beyond the fields there was in 1635 a zone of enclosed fields, then under grass. The names of these closes clearly indicate, as much as their position, that they were cut out of the woodland, probably in the piecemeal process of clearance known as assarting. Whether these assarts were originally intended for arable or pasture cannot be ascertained. Either would have been appropriate, although some theories about land organisation might suggest pasture. One area of pasture was the common, on the north-western tip of the parish. This too was originally woodland, as its name "Westwood Common" implies, part of a substantial wood contiguous with that of Wellow and Ompton. Hartshorn also was probably grazed. At the opposite, north-eastern, end of the parish was a separate, off-shoot community, Laxton Moorhouse. This settlement developed its own set of open fields, but some of its occupants farmed strips in the South Field also. Finally, as will have been apparent already, the margins of Laxton were substantially wooded with Westwood, Hartshorn, woodland between Laxton and Moorhouse north of the meadows, and East Park Wood all in the vicinity.*

*By 1300 plough lands in the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands** were at their maximum extent. Under pressure from a high population almost any land that could produce a crop was cultivated. In Laxton, poorer, wetter land normally used for meadow, including sykes, was ploughed. But the climate was deteriorating and in 1349 the Black Death arrived, ushering in a period of protracted difficulty. The Black Death and repeated visitations of plague during the 14th century reduced the national population by over one third, and it appears that the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands** bore its share of this loss. With reduced population and social change, there was a turning away from arable production. Marginal plough lands and pastures were restored to grassland, leaving ridge and furrow on the sykes at Laxton, and open field rotations were reorganised to allow for larger fallows, temporary grass and the creation of closes of more permanent grass. Vacant tenancies were engrossed into occupied farms, creating more differential between large and small farms. With land exchanges, the tendency for larger farms to be made up of consolidated blocks of land within the open fields grew. Overall, the 15th and 16th centuries saw the establishment of convertible husbandry, with a more balanced, mixed farming regime.*

*Some communities were so weakened by the difficulties of the later 14th and early 15th centuries that their viability was completely undermined. The **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands** saw a number of villages either completely or virtually disappear, in the course of the later 15th and 16th centuries. Some of these were settlements of considerable antiquity like Willoughby in Norwell or Hockerton, and some had once been sizable like Whimpton. A number were the more marginal communities developed in the centuries of expansion from the 10th century on, such as Knapthorpe, Habblesthorpe or Woodcotes. Although at least 13 communities failed in this period and many other villages shrank in size, the majority survived. The open field system was inherently flexible and could be readily adapted to changes in economic need, with areas being taken in and out of cultivation according to market demands. The economy of the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands** thus remained one of mixed farming, still with quantities of arable, until well into the 20th century.*

However, doubtless because of the resilience of the open field system and the swings in demand and profitability, which never quite made one agricultural strategy preferable to another, and made landowners think twice about the expense of enclosure, society here was inclined to be conservative. This is illustrated by the long endurance of bare fallows. The land itself also imposed certain restrictions on development. With the onset of colder, wetter conditions in the later 13th century the clay soils of the Mercia Mudstones had become that much more difficult to work and crop yields had declined. This was probably a significant factor in the demise of some communities in the 15th and 16th centuries and remained a problem until the 19th century.

*Although there was an amount of piecemeal enclosure, the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands** were not generally enclosed until the later 18th and 19th centuries. This was the age of agricultural improvement, when open fields were seen as anachronistic and an impediment to progress, and enclosure was promoted through Acts of Parliament to overcome any objectors. Laid out by surveyors, the field systems created through Parliamentary enclosure tend to be larger and more regular than those of preceding centuries, although in these clay lands the long-established physical frameworks of the open fields had to be taken into account. Nevertheless, it was still an expensive business and took time to become general. The clay fields of Rampton were still unenclosed in 1835, and North Wheatley and parks at Treswell and Askham were enclosed the following year. Indeed about one fifth of Eakring was still open in the 1930s, while at Laxton enclosure has never been completed. Behind this pattern lies the fact that at the end of the 18th century the **Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands** was regarded as backward in agricultural terms and farming was less profitable than in other regions.*

The retraction of arable in the 15th and 16th centuries undoubtedly saw an expansion of woodland particularly in the southern half of the region. To this was added the planting associated with the parks and gardens around the houses of the nobility and gentry laid out during the succeeding centuries. Some of these were based on earlier mediaeval parks, like those at Norwood and probably Grove Hall; others were new, especially in the 18th and early 19th centuries, but their numbers thinned with distance from the social centres of Newark, Southwell and Retford. It must be partly in consequence of this that woodland is limited in the Village Farmlands to the north east. One leavening of this was the addition everywhere of plantations, both for timber and as game coverts, particularly in peripheral areas of parishes during the 19th century. During the 18th and 19th centuries also, the villages were rebuilt in brick. Beginning in earlier centuries with the houses of the nobility and gentry, it became usual for the humblest of dwellings to be built in brick by the end of the 18th century. Gradually over the course of these two centuries the old style timber frame buildings of mud and stud construction and thatched roofs were replaced or encased in brick with tile roofs. Local clay pits were often the source of the bricks. The new farms of the enclosed landscapes created in the late 18th and 19th centuries, standing apart from the old villages, were built in brick. Since they were newly established at a time when agriculture was making new strides they often replicate the "model farm" concept with outbuildings and farmhouse convenient to one another around a quadrangle.

The advent of piped under-soil drainage during the mid 19th century and enclosure brought improvements to the region. The farming regime remained mixed, however, with extensive crop rotation on a field-by-field basis. Some new crops were tried, hops being a big business in the late 18th century, but in the main it was the traditional arable-livestock balance that prevailed. With the collapse of grain prices caused by foreign importation in the late 19th century, this balance swung towards animal husbandry, with more grassland and feed crops. Apart from a temporary swing towards arable during the First World War, this remained the situation until the 1940s. Post-war government and EEC agricultural policies then placed emphasis on arable, resulting in a marked decline in livestock. This has produced considerable landscape change as many 18th and 19th century enclosure hedges and many earlier ones have been uprooted to enable the use of large machinery.

While it would be easy to believe that the modern landscape of the ***Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands*** *is the product of the last few hundred years, this would be a complete misreading of what it has to tell us. It is not only at Laxton that a long history may be seen in the village, its fields and its woods, and a comparable longevity in the shapes and features of the countryside is apparent throughout the region. Even the relative openness of the landscape in the Village Farmlands of the north is an ancient characteristic.'*

Trent Washlands

'This is the region with the most dynamic and complex environment in Nottinghamshire, where both human and natural activities have interacted not just to create successions of landscapes, but to change the actual form of the land. The region contains a rich resource of archaeological remains, many of which are visible on the surface as differential crop growth over buried ditches, pits and other infilled disturbances of the subsoil. The geology and soils of the region are particularly favourable to the development of these cropmarks, which have been recorded through aerial reconnaissance and photography. We now know that invisible archaeological remains also exist, buried in or beneath alluvium deposited by the Trent, and that organic remains which would normally decay may be preserved in the wet conditions of this burial. Such preservation is also a feature of ancient river channels which are to be found buried in many locations on the flood plain of the Trent. It is possible to deduce a great deal about

past ecological circumstances and human land use from the tree trunks, brushwood, leaves, pollen, beetles, spiders, molluscs and other remains of flora and fauna found in the deposits filling these palaeochannels, or within flood deposits and archaeological remains. Much new evidence about the palaeoenvironments of the region has been gathered in recent years, giving new insight into the development of the river valley landscape. Research into the environmental and human history of the ***Trent Washlands*** *continues. This brief overview of that history can not do justice to the detail of new evidence being revealed or to the studies involved, which are already considerable. But however much we know now, we have only made a beginning.*

In the 6th millennium BC the Trent was a braided river, consisting of many channels with an unstable course, flowing between terraces of gravel laid down during the last phase of the Ice Ages through which it had subsequently cut. Towards the latter end of the millennium sea levels began to rise, altering the flow of the river and causing sediment to be deposited on the valley floor. This was the beginning of the process by which the modern ***Trent Washlands*** *landscape was created, with the flood plain being filled with aggraded deposits of sands, gravels and alluvium as the river itself gradually changed into the essentially single channel, meandering Trent which we know today. This is a gross oversimplification of a complex process in which a powerful, active and unpredictable river repeatedly flooded, deposited alluvium, cut and changed course, eroded its banks and landsurfaces and built others anew, increasingly in reaction to human actions and their consequences. It is also a grossly simplified description of the modern river, which varies in character and detail throughout its length. Nevertheless, it must suffice for now.*

The valley of this early river was well wooded with oak, elm, pine, willow and hazel. Around 5000 BC lime became a major component of the woods of the ***Trent Washlands*** *and surrounding regions. About the same time, as pollen from Bole Ings indicates, alder swamps developed in many locations in the Trent flood plain. This river and woodland environment offered rich resources for early hunter-gathering groups of people, but their only witness is occasional finds of stone tools. Their impact on the environment will have been light overall, involving seasonal occupation of limited areas by groups from a very thin and scattered total population.*

The earliest evidence of human impact on the environment of the ***Trent Washlands*** *appears after 5000 BC, when the first agriculturalists had established themselves. These people made significant clearances in the woodland by the grazing of domesticated stock and the use of fire, creating fields for cultivation and semi open areas of pasture. Their impact was probably more widespread than their clearances, for they will have hunted and gathered in their surrounding woodland going regularly over the same ground from their settled base, with lasting effect on the local flora and fauna. It is to their activities nationally that a decline in elm after 4000 BC is attributed. Locally what may be this phenomenon has been identified in the pollen record from a site in Collingham. This site also provides the first example of the appearance of agriculture in the* ***Trent Washlands****, for cereal pollen occurs in the record before the drop in the elm pollen.*

By 2000 BC areas of clearance within the Trent Valley had become extensive. Some of these now contained ritual landscapes with funerary and religious monuments, particularly in the area of Holme Pierrepont and North and South Muskham. The ritual importance of the river and its corridor during the Neolithic and the Bronze Age can also be seen in the deposit of human remains, chiefly skulls, entrapped with animal remains, also mainly skulls, in a log jam within an ancient buried river channel at Langford Lowfields. These remains, discovered during quarrying in 1995, date to 2300-2000 BC and probably represent water burial in the river or funerary practices involving exposure of the dead on the river bank not far upstream. The occasional, but not infrequent, dredging up from the river of other skulls and prestigious metal objects shows that this

association of the Trent with burial and offerings to the gods lasted into the Iron Age. Early settlement remains are rare, however, consisting of the occasional pit or buried soil encountered on sites of later date. A "Burnt Mound" on the bank of a major ancient river channel, discovered buried beneath alluvium at Girton, if not ritual in purpose may represent food processing in the Early Bronze Age. Most of the evidence for domestic or agricultural occupation in the ***Trent Washlands*** *at this period, then, is the stone tools and much rarer pieces of pottery which have been picked up on the surfaces of ploughed fields and in older gravel workings or building sites.*

The effect of expanding human land use both within and outside of this region, however, can be seen in a decline in lime and pine around 1600 BC and in deposits of colluvium in several sites on the valley side terraces and of alluvium within the flood plain. Some of this alluvium may be related to the clearance of woodland on the higher ground of the Trent catchment in the Peak District, which was very extensive by the later Bronze Age. The Middle and Late Bronze Age in the ***Trent Washlands*** *appears to be marked by a number of floods, which were the product, in part at least, of the increasing opening-up of the landscape over a wide geographic area. This opening-up was less than total in the Trent, though.*

Trunks of large forest oaks and other trees dating from the Neolithic and the Bronze Age in palaeochannels and river deposits at Colwick, Langford and Besthorpe indicate the presence of closed canopy woodland. In the main, these trees were washed into the river as it eroded its banks, although marks of human felling appear on some timber at Langford Lowfields. At Bole Ings the flood plain woodland and alder swamp appear to have remained largely untouched well into the lst millennium BC, about which time also the Trent first became tidal.

It was during this last 1000 years BC that the landscape of the ***Trent Washlands*** *can be seen to have been dramatically changed, either as the result of progressive woodland clearance by successions of earlier generations or because of widespread social change and population increase which intensified the density of settlement and land use in the Trent Valley and elsewhere. Whatever the reason, by the time of the Roman Conquest the region was one of farms and fields with negligible woodland. This basic landscape characteristic has endured through to the present day.*

The late prehistoric and Roman settlement pattern was one of dispersed farms in what appears to have been an enclosed landscape. In the down stream sector, north of Fledborough, regularly laid out rectangular fields with trackways running through them are to be seen in the cropmarks. These are identical in character to those of the Roman landscape recorded from the air on the Sherwood Sandstones of North West Nottinghamshire. Upstream from this area, the valley side and flood plain terraces are more dissected and the pattern of the cropmarks seems less coherent. However, the same elements of linear and rectangular land divisions can be seen in a number of locations in the more southerly sectors of the Trent Valley and have been noted in excavations. Another observable pattern in the cropmarks of this period in the ***Trent Washlands*** *is a tendency for settlements to be positioned on or towards the edges of valley side and flood plain terraces. This suggests that their sites were selected in relation to the qualities and uses of the land in the river valley. We may anticipate that the free draining soils of the gravel terraces were put down to arable on one side of settlements, while the heavier, wetter alluvium was used as meadow and pasture on the other side of settlements. This pattern can be seen also in the siting of the later mediaeval and modern nucleated villages of the region.*

To add to this pattern, in several locations Roman settlements have been recorded which were sufficiently large and nucleated to be described as hamlets or even villages, while high status villas are known from Cromwell and Holme Pierrepont. In truth, these latter

*did not stand alone. The villa at Barton in Fabis, although falling into the **South Nottinghamshire Farmlands**, really belongs to the Trent Valley, and no doubt the lands of its estate extended into the **Trent Washlands**, as will those of other villas in adjacent regions. Three, probably four, Roman "small towns" also had a role in this landscape. At Littleborough the town of Segelocum lay across Tillbridge Lane, the Roman road from Lincoln to Doncaster, and commanded the point where this crossed the Trent. At Ad Pontem, just north of East Stoke, the town lay across the Fosse Way (and the mapped boundary between the **Trent Washlands** and the **South Nottinghamshire Farmlands** at this point), and again commanded a principal river crossing. Margidunum, on the Fosse Way outside Bingham, lies on the Mercia Mudstones of the **South Nottinghamshire Farmlands** well above the Trent Valley floor, but nevertheless must have been involved with the settlements and land use of the flood plain and with the river crossing at Gunthorpe. Similarly, it is almost inconceivable that Crococolana, at Brough, again on the Fosse Way where it crosses into Lincolnshire, will not have had interests in the adjacent area of the **Trent Washlands**, not least because the Cromwell Villa appears to be one of a group focused on the town. There was also a substantial settlement at Newark, but its status remains unclear.*

*By the Roman Conquest, the Trent had developed the meandering single channel character with which we are familiar. It remained highly active, however, continuing to reshape its course and given to flood, sometimes violently. The late prehistoric final, complete clearance of woodland in the **Trent Washlands**, and extensive clearances in other regions and further afield, exposed more land to be eroded into the river system. The consequence was the continued deposition of alluvium and other materials in the Trent flood plain during the Iron Age and Roman periods. All along the Trent Valley examples are accumulating of late prehistoric and Roman ditches, pits and other remains buried beneath or within alluvium. In the Roman town of Segelocum at Littlebrough, at least two phases of flooding and river deposition have been found, interleaved between phases of Roman building. Indeed the later Roman period appears to have been one of marked alluviation in the Trent Valley, probably reflecting the extent of woodland clearance in the Trent catchment and possibly the exhaustion of, and damage to, vulnerable soils like those in the **Sherwood** region, or perhaps the introduction of the heavy plough which was capable of more effectively breaking up the ground.*

*We are still uncertain about much that happened in the **Trent Washlands** at the end of the Roman period. The region experienced considerable social and economic change as the population dropped and Roman administrative structures degenerated or were transformed. The Roman towns withered away, the villas were abandoned, doubtless land holdings and land uses were reorganised. But there is no reason to believe in a wholesale change in the population and the landscape. On the contrary, such evidence as we have suggests that the region's natural resources gave its economy an enduring strength and vitality to continue, along with much of Nottinghamshire south of the Trent, to be the most populous and extensively farmed area in what was to become the County.*

*This relative prosperity appears to have made the **Trent Washlands** and south Nottinghamshire attractive to incoming Anglo-Saxons seeking land, wealth and power. The distribution of known Anglo-Saxon cemeteries is almost wholly within this area, with four, Kingston on Soar, Millgate on the outskirts of Newark, Netherfield and Holme Pierrepont, lying on the edges of or within the **Trent Washlands**. Holme Pierrepont appears to have been a mixed rite cemetery containing both cremations and inhumations, while Kingston, Millgate and Netherfield were cremation cemeteries. Cremation is often considered to be an older Anglo-Saxon tradition than inhumation, and indeed the Millgate cemetery, which is the largest in the County, appears to have been established in the later 5th century AD. The objects found in most of Nottinghamshire's Anglo-Saxon cemeteries indicate that the greater part of the new settlement began*

somewhat later, during the first half of the 6th century, and that it came from the south east, in the direction of Cambridgeshire and East Anglia. A second route of immigration, via the Humber, may be indicated by a group of early place names such as Beckingham and Walkeringham. This group at the downstream end of the Trent Valley, seems to relate to similar place names on the other side of the river in Lincolnshire. In general, however, the distribution of such early place names is similar to that of the cemeteries, suggesting that the opportunities offered by the ***Trent Washlands*** *acted as a breakwater to early immigration.*

Although the occasional domestic object has been found, no structural remains of Anglo-Saxon settlement have been identified. Current models of Early and Middle Saxon settlement are of dispersed farms and some larger settlements, a pattern not dissimilar to that of late prehistory and the Roman period. By the 9th century, and more particularly in the 10th century, this pattern was changing. Under the pressures of a rising population and the growing powers of local landlords, dispersed settlement began to be replaced by nucleated villages, with people grouping together around the farm of the local lord or at other geographically favoured sites. This was probably accompanied by reorganisation of land holdings to create early forms of open fields, farmed in common. Thus the typical village pattern of the English Midlands and Nottinghamshire began to be created. It was a gradual process which took many generations to complete, but in the ***Trent Washlands*** *most, if not all, villages were nucleated by 1086, when Domesday Book was drawn up.*

In this region, nucleation was probably helped by an existing sense of traditional communities. In a well populated area such as this, in which land use was extensive and well established, it is to be expected that boundaries and social groupings will have been formalised long before. Indeed, there are hints in the cropmark evidence that some land divisions have origins in the Roman period or even prehistory, which again might not be so remarkable in view of the unbroken history of settlement on the ***Trent Washlands****. By contrast the boundaries between these valley communities and those on the Mercia Mudstones often bear the hall marks of being the product of a late partition of pressurised woodland resources. Indeed, it should not be forgotten in any discussion of the* ***Trent Washlands*** *that most of its communities will have had interests in the woodland and soils of the* ***Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands*** *behind them, that their use of the river valley was in part conditioned by access to the resources of these clays, and that their territories frequently ran up onto the clays to include those resources.*

That land use and the behaviour of the river were factors in the choice of nucleated sites is manifest from a glance at the geology maps of the Trent Valley. On these, villages can be seen to occupy positions on the edges of the gravel flood plain and valley side terraces, adjacent to areas of alluvium and just above the usual annual overbank flood level. Access to water and a dry site were obviously important considerations; more important probably was ease of access to the arable on the gravels on one side and to the pastures on the alluvium on the other.

In 1086, Domesday Book shows the ***Trent Washlands*** *to have been part of the most densely settled and highly cultivated areas of Nottinghamshire. Calculations of the areas of land use nominally represented in Domesday Book imply that in every community the land most suited to cultivation, and more, was ploughed. Many communities also possessed woodland. This may be surprising at first sight in view of the earlier history of the region, but this wood was almost certainly on the Mercia Mudstones into which the communities extended, as we have just seen above. Interestingly, some of these woods were recorded as underwood, that is coppiced woods. Underwood is a minority amongst the woodland recorded in Domesday Book, most of which is stated to be wood pasture, and some of those belonging to* ***Trent Washlands*** *communities were amongst the largest*

described. This may reflect the high degree of resource management necessary in this well populated region.

*Another significant observation from Domesday Book is the amount of meadow recorded in the **Trent Washlands**. In 1086 the majority of the meadow in Nottinghamshire lay in this region and was more extensive than elsewhere. Clearly this reflects the low-lying nature of the flood plain and the annual overbank flooding by the river, which deposited nutrients in the form of silt and protected the ground from frost, thereby promoting early sweet grass growth. The quality of the Trent Valley grasslands is likely to have been a factor in the region's economy from an early date and, as we shall see below, was to be very important in more recent times. English place names such as Cotes or Cottam may suggest lowland feeding grounds in the **Trent Washlands** during the Saxon period. When placed in contrast to a name such as Somercotes, on higher ground just over the border with Derbyshire, these may also indicate the possibility of a form of transhumance.*

*The pattern of the landscape in Domesday Book was essentially that for the rest of the Middle Ages in the **Trent Washlands**. Continued population increase will have resulted in the expansion of fields wherever possible, ultimately at the expense of pasture land. This must be the explanation for areas of ridge and furrow visible in long established river bank grassland today which is, alas!, increasingly visible on aerial photographs only. Field systems and cropping regimes were intensified, some reorganisations perhaps being linked to the regular planned layouts of a number of villages in the region.*

*The Black Death of 1349 ushered in a protracted period of social and economic change. To what degree the **Trent Washlands** suffered through visitations of the plague is not clear. Nationally, as much as a third of the population was carried off. In Nottinghamshire it appears that outbreaks of disease were not consistent from one place to another; while one community might be struck badly, another might escape almost completely. There can be no doubt that the region did suffer, but, contrary to common belief, there is no evidence that any community disappeared as a direct consequence of the plague. Indeed the **Trent Washlands** appear to have adapted well to the changed circumstances of the 15th century and later. Less emphasis was now placed on arable, and animal husbandry assumed a greater importance. Marginal ploughlands and pastures were restored to grassland, leaving the traces of cultivation fossilised in ridge and furrow, and open field rotations were reorganised to allow for longer fallows, temporary grass and the creation of closes of permanent grass. Vacant tenancies were engrossed into occupied farms, creating more differential between large and small farms, and their occupiers. With land exchange, the tendency grew for larger farms to be made up of consolidated blocks of land and for the boundaries of these to become fixed. Overall, the 15th and 16th centuries saw the establishment of convertible husbandry, with a more balanced mixed farming regime.*

*Through internal reorganisation most of the communities of the **Trent Washlands** were able to not only survive but generally prosper. Grassland increased and larger numbers of livestock were carried on it, hedgerows probably increased in number also with piecemeal enclosures, particularly close to the villages. At places like Holme Pierrepont, one of the earliest enclosures in the County, a landlord might see economic advantage in wholesale enclosure and conversion to sheep pasture or, as at Langford, large blocks of land might be let out for cattle grazing, but on the whole large scale enclosure in the **Trent Washlands** was limited. Despite being accounted as an area of early enclosure, this region remained largely unenclosed until the 18th century.*

*The present landscape detail of the **Trent Washlands** then, derives from this 18th century enclosure. This was not the only change, however; indeed it might be thought to have been only a beginning. The growing importance of Nottingham and Newark, and of industrial development in west Nottinghamshire, increased the demand for the products*

*of the **Trent Washlands**, particularly meat and milk, and required the development of the natural communication corridor along the Trent Valley.*

*Between 1750 and 1820, the process of enclosure was completed. Much of what was enclosed was arable but open common grassland was also involved. The "Holmes" near Sutton on Trent are comparatively limited survivals from this process. In a number of places new farms were built at a distance from the old village centre, surrounded by newly enclosed blocks of land. By the end of the 18th century the agricultural economy of the **Trent Washlands** was described as being a mixture of arable and grass, "though more of the latter, especially continuous to the river". Most of the grazing was put to fattening cattle, the island outside Newark being noted as "remarkably fine feeding land". In the Soar Valley and south west of Nottingham, however, there were considerable dairies, mainly producing cheese. A number of farmers in the region at this time were breeding improved types of both sheep and cattle, particularly at Holme Pierrepont, Clifton and Hoveringham.*

*Many of the Parliamentary Enclosure Awards in the **Trent Washlands** provide for the digging of drainage ditches in the flood plain and the construction of flood defences. This was not the beginning of river management in the Trent Valley, however. Throughout the Middle Ages, the Trent continued to move in detail through bank erosion and flood under the influence of both nature and human interference. The river was a principal route of communication and commerce, and a source of food and power. It was also variable in its character from location to location and from season to season. There were numerous shallows, where the summer depth of water was less than 18 inches and where the river might easily be forded. At the North Muskham - Holme crossing, for example, it was recorded in 1536 that four score horseman might cross abreast. Equally there were areas of depth where strong currents would rapidly drag under and drown anyone who fell in. In winter, the river would be full and overbank flooding was frequent. At this season or any other time of heavy rainfall, the Trent can rise rapidly, with high energy water flows and volumes in spate floods. Such events could sweep away structures, erode banks and scour out new channels, to modify the river course. In 1315 one such flood destroyed all the bridges between Sawley and Gainsborough. Deposits of gravel laid down by the river during the Middle Ages, burying earlier landscape features, are known from a number of locations.*

From the Middle Ages also we have clear evidence from physical features and documents of human management and exploitation of the Trent. Nottingham represented the effective upper limit of commercial navigation in the Middle Ages, with goods being brought up and down river to and from the Humber or inland trans-shipment points. In illustration of this, William Amyas, a principal merchant and civic dignitary in Nottingham, had warehouses at Adbolton in the 14th century, while in the 16th century coal from Wollaton was shipped down the Trent by barge. Bridges at Nottingham and Newark were the major crossing points, but these were supplemented by ferries and in the summer by numerous regular and occasional fords. By 1086 numbers of fisheries and mills were recorded in Trent Valley communities. These frequently involved the construction of weirs and structures in the river to funnel fish into collection baskets and to divert and control water flow into the mill lakes and ponds. Bank revetments and "training weirs" were also installed as defences against the erosion of river banks. Complaints about obstructions to navigation and the poaching of river water out of the navigation channels were frequent throughout the Middle Ages. In 1378 the problems had become sufficiently great for a Royal Commission to be set up to survey and remove impediments to the passage of boats.

Human interference with water flows and forces of nature together combined to change the detail of the landscape of the flood plain. While the former was puny by comparison with the latter, each had its effect on the other. The largest of these in landscape terms

was probably the mediaeval management of the Trent and Devon waters to drive the mills of Newark and the competing actions of the lords of the manor of Averham and Kelham to secure water to drive their mills, particularly at Kelham. The upshot of this was so to accentuate and modify natural processes as to make the Island, between the two arms of the Trent in front of Newark, a virtually artificial construction. The original Newark arm, the "Old Trent Dyke", was cut off and silted up as the waters were diverted into the River Devon along the edge of the flood plain by a long bank, while the Kelham arm was deepened and developed, so accelerating a natural tendency that the construction of a weir was required to ensure Newark's share of the water. In consequence, lands on the island belonging to Averham, Kelham and South Muskham became separated from the rest by a major river channel. Such movements of the river as a result of natural development or a combination of both natural and human causes can be seen in numerous locations along the Trent Valley in pieces of parishes which now lie on the opposite bank to their parent communities, or in abandoned channels and ditches which may bear the name "Old Trent".

This process of river channel modification has been continual and still continues, although it is now less marked as human water management has become technically stronger and integrated for day to day situations. The flood defences and drainage ditches of the Enclosures, which enhanced the development of the agricultural economy of the ***Trent Washlands****, were piecemeal measures within individual localities, building upon, strengthening or replacing earlier initiatives. Together, these measures eventually provided a more or less continuous chain to defend vulnerable settlements and countryside. It was not until 1930, however, that they came under the unified control of the River Trent Catchment Board.*

Development of the river as a transportation route was equally fragmented. This focused on the sectors upstream of Newark where river depths were inconsistent. In the downstream, tidal zone the principal problems were to maintain an adequate depth of water and to improve on the circuit of near circular meanders at West Burton and Bole, which frustrated boatmen in the hours of work required for little linear progress. These were cut through in 1793 and 1797. Upstream, particularly from Newark, the river was improved piecemeal during the late 18th and 19th centuries to take ever larger ships. In this way the Trent gradually took on the face which we know today.

Agricultural improvement and investment in building also contributed to the gradual, but nearly wholesale, rebuilding of farms and cottages in brick. Holme Pierrepont Hall had been one of the first brick buildings in the County in the early 16th century. By the end of the 18th century brick was the building material of all classes, and before long most of the old timber framed or mud and stud houses of the ***Trent Washlands*** *had been replaced or had been clad in red brick and the thatched roofs replaced with pantiles. Many of these bricks and pantiles were made locally from sands and clays available in the river valley and the surrounding clay lands. Brick pits were already a notable feature on the Island between Kelham and Newark in the late 18th century. Kingston on Soar is a classic example of a purpose-built mid 19th century estate village and landscape.*

In the period after 1700 many of the more important houses of the gentry and merchants were rebuilt or embellished, and others were built anew. These are to be found particularly around Nottingham and Newark and the sector of the Trent Valley between, drawn by the social and commercial magnetism which these two towns exercised from the 16th century onwards. Some had origins in the Middle Ages and were already set in parklands and gardens. These were now often redesigned or replanted, increasing the amount of woodland and the variety of species. Although far more modest in scale than the extensive estates of the Dukeries, these houses, parks and gardens made and still make significant contributions to the landscape of the ***Trent Washlands****.*

The Trent was the major means of transporting goods in and out of the County during the 18th and first half of the 19th centuries. During the later 18th century it became integrated in the network of waterways with the building of canals linking into it. The earliest of these was the Chesterfield Canal in 1776, linking at West Stockwith and superseding the Idle as the inland carriage route towards Derbyshire. The commercial importance of this route enabled West Stockwith to be developed as an inland port with its own particular character. Gainsborough, on the Lincolnshire bank, also expanded as an inland port. Upstream, the Nottingham, Beeston and Grantham Canals all linked into the Trent, the two former running along the margin of the ***Trent Washlands*** *and contributing their features to its landscape. The Soar too was modified to improve navigation, as was the Trent on the piecemeal basis already discussed. Beginning in 1772 with a weir and lock at Newark which enabled shipping to use the Newark arm of the Trent, triggering rapid industrial development in the town, these improvements principally affected the river upstream from Newark and introduced overtly artificial waterway features such as locks.*

By the mid 19th century, waterways were rapidly being overtaken by railways. The Nottingham to Leicester line following the Soar Valley was built in 1840, and the Nottingham to Lincoln line, following the Trent Valley via Newark, was opened in 1846. Such railways were a considerable addition to the landscape, with embankments, stations often outside villages, and major engineering works where the river was crossed. And, as urban populations grew and the commercial and service side of the towns, particularly Nottingham, developed, the railways made suburban living possible. By the end of the century the commuter had appeared in the villages of the ***Trent Washlands*** *around Nottingham. These developments were concentrated in the Nottingham to Newark sector of the Trent Valley, leaving much of the region north of Newark as a relatively untouched agricultural area. Here, the most tangible signs of the Industrial Revolution were some rural warehouses, boat building and repair yards, the warehouse waterfront of Gainsborough on the Lincolnshire Bank and the passing of boats.*

Despite the industrial and social developments of the 19th and early 20th centuries, and the new additions they brought into the landscape, the basic influence on the countryside continued to be agriculture. The growth of Nottingham and the mining villages and the development of the railway network all combined to reinforce the already established emphasis on grass and livestock. The region was noted for its feeding grounds at the end of the 19th century. Apart from a temporary extension of arable during the 1st World War, this remained the case until the 1940s. Cattle were not the only livestock, however; there were substantial flocks of sheep in the Trent Valley in the 1870s. Post-war farming policies however, have placed emphasis on arable and by mechanisation have resulted in many Enclosure and earlier hedgerows and boundaries being knocked down. With drainage and flood control, the qualities of the land have been modified, enabling arable to be extended into areas not ploughed since the Middle Ages. The modern agricultural appearance of the ***Trent Washlands*** *is thus quite different from that of even 100 years ago.*

20th century development of the landscape in the ***Trent Washlands*** *has been considerable in the Nottingham to Newark sectors. The advent of the motor car has made roads a dominant feature and brought an explosion of commuter development in many communities, transforming some villages, and vastly increasing the built-up areas. The mineral extraction industry has mechanised and dug up considerable areas to feed the demand for sand and gravel, often leaving large new bodies of water in the flood plain. Power stations have been built, contributing not just spectacular vertical masses to the landscape but often equally spectacular plumes of steam. To protect land, houses, animals, people and infrastructure from the power of the river, still frequently demonstrated and enhanced by runoff from the hard surfaces of modern buildings,*

pavements and roads, flood banks have been built and enhanced to often considerable dimensions. By contrast, the Trent Valley north of Newark has remained predominantly agricultural with a sense of isolated tranquillity which the high flood banks and power stations only seem to heighten.

