Kronospan 132kV Cable

Landscape and Visual Appraisal

Prepared for

Kronospan

November 2025
5185-01-LVA

Document Control

Revision	Date	Prepared By	Reviewed / Approved By
5185-01-LVA	Nov 2025	MW	AM/BC

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) describes and appraises the effects of the proposed Kronospan 132kV Cable Installation (the Proposed Development) upon landscape character and people's views. It has been prepared in accordance with best practice guidance set out in *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*[1], hereafter referred to as the GLVIA.

1.1.2 In accordance with the guidance set out in the GLVIA, the LVA adopts an approach proportionate to the likely effects of the Proposed Development. The conclusions of the LVA have been determined via use of professional judgement, set within a structured assessment framework, and supported by reasoned justification.

1.2 The Proposed Development

1.2.1 For a full description of the Proposed Development, refer to the Planning Statement and the Planning Drawings. In summary, the Proposed Development would comprise the installation of two 132kV circuits and two fibre cables between the existing Legacy to Oswestry 132kV wood pole overhead line and the approved 132kV substation at the Kronospan Facility, Chirk.

1.2.2 The cable routes would be laid within the existing highway corridor, with most of the circuit installed via open trenching. In sections where this method is not deemed to be suitable, as a result of engineering and environmental constraints, localised horizontal directional drilling (HDD) will be used for installation.

1.2.3 It is anticipated that installation of the cable routes would occur over a 50-week period. Excavations would occur progressively along each route, so that construction activities would likely only be present at any given location for a short period. Excavation and installation work would begin in week 14 of the construction period and continue to week 49, with only a short section of each route being worked on at any one time. Localised removal of hedgerow required to facilitate construction would be replanted post-construction.

[1] Landscape Institute and Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment, 3rd edition 2013. *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.* Abingdon: Routledge

2.0 LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 European Landscape Convention

2.1.1 The UK Government is a signatory of the European Landscape Convention[2] (ELC), which became binding in March 2007. The ELC is aimed at the protection, management and planning of all landscapes and raising awareness of the value of a living landscape. It relates chiefly to public bodies and to the policies, plans and programmes produced by these.

2.1.2 The LVA is a development specific process which accords with Article 6C. The LVA is informed by extant Landscape Character Assessment studies which more directly relate to the provisions of Article 6C.

2.2 Planning Policy

2.2.1 Full details of the planning policy context for the Proposed Development are set out in the Planning Statement. Key documents are listed below.

National Planning Policy

2.2.2 Relevant national planning policy and guidance documents are:

i) *Future Wales*[3]
ii) *Planning Policy Wales*[4].

Local Planning Policy

2.2.3 The adopted local development plan for Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) comprises the *Wrexham Unitary Development Plan 1996-2011* (the UDP)[5] which was adopted in February 2005. However, the local development plan has been through significant upheaval in recent years. WCBC adopted the *Local Development Plan 2013-2028* (the LDP)[6] on 20 December 2023, however, the decision to adopt the LDP has subsequently been quashed by a High Court Order issued on 12 June

[2] Available at *https://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/home*
[3] Welsh Government, 2021. *Future Wales: The National Plan 2040*
[4] Welsh Government, 2024. *Planning Policy Wales Edition 12*
[5] Wrexham County Borough Council, adopted 2005. *Wrexham Unitary Development Plan 1996-2011*
[6] Wrexham County Borough Council, adopted 2023. *Wrexham County Borough Local Development Plan 2013-2028*

2025. The LDP has therefore been returned to unadopted status and the UDP has been returned to being the adopted development plan. Further information regarding the status of the UDP and LDP is provided in the Planning Statement.

3.0 APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Guidance

3.1.1 As set out in Section 1.0, the LVA has been undertaken in accordance with the guidance set out in the GLVIA. The GLVIA sets out the principles that underpin landscape and visual assessment but does not provide a strict formula to reach judgements about level of effect and significance. Such judgements instead rely on reasoned argument and experienced professional judgement.

3.1.2 Further relevant guidance is set out in the following documents:

i) *Assessing landscape value outside national designations. Technical Guidance Note 02/21*[7].

ii) *Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (GLVIA3)*[8].

