WREXHAM POWER LIMITED

The Wrexham (Gas Fired Power Station) Order

6.4.5 Volume 4: Environmental Statement

Appendix 10.1: Photomontage Methodology

Planning Act 2008 The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

PINS Reference Number:	EN010055
Document Reference Number:	6.4.5
Regulation Number:	5(2) (a)
Lead Author:	Atkins

Revision:	Date:	Description:
0	March 2016	Submission version

APPENDIX 10.1 PHOTOMONTAGE METHODOLOGY

1.1.1 A number of photomontages have been prepared for the LVIA. A photomontage is defined as "the superimposition of an image onto a photograph for the purpose of creating a representation of potential changes to any view" (GLVIA, 3rd Edition, page 144).

1.1.2 In order to ensure that the photomontages are verified as accurate a specific method has been undertaken using the principles and guidance set out in the following documents:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd edition, Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management, April 2013; and
- Landscape Institute Advice Note 01/2011: Photography and photomontage in landscape and visual assessment, March 2011.

1.1.3 Prior to the commencement of photomontage work the location of viewpoints was agreed with the Landscape Architect at Wrexham County Borough Council.

1.1.4 Site survey work was undertaken at a time when conditions were clear with good visibility. The camera was set up at each of the agreed locations and its position geo-located using a GPS (to a recording accuracy of 50mm). Additional details captured during the site survey work included details of the camera (height, focal length, exposure and zoom factor), weather conditions and time of day. Images were taken in RAW format in order to record Meta data for each image.

Above: Example of camera and tripod positioned with white marker posts adjacent the hedge

Above: Example of camera height being measured and the GPS locations being recorded

1.1.5 At least three references were used in each viewpoint; these were used to act as control points and were also geo-located using the GPS system. All the information has been inputted into AutoCAD. This allows the photomontage of the proposals to be accurately constructed out of the site photograph and overlain accurately with the 3-Dimensional model. Where possible, additional control points were also located within the photograph and recorded using the GPS system. These additional control points were also included into the 3D model in order to increase the accuracy of locating the model in the panoramic photograph.

1.1.6 The model was created using the AutoCAD data of the site layout and topological information. During the modelling ranging poles and camera locations were set to match the photographs and the corresponding viewpoints exported. Once the data was collated in the CAD programme, it was inserted into Sketch Up, where the views matching the photographs were created and exported. Following the exportation from the model, the photographs and views were merged using the control features to ensure accuracy.

1.1.7 Once the two images were put together and sized to align the ranging poles, a digital mask was then used to remove the unwanted data from the final image without deleting it. Using duplicates of the photograph, areas were cloned to represent changes in the tree line and additional features i.e. proposed fences and new planting. The photographs are then changed to protect privacy; this includes blurring of number plates and faces.