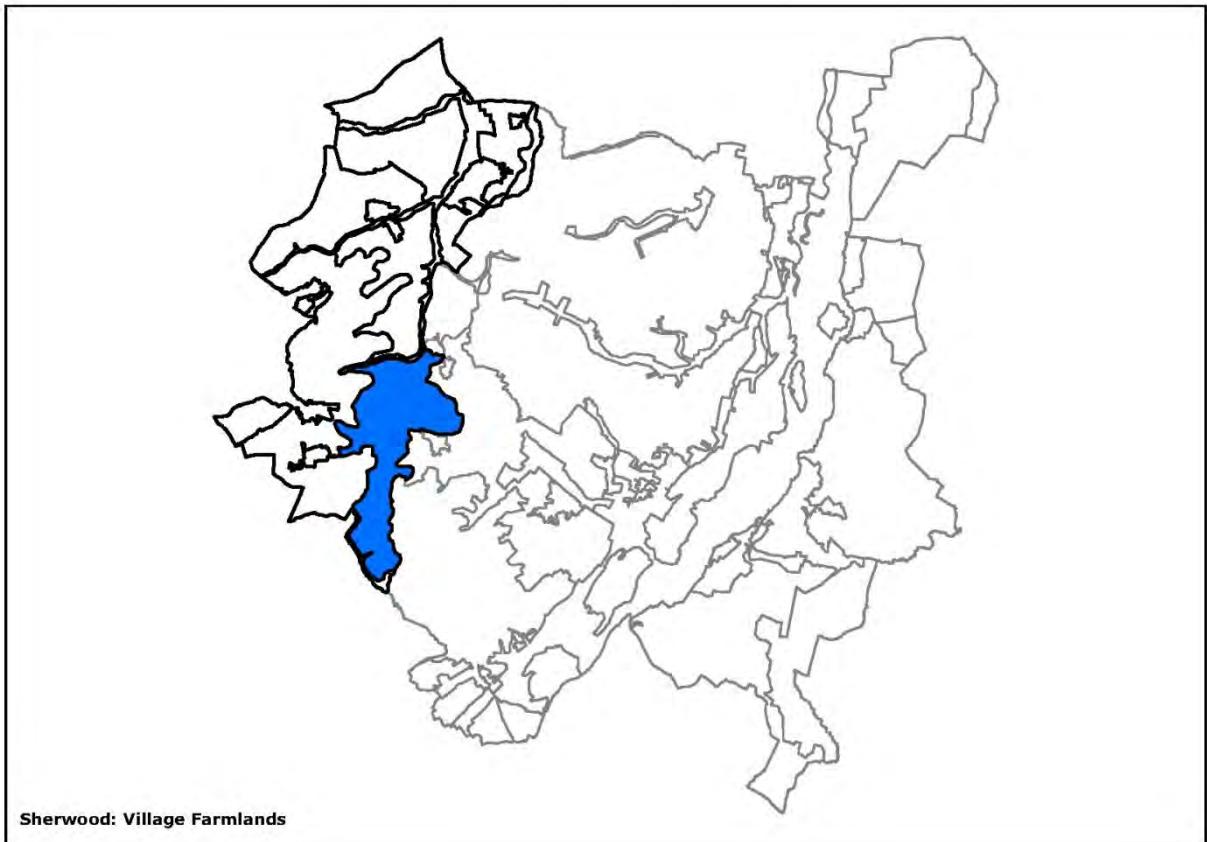


4 Sensitivity Assessment

- 4.1 The following section presents a detailed sensitivity assessment for each of the 16 LCTs identified in the NSLCA, and shown on **Figure 3.1**. The structure of each section follows the approach set out in the methodology (**Section 2**). A summary of the findings is presented in **Section 5**.

Sherwood: Village Farmlands

Figure 4.1 Location of the Village Farmlands within Sherwood



Characteristic features

- 4.2 Characteristic features of this LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:
- Gently rolling topography
 - Medium to large-scale semi-irregular field pattern
 - Views framed by rising ground and woodland edges
 - Nucleated settlement pattern of small red brick villages
 - Mining settlements with associated pit heaps and railway lines

Location and extent

- 4.3 This LCT covers one area at the south east edge of Sherwood, adjacent to the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands. It lies on either side of the A614 between the district boundary in the south and the Rainworth Water in the north. The settlements of Bilsthorpe, Farnsfield and Oxton lie along its eastern boundary.
- 4.4 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.1** above and is identified as type **A1** on **Figure 3.1**.
- 4.5 The following policy zones are covered: SH07.

Heritage aspects

- 4.6 Part of the Oxton conservation area extends into the south-western edge of this landscape, including an area extending to the A6097 which forms part of the village setting.

Sensitivity assessment

- 4.7 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT to the assessment criteria. Refer to **Table 2.3** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
Landform and Scale			
	Medium to large-scale elevated landform with gently undulating and broadly rolling topography which slopes down to flatter areas around Farnsfield and the Upper Dover Beck. There are occasionally steeper slopes in localised areas.		
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features			
	The land cover pattern consists of large semi-irregular fields, which are predominately arable. These fields are enclosed by gappy low hedges and infrequent hedgerow trees. In addition to the hedgerow trees there are few dispersed small-scale deciduous and mixed-species woodlands. Generally the LCT is sparsely settled with villages located on the western edge, and farmsteads dispersed throughout.		
Skylines			
	Skylines are relatively simple and gently convex; some are prominent with local ridges topped with trees making up the middle distance skylines. Pylons appear on local skylines crossing the area in two places.		
Perceptual qualities			
	There is a strongly rural character throughout this landscape with limited development. The rurality is interrupted along the main road corridors which have a strong influence, and around the larger farmsteads.		
Scenic qualities			
	The landscape of this LCT has a variable scenic quality. The majority of the area has relatively little visual diversity. Locally, visual quality is increased in wooded areas which are more attractive.		
Intervisibility			
	This LCT is strongly intervisible with other neighbouring LCTs especially where they are on higher ground. Robin Hood Hill is a distinctive feature seen from the south eastern part of the LCT, and forms an important backdrop to this landscape. In views from the hilltop the Village Farmlands form the foreground to a panoramic view. Views out from this LCT are often framed by rising ground and woodland edges, including views south-west beyond the district.		

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.8 The larger scale and simple landform of this LCT indicates reduced sensitivity to wind turbines. It is an intensively farmed landscape, with human influences in the main roads and power lines which pass through it. Although small red brick villages are stated as a key characteristic of the LCT, these are peripheral to this specific area and play a more limited role in the landscape.
- 4.9 The landscape is open with limited tree cover, and due to its undulating nature there are often long views across this area. Turbines in this landscape could therefore be highly visible both within the LCT and in adjacent areas. This is an area where visual issues are more likely than landscape issues to be key drivers in determining sensitivity.
- 4.10 The following table summarises the underlying sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.2**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small (15-30 m)	Low
Small-medium (31 to 50 m)	Moderate-low
Medium (51 to 80 m)	Moderate
Large (81 to 110 m)	High-moderate
Very large (111 to 140m)	High-moderate

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

4.11 Within this landscape there is lower sensitivity to single turbines or small groups of turbines, though sensitivity to groups of more than four or five turbines will be higher, and such groups would be more likely to dominate the landscape.

Guidance for Development

4.12 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics

Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include:

- Open views from elevated land or steep slopes and views framed by rising ground and woodland edges within the LCT;
- Intervisibility with neighbouring areas, with steeper slopes, hills and woodlands forming an important backdrop to views;
- Pockets of higher scenic quality associated with woodland and localised steeper topography;
- Generally simple tree lined skylines with pylons present in some locations;
- Strong rural character; and
- The southern part of this LCT, to the south of Warren Hill, is within the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt.

Operational and consented development (see Figure 2.1)

There is one operational turbine in the LCT at Rufford Farm (71m), with another two on the edges of the LCT at Baulker Farm (77m) and Combs Farm (67m). Stonish Hill wind farm is visible, just to the north of this LCT, and there are some views of Lyndhurst wind farm to the west.

Guidance for development

When considering the siting and designing of potential wind energy development in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- Consider the effects of turbines on views from adjacent higher ground, and on views out from this landscape towards distinctive landscape features.
- Favour locations with limited intervisibility with neighbouring LCTs, especially when they are elevated and overlook this LCT or when neighbouring LCTs are of higher sensitivity

with views out being a characteristic feature.

- Seek to avoid siting turbines adjacent to localised areas of higher scenic quality especially around woodland and localised areas of steeper topography.
- Consider the presence of pylons on the skyline, in order to avoid 'clutter' on the horizon.
- Favour the more human-modified landscapes for siting larger developments, avoiding areas with stronger rural character.
- Ensure siting and design of development maintains the openness the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt.

Capacity

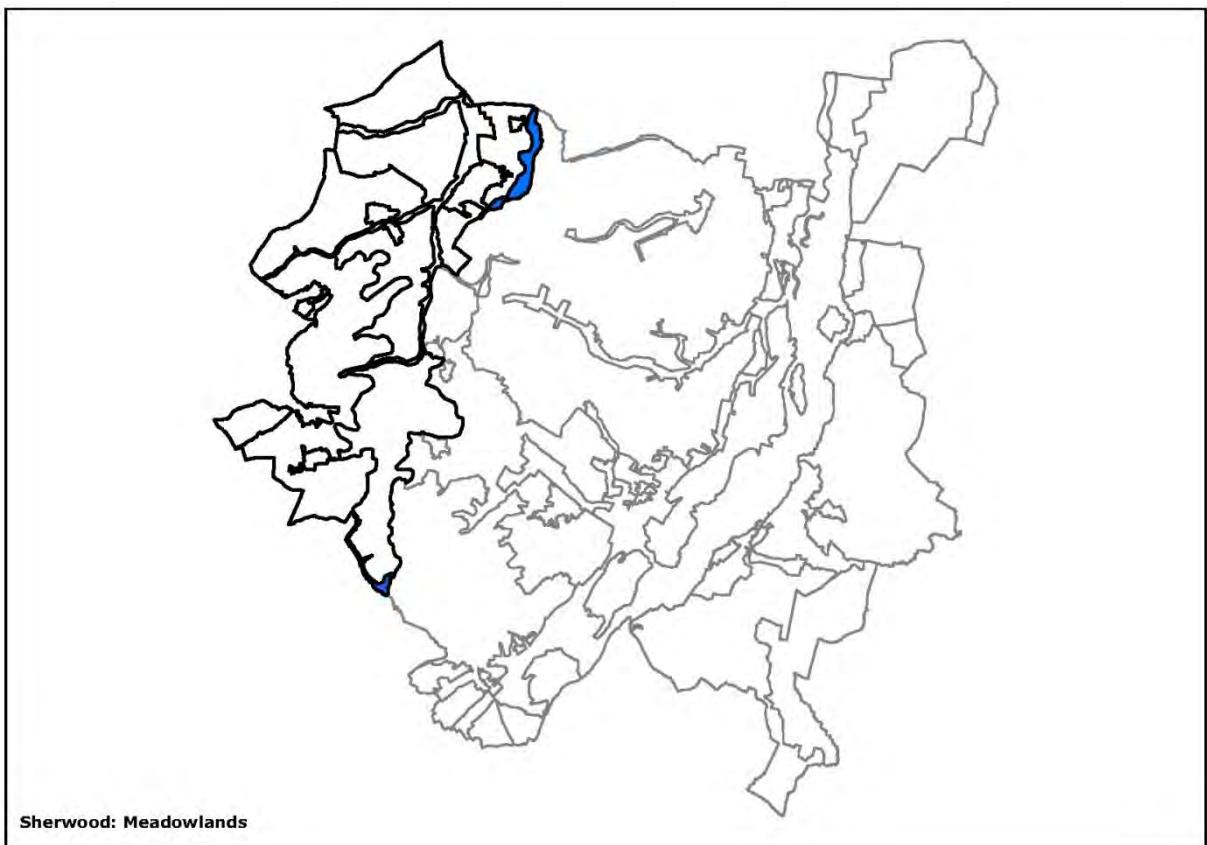
- 4.13 The sensitivity of this LCT, the heritage and other values placed upon it, indicate that there is capacity for wind turbines within this LCT. The medium to large-scale landscape of large arable fields, which have been influenced by human activity and development, are of lower sensitivity to wind energy development. However the physical extent of the landscape is small, especially in the south, where views from Robin Hood Hill are an important consideration. Physical extent is likely to be a limiting factor on overall capacity.
- 4.14 The overall aim for this LCT is **a landscape with wind energy**, where turbines may influence landscape character, but do not define it. This is suggested by the sensitivity of the landscape, limited heritage values, and also by the level of development already present or consented in the area.

Cumulative development

- 4.15 There are live applications for wind turbines at Inkersall Grange to the north (77 m) and Lurcher Farm near White Post (48.5 m), as well as screening/scoping requests which have been made for turbines at Inkersall (up to 102 m), Featherstone House and Combs Farm.
- 4.16 The CZTV maps (**Figures 3.5 to 3.7**) indicate that the northern part of this area has relatively high visibility of turbines in the wider landscape, though views of turbines are more restricted in the south. This reflects the visibility of both Lyndhurst and Stonish Hill from this area, and of several operational and proposed turbines in the vicinity.
- 4.17 Should the proposed turbines at Inkersall Grange and Lurcher Farm be constructed, then there would be some further scope for turbine development within this part of the landscape without further changing the character of the area. Due to the locations of the existing development in and around the west, north west and north-east of this area, the construction of further **development within the LCT, especially 'large' and 'very large' turbines, will result in wind energy** having some influence on the LCT as a whole. There may be lower sensitivity to development at smaller scales near existing developments, though potential cumulative relationships would need to be considered.

Sherwood: Meadowlands

Figure 4.2 Location of the Meadowlands within Sherwood



Characteristic features

- 4.18 Characteristic features of this LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:
- Meandering river channels, sometimes defined by woodland edges
 - Permanent pastures and flood meadow
 - Fringing alder, willows and riparian scrub
 - Alder and willow carrs
 - Mine sites, pit heaps and urban edges

Location and extent

- 4.19 This LCT covers two narrow areas at the eastern edges of Sherwood. One follows the Boughton Dyke and Bevercotes Beck, between Wellow and Walesby in the north of the district. The second follows the southern district boundary at Oxton Bogs, to the west of Oxton.
- 4.20 These relatively narrow areas are set within the wider landscape context of the Sherwood area and the adjacent Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands. Although defined as distinct within the NSLCA, the river corridors, particularly along the Oxton Bogs, are features within the wider landscape. While they have been assessed as a separate area, the context of the Meadowlands will have a key influence on its sensitivity and potential capacity for development.
- 4.21 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.2** above and is identified as type **A2** on **Figure 3.1**.
- 4.22 The following policy zones are covered: SH01; and SH56.

Heritage aspects

- 4.23 Small parts of the Kirton and Oxton conservation areas extend into this LCT.

Sensitivity assessment

- 4.24 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT to the assessment criteria. Refer to **Table 2.3** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity	\leftrightarrow	Higher sensitivity
Landform and Scale			
	These river corridors are narrow and linear in form. The landscape is of small scale where it is more enclosed, or medium scale in open areas of floodplain, such as north of Kirton. The Oxton Bogs lies within a gently sloping but distinct small-medium scale valley.		
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features			
	Land cover in these areas is varied. Along the Bevercotes Beck there are woodlands, former mineral workings, a large industrial estate, and permanent pasture, flood meadow and arable land around Kirton and Walesby. In this northern-most area riparian woodland is limited. The Oxton Bogs area is almost entirely made up of riparian woodland belts, with some adjacent arable land and conifer plantations. The frequent trees give this landscape a human scale.		
Skylines			
	In the Bevercotes Beck area, skylines are generally obscured by woodland and commercial buildings, except further north where the steeply-rising ground to the east forms wooded or open skylines seen from the valley. Along Oxton Bogs the skylines are formed by the valley sides, which are generally wooded or with trees on the skyline. There are few landmarks within this area.		
Perceptual qualities			
	The floodplain near Boughton has been almost entirely developed, with an extensive industrial estate on former mining land, and areas of vacant land. To the north the open floodplain feels intensively managed. Only in the riparian woodlands adjoining Wellow Park, and the Oxton Bogs, is a more tranquil landscape experienced.		
Scenic qualities			
	The Oxton Bogs is an area of attractive mature woodland set within a distinct valley. The northern area of this type contains few attractive features, although it is adjacent to the distinctive wooded slopes of Wellow Park, the floodplain is affected by commercial development and vacant land.		
Intervisibility			
	The valley and river corridor landscapes are overlooked from adjacent higher ground. The relationship is particularly important in the north, where the Bevercotes Beck area forms the foreground to the distinctive steep slopes of Wellow Park and Bevercotes Park, which mark the edge of the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands.		

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.25 This landscape is of variable sensitivity, depending upon the local scale of the landscape. The Oxton Bogs area is of small-medium scale, extensively wooded, and narrow in its physical extent. Within this area medium or larger turbines are likely to appear out of scale in comparison to the mature trees. This area extends across the district boundary to the south-west, into Gedling Borough.

- 4.26 The Bevercotes Beck area is more varied in character. There are extensive areas of industrial activity where turbines would appear less out of place, though the relationship between the floodplain and the adjacent hills to the east is a key consideration. Larger turbines may impinge upon the distinctive wooded ridge in wider views from the west.
- 4.27 Development within these narrow areas will be seen in the context of the adjacent landscapes, both within and beyond the district, and the sensitivity of the surrounding areas must therefore be considered.
- 4.28 The following table summarises the underlying sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.2**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small (15-30 m)	Moderate-low
Small-medium (31 to 50 m)	Moderate
Medium (51 to 80 m)	High-moderate
Large (81 to 110 m)	High
Very large (111 to 140 m)	High

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

- 4.29 The Oxton Bogs area would be of high sensitivity to development of more than single turbines, mainly due to its narrow physical extent and dense woodland cover. The Bevercotes Beck area could be of lower sensitivity to small groups of two or three smaller turbines, but only single medium or larger turbines.

Guidance for Development

- 4.30 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics

Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include:

- Generally small scale of the landscape;
- Enclosed nature of the valleys, contained by occasionally steeply rising ground which forms a backdrop to the landscape;
- The valleys are overlooked from surrounding higher ground, including from several main roads;
- Characteristically wooded or open skylines seen from within the valleys;
- Riparian woodlands which form a key feature within parts of this landscape;
- The limited physical extent of this LCT, which means that the effects of turbine development may well extend beyond the valley area into the adjacent landscape types;
- The Oxton Bogs area of this LCT is within the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt; and
- Historically important landscapes of Thoresby Park and Rufford Abbey.

Operational and consented development (see Figure 2.1)

There are no operational or consented turbines within or adjacent to these areas.

Guidance for development

When siting and designing wind energy developments in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- The small-scale landscape is particularly sensitive to large and very large turbines, and opportunities for siting these turbines are likely to be very limited.
- The combination of woodland shelter, low elevation and surrounding high ground does not offer ideal opportunities for locating turbines.
- Favour locations with limited intervisibility with neighbouring LCTs, especially when they are elevated and overlook this LCT or when neighbouring LCTs are of higher sensitivity with views out being a characteristic feature.
- Avoid siting any turbines where they would interrupt prominent skylines and the settings of settlements or landmarks.
- Sensitively site turbines in relation to the LCTs key features, in particular the areas riparian woodland.
- Carefully consider the sensitivity of adjacent landscapes which could be affected by development in the narrow riparian corridors.
- Ensure siting and design of development maintains the openness the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt.
- Avoid any development which would impact on the integrity and appreciation of the Thoresby Park and Rufford Abbey designed landscapes.

Capacity

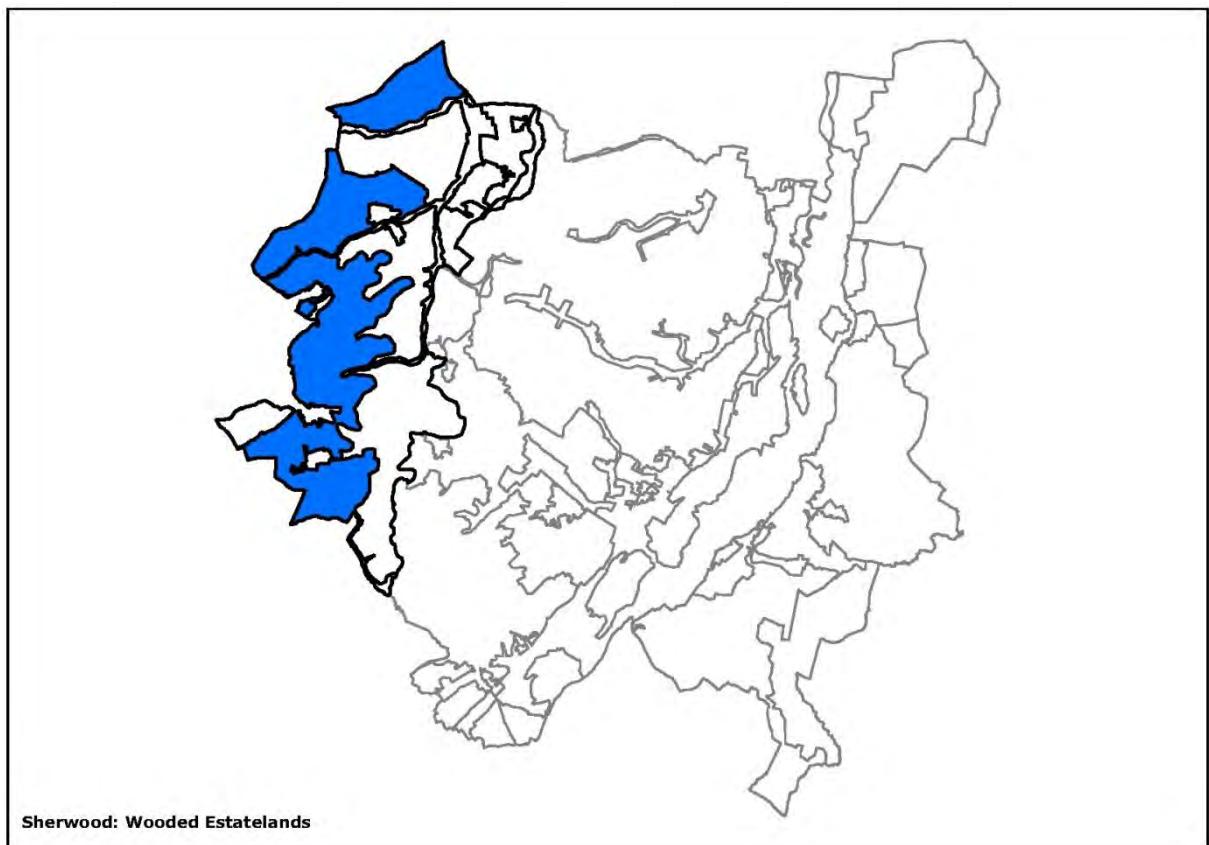
- 4.31 The sensitivity of this LCT, and the values placed upon it, indicate that there is limited capacity for wind turbines in these areas. The narrow Oxton Bogs area has little or no capacity for development, though there may be some capacity to site turbines in association with industrial areas along the Bevercotes Beck.
- 4.32 The overall aim for this LCT is **a landscape with occasional wind energy**, in which individual turbines may locally affect the landscape, but collectively do not affect the overall perception of landscape character. This is due to the scale and sensitivity of these areas, and the presence of modern development.

Cumulative development

- 4.33 There is no development currently proposed within or adjacent to this landscape. The CZTV maps (**Figures 3.5 to 3.7**) indicate that these areas have limited views of operational turbines, and that this will remain the case given current patterns of proposed development. This reflects the low-lying nature of these landscapes, with more limited visibility of the wider landscape, and less potential for cumulative effects.

Sherwood: Wooded Estatelands

Figure 4.3 Location of the Wooded Estatelands within Sherwood



Characteristic features

4.34 Characteristic features of this LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:

- Undulating landform
- Sparsely settled and largely inaccessible
- Views framed by woodland edges
- Extensive broad-leaved, mixed and coniferous woodlands
- Extensive areas of unenclosed heath
- Unfenced minor roads

Location and extent

4.35 This landscape occurs in a discontinuous band along the western edge of the district, from Thoresby Park in the north to Blidworth in the south. The landscape includes most of the forested and wooded areas which comprise the remnants of Sherwood Forest, as well as more recently established conifer plantations. The area includes several important recreational areas.