*The modern landscape of the **Trent Washlands** is the product of millennia of physical development and human activity. It is a very changed landscape, in which perhaps the most modern elements are the most obvious. Nevertheless, the whole of our history can be read in this region.'*

South Nottinghamshire Farmlands

*'The landscape of the South Nottinghamshire **South Nottinghamshire Farmlands** is superficially a creation of the enclosure movement of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, modified to meet the needs of the post-1945 economy and modern farming techniques. Behind this, however, stands over 2,000 years of settlement and land use which have influenced over successive generations the development of today's countryside. Together with the Trent Valley, this region was consistently the most densely settled and economically strong area of pre-industrial Nottinghamshire, from late prehistory to the end of the 18th century.*

Early prehistoric activity throughout the region is demonstrated by the frequent finding of flint tools and fabrication debris on the surface of ploughed fields, and by the remains of funerary and ritual monuments, such as the now built-over Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age henge monument at Bingham or ring-ditches in the Smite Valley, which appear amongst the cropmarks recorded from the air wherever the soils of the region are favourable to the production of differential crop growth over buried ditches, pits, foundations and floors. Studies are insufficiently advanced at present to permit meaningful estimates of the effect of this activity upon the forest landscape which developed after the end of the Ice Ages, although the grazing of domesticated livestock and cultivation will have affected the flora of the woodland and produced localised thinning and clearings. This appears to be a major factor in the national diminution of elm after 4000 BC and an increase in hazel. Locally, the composition of the woodland will have varied with the soil conditions, being largely oak, lime, and alder dominated. Around Bingham and west of Ruddington and Bradmore there were considerable areas of marshland, with more localised pockets in low-lying areas elsewhere.

*The 1st millennium BC and the early centuries AD saw large-scale landscape change. During late prehistory the **South Nottinghamshire Farmlands** became extensively settled, with farms and associated field systems becoming ubiquitous throughout the region. Occasional larger settlements, probably serving some sort of market and religious functions adjacent to important crossroads and river crossings, developed near Bingham and probably East Stoke. When the Romans arrived in the middle of the 1st century AD, they found an already densely settled and well-developed landscape. In the initial conquest period the Fosse Way was built through the new Roman province as a principal route, which in this region almost certainly followed an existing line of communication above the Trent Valley. Military forts were established at Margidunum, outside Bingham, and Ad Pontem, at East Stoke. These commanded the existing larger settlements and their important communications. The forts had a relatively short life as the focus of military and political activity moved north, but the importance of the larger settlements remained. They became small towns, centres for markets, tax collection (especially of the corn tribute), and local administration. Settlement and agricultural exploitation in the region remained extensive; Roman sites are known in almost every parish, including high status villas in Shelford, Sibthorpe, Car Colston and Barton in Fabis.*

The result of this history was the clearance of the natural woodland and the development of an agricultural landscape of arable and pasture fields. Grain and seeds from a Roman site at Bunny indicate the cultivation of wheat and other arable crops, together with the presence of grassland and possibly hedgerows, while bones demonstrate the keeping of sheep and some pigs. At Margidunum, animal bones found in excavations largely represent stock brought in from the surrounding area, covering both part of this region and the Trent Valley. From these it appears that sheep were important in the early Roman phases, but after the last quarter of the 1st century AD cattle predominated. Putting this evidence together with our knowledge of the late prehistoric and Roman economy, it would not be unreasonable to envisage much of the clays being given over to corn production with pasture and meadows along the Smite and Devon Valleys, beside streams and in other lower damp areas. The marshlands mentioned above will have served also for grazing and wild fowling.

What happened at the end of the Roman period is not clear. Doubtless the region shared in the general decline in population during the 4th and 5th centuries and saw its share of social and economic change as Roman institutions and organisation withered. From the end of the 5th century, Anglo-Saxon settlement is indicated by place names and cemeteries at Holme Pierrepont, Cotgrave, Bingham, and East Stoke, but no actual settlement remains have been found and it must be assumed that these lie beneath modern villages. The early date of some place names and the general distribution of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, together with the social and economic arrangements suggested by later documents, particularly Domesday Book, suggest that the ***South Nottinghamshire Farmlands*** *substantially retained their population and economic vitality and were in consequence attractive to Anglo-Saxon incomers seeking wealth and power. Current models of Early and Middle Saxon settlement patterns are of dispersed farms and some larger settlements, not dissimilar to the basic pattern of later prehistory and the Roman period. The landscape of this region during the period up to the later 8th or 9th centuries, then, is likely to have been little different from that of these earlier periods, although it is possible that woodland may have temporarily increased somewhat and that some arable had been converted to pasture as former pressures on land use diminished.*

By the 9th century and more particularly from the 10th century, after the Scandinavian invasions and settlement of the East Midlands, substantial changes in the countryside appeared. Under the growing pressures of a rising population and the growing powers of local landlords, the dispersed settlement pattern began to be replaced by one of nucleated villages with people grouping together around the farm of the local lord, or at other geographically favoured locations. This was probably accompanied by reorganisation of landholdings to create early forms of open fields, farmed in common. Thus the typical village pattern of the English Midlands and Nottinghamshire began to be created. It was a gradual process, however, and took many generations to create: there is evidence that the nucleation of some Nottinghamshire villages was still in progress in the 12th century. In the ***South Nottinghamshire Farmlands****, however, it is likely that village formation was well advanced when Domesday Book was drawn up in 1086. The foundation of the modern landscape of the region ,then, was substantially laid by the end of the 11th century.*

By 1086, as Domesday Book shows, this region was part of the most densely settled and cultivated areas of Nottinghamshire. Indeed, the area around Bingham supported the highest population and the greatest number of plough teams of the whole County. Calculations of the areas of land use nominally represented in Domesday Book imply that in every community the land was totally taken up in farming. Arable cultivation predominated everywhere and in many, but not all, communities meadow was recorded, often in small amounts. Woodland was rare, being recorded in only 6 communities and

usually of small extent. The impression is strongly of a long-established, extensively cultivated countryside.

This was the pattern for the early Middle Ages. Continuing population growth saw most villages expand in size and the continuing development in field organisation to create a landscape of open fields, cropped on a 3 or 4 course rotation, with meadow and grazing in valley bottoms, along the Smite/Devon Valley, in the marshlands and on other pockets of land unsuitable for tillage, and some, comparatively few, hedgerows around villages, along lanes and between the open fields. By the late 13th century, when the mediaeval population reached its height, the agricultural regime had become heavily weighted towards arable production and cultivation extended into pastures and marginal land.

*The development of the modern **South Nottinghamshire Farmlands** landscape has its origins in the 14th century. The Black Death in 1349 and repeated subsequent visitations of plague reduced the national population by over one third. The documentary record is insufficient to permit an accurate estimate of the effect of these epidemics in this region, but there is no reason to believe that it suffered any less than elsewhere. However, in Nottinghamshire it appears that outbreaks of disease were not consistent from one place to another; while one community might be struck badly, another might escape almost completely. Contrary to common belief, there is no evidence that any community in this region disappeared as a direct consequence of the plague. The 14th century epidemics, however, did usher in a period of protracted change in society and economy, which had its effect on the countryside. With reduced population and social change, there was a swing away from arable production. Marginal ploughlands and pastures were restored to grassland and open field rotations reorganised to allow for longer fallows, temporary grass, and the creation of closes of permanent grass. Vacant tenancies were engrossed into occupied farms, creating more differential between large and small farms. With land exchanges the tendency grew for the larger farms to be made up of consolidated blocks of land within the open fields, and for boundaries of these to become fixed. Overall, the 15th and 16th centuries saw the establishment of convertible husbandry, with a more balanced, mixed farming regime.*

*Not all communities prospered in these changed social and economic circumstances. By the late 15th century, some were so weakened and the incomes so reduced that some landlords and tenants saw enclosure and conversion to grazing as their most profitable option. The **South Nottinghamshire Farmlands** and the Trent Valley led the way in this movement, with some of the earliest enclosures in the County at Wiverton in 1510, and Holme Pierrepont in 1501. In these instances and a few others, such as Hawton and Cotham, enclosure resulted in virtually complete depopulation, but this was usually less drastic than it appears because the communities were already in decline. In the case of Wiverton, where the village was totally emptied to be included in the grazing and pleasure park outside the Hall, only 5 houses were involved and it is likely that the landlord had little economic choice. In the case of Holme Pierrepont, some 36 people were put out in the process of converting 220 acres of arable and meadow to grazing for sheep. These were but extreme examples of a trend to convert land to grazing and to enclose on a piecemeal or community-wide basis. During the 16th and 17th centuries virtually two thirds of the parishes in the **South Nottinghamshire Farmlands** were enclosed in whole or part, for permanent or temporary grass. This does not take account of much of the small-scale piecemeal enclosures by which closes and small fields were, or had already been, created immediately adjacent to most villages and which are recognisable today by their irregularity and species-rich hedges with mature trees.*

Enclosure of the remainder of the region came in the second half of the 18th and early decades of the 19th centuries. This was the age of agricultural improvement, when open fields were seen as anachronistic and an impediment to progress and enclosure was promoted through Acts of Parliament to overcome objectors. Laid out by surveyors, the

field systems created through parliamentary enclosure tend to be larger and more regular than those of the preceding centuries. They were also intended for arable and crop rotation rather than long-term or permanent pasture. With enclosure came new developments, both in qualities of livestock and in the improvement of the land. The Smite Valley and Vale of Belvoir parishes had long been recognised for the breeding of cattle; in the late 18th century there were a number of farmers in the region breeding improved types of both sheep and cattle, particularly at Ruddington and Holme Pierrepont. By this date also, work had begun upon improving the drainage of land. The Smite was being straightened and brought under control in the 1790s, changing both the appearance and the land use capabilities of its valley, and only a little earlier the poor rents from extensive boggy land in Edwalton were transformed by improving watercourses and drainage. By the late 18th century a start had also been made on draining the moors between Gotham and Ruddington, although substantial areas of open common pasture remained until after 1836.

Enclosure, and the move towards more grassland, also brought the opportunity for the owners of country houses to embellish them with parks serving both pleasure and husbandry, laid out to be ornamental and provide grazing for sheep and cattle. One of the first of this type of park was at Wiverton, created after the enclosure of 1510; others followed throughout the succeeding centuries, and from the late 18th and 19th centuries any large house of high social standing might be expected to have at least large ornamental gardens. Over a dozen of such parks and gardens are known in this region and contributed, indeed still contribute, oases of trees and greenery to the agricultural landscape. More important to the general character of this countryside, however, was the rebuilding of villages in brick. Beginning with the houses of the nobility and gentry, Holme Pierrepont Hall being one of the first early in the 16th century, by the late 18th century it was usual for the humblest of new dwellings to be built in brick. Gradually, during the 18th and 19th centuries, the old style of buildings with timber frames or of mud-and-stud construction and thatched roofs were replaced, or encased, in brick with pantile and some plain tile roofs. Local clay pits and brick kilns were often the source of the bricks.

The pattern of convertible husbandry established in between the 15th and 17th centuries continued throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, within the landscape created by the two main episodes of enclosure. Despite fluctuations in demand and the effects of the importation of foodstuffs, it was not until the effects of the post World War II farming policies were felt that there was substantial change in this countryside. This change has seen the modification of the enclosure landscape by the removal of hedges and ditches so that fields might be amalgamated and modern large machinery be deployed, and the ploughing up of much grassland, some untouched since the 16th century, as production swung back to a preponderance of arable.

Many of the modern features of the countryside of the ***South Nottinghamshire Farmlands*** *are relatively recent in its long history. The red brick character of its villages is the product of the 18th and 19th centuries, while the enclosure pattern of its field systems was laid out between 1500 and 1820. The current manifestation of the tradition of arable farming, with much of the openness of the alluvial flats, is due to boundary clearance and virtual monoculture over the last 50 years. On the other hand, the fundamental characteristics of the region are a continuity of land use and settlement pattern going back to Late Saxon times, and earlier. The agricultural vitality of the region, high population, extensive cultivation and lack of woodland are dominant themes which were established early and have influenced its landscape in every generation of its history.'*

Nottinghamshire Wolds

*'The landscape of the **Nottinghamshire Wolds** is superficially a product of the enclosure movement, begun in the late Middle Ages but predominantly of the 18th century, modified to meet the requirement of the post-1945 economy and modern farming techniques. Behind this, however, stands over 4,000 years of settlement and land use, the influences of which can still be read in the late 20th century countryside. With the exception, perhaps, of the highest "wolds", this region was consistently part of the most densely settled and economically strong area of pre-industrial Nottinghamshire.*

In general, the soils and crops of this region have not been productive of cropmarks - the effects of differential crop growth over buried ditches and pits. Aerial reconnaissance, therefore, has provided only a little information about prehistoric and Roman land use. However, tools and fabrication debris found on the surface of ploughed fields show that early prehistoric activity was widespread throughout the region. There is no significant distinction in the pattern of discovery to suggest that the Nottinghamshire Wolds were any less favoured at this time than any other area. Indeed, it is at Stanton-on-the-Wolds that we have a very rare example of early prehistoric settlement with structural remains. At present it is not possible to make meaningful statements about the effect this activity had upon the forest landscape which will have developed after the end of the Ice Age, although it is reasonable to assume that the grazing of domesticated livestock and cultivation will have affected the flora of the woodland and produced localised thinnings and clearings. The composition of this woodland will have varied with soil conditions, and was probably largely lime well mixed with oak, with ash and alder in the river valleys.

Large-scale landscape change came in the first millennium BC and the early centuries AD. As elsewhere in South Nottinghamshire, the region became extensively occupied with farms and fields. When the Romans arrived in the middle of the 1st century AD they found an already well-settled and developed landscape. In the initial conquest period they built the Fosse Way through the east of the region, probably replicating an existing line of communication. To judge from other Roman "small towns" on the Fosse Way in Nottinghamshire, it is likely that they also built a military fort at Vernemetum, which probably was already a major settlement and a focus for commerce and routeways. Vernemetum was near Willoughby-on-the-Wolds but its precise site has not been identified, although Roman buildings have been identified at the Broughton Lodge crossroads on the A46. The fort will have been given up after a short period as the focus of military and political activity moved north, but the importance of Vernemetum as a market centre, a point of tax collection (especially of corn tribute) and as a seat of local government remained. Several routeways running through the region from Vernemetum to the Soar and Trent valleys can be surmised, although physical proof is lacking. One of these is likely to have led to the confluence of the Trent and the Soar, an area where there appear to have been important river crossings at a number of dates. Overlooking this area, a Romano-Celtic temple complex with an associated villa-like building was developed on Red Hill, in Ratcliffe on Soar. This temple, unique in Nottinghamshire and rare in the East Midlands, replaced an earlier Iron Age settlement and probable sacred site.

*The late prehistoric and Roman economy of the **Nottinghamshire Wolds** will have linked to that of the Trent Valley where settlement was most dense. Doubtless, the estate of the Roman villa at Barton in Fabis ran up into the hills to its south. Other villas are known at Stanford on Soar, Flawford and Willoughby-on-the-Wolds; interestingly, all these are the sites of later churches. These villas do not stand alone, but must be set against a background of extensive Roman settlement demonstrated by a number of coin hoards, and other finds of Roman coins, brooches and pottery from throughout the region. In some localities these indicate sites of significant wealth and importance.*

The result of this history was the clearance of most of the natural woodland and the development of an agricultural landscape of arable and pasture fields. Direct evidence about this landscape comes from a site at Bunny, where grain and seeds indicate the cultivation of wheat and other crops, and the presence of grassland and possibly hedgerows, while bones demonstrate the keeping of sheep and some pigs. This evidence points towards a mixed agricultural regime, utilising the range of land resources available in the region.

What happened at the end of the Roman period is unclear. The region probably shared in the general decline in population during the 4th and 5th centuries and saw social and economic change as Roman institutions and organisations withered. However, along with the Trent Valley and most of South Nottinghamshire, there is no reason to believe other than that the communities of the ***Nottinghamshire Wolds*** *substantially maintained their economic viability and survived to become the progenitors of those of the later Saxon and mediaeval periods. The region was certainly part of the South Nottinghamshire area which was most attractive to incoming Anglo Saxons from the end of the 5th century AD. The presence of these incomers is shown by cremation cemeteries at Kingston on Soar and Sutton Bonington, and the large inhumation cemetery at Willoughby-on- the-Wolds, together with a group of burials on the Fosse Way in Cotgrave, a possible cemetery in Rempstone and, from just outside the region, the inhumation cemetery at Windmill Hill, Cotgrave. No structural remains of Anglo-Saxon settlement have been found as yet, and it must be assumed that these lie beneath modern villages.*

Current models of early and middle Saxon settlement patterns are of dispersed farms and some larger settlements, not dissimilar to the basic pattern of later prehistory and the Roman period. The landscape of the region up to the 8th or 9th centuries, then, is likely to have been little different from that of preceding generations, although it is possible that woodland may have temporarily increased somewhat and that some arable may have been converted to pasture, as population diminished and pressure on land use relaxed. The Willoughby-on-the-Wolds cemetery certainly suggests that the "wolds" remained occupied during at least the first two centuries after the Romans.

By the 9th century and more particularly from the 10th century, after the Scandinavian invasions and settlement of the East Midlands, substantial changes in the countryside appeared. Under the pressures of a rising population and the growing powers of local landlords, the dispersed settlement pattern began to be replaced by one of nucleated villages, with people grouping around the farm of the local lord or at other geographically favoured sites. This was probably accompanied by reorganisation of landholdings to create early forms of open fields, farmed in common. Thus the typical village pattern of the English Midlands and of Nottinghamshire began to be created. It was a gradual process and took many generations to complete; there is evidence that the nucleation of some Nottinghamshire villages was still in progress in the 12th century. In the ***Nottinghamshire Wolds*** *however, it is likely that village formation was well advanced by 1086 when Domesday Book was drawn up. The foundation of the modern landscape, then, was substantially laid by the end of the 11th century.*

By 1086, as Domesday Book shows, this region was part of the most densely settled and cultivated areas of Nottinghamshire. Calculations of the areas of land use nominally represented in Domesday Book imply that in every community the land was totally taken up with farming. With a few dubious exceptions, there was extensive arable throughout the region. In common with the ***Vale of Belvoir*** *and in contrast to elsewhere, every community possessed areas of meadow, some of which were considerable. Woodland was rare, being recorded in five entries referring to only four communities. Of those five entries, four are for underwood, or coppice wood, generally little mentioned in Domesday Book, and the largest was of 100 acres at Bunny, very large by the standards of*

recorded underwood elsewhere. Almost certainly this is the same woodland which is referred to in later documents both as Bunny "Rice" (which also implies coppice wood) and as Bunny Wood, and which is still with us today as Bunny Old Wood. Similarly the 32.5 acres of underwood recorded at Cotgrave may be involved in the Cotgrave Wood mentioned in the late 12th century. Although it is possible that other pieces of woodland were not recorded, the overall lack of woodland in 1086 in this region is striking and conforms with the substantial absence of woodland elsewhere in South Nottinghamshire.

*The overall impression of the **Nottinghamshire Wolds** in 1086 is of an ancient and well-developed landscape. This is to some extent at variance with the place name "wolds". This name derives separately from two Old English terms, wald implying forest or woodland, and weald which was applied to high tracts of open land. The link, or progression in areas like the **Nottinghamshire Wolds**, where there is little evidence for woodland in 1086 or later, is suggested to be that wald was applied first to describe the wooded nature of the region in the Early Saxon period, and that it then became transmuted into weald as it became appropriate to the cleared open character of the Late Saxon landscape cleared of woodland.*

*However, as has been discussed above, there is reason to believe that the Roman landscape of the **Nottinghamshire Wolds** will have been largely cleared of woodland. While woodland could have regenerated subsequently, the presence of large Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Willoughby-on-the-Wolds, adjacent to the Roman town of Vernemetum, indicates that settlement and land use in this area are unlikely to have been less intensive before the 7th century. Settlement and its accompanying arable may have retracted on the "wolds" in the 7th and 8th centuries, for the distribution of settlements with English names generally respects the higher areas of the region. Settlements bearing Scandinavian-influenced place names also appear in the higher areas, perhaps implying that there was space to be reoccupied in the later 9th and 10th centuries. Nevertheless, it is probable that the surrounding regions and at least the lower parts of the **Nottinghamshire Wolds** continued to be well-populated in the Anglo-Saxon period and that the higher "wolds" are unlikely to have been abandoned, but were given over to common grazing, which will have limited the regeneration of the woodland. Several 12th century references at Cotgrave and Wysall to meadow on the "wolds" may support this inference.*

*The landscape of 1086 remained the basic pattern for the **Nottinghamshire Wolds** during the early Middle Ages. Increasing population growth saw most villages expanding in size and continuing development in field organisation to create a landscape of open fields, cropped on a three or four course rotation, which extended into the "wolds". Meadows and grazing were to be found in valley bottoms, on the higher areas of the "wolds", and on the steeper slopes of the hills overlooking the Trent Valley where ploughing was difficult or not possible. There will have been some hedgerows along lanes and parish boundaries as well as around villages and open fields. These would, however, have been comparatively few in number. By the late 13th century when the mediaeval population reached its zenith, the agricultural regime had become heavily weighted towards arable production and cultivation extended into pastures and marginal land.*

*It was in the 14th century that the movement towards the modern landscape of the region began to develop, The Black Death in 1349 and repeated subsequent visitations of plague reduced the national population by over one third. The documentary record is insufficient to permit an accurate estimate of the effects of these epidemics in the **Nottinghamshire Wolds**, but there is no reason to believe that the area suffered any less than elsewhere. However, it appears that outbreaks of disease in Nottinghamshire were not consistent from one place to another and while one community might be struck badly, another might escape almost completely. Contrary to common belief, there is no evidence that any community in this region disappeared as a direct consequence of*

plague. The 14th century epidemics, however, did usher in a period of protracted change in society and economy, which had its effect on the countryside. With reduced population and social change there was a swing away from arable production. Marginal ploughlands and pastures were restored to grassland and open field rotations reorganised to allow for longer fallows, temporary grass and the creation of closes of permanent grass. Vacant tenancies were engrossed into occupied farms, creating more differential between large and small farms. With land exchanges, the tendency grew for the larger farms to be made up of consolidated blocks of land in the open fields, and for the boundaries of these to become fixed. Overall, the 15th and 16th centuries saw the establishment of convertible husbandry, with a more balanced, mixed farming regime.

*The vast majority of communities in the **Nottinghamshire Wolds** were able to respond to the changing circumstances in the later Middle Ages, although not necessarily without difficulties, as is suggested by the record in 1431 of four ruined houses in Gotham. Communities in the "wolds" however faced severe problems. Worsening climatic conditions from the late 13th century onwards increased the labour in tilling the heavy clays here and probably reduced grain yields, which placed strains upon a declining population. In consequence, some of these communities are found to be reorganising their fields in the first half of the 15th century and landlords began renting land out for sheep grazing. For Stanton-on-the-Wolds and Thorpe-in-the-Glebe the decline was effectively terminal. In both villages, land was progressively put down to grass and enclosed for sheep. In 1491 there were only perhaps 90 acres of arable remaining to be enclosed in Thorpe-in-the-Glebe and no significant population. It is a measure of the difficulties experienced by the smaller "wolds" villages that out of eight parishes involved with the region which were enclosed before 1700, four were in the "wolds".*

Interestingly, the other four of the eight early enclosed parishes were at the other end of the region and incorporated lands in the Soar and Trent Valleys. Here, in places such as Ratcliffe on Soar or Thrumpton, landlord policy following the market and economic trends may have been a stronger factor than difficult soils and insufficient population. The latter may not be ruled out entirely, however; a 1558 reference to 1,000 acres of furze and heath in Stanford on Soar, if it does not represent some ancient common, may indicate a considerable portion of the parish taken out of arable and left unenclosed with little management other than rough grazing. A much reduced population could be one explanation for this.

Despite a quantity of small-scale piecemeal enclosure, particularly close to the villages, most of the Nottinghamshire Wolds were able to adapt their open field systems towards regimes of convertible husbandry and avoid enclosure until the second half of the 18th or early 19th centuries. This was an age of agricultural improvement, when open fields were seen as anachronistic and an impediment to progress. No fewer than 17 of the region's 30 parishes were enclosed between 1742 and 1799, and a further five between 1800 and 1805. Even more striking is that in only four out of these 22 was the area enclosed less than 50%, and three of these are peripheral to the region with much of their land lying outside it. Generally, between 75% and 95% of parishes remained to be enclosed during these 63 years. Laid out by surveyors, the field systems thus created tend to be larger and more regular than those of the preceding centuries.

*Generally the 18th and 19th centuries were a period when country houses, both large and small, were improved and embellished with often extensive ornamental gardens or larger parks which might serve both pleasure and husbandry. The **Nottinghamshire Wolds** had comparatively few parks, the two most notable being Thrumpton and Stanford Hall which in its present form has later 18th century origins. Important additions to the landscape as these and more minor examples were, more significant to the overall character of the landscape was the rebuilding of villages in brick. Beginning with the houses of the gentry in the 16th and 17th centuries, by the 18th century it was usual*

for the humblest of new dwellings to be built in brick. Gradually, during the 18th and 19th centuries, the old style of buildings in the region, with timber frames or of mud and stud construction with thatched roofs, were replaced or encased in brick with tiled roofs. Local clay pits and brick kilns were often the source of the bricks.

Extraction of clay and gypsum has been the principal industrial enterprise of this region. Gypsum or rather alabaster was quarried at Red Hill from the Middle Ages, when its product supplied an important school of carvers. Significantly, large pieces of alabaster were still being produced from Red Hill in the later 18th century. The Red Hill area remained the principal source of gypsum plaster until the 1850s, producing from quarries and pits. By 1880, mining into the face of the Gotham and West Leake Hills had begun. Thereafter, the industry moved progressively eastwards and deeper. The landscape effects of this are local to the areas of production, ranging from the remains of quarries, mine entrances, and tramways to ranges of pithead buildings and other plant. The other notable industrial additions to the landscape have been communications, especially the Nottingham - Leicester railway line of 1840 with its castellated entrance to Red Hill Tunnel and, from the 20th century, Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station.

The historical pattern of mixed farming in this region was increasingly weighted towards animal husbandry in the economic climate of the later 19th century and much of the first half of the 20th century. This weighting has been reversed under post World War II farming policies. Nevertheless the fundamental characteristics of the long history of the ***Nottinghamshire Wolds*** *is still traceable in much of its countryside.'*

Vale of Belvoir

'The landscape of the ***Vale of Belvoir*** *is superficially a creation of the enclosure movement of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, modified by the requirements of the post 1945 economy and modern farming techniques. Behind this, however, stands over 3,000 years of settlement and land use which through the generations have influenced the development of the late 20th century countryside. From late prehistory to the end of the 18th century, this region was consistently part of the most densely settled and economically strong area of pre-industrial Nottinghamshire.*

Early prehistoric activity throughout the region is demonstrated by the flint tools and fabrication debris found on the surface of ploughed fields, and by the remains of funerary monuments, which appear amongst the cropmarks recorded from the air, particularly along the Rhaetic limestone ridge and wherever the soils are favourable to the production of differential crop growth over buried ditches and pits. At present we can not make meaningful estimates of the effect of this activity upon the forest landscape which developed after the end of the Ice Ages, although it is reasonable to assume that the grazing of domesticated livestock and cultivation will have affected the flora of the woodland and produced localised thinning and clearings. This appears to be a major factor in the national diminution of elm after 4000 BC and an increase in hazel. Locally, the composition of the woodland will have varied with the soil conditions, probably oak dominated on the clays, with lime and ash on the limestone, and alder in the valleys of the Smite and Devon.

The 1st millenium BC and the early centuries AD saw large scale landscape change. During late prehistory the ***Vale of Belvoir*** *became extensively settled, with farms and associated field systems becoming ubiquitous throughout the region. When the Romans arrived in the middle of the 1st century AD, they found an already well settled and developed landscape. Although settlements and objects show that this prosperity was maintained throughout the Roman period, only one possible villa is known. It appears rather that the* ***Vale of Belvoir*** *was an agricultural hinterland to the Roman towns of Margidunum, near Bingham, and Vernemetum, near Willoughby on the Wolds, and to*

settlements in Leicestershire, traversed by an ancient routeway which is mirrored by the modern A52 and by a possible Roman road along Harby Lane.

The result of this history was the clearance of the natural woodland and the development of an agricultural landscape of arable and pasture fields. Although outside of this region, grain, seeds and bones from a Roman site at Bunny indicate what was likely: the cultivation of wheat and other arable crops, the presence of grassland and possibly hedgerows, and the keeping of sheep and some pigs. At Margidunum, which can be reasonably assumed to have been a market and tax collection centre for at least part of the ***Vale of Belvoir****, cattle bones predominate after the last quarter of the 1st century AD. In view of the more recent history of the region it is perhaps reasonable to speculate that some specialisation in dairying and more particularly fattening may have been possible in the Roman period also.*

What happened at the end of the Roman period is not clear. Doubtless the region shared in the general decline in population during the 4th and 5th centuries and saw its share of social and economic change as Roman institutions and organisation withered. Equally, its wholly agricultural character may have provided some protection. As elsewhere in South Nottinghamshire, there is no reason to believe other than that communities substantially maintained their economic vitality and survived to become the originators of those of the Saxon and mediaeval periods. The ***Vale of Belvoir*** *was certainly part of the territory which was most attractive to Anglo-Saxon settlement from the end of the 5th century, as is demonstrated by cemeteries in the neighbouring areas. However, nothing coherent can be said about this region at this date. No settlement remains have been found and it must be assumed that these lie beneath modern villages. Current models of early and middle Saxon settlement patterns are of dispersed farms and some larger settlements, not dissimilar to the basic pattern of later prehistory and the Roman period. The landscape of this region during the period up to the later 8th or 9th centuries, then, is likely to have been little different from that of these earlier periods, although it is possible that woodland may have temporarily increased somewhat and that some arable had been converted to pasture as former pressures on land use diminished.*

From the 9th century and more particularly from the 10th century, after the Scandinavian invasions and settlement of the East Midlands, substantial changes in the countryside appeared. Under the pressures of a rising population and the growing powers of local landlords, the dispersed settlement pattern began to be replaced by one of nucleated villages with people grouping together around the farm of the local lord, or at other geographically favourable sites. This was probably accompanied by reorganisation of landholdings to create early forms of open fields, farmed in common. Thus the typical village pattern of the English Midlands and Nottinghamshire began to be created. It was a gradual process, however, and took many generations to create; there is evidence that the nucleation of some Nottinghamshire villages was still in progress in the 12th century. In the ***Vale of Belvoir****, Granby and Hickling appear to have been particularly important communities, possibly because of important Anglo-Scandinavian landowners. Overall, it is likely that village formation was well advanced by 1086, when Domesday Book was drawn up. The foundation of the modern landscape of the region, then, was substantially laid by the end of the 11th century.*

By 1086, as Domesday Book shows, the ***Vale of Belvoir*** *was part of the most densely settled and cultivated areas of Nottinghamshire. Calculations of the areas of land use nominally represented in Domesday Book imply that in every community the land was totally taken up in farming. Everywhere there was extensive arable cultivation but in constrast to other regions, every community possessed areas of meadow, which in some cases were considerable. No woodland at all was recorded. The impression is strongly that of a well developed agricultural countryside.*

This was the pattern for the early Middle Ages. Continuing population growth saw most villages expand in size and in some there are indications of reorganisation, both planned and organic. For example, by the late 13th century settlement in Colston Bassett appears to have moved down into the bottom of the Smite Valley, leaving its church standing alone on the higher ground above. This expansion was accompanied by continuing development in field organisation to create a landscape of open fields, cropped on a 3 or 4 course rotation, with meadow and grazing in valley bottoms, along the Smite and Devon valleys, in marshlands and on other pockets of land unsuitable for tillage, and some, comparatively few, hedgerows around villages, along lanes and between the open fields. By the late 13th century when the mediaeval population reached its height, the agricultural regime had become weighted towards arable production and cultivation extended into pastures and marginal land.

