

PART FOUR – CONTENTS

**[PLEASE NOTE: THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER PULL OUT PLAN
ON PAGE 112 ACCOMPANIES THIS SECTION.]**

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MANAGEMENT

4a: THE GREEN WEDGE GENERALLY . AN OVERVIEW

Management of the Green Wedges should aim to meet the objectives set out in the District Local Plan, County Structure Plan and the Stepping Stones Countryside Management Project Strategy. It should also meet the objectives of the National and Local Biodiversity Action Plans.

These objectives can be summarised as:

- Enhance Landscape
- Enhance Biodiversity
- Enhance/Improve Access, Recreation and Community Involvement.

This study identifies five key aspects of management; mechanisms by which the key objectives may be delivered. These mechanisms cover the whole of the Green Wedges area and form the basis of this Management strategy and guide more targeted strategy elements, which focus on each local landscape character area in turn.

ASPECTS OF MANAGEMENT

1. Identity and Celebration

One of the notable features of the Sence and Soar Green Wedges area is the fact that many local people and other users do not regard it as a single entity, but as patches of green space close to where they live. In the Blaby Local Plan the study area is composed of two 'wedges'. It has no single name.

The lack of overall identity is not surprising. The area is relatively extensive and is owned by a wide variety of different bodies, and, at the local level, varies widely in character. People are plainly aware of the presence of the green space, but this awareness is restricted and local, and relates chiefly to the paths associated with an individual's own immediate neighborhood.

It is suggested that, in combination with other aspects, giving the green wedges a single, coherent identity would assist in encouraging its use and increasing its value to local people. This would ultimately have a positive impact on its management and landscape quality.

Work focusing on the footpath and cycle way network, for example, which covers the whole of the area and from which people access it, would be a useful vehicle for establishing a clear boundary and coherence. By increasing access and linkages through this network, the public is given a greater opportunity to engage with and take ownership of the green wedges. Participation in such a process, and publicity that can be generated through it, should further raise general awareness that the green wedges are there.

1. Identity and Celebration (continued)

The area seems to suffer from a lack of recognition of achievement. A number of features within it such as the Fosse Way and Narborough Bog, for instance, are important enough to be worth celebrating. This should be done in order to communicate the value of the landscape to local people, and to demonstrate examples of good practice and initiatives.

An educational programme, using local schools, especially secondary schools bordering the green wedge area, might work well in this regard, with selective interpretation and possibly locally organised events or initiatives at a parish level.

2. Dialogue

Establishing the identity of the green wedges and celebrating it would, at least in the first instance, have to concentrate on the publicly owned and accessible parts of the area. More broad scale landscape change is impossible without engaging landowners. To do this requires first knowledge of who owns the land. Employment of a land agent to carry out a search, before mapping this information, must therefore be a pre-requisite.

Once ownership has been established, entering into a dialogue with specific landowners will be important to effect change.

3. Linkages and Access

The rights of way map shows how poorly access routes connect into a useable network. Of course, good examples do exist of safe, well signposted and well maintained routes but these often are lacking in the connections necessary to complete journeys. The use of the rights of way in the green wedges for more vigorous types of exercise, especially jogging and running as well as walking, is severely limited by this lack of connectivity. All this contributes to the lack of a coherent identity for the area.

The M1 Motorway, the Grand Union Canal and the River Soar all inhibit pedestrians and cyclists access west- east. Sustrans policy and the Blaby Local Plan both identify potential future connections, namely the Jubilee Park to Glen Parva route and along the former Great Central railway line.

4. Planning

The green wedges are, by their very nature, under pressure. Planning control of development has a key role to play in protection or enhancement of character, especially at the margins of the green wedges or along road corridors, where the character of the area may be most affected by development.

It is vital in order for this strategy to be adopted that all Council agents whether County, District or Parish level including development control representatives effectively communicate in order to target their resources successfully.



MANAGEMENT

5. Monitoring and Review

Plainly the green wedges study area should be re-surveyed regularly in order to inform decision making and to assess the effectiveness of any management strategy adopted.

Specific surveys and/or management plans will be required in certain locations or for particular species following this strategy in order to target funding or works.

4b: LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT BY CHARACTER AREA

In the following section specific management objectives have been laid out for each local landscape character area in turn. Note that the study has deliberately assessed the character areas without reference to current parish boundaries in order to get as objective an assessment as possible. It is accepted that this may now become an issue, since management strategy may cross 'administrative patches'. Therefore we have avoided becoming too specific.

Where we believe certain management strategies do not apply to an individual local landscape character area they have been excluded, i.e only those strategies that apply have been listed.

There are a number of objectives, which cross landscape areas outlined as follows

General Management Strategy Objective: ONE
Encourage local involvement.