4.36 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.3** above and is identified as type **A3** on **Figure 3.1**.

4.37 The following policy zones are included: ; SH04; SH06; SH08; SH12; SH18; SH25; SH29; SH32; SH33; SH46; SH48; and SH49.

Heritage aspects

4.38 Thoresby Park, situated within the northern extent of the LCT, is a Registered Historic Park and Garden, designated as Grade I. Thoresby Park includes areas of parkland, woodland and

ornamental buildings, arranged around the 19th-century Thoresby Hall and the River Meden. Thoresby forms part of the wider Dukeries area, extending north and west and including the Registered Historic Park and Gardens of Clumber Park and the Welbeck Abbey.

- 4.39 The northern extent of the LCT is designated as part of the Sherwood Forest Heritage Area. The Heritage Area is designed to protect the remaining areas of forest and heath which once occupied large tracts of this part of Britain. It is an important recreational landscape, incorporating Sherwood Forest Country Park and the Major Oak. Another important recreational area, Sherwood Pines, is located in this landscape.
- 4.40 A small area of the southern extent of the LCT is within the Blidworth conservation area.

Sensitivity assessment

- 4.41 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT to the assessment criteria. Refer to **Table 2.3** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity			↔	Higher sensitivity	
Landform and Scale				↔		
The landscape in this LCT is of a medium-scale with undulating and gentle sloping landform. More strongly undulating in places with areas of small-scale. Also some more open elevated areas.						
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features	Extensive tree cover dominates this LCT with its mix of broad-leaved woodland and coniferous plantations giving the landscape a heavily wooded character. Field pattern consists of medium to large-scale arable fields enclosed by a combination of fences and wide hedges with hedgerow trees. The parkland and estate landscapes add complexity to the area particularly in the north around Thoresby Park. Generally the area is largely undeveloped, with the only development being estate villages, scattered farm buildings and lodge houses. Other land cover patterns include large areas of unenclosed heathland, wooded heath and man-made lakes.					
Skylines	Skylines predominately appear in near or middle distances often obscured by hedgerow tree, woodland or plantation in the foreground. In areas where longer reaching views can be gained a series of wooded ridges appear along the skyline with pylons become prominent features.					
Perceptual qualities	This is a relatively tranquil and occasionally remote landscape with little influence from modern development particularly within woodlands and country parks. The areas broadleaf woodland and heath have an unified intact character and are more naturalistic in comparison to other LCTs within the district. However, plantation forestry adds a more human influence locally as do the busy main roads.					
Scenic qualities	The Landscape Character Assessment identified this LCT as an area of unified and unfragmented character. It also highlighted the parkland and estate units as areas with very distinct and appealing landscape character which are of historic importance. Higher levels of visual diversity with a mix of views and enclosed areas with areas of attractive woodland, steeper slopes and parkland. Some arable and plantation areas are blander.					
Intervisibility	Intervisibility within this LCT is low where there is a strong sense of wooded enclosure. Predominately middle distance views are contained by frequent					

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
	woodlands. There are limited connections to neighbouring LCTs most importantly with the Estate Farmlands. There are some relatively prominent wooded ridges seen from the Estate Farmlands.		

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.42 This landscape is one of diverse land form and land cover; gradually undulating landform with some smaller areas of sloping, strongly undulating and open elevated land. This LCT has a heavily wooded character. There are also some areas of unenclosed heath to the north of the LCT, and this in combination with native woodland contributes to the area's tranquil character. These characteristics are diluted in places, for example there are large tracts of coniferous plantation and some intensively managed arable farmland.
- 4.43 The combination of turbines with pylons on the horizon should be considered. Pylons of c.50 m and c.25 m occur in this area, and offer scale references against which turbines could be read, and could lead to skyline 'clutter'.
- 4.44 The varied land form of gradual undulations with some smaller areas of sloping, strongly undulating and open elevated land indicates a moderate sensitivity to wind turbines, which could increase in more intimate landscape around areas of woodland enclosure, in parkland landscapes, and on exposed crests and ridges which form skylines. Locally, larger-scale landscape where open arable farmland is present to the north of Clipstone, around Rainworth and Blidworth sensitivity would be reduced.
- 4.45 There is continuity of character across the district boundary to the north-west, where broadleaf woodlands and parklands extend into Mansfield and Bassetlaw. To the west the former mineral workings extend to the Mansfield urban edge. To the south the more undulating landform continues into Gedling.
- 4.46 The following table summarises the underlying sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.2**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small (15-30 m)	Moderate
Small-medium (31 to 50 m)	Moderate
Medium (51 to 80 m)	High-moderate
Large (81 to 110 m)	High
Very large (111 to 140 m)	High

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

- 4.47 The mixed scale of the landscape suggests that there could be some limited potential for single turbines and clusters of two to three turbines, which are the two smallest group sizes under consideration. The limiting factors will be the extensive areas with higher sensitivity within the LCT.

Guidance for Development

- 4.48 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics

Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include:

- Extensive areas of semi-natural land cover with large areas of deciduous woodland and tracts of unenclosed heath;
- Varied topography with small areas of strongly undulating and sloping land form;
- Historically important parklands and estates which are distinct and appealing;
- Undeveloped character with perceived qualities of tranquillity;
- Series of wooded skylines which can be seen in longer reaching views;
- Increased scenic quality due to a combination of openness and enclosure and varied land cover which increase visual diversity; and
- The area south of Rainworth is within the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt.

Operational and consented development (see Figure 2.1)

There is one operational turbine in the LCT at Baulker Poultry Farm (77 m). A 102 m turbine has been consented at Cottage Farm. Adjacent to this LCT is the five-turbine Lyndhurst Wind Farm to the west, and a single 77 m turbine at Rufford Forest Farm to the east. All of these are in or near the southern-most part of the LCT around Rainworth and Blidworth, with the remaining areas unaffected by operational or consented development.

Guidance for development

When considering the siting and designing of potential wind energy development in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- Avoid siting larger turbines in locations close to areas of diverse land cover and areas which are more enclosed, including historically important parklands.
- Avoid siting turbines in locations of varied topography, favouring flatter or more gently undulating land form.
- Favour the more open arable farmland landscapes where there is the greater human influence for siting of larger developments, being considerate of the setting historically important parklands and estates, including those beyond the district boundary.
- Seek to avoid areas which are free from overt human influence and are valued for their perceived tranquillity, e.g. the broadleaved woodlands.
- Consider the presence of pylons on the skyline, in order to avoid 'clutter' on the horizon, avoiding characteristically wooded skylines and long reaching views.
- Avoid introducing wind turbines in locations where they will become prominent features within landscapes of higher scenic quality.
- Ensure siting and design of development maintains the openness the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt.

Capacity

- 4.49 The sensitivity of this LCT and the heritage and other values placed upon it, indicate that there is limited capacity for wind turbines within this LCT. The large-scale, intensively farmed and extensive areas of coniferous plantation of this landscape have relatively lower sensitivity to wind energy development, but the high heritage values placed upon the landscape will limit the capacity of this landscape.

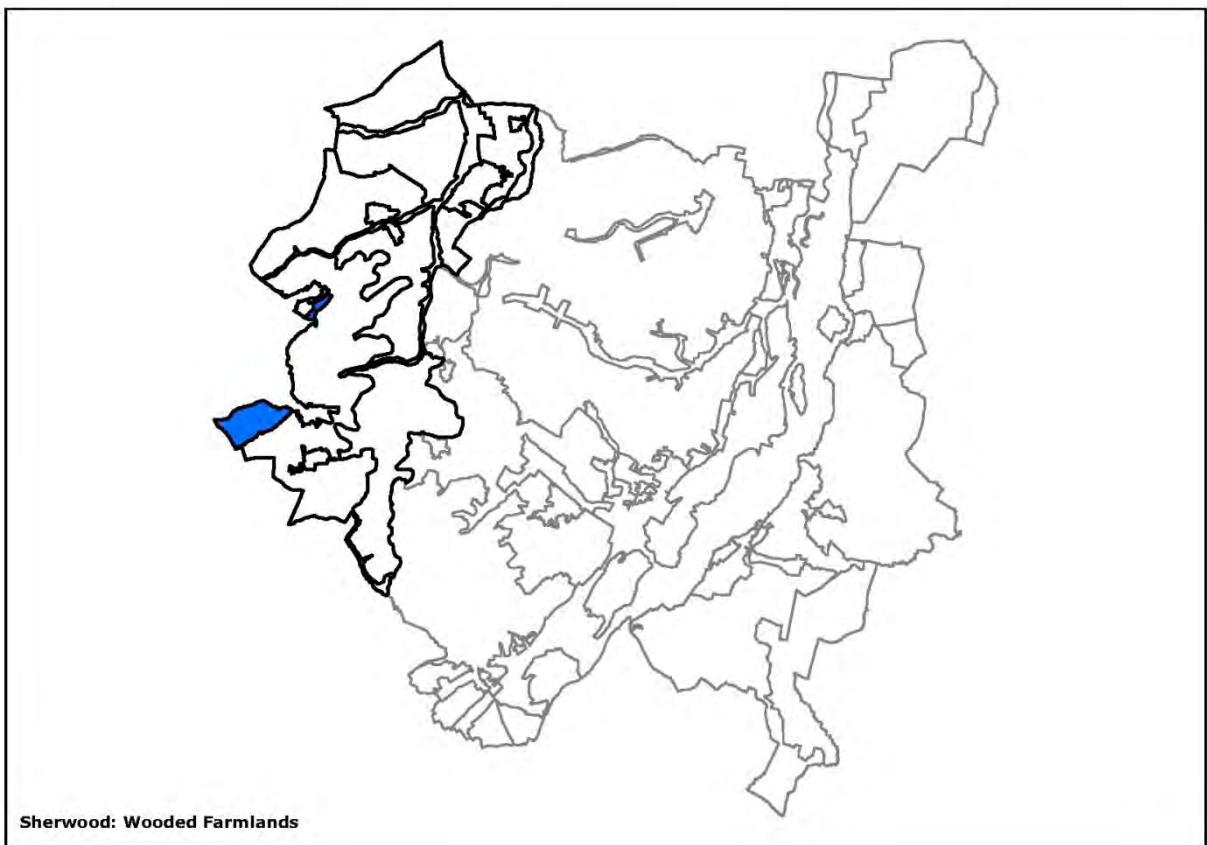
- 4.50 The overall aim for this LCT is a **landscape with occasional wind energy**, where turbines may influence the perception of the landscape at close proximity, but do not have a defining influence on the overall experience of the landscape. This is suggested by the higher sensitivity, high heritage values, and the location of current development in the south of the area.

Cumulative development

- 4.51 In the southern extent of the LCT there is one application for a single small turbine near Blidworth, and one for a medium turbine at Inkersall to the east within the Village Farmlands. There are scoping proposals along the south-western edge of this landscape, for turbines of around 100 m. There are currently no proposed turbines within or around the middle and northern extents of the LCT.
- 4.52 The CZTV maps (**Figures 3.5 to 3.7**) indicate varied visibility of turbines, with little or no development visible from valley areas, but more development visible from higher ground. There is greater theoretical visibility to the south, reflecting the presence of Lyndhurst and Stonish Hill in the vicinity. The CZTVs show theoretical visibility which is likely to be much reduced on the ground due to woodland screening.
- 4.53 With the operational and consented developments in the southern extent of the LCT, there would be some further scope for turbine development within this less sensitive part of the LCT without changing the underlying character. There is some limited further scope for development at small or small-medium turbine heights within the central and northern extents of the LCT, particularly if sited in association with former mining areas where sensitivity is locally reduced. The level of capacity may be affected if further developments come forward in locations beyond the district boundary to north and west.

Sherwood: Wooded Farmlands

Figure 4.4 Location of the Wooded Farmlands within Sherwood



Characteristic features

4.54 Characteristic features of this LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:

- Dissected undulating topography
- Frequent views of wooded skylines
- Strong heathy character reflected in the widespread occurrence of bracken, gorse and broom species
- Geometric pattern of large-scale arable fields
- Planned layout of straight roads
- Neatly trimmed hawthorn hedgerows
- Large pine plantations
- Mining settlement and associated spoil heaps
- Scrubby semi-natural woodland and heaths with ancient-stag headed oaks

Location and extent

4.55 This LCT occurs in two small areas at the western edge of the district. One area is to the southwest of Mansfield, and the other is a very small area south of Clipstone.

4.56 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.4** above and is identified as type **A4** on **Figure 3.1**.

4.57 The following policy zones are covered: SH11; and SH51.

Heritage aspects

- 4.58 There are no relevant heritage designations within this LCT. The northern area is within a country park.

Sensitivity assessment

- 4.59 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT to the assessment criteria. Refer to **Table 2.3** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
Landform and Scale			
Landform within this LCT is of a medium-scale with undulating topography. There are small watercourses incised along the edges of these areas.			
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features	Land cover is predominately arable farmland with hedgerows and fences. The area comprises of mixed woodland, plantations in the north and large arable fields. It has a well wooded feel with large coniferous plantations and semi-natural woodland present. The areas industrial past has a strong influence on its character with elements of the coal industry still remain including mining winding gear, processing plants, railway lines and pit heaps. There are no settlements within the LCT only scattered farmsteads, although the edges of Mansfield and Clipstone are visible. A wind energy development located at Lyndhurst is also present.		
Skylines			
Skylines are generally not prominent and are simple in character whether open or wooded. The historic winding gear from the former Clipstone Colliery is a significant landmark just to the north. More recent influences include the Lyndhurst wind turbines.			
Perceptual qualities			
The landscape has a semi-rural busy character to the south west of Mansfield. The country park in the north has strong human influence. This LCT is also influenced by modern human activity.			
Scenic qualities			
This area has limited scenic quality with few distinctive features, mainly in the south. To the north there is some more visual diversity from the remnant mining features.			
Intervisibility			
There is some intervisibility between this LCT and neighbouring LCTs from elevated and open locations. Views are contained where there is tree cover and areas of woodlands. There are views from the nearby urban areas of Mansfield and Clipstone. The small north area is confined by woodland closely related to Woodland Estate lands.			

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.60 This is an area of fragmented character, affected by intensification of arable farming, coniferous plantation and by former mineral extraction. Past workings have been designated a country park. The overall impression is an area strongly influenced by former and current human development. There are operational turbines within the southern extent of the LCT contributing further to the perception of human influence.
- 4.61 Consideration should be given to the combination of existing wind development, pylons on the horizon, historic winding gear associated with former mineral working, and to a lesser extent the

spoil heaps. The operational 125 m turbines at Lyndhurst Farm, the winding gear and pylons offer scale references against which proposed turbines could be read, and could lead to skyline 'clutter'.

- 4.62 The undulating and artificial topography indicates a higher sensitivity to wind turbines, which could relate to the medium-scale topography and mixed land cover.
- 4.63 The following table summarises the underlying sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.2**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small	Low-moderate
Small-medium	Moderate
Medium	Moderate
Large	Moderate-High
Very large	Moderate-High

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

- 4.64 The medium scale of this landscape, as well as the existing development, suggests that there would be lower sensitivity to small groups of further turbines within the southern area. The limiting factors will be the physical extent of this landscape, which is very small, the prominent slopes, sensitive historic landscape and cumulative effects with the operational turbines.

Guidance for Development

- 4.65 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics

Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include:

- Wooded skylines with prominent historic features;
- Intervisibility with neighbouring areas, including those outside the district, and adjacent settlements including Mansfield and Clipstone;
- Operational Lyndhurst wind energy development;
- Areas of semi-natural woodland with few human influences;
- Strong influences of industrial past including Clipstone Colliery winding gear and designated landscapes; and
- Part of the southern area of this LCT is within the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt.

Operational and consented development (see Figure 2.1)

There is one operational wind energy development located at Lyndhurst Farm, in the southern extent of the LCT. This development consists of five 125 m turbines. A single 102 m turbine has been consented at Cottage Farm, just to the south of Lyndhurst Wind Farm.

Guidance for development

When considering the siting and designing of potential wind energy development in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the

cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- Consider the presence of pylons, industrial features and existing wind energy developments on the skyline, in order to avoid 'clutter' on the horizon.
- Avoid areas of high intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes and settlements.
- To minimise potential cumulative effects in relation to the Lyndhurst scheme, development should continue a similar pattern of scale and design (including the number of blades and proportion of rotor diameter to tower height).
- Favour the more human-modified landscapes for siting of larger developments.
- Seek to protect the country park from large development which could overshadow this area and the landmark Clipstone Colliery winding gear.
- Ensure siting and design of development maintains the openness the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt.

Capacity

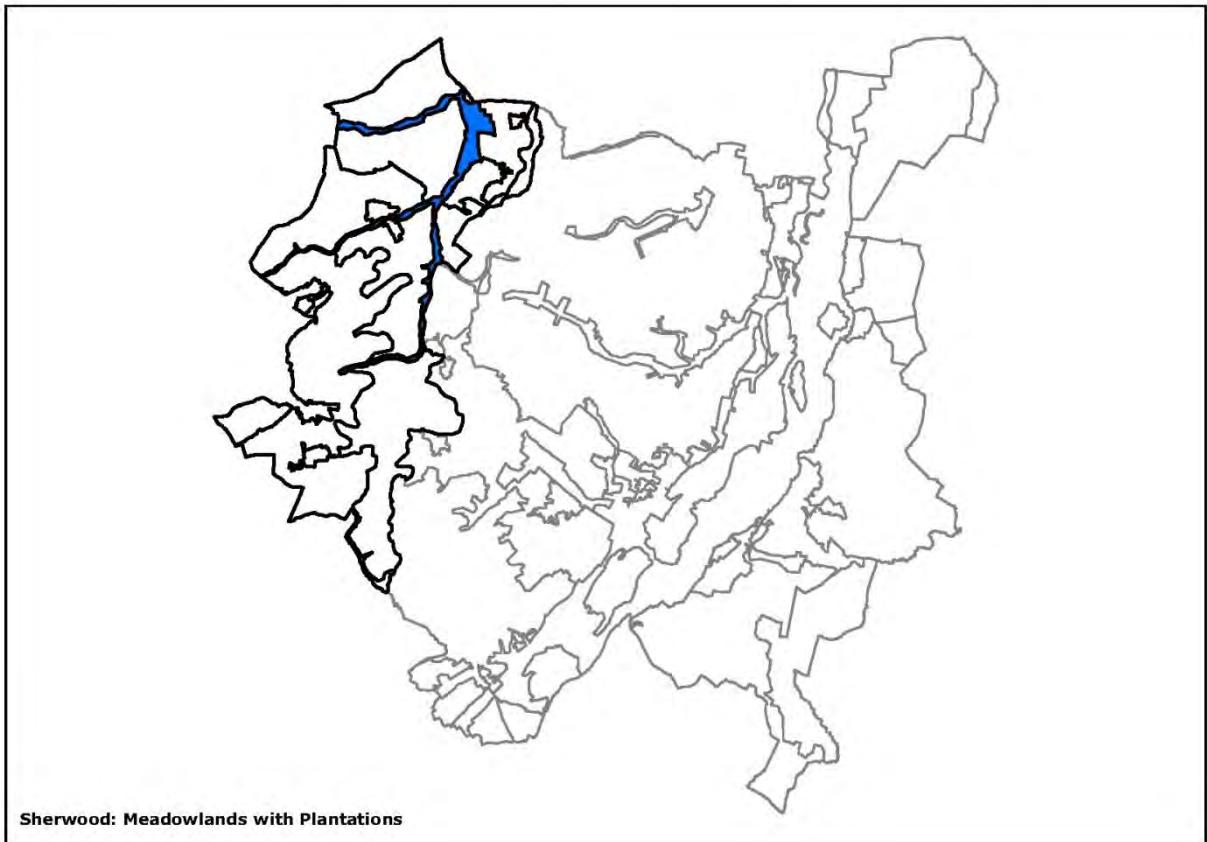
- 4.66 The important heritage features within this LCT, and other values placed upon it, indicate that there is capacity for wind turbines within the LCT. Areas which are heavily influenced by human activity have relatively lower sensitivity to wind energy development. There is potential capacity in the open areas of intensive farmland, but the physical extent of the landscape is likely to be a limiting factor on overall capacity.
- 4.67 The overall aim for this LCT is **a landscape with wind energy**, where turbines may influence landscape character, but do not define it. This is suggested by its moderate sensitivity, more limited heritage values, as well as the presence of existing turbines.

Cumulative development

- 4.68 There are no further turbine developments being proposed within the LCT. In the neighbouring Sherwood Wooded Estatelands LCT there are scoping proposals for two turbines around 100 m.
- 4.69 The CZTV maps (**Figures 3.5 to 3.7**) indicate relatively high levels of theoretical turbine visibility in the southern area, with the Lyndhurst turbines most prominent, but limited visibility of development in the northern area which is enclosed by topography.
- 4.70 With the existing operational wind energy development at Lyndhurst Farm, further opportunities for turbine development within this very small area are limited, without changing the underlying character. In the northern extent of the LCT with the presence of important historic features there is very limited scope for development of any scale.

Sherwood: Meadowlands with Plantations

Figure 4.5 Location of the Meadowlands with Plantations within Sherwood



Characteristic features

- 4.71 Characteristic features of this LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:
- Meandering river channels, sometimes defined by woodland edges
 - Permanent pastures and flood meadow
 - Fringing alder, willows and riparian scrub
 - Alder and willow carrs
 - Mine sites, pit heaps and urban edges

Location and extent

- 4.72 This LCT extends along the River Meden, River Maun and the Rainworth Water. Over most of its extent, the Meadowlands with Plantations is defined as a narrow riparian strip, rarely more than 300 m wide, though it broadens out to take in the wider floodplain north of New Ollerton.
- 4.73 These long, narrow areas are set within the wider landscape context of the Sherwood area, and although defined as distinct within the NSLCA, they can be small-scale features with indistinct boundaries. In some places the rivers flow through wider incised valleys, and in others they form part of a rolling farmed landscape. While they have been assessed as a separate area, the context of the Meadowlands with Plantations will have a key influence on its sensitivity and potential capacity for development.
- 4.74 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.5** above and is identified as type **A5** on **Figure 3.1**.
- 4.75 The following policy zones are covered: SH14; SH15; SH20; and SH28.

Heritage aspects

- 4.76 The River Meden flows through the Sherwood Forest Heritage Area. The Heritage Area is designed to protect the remaining areas of forest and heath which once occupied large tracts of this part of Britain.
- 4.77 The River Meden also flows through Thoresby Park, which is included on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. The river is a key part of the designed landscape of Thoresby Hall, which is listed on the register at grade I. In 1715 it was broadened into an artificial lake, which is flanked by several ornamental buildings. A number of listed bridges cross the Meden.
- 4.78 The Rainworth Water flows through the designed landscape of Rufford Abbey, which is also included on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, listed at grade II. Now a country park, this area is also centred on the river, which is again dammed to form an artificial lake with islands and bridges.
- 4.79 A small part of the Ollerton conservation area extends into this LCT, taking in the riverside meadows which form the setting to the north-eastern edge of the town.

Sensitivity assessment

- 4.80 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT to the assessment criteria. Refer to **Table 2.3** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
Landform and Scale			
	This LCT has a small to medium scale. Topography is varied, being flatter where the watercourses open out to broader floodplains. Elsewhere the narrow nature of the river corridors means that the topography is defined by surrounding landscape, which can be quite steep, as at Cavendish Wood which rises above the Maun north of Clipstone.		
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features			
	Riparian woodland is a key element in the land cover, distinguishing the river corridors from the surrounding landscape. Some stretches have limited woodland, but are dotted with riverside trees. In more open areas fields are medium to large-scale, with well-maintained hedgerows set out in a geometric pattern which the meandering rivers interrupt. Field cover is predominately arable, though with pastoral areas around settlements. There are important areas of parkland and mixed estate woodland, as well as coniferous plantations on floodplains. Though there are few buildings within the river corridors, they pass through settled areas, with frequent domestic buildings and trees giving the landscape a human scale.		
Skylines			
	The skylines in this LCT are generally formed by the rising ground of the adjacent landscapes. Skylines are often wooded in this area, though with an open arable ridge south of the Maun. Development is present in some locations, such as New Ollerton, as are occasional electricity pylons which are locally prominent.		
Perceptual qualities			
	There is limited feeling of naturalness within the arable landscape, which has a planned and managed character. Modern development is often visible near at hand. Within the parkland landscapes of Rufford and Thoresby there is a much stronger feeling of tranquillity, with modern influences screened by dense estate woodland.		
Scenic qualities			
	Within this LCT are the cores of the designed landscapes of Rufford Abbey and Thoresby Park, which have been developed over the last few centuries to		

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
	achieve attractive landscapes of water, parkland and trees. Outside these areas the river corridors remain attractive landscapes of riparian woodland and meandering watercourses. Steep wooded valley slopes above the Maun near Clipstone are a relatively dramatic feature within the district.		
Intervisibility			

The landscape has high levels of intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes due to its low-lying nature. The river corridors are overlooked by these more elevated landscapes, which provide their context. Views out from the Meadowlands with Plantations are limited by this rising ground, resulting in a relatively contained landscape framed by adjacent areas.