3.2 Scope of the Appraisal

3.2.1 The LVA considers the likely effects of the Proposed Development on landscape character (the effect on the landscape resource) and visual amenity (the visual effect on people's views). Given the nature of the Proposed Development, the principal focus is on the construction stage, with brief consideration given to the very localised residual effects during the operational phase.

3.2.2 The LVA acknowledges the contribution of heritage features to the landscape and visual baseline where appropriate, but excludes specific consideration of any effect on the setting of the cultural heritage assets, which are properly dealt with by cultural heritage specialists.

3.2.3 As part of pre-application consultation, the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Partnership confirmed that there was no requirement to consider effects upon the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape.

[7] *Landscape Institute (2021). Assessing landscape value outside national designations. Technical Guidance Note 02/21*
[8] *Landscape Institute (2024). Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (GLVIA3)*

3.3 Study Area

3.3.1 The Study Area comprises an approximately 100m radius around the application boundary and is illustrated on **Figure 1**. The extent of the Study Area has been determined based upon the LVA consultant's knowledge of the surrounding area (reflecting previous assessment work for a series of development proposals at Kronospan) and the likely limited effects of the Proposed Development.

3.4 Appraisal Method and Criteria

Introduction

3.4.1 The GLVIA requires that landscape and visual effects should be identified following consideration of the sensitivity of receptors and the magnitude of the effects that each receptor would experience.

3.4.2 Table 1 provides a summary of the factors that are considered in reaching a conclusion on the level of effect.

Table 1 – LVIA Process

Sensitivity (Nature of Receptor)		Magnitude (Nature of the Effect)			
Susceptibility to Change	Value	Scale of Effect	Extent of the Effect	Duration of the Effect	Reversibility of the Effect
High Medium Low	High Medium Low	Large Medium Small Negligible	Receptor-specific (terms used may include Extensive, Localised etc…)	Long-term Medium-term Short-term	Irreversible Partly reversible Reversible

3.4.3 An explanation is provided below of how these factors are considered together to reach an overall professional judgement on sensitivity, magnitude and level of effect.

Sensitivity

Overview

3.4.4 The sensitivity of receptors is identified via a combined judgement of their susceptibility to the type of change proposed and the value attached to the landscape.

3.4.5 When combining susceptibility to change and value, the following consistently applies:

i) A receptor which is considered to be of High susceptibility to change and High value would be assessed as being of High sensitivity.
ii) A receptor of Medium susceptibility and Medium value would be assessed as being of Medium sensitivity.
iii) A receptor of Low susceptibility and Low value would be assessed as being of Low sensitivity.

3.4.6 However, the relationship between susceptibility to change and value can be complex and is not typically linear. For example, a receptor demonstrating High value, may demonstrate Low susceptibility to change. Equally, a receptor which is judged to be of Low value, could demonstrate High susceptibility to change. The final assessment of sensitivity is therefore one of professional judgement based on clear descriptions of susceptibility to change and value. Where professional judgement suggests it is required, intermediate levels of magnitude have been expressed to refine the assessment, i.e. Low to Medium or Medium to High.

Susceptibility to Change

3.4.7 Susceptibility to change relates to the vulnerability of a receptor to change of the type proposed.

3.4.8 For landscape receptors, the various characteristics/factors that make up a particular landscape must be identified and consideration given as to how these will be affected by the type of change proposed.

3.4.9 For visual receptors, susceptibility to change relates to the expectations of people in different locations and engaged in different activities. This is largely determined by the category of visual receptor, e.g. resident, footpath user, road user or other.

Value

3.4.10 The value (or importance) placed upon a receptor is independent of any development proposal. Value relates to the relative value placed upon a landscape or a view by society, which is typically the subject of documentation or other evidence.

3.4.11 With specific regards to landscape receptors, the absence of a formal landscape designation does not necessarily imply that a landscape is of lower value.

Magnitude of Effect

Overview

3.4.12 The nature of the effect that is likely to occur, i.e. its magnitude, is determined by considering four separate factors, namely: scale or size; the geographic extent over which the change would be experienced; its duration; and its reversibility. These four factors are combined to derive an overall magnitude of effect for each receptor, which is determined by use of professional judgement. In accordance with Landscape Institute clarifications[9], the LVA treats scale/size as the primary factor. Extent, duration and reversibility are then considered as modifiers to that scale judgement.

