

**CHIRK**  
**CONSERVATION AREA**

**CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**  
**&**  
**MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Adopted 07 October 2014**

This document is available in Welsh

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### Conservation Area Designation

1.1 The Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act, 1990 defines Conservation Areas as “areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”. Under planning law local authorities are required to designate Conservation Areas and formulate proposals and policies for their preservation and enhancement.

### Chirk Conservation Area

1.2 The Chirk Conservation Area was first designated on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1975 and its boundary reviewed and amended in October 1997 and October 2014. This Assessment and Management Plan replaces the Chirk Conservation Area Assessment adopted in January 2002. This document is not an attempt to stifle change, instead it aims to promote and support developments that are in keeping with, or enhance, the character of Chirk Conservation Area which is a vibrant place where people live, work and shop. It must evolve, therefore, to maintain this level of activity and the aim is to strike a balance so that the interests of conservation are given their full weight against the needs for change and development.

1.3 This document is concerned with the reasons for designation and defines the qualities that contribute to the special architectural and historic interest and the character and appearance of Chirk Conservation Area. The omission of any reference to a particular building, feature or space should not be taken to imply that it is of no interest nor that it does not contribute to the general sense of place of the area.

### Aims

1.4 The aim of the Conservation Area Assessment and Management Plan is to:

- Provide a clear definition of the special architectural and historic interest of Chirk;
- Identify ways in which the unique characteristics of Chirk can be preserved and enhanced through the Enhancement Plan;
- Strengthen the justification for designation;
- Create a clear context for future development both in the Conservation Area and adjacent to the boundary in accordance with conservation policies in the development plan; and
- Provide a vehicle for public engagement and awareness raising.

1.5 To achieve the aims set out above the document is divided into two parts:

1. **The Character Assessment** – the assessment provides a brief historical background to the development of Chirk and describes and analyses the various features that give Chirk Conservation Area its special character and sense of place. The features are recorded on the character maps and their contribution discussed in more detail in Section 4.0. There should be a presumption that all of the features identified should be preserved or enhanced as required by the legislation detailed in paragraph 1.1 above.
2. **The Management Plan** – the management plan sets out proposals for the enhancement of Chirk Conservation Area and includes detailed design guidance for both new build and alterations to existing properties to ensure new works are carried out in sympathy with the special character of the area

and harmful changes are avoided. The plan also provides a summary of existing planning controls within Chirk Conservation Area and sources of possible funding.

### **Planning Context**

1.6 This document forms Supplementary Planning Guidance and supports Conservation Area policy within the adopted Wrexham Unitary Development Plan 2005 and will support any Conservation Area policies in the emerging Local Development Plan. The document also builds upon national planning policy guidance, in particular Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales and Welsh Office Circular 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas. As an adopted Council document, Chirk Conservation Area Character Assessment and Management Plan is a point of reference for Officers when exercising planning duties and also a guide for local residents, businesses and developers when considering alterations or new development within or adjacent to Chirk Conservation Area.

### **Location**

1.7 Chirk is situated on the border between Wales and England approximately 9 miles south west of Wrexham town centre and 5 miles north of Oswestry. The village sits within a shallow valley enclosed between the historic estates of Chirk Castle, which overlooks the village to the west, and Brynkinallt hidden to the east by a sloping ridge and dissected from the village by the modern A483 bypass. The Conservation Area focuses on the historic core of the village which is set on a small outcrop above the River Ceiriog and overlooking the picturesque Ceiriog Valley. The Conservation Area boundary encompasses the original medieval settlement around the Church of St Mary and Church Street and extends westwards along Station Avenue and Castle Road to include the Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct, now part of the inscribed Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site. The Conservation Area boundary also extends northwards to take in part of Holyhead Road which was altered as part of Thomas Telford's historic A5 London to Holyhead trunk road.

### **Landscape Setting**

1.8 The village is set within a shallow valley enclosed by hills to the west and a sloping ridge to the east. The western hills, which form part of the Chirk Castle Estate, lie within the extended boundary of the Clywdian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, designated in 2011. The national landscape designation, along with features of the WHS, historic parklands, Ceiriog Valley and historic A5 route are highly significant to the area's cultural heritage and Chirk's strong sense of place. There are some important views of the AONB and Chirk Castle Parkland from the northern edge of the conservation area and the AONB provides a dramatic backdrop to views on descent into the village along the A5. The Conservation Area forms an important gateway on journeys to and from the protected landscape and the heritage value of landscape and built character compliments each other.

1.9 To the south, the village is bounded by the Ceiriog Valley, where the topography, attractive wooded valley, canal heritage and excellent views along the valley enhance the setting of the village and add to the sense of place. Much of the surrounding countryside consists of ancient irregular field systems, with some regular parliamentary field enclosures mainly in pastoral use, subdivided by hedgerows and occasional hedgerow trees. Major parkland estates

lie at Chirk and Brynkinalt. Buildings are visually diverse with a mixture of historic and modern buildings extending into the valley. Medieval farmsteads dotted throughout the valley are a characteristic of the area. The village is set on a historically significant communication corridor with canal, rail and road networks visible within the landscape and running on a north south axis. Offa's Dyke Scheduled Monument follows the grain of the valley on slopes to the west through Chirk castle parkland. Both convey the important borderland location of the area.

1.10 Views of the village and the shallow valley are in places negatively influenced by industrial land use and associated structures, most prominently the factories of Kronospan and Mondelez which affect the rural landscape integrity, intrude within wider views and interrupt the visual links between the village and Chirk Castle. The pattern of mature trees and intact hedgerows within the valley creates a wooded semi-enclosed character which is significant for its integration and screening of much of the industrial area of Kronospan, moderating its effects upon the character of the Conservation Area, the AONB, wider landscape and their appreciation by local residents and visitors.

### **Geology**

1.11 Much of the village and the surrounding area is covered by glacial tills (clays) deposited by retreating glaciers during the last ice age. It is from this that the clayey loam soils of the area are derived. The ridge to the east of the village is formed from coal measures which have historically been exploited and restored coal tips can be found at Chirk Green and Halton. Chirk Castle to the west is set upon an outcrop of carboniferous sandstone and limestone, both of which have been exploited as local building materials historically and remain visible in many buildings and walls.

