

The Wrexham (Gas Fired Power Station) Order

6.4.5 Volume 4: Environmental Statement Appendix 10.4: Landscape Baseline

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 10.4 ◆ Landscape Baseline

A10.1 The following table identifies the landscape resource – the landscape character areas and types, designations and their sensitivity to change.

Table 10.1: Landscape Resource

Landscape Resource	Reference	Character Description	Sensitivity to Change
Wrexham LANDMAP Local Planning Guidance Note			
LCA 11 Wrexham Industrial Estate	<i>Wrexham LANDMAP LCA11</i>	Characterised by an area of urban built land with mixed industrial development. It is a relatively flat landscape with a network of small ditches and ponds. It is set within low lying pastoral farmland and incorporates former hedgerow oak trees. Some large scale buildings can be seen from far distant viewpoints. The estate is sensitive to development of industrial plots which do not take into account the potential loss of biodiversity.	The sensitivity to change for LCA11 is assessed as low due to the utilitarian character of the built form and low landscape value and susceptibility to change from the Scheme.
LCA13a Welsh Maelor	<i>Wrexham LANDMAP LCA13a</i>	Characterised as a rolling and undulating agricultural landscape with small to medium scale fields with elements of estate farming, woodland blocks and copses.	The sensitivity to change for LCA13a is assessed as medium due to the good condition and relatively low level of development and susceptibility to change from the Scheme.
LCA13c Dee Terraces	<i>Wrexham LANDMAP LCA13c</i>	Characterised by low lying flat landscape, intensively farmed with long views where hedgerows permit. The integrity of the landscape is highly vulnerable to continuing development and recreational pressures and to economic changes which threaten traditional	The sensitivity to change for LCA13c is assessed as medium due to the good condition but lack of unique or unusual features and susceptibility to change from the Scheme.

Landscape Resource	Reference	Character Description	Sensitivity to Change
		farming.	
LCA14 River Dee Floodplain	<i>Wrexham LANDMAP LCA14</i>	Characterised as open flat fields with pasture and arable use enclosed by thorn hedges, resulting in a well-defined field pattern. In the lower river terraces field pattern is more generally rectilinear and with lower more harshly cut hedgerows in places. Large scale built development is limited to scattered rural farmsteads and clustered village dwellings.	The sensitivity to change for LCA14 is assessed as high due to the dominant agricultural pattern, limited development and the strong association between the field pattern and the River Dee and susceptibility to change from the Scheme.
LCA10 Wrexham Town	<i>Wrexham LANDMAP LCA10</i>	Characterised by a Central historic and retail core, surrounded by areas of non-residential uses and remaining areas of older housing with extensive outer areas of post-war and recent housing, including planned garden village estates, public housing and cul-de-sac modern estates.	The sensitivity to change for LCA10 is assessed as medium due to the areas of distinct and unique architecture contrasting with areas of utilitarian buildings and settlement patterns and susceptibility to change from the Scheme.
LCA8 Gwersyllt, Llay, Gresford, Borras	<i>Wrexham LANDMAP LCA8</i>	Characterised by generally undulating open arable farmland affected by proximity to urban areas. There is a distinctive kettle hole landscape to the east of Wrexham and semi-rural villages with extensive suburban development.	The sensitivity to change for LCA8 is assessed as high due to the distinctive kettle hole landscape with open water, mosses and woodland with the Wrexham Delta terraces providing high quality agricultural land and susceptibility to change from the Scheme.
LCA7c Rhosllannerc hrugog – Rhostyllen – Ruabon – Penycae	<i>Wrexham LANDMAP LCA7c</i>	Characterised as an area of former industry with a dominant 19th century built form surrounded by agricultural fields bordered by hedgerows.	The sensitivity to change for LCA7c is assessed as medium due to the areas of distinctive built form and architectural style balanced against areas of poor condition and low landscape value and susceptibility to change from the Scheme.
National Character Areas			

