

Chapter 5: East Nottinghamshire Farmlands Regional Character Area



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Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment
East Nottinghamshire Sandlands

East Nottinghamshire Farmlands

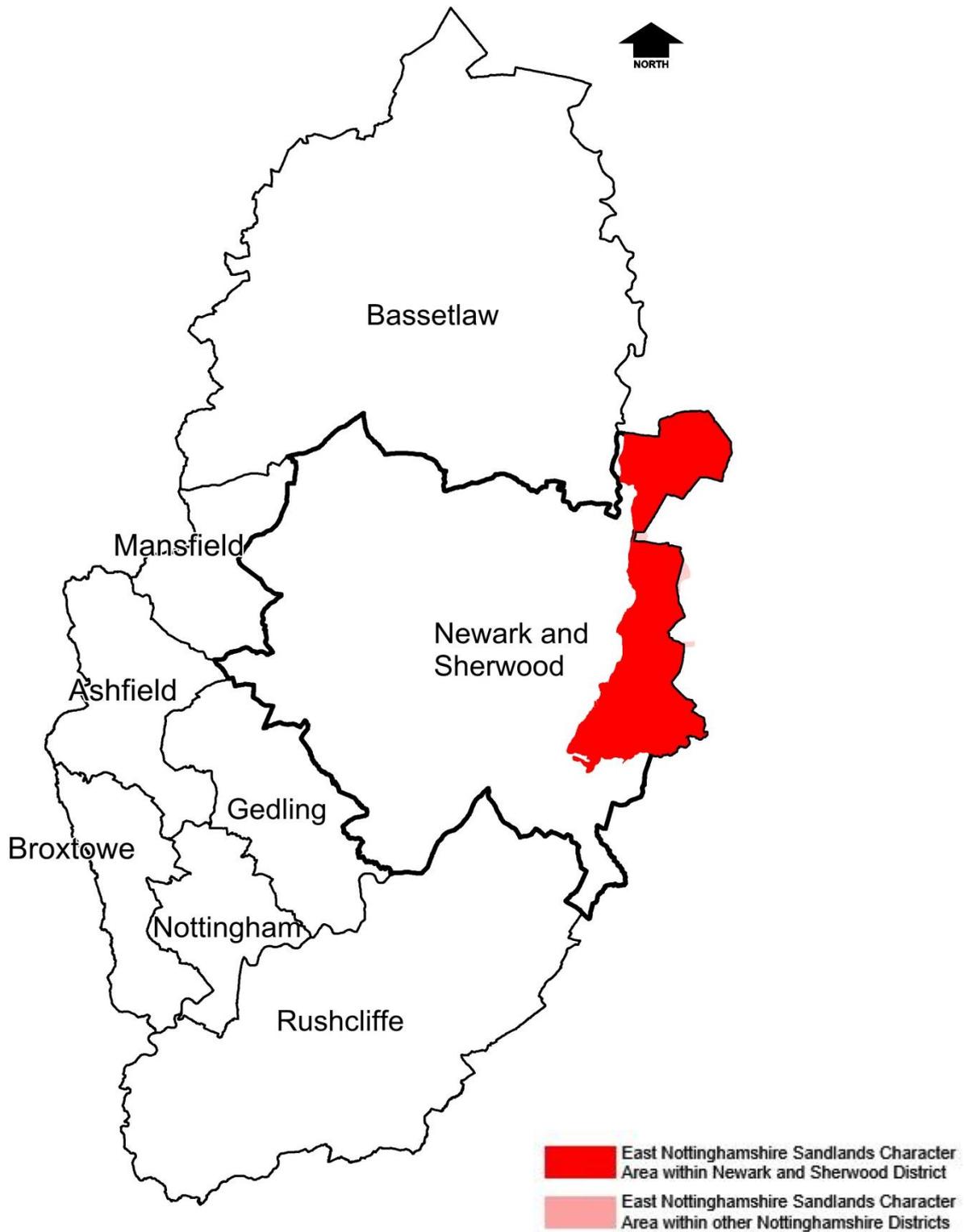
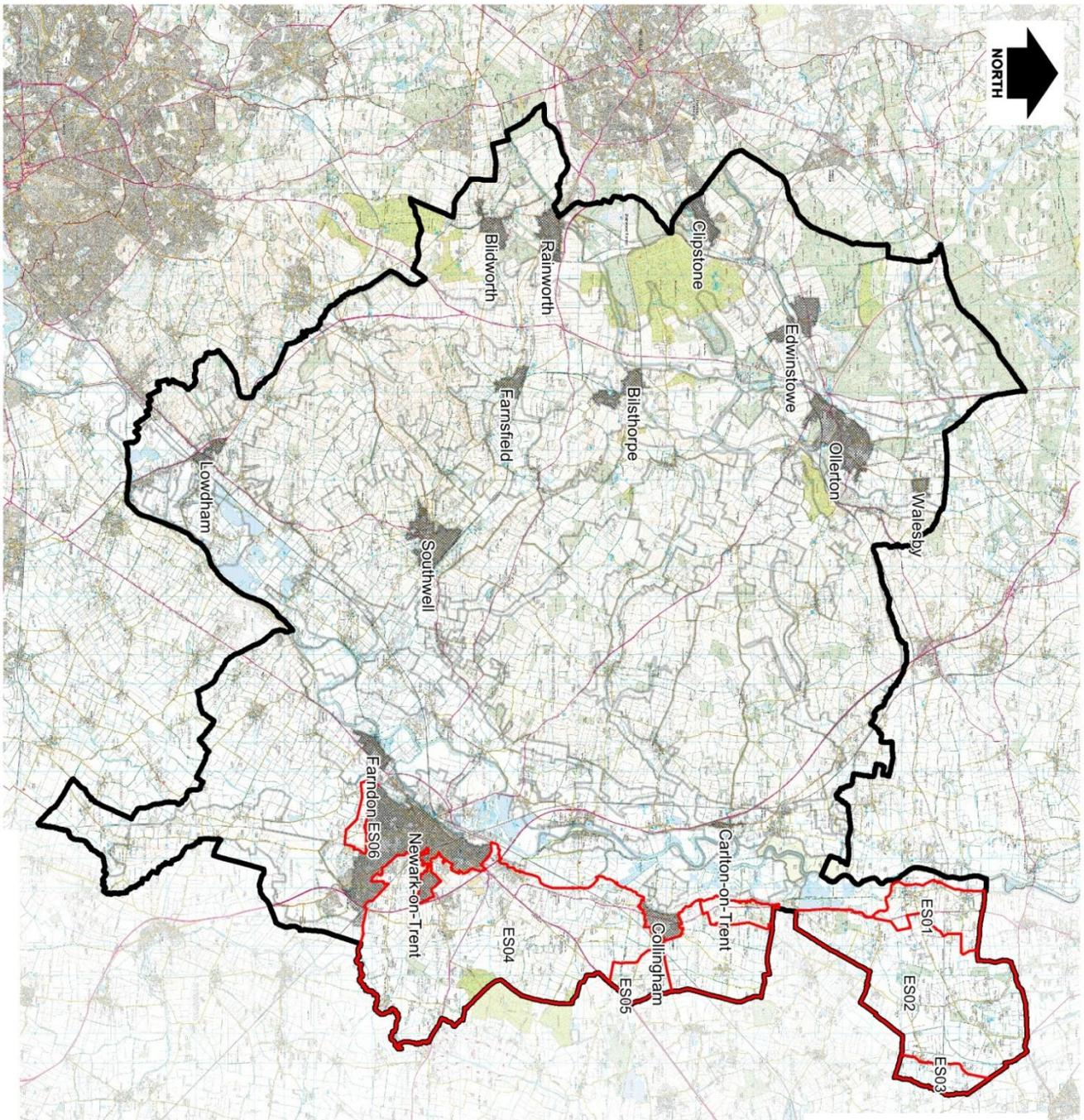


Figure 5.1 East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Character Area within Nottinghamshire and Newark and Sherwood District

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- Policy Zones within East Nottinghamshire Sandlands within Newark and Sherwood District
- Other Policy Zones within Newark and Sherwood District
- Newark and Sherwood District Boundary
- Urban Areas within Newark and Sherwood District

Figure 5.2 East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Character Area within Newark and Sherwood District

5.1 Physical and Human Influences

5.1.1 Introduction

The East Nottinghamshire Sandlands is a remote rural area, lying along the eastern fringe of the County within the broad vale of the Trent. The vale stretches deep into Lincolnshire where it is overlooked by the prominent north-south scarp of Lincoln Edge. The region includes all the lands within the County that lie to the north of the historic market town of Newark-on-Trent, and to the east of the Trent Washlands. Historically the area was considered to be of poor agricultural value, with parts still covered by damp, low-lying moorland and 'waste' towards the end of the 18th century. However, a tradition of arable farming has developed on the light soils following drainage and enclosure, with over 80% of the farmland now used for cropping. The region has a simple and undeveloped rural character with few dramatic features, due to the subdued relief and the lack of major modern developments outside the Newark area.

The extent of the East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Character Area within the District of Newark and Sherwood is shown on Figure 5.1

5.1.2 The Shape of the Land

The East Nottinghamshire Sandlands form part of a broad, low-lying vale that extends from the Trent Valley to the foot of the Jurassic escarpment in Lincolnshire. The greater part of this vale has a foundation of Lower Lias beds, consisting mainly of bluish grey mudstones, and clays. To the north of Newark these beds are overlain to a large extent by fluvio-glacial sands and gravels. This covering of drift has flattened the landform, producing an almost level, triangular-shaped plain stretching northwards and eastwards into Lincolnshire.

In places the underlying clays and mudstones stand proud of the mantle of fluvio-glacial drift to form low, rounded hills, rising up to 20 metres above the surrounding plain. The most prominent of these hills are associated with a narrow outcrop of rhaetic beds. These are the same beds which form the low escarpment along the western edge of the Vale of Belvoir. To the north of Newark the continuity of this feature is very fragmented, but it is still recognisable as a series of discontinuous scarps and elongated hills at Newark, Wigsley, Thorney and beyond into Lincolnshire.

Reddish Mercia mudstones also outcrop in several places within the region, most notably at North and South Clifton. The Trent has cut into the soft mudstone below North Clifton, forming a steep-sided river cliff reminiscent of those found in the Trent trench to the south of Newark.

Blown sand, believed to have been accumulated by strong westerly or south-westerly winds at the end of the ice age, forms a series of deposits along the eastern edge of the Trent Valley between Collingham and Gainsborough. These deposits occur as a succession of low ridges and hillocks overlooking the River Trent. Between Besthorpe and Girton the sand assumes the form of well-developed dunes.

The region is drained to the west and east by the rivers Trent and Witham respectively. Drainage water is carried by numerous small streams and a network of artificial drains and dykes. In the north, many of these feed into the Fosdyke Navigation, within Lincolnshire.

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5.1.3 Soils

Slightly stony sandy gley soils have developed in the glacio-fluvial drift. These exhibit prominent mottling, an indication of a history of poor natural drainage. Groundwater levels have now been lowered by arterial land drainage so that most soils are now well drained. Soils developed on the exposed Lower Lias beds consist mainly of stone less, or slightly stony silty clay loams and clay loams. These soils have slowly permeable subsoils which are subject to seasonal waterlogging, although they respond well to drainage. On the outcrops of Triassic mudstone slightly stony sandy loam brown earth soils have developed. These lie over slowly permeable clayey subsoils. Well-drained, stone less sands are typical on the blown sands and are highly susceptible to summer drought.