*The development of the modern **Vale of Belvoir** landscape has its origins in the 14th century. The Black Death in 1349 and repeated subsequent visitations of plague reduced the national population by over one third. The documentary record is insufficient to permit an accurate estimate of the effect of these epidemics in this region, but there is no reason to believe that it suffered any less than elsewhere. However, in Nottinghamshire it appears that outbreaks of disease were not consistent from one place to another; while one community might be struck badly, another might escape almost completely. Contrary to common belief, there is no evidence that any community in this region disappeared as a direct consequence of the plague. The 14th century epidemics, however, did usher in a period of protracted change in society and economy, which had its effect on the countryside. With reduced population and social change, there was a swing away from arable production. Marginal ploughlands and pastures were restored to grassland and open field rotations reorganised to allow for longer fallows, temporary grass, and the creation of closes of permanent grass. Vacant tenancies were engrossed into occupied farms, creating more differential between large and small farms. With land exchanges the tendency grew for the larger farms to be made up of consolidated blocks of land within the open fields, and for boundaries of these to become fixed. Overall, the 15th and 16th centuries saw the establishment of convertible husbandry, with a more balanced, mixed farming regime.*

*Not all communities prospered in these changed social and economic circumstances. By the late 15th century, some were so weakened and the incomes so reduced that some landlords and tenants saw enclosure and conversion to grazing as their most profitable option. In some neighbouring regions the result of this enclosure was to complete the depopulation of some declining communities, but in the **Vale of Belvoir** it may be doubted if any communities were affected to this ultimate degree. The deserted settlement adjacent to the site of All Saints' Church at Kinoulton might fit into this category, but the complicated and obscure documentary record for this community suggests that migration into a new centre, as already described for Colston Bassett, is an equally likely interpretation. In all events, the end of the Middle Ages saw the beginning of a trend to convert land to grazing and to enclose on a piecemeal or community wide basis. The **Vale of Belvoir**, with the **South Nottinghamshire Farmlands** and the Trent Valley, was early in this movement and during the 16th and 17th centuries over one third of its parishes were enclosed in whole or part, for permanent or temporary grass. This does not take account of many of the small scale piecemeal enclosures by which closes and small fields were, or had already been, created immediately adjacent to most villages and which are recognisable today by their irregularity and species rich hedges with mature trees.*

Enclosure of the remainder of the region came in the second half of the 18th and early decades of the 19th centuries. This was the age of agricultural improvement, when open fields were seen as anachronistic and an impediment to progress and enclosure was promoted through Acts of Parliament to overcome objectors. Laid out by surveyors, the

field systems created through parliamentary enclosure tend to be larger and more regular than those of the preceding centuries. They were also intended as much for arable and crop rotation as for long-term or permanent pasture. With enclosure came new developments, both in qualities of livestock and in the improvement of the land. By the late 18th century the ***Vale of Belvoir*** *was recognised for the breeding and fattening of cattle and there were a number of farmers in and around the region breeding improved types of both sheep and cattle, particularly at Cotham. By this date also, work had begun upon improving the drainage of land. The Smite was being straightened and brought under control in the 1790s, changing both the appearance and the land use capabilities of its valley, and from the 1820s field drainage improved the versatility of clay lands.*

Inexorably, the farming economy of the ***Vale of Belvoir*** *continued to tilt towards animal husbandry, creating a landscape dominated by grassland. In the agricultural slump after the end of the Napoleonic Wars much heavy land went out of cultivation and even in the so called "Golden Age of Farming" from 1850 to 1870, there was more profit in livestock than in grain. After 1870, when Free Trade policies opened the doors to cheap imported grain, livestock became even more important with increased production of milk, cheese and meat to meet the food demands of Nottingham and the expanding colliery communities in the west of the County. Apart from the period of the 1st World War, when arable was again a priority, this economic emphasis was maintained until 1939. Consequently, by the 1930s some 70% of the* ***Vale of Belvoir*** *was grassland and it was famous for the fattening of cattle and for its milk and cheese, particularly Stilton.*

From the 16th century on, enclosure introduced more trees and shrubs into the landscape, principally through planting in hedgerows and in the parks and large ornamental gardens which are to be expected with any large house of high social standing. In Staunton during the early 17th century, conditions in their leases obliged tenants to plant trees, especially ash, elm and willow, as well as to maintain the quickset of hedgerows. The park at Colston Bassett, serving both pleasure and husbandry by being ornamental whilst providing grazing for sheep and cattle, was probably laid out around 1710 when the Old Hall was pulled down and a new mansion built. More important to the general character of the ***Vale of Belvoir****, however, was the rebuilding of villages in brick. Beginning with the houses of the nobility and gentry, by the late 18th century it was usual for the humblest of new dwellings to be built in brick. Gradually, during the 18th and 19th centuries, the old style of buildings with timber frames or of mud-and-stud construction and thatched roofs were replaced, or encased, in brick with pantile and some plain tile roofs. Local clay pits and brick kilns were often the source of the bricks. Stone building was also a lesser feature of this region, taking advantage of the limestone outcrops in and around it.*

The economic emphasis on livestock and the resulting grassland countryside, which began with the convertible husbandry established in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries and developed fully in the 19th and early 20th centuries, was overthrown by World War II and the effects of the farming policies which followed it. These have brought substantial changes to the landscape of the ***Vale of Belvoir****, with the modification of the enclosure landscape by the removal of hedges and ditches so that fields might be amalgamated and modern large machinery be deployed. As production swung back to a preponderance of arable much grassland, some untouched since the 16th century, has been ploughed up.*

Many of the features of today's countryside in the ***Vale of Belvoir*** *are relatively recent in its long history. The red brick character of its villages is the product of the 18th and 19th centuries, while the the enclosure pattern of its field systems was laid out between 1500 and 1820. The current manifestation of the tradition of mixed farming, especially much of the openness of the arable areas, has been created by boundary clearance over*

the last 30 years. On the other hand, the fundamental characteristics of the region are a continuity of land use and settlement pattern going back to Late Saxon times, and perhaps even earlier. The agricultural vitality of the region, extensive cultivation with much animal husbandry, and lack of woodland are dominant themes which were established early and have influenced its landscape in every generation of its history.'

Nottingham forces for landscape change.

A7.1 This section describes the anticipated change which may influence the character of the study area over the next 20 years.

A7.2 The information within this Appendix has been provided through interviews with relevant planning officers within each of the contributing local authorities. The interviews were held on the 25th March 2009 and included a series of questions on various themes which are likely to have the greatest influence on the landscape character of the study area. The purpose of these discussions was to identify planned changes and also trends which are occurring and likely to effect change. The topics discussed included:

- Agriculture;
- Housing;
- Major regeneration/development proposals;
- Employment;
- Infrastructure;
- Tourism;
- Minerals and waste;
- Renewable energy.

Ashfield

Agriculture

A7.3 There were no obvious trends reported for agriculture within Ashfield apart from barn conversions and a minor amount of rural diversification.

Housing

A7.4 The district needs to deliver 5,171 new dwellings outside the current settlement boundaries by 2026. The district is currently reviewing its potential housing allocations brought forward as part of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). The council is now in the process of identifying which are the most suitable for taking forward as land allocations within the LDF.

A7.5 The main areas which are likely to experience change are around the larger centres of Hucknall, Kirkby and Sutton in Ashfield, and within brownfield land. Other possible changes in housing which could have the largest influence on landscape character are likely to be around village fringes particularly at Jacksdale, Selston and Underwood. Although these have a tightly constrained Green Belt, the boundary may change when it is reviewed as part of the LDF process. The review of sites may include land which currently forms a wedge between existing settlements.

Regeneration

A7.6 Most regeneration within the district is likely to be concentrated within urban centres; however there is a large brownfield site, Annesley Collliery which lies to the east of Annesely and to the north of Annesely Forest. This has permission for mixed use development; a large proportion would be housing.

A7.7 The Sustainable Urban Extension study identified a large site to the north west of Hucknall as a potential site for a new urban extension. The study covered the whole of Greater Nottingham and identified a number of sites within all districts/boroughs.

Employment Land

A7.8 The district currently has no employment land figures although officers felt that there was unlikely to be a pressure to find any large areas of new land for employment. There is current employment around Sherwood Way which is an employment/regeneration zone. It was highlighted that the employment sites at present do not cater for low quality manufacturing which is an important employer within Ashfield. Sites for this type of employment may increase in demand.

A7.9 Rolls Royce has a large factory within the district and there are proposals for a new access into the land. However they are not anticipated to expand beyond their current built footprint.

Infrastructure

A7.10 The only infrastructure project which is likely to affect landscape character is the M1 widening which is currently taking place. The land take for this has already occurred and the project is due for completion in 2010.

Tourism

A7.11 Ashfield is the place where Lord Byron was buried (in Hucknall) and there are many trails identified as Byron routes which take in places that are of relevance to Byron's history. However there are no plans to extend any of this aspect of tourism and the greatest change is likely to be footpaths and cycleways to feed into the 5 peak trail; they are only likely to have very localised effects on character.

Minerals and waste

A7.12 Ashfield currently has a number of landfill sites; there is one in operation at Sutton which is nearing capacity. There may be pressure for new landfill sites; the potential locations for new landfill sites are being reviewed by Nottinghamshire County Council although no information is currently available on this.

Renewable Energy

A7.13 This district currently has no identified pressure or potential planning applications for renewable energy schemes such as wind farms.

Broxtowe

Agriculture

A7.14 There were no obvious trends reported for agriculture within Broxtowe apart from barn conversions to residential properties or storage and a minor amount of rural diversification.

A7.15 The countryside close to the urban edge is popular for horses and horse paddocks and whilst it is expected that this will continue there has not

been any significant increase or trend towards development related to horses.

Housing

A7.16 Broxtowe has to deliver 6,800 new dwellings by 2026. Whilst some existing allocations/completions will accommodate some of this development the officer indicated that locations for 4,500 new homes would be needed. Although there are a few big sites within the urban areas it is anticipated that much of the housing would need to go on greenfield land. The largest potential area is to the north of Stapleford towards Strelley. The land borders a Mature Landscape Area designation. Other areas include brownfield land at Toton Sidings. Many of the smaller settlements will be assessed for the ability to accommodate new development around their fringes; many are constrained by Green Belt, however a review of Green Belt boundaries will be undertaken as part of the LDF process.

A7.17 As part of the SHLAA sites around the fringes of all settlements will be assessed for their suitability for development; it is that anticipated larger sites, if allocated, would be for mixed used developments.

Regeneration

A7.18 There are no large regeneration schemes proposed or anticipated within the borough.

Employment Land

A7.19 The land allocations for new employment are currently being reviewed as part of an Employment Land Study. However it was reported that the main areas are likely to be to the west of the city and there could be pressure around junction 26 of the M1.

A7.20 The Council recognises the importance of protecting the existing employment land allocations for employment or mixed use development. A former Boots site is likely to be redeveloped over the next 5 to 10 years as a large mixed-use scheme.

Infrastructure

A7.21 There is a proposal for a new train station at Ilkeston which is adjacent to Broxtowe although it is only likely to have very minor effects on landscape character.

A7.22 There are proposals for a tram in the south of the borough which will link into Green Belt to the north of Toton.

A7.23 Other changes for infrastructure are only likely to be minor alterations to existing road networks or new roads in association with new development.

Tourism

A7.24 The officer reported that there were no major tourism trends or proposals likely to take place over the next few years. The area is associated with D.H Lawrence and whilst there may be some very minor tourism

attractions around this it is unlikely to have an effect on landscape character.

Minerals and waste

A7.25 The area has no current mining or quarrying consents. A proposal for open cast mining in areas between Trowell and Awsworth has been refused. In other parts an area of open cast mining has occurred in the past and the land subsequently returned to agriculture. In the area south of Eastwood and to the south of the A610 there are open cast reserves but no current consents to mine them.

A7.26 Minerals are processed in Broxtowe but are not quarried and this is unlikely to change within the next plan period.

Renewable Energy

A7.27 The officer stated that a study had been carried out in the past which looked at suitable locations for wind energy and a few areas of high land were considered. However no applications have been received and it is likely that only isolated small scale proposals may occur. At present there are no major schemes proposed.

Gedling

Agriculture

A7.28 The main focus for change is for rural diversification for use of private houses for holiday accommodation such as B&B's or holiday cottages and for the conversion of barns to either private residential or employment use. Other uses include stables and a cattery. All are relatively minor changes which would only affect landscape character on a local level.

Housing

A7.29 The borough has to deliver 8,000 homes over the next plan period. The Council has a relatively recent local plan which was adopted in July 2005 and therefore many of the allocations are still available for development and able to accommodate the required housing numbers.

A7.30 Many of the allocations and likely housing within the borough is close to the main urban areas around Arnold and Gedling. Many of the more rural villages are constrained by landform and control of development has previously been to ensure that the development does not extend above the ridgelines which border and screen the majority of the urban area from the wider countryside. Land to the immediate east of Gedling and Arnold is a Mature Landscape Area known as the 'Dumbles' which has previously been protected from development. Other constraints are along the River Trent which is prone to flooding.

A7.31 Villages such as Lambley are likely to only experience small-scale infill development. The SHLAA is currently assessing land allocations elsewhere across the borough such as Calverton for the potential for new housing particularly focused on 'white' sites.

A7.32 The Sustainable Urban Extension report indicated the potential for a SUE to the north of Calverton and east of Bestwood.

Regeneration

A7.33 The Council has prepared planning briefs for the key regeneration sites within the borough. Top Wighay Farm to the north of Hucknall has the potential to accommodate 500 new dwellings. The area includes allocated land and safeguarded land to ensure that the wider landscape is not detrimentally affected by future development.

A7.34 The other main site is at Gedling Colliery which is a key regeneration site in the borough. The scheme would deliver 1,100 houses and incorporate the regeneration of the colliery spoil heap as a large area of open space, new mixed use development and access roads. The land is mostly but not entirely brownfield land; it incorporates a small pocket of farmland.

Employment Land

A7.35 The main employment allocations are both within the existing urban areas and on former brownfield land such as Calverton and Gedling collieries. Another large allocation is to the south of water reclamation works close to Stoke Bardolph and at Teal Close.

Infrastructure

A7.36 The main reported changes for infrastructure include Gedling Access Road which links the urban areas from Mapperley Plains to Burton Road (partly developed) along the eastern edge of the urban fringe and the A612 southern Link Road which would link the Gedling Access Road to Colwick Loop Road.

A7.37 Other future pressures reported include a new passenger rail-line from the former Gedling Colliery to the Nottingham-Grantham rail line and a new passenger rail-line and station from the RobinHood Line (near Bestwood) to Calverton; the development of an old mineral line as a recreational route; and a tram extension from Hucknall to Top Wignay Farm.

Tourism

A7.38 The key attraction is Newstead Abbey in the northern part of the borough, the River Trent Park and existing country parks.

A7.39 Future change includes the development of a colliery park as part of the development of Gedling Colliery and local level changes and initiatives as part of Greenwood Community Forest.

Minerals and waste

A7.40 There are current sand and gravel extractions along the Trent Valley although the majority are within Newark across the borough boundary. There may be pressure in the future for quarries along the floodplain.

A7.41 There is a current extraction site to the north of Woodland grange on Mansfield Road near Ravenshead; this may cease extraction over the next 10 years to allow restoration of the site.

Renewable Energy

A7.42 There are few reported applications for renewable energy. Those received include an enquiry for a small single wind turbine at the Ravenshead Plant Centre but generally applications/enquiries are limited to small-scale proposals.

Nottingham City

Agriculture

A7.43 Nottingham City is almost entirely urban with pockets of open space. The only area of agriculture is a small tract between Clifton and West Bridgford and to the north of Clifton adjacent to the River Trent.

A7.44 During the interview no specific pressures or trends that may effect landscape change were identified.

Housing

A7.45 The regional plan requires Nottingham City to deliver 20,000 new dwellings up to 2026. Given the built up nature of the land, the main focus for this development would be on previously developed land such as at Stanton Tip although there may be a requirement for new development on areas of open land. As part of the SHLAA sites are being identified as suitable areas for development.

A7.46 There is a proposal for new housing around Clifton which spans its boundary with Rushcliffe which is within greenfield land.

Regeneration

A7.47 During the past plan period the centre of Nottingham has seen considerable reuse of brownfield land. This is likely to continue in order to deliver sustainable mixed use development.

Employment Land

A7.48 Likely employment change includes new office development on the western fringes of the city which would link into existing development at Nottingham Business Park and it is likely that other employment related development will take place within the city centre or in close proximity.

Infrastructure

A7.49 There are a number of changes to the infrastructure network including the upgrading of the A453 into a dual carriageway; improvements to the ring road and improving capacity on the rail network. This would not require any new lines but would increase capacity on the existing lines.

A7.50 The other proposal is for the upgrading of the tram system to extend further out of the city to help ease city congestion.

Tourism

A7.51 The Trent River Park has been established to utilise the river as a unique asset which can help delivery sustainable development, biodiversity and recreational interest and a productive landscape. The vision for the area is as follows:

"The Trent River Park will be a multiple-use landscape, an accessible, sustainable and popular park, part of the wider regional 'green environment'. It will be a responsive and productive landscape, linking Nottingham's communities to the countryside, an asset for existing and future communities. The Trent River Park will offer tranquil riverside landscape and 'hubs of activity' with restored flood plain landscapes including wetlands and habitat corridors. Improved access will provide new opportunities for walking, cycling and enjoyment of the river and countryside and allow the Trent River Park to become part of people's everyday lives".

A7.52 This would bring about positive coordinated change along the river corridor which focus' on tourism, regeneration and landscape. The aim is to make the area more attractive and useable for tourism and to intensify recreational uses.

A7.53 The officer reported that there is a concept for a 100m high Robin Hood statue. Three potential locations have been proposed: Colwick Woods; the Embankment; and Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station. The development would be accompanied by some commercial development. At present this is just a concept with no firm proposals, however a development of this nature would be visible within the wider countryside.

Minerals and waste

A7.54 There are no working quarries within Nottingham City as most of the land is built up. There are proposals to expand the Eastcroft incinerator on London Road although this is within the urban area and unlikely to have an effect on character beyond the built up area.

Renewable Energy

A7.55 There are currently no known schemes for renewable energy although the officer reported that there had been preliminary interest in the potential of Stanton Tip for wind turbines.

Other pressures

A7.56 Nottingham City's officer also reported that there may be changes along the river as part of flood defence works to the embankments.

Rushcliffe

Agriculture

A7.57 Traditionally buildings within the rural areas were red brick with red pantile roofs. Current planning policy ensures that minimal changes to their layout and appearance can be made although there is frequent pressure for windows or additional openings on barn conversion applications.

A7.58 An emerging trend is the re-use of agricultural buildings for non agricultural employment. In some cases there have been subsequent applications to knock the existing buildings down and construct modern buildings in their place. This alters the character of the rural buildings and can have an influence on landscape character.

A7.59 Positive change within the wider countryside is the potential future establishment of community woodlands with the formation of new Woodland Trust sites and the take up of Environmental Stewardship schemes where there is an emphasis on improving/managing the existing landscape features.

Housing

A7.60 The Regional Plan requires Rushcliffe to deliver 15,000 new dwellings by 2026 with 11,000 to be provided around West Bridgford and the remaining in other locations. Although there is potential for a small proportion of this development to be accommodated within the built up areas the majority will need to be provided on greenfield land on the edge of West Bridgford and/or Clifton to meet this requirement which will have a marked influence on landscape character.

A7.61 There are currently proposals for a sustainable urban extension around Clifton which would look to extend Clifton towards Gotham along the A453. Other pressures include enquiries and applications for land around Sharphill and on the land to the east of Gamston, beyond the existing A52 Ring Road.

A7.62 Other housing provision is likely to be on brownfield land such as at Cotgrave Colliery and around the fringes of villages within the countryside. It is anticipated that only the most sustainable villages will be the focus for new housing allocations as they have more facilities to enable sustainable development to take place unless provision is to meet an identified local need, such as affordable housing.

A7.63 The borough has also been identified by the Government as an area of potential for a future Eco-town. Although no details of this are available, officers stated that the land around Bingham has been highlighted.

A7.64 The borough is currently undertaking its SHLAA which is assessing and reviewing the potential for development within sites brought forward as part of the LDF process. Given the housing figure numbers and lack of brownfield sites to accommodate the level of new homes over the next plan period, the landscape will see considerable change particularly around the urban fringes and around smaller settlements.

Regeneration

A7.65 The main regeneration schemes include the Eco-town development which may occur around Bingham and could potentially accommodate 6,000 houses. The other potential scheme would be on naturally regenerating former colliery land at Cotgrave Colliery. This land is adjacent to the established country park on the former colliery.

Employment Land

A7.66 Rushliffe currently contains a number of high profile employment sites including Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station, Gypsum works and the British Geological Survey. There may be pressure in the future for alterations or expansions to these sites which would have an influence on character of the countryside immediately adjacent to them.

A7.67 Recent expansion has taken place around Nottingham University's school of agriculture which included new student accommodation adjacent to the existing buildings.

A7.68 Around north Bingham there is planning permission for an employment park. There may be further pressure for employment expansion on land previously allocated for development and at Nottingham Airport. At Tollerton there is pressure to demolish the existing hanger and ancillary buildings and replace the buildings with an employment park.

A7.69 Other smaller-scale changes may occur on brownfield land immediately adjacent to established employment areas both within villages and towns and within the countryside. Where this occurs it is more likely that it would happen in conjunction with mixed-use schemes including employment, housing and commercial development.

Infrastructure

A7.70 Work has commenced over the past few months dualling the A46 (Fosse Way). The current work has resulted in loss of hedgerows and trees along the edge of the route which in places has opened up the road. It is due for completion over the next few years and is likely to place an urbanising influence on the landscape until associated mitigation planting has had time to mature and establish.

A7.71 There is potential that the A453 close to Ratcliffe Power Station into the city centre may be turned into a dual carriageway over the next 3 to 5 years to help ease congestion along this route.

A7.72 Studies have been undertaken for a 4th Trent Bridge road crossing and for a Radcliffe bypass. However these are only in the feasibility stages at present with no committed funding for delivery.

Tourism

A7.73 The borough has established various country parks and opens spaces as part of the reclamation of former industries such as the Ruddington Ordnance depot which is home to the great Railway Museum. The national water sports centre is located to the west of Radcliffe on Trent.

A7.74 The Trent River Park covers the northern boundary of the borough and is likely to have localised change in landscape character, as described within the response from Nottingham City.

A7.75 A Green Infrastructure Study has been undertaken for the Grantham Canal. There is an aspiration to re-open the canal for navigation to increase the tourist potential of the route. This is currently only in the feasibility stages.

Minerals and waste

A7.76 The County Council is currently preparing studies for potential locations for waste and minerals. Sand and gravel extraction along the River Trent and gypsum mining elsewhere are likely to be the main trend for minerals.

A7.77 It was reported that the Council is focusing more on dealing with waste rather than burying it on landfill sites. However as a result of studies being undertaken there may be a requirement for sites.

Renewable Energy

A7.78 There have been a number of applications and permissions for wind monitoring masts throughout the borough but at present there are no applications for wind farms or individual wind turbines.

A7.79 No other renewable energy trends were reported during the interview.

Erewash

Agriculture

A7.80 Erewash is a small borough between Derby and Nottingham. The land is generally poor grade agricultural land and there is pressure for rural diversification.

A7.81 The officer confirmed that trends over the past 5-10 years have been for diversification into horse based activities such as stables. The borough has had problems with illegal stables and conversions taking place. Other changes include an increase in barn conversions to private residences and a gradual increase in urban features within the landscape.

Housing

A7.82 Erewash has to deliver 7,200 dwellings over the next plan period (up to 2026) and it is anticipated that the majority of this development will occur around Ilkeston. Land at Stanton is brownfield land and designated for mixed use development. The Council is in the process of developing an Area Action Plan to deal with the redevelopment of the site.

A7.83 The borough also has a number of white land sites (no formal designation) and brickworks at Oakwell which are a possibility for housing allocations as part of the emerging LDF.

A7.84 The rural settlements are tightly constrained by Green Belt although there is a need for affordable housing within such settlements; there is to be a review of Green Belt boundary as part of the LDF process. The officer confirmed that generally the rural settlements are unsuitable for development as they have limited facilities and services to accommodate new housing.

Regeneration

A7.85 The main regeneration focus is likely to be at Stanton as described above.

Employment Land

A7.86 Currently the Council is awaiting a steer from the Regional Plan/Employment Land study on the levels of employment land required within the borough. Employment is likely to be focused around Stanton although the main focus in the past has been for housing on the site. Other employment land is likely to include regeneration and

redevelopment on a small scale within town centres providing modest increases.

Infrastructure

A7.87 A recent route from Ilkeston to Awsworth has recently been opened for use and there are proposed routes at Stanton as part of future development on the site; there are no firm options available at present but could include a new motorway junction, an access from Trowell or through countryside from the A52.

Tourism

A7.88 British Waterways are currently working on a project to improve accessibility of the Erewash Canal for visitors and the provision of additional leisure facilities. Some of the focus is on extending links from the canal into the surrounding urban areas.

Minerals and waste

A7.89 There are no allocations or consents between Derby and Nottingham. The officer suggested that there may be future quarrying around Attenborough along the River Trent valley where existing quarries are in operation. It is likely that, if quarried, when restored the land would be similar in character to Attenbrough Country Park characterised by large series of lakes and naturalistic planting.

Renewable Energy

A7.90 There has been a slight increase in applications for small-scale wind turbines and solar panels on individual properties but there are no plans or proposals for large schemes for renewable energy.

APPENDIX 8: STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Table 10.3: Summary of the character type/DPZ comments

Regional Character Area	Landscape Character Type	Characteristics	Comments
Nottinghamshire Coalfields	Coalfield Farmlands	• Varied undulating landform • Closely spaced mining settlements • Pockets of pasture • Small to medium-sized fields bounded by hedgerows • Network of narrow winding lanes • Mine sites, pit heaps and disused railway lines • Scattered, small broad-leaved woodlands • Rows of red brick terrace housing	• Many small mines, older mining. Earliest coalfields have changed • Housing from historic mining days • Name maybe needs changing, coalfields are now mainly former/restored • Association with D H Lawrence • Mine sites are not as obvious now they have been largely greened. The landform of the coal tips is more obvious • It is a reclaimed landscape • There is a greater variety of housing than described; including an historic agricultural village at the core with later more modern layers of development • Agriculture is the dominant characteristic • Areas for employment • M1 access • Landscape is continuing to change • Fringes of Erewash Valley coalfield • Possibly less emphasis on mine working, one has just opened but slightly outside this area • Former industrial features include disused railway lines • Reclaimed pit sites • Seems broadly right, mining is now not that obvious aside from features such as winding wheels and steep sided hills – don't recognise unless know what you are looking for

Regional Character Area	Landscape Character Type	Characteristics	Comments
	River Meadowlands	• Narrow alluvial floodplain • Meandering river • Views contained by built development and railway embankments • Permanent pasture grazed by cows and horses • Patches of wet grassland and marsh • Riparian vegetation including alder and scrub • Bushy hawthorn and willow hedges	• Name change – Erewash Valley? • Name is too general, possibly call it enclosed river meadowlands • Key pressures are slow development, floodplain and climate change • There are hill top settlements • It is enclosed and intimate • Industrial revolution area but also some undeveloped parts especially by the River • Farming pattern is strong • Industrial • Strong link to Erewash • Built development hedges in area, it is the built characteristics that make it distinctive • Canal (Erewash) is a strong influence • Narrow character area
Magnesian Limestone Ridge	Limestone Farmlands	• Gently rolling limestone • Productive arable farmland • Regular pattern of larger fields bounded by hedgerows • Large estate woodlands and belts of trees • Wooded skylines • Nucleated pattern of small stone villages • Limestone buildings with orange pantile roofs • Large self-contained mining settlements • Mining sites with associated pit heaps and railway lines	• Possibly should be examined in more detail • Estate of Hardwick Hall cut off by old hill pit tips, highest point in Notts (man-made) • Magnesian limestone grasslands • Close field boundaries • Boggy by Hucknall • Former mining sites (Babbington colliery, Best wood) • Maybe enhance references to location on stream • Hucknall 'former' mining and textile – is a bit of a disservice saying it is still mining, there has been much regeneration • Active and disused railway lines • Linby trail – linear park • Small-scale limestone quarrying around Linby
	Limestone Fringe	• Large-scale undulating landform	• Sounds approximately right is quite remote

Regional Character Area	Landscape Character Type	Characteristics	Comments
		• Strong sense of enclosure by woodland • Large fields framed by estate woodlands and belts of trees • Large enclosure pattern of medium to large fields • Sparsely settled • Large inaccessible landscape	• Heavily visited by people especially walkers and anglers • Possibility to change and link with farmlands • Woodland distinction • There are some paths and the area is accessible to walkers • Visually prominent from the M1 • Few roads • Ancient woodland present • Deciduous woodland to the west • Reservoir area is quite different • West Hucknall is quite flat • Difficult to relate this across the whole area, consider a boundary change here
	River Meadowlands	• Narrow alluvial floodplain • Meandering river channels • Marginal aquatic and bankside vegetation • Grazing meadow with patches of wet grassland • Wetland trees and scrub • Sinuous hedgerow boundaries • Relic mills constructed from local limestone	• Name - Meadow/Lean? • Description is generally fine • Relic mills can be viewed from railway • Meanders added, more naturalistic • Meadows flooded • Coaltip influence • Soils richer • Stone construction • Narrow alluvial floodplain does this mean it contains this or it is? • Mining activities heavily landscaped out along Letch valley. Mining was also heavy in Hucknall and Linby and is prominent from the wider landscape
Vale of Belvoir	Vale Farmlands	• Large to gently undulating landform • Medium to large scale field patterns	• Very gently undulating • Grassed verges are important, there are lots of them. Important for cowslips • Linear villages and clustered but no common

Regional Character Area	Landscape Character Type	Characteristics	Comments
		• Vernacular style red brick farmsteads and small rural villages • Rural lanes, often with wide grassed verges • Relatively extensive areas of grassland/pasture with grazing livestock • Permanent pastures, sometimes with well preserved ridge and furrow • Scattered distribution of hedgerow trees • Smaller scale, more intimate landscapes adjacent to villages	pattern
Nottinghamshire Wolds	Wooded Clay Wolds	• Mildly dissected rolling plateau • Well-defined pattern of hedged fields • Filtered views created by hedgerow trees • Field sized plantations and larger blocks of mixed woodland • Pockets of permanent pasture associated with settlement • Isolated farmsteads and small rural villages • Vernacular red brick and pantile buildings	• More treed than elsewhere. Woodland concentrated here
	Clay Wolds	• Mildly dissected rolling plateau • Steep scarp slopes • Well-defined small-scale pattern of hedged fields • Species-rich permanent	• Wide verges often have old fashioned horse and carriage gypsies • Trees in hedgerows • Ponds • Ribbon development along major roads

