

APPENDIX 1: DETAILED ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Introduction

- 1.1
- The Landscape and Visual Appraisal has been undertaken in accordance with best practice, as outlined in the following published guidance:

 - Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd edition) - Landscape Institute/ Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013)
 - GLVIA3 Statement of Clarification 1/13
 - Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland - (2002) Countryside Agency / Scottish Natural Heritage
 - Photography and photomontage in landscape and visual assessment (2011) - Landscape Institute Advise Note 01/11

- 1.2
- The proposed scheme was assessed for the purposes of the landscape and visual analysis.

- 1.3
- The study area for the LVIA was taken to be a 5km radius from the site. However, the main focus of the assessment was taken as a radius of 2km from the site as it is considered that beyond this distance, even with good visibility, the Proposed Developmentwould not be perceptible in the composite landscape.

- 1.4
- The effects on settings of heritage assets or ecological/environmental assets are not considered within this LVIA.

Landscape Elements and Character Assessment Methodology

- 1.5
- A baseline landscape assessment was carried out to determine the current elements and character of the landscape within and surrounding the site. This involved an initial desktop study of:

 - Ordnance survey maps at 1:50,000, 1:25,000 scales
 - Aerial photographs of the site and surrounding area
 - Datasets for rural designations from the MAGIC website (Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside)
 - Relevant planning policy
 - National and local scale landscape character assessments

Visual Assessment Methodology

- 1.6
- The assessment of visual effects was undertaken on the basis of viewpoint analysis as recommended in best practice guidelines. The viewpoints which are in different directions from the site and are at varying distances and locations were selected to represent a range of views and visual receptor types.

- 1.7
- The viewpoints are representational and not exhaustive. They are taken from publicly accessible land and not from any third party, private, land.
- 1.8
- The viewpoints were used as the basis for determining the effects of visual receptors within the entire study area. The viewpoints were photographed at 1.6 metres above ground level.

Assessment Criteria

- 1.9
- The significance of effects is ascertained by cross referencing the sensitivity of the baseline landscape or visual receptor and the magnitude of change as a result of the development.

Sensitivity of Landscape Features

- 1.10
- Sensitivity is determined by a combination of the value that is attached to a landscape feature or element and the susceptibility of the landscape feature/element to changes that would arise as a result of the Proposed Development– see Pages 88-90 of GLVIA3. Both value and susceptibility are assessed as high, medium or low.

Table 1 Sensitivity of Landscape Featuresr

		VALUE		
		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
SUSCEPTIBILITY	HIGH	High	High	Medium
	MEDIUM	High	Medium	Low
	LOW	Medium	Low	Low

Magnitude of Change on Landscape Features

- 1.11
- Professional judgement has been used to determine the magnitude of direct physical impacts on individual existing landscape features as follows:

Table 2 Criteria for magnitude of change for landscape features

Negligible	No loss or very minor alteration to part of an existing landscape feature
Low	Minor loss or alteration to part of an existing landscape feature
Medium	Some loss or alteration to part of an existing landscape feature
High	Total or major loss of an existing landscape feature

Sensitivity of Landscape Character

- 1.12
- Sensitivity is determined by a combination of the value that is attached to a landscape and the susceptibility of the landscape to changes that would arise as a result of the Proposed Development– see Pages 88-90 of GLVIA3. Both value and susceptibility are assessed as high, medium or low.

Table 3: Sensitivity of Landscape Character

		VALUE		
		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
SUSCEPTIBILITY	HIGH	High	High	Medium
	MEDIUM	High	Medium	Low
	LOW	Medium	Low	Low

Magnitude of Change on Landscape Character

- 1.13
- Professional judgement has been used to determine the magnitude change on landscape character as follows:

Table 4: Criteria for magnitude of change for landscape character

Negligible	No notable introduction of new elements into the landscape or change to the scale, landform, land cover or pattern of landscape
Low	Introduction of minor new elements into the landscape or some minor change to the scale, landform, land cover or pattern of landscape
Medium	Introduction of some notable elements into the landscape or some notable change to the scale, landform, land cover or pattern of landscape
High	Introduction of major elements into the landscape or some major change to the scale, landform, land cover or pattern of landscape

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

- 1.14
- Sensitivity is determined by a combination of the value that is attached to a view and the susceptibility of the receptor to changes in that view that would arise as a result of the Proposed Development– see Pages 113-114 of GLVIA3. Both value and susceptibility are assessed as high, medium or low.