5.1.4 Landscape History

The Landscape history of the **East Nottinghamshire Sandlands** is complex, being affected by the local variation in geology and soils. The parishes along the Trent share a history with the **Trent Washlands**, into which they extend, while those in the south follow the pattern of the **South Nottinghamshire Farmlands**. They also share to one degree or another in the landscapes of the clays and sands which characterise the eastern sides of the region. As an entity, the **East Nottinghamshire Sandlands** have been little studied from the viewpoint of land use in history and, as is so often the case in such situations in the County, the depth and complexity of that history have been underappreciated.

For a detailed analysis of East Nottinghamshire Sandland's history refer to Appendix R

5.2 Landscape Evolution And Change

5.2.1 Introduction

This section examines the main forces that have brought about change and evolution within the **East Nottinghamshire Sandlands** over recent decades. It does this by discussing how the current structure and pattern of land use has developed, paying particular regard to agriculture, woodland, transport, industrial/residential development and mineral extraction. It also considers the trends and pressures that may produce landscape change in the future.

5.2.2 Agriculture



The pattern of farming and land use has historically been related to the physical characteristics of the region, particularly the variable pattern of soils. Since enclosure, arable farming has been the principal land use with cash roots such as carrots, potatoes and sugar beet the main crops prior to the Second World War. Arable farming still dominates the economy of the region, although major changes in the pattern of crop production have taken place. The intensification of agriculture has resulted in a concentration on cereal and sugar beet production, with smaller amounts of other root crops now grown. Over 80% of the region's farmland is now used for cropping. The agricultural character of the region has been affected by field rationalisation over recent decades, leading to the fracture and loss of field pattern in some areas. The condition of hedgerows has also deteriorated as a result of inappropriate management.

On the glacio-fluvial drift, sandy gley soils are the most common. On the level areas of the broad terrace where the drift is shallow, the underlying clays become easily waterlogged, placing constraints on the agricultural use of the land. This is particularly so in the northern parishes of Thorney, Harby and Wigsley where ponds and meres are a characteristic feature. Groundwater levels are dependent on seasonal rainfall and depth to the impermeable Lias clays and marls below; however most soils are now adequately drained and despite low inherent fertility, are suitable for a wide range of arable and horticultural crops. The drift in which the soils are formed is underlain by material associated with the Mercia mudstone to the west and Liassic clays to the east and varies in depth from a few centimetres to several metres. In places relatively extensive pockets of Liassic clay are exposed, supporting soils of mainly fine loamy texture with slowly permeable subsoils. These soils have traditionally been used for grassland and winter sown cereals, there being little opportunity for spring cultivation.

The agricultural value of the land has always varied. In the late eighteenth century substantial tracts of low-lying moorland and "waste" extended across the area between Newark and Lincoln. In the early part of the twentieth century the area became famous for the production

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of carrots, which favoured the light soils. A large proportion of land was given over to the crop around Collingham, North Clifton, South Clifton, Besthorpe and Harby. Yields were exceptionally high with the product being distributed as far afield as London and Manchester.

The area has always supported poor quality pasture, with livestock operations forming a minor component of the agricultural economy. The area lying to the east of Newark around the parishes of Coddington, Barnby and parts of Balderton where soils are capable of sustaining higher quality pasture is an exception. Grassland now accounts for 13% of the total area of the region. Much of this is still concentrated in the area to the east of Newark. Elsewhere it generally occurs within small-scale fields along settlement edges.

Soils derived from accumulations of blown sand occur in two areas, between Collingham and Spalford, and in North and South Clifton. The blown sands support a mix of land uses including arable cultivation, pasture, woodland and heath. Crops are grown over 57 % of the total land area, despite the fact that productivity is severely limited by drought. Continuous arable cropping has led to soil erosion in places, by exposing the weak-structured top soils to wind blow. Permanent pastures cover 19 % of the land area, the bulk of which is concentrated around Spalford and the New Lane area. The grass heath areas have a hummocky and in places, dune-like character, with the areas now managed for rough grazing and nature conservation purposes.

Changes in national and European agricultural policies have focused on farm diversification and measures to reduce the overall level of agricultural production. It is unlikely, therefore, that further agricultural expansion will take place in the near future, although there may be an intensification of production on existing land. Incentives that encourage more environmentally friendly forms of farming offer the opportunity to enhance the traditional character of region, by introducing more woodland and, in appropriate areas, by restoring areas of semi-natural heath.

5.2.3 Woodland/Tree Cover



The pattern of woodland is highly variable, with the level of cover being significantly higher on the Lincolnshire sections of the terrace, where the larger and older broadleaved woodlands are mainly confined to clay soils on the Lias. On the sandy soils of the terrace a scattered distribution of smaller scale broadleaved woodlands is evident, mainly in the form of straight-edged plantations.

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In Nottinghamshire the landscape has a progressively more wooded appearance towards the east with large-scale plantations lying along the County boundary between Coddington and Swinderby.

A relatively large amount of woodland is found in the parishes of Thorney and Wigsley, where numerous small-scale oak and birch woodlands are connected by lines of mature and semi-mature oak trees running along field boundaries. Elsewhere in the region the woodland cover is relatively sparse, with the exception of the small Scots pine, oak and birch woodlands established on the blown sands, and the coniferous plantation at Spalford Warren and the large plantation at Stapleford Woods. The overall level of woodland cover within the region now stands at 5.5%. Broadleaved woodland accounts for 50% of the total, coniferous 40% and mixed species woodland 9%.

Prior to drainage and enclosure much of the terrace was covered in wet low lying moorland, thicket and scrub. Numerous thickets, and copses of birch and bracken survived in the eastern parts of the region in the 1930s and were used primarily as shelter for game. Little of this habitat remains today. Only one Ancient Woodland, Kelwick Wood, as defined by the 1990 English Nature Inventory of Ancient Woodland, is found within the region. This is classified as ancient replanted woodland. The main hedgerow tree species are ash and oak, with oak dominating in the parishes to the north of the region. Few young trees are coming through to replace the mainly mature hedgerow trees, due in part to the excessive trimming of hedges. Small, mature parkland landscapes occur at three locations, Coddington, Barnby Manor and Thorney. The condition of the parkland trees is variable.

5.2.4 **Transportation**

Four major roads run through the region, the A1, the A1133 to Gainsborough, the A17 to Sleaford and the A46 to Lincoln. There are currently plans for the construction of a By-pass at Collingham, and a widening scheme (upgrade to dual-carriageway status) of the A46 has recently been completed. Elsewhere the dispersed pattern of rural settlement is linked by a network of narrow and often straight country roads. The East Coast Main Line and the Nottingham to Lincoln line are the only active railway lines.

5.2.5 **Urban and Industrial Development**

The settlement pattern in the region is one of small rural villages, with the historic market town of Newark-on-Trent lying to the south. The largest settlement outside of the Newark urban area is Collingham, which has retained its distinctive character. Large-scale new development has been relatively well controlled so that the region's rural character, and the historic settlement pattern of small red brick villages, is still intact.

Newark Urban Area (Newark, Balderton and Fernwood) is the major centre within Newark & Sherwood and is the main location for services, jobs, retail, education and a focus for transport for most of the District. Reflecting this status the Newark Urban Area is the focus for housing and employment growth within the District, with 9913 dwellings being identified for the Urban Area between 2006-2026. To facilitate this growth a series of site allocations have been made for a range of uses including residential, employment and retail. Significantly this has included sustainable urban extensions to the south and east of Newark and around Fernwood.

Collingham is defined as a 'Principal Village' within the Local Development Framework's Settlement Hierarchy and offers a good range of day to day facilities as well as acting as a

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secondary focus for service provision. To help support this role site allocations, through the Local Development Framework, have also been made in Collingham.

Whilst they may not be the focus for significant levels of growth it is clear that economic and social factors will continue to exert pressure on rural areas of the District and it is likely that the demand for rural housing will continue to grow, driven by the increasing number of people who want to live in a rural location. The refurbishment and conversion of old farm buildings to high quality residential dwellings is now widespread. If the trend continues there may be further consequences for the future pattern and character of the rural landscape.

Employment development will be directed toward the built-up areas of the District and only acceptable in the open countryside where the need for a rural location and the contribution towards rural employment can be demonstrated. The conversion of existing buildings in rural locations to beneficial uses, diversification of rural businesses where this contributes to the local economy and tourism development / accommodation which meets identified needs are also provided support in local planning policy.

Continued uncertainty in the agricultural sector and declining incomes will ensure that rural tourism and farm diversification play an increasing role in the economy of the area. This is likely to result in the conversion of existing agricultural buildings, and in some cases demands for new built development.

5.2.6 **Energy**

The power stations that lie out-with the region and their associated web of high voltage power lines constitute the most dominant and visually intrusive landscape features within and out-with the **East Nottinghamshire Sandlands**.

5.2.7 **Renewable Energy**

The United Kingdom is legally bound to meeting challenging targets for the generation of energy from renewable sources (15% by 2020) and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (to 34% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% by 2050). A framework of national policy, reflecting the need to increase the supply and usage of energy from low-carbon sources and to ensure that adverse impacts are satisfactorily addressed, has been put in place to help deliver these aims. Significantly, this carries the expectation that applications be approved, unless material considerations indicate otherwise, if their impacts (such as that on the landscape) are (or can be made) acceptable. Core Policy 10 'Climate Change' of the Core Strategy and Policy DM4 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation' in the Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document's set out local planning policy on this issue.

Given this policy context there are likely to be future applications for renewable energy developments, such as wind-farms, in the **East Nottinghamshire Sandlands**. These structures have the potential to change the landscape character of the **East Nottinghamshire Sandlands**, particularly in the more sparsely settled northern areas. The power generation industry will continue, therefore, to be a dominant feature of the region.

5.2.8 **Minerals: sand and gravel**

Rich deposits of sand and gravel cover substantial areas of the Village Farmlands, with the main area of extraction lying outside the region, on the western side of Lincoln. The only

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quarry occurring within Nottinghamshire is found at North Scarle, where production ceased in the 1980s. This quarry is included in a pulverised fuel ash reclamation scheme, although some lagoons still remain to be reclaimed to agriculture. Mineral extraction has therefore had a minimal impact upon the character of the region.

5.2.9 **Climate Change**

Research has identified trends and emerging patterns of global climate change. Within the UK, implications for climate change include:

- Global temperature increases of between 1.8 and 4 degrees centigrade above the 1990s levels by the end of the 21st Century, with UK increases anticipated at 2 to 3.5 degrees by 2080.
- Greater warming in the South and East of the UK, rather than the West and North.
- Increasing temperatures resulting in milder winters and high summer temperatures.
- An increase in sea levels by 26-86 cm, by 2080. Extreme high water incidences 10 to 20 times more frequent, increasing coastal flood risks.
- Changes in rainfall patterns, with wetter winters and drier summers. The greatest changes are anticipated for the South and East of the UK, where summer rainfall could reduce by 50%, and snowfall reduced by 60 – 80% by 2080. **(1)**

These changes have the potential to impact on all other drivers for change in the future. The issues of the most relevance to the landscape character of the **East Nottinghamshire Farmlands** include:

Built Development:

- Increased development on land away from locations such as river corridors and low lying areas that are at risk from flooding.
- Sustainable design and layout of new development to result in less use of water, energy and raw materials.

Infrastructure:

- Pressure for renewable energy infrastructure, such as wind turbines to reduce emissions.
- Demand for new riverine defence works in response to tidal surges and high waves.