3.4.13 The magnitude of effect has been expressed using a five-point scale of Large, Medium, Small, Negligible and No Change. Where professional judgement suggests it is required, intermediate levels of magnitude have been expressed to refine the assessment, i.e. Small to Medium or Medium to Large.

Size/Scale

3.4.14 With regards to landscape receptors, account is taken of elements that are taken away from the landscape, elements that are added to the landscape, and the degree to which this would result in a change to landscape character. The assessment therefore reflects the level of 'consistency' or 'fit' between the existing baseline characteristics of the landscape, and anything introduced into it by the Proposed Development.

[9] Landscape Institute (2024). *Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (GLVIA3)*

3.4.15 In relation to visual receptors, consideration is given to the loss of or addition of features, and change in composition, including the proportion of the view occupied by the development, the degree of contrast or integration with existing features, and the nature of the view available.

Geographic Extent

3.4.16 The geographical extent of landscape effects refers to the extent over which a change in landscape character within a landscape receptor might be experienced.

3.4.17 The geographical extent of visual effects is determined by factors including the angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor, the distance from the development, and the extent over which change in view would be visible.

Duration

3.4.18 The duration of an effect simply relates to the length of time for which it would be experienced, as follows:

i) Long-term: 10+ years; or the change could not reasonably be considered temporary in nature.
ii) Medium-term: 3-10 years.
iii) Short-term: 0-3 years.

Reversibility

3.4.19 The reversibility of an effect relates to the prospects and practicality of an effect being able to be wholly or partially reversed, or whether the change cannot realistically be reversed, i.e. it is permanent.

Level of Effect

3.4.20 Having applied professional judgement to assess the sensitivity of the baseline landscape and visual environment and to consider the magnitude of effect that the Proposed Development would cause. These are then combined using further professional judgement to consider the level of effect.

3.4.21 An LVA is not produced as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and therefore it is not necessary to identify 'significant effects.' It is however still appropriate to draw attention to any changes to landscape character or visual

amenity which may be of particular note to the determining authority when considering the acceptability of a proposal.

3.4.22 The level of effect can only be defined in relation to each particular development and its specific location. It is for each LVA to determine how judgements about receptor sensitivity and the magnitude of change should be combined to derive the level of effect and to clearly explain how this appraisal has been made.

3.4.23 The weighting attributed to each of the six main considerations (susceptibility, value, scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility), and the combined judgements of sensitivity and magnitude, requires the application of experienced professional judgement and may vary depending on the landscape or visual receptor or effect being assessed. This is categorised as Minor, Moderate, or Major, Negligible, or No Effect. Where professional judgement suggests it is required, of effect have been expressed to refine the assessment, i.e. Minor to Moderate or Moderate to Major.

3.4.24 Effects may be either Adverse (negative) or Beneficial (positive). If change occurs, with no obvious deterioration or improvement resulting, this can be said to be Neutral.

3.5 Limitations

3.5.1 Due to the health and safety implications of taking photography from within the highway corridor, the photography presented in **Appendix A** has been captured from Google Streetview. The date of this photography ranges from November 2021 to March 2024 and is thus relatively contemporary. The Google Streetview images are typically taken from a pole mounted on top of a van and are thus set above eye-height. Therefore, they tend to exaggerate the extent of visibility from any given location.

3.5.2 The landscape consultant is familiar with Study Area including the roads along which the proposed cable routes would follow, and is thus familiar with the context into which the Proposed Development would be introduced. Use of Google Streetview imagery thus does not form a limitation when making the conclusions set out in the LVA.

3.6 Data Collection

3.6.1 Baseline data for this LVA has been gathered by review of extant landscape character assessment studies (see below), online mapping and aerial imagery. The

LVA team are familiar with the area into which the Proposed Development would be introduced as a result of previous assessment undertaken for a variety of development proposals at Kronospan.

4.0 BASELINE

4.1 General Landscape Context

Overview

4.1.1 Each of the cable routes is illustrated on **Figure 1**. Photography from points along each route is presented on **Appendix A**.