General Management Strategy Objective: TWO
Provide information and guidance concerning grant aid and available subsidies for tree planting etc.

General Management Strategy Objective: THREE
Engage landowners in proposals to enhance habitat, wildlife, access and recreation.

General Management Strategy Objective: FOUR
Conserve and enhance the following local landscape character areas.

- Soar valley
- Sence Meadows
- Narborough Bog
- Enderby Parkland
- Ten Pound Rise

General Management Strategy Objective: FIVE
Promote the amalgamation of the following local landscape character areas into one unified character area, (in terms of scale, degree of enclosure, amount of tree and hedgerow planting, access and type of recreational pursuit).

- Narborough Fields
- The Paddocks
- Cosby Fields

General Management Strategy Objective: SIX
Promote works, which expand the character of Enderby Parkland into the neighboring Enderby Fields character area.

MANAGEMENT

THE SOAR VALLEY

(For description refer to Part Three)

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: ONE
Increase the proportion of wetland and open water in the local landscape character area as a feature.
Rationale:
<p>Landscape: An increase in wetland would help reinforce the character of this area i.e. preserving an open and expansive character with water as a dominant landscape feature.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Wetlands are a priority habitat in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (LLRBAP).</p> <p>Access, recreation, involvement: Increases in the amount of open water and wetland have great potential to encourage recreational use however care must be taken to manage potential conflicts between use and wildlife.</p>
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make drainage channels more attractive to wildlife. • Encourage colonisation or planting of reed beds and marginal vegetation. • Investigate, through consultation with the EA the potential for the introduction of over-winter water storage and/or flood relief basins into the character area.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: TWO
Increase the amount of tree planting in the local landscape character area.
Rationale:
<p>Landscape: A modest increase in the proportion of tree planting can control views, screen visual detractors and reinforce spatial structure.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Woodlands provide valuable wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Access, recreation, involvement: Community involvement in the area could be encouraged through engagement in tree planting programmes.</p>
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage native tree and shrub planting on a medium to small scale. • Discourage large-scale interventions that would impede characteristic views. • Increase planting along watercourses of suitable native species. • Encourage the planting of specimen floodplain trees, especially native black poplar. • Encourage planting that will increase the connectivity of woodlands and hedgerows. • Engage with landowners to encourage a phased programme of pollarding of willows to conserve existing trees.

SENCE AND SOAR GREEN WEDGES

FOUR

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: THREE

Maintain and enhance the ecological quality and connectivity of existing hedges within the character area, especially close to the Soar, taking care to maintain this local landscape character areas spatial scale.

Rationale:

Landscape:

Hedgerows form an important feature of the character area where they give spatial definition.

Biodiversity:

Hedges are a priority habitat in the LLRBAP. Within the local character area they provide important ecological corridors, feeding and breeding habitat.

Access, recreation, involvement:

Where rights of way run along hedgerows, positive management as landscape features can provide definition to the route.

Recommendations for action:

- Reduce number and length of gaps in existing hedgerows.
- Encourage sympathetic hedgerow management.
- Encourage landowners to lay and gap up hedgerows.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FOUR

Encourage less intensive management of grassland in order to increase the amount of neutral grassland (as defined in the LLRBAP).

Rationale:

Landscape:

Grassland accounts for a considerable portion of Soar Valley. Increasing the proportion of grassland, which is not intensively managed, would reinforce, safeguard and improve the positive aspects of the areas landscape character.

Biodiversity:

Neutral grassland is a priority wildlife habitat in the LLRBAP.

Access, recreation, involvement:

Grassland management practices can be arranged to involve local conservation groups however this may only be possible on council owned land.

Recommendations for action:

- Encourage regular maintenance of grasslands through hay cutting and selective grazing.
- Retain and wherever possible enhance floristic diversity.
- Land owners should be encouraged to undertake less intensive land practices.



MANAGEMENT

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FIVE

Increase accessibility of the character area to the public, on foot and by bicycle.

Rationale:

Access, recreation, involvement:

Improving both public access and recreational opportunities is one of the key objectives of the Stepping Stones project. This character area currently has a limited and in places fragmented network of pathways and cycleways. The robust and extensive nature of this local landscape character area means that it ought to be able to accommodate a greater level of access with relative ease. This would help bring people in contact with nature.

Recommendations for action:

- Establish which routes can be developed without significant adverse effects on ecological value and landscape amenity.
- Conserve existing Grand Union Canal towpath.
- Improve existing signage to paths.
- Form new connections between existing routes and create new routes across the character area to connect the two sides of the Soar.
- Investigate potential for extension to Great Central Way cycle route along the line of the old Great Central Railway line until Enderby Road.
- New access, pathway and cycleway improvements etc, to be designed to avoid excessive disturbance to habitat or loss of visual amenity.
- Engage with landowners to permit access along permissive routes etc.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: SIX

Introduce active water sports.

