

THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER OF DERBYSHIRE

PART TWO - MANAGING DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The previous section identifies and describes the different Landscape Character Types in Derbyshire. Development can and does impact on the landscape. In order to encourage the retention of the individual characteristics and distinctive features of Derbyshire's landscapes it is important to provide guidance for the design and location of new development within the countryside.

The next phase of the assessment involves the evaluation of survey data to formulate policy objective areas under the broad headings of conservation, enhancement and restoration/creation, as the guiding principles for future development.

To maximise the potential of this publication some landscape management guidance is provided. This information has been presented in the form of a summary table titled 'Landscape Management Guidelines', the terms of which are defined below. It is hoped that this table will provide some assistance in targeting the key landscape considerations for each Landscape Character Type (LCT) prior to the production of a more detailed Landscape Strategy and Design Guidance document.

Definition of Terms

Settlement and Buildings

Conservation of rural character

- An important issue where built development, including modern housing, could have a significant and detrimental effect on landscape character, and where there are clear development pressures, e.g. Riverside Meadows.

Conservation of settlement pattern

- Important where a clear and distinctive settlement pattern could easily be eroded or destroyed by new built development, and where there are clear development pressures.

Conservation of vernacular character

- Important where a particular building style or building material makes a significant contribution to the character of the landscape and definition of local distinctiveness e.g. magnesian limestone cottages with red clay pantile roofs.

Land Management

Conservation of historic features

- Important where notable historic features e.g. ridge and furrow, make a significant contribution to landscape character and local distinctiveness and could be affected by inappropriate land management practices, such as agricultural intensification, and where these forces for change are evident.

Conservation of pastoral character

- Important where the land use is a visually prominent characteristic defined by pastoral farming e.g. White Peak, and where forces for change, such as agricultural conversion and diversification, are signalling a potential shift in character.

Maintenance of ponds

- Important issue where ponds and seasonally flooded areas are a key characteristic supported by the underlying physical conditions.

Management of field margins

- Important issue where arable and mixed farming practices are the predominant land use and it is desirable to promote the more sensitive management of field margins for the benefit of nature conservation.

Restoration of unimproved permanent pasture

- Important where the traditional land use is pastoral farming but where there has been an increasing trend towards alternative agricultural practices i.e. conversion to arable, and where this trend, if continued, could have a significant and detrimental affect upon landscape character.

Management of river and stream corridors

- Important issue where minor streams and their associated watercourse trees are frequent and a visually important component of the landscape, the management of which it is important to retain.

Management of roadside vegetation

- Important where roadside verges still retain remnant vegetation of the wider landscape character e.g. heather in moorland roads, bluebells in ancient wooded landscapes.

Management of semi-natural habitats

- Important where semi-natural habitats are widespread and comprise an important part of the overall landscape character e.g. heather moorland, meadows, and where their management should be a primary consideration of the landscape.

Habitat creation/ restoration

- Important where the inherent conditions or traditional management practices support a characteristic habitat type, which may be poorly represented in that LCT e.g. heathland in Sandstone Slopes and Heaths.

Field Boundaries

Conservation of historic field pattern

- Important where the landscape is defined by a clear and consistent field pattern that it is considered important to preserve for its visual qualities or is irreplaceable e.g. irregular field patterns created from woodland assarts (clearance).

Conservation of primary field boundaries

- Important where there are strong cultural associations i.e. landscapes with a long history of settlement, and where boundaries demarcate strong cultural lines e.g. parish boundaries, sinuous boundary demarcating edge of floodplain.

Hedgerow replanting and management

- Important where hedgerows are the traditional field boundary and where there is an overall desire, coupled to appropriate management, to strengthen this character by replanting or infilling hedge lines.

Management Aims

The summary table has been designed to address a number of key landscape management aims and objectives for each landscape character type. For simplicity these management issues, defined above, have been prioritised in the table by using bulleted points under the headings of:

- Primary aim
- Secondary aim
- Inappropriate
- Not applicable

For clarity these terms are defined below:

Primary Aim - where the management objective addresses a key defining characteristic and/or there is considered to be major development and/or land management pressures operating in a given LCT.

For example, the conservation of the rural character of Riverside Meadows is a primary aim, to protect a key characteristic of this LCT that is increasingly being impacted upon by development and land management changes.

Secondary Aim - where the management objective addresses a characteristic of a variable nature or localised value and/or there is considered to be a moderate to low development and/or land management pressures operating in a given LCT.

For example, the conservation of pastoral character in mixed farming areas would be desirable for nature conservation and visual reasons, but could never be a primary aim by virtue of the fact that pastoral character will be a variable characteristic within the given LCT.

Inappropriate - where the management objective itself would impact on the character and is considered to be an inappropriate development or land use change of a given LCT.

For example, the creation of large water bodies in the Southern Magnesian Limestone: Limestone Farmlands is highly inappropriate in a landscape that is inherently free draining and lacks such features.

Not applicable - where the management objective addresses a characteristic that is not a key characteristic and/or there is considered to be insignificant development and/or land management pressures in a given LCT.

For example, the conservation of settlement pattern in the Open Moors is assessed as 'Not applicable' because this LCT is inherently an unsettled landscape and there are no perceived pressures for built development.