### **Archaeology**

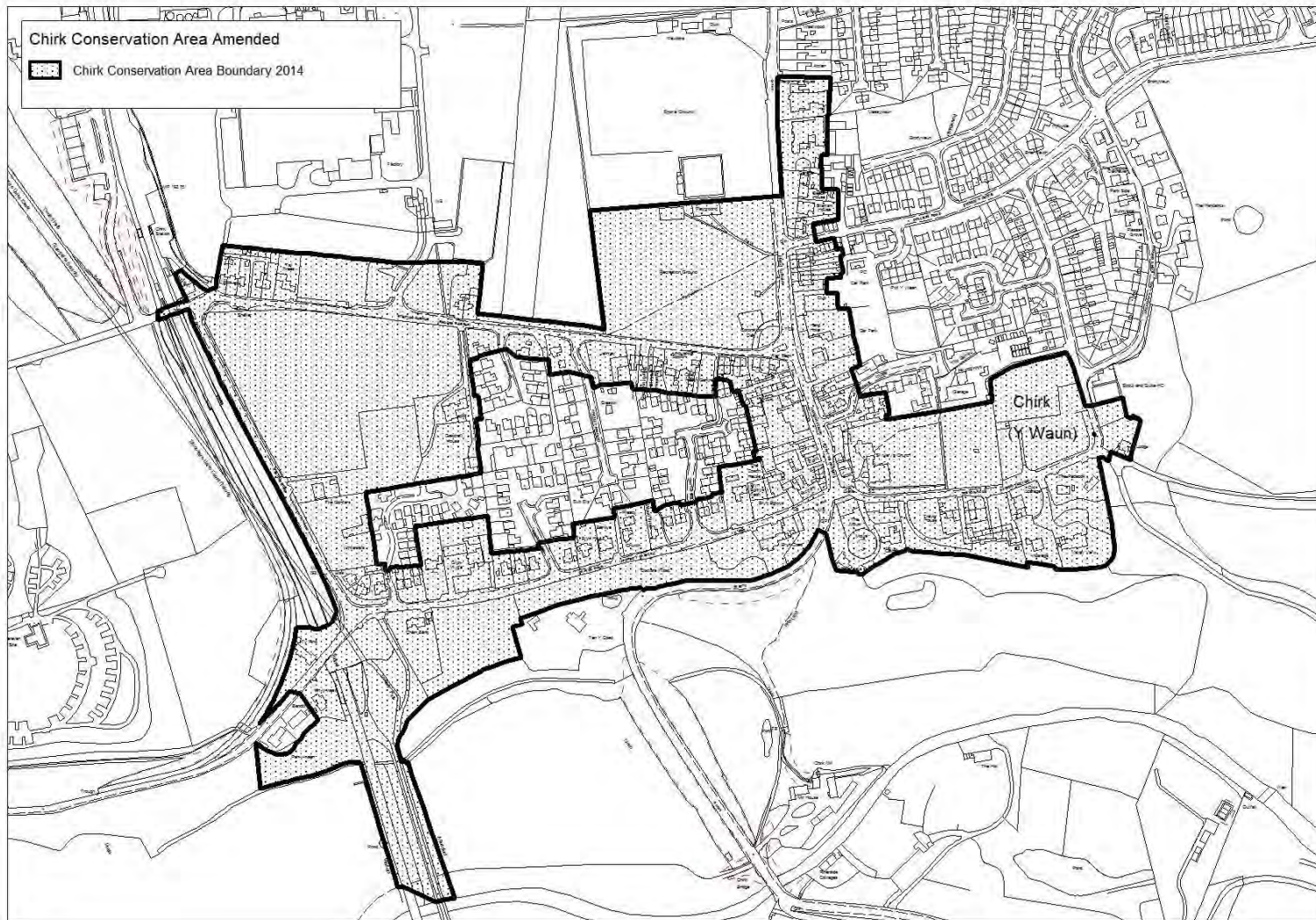
1.12 Chirk has 12<sup>th</sup> Century origins as evidenced through the remains of the earthwork castle set within the grounds of the Mount House above the Ceiriog Valley, and through the south wall of St Marys Church, where a blocked round headed window also suggests a 12<sup>th</sup> Century date. It has been suggested that Chirk originated as an English planned settlement with the earthwork castle, church and designed town layout supporting this theory. However it has also been argued that the village established as a nucleated 'maerdref' which would have been run by a bailiff for the local Welsh lord. Either theory may be possible given the position of the village on the Welsh English border.

1.13 The inclusion of Chirk within the English Marcher lordships in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century led to more established growth with Chirk granted borough status in 1324 with 24 burgage plots laid out along the main street. This number had increased to 32 by 1391 and a weekly market, hall, court room and chapel were also recorded. However the Glyndwr rebellion in the early 15<sup>th</sup> Century reportedly devastated the village and there is no recorded evidence of buildings of this era. Growth appears to have been extremely limited after this period, despite the presence and continued occupation of Chirk Castle. The earliest vernacular buildings in the village date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century evidenced in parts Trevor House on Trevor Road and the row of cottages facing the church along Church Street, also likely to be of similar date though their original construction is disguised by later re-fronting in brick.

1.14 The majority of buildings within the town originate from the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century onwards, with many dating from a small boom in building activity in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It is likely however that the buildings along Church Street reflect earlier plot positions and have respected the historic pattern of settlement in the town centre.

### **Consultation**

1.15 Public consultation was undertaken during June, July and August 2014 and involved local residents and businesses, Community Councils, Council members, statutory bodies such as Cadw and a range of organisations and groups with an interest in the historic environment and the local area.



**Figure 1 - Chirk Conservation Area**

Chirk  
Conservation Area Assessment  
& Management Plan

## **PART I - CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**

### **2.0 HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Early Development**

2.1 Chirk is rich in history. Welsh and English lords, medieval battles, influential families, religion and industry, both past and present, have all played important roles in shaping the distinct character of the village and the wider area.

2.2 The village is situated on the eastern edge of the Ceiriog Valley on the Welsh and English border, this geography offering an important strategic military position. Chirk and the surrounding area forms part of the Welsh Marches, historically a highly disputed part of the country. The history in the area can be traced back to the Roman occupation of England and Wales from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD. Two important Roman archaeological sites are located close to the village; a former Vexillation camp located at Western Rhyn to the south east of the village, was used as a base for armies bound for Snowdonia, and there are remains of a Roman Marching Camp to the west of Llanarmon DC approximately 13 miles to the south west of Chirk. The Romans built a series of encampments along the Marches whereby attacks could be mounted against the Welsh if necessary, however their occupation is recorded as having offered relative stability.

2.3 The 8<sup>th</sup> Century reputedly saw the kings of Mercia create Wat's and Offa's Dykes. The proximity of these ancient defensive boundaries to the village demonstrates both the strategically important position of Chirk as well as the volatility of the area at this time.

#### **Medieval Chirk**

2.4 The settlement of Chirk itself originates from the Norman Conquest of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Prior to the conquest Chirk was a Welsh held territory forming part of the Kingdom of Powys Fadog. The last Welsh prince to rule the area was Gruffyd ap Madoc Maelor who was also the founder of Valle Crucis Abbey in Llangollen. The Norman Conquest saw the encroachment of Norman lords into the Welsh lands, notably Roger Montgomery, the Earl of Shrewsbury. Following a rebellion by Montgomery's son, his lands at Whittington, to the south of Chirk, were returned to the Crown and given instead to William Peveral of Dover. Peveral consolidated his position on the Welsh borders building earthen motte and bailey castles at Whittington, Ellesmere and Chirk. The remains of this early castle in Chirk, now a Scheduled Ancient Monument, are set to the south of St Mary's Church, enclosed within the private garden area of The Mount. The castle was clearly sited to control access into the Ceiriog Valley and likely remained in use until the building of the present Chirk Castle. A recording of buildings taken in 1391 suggests the presence of demesne buildings including a chapel, hall, chamber, grange and barns. The hall and chapel may have been located to the west of the Church on the corner of Church Street and Castle Road at Bryn Eglwys where some surviving masonry in the cellars at Bryn Eglwys supports this theory.