Regional Character Area	Landscape Character Type	Characteristics	Comments
		grasslands • Ridge and furrow • Small rural villages • Vernacular red brick and pantile buildings	• Possible change in area of ridgeline at edge
	Wooded Hills and Scarps	• Steeply sloping hills and scarps • Numerous broad-leaved woodlands, typically on hilltops and scarp slopes • Unimproved permanent pastures, often with patches of scrub • Thick, often overgrown mixed hedges • Well-defined regular pattern of hedged fields on lower slopes	• Extensive views from high ground • Low ground – transport routes, connect low ground and high ground • South facing slopes - agriculture
	Village Farmlands	• Low hills and markedly rolling landform • Well-defined pattern of medium sized hedged fields • Traditional pattern of mixed farms • Localised areas of well-wooded landscape • Pockets of pasture with mixed hedgerows around settlement • Narrow valleys with unimproved pastures and wet meadows • Historic pattern of small red brick villages and farmsteads	• Halls and associated parkland • Pasture is mostly semi-improved, unimproved pasture is very scarce. Speak to Bio-Records. Unimproved pastures tend to be managed more traditionally, check SINC data for this. • Modern settlement but main centre visible • Stanford Hall property is used as a retirement village
South Nottinghamshire Farmlands	Alluvial Levels	• Flat low-lying land • Seasonally wet alluvial & peaty soils	• Modern agriculture

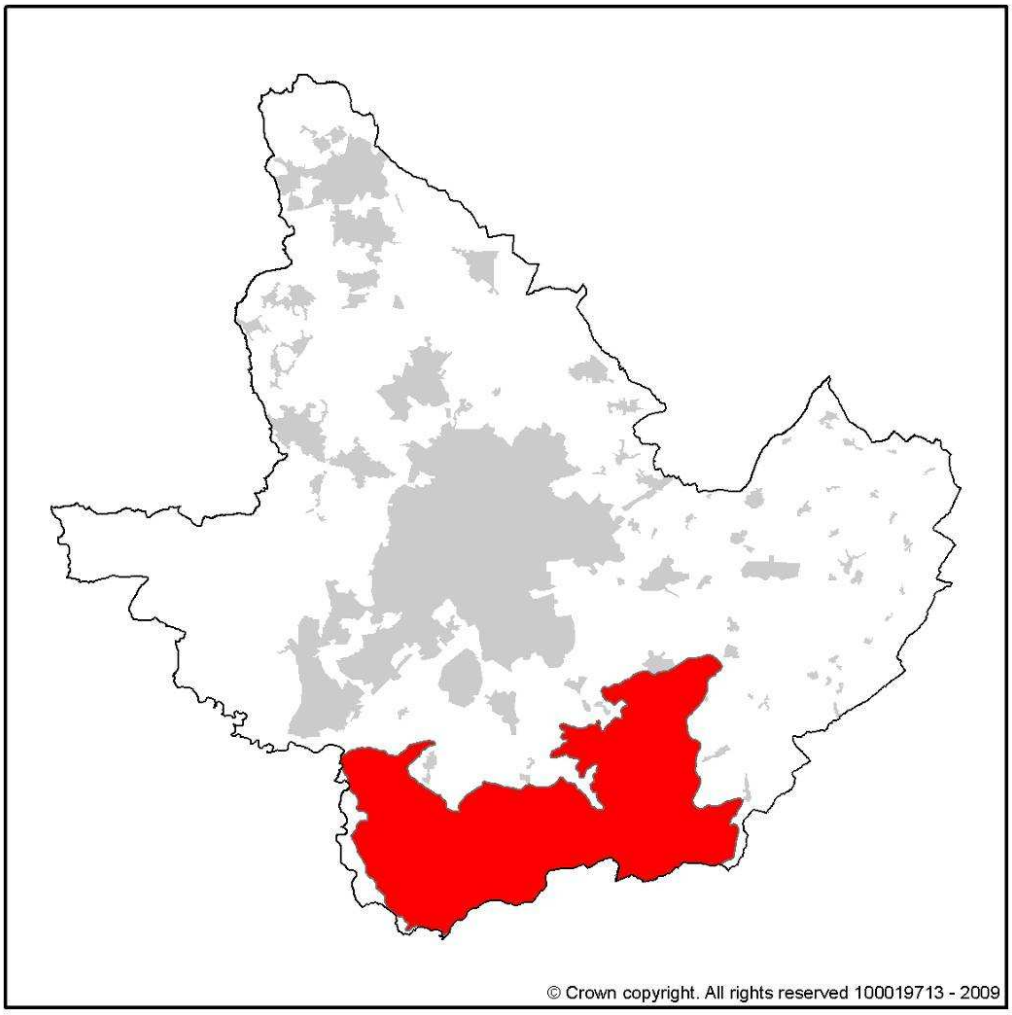
Regional Character Area	Landscape Character Type	Characteristics	Comments
		• Open, spacious view, sometimes enclosed by rising ground • Remnant pattern of large field defined by thorn hedgerows or ditches • Small broadleaved woodlands • Absence of farmsteads or other buildings	
	Village Farmlands	• Gently rolling farmland • Simple pattern of large arable fields • Neatly trimmed hawthorn hedgerows • Nucleated villages with traditional red brick and pantile roofed buildings • Suburbanised commuter villages and small towns • Small-scale pastoral landscapes along village edges	• Pockets are more steeply sloping and pronounced than others – close to urban areas • Bunny old wood and community woodland at Cotgrave. Scattered woodlands • Airfields – query over how prominent they are
Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands	Dumble Farmlands	• Steeply rolling landscape • Well-defined pattern of hedged fields • Meandering tree-lined dumble valleys • Mixed agriculture • Scattered small woodlands • Expander commuter settlements and small traditional villages • Busy commuter roads and quiet country lanes • orchards	• Pressures are that rainfall is not absorbed well, garden centres, recreation pressures and loss of hedgerows • Bring out the distinctive landscapes unique to this area • Small valleys and associated ridgelines • Small streams • Development pressures less as is quite steep • Commuter settlements are well defined • Very attractive • Calverton – development • Burton Joyce – expansion

Regional Character Area	Landscape Character Type	Characteristics	Comments
			• Others have green belt • Geology, steep drop to watercourses • Further east less apparent land form changes. Close to Notts and around Lambley • It is mostly grazing • Orchards are not necessarily apparent. Can only think of one as leave Nottingham • Rolling land flattens on ridge top, Mapperley lodge – changes in character slightly • Fringes more crop based, higher land more grazing • Incised valleys • Burton Joyce, solid ridge less defined by watercourses. Crop based compared to others • Development is extending out • Lots of garden centres • Lambley eastwards is slightly different, it is a valley landscape.
	River Meadowlands	• Flat, alluvial floodplains • Sparsely settled with few buildings • Permanent pasture and areas of mixed agriculture • Small-scale, semi-irregular pattern of hedged fields • Wetland trees and shrubs • Tradition of willow pollarding • Clumps of deciduous trees and small woods • Ridge and furrow present	• Possible name change to Dover Beck • Settlement on terraces • Attractive corridor • Does sparsely settled not imply that there are few buildings? Queried the validity of this statement • Alder and willow are characteristic • Evidence of pollarding • Ridge and furrow may still be there? Check with Historic LCA
Sherwood	Forest Sandlands	• Dissected undulating landform	• Possibility to link with settled sandlands

Regional Character Area	Landscape Character Type	Characteristics	Comments
		• Frequent views of wooded skyline • Heathy character with bracken. Gorse and broom common • Geometric pattern of large-scale arable fields • Planned layout of straight roads • Neatly trimmed hawthorn hedges • Large pine plantations • Mining settlements and associated spoil heaps • Scrubby semi-natural woodland and heaths with ancient stag headed oaks	• Ravenshead – 1960 development with some smaller villages • Key pressures are restoring heathland, agricultural pressure, Sherwood forest regional park extends down and valued recreational landscape • States heathy character but there is a lack of heather and only small amounts of bracken. Broom is rare and possibly needs protection to increase areas where it has been eroded • Hedgerows are gappy • Large pine plantations are shooting country • Possibly remove reference to mining settlements and associated spoil heaps • Dispersed settlement • Dissected undulating landform is less evident • Closer to Nottingham there is also a slight change in the landform • Historic parks and gardens and some views between estates • Historic deer park • Sandstone quarrying near Best Wood lodge of A60 mostly mining to north of study area • 'Former' mining area • Stag headed oaks are predominantly further north, this area is lacking ancient oaks (semi-natural oak/birch wood) • Annesely/Newstead, estate reference • There is little heathland however it does have some characteristics with gorse and broom on road • Heathland has largely been eroded by agriculture, should look to reinstate where

Regional Character Area	Landscape Character Type	Characteristics	Comments
			possible • Landform doesn't undulate as much here • Scrub woodland along A614, birch woodland at roadside • Clearance could have a big impact on this area
Trent Washlands	River Valley Wetlands	• Actively worked areas with disturbed ground and dry voids • Flooded workings and large areas of open water • Wetland habitat at different stages of maturity • Recreation focussed on water sports and country parks • Areas of restored agriculture, often poorly landscaped	• Attenborough Nature Reserve • Nature conservation more so than country park • Holme Pierrepont – significant village/listed village
	Terrace Farmlands	• Broad flat river terraces • Regular field pattern often becoming large and open • Hedgerow trees main tree cover, ash predominant • Willow pollards • Mostly arable, pasture around settlements • Nucleated villages with traditional red brick and pantile roof buildings • Large power stations • Sand and gravel quarries	• Links to Erewash • Large power stations are out of the area • Power station is Ratcliffe on Soar • No power station references in text but is a prominent feature • Perhaps this should be merged with River Meadowlands but would need to consider the distinction in settlement pattern • Concentrated area with water uses • Lake of water sports centre not so natural – artificial landscape • High water use for amenity • Can't see the watercourse centre • Sand and gravel quarries in some instances are still being worked whilst others have been restored. Created a series of wetlands. Landfill (PFA) was used to restore the land to farmlands however, ran out of PFA so rest is now restored

Regional Character Area	Landscape Character Type	Characteristics	Comments
			to wetlands and ponds – nature reserves/marinas
	Alluvial Estatelands	• Flat landform with a few low hills • Numerous block of small-scale deciduous and mixed woodlands • Intensively managed arable farmland • Large historic hall in ornamental setting • Permanent pasture with mature parkland trees • Estate cottages and lodge houses	• Doesn't belong in Alluvial, agree it is more consistent with the more rolling landscape to the South
	River Meadowlands (a and b)	• Meandering river channel, often defined by flood banks • Sparsely populated with few buildings • Permanent pasture and flood meadow • Steep wooded bluffs • Willow holts • Long sinuous hedges • Pollarded willows • Regular pattern of medium to large arable fields • Evidence of increasing field size • Frequent hedgerow trees	• A more explanatory name. A and B is not instructive • Villages are small and on high spots • Archaeological significance of valleys



DPZ within this Regional Character Area:

NW01	**Gotham and West Leake Wooded Hills and Scarps**
NW02	**East Leake Rolling Farmland**
NW03	**Widmerpool Clay Wolds**
NW04	**Cotgrave Wooded Clay Wolds**

Key Characteristics

- Defined by a low boulder clay plateau traditionally known as 'wolds' (elevated tracts of open land);
- Closely associated with a dissected glacial plateau comprising variable thicknesses of boulder clay overlying Lower Lias and Rhaetic Beds;
- Broad area of low hills which extend to the Soar Valley thinning out to a series of hills in the north. Gotham and West Leake are the most prominent;
- Rhaetic beds provide a low steeply inclined escarpment which forms a continuous boundary above Cropwell Bishop broken only by the valleys of Fairham Brook and other minor streams;
- Soils are predominantly strong clayey matrix containing chalk stones and lenses of fine loamy material which are difficult to cultivate although loamy coarse soils are present to the west of the region;
- Erosion by streams has stripped away covering glacial drift to create a series of deep valleys separated by ridges of higher ground. The most prominent is Kingston Brook, a narrow corridor flanked by steeply rising hills;
- Most streams flow west towards the River Soar except Fairham Brook which flows north to the River Trent;
- Distinctive rural character and feeling of seclusion from urban centres;
- Small red brick and pantile roofed villages interconnected by narrow winding country lanes;
- Larger commuter settlements with residential estates on their fringes and small older centres within the northern and western parts of the region;
- Red brick and pantile roof farmsteads are common within the area although many farms contain larger modern buildings constructed in metal or timber;
- Industrial influences have a localised effect on the area such as Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station, and gypsum works at East Leake and Gotham;
- Narrow lanes bordered by hedgerows and frequent hedgerow trees (mostly ash with some oak);
- Extensive areas of continuous pasture and arable farming;
- Well defined and recognisable pattern of hedged fields and woodland;
- Medium to large scale regular and semi-irregular field pattern, this is less distinctive in arable fields; older smaller field patterns are present in pastoral fields close to village fringes;
- Ridge and furrow present within pastoral fields;
- Hedgerows are mostly hawthorn, most are well maintained and intact although around arable fields their condition is more variable;
- Broad-leaved woodland is variable across the area and ranges in size creating areas of high and low enclosure; the most prominent and mature is on high ground covering the hills to the north at Gotham and West Leake and around Cotgrave;
- Smaller woodland copses and coverts are common and exert a localised influence particularly where present on high ground;
- Hills characterised by large regular blocks of mature broad-leaved woodland, scarp grasslands and pasture and long arable fields which extend down the slopes;

- Pockets of wooded parkland provide an element of formality and enclosure within the landscape such as Stanford Hall and Kingston Hall;
- Small streams notable through the presence of willows and riparian shrubs; and
- Willow pollards are common within this area.

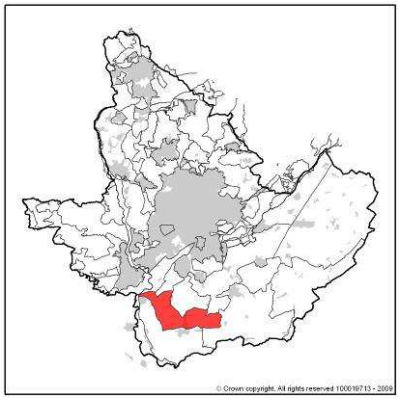
Guidelines and Recommendations

- Enhance the broad-leaved character of existing woodlands;
- Identify opportunities for new woodland planting on suitable sites;
- Conserve the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape;
- Conserve the traditional built form character and pattern of rural settlements;
- Conserve all areas of permanent pasture particularly where present close to villages and along streams;
- Promote measures for conserving and enhancing the historic features such as ridge and furrow;
- Conserve the historic pattern of hedgerows along rural lanes;
- Conserve the semi-irregular small to medium scale field pattern around villages and medium to large scale field pattern throughout remainder of the area;
- Restore the traditional pastoral character and diversity of scarp grasslands;
- Promote measures to enhance the semi-natural appearance of scarp woodland;
- Conserve the balance of woodland and farmland on scarp hills;
- Conserve the riparian character of stream corridors through retention and replanting of streamside trees and scrub;
- Conserve willow pollards where present along stream corridors;
- Conserve the character of village side pastoral landscapes; and
- Promote measures for achieving a better integration of new and existing development in the countryside.

NW01 Gotham And West Leake Hills And Scarps

CONTEXT

Regional Character Area:
Nottinghamshire Wolds
LDU Reference: 113, 128, 66, 425, 251, 252 ,187, 258
DPZ Reference: NW01



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Series of prominent individual hills with steep sometimes scarp slopes and broad plateaus
- Hills are the dissected northern extent of a low boulder clay plateau extending from Leicestershire traditionally known as 'The Wolds'
- Rural character although urban elements such as villages, power station, industry and quarrying are frequent in the landscape
- Kingston Brook is a localised feature on low ground between hills characterised by riparian woodland and some grazing pasture at its margins
- Land use is a mixture of woodland, arable and pasture. Arable is on the lower and more gentle slopes, pasture close to rivers, settlements and scarp grassland where the land is steeply sloping precluding machinery from working the land
- Field pattern is mostly modern although pockets of older field systems such as irregular geometric and geometric and those reflecting open fields are present
- Field pattern in places sweeps down the slopes and is a distinctive feature
- Field boundaries are mostly hedgerows on the slopes with fences often present on higher ground
- Woodland is generally on high ground across the hills although there are smaller pockets of woodland on lower ground as establishing scrub and along village fringes/areas of former quarry
- Prominent extensive woodland plantation covers the slopes and high ground, often on steep scarps
- Rides and areas of open land are interspersed between plantation woodland
- Wooded tracks with spring flowering understorey planting along tracks up hills
- Large commuter settlements such as Gotham and East Leake and smaller settlements such as West Leake are nestled at the base of the hills on the fringes of the DPZ
- Infrequent individual farms within the character area often on the slopes or high ground. A row of individual modern houses is present along Ash Lane. One distinctive red brick and pantile roof farmstead on Bunny Hill is set within gardens with a small orchard
- Buildings are mostly red brick with older properties having red pantile roofs
- Church towers and spires are prominent within a uniform village skyline
- Overhead lines are prominent on low ground between hills
- Small former spring (Wheldon Spring) on Gotham Hill is a localised feature characterised by a depression in the ground and establishing scrub
- Enclosed channelled views on low ground between hills with extensive panoramic views across towards Nottingham City and beyond from high ground

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

A series of distinctive wooded hills with arable fields on lower and gentler slopes and pasture and pockets of grassland on the steeper slopes. Views are extensive and often over long distances from the high ground although become more enclosed from lower ground. Urban elements are frequent with views of Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station and the gypsum works. Some villages such as Gotham village are characterised by modern edges and a small older core with a distinctive church spire. Others such as West Leake are small and distinctive focused along a single street with small working farms and lack of modern development.

Land use is a mix of plantation woodland, arable farming and pasture. Fields are mostly medium to large in size with the majority of arable farming being a modern field pattern; although at Gotham there is evidence of older irregular geometric patterns. Pockets of fields reflecting open field system and regular geometric patterns are present on lower slopes or pockets of high ground. Older field patterns are generally used for pasture.

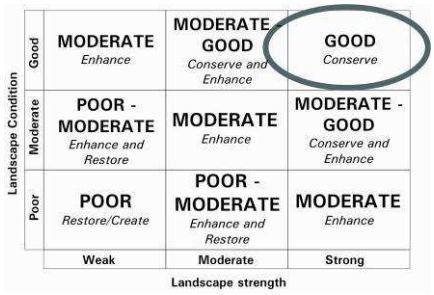
Woodland comprises large geometric field sized blocks of both broadleaved and conifer woodland. On West Leake Hill a large woodland is used for commercial forestry with rides and various belts of different species within woodlands. Other vegetation includes smaller frequent copses at the base of slopes and around settlements. Frequent hedgerow trees and 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 evidence of 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.

Landscape Strength

This DPZ is a distinctive series of hills which are prominent within the surrounding area. They often form a backdrop to views from the southern edges of Nottingham. From high ground within the DPZ there are open expansive views to the centre of Nottingham and lower-lying farmland at Ruddington and Bunny.

The strength of character is **STRONG**. The hills are distinctive and consistent features across the landscape and exert their influence within the surrounding area. The pattern of arable, pasture and woodland is also consistent with moderate sized villages and some expanding commuter villages present on low ground.



The overall landscape strategy is **CONSERVE**.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

- Conserve the distinctive pattern of hills with large blocks of woodland on high ground
- Conserve the older field patterns within the character area such as those reflecting open systems and the irregular and regular geometric patterns
- Conserve the balance of arable farming on lower slopes and pasture on steeper and higher slopes
- Conserve field patterns which sweep down the hills
- Conserve the landform of the former Wheldon Spring
- Conserve the diversity of broadleaf and large-scale woodland plantations on hills
- Ensure new conifer planting includes belts of broadleaf woodland and woodland edge along its fringes
- Any new woodland planting should be small in scale along the base of slopes becoming larger and of field size on higher slopes
- Conserve the small rides and various ages of woodland within the character area
- Conserve the wooded tracks along the ridgelines
- 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

Built form

- Conserve the frequency of small farmsteads and outbuildings throughout the landscape; any new barn developments should be small scale and fit within the existing pattern and vernacular styles
- Conserve the small linear and vernacular character of West Leake
- Conserve the uniform roofline of villages with prominent church spires

- Encourage the use of red brick and red pantile roofs for new buildings and extensions
- Conserve the nucleated character of larger villages
- Minimise the influence of larger settlements such as East Leake through small-scale woodland planting to reduce the scale and frequency of urban edges within views

  Other development/ structures in the landscape
- Conserve the winding character of rural lanes with expansive channelled views between hills
- Ensure any new industrial development is nestled on low ground and has well wooded boundaries which integrate with woodland on higher ground to reduce its visibility

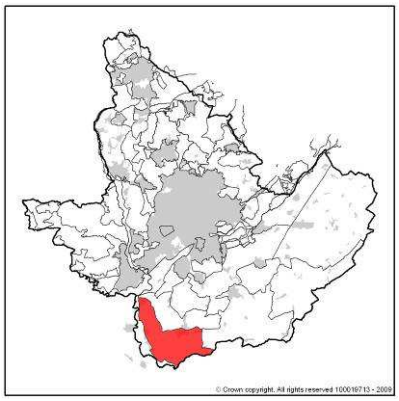
NW02 East Leake Rolling Farmland

CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Nottinghamshire Wolds

LDU Reference: 268, 247, 186, 365, 364

DPZ Reference: NW02



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Rolling landscape which forms part of the wider glacial plateau of chalky boulder clay overlying lower lias and Rhaetic beds
- Undulations in the landscape are formed by small streams and tributaries which have cut through softer mudstones and clays; Kingston Brook is the most distinctive
- Localised man-made earthworks present around Ratcliffe Power Station which have a localised influence on character
- Frequent watercourses which are often demarcated by clusters of riparian willows along their course; where trees are not present watercourses are generally not visible in the landscape
- Rural character present across the area although there are views towards urban elements such as Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station visible above hills, a gypsum works and village fringes
- Land use is arable and some pasture. Pasture becomes more prominent around East Leake where it is mostly horse grazing and around Rempstone where sheep grazing is more common
- Field pattern includes small, medium and large-scale fields recognised within the Historic Landscape Characterisation as being a mix of ages including regular, semi-regular geometric and irregular field patterns. Arable field pattern tends to be of modern origin
- Oldest field enclosures are often concentrated around watercourses and smaller settlements
- Field boundaries are almost all hedgerows which are generally intact and comprise mostly hawthorn; around horse grazing areas electric and timber and wire fencing is present which has a localised influence in character particularly along the southern fringe of East Leake
- There are few hedgerow trees within the landscape; this in combination with low hedgerows creates an open character to fields. Hedgerow trees tend to be concentrated around smaller pastoral fields
- Relatively low level of woodland cover comprising prominent geometric blocks of woodland on high ground, infrequent hedgerow trees, and clumps along watercourses including willow pollards. The most significant blocks of woodland are at Stanford Hall and the formal lake and entrance at Kingston Hall around the parkland margins which includes ornamental species
- Parkland is a distinctive feature around Kingston Hall and Stanford Hall where permanent pasture and parkland trees are prominent
- Prominent halls framed by vistas of trees such as lime avenues. Formal brick wall boundaries define the edges of parkland
- Small estate cottages at Kingston on Soar and lodge houses are features in these areas
- One large nucleated commuter settlement is at East Leake; the southern edge of the village is prominent within views
- Costock is a small linear settlement with a pocket of prominent new development concentrated along the western edge
- New apartment buildings for Nottingham Trent University are a localised urbanising feature within the landscape and contrast with other smaller-scale buildings
- Network of farms each often contains a large red brick and pantile roofed farmstead with modern timber or metal outbuildings; older red brick barns are also frequent
- Views vary from enclosed and channelled views from lower ground along watercourses to open often expansive views from higher ground, particularly to the south and beyond the borough boundary
- Views are rural in character, with frequent dispersed villages and open farmland; small woodland blocks are a feature on high ground
- A sand and gravel quarry has a localised influence on the landscape character of the DPZ
- Roads through the area often have narrow grassed ditches on either side

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

This area is characterised by its gently rolling landform with a prominent river corridor along Kingston Brook. It has a rural character with open views across mostly arable farmland with localised enclosure along smaller pastoral fields. Small villages, frequent farmsteads and two parkland estates are features.

Fields are a mixture of small fields close to watercourses and large-scale fields which are mostly arable with some pasture farming. These include both modern and older enclosures. Older enclosures are around the watercourse and village fringes.

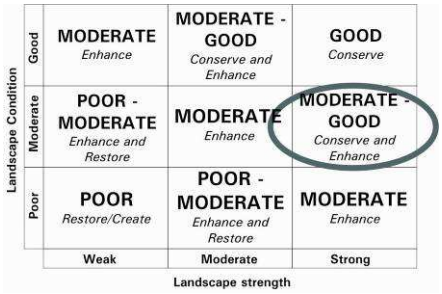
The area has a low level of woodland cover. Woodland tends to be small broadleaved geometric blocks on high ground which gives them greater prominence in the landscape. Other woodland is concentrated within parkland around the fringes of halls and contains coniferous and ornamental species. Parkland trees are also distinctive in these areas.

The landscape condition is **MODERATE.** Features are generally well maintained although there is evidence of fragmentation where fields have expanded and where fields are subdivided for horse grazing using electric tape and fencing. The man-made landform changes around the power station have an influence.

Landscape Strength

Views are often over quite long distances due to the undulating landform. On high ground views extend to Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station and the hills surrounding it and across rolling farmland towards Leicestershire. The character of this landscape extends into Leicestershire so when viewed from outside the area is seen in this context; it is screened to the north by Bunny Hill, Gotham Hill and West Leake Hill.

The strength of character of the area is **STRONG**. The area has a strong intact rural character with arable and pasture farming, prominent small woodlands, villages and a network of farmsteads key features. A minor amount of fragmentation is present in the north of the area where land has been altered adjacent to the power station.



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

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

- Conserve the older field patterns within the character area such as those reflecting open systems and the semi-regular geometric patterns
- Conserve the prominence of woodlands on high ground
- Conserve and enhance the regular dispersal of small geometric broadleaved copses and woodlands often on high ground
- Conserve the rural character with built form infrequent in views
- Conserve hedgerows and where present ensure that infill planting is undertaken where gaps occur rather than infilling or replacement with fencing
- Enhance the distribution of hedgerow trees by encouraging greater planting of trees within hedgerows. Species used should be a mostly ash with some oak.
- Conserve the formal parkland and pasture within Kingston and Stanford Halls
- Conserve the ornamental broadleaved woodlands around the parkland fringes enclosed by red brick walls
- Conserve the framed vistas towards the halls from adjacent roads
- Conserve areas of permanent pasture where present in the DPZ and ensure that hedgerows and hedgerow trees at the boundaries are maintained
- Restore hedgerows and encourage planting of new hedgerow trees to provide unity between more open land at East Leake and the more enclosed and wooded pasture fields.
- Conserve and enhance the character of watercourses through retention of willow pollards and planting of new riparian vegetation
- Conserve and enhance the small scale field pattern present along watercourse fringes; where arable farming is present encourage new tree planting to integrate the fields with smaller pastoral fields

Built form

- Conserve the estate character of Kingston on Soar and the estate lodges at entrances to halls
- Conserve the regular distribution of built form and villages within the DPZ
- Enhance the fringes of the new apartment buildings at University of Trent through localised woodland planting
- Conserve the rural scale and vernacular style of buildings in smaller villages through restricting new development. Where development occurs it should make a positive contribution to the local vernacular, scale and massing of the

village.

- Conserve the use of red brick and pantile roofs within farmsteads, barns and properties in villages
- Minimise the influence of larger settlements such as East Leake through small-scale woodland planting along fringes

Other development/ structures in the landscape

- Conserve and enhance the character of hedgerow trees lining roads through the landscape
- Ensure that on completion of quarrying that hedgerow trees, hedgerows and small woodlands are encouraged within the restoration proposals to ensure that the land integrates with the surrounding land
- Conserve grassed ditches along the edge of roads

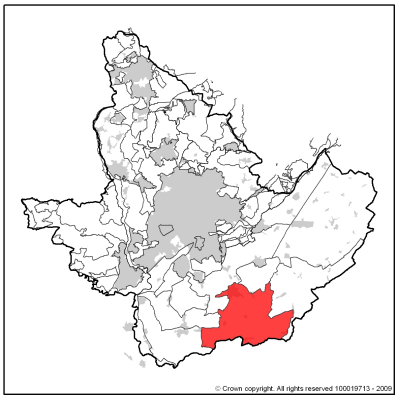
NW03 Widmerpool Clay Wolds

CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Nottinghamshire Wolds

LDU reference: 187,191

DPZ reference: NW03



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Rolling landscape which forms part of the wider glacial plateau of chalky boulder clay overlying lower lias and Rhaetic beds
- Undulations in the landscape are formed by small streams and tributaries which have cut through softer mudstones and clays
- Distinctive steep slopes present along the western edge of the DPZ
- Frequent watercourses which are often demarcated by landform and riparian trees along their course
- Remote rural character present across the area although there are views towards the urban edge of Keyworth in the north
- Land use is a mixture of arable and pasture although pasture becomes more dominant approaching Widmerpool and Willoughby-on-the-Wolds where the land is continuous pasture and is particularly distinctive
- Field pattern includes medium to large scale regular, semi-regular geometric and irregular field patterns. An area reflecting one of the earliest forms of enclosure within Nottinghamshire is present as a cluster around Thorpe-in-Glebe
- Field boundaries are almost all hedgerows which are generally intact and comprise mostly hawthorn although blackthorn, field maple and hazel are present in places
- Around larger fields, hedgerows show some sign of fragmentation and replacement with timber post and wire and stockproof fencing. In places parkland style fencing provides an element of formality along roads
- Areas of ridge and furrow are locally distinctive
- Woodland comprises a mix of small linear belts, geometric copses and coverts on high ground and around large farmsteads and halls on village fringes
- Wooded impression created through frequent blocks of small woodland, hedgerow trees and mature hedgerows
- The railway is a prominent wooded feature within the landscape
- Prominent Roman road (Fosse Way) is visible within the landscape, traffic movement on it provides a slight urbanising feature
- Frequent small nucleated villages which have a remote and rural character with concentrations of distinctive vernacular buildings and some more modern additions
- Farmsteads are frequent within the landscape, and they often contain a large red brick and pantile roofed farmstead with modern timber or metal outbuildings; older red brick barns are also frequent
- Some villages are set on slightly higher ground and are visible within the landscape. Woodland and trees along the boundaries reduces their prominence and edges are often seen as individual or small clusters of buildings
- Thorpe Le Glebe, a former medieval village site is discernible through undulations within the ground
- Wooded formal parkland present around Widmerpool is a local feature of the landscape
- Views vary from enclosed and channelled views from lower ground to open often expansive views from higher ground
- Views are rural in character with dispersed village fringes and small woodland blocks a feature on high ground
- Distinctive long distance views along western edge of DPZ on the A606 across the adjacent Vale of Belvoir flat farmland



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

This area is characterised by its gently rolling landform dissected by frequent small wooded streams. The DPZ has a strongly rural and remote character with a mix of arable and pasture farmland and a regular dispersed pattern of small copses and coverts often on higher ground

Fields are a mixture of medium to large scale fields and include pasture and arable farming with both modern and older enclosures. Around Thorpe in Glebe the field pattern is much smaller and regular and represents one of the oldest patterns in the county. The land has a slightly more enclosed character within this area.

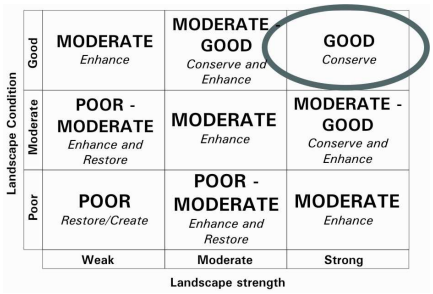
The area has a wooded impression although relatively low woodland cover. Woodland comprises small geometric shaped coverts and copses and some smaller linear blocks on the edges of fields. Most is broadleaved and on high ground. A small area of ornamental and conifer woodland is present around Widmerpool Hall to the south west of Widmerpool.

The landscape condition is **GOOD.** Features are generally well maintained although there is a minor amount of fragmentation where fields have expanded in the south and north of the area.


Landscape Strength

Views are either local short distance views from low ground or expansive long distance views from higher ground over rolling landform with frequent woodland and farmsteads. There is a particularly distinctive view along the A606 from the plateau to lower ground in the Vale of Belvoir. The escarpment on the eastern edge of the character area forms a backdrop to views within the Vale of Belvoir.

The character strength of the area is **STRONG**. The area has a strong intact rural character with arable and pasture farming and pockets of woodland key features. There is a minor amount of fragmentation where fields have expanded in the south and north of the area. In these places hedgerows trees in fields are a remnant of a former pattern.



