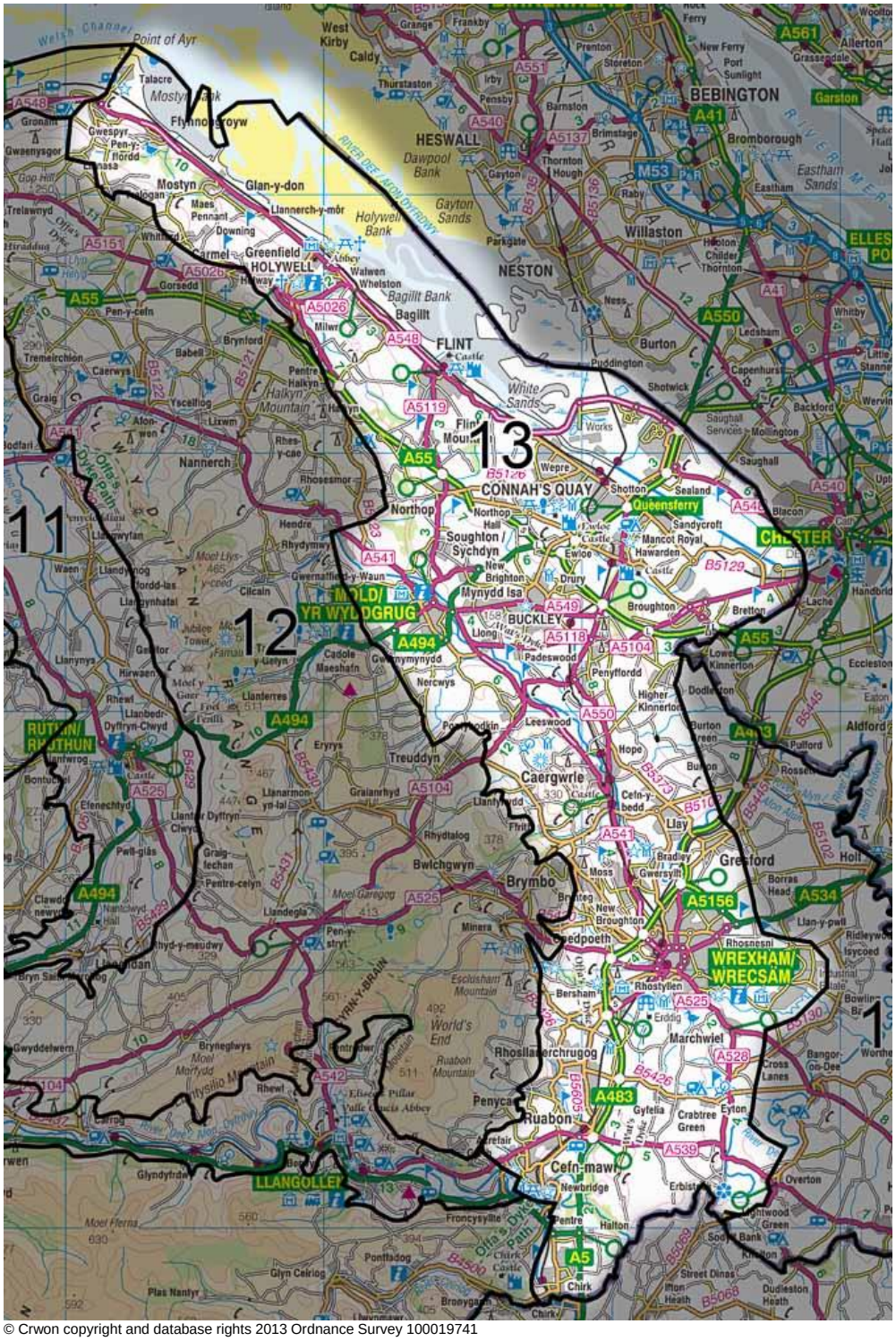
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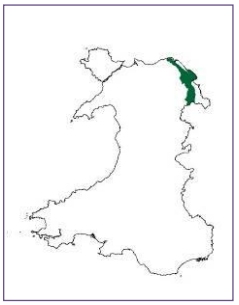
National Landscape Character

31/03/2014

NLCA13

DEESIDE AND WREXHAM





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Wrecsam a Glannau Dyfrdwy - Disgrifiad cryno

Ardal ar y ffin yw hon, sy'n ymestyn o aber Dyfrdwy ar hyd yr arfordir cyn belled â'r Parlwr Du, ac i mewn i'r tir cyn belled i'r de â Dyffryn Ceiriog. Mae'n cynnwys nifer o aneddiadau a chanolfannau poblogaeth, a'r rhai pennaf yw'r Waun, Wrecsam a'i phrif faestrefi Rhiwabon a Rhosllannerchrugog yn y de; Yr Wyddgrug, Y Fflint a Threffynnon yn y gogledd a'r gorllewin; a chanolfannau lled-ddiwydiannol, lled-faestrefol y Fferi Isaf, Cei Connah, Dociau Mostyn a Thalacre ar lannau aber Dyfrdwy. Ym mannau eraill mae sawl lle, fel Bwcle, wedi tyfu wrth i'r pentrefi a'r pentrefannau cyn-ddiwydiannol ar ochrau'r ffyrdd uno ac ehangu.