2.5 Chirk is a reputed, ancient Welsh-dominated religious stronghold. This, plus the location of the earthen motte and bailey castle and the demesne buildings may have been a factor in the siting of the early 12<sup>th</sup> Century Church of St Mary. The church, which was originally dedicated to the Welsh saint Tysilio, is constructed of yellow sandstone from the upper coal measures, possibly from outcrops near the current Chirk Castle estate. The original church consisted of a nave and chancel and was extended by the addition of a parallel nave of equal size in 1519. Part of the original 12<sup>th</sup> Century structure can be seen to the exterior with residual pilaster buttresses and a round arched door, now blocked behind a later 19<sup>th</sup> Century buttress.

2.6 The late 13<sup>th</sup> Century was a crucial time in the development of the town. King Edward I, in pursuit of his Welsh Campaigns, confiscated the land previously held by the Welsh Princes and granted them as Chirkland to Roger Mortimer of Wigmore. Roger Mortimer descended from a family of Marcher barons and had been involved in preparing the King's advances into Gwynedd. Between 1295 and 1310 Mortimer built the new Chirk Castle a mile to the west of the Norman motte, which upon abandonment inevitably fell into decay and ruin. Chirk Castle does not appear to have been placed on a strategic military site, however its original gateway faced westwards towards the Ceiriog Valley so any approaching Welshman would be immediately aware of Chirk's allegiance to the English crown.

2.7 In the early 14<sup>th</sup> Century Edward II succeeded to the throne and Roger Mortimer fell out of royal favour. In 1322 Mortimer and his nephew fought and defeated Hugh le Despenser, a favourite of the king. In response the king had both Mortimer and his nephew imprisoned in the Tower of London where Roger Mortimer subsequently died 4 years later in 1326. His nephew escaped and joined forces with Queen Isabella, the King's wife, to try and overthrow Edward II from the throne.

2.8 In the absence of the Mortimer family Chirk was given to Edmond Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel. The village was carefully planned after military defences were in place and is believed to have been similar to several other townships under Edwardian control such as Denbigh, Ruthin and Rhuddlan. The village was granted a market charter and in 1324 (or perhaps earlier in 1282), Chirk became a free borough with twenty three burgage plots recorded in 1391. Evidence of this original medieval grid iron street pattern has now largely disappeared probably as a result of natural evolution, the campaign of Owain Glyndwr in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century and the later 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century development of the town.

2.9 The campaigns of Glyndwr in the early 15<sup>th</sup> Century had a devastating impact upon the town and included the decimation of the hall and chapel at Bryn Eglwys. In 1413, Henry IV pardoned the Welsh rebels however as punishment he subjected the Welsh to harsh restrictions and new laws that were prohibitive to the recovery of the village. The area suffered yet further turmoil during the War of the Roses in the mid 15<sup>th</sup> Century. Chirk appears to have taken many years to recover from this devastation; in 1530 the travel writer Leland noted only a few houses in Chirk. Certainly from his description

there seemed little in the way of the once thriving market of Edward I despite the fact the village had been granted a second market charter by Henry VII in 1506.

### **16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

2.10 In the late 16<sup>th</sup> Century Chirk Castle was purchased by Thomas Myddleton, a Merchant adventurer, in whose lineage it has continued until the present day. Events in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century had an influence on both the Castle and the wider landscape of Chirk, most notably the Civil War of 1642-47. Myddleton was a Parliamentarian sympathiser. This sympathy enraged King Charles and he had Chirk Castle seized by Colonel Ellis of Wrexham. Ellis held the Castle for 3 years, during which time King Charles stayed at Chirk Castle for a night. The Castle was eventually surrendered by the Royalist defenders in 1646 and Myddleton was able to return to his home as Governor. However after the Civil War Myddleton became disenchanted with Cromwells rules and subsequently changed allegiance in favour of the Crown. In revenge for swopping allegiance the castle was damaged by brute force when it is reputed the upper part of the towers were demolished.

2.11 In the mid 17<sup>th</sup> Century, Sir Thomas Myddleton created Whitehurst Gardens to the north of the village. Whitehurst was built as a pleasure garden for Sir Thomas and for entertaining important guests including Major General James Berry, Duke of Beaufort, the Lord President of Wales and various circuit judges. The gardens included a banqueting house, a summerhouse, an orangery, deer park, fish ponds and a boat house

2.12. Whitehurst gardens eventually fell into decline, and by 1931 became part of the land used for colliery housing for Black Park. The walls, terrace and impressively large mount still survive and the garden is included on Cadw's register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