Rationale:

Landscape:

This local landscape character area is of sufficient scale that the introduction of active water sports could be accommodated. It may also be possible to secure a number of additional positive landscape advances such as habitat creation and/or footpath links associated with development of this nature.

Biodiversity:

Active water sports can have adverse effects but may be used, if carefully handled, as a mechanism to finance habitat creation and enhancement works.

Access, recreation, involvement:

Improving both public access and recreational opportunities is one of the key objectives of the Stepping Stones project. The exploration of potential forms of recreation and or increased access formed one of the requirements of the Study Brief.

Recommendations for action:

- Carry out a feasibility study to identify suitable activities and locations in the southern end of the character area.
- Restrict to discrete manageable areas, especially if locally responsive, contained and accessible.
- Investigate potential additional benefits to access and landscape improvements.



FOUR

SENCE MEADOWS

(For description refer to Part Three)

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: ONE
Retain and reinforce existing field pattern and spatial scale.
Rationale:
Landscape: The existing small field sizes, generally restricted views and intimate scale form the key to the landscape character of this area.
Biodiversity: Small fields and well established hedges improve ecological connectivity and provide feeding, and breeding habitat for a range of species.
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve existing hedgerow and tree structure. • Encourage hedge planting in preference to stock fencing around horse paddock boundaries. • Engage with landowners to encourage a phased programme of pollarding of willows to conserve existing trees. • Generally discourage extensive areas of new planting. • Consider well-screened, small-scale development only at margins of character area.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: TWO
Conserve and extend existing marsh tall fen flora in western end of the valley.
Rationale:
Landscape: This habitat contributes heavily to the character of the Sence valley.
Biodiversity: This is an important habitat type which is particularly attractive to invertebrates and birds and which is located almost exclusively in this location. As such this habitat should be brought under positive management.
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a management plan to conserve this habitat. • Investigate potential to increase this habitat type.



MANAGEMENT

<p>Detailed Management Strategy Objective: THREE</p> <p>Improve and encourage access to existing rights of way within the Sence Meadows LLCA and expand this network east west along the valley.</p>
<p>Rationale:</p> <p>Access, recreation and involvement; Improving both public access and recreational opportunities is one of the key objectives of the Stepping Stones project. The robust and extensive nature of this local landscape character area means that it ought to be able to accommodate a greater level of access with relative ease. This would help bring people in contact with nature.</p>
<p>Recommendations for action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalise the use of existing desire lines. • Focus initial works on Northfield Park, which acts as a connection point. • Improve signage to rights of way. • Improve access to the Great Central Way cycle route. • Investigate the potential for an east west footpath/cycleway link along the valley. • Engage with landowners to permit access along permissive routes etc.
<p>Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FOUR</p> <p>Maintain and enhance the ecological quality and connectivity of existing hedges within the character area, especially close to the Soar, taking care to maintain this local landscape character areas spatial scale.</p>
<p>Rationale:</p> <p>Landscape: Hedgerows form an important feature of the character area where they give spatial definition.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Hedges are a priority habitat in the LLRBAP. Within the local character area they provide important ecological corridors, feeding and breeding habitat.</p> <p>Access, recreation, involvement: Where rights of way run along hedgerows, positive management as landscape features can provide definition to the route.</p>
<p>Recommendations for action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce number and length of gaps in existing hedgerows. • Encourage sympathetic hedgerow management. • Encourage landowners to lay and gap up hedgerows.

NARBOROUGH BOG

(For description refer to Part Three)

The owners; the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust undertake management of this area

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: ONE
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Conserve The Bog habitat.

Rationale:

<i>Access, recreation and involvement:</i>

The Bog is already the subject of an active management plan, however through continuing dialogue and/or partnerships access and interpretation could be improved although the on going preservation of this habitat should be the first priority.

Recommendations for action:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Narborough Bog SSSI as a good example of landscape management for nature conservation. • Open a dialogue with the Wildlife Trust if one does not currently exist with regard to interpretation and access possibilities. |
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MANAGEMENT

NARBOROUGH FIELDS

(For description refer to Part Three)