Yn hanesyddol, mae llawer o'r ardal hon wedi bod yn rhan o gefnfro Caer. Adenillwyd y rhan fwyaf o lawr gwlad aber Dyfrdwy o'r môr yn y 18fed ganrif, er bod atgof o'r ehangder blaenorol o ddŵr llanw yn enw Penarlâg, sef 'y bryn uwchlaw'r llyn'. Diwydiannwyd llawer ar yr ardal wedi sefydlu gwaith dur Shotton ym 1895, er i hyn ddeillio o draddodiad hir o waith metel a pheirianneg ar hyd yr arfordir, sydd ei hun yn adlewyrchu hanes hir o fwyngloddio a chludo ar longau. Diwydiannwyd ardal Wrecsam, hefyd, yn gynnar, gan fanteisio ar ei hadnoddau glo, mwyn haearn, clai a chalchfaen, yn ogystal â nentydd byrlymus i droi'r olwynion dŵr diwydiannol.

Yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf, mae'r ardal gyfan wedi dod yn ganolbwynt economaidd ar gyfer economi rhanbarthol Cymru a Lloegr, gan edrych fwy tuag at Lannau Mersi nag at yr ardaloedd gwledig i'r gorllewin. Anghywir, fodd bynnag, fyddai gweld yr ardal hon yn dirwedd ddiwydiannol a masnachol yn unig. Mae ganddi hefyd bensaernïaeth draddodiadol a chefn gwlad prydferth, ac yn wir, mae ei hanes diwydiannol cynnar wedi gadael rhai henebion pwysig fel gwaith haearn y Bers ger Wrecsam.

Summary description

A border area, extending from the mouth of the Dee along the coast as far as Point of Ayr, and inland as far south as the Ceiriog Valley. It includes several settlements and centres of population, the principal being the towns of Chirk, Wrexham and its main satellites Ruabon, and Rhosllanerchrugog in the south; Mold, Flint and Holywell in the north and west, and the part-industrial, part-suburban centres of Queensferry, Connah's Quay, Mostyn Docks and Talacre on the shores of the Dee Estuary. Elsewhere, many settlements, like Buckley, have grown out of the linear expansion and coalescence of pre-industrial roadside villages and hamlets.

Historically, much of this area has formed part of the hinterland of Chester. The greater part of the lowland around the mouth of the Dee was reclaimed from the sea in the 18th century, though the former large expanse of tidal water is recalled in the Welsh name for Hawarden, Penarlâg, 'the hill above the lake'. This area also became heavily industrialised from the establishment of Shotton steelworks in 1895, though this was built of a long-established tradition of engineering and metalworking all along the coast, itself reflecting a long history of mining and the availability of water-borne transport. The Wrexham area similarly industrialised early on, taking advantage of its resources of coal, iron-ore, clay and limestone, as well as free-flowing streams to turn industrial water-wheels.

In recent years, the area as a whole has become an economic hub of the Welsh and regional English economy with its gaze more towards Merseyside than to the rural areas to

the west. However it would be wrong to see this area as a purely industrial and commercial landscape. It includes some attractive traditional architecture and countryside too, indeed its early industrial history has bequeathed some important monuments such as the Bersham ironworks near Wrexham.

Key Characteristics
Lowland, foothills and levels - sloping down to the lower Dee and Dee Estuary. Carboniferous Coal Measures interspersed with outcrops of Millstone Grit, Holywell shales and Cefn-y-Fedw sandstones. Glacial till, fluvio-glacial and river terrace drift overlay in parts of the valley floor, giving rise to localised gentle land form variation.
A single large river, the Dee, traverses the area. The Dee opens out into a broad estuary with tidal sand and mud flats. A number of minor rivers dissect the landscape, for example, the Alyn and Eitha, and associated streams.
A broad flat flood plain adjacent to the Dee Estuary – with wide open views to Wirral
Narrow, incised, wooded tributary valleys – many running down from the west.
Mixed pasture and some arable - and farm woodland cover.
Archaeology - variety of historic sites indicate the former strategic importance of the coastal route and the turbulent history of the Marchlands, including Offa's Dyke and Wat's Dyke. Late Medieval parklands and ecclesiastical / funerary sites.
Urban settlements - a strongly settled character is apparent in the central and southern parts of the area, with the relatively large, almost linked settlements of Holywell-Connah's Quay-Mold-Wrexham-Ruabon.
An industrial character - evident in the line of coalesced settlements at Connah's Quay and Holywell, associated both with the Chester to Holyhead railway line, mining and large scale power generation and industrial plants. Include landmark scale structures such as Broughton aircraft factory, Shotton Steel works and Connah's Quay power station. Industry tends to dwarf historic settlement and features e.g. Flint and it's castle.
Small settlements – outside urban areas, compact villages associated with landed estates and isolated farmsteads, or coalesced ribbon developments and encroachment upon commons, which are the legacy of the former coal and lead mining industries.
Culturally many connections to Chester and Merseyside

Visual and Sensory profile

The area encompasses the main concentration of built up areas that fall along the Dee and foothills of Wales. There is great contrast between the large, open estuary mouth, it's large skies and tidal ebb and flow, and the busy developed areas around Connah's Quay, Queensferry and Wrexham. The associated transport links of the A55 Expressway, the A548 coast road and the A483 and A494 trunk roads, present much traffic noise, movement and night lighting. The aircraft factory at Broughton, the new Dee bridge, the gas-fired power station at Flint and the gas terminal near Port of Ayr, located on the former colliery site, are modern leviathans that create their own distinctive landscapes. Under the right weather conditions, the towering steam clouds vented from the wood processing plant at Chirk can be seen for miles across this and other, English landscapes to the east.