Minerals and Waste:

- Reducing the amount of waste land filled and increasing the amount of waste recycled and composted.

Agricultural and Land Management:

- Increased risk of river flooding and loss of land as a result of rising sea levels and coastal erosion.

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- Changing weather conditions leading to longer growing seasons and the ability to grow different types of crops.
- The introduction of energy crops to provide an sustainable source of fuel.
- Gradual changes in flora and fauna in response to warmer, wetter conditions and more disturbed weather patterns.

Forestry and Woodland:

- Sustainability of forest tree species may alter due to changes in climatic conditions.
- Lengthy period of drought and dry conditions may lead to an increased risk of upland forest fire.

Tourism and Recreation:

- Increased number of visitors to the countryside due to higher temperatures.

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

5.3 Species List - East Nottinghamshire Sandlands

The following list includes native tree and shrub species that are commonly found within the **East Nottinghamshire Sandlands** and are suitable for inclusion in planting schemes. These are important for determining the area's regional character. A range of native species may also be appropriate to particular locations or sites. In these cases professional advice should be sought.

All plant material should be of local provenance or at least of British origin. The document 'Using local stock for planting native trees and shrubs' - Forestry Commission - Practice Note August 1999 by George Herbert, Sam Samuel and Gordon Patterson; provides guidance in this respect. A list of suppliers is provided on the Flora Locale website – www.floralocale.org

TREES	Botanical name	Woodlands	Hedges	Hedgerow trees	Wet areas/ streamsides
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	□	□	■	■
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>	□			
Birch (Downy)	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	□			□
Birch (Silver)	<i>Betula pendula</i>	■	□	□	
Crab apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>		□		
Elm (English)	<i>Ulmus minor var.vulgaris</i>		□		
Elm (Wych)	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	□	□	□	
Maple (Field)	<i>Acer campestre</i>		■	□	
Oak (Common)	<i>Quercus robur</i>	■	□	■	
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	□			
Willow (Crack)	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	■		□	■
Willow (White)	<i>Salix alba</i>			□	□

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SHRUBS	Botanical name	Woodlands	Hedges	Hedgerow trees	Wet areas/ streamsides
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Dogwood (Common)	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Guelder Rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawthorn (Midland)	<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Osier	<i>Salix viminalis</i>				<input type="checkbox"/>
Rosa (Dog)	<i>Rosa canina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■		

■ Dominant species

□ Other species present

5.4 Visual Character of the Landscape

5.4.1 Introduction

The **East Nottinghamshire Sandlands** share many of the characteristics of the wider Trent Vale. The region, however, possesses a distinctive character of its own. This is closely related to the physical characteristics of the region, which produce differences in the pattern of land use, fields, woodland and settlement. For the most part, the region has a simple agricultural character, although variations in the scale and distribution of woodland create much local diversity. Historical variations in the use of the land are also very evident within the landscape, with some late enclosure areas easily recognisable by the well-ordered layout of roads, fields and farmsteads. There are also reminders of the former areas of moorland and “waste”, reflected in the occurrence of heathy vegetation along roadside verges and woodland edges. This heathy character is particularly pronounced on the accumulations of blown sand that cover parts of the area. The settlement pattern of small red brick villages is still very much intact within this low-lying vale, forming an integral feature of the region’s remote rural character. The region is now dominated by arable farming although many ancient features remain. These include old village pastures, ridge and furrow, field ponds, narrow country lanes and parklands.

The **East Nottinghamshire Sandlands** can be subdivided into two distinct landscape types which occur in Newark and Sherwood. These are the:

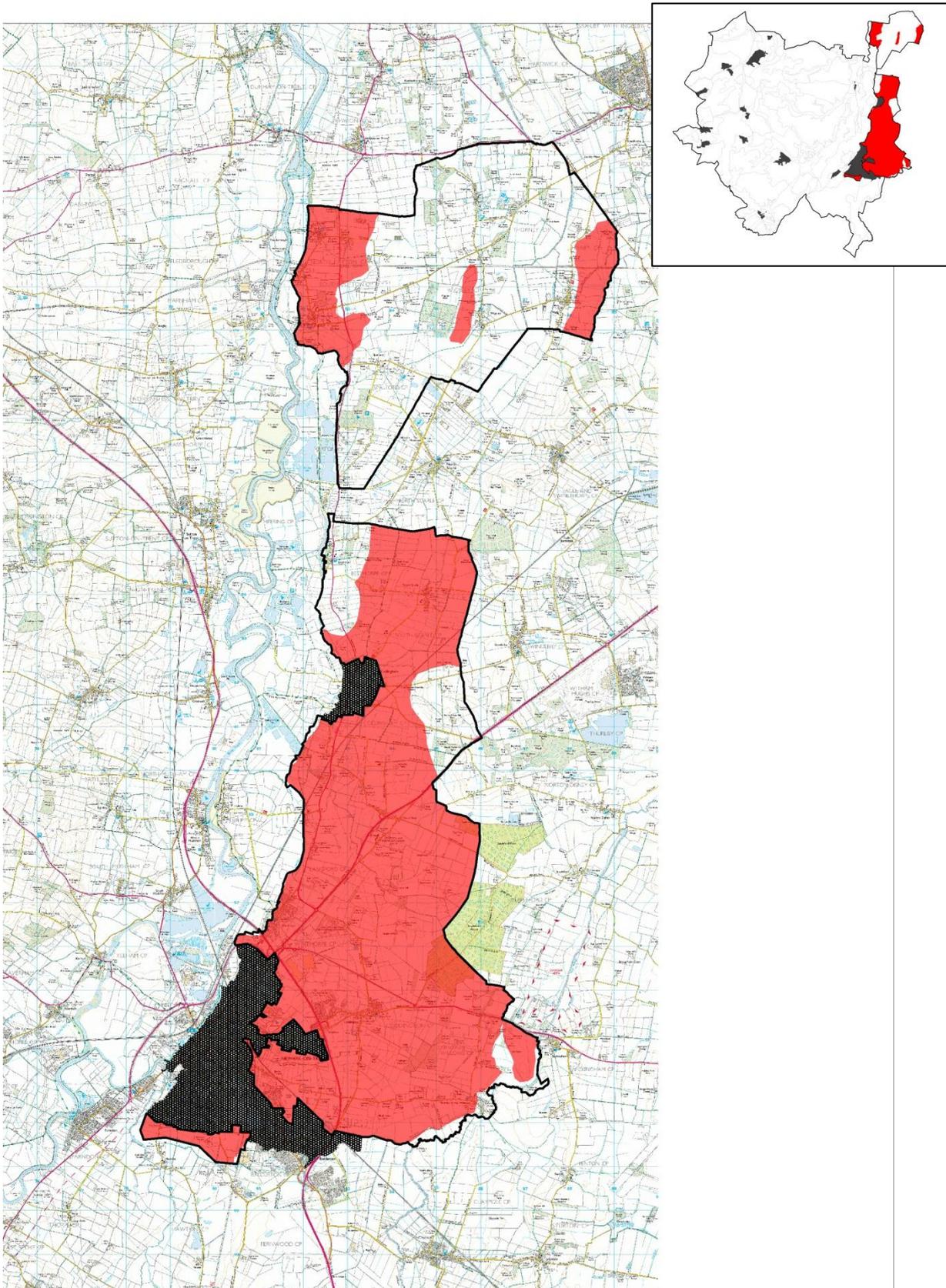
- Village Farmlands
- Village Farmlands with Plantations

These have been classified generically, which means that, theoretically, the 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

Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment
East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Village Farmlands

East Nottinghamshire Sandlands: Village Farmlands

Figure 5.3 Location of Village Farmlands within East Nottinghamshire Sandlands



Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Village Farmlands



This is a varied, but typically well-wooded landscape characterised by small geometric plantations and remnant heathy vegetation. It has the following characteristic features:

Characteristic features

- Free-draining sandy soils
- Variable pattern of land use and land holding
- Mixed small-scale geometric plantations with birch, oak and Scots pine
- Acidic grassland and grass heaths
- Bracken, gorse and broom along hedgerows and roadside verges

Landscape description

This landscape has evolved on free-draining, drought-susceptible sandy soils on pockets of blown sand between Besthorpe and North Clifton. The landscape has a distinctive character which arises from the variable pattern of landholding and the diverse range of land uses that the area supports, including permanent and rough pasture, grass heath, commercial forestry and arable farming. This varied character is also reflected in the pattern of settlement, which includes the small nucleated villages of North Clifton, Spalford and Besthorpe, along with a concentration of smallholdings, farmsteads and light industrial/agricultural buildings.

Acidic grassland and scrub communities are found throughout the landscape. At Besthorpe and Spalford Warren, areas of tussocky grass heath have developed, with communities on Spalford Warren of particular biological importance. The heathy character of the landscape is reinforced elsewhere by the presence of gorse, bracken and broom species in roadside verges, hedgerows and pasture fields. Rabbit warrens are very noticeable within the grassland areas on sloping land, marked by eroding patches of loose sand. Place names such as Rabbit Hill Lane and Sand Lane pay testimony to the physical characteristics of the area.

The landscape has a well-wooded character arising from the many small-scale geometric plantations. An exception is the larger coniferous plantation established on Spalford Warren by the Forestry Commission. No hardwood belts have been planted along its edges and it consequently appears as quite a harsh and abrupt straight-edged feature. Elsewhere

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woodlands often directly about areas of grass heath and scrub with birch, oak and Scots pine constituting the main species. Pine shelter belt plantings are a feature near North Clifton.

