

THE CLWYD POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

# *Wrexham LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Evaluation*

Technical Report



CPAT Report No 1000

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Report for the Countryside Council for Wales

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The LANDMAP Historic Landscape aspect of the study area identified 51 separate aspect areas, ranging in size from 0.4 to 41 square kilometres and representing 11 different landscape patterns. These 51 areas were examined and each was evaluated against five pre-set criteria – *Integrity, Survival, Condition, Rarity and Potential* - and given one of five scores – *Unassessed, Low, Moderate, High or Outstanding*. Each set of resulting scores were then amalgamated and a overall evaluation score for each area obtained. The distribution of these scores are as follows,

<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>13 (25%)</b>
<b>High</b>	<b>14 (29%)</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>20 (37%)</b>
<b>Low</b>	<b>4 (8%)</b>
<b>Unassessed</b>	<b>0</b>

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Wrexham *LANDMAP* forms part of an ongoing pan-Wales project of landscape assessment. The area studied extends over the whole of Wrexham and covers approximately 502 square kilometres of north east Wales. The Historic Landscape Aspect work was undertaken by The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) on behalf Wrexham County Borough Council and the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) in 2007. This original study was carried out in accordance with the 2003 LANDMAP methodology which did not require the evaluation of aspect areas defined at Level 3 areas. In order to bring the Historic Landscape Aspect into line with other LANDMAP aspects, new guidance allowing for evaluation at Level 3 was produced in 2008, and in 2009 CCW issued a series of contracts to evaluate these previously defined areas. The evaluation exercise for the Wrexham LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect was carried out between October 2008 and March 2009 by CPAT.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### Overview

This is an assessment of the intrinsic value of Aspect Area defined in the Wrexham LANDMAP. The Historic Landscape Aspect criteria for the identification of this intrinsic quality have been adapted from those used to evaluate the impacts of development on historic landscapes found in the *Guide to Good Practice on Using The Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process* (known as AISIDOHL2 as of 2007) These are *Integrity, Survival, Condition, Rarity and Potential*.

Using the guidance, each aspect area was assessed against the five criteria and allocated one of four ‘scores’ – *Low, Moderate, High, Outstanding*. For each assessment criterion, scores of 1-4 were allocated, with 1 corresponding to Low and 4 to Outstanding, as follows:

Score	Evaluation
4	Outstanding
3	High
2	Moderate
1	Low

No area was scored as *Unassessed*.

A total score was then obtained by adding the scores for each criteria and an Overall Evaluation allocated according to the following table.

Total Score	Overall Evaluation
17-20	Outstanding
13-16	High
9-12	Moderate
5-8	Low

The Evaluation scores were recorded in the Evaluation Matrix section of the LANDMAP Collector database.

### Data collection analysis and recording

Digital mapped sources that were used were the Ordnance Survey (OS) 1:10,000, 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 raster maps, OS Landline and contour data and latterly OS Mastermap data for the whole of the study area. Digitally geo-referenced vertical aerial photography (AP) of Wrexham supplied by GetMapping and that produced by COWI supplied by CCW, and used under their licence, were also used as a mapping source and in addition to this occasional reference was made to editions of early OS mapping. The GetMapping and COWI AP data, and oblique aerial photography also proved useful for identifying (relatively) current land use, vegetation types and land cover as well as helping to identify the nature of many boundary features and therefore for assessing integrity, condition and survival

The primary source of historical and archaeological information was the Historic Environment Record (HER), maintained by CPAT. Much of the information in these records is point data, but it also includes some polygonal data derived from a number of paper-based sources. These documentary and manuscript sources that were consulted included lists of listed buildings, the register of historic parks and gardens, and the historic landscapes registers together with the historic landscape characterization report for *Maelor Saesneg*.

Where possible the assembled data were examined and analysed digitally using MapInfo Professional 7.8 GIS software. Initial assessments of each aspect area against the five evaluation criteria were made using the GIS. A very limited programme of field visiting was undertaken to check decisions taken in the desk-based assessment, but heavy reliance was also placed on detailed field data collected as part of the various Cadw pan-Wales assessment projects undertaken by CPAT over the past 10-15 years.