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: ONE
Increase the amount of tree planting in the local landscape character area.
Rationale:
<p>Landscape: A significant amount of new tree planting is required as this character area has little vertical structure or features of visual interest. Tree planting can control views, screen visual detractors and reinforce spatial structure.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Woodlands provide valuable wildlife habitat and would act to reduce the impact of intensive agriculture on the river Soar and Whetstone Brook.</p> <p>Access, recreation, involvement: Community involvement in the area could be encouraged through engagement in tree planting programmes.</p>
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage native tree and shrub planting on a medium scale. • Discourage large-scale interventions that would impede open characteristic views. • Increase planting along watercourses of suitable native species in particular along the line of the Whetstone Brook. • Encourage the planting of specimen floodplain trees, especially native black poplar. • Engage with landowners to encourage a phased programme of pollarding of poplar and willow to conserve existing trees.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: TWO
Enhance the ecological quality and connectivity of existing hedges and increase the amount of hedgerow planting in the local landscape character area.
Rationale:
<p>Landscape: Hedge planting can be used to help define landscape structure, provide a greater degree of visual containment and reduce the exposure of open areas.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Hedges are a priority habitat in the LLRBAP. Within the local character area they provide important ecological corridors, feeding and breeding habitat.</p> <p>Access, recreation, involvement: Hedgerows can provide definition to Public Rights of Way.</p>
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce number and length of gaps in existing hedgerows • Encourage sympathetic hedgerow management. • Investigate opportunities for new hedgerow planting.

SENCE AND SOAR GREEN WEDGES

FOUR

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: THREE

Reduce the impact of the M1 Motorway.

Rationale:

Landscape:

The Motorway is both visually and audibly intrusive, screening will help reduce the dominance of this feature within the landscape and increase visual amenity.

Biodiversity:

Although a barrier to some wildlife the existing verges and embankments act as wildlife corridors which may be enhanced with tree and shrub planting.

Recommendations for action:

- Screen motorway using woodland planting belts.
- Investigate the routing of footpaths and access away from the motorway wherever possible.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FOUR

Increase accessibility of the character area to the public, on foot and by bicycle.

Rationale:

Access, recreation, involvement:

Improving both public access and recreational opportunities is one of the key objectives of the Stepping Stones project. This character area currently has a limited and in places fragmented network of pathways and cycleways! The robust and extensive nature of this local landscape character area means that it ought to be able to accommodate a greater level of access with relative ease. This can also help bring people closer to nature.

Recommendations for action:

- Establish which routes can be developed without significant adverse effects on ecological value and landscape amenity.
- Improve existing signage to paths.
- Form new connections between existing routes and create new routes across the character area.
- New access, pathway and cycleway improvements etc, to be designed to avoid excessive disturbance to habitat or loss of visual amenity.
- Engage with landowners to permit access along headlands (i.e. grassland margins to field boundaries) etc.



MANAGEMENT

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FIVE

Increase the accessibility of the character area to horse riders.

Rationale:

Access, recreation, involvement:

Improving both public access and recreational opportunities is one of the key objectives of the Stepping Stones project. This character area currently has no formal bridle paths although paddocks and on road riding is evident. The robust and extensive nature of this local landscape character area means that it ought to be able to accommodate a greater level of access with relative ease.

Recommendations for action:

- Investigate potential bridleway routes along the water corridors.
- Investigate circular route possibilities.
- Improve existing on road signage.
- New bridle way improvements, to be designed to avoid excessive disturbance to habitat or loss of visual amenity.
- Engage with landowners to permit access along headlands etc.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: SIX

Reduce the scale of intensive arable landuse in order to increase the level of neutral grassland (as defined in the LLRBAP).

Rationale:

Landscape:

Increasing the proportion of grassland, which is not intensively managed, would reinforce, safeguard and improve the positive aspects of the areas landscape character.

Biodiversity:

Neutral grassland is a priority wildlife habitat in the LLRBAP.

Access, recreation, involvement:

Headlands around arable fields can be used as both formal and informal pathways i.e. extend the footpath network in the area.

Recommendations for action:

- Encourage landowners to set aside along field boundaries and watercourses.
- Encourage landowners to create or extend headlands along field boundaries and watercourses.
- Wherever possible enhance floristic diversity.
- Land owners should be encouraged to undertake less intensive land practices.



FOUR

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: SEVEN
Improve ecological value and visual amenity of the river Soar and Whetstone brook.
Rationale:
<p>Landscape: The river Soar and its tributary the Whetstone brook are restricted and neglected in this character area. Intensive farming practices restrict and adversely impact on the Soar and the Whetstone brook, which has been reduced to a field ditch in places. By enhancing these corridors the area would have more spatial definition, visual containment and interest.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Rivers and streams are identified as priority habitats in the LLRBAP. Widening of the corridor and riparian edge would help encourage the return of water vole for which there is a species action plan.</p> <p>Access, recreation, involvement: Headlands along river/stream corridors can be used as both formal and informal pathways however conflicts between access and wildlife would have to be managed and monitored.</p>
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the creation of 'riparian edge' margins to Whetstone Brook and River Soar. • Draw fence/field boundaries away from watercourse to provide additional habitat.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: EIGHT
Increase the proportion of wetland and open water in the local landscape character area as a feature.
Rationale:
<p>Landscape: An increase in wetland would help reinforce the character of this area i.e. preserving an open and expansive character whilst increasing water as a dominant landscape feature.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Wetlands are priority habitat in LLRBAP.</p> <p>Access, recreation, involvement: Increases in the amount of open water and wetland have great potential to encourage recreational use however care must be taken to manage potential conflicts between use and wildlife.</p>
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase area of wetland and open water and through sympathetic design and management make them attractive to wildlife. • Encourage colonisation or planting of reed beds and marginal vegetation. • Investigate, through consultation with the EA the potential for the introduction of over-winter water storage and/or flood relief basins into the character area.