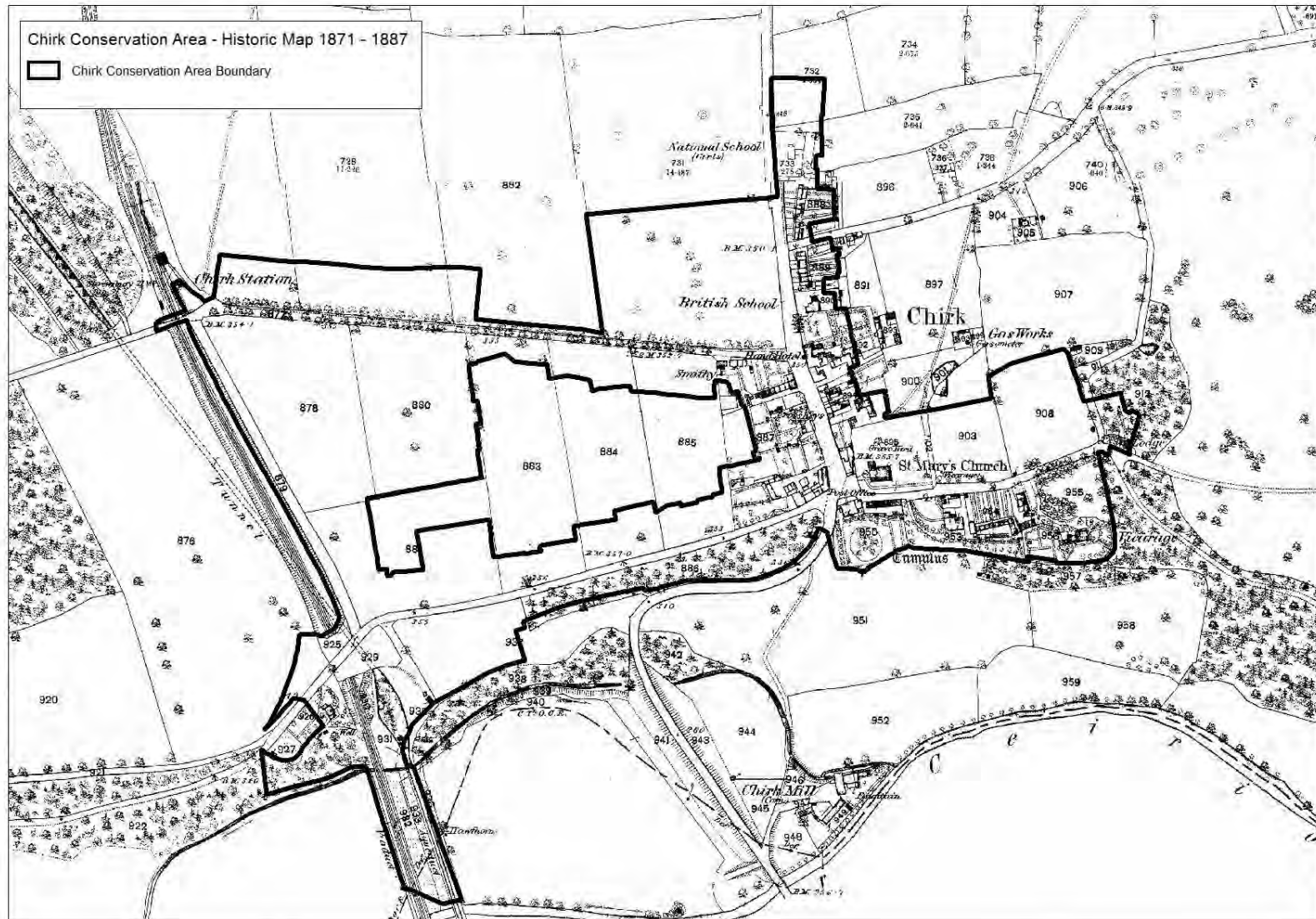


Figure 2 – Chirk 1871 – 1887

## **The Industrial Revolution**

2.13 The late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries represent an era of significant technological, economical and social advancements in Britain which became known as the Industrial Revolution. In Chirk the revolution saw the increased exploitation of local minerals in the area including coal, slate, limestone and clay. Iron was already being produced near Chirk at Pont y Blew forge to the east of the village. The forge was established in the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century under a consortium of local gentry led by Sir Thomas Myddleton of Chirk Castle. The forge was sold by Myddleton in the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century and continued operating until 1870.

2.14 One of the most important developments to occur within Chirk during the Industrial Revolution was the construction of the Ellesmere to Llangollen Canal in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries. The canal was developed to improve transport and communication links between the mineral fields of North Wales and the industrial cities of the midlands and further afield. The canal formed part of a national network of inland navigation with over 1,180 miles of inland waterways built between 1790 and 1810.

2.15 The route of the canal through the Welsh uplands was challenging for the Canal's engineers and required the development of new methods of engineering and construction through a constant exchange of ideas and reviews of previous practices. The dynamic relationship between William Jessop, the prolific master canal-builder and Thomas Telford, the younger engineering genius was very productive and together they devised a solution to carry the canal across the Ceiriog Valley between Chirk Bank and Chirk.

2.16 The foundation stone of the Chirk Aqueduct was laid in June 1796, but just before construction began Telford altered the design of the aqueduct and replaced the iron trough with stone arches. The aqueduct was for a short time the tallest navigable aqueduct ever built and its design was a breakthrough compared with conventional aqueducts through its reduced breadth and lighter foundation loading – essential qualities in an aqueduct of such height. Chirk Aqueduct was opened with complete success in 1801 and is an excellent example of pioneering industrial architecture of simple but pleasing functionality within a beautiful landscape setting.

2.17 Chirk Aqueduct and tunnel now form part of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site which covers 11.5miles of the canal from Gledrid Bridge in England to Horseshoes Falls in Llangollen. The site was inscribed by UNESCO in 2009 in recognition of the outstanding universal value of the site as a masterpiece of late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century civil engineering in a challenging upland landscape.

2.18 Changes were also occurring in the town during this period and Chirk experienced an element of urbanisation fuelled by an influx of money into the area. By the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century the Georgian architectural style had gained influence amongst the local gentry and industrialists replacing the

vernacular style of building. The Mount, at the head of Church Street is a fine example of early Georgian architecture with its classic symmetrical façade.

2.19 Also of importance to the development of the town was the creation of Thomas Telford's A5 road which improved travelling from London to Holyhead in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The road went through the centre of the town and created business opportunities particularly in the form of hostelries and inns. The Hand Hotel, a grade II listed building, is a good surviving example of one of the early hostelries. The smaller inns and public houses have largely disappeared or have been extensively remodelled concealing their earlier function.

2.20 Further advances in transport and communication came in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century with the development of the Shrewsbury to Chester railway line. Henry Robertson was the chief engineer on the line and designed Chirk Viaduct to carry the railway across the Ceiriog River and Valley. Robertson recognised the need, not met by the canals, to transport materials to Wrexham and Chester and the viaduct was built deliberately higher than the aqueduct to emphasise the superiority of rail over water. The viaduct, a grade II\* listed structure, comprises 16 arches which rise 30metres above the valley and is an important example of early railway engineering. The viaduct has significant group value with the aqueduct and together impressively span the valley.

2.21 The 19<sup>th</sup> Century also introduced the Victorian code of moral and social responsibility to the town. This manifested itself in a number of purpose built buildings notably the picturesque Hand Terrace on Holyhead Road and Jebbs Row on Trevor Road. Hand Terrace was commissioned by Charlotte Myddleton-Biddulph of Chirk Castle to provide cottages for estate workers with Jebbs Row, built for workers on the Brynkinallt estate by Richard Jebb, an agent to the Trevor family and the estate. Charlotte Myddleton-Biddulph also commissioned the construction of the former National Girls School in 1843. The architect was Augustus Pugin, co-architect of the Houses of Parliament, who was overseeing alterations to Chirk Castle at the same time.

