

TSV01 Attenborough Wetlands

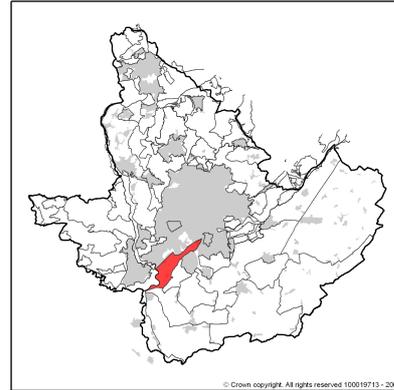


CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Trent Valley

LDU Reference: 263 & 276

DPZ Reference: TSV01



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

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



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

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

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

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

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



Landscape Strength

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

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

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

Landscape strength

The overall landscape strategy is **ENHANCE**

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

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

- Conserve the character of settlements by restricting urban edge expansion of both residential, industrial and commercial development
 - Conserve and enhance the rural character through ensuring that development remains dispersed and well integrated into the landscape
 - Ensure that new development is in keeping with the local vernacular of red brick properties with pantile roofs and reflects the styles and scale of built form within Barton in Fabis' and Attenborough's historic core
- Other development/ structures in the landscape*
- Review the need for further flood defences and consider their impact on the landscape. Where required these should be carefully sited and include some riparian planting to reduce their prominence
 - Further mineral extraction should be screened from view by wooded boundaries to aid integration into the landscape