The overall landscape strategy is **CONSERVE**.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

- Conserve the older field patterns within the character area such as those reflecting open systems and the semi-regular geometric patterns
- Conserve and maintain open views along A606 from high ground to the Vale of Belvoir
- Conserve the regular dispersed patterns of small geometric broadleaved copses and woodlands often on high ground
- Conserve the rural character with built form infrequent in views
- Conserve hedgerows and where present ensure that infill planting is undertaken where gaps occur rather than infilling with fencing
- Conserve the regular distribution of hedgerow trees and ensure that where overmature and senescent that a programme for replacement is undertaken. Species used should be mostly ash with some oak.
- Conserve ridge and furrow and the earth mounding of the deserted medieval village at Thorpe in Glebe
- Conserve the formal wooded parkland adjacent to Widmerpool
- Conserve areas of permanent pasture to maintain the pastoral character of the DPZ

Built form

- Conserve the rural character of villages within the DPZ through ensuring any infill respects the key characteristics and local built form vernacular
- Conserve the sparse distribution of built form and villages within the DPZ
- Conserve the small scale and vernacular style within smaller villages through restricting new development. Where development occurs it should make a positive contribution to the local vernacular, scale and massing of the village
- Conserve the use of red brick and pantile roofs within farmsteads, barns and properties within villages
- Conserve the dispersed nature of village edges through retention and new planting to maintain the appearance of individual or small groups of properties
- Minimise the influence of larger settlements such as Keyworth through small-scale woodland planting along fringes

Other development/ structures in the landscape

- Conserve the narrow winding, rural and remote character of lanes through the DPZ
- Industry is not present or visible within this landscape and this should be conserved through careful consideration of siting of development and planting works

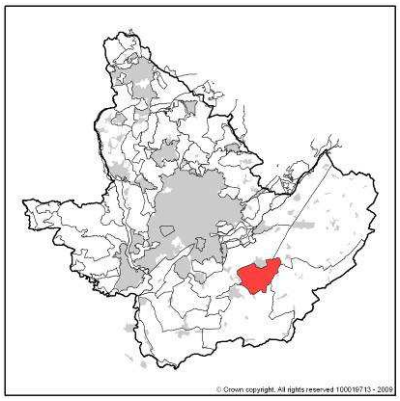
NW04 Cotgrave Wooded Clay Wolds

CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Nottinghamshire Wolds

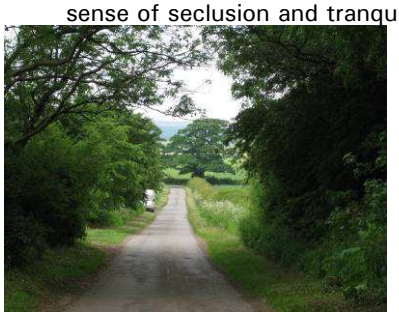
LDU Reference: 188,189,190

DPZ Reference: NW04



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Gently undulating broad plateau and escarpment which forms the northern extent of a glacial plateau of chalky boulder clay overlying lower lias and Rhaetic beds
- Distinctive steep slopes present along the northern edge of the DPZ
- Watercourses flow through the area and have a local influence on landform
- Rural character present across the area although there are views towards urban edges of Keyworth, Cotgrave and properties on A606
- Land use is mostly arable although pockets of pasture are present around village fringes
- Field pattern includes medium to large sized geometric field patterns. Much of the enclosure is of modern origin but there are pockets of older enclosure around Clipston and adjacent to the A46
- Field boundaries are almost all hedgerows managed at a low height. They comprise mostly hawthorn although blackthorn, field maple and hazel are present in places
- Around larger fields, hedgerows show some sign of fragmentation and replacement with timber post and wire and stockproof fencing
- Woodland comprises two distinctive large plantations on high ground: Clipston Wood and Cotgrave Forest; and Borders Wood. This is plantation woodland; the conifers are distinctive and contrast with smaller broadleaved woodlands found elsewhere across Rushcliffe. The plantation pattern still retains the former field pattern; small rides within the woodland often are along former field boundaries
- Small linear belts and clumps of woodland are present along village fringes and along watercourses. Willow is common in these locations
- Woodland on the escarpment is on higher ground and is prominent along the northern fringes of this DPZ
- Few hedgerow trees and low hedgerows provides a contrast between enclosed woodland and open farmland
- Prominent Roman Road (Fosse Way) is visible from high ground and traffic movement on it provides a slight urbanising feature
- Large nucleated villages although their fringes are screened and filtered by small linear blocks of woodland
- Smaller linear settlements also present such as Clipston
- Some villages are set on slightly higher ground and are visible as a single line of individual properties dispersed within trees
- Few large farmsteads which are often of modern design and construction with large modern barns
- Farmsteads constructed from red brick with red pantile and clay tile roofs are common
- Views vary from short distance views enclosed by woodland to open views over gently rolling land from higher ground
- Views are rural in character, although urban elements such as village fringes and the A46 reduce the sense of seclusion and tranquillity



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

This area is characterised by its gently undulating plateau, steep escarpment to the north and large prominent blocks of conifer plantation woodland and arable fields.

Fields are a mixture of medium to large scale fields which are mostly arable with pasture present in small amounts close to village fringes. Field pattern includes both modern and older enclosures. The oldest areas of enclosure are on steeper slopes to the south of Cotgrave and south of Clipston.

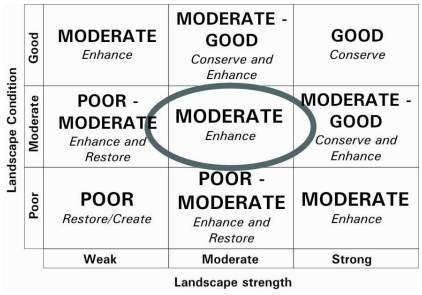
Woodland is large and prominent in this landscape comprising two large blocks of conifer plantation of roughly uniform age. It is distinctive and contrasts with the small broadleaved woodlands around village fringes and the riparian willows and poplars along small streams. There are few hedgerow trees present which creates an open character between woodlands.

The landscape condition is **MODERATE.** Features are generally well maintained although there is evidence of fragmentation where fields have expanded for intensive arable farming.

Landscape Strength

Views are generally quite open and towards woodland and village fringes. Close to the woodlands views are foreshortened and more enclosed. The large blocks of woodland and escarpment are prominent features particularly to the north where they form a backdrop to views over lower-lying gently undulating farmland.

The character strength of the area is **MODERATE**. The area has a rural character with arable farming and pockets of woodland as key features. There is a minor amount of fragmentation where fields have expanded in the south and north of the area and increases in urban elements and alterations to roads exert an increasingly urbanising influence.



The overall landscape strategy is **ENHANCE**.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

- Conserve the older field patterns within the DPZ such as those reflecting open systems and the irregular geometric patterns
- Encourage planting of small-scale broadleaved woodland along village fringes
- Enhance the fringes of conifer plantations with belts of native locally appropriate broadleaved woodland and woodland edge species
- Conserve the rural character with built form infrequent in views
- Conserve hedgerows and where present ensure that infill planting is undertaken where gaps occur rather than infilling with fencing
- Conserve existing hedgerow trees and ensure that where over-mature or senescent, a programme for replacement is undertaken. Species used should be mainly ash with some oak
- Conserve areas of permanent pasture to maintain the pastoral character on the village fringes
- Restore hedgerows and encourage planting of new hedgerow trees to provide unity between more open arable land and the more enclosed woodland.

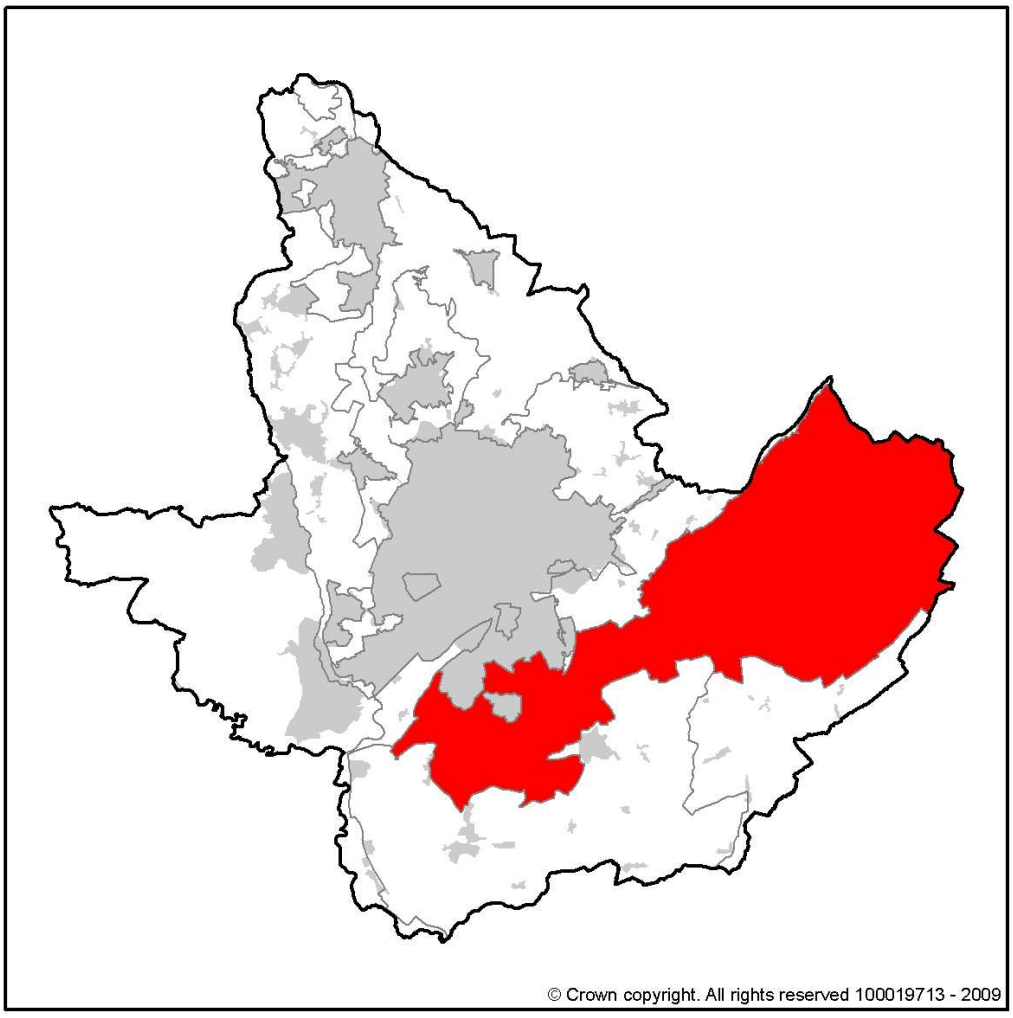
Built form

- Enhance village fringes through woodland planting and maintaining the appearance of dispersed development along the fringes
- Conserve the linear character of villages such as Clipston
- Conserve and enhance the character of Clipston through use of red brick and pantile roofs and maintain its connection to farming through retaining working farms
- Conserve the dispersed nature and vernacular style of smaller villages through restricting new development. Where this occurs development should make a positive contribution to the local vernacular, scale and massing of the village and not make built form more prominent within the wider landscape.
- Encourage the use of red brick and pantile roofs within farmsteads, barns and properties within villages

Other development/ structures in the landscape

- Reduce the prominence of traffic movement along the A46 through planting of hedgerow trees and small belts of woodland to reduce its appearance in views

SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FARMLANDS



DPZ within this Regional Character Area:

SN01	**Clifton Slopes**
SN02	**Ruddington Alluvial Farmland**
SN03	**Mickleborough Fringe**
SN04	**Cotgrave and Tollerton Village Farmlands**
SN05	**East Bridgford Escarpment Farmlands**
SN06	**Aslockton Village Farmlands**

Key Characteristics

- This is a large tract of land between the southern edge of Greater Nottingham and the urban fringes of Newark;
- It is closely associated with a belt of Triassic rocks to the south of the River Trent and is the largest single geological formation within Nottinghamshire;
- The geology is mostly Mercia Mudstone which comprises reddish mudstones with occasional hard sandstone (Skerries). This is less developed than elsewhere in Nottinghamshire and creates a fairly uniform gently rolling lowland landform;
- A low escarpment is present on the south eastern boundary where the uppermost beds of Mercia Mudstone pass onto Rhaetic beds;
- Alluvium is present in hollows and depressions laid down as a result of gypsum solution in the upper layers of the land surface. This formed low-lying alluvium separated by narrow mudstone ridges which are 5-10metres above the alluvium;
- The highest land is along the edge of the Trent Valley where a line of hills falls sharply to the low-land of the Trent Washlands region;
- The land is dissected by streams in the north creating two prominent hills at Wilford and Clifton;
- Small nucleated settlements tend to be concentrated on traditionally high mudstone ridges; there is a lack of built form on lower alluvium basins;
- Closer to Nottingham, villages have expanded considerably which exerts an urbanising influence on the landscape;
- Arable farmland is predominant although pasture is present along some stream margins, escarpment slopes and village fringes;
- Uniform sometimes monotonous character created by large tracts of arable farmland with few other notable features;
- Strong pattern of medium to large-scale hedged fields with smaller village side pasture;
- Low-lying alluvium 'basins' such as Ruddington Moor, Bennington Fen and along the Rivers Smite and Devon are characterised by intensive arable farming with frequent ditches and drainage dykes. There is little woodland or hedgerows present in these areas;
- Hedgerows are of variable condition, they tend to be intact along lanes and in pasture fields and less intact, smaller and often fragmented around arable fields;
- Hedgerow trees are mostly ash with some oak and willow. Frequent young lime and horse chestnut trees have been planted along roads and are a notable feature;
- General lack of woodland within the area with few hedgerow trees enables open extensive views across the area;
- Where present woodland tends to be small geometric plantations, the general lack of woodland means these are prominent features;
- Pockets of isolated mature parkland are prominent wooded features; remnant parkland exists where land has been ploughed for arable farming;
- Trees and woodland along fringes of villages creates an impression of higher tree cover than actually exists; and

- Frequent overhead lines and pylons are prominent vertical features, their scale emphasised by the lack of other vertical structures such as woodland.

Guidelines and Recommendations

- Conserve and enhance the overall structure and traditional agricultural character of the landscape;
- Conserve and strengthen the simple pattern of medium to large hedged fields;
- Identify opportunities for enhancing the structure and unity of the landscape through new tree and woodland planting;
- Conserve the character and setting of village settlements;
- Promote measures for achieving better integration of new and existing features in the countryside;
- Conserve the character of areas of pasture where present particularly along village fringes;
- Conserve the remote undeveloped character of low-lying alluvium areas;
- Conserve parkland where present and retain the character of parkland pasture with frequent individual specimen trees;
- Conserve woodland; and
- Enhance visual unity between arable and pastoral farming through small-scale woodland planting and, where appropriate, by strengthening the traditional pattern of hedged fields.

SN01 Clifton Slopes

CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: South Nottinghamshire Farmland

LDU Reference: 254,255

DPZ Reference: SN01

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Distinctive escarpment bordering the River Trent with a steep slope to the river and gentler slopes down to alluvial farmland at Ruddington Moor
- Prominent Mercia Mudstone outcrop
- Open large scale field pattern of both modern origin with fragmented hedges Remnants of former field boundaries in the form of undulations, tracks or areas left unploughed can be seen
- Clifton and Barton Moor are an area of land which was not subject to the enclosures act and has remained open in character since the Sanderson's Map from 1835
- A smaller scale pattern is present close to the urban fringe which is an older enclosure pattern reflecting former open systems and semi-regular and regular geometric enclosure identified from the historic landscape characterisation
- Pocket of pasture present close to the urban edge of Clifton
- A distinctive narrow wooded lane to Barton in Fabis although other routes are mostly open with long distance views
- Much of the urban fringe is nestled and obscured by boundary vegetation and landform although new retirement apartment development is a prominent feature on high ground bordering open farmland
- Regular dispersal of prominent geometric blocks of broadleaved woodland, its prominence is heightened by the lack of vertical features within farmland
- Prominent linear wooded bluff on steepest sloping land adjacent to River Trent is a distinctive feature
- Combination of linear woodland on slopes and a few geometric blocks of woodland creates a strong sense of enclosure along Clifton urban fringe
- Almost no hedgerows or hedgerow trees within the landscape, around pastoral fields close to the urban fringe hedgerow trees and hedgerows are more common creating a degree of enclosure
- Built form limited to a few large farms with brick farmsteads and a couple of modern farm buildings
- Extensive and distinctive views from A453 through the area with wooded blocks and extensive views across the flat farmland to the ridgelines and hills beyond. It creates a distinctive route into Nottingham
- Mast in the form of a false conifer tree is locally prominent on the approach into Nottingham

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

A wide expansive sloping escarpment. The land is mostly under arable cultivation with few field boundary features. Around the urban fringe the land is mostly pasture and frequent woodland creates a stronger sense of enclosure.

Land use is almost entirely arable farming, which where present is extensive; large fields with no field boundary vegetation create an expansive and open landscape. This is both of modern origin and includes land which has never been enclosed. Some scrub is establishing on margins close to Barton in Fabis and along the edge of Clifton at Fox Covert Lane which is more enclosed and intimate in character.

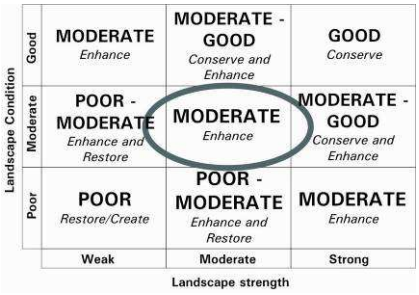
Woodland comprises geometric blocks of woodland whose prominence is increased by the lack of hedgerow trees or other features within farmland. Other woodland includes a cluster of woodland blocks at Clifton and a mature wooded bluff on the steepest escarpment slopes. This woodland is a prominent feature along the River Trent and from Barton in Fabis.

The landscape condition is **MODERATE**. There are few boundary features and a strong evidence of decline and fragmentation of woodland edges (particularly close to arable fields) and remaining hedgerow boundaries. Pockets of land still retain a historic connection having never been enclosed such as Clifton Pasture and Barton Moor.

Landscape Strength

Views within this DPZ are a mix of open expansive views across Ruddington Moor to the ridgelines of the Leicestershire Wolds and more enclosed views close to the edge of Clifton where there is a concentration of woodland. The area is visible as sloping land with woodland on the highest land from the wider landscape to the south with traffic along the A543 often prominent. The woodland on the escarpment forms a distinctive backdrop to views along the River Trent and from within and adjacent to Barton in Fabis.

The character of the area is **MODERATE**. This is a distinctive escarpment however it has a number of different land uses particularly close to the urban fringe.



The overall landscape strategy is **ENHANCE**.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

- Seek to restore hedgerow boundaries and hedgerow trees in arable fields where they no longer exist
- Conserve existing hedgerow trees and hedgerows which are important landscape features
- Conserve the prominent woodland blocks on higher ground and encourage new woodland planting particularly along urban edges
- Conserve the intact long linear wooded bluffs along the steepest slopes adjacent to the River Trent
- Conserve, where possible, the open unenclosed character of Clifton Pasture and Barton Moor

Built form

- Enhance the nestled and screened urban edges and ensure new development does not increase the prominence of built form within the landscape
- Enhance urban fringes and prominent development through localised geometric woodland planting to soften their appearance within the landscape.

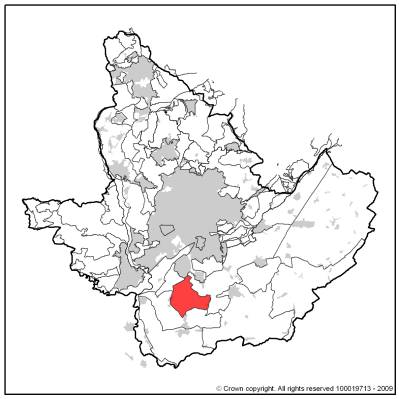
Other development/ structures in the landscape

- Conserve the open and distinctive views from A453 across farmland on the approach into Nottingham
- Conserve the narrow sloping wooded character of New Road into Barton in Fabis

SN02 Ruddington Alluvial Farmland

CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: South Nottinghamshire Farmlands
LDU reference: 266
DPZ Reference: SN02



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Large expanse of flat alluvial land characterised by arable farming
- Low-lying alluvial land subject to waterlogging
- Frequent streams such as Fairham Brook, drainage ditches and dykes often with engineered uniform banks. Ditches are mostly in straight lines and form field boundaries
- Rural farming character although there are frequent urban elements such as urban fringe at Clifton and large villages visible within the landscape
- Large-scale arable farming with large sometimes expansive monotonous modern field patterns
- Most field patterns are of modern origin although there are older patterns close to Barton Moor which are semi-regular and irregular geometric patterns
- There is a small amount of pasture used as horse present close to village fringes such as the edge of Bunny
- Infrequent woodland, where present, tends to be small geometric plantations or coverts along streams, the railway or around village and farm fringes. Where present woodland is prominent.
- Close to Bunny there are frequent ash, willow and poplar trees close to farmsteads and along hedgerow field boundaries
- Field boundaries are either drainage ditches, dykes or hedgerows which are generally fragmented or the remnants of former field patterns
- There is limited built form is in the DPZ comprising a few farmsteads which are large in size
- Nucleated villages such as Gotham, Bunny and Bradmore are on the fringes of the DPZ on higher ground. These are characterised by older distinctive cores, prominent church spires and scrub along their fringes
- Bunny contains a cluster of distinctive red brick buildings such as Bunny Hall, the Old Vicarage, Ivy Cottage, the Rancliffe Arms public house, the Post Office and the former Schoolhouse within its centre all designed by the same architect Sir Thomas Parkyns which creates a uniform and distinctive character
- Red brick and red pantile roofs are common building materials
- Inaccessible character with few tracks or roads through the character area
- Lanes and roads within the area are often bordered by drainage ditches and rough grassland which emphasises the expansive and open character
- There are open expansive views across the character area due to the general lack of trees, built form and infrequent hedgerows to filter views
- Views are enclosed by a series of hills to the west at Gotham and West Leake, south at Bunny and north at Sharphill Wood and Mickleborough Hill
- Overhead lines are prominent vertical features within the landscape

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

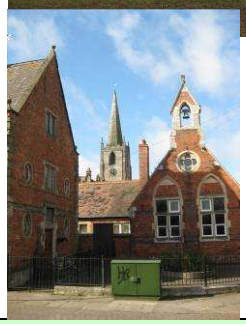
Condition

A wide expansive open and low-lying landscape. The land is mostly under arable cultivation with fields bounded by drainage ditches and fragmented hedgerows. Infrequent built form which comprises large farms and nucleated villages are on the fringes of the area.

Land use is almost entirely extensive arable farming. Field boundaries are formed by ditches which often give the impression of wide expansive and continuous fields. Mostly a modern field pattern with pockets of older enclosure close to Barton Moor.

Woodland is relatively infrequent with small geometric plantations, riparian woodland along streams and some hedgerow trees. There are copses of scrub and woodland along village fringes. Lombardy poplar used for screening urban fringes and farmsteads is particularly prominent within the DPZ.

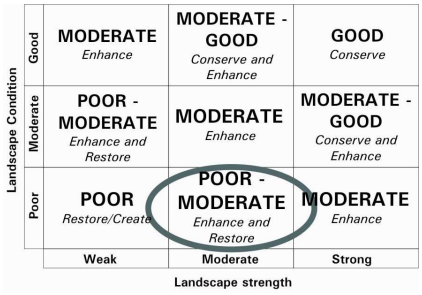
The landscape condition is **POOR**. The agricultural landscape shows evidence of removal of hedgerows for field expansion resulting in expansive fields with few features. Where hedgerows are present they are often fragmented.



Landscape Strength

The land is enclosed on all sides by hills and scarps which limit the extent of views of the area. There are open expansive views from adjacent high ground and open views within the DPZ due to a general lack of trees or woodland. The most prominent and distinctive views are from the A453 across the farmland to the hills beyond at Bunny.

The character strength of the area is **MODERATE**. The expansive farmland is the main characteristic of the area. Other landscape features are less apparent and the pattern and distribution of features often varies around village fringes where the land becomes more enclosed. Urban features are apparent and noticeable in the landscape. The landscape pattern shows evidence of hedgerow loss and fragmentation which weakens the character.



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

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

- Enhance field boundaries through the replacement/infilling of fragmented hedgerows and planting of riparian vegetation along ditches and streams
- Enhance the condition of existing hedgerows through planting with appropriate native species and possibly re-laying to improve their density and appearance
- Conserve and enhance the field pattern, particularly where evidence of older semi-regular and irregular geometric field patterns remains
- Enhance the pattern of woodland to provide interest and break up the expansive and monotonous character of the landscape through small-scale planting around farms, the railway and streams
- Conserve and enhance the pattern of hedgerow trees where present and ensure a programme of replacement for older trees
- Conserve and maintain pockets of pasture which are a remnant of the land's former use for livestock and haymaking until the land could be cultivated to arable
- Recreate areas of low-lying wet pasture, moor and fen where possible along lower-lying parts of the DPZ close to watercourses
- Conserve expansive views across the area contained by wooded ridgelines and hills by carefully siting of planting and any new development
- Enhance the continuity of Fairham Brook through planting of small-scale groups of riparian trees and scrub to denote its position within the landscape

Built form

- Conserve the impression of a lack of built form within the DPZ ensuring any new development is close to village fringes and does not make built form more prominent within the landscape
- Conserve the impression of villages on slightly higher ground than the low-lying farmland
- Enhance village fringes through localised woodland copse and scrub planting to soften their appearance within the landscape
- Conserve the distinctive core within Bunny and ensure any new development or change reflects this character and uses appropriate materials such as red brick

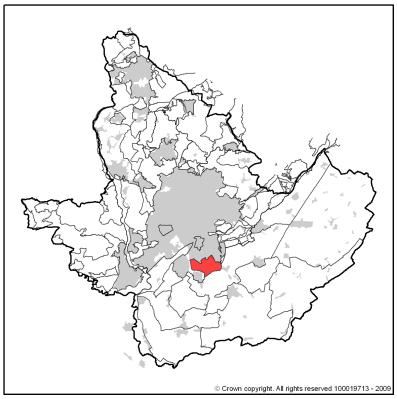
Other development/ structures in the landscape

- Conserve and enhance the infrequent small tracks and lanes within the DPZ and the general absence of more major roads to maintain a sense of seclusion and remote character

SN03 Mickleborough Fringe

CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: South Nottinghamshire Farmland
LDU Reference: 423,424
DPZ Reference: SN03



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Two distinctive hills on the southern fringe of Nottingham which are prominent above the surrounding gently undulating farmland
- Narrow cutting of former railway with steep sided wooded embankments
- Wooded streams have a localised influence on the area; denoted mostly by the change in landform
- Marginal rural character with frequent views across the lower-lying fringes of Nottingham
- Land use is mostly arable with large to extensive field pattern around Sharphill Wood with trees a remnant of a former field pattern
- Field patterns to the north of Ruddington are slightly smaller and narrower; all field patterns are of modern origin with a single field of older irregular geometric enclosure pattern
- Field boundaries where present are mostly hedgerows; these are of variable condition and height
- Sharphill Wood is a prominent woodland and is a managed local nature reserve. It shows evidence of regular use by local residents
- Other woodland is present around Wilford Hill Cemetery, Mickleborough Hill and as linear belts and strips within two golf courses and the former railway cutting
- Avenues of trees are present on approaches to larger properties and to the golf lodges
- One stream is within the area and is characterised by mature woodland along its fringes
- The area contains mostly large detached properties set within mature gardens; these are generally of modern styles and use a variety of buildings materials
- A Garden Centre and small industrial park contribute to an urban fringe character to the landscape
- Built form adjacent to the area in West Bridgford is largely red brick modern suburban homes set on gently sloping land; the housing and roofline are relatively uniform
- Ruddington is a large village on the fringe of the DPZ, characterised by large and small red brick properties set around a network of small roads and a village green. The village contains a number of the Grade II Listed Buildings, which were former framework knitters' workshops, provide a distinctive character to the village
- Busy dual carriageways bordered by embankments with young woodland planting; busy roundabout junctions and traffic are a feature of the DPZ
- Extensive views are possible from higher ground across gently undulating farmland to the ridgeline at West Leake Hill, Gotham Hill and Bunny Hill
- Extensive views north across Nottingham City with the castle, St Mary's Church, Wollaton Hall and County Hall prominent features within the city. The two football grounds, Trent Bridge and Colwick Woods are also prominent
- The land forms a small buffer between West Bridgford and Ruddington

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

This DPZ has a rural/urban fringe character with extensive views over the surburban edge of Nottingham; The two hills are prominent distinctive features and woodland on higher ground is also a feature.

The land use is varied and reflects its proximity to the urban edge; there are two golf courses, Wilford Hill Cemetery, a small cutting (former railway) and large to extensive arable fields. Hedgerow boundaries are of variable height and condition and contain few hedgerow trees.

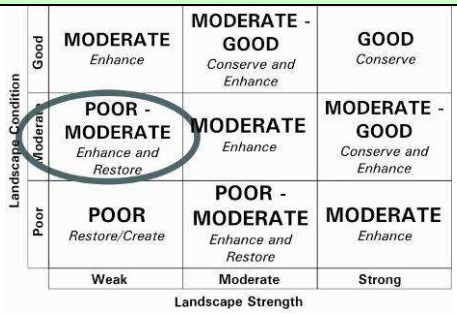
Woodland is limited within the DPZ but is in prominent locations on the highest ground on the hills and along the fringes of the cemetery and golf courses. Wooded belts along the roads help to contribute to the impression of a reasonably well wooded landscape.

The condition of this landscape is considered to be **MODERATE**. Many of the features show signs of decline or fragmentation such as loss of field pattern and fragmentation of hedgerows. However woodlands are managed.

Landscape Strength

This area contains two distinctive hills which obscure the urban edge of West Bridgford from the wider countryside. They also form a prominent wooded backdrop to views to the south. There are extensive views from high ground across Nottingham and across the countryside to the south. Nearly all views from the DPZ contain built form which is a reminder of the close proximity to West Bridgford.

The character strength of the area is **WEAK**. Whilst the hills are distinctive features, other features are less distinctive with varied urban uses and pressures exerting a strong influence on the character. Small changes in land use could have a significant effect on landscape character.