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.81 The landscapes of Rufford Abbey and Thoresby Park are of the highest sensitivity due to their intricate nature, small scale and sense of tranquillity, besides their historical value. While not all of the Meadowlands with Plantations display such qualities, the river corridors as a whole are sensitive to development due to their smaller scale, and their low-lying nature, overlooked by adjacent areas. Medium and large turbines are likely to be out of scale in this landscape, with its frequent human-scale features.
- 4.82 Mature riparian woodland forms a key feature within the river corridors. Often narrow or intermittent, in other areas the woodlands join up with other areas of broadleaf or coniferous tree cover within the Sherwood area. Mature woodland adds scenic interest to the rivers, particularly where combined with steeper topography.
- 4.83 Development within these narrow areas will be seen in the context of the adjacent farmland, and the sensitivity of the surrounding landscapes must therefore be considered.
- 4.84 The exception to the assessment of higher sensitivity is the area north of New Ollerton. In this area the floodplain of the River Maun opens out into a broad, intensively farmed area with little woodland cover. There are reclaimed workings and settlement fringe influences along the north edge of the settlement. It is considered that, within this more open area away from the landscapes of heritage value, there is reduced sensitivity to medium or smaller turbines. The relationship with adjacent landscapes remains an important consideration in this area.
- 4.85 The following table summarises the underlying sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.2**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small (15-30 m)	Moderate
Small-medium (31 to 50 m)	Moderate
Medium (51 to 80 m)	High-moderate
Large (81 to 110 m)	High
Very large (111 to 140 m)	High

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

- 4.86 Based on the scale and extent of these landscapes, it is considered that they would be of high sensitivity to development of more than single turbines. The more open floodplain north of New Ollerton has a large scale and is of relatively lower sensitivity to groups of two to three turbines.

Guidance for Development

4.87 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics

Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include:

- Generally small scale of the landscape;
- Presence of attractive and tranquil parkland landscapes, which are nationally-protected, important recreational resources and locally-protected heritage areas;
- Enclosed nature of the valleys, contained by gently rising ground which forms a backdrop to the landscape;
- The valleys are overlooked from several main roads on surrounding higher ground.
- Occasionally dramatic landforms;
- Characteristically wooded skylines or open arable ridges on neighbouring rising ground;
- Riparian woodlands which form a key feature within this landscape; and
- The limited physical extent of these areas, which means that the effects of turbine development may well extend beyond the valley area into the adjacent landscape types.

Operational and consented development

There are no operational or consented turbines within the Meadowlands with Plantations. There is a single consented turbine, 25 m to tip, to the west of Walesby on the fringe of this LCT. Stonish Hill wind farm is around 1 km east of the Rainworth Water.

Guidance for development

When siting and designing wind energy developments in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- The small-scale landscape is particularly sensitive to large and very large turbines, and opportunities for siting these turbines are likely to be very limited.
- Avoid any development which would impact on the integrity and appreciation of the Thoresby Park and Rufford Abbey designed landscapes, or locally protected heritage areas.
- The combination of woodland shelter, low elevation and surrounding high ground does not offer ideal opportunities for locating turbines.
- Favour locations with limited intervisibility with neighbouring LCTs, especially when they are elevated and overlook this LCT or when neighbouring LCTs are of higher sensitivity with views out being a characteristic feature.
- Site wind energy developments away from dramatic landforms or valued distinct landform features.
- Avoid siting any turbines where they would interrupt prominent skylines and the settings of settlements or landmarks.
- Sensitively site turbines in relation to the LCTs key features, in particular the areas riparian woodland.
- Carefully consider the sensitivity of adjacent landscapes which could be affected by development in the narrow riparian corridors.

Capacity

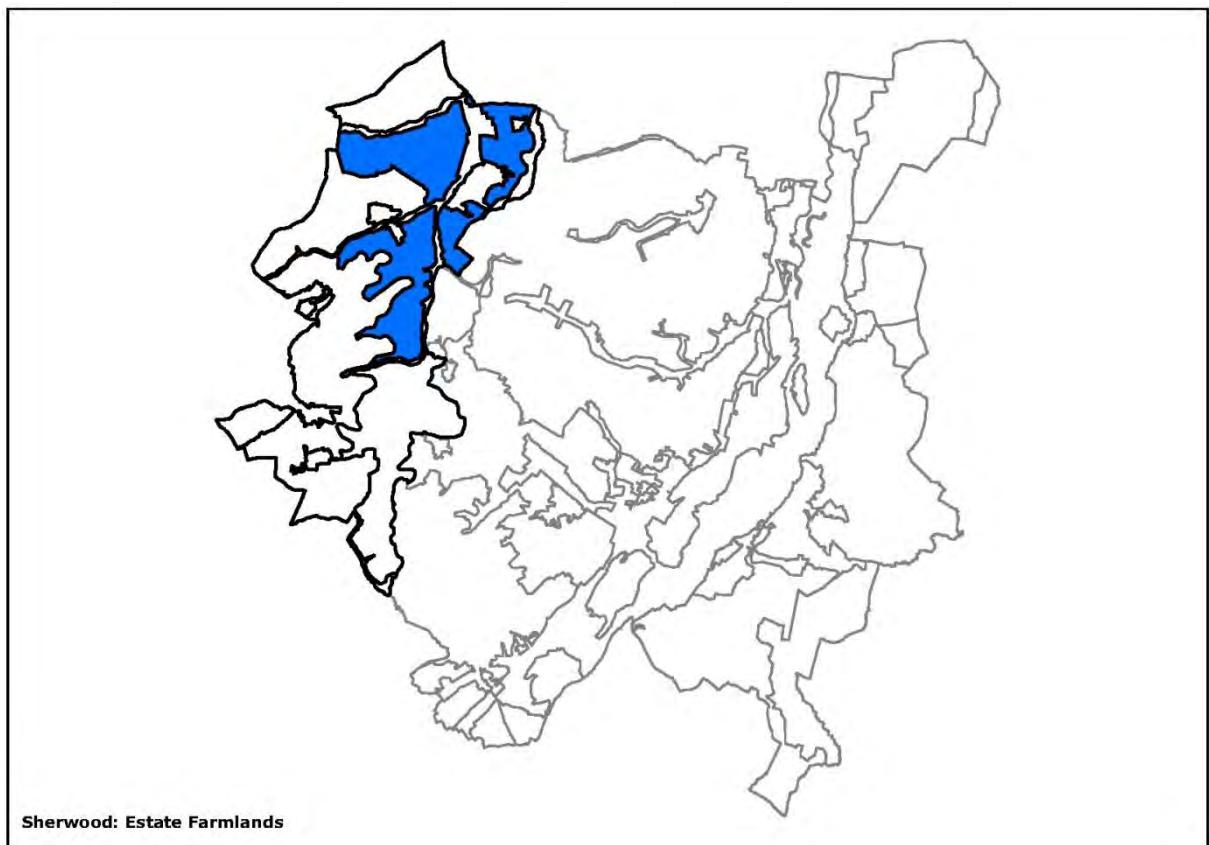
- 4.88 The sensitivity of this LCT, and the heritage values placed upon it, indicate that there is very limited capacity for wind turbines. The exception is the broader area north of New Ollerton which represents a more open and less valued landscape, with reduced sensitivity.
- 4.89 The overall aim for this LCT is **a landscape without wind energy**, in which turbines do not influence landscape character, except at the most local scale. There may be locally reduced sensitivity to small or possibly medium turbines located in the area north of New Ollerton, but there is considered to be very little or no scope for development elsewhere.

Cumulative development

- 4.90 There is an application for a 77 m turbine at Inkersall Grange, close to the Rainworth Water. There are scoping proposals for turbines of 86.5 m and 102 m turbine between Inkersall and Bilsthorpe, and for a 77 m turbine within Rufford Park. These turbines will be visible from the Meadowlands with Plantations, but would be on higher ground and would be viewed within adjacent landscape types, and not as part of the riparian corridor. Further development within this LCT should be discouraged, with the exception of the area of lower sensitivity noted above.
- 4.91 The CZTV maps (**Figures 3.5 to 3.7**) indicate relatively limited current and future visibility of turbines from within this area, given current patterns of proposed development.

Sherwood: Estate Farmlands

Figure 4.6 Location of the Estate Farmlands within Sherwood



Characteristic features

4.92 Characteristic features of this LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:

- Isolated brick-built farmsteads and estate cottages
- Large-scale rolling topography
- Views enclosed by wooded skylines
- Estate plantations and belts of trees
- Large arable and grass fields
- Low-cut hawthorn hedges
- Straight roads with wide grass verges

Location and extent

4.93 This LCT occurs in the north-west of Newark and Sherwood, in areas flanking the Rivers Meden and Maun, and the Rainworth Water to the north of Bilsthorpe.

4.94 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.6** above and is identified as type **A6** on **Figure 3.1**.

4.95 The following policy zones are covered: SH09; SH10; SH26; and SH27.

Heritage aspects

4.96 Thoresby Park, partly located within the northern part of the LCT, is a Registered Historic Park and Garden, designated as Grade I. Thoresby Park includes areas of parkland, woodland and ornamental buildings, arranged around the 19th-century Thoresby Hall and the River Meden.

- 4.97 The north-western parts of the designed landscape of Rufford Abbey, also on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, are within this LCT. The grade II listed site is now a country park, with important estate woodlands around an ornamental lake and the ruins of the abbey.
- 4.98 The north-western part of the LCT is part of the Sherwood Forest Heritage Area. The Heritage Area is designed to protect the remaining areas of forest and heath which once occupied large tracts of this part of Britain. It is an important recreational landscape, incorporating Sherwood Forest Country Park.
- 4.99 Boughton conservation area is within this landscape, covering the Edwardian pumping station north of Boughton.

Sensitivity assessment

- 4.100 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT to the assessment criteria. Refer to **Table 2.3** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
Landform and Scale			
Medium to large-scale landscape with flat to gently rolling topography and some elevated plateau like areas. Parts of the LCT are enclosed by higher ground.			
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features			
Mainly large to very large-scale mixed agricultural fields bound by low-cut hedges which can be gappy. Estate plantation, broadleaf woodland and tree belts form prominent features within the landscape. This LCT is sparsely settled, with estate cottages and isolated farmsteads forming the majority of the build development. Planned estate landscapes and parklands are important features within the LCT.			
Skylines			
Skylines within this LCT are not prominent due to the flat landform. Locally wooded horizons are present with tree-lined skylines on elevated neighbouring LCTs which overlook the Sherwood Estate Farmlands.			
Perceptual qualities			
A predominantly rural landscape which is influenced by areas of managed landscapes and some settlement fringe in Ollerton, Lidgett, Boughton and Walesby area. Within woodland blocks away from main roads the area can feel tranquil in places. Main roads pass through some areas of parkland and country parks.			
Scenic qualities			
The Landscape Character Assessment identifies estate parklands and associated cottages/villages as important historic features within this LCT as they tend to have higher scenic value. Overall this is a landscape with medium to high scenic quality with some areas of bland arable farmland. Broadleaf woodland provides visual diversity and attractive views can be gained across this woodland type.			
Intervisibility			
Middle to long-distant views to neighbouring LCTs. Woodland blocks locally enclose views. There are views of wooded ridges in the Woodland Estates LCT with occasional longer views to the west along the river corridors, and to the north out of the district.			

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.101 This is an intensively managed landscape, having large areas of coniferous plantation, large-scale arable farmland and areas of parkland. The majority of the land is intensively farmed arable

fields, with smaller areas of pasture. Coniferous plantations are associated with estate landscapes. Urban influences are apparent around settlement fringes of Walesby, Boughton, Liddett and Ollerton. Areas of broadleaf woodland offer some tranquillity, although these areas are limited and overall the character is of a managed landscape with modern activity. The introduction of turbines would not substantially increase the human influence in the landscape.

- 4.102 The combination of turbines with pylons on the horizon should be considered. Pylons of c.50 m and c.25 m occur in this area, and offer scale references against which turbines could be read, and **could lead to skyline 'clutter'**.
- 4.103 The flat or very gentle topography also indicate reduced sensitivity to wind turbines, which could relate to the larger scale of the landscape, and the large open fields and large blocks of continuous plantation. Locally, parkland landscapes at Rufford Abbey and Thoresby Park and the area within Sherwood Forest Heritage Areas are of greater sensitivity.
- 4.104 The following table summarises the sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.2**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small (15-30 m)	Low-Moderate
Small-medium (31 to 50 m)	Moderate
Medium (51 to 80 m)	High-moderate
Large (81 to 110 m)	High
Very large (111 to 140 m)	High

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

- 4.105 The larger scale of the landscape suggests that there could be lower sensitivity to moderate groups of up to four or five turbines, but higher sensitivity to larger groups. The limiting factors will be the scenically and historically important landscapes and the protection of their character.

Guidance for Development

- 4.106 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics

Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include:

- Historically important landscape with areas of high scenic value, and protected parkland landscapes;
- Neighbouring landscapes which over look this LCT;
- Variety of views of wooded horizons with some human influences including pylons; and
- Broadleaf woodland and tree belts provide areas of tranquillity.

Operational and consented development

There is a consented 26 m turbine at Oakham Farm near Walesby, but no operational wind turbines within this LCT. To the south-east the operational turbines at Stonish Hill (103.5 m) are visible from this LCT.

Guidance for development

When considering the siting and designing of potential wind energy development in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- Avoid siting turbines in locations within or close to historically important and protected landscapes of the LCT.
- Seek to avoid siting turbines in areas of high intervisibility, where effects may extend across wider areas.
- **Consider the presence of pylons in order to avoid 'clutter' on the horizon.**
- Favour the more human-modified landscapes for siting of larger developments, avoiding areas of perceived tranquillity.

Capacity

- 4.107 The sensitivity of this LCT, and the heritage and other values placed upon it, indicate that there is capacity for wind turbines within this LCT. The large-scale, intensively managed areas of this landscape are of lower sensitivity to wind energy development. However, the important historic landscapes within the LCT may limit suitable sites.
- 4.108 The overall aim for this LCT is a **landscape with occasional wind energy**, where turbines may influence the perception of the landscape at close proximity, but do not have a defining influence on the overall experience of the landscape. This is due to the varied sensitivity, and higher heritage values placed on parts of this landscape, which require protection.

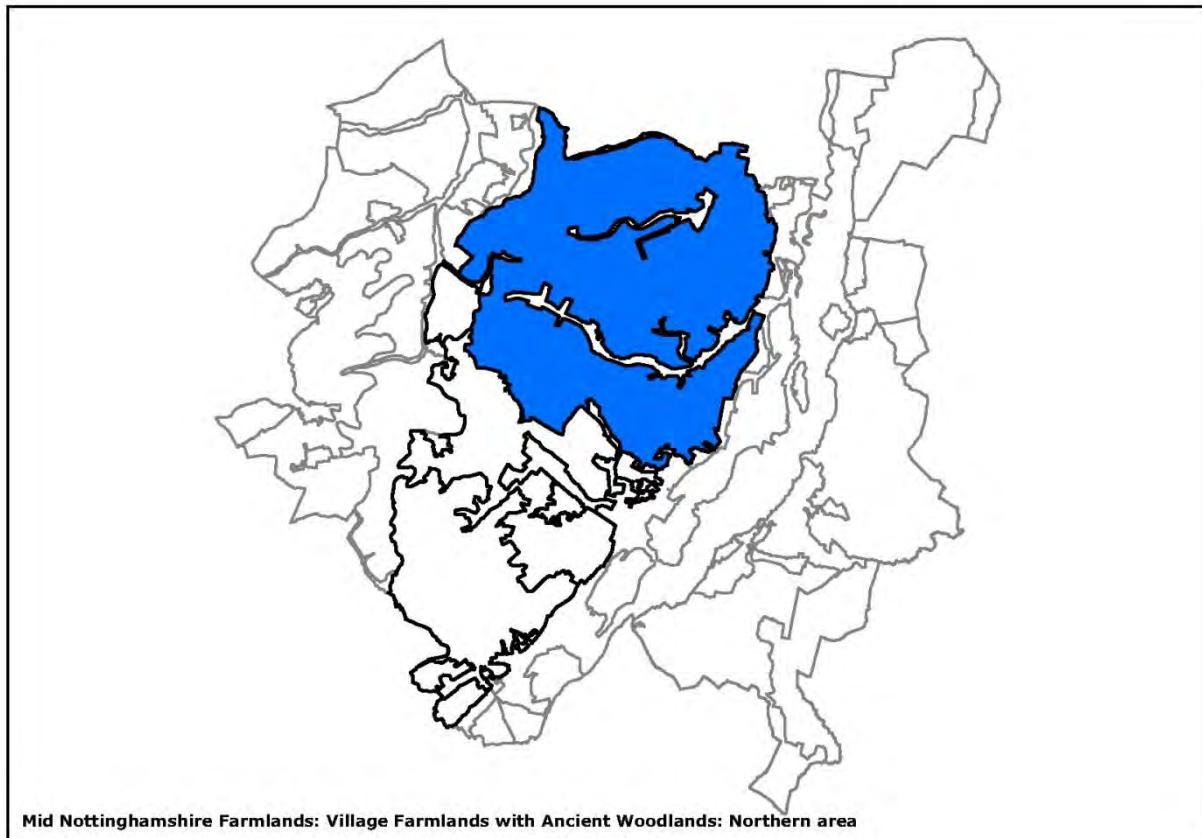
Cumulative development

- 4.109 There are no further applications for wind turbines within the LCT. To the south and south-east of the LCT there are planned turbines at Inkersall Grange (77 m), and scoping proposals at Rufford Stud Farm (79 m), Featherstone House (86.5 m), and Inkersall (102 m).
- 4.110 The CZTV maps (**Figures 3.5 to 3.7**) indicate that there is relatively high visibility from the raised ridges within this landscape, particularly north-west of New Ollerton. The lower-lying areas have much reduced theoretical visibility of turbines, given current patterns of proposed development.
- 4.111 There is limited further scope for turbine development within carefully selected parts of this landscape. Future development would need to be carefully considered to ensure that cumulative relationships do not change the character of this landscape. Wind energy development in neighbouring LCTs may result in some influence on parts within this LCT due to the level of intervisibility.

Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands: Northern Area

- 4.112 Due to its large extent, and differences in local character, this LCT has been subdivided. This section discusses the area north of the River Greet as shown on the map below.

Figure 4.7 Location of the Northern Area of the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands, within the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands



Characteristic features

- 4.113 Characteristic features of the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:
- Varied undulating topography
 - Ancient woodlands, often prominently sited on hill tops
 - Well-defined pattern of hedged fields
 - Streams defined by lines of trees and permanent pasture
 - Traditional pattern of farms and small rural villages
 - Red brick buildings with pantile roofs
 - Quiet country lanes
 - Small remnant orchards and permanent pastures around villages

Location and extent

- 4.114 This area occupies the northern half of the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands. The area extends from the River Greet in the south to the district boundary in the north, and from Wellow and Eakring in the west to Sutton-on-Trent and Bathley in the east. The area is cut by Meadowlands associated with The Beck, Moorhouse Beck, Goosemoor Dyke, and Gallow Hole Dyke.

- 4.115 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.7** above and is identified as type **B1n** on **Figure 3.1**.
- 4.116 The following policy zones are covered: MN13; MN15; MN16; MN17; MN18; MN20; MN21; MN22; MN25; MN26; MN28; MN30; and MN31.

Heritage aspects

- 4.117 The historic landscape around Laxton is within this LCT, occupying areas mainly to the west and south of the village. In relation to the Laxton Open Field System, Policy DM9 of the LDF highlights the need for sustainable management of the land, **but also states that "proposals that adversely affect this heritage asset by virtue of character or operation" will not be granted consent.**
- 4.118 There are a number of conservation areas focused on the numerous villages which are inset within this landscape. Each conservation area contains the village and, in some cases, areas of adjacent farmland which contribute to their setting. Conservation areas which include part of this landscape area are: Caunton; Eakring; Egmonton; Kersall; Kirton; Kneesall; Laxton; Maplebeck; Norwell; and Wellow.
- 4.119 Eakring Conservation Area Appraisal (2001) refers to the verdant setting of the village, located within more intensive arable land. Views out from the village into the country are noted as adding to its character.
- 4.120 Egmonton Conservation Area Appraisal (2001) describes the setting of the village in a shallow valley, enclosed by gently rising ground. The unplanned and open character of the village is highlighted, with fields and paddocks extending into the settlement.
- 4.121 Conservation area appraisals have not been published for the other conservation areas.

Sensitivity assessment

- 4.122 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT in terms of the evaluation criteria. Refer to **Table 2.3** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity		↔	Higher sensitivity	
Landform and Scale					
	This is a medium to large scale landscape with gently undulating landform. There is some variety in scale, with shallow open valleys, and occasional more intricate valleys to the south. Between these are large plateau-like areas of higher ground. On the highest ground, for example between Wellow and Laxton, the landscape is of a notably large scale, being very open to the north.				
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features					
	Predominately arable landscape with medium to large fields enclosed by hedges and characterised by remnant ancient woodland, coverage of which is locally varied. On the highest ground in the north of the area hedge removal and a lack of trees creates an open landscape of very large fields. Lower-lying areas are distinctively well-wooded with deciduous trees, and there are hilltop woodlands such as Kneesall Wood and Wellow Park. Small areas of remnant orchards, parkland and permanent pasture are present in association with the many villages. Villages and narrow country lanes which contribute to a human scale.				
Skylines					
	Skylines are characterised by wooded horizons and woodland on hill tops, or by gently convex hills in more open areas. Skylines are more prominent when viewed from valleys, with trees and occasional church towers on the horizon. Pylons cross this landscape and are locally prominent on several skylines.				
Perceptual qualities					
	The area has a feeling of traditional rurality, particularly in valley areas away from major transport corridors. Modern development comprises several lines of pylons, including the National Grid site at Eakring, and busy roads including the				

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
	A1 in the north-east. Parts of the area are intensively farmed with correspondingly reduced sense of tranquillity.		
Scenic qualities			
	The villages provide attractive focal points within this area, often associated with small areas of parkland and woodland. The more wooded valleys and hills also provide attractive features. Areas of intensive farmland are blander and have less appeal, for example where traditional field patterns and hedges have been removed.		
Intervisibility			
	Intervisibility with the Sherwood area is important to the west, where this LCT forms a distinct edge formed by wooded hills including Wellow Park. From the higher areas in the north, there are open views across this landscape and beyond, with very long views over lower land to the north and east. To the south, intervisibility with the Village Farmlands is a key issue around Southwell, where this landscape serves to frame the valley of the River Greet. There are views over the Trent Valley although the eastern edge of this LCT is less distinct than to the west. Within the valley areas of this LCT there are more limited outward views, and the central parts of the landscape are more contained.		

