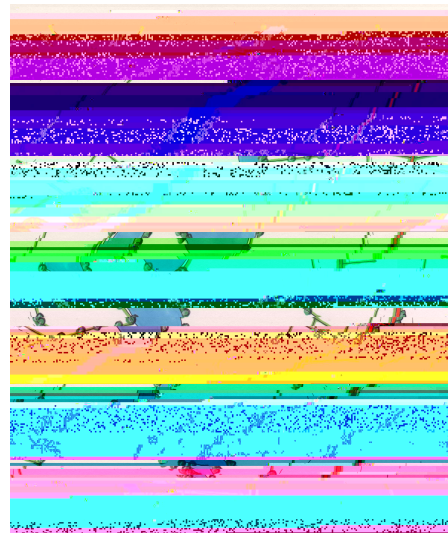


Landscape Type Description

A linear riverline landscape associated with a flat, generally well-defined alluvial floodplain, in places framed by steeply rising ground. This is a secluded pastoral landscape, characterised by meandering, tree-lined rivers, flanked by alluvial meadows and grazing animals.



Key Characteristics



Throughout these landscapes, the presence of extensive areas of waterside meadows, used for seasonal grazing has in the past, provided a strong sense of visual and ecological unity. These are landscapes that accommodated a degree of flooding annually, a factor which was reflected in the patterns of land use, the lack of settlement and development, and the representation of species and habitats tolerant of such waterlogged conditions. Tree cover is a notable element of these land-

The strong unity derived from the presence of watermeadows and pasture is becoming fragmented by the encroachment of arable land uses. The decline in the traditional practices of seasonal grazing and haymaking have diminished the nature conservation interest of the remaining areas to pasture. Similarly modification of the natural shape and profile of water courses and drainage channels has reduced the wildlife value of such features and produced a functional, somewhat urban appearance. These are essentially linear landscapes, which convey their sense of unity as a result of extensive views along the length of river corridors. New roads have been constructed on embankments directly across the flood plain, notably in the vicinity of Worcester, fragmenting the visual unity of these riverside meadow corridors as a result.

These are landscapes where the remaining areas of pasture should be conserved and opportunities sought to convert areas of arable land use back to pasture. Wetland habitats are nationally scarce today and opportunities to restore or recreate them should be encouraged and in areas where property would not be at risk, a return to annual flooding cycles could be considered in order to achieve this. There is little to indicate that woodlands have been a characteristic feature of these landscapes since their use as grazing meadows evolved, therefore opportunities to introduce new tree planting should respect the patterns of existing tree cover as outlined above.

The management strategy for the riverside meadow landscapes is therefore primarily one of restoration and conservation - to conserve and restore the visual unity and distinctive pastoral character of the landscape.

Landscape Guidelines

- seek to retain the unity of the linear form of these landscapes
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