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

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

- Enhance the open and distinctive views from high ground across farmland to the south and Nottingham City to the north
- Seek to restore hedgerow boundaries and hedgerow trees in arable fields where boundaries no longer exist
- Conserve and enhance existing hedgerow trees and hedgerows which are important landscape features
- Conserve and enhance the prominent woodland blocks on higher ground
- Enhance the naturalistic character of routes through woodland

Built form

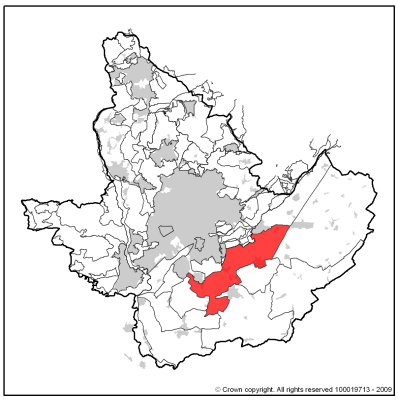
- Where possible create new woodland copses along urban fringes to reduce their prominence in the landscape
- Conserve the strong transition from urban to rural landscape and ensure new development does not increase the prominence of development within the wider landscape to the south beyond Sharphill and Mickleborough Hill
- Enhance the fringes of prominent development through localised woodland planting to soften their appearance within the landscape and ensure they appear as single or small groups of properties.
- Enhance the boundaries around the garden centre and industrial buildings through new woodland planting; development which appears as single large dwellings or farms could help reduce the scale of this area
- Maintain a buffer between West Bridgford and Ruddington to preserve the sense of separation between the two settlements
- Conserve the distinctive village character within the centre of Ruddington

Other development/ structures in the landscape

- Conserve the open and extensive views from roads within the area
- Reduce the prominence of roads and junctions within the area through augmentations of woodland and hedgerow planting
- Enhance and create street tree planting along roads and at junctions to soften and 'green' their appearance

SN04 Cotgrave And Tollerton Village Farmlands

CONTEXT
Regional Character Area: South Nottinghamshire Farmlands
LDU Reference:395,421,426
DPZ Reference:SN04



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Gently undulating landform with localised steeper areas around watercourses at Upper Saxondale and localised plateaus
- Man-made hill formed from former mining operations is prominent around Cotgrave
- Undulations in the landscape are formed by small streams and tributaries which have cut through softer mudstones and clays;
- Frequent watercourses which are often demarcated by landform and small amounts of riparian vegetation such as willows and scrub. Where trees are not alongside, watercourses are generally not visible in the landscape
- Disused Grantham Canal is a local wooded feature in the landscape, with a mix of riparian trees, reeds, wetlands and open water
- Rural character present across the area although there are frequent urbanising elements providing a reminder of the proximity of built form such as large villages, Nottingham, industry and large farm buildings
- Land use is mostly arable although pasture is common around village fringes and along watercourses
- Fields are mostly medium to large in size and pattern includes predominantly modern field patterns. Older enclosure is present around village fringes particularly around Tollerton and larger tracts of fields reflecting open systems and semi-regular enclosure to the south of Radcliffe on Trent
- Field boundaries are almost all hedgerows which are of variable condition, along roads they are almost always intact but within fields there is evidence of fragmentation. Along A46 hedgerows have been removed to enable road widening
- Scrub and rough grassland is present around field margins particularly close to West Bridgford
- There is a relatively low level of woodland cover; concentrations around Ruddington Country Park, Cotgrave Country Park, golf courses, settlements and watercourses creates the impression of higher woodland cover than actually exists
- Areas of restored land, now country parks, are characterised by young structure planting, areas of open water and wetlands, grassland and natural regeneration
- Few hedgerow trees which tend to be present as small clusters along field boundaries and along roads
- Frequent large nucleated commuter settlements such as Bingham, Radcliffe on Trent, Ruddington and Cotgrave and smaller nucleated settlements at Plumtree, Normanton on the Wolds and Tollerton.
- Long distance views towards the centre of Nottingham possible across farmland and from high ground at Cotgrave Colliery
- Urban edges of West Bridgford are locally visible above a narrow belt of woodland along Gamston Lings Bar Road
- Smaller villages often have belts of woodland along their fringes; woodland along the railway limits views of Plumtree.
- Small areas of parkland to the north east of Tollerton and at Ruddington Hall; wooded boundaries reduce their prominence in the landscape
- Rising roofline present within smaller villages with prominent church spires
- Older centres of villages are characterised by red brick and pantile roofs; modern buildings use a variety of materials and are more uniform in layout, orientation and layouts are denser
- Large industrial buildings at the airfield and large agricultural buildings are prominent within the landscape
- Frequent overhead line routes are prominent within the landscape



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

This area is characterised by very gently undulating landform with contrasting areas of restored land. Large villages and farmsteads are frequent within a predominantly arable landscape which has a uniform character.

Fields are a mixture of medium to large scale fields which are mostly of modern origin. Patterns of older enclosure remain close to village fringes and to the south of Bingham where fields are smaller and of irregular and semi-regular shape.

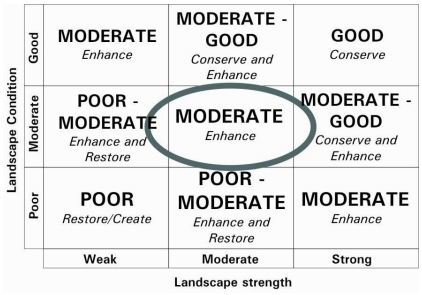
The area has a low level of woodland cover. Woodland blocks are concentrated around restored land forming country parks and is relatively immature. As it matures woodland cover in the landscape will increase. Other woodland includes a linear belt along the railway and disused canal, riparian belts along watercourses and around parkland to the north east of Tollerton. Scattered hedgerow trees also contribute to woodland cover.

The landscape condition is **MODERATE.** There is evidence of hedgerow fragmentation and in areas scrub encroachment and rough grassland due to a lack of management. In other areas land is well managed.


Landscape Strength

Views are often over quite long distances due to the undulating landform and low woodland cover. Views always contain urban features such as industry and large villages with modern fringes. Farmsteads and large farm buildings are also common. Views into the DPZ are from high ground such as Sharphill Wood and higher land around Clipston.

The strength of character of the area is **MODERATE**. The area has a relatively uniform character of arable fields with prominent village fringes. Urban elements are frequent and exert a strong influence. Man-made elements and landform have a localised influence on character.



The overall landscape strategy is **ENHANCE**.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

- Conserve the older field patterns within the DPZ such as those reflecting open systems and the semi-regular geometric patterns in the north
- Enhance field boundaries through planting of new hedgerows and hedgerow trees to reinforce field pattern
- Enhance the distribution of hedgerow trees by encouraging planting of trees within hedgerows. Species used should be mostly ash with some oak.
- Conserve areas of permanent pasture around village fringes
- Restore hedgerows and encourage planting of new hedgerow trees to provide unity between more open arable land and the more enclosed and wooded pasture fields around village fringes
- Conserve and enhance roadside hedgerows through replanting and planting new hedgerow trees such as ash or oak
- Enhance woodland cover within the DPZ ensuring where implemented it is small copses, reflects surrounding field patterns and does not block longer distance views
- Conserve and enhance the wetland fringes of the former Grantham Canal

Built form

- Enhance village fringes through planting small linear belts and copses to break up the uniform nature of the urban edge particularly along the fringes of larger commuter settlements such as Ratcliffe on Soar and Bingham
- Conserve the older cores of villages with red brick and pantile roofed vernacular buildings
- Conserve the prominence of churches within village skylines
- Any developments along village fringes should encourage the use of red brick and pantile roofs and make a positive

contribution to local character and distinctiveness within each individual village

- Conserve the tree cover and pasture which softens the appearance of smaller villages in the landscape
- Development along village fringes should aim to provide a dispersed character rather than a sharp line and incorporate smaller fields or open spaces, woodlands and trees along roads *Other development/ structures in the landscape*
- Retain and enhance hedgerow boundaries and hedgerow tree boundaries along roads through the area
- Conserve small ditches and narrow grass verges along roads through the DPZ

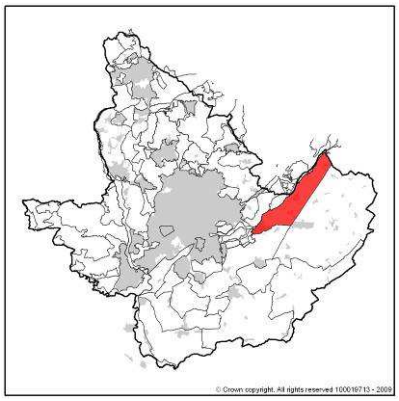
SN05 East Bridgford Escarpment Farmlands

CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: South Nottinghamshire Farmlands

LDU Reference: 421

DPZ Reference: SN05



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Escarpment with a steeply sloping northern edge down to the Trent Washlands and more gentle slope to the south to the A46 forming a broad plateau either side of Kneeton Road
- Rural character with a sense of enclosure created on high ground through limited views beyond the plateau to adjacent lower ground; on the slopes views towards the A46 and Nottingham City Centre provide an urbanising influence
- Land use is almost totally arable although individual fields of pasture are present around the edge of East Bridgford and Kneeton
- Fields are mostly medium to large in size and enclosure pattern includes modern field patterns to the south and around Syerston Airfield with older enclosure present at East Bridgford and Kneeton
- Field boundaries are almost all hedgerows which are of variable condition; along roads they are almost always intact and over 1.5m in height but within fields there is evidence of fragmentation particularly around arable fields
- There is very little woodland cover and where present it is prominent in the landscape. Woodland is generally irregular shaped blocks often with smaller fields planted with woodland. The largest wood is to the south of Syerston Airfield
- Clumps of woodland are present around village fringes which help to reduce their prominence in the landscape although the rising roofline of Radcliffe on Trent remains locally visible in the landscape, other tree groups are present around farmsteads
- There are few hedgerow trees and where present are often in small groups along field boundaries, often close to woodlands
- There are few settlements; the largest is Radcliffe on Trent which is on the gentle slopes of the escarpment. East Bridgford and smaller Kneeton are nestled into the landscape often with mature boudanries helping to reduce their prominence
- Smaller villages are characterised by small terraces and cottages of red brick with pantile roofs, individual working and converted former farms. The variety in orientation of buildings along streets provides distinction and interest. East Bridgford is also characterised by a prominent red brick wall along Kirk Hill which adds an element of formality on the approach to the village
- Farmsteads include both old and new properties, mostly constructed from red brick. A converted mill is a distinctive feature visible on the skyline
- An area of housing at Newton is a large isolated area of more modern housing constructed from red and brown brick. It is locally prominent in views from the A46. However elsewhere only glimpsed views of the larger buildings are possible
- Extensive and distinctive views are possible across low-lying farmland along the River Trent and to the village of Shelford from Shelford Road

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

This area is characterised by broad escarpment with a steeply sloping northern edge and more gently sloping southern edge. The landuse is fairly uniform and mostly arable fields with a few prominent woodlands. Village fringes are visible at Radcliffe on Soar and partially at Newton although mostly built form is obscured within the landscape.

Fields are a mixture of medium to large scale fields which are mostly of modern origin with older enclosure present around East Bridgford and Kneeton. Fields are bounded by hedgerows which are taller along roads and often fragmented between fields.

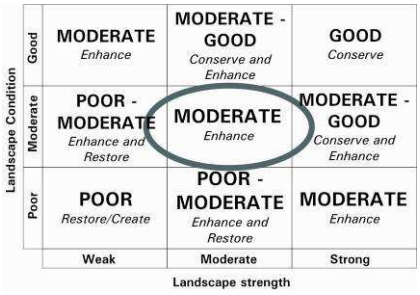
The area has a low level of woodland cover, individual woodland blocks where present are prominent within the landscape. There are few hedgerow trees which are often concentrated around village fringes and close to woodlands. Woodland at Syerston Airfield is the most prominent within the DPZ.

The landscape condition is **MODERATE.** There is evidence of hedgerow fragmentation and a loss of field boundaries to enable arable expansion.

Landscape Strength

Views are generally enclosed and restricted to within the DPZ when on higher ground. Longer views are possible across the edge of Radcliffe On Trent to the west and distinctive views across the Trent Washlands to the north along Shelford Road. The land is only locally visible from the surrounding countryside with the steeply sloping land a prominent feature in views from the Trent Washlands and from higher ground to the north around Burton Joyce. There are also views across the area from the A46.

The character of the area is **MODERATE**. The area has a relatively uniform character of arable fields with prominent village fringes. Views to urban elements are frequent and exert an influence on the area. There are local variations in the pattern of the landscape around the airfield to the north and where the landform changes to the south close to Radcliffe on Trent.



The overall landscape strategy is **ENHANCE**.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

- Conserve the older field patterns within the DPZ around East Bridgford and Kneeton ensuring that fields are not expanded for more intensive farming
- Enhance field boundaries through augmentation of hedgerows to reinforce field pattern
- Enhance the distribution of hedgerow trees by encouraging planting of trees within hedgerows. Species used should be mostly ash with some oak. These should be carefully located to ensure that an open character is retained
- Conserve the small pockets of permanent pasture around village fringes
- Enhance woodland cover within the DPZ ensuring where implemented it is small in size and reflects surrounding field patterns and the character of small infrequent prominent woodlands
- Conserve and enhance opportunities for distinctive views across the Trent Washlands from adjacent roads on higher ground through careful management of hedgerows and woodlands to retain views

Built form

- Enhance village fringes through planting small copses to break up the uniform nature of the urban edge particularly along the fringes of larger commuter settlements such as Radcliife on Trent and Newton
- Conserve the older cores of villages with red brick and pantile roofed vernacular buildings
- Conserve the narrow character of roads through East Bridgford and the distinctive walled approach along Kirk Hill.
- Conserve the variety of built form and orientation of buildings along roads within villages
- Conserve the small scale character of Kneeton and retain the connection to farming through retaining the presence of working farms
- Any developments along village fringes should encourage the use of red brick and pantile roofs and make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness within each individual village
- Development along village fringes should aim to provide a dispersed character rather than a sharp continuous built line and incorporate smaller fields or open spaces, to provide a dispersed appearance to village fringes

Other development/ structures in the landscape

- Retain and enhance hedgerow boundaries and hedgerow tree boundaries along roads through the area
- Conserve the small rural character of roads through the area
- Enhance the landscape through planting of small copses and hedgerows and hedgerow trees along the A46 to reduce its prominence.

SN06 Aslockton Village Farmlands

CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: South Nottinghamshire Farmlands

LDU Reference: 83, 84, 85, 134, 135, 151, 406, 407, 421

DPZ Reference: SN06

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Series of Mercia Mudstone outcrops and thin bands of lower-lying alluvial levels following rivers. The outcrops vary between 5 and 10m above adjacent levels; the most prominent being along Sutton Lane and Barnstone Lane in the south east of the area
- A number of watercourses such as the River Smite and Devon flow through the landscape; they are lower than surrounding ground with arable fields extending to their banks and little riparian vegetation. Therefore they are not easily discernible in the landscape
- Rural remote and tranquil character comprising arable farmlands and a regular dispersal of small rural settlements
- Land use is mostly arable although pasture is common around village fringes. Larger tracts are present where villages are situated close to each other and pasture extends between; these tend to have a slightly more enclosed and intimate character
- Field pattern ranges from small-scale fields around village fringes to expansive large scale fields in open countryside
- Field boundaries are almost all hedgerows which are of variable condition; they tend to be more intact around pasture fields where left to grow taller whereas in adjacent arable fields are often low and in places quite fragmented
- There is a relatively low level of woodland cover with a regular pattern of small geometric and irregular shaped woodlands throughout; other woodland is often linear in character following the line of a former railway, around village fringes and where individual hedgerows are left to mature
- Hedgerow trees are infrequent although clustered around pasture fields on village margins and within villages. Where hedgerows are often taller around arable fields trees tend to be less frequent. There are lots of young hedgerow trees planted as avenues along small lanes which will increase tree cover as they mature. These are mostly ash and horse chestnut
- The combination of taller hedgerows, hedgerow trees and scattered woodlands creates a dispersed wooded character and woodland is often a key component within skyline views
- Small parklands at Flintham, Langar, Whatton and Wiverton Hall are local wooded features
- Dispersed small rural settlements include both linear and nucleated patterns; they are often situated on the slightly higher Mercia Mudstone outcrops. Bingham is the only large commuter settlement within the DPZ and its northern and eastern edges are locally prominent in the landscape
- Villages of Elton on the Hill, Granby, Sutton and Barnstone are prominent on higher ground; they are seen mostly as a single line of dispersed housing set within trees
- Rooflines of villages are generally obscured by mature trees; where visible they appear dispersed and as individual or small groups of properties. Church towers and spires are prominent above the villages and are distinctive features within the landscape
- Villages are particularly distinctive often containing very little modern development; they are along narrow roads often bordered by red brick walls. All villages are well wooded with many mature trees along roads within small fields and open spaces within the villages and around their fringes
- Buildings within villages include small cottages and terraces and larger individual properties both set behind small and larger front gardens. Almost all are constructed of red brick with red pantile roofs although there is the occasional rendered or painted house. Villages often contain a few former farm buildings which are now converted to private residences.
- Churches within villages are almost all constructed from local stone and are either towers or spires and always set within mature grounds
- Narrow winding lanes are common throughout the landscape although a few straighter roads across lower lying land are present around Orston and Granby. Roads are characterised by often large verges

or pockets of grassland. In these places traditional gypsy caravans and horses grazing are sometimes present

- Scattered farmsteads, often constructed of red brick with small out buildings and barns are throughout the DPZ although not present on the lowest lying ground
- Pockets of rough grassland and village greens grazed by cattle are a feature of villages in the northern part of the area such as between Car Colston and Screveton
- Many prominent overhead line routes are present within the landscape and are always visible on the skyline
- Expansive long distance views across the landscape to the Belvoir Ridge to the south in Leicestershire



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

This area is characterised by very gently undulating landform which is a series of Mercia Mudstone outcrops and narrow alluvial levels. The land is mostly arable farming with pockets of pasture which are more intimate in character close to village fringes. There is a regularly dispersed pattern of small distinctive rural villages. The landscape has a strong rural tranquil character which feels remote from urban centres.

Fields are a mixture of medium to large scale which are mostly modern enclosure with some larger areas of older enclosure present around villages. Fields around Car Colston and Orston display patterns which are some of the oldest enclosures in Nottinghamshire.

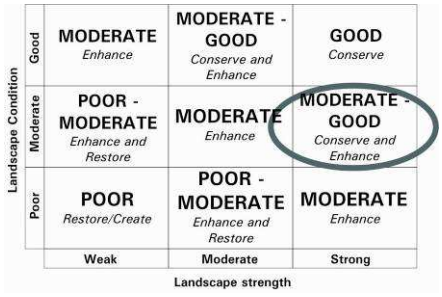
The area has a low level of woodland cover; small coverts and copses are scattered throughout the landscape. Other woodland cover includes clumps and avenues along roads and parkland and linear belts along maturing hedgerows and disused railways. These combine to give a wooded impression in views.

The landscape condition is **MODERATE**. There is evidence of some fragmentation of features through the area such as loss of hedgerows. However there is also evidence of replanting of hedgerow trees along many of the small rural roads.


Landscape Strength

Views are often over quite long distances due to the very gently undulating landform and low woodland cover. Views are rural in character across arable fields interspersed with linear tree belts and clusters of woodland at village fringes. Frequent church spires are notable features. Overhead lines are prominent vertical features within the landscape. Views to the south are to the Belvoir Ridge and on the southern fringes at the start of the Leicestershire Wolds. Views across the DPZ from outside the area are possible from surrounding high ground and along the A46.

The character strength of the area is **STRONG**. The area has a relatively uniform character of arable fields, linear blocks and clumps of woodland and small distinctive rural villages. There are pockets of the landscape where there are greater or lesser levels of enclosure however these are broadly consistent across the DPZ.



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

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

- Conserve the older field patterns within the DPZ such as those reflecting open systems and the semi-regular geometric patterns in the north particularly enclosure patterns around Car Colston and Screveton
- Enhance field boundaries through planting of new hedgerows and hedgerow trees to reinforce field pattern
- Enhance the distribution of hedgerow trees by encouraging planting of trees within hedgerows. Species used should be mostly ash with some horse chestnut along roads which currently have low numbers of hedgerow trees
- Conserve areas of permanent pasture and woodland clumps around village fringes
- Restore hedgerows and encourage planting of new hedgerow trees to provide unity between more open arable land and the slightly more enclosed and wooded pasture fields around village fringes
- Enhance woodland cover within the DPZ ensuring where implemented it is small in size and reflect surrounding field patterns and contributes to the regular dispersal of woodland within views. Planting should be focussed on the more open areas to help integrate them with the more intimate pastoral landscapes close to village fringes
- Conserve the distinctive character of open grazing land at Car Colston
- Conserve and enhance areas of parkland through ensuring replacement of specimen trees and retention of land as informal grazing
- Enhance the character of rivers through the DPZ through small scale planting of clumps of riparian woodland

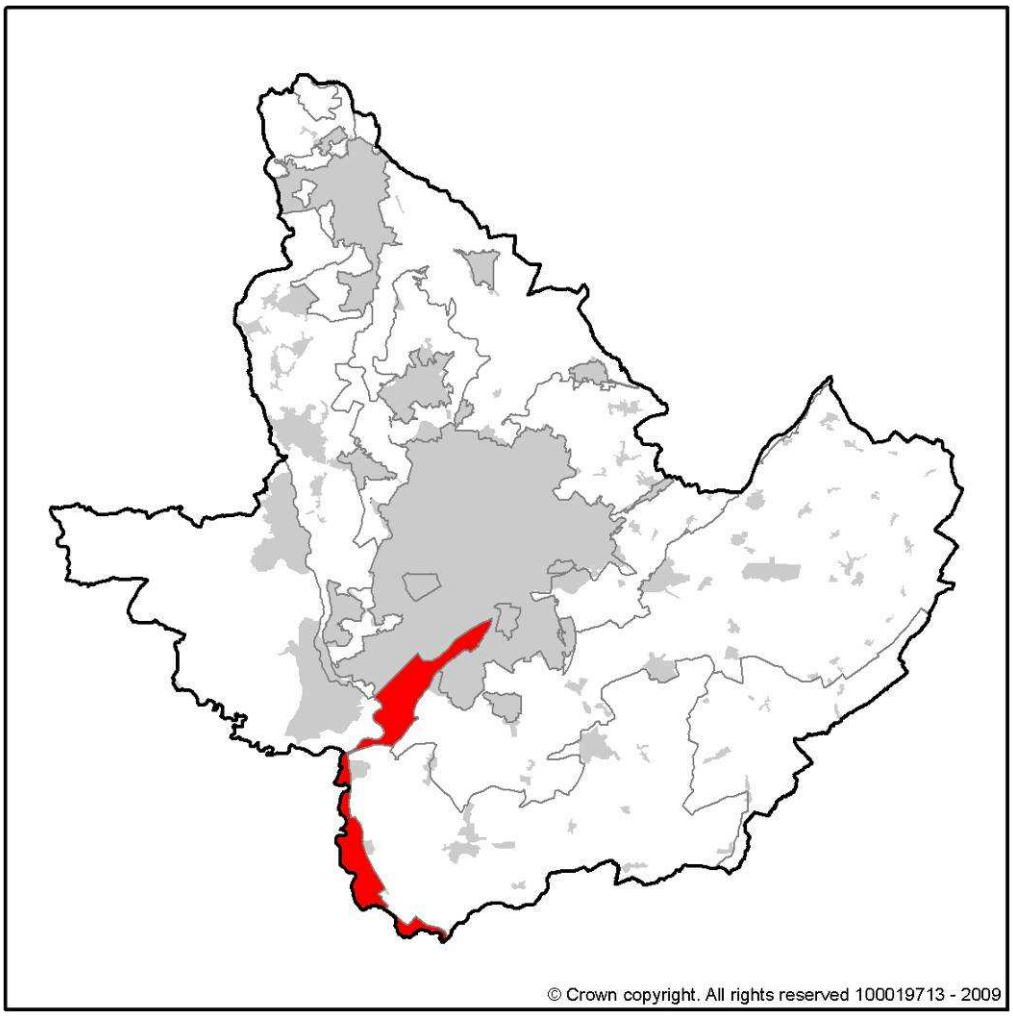
Built form

- Enhance the village fringe of Bingham through planting small linear belts and copses to break up the uniform nature of the urban edge to integrate with the dispersed character of other village fringes
- Conserve the consistent distinctive character of small villages throughout the area; any infill or alterations to buildings should make a positive contribution to local distinctiveness
- Conserve the prominence of churches within village skylines
- Any developments along village fringes should encourage the use of red brick and pantile roofs and make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness within each individual village
- Conserve the appearance of dispersed linear settlements on higher ground
- Conserve the tree cover and pockets of pasture, fields and small open spaces within villages
- Conserve the narrow street pattern and variation of building orientation within villages
- Any new development along village fringes should aim to provide a dispersed character rather than a sharp line and incorporate smaller fields or open spaces, woodlands and trees along roads to provide a dispersed appearance to village fringes

Other development/ structures in the landscape

- Conserve the wide grass verges and pockets of grassland along the small roads within the DPZ
- Retain the remote rural character of rural roads ensuring that any highway upgrades for safety do not affect the rural character





DPZ within this Regional Character Area:

TSV01 Attenborough Wetlands

TSV02 Soar Valley

Key Characteristics

- This regional area follows the broad valley of the River Soar to its confluence with the River Trent;
- It is defined by alluvial and river terrace drift deposits formed through deposition of a series of river-borne materials during the development of the river mostly gravels with more recent alluvium;
- The valleys have been formed through the river cutting into the Mercia Mudstone and are bordered by rising ground to the east and west of the River Soar and to the south. Rising land is less notable to the north of the River Trent;
- Both rivers are within broad valleys bordered by narrow river terraces; the most extensive vale is at the confluence of the two rivers extending to 6 kilometres wide;
- Alluvial soils comprise mottled clayey and clay loam soils developed in greyish and brownish alluvium;
- Meandering river corridors are the most distinctive feature;
- Settlement within the region has developed adjacent to the alluvium ground;
- Settlements include larger conurbations such as Clifton; Beeston; fringes of Loughborough; expanded commuter settlements such as Kegworth and small nucleated settlements such as Kingston on Soar and Normanton on Soar;
- Smaller villages and farmsteads have a distinctive character of red brick and pantile roofs;
- Land influenced by gravel extraction, industry such as Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station, urban expansion, roads and railways and overhead lines;
- Arable farmland is predominant particularly along the River Trent; along the Soar the farming is more mixed with areas of historic permanent pasture;
- Pockets of riverside pasture, alluvial meadows, reed beds, flood meadows and marsh, grassland and willow holts;
- Generally low woodland cover, although a perceived sense of woodland is created through the combination of regular riparian trees, hedgerow trees and isolated woodlands;
- Wooded enclosure tends to be greater within pastoral land along the River Soar with more open exposed land present adjacent to the River Trent where the land is under arable farming;
- Steep-sided wooded bluffs at Clifton are prominent features adjacent to the low-lying river corridor;
- Mature willows are distinctive features of the landscape;
- Large areas of wetlands and lakes formed as restoration of gravel workings. These are now used for recreation and nature conservation;
- Naturally regenerating and planted woodlands provide a strong sense of enclosure around restored workings; and
- Prominent man-made flood defence embankments are a marked contrast to the low lying landform.

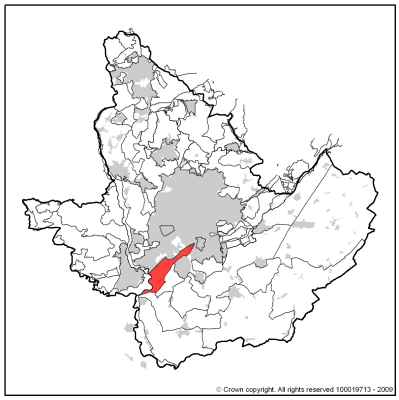
Guidelines and Recommendations

- Conserve and restore the traditional pattern of hedged fields;
- Promote measures for strengthening the existing level of tree cover within arable land through increasing hedgerow trees and small woodlands at field margins;
- Strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream corridors through retention and enhancement of riparian vegetation;
- Conserve pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grassland;
- Enhance visual unity through appropriate small scale woodland planting;
- Conserve and enhance the long curvilinear pattern of hedgerows;
- Conserve and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape through maintaining a sense of separation from the urban fringes;
- Conserve and strengthen the simple unity and spacious character of the landscape through maintaining the balance between arable fields bordered by ditches and pastoral fields bordered by hedgerows;
- Identify opportunities for enhancing the overall wetland character of the landscape;
- Conserve areas of historic parkland and seek opportunities for restoring pastoral character;
- Conserve and strengthen the well-wooded character of the landscape; and
- Seek to ensure that the reclamation of gravel workings restores land to wetland habitats such as reed beds, marshland and wet meadows rather than open water.

TSV01 Attenborough Wetlands

CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Trent Valley
LDU Reference: 263 & 276
DPZ Reference: TSV01



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Broad low lying river corridor enclosed by steep sided wooded ridges with an underlying geology of Mercia Mudstone
- Range of river valley wetlands at different stages of maturity created from restoration of former sand and gravel extraction sites including large expanses of open water, reed beds and riverside pasture. Now used for recreation and nature conservation purposes
- Continuing mineral extraction is apparent adjacent to Attenborough Nature Reserve; the land is heavily influenced by mineral extraction
- The meandering navigable river channel of the Trent forms a distinctive feature
- Urban fringe character is evident to the north of the area due to the influence of urbanising features such as railway lines, roads, industrial and commercial development, sewage treatment works and encroaching residential development. South of the River Trent the character is more rural
- Farmland is predominantly large arable fields bounded by fragmented hedgerows and some ditches
- Areas of former workings restored to agriculture using pulverised fuel ash. Hedgerows and woodland within these areas is limited
- Small pasture fields of sheep and horse grazing are present on settlement fringes
- Areas of scrub woodland dominated by willow, hawthorn and blackthorn are present along the river corridor
- Larger areas of young to semi-mature native woodland associated with restoration of former mineral workings such as Attenborough. Pockets of riverside pasture, alluvial meadows, flood meadows, marsh and grassland are also present close to the river
- The historic settlement core is predominantly large red brick traditional properties with pantile roofs, small cottages and stone churches. Within Attenborough modern urban expansion is apparent along roads and urban fringes
- Large blocks of semi-mature to mature deciduous woodland on surrounding ridge lines enclose views however, longer views can be seen across the large expanses of open water. Views to urban features are also apparent including Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station, Attenborough village church and St George's Church in Barton in Fabis
- Areas of arable farmland have a open exposed character with few features
- Man made flood defence embankments provide a contrast to the low lying fluvial floodplain with steep sided banks and no vegetation cover
- Areas restored to wetland are criss-crossed by a wide network of recreational routes which are popular with visitors. Associated visitor infrastructure including car parking and visitor centres are also provided within several locations

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

The landscape is a low lying flat fluvial floodplain with views enclosed by woodland ridges. Large expanses of open water associated with the restoration of former mineral workings are a feature. Views to features including Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station, overhead lines and industry have an urbanising influence. Urban areas are characterised by an historic core with subsequent modern expansion in some locations e.g. Attenborough.

Land use comprises a mix of agricultural landscapes and recreational facilities. Agriculture is predominantly medium to large arable fields bounded by linear fragmented hedgerows and some ditches. Localised areas of pasture can be found adjacent to villages such as Barton in Fabis where horse grazing is apparent often enclosed by timber fences. The field pattern is mostly modern although older enclosure is present north of Barton in Fabis and west of Clifton. Areas of former mineral workings restored to wetland are heavily used for recreational purposes and are covered by an extensive network of footpaths.

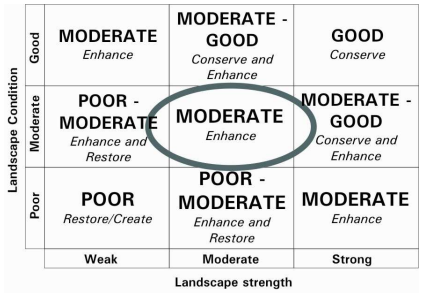
The landscape appears well wooded due to views to wooded ridges, linear woodland bordering the river channel and field hedgerows. Restoration of former mineral workings has typically incorporated large areas of new woodland planting and natural regeneration to create young to semi-mature native deciduous woodland habitats. Woodland species are characteristic of wetland habitats. Arable land is still influenced by wooded ridgelines although it is more open in character.

The landscape condition is **MODERATE**. Areas associated with open water recreational landscapes are well managed due to visitor demand. These wetland habitats are distinctive characteristics in the landscape and provide a strong sense of place. However, areas of agricultural landscape show evidence of deterioration with fragmented hedgerows and few distinctive characteristics.

Landscape Strength

The wetland features and river valley corridors are distinctive in the landscape. From the DPZ there are views to woodland ridges and urban features such as the power station at Ratcliffe on Soar apparent on the horizon. Ridges enclose views however longer views are afforded from various locations over the larger expanses of open water and across agricultural fields. Planted and regenerating woodland around restored mineral workings provides a strong sense of enclosure.

The DPZ has a **MODERATE** strength of character. The River Trent and wetland habitats associated with former mineral workings create a strong sense of place and are well managed. Urban features are apparent however, they do not represent a significant detraction and are generally well integrated into the landscape. Man-made flood defences are also prominent features. The landscape pattern associated with the agricultural landscape shows evidence of hedgerow loss and fragmentation and weakens the strength of character.



