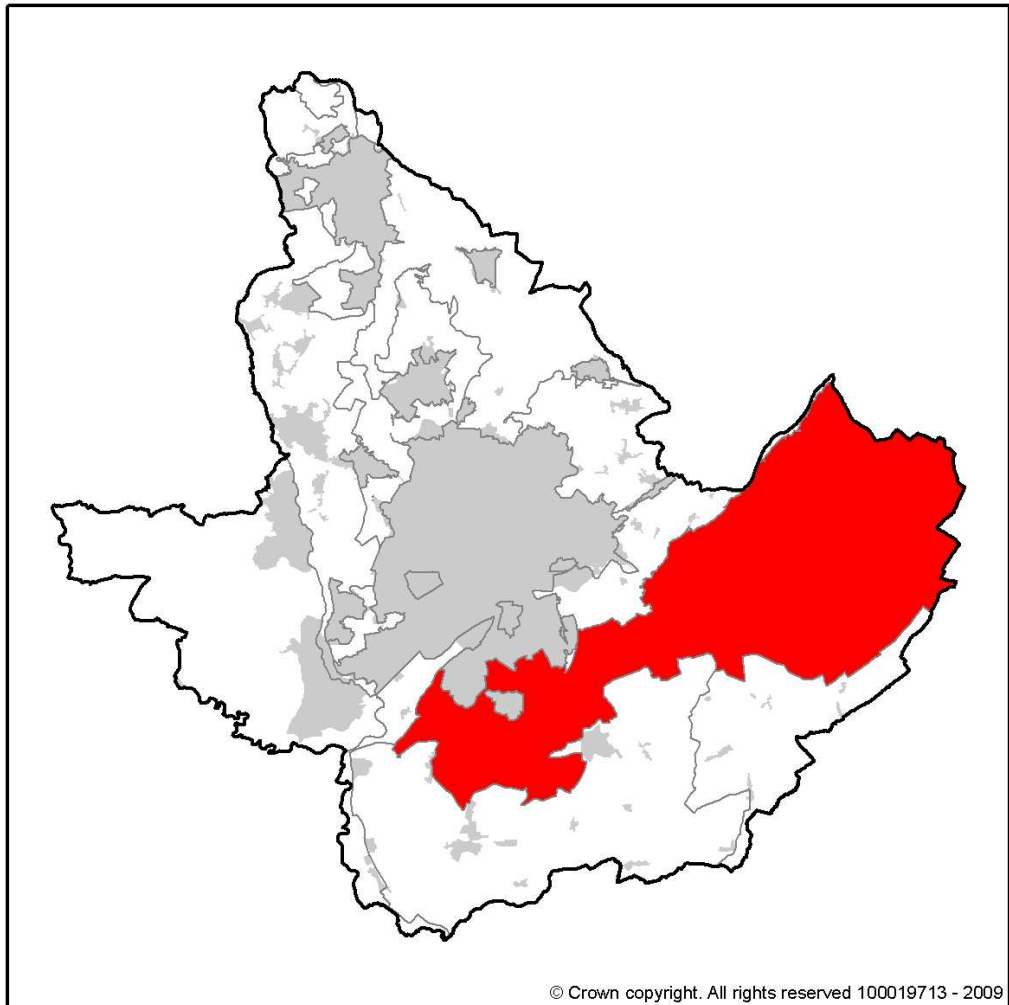


SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FARMLANDS



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**
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SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 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
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SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FARMLANDS

- 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.
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SN06 Aslockton Village Farmlands

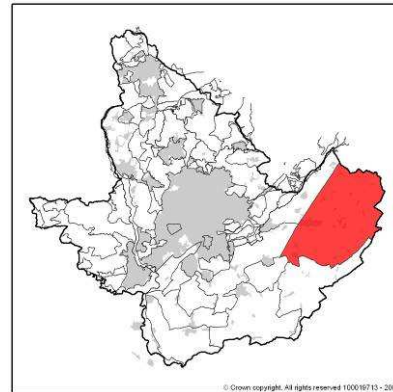


CONTEXT

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.

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

Landscape strength

The overall landscape strategy is **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