Table 5: Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

		VALUE		
		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
SUSCEPTIBILITY	HIGH	High	High	Medium
	MEDIUM	High	Medium	Low
	LOW	Medium	Low	Low

Magnitude of Change on Visual Amenity

1.15 Professional judgement has been used to determine the magnitude change on landscape character as follows:

Table 6: Criteria for magnitude of change for visual receptors

Negligible	No notable change in the view
Low	Some change in the view that is not prominent / few visual receptors affected
Medium	Some change in the view that is clearly visible and forms an important but not defining element in the view
High	Major change in the view that has a defining influence on the overall view / many visual receptors affected

Scale of Effects

1.16 The scale of the landscape and visual effects is determined by cross referencing the sensitivity of the landscape feature, landscape character or view with the magnitude of change. The scale of effects is described as substantial, major, moderate, minor or negligible.

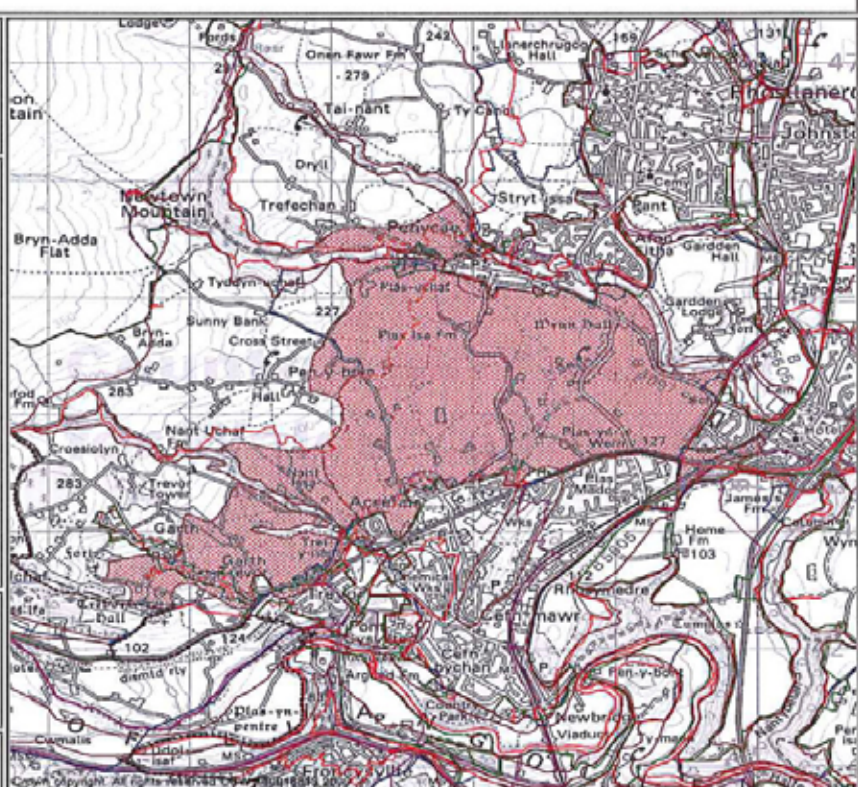
Table 7: Scale of effect thresholds for landscape character, landscape features and visual receptors

		Magnitude of Change			
		High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Sensitivity	High	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor
	Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible

APPENDIX 2: LANDMAP EXTRACTS

SITE

Geological Landscape	
Aspect Area Name	Delph
Aspect Area Classification	Lowland hills and valleys/Lowland glacial and fluvioglacial depositional terrain/Other (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	WRXHMGL014
Date Of Survey : 03/04/2007	



Crown Copyright. All rights reserved CCW 100018813 2005

Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field?	No
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (Forms lowest gentle slopes between Ruabon etc massif and Cheshire Plain, etc below (includes WRXHMGL014 and 121).)

Description

If Classification is "Other", specify here	Glaciodepositional topography/ veneer
What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?	Relatively gentle slopes at the base of the SE end of the Ruabon-Esclusham Mountain massif between Acrefal and Penycæ. Surface dominated by glacial clays (Quaternary: Pleistocene) forming a veneer over Upper Carboniferous "Coal Measures". Characterised by extensive traces of former coal mining including shafts and tips and site of large opencast, now restored.
Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?	Glacial
Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?	Boulder clay/till
What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?	Other (Glaciodepositional topography/ veneer)
Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?	Stratigraphic formation(s) ("Coal Measures", Bettisfield Formation [UPPER CARBONIFEROUS (PENNSYLVANIAN), WESTPHALIAN: LANGSETTIAN- BOLSOVIAN] (mainly worked out at surface). [N.B. Carboniferous stratigraphical terminology has been revised but not implemented on published mapping (see Waters and Davies 2006 British Geological Survey Research Report, RR/05/06 for details)]) Superficial deposits (Till dominated with minor glacial/fluvioglacial sand and gravel in N (QUATERNARY: PLEISTOCENE (DEVENSIAN)).) Active processes (Stream.) Past processes (Glacial.)
What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?	Stream.
What Level 4 components are notable in this area?	Lake / reservoir (artificial) Slope Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit Coal / mineral spoil tips Engineered topography

Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?	Not known
Are there components of significant hydrological importance?	Yes (Stream.)
Is there current mineral extraction?	No
Has there been mineral extraction in the past?	Yes (Coal.)
Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?	No
Are there geological SIN, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?	No

Evaluation

Value	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.)
Condition	Fair (Dominantly rural area with limited significant development, although topography modifies by restored former coal opencast.)
Trend	Constant (Dominantly rural area with limited significant development, although topography modifies by restored former coal opencast.)

Recommendations

Existing management	Generally Appropriate
Existing management remarks:	Dominantly rural area with limited significant development, although topography modifies by restored former coal opencast. Aspect Area lies wholly or partly within the proposed extension to the Clwydian Hills AONB (2008).
Principal management recommendations	Ensure that no significant geological or geomorphological features are lost or damaged (e.g. due to development, forestry, etc) and that surviving historical mine workings are conserved and assessed for their geological value (e.g. resource within tip heaps).
Guideline	Medium Term (Ensure that surviving historical mine workings are conserved and assessed for their geological value (e.g. resource within tip heaps) and designated as RIGS if appropriate.) Long Term (Ensure that no significant geological or geomorphological features are lost or damaged (e.g. due to development, forestry, etc).)

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?	Yes (Loss of surviving historical mine workings. Ensure that they are assessed for their geological value (e.g. resource within tip heaps) and designated as RIGS as appropriate.)
--	--

Aspect Area Boundary

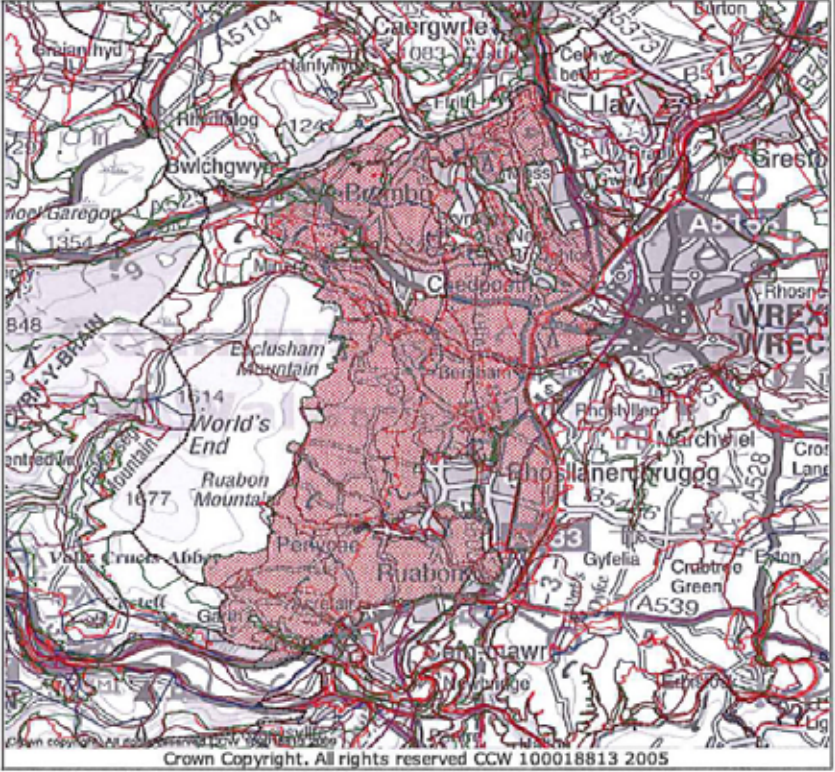
To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 3
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	Most (Aspect Area boundaries surveyed at 1:10,000, mapped at 1:25,000.)
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	Other (1:50,000 British Geological Survey maps, 1:10,000 aerial photographs (as stereo pairs), OS 1:25,000 Landranger topographical map.)
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	Base of steeper slopes above and margins of incised stream valleys, urban areas, etc.

Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Research Value	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.)
Evaluation Criteria: Educational Value	Moderate (No regionally significant sites/ landforms noted during present survey although disused mines of uncertain value present.)
Evaluation Criteria: Historical Value	Moderate (No regionally significant sites/ landforms noted during present survey although disused mines of uncertain value present.)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity / Uniqueness	Low (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.)

Evaluation Criteria: Classic Example	Low (No regionally significant sites/ landforms noted during present survey although disused mines of uncertain value present.)
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	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.)
Justification of overall evaluation	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.
Bibliography	
List the key sources used for this assessment	BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (1994), Wrexham (Sheet 121); MALPAS, J.(2007), Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Local Geodiversity Action Plan (AHNE Brynlan Cwd / Clwydian Range AONB, NEWRIGS, CCW); ORDINANCE SURVEY (2000), Explorer 256 (1:25,000 scale); ROBERTS, R. (2004), Earth Science Technical Annex. In: Wrexham LANDMAP: Volume 2. (WCB and CCW); WEDD, C.B. et al. (1927-1928), Memoirs of the Geological Survey, Sheet 121 (Wrexham).
Assessment	
Additional Assessments	N/A
Additional Comments	

Print to PDF

Landscape Habitats	
Aspect Area Name	Talwrn Grassland
Aspect Area Classification	Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats/Mosaic/Mosaic (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	WRXHMLH031
Date Of Survey : 10/08/2007	
	
Monitoring	
Date of monitoring?	
Monitoring undertaken by	
Has the information ever been verified in the field?	No
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (Many small streams link through this Aspect Area to the east, in particular the River Clywedog links through into WRXHMLH033 (Erddig Parkland Mosaic).)
What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?	
Description	
What are the dominant soil types? (specify up to 3 types)	Brown soils Surface-water gley soils
What Phase 1 habitat types are present? Only select the five most dominant types and, for each of these, specify below what percentage of the Aspect Area is made up of these.	Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland (4) Improved Grassland (67) Arable (5) Buildings (3) Semi-improved Neutral Grassland (4)
Does the area contain habitats of international importance?	Yes
If yes, which habitats of international importance?	Lowland hay meadows Western acidic oak woodland Alder woodland on floodplains
Does the area contain BAP habitats?	Yes
If yes, which BAP habitats?	Upland Oakwood Upland Mixed Ashwood Wet Woodland Cereal Field Margins Lowland Meadows
Does the area contain protected sites?	Yes
If yes, which ones?	SSSI (Stryt Las, GATEWEN MARSH) SAC (Johnstown Newt Sites) Local wildlife site (Cae Plas Mostyn Bach; Mount Zion; Moss Valley; Roseburn Fields; New Broughton Meadow; Big Wood; Afon Gwenfro; Crenatorium; Bronwylla; The Smelt; Plas Mostyn Mawr; Berse Drelincourt; Legacy Substation; Higher Berse Marsh; Gardden Fort Wood; Gardden Wood/Rocky Wood; Plas Bennion; Yew Tree

What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	on this break of slope and marks a change in field pattern. To the west the boundary is formed with the upland of Eglwyseg and Ruabon mountain. To the north the upland grassland of WRXHMLH036 (Four Crosses Upland Grassland) forms the boundary. The southern boundary follows the edge of the county boundary.
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Priority Habitats	High (The area contains a small area of internationally important habitat supported by a range of locally significant habitats giving a high value overall.)
Evaluation Criteria: Significance	High (The traditional field pattern, with hedges, trees and small wooded copses plus the numerous locally significant sites and the small area with a nationally significant site gives this area a high value.)
Evaluation Criteria: Opportunity	High (With active management of the landscape, creating more ponds and more work on hedges, the biodiversity of the area would be enhanced.)
Evaluation Criteria: Expansion rates	Unassessed
Evaluation Criteria: Sensitivity	Moderate (The ponds would be sensitive to an increase in agricultural inputs.)
Evaluation Criteria: Connectivity/Cohesion	High (The small field pattern with many hedges and mature trees provides a good degree of connectivity.)
Evaluation Criteria: Habitat Evaluation	High (The small fields bounded by hedges with scattered trees, together with a number of small woods, and the very many small but significant pond site gives this area a high evaluation.)
Evaluation Criteria: Importance for key species	Outstanding (The area is of fundamental importance for the the great crested newt, Triturus cristatus, which is an internationally significant species protected under both European and UK designations. The newts use the many ponds, hedges and woodlands, and therefore the area has been graded as outstanding for species.)
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species	High (A moderate to high biodiversity landscape that supports some important national and international species giving a high overall value.)
Justification of overall evaluation	This mosaic of pasture, woodland and water contains a variety of habitats, and many interesting species including the largest known breeding population of great crested newts at Stryt Las A'r Hafod. It also provides a buffer to the Ruabon Mountain SSSI. The area is of high value as a landscape habitat.
Bibliography	
List the key sources used for this assessment	Wales Vexcel photography (2006), Getmapping - Millennium Map digital aerial photography (2000). CCW - Phase 1 Habitat vector GIS data set. Wrexham County Borough Council 2004. Wrexham LANDMAP Volume 3: Biodiversity Technical Appendix (Please note BAP habitat information has largely been obtained from this survey). Countryside Council for Wales Species Information. Wrexham County Borough Council digital data set of Local Wildlife Sites.
Assessment	
Additional Assessments	A large area of small and medium sized fields, bounded by hedges with an internationally significant ponds which support a wide range of species including great crested newt, Triturus cristatus and is of high to outstanding value.
Additional Comments	