The overall landscape strategy is **ENHANCE**

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

- Enhance valuable landscape habitats through ongoing management of both the landscape and visitor access
- Undertake sensitive restoration of areas of active mineral extraction, integrating new areas into the existing landscape through native riparian tree planting, wetlands and areas of open water
- Enhance field boundaries by replanting gaps in hedgerows to retain and reinforce field patterns
- Restrict further expansion of agricultural field sizes to protect remaining hedgerow boundary features
- Conserve and enhance older field enclosure pattern close to Barton in Fabis through strengthening of hedgerow boundaries
- Encourage planting of riparian vegetation and trees along ditches and streams within arable farming to increase the sense of enclosure and provide greater integration with the river corridor and recreational restored land

Built form

- Conserve the character of settlements by restricting urban edge expansion of both residential, industrial and commercial development
- Conserve and enhance the rural character through ensuring that development remains dispersed and well integrated into the landscape
- Ensure that new development is in keeping with the local vernacular of red brick properties with pantile roofs and reflects the styles and scale of built form within Barton in Fabis' and Attenborough's historic core

Other development/ structures in the landscape

- Review the need for further flood defences and consider their impact on the landscape. Where required these should be carefully sited and include some riparian planting to reduce their prominence
- Further mineral extraction should be screened from view by wooded boundaries to aid integration into the landscape

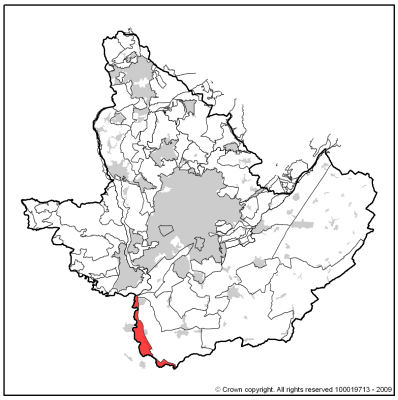
TSV02 Soar Valley Farmlands

CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Trent Valley

LDU reference: 269

DPZ Reference: TSV02



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Low-lying narrow floodplain bordering the River Soar
- Land rises on either side of the valley creating a strong sense of enclosure
- The River Soar is a prominent and distinctive feature within the DPZ. The river has a meandering channel and gentle often grassed meadow banks and riparian tree planting
- Remote character created through a lack of built form. Woodland, scrub and hedgerow trees reduce the scale and frequency of built form within views
- Urban fringe character in places conveyed by frequent views towards urban edges, the railway embankment, horse paddocks and other fringe uses
- Land use is almost all pasture including rough grazing, rough grassland and horse paddocks. A very small amount of arable is present close to the River Soar where the field pattern changes markedly
- Mostly an area with intact historic field enclosures. Most are semi-regular and reflect open field systems which are some of the oldest enclosures in Nottinghamshire
- Fields are bounded mostly by hawthorn hedgerows which are often species-rich with frequent hedgerow trees which are mostly ash
- Infrequent woodland, which where present tends to be clustered around village fringes as small copses and linear belts along field boundaries
- Frequent clusters of hedgerow trees, mostly ash or willow, along the river, tracks and field boundaries create a wooded impression
- Regular pockets of riparian vegetation along the fringes of the River Soar which become more frequent and larger in extent where the land is pasture
- Very little built form on low ground; villages are on higher ground with woodland and mature trees softening their appearance
- Church spires are prominent features of rooflines e.g. Church of St Michaels
- Built form includes distinctive 'estate' villages at Sutton Bonington and Kingston on Soar
- Built form at Sutton Bonington is set on high ground with a group of conifers on the highest land around a prominent manor house
- Views are channelled along the river valley to higher ground on the valley fringes around Sutton Bonington and Kegworth
- Urban elements become more frequent in views towards the north of the DPZ with Ratcliffe on Soar power station and adjacent quarrying prominent
- Overhead lines form prominent vertical features across the landscape often following the line of the river
- The railway is a prominent man-made element set on a raised embankment which provides a local contrast to the surrounding flat land

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

This area is characterised by its association with the River Soar. It is low-lying mostly pastoral farmland although where arable is present it has an influence on the character. The DPZ is enclosed by surrounding rising landform which in combination with frequent hedgerow trees provides a strong sense of enclosure.

Land use is mostly pasture in small to medium sized fields. The HLC identifies old patterns such as those reflecting open fields (one of the earliest enclosures) around Sutton Bonington and a mix of irregular and regular shaped fields which are evidence of slightly later enclosure. Horse paddocks are a feature of village fringes with associated fencing, jumps and sub-division of fields which in places gives an untidy appearance.

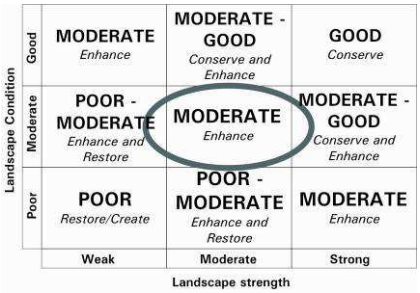
Woodland is infrequent in the DPZ; small geometric copses and mature linear belts of trees are present along tracks, village fringes and field boundaries around pastoral fields. Hedgerows are generally hawthorn although are more species-rich close to the river. Close to the river, hedgerows are distinctive where they follow the meandering course of the river rather than being in straight lines.

The landscape condition is **MODERATE.** There is evidence of localised decline in hedgerows particularly where the land is under arable cultivation. There are also frequent urban fringe uses such as horse paddocks and sub-division of fields which create a slightly untidy appearance to the landscape.

Landscape Strength

This is a relatively self contained area with channelled views possible through the landscape along the river valley and views to settlements within pockets of woodland and trees on higher ground. There are very few views into the area from outside the DPZ due to rising land on its fringes which screens the landscape.

The character strength of the area is **MODERATE to STRONG**. This DPZ is characterised by low-lying land associated with the River Soar floodplain. The land is mostly pastoral with change occurring where the land is under arable cultivation and becomes more open with fewer trees or hedgerows or along village fringes where horse paddocks are common.



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

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

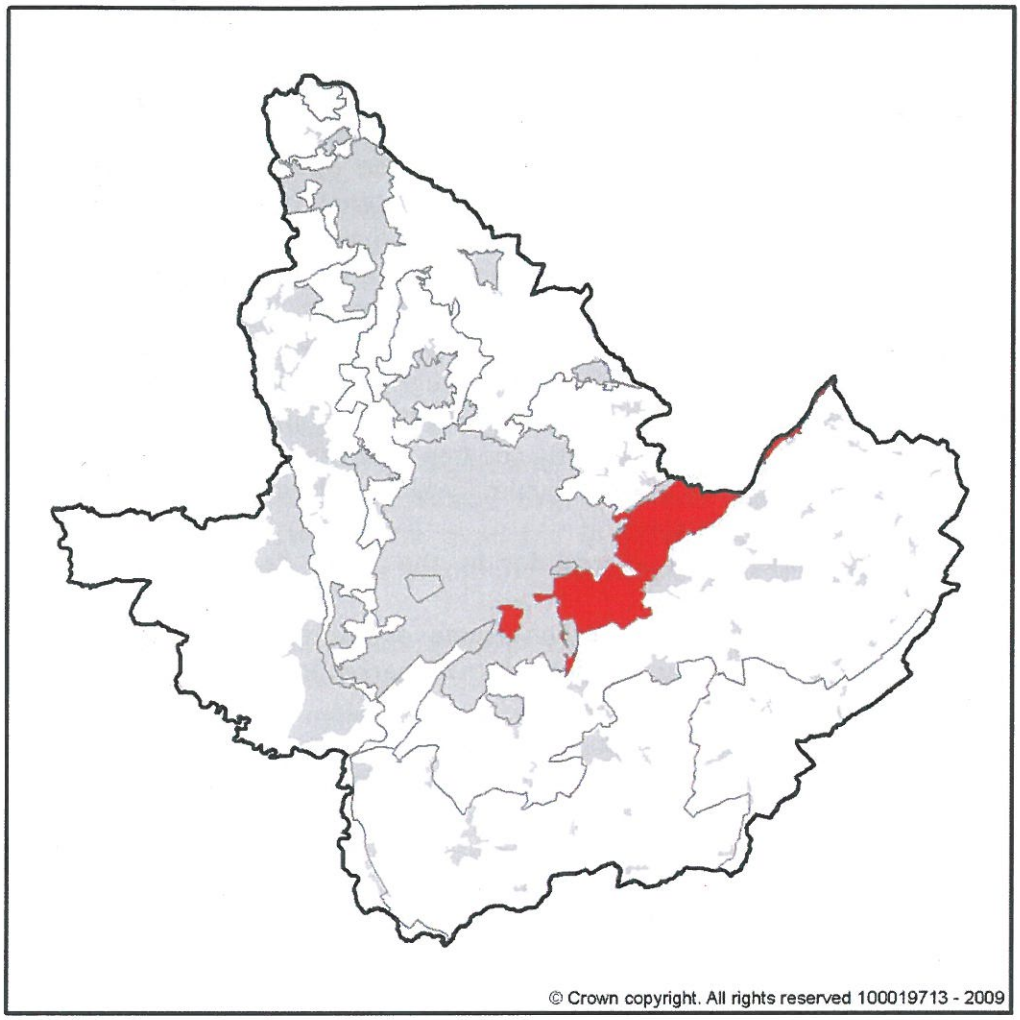
- Conserve the older field patterns within the character area such as those reflecting open systems and the irregular and regular geometric patterns
- Conserve areas of permanent pastoral farming along the river floodplain
- Conserve and enhance riparian and flood meadows along field fringes and the river margins by avoiding farming to the river edges and maintenance of smaller rough grassland buffers
- Conserve and where possible enhance the continuity of riparian trees, meandering rivers and pasture along the river
- Enhance riparian trees through local replanting particularly in arable farming areas to improve unity with pastoral areas
- Conserve river meadows where present along the riverbanks
- Enhance hedgerow boundaries and ensure replacement, particularly around arable fields where they tend to be less intact
- Conserve and enhance the pattern of hedgerows and regular hedgerow trees along lanes and tracks
- Conserve and enhance channelled views through the DPZ through careful placement of any new vegetation or built form
- Conserve the wooded impression of the DPZ through maintenance and planting of hedgerow and riparian trees
- Conserve the form of curvilinear hedgerows close to the river

Built form

- Conserve the infrequent nature of built form on lowest ground and the villages situated on rising higher ground
- Conserve the distinctive 'estate' character of Sutton Bonington and Kingston on Soar
- Ensure that any new or infill buildings respect the local built materials such as red brick, pantile roofs and red brick boundary walls
- Conserve the linear nature of settlements within the DPZ

Other development/ structures in the landscape

- Conserve the narrow character of roads and tracks through the area bordered by frequent hedgerow trees



DPZ within this Regional Character Area:

TW01	Gamston and Edwalton Meadowlands
TW02	Polser Brook Meadowlands
TW03	Holme Pierrepont and Bassingfield Village Farmlands
TW04	Trent Field Meadowlands
TW05	Stoke Bardolph Village Farmlands
TW06	Bulcote Village Farmlands
TW07	Shelford Village Farmlands
TW08	Gunthorpe and Hoveringham Village Farmlands
TW026	Gunthorpe Village Farmlands
TW028	East Stoke Meadowlands
TW051	Stoke Lock Meadowlands
TW052	Thurgarton Meadowlands
TW054	Colwick Country Park
TW055	West Bridgford Recreational Fringe

Key Characteristics

- This Regional Character Area follows the broad valley of the River Trent;
- The river valley is between 2-3km in width throughout its length;
- It is defined by alluvial and river terrace drift deposits formed through deposition of a series of river-borne materials during the development of the river. It comprises mostly gravels and more recent alluvium;
- Terraces are generally present along the edge of the valley but also occur as 'islands' within the floodplain. The most distinctive are up to 2m above surrounding alluvium;
- The valleys have been formed through the river cutting into the Mercia Mudstone and are bordered by steep slopes, forming a shallow trench;
- Materials are predominantly coarse gravels, which is mostly Bunter Pebble Bed debris, and alluvium, which is finer in texture ranging from silty loam to light clay;
- The meandering river corridor is the most distinctive feature of this landscape;
- The landscape has an urban fringe character with residential housing, railway lines, sewage works, formal parks and restored gravel workings (often now recreational areas);
- The urban edge of Nottingham is locally prominent in the landscape;
- Further away from the main urban centres the settlement pattern is a mix of nucleated villages and isolated farmsteads. Red brick and pantile roofs are the most common building materials;
- Modern housing is less distinctive and more uniform in character;
- Settlements are often situated on the slightly higher river terraces or along the valley margins where the land tends to be drier;
- Land is influenced by gravel extraction, industry, urban expansion, roads, railways and overhead lines;
- Network of narrow hedge-lined lanes link settlements; these run across the river terraces and in places extend to the river;
- Arable farmland is predominant across the river valley although there are narrow banks of riverside grassland which are a remnant of the previously more extensive meadows and pasture;
- Regular pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hedgerows. Some hedgerows are well maintained although others are more fragmented allowing more open views along the river valley;
- Grasslands are an important localised feature, often close to small villages where they are distinctive and associated with small irregular fields, mature hedgerows, willow pollards and pockets of parkland. These retain a peaceful and undisturbed character;
- Small broad-leaved woodlands are scattered across the character area;
- Hedgerow trees are a key component of tree cover;
- Large areas of wetlands and lakes formed as restoration of gravel workings are now used for water sport recreation and nature conservation;
- Pockets of actively worked quarries characterised by dry voids, processing plant, earth mounds and immature woodland screening belts;
- Establishing woodland and riparian vegetation is associated with restored landscapes which provides enclosure; and

- Small bands of river meadow and pasture characterised by willow holts and animals grazing creating a strong sense of place where present.

Guidelines and Recommendations

- Conserve and restore the pattern of hedged fields particularly around arable fields where the pattern has fragmented and become less distinctive;
- Enhance the level of tree cover within the character area through small-scale woodland and hedgerow tree planting ensuring open views across the terraces are preserved;
- Conserve and enhance the extent of riparian scrub and trees through management, natural regeneration and new planting of riparian trees and scrub particularly willow, ash and oak. This will help to strengthen the meandering character of the river and integrate the more open farmed landscape with the more traditional enclosed river meadowlands and pasture;
- Conserve the distinctive character of villages on higher river terraces and the characteristic vernacular of red brick and pantile roofs. Any new development should make a positive contribution to local distinctiveness;
- Conserve the small-scale pasture and mature hedgerows and trees along village fringes;
- Conserve pastoral character through retention of meandering river channels, alluvial meadows and riverside pasture
- Preserve the peaceful and undisturbed character of riverside pasture;
- Conserve and enhance the pattern of long curvilinear hedgerows as field boundaries between riverside pasture and arable farming;
- Conserve and enhance the condition of hedgerows through augmentation or replacement planting where gaps have occurred;
- Conserve and in places seek to restore the medium to large scale regular and semi-irregular field patterns;
- Conserve and strengthen the nucleated character of villages interspersed with isolated farmsteads;
- Enhance and integrate land being restored from mineral workings to agricultural use within the surrounding landscape by ensuring the field pattern, boundary enclosure and tree cover reflects the historic pattern and includes areas of pasture, wet pasture and meadows; and
- Where land is to be restored for recreation, proposals should include wetland habitats such as meadows, reed beds and marshland rather than large expanses of open water; where open water is a necessity (for example for water-based recreation) then this should be combined with wetland features.

TW PZ 1 – Gamston and Edwalton Meadowlands

PHOTOGRAPH

CONTEXT

Eastern edge of the City of Nottingham
NCC Landscape Sub Type: River Meadowlands
Policy Zone: TW PZ 1
Land Cover Parcel TW1 and TW2

Condition

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

Sensitivity

CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Flat and low lying land drained by ditches & a small watercourse
- Medium sized arable fields
- Small scale fields grazed by horses
- Remnant sections of the Grantham Canal
- Views of urban edge of Nottingham
- Golf course and other urban edge amenity land uses

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

This is a narrow swathe of land that lies either within or adjacent to the urban edge of Nottingham. It has a **coherent** pattern of elements with **some** detracting features within the PZ such as post and wire fencing, makeshift pony shelters and a short low bridge section across the A52, which is a busy main road. Overall this gives a **visually coherent** area.

The Grantham Canal is no longer navigable having been severed by the A52. Lack of dredging and the maintenance of the associated canal structures, such as locks as fully operational elements, have led to a loss of cultural integrity and the remaining features are retained as relics as opposed to working structures.

The canal corridor is well maintained as a recreational route and the canal itself is a SINC site noted for its good aquatic plant community. The landscape along the canal on the edge of Gamston and within the golf course is generally in good condition with the established tree planting and with the maintained green open space appearing well used. The ecological network is therefore described as **moderate,** which overall leads to a **coherent** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife

A **visually coherent** area with **coherent** habitat for wildlife gives a **moderate** landscape condition

Landscape Sensitivity

Some of the **characteristic historic** and ecological features of this Trent Washlands landscape are still in evidence, such as the meandering Grantham Canal and associated wetland and marsh plant communities fringing the margins of the canal. Part of the tow path along the line of the canal is now used as a footpath which connects Edwalton to Gamston. These features give the area a **moderate** sense of place

The proximity to the urban edge and more recent residential development has also led to a more indistinct feel to this area. The degree of visibility is also **moderate** due to containment by built edges and intermittent belts of tree planting, such as that around the edges of the Edwalton Golf Course and the A52, and the gently undulating landform. There are some views beyond the PZ from the fields within the northern area to the wooded hills to the North.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** degree of visibility leads to a **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

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

Sensitivity	**Moderate**
Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve and Create

- **Create** new hedgerows along existing field boundaries particularly where these are currently post and wire fences.
- **Conserve** and enhance pattern of existing meadowland hedges, particularly primary hedgerows alongside roads, footpaths and bridleways.
- Enhance the appearance and visual unity of urban fringes and settlement edges with new tree and woodland planting to create filtered views.
- **Conserve** the canal side character and biodiversity of the Grantham canal and restore historical, visual and access links with the River Trent.
- **Conserve** pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grassland
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture

TW PZ 1 Gamston and Edwalton Meadowlands

Policy: Conserve and Create

Character Summary

This area is made up of 2 small narrow belts of land that lie on the suburban fringes of Edwalton and Gamston to the east of the city of Nottingham. To the north the urban edge of West Bridgford forms the western boundary. The southern section contained by more recent housing development in Gamston to the east and the housing of Edwalton to the west.

North of the A52 the area is flat and low lying with some medium and small scale fields grazed by ponies. Field boundaries are a mixture of post and wire, timber post and rail fence and out grown hawthorn hedgerows.

South of the A52 is a narrow stretch of land along the Grantham Canal. This canal was opened in 1797 and for over one hundred years it was used for transporting coal, lime and stone between Nottingham and Grantham. The canal is no longer navigable and in the 1970s road construction for the Gamston Lings Bar road severed the canal corridor. The canal is a SINC site that is noted for good aquatic plant life and its tow path now provides a recreational route for the surrounding residential areas of Gamston.

To the south against the A52 lies Edwalton Golf Course which has a belt of mixed woodland which screens views out into the wider landscape. The golf course is highly maintained and gently undulates over fairways to the south. There is a small piece of mature woodland and scrub to the north of Edwalton Primary School and a playing field to the south of the school.

To the north roadside hedgerows are generally in good condition, with ditches running along side slightly elevated roads such as Regatta Way. Pony shelters, jumps, and stables are found within these smaller fields. Elsewhere the suburban influence is evident with allotments, former sewage works and other recreational land use near to the housing within Gamston and Edwalton.

TW PZ 2 – Polser Brook Meadowlands

PHOTOGRAPH

CONTEXT

A52 west of Radcliffe on Trent
NCC Landscape sub Type: River Meadowlands
Policy Zone TW PZ 2
Land Cover Parcel TW7

Condition

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

Sensitivity

CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Low lying flat landscape drained by the Polser brook.
- Mixture of small fields of pasture to the north east and medium sized arable fields to the east.
- Small areas of recreational land use including a golf course and caravan park.
- Busy A52 road corridor dominated by associated structures and traffic.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

This is a narrow linear area which is dominated by the busy A52 dual carriageway which gives it a **coherent** pattern. Alongside the A52 lies an assortment of associated site furniture including lighting, signage and crash barriers which are all detracting features in the landscape; overall these lead to an **interrupted visual unity.**

A narrow belt of woodland along the northern boundary of the road forms the edge of a previously worked gravel pit and is now a SINC site known as Gamston pits. Tree cover is evident along the Polser Brook and within some hedgerows particularly around fields of pasture. The golf course is highly and intensively maintained and generally the arable land within the area tends to be more intensively treated than the smaller fields of pasture that are grazed by horses and cows; overall this is a **moderate** habitat for wildlife.

Cultural integrity is **variable** in that some of the historic features are still in evidence, such as field pattern in pasture areas, but some features have been lost due to mineral extraction and the intensification of agriculture.

A **visually interrupted** area with a **coherent** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife gives a **poor** landscape condition

Landscape Sensitivity

The landscape within this area is primarily influenced by the presence of the A52. Roadside furniture, lighting and small scale commercial development along with intensive arable farmland gives an **indistinct** feel to this area with few historic features. The limited tree cover and relatively low amount of historic built structures gives this area a **weak** sense of place.

The degree of visibility is **moderate** due to gently undulating landform and **intermittent** tree cover. A **weak** sense of place with a **moderate** degree of visibility leads to a **low** landscape sensitivity.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition	**Poor**
Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Many
Visual Unity:	Interrupted
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

Sensitivity	**Low**
Distinctiveness:	Indistinct
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Weak
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Create

- Enhance the visual unity of small scale commercial and roadside developments by filtering views from the road network with small scale trees and woodland planting.
- **Conserve** rural character by limiting standardised treatments during highway improvement schemes.
- **Conserve** and enhance the tree cover through replanting and regeneration of meadowland hedgerows and hedgerow trees.
- Diversify road side character through the management and creation of flower rich grasslands on highway verges.
- Use native species of trees and shrubs suitable for Trent Washlands Regional Character Area on areas of recreational and amenity land, such as golf courses, fishing lakes and caravan parks.
- Seek opportunities for the creation and enhancement of wet alluvial grassland and meadows
- **Create** new wetland and marginal habitats along the Polser Brook to enable it to function as a wildlife corridor.
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture

TW PZ 2 Polser Brook Meadowlands

Policy: Create

Character Summary

This linear area lies to the east of the City of Nottingham along the A52 corridor up to the western edge of Radcliffe on Trent. To the south the area follows the line of a small water course known as Polser Brook which drains in the direction of the village of Holme Pierrepoint and eventually to the River Trent.

This is a flat and low lying landscape with some medium distance views out to low wooded skylines of the Dumble Farmlands to the north.

Tree cover is relatively limited with a maturing woodland belt to the north of the A52 which screens views out over the restored gravel pit. A line of overhanging trees runs against the brook. Hedgerow trees tend to be Ash and Willow and are found particularly within road side hedges.

In the north east of the area there is a dismantled railway line adjacent to which are medium and small fields of unimproved pasture. Larger fields of arable crops are found around the caravan park to the east. Development is limited to this caravan site, the northern section of Cotgrave golf course, a public house to the southern edge and individual dwellings such as farm buildings and a road side café against the A52.

Fields are generally small to medium-sized and the historic field pattern has largely disappeared except for a small area to the south east of semi regular shaped fields.

TW PZ 3 Holme Pierrepont and Bassingfield Village Farmlands

PHOTOGRAPH

CONTEXT

Eastern edge of City of Nottingham
NCC Landscape Sub Type: Village Farmlands
Policy Zone TW PZ 3
Land Cover Parcel TW3, TW4 and TW5

Condition

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

Sensitivity

CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Flat and low lying landscape
- Recreational and amenity land uses associated with the previously worked gravel pits
- Open bodies of water close to urban edge of City of Nottingham
- Parkland around historic core of Holme Pierrepont
- Medium sized arable fields with smaller fields of pasture to the north of Radcliffe on Trent
- Grantham Canal and associated wetland marsh vegetation

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

This an area with relatively **few** detracting features. Those that exist are pylons to the east, floodlighting to new sports pitches along Regatta Way and a short section of the A52 west of Radcliffe on Trent. There is a **coherent** pattern of elements which overall gives a **visually unified** area.

North of the A52 is a large SINC site covering worked gravel pits which is now made up of open water, marsh, scrub and woodland which is of particular value for birds. Field boundaries tend to be mixed with both fragmented and strong hedges and some mature hedgerow trees. The area forms a **moderate** habitat for wildlife.

The historic core of Holme Pierrepont village contrasts with the more recently modified landscape of mineral extraction of sand and gravel within a wider agricultural landscape. The cultural integrity is **variable**; overall this gives a **coherent** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife

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

Landscape Sensitivity

The area has a **moderate** sense of place retaining **historic** features **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands Regional Character Area. Bassingfield village has remained a small settlement in redbrick with quiet country lanes surrounding this. The only exception is the busy A52 to the north and west of this settlement.

Around Bassingfield the narrow hedge lined lanes with their ditches and verges have a distinct rural feel. Holme Pierrepont village has a strong parkland character. Although it is surrounded by worked out gravel pits, the mature tree cover and several historic buildings including the Hall give it a strong sense of time depth.

The villages of Bassingfield and Holme Pierrepont along with sections of the Grantham Canal all contribute to the Trent Washland Character Area. Only the disused railway lines and some of the larger former mineral sites and sports fields are all relatively indistinct and recent

The degree of visibility is **moderate** due to gently undulating landform and **intermittent** tree cover. A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** degree of visibility leads to a **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition	**Good**
Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

Sensitivity	**Moderate**
Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve and Reinforce

- **Conserve** the character and setting of village settlements
- **Conserve** the pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands
- Diversify roadside character through the management and creation of flower rich grasslands on highway verges
- **Reinforce** built character with use of vernacular materials within existing village settlements
- **Reinforce** historic field pattern where this has been lost and conserve the traditional pattern of hedged fields elsewhere.
- .Promote measures for strengthening the existing level of tree cover
- Strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream corridors

TW PZ 3 Holme Pierrepont and Bassingfield Village Farmlands

Policy: Conserve and Reinforce

Character Summary

This is a low lying flat and broad area of land lying within the Trent Valley either side of the A52 to the eastern edge of Nottingham.

To the north west lies a small village made up of secluded houses set within wooded gardens as well as various farm buildings and Holme Pierrepont Hall. This Tudor house is a listed building set within parkland that was built by Sir William Pierrepont around 1509 and altered in 1790 and 1812. The village itself is dominated by red brick and pantile roofed buildings and the mature tree cover tends to filter views out into the wider landscape that has been left to open water following gravel extraction. The area also lies within Nottingham's Green Belt.

To the east of Regatta Way are several new sports pitches and the proximity of the urban edge is evident in the recreational use of the surrounding landscape for camp sites, fishing as well as flood lit sports fields.

To the south of the A52 are medium sized arable fields with smaller semi irregular fields closer to Bassingfield. The Grantham Canal forms the southern boundary to this area which is enclosed by hedges and narrow belts of trees. This canal stretches 33 miles from the River Trent to Grantham and was constructed in the 1800s to transport coal, lime and stone by narrow boat to and from the River Trent to Grantham.

The majority of the pasture around Bassingfield is grazed by horses. Bassingfield itself is a small settlement with a mixture of 19 century properties and more recent farm buildings and houses. The surrounding lanes are enclosed and narrow being contained by Hawthorn hedges and Ash and Field Maple hedgerow trees.

To the west of Radcliffe on Trent are both medium sized arable fields and smaller fields with outgrown hedges containing Poplar, Ash, Willow and Sycamore. Birch trees and Hawthorn scrub is found along the former railway line and to the south western corner of the area there are views back to Nottingham to the north west.

TW PZ 4 Trent Field Meadowlands

PHOTOGRAPH

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Sub Type: River Meadowlands
Policy Zone: TW PZ 4
Land Cover Parcel TW6

Condition

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

Sensitivity

CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Flat low lying landscape against the River Trent.
- Medium sized fields of wet meadowland and horse grazed paddocks.
- Small clumps of Willow and Alder woodland.
- Formal national water sports centre on former gravel extraction site.
- Small finger ponds and water bodies surrounded by wetland scrub and trees.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

Being close to the urban edge of Nottingham this landscape is generally used for recreational purposes with fields north of Lady Bay being either horse pasture or informal open space. The Holme Pierrepont Water Sports Centre has a mixture of signage, structures and buildings such as boat sheds, amenity blocks and viewing stands, which tend to be scattered around the western end of the formal rowing lake. To summarise it has a **coherent** pattern elements but **some** detracting features which overall make the area **visually coherent.**

The National Water Sports Centre is within a Country Park and much of this is designated as a SINC site noted for its mosaic of carr, scrub, marginal and open water habitats on the former gravel workings. There is some tree cover (Willow) around Adbolton Ponds, which is also a SINC site, with some Ash and Willow along the River Trent. Field boundaries tend to be either out grown Hawthorn, or post and wire fencing in areas of horse grazing. Trees are mostly within hedgerows with occasional mature trees within areas of pasture adjacent to the River Trent. A small block of mixed deciduous woodland lies to the east of the area, making this area a **strong** wildlife habitat overall.

Recent housing development is in keeping with the local character. The cultural integrity is **variable** in that some features such as field pattern have been lost due to mineral working and recreational development but in others this has been retained.

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

Landscape Sensitivity

The historic field pattern shown on Sanderson's 1835 map is still in evidence to the western end but the working of the gravel pits has led to a modified landscape to the eastern side of this area, which now functions as a Water Sports Centre.

The Willow and Alder scrub around the worked gravel pits are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands character area, as are the occasional clumps of Willow holt around Adbolton Ponds and along the southern bank of the river. The area has a **moderate** sense of place.

The absence of development immediately along side the River Trent respects the low lying flood plain of this river. In some places existing hedgerows have become out grown and fields are often made stock proof by post and wire fencing.

The degree of visibility is **moderate** due to gently undulating landform and **intermittent** tree cover. Views out to the north tend to be of the wooded low hills around Colwick and to the west of the built skyline of the centre of Nottingham.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** degree of visibility leads to a **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition	**Good**
Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Some
Visual Unity:	Coherent
Ecological Integrity:	Strong
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Strong

Sensitivity	**Moderate**
Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Conserve and Reinforce

Conserve and Reinforce

- Conserve the traditional pastoral character and undeveloped flood plain adjacent to the River Trent.
- Enhance the ecological diversity of the 'river meadowlands' character and seek opportunities to recreate wet alluvial grassland.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and water courses.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of 'river meadowland' hedgerows.
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture
- Enhance visual unity through appropriate small-scale tree and woodland planting

TW PZ 4 Trent Fields Meadowlands

Policy: Conserve and Reinforce

Character Summary

This is a long swathe of land that lies south of the River Trent and south east of Nottingham. It is a low lying and flat landscape which is generally open with the low wooded ridgeline of Colwick lying to the north. To the south there are longer fragmented views across low lying fields whilst to the west there are views of the skyline of Nottingham.

Gravel extraction over the past 40 years has left several open areas of water. The largest of these was developed in to the National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont with a 2 km rowing lake dominating this area. These restored areas of water are now part of Holme Pierrepont Country Park popular with walkers, cyclists, and canoeists. The smaller water bodies such as the finger ponds to the north east are used by anglers and bird watchers.

This is a recreational landscape with Holme Pierrepont and the River Trent forming the main focus for activities such as rowing, sailing, canoe slalom, water skiing and quad biking. The river location means that this area is well used for more informal activities such as walking and cycling. To the western end are a series of sports fields with playgrounds closer to the urban edge. An equestrian centre lies partially within this area and many of the meadowlands have been divided up by post and wire fencing for the grazing of ponies.

The informal open space to the west is open grassland with small clumps of wet woodland of Willow and Alder around Adbolton Pond. This small area of woodland, and the adjacent marsh, and the majority of Holme Pierrepont Country Park are SINC sites.

TW PZ 7 Shelford Village Farmlands

PHOTOGRAPH

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Sub Type: Village Farmlands
Policy Zone: TW PZ 7
Land Cover Parcel: TW11

Condition

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

Sensitivity

CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- A Low lying flat landscape
- Narrow lanes with thick hedges and hedges on banks
- Medium sized arable fields
- Small mixed woodland blocks and strips
- Nucleated red brick village settlements

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

Landscape condition is defined as **good**. There are **few** detracting features, which include a short section of the busy A6097 to the north east of the area and telegraph poles and wires. The visual unity is generally **unified** due to both few detracting features and the presence of characteristic features through out the area.