Greater Deeside, with its combination of industry, agriculture and settlement overlooking, the upper Dee Estuary and the Cheshire Plain beyond. © John Briggs



The canalised, straightened, tidal River Dee near Queensferry. Large geometric fields cover the reclaimed land, with road, rail and industrial developments. © WAG (Cowi – Vexcel 2006)

The area is by no means entirely built-up or busy. Much of the area is actually a mature, lowland countryside and, in places, there is a sense of smallness and seclusion offered by agricultural enclosure and it's interplay with trees, copses, woodlands and small river valleys. Across the estuary, the Wirral impacts perceptibly upon the skyline, as does greater Merseyside from higher elevations.

A more traditional developed landscape is associated with the smaller towns, such as Mold, Caergwrle, Ruabon and Chirk. The Pont Cysyllte aqueduct and to a lesser extent the Chirk aqueduct offer sublime gateways to the Vale of Llangollen and the hills of Wales from the flatter lands of England and the borders to the east.



The Dee Estuary, looking across to the Wirral, with greater Merseyside beyond. © John Briggs



The lower Dee valley. Pont Cysyllte with the Cefn railway viaduct in the distance. © John Briggs

Geological Landscape influences

The bedrock geology is dominated by Carboniferous rocks deposited in a long series of cyclical sequences. The bedrock includes Millstone Grit and frequent coals, the latter representing the compacted remnants of swamp peat, and collectively known as the Productive Coal Measures. In turn, these coal deposits were overlain by the Red Measures comprising red, brown, purple and green mudstone, followed by siltstone and sandstone. These Upper Carboniferous rocks make a subtle impression on the landscape, having been bulldozed by ice sheets and blanketed by clay, sands and gravels deposited by ice. Low rounded sandstone ridges protrude through the Quaternary cover, for example, the ridge from Rhosllanerchrugog to Cefn Mawr. The topography rises gently southwards from shores of the estuary to about 100m in the south and 200m along the western edge of the area. A long history of mineral extraction has left its mark on the

landscape, including coal-mining, quarrying and brickworks (see historic landscape influences).

Higher ground to the west slopes gently eastwards towards the Dee Estuary and the Cheshire Plain, being a transition between the Lower Palaeozoic mountains of North Wales and the younger Mesozoic rocks of the Cheshire Basin. The River Dee emerges from the mountains into southern part of the area, deeply incising its meandering course down to Erbistock. Tributaries include the Ceiriog, Alyn and Clywedog. When the river re-enters the area west of Chester, its course has been canalised as far as Queensferry before entering the estuary. Further north a series of streams drain the higher ground and flow directly into the Dee Estuary. Although much of the Welsh side of the Dee Estuary is industrialised, the natural estuary still plays a significant part in defining the character of the landscape, bounded by the sand bar and dunes at Talacre, and including the extensive shifting mud flats in the main part of the estuary.

Soils vary throughout the area, with seasonally wet, deep red loams and clays evident in areas overlaying sandstone and deep sandy, well drained loams evident on the coal measures.

Landscape Habitats influences

The Dee (SAC, SPA, SSSI) is an important habitat for migratory fish, salmon, otter and many invertebrates, and the lands which border it are rich and productive. The floodplain supports populations of the great crested newt while elsewhere in the area, new habitats are forming in the abandoned sand, gravel and clay workings. Buckley Claypits and Commons (SAC, SSSI) is a composite site north of Buckley, previously extensively worked for clay and coal, now supporting a range of water bodies and semi-natural grasslands, with a large breeding population of great crested newts, as well as significant populations of other amphibians such as smooth newt, palmate newt, common frog and common toad. Other former workings have been flooded and now provide popular recreational sites as well as supporting wildlife. Changes in the industrial base of the Wrexham area has also led to many derelict and unused industrial sites scrubbing over and creating new and interesting urban habitats, at risk of redevelopment.

The area is well wooded, especially in the valleys of the small tributaries draining north into the Dee such as Lead Brook and Wepre Brook, the latter forming part of a large country park and recreational area south of Connah's Quay. The Dee itself is tree-lined over much of its lower course. There are also a number of areas of parkland, associated with current or former country houses, adding to the overall wooded nature of the landscape, and providing many old mature trees.

The major influence in the Dee Estuary (RAMSAR, SAC, SPA, SSSI) is sand and mud from the Dee itself. The estuary is protected as an internationally important area for wintering waterfowl waders and terns on the inter-tidal flats, salt-marsh and coastal grazing marsh. There are also important numbers of non-breeding summer waders, and spring and autumn migrants, along with a diverse plant and invertebrate population and a herd of seals that haul out on the sandy banks.