Print to PDF

	Dingle; Bogbean Field; Cae Llwyd; Cae Penymynydd; New Brighton; Pen-Y-Nant, Minera; Syddalk Wood)
Approximately what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?	11-20%
Does the area support important species?	Yes
If yes, which species? (for each of the species, also note the source of information)	This area is most notes for its population of great crested newt, Triturus cristatus, which is why the SAC has been designated. The newts use the ponds and waste ground surrounding Johnston, as do other commoner amphibian insect and bird species. CCW records and the previous survey record a very large number of different bat species using this area. Within the streams otter, Lutra lutra: water vole, Arvicola terrestris and several bird species such as linnet, Carduelis cannabina are recorded form the area. There are also other specific records for certain areas which we have not space to cover in this report.
Are there any significant threat species present in abundance? (Field visit required)	Not known
What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?	Streams Hedgerows Veteran Trees Ponds
Are any of these features in a very good condition? (Field visit required)	Unknown
Are any of these features in a poor condition? (Field visit required)	Unknown
What are the main land management activities taking place in the area? (Field visit required)	Cultivation Stock grazing
Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity? (Field visit required)	
Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity? (Field visit required)	
Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?	Not known
Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?	Yes (Maintaining the ponds without allowing them to silt up, also maintain and enhancing hedgerows, scrub and woodland will help enhance and preserve this important area for the many species which use it.)
Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character	A very large area of mixed agriculture, mainly grassland but with some arable cropping. Fields are small to medium sized with hedges, and scattered trees, with some small woodlands. The area borders on Ruabon mountain SSSI to the west, and contains a number of SSSI's itself, and a PSAC (Stryt Las A'r Hafod), as well as a number of local wildlife sites, including woodland, wetlands, rivers and water bodies.
Evaluation	
Value	High (This mosaic of pasture, woodland and water contains a variety of habitats, and many interesting species including the largest known breeding population of great crested newts at Stryt Las A'r Hafod. It also provides a buffer to the Ruabon Mountain SSSI. The area is of high value as a landscape habitat.)
Condition	Unassessed
Trend	Unassessed
Recommendations	
Existing management	Generally Appropriate
Existing management remarks:	The small fields are mainly grazing or cut for hay and silage.
Principal management recommendations	Maintain the ponds. Enhance gappy hedges and plant woodland to aid biological connectivity.
Guideline	Immediate (Protect hydrology of the area.) Medium Term (Where hedges are gappy, replant and lay.) Medium Term (Retain potential green networks particularly ponds, hedges and scrub.)
Aspect Area Boundary	
To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 3
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	All
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	Aerial photographs
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:25,000
	The boundary to the east is marked by a change in slope and the A483 road which forms a hard barrier generally

Visual and Sensory		
Aspect Area Name	North, West and South of Rhos	
Aspect Area Classification	Upland/Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes/Hill & Lower Plateau Grazing (Level 3)	
Aspect Area Code	WRXHMVS020	
Date Of Survey : 06/09/2007		Crown Copyright. All rights reserved CCW 100018813 2005

Monitoring	
Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (N/A)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (Physical and to a lesser extent visual link in terms of the continuation of the lower slopes of Ruabon Mountain)
During which season(s) was fieldwork carried out?	Summer