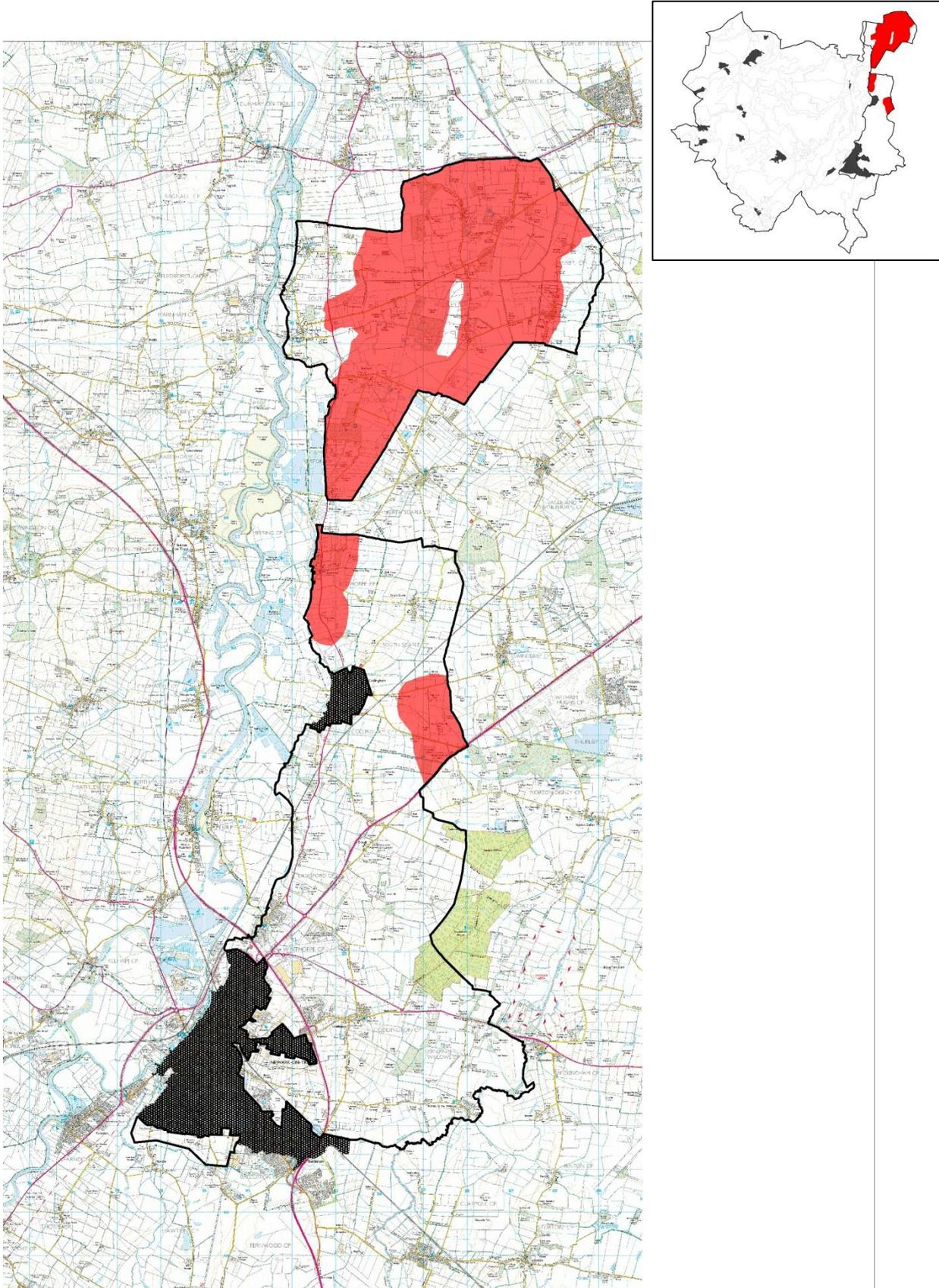
The grassland areas are characterised by a small-scale, irregular pattern of hedged fields. Many of the hedges are now back-fenced due to under management, with oak forming the principal hedgerow tree species. An area of species-poor pasture and grass heath is found immediately to the south of Spalford Warren. Certain areas of the blown sands are now intensively managed as arable land. The weak soil structure has led to severe wind erosion problems and a significant loss of topsoil. Low, gappy, agricultural hedgerows running along raised sandy banks provide striking evidence of this.



**Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment
East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Village Farmlands with Plantations**

East Nottinghamshire Sandlands: Village Farmlands with Plantations

Figure 5.4 Location of Village Farmlands with Plantations within East Nottinghamshire Sandlands



Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Village Farmlands with Plantations



This is an enclosed and in places well-wooded, low-lying landscape with a remote rural character. It has the following characteristic features

- Remote rural character
- Broad low lying terrace
- Gently sloping hills associated with Liassic outcrop
- Acidic sandy soils
- Intensively managed arable farmlands
- Enclosed medium distance views, often to wooded edges
- Variable pattern of woodland and hedgerow trees
- Regular pattern of hedged fields and rural lanes
- Small rural villages and isolated farmsteads
- Vernacular style red brick and pantile roofed buildings

Landscape description

These are intensively farmed, enclosed agricultural landscapes, with a largely remote rural character located on broad river terrace deposits to the east of the River Trent. The area shares many of the characteristics of a more extensive tract of landscape that runs eastwards into Lincolnshire. The Village Farmlands with Plantations is mostly confined to sandy soils on the flat, low-lying terrace, although the level landform is interrupted in places by outcropping beds of Liassic clay. These are marked by the presence of gently sloping, low hills. The pattern of land use and settlement has historically been determined by the physical environment of the terrace with the principal landscape components consisting of intensively managed arable farmlands, small red brick settlements and a variable pattern of woodland cover.

Much of the area was still uncultivated towards the end of the eighteenth century because of limitations imposed on its agricultural use by the high water table. Little now remains of the once extensive areas of damp low-lying moorland and “waste”, although its former character

Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Village Farmlands with Plantations

is widely reflected in local place names, examples being Coddington Moor, Stapleford Moor, Langford Moor and Thorney Moor. After drainage and enclosure the region developed a distinctively agricultural character that has endured to the present day. With adequate fertiliser the relatively poor sandland soils are capable of growing a wide range of crops. Arable cultivation therefore forms the predominant land use, with pasture confined to settlement edges. With the exception of the Newark urban fringe, the landscape has a robust and undeveloped rural character.

One of the distinctive features of the Village Farmlands with Plantations is the small rural villages and the dispersed pattern of isolated farmsteads. Many of the settlements lie along the edge of the terrace, close to the division with the lower-lying alluvial lands of the Trent Valley. Buildings within the villages are constructed from traditional red brick and pantile materials. The vernacular style is an important component of the region's character, although there has been a degree of modern infill in most settlements.

The villages often link with small and intimate landscapes containing features such as species-rich hedgerows, permanent pastures, ridge and furrow and old field ponds. Many of the farmhouses and farm buildings are constructed from the same traditional building materials, most having being built at around the same time as the surrounding lands were enclosed. A network of narrow and often straight rural lanes links the various small settlements and farmsteads. These usually have well-maintained hedgerows that restrict summer views across the level terrace. Collingham is the biggest settlement outside Newark, the predominance of traditional red brick buildings producing a strong sense of place and unity. The landscape has largely escaped the influence of urban and industrial development, the only exception to this being the landscapes that fringe the northern and eastern edges of Newark and Balderton, where residential housing, major road developments and light industrial units have an impact locally.

The farmlands are enclosed by a well-ordered pattern of hedged fields and lanes which reflect the relatively late enclosure of much of the farmland. The regular and medium to large-scale field pattern tends to be the most dominant landscape element. Many of the fields are bounded by drains and ditches, highlighting the fact that many of the underlying sandy soils are naturally prone to seasonal waterlogging. Field patterns are largely intact, although there are areas where they have become poorly defined. Many hedgerows are over managed, with their low and gappy form reducing the sense of enclosure. This produces more open views across the flat terrain and the gently sloping Lias hills. Thorn hedgerows predominate, although mixed species hedges are found locally, particularly along the narrow country lanes.

In the north east the Village Farmlands with Plantations have a very distinct character, particularly the area centred on the village of Thorney. Numerous small and medium-sized woodlands frame and enclose the farmlands. These are mostly broadleaved with birch and oak the principal species. Several woodlands have bracken understories. A small number of coniferous and mixed woodlands are also found. The flat river terrace topography confines views to the many wooded edges. The woodlands are linked by sinuous lines of oak trees sweeping along field boundaries and roadside edges. These mature and semi-mature trees are a special and important feature of the landscape, creating a strong sense of local identity. The village of Thorney occupies a central position within this area. The village is surrounded by a small area of pastoral landscape including parkland associated with Thorney Hall. This provides a contrast to the adjacent arable farmlands. Modern poultry units are distributed through the area.

Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Village Farmlands with Plantations

Elsewhere the tree cover of the Village Farmlands with Plantations is variable. The landscape becomes progressively more wooded eastwards from the Trent Valley, where tree cover is relatively sparse. Hedgerow trees are an important feature within much of this landscape with ash and oak the dominant species. Lines of willow along stream lines, drains and ditches also form important features, adding to the sense of enclosure. The eastern fringes of the Nottinghamshire terrace are strongly influenced by large plantation woodlands that often straddle the boundary with Lincolnshire. The long sinuous woodland edges add diversity and interest to the intensively farmed character of the surrounding areas.

In the south eastern area of the region, woodlands are of variable scale and species composition. The coniferous plantation at Stapleford Woods is the largest, with its straight edges providing a rather harsh frame to the adjacent farmlands. Internally the coniferous plantations are of more interest, with hardwood belts and acidic plant communities established along rides and roadside edges.

Elsewhere woodlands are smaller scale and predominantly broadleaved, with ash, oak, birch, sycamore, poplar and beech being the main species found. The broadleaved woodlands help to reduce landscape scale, providing views of varying distance across flat terrain.



Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Policy Zones

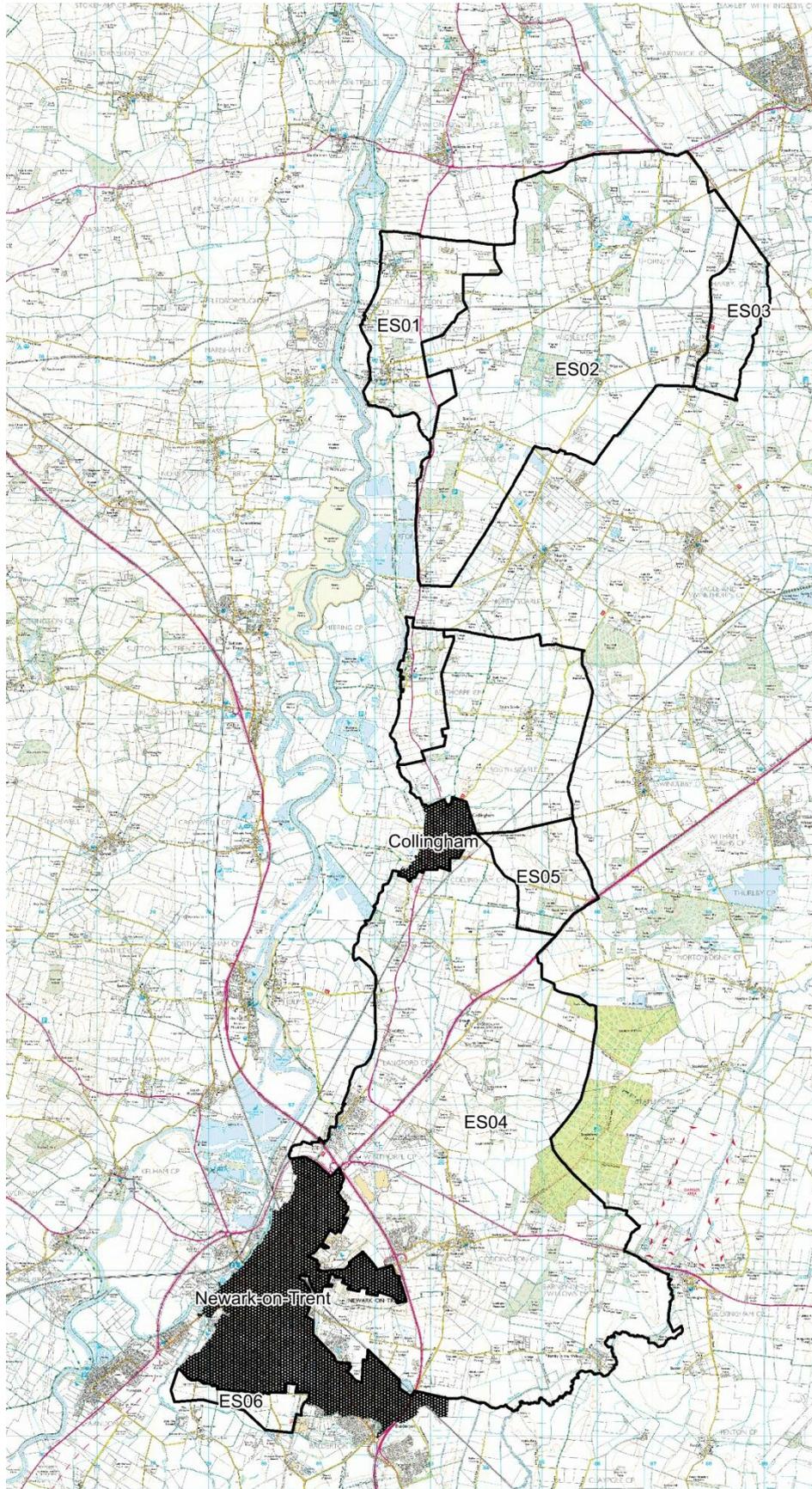


Figure 5.5 Policy Zones within East Nottinghamshire Sandlands



**Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment
East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Policy Zones**

5.5 Landscape Policy Sheet

5.5.1 Policy Zones Contents Sheet

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East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Policy Zone ES PZ 01: North Clifton Village Farmlands

Policy: Create

The Policy Zone lies to the north of Newark, with the river Trent running near the western boundary and the busy A1133 road running north to south through the centre. The land is generally flat, with some undulating topography around villages. This results in medium to long distance views interrupted by frequent shelterbelts and mixed plantations. Views are somewhat dominated to the west and north by power stations and power lines in adjacent areas.