Historic Landscape influences

Offa's Dyke and Wat's Dyke and other historic landscape elements bear witness to the often turbulent history of this border area – though on the other hand, monuments from the

later Medieval period also illustrate the continuity of settlement, in the form of the abbey at Holywell and the chapel and well at Spon. This established character is reinforced by the Edwardian castle on the foreshore of the Dee at Flint, demonstrating the strategic importance of the coastal route and trade, which is also reflected in 19th century linear and nucleated settlement and urban sprawl, at Holywell, Flint and Connah's Quay.

A number of parkland estates and historic parks and gardens, sometimes associated with small villages are present within the area. These include Talacre, Erddig, Rosehill, Mostyn Hall and Soughton Hall. Near Holywell is an important 18th century picturesque landscape, laid out by the antiquary Thomas Pennant to form the setting of Downing, his family home. The influence of parkland and planned estate landscape is evident from as early as the Medieval period – the name Buckley (buck-ley) alludes to a deer pasture. The field pattern outside of the areas of settlement is often irregular and is that of early post Medieval Enclosure, although incorporating a number of Medieval elements such as earthworks. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the course of the Dee was canalised and the extensive tracts of salt-marsh on either side reclaimed for agriculture, but subsequently much given over to heavy industry and commerce in the 20th century.

The varied geology of the area is reflected in a long history of mineral extraction and processing, which has left a powerful mark on the landscape. The Flintshire and Denbighshire coalfields exploited the Coal Measures of the area. The first includes Point of Ayr and Leeswood collieries, the second, Llay, Rhosllanerchrhugog and Bersham, around which distinctive coal mining communities developed. Mining has long ceased in this area, but around Wrexham trading estates and factories have grown up as staple industries declined. Though steel-production has ceased at Brymbo, in the Wrexham area, steel-rolling continues at Shotton. The area enjoyed good transport links in the early industrial era, with wharves and quays along the Dee, and the Llangollen Canal tapping the southern part. This length of the canal, and the Chirk aqueduct form part of the Pont Cysyllte aqueduct World Heritage Site.

Another major industry associated with Carboniferous Red Measures was brick, tile and pottery production, largely centred on Buckley and Ruabon, where fireclays and mudstone were exploited in shallow pits. A third extractive industry is quarrying for building stone, which has left its mark on the landscape through disused quarries and distinctive stone buildings. In the south of the area, sandstone was quarried around Cefn Mawr, Pentre Broughton and the Moss Valley, and has been used extensively around Wrexham and as far afield as the University in Bangor and the Walker Gallery in Liverpool. In the northern part of the area, the Gwespyr Sandstone has also been quarried for building stone. It was considered by Pugin as a possible stone for the construction of the Houses of Parliament.

Cultural Landscape influences

A border area that has historically been under the influence of both England and Wales; Offa's Dyke is a visible symbol of the struggle for control of this area from the 7th to the 9th centuries, and much of the northern part appears in the Domesday Book. The coastal strip, with its long history of mining and of industry, has historically depended on the capital of Chester, Cheshire and the Mersey basin, just as the early iron-working, coal-mining and limestone-quarrying areas around Wrexham depended on the west Midlands and the Severn Valley. Present-day manufacturing at the industrial estates west of Wrexham and at Airbus at Broughton continues this tradition, and the inscription of the Llangollen Canal and the Chirk and Pont Cysyllte aqueducts as a World Heritage Site reflect contemporary

21st century cultural understanding and the international importance of these iconic monuments.

The influence of the wealthy and the powerful is readily apparent in great houses and parks such as Wynnstay, where Sir Watkin Williams Wynn II (1748-89) held sway, a friend of Handel, Sir Joshua Reynolds and David Garrick, and Erddig, with its eccentric 'last squire', Philip Yorke. Downing was the home of the antiquary Thomas Pennant, and Hawarden, the home of William Ewart Gladstone, who married into the Glynne family, and who established St Deiniol's Library in the grounds in 1889. A cadet branch of another prominent local family, the Mostyns, reconverted to Catholicism, and Holywell became the site of the last royal pilgrimage by an English king, James II. The Catholicism of the area attracted Fredericke Rolfe 'Baron Corvo' (1860-1913) to Holywell; he is best remembered for the wish-fulfilment novel Hadrian VII, about a young priest elected to the papacy only to be martyred by an outraged Labour MP.

Less fanciful works of fiction are the novels of Daniel Owen (1836-1895) of Mold, Rhys Lewis, Enoc Huws and Gwen Tomos, which paint a convincing picture of the snobberies and limitations of small-town life in the 19th century. Emlyn Williams's autobiography George describes the cultural contrasts between the Welsh-speaking farmlands of the area, rapidly anglicising Shotton and the regional intellectual capital that was Holywell; his semi-autobiographical The Corn is Green was filmed in 1946 with Bette Davis in the Miss Cooke role. The 1979 version featured Welsh-speaking Flintshire-born Ian Saynor in the main role. Other actors from the area are Joseph 'Sam' Livesay and Jonathan Pryce, both from Holywell. Theatr Clwyd perpetuates this strong tradition of theatre.