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.123 The relative visibility of this landscape from the surrounding areas indicates higher sensitivity, particularly around the edges of the landscape. Other criteria indicate more moderate sensitivity, including the relatively large scale gentle undulating landform, intensive arable land use and man-made elements.
- 4.124 There is a degree of local variation, including locally sensitive features and characteristics such as villages and their often wooded settings, and the intermittent feeling of traditional rurality which is strong where the traditional pattern of fields and hedges remains intact. Generally, the more open the local landscape, the lower the relative sensitivity to larger turbines, though the most elevated parts of this landscape are often the most widely visible, particularly from the Sherwood area to the west, and from Bassetlaw to the north.
- 4.125 The historic landscape around Laxton will be particularly sensitive to wind turbine development, which could affect the character of this essentially medieval working landscape. There are also numerous conservation areas focused on the villages which are regularly spaced across the area.
- 4.126 The following table summarises the underlying sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.2**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small (15 to 30 m)	Low
Small-medium (31 to 50 m)	Moderate to low
Medium (51 to 80 m)	Moderate
Large (81 to 110 m)	High-moderate
Very large (111 to 140 m)	High

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

4.127 The medium to large scale of this landscape indicates a lower sensitivity to single turbines or small groups of turbines. Larger scale areas within the LCT will be of relatively lower sensitivity to larger groups of up to five turbines.

Guidance for Development

4.128 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics

Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include:

- The topography becomes more complex in the south-east of the area, with slightly more pronounced hills and narrower valleys;
- There are some remaining areas of sensitive land cover, including ancient woodland and small areas of parkland;
- The rural character of the area is locally strong, particularly in areas which lack modern development, away from roads and pylon lines;
- Open and elevated areas in the northern part of this area have strong intervisibility with the wider landscape to the north, with extensive views well beyond the district boundary;
- Landscape setting is important to the numerous villages spaced across this area, many of which are conservation areas;
- **The historic landscape around Laxton, which is England's only remaining medieval open-field system still in use;**
- The southern edge of this character area, overlooking the River Greet, forms part of the wider setting of Southwell; and
- Characteristic views of undeveloped, tree-lined skylines and hilltops in the middle-distance.

Operational and consented development (see Figure 2.1)

There are several operational wind turbines in this landscape: at Coulter Farm near Eakring (53.7 m); Ossington Road east of Ossington (74 m); Ollerton Road near Bathley (102 m); and two turbines of the Stonish Hill Wind Farm (103.5 m). The remaining three turbines of Stonish Hill are to the east. There are operating turbines around Tuxford to the north (Bassetlaw District) and in adjacent LCTs near Hockerton to the south.

Consented developments comprise a second 102 m turbine at Ollerton Road, a second turbine by Ossington Road (77 m), and a 25 m turbine west of Kneesall.

Guidance for development

When siting and designing wind energy developments in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- When siting wind energy development select sites in simple, regular landscapes with more extensive areas of consistent land cover, over landscapes with more complex or irregular land cover patterns, smaller field sizes and landscapes with frequent human scale features.
- Seek to avoid development which would directly affect ancient woodland or remaining

Key sensitive features and characteristics

areas of parkland.

- Seek to avoid areas which are free from overt human influence or modern development, and which may be valued for their perceived rural tranquillity – these tend to be the smaller-scale areas which are less intensively farmed.
- Turbines in elevated areas of this LCT may be highly visible in the wider landscape, and in these cases additional care should be taken to ensure appropriate siting and design of proposals.
- Maintain rural setting of the villages and protect the special historic interest of conservation areas, for example as defined in character appraisals.
- Ensure turbines and ancillary development does not adversely affect the historic integrity of the historic landscape around Laxton or the traditional character of this area.
- Avoid any development which may adversely affect views from, of or across Southwell, and which could detract from the setting of the Minster or other buildings.
- When siting medium or larger turbines (i.e. those over 50m tip height), avoid selecting sites on important undeveloped or distinctive skylines.

Capacity

- 4.129 The sensitivity of this landscape indicates that there is some capacity for wind turbine development, with potentially reduced sensitivity to large turbines in the more open, intensively farmed areas.
- 4.130 The overall aim for this LCT is **a landscape with occasional wind energy**, in which turbines may locally influence landscape character, but collectively do not affect perception of the landscape. This is suggested by the landscape sensitivity, and by existing patterns of operational and consented turbines.

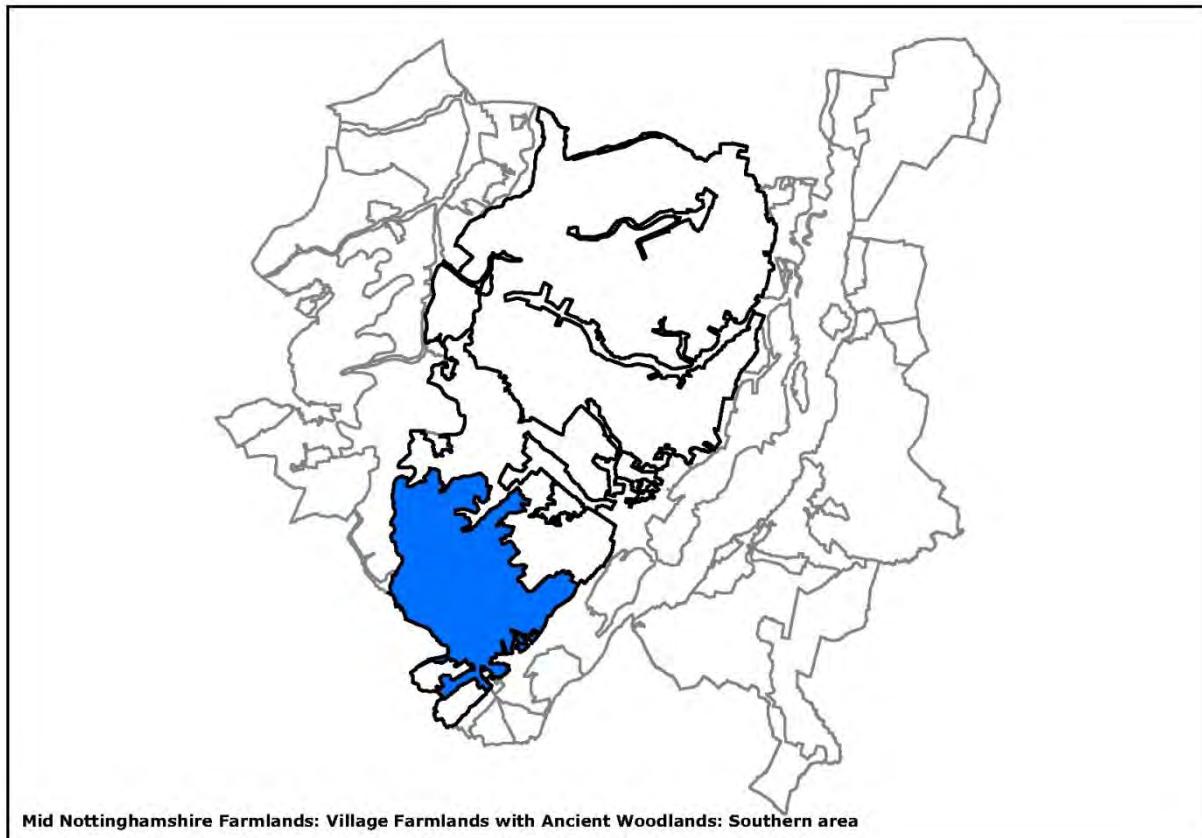
Cumulative development

- 4.131 There are several applications for turbines in this landscape: at Tuxford Road, Egmont (74 m); Normanton Road north of Weston (86 m); and Brecks Farm, Maplebeck (87 m). There are a number of scoping proposals within and adjacent to this landscape. The pattern of development is dispersed across this landscape, with local clusters emerging around the A1, near Bathley, and around Stonish Hill Wind Farm.
- 4.132 The CZTV maps (**Figures 3.5 to 3.7**) indicate that visibility of turbines from this area is highly varied. The enclosed valleys within the area have very limited views of small numbers of turbines, with more open elevated areas having theoretical visibility of large numbers of turbines. The actual levels of visibility will be much reduced by the level of woodland and trees across the landscape, and many of the theoretically visible turbines are distant.
- 4.133 There are areas of this landscape which remain unaffected by development, and there could be further scope in this area for further development, particularly within the larger scale areas of intensive farmland. Cumulative effects should be considered, in order to prevent the spread of single turbine development resulting in a dispersed but regular pattern across the whole landscape, which could have a pervasive influence on character. Additional capacity for smaller turbines may be available, since these will be more easily absorbed into this medium-large scale landscape.

Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands: Southern Area

- 4.134 Due to its large extent, and differences in local character, this LCT has been subdivided. This section discusses the area south of the River Greet as shown on the map below.

Figure 4.8 Location of the Southern Area of the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands, within the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands



Characteristic features

- 4.135 Characteristic features of the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:
- Varied undulating topography
 - Ancient woodlands, often prominently sited on hill tops
 - Well-defined pattern of hedged fields
 - Streams defined by lines of trees and permanent pasture
 - Traditional pattern of farms and small rural villages
 - Red brick buildings with pantile roofs
 - Quiet country lanes
 - Small remnant orchards and permanent pastures around villages

Location and extent

- 4.136 This area covers most of the southern part of the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands, and includes Robin Hood Hill in the north-west and the dumble valleys south-west of Southwell. The area extends south-west to the Dover Beck and the district boundary, and to Lowdham in the south.
- 4.137 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.8** above and is identified as type **B1s** on **Figure 3.1**.

4.138 The following policy zones are covered: MN37; MN39; and MN40.

Heritage aspects

- 4.139 There are a number of conservation areas focused on the villages which are inset within this landscape. Each conservation area contains the village and, in some cases, areas of adjacent farmland which contribute to their setting. Conservation areas which include part of this landscape area are: Epperstone; Halloughton; Lowdham; Oxton; and Thurgarton.
- 4.140 Epperstone Conservation Area Appraisal (2006) notes sharply rising land to the north of the village, contrasting with distinctive riparian landscape to the south. The latter area includes willow pollards and tree-lined avenues, and has a strong sense of place. This whole area is included within the conservation area.
- 4.141 Thurgarton Conservation Area Appraisal (2008) defines the rural setting as a key feature of the village, which includes this LCT to the west. Trees and hedgerows contribute to a sense of enclosure, with pockets of parkland around the priory.
- 4.142 Conservation area appraisals have not been published for the other conservation areas.

Sensitivity assessment

- 4.143 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT in terms of the evaluation criteria. Refer to **Table 2.3** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity			↔	Higher sensitivity			
Landform and Scale								
	This is a generally medium-scale landscape of undulating landform. There is some variety in scale, with broader hills above Thurgarton for example, contrasting with the narrow dumble valleys. The intricate topography of the hills north of Oxton, including Robin Hood Hill, combined with the intimate dumbles, make this one of the more distinctive landscapes of the district.							
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features	This is a farmed area, with mainly arable land and some significant areas of pasture. Medium to large fields are enclosed by hedges, with pastoral areas generally retaining more field boundary trees. Deciduous and mixed woodland is a distinctive feature, with several prominent hilltop woodlands such as Combs Wood, Epperstone Park and Halloughton Wood. Small areas of remnant orchards, parkland and permanent pasture are present in association with the villages which lie around the edges of the area. The landscape includes narrow country lanes which contribute to a human scale.							
Skylines								
	Skylines are characterised by wooded horizons and woodland on hill tops, by occasionally distinctive hills, or by gently convex ridges in more open areas. Skylines are more prominent when viewed from valleys, where these woodlands are seen on the horizon. Robin Hood Hill is a distinctive feature viewed from the area to the west. A single line of pylons crosses the north of this landscape and are locally prominent. Parts of this LCT lie close to Southwell, where skylines are considered particularly important when viewed from or across the town.							
Perceptual qualities								
	There is a strong feeling of traditional rurality, particularly in the dumble valleys and more wooded areas. There is little overt modern development, aside from the pylons and the A6097 which skirts the southern edge of the area.							
Scenic qualities								
	This is an attractive and locally distinctive landscape, with relatively intact patterns of broadleaf woodland and field boundaries. The more varied terrain, intricate dumble valleys, and hilltop woodlands combine to offer visual diversity.							

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
	Parkland areas in association with villages have attractive character.		
Intervisibility			

Intervisibility with the Sherwood Village Farmlands is important to the west, where Robin Hood Hill forms a distinct wooded edge. Intervisibility with the Mid Nottinghamshire Village Farmlands is a key issue around Southwell. There are views over and across the Trent Valley from above Thurgarton, though the south-eastern edge of this landscape is less distinct than the western edge. Within the central parts there are limited outward views, and the landscape is more contained. To the south this landscape continues into Gedling District, with relatively short views across the valley of the Dover Beck.

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.144 This is a medium-scale, occasionally intricate and intact landscape, which is distinctive within the district. It is a relatively scenic area, with attractive woodlands and fewer areas of bland intensive farmland than are found in the area north of the River Greet.
- 4.145 There are some more open elevated areas with fewer trees, which are of reduced sensitivity, though skylines are considered to be important within this landscape, particularly in the vicinity of Southwell. The more intricate hills and dumble valleys in the southern area of this LCT are considered to be of greater overall sensitivity. The area also has important visual relationships to east and west.
- 4.146 The following table summarises the underlying sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.2**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small (15 to 30 m)	Moderate
Small-medium (31 to 50 m)	Moderate
Medium (51 to 80 m)	Moderate-high
Large (81 to 110 m)	High
Very large (111 to 140 m)	High

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

- 4.147 The medium or smaller scale of this landscape indicates higher sensitivity to groups of turbines. There may be some areas capable of absorbing clusters of 2-3 smaller turbines, but the area is considered sensitive to larger groups.

Guidance for Development

- 4.148 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics
<p>Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intricate dumble valleys and locally complex and distinctive landform, with characteristic views of undeveloped, tree-lined skylines and hilltops; • The human scale and enclosure of the landscape where patterns of hedgerow and field

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- boundary trees are intact;
- Areas of sensitive land cover including ancient woodlands, particularly those on hilltops, remnant orchards and parklands;
 - Strong rural character and general lack of overt modern development;
 - Narrow country lanes flanked by hedges and trees may be vulnerable to delivery of larger turbines;
 - Important visual relationships, particularly with the neighbouring LCT to the west and with Southwell;
 - Setting of villages and conservation areas at the edges of this area; and
 - Part of the area is within the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt.

Operational and consented development (see Figure 2.1)

There are two operational wind turbines in this landscape: at Combs Farm to the north-west (67 m); and at New Holbeck Road Farm near Halam (71 m). There is one consented turbine at Hill Farm, Epperstone (71 m).

Guidance for development

When siting and designing wind energy developments in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- When siting wind energy development select sites in simpler, more regular landscapes over more complex areas such as the distinctive hills and dumble valleys, and avoid selecting sites on important undeveloped or distinctive skylines.
- Minimise impacts on landscapes with more complex or irregular land cover patterns, smaller field sizes and landscapes with frequent human scale features.
- Avoid development which would adversely affect ancient woodland, remnant orchards and parklands.
- Avoid areas which are free from overt human influence or modern development, and which may be valued for their relative tranquillity.
- Minimise works to offsite roads, particularly rural narrow roads, and prevent damage and alterations to hedges and trees, replacing any features affected in keeping with local context and character.
- Turbines sited at the outer edges of this area may be highly visible in the wider landscape, and in these cases additional care should be taken to ensure appropriate siting and design of proposals.
- Avoid any development which may adversely affect views from, of or across Southwell, **and which could detract from the setting of the Minster, Archbishop's Palace or the conservation area.**
- Maintain rural setting of the villages and protect the special historic interest of conservation areas, as defined in character appraisals where available.
- Ensure siting and design of development maintains the openness the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt.

Capacity

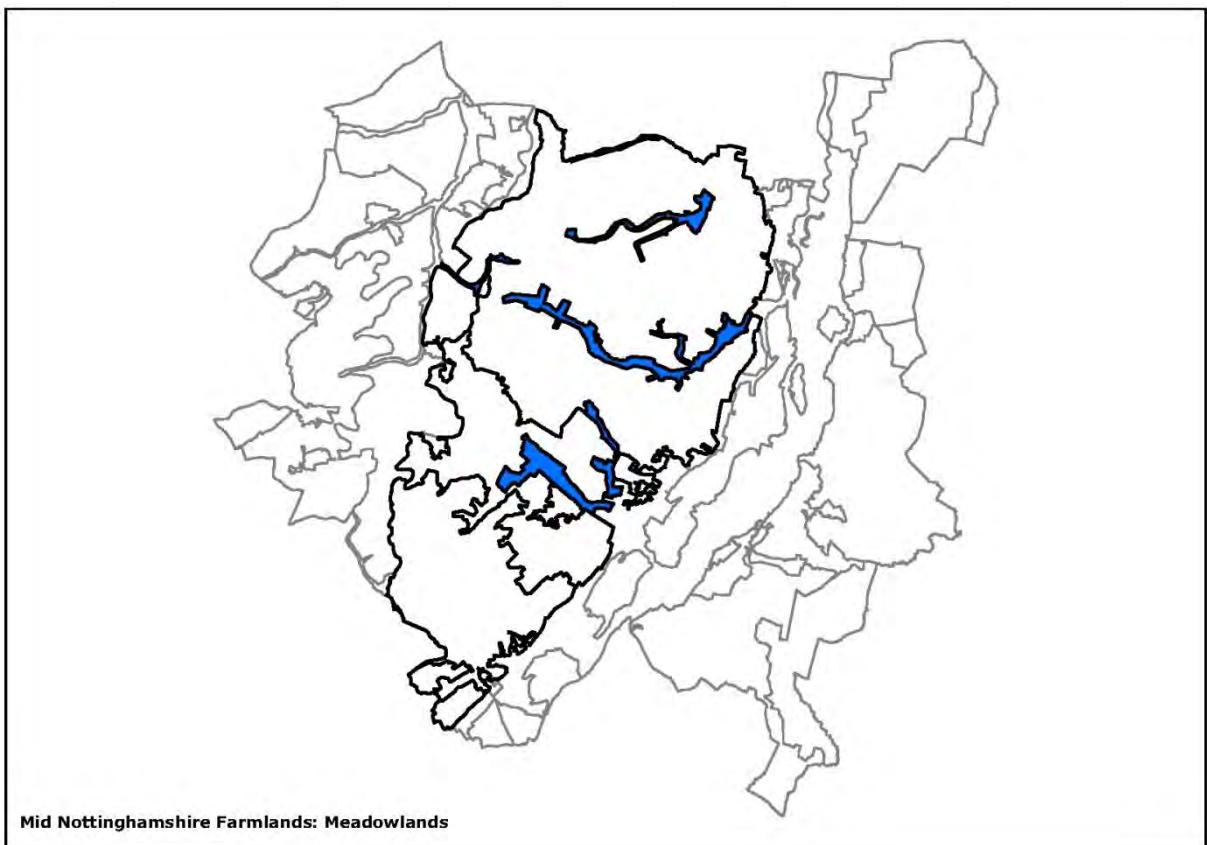
- 4.149 The sensitivity of this landscape indicates that there is limited capacity for wind turbine development, with potential for small or small-medium turbines to be absorbed into the less distinctive areas. The intricate hills and dumble valleys are considered to be of higher sensitivity and have very limited capacity for development.
- 4.150 The overall aim for this LCT is **a landscape with occasional wind energy**, in which turbines may locally influence landscape character, but collectively do not affect perception of the landscape. This is suggested by the higher landscape sensitivity, and by existing occasional operational and consented turbines.

Cumulative development

- 4.151 There is one relevant application within this landscape, which is a variation of the consented turbine at Hill Farm, Epperstone. An appeal is ongoing in relation to two 67 m turbines at Brackenhurst College, near Halloughton, just to the north of this area. There are scoping proposals for turbines of around 77 m at Combs Farm and near Wolfleyhill Lane, both to the south of Farnsfield.
- 4.152 The CZTV maps (**Figures 3.5 to 3.7**) indicate that, at present, theoretical visibility of turbines from this area varies from none in the south, to relatively high from the hills to the north, and the ridge of the B6386. Currently consented and proposed development will result in an increase in theoretical visibility, though this pattern of views will continue, with limited visibility in the south. The actual levels of visibility will be much reduced by the level of woodland across the landscape, and many of the visible turbines are relatively distant.
- 4.153 Should all the proposed turbines be constructed, then this landscape would be approaching its likely capacity. There may be limited additional capacity for small or small-medium turbines.

Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Meadowlands

Figure 4.9 Location of the Meadowlands within the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands



Key characteristics

4.154 Key characteristics of this LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:

- Flat, alluvial flood plains
- Sparsely settled with few buildings
- Permanent pasture and areas of mixed agriculture
- Small-scale, semi-irregular pattern of hedged fields
- Riparian trees and shrubs
- Tradition of willow pollarding
- Clumps of deciduous trees and small woods
- Ridge and furrow grassland

Location and extent

4.155 The Meadowlands extend along a number of small rivers and streams which flow through the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands. The Meadowlands are defined as corridors following the River Greet, Car Dyke and The Wink, The Beck, Moorhouse Beck, Goosemoor Dyke, and Gallow Hole Dyke, and their tributaries.

4.156 These long, narrow areas are set within a wider landscape context of rolling farmlands, and although defined as distinct within the NSLCA, their boundaries are often indistinct. While they have been assessed as a separate area, the context of these Meadowlands will have a key influence on their sensitivity and potential capacity for development.

4.157 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.9** above and is identified as type **B2** on **Figure 3.1**.

- 4.158 The following policy zones are covered: MN14; MN19; MN23; MN29; MN33; and MN35.

Heritage aspects

- 4.159 The protected views of Southwell extend across the valley of the River Greet to the north of the town. Within the defined viewshed there are views south towards the town, with the Minster seen on the skyline, for example from Corkhill Lane. The immediate surroundings of the Workhouse also covers part of this area, taking in a 500 m section of the River Greet at the eastern edge of Southwell.
- 4.160 Conservation areas at Caunton and Norwell extend into this landscape. These are focused on the villages, though Caunton conservation area takes in the valley landscape between the village and the A616.
- 4.161 Very small areas of the historic landscape around Laxton are within this LCT, to the south of the village along the Moorhouse Beck.
- 4.162 The grounds of Thurgarton Hundred Workhouse, which are listed on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, are within this landscape. The registered site is small and is limited to the immediate grounds of the workhouse on the edge of Southwell.

Sensitivity assessment

- 4.163 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT to the assessment criteria. Refer to **Table 2.3** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity			↔	Higher sensitivity	
Landform and Scale						
	Narrow strips of land along small-scale shallow valleys which broaden out to medium-scale flat flood plains. The Meadowlands areas are set within the broader, generally shallow valleys of the wider landscape. They form localised riparian corridors within gently rolling topography, and are occasionally framed by steeper slopes.					
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features						
	The floodplain areas contain a mix of small to large-scale fields with pastoral and arable land cover. There are also areas of rough wet grassland and occasional remnant ridge and furrow. Fields are surrounded by intact hedges and mature hedgerow trees, though there has been field amalgamation in broader floodplains. Riparian woodland is a key feature, and is often the main indication of the presence of a watercourse. The area is sparsely settled, although there are a number of settlements and farmsteads along the valleys, often at the fringes of this LCT. Trees and buildings provide human-scale features.					
Skylines						
	Skylines within this LCT are generally formed by the adjacent rising ground to either side of the valley. These are broad and convex, often with trees on the skyline, and occasionally interrupted by development including pylons. Locally important landmarks are a feature, including church towers in adjacent villages. Riparian woodland obscures some skylines. Skylines are of major importance to views in and around Southwell.					
Perceptual qualities						
	This is an often naturalistic landscape, particularly among the riparian woodlands. The valleys are strongly rural in character, with narrow lanes and small villages, and are surrounded by farmland. There is limited overt modern development, even at the fringe of Southwell which is well integrated with the landscape.					
Scenic qualities						
	The small scale and intimate nature of this landscape lend it some visual					

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
	diversity. Riparian woodlands are an attractive feature, particularly where they link up with other mature woodlands and field trees, and often provide the only woodland in intensively farmed landscapes. The shallow valleys form an attractive setting to several small villages and the town of Southwell.		
Intervisibility			Within the smaller-scale narrow valleys, the area is enclosed by the surrounding topography. In some places these valleys broaden out, but views are always contained due to the lower-lying nature of the Meadowlands. The adjacent rising ground is intrinsic to the appreciation of these landscapes, providing a frame for the valley.