A generally degraded area heavily influenced by its intensive land use, much of the land is dedicated to intensive agriculture. Large arable fields form the majority of the land pattern, and exhibit some loss of historic field pattern. There is also some pastoral land use and smaller fields associated with this land use are noted in the vicinity of the settlements. Hedgerows are generally well maintained and strongly trimmed, however, many are fragmented and some are completely lost, especially to arable field boundaries. Post and wire and some post and rail fencing is used as infill where this has occurred. Commercial agriculture is evident within the area, with a number of poultry sheds present towards the north of the Policy Zone.

Mixed woodlands, Coniferous plantations (often with native edges) and shelterbelts are frequent throughout, providing some mitigation for the intensive agriculture. A variety of ecological bases also exist, including Bracken along acid grassland verges and a disused railway line, and Biological SINC designations reflect this:

- 5/133 – Marnham to Harby Dismantled Railway ‘A long length of dismantled railway line with a rich diversity of characteristic and notable herbs’
- 5/2171 – North Clifton Church ‘A notable blown-sand grassland in a churchyard’
- 5/136 – South Clifton Road Verges ‘Broad grassy roadside verges with a notable blown-sand flora’
- 1/87 – Old Trent Oxbow, Spalford ‘An excellent aquatic and bankside flora developed along an abandoned river channel’
- 2/832 – A1133 Verge, Spalford ‘A diverse grassland community on a broad roadside verge’

Two settlements lie within the Policy Zone; North Clifton and South Clifton. Both of these villages have historic vernacular cores, although infill and new build to the periphery is evident. South Clifton has been designated as a Conservation Area, and some Listed Buildings associated with the historic cores also exist:

Threats of drivers for change in the Policy Zone include:

- Increase in number of Poultry Houses.
- More plantations.
- Further loss of pastoral fields.
- Further loss of hedgerows due to lack of management and/or increased intensification of arable agriculture.

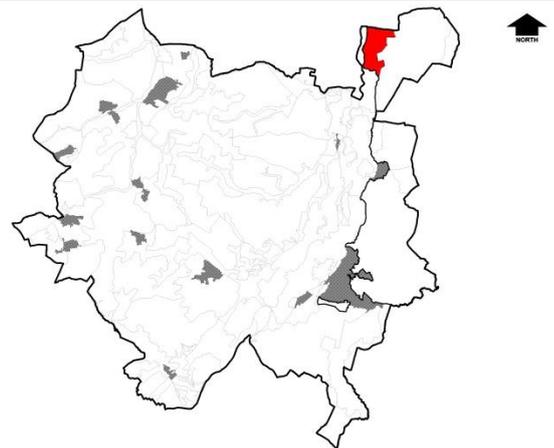
ES PZ 01: North Clifton Village Farmlands

PHOTOGRAPH



CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Village Farmlands
Policy Zone: ES PZ 01
Landscape Character Parcel: ES01



CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Flat with occasional undulating landform around villages.
- Medium distance views to frequent shelterbelts and mixed plantations.
- Dominant views to the west and north of power stations and power lines.
- Mixture of intensive arable fields with strongly trimmed hedges and some low intensity farming with permanent improved pasture.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **poor**.

The area has a **coherent** pattern of elements composed of predominantly arable fields, blocks of deciduous woodland and isolated farms; there are **some** detracting features including busy roads and some small industrial units along with a caravan site. Overall this gives a visually **coherent** area. There are a number of Biological SINC designations (5/133 – Marnham to Harby dismantled railway; 5/2171 – North Clifton Church; 5/136 – South Clifton Road Verges; 1/87 – Old Trent Oxbow, Spalford; 2/832 – A1133 Verge, Spalford). There are no MLA designations in the area.

In ecological terms the area provides a **weak** habitat for wildlife, with a highly intensive arable land use. Cultural integrity is **variable** in that the field pattern is by and large intact, with hedgerows often being

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

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

**Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment
East Nottinghamshire Sandlands**

mature, well maintained and intact. A **coherent** area with a **weak** functional integrity gives a **poor** landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity

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

The components of the landscape are **characteristic** to the East Sandlands LCA. The time depth is **historic** (post 1600) giving a **moderate** sense of place overall.

The landform is **insignificant** with **intermittent** areas of woodland giving a generally **low** visibility value within the Policy Zone. Views are intermittent due to numerous blocks of woodland and hedgerows. A **moderate** sense of place and **low** visibility leads to a **low** landscape sensitivity overall.

Sensitivity Low

Distinctiveness:	Characteristic
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of Place:	Moderate
Landform:	Insignificant
Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility:	Low

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Create

Landscape Features

- **Create** new hedgerows and restore existing, seek opportunities to recreate historic field pattern where feasible, contain new developments within historic field boundaries.
- Enhance and reinforce tree cover and planting generally, in particular, along busy A1133 road, to **create** increased visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone, and limit the impact of views towards power stations (High Marnham).
- Conserve the ecological diversity and biodiversity of the designated SINC.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral.

Built Features

- Conserve what remains of the rural landscape by concentrating new development around existing settlement.
- **Create** new development which reflects the local built vernacular.

Condition

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

Sensitivity

**East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Policy Zone ES PZ 02: Wigsley Village
Farmlands with Plantations
Policy: Create**

Located to the north of Collingham and to the south of Newton on Trent, the A57 forms the northern boundary and the River Trent lies along the western boundary. A large scale arable landscape, with generally flat topography, views tend to be medium to long distance towards wooded rising ground, with views towards the west including Marnham power station and associated power lines.

Although the landscape is dominated by arable agriculture (including turf growing), small areas of historic pastoral fields also exist. Commercial agriculture is prominent towards the north of the Policy Zone, including poultry houses, piggeries etc. Field patterns are often lost with larger fields towards the north, however, fields tend to be smaller and more historic towards the south, around Besthorpe. Field boundaries to arable fields are predominantly strongly trimmed hawthorn hedgerows, fragmented and often lost in places, with numerous outgrown hedgerow tree species. Hedgerows around villages and pastoral fields are more often well maintained and relatively species-rich, featuring species such as; Hawthorn, Ilex, Elder, Hazel and Convolvulus. Post and rail fencing can be seen around the pastoral fields, where some horse-culture is evident.

Leisure industry is apparent throughout the area in the form of fishing lakes, caravan parks, sports grounds, a disused airfield (south of Wigsley), and these activities introduce an element of ornamental planting to the area.

There are numerous fragmented blocks of mixed deciduous woodland (Oak, Birch, some Field Maple and Sycamore), coniferous plantations and shelterbelts. These woodland areas help to mitigate the loss of field pattern and the intensive arable land use to some extent.

A variety of habitats are present throughout the Policy Zone, with areas of wetland and open water around Besthorpe, and associated riparian vegetation. A small amount of Parkland is present around Thorney Hall (south of Thorney village). Water courses that flow towards the River Witham and/or Fosdyke Navigation are multi-functional providing a flood relief function and drainage as well as opportunities for biodiversity and habitat creation.

Biological SINC designations are frequent throughout the area:

- 2/653 – Road Wood ‘A locally characteristic acidic woodland site of botanical and zoological value’.
- 1/94 – Darnsyke Marsh ‘An excellent community of tall marshy grassland and aquatic and emergent plant species’.
- 5/141 – Lodge Farm Grassland, Thorney ‘A mosaic of damp neutral to acidic grassland with seasonally wet hollows with species-rich marsh vegetation and a pond with a notable plant community’.
- 5/143 – Spring Wood, Thorney ‘A partly wet acidic woodland with characteristic species’.
- 5/137 – The Ring, Thorney ‘A narrow strip of deciduous woodland on sandy soil, bordered by a species-rich drain’.
- 5/139 – Disney Nook Lane Drain, Thorney ‘A shallow, slow flowing drain with a notable aquatic flora’.

Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment East Nottinghamshire Sandlands

- 5/142 – Gibbet Wood, Thorney 'A partly cleared, sand-land deciduous woodland with a noteworthy flora'.
- 2/652 – Ox Pasture Drain 'A broad drainage channel with an outstanding array of aquatic species'.
- 5/140 – Crow Wood Drain 'A shallow drain with a notable aquatic flora bordering on open acidic woodland'.
- 2/654 – West Wood 'A remnant of locally characteristic acid woodland'.
- 5/133 – Marham to Harby Dismantled Railway 'A long length of dismantled railway line with a rich diversity of characteristic and notable herbs'.
- 5/138 – Thorney Drain 'A shallow field drain in an arable area with notable emergent vegetation and bank-side grassland'.
- 5/319 – Plot Wood 'A characteristic sand-land woodland'.
- 2/835 – Wigsley Park Wood 'A typical open woodland of light freely-draining soils'.
- 2/836 – Wigsley Wood 'An historical wood that retains both faunal and floral interest'.
- 2/834 – Wigsley Airfield Pool 'A notable aquatic community in and around a pond of recent origin'.
- 5/205 – Wigsley Dismantled Airfield 'A mosaic of diverse habitats on an abandoned airfield'.
- 5/2262 – Wigsley Drain 'A drain of interest for Water Beetles'.
- 2/830 – Sand Lane, Spalford 'An unusual association of botanical interest on a roadside verge'.
- 2/651 – Gainsborough Road Verges, Spalford 'Dry sandy roadside verges with a plant community of very restricted distribution in the country'.
- 2/831 – Spalford Arable Field 'A representative community of sandy arable weeds'.
- 1/88 – Spalford Warren 'An important grass-heath habitat of a type of very restricted inland occurrence – although largely planted with conifers, substantial areas of sandland'.
- 5/2228 – Gainsborough Road Gravel Pit, Girton 'A former gravel pit of interest for Water Beetles'.
- 5/200 – A1133 Verge, Girton (East Side) 'Dry sandy roadside verges with a notable plant community'.
- 2/827 – Gainsborough Road Grasslands, Girton 'Good examples of characteristically species-poor acid grassland developed on blown sands'.
- 2/646 – Girton Grasslands 'An excellent sequence of damp species-rich grasslands'.
- 2/650 – Sand Lane Grasslands, Besthorpe 'An area of acidic grasslands and scrub developed on Quaternary blown sands with notable communities of birds and calcifuge plants'.
- 2/829 – Besthorpe Road Verge 'A short length of verge with a notable plant association'.
- 2/826 – Primrose Hill 'Coarse acidic grassland developed on periglacial drift deposits'.
- 2/644 – The fleet, Girton 'A large aquatic site with a species-rich emergent and aquatic plant community'.

