

Wrexham LANDMAP

Supplementary Planning Guidance

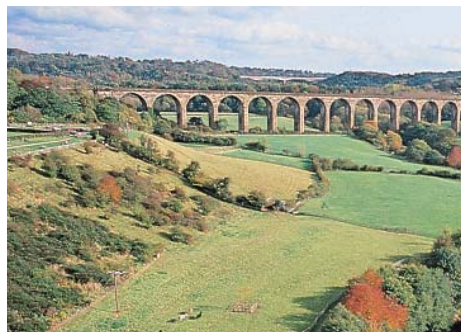
Summary Document

Introduction

This Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) is one of a series of guidance notes which support the policies of the adopted Unitary Development Plan. The UDP seeks the conservation and enhancement of the landscape and its natural and built features of significance and planning applications need to demonstrate how they have achieved this. This guidance forms a material consideration in the determination of all planning applications which could affect the form, appearance and setting of the built and natural landscape and its features.

Wrexham has a diverse and varied landscape

Landscape, whether rural or urban contributes greatly to our every day experience of where we live and work, and influences our perception of an area, sense of identity and well being. The LANDMAP study has been undertaken to identify the key elements and features which make up the landscape within the Wrexham Borough. It is clear from the study that the landscapes of Wrexham are diverse and varied, as demonstrated by the identification of 27 different Landscape Character Areas.



Information is presented in the following format

Map of LANDMAP Character Areas

The centre spread map provides an introduction and overview to the landscapes of Wrexham and:

- Categorises and groups areas within 4 common broad landscape types (i.e. areas with broadly similar features such as settlement or landform) into Rural/Urban villages, Uplands, Urban, and Rural lowlands
- Sub-divides the area further into 27 detailed landscape character areas
- Introduces Key Landscape Issues for each landscape type

Landscape Character Area sheets

Seperate sheets are available for each of the 27 landscape character areas. These sheets present concise information for Visual, Geology, Ecology, History, and Cultural aspects within each character area. The format of information provides:

- Maps indicating the location of the character area within the authority and the character area boundary

A brief statement of:

- Landscape Character - a mental image of the landscape, its landform, features, openness or enclosure

- Area summary - indication of important qualities or attributes

- Landscape context - location within the authority, relationship with other landscape types both within the authority and beyond

- Key characteristics of Visual, Geology, Ecology, History, and Cultural character

- Landscape sensitivity - the pressures and threats upon landscape

- Management Guidance - aims and guidelines to achieve the management strategy for the area

Glossary & Bibliography

Provides clarification of the technical terms used and information resource referred to

Background

The LANDMAP summary document SPG has been produced to provide a consolidated and simplified version of the Wrexham LANDMAP -Technical Appendices adopted in November 2004. The Technical Appendices should be referred to where information about the assessment methodology and assessment valuations for each aspect is required.



Methodology and Status

This document has been prepared using the LANDMAP methodology devised by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) to describe and evaluate the Visual, Geology, Ecology, History, and Cultural aspects of the landscape and provide a basis for a consistent Wales-wide approach to landscape assessment.

The Welsh Assembly Government's Planning Policy Wales March 2002 recognises that LANDMAP 'is an important information resource upon which local planning authorities can draw in making landscape assessments needed to inform local policy, guidance and decision making in this field.

Wrexham Council takes the view that a proposed development, which does not conserve or enhance the landscape / townscape, or its natural and built features considered to be of significance, is unlikely to be approved.



Further Information

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RURAL/URBAN VILLAGES

Wrexham urban villages are associated with past coal mining, and located on the edge of the uplands and to the north of Wrexham town. The villages are set among farmland, wooded valleys and regenerating or restored landscapes. This complex character area contains main roads, railways and canal, as well as Offa's Dyke and prehistoric hill forts, reflecting Wrexham's history on the border between Wales and England, upland and lowland.

Detailed Character Areas

- 7a Chirk
- 7b Cefn Mawr
- 7c Rhosllanerchrugog, Rhostyllen, Ruabon, Pen y Cae
- 7d West Wrexham Ridges and Valleys
- 8 Gwersyllt, Llay, Gresford, Borrass
- 9a Clywedog Valley
- 9b River Alyn Valley
- 9c Ffrith Valley
- 9d Froncysyllte to Newbridge

UPLANDS

Ruabon/Esclusham Mountain is an open moorland plateau with remnants of former quarrying and mining. Much of the area is uninhabited, but there are scattered farmsteads on the eastern slopes, and to the north, the highest village in Wales - Bwlchgwyn.

Ceiriog Valley/Berwyn Mountain is a rural upland area consisting of the enclosed River Ceiriog Valley, and surrounding hills. The higher hills are open moorland, and the lower areas contain a mixture of small farms and woodlands, with villages along the valley floor.

Detailed Character Areas

- 1a Berwyn Mountain
- 1b Ruabon/Esclusham Mountain
- 2 Ceiriog Forest
- 3 Berwyn Foothills
- 4a Ceiriog Valley Slopes
- 4b Ceiriog Valley Corridor
- 5a Chirk Estate and above Froncysyllte
- 5b Eastern slopes of Ruabon Mountain
- 6 Minera, Gwynfryn, Bwlchgwyn