Description	
Summary Description	A broad aspect area forming the middle upper to mid slopes of the area rising up to Ruabon Mountain. The area predominantly comprises of small to medium scale agricultural field pattern with a bias to pasture and livestock farming largely dictated by the undulating and sloping nature of the topography. Field boundaries are defined by mature but sparse hedgerows with limited hedgerow trees and supplemented with fences, small stream valleys and dips punctuate the overall slope and these usually contain wooded areas and small copses of mixed deciduous woodland. Sense of place is not well defined as the area itself has no specific focus - views are largely directed to the east over the lower lying land and lowlands towards Ruabon/A483 corridor or are short distance and relatively limited by the underlying topography. The area is more weakly defined towards the south of the area as field sizes increase. general settlement pattern is scattered farmstead and small clustered villages with the area bisected in places by larger settlements at Rhoslanerchrugog, and Penycae.
Physical Form And Elements: Topographic Form?	Rolling/Undulating
Physical Form And Elements: Landcover Pattern?	Field Pattern/Mosaic
Physical form and elements: Settlement pattern	Scattered Rural/Farm
Physical form and elements: Boundary type	Managed Hedge
Aesthetic Qualities: Scale?	Small
Aesthetic Qualities:	Enclosed

Sense of Enclosure?	
Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?	Diverse
Aesthetic Qualities: Texture?	Coarse
Aesthetic Qualities: Lines?	Angular
Aesthetic Qualities: Colour?	Moderate Contrasts
Aesthetic Qualities: Balance?	Discordant
Aesthetic Qualities: Unity?	Neutral
Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern?	Organised
Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest?	Mixed
Other Factors: Level of Human Access?	Frequent
Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution?	Moderate
Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?	Generally Appropriate
What materials? Give Details:	Generally and in older buildings local Cefn sandstone plus brick with a very varied selection of modern materials with more recent buildings
There are attractive views...	...both in and out (Usually at a local scale and short distance framed by hedgerow boundaries and truncated by the underlying rolling and undulating landform. out of the area up towards upland moorland and ridge of Ruabon Mountain)
There are detractive views...	...both in and out (Some unsightly views within the aspect of some of the more modern and unsympathetic and unsightly lines of pylons running to and from the large electricity substation north of Penycae.)
Perceptual and Other Sensory Qualities	Sheltered Settled
What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness	Weak (No specific focus or character for the area due to the short distance availability of the views and overall lack of common or distinctive characteristics)

Evaluation	
Value:	Moderate (Refer to Q.51)
Condition:	Fair (Relatively stable in terms of its agricultural management but with little variety in terms of habitat)
Trend:	Unassessed

Recommendations	
Existing management	Generally Appropriate
Existing management remarks:	Generally stable agricultural management of the overall aspect but the area needs further careful management and diversification of the rural/urban fringe and diversification of habitats
Principal management recommendation:	Enhance existing habitats - field margins and hedgerow boundaries and urban rural fringe with species diversification and re-introduction of traditional land management techniques and restore field boundaries woodland habitats improving age range and species type with an emphasis on British Native species
Guideline	Medium Term (Encourage development of urban forest/ woodland fringe to integrate development with countryside) Medium Term (Encourage removal of pylons, mitigation of visual impact) Medium Term (Develop potential of disturbed landscapes for recreation and habitat creation.) Medium Term (Restore field boundaries and promote traditional land management to establish more varied habitats)
Define the key qualities that should be conserved:	Field boundaries and field pattern with wooded copses in lower lying areas. Overall rural emphasis for area
Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:	Habitat diversity - field margins areas of disturbed land and in urban fringe
Define the key qualities that should be changed:	Soften urban/rural fringe to enable greater integration and improve relationship between settlement and surroundings
Define the key elements that should be conserved:	Woodland blocks along lower lying and stream courses. Field pattern with well defined and vegetated boundaries
Define the key elements that should be enhanced:	Species diversity within woodland and field boundaries/margins with emphasis on improving habitat diversity and introducing British Native species.
Define the key elements that should be changed:	Remove or reduce impact of industrial elements i.e. pylons and overhead electricity lines.