There are a number of settlements within this Policy Zone. These include Thorney, Thorney Moor, part of Harby, Wigsley, part of Spalford and Besthorpe. All the villages have an historic core apparent to a greater or lesser extent, with vernacular red brick buildings. However, there is new development evident throughout all the villages, with considerable infill and peripheral development, many of the bungalows and housing being associated with the farming industry. This has resulted in a loss of sense of place within some of the settlements. Besthorpe is designated as a Conservation Area, and as such has considerably less development than the other villages within the area. There are a number of Listed Buildings

Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment East Nottinghamshire Sandlands

present in the Policy Zone and two Scheduled Ancient Monuments. A number of threats and drivers for change exist in the Policy Zone. These include:

- Poor management and subsequent fragmentation and/or loss of hedgerows.
- Intensification of arable agriculture leading to fragmentation and/or loss of hedgerows and subsequent loss of existing field pattern.
- Potential Biomass crops.
- Subdivision of fields with piecemeal untidy appearance (due to horsey culture).
- Further intensification of commercial agriculture, chicken sheds, piggeries, turfing etc.
- Increase in horsey culture.
- Further loss of woodland belts leading to a more open landscape and a higher impact of existing land use.

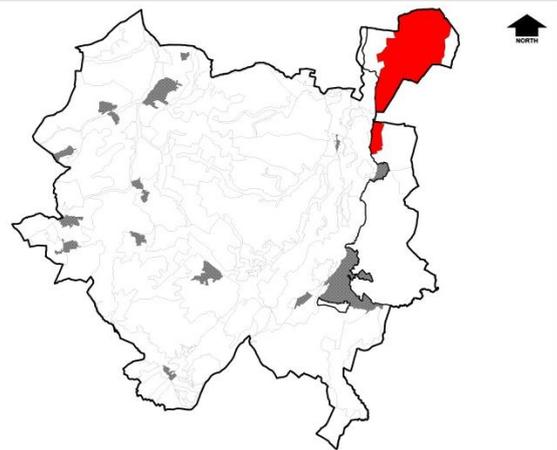
ES PZ 02: Wigsley Village Farmlands with Plantations

PHOTOGRAPH



CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Village Farmlands with Plantations
Policy Zone: ES PZ 02
Landscape Character Parcel: ES02, ES03 & ES05



CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Flat with occasional undulating landform around villages.
- Medium distance views to frequent shelterbelts and mixed plantations.
- Dominant views to the west of power stations and power lines.
- Mixture of intensive arable fields with strongly trimmed hedges and some low intensity farming with permanent improved pasture.
- Numerous fragmented blocks of mixed deciduous woodland, coniferous plantations and some remnant Parkland.
- Watercourses drain land to the east, (Ox Pasture Drain and Wigsley Drain).

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

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

The area has a **coherent** pattern of elements composed of predominantly arable fields, blocks of deciduous woodland and isolated farms; there are **some** detracting features. Overall this gives a visually **coherent** area. There are a number of Biological SINC designations (2/653 – Road Wood; 1/94 – Darnsyke Marsh; 5/141 – Lodge Farm Grassland; 5/143 – Spring Wood, Thorney; 5/137 – The Ring, Thorney; 5/139 – Disney Nook Lane Drain; 5/142 – Gibbet Wood, Thorney; 2/652 – Ox Pasture Drain; 5/140 – Crow Wood Drain; 2/654 – West Wood; 5/133 – Marnham to Harby Dismantled Railway; 5/138 – Thorney Drain; 5/319 – Plot Wood; 2/835 – Wigsley

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition Moderate

Pattern of Elements: Coherent

Detracting Features: Some

Visual Unity: Coherent

Ecological Integrity: Moderate

Cultural Integrity: Variable

**Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment
East Nottinghamshire Sandlands**

Park Wood; 2/836 – Wigsley Wood; 2/834 – Wigsley Airfield Pool; 5/205 – Wigsley Dismantled Airfield; 5/2262 – Wigsley Drain; 2/830 – Sand Lane, Spalford; 2/651 – Gainsborough Road Verges, Spalford; 2/831 – Spalford Arable Field; 1/88 – Spalford Warren; 5/2228 – Gainsborough Road Gravel Pit, Girton; 5/200 – A1133 Verge, Girton (East side); 2/827 – Gainsborough Road Grasslands, Girton; 2/646 – Girton Grasslands; 2/650 – Sand Lane Grasslands, Besthorpe; 2/829 – Besthorpe Road Verge; 2/826 – Primrose Hill; 2/644 – The Fleet, Girton). There are a number of MLA designations in the area; Thorney, Spalford and Besthorpe.

In ecological terms the area provides a **moderate** habitat for wildlife, with a highly intensive arable land use but good connections and numerous SINCS. Cultural integrity is **variable** in that the field pattern is often lost due to arable agriculture, with hedgerows often being mature, well maintained and intact, although fragmented in places. A **coherent** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **moderate** landscape condition.

Functional Integrity:

Coherent

Landscape Sensitivity

The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as **very low**.

The components of the landscape are **characteristic** to the East Sandlands LCA. The time depth is **recent** (last 50 years) giving a **weak** sense of place overall.

The landform is **insignificant** with **intermittent** areas of woodland giving a generally **low** visibility value within the Policy Zone. Views are intermittent due to numerous blocks of woodland and hedgerows. A **weak** sense of place and **low** visibility leads to a **very low** landscape sensitivity overall.

Sensitivity

Very Low

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Recent

Sense of Place: Weak

Landform: Insignificant

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Low

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Create

Landscape Features

- **Create** new hedgerows and restore existing, seek opportunities to recreate field pattern where feasible, contain new development within historic boundaries.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to pastoral and/or introduce field margins to link habitats and increase biodiversity.
- Enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally, in particular along A1133, to **create** increased visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone. Conserve the ecological diversity and biodiversity of the designated SINCS
- **Conserve** the fabric of historical sites and their wider setting by ensuring land management practices preserve the interest and understanding of the site.
- Maintain water courses and manage land either side of them to provide flood relief and promote biodiversity. Carry out

Condition

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

Sensitivity

Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment East Nottinghamshire Sandlands

maintenance operations in a way that works alongside the biodiversity objectives for the area where possible.

Built Features

- Conserve what remains of the rural landscape by concentrating new development around existing settlements.
- **Create** new development which reflects the local built vernacular.

East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Policy Zone ES PZ 03: Harby Village Farmlands

Policy: Restore and Create

A relatively small Policy Zone encompassing the eastern part of the village of Harby and the surrounding fields. The topography is very flat in nature and as such, views tend to be medium to long distance towards woodland shelterbelts, interrupted intermittently by power lines and pylons running from north to south through the area. The relatively busy B1190 road runs to the north-east of the area, the busy A57 road runs east-west to the north, whilst Ox Pasture drain runs north-south to the west.

There are numerous streams and drains in the area, along with some areas of open water, and associated riparian habitat (including some Willow) is common. Other habitats are provided by the disused railway line in the form of semi-naturalised scrub, and in an area to the north-east near Wallrudding Farm, where a small extraction site exists.

There are a couple of Biological SINCs in the area:

- 2/837 – North Harby Verge ‘A species-rich roadside verge, cut for hay’.
- 5/133 – Marnham to Harby Dismantled Railway ‘A long length of dismantled railway line with a rich diversity of characteristic and notable herbs’.

The primary land use is that of arable agriculture, and the scale of the fields reflects this land use, with medium to large scale fields. There are some smaller pastoral fields to the east of Harby. Boundaries to these fields are predominantly Hawthorn hedgerows with some outgrown hedgerow tree species such as Oak and Ash, generally strongly trimmed and often fragmented or lost altogether. Post and wire fencing is used as infill where this has occurred.

The village of Harby itself has an historic core, including the remains of Queen Eleanor’s Palace although there are no Listed Buildings within the Policy Zone. There is some new residential infill and peripheral development, specifically a stretch of ribbon development to the north of Harby (brick built estate housing along Station Road).

There are a number of drivers for change in the Policy Zone. These include:

- Further fragmentation of hedgerows due to loss of existing field pattern, further intensification of arable farming and lack of management.
- Possible Biomass crops and Turf growing.
- Loss of tree cover as many of the existing trees are of a similar maturity.
- Further residential development and expansion of Harby.

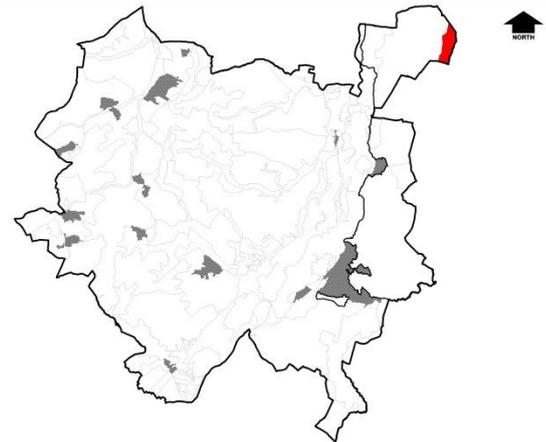
ES PZ 03 Harby Village Farmlands

PHOTOGRAPH



CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Village Farmlands
Policy Zone: ES PZ 03
Landscape Character Parcel: ES04



CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Flat with occasional undulating landform around village.
- Medium distance views to frequent shelterbelts and mixed plantations.
- Dominant views to the west of power stations and power lines.
- Mixture of intensive arable fields with strongly trimmed hedges and some low intensity farming with permanent improved pasture in the vicinity of the village.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **poor**.

The area has a **coherent** pattern of elements composed of predominantly arable fields and isolated farms; there are **few** detracting features. Overall this gives a visually **unified** area. There are a couple of Biological SINC designations (2/837 – North Harby Verge; 5/133 – Marnham to Harby Dismantled Railway). There are no MLA designations in the area.

In ecological terms the area provides a **weak** habitat for wildlife, with a highly intensive arable land use. Cultural integrity is **poor** in that the field pattern is often lost due to arable agriculture, with hedgerows often being mature, well maintained and intact, although fragmented

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition	Poor
Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Weak
Cultural Integrity:	Poor
Functional	Very Weak

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East Nottinghamshire Sandlands**

in places. A **coherent** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **moderate** landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity

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

The components of the landscape are **characteristic** to the East Sandlands LCA. The time depth is **historic** (post 1600) giving a **moderate** sense of place overall.

The landform is **insignificant** with **open** areas of woodland giving a generally **moderate** visibility value within the Policy Zone. Views are open due to the lack of woodland and some loss of hedgerows. A **moderate** sense of place and **moderate** visibility leads to a **moderate** landscape sensitivity overall.

Integrity:
(Where one criterion is 'very poor' or 'very weak', this pushes the policy description into the next lowest category)

Sensitivity Moderate

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Insignificant

Extent of Tree Cover: Open

Visibility: Moderate

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Restore and Create

Landscape Features

- **Create** new hedgerows and **restore** existing, seek opportunities to **restore** field pattern where feasible, contain new development within historic boundaries.
- Seek opportunities to **restore** arable land to pastoral.
- Enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally, in particular along A1133, to **create** increased visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone.
- Conserve the ecological diversity and biodiversity of the designated SINCS, **create** enhancements where appropriate.

Built Features

- Conserve what remains of the rural landscape by concentrating new development around existing settlements.
- **Create** new development which reflects the local built vernacular.

Condition

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

Sensitivity

East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Policy Zone ES PZ 04: Winthorpe Village Farmlands

Policy: Conserve and Create

A relatively large Policy Zone, located to the east and north-east of Newark. The A46 (running NE-SW) and the A1 (running N-S) bisect the area, along with a railway line and power lines/pylons, resulting in a number of linear features throughout the area.

