

Appendix 5A

Landscape Character Appraisal, Wider Study Area

Adjacent LANDMAP Aspect Area Descriptions

LANDMAP Aspect Areas			
Area Name/ Area ID	Description	Overall Evaluation (taken from LANDMAP)	Guidelines
Geological landscape			
River Dee (Overton Bridge- Trevalyn) WRXHMGLO 73	Broad, flat, alluvium-dominated floodplain (Quaternary, Holocene) of the mature River Dee system downstream from Overton Bridge. S of Holt the floodplain is typically over 1.5km wide with very well developed meanders. Only on the S side from Bangor-on-Dee are river cliffs/ incised sides well developed above where the system cuts into the glacial deposit terrace that dominates the area. To the W of Bangor-on-Dee an extensive area of terrace deposits is developed (GL087). The flood plain narrows dramatically between Holt and Farndon where a gorge-like feature is developed as the river cuts an outcrop of Triassic sandstones and conglomerates. Downstream from Holt the floodplain broadens again and merges in the Trevalyn Meadows area with deposits associated with the Afon Alyn and Pulsford Brook systems. Flood defence works, including banks, become more significant in this area. Aspect Area may include some areas of lowest terrace; river system falls from around 15-20m in the S to only 5m above sea-level in the N.	Outstanding (Key section of major river-floodplain system with well-developed meander belt of national importance (SSSI).)	Immediate (Ensure that the SSSI is protected through implementation of a management plan.) Long Term (Maintain natural system and processes and ensure that no significant geological or geomorphological features are lost or damaged (e.g. due to development, forestry, etc).)
Holt WRXHMGLO 75	Low, flat topped feature at around 19-20m above sea-level and capped by river terrace deposits with glacial clay above (Quaternary, Pleistocene); Triassic sandstones and conglomerates below. Forms a low feature to the SW and W and cut by the river Dee to the E, forming a shallow gorge.	High (AA includes regionally important exposures of Triassic sandstones and conglomerates and river terrace features (both RIGS).)	Immediate (Ensure that RIGS sites are protected through develop plan policies and constraint mapping.) Long Term (Ensure that no significant geological or geomorphological features are lost or damaged (e.g. due to development, forestry, etc).)
Wrexham Industrial Estate WRXHMGLO 78	Extensive area landscaped for industrial development.	Low Area of intensive urban and industrial development: few natural features remain.	-

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Area Name/ Area ID	Description	Overall Evaluation (taken from LANDMAP)	Guidelines
Borras WRXHMGL0 80	Key section of the famous "Wrexham Delta Terrace", forming a platform to the E and NE of Wrexham city dominated by glacial sand and gravel (Quaternary, Pleistocene). Surface characteristically irregular, especially S of Gresford where rounded depressions, some flooded, represent glacial "kettle holes". Surface typically at around 70-75m above sea level, with a low escarpment-like feature to the E (dropping to around 50-60m). Sand and gravel workings typical, including large active site W of Borras.	Outstanding (Key area of the famous fluvioglacial "Wrexham delta terrace" with geomorphological features of national and regional importance including well developed kettle holes and exposures in working quarries.)	Immediate (Ensure that RIGS sites are protected through development plan policies and constraint mapping and SSSI through implementation of management plan.) Long Term (Ensure that no significant geological or geomorphological features are lost or damaged (e.g. due to development, forestry, etc).)
Llan-y-pwll WRXHMGL0 81	In S comprises an uneven surfaced platform below the low feature marking the edge of the Wrexham Delta Terrace to the W (dropping from around 50 to 35m above sea level). Dominated by glacial clays with some glacial lake deposits to the SW in the Plas Issa area (Quaternary, Pleistocene) and a small area of river terrace deposits on the N side of the Clywedog in the Llyn Onn area (Quaternary, Holocene?). Irregular surface may include remnants of glacial landforms; scattered small ponds also characteristic. Aspect Area narrows northwards, becoming a belt of gentle slopes between the low escarpment which marks the edge of the glacial terrace-feature to the W and the flat Cheshire Plain to the E.	Moderate (No regionally significant sites/ landforms noted during present survey and geology/ geomorphology considered to be typical of feature/ process and is either widespread, better exposed elsewhere or not currently known to be exceptional.)	Long Term (Ensure that no significant geological or geomorphological features are lost or damaged (e.g. due to development, forestry, etc).)
Lower Clywedog WRXHMGL0 83	Area of relatively broad floodplain with very well developed, albeit small-scale meander belt. Constrained to S and N in upper part by flood defences of the Wrexham Industrial Estate.	High (River system appears to retain very well developed meander belt including ox-bow lakes of potential regional (i.e. RIGS) importance. It could therefore be of significant educational value as the smaller scale makes it more suitable for study than the much larger meanders of the Dee.)	Immediate (Assess RIGS potential of river system and safeguard natural river system and process.) Long Term (Maintain natural system and processes and ensure that no significant geological or geomorphological features are lost or damaged (e.g. due to development, forestry, etc).)