Tolerance To Change	
Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?	Not known
Aspect Area Boundary	
To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 3
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	All
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	Other (OS Data - Landline and raster and aerial photographs)
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:10,000 and 1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	An area of broadly similar field pattern and land use occupying a gently undulating area on the middle upper slopes of Ruabon mountain rising from 200-325m AOD. Although lacking in a distinctive sense of place the area has a number of common landscape features - field pattern, vegetation cover and distribution in a broad area over a similar elevation bounded by settlements
Bibliography	
List the key sources used for this assessment	Pre 2003 methodology LANDMAP study for WCBC
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Scenic quality	Moderate (Views tend to be of a short distance and small/domestic scale and vary in quality with some aesthetically pleasing elements such as woodland blocks and gently undulating landform. However other areas are dominated by settlement edge and in other places overhead power lines)
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	Low (The area has a number of visually intrusive elements that degrade the larger scale and longer distance views. With mitigation planting and the possible undergrounding of overhead powerlines this could be radically improved but currently lowers the integrity evaluation to Low)
Evaluation Criteria: Character	Moderate (The aspect does display a fairly common character over the aspect- primarily reinforced by the similarity in agricultural management, field patterns and underlying landform, however the lack of a distinctive sense of place and identity reduces the Character evaluation to Moderate)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	Representative (An area of common landscape features that are found elsewhere within the study area and are not sufficiently unique or rare to justify a higher than Moderate evaluation in terms of rarity)
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Moderate (1 Low, 3 Moderate = Moderate)
Justification of overall evaluation	A pleasant area of varied landform and attractive mix of vegetation and agricultural field pattern but with little distinctive character or overall sense of place. Overall the aspect is very variable, with pockets of unspoilt relatively quiet countryside next to busy areas. A complex area where nothing should be taken for granted, as there have been many changes to the landscape. The aspect displays a fairly common character over the aspect area - primarily reinforced by the similarity in agricultural management, field patterns and underlying landform, however the lack of a distinctive sense of place variety in quality with a number of number of visually intrusive elements as well as some aesthetically pleasing elements such as woodland blocks and gently undulating landform reduces the overall evaluation to Moderate
Assessment	
Additional Assessments	None
Additional Comments	

Print to PDF

Historic Landscape	
Aspect Area Name	Gardden
Aspect Area Classification	Rural environment/Agricultural/Irregular Fieldscapes (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	WRXHMHL023
Date Of Survey : 06/11/2007	
	
Monitoring	
Has the information ever been verified in the field?	No
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	No
Description	
If Classification is "Other", specify here	
Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements	A mixed irregular predominantly hedged fieldscape lying between Rhoslanerchrugog and Ruabon, much of which results from the reclamation of former collieries (Pias Isa, Pias Benion, Christionydd, Tatham, Bryn Issa, Wynne Hall), brick and tile works (Pias y Waen, Delph, Acrefair, Penbdeu, Pias Isaf), and an explosives works (Pias Benion)... A handful of larger post medieval farmhouses survive on the fringes of the area and the northern and only un-industrialised part, around Gardden, contains an Iron Age hillfort...
If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area? (Tick all that apply)	Woodland Reclaimed land Processing/Manufacturing
Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area? (Tick all that apply)	Hedgerow Hedgerow With Trees
What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area? (Tick all that apply)	Buried-dry Relict-Earthworks Buildings & Structures Documentary
Which chronological period is dominant in the area?	Prehistoric Medieval (to 1536) Post Medieval (1536+) Recent
Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?	No
Are there SMR sites here?	Yes
Are there SAMs here?	Yes
Are there Listed Buildings here?	Yes
Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?	No
Are there Conservation Areas here?	No
Are there World Heritage Sites here?	No
Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?	No
Evaluation	
Value:	Moderate
Condition:	

Trend:	
Recommendations	
Existing management	
Existing management remarks:	
Principal management recommendations	
Guideline	
Aspect Area Boundary	
To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 3
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	All
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Raster
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:10,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	An area of irregular fields bounded on three sides by Ruabon-Rhosllanerchrugog and on the fourth by the distinctive Trefechan landscape
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	Low (See overall justification.)
Evaluation Criteria: Survival	N/A (See overall justification.)
Evaluation Criteria: Condition	Moderate (See overall justification.)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	Representative (See overall justification.)
Evaluation Criteria: Potential	Moderate (See overall justification.)
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Moderate (See overall justification.)
Justification of overall evaluation	An area of which the majority is reclaimed from 19th century colliery and other industrial workings, although it does contain a hillfort which slightly increases its potential and overall value.
Bibliography	
List the key sources used for this assessment	For full bibliography see Wrexham LANDMAP Updated Historic Landscape Aspect, Technical Report, 2007 individual site details drawn from CPAT Regional Historic Environment Record
Assessment	
Additional Assessments	
Additional Comments	