Wrexham LANDMAP
Supplementary Planning Guidance

Introduction

- 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. Please click on any of the character Areas 1a -15 to access the document
- **visit our website:**
  wrexham.gov.uk/planning

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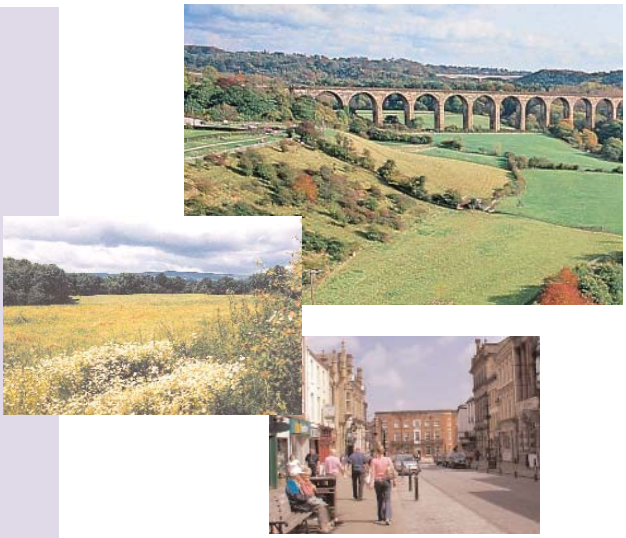
13a English Maelor

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14 Dee Floodplain

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LANDMAP stands for "Landscape Assessment and Decision Making Process"

culture biodiversity earth science history landscape
LANDMAP
wrexham:wrecsam

wrexham
COUNTY BOROUGH
BWRDEISTREF SIROL
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Rhosllannerchrugog - Rhostyllen Ruabon - Penycae

7c

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.



Rhosllannerchrugog Rhostyllen - Ruabon Penycae summary

- Rural and urban areas affected by history of mining and quarrying
- Villages (Rhos, Penycae, Rhostyllen, Ruabon) characterised by high density and use of Ruabon red brick
- Prehistoric military border area - Gardden hill fort and Offa's Dyke
- Much accessible natural greenspace forming ecological network, including woodland and grassland habitats of high value
- The A483 and railway follow the lower edge of area

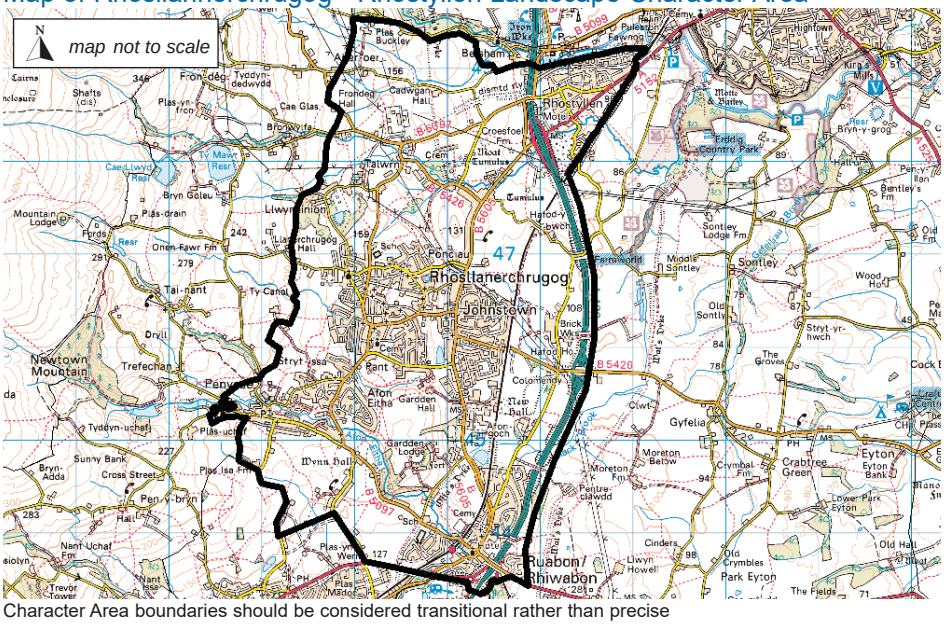


Closely-built former mining communities with a rich cultural heritage, located on the lower slopes of Ruabon Mountain, and distinguished by the widespread use of local Ruabon red brick

Landscape context

Rhosllannerchrugog - Rhostyllen is one of four character areas in Wrexham which have a mixed rural and urban landscape. The other areas are Chirk, Cefn Mawr and West Wrexham Ridges and Valleys

Map of Rhosllannerchrugog - Rhostyllen Landscape Character Area



Character Area boundaries should be considered transitional rather than precise

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Key characteristics

Visual character:

- Lower slopes of Ruabon Mountain consisting of undulating farmland, with residential and industrial development.
- Bersham colliery and tip, and the former Hafod tip, now restored, are landmarks

Geological character:

- Gentle Carboniferous Coal Measure slopes (sandstone) mostly overlain by glacial till, although Rhosllannerchrugog centre is built on an outcrop
- A sandstone ridge, highest at Gardden Hill and followed to the north by Offa's Dyke (part now under Johnstown) runs through the centre of the character area
- To the east of Johnstown, Etruria Marl has been quarried to make the characteristic red bricks and tiles

Ecological character:

- Most farmland is improved grassland of low biodiversity value
- Some former industrial sites are now of high wildlife value, including Stryt Las (great crested newts), the former Hafod tip (a young broadleaved woodland), and birch woodland north of Rhos
- Fragmented areas of semi-natural vegetation include broadleaved scrub, neutral grassland, upland oak woodland along the Afon Eitha valley, beech woodland on Gardden Hill, neutral grassland at Legacy substation, lowland pasture, and oak/ ash/sycamore woodlands around the Crematorium and Llwyneinion

Historical character:

- Settlements are mainly of 19th -20th century origin but Penycae and Ruabon have older centres
- Coal mining remains are frequent but Bersham Colliery, with its coal spoil tip and remaining headgear is of particularly high value. Industrial sites are linked by a network of disused industrial railways
- Border area - prehistoric military hillfort at Gardden and Offa's Dyke, marking a former political and military boundary

Cultural character:

- Rhostyllen, with modern industrial and commercial areas next to the A483, is now closely linked to Wrexham town
- Johnstown, once linked with the brickworks and Hafod colliery, is a mainly English-speaking community.
- Rhosllannercrugog is a culturally rich community with strong Welsh culture and language
- Surrounding farming is under pressure, with part time holdings and increase in 'horsiculture'
- Hafod y Bonc Country Park is a former tip now important for environmental education and recreation

Landscape sensitivity:

The distinctive Welsh identity of the area is vulnerable to development pressure, particularly infill housing of standardised design and materials.The A483 corridor is visually threatened by nearby landfill, masts, building development and power lines. Surrounding farmland is also very vulnerable to urban pressures

Overall management strategy:

Enhancement, conservation and sustainable development

Management guidance

Aims	Guidelines
Enhance visual character	● Promote urban forestry and enhance remaining areas of neglected or derelict land ● Rationalise/reduce overhead power line clutter ● Survey and assess use of sandstone and local brick in walls and buildings
Develop an accessible green network	● Retain and improve environment for pedestrians and cyclists within settlements through the development of accessible natural green space and green network (refer to Green Strategy due March 2007)
Conserve geological features	● Maintain morphological integrity of landform and assess new exposures
Enhance and extend existing habitats for wildlife	● Develop wildlife corridors as part of a green network, linking areas of fragmented habitats (refer to Green Network Strategy due March 2007) ● Maintain ponds and protected great crested newts ● Maintain, enhance and expand: scrub, broadleaved woodland, lowland pasture and hedges ● Diversify improved grassland and farmland and reduce chemical use in agriculture
Preserve archaeological features	● Preserve mining remains, especially winding house, headgear and tip at Bersham, maintain and repair ● Development which adversely affect the site or setting of Offa's Dyke or Gardden Hill Fort would not be permitted ● Preserve historic core of Ruabon, including mills and chapels
Survey area of potential archaeological interest	● Evaluate historic core of settlements prior to development and assess in relation to wider historic landscape ● Carry out surveys of former colliery sites, railway lines and quarries, and assess in context of wider industrial landscape.Conserve historic transport routes
Strengthen cultural identities of settlements	● Preserve coal mining heritage at Bersham Colliery as visible reminder of Wrexham's former industrial base ● Preserve character of lower Ruabon slopes e.g. field systems, industrial sites ● Support Welsh-language cultural initiatives, and culturally distinct communities



For further information contact:

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All our information is available in accessible formats

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Welsh Maelor 13a

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.

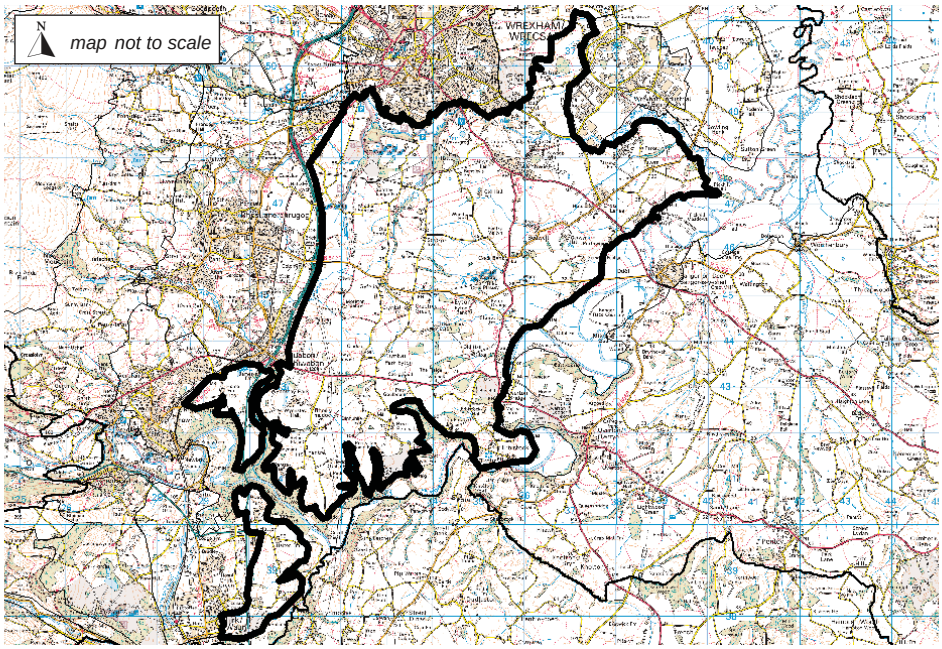


Attractive undulating lowland farmland to the south of Wrexham town and west of the River Dee, containing a number of large estates