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Wrexham WRXHMGL1 00	Urban and industrially developed areas of Wrexham city. Mainly developed over glacial sand and gravel (Quaternary, Pleistocene).	Low Area of intensive urban and industrial development: few natural features remain	Long Term (Ensure that any surviving geological or geomorphological features of significance are not lost or damaged (e.g. due to new development, etc).)
Landscape habitats			
Wrexham Urban Area WRXHMLH0 41	This is the urban area of Wrexham, including the outlying villages of Gwersyllt and Bradley to the north. Wrexham is a dense urban area, with large residential developments and industrial areas, whilst also containing a number of large open green spaces and parks. There are no designated areas within the built up area of Wrexham, and few natural habitats.	Low - Wrexham is a dense urban area, with large residential developments and industrial areas, whilst also containing a number of large open green spaces and parks it has few natural habitats and a dense area of residential and industrial developments. It has a low diversity value.	Immediate (Raise public awareness about encouraging native species.) Medium Term (Encourage garden composting and leaving longer areas of grass.) Medium Term (Raise public awareness about erecting bird and bat boxes.)
Llay Grasslands WRXHMLH0 41	An area of mixed grassland and arable farming east of Wrexham, forming the start of the sand and gravel soil formations of the Wrexham Delta Terrace. There are three SSSI's associated with areas of kettle holes or old sand and quarry workings. Diversity is increased by a number of small woodlands, as well as some restored sand and gravel workings, where the resulting areas of water and surrounding scrubby woodland have been designated as local wildlife sites. There are salmon and otter recording from the River Alyn which flows through the aspect area. There is also an area of parkland with veteran trees, and being on the urban fringe of Wrexham, two golf courses, and a country park.	High - (A landscape with many pockets of high biodiversity features that support some important national and international species.) This is a rich traditional agricultural area, on wet land in the valley of the River Dee, with many wet habitats remaining suitable for great crested newts, and many other more common species. This is reflected in the number of local wildlife sites, and merits a high classification.	Medium Term (Plant additional woodland areas to maintain connectivity.) Medium Term (Where hedges are gappy, replant and lay.) Medium Term (Retain potential green networks and develop green networks.)

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Rossett Mosaic WRXHMLH0 47	An area of mainly grassland with some arable cropping south of Rossett. This forms part of the wider Cheshire plain, where ponds and larger areas of water, based on old kettle holes are an important part of the landscape and form an interesting local habitat type. Great crested newts have been found in some of the ponds, and some small areas of woodland are local wildlife sites. Fields are medium sized with well-maintained hedges and scattered trees.	Moderate (A moderate to high biodiversity landscape that supports some important species.)	Immediate (Increase number of ponds) Medium Term (Where hedges are gappy, replant and lay.) Medium Term (Maintain a buffer by the side of the River Alyn.)
Wrexham Industrial estate WRXHMLH0 50	This is an area of industrial development east of Wrexham, separate from the urban area of Wrexham, on a former MOD site. The site contains much open green space, some of which has been undisturbed for many years. There are a number of ponds in the area, where great crested newts have been seen, and two small areas of woodland area local wildlife sites.	Moderate Whilst forming an industrial estate, the area has some interesting and important local habitats, which merit a moderate habitat value classification, which should be reflected in sensitive management and development of the area in future.	Immediate (Raise public awareness about importance of derelict land species.) Medium Term (Native species should be used in any new planting scheme.) Medium Term (Grassland should be mown after flowering late in the summer.)
Dee River Valley WRXHMLH0 52	This area consists of low lying land and water meadows adjacent to the River Dee, as it meanders slowly across the Cheshire Plain. The land use is mainly grassland, wet in places, with many floodplain features such as oxbows, wet woodland and old river channel features, all of which form interesting and unusual habitat features. Most of the river is a PSAC	High (This high to outstanding area is a rare habitat type in Wales which acts in support of an internationally important river system supporting a wide range of species.)	Immediate (Manage a buffer zone alongside the river edge.) Medium Term (Where native species are present reduce inputs to encourage reversion.) Long Term (Where appropriate on river edge encourage patches of scrub development)
Visual & sensory			