A database was created in version 5.0.16, 5.0.17 and 5.0.18 of the XML based LANDMAP Collector software supplied by CCW. Associated texts were prepared in Word 2000, and submitted as both hard copy and Adobe Acrobat (version 9.0) PDF files.

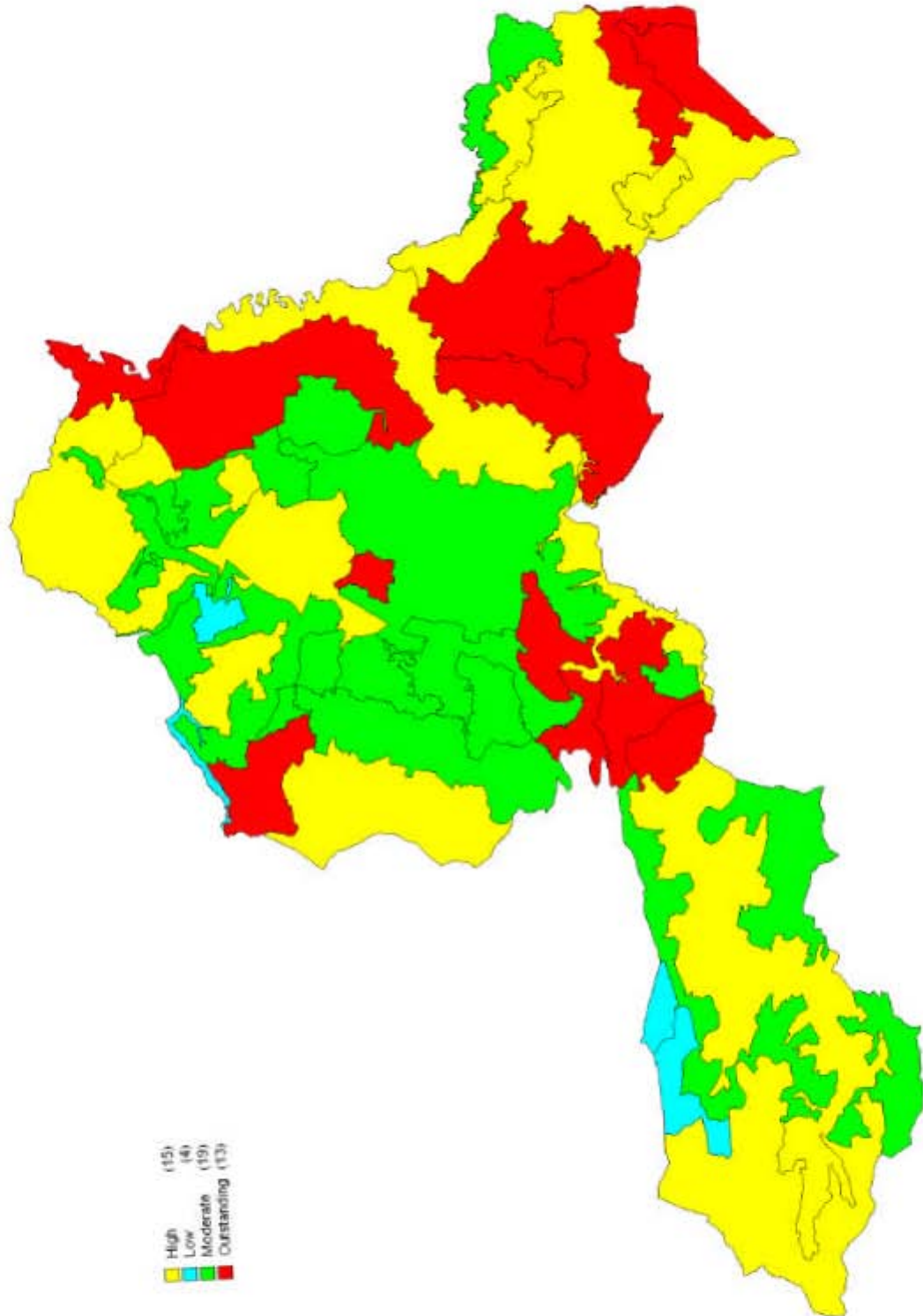
### 3. OVERALL EVALUATION OF HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ASPECT AREAS

The following table summarizes the overall evaluations awarded to Historic Landscape Aspect Areas, in line with the LANDMAP 2008 guidance. The derivations of these overall scores can be found for each area in the Collector database.

