APPENDIX L

How to complete Landscape Condition and Landscape Sensitivity field survey sheet

DPZ Ref – Record unique reference number prefixed by County Character Area initial and PZ for Policy Zone e.g. SH PZ 01.

County Character Prefix

ES	East Nottinghamshire Sandlands
MN	Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands
SH	Sherwood
SN	South Nottinghamshire Farmlands
TW	Trent Washlands

Draft Character Type – Add County Character type from pull-down menu.

Land Cover Parcel Ref(s) – **Note** this should be labelled "Landscape Character Parcel ref".
Record all LCPs included in this Policy Zone.

Conditions – Record weather at time of survey, particularly note visibility.

Location – Record point where record made in the text field (limited to 30 text characters).

Date – Record date of record.

Surveyor – Record initials of Surveyor(s).

OS East – Record a 6 figure grid reference using hand held GPS.

OS North – Record a 6 figure grid reference using hand held GPS.

Landscape Condition

Visual Unity – assess the overall unity of the Landscape and note the significance of the following:

Pattern of Elements – Record using pull-down menu whether the landscape components which make up the whole of the Policy Zone are:

Unified (3) - Where landscape components such as fields, boundaries etc. are very uniform in type.

Coherent (2) - Components are neither completely uniform or completely incoherent.

Incoherent (1) - Where landscape components are very different throughout the area.

Detracting Features – Record visual features which contribute negatively to the strength of character, such as:

Power lines
Busy roads
Derelict buildings
Industrial uses
Mineral extraction

Overall how would you rate the amount of detracting features in the area? Record using pull-down menu from:

Many **(1)**
Some **(2)**
Few **(3)**

The factors recorded above will generate a Visual Unity score and a Visual Unity description, which is the sum of the factors above, e.g.: Unified pattern and few detracting features equals an overall score of "**6** – Strongly Unified".

Functional Integrity – How does this area function as a habitat for wildlife?

Ecological Integrity – Extent and type of semi-natural habit (note: should read habitat). Record the types of habitat present as with a Phase 1 habitat survey – deciduous woodland, open water, unimproved grassland etc, riparian vegetation.

Ecological Bases – Record any designated areas within the Policy Zone, such as SSSI's, LNRs etc. Record unique reference and main reason for designation, e.g.: 5/132 Littleborough Lagoons – Grassland, Open Water and Carr.

Intensity of Land Use – Record intensity of use and land use type e.g.: arable, grazing pasture.

Overall, how does this area function as a habitat for wildlife?

Select from: Strong **(3)**
Moderate **(2)**
Weak **(1)**

Additional notes – Add any additional comments as necessary to clarify choice. This information is checked by an Ecologist at the Policy Sheet stage to ensure that this is correct.

Cultural Integrity

Tree cover – Describe the type of woodland present and record species. If there are named woodlands, describe each of these in turn where possible.

Extent – Describe the extent if tree cover within the area (no coverage, low or moderate coverage). Use an aerial photograph to assess this.

Age Structure – Describe the age structure of the different components of woodland, and mature trees such as: over mature, mature, regenerating, newly planted.

Field Boundaries – Note types of field boundaries present e.g.: hedgerows, walls, post and rail fences, and record their condition.

Built features – Note type of built features within the PZ and record construction materials. Note names of vernacular buildings where possible.

Overall cultural integrity – Chose a category from a pull-down menu:

Good	**(3)**
Variable	**(2)**
Poor	**(1)**

Additional notes – Record any additional notes as necessary to clarify choice.

The programme then calculates a Functional Integrity score and gives a functional integrity description e.g.: Moderate habitat for wildlife and good cultural integrity equals a score of **5** – Strong functional integrity.

Impact of built development – describe how any development noted respects the local vernacular style, note any particular buildings of historic interest, listed buildings etc.

Impact of built development – Chose low, moderate or high from pull down menu.

Impact of recent land-use changes – describe any obvious recent changes, and assess the degree of impact for any changes listed.

Impact of land-use change – Assess overall impact.

Overall Condition Summary Statement – Condense the information collected into a succinct summary of the Landscape condition.

The programme generates an overall condition score and a text description at this point.

Landscape Sensitivity

Sense of place – How do the key characteristics contribute to local distinctiveness and continuity?

Woodlands – Describe woodlands in text box:

Record Distinctiveness: Indistinct
Characteristics
Unique/Rare

This is in comparison with the whole of the Character Area e.g. Sherwood

Record Continuity:
Recent – 50 years
Historic – Post 1600
Ancient – Pre 1600

Hedgerows and Hedgerow trees - Describe hedgerows in text box
- Record distinctiveness
- Record continuity

Field Boundaries - Describe buildings in text box
- Record distinctiveness
- Record continuity

Highways - Describe highways in text box
- Record distinctiveness
- Record continuity

Other Features - Describe any other features in text box
- Record distinctiveness
- Record sensitivity

Settlements - Describe any settlements in text box
- Record distinctiveness
- Record sensitivity

Having gone through this process, record the:

Final distinctiveness – record which is the most commonly occurring “distinctiveness” category.
Add any notes to support the final score in the text box.

Final continuity – record the most commonly occurring "continuity" category. Add any notes to support the final score in the text box.

The computer programme generates a "Sense of Place" score, together with a text description of this score, e.g.:

Final distinctiveness Characteristic (score **2**) + final continuity – Historic (score **2**) equals: **4** – Sense of Place – Moderate

Visibility

Views typically limited to within an LDU or beyond it should read "to within Policy Zone or beyond it".

Scale of Landform and Landscape elements

This may be described as:

Dominant– **(3)**
Apparent – **(2)**
Insignificant – **(1)**

This is used to describe the topography of the PZ. Insignificant has only been used to describe areas where the whole zone does not vary in altitude by more than 2 metres.

How wooded is the Landscape?

This may be described as:

Enclosed– **(1)**
Intermittent– **(2)**
Open– **(3)**

These figures are used to describe how woodland would screen any features set in the landscape.
A steeply undulating area which is open would have a high view score, because features within it would be very visible. A text based description is also generated in this case – very high visibility.
A flat area which is well wooded will have a low view score, because any features within it would not be very visible. A text based description is also generated in this case – very low visibility.

An overall sensitivity score is generated by the software programme, together with a text description e.g.:

Moderate sense of place **(4)** + Moderate view score **(4)** = **(8)** Moderate sensitivity.

Finally, the combined scores, when added together, generate a Landscape Policy Score, together with a text policy description e.g.:
Condition **10** + Sensitivity **8** equals **18** - "Conserve" Landscape action.

18-20	Conserve
17,18	Conserve and Reinforce
17,18	Conserve and Restore
15,16,17	Reinforce
15,16,17	Restore
16	Conserve and Create
14,15	Restore and Create
14,15	Create and Reinforce
12-14	Create