



Dee Valley, Froncysyllte to Newbridge

9d

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

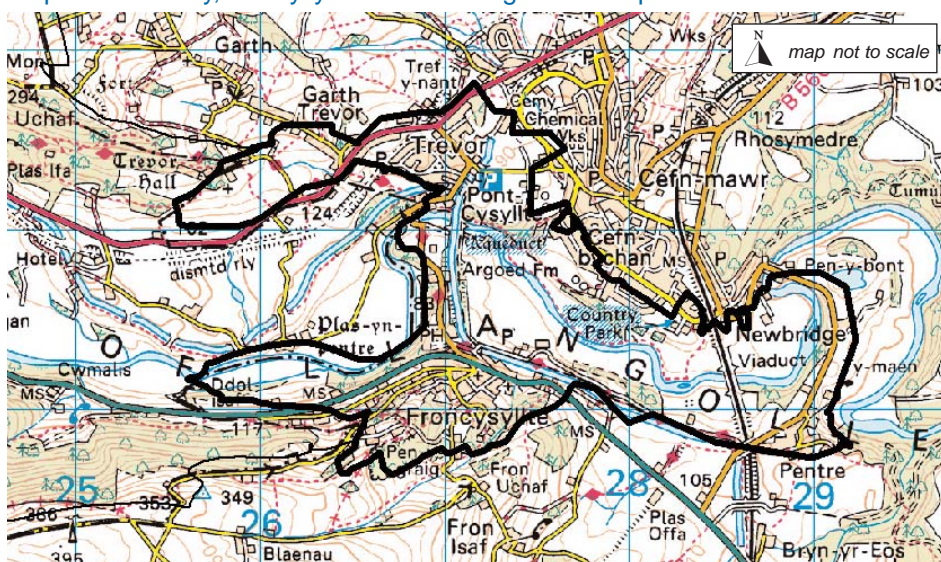
Spectacular section of the River Dee at the entrance to the Vale of Llangollen, including the Pontcysyllte aqueduct and Newbridge viaduct

Landscape context

The Dee Valley between Froncysyllte and Newbridge is one of several river valleys with woodland and pasture which have been affected by industrial uses, past or present. The other landscape character areas of this type are Clywedog Valley (9a), River Alyn Valley (9b) and Ffrith Valley (9c)



Map of Dee Valley, Froncysyllte and Newbridge Landscape Character Area



Character Area boundaries should be considered transitional rather than precise
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Dee Valley-Froncysyllte to Newbridge summary

- Key section of Dee Valley with historic canal, rail, road and Offa's Dyke crossings
- Enclosed valley with scenic views to west
- Rural land uses but close to industry and settlements
- Important river, grassland and woodland habitats
- Focus for tourism and recreation
- Outstanding industrial archaeology



Key characteristics

Visual character:

- Enclosed lowland valley with level floodplain
- Farmed and wooded character, flanked by closely built 'urban villages' of Cefn Mawr, Trevor and Froncysyllte
- Outstanding views to and from the Pontcysyllte aqueduct, Cefn railway viaduct, and nearby hills
- Notable man-made embankment carrying canal to aqueduct, which helps to form 'gateway' in valley

Geological character:

- Major river in natural channel
- Alluvial valley floor with river

terraces, narrowing above Pontcysyllte aqueduct

- River cliffs near Trevor and Newbridge cut into glacial drift and underlying sedimentary strata
- Froncysyllte is built on an outcrop of limestone, with disused quarries above the village
- The valley, following faultlines, separates the older Silurian rocks of the Berwyn uplands from the younger Carboniferous rocks of Ruabon Mountain and its eastern slopes

Ecological character:

- Lowland pasture, upland mixed ash woodland and aquatic habitats of very high value
- Remainder is improved grassland and farmland



Historical character:

- Historic crossing point - Offa's Dyke, Shropshire Union Canal, railway
- 19th/20th century workers housing at Trevor and Froncysyllte connected with expansion of industrial development which spanned the Dee Valley, including limestone quarrying and burning, industrial ceramics, and development of the chemical industry at Cefn Mawr

Cultural character:

- Historic parks and gardens - Trevor Hall and Argoed Hall
- Part within Vale of Llangollen and Eglwyseg Landscape of Special Historic Interest
- Tourism and leisure activities - Trevor Basin, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Ty Mawr country park
- Well known artistic representations of aqueduct, and literary references

Landscape sensitivity:

Very sensitive to any development which might affect the setting of Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Cefn Viaduct, and the scenic Vale of Llangollen

Overall management strategy:

Conservation and enhancement

Management guidance

Aims	Guidelines
Protect and retain scenic and historic landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify, maintain and enhance significant views ● Strengthen tree planting on edges of valley but maintain selected views with visually exciting rural-urban contrast ● Enhance recreational routes linking historic landscape features
Maintain geodiversity of area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain integrity of landforms, including fluvial landforms, and assess any new exposures ● Continue current management
Manage woodlands for biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain and develop woodland corridors linking with adjoining areas - refer to Green Network Strategy due March 2007. Increase diversity in woodland structure, restrict grazing in woodlands, and retain old/dead trees standing or fallen ● Expand native woodland types (upland mixed ash woodland) and replace conifers with broadleaves
Protect river and associated habitats and species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protect water quality, enhance river bank habitats and minimise hard bank engineering such as canalisation and retaining walls. Manage canal banks for water vole - refer to River and Canal Habitat Action Plan and Otter Species Action Plan (part of Wrexham Biodiversity Action Plan)
Increase wildlife value of farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enhance lowland pastures through management ● Diversify general agricultural land and enhance and extend hedgerows preserve hedgerow trees and plant new ones
Protect wildlife in villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protect and reduce disturbance to species in villages eg bats, newts and birds, and retain trees, hedges and stone walls
Safeguard industrial archaeology and earlier prehistoric and medieval heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No development on or near Offa's Dyke - contact Cadw ● Preserve canal and associated structures - contact British Waterways ● Preserve former quarries, tramlines, inclines, limekilns, miners' cottages and other characteristic structures - refer to Vale of Llangollen and Eglwyseg historic landscape character assessment by Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust ● Assess and protect Wrexham Borderlands fieldscape Conserve and manage historic features of Telford's Holyhead Road (A5)
Promote understanding and enjoyment of the outstanding historic industrial landscape and setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue existing management strategies for Pontcysyllte / Trefor / Ty Mawr Country Park ● Support local history/culture initiatives

For further information contact:

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All our information is available in accessible formats