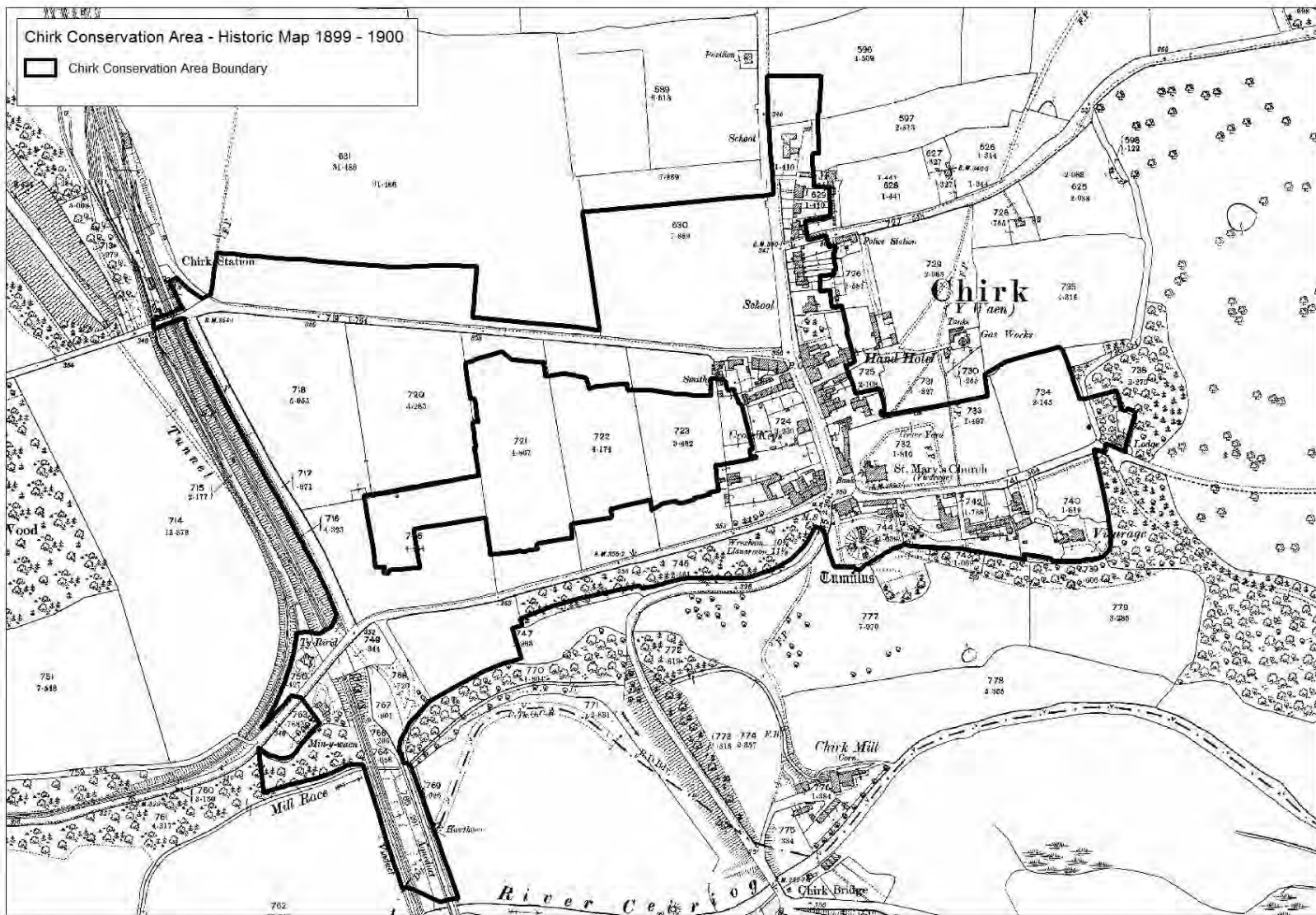


Figure 3 – Chirk 1899 – 1900

## **20<sup>th</sup> Century**

2.22 Expansion of the town in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century was limited. Much of the town and surrounding land was owned by the Chirk Castle Estate which strictly controlled development, particularly to the west along Station Avenue and Castle Road. To the north east of the town, the establishment of Brynkinallt Colliery in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century led to the development of a small community at Chirk Green with rows of small terraced houses constructed close to the colliery for the workers.

2.23 The most significant phases of expansion within the town came in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century when the Chirk Castle Estate sold much of the land and properties in their ownership in the sale of 1911. As a result buildings began to appear along Station Avenue and Castle Road with some fine examples of Edwardian and revival style architecture, their simple restrained detailing now characteristic of this part of the Conservation Area.

2.24 Bryn Coed and Chain Bank on Castle Road, Chirk Council Offices on Holyhead Road and Whitewalls on Station Road are all excellent, early 20<sup>th</sup> Century examples of differing revival styles of architecture within the Conservation Area. The Council offices were built in 1902 and are a good example of a neo-Jacobean domestic style public building. Bryn Coed was built in 1912 by Shayler and Ridge for A. Wood, a manager at Brynkinallt Colliery in the Restoration revival style and is notable for its symmetrical composition and detailing. Whitewalls and Chain Bank are of later date and have been designed in a vernacular revival style reminiscent of the Arts and Crafts Movement of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Their carefully considered detailing and fenestration make them particularly distinctive within the Conservation Area.

2.25 The later 20<sup>th</sup> Century has seen the expansion of Chirk northwards along Holyhead Road with the settlement at Chirk Green expanded and incorporated into the main settlement. Significant numbers of Local Authority housing were erected to the east of the A5 in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century which more than trebled the size of Chirk. Further expansion northwards continued in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century with the arrival of both the Kronospan and Mondelez factories. Kronospan was established in the town in 1970 on land previously used for agriculture; the original farmhouse, Maes-gwyn remains on the site and now forms part of the industrial complex. The continued investment and growth in both industries has helped support the town, however the huge height and scale of the factories has unfortunately detracted from the wider landscape setting of Chirk and impacts significantly on the approach into the Conservation Area.

2.26 Residential development also continued in the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century with the construction of the Crogen and Offa residential estates. The pattern of new development is distinct being constrained by the sloping ridge to the east and the old A5 to the west which provides a definite boundary between residential and industrial land uses. Little 20<sup>th</sup> Century development has occurred within the historic core of the town which has helped preserve the special character of the Conservation Area.

2.27 The later 20<sup>th</sup> Century also saw the re-routing of the A5 to the east of the town following the opening of the A483 bypass. This significantly reduced traffic flow through the centre of Chirk and unfortunately dissected the Brynkinallt estate from the town. Today Chirk is a popular and busy town with the centre providing a variety of goods and services. Whilst the vitality and viability of the town has been threatened in recent years it is hoped that it can continue to build upon the existing tourism economy through its historical associations and proximity to Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site, as well Chirk Castle and the picturesque Ceiriog Valley.





### 3.0 SUMMARY OF SPECIAL CHARACTER

3.1 The character of Chirk Conservation Area is diverse with different streets displaying distinctive characteristics. This is a result of a variety of influences including historical development, architectural fashions, ownership and building use. In summary the special character derives principally from the following key features:

#### **Use**

3.2 The Conservation Area comprises both commercial and residential uses which have typically respected the earlier historic pattern of land use. Church Street forms the commercial core with the predominant use of buildings being retail. The active frontages to the shops, which line both sides of the street, are inviting for people and create a strong sense of vibrancy. The vibrancy of Church Street is further enhanced through a definite pedestrian focus with well maintained public realm, highway treatments and distinctive street furniture. The commercial and public use continues onto Holyhead Road however the interspersed domestic properties and the openness of the recreational ground opposite, offers less enclosure and vibrancy to the streetscape.

3.3 Station Avenue, Castle Road and Trevor Road are predominantly residential in their use and as a result typically have a more quiet and peaceful sense of place. This is further enhanced by the narrow widths of the roads and prevalence of trees and greenery. The properties are typically set back from the highway however they still actively respond to the street with principle frontages facing the road. A variety of boundaries, including hedges, brick and stone walling enclose the majority of residential properties and subtly define the public and private space.

#### **Settlement Pattern and Building Line**

3.4 A planned, linear form predominates throughout the Conservation Area with Church Street and Holyhead Road running north to south with the other roads radiating outwards on a roughly east to west axis. This planned form is reflective of the historic medieval street pattern of the town with Church Street at the historic core, where the building positions and plots likely predate the buildings that exist today. Here buildings generally sit directly adjacent to the highway creating a strong and active building line. The arrangement of buildings around St Mary's Precinct is of particular interest giving variety to the centre and creating an informal area of public realm.

3.5 Station Avenue, Trevor Road and Castle Road are less densely settled with a more open and rural character. However the settlement pattern remains planned, particularly along Station Avenue and Castle Road where buildings typically date from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Here buildings are consistently set back from the highway behind simple boundary treatments and well maintained gardens sustaining a definite building line. Trevor Road has a more organic settlement pattern which is complimented by the openness of the Churchyard and cemetery opposite.

#### **Building Materials**

3.6 Both brick and yellow sandstone are common building materials within the Conservation Area. Historically sandstone has been used for the more prestigious

buildings within the area, such as the Church of St Mary and Chirk Castle, becoming a more frequent building material for small scale domestic properties in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It's use is most prevalent along Holyhead Road and Trevor Road with the larger, public buildings such as Chirk Town Council Offices, the former national girls school and the British Legion, as well as the more humble, earlier 19<sup>th</sup> Century cottages of Jebbs Row on Trevor Road and Stanton House and the former post office on Holyhead Road, all being of local sandstone construction. Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct are also of yellow sandstone construction, where this material adds a simple elegance to their functional appearance.