MANAGEMENT

THE PADDOCKS

(For description refer to Part Three)

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: ONE
Reinforce and conserve this areas existing landscape character.
Rationale:
Landscape: The paddocks are typified by an intimate spatial scale, a mixture of paddocks and hay fields divided by strong boundaries. It is particularly important as this area acts as a buffer between urban centers.
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage gradual replacement of any stock fences with hedges. • Encourage introduction of field and hedgerow trees. • Engage with landowners to encourage a phased programme of arboricultural works to conserve existing trees. • Encourage greater access.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: TWO
Enhance the ecological quality and connectivity of existing hedges in the local landscape character area.
Rationale:
Landscape: Hedge gapping up and laying can be used to help reinforce landscape structure, maximize the degree of visual containment and reduce the exposure of open areas.
Biodiversity: Hedges are a priority habitat in the LLRBAP. Within the local character area they provide important ecological corridors, feeding and breeding habitat.
Access, recreation, involvement: Hedgerows can provide definition to Public Rights of Way.
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce number and length of gaps in existing hedgerows. • Encourage sympathetic hedgerow management.



Detailed Management Strategy Objective: THREE
Explore opportunities for introducing Allotments into the character area.
Rationale:
Landscape: Allotments are in keeping with the intimate scale of the area and could work effectively due to the proximity of any part of the Paddocks to an urban centre.
Biodiversity: If managed sympathetically allotments can increase the biodiversity of an area on a micro scale. They are particularly good for foraging birds.
Access, recreation, involvement: Allotments are an important source of recreation not only in that they bring people into contact with nature but also engage people with the landscape.
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the potential and current demand for introducing allotments into the area.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FOUR
Increase accessibility of the character area to the public, on foot and by bicycle.
Rationale:
Access, recreation, involvement: Improving both public access and recreational opportunities is one of the key objectives of the Stepping Stones project. This character area currently has a limited and in places fragmented network of pathways and cycleways. The robust and extensive nature of this local landscape character area means that it ought to be able to accommodate a greater level of access with relative ease. This can also help bring people closer to nature.
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish which routes can be developed without significant adverse effects on ecological value and landscape amenity. Improve existing signage to paths. Form new connections between existing routes and create new routes across the character area. New access, pathway and cycleway improvements etc, to be designed to avoid excessive disturbance to habitat or loss of visual amenity. Explore the possibility of extending the Whetstone way south along the line of the former Great Central Railway line. Improve connections across the Soar between Littlethorpe and Narborough. Explore the possibility of highway improvements to Warwick road, which is especially poor for pedestrians and horse riders. Engage with landowners to permit access along headlands etc.



MANAGEMENT

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FIVE

Increase accessibility of the character area to horse riders.

Rationale:

Access, recreation, involvement:

Improving both public access and recreational opportunities is one of the key objectives of the Stepping Stones project. This character area currently has no formal bridle paths although paddocks and on road riding is evident. The robust and extensive nature of this local landscape character area means that it ought to be able to accommodate a greater level of access with relative ease.

Recommendations for action:

- Investigate potential bridleway routes along the water corridors.
- Investigate circular route possibilities.
- Improve existing on road signage.
- New bridle way improvements, to be designed to avoid excessive disturbance to habitat or loss of visual amenity.
- Engage with landowners to permit access along headlands etc.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: SIX

Reduce the level of intensive stock grazing in order to increase the amount of neutral grassland (as defined in the LLRBAP).

Rationale:

Landscape:

Increasing the proportion of grassland, which is not intensively grazed, would reinforce, safeguard and improve the positive aspects of the areas landscape character.

Biodiversity:

Neutral grassland is a priority wildlife habitat in the LLRBAP.

Recommendations for action:

- Encourage landowners to adopt less intensive grazing regimes i.e. examine stock levels and grazing patterns in order to permit neutral grassland areas time to develop.
- Wherever possible enhance floristic diversity.