Landscape context

This lowland rural area is similar to the English Maelor and Dee Terraces, and to the Cheshire and North Shropshire Plain beyond the Wrexham boundary. However it is geographically and historically separated from the English Maelor by the River Dee, and former administrative boundaries, and is currently more affected by proximity to urban areas

Map of Welsh Maelor Landscape Character Area



Character Area boundaries should be considered transitional rather than precise

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Welsh Maelor summary:

- Undulating, mainly pastoral lowland farmland
- Well-managed hedges with hedgerow trees and small woodlands
- Historic designed estates influence a large propotion of this area
- Field ponds abundant on areas with clay soils
- Historic settlement pattern with remnants of medieval ridge and furrow
- Erddig estate important for tourism, recreation, nature conservation and heritage
- Wat's Dyke runs north-south through area
- Patches of valuable semi-natural habitats, especially in Clywedog valley
- Affected by urban pressures and economic changes to farming





Key characteristics

Visual character:

- Good views to the hills and over the Dee Valley from higher ground
- Undulating estate farmland with mosaic of farmland and trees (N. and S. areas) and undulating open farmland in the central area
- Designed parks and gardens
- Generally an abundance of well managed hedgerows and hedgerow trees
- Traditional red brick farmsteadings but many barns now converted to residential uses
- Tranquillity and landscape quality affected by A483 and pylons to west

Geological character:

- Deep deposits of glacial drift overlie bedrock of Carboniferous and Triassic age
- Glacial till (boulder clay) covers a large part of the character area, with glacial sands and gravels found mainly in the area immediately to the south of Wrexham town, and in the river terrace on which Eyton Grange is situated
- The area drains to the Clywedog in the north and to the River Dee in the east and south

Ecological character:

- The River Clywedog valley south of Wrexham town has a diverse range of valuable semi-natural habitats including wet woodlands, lowland meadows and nationally important wetlands (especially for invertebrates) with areas of fen sedge, herb-rich swamp and rush pasture
- Farm orchards are now rare, but a valuable old orchard survives at Erddig
- Semi-natural upland mixed ash woodlands, other broadleaved woodlands and plantations are characteristic of the northern and southern areas, forming a mosaic of woodland and farmland. Mixed plantations are also found in the south
- Although most grassland is improved, remnants of high value neutral grassland survive in the central and northern areas
- The Welsh Maelor has valuable remnants of estate parkland or wood pasture with mature and veteran trees - a Biodiversity Priority Habitat
- Field ponds are frequent, and valuable for wildlife

Historical character:

- Medieval military feature - Wat's Dyke earthern bank and ditch cuts across farmland
- Widespread evidence of medieval open fields - ridge and furrow remnants of the Wrexham Lowlands
- Important designed parklands on Cadw Register at Erddig, Wynnstay and Brynkinalt, as well as Penylan, Erbistock and Rosehill
- Non-planned settlement with medieval origins at Gyfelia and Crabtree Green
- 19th/20th century ribbon development at Marchwiel
- Disused Ellesmere railway
- Remnants of former ordnance depot at Parkey area south of Wrexham Industrial Estate



Cultural character

- Still predominantly agricultural, with dispersed farms
- Farmsteads and villages affected by commuter pressure, with residential conversions and new housing
- Sense of place - Erddig and Wynnstay in particular
- Wynnstay Estate once culturally dominated the southern part of the Welsh Maelor but the buildings of the core area are being converted to residential accommodation, enabling restoration of the Grade 1 Capability Brown pleasure gardens
- High level of recreational use in Erddig and Clywedog Valley, and extensive network of small lanes and rights of way in all parts except Wynnstay

Landscape sensitivity

The traditional Welsh Maelor landscape is very vulnerable to continuing development and recreational pressures, to economic changes which threaten traditional farming, and from land use practices and development which do not take historical landscape features into account.

For further information contact:

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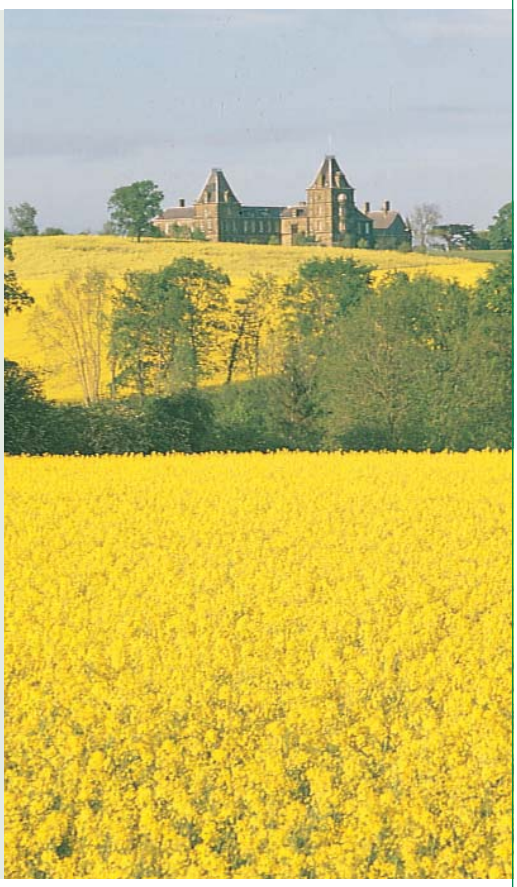
All our information is available in accessible formats