3.7 Warm local red brick is also evident, with The Mount, 2 Church Street, The Hand Hotel and 1 to 3 Castle Road being good examples of 18<sup>th</sup> Century brickwork, typically in the Flemish bond style. Later 19<sup>th</sup> Century and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century brickwork is of smooth, bright Ruabon red or a deeper purple colour. Painted brick and render is also present within the area, and whilst it obscures the original detailing, it offers a contrast to the warm stone and brick and adds some variety to the streetscape. Roofs are generally of slate although some small, red clay tiles also exist within the Conservation Area.

### **Building Detail**

3.8 Generally external detailing and decoration is fairly minimal and understated to the majority of buildings within the area. Instead, facades are given interest through the pattern and type of windows and doors and their position within the elevation. Vertical sliding sash windows in white painted timber, and panelled timber doors with fanlights are common to the architecture of Georgian and Edwardian properties. Mock, half timbering and advanced two storey gables are also common to the Edwardian architecture and Station Avenue and Castle Road display some fine examples of these details. Other typical details include sandstone window sills and heads, segmental and cambered brick arched heads and stone storey bands. Vernacular buildings typically tend to have multi-paned, side hung casement windows and plank and board doors, such as those displayed on Hand Terrace. Windows and doors to the terrace are set within gothic arches, a distinct feature of the buildings and giving the terrace a strong sense of individuality.

3.9 There is of course some exception to the understated detailing, particularly in the larger, bespoke domestic properties such as Chirk Manor and the public buildings of Holyhead Road which is reflective of their function and higher status historically. The detailing displayed to the stone properties is reflective of the revival style of architecture employed and typically features repeating, coped gables with kneelers, mullioned and transomed stone windows and large stone axial and end chimney stacks.

3.10 Porches also feature regularly within the Conservation Area and are of modest scale and typically open, gabled porches no larger than the door head itself.

### **Topography**

3.11 The position of Chirk, located on a flat plain nestled between two ridges, creates a strong sense of enclosure for the village and contributes significantly to views from the Conservation Area and of its outlying landscape setting. The undulating, hills to the west, which form part of the Clywdian Range and Dee Valley

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and host the Chirk Castle estate, are characterised by fields and clusters of trees which form an attractive backdrop. To the south, the village is bounded by the picturesque Ceiriog Valley. The steep and wooded sides of the valley conceal much of the Conservation Area from views from the south with glimpses of the tower of St Mary's Church, Bryn y Coed and Chirk Manor discernible from Chirk Bank. As the road ascends and winds towards the Conservation Area, excellent views along the Ceiriog Valley are afforded. Here, the scale and beauty of Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct can be appreciated as they span the valley. The steep topography of the valley creates a definite sense of arrival into the village centre which is further enhanced by the position and scale of the nearby buildings, most notably 1 to 3 Castle Road and Mount House clustering around the junction with Castle Road, Church Street and Trevor Road.

### **Buildings of Significance**

3.12 Chirk Conservation Area contains a high number of listed buildings, the majority of which are concentrated around the historic core of the village at Church Street and Trevor Road. These buildings add significantly to the historic integrity of the Conservation Area and contribute to the distinctiveness of the village. Many of the listed buildings also act as landmark features within the wider landscape and the streetscape, where their design, scale and position often make them focal points within key views. The Hand Hotel and Mount House are good examples of landmark buildings where their prominent position at the head of Station Avenue and Church Street respectively, their 3-storey height and formal symmetry draw attention along principal routes. Also of particular note are the grade II\* listed Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct whose, design, function, scale and setting create a most impressive sense of arrival into the Conservation Area.

3.13 The majority of buildings within the Conservation Area are not listed however their contribution to the character and appearance of the area is also very important. The Edwardian and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century buildings which characterise Station Avenue and much of Castle Road are of particular significance, where the consistent detailing and rhythm of the built form create a definite sense of place.

### **Trees and Open Space**

3.14 Trees are prevalent within the Conservation Area adding to the setting of many properties and to the sense of arrival into the village particularly from Chirk Bank to the south where they exaggerate the incline of the road into the village. Additionally the wooded banks of the valley contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site adding to the wider landscape setting and visual quality of the grade II\* listed Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct.

3.15 Also of particular importance and high amenity value are the trees along Trevor Road, Station Avenue and on, and surrounding the recreational ground, a significant number of which are protected under Tree Preservation Orders. Here the well maintained trees add to the peaceful sense of place and quality of the area. The lime trees along the north side of Station Avenue are of high significance enhancing the linear street pattern and channelling views towards the Hand Hotel in the east and the railway bridge and approach to Chirk Castle in the west. Additionally these trees, along with those surrounding the recreational ground help

buffer the negative visual impact of the industrial buildings at the Mondelez and Kronospan factory sites.

3.16 Open space is also a character feature of the quieter areas of Trevor Road, Station Avenue and Castle Road. The most significant area is the recreational ground set between Holyhead Road and Station Avenue. This space provides an important communal area and has a planned feel created through the formal entrance at the junction of Station Avenue and Church Street. The cemetery on Trevor Road is also an important open space adding to the setting of the Church of St Mary and contributing to the more rural and low density character of the street.

### **Influence of the Chirk Castle and Brynkinallt Estates**

3.17 The roads names of Trevor Road and Castle Road suggest at the presence of the estates however their influence upon the development of the town is more subtle. The ownership of much of the town and surrounding land by the two estates, in particular Chirk Castle, meant development and growth was controlled and historically buildings were generally concentrated to Church Street and Trevor Road. Expansion westwards only occurred after the sale of the estate lands in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century which is why many of the properties along Station Avenue and Castle Road are of this era.

3.18 Direct physical evidence of the estates is displayed in Hand Terrace, Trevor Row, Brynkinallt Lodge and the former National Girls School which are all directly attributable to either Chirk Castle or Brynkinallt Hall. Brynkinallt Lodge and Hand Terrace are perhaps the most obvious estate buildings within the Conservation Area, the Lodge, along with the gate-piers and railings clearly defining an important entrance to the Brynkinallt Estate and having an architectural continuity with other Lodge buildings belonging to the estate in Shropshire. Whilst neither estate has a single architectural style for estate buildings or cottages, Hand Terrace can easily be distinguished as estate cottages through their picturesque design, unique within the Conservation Area.

## 4.0 CHARACTER IN DETAIL

4.1 The Conservation Area can be subdivided into four distinct character areas as described below:

### **Church Street**

4.2 Church Street is likely the oldest section of the Conservation Area and forms the main shopping and commercial centre to the village. The vibrant use of the centre, development pattern, varying architecture and strong pedestrian focus make this area distinct within the Conservation Area. Buildings vary in age and subsequently character however newer buildings have typically followed original building lines and plot positions with the medieval street pattern pre-dating the majority of the buildings present today. The variety of building types, ages and scales is representative of the historic development of the centre and gives the street an informal appearance however the generally strong, uniform and parallel building lines maintain the sense of enclosure and activity within the streetscape.