4.1.2 Both routes would start within the Kronospan landholding west of the B5070, running east and north from the location of the consented Substation. The Red and Green Cable Routes would subsequently run southwards through Chirk (the Southern Route), and the Orange Fibre Cable Route (the Northern Route) would run eastwards.

4.1.3 Both routes would connect to the existing Legacy to Oswestry 132kV overhead line within the Dee Valley, approximately 2.5km east of the Kronospan Facility.

4.1.4 Each route is described in turn below.

Southern Route

4.1.5 The Southern Route heads east out of the substation site and then runs south along the B5070. The existing Kronospan Facility is located on the western side of the road, and predominantly residential development is located on the eastern side. After approximately 1km, the route enters Chirk town centre, with various commercial properties located on the eastern side of the road, and Chirk Recreation Ground on the western side.

4.1.6 The route then turns east along Colliery Road, passing residential properties on either side, before leaving town and entering a rural landscape. The route follows the minor road network, passing under the A5 and continues downhill into the Dee Valley, running east and north-east past the Brynkinallt Estate. The route then passes a small number of farmsteads and scattered rural properties.

4.1.7 There are two potential points of connection with the existing Legacy to Oswestry 132kV wood pole overhead line, both located within the fields immediately west of the road.

Northern Route

4.1.8 The Northern Route heads east out of the Kronospan Facility, crossing the B5070 and following a minor road running east past scattered properties, towards Chirk Car Boot and the Council Depot.

4.1.9 The route then passes beneath the A5, past McDonalds, and continues downhill, east along the lane leading from Pont Y Blew to Halton Farm. The route passes a cluster of residential properties on either side of the road and then travels through Halton Farm.

4.1.10 The route continues along a narrow track passing between agricultural fields. The route continues down this track, adjacent to a small woodland on the northern side of the road. The route then veers right, reaching the point of connection with the existing Legacy to Oswestry 132KV wood pole overhead line.

4.2 Landscape Character

4.2.1 The NRW LANDMAP study is the formally adopted methodology for landscape assessment in Wales and, as such, forms the baseline for landscape character assessment. The *Wrexham LANDMAP Supplementary Planning Guidance*[10] (the LANDMAP SPG) uses LANDMAP data to subdivide the WCBC area into a series of four broad landscape types and twenty-seven geographically distinct landscape character areas (LCA).

4.2.2 The proposed development is located in the following LCAs:

i) LCA 7a Chirk.
ii) LCA 12a Dee/Ceiriog Wooded Valley.
iii) LCA 13a Welsh Maelor.

[10] Wrexham County Borough Council, adopted 2007. *Wrexham LANDMAP Supplementary Planning Guidance*

4.2.3 The character of each LCA is summarised in the LANDMAP SPG as follows (noting that not every bullet is necessarily applicable to land within the Study Area):

i) LCA 7a Chirk
   a) Industrial Structures within a wider rural setting visually dominating much of the area and beyond.
   b) Canal (a major tourist attraction) road and rail corridors pass through the area.
   c) Chirk is within a shallow valley with open views to hills.
   d) Contains nationally important viaduct and aqueduct historical landscape features.
   e) Village lies between the historic estates of Chirk Castle and Brynkinallt.

i) LCA 12a Dee/Ceiriog Wooded Valley
   a) Steep sided and enclosed sections of the River Dee and River Ceiriog valleys, shared with North Shropshire.
   b) Dominated by broadleaved and coniferous woodlands, with some pasture land.
   c) Spectacular road, rail and canal crossings enhance the scenic qualities and provide views.
   d) Strong seasonal contrasts.
   e) Much in estate ownership with limited public access.

i) LCA 13a Welsh Maelor
   a) Undulating, mainly pastoral lowland farmland.
   b) Well-managed hedges with hedgerow trees and small woodlands.
   c) Historic designed estates influence a large proportion of this area.
   d) Field ponds abundant on areas with clay soils.
   e) Historic settlement pattern with remnants of medieval ridge and furrow.
   f) Erddig estate important for tourism, recreation, nature conservation and heritage.
   g) Wat's Dyke runs north-south through area.
   h) Patches of valuable seminatural habitats, especially in Clywedog valley.
   i) Affected by urban pressures and economic changes to farming.