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River Dee Valley Floor WRXHMVS0 50	A broad and meandering aspect area distinctive in its fluvial farmed landscape of broad open fields centred and focussed upon the meandering river course, area includes in the main part the floodplain of the River Dee but also includes the lower areas of the adjacent river terraces with better drained land. Field pattern is well defined and boundaries reflect the sinuous nature of the river course within the floodplain, boundaries are well maintained and usually of mature hedgerows with a high incidence of hedgerow trees. In the lower river terraces field pattern is more generally rectilinear and with lower more harshly cut hedgerows in places. Significant built development is rare and is limited to scattered rural farmsteads and clustered village dwellings. The aspect area is a pleasant if relatively unremarkable landscape in terms of its uniformity and consistency in landscape type. A flat and open landscape for most of the year, annual winter flooding of extensive areas makes it visually outstanding and an impressive seasonal landscape, with trees and sky reflected. Water and the course of the Dee itself is also a barrier to communication and ensures that the area is relatively lowly populated and therefore appears in stable condition. Sensory perceptions include tranquillity, peacefulness, an efficient and industrious farming landscape, settled and relatively remote from population and industry	High - Good example of a lowland river valley floodplain and unique in terms of the study area. The area has a wider scale regional influence as it also signifies the transition between the archetypal upland "Welsh" landscape and the more gentle rolling English borderlands. Outstanding on a local and regional level and High on a national level.	Medium Term (Maintain diversity and work with Environment Agency to enhance river corridor in terms of biodiversity and protected species measures) Medium Term (Maintain field pattern and vegetation distribution, with a view to enhancing/improving species diversity and focusing on British Native species) Immediate (Re-establish/ encourage traditional land management techniques such as hedge laying and encourage less intensive farming practices where possible.) Long Term (Ensure phased replacement of maturing vegetation especially hedgerow trees and woodlands) Medium Term (Encourage understanding of natural processes which affect visual character and improve access to river corridor for recreation, enhance viewpoints)

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Area Name/ Area ID	Description	Overall Evaluation (taken from LANDMAP)	Guidelines
Maelor South of Wrexham WRXHMVS0 52	An attractive archetypal rolling farming landscape with elements of estate farming and a pleasant mix of small to medium field patterns and woodland blocks and copses. The area feels relatively settled and safe with a low proportion of out of scale or modern development. The area borders the southern and eastern areas of Wrexham yet Wrexham's influence is rapidly lost and the area feels quite separate from it. The area occupies a gently rolling and undulating landscape bordered by the Dee Valley to the south and east and Wrexham to the north. Visually and physically the area feels far more closely associated with the English landscape of North Shropshire and Cheshire than the "typical" or "archetypal" Welsh landscape. The aspect is the transition zone and border between England and Wales. Again a visually similar to Cheshire and Shropshire plain, but uncommon landscape for Wales. Evidence of earlier cultures can be seen on pasture - ridge and furrow, moated sites etc. not often artefacts associated with Wales.	Moderate In terms of the North Wales context the traditional rolling farmland - of a distinctly "English" character is unusual, as is the relative lack of large scale settlements and industrial/commercial developments. However the size of the area and proportion of similar landscape types within this eastern portion of the study area makes the evaluation Moderate on a countywide scale	Medium Term (Maintain traditional land use and management. Where possible reintroduce traditional land management techniques) Medium Term (Enhance biodiversity and habitat types, improve age range in vegetation cover and promote biodiversity) Medium Term (Preserve historic landscape character) Medium Term (Encourage sensitive farm diversification, manage recreational use)