4.3 Buildings with strong architectural character such as The Mount, The Hand Hotel and the war memorial occupy important plots enclosing the street at either end, giving a definite sense of arrival into the area and forming important focal points within views. Other buildings within the sub-area are more vernacular in character with some later 20<sup>th</sup> Century buildings sympathetically integrated into the historic grain.

4.4 The grade II\* listed war memorial marks the northern boundary of the sub area and is centrally set on a traffic island at the junction of Station Avenue and Church Road. The memorial was designed by Eric Gill and commissioned by Howard de Walden, tenant of Chirk Castle in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The square obelisk memorial has a simple elegance and is constructed of Portland Stone. The wide junction allows the memorial to take prominence within the village centre where its setting is enhanced by the proximity to the recreational ground and the grade II listed Hand Hotel which sits opposite.

4.5 The Hand Hotel is a fine marker building within the Conservation Area, its prominent position, height and fine Georgian façade drawing attention within views and the streetscape. The development of the grade II listed building can be divided into 3 parts; the earliest section being the smaller, southern block which is of painted brick construction. This part originated in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century as a town house of the Chirk Castle Estate. Evidence of former openings are still discernible in the external fabric of the building. The main central block dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and its prominent position at the head of Station Avenue appears to be a deliberate attempt of 18<sup>th</sup> Century town planning. This section is the most striking in terms of scale and architectural detail and is a good example of a classical, symmetrical façade typical of the Georgian era. The main façade is of three storeys and five bays wide, the central three bays being slightly advanced. Tripartite sash windows are set symmetrically around the central entrance, which has paired timber door with a Tuscan portico carrying a flat topped entablature. The north wing is of 19<sup>th</sup> Century date and follows the design of the principle Georgian block over two storeys.

4.6 Looking southwards along Church Street there is a consistent building line to either side of the street providing enclosure and channelling views towards The Mount, which forms an important terminus to the street. Many of the buildings have lost their chimneys however the range in building heights, from one storey to three storeys, along with the use of dormer windows gives interest and variation to the roofscape.

4.7 Lining the corner of Station Avenue and Church Street is an attractive Edwardian arcade of shops. The building, which houses a variety of commercial uses, is in the Neo-Tudor style with a slightly jettied black and white timber façade to the upper floor and Ruabon brick at the lower level. A series of gables, fluted pilasters and hanging timber signage add further interest to the façade. Tall, corbelled, Ruabon red brick chimney stacks remain to the roof.

4.8 The majority of the buildings lining the west side of Church Street were constructed in the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Some, like Greystones, a terrace of three shops, were built in place of earlier buildings and have respected the historic pattern of development. Greystones and the adjacent Royston House, a two storey double fronted cottage, continue the Edwardian architecture, with rendered upper storeys and brick and tiled ground floors. Royston House has a simple charm and has retained much of its original character with canted bay windows surrounding a centrally positioned, recessed, arched porch with original sliding sash, timber, windows. The property is set back from the street enclosed behind a low red brick wall surmounted with stone copings and decorative cast iron railings.

4.9 To the rear of Greystones and set perpendicular to Church Street is Queen's Square, a terrace of four painted render cottages. The buildings originally formed part of the coach house to The Hand Hotel and have subsequently been adapted for residential use. The modest cottages have renewed windows and doors however the traditional slate roof has been retained.

4.10 The Co-op store, HSBC bank and a number of independent stores continue the built frontage and provide activity along Church Street. The buildings, which make an important contribution to the economy and vitality of the town centre, vary in height from two storeys to three storeys with some of the modern shop fronts having some sympathy with the historic character of the area through the use of appropriate materials and smaller panes to the display windows, however there remains much scope for enhancement. Of particular interest is the HSBC bank building and numbers 1 to 4 Church Street. The bank building is of late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> Century date and is constructed in the Neo-classical style, typical of many such bank buildings built in this era. It is the only local sandstone building on Church Street. Numbers 1 to 4 Church Street have a high townscape value, which along with the grade II listed 1 to 3 Castle Road, form a continuous built frontage that wraps around the prominent junction of Castle Road and Church Street adding to the sense of arrival into the area from the south. The three storey height adds further prominence to the group however modern windows and unsympathetic shop fronts have weakened their historical and aesthetic value.

4.11 The busy junction of Church Street, Castle Road and Trevor Road is a historic convergence point within the village and is flanked by a number of listed

buildings. Numbers 1 to 3 Castle Road face southwards towards the Ceiriog Valley and have an attractive, red brick, early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century façade, with 2 and 3 light multi-pane casement windows and small scale, open gable porches. Numbers 1 and 2, formerly Chirk Surgery, have been altered significantly inside to accommodate the former medical use. The grade II listed row comprises both two and three storey buildings with the renewed and unified brickwork frontage concealing the earlier origins of the group; original timber framing can be viewed to both the exterior and interior of number 2. Number 3, Bryn Eglwys completes the row. This three storey building is believed to have been constructed on the site of the Great House destroyed by the uprising in 1402 and may well have been the location of the Saracen's Head Inn recorded in 1720. The building is set within large grounds and the principal frontage is orientated westwards overlooking the garden. Windows to the principal frontage consist of twelve pane sliding sashes with the main door set under a characteristic gabled porch. To Castle Road the position of earlier openings are still discernible within the brickwork.

4.12 Bryn Coed occupies the opposite site and is set behind a high brick boundary wall within spacious grounds. The garden wall, along with the presence of trees, which over hang the road, the narrow road width and the brick walling at Bryn Eglwys opposite create a strong sense of enclosure to this section of Castle Road. Bryn Coed, a grade II listed building, is a very fine well-proportioned early 20<sup>th</sup> Century property. The architecture is in a revival style with a classical symmetrical composition originally comprising a 'U' shape plan. The property was built for A. Wood, manager of Brynkinallt Colliery in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century and is constructed of purple Ruabon type brick, with hipped slate roof with tall brick chimney stacks above a timber dentil eaves cornice. Windows are a mixture of twelve, nine and eight paned sliding sash windows with the decorative main entrance contained within the single storey central bay which links to the two outer wings. The trees within the grounds of Bryn Coed are very important to the character of the area, particularly to the south where they add to the setting and sense of arrival into the village.

4.13 Also of interest at the junction is a small milestone which is set against the curved stone wall between Church Street and Castle Road. The grade II listed structure, which although of late 19<sup>th</sup> Century date is an important reminder of the engineering feat of Thomas Telford's A5 road which was constructed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

4.14 The Mount is set at the southern end of Church Street and provides closure to views along the street. This position, height and its elevated setting above the descent southwards towards Chirk Bank make the building particularly prominent and distinct within the Conservation Area. The grade II listed property was built in 1753 and is a handsome Georgian double-pile townhouse of brick construction. The front elevation is of three bays wide with a central main entrance containing a six panelled door with over-light, set under a moulded timber hood supported on shallow brackets. Windows to the frontage are sixteen pane sliding sashes with 6 pane sashes to the attic storey; those to the rear have been renewed and finished with a stain rather than a traditional paint finish. Other detailing includes a moulded string course between first and second floors, end chimney stacks, dated lead hoppers and downpipes and a twenty pane Venetian window to the right hand single storey wing. The building is enclosed behind painted iron



railings set within a low stone plinth which adds to the setting and status of the house. The building once served as a boy's school however today it is subdivided into separate apartments.

