



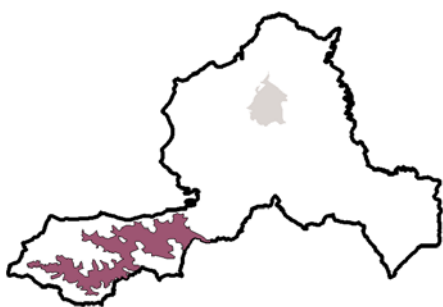
Ceiriog Valley 4

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.

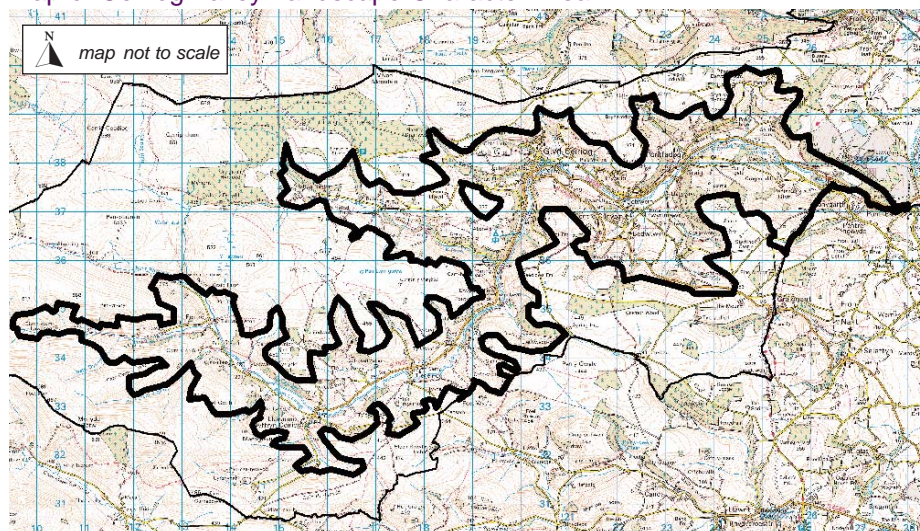
Scenic, tranquil and steep-sided valley enclosed by spurs of the Berwyn mountains, with hillside farms, wooded and farmed slopes, and small villages along the River Ceiriog.

Landscape context

The Ceiriog Valley character area is part of a wider area known generally as the Ceiriog Valley, including the surrounding moorland, forest and upland spurs of the Berwyn Mountain and foothills, all of which are culturally and visually linked. The valley is close to the border of Wales and to the lowlands, linked by minor roads, but the Berwyn ridge forms a barrier to the west.



Map of Ceiriog Valley Landscape Character Area



Character Area boundaries should be considered transitional rather than precise.
© Crown copyright. All rights reserved Licence No.100023429. 2006

Ceiriog Valley summary

- Scenic rural valley enclosed by upland ridges
- Sense of tranquillity and remoteness from urban areas
- Mosaic of pasture, woods and traditional small farms
- Small irregular fields with hedgerows and hedgerow trees
- Villages along valley bottom, with widespread use of stone for buildings
- Old quarries linked by tramway
- Area of value for informal recreation and low-key tourism
- Important area of Welsh culture



Key characteristics

Visual character:

- Upland pastoral valley with small scale mosaic of fields with hedgerows (some sparse or overgrown) and woods
- Steep open slopes give an upland feel even at lower elevations
- Constantly changing views due to zig zag shape of valley
- Scattered stone-built farms reached by steep winding lanes
- High quality of the landscape, the result of the sense of peace and tranquillity as well as the scenery

Geological character:

- The valley extends deep into the

Berwyn Mountain range, with the fast flowing River Ceiriog cutting across the underlying geology of the Berwyn Dome

- Quarries and spoil tips are evident around Glyn Ceiriog
- Soils vary but are usually well drained loams, though some areas are affected by seasonal waterlogging

Ecological character:

- River Ceiriog is a nationally important wildlife corridor and aquatic habitat
- Farmland is mainly improved grassland of low biodiversity interest but the high density of hedges and hedgerow trees is valuable for wildlife
- Valley is rich in woodland habitats - broadleaved, conifer or mixed. Semi natural broadleaved woodland is

usually associated with steep slopes and deeper tributary valleys

- Fragments of other habitats including acid grassland, dry lowland heath, lowland pasture, rush pasture, and acid flush wetland are found

Historical character:

- Older evolved/irregular small field patterns of the lower valley survive, giving way to more recently enclosed larger regular fields on upper or steeper slopes
- Border area - Offa's dyke crosses valley to the east
- Prehistoric hillforts at Tyn y cestyll near Glyn Ceiriog, and Cerrig Gwynion hillfort near Llanarmon DC
- History of wool-processing - 18th century fulling mill at Pandy, and quarrying, with Glyn Valley tramway serving local quarries

Cultural character:

- Sheep farming is the dominant land use, with some pheasant rearing, but there is increasing diversification to include rural crafts, woodland management, low key tourism and recreational facilities and activities including fishing and walking
- The Ceiriog Valley is recognised as a distinct cultural area within Wales. Welsh is widely spoken

Landscape sensitivity

The Ceiriog Valley is sensitive to any changes which might affect its rural character and tranquillity, and it is vulnerable to pressures from nearby centres of population. It is also sensitive to changes which might take place on the surrounding uplands

Overall management strategy:

Conservation

Management Guidance

Aims	Guidelines
Retain existing distinctive rural character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Avoid visually intrusive development which is not in keeping with the area, particularly development on skyline ● Ensure new buildings and conversions of older buildings are sympathetic to local character, using local materials where possible (consider small scale working of local quarries)
Preserve geological features`	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protect and maintain rock exposures and geomorphological features, and assess new exposures ● Maintain the integrity of fluvial landforms, and discourage development within the floodplain
Preserve wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protect biodiversity priority species - refer to Wrexham's Biodiversity Action Plan
Extend and enhance habitats and ecological networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protect and enhance lowland heath and grassland habitats, connect habitat fragments where possible ● Restore hay meadow management, restore and manage hedgerows, maintain small field systems ● Retain, manage and extend broadleaved woodlands. Replace coniferous trees with native species
Protect aquatic habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preserve trees along river bank and prevent excessive hard bankside management such as canalisation or retaining walls ● Refer to river habitat biodiversity action plan and otter species biodiversity action plan ● Extend and enhance grazed flood plain
Preserve archaeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preserve field boundaries and systems ● Carry out field evaluations of old quarries, field systems, villages, mills and other historic features ● Protect the setting of Offa's Dyke ● Evaluate archaeology in advance of development in villages
Encourage local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote awareness of the heritage and Welsh culture within the area. Ensure bilingual interpretation throughout the valley ● Support sustainable local agriculture, tourism, cultural initiatives and businesses ● Promote sustainable land management through agri-environment schemes



For further information contact:

Planning Environment
 Planning Department
 Wrexham County Borough Council
 Lambpit Street, Wrexham. LL11 1AR
 Tel:01978 292019
www.wrexham.gov.uk/planning

All our information is available in accessible formats