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.164 This is a smaller-scale landscape, set within usually medium-scale rolling farmland. Although often comprising flat ground, they are always contained by rising land which encloses the valley corridors. The Meadowlands are overlooked by this rising land, which contains and provides a backdrop to the valleys. Larger turbines are likely to appear out of scale with this landscape, particularly considering the frequent trees and domestic-scale buildings which are visible
- 4.165 Riparian woodland is a key feature of this LCT, with lines of mature trees following the meandering or occasionally linear watercourses. Although often narrow in extent, these mature woodlands have a presence within the landscape, and link up with mature woodland around settlements. The wooded character adds scenic interest, and could potentially screen views of small turbines
- 4.166 Development within these narrow areas will be seen in the context of the adjacent farmland, and the sensitivity of the surrounding landscapes must therefore be considered in relation to any proposals within the Meadowlands.
- 4.167 The landscape setting of Southwell is recognised in planning policy as being of great significance to the town. Of particular importance are the views across the town which include the Minster, Workhouse and other landmarks. The presence of this key assemblage of historic buildings in the landscape indicates locally increased sensitivity in areas of the LCT close to Southwell, where turbines may affect appreciation of views of landmark buildings. Areas of increased sensitivity may extend beyond the areas defined in the LDF Policies So/PV and So/Wh.
- 4.168 The following table summarises the underlying sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.2**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small (15-30 m)	Moderate-low
Small-medium (31 to 50 m)	Moderate
Medium (51 to 80 m)	High-moderate
Large (81 to 110 m)	High
Very large (111 to 140 m)	High

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

- 4.169 Based on the scale and extent of these landscapes, it is considered that they are of high sensitivity to development of more than single turbines. There may be relatively lower sensitivity to groups of two or possibly three smaller turbines in more open areas of this type, but groups of medium or larger turbines are unlikely to successfully integrate.

Guidance for Development

4.170 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics

Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include:

- Small scale of the landscape;
- Enclosed nature of the valleys, contained by gently rising ground which forms a backdrop to the landscape;
- The valleys are overlooked from surrounding higher ground, including from roads and villages;
- Riparian woodlands which form a key feature within this landscape;
- Importance of landmarks and settlement settings where they adjoin the valleys;
- The particular importance of the setting of Southwell, the conservation area, and its landmark buildings, both within and beyond the areas recognised by planning policy; and
- The limited physical extent of these areas, which means that the effects of turbine development may well extend beyond the valley area into the adjacent landscape types.

Operational and consented development (see Figure 2.1)

There is one operational turbine in the Meadowlands, close to Hockerton, which is 28 m to tip. A 46.5 m turbine south of Winkburn is close to the Meadowlands around The Wink, and a 25 m turbine near Normanton is close to the Car Dyke area of this LCT. These developments in and around the Meadowlands have very localised effects on its character. There are no consented wind turbines within or adjacent to the Meadowlands.

Guidance for development

When siting and designing wind energy developments in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- The small-scale landscape is particularly sensitive to large and very large turbines, and opportunities for siting these turbines are likely to be very limited.
- The combination of shelter, low elevation and surrounding high ground does not offer ideal locations for turbines.
- Favour locations with limited intervisibility with neighbouring LCTs, especially when they are elevated and overlook this LCT or when neighbouring LCTs are of higher sensitivity with views out being a characteristic feature.
- Mature riparian woodland may offer opportunities for screening of small turbines.
- Avoid siting turbines where they would interrupt prominent skylines and the settings of settlements or landmarks.
- Avoid any development which may adversely affect views from, of or across Southwell, and which could affect the setting of the conservation area, Minster or other landmark buildings. Reference should be made to the Southwell Landscape Setting study, noting that adverse effects may arise from turbines located beyond the areas currently defined in planning policy.
- Carefully consider the sensitivity of adjacent landscapes which could be affected by development in the narrow riparian corridors.

Capacity

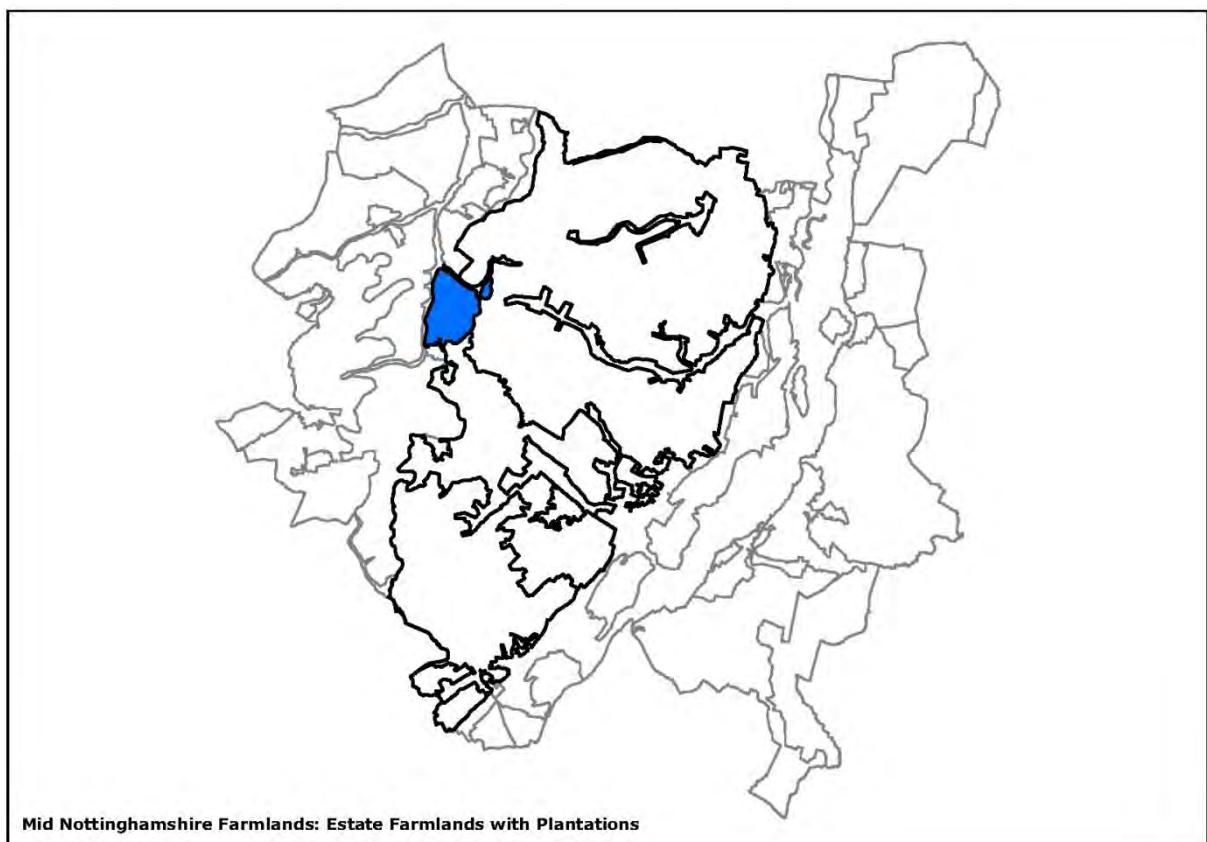
- 4.171 The sensitivity of this LCT, and the heritage values placed upon it, indicate that there is very limited capacity for wind turbines. The small scale, enclosure and wooded nature of these areas reduces the opportunity for large turbines, though there may be lower sensitivity to small turbines. The importance of Southwell and its setting further increases sensitivity in part of the landscape, particularly in terms of siting development on skylines around the town.
- 4.172 The overall aim for this LCT is **a landscape without wind energy**, in which turbines do not influence landscape character, except at the most local scale. There may be limited capacity for small turbines to be located in this area.

Cumulative development

- 4.173 There are no proposals for turbines within the Meadowlands. An application has been submitted for a 102 m turbine near Hockerton, which would have an influence on The Wink area of the Meadowlands.
- 4.174 The CZTV maps (**Figures 3.5 to 3.7**) indicate restricted visibility of operational and proposed turbines from within the valley landscapes, reflecting the contained nature of the Meadowlands with few wider views.
- 4.175 There are applications and scoping proposals for sites close to the Meadowlands, and which would be seen from the valley landscapes. These turbines will be visible from the Meadowlands, but would be on higher ground and would be viewed within adjacent landscape types, and not as part of the Meadowlands. Further development within this LCT, with the exception of small turbines, should be discouraged.

Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Estate Farmland with Plantations

Figure 4.10 Location of the Estate Farmland with Plantations within the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands



Characteristic features

4.176 Characteristic features of this LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:

- Undulating landform
- Sparsely settled and largely inaccessible
- Views framed by woodland edges
- Extensive broad-leaved, mixed and coniferous woodlands
- Country houses set in ornamental parklands
- Narrow man-made lakes along river valleys
- Extensive areas of unenclosed heath
- Unfenced minor roads

Location and extent

4.177 This LCT occurs in one location, in the centre of the Newark and Sherwood District. It lies to the south of Ollerton and Edwinstowe, immediately to the north of Bilsthorpe. It is small in extent compared with other LCTs within Newark and Sherwood.

4.178 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.10** above and is identified as type **B3** on **Figure 3.1**.

4.179 The following policy zones are covered: MN24.

Heritage aspects

- 4.180 The northern part of the LCT lies within the Registered Historic Park and Garden of Rufford Abbey which is Grade II listed. Within this LCT, the registered park comprises estate woodlands enclosing mainly arable farmland.

Sensitivity assessment

- 4.181 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT to the assessment criteria. Refer to **Table 2.3** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity		↔	Higher sensitivity	
Landform and Scale					
A medium scale landscape comprising a relatively flat area, rising up to the south to man-modified hills, the result of mineral working around Stonish Hill. Framed by rising ground to the east.					
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features					
Large agricultural fields with a mixed land cover of arable and some pasture, and important estate woodlands. Fields are bound by a combination of hedgerows and fencing and few isolated hedgerow trees. Extensive belts of broad-leaved and mixed woodland form strong features, associated with the Rufford Estate. The area is sparsely settled with few scattered farm buildings and lodge houses. Acidic grassland, bracken, broom and gorse can be found along roads. There is a business park on former workings north of Bilsthorpe.					
Skylines					
Skylines within the LCT are not particularly prominent except in localised areas where elevated sloping ground is topped by woodland. Wooded skylines on elevated neighbouring LCTs are also present, with pylons on the skyline to the east.					
Perceptual qualities					
To the north, an undeveloped landscape with strong character imparted by woodland belts and unfragmented by modern development. The southern area is influenced by the business park and former workings, as well as by the presence of wind turbines.					
Scenic qualities					
The areas parkland landscapes are of scenic as well as historic interest, with the substantial mature woodland belts adding visual interest to this agricultural landscape. The southern area is somewhat blander.					
Intervisibility					
The LCT has a sense of wooded enclosure, and is contained by rising ground to the east. These more elevated neighbouring landscapes have an important relationship with the parkland, farming it and forming part of the wider 'edge' of the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands . Otherwise longer views out of this area are limited.					

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.182 This is a unified and intact landscape which remains fairly unfragmented by development. It is sparsely settled with few roads making it feel inaccessible and remote in places. Well wooded areas and the ornamental parkland landscape of Rufford Abbey estate contribute and heighten these perceived qualities. However, areas of fragmented character do exist around the large sewage treatment works and industrial estate to the south. In this location there is an area of artificial landform and an operational wind energy development consisting of three turbines. Due

to the small-scale of the LCT if further turbines were introduced into this landscape they would substantially increase the human influence in the landscape.

- 4.183 The undulating and rolling topography indicates a slightly increased sensitivity to wind turbines, which could relate to the medium-scale and more enclosed pattern with areas of mixed woodland. Locally larger-scale landscapes to the west of the LCT are of lower sensitivity.
- 4.184 The following table summarises the sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.2**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small (15-30 m)	Low
Small-medium (31 to 50 m)	Moderate-low
Medium (51 to 80 m)	Moderate
Large (81 to 110 m)	High-moderate
Very large (111 to 140 m)	High

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

- 4.185 The medium to large-scale of this landscape suggests that there could be lower sensitivity to single turbines and small groups of up to two to three turbines. The relatively small-scale of the LCT and the areas sensitive historic landscapes would limit the size and number of developments.

Guidance for Development

- 4.186 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics

Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include:

- Historically important ornamental parkland of Rufford Abbey, including the intact historic character of the wooded estate landscape;
- Extensive broadleaf and coniferous woodland blocks and parkland trees create a well wooded character;
- Views framed by woodland edges, with some intervisibility with neighbouring landscape to the north east;
- Undeveloped landscape, in the north of this LCT, with a strong intact character unfragmented by modern development.
- Locally prominent wooded skylines; and
- Existing wind turbines to the south within LCT.

Operational and consented development (see Figure 2.1)

Three turbines of Stonish Hill Wind Farm (103.5 m) are within the south of this LCT, with the remaining two turbines just to the east.

Guidance for development

When considering the siting and designing of potential wind energy development in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- Protect the special qualities of the historically important parklands by avoiding siting turbines in sensitive locations.
- Avoid siting large turbines in or adjacent to well wooded areas.
- Consider intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes, including longer views of or across this small area.
- Seek to link development of turbines in this area with areas of greater human influence and around existing development.
- Maintain prominent wooded skylines.
- Consider location, size, scale and number of proposed turbines in relation to existing turbines, in order to **avoid 'cluttered' and confusing horizons**.

Capacity

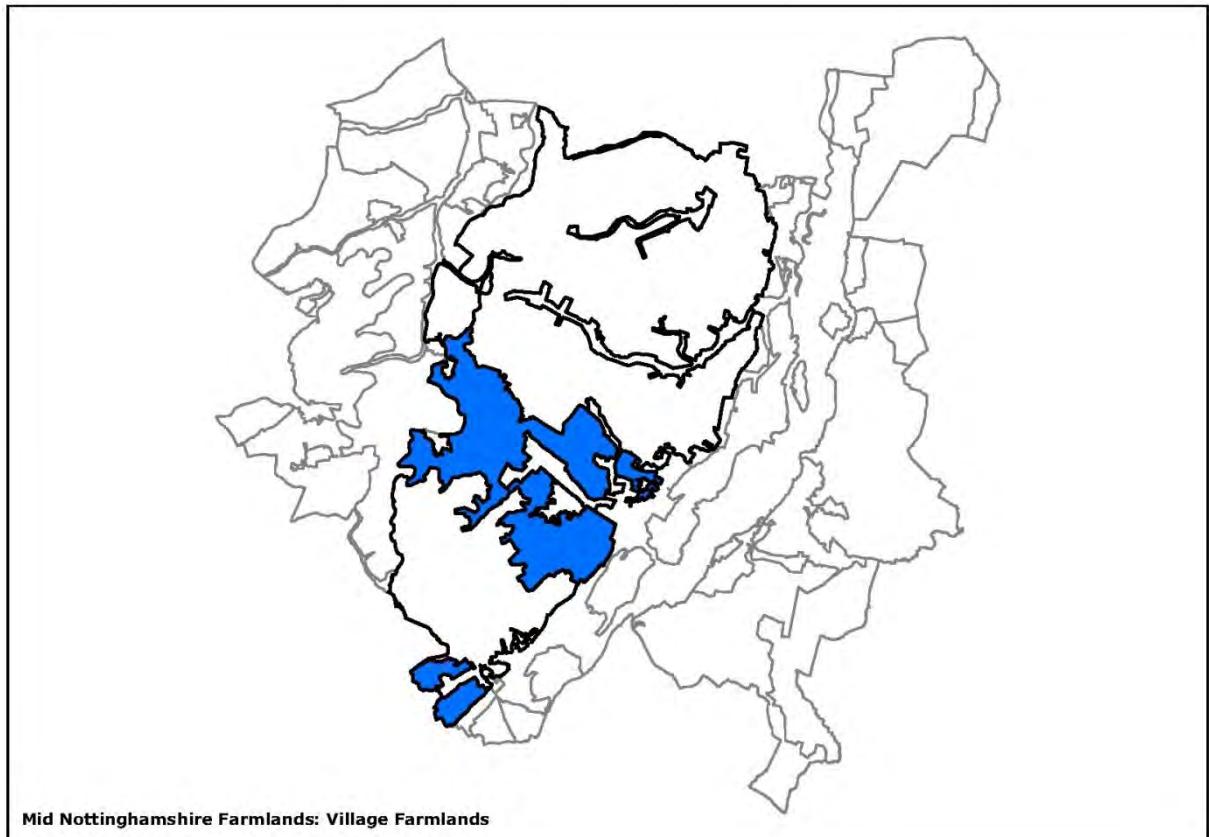
- 4.187 The sensitivity of this LCT, the heritage and other values placed upon it, indicate that there is limited capacity for wind turbines within this LCT. The medium to large-scale, intensively farmed and developed areas of this landscape may be of lower sensitivity to wind energy development. However, the historically important landscape is of higher sensitivity, and physical extent of the landscape is small.
- 4.188 The overall aim for this LCT is a **landscape with occasional wind energy**, where turbines may influence the perception of the landscape at close proximity, but do not have a defining influence on the overall experience of the landscape. This is suggested by the small extent, historic value and existing development within this landscape.

Cumulative development

- 4.189 There is a scoping proposal for a 79 m turbine within the Rufford estate. The CZTV maps (**Figures 3.5 to 3.7**) indicate that this area has relatively high visibility of turbines, though the Stonish Hill wind farm is the main development which has an effect.
- 4.190 Should the proposed turbine in the north-west of the LCT, or similar turbines be constructed, then there would be very limited further scope for future development within this small area without changing the underlying character, which is valued for its historic aspects. There may be lower sensitivity to development at smaller scales, though cumulative relationships would need to be considered.

Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Village Farmlands

Figure 4.11 Location of the Village Farmlands within the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands



Characteristic features

- 4.191 Characteristic features of this LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:
- Gently rolling topography
 - Simple pattern of large arable fields
 - Nucleated settlement pattern of villages and isolated farmsteads
 - Small-scale pastoral landscapes and remnant orchards around settlements
 - Lines of willow and other riparian trees along streams
 - Open views to the Trent Valley, power stations and pylons

Location and extent

- 4.192 This landscape occurs in a broad band across the central part of the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands, centred on the River Greet and the town of Southwell. It extends south into the wooded dumble valleys, and north-east to Bilston. To west and east this area adjoins the Sherwood and Trent Washlands areas, respectively. There is a detached area of this type south of Lowdham.
- 4.193 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.11** above and is identified as type **B4** on **Figure 3.1**.
- 4.194 The following policy zones are covered: MN27; MN32; MN34; MN36; MN38; and MN41.

Heritage aspects

- 4.195 The protected views of Southwell extend south into this landscape, up to Park Hill. Within the defined viewshed there are views north towards the Minster, though the town is largely hidden in the valley. The immediate surroundings of the Workhouse also covers part of this area, taking in a small area to the north of Corkhill Lane.
- 4.196 There are a number of conservation areas which are focused on villages throughout this LCT. These are Bilsthorpe, Farnsfield, Halloughton, Kirklington, Southwell, and Upton. Each conservation area contains the village and, in some cases, areas of adjacent farmland which contribute to their setting.
- 4.197 Farnsfield Conservation Area Appraisal (2000) recognises the importance of this landscape setting. Bells Fields to the west is highlighted, as well as the landscape setting to the south, including parkland and well-established hedgerows.
- 4.198 Southwell Conservation Area Appraisal (2005) highlights landscape setting as one of the most important features of the conservation area. The wooded nature of this landscape context within the enclosed dumble valley contribute to its contained and intimate character. Undeveloped slopes to the north and south form a rural backdrop to the settlement. The importance of the approaches to Southwell, generally from higher ground, is noted.
- 4.199 Conservation area appraisals have not been published for the other conservation areas.

Sensitivity assessment

- 4.200 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT to the assessment criteria. Refer to **Table 2.3** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
Landform and Scale			
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features			
Skylines			
Perceptual qualities			

The landscape of this LCT consists of undulations and gently rolling topography dipping slowly eastwards. Its character tends to be more undulating in the south-west, flattening out in the east as it joins the Trent Valley. Around the River Greet the landscape also flattens out, merging into the Meadowlands. The southern areas of the LCT have a more intricate landscape, with smaller-scale dumble valleys leading into the adjacent hills.

Medium to large-scale arable fields surrounded by tall hedges. In contrast there are some areas of smaller scale pastoral fields. Overall there is a simple pattern of hedges with hedgerow tree, infrequent small woods, remnant orchards and tree-lined streams which give this LCT a well wooded character. There are number of nucleated settlement and villages scattered across the landscape. Other development includes isolated farmsteads, Lowdham Grange Prison and infrequent horticultural buildings.

Pylons, hedgerow trees and woodland appear on near and middle distant horizons. These skylines are relatively prominent, when seen from the low lying floodplain of the River Greet. Distant skylines appear simple and flat with few distinctive features. Southwell Minster is a key landmark, and skylines are of major importance to views in and around the town.

This is a strongly rural landscape which can be quiet away from main roads which pass through. It is a farmed and settled landscape, locally influenced by settlements, but with few other overt human influences. Several dispersed wind turbines are located within the LCT.

	Lower sensitivity	\leftrightarrow	Higher sensitivity
Scenic qualities			
This is a medium-scale landscape of attractive rolling farmland, with intricate wooded dumble valleys that have higher scenic value. The valley setting of Southwell is a scenic landscape with strong field patterns and woodland adding visual diversity. More open, less intact intensive farmland and floodplain areas can be blander.			
Intervisibility		This LCT is more enclosed in character compared to other LCTs in the District with the undulating topography and vegetation limiting views, and higher ground to north and south. Where views can be obtained they are far reaching to neighbouring LCTs. Open views can be gained over the Trent Valley from the eastern part of the area.	

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.201 This is an area of unified rural character consisting of predominately medium to large-scale arable farmland. However, associated with the settlements are smaller scale pasture fields. Land cover is further diversified with orchards being present in some locations. The area has varied topography with the majority of the land form being rolling and undulating in character with some smaller areas of flatter landform along river valley floors and more strongly undulating valley sides. In relation to the rivers riparian trees form a feature and contribute to the well wooded character of the area. Woodland provides some enclosure, although there are some far reaching views across this LCT to neighbouring LCTs.
- 4.202 The combination of turbines with pylons on the horizon should be considered. Pylons of c.50 m and c.25 m occur in this area, and offer scale references against which turbines could be read, **and could lead to skyline 'clutter'**.
- 4.203 The varied topography indicates an inconsistent level of sensitivity to wind turbines, which could relate to the smaller scale, mixed land cover pattern and enclosed character of the landscape. Flatter areas with larger scale and more open field pattern are of lower sensitivity.
- 4.204 The landscape setting of Southwell is recognised in planning policy as being of great significance. Of particular importance are the views from, of and across the town and its conservation area, which include the Minster, **Archbishop's Palace**, Workhouse and other landmarks. The presence of this key assemblage of historic buildings in the landscape indicates locally increased sensitivity in areas of the LCT close to Southwell, where turbines may affect appreciation of views of landmark buildings. Areas of increased sensitivity may extend beyond the areas defined in the LDF Policies So/PV and So/Wh.
- 4.205 The following table summarises the sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.2**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small (15 to 30 m)	Low
Small-medium (31 to 50 m)	Moderate-low
Medium (51 to 80 m)	Moderate
Large (81 to 110 m)	High-moderate
Very large (111 to 140 m)	High-moderate

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

- 4.206 A medium to large-scale landscape with undulations and gently rolling topography in places could indicate that there is lower sensitivity to medium groups of turbines, potentially up to six to seven turbines. **The LCT's varied topography and land cover pattern, isolated areas and historic landscapes will form the limiting factors for wind energy development.**

Guidance for Development

- 4.207 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics

Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include:

- Varied topography within river valleys;
- Historically important settlements including conservation areas;
- Significant landscape setting of Southwell and key landmark buildings;
- Characteristically wooded skylines with man-made influences including pylons and operational wind turbines within the LCT;
- Rural landscape character with remote and inaccessible areas;
- Well wooded landscape with a strong sense of enclosure, limited intervisibility with neighbouring LCTs with occasional far reaching open views; and
- Parts of the southern area of this LCT are within the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt.

Operational and consented development (see Figure 2.1)

There are two operational turbines within the LCT: a small single 25 m turbine at Sunrise Cottage near Normanton; and a small-medium 46.5 m turbine at Kirklington Road north of Hockerton. There is also a 28 m turbine south of Hockerton, within the adjacent Meadowlands LCT. Stonish Hill Wind Farm lies just to the north of this LCT, and the Combs Farm turbine is just to the southwest.

