



Wych Valley 12b

This is one of a series of Local Planning Guidance Notes based on Wrexham LANDMAP (adopted November 2004), setting out recommendations for each Landscape Character area.



Wych Valley summary

- Hidden, picturesque and unspoilt valley of the Wych Brook
- Incised and intricate valley landform
- Unintensive pastoral farmland with woodland on steeper slopes
- Nature conservation value - ancient woodland, species-rich grassland, hedgerows, trees and scrub
- Scattered farmsteadings and cottages in red brick
- Winding lanes, difficult access

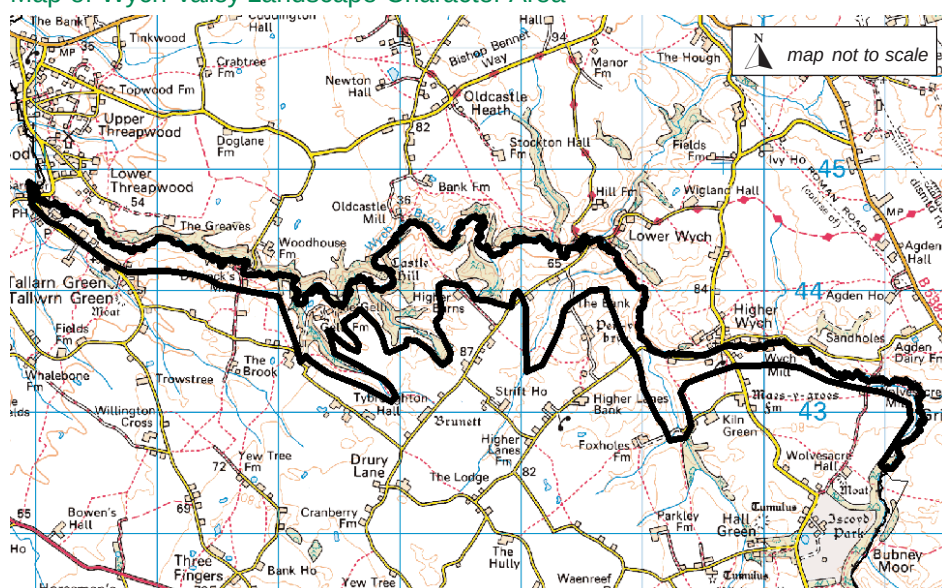


An enclosed, hidden and picturesque valley on the Cheshire border with scattered farms in a wooded pastoral landscape

Landscape context

One of a number of small enclosed predominantly wooded valleys within the rural Eastern Lowlands of Wrexham. The only other large enough to form a separate character area is the Dee/Ceiriog Wooded Valley

Map of Wych Valley Landscape Character Area



Character Area boundaries should be considered transitional rather than precise
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Key characteristics

Visual character:

- Tranquil and enclosed lowland valley with mosaic of woodland and pasture
- Picturesque views, particularly from the English side of the valley (where it is designated as an Area of Special County Value)
- Scattered red-brick farms reached via small winding roads and tracks
- Tallarn Green is a quiet village, of linear form, which follows the edge of the Wych Valley

Geological character:

- The Wych Brook, a tributary of the River Dee, has eroded deeply into glacial drift consisting of areas of till (boulder clay) and sands and

gravels. The middle section, between Lower Wych and Dymocks Mill is narrowest and deepest

- The drift lies over Triassic rocks of the Cheshire Plain, including salt beds, which were exploited until the late 19th century

Ecological character:

- Area of high biodiversity value with unintensive farming, hedgerows and hedgerow trees, and remnants of lowland pasture, rush pasture, and upland mixed ash woodlands
- The edges of the valley grade into the general farmland of the English Maelor, characterised by a high density of field ponds



Historical character:

- Ridge and furrow remnants, part of the Wrexham Lowlands area with medieval open fields, and areas of semi-natural ancient woodland
- Remains of water-powered mills from the 19th century which were once used for corn grinding
- Evidence of former salt workings

Cultural character:

- Agricultural area with dispersed population on Welsh-English border

For further information contact:

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www.wrexham.gov.uk/planning

All our information is available in accessible formats



Overall management strategy:

Conservation

Management guidance

Aims	Guidelines
Conserve visual qualities and tranquillity	● Maintain, manage and increase tree cover ● The area is particularly sensitive to built development or conversions which are not in harmony with existing built character
Conserve geodiversity	● Maintain integrity of landforms and assess new exposures ● Maintain morphological integrity of fluvial landforms
Conserve biodiversity	● Increase diversity in woodland structure and retain old/dead trees, standing or fallen ● Expand upland ash woodlands habitat ● Maintain woodland corridors
Conserve historic landscape features	● Carry out studies to determine survival of watermills and related features, conserve and manage ● Preserve surviving features and buildings of Tallarn Green and examine its associated wider landscape ● Conserve and manage structures and deposits associated with medieval and later salt workings
Sustain farming	● Management needs to reflect / anticipate social and agricultural change

Landscape sensitivity:

An enclosed small scale landscape sensitive to development or landuse change which could detract from or erode its rural character