OVERALL EVALUATION	LANDSCAPE PATTERN	AREA NAME	AREA UID
Outstanding	Irregular Fieldscapes	Brynhovah	WRXHMHL026
Outstanding	Irregular Fieldscapes	Dee floodplain north	WRXHMHL003
Outstanding	Irregular Fieldscapes	Dee valley	WRXHMHL025
Outstanding	Irregular Fieldscapes	Halton	WRXHMHL036
Outstanding	Regular Fieldscapes	Commonwood	WRXHMHL018
Outstanding	Regular Fieldscapes	Emral	WRXHMHL027
Outstanding	Water & Wetland	Fenn's Moss	WRXHMHL033
Outstanding	Nucleated Settlement	Holt	WRXHMHL050
Outstanding	Other Settlement	Minera	WRXHMHL011
Outstanding	Other Settlement	Pontcysyllte	WRXHMHL046
Outstanding	Designed	Chirk Castle and Park	WRXHMHL038
Outstanding	Designed	Erddig	WRXHMHL049
Outstanding	Designed	Wynnstay	WRXHMHL024
High	Irregular Fieldscapes	Bettisfield	WRXHMHL034
High	Irregular Fieldscapes	Burton	WRXHMHL001
High	Irregular Fieldscapes	Ceiriog valley	WRXHMHL039
High	Irregular Fieldscapes	Dee floodplain south	WRXHMHL051
High	Irregular Fieldscapes	Eglwys Cross	WRXHMHL032
High	Irregular Fieldscapes	Stimmy Heath	WRXHMHL031
High	Regular Fieldscapes	Higher Lanes	WRXHMHL029
High	Regular Fieldscapes	Hoseley and Trevalyn parkland	WRXHMHL005
High	Marginal Land	Esclusham and Ruabon Mountain	WRXHMHL012
High	Marginal Land	Pen-plaenau	WRXHMHL042
High	Nucleated Settlement	Wrexham	WRXHMHL015
High	Other Settlement	Brymbo	WRXHMHL009
High	Extractive	Borras Quarry	WRXHMHL017
High	Designed	Gredington	WRXHMHL035



OVERALL EVALUATION	LANDSCAPE PATTERN	AREA NAME	AREA UID
Moderate	Irregular Fieldscapes	Alyn valley	WRXHMHL006
Moderate	Irregular Fieldscapes	Eyton	WRXHMHL020
Moderate	Irregular Fieldscapes	Gardden	WRXHMHL023
Moderate	Irregular Fieldscapes	Iscoyd	WRXHMHL030
Moderate	Irregular Fieldscapes	Llan-y-pwll	WRXHMHL016
Moderate	Irregular Fieldscapes	Mulsford	WRXHMHL028
Moderate	Irregular Fieldscapes	Talwrn	WRXHMHL021
Moderate	Irregular Fieldscapes	Trefechan	WRXHMHL013
Moderate	Irregular Fieldscapes	Windy Hill	WRXHMHL008
Moderate	Regular Fieldscapes	Plas Power	WRXHMHL014
Moderate	Other fieldscapes	Caemor	WRXHMHL040
Moderate	Other fieldscapes	Cefn Hir-fynydd	WRXHMHL041
Moderate	Other fieldscapes	Cerrig Gwynion	WRXHMHL043
Moderate	Nucleated Settlement	Chirk	WRXHMHL037
Moderate	Nucleated Settlement	Gresford	WRXHMHL004
Moderate	Nucleated Settlement	Rossett	WRXHMHL002
Moderate	Other Settlement	Coedpoeth	WRXHMHL047
Moderate	Other Settlement	Llay	WRXHMHL007
Moderate	Other Settlement	Ruabon-Rhosllanerchrugog	WRXHMHL022
Moderate	Processing/Manufacturing	Wrexham Industrial Estate	WRXHMHL019
Low	Woodland	Ceiriog Forest	WRXHMHL044
Low	Woodland	Nant y Ffrith	WRXHMHL010
Low	Marginal Land	Vivod Mountain	WRXHMHL045
Low	Other Settlement	Gwersyllt	WRXHMHL048



**Historic Landscape Aspect Areas evaluation scores for Wrexham LANDMAP**

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