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Wrexham Industrial Estate WRXHMVS0 53	This aspect comprises the large and extensive industrial estate to the east of Wrexham Town lying somewhat incongruously within level rural farmland. The large extent of the estate, and vast scale of some buildings, dwarf human scale and exceeds the capacity of the surrounding area to accommodate. The estate also brings constant activity and traffic movement to what is ostensibly a rural area. In broad scale terms the industry is visually unrelated to its surroundings, and the site appears to have been developed without much thought of its visual impact on the surroundings. Materials used are predominantly industrial cladding but some brick and other materials also appear, there is no reference to local materials or building form and pattern. The estate appears from a distance to be a large city within the countryside. From the hills to the west of Wrexham the large light-reflecting buildings can be clearly seen. Undeveloped areas provide welcome visual relief from industrial development.	Low - In visual and sensory terms the area has little of obvious merit with few if any attractive views or aesthetically pleasing/well composed views and elements. The site is very much form following function and does little to ameliorate the overall appearance or setting of the complex. There is little to commend the aspect in terms of its visual and sensory value	Medium Term (Improve appearance of security fencing and industrial structures. Improve integration of buildings and structures by use of more muted colours) Medium Term (Encourage visual buffer around works through tree planting and management. Further enhance with structural planting within the estate) Medium Term (Encourage co-operation between businesses to improve environment) Medium Term (Promote management of derelict sites / green spaces within the site for habitat benefit) Long Term

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Terrace North & East of Wrexham WRXHMVS0 57	The area is characterised by a clearly defined and well maintained arable farming landscape with narrow lanes, roadside and field ditches and ponds. Topography is typified by undulating farmland on easily-worked sandy soils developed on "Wrexham Delta Terrace", a post glacial feature. The area generally rises from the Dee Terraces to the west to the escarpment peak between Llay & Marford to the north and Cefn Park to the east of Wrexham. The escarpment is most pronounced at Marford where it is most clearly defined. Horsely Hall is a significant historic parkland in the area and is on Cadw Register, grade II. Sensory perceptions include tranquillity, peacefulness, an efficient and industrious farming landscape, settled. Settlements are typified by traditional red brick buildings and are often small to moderate in scale and size. Sense of height at top of escarpment, with long views to mid-Cheshire ridge and Mersey estuary. Settlements at and around Wrexham to the south and east are evident, especially in terms of night-time light pollution on the southern half of the aspect area.	Moderate Although attractive there is little which gives this area an element of rarity or importance as a valuable landscape type or area. Attractive and comfortable with a domestic almost suburban feel to its western extremities. The area has a number of larger scale and relatively visually intrusive development in terms of sand and gravel workings which are at odds with the surrounding landscape uses. Furthermore the influence of the settlements of Wrexham and its outlying areas are evident especially in terms of night-time light pollution. The area is a pleasant farming rural area both for the traveller and resident but is relatively unremarkable in its lack of strong defining or unique landscape features other than the escarpment. Also influence of the large settlements to the east and south - Wrexham and its Industrial Estate are an influence	Medium Term (Resist "suburbanisation" of farmsteads and expansion of existing industrial workings through economic pressure to diversify, especially to minimise and mitigate visual impact of new large scale farm and industrial buildings) Medium Term (Protect and strengthen remaining areas of countryside between settlements. Restore and enhance field boundaries.) Immediate (Re-establish/ encourage traditional land management techniques such as hedge laying and encourage less intensive farming practices where possible.) Long Term (Ensure phased replacement of maturing vegetation especially hedgerow trees and woodlands) Medium Term (Protect integrity of escarpment & preserve/improve landscape structure) Medium Term (Integrate restored sand quarries through habitat creation, woodland planting)

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Area Name/ Area ID	Description	Overall Evaluation (taken from LANDMAP)	Guidelines
Wrexham WRXHMVS0 60	Wrexham Town character area assessment shows historic and civic core surrounded by non-residential and commercial uses. Planned interwar and post-war estates are found to the North and East of the centre, with extensive modern cul-de-sac developments especially to the North and South. St Giles provides focal point for town, but much of its original market town character has been lost in past decades and following industrialization. In recent years the image of town has greatly improved, as efforts have been made to restore some of the major civic spaces and urban parks and regenerate run down and neglected area. Much of the characteristic industry has now gone leaving areas devoid of use and undergoing redevelopment - these areas are found throughout the town with modern development generally contrasting well with the existing Victorian and post war housing stock. Materials are varied although the typical and characteristic material is traditional Ruabon red brick and some Cefn sandstone, recent development have favoured more modern materials - glass, cladding. Wrexham is ostensibly a large town with market town origins and now with a distinctly urban feel.	Moderate The settlement core and suburban green spaces and parks are attractive and well managed examples of the characteristic vernacular and atypical development/settlement type of the central belt of the study area, many of these areas have benefited from recent regeneration. However the main approaches to the town centre are through homogenous settlement edge commercial estates and developments and as such the overall integrity and character of the settlement has been somewhat devalued	Immediate (Follow guidelines in Wrexham Town Character Areas LPG note) Immediate (Follow recommendations in Conservation Area appraisals) Medium Term (Carry out and implement Green Network strategy, improve green links within and out of town.)
Historic landscape			