COSBY FIELDS

(For description refer to Part Three)

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: ONE
Increase the amount of tree planting in the local landscape character area.
Rationale:
<p>Landscape: A modest increase in the proportion of tree planting can control views, screen visual detractors and reinforce spatial structure.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Woodlands provide valuable wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Access, recreation, involvement: Community involvement in the area could be encouraged through engagement in tree planting programmes.</p>
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage native tree and shrub planting on a medium to small scale with a focus on hedgerow trees. • Discourage large-scale interventions that would impede characteristic views. • Encourage planting that will increase the connectivity of woodlands and hedgerows. • Engage with landowners to encourage a phased programme of arboricultural works to conserve existing trees.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: TWO
Increase accessibility of the character area to the public, on foot and by bicycle.
Rationale:
<p>Access, recreation, involvement: Improving both public access and recreational opportunities is one of the key objectives of the Stepping Stones project. This character area currently has a limited and in places fragmented network of pathways and cycleways. The robust and extensive nature of this local landscape character area means that it ought to be able to accommodate a greater level of access with relative ease. This can also help bring people closer to nature.</p>
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form new connections between and create new routes across the character area. • New access, pathway and cycleway improvements etc, to be designed to avoid excessive disturbance to habitat or loss of visual amenity. • Explore the possibility of extending the Whetstone way south along the line of the former Great Central Railway line. (note: this is outside the green wedge area). • Engage with landowners to permit access along headlands etc. • Reconnect the former Great Central Railway line across the M1 motorway.



MANAGEMENT

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: THREE
Reduce the scale of intensive arable landuse in order to increase the amount of neutral grassland (as defined by the LLRBAP).
Rationale:
<p>Landscape: Increasing the proportion of grassland, which is not intensively managed, would reinforce, safeguard and improve the positive aspects of the areas landscape character.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Neutral grassland is a priority wildlife habitat in the LLRBAP.</p> <p>Access, recreation, involvement: Headlands around arable fields can be used as both formal and informal pathways i.e. extend the footpath network in the area.</p>
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage landowners to set aside along field boundaries. • Encourage landowners to create or extend headlands along field boundaries. • Wherever possible enhance floristic diversity. • Land owners should be encouraged to undertake less intensive land practices.
Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FOUR
Explore the potential for habitat and access improvements to Whetstone Golf Course.
Rationale:
<p>Landscape: The golf course is an important landscape with this local landscape character area accounting for a significant portion of land area, mature trees and wetland.</p> <p>Biodiversity: The golf course currently has little connectivity, woodland, hedgerows and ponds are isolated and grassland mowing regimes are strict. There is significant potential to improve a range of habitats through out this area.</p> <p>Access, recreation, involvement: Although access is possible the routes are confusing and poorly signed. Walking and cycling routes could be integrated into the course.</p>
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the possibilities of developing a landscape/wildlife management plan for Whetstone golf course.



FOUR

<p>Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FIVE</p> <p>Enhance the ecological quality and connectivity of existing hedges in the local landscape character area.</p>
<p>Rationale:</p> <p>Landscape: Hedge gapping up and laying can be used to help reinforce landscape structure, maximize the degree of visual containment and reduce the exposure of open areas.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Hedges are a priority habitat in the LLRBAP. Within the local character area they provide important ecological corridors, feeding and breeding habitat.</p> <p>Access, recreation, involvement: Hedgerows can provide definition to Public Rights of Way.</p>
<p>Recommendations for action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce number and length of gaps in existing hedgerows. • Encourage sympathetic hedgerow management.

MANAGEMENT

ENDERBY PARKLAND

(For description refer to Part Three)

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: ONE
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Reinforce and conserve this areas existing landscape character.
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Rationale:

Landscape:

A mixture of open rolling open grassland dotted with mature trees to intimate wooded enclosures and pathways all of which have strong boundary treatments typifies the Enderby Parkland character area. This local landscape area has a unique landscape.

Recommendations for action:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect existing standard specimen trees. • Engage with landowners to encourage a phased programme of arboricultural works to conserve existing trees. • Preserve spatial scale and open and expansive views. • Encourage greater access. |
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Detailed Management Strategy Objective: TWO
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Increase the amount of tree planting in the local landscape character area.
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Rationale:

Landscape:

A modest increase in the proportion of tree planting can control views, screen visual detractors and reinforce spatial structure.

Biodiversity:

Trees and woodlands provide valuable wildlife habitat.
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Access, recreation, involvement:

Community involvement in the area could be encouraged through engagement in tree planting programmes.

Recommendations for action:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage native tree and shrub planting on a small scale with a focus on hedgerow trees. • Discourage large-scale interventions that would impede characteristic views. • Encourage planting that will increase the connectivity of woodlands and hedgerows. • Encourage extensive amount of woodland planting along northern boundary of green wedge to screen neighbouring development plots and further define the boundary of the green wedge. |
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Detailed Management Strategy Objective: THREE

Increase accessibility of the character area to the public, on foot and by bicycle.