Guidance for development

When considering the siting and designing of potential wind energy development in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- Avoid siting turbines on undulating valley sides or flatter valley floors and in areas of strong enclosure.
- Seek to avoid or minimise effects on historically significant settlements, particularly effects on views which are integral to the character of conservation areas;
- Avoid development which may adversely affect views from, of or across Southwell, and which could affect the setting of the conservation area and landmark buildings. Reference should be made to the Southwell Landscape Setting study, noting that adverse effects may arise from turbines located beyond the areas currently defined in planning policy.
- Consider location, size, scale and number of proposed turbines in relation to existing turbines, in order to avoid cumulative effects arising from confusing horizons.
- Avoid siting turbines where they would substantially erode perceptual qualities of relative remoteness.

- Consider turbine locations with regard to open views and areas with strong intervisibility with neighbouring LCTs and operational wind turbine within and outside the LCT.
- Ensure siting and design of development maintains the openness the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt.

Capacity

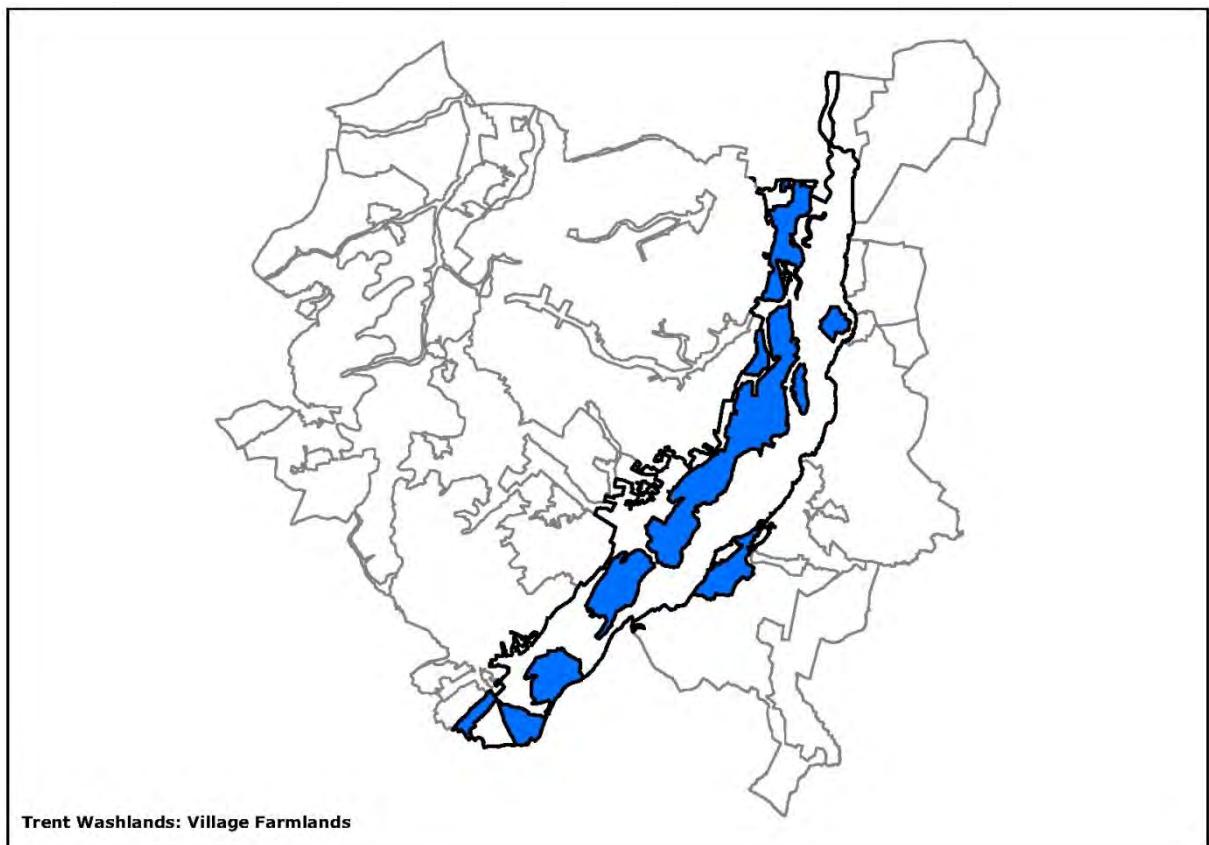
- 4.208 There are two operational turbines of different sizes within the LCT. In neighbouring LCTs there are a number of operational turbines and proposed turbines in close proximity to the boundary of this LCT. There is potentially lower sensitivity associated with gently undulating landforms, in areas of open intensive farmland, but the large number of villages and heritage interests, as well as the more inaccessible dumble valleys, as well as existing development, are all likely to be limiting factors on overall capacity. The importance of Southwell and its setting further increases sensitivity in a part of this landscape, in particular to development on the skylines around the town.
- 4.209 The overall aim for this LCT is **a landscape with occasional wind energy**, in which turbines may locally influence landscape character, but collectively do not affect perception of the landscape. This is suggested by the landscape sensitivity, and also by the pattern of operational and consented development within the landscape.

Cumulative development

- 4.210 An appeal is ongoing in relation to two 67 m turbines at Brackenhurst College south of Southwell, and there is a live application for a 102 m turbine near Hockerton. Scoping opinions have been submitted for 48 m and 71 m turbines at Belle Eau Park near Bilsthorpe, a single 78 m turbine at Upton Lodge, and a single 78 m turbine at Combs Farm.
- 4.211 The CZTV maps (**Figures 3.5 to 3.7**) indicate relatively high levels of turbine visibility from these landscapes, reflecting the presence of operational turbines to north, east and south-west. The current pattern of proposed development would add further turbines on the northern and western fringes of the area.
- 4.212 Should the proposed wind energy developments, or similar development, be constructed, then there could still be some remaining capacity further turbine development within this LCT, in lower sensitivity locations, without changing the underlying character. Should further development take place cumulative relationships would need to be considered.

Trent Washlands: Village Farmlands

Figure 4.12 Location of the Village Farmlands within the Trent Washlands



Characteristic features

4.213 Characteristic features of this LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:

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

Location and extent

4.214 This LCT extends in a discontinuous band along the Trent valley through the District. It occupies the slightly raised river terraces within the valley and at the edges of the floodplain. It continues north into Bassetlaw and south into Rushcliffe and Gedling.

4.215 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.12** above and is identified as type **C1** on **Figure 3.1**.

4.216 The following policy zones are covered: TW06; TW08; TW09; TW11; TW12; TW14; TW15; TW16; TW18; TW26; and TW35.

Heritage aspects

- 4.217 Within this LCT there are conservation areas at Averham, Bleasby, Bulcote, Fiskerton, Hoveringham, Kelham, Morton and Sutton on Trent.
- 4.218 Bulcote Conservation Area Appraisal (2001) refers to the “*park like landscape*” of the village. The appraisal notes that there are “*large vistas across open countryside*” looking north-east from the railway crossing and other locations.
- 4.219 Fiskerton Conservation Area Appraisal (2002) notes the importance of the relationship between the village and its riverside setting, which is related to the River Meadowlands LCT. “*Some of the most accessible and attractive rural views of the River Trent*” are considered to be one of the most important features of the designation. The setting of Fiskerton to this LCT is more wooded than that of many other Trent villages, creating a sense of enclosure away from the river.
- 4.220 Morton Conservation Area Appraisal (2004) makes limited reference to the landscape, focusing on the compact and well defined nucleated settlement form. Fields surrounding the settlement are included in the conservation area, in order “*to highlight the compact nature of the village within the landscape*”.
- 4.221 Conservation area appraisals have not been published for the other conservation areas.

Sensitivity assessment

- 4.222 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT to the assessment criteria. Refer to **Table 2.3** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
Landform and Scale			
	The landscape of this LCT consists of wide flat river terraces and very gently rolling broad slopes. Landform is of a medium to large-scale. There are few natural landforms of distinction, aside from small-scale river terraces.		
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features			
	Land cover varies, consisting of predominately medium to large-scale intensive arable fields bounded by hedges and sporadic hedgerow trees. These areas indicate lower sensitivity, but there are important areas of smaller-scale irregular permanent pasture around settlements. Some of these contain remnant ridge and furrow. As well as the hedgerow trees there are small pockets of woodland and areas of parkland which give this LCT a more wooded appearance in places. There are a number of nucleated villages situated adjacent to the River Trent, and often associated with the smaller scale fields and woodlands. These represent the most intact and sensitive locations, within the wider intensive farmlands. Wooded areas become more frequent in the south of the LCT.		
Skylines			
	Skylines within this LCT are predominately open and flat in character, and not distinctive. There are few locations where pylons are not a feature of the skyline, with a major concentration of power lines around the substation at Staythorpe. Other masts and industrial structures are also visible. Hedgerow trees on near to middle distance horizons form important local features, and locally obscure the horizon, particularly in the south.		
Perceptual qualities			
	This landscape has been strongly influenced by human activity. Where farmland is intensive and field boundaries removed, the pastoral character has been adversely affected. Within these areas modern development, including large industrial units, mineral workings, roads and railway lines, are more prominent. The settlements contribute to its busy character and occasional suburban or settlement fringe character is evident. The smaller villages have more of a		

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
	sense of rural tranquillity.		
Scenic qualities			
	Despite the intensive land use, and the visual influence of modern development, there are pockets of some scenic quality in pastoral areas around villages. The landscape offers few visual contrasts, though there are attractive views associated with the wooded areas and villages. Particular features of interest include surviving Willow pollards and mature hedgerow trees which contribute to scenic quality.		
Intervisibility			
	This LCT has an open character with high intervisibility from neighbouring LCTs due to the elevated valley sides. Outward visibility is limited by the rising valley sides and locally reduced where flood banks, hedgerows and tree cover provide enclosure.		

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.223 This LCT largely comprises intensive arable farmland, with limited scenic interest and frequent views of modern structures, principally pylons. Overall these areas are of lower sensitivity, particularly to smaller and medium turbine heights. The flat landscape is likely to be of lower sensitivity to larger turbines, although there are some human-scale features. The presence of multiple pylons and other tall structures of different heights may lead to visual confusion if turbines were to be introduced.
- 4.224 Set within this intensively farmed landscape are small-scale village landscapes, many of which are intact and with special architectural or historic interest as recognised by the high number of conservation area designations. The scale and wooded nature of the village landscapes indicates that greater care would be required in siting turbines in relation to these areas.
- 4.225 Like the Trent Washlands: River Meadowlands, this area exhibits variation in character along the Trent Valley. In places there are local areas of lower sensitivity which extend across both LCTs, where arable intensification has occurred, for example.
- 4.226 The following table summarises the underlying sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.2**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small (15 to 30 m)	Low
Small-medium (31 to 50 m)	Moderate-low
Medium (51 to 80 m)	Moderate-low
Large (81 to 110 m)	Moderate
Very large (111 to 140 m)	High-moderate

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

- 4.227 Sensitivity to different sized groups varies with the scale of the landscape. The scale of this landscape has been observed to increase to the north making these larger, more open areas relatively less sensitive to groups of up to four to five turbines. However, smaller scale areas, including areas close to villages and historic landscapes, will be more sensitive to groups of more than two to three turbines.

Guidance for Development

4.228 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics

Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include:

- The variable scale of the landscape, from larger open intensive farmland, to smaller scale wooded areas;
- The villages and their settings inset within this LCT are of higher sensitivity than the surrounding intensive farmland;
- The settings of villages, conservation areas and historically significant landscapes;
- Presence of vertical structures on the horizon, particularly pylons: turbines may lead to visual confusion where they proliferate; and
- Three of the southern-most areas of this LCT, around Bulcote, Gunthorpe and Hoveringham, are within the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt.

Operational and consented development (see Figure 2.1)

A single 66.7 m turbine has been recently completed at Fosse Road near Farndon, adjacent to the A1. There are no other operational and consented turbines within this LCT, though the operational turbines at Ollerton Road and Ossington Road to the west are widely visible from within the valley. There are consented turbines adjacent to both these turbines.

Guidance for development

When siting and designing wind energy developments in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- Avoid siting development where turbines would affect areas of smaller-scale village farmland, favouring the larger-scale areas of open intensive farmland.
- Keep larger scale developments away from villages so that they do not dominate the settlements or adversely affect their small scale character.
- Ensure development does not adversely affect the special character of the conservation areas (e.g. as recorded in conservation area appraisals), or the character of historically significant riverside landscapes.
- Avoid siting development in areas already affected by the presence of multiple pylons, and where turbines would create additional 'clutter' on the skyline.
- Ensure siting and design of development maintains the openness the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt.

Capacity

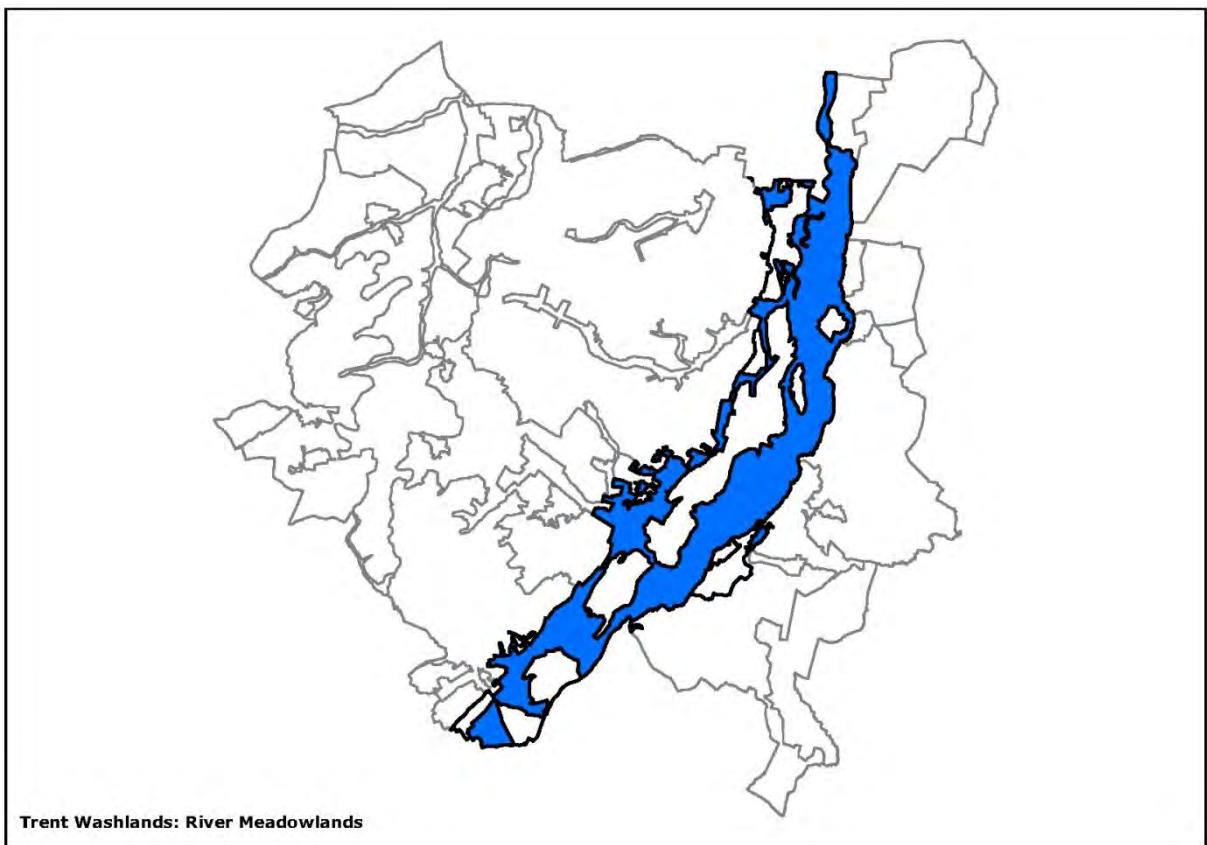
- 4.229 The sensitivity of this LCT, and the heritage and other values placed upon it, indicate that there is capacity for wind turbines, mainly associated with lower sensitivity areas away from villages, and in the more intensive farmlands in the north of the Trent Washlands. The frequency of the smaller-scale village landscapes within the LCT is likely to be a limiting factor on overall capacity.
- 4.230 The overall aim for this LCT is **a landscape with occasional wind energy**, in which turbines may locally influence landscape character, but collectively do not affect perception of the landscape. This is suggested by the variable sensitivity of the landscape, and the landscape constraints including higher sensitivity features which are present.

Cumulative development

- 4.231 There are no live applications for turbines in this area. Scoping proposals have been submitted for a site close to Fosse Road, with alternative heights of 74 m and 86.5 m, and for a 126 m turbine east of Gunthorpe. There are further scoping proposals in the adjacent Trent Washlands: River Meadowlands, and in the landscapes to east and west.
- 4.232 The CZTV maps (**Figure 3.5** to **Figure 3.7**) indicate that the Trent Valley has a consistently greater number of turbines visible than any other part of the district. This reflects its open nature, with little or no screening by landscape features. Actual visibility from this area is less than the bare-ground CZTVs indicate, due to distance and screening by trees or woodland. The single turbine at Ossington Road above Carlton-on-Trent is visible from northern areas of this LCT, as it is located on the higher ground to the west of the Trent Valley. It is viewed from the A1 and the ECML. The 102 m turbine at Ollerton Road is also visible across the central part of the Trent Valley.
- 4.233 The pattern of development indicates that, should the proposed turbines in this area be consented, there could be further capacity for development. Appropriate separation should be established to prevent wind energy becoming a strong influence throughout the landscape. Consideration should be given to the potential for a visually confusing landscape to be created where multiple turbines are viewed alongside pylons of different heights and other structures within the valley.

Trent Washlands: River Meadowlands

Figure 4.13 Location of the River Meadowlands within the Trent Washlands



Characteristic features

4.234 Characteristic features of this LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:

- Meandering river channels, often defined by flood banks
- Sparsely populated with few buildings
- Permanent pasture and flood meadow
- Steep wooded bluffs
- Willow holts
- Long sinuous hedges
- Pollarded willows
- Regular pattern of medium to large size arable fields, breaking down and becoming open in many areas
- Hedgerow trees main component of tree cover

Location and extent

4.235 This LCT extends in a more or less continuous ribbon along the River Trent from south to north. The River Meadowlands also wrap around the elevated Village Farmlands, occupying the lower ground associated with tributaries of the Trent, including the River Greet and smaller dykes.

4.236 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.13** above and is identified as type **C2** on **Figure 3.1**.

- 4.237 The following policy zones are covered: TW10; TW13; TW17; TW19; TW27; TW28; TW29; TW30; TW31; TW32; TW33; TW34; TW36; TW37; TW38; TW39; TW40; TW41; TW42; TW43; TW51; TW52; and TW53.

Heritage aspects

- 4.238 This LCT includes parts of several conservation areas, which are focused on the settlements of Besthorpe, Carlton-on-Trent, Collingham, East Stoke, Farndon, Fiskerton, Girton, Newark, Thurgarton, Upton and Winthorpe. Several of these extend only peripherally into the River Meadowlands.
- 4.239 Besthorpe Conservation Area Appraisal (2007) recognises the importance of part of this LCT to the setting of the village. Footpaths link to this area west of the village, with views back to the village from the floodplain.
- 4.240 Collingham Conservation Area Appraisal (2006) notes that the more important views of the village in its landscape setting are from the west, within the River Meadowlands. The conservation area **extends into the meadowlands, with this area highlighted as being “very important with regards to views into and out from the village, especially in framing views of key landmark buildings.”**
- 4.241 Fiskerton Conservation Area Appraisal (2002) notes the importance of the relationship between the village and its riverside setting in relation to this LCT. **“Some of the most accessible and attractive rural views of the River Trent”** are considered to be one of the most important features of the designation.
- 4.242 Girton Conservation Area Appraisal (2007) notes the traditional pattern of hedged pre-enclosure fields around the village. The **“integration of landscape and the buildings”** is referenced, as well as **“the contribution made to the setting of the village by the extensive Trent Valley landscape”**. The dominant influence of pylons along the western edge of the village is also noted.
- 4.243 Thurgarton Conservation Area Appraisal (2008) includes the rural setting as a key feature of the village, though the more important areas are within the adjacent Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands area. The small part of the conservation area within the Trent Washlands is noted for its remnant ridge-and-furrow.
- 4.244 Upton Conservation Area Appraisal (1999) highlights the well-preserved setting of the villages, **stating that it is “one of the best examples in the district of a village surrounded by well-preserved enclosures which predate the main period of Parliamentary enclosure”**. The location and layout of the village is strongly related to the underlying terrain on the edge of the Trent Valley, giving a strong sense of place.
- 4.245 Winthorpe Conservation Area Appraisal (2007) notes the importance of parkland landscapes which frame the village, including the extensive parkland around Winthorpe Hall which extends onto the water meadows, as far as the railway line, and provides setting to the settlement.
- 4.246 Conservation area appraisals have not been published for the other conservation areas.

Sensitivity assessment

- 4.247 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT to the assessment criteria. Refer to **Table 2.3** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity		↔	Higher sensitivity	
Landform and Scale					
	The landscape within this LCT is mainly flat, low-lying floodplains within the Trent river valley. It is of a medium to large-scale. In contrast to the flat topography there are, in places, steeply inclined bluffs at the valley edges. These are low in elevation but locally prominent.				
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale					
	Land cover consists of medium to large-scale mixed arable and pasture fields with low clipped hedgerows and the occasional hedgerow tree. There are also areas of flood meadows and willow holts. The wooded slopes, riparian scrub and				

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
features	high hedges that enclose roads create a well-wooded character in certain places. This is a sparsely settled landscape with few buildings, though there are settlements along the fringes of the LCT. Development within the LCT includes pylons which are visible almost everywhere, as well as large industrial buildings. Numerous past and present mineral sites have fragmented the landcover over substantial areas, with large ponds and lakes formed by reclamation. Other human-scale features include raised flood banks and flood protection works.		
Skylines			
	Predominately the skylines in this LCT are flat with few features. Trees and woodland line the near and middle distance horizons, and there is little development to obscure the skyline. Industrial buildings are occasionally seen on the skyline, including Staythorpe and Cottam power stations and the sugar factory at Newark. Pylons form skyline features where they are present.		
Perceptual qualities			
	This landscape is predominately rural with sections that have a peaceful, undisturbed character. The more intact river corridor areas, with flood meadows and willow holts, retain a degree of tranquillity and have a strong sense of place. However, away from these areas there are elements of modern development and disturbance which break this peacefulness, particularly around the western edge of Newark where major roads have a strong influence.		
Scenic qualities			
	This is a landscape with low-medium scenic quality. The more intact river corridor areas have an attractive combination of woodland and pasture, which contributes to the settings of conservation villages along the fringe of the LCT. This attractive character has been eroded in other places through arable intensification and mineral extraction. The wooded bluffs which form the south-east edge to this landscape form a low but dramatic feature within this flat landscape.		
Intervisibility			
	The landscape is open in places with middle to long distance views out to neighbouring LCTs, including views north to features along the Trent Valley. The wooded bluffs which form a dramatic backdrop to views to the south-east provide the only strong relationship for this landscape, with the South Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Village Farmlands LCT which overlooks this area. The low-lying landscape is also overlooked by adjacent landscapes elsewhere, though intervisibility is less pronounced than at the wooded bluffs.		

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.248 This LCT comprises a mix of intensive arable land, reclaimed mineral sites and more intact sections of river corridor landscape. Where affected by intensification the sensitivity of the landscape to turbines is reduced. The effect of mineral extraction on the landscape varies with the quality of the restoration, but generally leads to fragmentation of character which can also locally reduce sensitivity. The flat landscape is likely to be of greater sensitivity to larger turbines, due to the presence of human-scale features, suggesting that there is relatively lower sensitivity to smaller or medium turbines within this LCT.
- 4.249 The more intact, smaller-scale areas of river corridor which occur within this LCT, characterised by willow holts and flood meadows as opposed to arable land, are likely to be of greater sensitivity to wind turbines, particularly in the context of villages and conservation areas. This includes the historically significant Holmes in the north of the area.
- 4.250 More developed parts of this LCT, for example the western fringe of Newark and areas affected by pylons and power stations, are of relatively lower sensitivity to turbines though there is the

potential for the creation of visual ‘clutter’ if numerous large man-made features of different forms and scales are introduced in views together.