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Wrexham WRXHMHLO 15	Although the name first appears in documents in 1161, the medieval town of Wrexham was probably founded about 1220 - growing around the newly built church of St Giles... By the 14th century the town had several markets and was a significant local centre... The advent of coal mining and iron working in the 15th considerably added to the town's importance... During the medieval period the settlement centre spread from the first tenement plots close to the church in a northerly direction as far as Lambpit Street... The main medieval market is considered to have occupied the High Street where the width of the street is noticeably wider than elsewhere... It is probable even during this early period that east of the churchyard was an open area, known in the mid-18th century by which time the workhouse had been built on it as Wrexham Green... Dwellings lined the streets leading from the High Street, but little settlement seems to have occurred south of the Gwenfro...	High Complex and important town with medieval origins and much subsequent alteration and expansion to service the surrounding post medieval industrial activity. Also crossed by Offa's Dyke although this is much altered by later development	
Wrexham Industrial Estate WRXHMHLO 19	Modern industrial estate, occupying the former site of the Royal Ordnance Factory Marchwiel, on the eastern edge of modern Wrexham... Although heavily redeveloped with mixed industrial units and a small number of private houses, a number of bunkers and pillboxes relating to the ROF survive... The wartime site operated from 1940-1945 supplying solvent-less cordite for use as a cannon and rocket propellant..... Prior to this development the area had been agricultural	Moderate Heavily redeveloped ordnance factory. A rare site but in poor condition.	

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Eyton WRXHMHLO 20	Large area of mostly hedged irregular fields of mixed origin occupying the gentle upper western and northern slopes of the Dee valley to the south and east of Wrexham... The area contains the village of Marchwiell and smaller hamlets at Eyton, Erbistock, Pen-y-lan, Rhosymadoc, Crabtree Green, Gyfelia, Old Sontley, but is dominated by a larger number of small farm complexes and minor country houses of late medieval or post medieval date... The area borders large designed landscapes at Wynnstay (WRXHMHLO24), Erddig (WRXHMHLO49) and the smaller registered garden at Pen-y-lan and also contains the registered parks/gardens at Erbistock Hall and Rose Hill... Although, as with much of Wrexham, the area contains remains of industrial activity (brickworks and clay pits) its archaeology is dominated by medieval and post medieval remains associated with and agricultural and settlement... Possible moated sites have been identified at Eyton Hall and Plassey, and occasional stray Roman and prehistoric remains	Moderate A large and historically diffuse area of irregular fields with no dominant themes	-

LANDMAP Aspect Areas			
Area Name/ Area ID	Description	Overall Evaluation (taken from LANDMAP)	Guidelines
Dee Floodplain South WRXHMHLO 51	The Welsh part of the flat valley floodplain of the river Dee running north from Overton to Holt... A landscape of mixed field patterns varying from larger squarer, and presumably 19th century, enclosures to smaller irregular, and presumably earlier, hedged fields... Many of the fields along the edges of the river's first terrace contain the remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation, as well as three moated sites, and a scatter of small farms some with impressive medieval pedigrees (such as Althrey Hall)... Extant and former drainage ditches run into the river from the higher ground and distinct areas of former managed water meadow exist alongside the river... Otherwise, an eclectic mix of monuments ranges from two potentially prehistoric cropmark enclosures, a small Iron Age hillfort (Gwernhaylod), Bryn-y-pys Hall, park and army camp, sundry marl pits and Bangor on Dee racecourse...	High An area of relatively uniform pattern - derived from medieval field systems and later enclosure - and a diverse range, but relatively low number of other high quality historical components	-
Cultural landscape			
Wrexham Town WRXHMCL00 1	Wrexham is a town of considerable variety. The Medieval church of St Giles continues to dominate the townscape, and a few late Medieval and eighteenth century structures survive. The several surviving industrial chimneys, such as at Tuttle Street, recall the town's industrial past. The garden suburb in the north-west quadrant of the town is a testament to the social optimism of the early twentieth century. It has strong cultural, sporting and educational traditions. The building of new roads (both east-west and north-south) has slightly bypassed the town, but its economy remains buoyant.	High (As important townscape and regional centre)	Medium Term (Conservation of the town's 19th century architectural heritage.) Medium Term (Monitoring for, and amelioration of, social exclusion) Long Term (Support for merger of NEWI with University of Wales, Bangor.)