A flat and gently undulating arable landscape with numerous woodland blocks and the settlements of Winthorpe, South Scarle, Langford, Brough, Coney Green, Coddington and Barnby in the Willows. A generally intensive land use is evident throughout the area, with the majority occupied by highly intensive, medium to large scale arable fields. This intensive land use is reflected in the field boundaries, being primarily composed of strongly trimmed Hawthorn hedgerows, fragmented or lost in places, and post and wire fencing used as infill. A number of pastoral fields within historic field patterns of smaller scale are evident in the vicinity of settlements and isolated farm houses. Boundaries to these tend to be composed primarily of well maintained, species-rich hedgerows (including Oak, Ash, Hazel, Rubus, Rosehip, Field Maple etc.) and outgrown hedgerow trees (Oak and Ash), with occasional post and rail fencing where horsey culture exists.

Numerous areas of mixed deciduous woodland exists with some small blocks of woods, small areas of parkland woodland, deciduous woodland belts along roads, part of Stapleford Wood, and new woodland planting along the A46. A variety of other habitats are also present in the Policy Zone (including some Bracken, acid grassland, and Riparian vegetation with some Bullrush) and these include numerous Biological SINC designations:

- 2/829 – Besthorpe Road Verge ‘A short length of verge with a notable plant association’
- 5/320 – Moor Lane Verge, South Scarle ‘A wide roadside verge with a diverse and notable flora’
- 5/197 – Ox Pasture Plantation, Besthorpe ‘A partly cleared damp woodland with a species-rich flora’
- 5/323 – Green Lane Pond and Drain, Collingham ‘A deep pond with a rich diversity of marsh and sub-aquatic species’
- 2/807 – Wheatley Hill Verges ‘Notably herb-rich verges along little-used lanes’
- 5/322 – South Scaffold Lane, Collingham ‘A Green Lane with a characteristic grassland flora and species-rich hedgerow’
- 5/366 – Langford Marsh ‘A pond and marsh of botanical interest’
- 2/642 – The Fleet, Winthorpe ‘A notable mosaic of aquatic, marginal and marshy grassland habitats’
- 2/811 – Turfmoor ‘A tract of commercial forestry with notable acidic communities along the rides – a site of particular invertebrate zoological interest’
- 2/639 – Langford Moor area ‘Valuable plant and animal communities along rides and in drainage ditches throughout this coniferous forestry plantation’
- 5/2237 – Moor Brats Drain, Coddington ‘A drain of interest for Water Beetles’
- 2/805 – Beacon Hill Gypsum Workings ‘A mosaic of grassland and scrub on old gypsum workings’
- 2/643 – Beacon Hill ‘Area of notable moth habitat’
- 2/638 – Ballast Pit, Newark ‘A long disused ballast pit supporting open water and Carr communities’

Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment East Nottinghamshire Sandlands

- 2/810 – Newark Golf Course ‘A good mixed habitat association of acidic grassland, heath and deciduous woodland’
- 5/207 – Coddington Plantation ‘An unmanaged mainly deciduous woodland of high botanical value’
- 5/333 – Balderton Ballast Pit ‘A long established ballast pit with a noteworthy aquatic and bank-side flora’
- 2/640 – Railway pond, Balderton ‘Important scrub and open water habitats developed on a long disused ballast pit’
- 5/2221 – Barnaby Manor Farm Drain ‘A field drain noteworthy for Water Beetles’
- 5/2254 – River Witham ‘A section of the River Witham of interest for Water Beetles’
- 5/331 – Witham Bank, Barnaby ‘a flood bank with notable open grassland communities’
- 2/809 – Witham Pastures ‘A sequence of damp grasslands on alluvial soils’
- 5/206 – Shire Dyke, Barnaby ‘Drain with noteworthy aquatic, swamp and bank side vegetation’

A variety of leisure land uses are evident across the Policy Zone, principally due to the proximity to Newark and other settlements. These include: Golf Courses, Sports Fields, Equestrian Centres, Carting Track, Newark Air Museum, Beacon Hill Conservation Park and Newark Showground. Along with leisure land use, there is also industrial land use in the form of Sewage Works, Railway lines and Mineral works (Sand & Gravel Pit near Collingham). All these elements combined have resulted in a diverse area of varied land use, typical of urban fringe locations.

The settlements of South Scarle, Coney Green, Langford, Winthorpe, Brough, Coddington, periphery of Balderton and Barnby in the Willows, generally have historic vernacular cores. However, peripheral and infill residential development of mixed quality is evident to a greater or lesser extent to most of the settlements. There are a number of designated Conservation Areas including South Scarle, Winthorpe, Coddington, Barnby in the Willows, and Langford. There are numerous Listed Buildings within this Policy Zone as well as several Scheduled Ancient Monuments including the site of Langford Medieval village.

A number of threats and drivers for change exist in the area. These include:

- Increased Industrial development
- Growth-point housing around Newark and other areas
- Increased horsey culture resulting in encroachment on existing fields
- Increased intensity of agriculture resulting in degradation of hedgerows leading to loss of historic field pattern
- Lack of management of hedgerows leading to fragmentation and loss
- Increase of monoculture agriculture such as turf or biomass

Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment East Nottinghamshire Sandlands

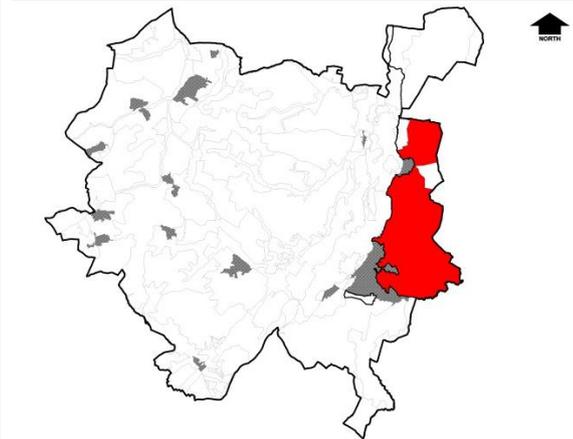
ES PZ 04 Winthorpe Village Farmlands

PHOTOGRAPH



CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Village Farmlands
Policy Zone: ES PZ 04
Landscape Character Parcel: ES06, ES08, ES09, ES10, ES11



CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Flat with occasional undulating landform around village.
- Medium distance views to frequent shelterbelts and mixed plantations.
- Dominant views to the west of power stations and power lines.
- Mixture of intensive arable fields with strongly trimmed hedges and some low intensity farming with permanent improved pasture in the vicinity of the village.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

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

The area has a **coherent** pattern of elements composed of predominantly arable fields and isolated farms; there are **some** detracting features. Overall this gives a visually **coherent** area. There are a number of Biological SINC designations (2/829 – Besthorpe Road Verge; 5/320 – Moor Lane verge, South Scarle; 5/197 – Ox Pasture Plantation, Besthorpe; 5/323 – Green Lane Pond and Drain, Collingham; 2/807 – Wheatley Hill Verges; 5/322 – South Scaffold Lane, Collingham; 5/366 – Langford Marsh; 2/642 – The Fleet, Winthorpe; 2/811 – Turfmoor; 2/639 – Langford Moor Area; 5/2237 – Moor Brats Drain, Coddington; 2/805 – Beacon Hill Gypsum Workings; 2/643 – Beacon Hill; 2/638 – Ballast Pit, Newark; 2/640 – Railway Pond, Balderton; 5/2221 – Barnaby Manor Farm Drain;

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

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

Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment East Nottinghamshire Sandlands

5/2254 – River Witham; 5/331 – Witham Bank, Barnaby; 2/809 – Witham Pastures; 5/206 – Shire Dyke, Barnaby). There are also a number of MLA designations in the area: Coddington, Barnby in the Willows, Beaconfield Farm, Coddington Moor, Winthorpe, Langford and Besthorpe.

In ecological terms the area provides a **moderate** habitat for wildlife, with a highly intensive arable land use. Cultural integrity is **variable** in that the field pattern is often lost due to arable agriculture, with hedgerows often being mature, well maintained and intact, although fragmented in places. A **coherent** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **moderate** landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity

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

The components of the landscape are **characteristic** to the East Sandlands LCA. The time depth is **historic** (post 1600) giving a **moderate** sense of place overall.

The landform is **apparent** with **intermittent** areas of woodland giving a generally **moderate** visibility value within the Policy Zone. Views are intermittent due to the blocks of woodland and networks of hedgerows. A **moderate** sense of place and **moderate** visibility leads to a **moderate** landscape sensitivity overall.

Sensitivity

Moderate

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

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Conserve and Create

Landscape Features

- **Create** new hedgerows and **conserve** existing, seek opportunities to **conserve** field pattern where feasible, contain new development within historic boundaries.
- Seek opportunities to **conserve** existing pastoral fields and historic field patterns.
- **Conserve** and enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally, in particular along A1133, to **create** increased visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone.
- **Conserve** the fabric of historical sites and their wider setting by ensuring land management practices preserve the interest and understanding of the site.
- **Conserve** the ecological diversity and biodiversity of the designated SINCS, **create** enhancements where appropriate.

Built Features

- **Conserve** what remains of the rural landscape by concentrating new development around existing settlements.
- **Create** new development which reflects the local built vernacular.

Condition

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

Sensitivity

**East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Policy Zone ES PZ 05: Potter Hills Village
Farmlands with Plantations
Policy: Conserve**

A relatively small Policy Zone located to the east of Collingham and bounded to the south by the busy A46 road. The area is bisected in the north-western corner by a small section of railway line, although this is one of the only linear features within the area as there are no power lines or pylons. Located within the Policy Zone are a number of isolated farm buildings, but no settlements. Only two minor roads serve the area and run north-west to south-east.

Landform is predominantly gently undulating, especially to the south of Cross Lane, becoming more flat towards the north. Drains and watercourse are frequent in the area, resulting in a fishpond near North Potter Hill Farm and associated riparian vegetation. Views are generally long distance from the south-east corner towards the north-west beyond Collingham Village. Views are sometimes enclosed by hedgerows along lanes and tracks and also due to woodland plantations to the south of the area.

The landscape is a mix of mainly arable with some pastoral farmland. Arable fields tend to be medium scale whereas pasture is more often contained in smaller and subdivided fields located near isolated farms and Stables. Hawthorn hedgerows within fields are the principal boundaries, with species-rich hedgerows along roads and lanes, with outgrown Oak and Ash tree species. Post and rail fencing is also evident where horseyculture exists, particularly around the Potter Hill Stables.

Woodland is more prominent to the south of the area than the north, with Potter Hill Plantation and Potter Hill Spinneys exhibiting mixed deciduous woodland. There is only one Biological SINC in the area:

- 5/322 – South Scaffold Lane, Collingham ‘A Green Lane with a characteristic grassland flora and species-rich hedgerow’

The nearest settlement to the area is Collingham to the west, however there are no settlements within the Policy Zone itself. A number of isolated farms, a Railway crossing cottage and Equestrian Stables are present. There is a Listed Building designation within the area:

There are a number of threats and drivers for change in the Policy Zone and these include:

- Increase in horsey culture, leading to degradation of field boundaries and subdivision of fields.
- Increased intensity of arable farming leading to loss of hedgerows and field pattern.
- North-west corner, west of Collingham, urban edge has the potential for some infill development.
- Potential for loss of woodland and tree lined roads due to intensification of arable agriculture.