Print to PDF

Map Courier error: -21462328

Cultural Landscape		
Aspect Area Name	Mynydd Rhiwabon Esclusham (lower slopes)	No Map Objects Found Crown Copyright. All rights reserved CCW 100018813 2005
Aspect Area Classification	Influences/Material expressions/Rural/Agricultural (Level 4)	
Aspect Area Code	WRXHMCL017	
Date Of Survey : 02/10/2006		
Monitoring		
Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (Level 4.)	
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	No	
Description		
If Classification is "Other", specify here	N/a.	
The classification at level 3 describes the dominant cultural context, but which other contexts are important to the cultural landscape of this area?	Rural Industrial	
Which level 4 classes are particularly significant to the cultural landscape character of this area - Influences?	Agricultural Rural Crafts Minerals & Mining Power Generation & Distribution	
Which level 4 classes are particularly significant to the cultural landscape character of this area - Associations?	Sense of Place Land Holdings Leisure/Recreation	
To what extent do the context and level 4 details selected contribute to the cultural identity, local distinctiveness or sense of place of the area?	Strong (Visibly an agricultural area, though there is evidence of former mining activity.)	
To what extent is the cultural information widely recognised or appreciated?	Regionally (This is not a particularly well-known area.)	
Are there any artistic expressions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	Not known	
Are there any people / movements / institutions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	Not known	
Is there any folklore or are there legends that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	Not known	
Are there any events/traditions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	Not known	
Are there any technical / scientific discoveries that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	Not known	
What are the attributes of the cultural elements in the Aspect Area?	Evolved	
What chronological periods are culturally dominant in the area?	Victorian & Edwardian Late Medieval	
Are there certain place-names in the area that are particularly significant?	No	
If yes, give examples of the place-names and their significance	N/a. N/a.	

	N/a.
Summary Description: (no more than 150 words)	An area now devoted largely to sheep-rearing but which has historically been exploited for lead and coal. The lead-mining history of the area is interpreted at Minera. Less is known about coal-mining, ironworking or the agricultural past.
Evaluation	
Value:	High (Of county value.)
Condition:	Fair (Though this aspect area may share in the problems which affect the agricultural sector generally it appears to be being actively exploited for sheep-rearing.)
Trend:	Unassessed
Recommendations	
Existing management:	Unassessed
Existing management remarks:	It is not clear what management regime if any is in place for this aspect area.
Principal management recommendations	Support for interpretation of the area's lead-mining history at Minera.
Guideline	Immediate (Support for interpretation of the area's lead-mining history at Minera.) Medium Term (Support for interpretation of the area's lead-mining history at Minera.) Long Term (Preservation of open character of hillslopes.)
Tolerance To Change	
Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Cultural Landscape features of the area?	Not known
Aspect Area Boundary	
To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 4
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	Some (Boundaries are necessarily subjective.)
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Raster
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:10,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	WCBC boundary; edge of built-up areas; edge of Afon Clywedog landscape.
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Recognition/transparency	Regional recognition (The area is manifestly an agricultural landscape with an industrial (mining) past, as interpreted at Minera.)
Evaluation Criteria: Period	Very apparent (High for the evidence of different periods and the different forms of economic activity and culture the aspect area sustained.)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	Rare (Although there are many other examples of areas with a history and culture such as this in Wales, this is an eloquent example.)
Evaluation Criteria: Documentation	Substantial (There are both primary and secondary sources available for this aspect area.)
Evaluation Criteria: Group Value	Considerable (For its visual relationship with the other aspect areas and for its prospect viewed from the east as the backdrop to Wrexham and the low-lying lands.)
Evaluation Criteria: Survival	N/A (For the survival of material evidence for former ways of life.)
Evaluation Criteria: Vulnerability	Unassessed
Evaluation Criteria: Diversity	Complex (Diverse in terms of the evidence of ways of life within the aspect area.)
Evaluation Criteria: Potential	Moderate ("Moderate" in that potential has arguably been realised.)
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	High (- for its historical value and for the interpretation of the lead-mining industry at Minera.)
Justification of overall evaluation	As an example of a landscape that is still seeing active farming use and which articulates the cultural meaning of former ways of wresting a living from the environment.
Bibliography	
List the key sources used for this assessment	Principal bibliography: Bennett and Williams; principal consultees: J. Bennett; C.J. Williams.
Assessment	
Additional Assessments	This has been identified as primarily an agricultural area despite the presence of the museum at Minera. lead-mining has been considered part of the (secondary) cultural essence of this landscape.
Additional Comments	

Print to PDF



Pegasus Group is the trading name
of Pegasus Planning Group Limited,
Registered in England and Wales under
number 07277000

Registered Office:
Pegasus House,
Querns Business Centre,
Whitworth Road, Cirencester,
Gloucestershire, GL7 1RT