4.3 Landscape Designations

4.3.1 WCBC maintain a non-statutory Special Landscape Area (SLA) designation (refer to **Figure 1** for location). The SLA is protected by Policy EC5 of the UDP, which states:

"Within Special Landscape Areas, priority will be given to the conservation and enhancement of the landscape. Development, other than for agriculture, small-scale farm-based and other rural enterprises, and essential operational development by utility service providers, will be strictly controlled. Development will be required to conform to a high standard of design and landscaping and special attention will be paid to minimising its visual impact from both nearby and distant viewpoints".

4.3.2 SLA boundaries were revised as part of preparation of the LDP, and the revised boundary excludes land immediately north and west of the wider Kronospan facility (refer to **Figure 1** for location). The boundary revision process was underpinned by a supporting document, namely the *Special Landscape Areas Study*[11], and has been undertaken to comply with the requirements of PPW in order to:

"…state which features, characteristics or qualities require extra protection, and explain how the policy or designation will achieve this protection…"

4.3.3 As such, following the boundary review, the cable routes are located outside the extent of any of the revised SLAs. Part of the northern route adjoins the boundary of SLA003: Upper Dee Valley and Woodlands.

4.3.4 The special valued landscape qualities of SLA003 are:

i) Attractive, tranquil, sheltered, safe and apparent closeness to nature
ii) A well-defined, well managed wooded river valley rich in landscape, historical and cultural features and supporting biodiverse habitats
iii) Retain existing wooded river valley character with attractive views of the meandering river system.
iv) Consider careful management of improved public access in conjunction with traditional farming practices – any development should be in scale and appropriate to the landform and traditional farming practice

[11] TACP, 2017. *Special Landscape Areas Study.* Wrexham County Borough Council

v) Maintain diversity in the woodland vegetation to strengthen biodiversity and landscape identity

vi) The role of the SLA as the setting for the adjacent Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal WHS and River Dee SSSI and SAC.

4.4 Visual Baseline

4.4.1 Due to the nature of the construction of the Proposed Development, visual impacts would be limited to a very short distance from the proposed cable routes. As such, views of the Proposed Development are likely to be limited to users of the roads that the cable routes would follow, and residents in properties adjacent to the roads. Users of public rights of way may also have views of the Proposed Development at the points where these routes meet the highway.

4.4.2 A series of photographs looking along the cable routes are presented in **Appendix A**, with locations illustrated on **Figure 1**. As noted in Section 3.5, the photography has been captured from Google Streetview.

5.0 APPRAISAL OF EFFECTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section appraises the level of landscape and visual effects that would result from the introduction of the Proposed Development would cause.

5.2 Construction Stage Effects

Landscape Effects

5.2.1 The sensitivity of each LCA within the Study Area is set out in Table 2.

Table 2 – Sensitivity of LCAs

LCA	Susceptibility to Change	Value	Sensitivity
LCA 7a Chirk	Low susceptibility to change, as the type of change proposed would be temporary in nature and located within the existing road corridor	High (National Landscape overlaps the western boundary of the LCA, the canal has recreational function and is a World Heritage Site, SLA, heritage assets within Chirk (listed buildings and Conservation Area))	Medium
LCA 12a Dee/Ceiriog Wooded Valley	Low susceptibility to change, as the type of change proposed would be temporary in nature and located within the existing road corridor	Medium to High (SLA, World Heritage Site, Chirk Aqueduct and Chirk Viaduct, Brynkinallt RPG, Public rights of way run through the valley)	Low to Medium
LCA 13a Welsh Maelor	Low susceptibility to change, as the type of change proposed would be temporary in nature and located within the existing road corridor	Medium (SLA, Brynkinallt RPG, sparse public right of way network)	Low

5.2.2 The magnitude of effect that would be experienced by each LCA is set out in Table 3.

Table 3 – Magnitude of Effect on Landscape Character

Receptor	Size/Scale	Geographic Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Magnitude
LCA 7a Chirk	Presence of construction plant, workers and other infrastructure along a narrow corridor. No change of note outside the route corridor.	Localised change along short sections of the route.	Effects would be very short in duration, and would be reversible once construction is complete	Negligible
LCA 12a Dee/Ceiriog Wooded Valley	Presence of construction plant, workers and other infrastructure along a narrow corridor. No change of note outside the route corridor.	Localised change along short sections of the route.	Effects would be very short in duration, and would be reversible once construction is complete	Negligible
LCA 13a Welsh Maelor	Presence of construction plant, workers and other infrastructure along a narrow corridor. No change of note outside the route corridor.	Localised change along short sections of the route.	Effects would be very short in duration, and would be reversible once construction is complete	Negligible