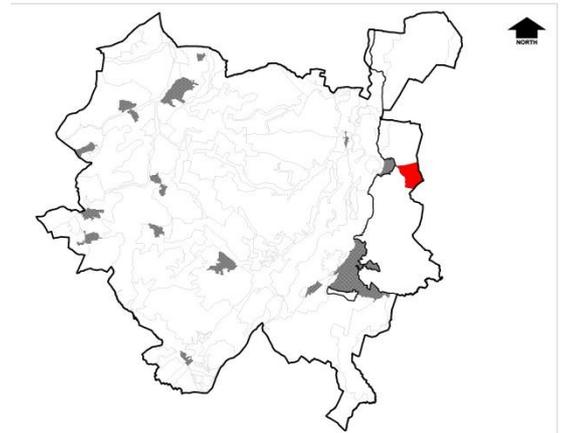
ES PZ 05 Potter Hills Village Farmlands with Plantations

PHOTOGRAPH



CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Village Farmlands with Plantations
Policy Zone: ES PZ 05
Landscape Character Parcel: ES07



CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Gently undulating topography with flatter area towards the north.
- Predominantly intensive arable land use, with well-trimmed hawthorn hedgerows to boundaries.
- Some pastoral fields and horsey culture.
- Blocks of mixed deciduous woodland

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **very good**.

The area has a **coherent** pattern of elements composed of predominantly arable fields and isolated farms; there are **few** detracting features. Overall this gives a visually **unified** area. There is one Biological SINC designation (5/322 – South Scaffold Lane, Collingham). There are no MLA designations in the Policy Zone.

In ecological terms the area provides a **moderate** habitat for wildlife, with a relatively intensive arable land use with good hedgerow networks leading into woodland plantations. Cultural integrity is **good** in that the field pattern is generally intact, with hedgerows often being mature, well maintained and undamaged. A **unified** area with a **strong** functional integrity gives a **very good** landscape condition.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Condition **Very Good**

Pattern of Elements:	Coherent
Detracting Features:	Few
Visual Unity:	Unified
Ecological Integrity:	Moderate
Cultural Integrity:	Good
Functional Integrity:	Strong
(Where one criterion is 'very good' or 'very strong', this pushes the policy description into the next highest category)	

**Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment
East Nottinghamshire Sandlands**

Landscape Sensitivity	Sensitivity Moderate																								
<p>The Landscape Sensitivity is defined as moderate.</p> <p>The components of the landscape are characteristic to the East Sandlands LCA. The time depth is historic (post 1600) giving a moderate sense of place overall.</p> <p>The landform is apparent with intermittent areas of woodland giving a generally moderate visibility value within the Policy Zone. Views are intermittent due to the blocks of woodland and networks of hedgerows. A moderate sense of place and moderate visibility leads to a moderate landscape sensitivity overall.</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Distinctiveness:</td> <td style="width: 70%;">Characteristic</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Continuity:</td> <td>Historic</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sense of Place:</td> <td>Moderate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Landform:</td> <td>Apparent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extent of Tree Cover</td> <td>Intermittent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Visibility:</td> <td>Moderate</td> </tr> </table>	Distinctiveness:	Characteristic	Continuity:	Historic	Sense of Place:	Moderate	Landform:	Apparent	Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent	Visibility:	Moderate												
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Extent of Tree Cover	Intermittent																								
Visibility:	Moderate																								
LANDSCAPE ACTIONS – Conserve	Condition																								
<p><u>Landscape Features</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary (i.e. areas of horseyculture). Seek opportunities to conserve existing pastoral fields and historic field patterns. Conserve and enhance tree cover and landscape planting generally, in particular along A1, to create increased visual unity and habitat across the Policy Zone. Conserve the ecological diversity and biodiversity of the designated SINC. <p><u>Built Features</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve what remains of the rural landscape by limiting any new development. 	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%; border: 1px solid black;">REINFORCE</td> <td style="width: 33%; border: 1px solid black;">CONSERVE & REINFORCE</td> <td style="width: 15%; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #d3d3d3;">CONSERVE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">Good</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">Moderate</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black;">CREATE & REINFORCE</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black;">CONSERVE & CREATE</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black;">CONSERVE & RESTORE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">Poor</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black;">CREATE</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black;">RESORE & CREATE</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black;">RESTORE</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="padding: 5px 10px;">Low</td> <td style="padding: 5px 10px;">Moderate</td> <td style="padding: 5px 10px;">High</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="3" style="padding-top: 10px;">Sensitivity</td> </tr> </table>		REINFORCE	CONSERVE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE	Good				Moderate	CREATE & REINFORCE	CONSERVE & CREATE	CONSERVE & RESTORE	Poor	CREATE	RESORE & CREATE	RESTORE		Low	Moderate	High		Sensitivity		
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	Sensitivity																								

**East Nottinghamshire Sandlands Policy Zone ES PZ 06: Bowbridge Lane
Village Farmlands
Policy: Reinforce**

The area is a linear shaped Policy Zone, and is located directly south of Newark, being enclosed to the north by residential buildings and some industrial works, and to the east by Balderton residential buildings, sports grounds and industrial works. Two roads bisect the area; Hawton Road and Bowbridge Lane, leaving the remainder of the area relatively undisturbed.

The landform is predominantly flat, resulting in long distance views towards the surrounding industrial and residential developments. Although there are relatively few detracting features within the area (pylon lines), there are many surrounding detracting features that impact on the area visually.

Intensive arable farmland dominates the Policy Zone and the medium scale fields are delineated by hedgerows which are generally well maintained, although often fragmented within field systems. Hedgerows along road-sides have been allowed to grow taller and are strong and species-rich (Hawthorn, elder, Field Maple, Oak, Ash, Blackthorn, Rosa sp. etc.) Some horsey culture exists to the west of the area within small scale pastoral fields. Post and rail fencing is evident to these fields.

Towards the east of the area, the habitat structure is more diverse, with a number of Biological SINCE designations:

- 5/332 – Balderton scrubby Grassland ‘A mosaic of scrub and species-rich grassland’
- 5/208 – Balderton Dismantled Railway South ‘A dismantled railway with substantial areas of grassland and scrub’
- 2/637 – Lowfield Grassland, Balderton ‘A small species-rich remnant of a once notable grassland’
- 5/1254 – Hawton House Pond ‘Large field pond of interest’
- 2/804 – Balderton Works Meadow (I) ‘A small remnant of species-rich grassland’
- 5/2129 – Balderton Works Meadow (II) ‘Notable neutral horse paddocks with a rich flora’
- 2/803 – Lowfield Lane Grasslands, Balderton ‘Damp alluvial grasslands’
- 2/588 – River Devon (North of Cotham) ‘A historically interesting water course with valuable riparian features and a locally diverse aquatic flora’
- 2/974 – Hawton Civil War Fort ‘A notable pasture community on an archaeological site’
- 5/2173 – Hawton Works Grassland ‘A large area of grassland with notable plant species’
- 5/2229 – Hawton Old Gypsum Works Ponds ‘Ponds for interest for Water Beetles and Water Bugs’

Some riparian vegetation and hedgerow tree cover can be noted along the drain that runs near the dismantled railway to the east of the area. Species found here include Willow, Ash, Acer, Hawthorn, Birch, Rowan, Hazel, Brambles, Elder and Rosa spp. Some leisure activity is also evident in this area, with a cycle path following the line of the disused railway line.

A number of threats and drivers for change have been identified within the Policy Zone and these include:

Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment East Nottinghamshire Sandlands

- Encroachment of built development (both residential and industrial)
- Encroachment of horsey culture into existing fields
- Land use change resulting in loss of semi-natural vegetation
- Loss of hedgerow field boundaries due to lack of management and/or intensification of arable agriculture
- Industrial development
- Expansion and development of access roads to Newark that run through the Policy Zone (Bowbridge Lane and Hawton Road)

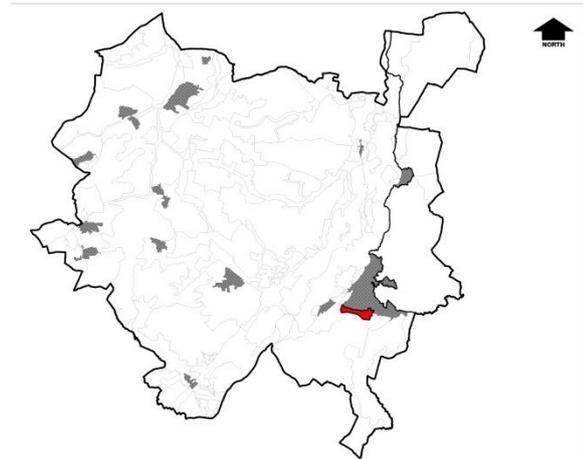
ES PZ 06 Bowbridge Lane Village Farmlands

PHOTOGRAPH



CONTEXT

NCC Landscape Type: Village Farmlands
Policy Zone: ES PZ 06
Landscape Character Parcel: ES13



CHARACTERISTIC VISUAL FEATURES

- Flat and open topography situated on urban edge.
- Predominantly intensive arable land use, with well-trimmed hawthorn hedgerows to boundaries.
- Some pastoral fields and horsey culture.
- Views interrupted by power lines and pylons running east to west through the area.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Landscape Condition

The Landscape Condition is defined as **good**.

The area has a **coherent** pattern of elements composed of predominantly arable fields and isolated farms; there are **few** detracting features. Overall this gives a visually **unified** area. There are a number of Biological SINC designations (5/332 – Balderton Scrubby Grassland; 5/208 – Balderton Dismantled Railway South; 2/637 – Lowfield Grassland, Balderton; 5/1254 – Hawton House Pond; 2/804 – Balderton Works Meadow (I); 5/2129 – Balderton Works Meadow (II); 2/803 – Lowfield Lane Grasslands, Balderton; 2/588 – River Devon (North of Cotham); 2/974 – Hawton Civil War Fort; 5/2173 – Hawton Works Grassland; 5/2229 – Hawton Old Gypsum Works Ponds). There are no MLA designations in the Policy Zone.

In ecological terms the area provides a **moderate** habitat for wildlife, with a relatively intensive arable land use with good hedgerow networks. Cultural integrity is **variable** in that the field pattern is generally intact, with hedgerows sometimes fragmented, although

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

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

Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment East Nottinghamshire Sandlands

generally well maintained. A **unified** area with a **coherent** functional integrity gives a **good** landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity

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

The components of the landscape are **characteristic** to the East Sandlands LCA. The time depth is **historic** (post 1600) giving a **moderate** sense of place overall.

The landform is **insignificant** with **intermittent** tree cover giving a generally **low** visibility value within the Policy Zone. Views are intermittent due to the networks of generally mature hedgerows. A **moderate** sense of place and **low** visibility leads to a **low** landscape sensitivity overall.

Sensitivity

Low

Distinctiveness: Characteristic

Continuity: Historic

Sense of Place: Moderate

Landform: Insignificant

Extent of Tree Cover: Intermittent

Visibility: Low

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS - Reinforce

Landscape Features

- **Reinforce** hedgerows where gappy or fragmented, and where post and rail fencing is present, with new planting to infill and replace fencing.
- **Reinforce** the ecological diversity of designated SINC sites where appropriate.
- Enhance visual unity and soften surrounding built development through landscape planting.

Built Features

- **Reinforce** the existing rural character of the Policy Zone by enforcing the local built vernacular in any new developments.

Condition

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

Low Moderate High

Sensitivity