

4. The Natural Heritage

The Environment

The Newbald Village Appraisal revealed the high value that the residents give to their natural surroundings.

Q.53 'how important is the quality of the countryside to you?' 92% answered 'very important'

Q54. Asked how people felt the countryside around Newbald had changed over the years. Over development and the loss of hedgerows came through as the dominant issues.

Q.55 asked 'what do you think could improve the environment of Newbald'

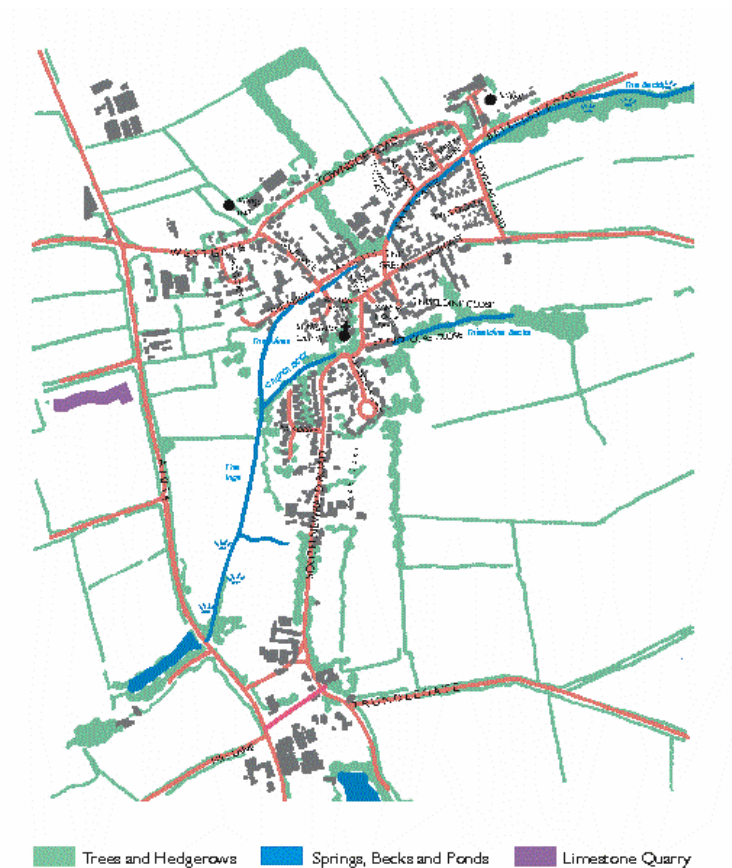
Improving and maintaining, trees, woodlands and hedgerows came through as very important and also the maintenance of the dry stone walls.

Biodiversity

Newbald Parish has an uncharacteristically wide variety of habitats for the area it occupies, because it straddles the Western escarpment of the Wolds.

- The High Wolds plateau - exposed arable farmland, large fields, hedgerows, and some tree belts.
- Steep sided dry valleys – scrub, chalk grassland and coniferous forestry, with cultivated valley bottoms
- Wooded valleys- sheltered deciduous woodland
- Spring lines
- Streams
- Marsh/water meadow
- Ponds/mill pond/reservoir
- Exposed south facing limestone quarry face
- Arable farmland – hedgerows, smaller fields, land drains, sandy soil
- Forestry – coniferous forest with rhododendrons, some marsh and sandy heath land areas
- Domestic gardens - intense habitats

This is a very important quality that Newbald has making a significant contribution to the ecology of the Wolds and Vale of York. The value the community put on this environment indicates how appropriate they are as the custodians who can help sustain it for the future.



Action Statement

- (i) Protection of the countryside from development and the intrusion of development (eg Building materials, retention of existing trees, screen planting etc)
- (ii) Development of hedgerows and naturalised field margins in co-operation with the farming community.
- (iii) Encourage indigenous tree planting individually or in groups where the opportunity arises.
- (iv) Protection against pollution of water resources from chemicals and road run-off
- (v) Encourage community action and initiatives such as nesting boxes, tree planting, and cleanup and management action.
- (vi) Encourage the repair and maintenance of dry stone walls including unique steel wall ends at gate openings
- (vii) Continue to lobby for the Quarry face to be restored to agricultural use.
- (viii) Continue to conserve the Newbald Becksies in partnership with English Nature
- (ix) Protect the Common Land by the use of raised kerbs or small posts