Field Dyke Lane and Shelford Manor Ponds are both SINC sites but outside of the fields surrounding the village the land is generally highly intensively farmed arable land. Most historic field boundaries are intact around village and although some hedgerows are gappy, many are tall and bushy, particularly where they surround smaller areas of pasture. There are linear blocks of deciduous woodland and small woodland blocks such as Water Furrows Plantation and Moor Close Plantation. Overall the area is a **moderate** habitat for wildlife. Where fields are in intensive arable production the hedgerows are fragmented or have been removed. The cultural integrity is therefore **variable.**

A **moderate** habitat for wildlife and a **variable** cultural integrity leads to a **coherent** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife. An area which is visually **unified** with a **coherent** functional integrity / habitat for wildlife gives a **good** landscape condition

Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**. The historic field pattern is largely intact around the village with the remnants of an open field system against the eastern side of the village. However outside the village the internal historic field pattern has been removed due to the intensification of arable farming. Species are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands LCA and the time depth / continuity is **historic**.

The majority of buildings within Shelford are 19th century red brick and clay pantile roofed houses typical of the Trent valley and which give a strong sense of place. The surrounding large arable fields are less distinctive and so give an overall **moderate sense of place**. There are several listed buildings and structures within the village and within the surrounding area.

Views are contained within the village and along roads where hedgerows are intact; visibility is **moderate**. There are longer views within the Trent valley where hedges are more fragmented.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** degree of visibility leads to **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition	**Good**
Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Variable
Functional Integrity:	Coherent

Sensitivity	**Moderate**
Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Conserve and Reinforce

- **Conserve** the historic character, nucleated pattern and setting of the village settlements – new development should respect the scale, design and materials used traditionally.
- **Conserve** the historic field pattern by containing new development within historic boundaries.
- **Conserve** existing hedgerows and seek opportunities to restore the historic field pattern with new hedgerow planting.
- **Reinforce** and enhance ecological diversity of riparian vegetation and manage existing Willow trees by pollarding.
- **Reinforce** and increase tree cover by establishing hedgerow trees in existing hedge lines.
- **Conserve** historic ridge and furrow features.

TW PZ 7 Shelford Village Farmlands

Policy: Conserve and Reinforce

Character Summary

This is a low lying flat landscape lying within the broad flood plain of the Trent Valley. To the south west lies the small red brick nucleated village of Shelford. Nineteenth century red brick and pantile roofed buildings tend to dominate this village though there is some more modern development within the centre. Surrounding lanes are generally narrow with grass verges and some ditches.

Arable farming is found to the north east of the village with the large modified arable fields within the centre, fields to the east of Shelford Manor being park/ garden and remnants of an open field system against the eastern side of the village. Pasture closer to the village is grazed by sheep and horses.

There are some small blocks and linear belts of mature woodland cover such as Water Furrows Plantation and Moor Close Plantation. Woodlands are mixed with Beech, Oak, Ash, and conifer species, with Hazel and Hawthorn shrubs to the periphery. Hedgerow trees include Ash, Willow, and Oak and tend to occur in stronger road side hedgerows and along tracks rather than with in the internal boundaries within arable areas.

There are some views out to the slightly higher ground to the north across the River Trent and to the rising scarp slope to the south.

TW PZ 51 Stoke Lock Meadowlands

PHOTOGRAPH

CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Sub Type: River Meadowlands
Policy Zone: TW PZ 51
Land Cover Parcel TW9

Condition

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

Sensitivity

CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Flat, low lying landscape with flood alleviation embankments against the River Trent.
- Open views from the Trent to wooded hills in the north and south.
- Intensive arable fields with pasture between the flood bunds and river.
- Abandoned gravel workings with establishing scrub vegetation.
- Some strong hedgerows particularly along farm tracks.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The overall condition of this landscape is defined as **moderate**. This area lies to the east of Burton Joyce and west of Shelford. It extends south to Netherfield pits and north up to the edge of Gunthorpe. Lying directly either side of the Trent, this area is relatively undeveloped and the pattern of landscape elements is **coherent.** Although it has **some** detracting features these tend to be scattered, such as the pylons across the river bluff to the north west of Shelford, the former railway sidings and industrial unit to the south west and the caravan retail site to the west of the A6097. Overall this is a **visually coherent** area

There are several SINC sites within this area including Netherfield Pits (also a local nature reserve) and Gunthorpe Lakes - both areas of old gravel workings, Burton Meadows Loop and Shelford Carr. However, the intervening landscape is fairly medium to large intensive arable fields with only narrow margin of less intensive grazing pasture against the River Trent giving an overall ecological integrity of **moderate**. Tree cover is generally riparian vegetation such as Willow and Ash against the river and water courses. Some woodland is also found around Stoke Lock consisting of Sycamore, Cherry, Hazel and Lime. Field boundaries tend to be variable with some intact and well maintained and others fragmented with post and rail fencing

Gravel extraction sites have left a highly modified landscape in some areas but there are other areas that are more intact closer to settlement edges. The cultural integrity is therefore **variable**.

A **moderate** network for wildlife and a **variable** cultural integrity leads to a **coherent** functional integrity/habitat for wildlife. An area that is **visually coherent** with a **coherent** functional integrity/ habitat for wildlife has a **moderate** landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape sensitivity is defined as **moderate**. Settlements tend to be located on the edge of this area on slightly higher land outside the flood plain. Isolated and generally red brick houses and cottages are found to the west of the A road in Gunthorpe and to the eastern side of Stoke Bardolph, including the lock cottage at Stoke. The Holmes farm house lies within the centre of this area on a river bluff.

The absence of development immediately along side the River Trent respects the low lying flood plain of this river. Hedgerows are strong in places particularly along tracks where mixed hedges are more common. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are **characteristic** of the Trent Washlands RCA and the continuity/time depth is **historic** (post 1600). The area has a **moderate** sense of place.

This is a flat landscape with some open areas of grazing next to the River Trent. This flat landscape allows longer distance views up and down the Trent Valley. To the east and west the views are contained by the low often wooded hills. The apparent / flat? landform and **intermittent tree cover** which leads to **moderate** visibility of the area from outside the PZ.

A **moderate** sense of place with a **moderate** degree of visibility leads to a **moderate** landscape sensitivity.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

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

Sensitivity	**Moderate**
Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Conserve and Reinforce

- **Conserve** the traditional pastoral character and undeveloped flood plain adjacent to the River Trent.
- Enhance the ecological diversity of the river meadowlands and seek opportunities to recreate wet grassland.
- **Reinforce** and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and water courses.
- **Conserve** and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedges.
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture
- Enhance visual unity through appropriate small-scale tree and woodland planting

TW PZ 51 Stoke Lock Meadowlands

Policy: Conserve and Create

Character Summary

This is a flat valley landscape that is dominated by arable land use. Arable farming has generally led to the loss of internal field boundaries although there are still some smaller fields used for arable crops with strong hedgerows. There are also small areas of pasture particularly immediately alongside the River Trent which are crossed by the long distance footpath "The Trent Valley Way"

The area has the impression of being well wooded due to tall hedgerows particularly along farm tracks. However woodland tends to be actually limited to localised areas such as around Stoke Lock, west of Shelford Manor and some of the former gravel extraction sites.

Field sizes vary from small paddocks adjacent to the village of Gunthorpe and the Cocker Beck water course to larger fields in the arable areas.

The historic field pattern has largely been modified by the intensification of arable farming. The hedgerows are generally trimmed hawthorn hedges, with ash hedgerow trees.

There is some commercial development along A6097 with caravan sales and van hire to the north eastern edge of this area. However settlements tend to be located to the edge of this area outside the immediate flood plain on slightly higher ground.

TW055 West Bridgford Recreational Fringe

CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Trent Washlands
LDU Reference: 399
DPZ Reference: TW055

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Low, flat landform associated with the River Trent
- Concrete stepped bank to the river acts as a flood defence, with railings and open timber bollards to define the top of the river bank
- The area has an urban green space character, with recreation, scrub and underused land, enclosed by surrounding urban development to the north and the south
- The River Trent flows through the central part of the area. The tree lined Victoria Embankment is to the immediate north of the river
- Large expansive recreational area set in a slightly lower bowl to collect flood water to the north of the river
- Victoria Embankment a park and formal recreational open space to the north, with children's play area and large amenity playing fields and a paddling pool
- Victoria Embankment consists of large open areas of amenity grass land, children's play area and an ornamental garden, containing formal shrub beds and an ornate water feature
- Formal avenues of mature plane trees line the road, promenade and central axis through the park, with the addition of pockets of ornamental trees within the park, give a wooded character along the north edge of the river
- Playing fields to the south have wooded boundaries surrounding large grass fields. Woodland belts and establishing scrub on parcels of land adjacent to the river contribute to the wooded enclosure
- Scrub vegetation is beginning to establish along the river bank and in areas of land surrounding The Becket and Nottingham Emmanuel schools, which also contribute to a wooded character
- Large red brick 1930s detached properties, face out over the river along Victoria Embankment, set in large gardens with trees and gated entrances
- Suburban residential, red brick, semi-detached properties form the northern and southern boundaries, with occasional individual distinctive properties
- Commercial buildings and a newly constructed modern secondary school are present on the south of the river bank with two distinctive seven storey, high density, residential buildings which are prominent on the skyline
- Views across the open spaces are enclosed by urban development and woodland. Key buildings in the city centre, including the castle are visible above the housing with glimpses to ridgelines to north and south. Floodlights from the sports grounds are also visible on the horizon
- There are three bridges crossing the River Trent within the area, with the A60 London Road Bridge being a busy route, linking the north and south of the city and Lady Bay Bridge and a pedestrian only suspension bridge
- The grand limestone war memorial which marks the entrance to the formal memorial gardens is a distinctive and elaborate feature along Victoria Promenade

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

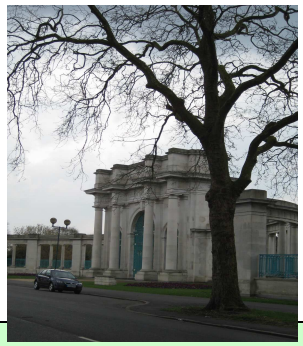
Condition

A low lying landform within the floodplain of the River Trent, with designed flood defences. The land is amenity parkland and recreational space associated with a water course. It is characterised by modern modified fields which form a number of urban green spaces. The area is quite open but enclosed by the urban fringes of Nottingham and West Bridgford and by woodland along the fringes of open spaces.

Land use is mainly recreation with pockets of residential and commercial buildings increasing towards the fringes of the city. The recreational parkland north of the river has a large expansive amenity open space, children's play equipment, and a small paddling pond used in summer. An ornamental memorial garden containing formal shrub beds and an ornate knot style water feature is marked at its entrance by a distinctive limestone war memorial gate structure leading from Victoria Embankment. To the south grassland is bordered by wooded fringes.

A distinctive mature tree line avenue is an important feature within this landscape. There are plane trees along the length of Victoria Embankment to the A60 London Road Bridge. Additional native and ornamental trees within the Victoria Embankment, emerging scrub along the southern edge of the river bank, and woodland around the playing fields to the south, give the area a wooded character.

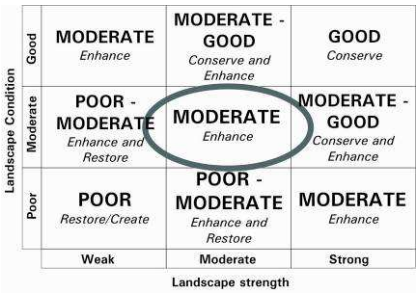
The landscape condition is **MODERATE** with localised evidence of lack of maintenance across the park. Railings to the boundary need to be re-painted. The war memorial is in need of maintenance and there is no access over the river from one bridge which has been closed for safety reasons. The paddling pool gives the impression of an abandoned feature throughout the winter months although it is likely that this appearance alters through the summer.



Landscape Strength

The DPZ is enclosed by the urban fringes of Nottingham, although there are filtered views into the area from the urban edges surrounding the area. From the north the views are filtered through the structure planting surrounding the park. There are open views across individual open spaces and channelled views along the river, which is a distinctive feature. Views are often contained by woodland and built form. Key city buildings, including Nottingham Castle are visible in the skyline to the north.

The strength of character of the area is **MODERATE**. The features although regularly distributed, are not strong enough to be distinctive or to give a highly unique sense of place except close to the river where the war memorial and river are distinctive features. The land use varies from amenity, built development and rough scrub typical of an area of green space within an urban location.



The overall landscape strategy is **ENHANCE**.

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

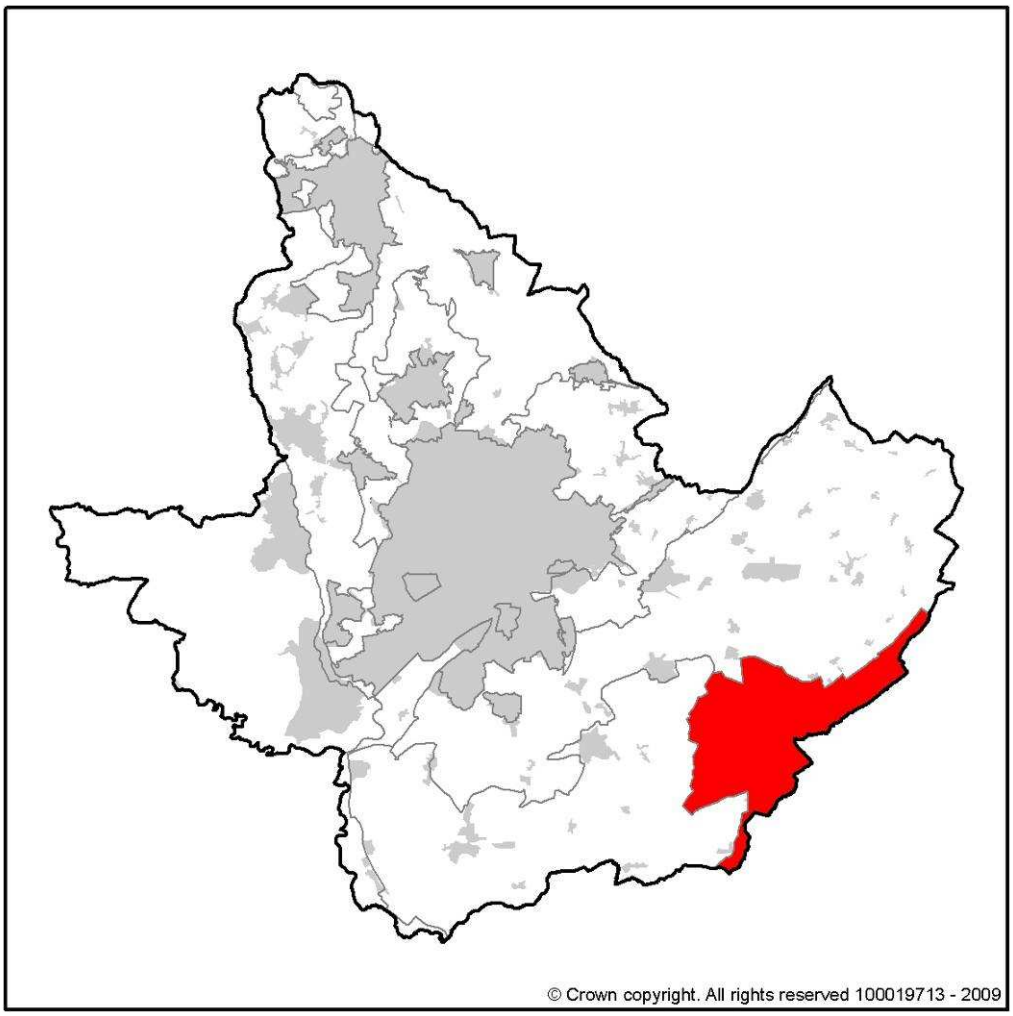
- Conserve the open character of the recreational amenity playing fields
- Conserve the distinctive tree lined avenue along the river embankment
- Enhance the quality and condition of the memorial garden to improve the existing vegetation and appearance of the area
- Enhance the character of the river and Victoria Embankment to provide greater unity and focus within the DPZ on the river
- Enhance the fringes of the open spaces through additional woodland
- Enhance fringes of the river through localised tree planting/natural regeneration to soften built form bordering the area

Built form

- Conserve the detached housing set within mature gardens along Victoria Embankment
- Maintain and enhance views of distinctive and prominent buildings along the River Trent such as County Hall through management of trees and development to retain and frame views
- Enhance the school grounds through planting along the boundaries to help soften them and reduce its prominence in views to the north of the river.

Other development/ structures in the landscape

- Improve and restore the condition of the War Memorial to enable the temporary security fencing to be removed
- Enhance views towards distinctive landmarks with the city, such as the City Council House, the Castle and St Mary's church through careful siting of new development and planting to maintain a connection between the river and the city centre



DPZ within this Regional Character Area:

VB01 Vale of Belvoir

Key Characteristics

- Broad low-lying clay vale extending as an elongated arc along the foot of a Jurassic escarpment, the Belvoir Ridge;
- Underlain by bluish grey mudstones and clays alternating with flaggy limestones.
- The soft Lower Lias provide subdued gently rolling landform; low hillocks are formed by the presence of thin bands of limestone;
- Transition between Lower Lias and Mercia Mudstone is marked by a narrow outcrop of dark shales known as Rhaetic beds which form a low escarpment on the character area boundary;
- Soils are a mix of clayey slowly permeable soils subject to prolonged waterlogging and lighter calcareous clay soils on limestone;
- Low escarpments provide a sense of enclosure to the western, northern and southern fringes of this character area;
- Unified character exists across this regional character area;
- Strong rural character with few settlements or scattered farmsteads;
- Villages are situated on the drier Triassic (Rhaetic) escarpment between Langar and Staunton and contain older vernacular buildings and newer architectural styles;
- Nucleated pattern of small red brick villages linked by narrow winding lanes with wide grass verges;
- Small pocket of industry around Barnstone and Langar have a localised influence on landscape character;
- Strong tradition of dairy farming which remains as a mosaic of grassland within extensive arable farmland. Where present a small to medium scale field pattern exists; the most extensive tract is between Colston Bassett, Hickling and Kinoulton;
- Smaller scale pasture is present around village fringes and is often used for horse paddocks; ridge and furrow is sometimes present;
- Medium to large scale pattern of hedged fields although field pattern becomes more irregular where pasture and mixed farming are common;
- Geometric field patterns are common where the land is farmed for arable crops;
- Hedgerow trees generally ash and oak are important components and reinforce a sense of enclosure;
- Ridge and furrow is common along the low escarpment at Hickling;
- Woodland is infrequent and where it exists is locally prominent such as on escarpments or around parkland at Colston Bassett and Staunton;
- Tree cover reduces around arable farming creating an open landscape with extensive views;
- The engineered River Smite flows through the area although it is set below the surrounding land and arable farmland extends up to its banks; infrequent riparian vegetation marks its course; and
- Willow and riparian scrub are common along stream lines and ditches particularly adjacent to pastoral fields.

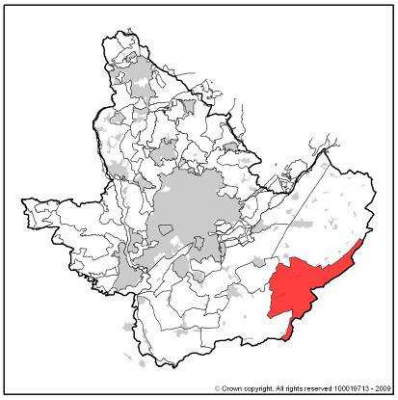
Guidelines and Recommendations

- Conserve and restore the traditional pattern of land use and remote rural character of the landscape;
- Conserve the strong and largely undeveloped character of the Vale;
- Ensure new buildings reflect the traditional use of red brick and pantile roofs;
- Conserve the historic settlement pattern of small nucleated rural villages on higher ground;
- Conserve the pattern of fields with frequent hedgerow trees and infrequent woodland;
- Conserve the pattern of hedged pastoral fields and frequent hedgerow trees;
- Promote measures for maintaining the ecological diversity and historic character of the Vale pasture;
- Conserve existing intact tracts of pasture particularly along rural fringes and within larger tracts to maintain continuity; and
- Conserve and strengthen the historic pattern of hedgerows and wide grass verges along rural lanes.

VB01 Vale Of Belvoir

CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: The Vale of Belvoir
LDU reference: 192,193, 195,197
DPZ Reference: VB01



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Predominantly flat low lying landform with very gentle undulations, enclosed by rolling hills such as Belvoir Ridge in Leicestershire to the south
- River Smite flows through the area; it is in set lower than the surrounding land, and is only identifiable by riparian vegetation on its steep banks
- The disused Grantham Canal is a local feature; an ongoing restoration project it is a popular recreational feature
- A remote rural character across the whole area, with occasional views to scattered villages and individual farms although mostly a remote, tranquil and undeveloped character
- The majority of land use is arable farmland although closer to the village fringes smaller pasture fields become more apparent, usually used as horse paddocks. A more continuous tract of permanent pasture is found between Colston Bassett, Kinoulton and Hickling
- Large scale regular patterned fields are common to the west of the area, although medium sized fields are present in the east. Pasture fields closer to the villages are smaller, although elsewhere integrate with the pattern and scale of arable fields. There are more trees around the pastoral fields which give a slightly stronger sense of enclosure to that of the arable fields. Closer to the Grantham Canal as the land gently slopes the field pattern becomes more irregular
- Field boundaries are predominantly maturing hawthorn hedgerows, up to 1.5m in height, especially around Colston Bassett. Field ditches are present at some boundaries usually along roads
- In the south there are very few hedgerow trees, these become more frequent towards the north of the area in the transition between the vales and the South Nottinghamshire Farmlands
- Woodland is dispersed and includes occasional blocks, clumps and linear belts. The main woodland component is formed by frequent clumps along field margins and around farms. Locally prominent woodland is found in parkland around Colston Bassett Hall
- Clumps of woodland associated with water courses, along the Grantham Canal and maturing hedgerows are prominent linear wooded features
- The medieval ploughing system of ridge and furrow is evident close to the village of Kinoulton and along the low escarpment at Hickling and is locally distinctive
- Small scattered villages through out the area include the linear settlements of Kinoulton, and Hickling and the smaller nucleated settlements of Colston Bassett and Owthorpe. Larger settlements of Langar and Cropwell Bishop are situated on the fringes of the DPZ
- The DPZ contains distinctive vernacular settlements such as Hickling
- Urban form is generally uniform and has mainly red brick properties with some larger individual rendered properties. Settlements are dispersed and tend to have rooflines visible within wooded edges
- Villages often contain one main street or a couple with a small junction including a small grassed area and trees. Many properties have small well maintained gardens with some smaller former farm buildings bordering the street. Avenues of trees are also common
- There is a linear dispersion of farms and larger farm buildings mostly situated close to roads
- Churches at Langar and Granby are prominent skyline features on high ground. Hickling church tower is prominent above a dispersed village edge
- Extensive views beyond the DPZ towards the Belvoir Ridgeline in Leicestershire with Belvoir Castle prominent on the wooded ridgeline
- Winding narrow lanes thread across the area linking the scattered villages. They have medium to wide grass verges with frequent ditches, some have very steep sides
- Overhead lines are visible over the area due to the low-lying landform
- Langar airport, with its industrial buildings and runways has a localised urbanising effect on the rural mostly undeveloped appearance of the landscape



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

A predominantly flat, low-lying landform with gentle undulations, enclosed by surrounding rolling hills and the Belvoir Ridgeline in Leicestershire. It has a rural character with few urban features, where present these comprise scattered villages and isolated large farm buildings.

The area has a mixed field pattern, with medium semi-regular and irregular field patterns close to the settlement fringes and more modern larger modified field pattern across the remainder of the landscape. There is a former military airfield at Langar in the south of the DPZ now used for commercial uses.

The area has little woodland cover although linear woodland belts are found along the water courses, with riparian species, such as willow and poplar and an occasional ash. There are occasional woodland coverts and a regular dispersal of small clumps of younger trees found primarily around settlement fringes. Horse chestnut and mature hawthorn are found in avenues along roads.

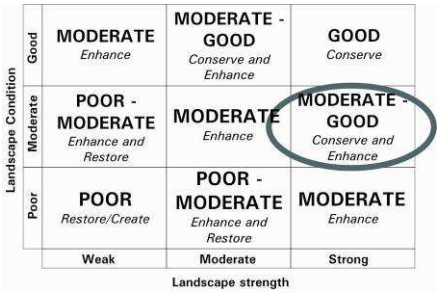
The landscape condition is **MODERATE**. There is some hedgerow fragmentation occurring at fields boundaries, although hedgerows along roads are well maintained and in generally good condition. There is relatively little evidence of decline, and generally the area appears to be managed


Landscape Strength

Views are over long distances across the area, although in places filtered by tall well maintained hedgerows, towards Belvoir Ridge in Leicestershire. Views contain rooflines and prominent churches filtered by the wooded edges of the settlements, and frequent large farm properties. Rural views with frequent grazing livestock are a feature.

The character strength of the area is **STRONG**. The area has a consistent rural character with few urban features. It is a flat arable landscape with large regular field patterns and pockets of woodland. The pattern varies closer to the settlements, where smaller pastoral fields create a sense of enclosure. Land alters between arable farming which is slightly more open and the more enclosed and intimate pastoral fields. However the rural landscape has distinctive church towers and spires which are visible above scattered wooded edged settlements and occasional individual large farm buildings are consistent across the DPZ.

This DPZ shares some similar characteristics to Aslockton village farmlands however it differs through a greater amount of pasture farming, smaller more dispersed settlements, more prominent wooded streams and watercourses and its low-lying land form enclosed by higher ground on all sides.



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

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

- Conserve the older field pattern particularly where there is evidence of older semi-regular and irregular pattern close to settlement edges at Hickling, Colston Bassett and Kinoulton
- Conserve and enhance hedgerow field boundaries by infill planting where fragmentation has occurred to ensure field pattern is maintained
- Conserve and enhance continuous expansive views towards the ridgeline in Leicestershire and Belvoir Castle
- Enhance the distribution of hedgerow trees by increasing numbers within field boundaries to increase the wooded character of the area, particularly in arable farmed areas where the land tends to be more open
- Conserve the ridge and furrow where present particularly within fields close to Kinoulton and Hickling
- Conserve areas of pasture at settlement fringes, as these are key features within this landscape and remnants of a once more extensive pastoral landscape
- Conserve and enhance the fringes of the watercourses, the Grantham Canal and the River Smite, through small scale riparian planting
- Conserve the roadside hedgerows and avenues of horse chestnut and ash ensuring a programme for maintenance and replacement where they have become senescent
- Enhance the Kilnoulton Marsh and wetlands establishing along the Canal through seeking to extend the area where possible and encourage management to retain them as local landscape features
- Conserve and enhance the informal recreational character of the Grantham Canal
- Conserve and enhance surrounding Colston Bassett Hall, ensuring replacement tree planting and return of pasture within its grounds
- Conserve views to higher ridgelines through managing and careful placement of built form and woodland vegetation to maintain the sense of enclosure within the landscape and framing of views
- *Built form*
- Conserve and enhance the remote rural tranquil character of the area through ensuring built form remains insignificant in the landscape through appropriate siting and planting
- Conserve the prominence of the village churches in the skyline
- Any developments on the village fringes should use red brick and pantile roofs and make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness within individual villages
- Conserve tree cover and pasture at the village fringes which softens the appearance of villages within the landscape Conserve the distinctive historic core of villages

Other development/ structures in the landscape

- Enhance the airfield at Langar, ensuring that new development is kept to a minimum and where required appears as farm-scale buildings, potentially incorporating, where practical, small scale copses and clumps of trees around fringes of the airport
- Conserve and enhance wide grass verges and distinctive ditches and wetlands along small rural roads through the character area
- Conserve the network of small roads; any highway improvements should be carefully designed and implemented to avoid urbanising effects

GLOSSARY

Analysis - the separation of a landscape into its constituent parts for individual study. The study of these parts and their interrelationships in making up a landscape.

Attributes – the individual elements or parts which define landscape character such as landform, geology, soils, type of vegetation, settlements.

Ancient woodland - woodland which has been in continuous existence since at least 1600 and is identified on the Ancient Woodland Inventory for England. Most tend to be a rare and valuable ecological resource, with an diverse range of plants and animals.

Brownfield site – an area of land which has previously been developed. It may or may not still contain buildings or areas of hard standing.

Characterisation – the systematic process of creating an understanding of landscape character and identifying areas of unique character.

Character Area - a individual discrete area of landscape with a unique identity which lies within a specific landscape character type.

Character Type - a generic term for landscape with a consistent, uniform character. Landscape character types may occur in different parts of the country, but share common combinations of geology, landform, vegetation or human influences.

Characteristic - an element or attribute that contributes to a sense of place or local distinction (e.g. prominent hill, mature woodland, river, parkland or hall).

Copse – a thicket of small trees or shrubs.

Core Strategy – a plan which sets out the long-term vision for a local planning authority's area. Includes broad objectives and policies to achieve this vision.

Covert – a small planted woodland established as cover for game.

Description – written text explaining what a landscape looks like.

Element – an aspect of the landscape such as a hedge, wall or pond.

Evidence base – a series of documents which provide up-to-date information covering the social, economic and environmental aspects of an area. This enables the production of sound and informed Local Development Framework.

Feature - a notable aspect often prominent (e.g. hill, church spire, power station).

Field pattern – a configuration of fields, hedgerows, roads and trackways which have been formed as a result of specific historic actions.

Ground type - soil forming environment which determines the surface pattern of vegetation and land use.

Horsiculture - term used to describe areas which are dominated by horse paddocks, stable buildings and associated equipment, often on the urban fringe.

Irregular geometric field patterns – geometric layouts which are less regular (less linear or rectangular) than regular geometric layouts (see below). Mostly associated with Parliamentary enclosures during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Joint Landscape Character Area – refers to the broad landscape character areas that describe the character of England on Natural England's Character Map of England.

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

Landscape Condition – is a consideration of the state or intactness of landscape features and characteristics and how these combine to form a positive visual impression. This includes elements such as hedgerows, woodlands, field pattern, urban influences and restored landscapes.

Land cover - combinations of land use and vegetation that cover the land surface.

Local Development Document – are a set of documents specified in planning law that a Local Planning Authority prepares to describe their strategy for development and use of land in their area of authority.

Local Development Framework - a suite of local development documents that outlines how land use planning will be managed in an area.

Local Plan – a document that sets out planning policies and land allocations for a local authority area. These are now being replaced by Local Development Frameworks.

Modern modified field patterns – fields of modern origin. Patterns present on 19th century maps are no longer evident. Frequently but not entirely associated with responses to post World War II agricultural policies and technology.

Patterns reflecting open fields – field patterns with strong linear dominants, often sinuous, which originate in enclosure of strips in open fields. Usually early enclosure prior to parliamentary enclosure acts.

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

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) - government guidance to explain statutory provisions and provide guidance to local authorities and others on planning policy and the operation of the planning system.

Planning Policy Statements (PPS) – a replacement for PPGs which explain statutory provisions and provide guidance on planning policy and operation of the planning system.

Outcrop - a portion of rock protruding through the soil level.

Regional Spatial Strategy - provide a regional level planning framework for the regions of England. It is used as an overarching framework and basis for local planning authorities in the preparation of Local Development Frameworks.

Regularly laid out large geometric field patterns (Regular Geometric) – large geometric enclosures commonly associated with Parliamentary Enclosures during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Riparian habitat - riverbank habitat.

Rough grazing – land often associated with poor soils with low intensity grazing of grasslands by animals.

Semi-regular field patterns – patterns which are loosely geometric in layout, involving linear, rectangular or square arrangements but that are less sharply defined than geometric layouts. There is no definite date when these fields were enclosed and date from the Middle Ages to the 19th Century.

Senescence – the process of aging, defined as the start of old age.

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.

Topography - combinations of slope and elevation that produce the shape and form of the land surface e.g a floodplain or a hill.

Vernacular - buildings constructed in a local style, from local materials and using specific building techniques. This term relates to all buildings in similar groups usually within villages or older town and city centres.