LANDMAP Character Areas

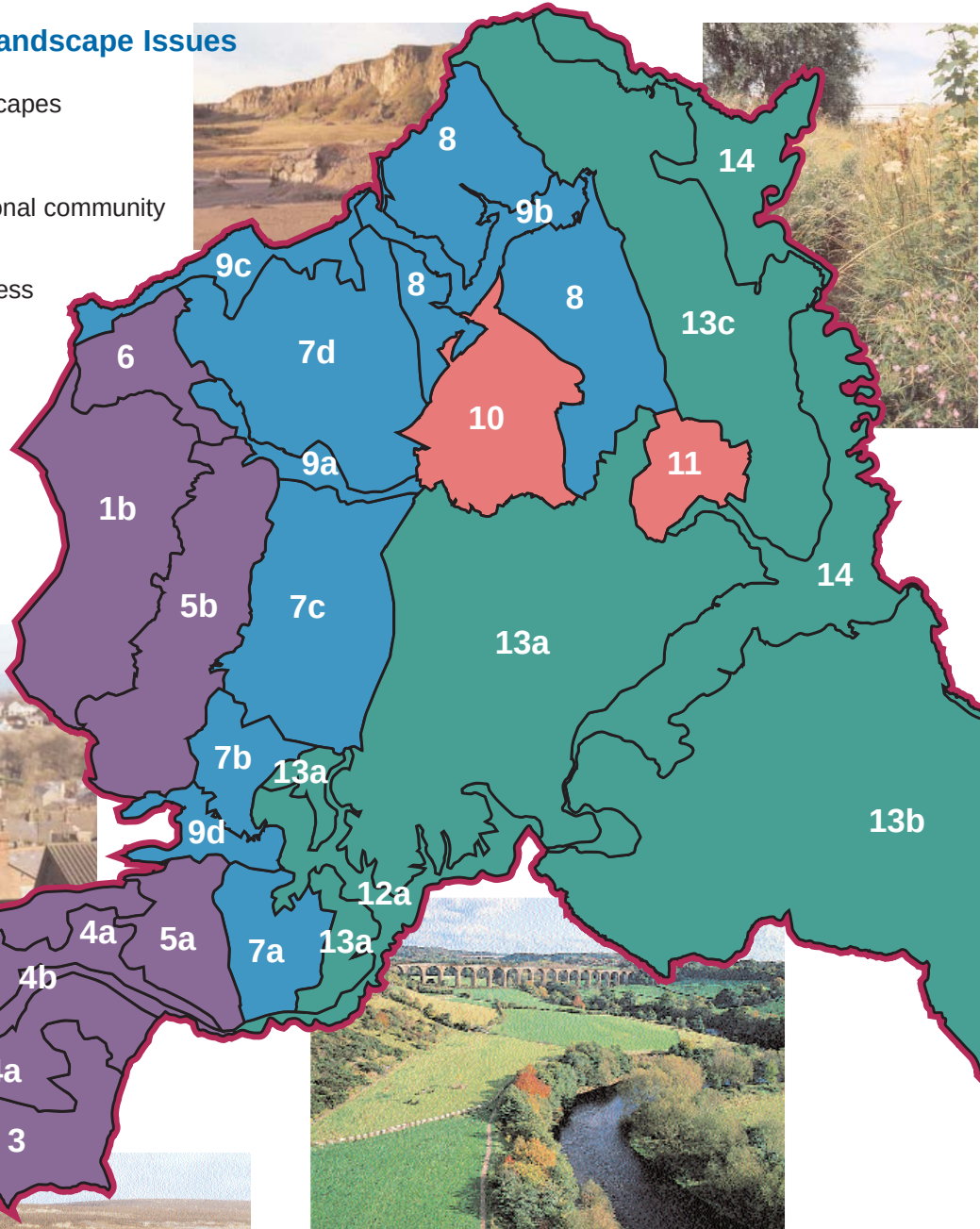
Rural/Urban Villages : Key Landscape Issues

- The future of 'urban fringe' landscapes
- The potential for urban forestry
- Impact of new housing on traditional community identity
- Maintenance of local distinctiveness
- The future of Bersham tip
- The need for footpath and cycle links
- The long-term impact of sand and clay quarries and landfill
- Preservation of local history and industrial archaeology



Upland : Key Landscape Issues

- Impact of development in remote and wild areas
- Effects on agricultural land use of economic changes and conservation constraints
- Impact on cultural identity of rural villages and farms of commuters and incomers
- Landscape protection - potential Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation
- Management of tourism and recreation



Rural Lowlands : Key Landscape Issues

- Impact on rural character of commuter pressure
- Conservation and management of historic parks, gardens and boundary walls
- Hedgerow and hedgerow tree conservation and restoration
- Impact of flooding defence measures
- Impact on historic landscape features of agricultural changes
- Effects of economic diversification and recreation in the countryside
- Footpath and cycle links between town and country
- Impact on landscape and wildlife by farm building conversions to housing

URBAN

Wrexham town is the main residential, commercial and social centre, and is of regional importance, performing many of the functions of a city in North Wales. The Wrexham Industrial Estate is a very large employment area of national importance, set within open countryside and containing many habitats and species of high biodiversity value.

Landscape Character Area

- 10 Wrexham Town
- 11 Wrexham Industrial Estate



Urban : Key Landscape Issues

- Impact of cumulative development on wildlife and green space within urban areas
- Impact of long term expansion of urban areas into surrounding countryside
- Protection and enhancement of urban character areas



RURAL LOWLANDS

The Eastern lowland areas of Wrexham are largely rural and agricultural and share many characteristics of the neighbouring Cheshire and North Shropshire landscape. The general area also includes the River Dee floodplain and flat river terraces, and Fenn's Moss, an extensive area of heathland and bog. There are scattered farmsteadings, attractive small villages, and historic landscape features including medieval ridge and furrow and moated sites.

Detailed Character Areas

- 12a Dee/Ceiriog Wooded Valley
- 12b Wych Valley
- 13a Welsh Maelor
- 13b English Maelor
- 13c Dee Terraces
- 14 Dee Floodplain
- 15 Fenn's Moss