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Area Name/ Area ID	Description	Overall Evaluation (taken from LANDMAP)	Guidelines
Wrexham Industrial Estate WRXHMCL01 4	A major industrial/trading estate, amongst the largest in Europe, with its origins in WW2, and which preserves some wartime features. It is central to the economy of WCBC	High The Wrexham Industrial Estate has historically important antecedents in terms of the WW2 plant and as a 21st century employer	Immediate (Sponsorship of oral history project to record experiences of people who worked here during WW2.) Medium Term (Sponsorship of history of the site; conservation of WW2 structures.) Long Term (Continued support for economic role of aspect area.)
Maelor Gymraeg South WRXHMCL03 4	An area historically dominated by estates such as Wynnstay but which evidently experienced profound changes as a result of the estates" relinquishing control and appears to be doing the same again as farms are amalgamated and families move out. There is evidence for the employment of agricultural contractors.	High As an historic landscape and for the way it articulates the role of the great estates	Medium Term (Maintenance of historic buildings and landscape.) Medium Term (Encouragement to small businesses.) Medium Term (Search for imaginative and appropriate re-use functions for rural buildings.)

Appendix 5B

Extract from Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment – November 2008

WLP4: Shocklach Character Area. *Including Aldford, Churton, Burton, Stretton & Threapwood*

This character area extends from Aldford Brook in the north down to Threapwood in the south, to the west it is bounded by the Dee Valley and to the east by the Rolling Farmland landscape type of the Malpas area. It has flat topography and includes three small nucleated villages (Aldford, Coddington and Shocklach), while the remaining settlement pattern is made up of isolated hamlets and farmsteads. Fields are small – medium (up to 8ha) and comprise medieval enclosures with post medieval reorganisation. Marl pits are abundant in this area.....

The land along the western boundary of the character area slopes gently down to the Dee Valley and elsewhere the ground rises towards Malpas and Tilston. These local variations in topography allow more extensive and distant views than elsewhere in the type, over the Cheshire Plain to the west, with the Clwydian Hills in the far distance. To the east the highest parts of to the Sandstone Ridge are visible. Although there are few woodland areas, small copses associated with field ponds or small streams combine with the abundant hedgerow trees to filter views within the landscape, creating the impression of well wooded landscape. The A534 between Farndon and Clutton is the only major highway traversing this area and this has relatively little impact upon the rural atmosphere of the surrounding landscape. Elsewhere the area is characterised by an extensive system of narrow and winding country lanes running between solid, intact hedgerows connecting small settlements and farmsteads. Many areas have a strong feeling of tranquillity and isolation.

R7: River Dee Character Area. Chester Meadows, meanders & wet woods

This character area extends from Chester through Aldford and Farndon south as far as Shocklach Green. In part it defines the western county boundary. For much of its length the river itself cannot be seen from surrounding locations due to the absence of elevated viewpoints in the surrounding West Lowland Plain. However the course of the river can often be discerned by the dense tree growth or marginal vegetation which lines the banks for most of its course.

.....The river has few permanent crossing points but where these occur the bridge structures dominate the valley. The 14th century Holt-Farndon Bridge is built in local red sandstone where the valley is constricted by high ground to both east and west. It is listed Grade I. Residential properties and gardens define the character area boundaries at this point. On the eastern bank the high red sandstone cliff provides a distinctive local feature. Immediately south of Farndon the busy A534 Holt-Farndon Bypass crosses the valley at elevation, maintaining a constant level across the relatively wide flood plain. The road embankment, well planted with trees, curtails any north-south views along the course of the river.

South of the bridge the valley changes, as the river is neatly incised into the wide agricultural plain with cultivated arable fields extending to the top of both banks. There are fewer trees and the banks are deep and steep with a noticeable lack of natural vegetation. This area has traditionally experienced seasonal inundation. Further south a distinctive line of planted mature poplars along the west bank follows the course of a sharp meander. Crewe Hall, situated 1 km south of the bridge on rising ground on the eastern edge of the valley, enjoys views down to the river over sloping ground. The white painted hall, with a backdrop of mature trees, is highly visible from public footpaths on the east bank of the river. At the southern end of the character area the valley assumes a less distinct form. A flood plain can only be identified along the eastern bank, where a number of medium-sized fields extend to the foot of sloping ground rising up to the Shocklach Road. This rising ground, marking the boundary of the character area, curtails views to the east. To the west the Welsh hills are visible in the far distance over fields of predominantly arable crops.