5.2.3 The level of effect that would be experienced by each receptor is set out in Table 4.

Table 4 – Level of Landscape Effect

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Level of Effect
LCA 7a Chirk	Medium	Small	Negligible Neutral Very limited, localised and short-term change in character which would cease following construction
LCA 12a Dee/Ceiriog Wooded Valley	Low to Medium	Small	Negligible Neutral Very limited, localised and short-term change in character, which would cease following construction
LCA 13a Welsh Maelor	Low	Small	Negligible Neutral Very limited, localised and short-term change in character, which would cease following construction

5.2.4 In summary, there would be temporary, and very localised effects experienced upon the character of each LCA within the Study Area. Construction of the Proposed Development would comprise roadworks within the highway corridor, and very limited additional works outside this corridor (e.g. at the points of connection), which would move progressively along each route. No tree removal would be required. A short section of hedgerow within LCA 12a would be lost to construction, but this would be replaced with new planting post-construction which would include a more diverse range of species than the baseline hedgerow. The existing key characteristics of each LCA would remain unaffected, with construction activities comprising a limited and localised additional influence present for a short period. Effects would be small in scale, localised in extent, temporary in duration and reversible following construction. Effects would be no greater than **minor adverse**.

Visual Effects

5.2.5 Visual receptors that would be affected by change in view resulting from the Proposed Development comprise:

i) Residents in properties within Chirk.
ii) Residents in properties in the countryside
iii) Road users in Chirk and on the B5070.
iv) Road users on minor rural roads.
v) Users of public rights of way.

5.2.6 The sensitivity of each receptor is set out in Table 5.

Table 5 – Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

Receptor	Susceptibility to Change	Value	Sensitivity
Residents in properties within Chirk.	Residents have a High susceptibility to change	Medium (generally, no documented value, but important community views, and Conservation Area in town centre)	Medium to High
Residents in properties in the countryside	Residents have a High susceptibility to change	Medium (generally, no documented value, but pleasant rural views, with few distracting elements)	Medium to High

Receptor	Susceptibility to Change	Value	Sensitivity
Road users in Chirk and on the B5070.	Road users have a Low susceptibility to change	Low	Low
Road users on minor rural roads.	Road users have a Low susceptibility to change	Medium (pleasant rural views, with few distracting elements)	Low to Medium
Users of public rights of way	Users have a High susceptibility to change	Medium (obvious but localised recreational/amenity function)	Medium to High

5.2.7 The magnitude of effect that would be experienced by each receptor group is set out in Table 6.

Table 6 – Magnitude of Visual Effects

Receptor	Size/Scale	Geographic Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Magnitude
Residents in properties within Chirk.	Presence of construction plant, workers and signage other infrastructure. Similar in appearance to other types of roadworks.	Localised change occurring progressively along short sections of the route.	Effects would be very short in duration, and would be reversible once construction is complete	Small
Residents in properties in the countryside	Presence of construction plant, workers and other infrastructure. Similar in appearance to other types of roadworks.	Localised change occurring progressively along short sections of the route.	Effects would be very short in duration, and would be reversible once construction is complete	Small
Road users in Chirk and on the B5070.	Presence of construction plant, workers and other infrastructure. Similar in appearance to other types of roadworks.	Localised change occurring progressively along short sections of the route.	Effects would be very short in duration, and would be reversible once construction is complete	Small
Road users on minor rural roads.	Presence of construction plant, workers and other infrastructure. Similar in appearance to other types of roadworks.	Localised change occurring progressively along short sections of the route.	Effects would be very short in duration, and would be reversible once construction is complete	Small
Users of public rights of way	Presence of construction plant, workers and other infrastructure. Similar in	Localised change occurring progressively along short	Effects would be very short in duration, and would be reversible once	Small