Landscape Resource	Reference	Character Description	Sensitivity to Change
NCA61Shrops hire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain.	<i>NCA Profile 61 (NE556)</i>	Characterised by a series of small sandstone ridges which cut across the plain and are very prominent features within this open landscape. It contains several significant flood plains, with its flat, low-lying basins carrying the meandering stages of ten main rivers.	The sensitivity to change for the NCA61 is assessed as medium due to the dense road network and pressure for development balanced against its internationally important meres and mosses and susceptibility to change from the Scheme.
Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment			
LCA R7 River Dee	Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment LCA R7	Characterised by the absence of elevated viewpoints meaning the river cannot be seen from surrounding locations for much of its length. The A534 crosses the valley at elevation and curtails any north-south views along the course of the river. South of the bridge is a wide agricultural plain with cultivated arable fields. To the west the Clwydian hills are visible in the far distance over fields of predominantly arable crops.	The sensitivity to change for the LCA R7 is assessed as medium due to the presence a Special Area of Conservation on the river Dee near Church Road and the fact that the river Dee is generally not visible and susceptibility to change from the Scheme.
LCA WLP4 Shocklach	Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment LCA WLP4	Characterised by an extensive system of narrow and winding country lanes running between solid, intact hedgerows connecting the small settlements, isolated hamlets and farmsteads. Fields are small to medium in size and many areas have a strong feeling of tranquillity and isolation. The topography is generally flat with the land along the western boundary allowing distant views towards the Clwydian Hills in the far distance.	The sensitivity to change for the LCA WLP4 is assessed as medium due to the sense of tranquillity, extensive system of intact hedgerows, unified rural character and the built forms associated with the predominance of modern dairying and susceptibility to change from the Scheme.
LCA SR4 Maiden Castle	Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment LCA SR4	Characterised by extensive tracts of heathland and peripheral birch woodland which form a distinctive landscape, with distant and panoramic views out over the surrounding lower ground. A number of small fields lie within or alongside the woodland. The scale of these	The sensitivity to change for the LCA SR4 is assessed as high due to the panoramic views, sandstone caves, hill fort and the actively managed -SSSI designated- open heathland and susceptibility to change from the Scheme.

Landscape Resource	Reference	Character Description	Sensitivity to Change
		enclosures lies mid-way between the total enclosure of the woodland and the more expansive landscapes of the open heath on the higher ground and ridges.	
LCA SF2 Beeston- Duckington	Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment LCA SF2	This character area completely encircles the Peckforton and Maiden Castle Character Areas of the Sandstone Ridge type and this central zone of high ground forms a dominant wooded skyline throughout the area. Those elevated locations with an open outlook enjoy extensive views over the surrounding countryside.	The sensitivity to change for the LCA SF2 is assessed as medium due to the presence of a number of listed buildings, woodland blocks and extensive views from some locations and susceptibility to change from the Scheme.
LCA RF5 Malpas	Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment LCA RF5	This area appears to be heavily wooded due to the dominance of trees upon the skyline. The Carden Estate is located between High Carden and Barton. The estate commands extensive views across the West Cheshire Plain towards Chester and the Clwydian Hills. However views into the estate are restricted by extensive woodland belts and boundary walls.	The sensitivity to change for the LCA RF5 is assessed as medium due to the presence of historic villages and buildings and tranquil landscape balanced against the loss of a number of historic landscape and built features over time and susceptibility to change from the Scheme.
Designations			
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB and LPA websites	The Clwydian Range includes ' <i>limestone cliffs and grasslands, magical wooded valleys and gentle pastureland</i> ' and covers 160 square kilometres and rises to 554 metres at the summit of Moel Famau. The hills stretch from the Vale of Clwyd in the west to the foothills of the Dee Estuary to the east; from Prestatyn Hillside in the north to the Nant y Garth pass on the edge of the Dee Valley in the south. ' <i>Breathtaking views from the Range take in everything from Snowdonia to Merseyside</i> '.	The sensitivity to change for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is high due to this national designation with the purpose to ' <i>conserve and enhance natural beauty – which includes not just the landscape but also flora, fauna and geological features</i> '

Landscape Resource	Reference	Character Description	Sensitivity to Change
Special Landscape Area (SLA) parts of Dee Valley	Wrexham UDP 1996 - 2011	This Special Landscape Area (SLA) includes the River Dee and immediate hinterland of adjacent farmland and woodland forming a linear area along parts of the Dee Valley.	The sensitivity to change for the Special Landscape Area that corresponds to parts of the Dee Valley is high. Whilst a non statutory designation gives priority to the conservation and enhancement of the landscape and requires that development conforms to a high standard of design and landscaping, minimising the visual impact both from nearby and distant viewpoints.
Tree Preservation Order (TPO) Woodland group WMBC No.60_W1	Wrexham BC and Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report (Appendix 10.8)	Two tree groups are located outside the site on the northern boundary of the Power Station Complex Site forming a linear woodland along the brook containing a mixture of tree species, including English oak, common ash and crack willow trees. The understorey shrubs are a mixture of Hawthorn and Goat Willow.	<p>The sensitivity to change for TPO Woodland group reference WMBC No.60_W1 is high. The mature trees form visually important features and overhang the site boundary. The linear woodland provides a substantial buffer between the site and the adjacent land.</p> <p>The woodland group (G18 and G22A) includes BS Category A (G22A) and BS Category B trees (G18). As such the individual and groups of trees in G22A are of high quality with an estimate 40+ year's useful life expectancy. These trees have received the highest BS Category rating based on their long term potential, maturity and high landscape amenity value.</p>