

Appendix 3: Effects on Landscape Character

LCA5a Chirk Estate to Froncysyllte					
Susceptibility to Change: Medium to High		Lower	↔	Higher	Value: High
Scale	Medium to large scale landscape of pasture fields and parkland on an east-facing landform. Views outwards across lower-lying land to the east are available.		■		• AONB; • Chirk Castle (designated heritage assets and visitor attraction); • Offa's Dyke Path National Trail; • Local landscape designation (SLA).
Pattern/ Complexity	A mix of enclosed agriculture, plantations and historic parkland, on a landform that slopes consistently from west to east. The pattern is consistent, organic and relatively simple.			■	
Development/ Human Influence	Traditional (and often designated) built features predominate within the LCA. The presence of industrial features at the Kronospan site is an established discordant presence in outward views.			■	
Connections with adjacent areas	Obvious and very strong visual relationship with LCA 7a to the east. Very obvious transition into the valleys of the Ceiriog (to the south) and the Dee (to the north). Plantation woodland marks the transition into the higher ground to the west.			■	
Visual Interruption	Typically open views are available eastwards, due to the underlying landform. However, there is significant screening vegetation also present, especially with the Chirk Castle Estate		■		
Sensitivity: High The LCA is a mixture of pastoral agriculture, plantation woodland and historic parkland. The east-facing landform focuses views outwards over Chirk and including the Kronospan site, which is an established if discordant presence. Susceptibility to change is medium to high, with the predominantly traditional built environment, strong linkages with the land to the east, and the simple consistent landscape pattern the most susceptible components of character. The value of the landscape is high. The LCA is located within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB and also lies within a local landscape designation. As such, the value of the landscape itself is clearly recognised. Additionally, wider value is represented by the presence of Chirk Castle (and estate) both as a designated heritage asset and as an important visitor destination, and by the presence of the Offa's Dyke Path, a nationally imported promoted walking route. Overall, sensitivity is high.					
Size/ Scale of Effect: • The Proposed Development would be a sizeable building extension, but would nevertheless comprise limited addition to a much larger area of industrial structures/ buildings at the Kronospan site; • It would be visible from some more exposed areas within the LCA, but only in the context of other structures at Kronospan (including taller/ larger structures); • The existing influence of the Kronospan site upon the landscape character of the LCA would not change appreciably;			Geographical Extent: • Change in visual context from more exposed areas, which tend to be located to the west of the Kronospan site.		

The underlying characteristics of the LCA would be maintained.	
Duration: Long-term (permanent development)	Reversibility: Irreversible (permanent development)
Magnitude: Small The Proposed Development would be introduced into the existing Kronospan site where a range of large-scale industrial structures are already present (including structures that are taller than what is proposed), and where vegetation cover in the surrounding landscape often significantly restricts views of the Kronospan site. In this context, whilst itself comprising a relatively large extension to an existing building, the additional presence of the Proposed Development would be unremarkable and have no influence upon the character of the LCA, other than incremental change in the visual context. Existing landscape characteristics would remain unaffected.	
Significant Effect: No A minor level of effect would occur. The influence of the Kronospan site upon the character of the LCA is already strong. The Proposed Development would be introduced in this context and would not increase the influence of the wider site upon the LCA (other than incremental visual change). Existing landscape characteristics would be maintained. As such, effects would not be significant.	
Adverse/ Neutral/ Beneficial: The effects of the Proposed Development would be adverse.	

LCA7a Chirk					
Susceptibility to Change: Medium		Lower	↔	Higher	Value: High
Scale	Generally a small-medium scale landscape, but with the Kronospan site notably out of scale with other features present. Views are typically short-range due to enclosure by buildings and vegetation.		■		• AONB overlaps the western boundary of the LCA; • Local landscape designation (SLA) present west of the canal; • World Heritage Site (canal); • Canal has recreational function (including marina and towpath); • Heritage assets within Chirk (listed buildings and Conservation Area); • Chirk is an established settlement with village centre and residential areas.
Pattern/ Complexity	A varied pattern of small scale residential and commercial buildings, enclosed agricultural fields, transport corridors and large scale industry. As such, the landscape is not consistent and has both organic and geometric influences.	■			
Development/ Human Influence	Typically small-scale buildings, both traditional and contemporary, but with the Kronospan Site a very prominent large-scale industrial facility, including tall/ bulky structures		■		
Connections with adjacent areas	Visual relationship with the hillsides to the west (LCA 5a). The canal provides a functional relationship with the landscapes to the north and south (along the canal corridor). Very obvious transition into the valleys of the Ceiriog (to the south) and the Dee (to the north). The A5 corridor marks a clear boundary to the east.			■	
Visual Interruption	Views are frequently interrupted by buildings (within the village) and by vegetation elsewhere. Nevertheless there are localised spots of longer range visibility, with the Kronospan site typically clearly visible.	■			
Sensitivity: Medium to High The LCA contains a relatively diverse mix of features, of which the Kronospan site is prominent by virtue of its large size/ scale. Susceptibility to change is medium, with the linkages with the adjacent land to the west the most susceptible component of character. Value is high. The LCA lies partially within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB and also lies within a local landscape designation, thereby recognising the inherent value of the landscape. The presence of the World Heritage Site adds further vale, both as a recognised heritage asset that is in important landscape feature in its own right, and also as an important tourist/ recreational resource. Chirk itself provides the setting for the lives of its residents and has clear value in that regard. Overall, sensitivity is medium to high					
Size/ Scale of Effect: • The Proposed Development would be a sizeable building extension, but would nevertheless comprise a relatively modest addition to an extensive industrial site; • Its presence would not always be apparent due to existing structures and vegetation cover; • Localised and incremental change in visual context; • The existing influence of the Kronospan site upon the landscape character of the LCA would not change appreciably;		Geographical Extent: • Change in visual context.			

• The underlying characteristics of the LCA would be maintained	
Duration: • Long-term (permanent development)	Reversibility: • Irreversible (permanent development)
Magnitude: Small The Proposed Development, whilst in its own right comprising a relatively large building extension, would in the context of the existing structures at the wider Kronospan site, represent a relatively minor addition, that would often be screened by existing structures and by vegetation cover. It would be apparent locally, resulting in incremental change in the visual context. The influence of the Kronospan site upon the character of the LCA would not change and the underlying characteristics of the landscape would be unaffected.	
Significant Effect: No A minor level effect upon character would occur. The influence of the Kronospan site upon the character of the LCA is already strong. The Proposed Development would be smaller than some of the existing structures at the site and would typically be less notable than these. Existing landscape characteristics would be maintained. As such, effects would not be significant.	
Adverse/ Neutral/ Beneficial: The effects of the Proposed Development would be adverse.	