Rationale:

Access, recreation, involvement:

Improving both public access and recreational opportunities is one of the key objectives of the Stepping Stones project. This character area currently has a limited and in places fragmented network of pathways and cycleways. The robust and extensive nature of this local landscape character area means that it ought to be able to accommodate a greater level of access with relative ease. This can also help bring people closer to nature.

Recommendations for action:

- Improve existing routes through the character area.
- New access, pathway and cycleway improvements etc, to be designed to avoid excessive disturbance to habitat or loss of visual amenity.
- Explore the possibility of additional circular routes incorporating the old Enderby Warrens Landfill site.
- Engage with landowners to permit access along headlands/boundaries etc.
- Explore opportunities to improve pedestrian access and movement along Leicester Lane.
- Explore possibilities of improving access across the M69 to the north of the character area.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FOUR

Explore the potential for habitat and access improvements to the Enderby Warrens landfill site.

Rationale:

Landscape:

The landfill site is an important landscape with this local landscape character area accounting for a large portion of land area. This site marks one of the highest points within the green wedge area from which extensive views are possible. Promoting formal access and habitat improvements would incorporate this site more effectively into the character area.

Biodiversity:

There is significant potential to improve a range of habitats through out this site.

Access, recreation, involvement:

Access is currently prohibited however routes could be established and the site utilized for walking and cycling etc.

Recommendations for action:

- Investigate the possibilities of developing a landscape/wildlife management plan for Enderby Warrens Landfill.
- Investigate the potential for improving the floristic diversity of the former landfill.
- Investigate the possibility of introducing formal access and pathways to the site.
- Explore the opportunity of interpretive signage and/or viewing points.

MANAGEMENT

ENDERBY FIELDS

(For description refer to Part Three)

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: ONE
Increase the amount of tree planting in the local landscape character area.
Rationale:
<p>Landscape: A significant amount of new tree planting is required as this character area has little vertical structure or features of visual interest. Tree planting can control views, screen visual detractors and reinforce spatial structure.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Woodlands provide valuable wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Access, recreation, involvement: Community involvement in the area could be encouraged through engagement in tree planting programmes.</p>
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage native tree and shrub planting on a medium scale. • Discourage large-scale interventions that would impede open characteristic views. • Increase planting along M1 Motorway corridor. • Encourage the planting of specimen hedgerow and field trees. • Engage with landowners to encourage a phased programme of arboricultural works to conserve existing trees.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: TWO
Enhance the ecological quality and connectivity of existing hedges and increase the amount of hedgerow planting in the local landscape character area.
Rationale:
<p>Landscape: Hedge planting can be used to help define landscape structure, provide a greater degree of visual containment and reduce the exposure of open areas.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Hedges are a priority habitat in the LLRBAP. Within the local character area they provide important ecological corridors, feeding and breeding habitat.</p> <p>Access, recreation, involvement: Hedgerows can provide definition to Public Rights of Way.</p>
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce number and length of gaps in existing hedgerows. • Encourage sympathetic hedgerow management. • Investigate opportunities for new hedgerow planting to break down the scale of the landscape and reduce exposure. In particular examine the possibility of increasing hedge planting along road corridors.



Detailed Management Strategy Objective: THREE
Reduce the scale of intensive arable landuse in order to increase the level of neutral grassland (as defined in the LLRBAP).
Rationale:
<p>Landscape: Increasing the proportion of grassland, which is not intensively managed, would improve the positive aspects of the areas landscape character.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Neutral grassland is a priority wildlife habitat in the LLRBAP.</p> <p>Access, recreation, involvement: Headlands around arable fields can be used as both formal and informal pathways i.e. extend the footpath network in the area.</p>
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage landowners to set aside along field boundaries. • Encourage landowners to create or extend headlands along field boundaries and watercourses. • Wherever possible enhance floristic diversity. • Land owners should be encouraged to undertake less intensive land practices.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FOUR
Reduce the impact of the M1 Motorway.
Rationale:
<p>Landscape: The Motorway is both visually and audibly intrusive, screening will help reduce the dominance of this feature within the landscape and increase visual amenity.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Although a barrier to some wildlife the existing verges and embankments act as wildlife corridors, which may be enhanced with tree and shrub planting.</p>
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen motorway using woodland planting belts. • Investigate the routing of footpaths and access away from the motorway wherever possible.



MANAGEMENT

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FIVE

Increase accessibility of the character area to the public, on foot and by bicycle.