- 4.251 Like the Trent Washlands: Village Farmlands, this LCT exhibits local variation along the length of the Trent Valley. In places these local variations are more important to sensitivity than the distinction between the River Meadowlands and the Village Farmlands within the Trent Washlands. As such there may be local areas of lower sensitivity which extend across both LCTs, where arable intensification has occurred, for example.
- 4.252 The following table summarises the sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.1**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small (15 to 30 m)	Low
Small-medium (31 to 50 m)	Moderate-low
Medium (51 to 80 m)	Moderate-low
Large (81 to 110 m)	Moderate
Very large (111 to 140 m)	High-moderate

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

- 4.253 The scale of this landscape tends to be greater in the north, where the Trent Valley is more open, and also in areas where the floodplain has been more extensively modified, either by mineral extraction or arable intensification. In these areas it is possible that there is relatively lower sensitivity to groups of four to five turbines. The extent of these areas is not great within the LCT, though similar characteristics extend into the neighbouring Trent Washlands: Village Farmlands. Most areas of this LCT are of medium scale, and would be of high sensitivity to groups of more than two to three turbines. The number of turbines which could be successfully integrated in any location depends upon the local scale of the landscape, which varies, and the presence of the more sensitive smaller-scale or historically significant river corridor landscapes.

Guidance for Development

- 4.254 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics

Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include:

- The variable scale of the landscape, from larger, open intensive farmland, to smaller scale areas along the river corridor;
- The presence of the relatively dramatic scarp slopes to the south-east;
- The settings of villages, conservation areas and historically significant landscapes;
- Presence of vertical structures on the horizon including industrial plants, power stations and pylons: turbines may lead to visual confusion where they proliferate; and
- The southern-most parts of this LCT, south of Thurgarton, are within the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt.

Operational and consented development

There are presently no operational or consented turbines in this LCT, though the operational turbines at Ollerton Road and Ossington Road to the west are widely visible from within the

valley. There are consented turbines adjacent to both these turbines.

Guidance for development

When siting and designing wind energy developments in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- Avoid siting development where turbines would affect areas of smaller-scale river meadow, and favour the more open, intensively farmed areas.
- Seek to avoid placing development close to the distinctive scarps which mark the south-east edge of the Trent Valley.
- Ensure development does not adversely affect the settings of settlements, or the special character of conservation areas (e.g. as recorded in conservation area appraisals) and historically significant riverside landscapes.
- Avoid siting development in areas already affected by the presence of multiple pylons and **industrial features, and where turbines would create additional 'clutter' on the skyline.**
- Ensure siting and design of development maintains the openness the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt.

Capacity

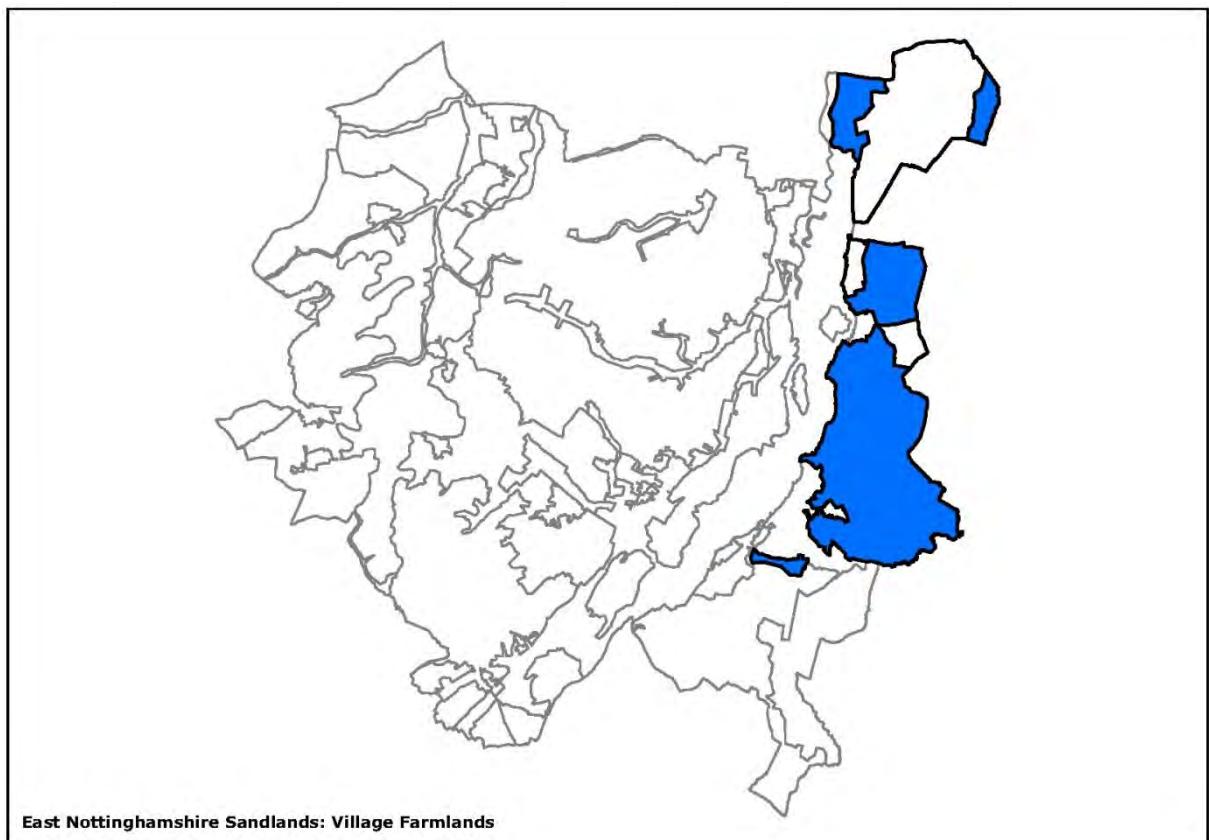
- 4.255 The sensitivity of this LCT, and the heritage and other values placed upon it, indicate that there is some capacity for wind turbines, mainly relating to the more open, intensively farmed parts of the LCT, where development would have less impact on the intact river corridors. The river corridor landscapes, and settings of village landscapes, are of higher sensitivity and are likely to be a limiting factor on overall capacity.
- 4.256 The overall aim for this LCT is **a landscape with occasional wind energy**, in which turbines may locally influence landscape character, but collectively do not affect perception of the landscape. This is suggested by the variable sensitivity of the landscape, and the landscape constraints including higher sensitivity features which are present.

Cumulative development

- 4.257 There are no live applications for turbines in this LCT. Scoping proposals have been submitted for single turbines at one location east of Averham (78m) and two locations north of Farndon (67m and 86.5m). There are further scoping proposals in the adjacent Trent Washlands: Village Farmlands, and in the landscapes to east and west.
- 4.258 The CZTV maps (**Figure 3.5** to **Figure 3.7**) indicates that the Trent Valley has a consistently greater number of turbines visible than any other part of the district. This reflects its open nature, with little or no screening by landscape features. Actual visibility from this area is less than the bare-ground CZTVs indicate, due to screening by woodland. The single turbine at Ossington Road above Carlton-on-Trent is visible from northern areas of this LCT, as it is located on the higher ground to the west of the Trent Valley. It is viewed from the A1 and the ECML. The 102 m turbine at Ollerton Road is also visible across the central part of the Trent Valley.
- 4.259 The pattern of development indicates that, should the proposed turbines in this area be consented, there would be further capacity for development within this area. Appropriate separation should be established to prevent wind energy becoming a strong influence throughout the landscape of the Trent Valley. Consideration should be given to the potential for a visually confusing landscape to be created where multiple turbines are viewed alongside pylons of different heights and other structures within the valley, particularly in the area around Newark and Staythorpe.

East Nottinghamshire Sandlands: Village Farmlands

Figure 4.14 Location of the Village Farmlands within the East Nottinghamshire Sandlands



Characteristic features

- 4.260 Characteristic features of this LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:
- 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
 - Numerous rabbit warrens
 - Bracken, gorse and broom along hedgerows and roadside verges

Location and extent

- 4.261 This LCT occupies the area to the east of the Trent Valley, between Newark in the south and **Besthorpe in the north**. It wraps around the east of Newark and extends into 'green wedges' within the A1 by-pass. A detached area of settlement fringe to the south of Newark is also included in this LCT. Two further detached areas are located at the north-east of the district: covering North and South Clifton; and north-east of Harby.
- 4.262 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.14** above and is identified as type **D1** on **Figure 3.1**.
- 4.263 The following policy zones are covered: ES01; ES03; ES04; and ES06.

Heritage aspects

- 4.264 There are several conservation areas within this landscape, focused on the villages of Barnby-in-the-Willows, Coddington, Collingham, South Clifton, South Scarle and Winthorpe.
- 4.265 Collingham Conservation Area Appraisal (2006) notes that the more important views of the village in its landscape setting are from the west, rather than from within this LCT. Open land to the south-east of the village is included in the conservation area, **since it "provides an attractive green area of land and forms part of the landscape setting on the approach to the village from the south."**
- 4.266 Winthorpe Conservation Area Appraisal (2007) notes the importance of parkland landscapes which frame the village, including the remnant parkland around Winthorpe House within this LCT.
- 4.267 Conservation area appraisals are not available for the other conservation areas. It is notable that Coddington conservation area includes large areas of countryside, of parkland character, to the south and to the west of the village, suggesting that these areas are considered important to the setting of the settlement.

Sensitivity assessment

- 4.268 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT to the assessment criteria. Refer to **Table 2.3** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
Landform and Scale			
	Large-scale landform which is flat to very gently sloping. There are occasional rounded hills which, although low, are distinctive and stand out from the surrounding flat land. Highest ground is at Beacon Hill to the east of Newark.		
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features			
	Medium to large-scale fields with varied pattern surrounded by hedges. Land cover is a mixture of permanent and rough pasture, acidic grassland and arable farmland. The landscape has a well wooded character in places, with hedgerow trees, woodland plantations and blocks of commercial forestry. There are small nucleated villages, and farmsteads within the landscape, giving a human scale. There are settlement fringe land uses around Newark.		
Skylines			
	Broad open horizons which are simple and flat in character, or else formed by the gently rounded low hills. A single line of pylons runs through the main area of this LCT. Hedgerow trees appear on skylines in some near and middle distance views, which is distinctive where these trees appear on the low hills. Skylines are more interrupted or indistinct in the vicinity of Newark.		
Perceptual qualities			
	This LCT has a rural character, though with development dispersed throughout the area. Settlement fringe influences are strongest around Newark, including the show ground. Major roads, particularly the A1 and A46 have a strong local influence. Elsewhere the landscape is intensely farmed with occasional large farms. The landscape is more tranquil away from Newark and main roads.		
Scenic qualities			
	The landscape within this LCT is of medium scenic quality. The low hills offer welcome variation from the otherwise flat landscape. Attractive wooded areas and mature field trees add to visual diversity, where the landscape is more intact.		
Intervisibility			
	In places hedgerow trees and woodlands provide some limited enclosure.		

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
	However, the majority of the landscape is open with high levels of intervisibility between neighbouring LCTs. The landscape extends eastwards into Lincolnshire without significant change. To the west the area is intervisible with the Trent Valley, which is generally lower-lying. Slightly raised ground to the east of the Trent, along the Fleet, marks the edge of this LCT and is locally quite prominent.		

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.269 The more sensitivity aspects of this landscape are its subtly varied topography, woodland and its high visibility, particularly closer to the Trent Valley where turbines would be seen in a slightly elevated location. Large turbines could affect the perception of the low but distinctive hills within this area. There is relatively lower sensitivity to smaller turbines in more wooded areas, taking advantage of screening. The high intervisibility of this landscape with areas to the north and east also contributes to its higher sensitivity to larger turbines.
- 4.270 Of lower sensitivity are the more open, intensively managed areas of farmland, though again intervisibility will be a key issue. There are large scale farms and farm buildings within these areas, where additional energy development, even at relatively large scales, may have a more limited influence on the landscape character.
- 4.271 Around Newark there are settlement fringe influences that indicate reduced sensitivity to wind turbines, but there are large numbers of residents who would potentially view turbines in these locations. The settlement fringe areas also tend to be smaller in scale due to the greater presence of domestic-scale buildings, and would be sensitive to larger turbine types. This area also forms a backdrop to Newark in wider views from the Trent Valley. Smaller turbines would be best suited to such locations.
- 4.272 The following table summarises the sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.2**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small (15 to 30 m)	Low
Small-medium (31 to 50 m)	Moderate-low
Medium (51 to 80 m)	Moderate
Large (81 to 110 m)	High-moderate
Very large (111 to 140 m)	High-moderate

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

- 4.273 This LCT is of high sensitivity to large groups of turbines. It is possible that there is relatively lower sensitivity to groups of up to four to five turbines in this area, though the scope for such development is considered to be limited by the extent of the lower sensitivity intensive farmland within the area. It is more likely that development within this landscape would be limited to two or three turbines or single turbines.

Guidance for Development

- 4.274 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics

Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include:

- Presence of low but distinctive hills within this otherwise flat landscape;
- Settlement fringes of Newark offer opportunities for wind energy development but residential views must be considered;
- The low ridge which forms the edge of the Trent Valley is a locally distinctive feature;
- Conservation areas which extend into the countryside; and
- Broad open views from and to this landscape, including from the Trent Valley and from Lincolnshire.

Operational and consented development

There are two operational turbines, 24.8 m to tip, north-east of South Scarle. Consent has been granted for two turbines, 24.5 m to tip, at California Farm, and a 46 m turbine at Trentholme Farm nearby. These three consented turbines are near North Clifton, at the northern edge of the district.

Guidance for development

When siting and designing wind energy developments in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- Avoid siting larger turbines on hill tops or sides of the low but distinctive hills within this area. Favour the more open, flatter and more intensively managed farmland for any larger-scale proposals, subject to other considerations.
- Consider carefully any proposals on the fringes of Newark for their potential impact on views from and to the town, including views from the Trent Valley to the west.
- Seek to retain the distinction between the Trent Valley and the East Nottinghamshire Sandlands by avoiding development on the low ridge which separates the two areas.
- Avoid siting larger turbines where they could impact on views from conservation areas.
- Consider turbine locations with regard to open views and areas with strong intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes.

Capacity

- 4.275 The sensitivity of this LCT, and the heritage and other values placed upon it, indicate that there is moderate capacity for wind turbines within this LCT. The larger-scale, lower-lying, and more intensively farmed areas of this landscape are of relatively lower sensitivity to wind energy development.
- 4.276 The overall aim for this LCT is **a landscape with occasional wind energy**, where individual developments may locally influence the landscape, but collectively they do not influence the overall experience of the area. This is due to the overall lower landscape sensitivity, and the presence of scale constraints which may limit development.

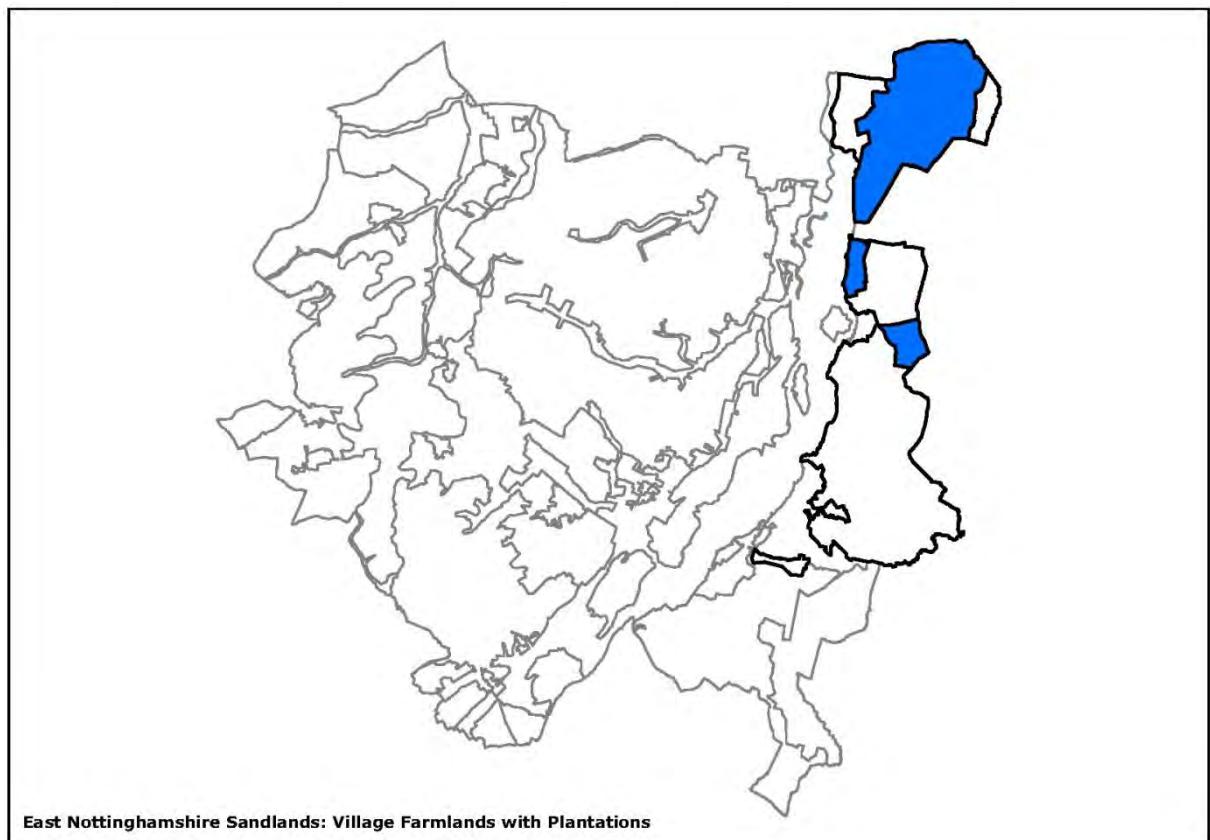
Cumulative development

- 4.277 There are scoping proposals for two turbines in open fields west of Brough, both of which are in the 70-80 m range. There are no live applications in the LCT, though there is one application for a single 46 m turbine at Potter Hill within the adjacent Village Farmlands with Plantations, which would be visible across this LCT in the Collingham area.

- 4.278 The CZTV maps (**Figures 3.5** to **3.7**) indicate moderate levels of visibility of operational development, mainly from the higher ground within the area. Considering current patterns of proposed development, the level of theoretical visibility is likely to increase, reflecting in part the presence of proposed turbines south of Newark which may or may not be locally visible due to screening.
- 4.279 Given the limited level of existing and proposed development, it is considered likely that there will be further scope for wind energy development within this area, subject to the constraints outlined in this document. In particular, intervisibility with the wider landscape will be a consideration for larger development.

East Nottinghamshire Sandlands: Village Farmlands with Plantations

Figure 4.15 Location of the Village Farmlands with Plantations within the East Nottinghamshire Sandlands



Characteristic features

- 4.280 Characteristic features of this LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:
- 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

Location and extent

- 4.281 This LCT occurs in three locations within the East Nottinghamshire Sandlands. The largest of the three areas is at the north-eastern corner of the District, taking in the settlements of Thorney, Wigsley and Spalford. The two smaller areas are located around Besthorpe slightly further south, and around Park Hill to the east of Collingham.
- 4.282 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.15** above and is identified as type **D2** on **Figure 3.1**.

4.283 The following policy zones are covered: ES02; and ES05.

Heritage aspects

4.284 There are no relevant heritage designations within this landscape, with the exception of a part of the Besthorpe conservation area. The character appraisal for this conservation area suggests that its focus is on the village and its relationship to the Trent valley to the west, rather than to the East Nottinghamshire Sandlands.

Sensitivity assessment

4.285 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT to the assessment criteria. Refer to **Table 2.2** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity		↔	Higher sensitivity	
Landform and Scale					
	The landform within this area is almost completely flat, with little or no variation in elevation across the landscape. It is a very low-lying area of floodplain and river terrace. Only in the southern-most area is there a significant change in elevation, with Potter Hill rising to 30 m. Even at the fringe of the Trent Valley there is little change. The scale of landform is therefore large or very large.				
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features			Yellow		
	The area's tree-lined roads, numerous broadleaved woodlands of various scales, and small-scale coniferous plantations give this landscape a well-wooded feel. The field pattern is of medium to large-scale arable fields with high hedge boundaries and hedgerow trees. Even where fields have been amalgamated the wooded landscape retains a medium scale. Only where hedges and trees are not present, for example north of Harby, is the scale of the flat landscape apparent. These areas appear intensively managed. There is little settlement within this LCT, limited to occasional small rural villages, with associated smaller-scale pastoral fields, and isolated farmsteads.				
Skylines		Yellow			
	Skylines within this LCT are not prominent with few landmark features. The flat horizon is generally screened by high hedges and woodland. Where longer views are available trees and woodland appear on the skyline. Pylons do not run through this area but are seen on the skyline in some views.				
Perceptual qualities				Red	
	The area has a predominately rural and often undeveloped character. Away from the main roads, and the more intensively managed land, as well as within the more wooded areas, the area feels relatively tranquil and quiet. The extent of the woodlands serves to screen longer views to more developed areas. It is also the only LCT in the eastern part of the district which is not crossed by pylons.				
Scenic qualities			Yellow		
	This landscape has a medium scenic quality, represented mainly in the areas of attractive mature woodland. Sinuous lines of oak trees, tree-lined lanes and woodlands create scenic diversity. There are distinctive parallel lanes and ditches lined with mature trees. The more intensive farmland offers limited scenic diversity.				
Intervisibility			Yellow		
	Intervisibility between this landscape and its neighbours is relatively limited where hedgerows, trees and woodlands contain views to medium distances. Where hedgerow removal has taken place visibility is increased dramatically with long views eastward into Lincolnshire, e.g. from around Wigsley. There is				

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
	limited intervisibility with the low-lying Trent Valley landscape to the west.		

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.286 This almost entirely flat landscape is of relatively lower sensitivity to large turbines, since there is almost no variation in landform which would be affected by the scale of tall structures. The one hill which does lie in this LCT is therefore more likely to be sensitivity to larger turbines. In such a landscape, intervisibility becomes the key consideration, and although there are areas of woodland and hedgerow which could help screen smaller turbines, the more open areas offer very long views into Lincolnshire.
- 4.287 There are frequent trees and woodlands within the northern part of this landscape, particularly around Thorney. In these areas mature trees form an attractive feature, and tall dense hedges and mature shelterbelts could serve to screen views of turbines, particularly in the small and small-medium size ranges. Larger turbines, however, are more likely to appear out of scale **within these areas, since the mature trees will serve as 'scale features'**, rendering the height of turbines apparent. Larger turbines are more likely to be successfully integrated where sited within lower sensitivity areas of open intensive farmland.
- 4.288 The wooded areas of this landscape are also quieter and more contained than more open areas with the east of the district. The presence of a number of large agricultural buildings and installations is successfully hidden by the mature trees, lending the area a tranquillity which is not present in the intensively managed open areas without trees.
- 4.289 The following table summarises the sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.1**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small (15 to 30 m)	Low
Small-medium (31 to 50 m)	Moderate-low
Medium (51 to 80 m)	Moderate
Large (81 to 110 m)	High-moderate
Very large (111 to 140 m)	High-moderate

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

- 4.290 This area would be of high sensitivity to groups of more than three turbines together, mainly due to the scale and physical extent of the landscape. The more wooded areas of the landscape would be of relatively lower sensitivity to single turbines, but are less likely to successfully absorb groups of turbines.

Guidance for Development

- 4.291 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics
<p>Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive mature woodland cover in some areas, including distinctive wooded lanes and tree lines; • A sometimes peaceful, quiet character, screened by woodland from busy roads and large-

- scale farms;
- More open areas are visible across long distances, with open views eastward from the landscape around Wigsley and Harby, for example; and
 - The occasional hills which occur within the wider flat landscape.

Operational and consented development

There is an operational 18 m single turbine at Hawthorne Hill Farm, Thorney. A pair of 24.5 m turbines has been consented at California Farm, just to the west of the LCT boundary. There are three separate consented turbines in the area around Kettlethorpe, in Lincolnshire to the north of the district, all of 77 m to tip. A 15 m turbine has been consented near North Scarle, just outside the district to the east.

