

TW054 Colwick Country Park and Racecourse



CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Trent Washlands

LDU Reference: 399

DPZ Reference: TW054



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Low, flat, floodplain landform, associated with the River Trent washlands
- There is a steeply rising outcrop to the north of the area and the underlying sandstone geology is visible in the hillside surrounded by woodland
- This is a highly modified landscape formed where former gravel workings have been flooded to form lakes
- The River Trent flows along the southern edge of the area and is a prominent feature
- A marina connected to the River Trent and boats moored on it are distinctive
- Land cover includes wide areas of amenity grassland around the lakes and across the racecourse, which lies in the north of the area
- The area has an enclosed and naturalistic urban green space character
- Land use is predominantly recreation, including walking, fishing, cycling, picnic area, racecourse, football pitches and Colwick Park Adventure Centre
- Woodland is a significant feature; 60 acres of woodland lie within Colwick Country Park and woodland surrounds the racecourse
- Wet woodland and marsh land surround the water bodies and are present in pockets in other woodland
- The woodland is often relatively immature around the water bodies and will increase woodland cover as it matures
- Woodland species are predominantly deciduous. Willow is common by the water's edge. Poplar is common along the urban edges and blackthorn and hawthorn form scrubby edges to the woodland
- A red brick Palladian style Georgian house (Colwick Hall) and adjacent stone church form locally significant features adjacent to the racecourse
- There are long views across the water bodies to the woodland which encloses views around the fringes of the county park
- Views across the amenity grassland of the racecourse are enclosed by the rising wooded landform of Colwick Hill and the race course buildings
- There are few views of the surrounding urban landscape as the woodland filters views, although blocks of flats, factory chimneys and a mast on Colwick Hill are visible reminders of the surrounding urban features
- The park and ride car park adjoining the area is well screened and is not prominent
- There is a network of footpaths and bridleways crossing the area and the marina provides a well used facility on the waterways
- There are some maintenance buildings and a large car park which have a derelict character and a localised negative influence on the character of the area at the entrance to the country park adjacent to Colwick Hall



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Condition

This is a low, flat DPZ characterised by large areas of open water which are surrounded by woodland and amenity grassland. Although it is urban green space, it has an enclosed character and feels tranquil and naturalistic. The marina and River Trent are important features however the flooded mineral extraction sites have the largest influence on the character of the area. The flat land extends to the north where the racecourse, church and Colwick Hall are all key features, with the River Trent flowing beside them.

Colwick Country Park and Colwick Hall have a long history and were once owned by Lord Byron. The current house dates from the late 18th century although there have been various modifications to the building and the design over the years. The current size of the park is far smaller than the original due to development expansion. Recreation is the key land use in this area and there are numerous visitor facilities.

Woodland is an important feature in this landscape. Extensive maturing woodland surrounds the lakes. It has a high content of willow by the water's edge, and hawthorn and blackthorn scrub. Mature woodland surrounds the racecourse and Hall and extends up the steep slopes of Colwick Hill in the adjacent DPZ.

The condition of the landscape is considered to be **MODERATE**. The woodland, water bodies and paths are all well maintained and well used. However, the area around the car park is in poor condition which has a localised detracting and unwelcoming effect on the appearance of the DPZ.



Landscape Strength

The DPZ is enclosed by woodland and is on low ground, consequently the zone of visual influence is limited. There are some views over the area from Colwick Hill. There are views to the area from the floodplain landscape in the adjoining DPZ to the south. From within the area views are enclosed by woodland and only vertical elements in the surrounding urban form, such as the mast on Colwick Hill and flats, are visible. Some of the conurbation is visible on rising land to the west of Colwick Hill.

The landscape has a **STRONG** character. The marina, river, flooded workings, Colwick Hall and the racecourse provide distinctive features which contribute to the sense of place. There is a strong distribution of woodland across the area.

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

Landscape strength

The overall landscape strategy is **CONSERVE AND ENHANCE**

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Landscape features

- Conserve the enclosed, naturalistic and informal character of the DPZ
- Conserve the wet woodland and marshland vegetation along the peripheries of the water bodies and in the woodland
- Conserve the open character and long views across the water bodies through management of woodland vegetation
- Conserve and the quality and condition of the marina through continued management and maintenance as it contributes to the sense of place
- Conserve the well managed condition of the amenity grassland areas
- Conserve and enhance the woodland screening to the park and ride area through additional planting and magement
- Conserve and enhance the tree cover around the peripheries of the DPZ and around the lakes
- Conserve and enhance the diversity of riparian and marginal vegetation associated with the river channels

Built form

- Conserve Colwick Hall, and views to the house, as it forms a distinctive feature in the DPZ
- Improve the appearance of the car park and adjacent maintenance buildings which are presently in a dilapidated condition
- Improve the appearance of the carpark and maintenance building to provide a better setting for Colwick Hall and the racecourse through avenue tree planting and screening of detracting features such as fencing
- Conserve the condition of the Adventure Centre to ensure it remains well integrated in the landscape
- Conserve the naturalistic character of the area by ensure views to development in higher ground surrounding the DPZ are limited