Receptor	Size/Scale	Geographic Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Magnitude
	appearance to other types of roadworks.	sections of the route.	construction is complete	

5.2.8 The level of effect that would be experienced by each receptor is set out in Table 7.

Table 7 – Level of Visual Effect

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Level of Effect
Residents in properties within Chirk.	Medium to High	Small	Minor Adverse. Very limited, localised and short-term change in view, which would cease following construction
Residents in properties in the countryside	Medium to High	Small	Minor Adverse. Very limited, localised and short-term change in view, which would cease following construction
Road users in Chirk and on the B5070.	Low	Small	Minor Adverse. Very limited, localised and short-term change in view, which would cease following construction
Road users on minor rural roads.	Low to Medium	Small	Minor Adverse. Very limited, localised and short-term change in view, which would cease following construction.
Users of public rights of way	Medium to High	Small	Minor Adverse. Very limited, localised and short-term change in view, which would cease following construction

5.2.9 In summary, there would be temporary, and very localised visual effects experienced by each receptor within the Study Area. Construction of the Proposed Development would comprise a series of road works, which would move progressively along each route, and which would be visible from any given location for only a very short period of time. Following construction, views would revert to baseline, with almost all the proposed infrastructure buried below the surface. Effects would be small in scale, localised in extent, temporary in duration and reversible following construction.

Effects experienced by any individual visual receptor would be no greater than **minor adverse**.

5.3 Operational Stage Effects

5.3.1 Following construction, the only above ground infrastructure would be at the points of connection with the existing Legacy to Oswestry 132kV wood pole overhead line, and these would have no influence of note upon their surroundings. Landscape character would not differ to any appreciable degree from baseline, and thus there would be **no** effect on landscape character. Any residual change in view would be no greater than negligible, and the effects of this would also be no greater than **negligible** and **neutral**.

5.4 Effects on Landscape Designations

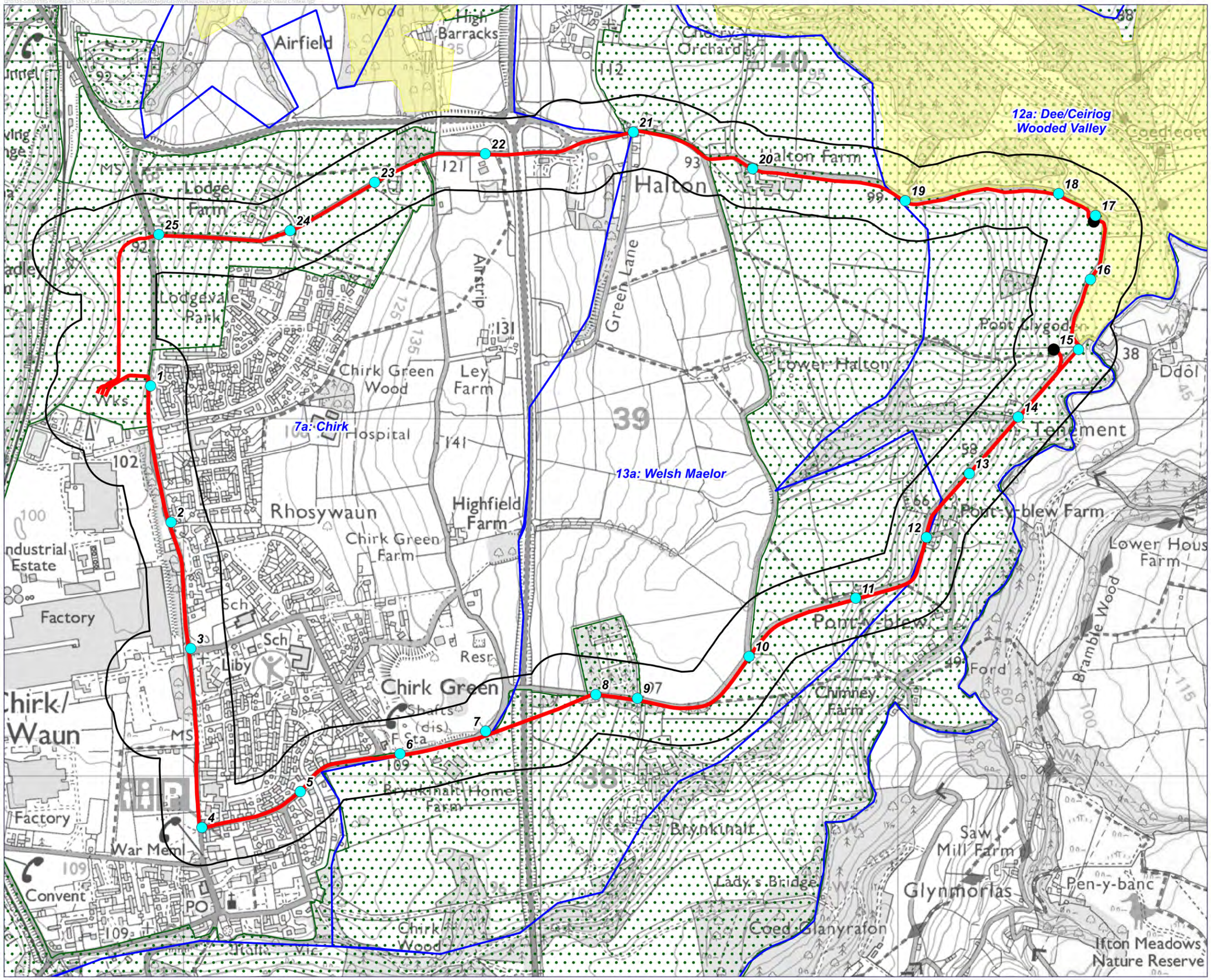
5.4.1 As set out above, effects on landscape character and visual effects would be small in scale, localised in extent, and temporary in duration. The influence of the Proposed Development upon land within either the current or the revised SLA boundary would be very limited and would not materially affect the integrity of the designation.