Guidance for development

When siting and designing wind energy developments in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- Larger scale development would be best steered towards the more intensively farmed parts of the landscape.
- Careful consideration should be given to the apparent scale of large turbines within wooded areas, and when seen alongside trees.
- Avoid disturbance to distinctive tree lines and shelterbelts when designing access tracks.
- Seek to avoid areas valued for their quiet character and perceived peacefulness.
- Consider broad views and cross-boundary effects in siting turbines in more open areas with intervisibility along the Lincolnshire boundary.
- Avoid development which would alter the perception of the low but distinctive hills within this flat landscape.

Capacity

- 4.292 The sensitivity of this landscape, and the heritage values placed upon it, indicate that there is some capacity for wind turbine development. There is likely to be lower sensitivity to medium and smaller turbines, which could potentially be partially screened by woodland. However, trees as scale features may increase sensitivity to larger turbines. Any capacity for large or very large turbines is likely to be located within the more open, intensively managed areas of this LCT. The physical extent of the landscape is likely to be a limiting factor on overall capacity.
- 4.293 The overall aim for this LCT is **a landscape with occasional wind energy**, where individual developments may exert a localised influence, but collectively they do not alter the perception of the landscape. This is suggested by the overall lower landscape sensitivity, and the presence of scale constraints which may limit development.

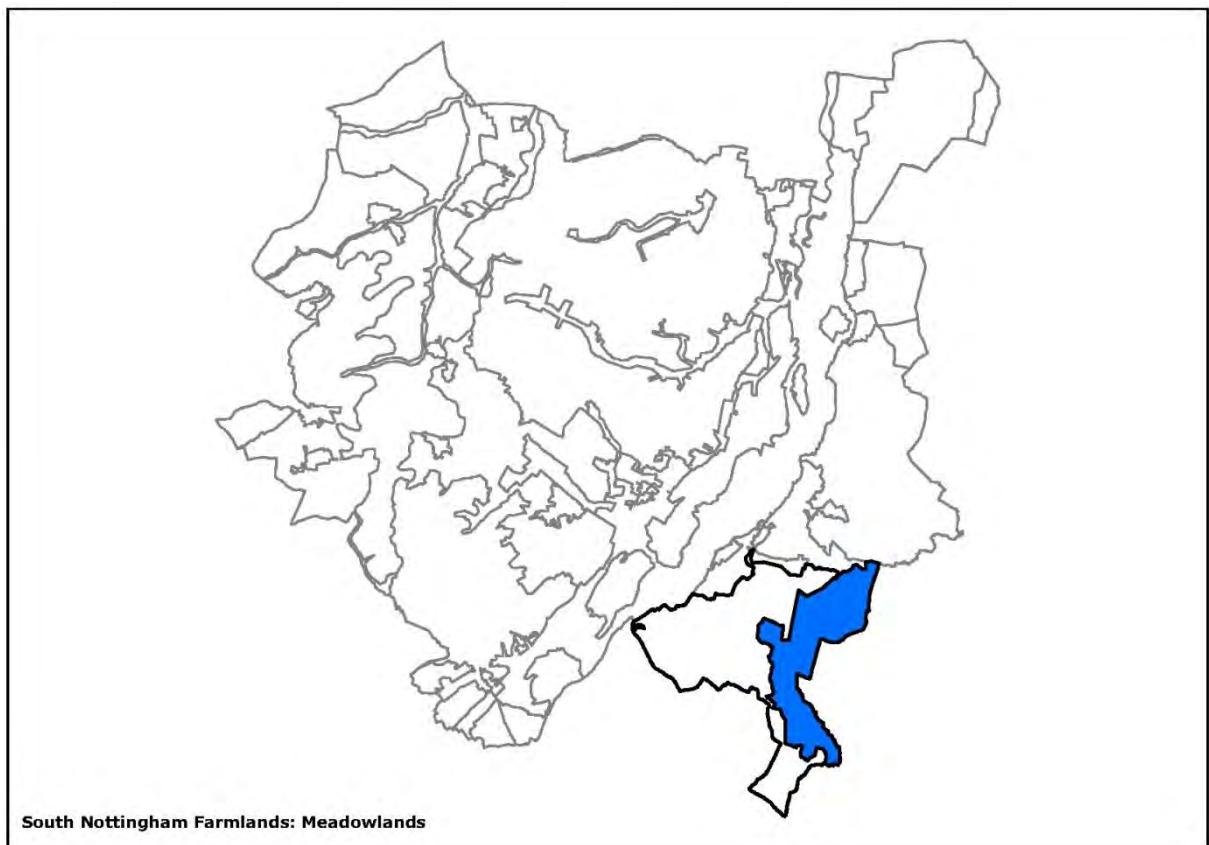
Cumulative development

- 4.294 An appeal is ongoing in relation to a single 77 m turbine at Wiglsey Old Airfield. There are live applications for a single 46 m turbine at Potter Hill Farm, west of Collingham, and for a single 77 m turbine at Plot Farm near Thorney. A scoping proposal has been submitted for a single 70 m turbine at Moor Farm to the south-west of Thorney.
- 4.295 The CZTV maps (**Figures 3.5 to 3.7**) indicate that at present there is relatively limited visibility of wind turbines, but that this would increase given the current pattern of proposed development. There are several proposals to the north of this area, within West Lindsey. Actual visibility of these turbines may be limited due to the presence of woodland.

- 4.296 The introduction of these developments, should they or similar schemes be constructed, would reduce potential further capacity, though not to the point where no additional development could be considered, subject to the constraints identified in this study.

South Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Meadowlands

Figure 4.16 Location of the Meadowlands within the South Nottinghamshire Farmlands



Characteristic features

4.297 Characteristic features of this LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:

- Flat low-lying topography
- Seasonally wet alluvial and peaty soils
- Open, spacious views, sometimes enclosed by rising ground
- Remnant pattern of large hedged fields defined by thorn hedges or ditches
- Small broad leaved plantations
- Absence of farmsteads or other buildings

Location and extent

4.298 This LCT occurs in one location, at the south-eastern boundary of Newark and Sherwood. It lies to the south of Newark, between the settlements of Fernwood and Staunton-in-the-Vale. It includes the alluvial plain of Bennington Fen which extends into Lincolnshire to the east.

4.299 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.16** above and is identified as type **E1** on **Figure 3.1**.

4.300 The following policy zones are covered: SN08; and SN09.

Heritage aspects

4.301 There are no relevant heritage designations within this LCT.

Sensitivity assessment

- 4.302 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT to the assessment criteria. Refer to **Table 2.2** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity	\leftrightarrow	Higher sensitivity
Landform and Scale			
	Large-scale landscape of alluvial levels, with flat, low-lying landform. There are occasional gentle undulations. The overall trend of the landscape is sloping down to the east.		
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features			
	Large fields with land cover which is predominately arable surrounded by a mix of intact, gappy and missing hedges. There are also small areas of pasture. This LCT has some hedgerow trees and occasional small broadleaved plantations and coverts. There are few buildings, and the only settlements are the suburban development of Fernwood, at the south edge of Newark, and the hamlets of Cotham and Staunton-in-the-Vale at the edges of the LCT. To the south of Newark the pattern of the landcover has been extensively fragmented by past and present mineral extraction.		
Skalines			
	This LCT has vast, wide and distant skylines, which are simple in character and flat in form. Spoil heaps from mineral workings are locally prominent where they break the horizon, and are seen on skylines in some more distant views. Skylines are almost always affected by the pylons which run north-south. In this context distinctive poplar trees form landmark features, and there are occasional views of distant church spires.		
Perceptual qualities			
	This is an isolated and often inaccessible landscape, but one which is intensively managed. Although predominately rural in character, there are strong human influences in past and present mineral extraction, landfill, industrial and urban fringe influences. The A1 has an influence passing through, and to the east.		
Scenic qualities			
	This is a landscape with a medium-low scenic quality. Though there are panoramic views across parts of the landscape, there is limited attractive character and little visual diversity.		
Intervisibility			
	This is an open and spacious landscape with high levels of intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes, particularly to the east where there are long views across Bennington Fen and the valley of the River Witham, as well as views back from these areas into this LCT. There is more limited intervisibility with the landscape to the south and west, where the ground rises slightly, though occasional views can be had through to the Trent Valley.		

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.303 This is an area of fragmented character, affected by intensification of arable farming, and by mineral extraction. There are active workings in this area, and processing plants. Past workings have left areas of vacant land, and one site is operating as a landfill. While the overall impression is of an area strongly affected by human activity, there are nevertheless pockets of more intact landscape, such as the pasture around Staunton-in-the-Vale, and the avenue of trees leading to Staunton Grange. Overall, the introduction of turbines would not substantially increase the human influence in the landscape, though these pockets will be locally sensitive.

- 4.304 The combination of turbines with pylons on the horizon, and to a lesser extent with the spoil heaps, should be considered. Pylons of c.50 m and c.25 m occur in this area, and offer scale references against which turbines could be read, and could lead to skyline 'clutter'.
- 4.305 The flat or very gentle topography also indicate reduced sensitivity to wind turbines, which could relate to the larger scale of the landscape, and the large open fields with few trees. Locally, smaller-scale landscapes around the two hamlets of Staunton-in-the-Vale and Cotham are of greater sensitivity. The flat landscape emphasises the importance of intervisibility, with this area offering long views eastwards across Bennington Fens into Lincolnshire.
- 4.306 The following table summarises the sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.2**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small (15 to 30 m)	Low
Small-medium (31 to 50 m)	Low
Medium (51 to 80 m)	Moderate-low
Large (81 to 110 m)	Moderate
Very large (111 to 140 m)	High-moderate

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

- 4.307 The larger scale of this landscape suggests that there could be scope for larger groups of turbines, potentially up to eight to ten turbines, which is the largest group size under consideration. The limiting factors will be the physical extent of this landscape, which is relatively small, and the extent of the lower sensitivity areas within the LCT. Intervisibility with the wider landscape to the east is a key consideration.

Guidance for Development

- 4.308 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics
<p>Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open views of this area from the east, around the River Witham within Lincolnshire and high levels of intervisibility with areas to the west, including more limited relationship with the Trent; • Tree line roads, broadleaved woodland, conifer plantations and intact field pattern with high hedge boundaries give this LCT a well wooded feel; • Relatively undeveloped with occasional small rural villages and associated smaller-scale pastoral farmland; and • Presence of pylons on the skyline.
Operational and consented development
<p>There are no operational or consented turbines in this LCT. There is a consented small turbine at Dry Doddington, in South Kesteven to the east.</p>

Guidance for development

When siting and designing wind energy developments in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- Favour locations with more limited intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes.
- Seek to link development of turbines in this area with restoration of former mineral workings and vacant land, favouring the more human-modified landscapes if considering larger developments.
- Avoid siting larger turbines in locations close to the small hamlets at the fringes of the LCT, favouring locations of intensively managed farmland with larger scale fields.
- Consider the presence of pylons and industrial features on the skyline, in order to avoid 'clutter' on the horizon.

Capacity

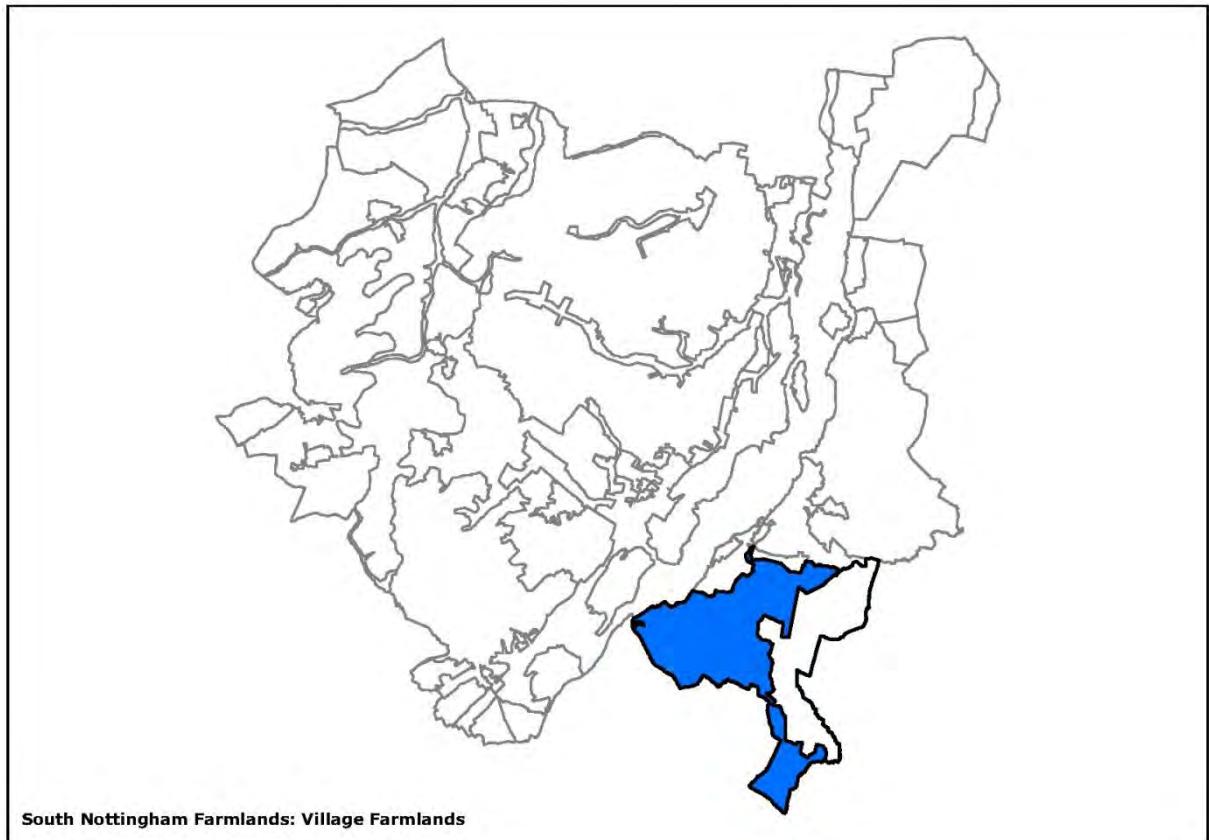
- 4.309 The sensitivity of this LCT, and the heritage and other values placed upon it, indicate that there is capacity for wind turbines within this LCT. The large-scale, man-modified areas of this landscape are of relatively lower sensitivity to wind energy development. However, the physical extent of the landscape is small, and is likely to be a limiting factor on overall capacity, as is the potential for wider views of turbines in the area.
- 4.310 The overall aim for this LCT is **a landscape with wind energy**, where turbines may influence landscape character, but do not define it. This is due to the lower sensitivity of this landscape, reflecting its man-modified nature.

Cumulative development

- 4.311 Several turbine developments are proposed along the western fringes of this landscape. An appeal is ongoing in respect of three 126.5 m turbines along the western boundary, just within the adjacent Village Farmlands. In the same area, a planning application has been submitted for four 130 m turbines, straddling the boundary between the two landscapes. Further south, at the landfill site, is a scoping-stage proposal for a single 90 m turbine.
- 4.312 The CZTV maps (**Figures 3.5 to 3.7**) indicate that there is presently limited visibility of turbines from this area. Given current patterns of proposed development, this will increase, reflecting the presence of large proposals to the south of Newark.
- 4.313 Should the proposed turbines in the north-west of the LCT be constructed, or should other similar development be constructed, then there would be little or no further scope for turbine development within this small area without changing the character to a '**wind farm** landscape'. The construction of the proposed very large turbines would result in wind energy having some influence on the northern part of the LCT. There may be further scope for development at smaller scales, though cumulative relationships would need to be considered.

South Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Village Farmlands

Figure 4.17 Location of the Village Farmlands within the South Nottinghamshire Farmlands



Characteristic features

- 4.314 Characteristic features of this LCT, as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment:
- Gently rolling topography
 - Simple pattern of large arable fields
 - Neatly trimmed hawthorn hedges
 - Nucleated villages with traditional red brick and pantile roofed buildings
 - Suburbanised commuter villages and small towns
 - Small-scale pastoral landscapes along village edges

Location and extent

- 4.315 This LCT occurs to the south of Newark and the Trent Valley. It includes the River Devon and the village of Elston, and extends to the district boundary. The LCT continues south along the Devon to the small villages of Alverton and Kilvington which lie at the southern point of Newark and Sherwood.
- 4.316 This LCT is shown in **Figure 4.17** above and is identified as type **E2** on **Figure 3.1**.
- 4.317 The following policy zones are covered: SN07; and SN10.

Heritage aspects

- 4.318 The site of the Battle of Stoke Field is located at the western edge of this landscape. This site is registered within the Register of Historic Battlefields by English Heritage for its special historic

interest. The registered area includes part of Syerston Airfield, the open farmland to the north, and the ground sloping down to the river to the north-east. The register suggests that the **battlefield landscape remains much as it was in 1487, comprising “open fields crossed by lanes and with few trees”**.

- 4.319 There are conservation areas at East Stoke and Elston. Elston conservation area is focused on the village, though it includes some adjacent woodland. East Stoke conservation area is more focused on the landscape, taking in the parkland associated with Stoke Hall, and the wooded slopes to the south. Character appraisals for these conservation areas are not available.

Sensitivity assessment

- 4.320 The following table sets out the sensitivity of this LCT to the assessment criteria. Refer to **Table 2.3** for full details of the evaluation criteria.

	Lower sensitivity		↔	Higher sensitivity	
Landform and Scale		Yellow			
	This is a medium to large-scale landscape with undulating to flat topography which gradually dips eastwards and south-eastwards. Locally the topography is varied, being flatter in lower-lying areas such as along the River Devon, and more undulating as it rises to the west to the higher ground alongside the Trent.				
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features		Yellow	Yellow		
	There is a simple landscape pattern where this LCT consists predominately of large-scale arable fields bounded by trimmed often gappy hedges. Scattered throughout the landscape there are small areas of rough grassland, pasture and woodland, which is mainly located along the river. Aside from these woodlands there is a general lack of tree cover. The settlement pattern is one of nucleated villages, though the edge of Newark is a dominant influence to the north. Other built development includes industrial buildings, and there are areas of vacant land associated with former mineral workings in the north-east.				
Skylines		Yellow			
	Skylines within this LCT are generally simple and flat or gently convex. Where present hedgerow trees and woodland locally obscure the skyline. Several overhead power lines pass through this LCT, and pylons are almost always visible. Around Newark industrial buildings also appear on the skyline.				
Perceptual qualities		Yellow	Yellow		
	This is a landscape with a strongly rural character. It has an intensively farmed character in the east and south, and is influenced by the settlement fringe to the north. The western area, around Elston and the battle site, is less influenced by modern development, although the new bridges of the A46 are prominent within the landscape.				
Scenic qualities		Yellow	Yellow		
	Willows along ditch lines and small streams are notable features identified by the NSLCA. The western area is more visually diverse, containing the rising ground and parkland areas around East Stoke. The eastern and southern areas are more intensively farmed and have less visual appeal.				
Intervisibility				Red	
	Intervisibility is relatively high, with some longer distance views eastwards and southwards across the Vale of Belvoir where the topography dips away. Some containment is afforded to the middle distance horizons where trees and woodland blocks prevent far reaching views. The western edge of the LCT forms part of the distinctive wooded scarp which is a key feature when seen from within the Trent Valley.				

Commentary on landscape sensitivity

- 4.321 The indicators within this area point to moderate levels of sensitivity. The open, simple landform, and flat skylines suggest lower sensitivity, but the landcover pattern is more varied overall, with frequent scale features. The western edge of this LCT faces the Trent Valley and forms the northern edge of the Trent Hills. Although low in height, these hills are a key feature when seen from within the valley, and wind turbine development visible from the valley could affect their perception. There is wider intervisibility between this landscape and the Vale of Belvoir, from where turbines in this area could be widely visible.
- 4.322 Locally, the presence of the registered battle site suggests increased sensitivity in this location, though a more detailed examination of historic environment issues would be needed to determine the level of constraint associated with this designation.
- 4.323 The northern area of this LCT comprises settlement fringe associated with Newark and adjacent industrial land uses, and turbines in this area, and where the landscape is already affected by turbines, could lead to 'clutter' on the skyline. The more open areas in the south and east parts of the area are considered to be of the lowest underlying sensitivity, compared to the rest of the LCT.
- 4.324 The following table summarises the sensitivity of this LCT to the development typologies outlined in **Table 2.2**.

Wind turbine typology	Sensitivity
Small (15 to 30 m)	Low
Small-medium (31 to 50 m)	Moderate-low
Medium (51 to 80 m)	Moderate-low
Large (81 to 110 m)	Moderate
Very large (111 to 140 m)	High-moderate

Commentary on sensitivity to cluster sizes

- 4.325 It is considered that this landscape could be of relatively lower sensitivity to groups of up to eight turbines, subject to careful siting and layout. The larger-scale landscapes in the south and east of the LCT have the most potential for groups of larger turbines, while other areas will be sensitivity to groups of more than two to three turbines.

Guidance for Development

- 4.326 The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the most sensitive features of this landscape are protected, and that development of wind turbines within this LCT occurs in the most appropriate locations, where impacts on the landscape may be reduced or mitigated.

Key sensitive features and characteristics
Key issues for the siting and design of turbines in this landscape include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The importance of the Trent Hills as a feature in views from the Trent Valley;• The presence of a registered battlefield site at the western edge of the area;• The presence on the skyline of numerous pylons, often of different heights seen together;• Long views into the landscape from the south and east, from the Vale of Belvoir;• The settlement fringe around Newark, comprising industrial land uses in proximity to residential development; and• Sensitive land cover includes areas of rough grassland, pasture and woodland associated

with the river corridor.
Operational and consented development
There are no operational or consented wind farms in this LCT. The single 66.7 m turbine to the south of Farndon, close to the northern LCT boundary, is visible within this area.

Guidance for development

When siting and designing wind energy developments in this LCT, the generic guidance provided in **Section 5** should be followed, particularly when considering the cumulative impacts of multiple schemes. In addition, within this LCT particular care will need to be taken in regard to the following guidelines.

- Avoid development of medium and larger turbines on the Trent Hills and other areas where they may be seen on the skyline from within the Trent Valley.
- Avoid development which could impact on the understanding or appreciation of the historical significance of the Stoke Field registered battlefield landscape.
- Consider the presence of pylons and other industrial features on the skyline, in order to avoid '**clutter' on the horizon, particularly where multiple power lines are seen.**
- Favour locations with more limited intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes, or where turbines would have less widespread effects.
- Seek to link development of turbines in this area with restoration of former mineral workings and vacant land.
- Favour the more open and intensively managed landscapes if considering larger developments.

Capacity

- 4.327 The sensitivity of this LCT, and the heritage and other values placed upon it, indicate that there is capacity for wind turbines within this LCT. The large-scale, open areas of this landscape are of relatively lower sensitivity to wind energy development, particularly where modified by past mineral working. Capacity is reduced locally by the presence of heritage designations, and by the numerous pylons within the area.
- 4.328 The overall aim for this LCT is **a landscape with wind energy**, where turbines may influence landscape character, but do not define it. This is due to the area's lower landscape sensitivity, reflecting its partially man-modified condition.

Cumulative development

- 4.329 Several turbine developments are proposed within the eastern edge of this landscape. A planning application has been submitted for four 130 m turbines along the River Devon, straddling the boundary between this area and the adjacent Meadowlands. A further application for a 66.7 m single turbine is located nearby. An appeal is ongoing in respect of three 126.5 m turbines in an adjacent site. A scoping proposal has been submitted for a single 102 m turbine at Brecks Lane, close to the southern district boundary.
- 4.330 The CZTV maps (**Figures 3.5 to 3.7**) indicate that there is presently extensive visibility of turbines from this area, although most of this is theoretical visibility of more distant turbines. Given current patterns of proposed development, this will remain an area with theoretical views of a relatively large number of turbines, reflecting the presence of large proposals to the south of Newark.
- 4.331 Should the proposed turbines along the eastern edge of the LCT be constructed, then these developments would have an influence across the less sensitive parts of this landscape. In this scenario, or should other similar development be constructed in future, the further scope for turbine development within the LCT would be very limited.