Welsh Maelor - North Central and South

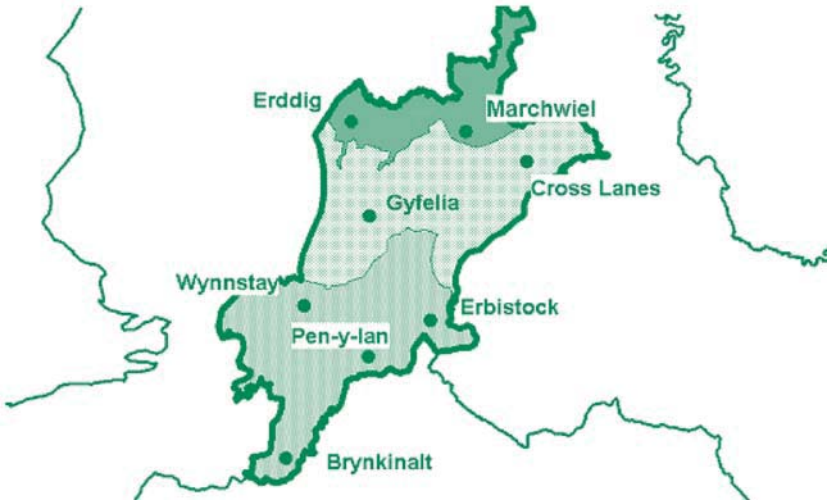
The northern part, nearest to Wrexham drains into the River Clywedog, and has a high proportion of land belonging to the estates of Erddig, Marchwiel, Bryn y grog and Cefn Park. This area is particularly valuable for nature conservation and informal recreation.

The southern part also has a high proportion of land in former or existing estate management, including Wynnstay, Penylan and Brynkinalt. Some of these estates also extend into the Dee-Ceiriog Wooded Valley landscape character area.

The central part is generally open farmland with dispersed farms and hamlets where former estate influence is weaker. It includes a small semicircular flat area around Eyton Grange which is a terrace of the River Dee.
Attractive undulating lowland farmland to the south of Wrexham town and west of the River Dee, containing a number of large estates.



The Welsh Maelor can be subdivided into 3 areas:





Overall management strategy:

Conservation and sustainable rural development

Management Guidance

Aims	Guidelines
Conserve rural character	● Promote replacement planting of hedgerow trees, particularly oaks and ash to ensure perpetuation of characteristic landscape ● The area is particularly sensitive to the 'suburbanisation' of farm steadings - resist ● The character of rural villages and their settings are particularly sensitive to new development ● Encourage Village Design statements by local residents ● Areas for Horsiculture are to conserve traditional field boundaries and avoid the proliferation of fences, structures and buildings within the countryside, where this would erode character
Protect and enhance historic landscape	● Protect estate landscapes and estate-influenced landscapes and consider Cadw listing of stone boundary walls and other significant designed landscape features not protected at present ● Protect fieldscape and areas of medieval ridge and furrow ● Increase awareness and appreciation of historical landscape character ● Preserve surviving features in designed landscapes and avoid subdivision or development of parklands ● Prevent woodland regeneration on Wat's Dyke and Erddig Motte and Bailey ● No development on or near Wat's Dyke - contact Cadw ● Preserve Gyfelia field boundaries ● Preserve by record medieval features at Crabtree Green
Preserve geodiversity	● Preserve disused railway, relate to wider industrial landscape
Conserve and manage ponds and other aquatic and wetland habitats	● Maintain integrity of landforms, including glacial and fluvial landforms, and assess new exposures ● Maintain high pond density, restore and enhance ponds.Protect species associated with ponds, eg bats, newts, water vole, lesser silver diving beetle ● Enhance river bank habitats and minimise hard bank engineering; such as canalisation and retaining walls; protect otters and water voles ● Refer to River and Pond Habitat Action Plans and Otter Species Action Plan of Wrexham Biodiversity Action Plan ● Restrict drainage in wetland sites
Enhance and restore biodiversity of historic parklands	● Enhance and expand wood-pastures and retain veteran trees and fallen timber ● Protect wood-pasture from agricultural intensification
Manage farmland for nature conservation	● Diversify general agricultural land and enhance and extend hedgerows ● Develop green networks to link fragmented habitats and species ● Maintain arable headlands and wide field margins ● Enhance and extend orchards and preserve historic fruit varieties
Conserve and manage woodlands	● Maintain, expand and link fragmented native woodlands ● Replace coniferous trees with native broadleaved trees in woodlands and increase diversity in woodland structure and retain old/dead standing or fallen trees ● Restrict grazing in woodlands
Manage grassland to increase biodiversity	● Protect and manage lowland meadows and enhance lowland pastures ● Encourage cattle grazing in rush pastures
Preserve rural heritage and encourage sustainable rural development	● Maintain historic appearance of area, encourage local businesses ● Support National Trust initiatives ● Develop strategy for sympathetic new build in rural villages ● Preserve local distinctiveness, in particular agricultural buildings

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