6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1.1 The Proposed Development would comprise temporary construction activities to install proposed below-ground cables within the existing highway corridor. Excavation of cable trenches would occur progressively, so that construction activities would only be present at any given location for a short period. The only permanent above ground infrastructure would be at the point of connection with the existing Legacy to Oswestry 132kV overhead line.

6.1.2 There would be some short-term landscape and visual effects occurring as a result of the proposed construction activities. The Proposed Development would have a very limited influence upon its surroundings, and landscape effects would be negligible, and visual effects would be no greater than minor adverse. When construction is complete, the residual landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development would be no greater than negligible.

Figure 1 – Landscape and Visual Context



Proposed Development (Cable Routes)

Points of Connection to 132kV Legacy to Oswestry Overhead Line

LVA Study Area

Special Landscape Area (Wrexham UDP)

Special Landscape Area (Wrexham LDP)

Wrexham Landscape Character Area

Photograph Location

N

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 m

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0344 8700 007
axis.co.uk

Project

Kronospan 132kV Cable

Figure Number

Figure 1

Figure Title

Landscape and Visual Context

Scale

1:10000@A3

Date

November 2025

Appendix A – Photography

Kronospan 132kV Cable

Landscape and Visual Appraisal

Appendix A: Photography

Prepared for: Kronospan

November 2025

5185-01-LVA Appendix A

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This Appendix includes reference photography from a series of points along the proposed cable routes. As set out in the main Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) document, due to the health and safety implications of taking photography from within the highway corridor, the photography has been captured from Google Streetview. The date of this photography ranges from November 2021 to March 2024 and is thus relatively contemporary.

1.1.2 The Google Streetview images are typically taken from a pole mounted on top of a van, and are thus above eye-height. Therefore, they tend to exaggerate the extent of visibility from any given location.

1.1.3 The locations of each image are illustrated on LVA Figure 1.



Photograph 1, looking north



Photograph 1, looking south



Photograph 2, looking north



Photograph 2, looking south



Photograph 3, looking north



Photograph 3, looking south



Photograph 4, looking north



Photograph 4, looking south



Photograph 5, looking north-east



Photograph 5, looking south-west



Photograph 6, looking east



Photograph 6, looking west



Photograph 7, looking east



Photograph 7, looking north



Photograph 7, looking south



Photograph 8, looking south



Photograph 8, looking east



Photograph 8, looking west



Photograph 9, looking east



Photograph 9, looking west



Photograph 10, looking north-east



Photograph 10, looking south-west