Rationale:

Access, recreation, involvement:

Improving both public access and recreational opportunities is one of the key objectives of the Stepping Stones project. This character area currently has a limited and in places fragmented network of pathways and cycleways. The robust and extensive nature of this local landscape character area means that it ought to be able to accommodate a greater level of access with relative ease. This can also help bring people closer to nature.

Recommendations for action:

- Establish which routes can be developed without significant adverse effects on ecological value and landscape amenity.
- Improve existing signage to paths.
- Form new connections between existing routes and create new routes across the character area.
- New access, pathway and cycleway improvements etc, to be designed to avoid excessive disturbance to habitat or loss of visual amenity.
- Improve access along the Fosse Way and explore opportunities for interpretative signage.
- Engage with landowners to permit access along headlands etc.



TEN POUND RISE

(For description refer to Part Three)

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: ONE
Increase the amount of tree planting in the local landscape character area.
Rationale:
<p>Landscape: A modest increase in the proportion of tree planting can control views, screen visual detractors and reinforce spatial structure.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Individual Tree and woodland planting provides valuable wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Access, recreation, involvement: Community involvement in the area could be encouraged through engagement in tree planting programmes.</p>
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage native tree and shrub planting on a medium to small scale. • Discourage large-scale interventions that would impede characteristic views. • Increase planting along boundaries, in particular the M1 motorway, King Edward Avenue and Blaby Road. • Encourage the planting of specimen Hedgerow and field trees. • Encourage planting that will increase the connectivity of woodlands and hedgerows. • Engage with landowners to encourage a phased programme of arboricultural works to conserve existing trees. • Consider screen planting to potential development adjacent Carlton Park.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: TWO
Enhance the ecological quality and connectivity of existing hedges and increase the amount of hedgerow planting in the local landscape character area.
Rationale:
<p>Landscape: Hedge planting can be used to help define landscape structure, provide a greater degree of visual containment and reduce the exposure of open areas</p> <p>Biodiversity: Hedges are a priority habitat in the LLRBAP. Within the local character area they provide important ecological corridors, feeding and breeding habitat.</p> <p>Access, recreation, involvement: Hedgerows can provide definition to Public Rights of Way.</p>
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce number and length of gaps in existing hedgerows • Encourage sympathetic hedgerow management. • Investigate opportunities for new hedgerow planting to break down the scale of the landscape and reduce exposure. In particular examine the possibility of increasing hedge planting along road corridors.



MANAGEMENT

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: THREE
Reduce the scale of intensive amenity grassland maintenance in order to encourage/increase the level of neutral grassland.
Rationale:
Landscape: Increasing the proportion of grassland, which is not intensively managed, would improve the positive aspects of the areas landscape character
Biodiversity: Neutral grassland is a priority wildlife habitat in the LLRBAP.
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage more ecologically sensitive management of amenity grassland. • Encourage landowners to create or extend headlands along field boundaries. • Wherever possible enhance floristic diversity. • Promote or expand rough grassland margins to mown areas. • Land owners should be encouraged to undertake less intensive land practices.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FOUR
Explore the potential for habitat and access improvements to Carlton Park and the Golf Course.
Rationale:
Landscape: Carlton Park and the golf course are important areas within the landscape of this local landscape character area accounting for a significant portion of land area, mature trees and publicly accessible land.
Biodiversity: Neither Carlton Park nor the golf course currently have little connectivity, of wildlife habitats and grassland mowing regimes are strict. There is significant potential to improve a range of habitats through out this area.
Access, recreation, involvement: Although access is possible the routes are poorly signed and limited. Walking and cycling routes could be integrated into the course.
Recommendations for action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up a landscape/wildlife management plan for the golf course. • Investigate the possibility of developing a landscape/wildlife management plan for the Carlton Park.



Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FIVE

Increase accessibility of the character area to the public, on foot and by bicycle.

Rationale:

Access, recreation, involvement:

Improving both public access and recreational opportunities is one of the key objectives of the Stepping Stones project. This character area currently has a limited and in places fragmented network of pathways and cycleways. The robust and extensive nature of this local landscape character area means that it ought to be able to accommodate a greater level of access with relative ease. This can also help bring people closer to nature.

Recommendations for action:

- Establish which routes can be developed without significant adverse effects on ecological value and landscape amenity.
- Improve existing signage to paths.
- Form new connections between existing routes and create new routes across the character area.
- New access, pathway and cycleway improvements etc, to be designed to avoid excessive disturbance to habitat or loss of visual amenity.
- Explore opportunities to 'reveal' the Fosse Way using interpretative signage etc.
- Engage with landowners to permit access along boundaries etc.
- Focus works on the M1 crossing point as an important pedestrian link between Enderby St Johns and Enderby.
- Where possible formalise use of existing desire lines.
- Investigate improvements to Ten Pound Lane.
- Investigate a safe crossing point along Blaby Road.