4.15 Located to the rear of The Mount are the remains of the Norman Motte and Bailey castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The unnatural rise in the ground is visible on the approach from the south and is concealed behind a sandstone wall with small Tudor arched doorway. Some later 20<sup>th</sup> Century development in area, particularly bungalow development, fail to acknowledgement to the historical significance or character of this site.

4.16 Whilst not included within the Church Street sub-area, the contribution of the grade I listed church to the character, and indeed the name, of Church Street cannot be ignored. The Church of St Mary is perhaps the most important building within the Conservation Area, its position design and height deliberately drawing attention and giving prominence to the building at a time when religion was at the core of everyday life. The church originates from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and its siting would likely have been directly influenced by the location of the nearby Norman Motte and Bailey castle. Originally this positioning would have been particularly dominant within the medieval grid iron street pattern, however Georgian and Victorian town planning have lessened the Church's overall visual impact. That said, the Church remains prominent on arrival from the south, from the east and from the west where its full size, architectural design and height can be fully appreciated. This is further enhanced by the paved area of public realm surrounding the Lych-gate on Church Street and by the open Churchyard and cemetery along Trevor Road. To the north the medieval castellated tower has an omnipotent presence visible above the roof-scape and a dominant feature within wider views into the Conservation Area.

4.17 To the east side of Church Street, buildings are typically earlier in origin. To the front of St Mary's Church is 2 Church Street, a large, warm, red brick, two and a half storey late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> Century building whose scale compliments that of The Mount and 1 to 4 Church Street directly opposite. The building houses a number of commercial units, including estate agents, florist and bakery. A number of fine Victorian shop fronts remain to the units, that to the Estate Agents being a later insertion, adding to the buildings character and the historic integrity of the area. Windows are multi-pane timber casements set under segmental brick arched heads. Gabled dormers and brick axial stacks add interest to the roof-scape.

4.18 Adjacent is St Mary's Precinct, an L-shaped row of shops set back from the highway at an angle and partly in front of St Mary's churchyard. The row comprises a butcher's, a chemist and a bridal boutique however original shop detailing has been replaced. The juxtaposition of the commercial terrace to the open space in front of the buildings, currently used for informal parking, is important and creates a natural focal point within the town centre against the strong linear building line. The precinct has its own character however the sense of place is weakened by its separation from the street, set behind a stone wall and bus stop. The area could be greatly enhanced through appropriate paving materials, removal of the parking to create a better pedestrian focus to the area and more legible public realm.

4.19 Steve McArdle butchers shop is of interest within the group and is of painted render construction with a single storey projection set perpendicular to Church Street which houses the main retail area. To the rear is a two-storey building which has the appearance of a farm building with hayloft door. From the Churchyard, the rear of the chemist and bridal shop are particularly visible and better reveal the age and character of the buildings having been subject to less change.

4.20 Lining Church Street between St Mary's precinct and The Hand Hotel are numbers 1 to 4 St Mary's Close and 4 to 6 The Courtyard. The buildings form a continuous group and are important to maintaining the built frontage and enclosure of the street. Numbers 1 to 4 St Mary's Close are a later addition to the original vernacular terrace, replacing the Cross Keys Public House and forming part of the larger St Mary's close development carried out in the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The design of the newer terrace is in sympathy with the original vernacular character using matching materials and dormer windows however the use of over-sized bay windows, Upvc window frames and lack of doorways to the Church Street elevation has interrupted the rhythm of the original composition.

4.21 Numbers 4, 5, 5a and 6 The Courtyard are the only remains of an earlier vernacular terrace which once lined Church Street and reputedly originated from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. The buildings are in commercial use, which along with their attractive, simple detailing and open gabled porches create an active frontage to the street. The buildings are of modest scale being one and a half storeys in height with simple gabled dormers with small red clay tiled roofs. The lack of chimneys to the row however is unfortunate and weakens their presence.



## **Trevor Road**

4.22 Trevor Road extends eastwards from the junction with Church Street and is bound by the Churchyard and Cemetery to the north and the Ceiriog Valley to the south. Trevor Road was once the point where the historic estate lands of Chirk Castle and Brynkinallt met and intermingled for centuries. The road gains its name from the Trevor Family who occupy Brynkinallt Hall to the east of the village. Evidence of the former associations with the estate and the family remain strong with the grade II listed Chirk Lodge set at the head of the road and marking one of the key entrances to Brynkinallt Hall and park. This sub-area has a more rural, open character than Church Street and the presence of many historic buildings gives the area greater historic integrity. All buildings other than the Church and Chirk Lodge are set to the southern side of Trevor Road where some are afforded fine views over the Ceiriog Valley. Domestic use predominates with dwellings set back from the road and enclosed behind either sandstone or rendered boundary walling. Trees are particularly prominent within this sub-area, adding to the sense of enclosure along the road and forming an important backdrop to views out of the area, most notably to the east within Brynkinallt Park.

4.23 The Church of St Mary and its substantial churchyard and cemetery define the arrival onto Trevor Road and dominate this sub-area with fine views of the Church afforded from the east. The churchyard, which creates a sense of peace and tranquillity, is enclosed behind stone walling for much of its length along Trevor Road. The enclosure is further enhanced through the prevalence of trees, particularly yew trees, which line the site. There are numerous grade II listed structures within the grounds of the church, including the Lychgate, sundial, Ward Monument and Trevor Mausoleum which have an individual as well as group value and collectively enhance the setting of the grade I listed church.

4.24 To the south of Trevor Road is Richmond Upholsters. The single storey building is set directly adjacent to the road which compliments the enclosure offered by the churchyard walls opposite. The building formerly provided stabling for The Mount and is likely to be near contemporary in age. Significant alteration has been undertaken however and it appears the height has been reduced from two storeys. Bricked up and altered original openings are clearly visible from the roadside and add interest to the façade.

4.25 Stone walling running parallel to Trevor Road demarcates the grounds of Trevor House, the rear elevation of which can be glimpsed above the high boundary wall. This elevation reveals timber framing and suggests the origins of the building are likely 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The main frontage of the grade II listed property is orientated southwards to overlook the Ceiriog Valley, designed as part of alterations and enlargements undertaken in 1840 by Richard Jebb, agent to the Brynkinallt Estate. The extensive grounds surrounding the building reinforce the historical high status and contribute to the open character of the area.

4.26 Adjacent is Trevor Row, a group of stone cottages built for workers on the Brynkinallt estate by Richard Jebb, and originally known as Jebb's row. The buildings are of a modest scale with uncoursed sandstone block walls under slate roofs, with the end wings projecting northwards and southwards under hip slate

roofs. The cottages have an intimate character; set well back from Trevor Road enclosed behind a sandstone wall with cock and hen copings and central, communal pedestrian access. The juxtaposition between the cottages and the open space in front of them is very important to their character and contributes to the openness of the street. Windows to the cottages have been enlarged and modernised with some of the original gabled open porches also replaced. Two mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century semi-detached houses have been built at right angles between Trevor Row and Trevor Road, which has detracted from the original layout.

4.27 Old Vicarage sits prominently within the streetscape, fronting Trevor Road. As its name suggests the building was formerly used as the vicarage and is one of 3 surviving vicarages within the village. The building dates from at least 1724, possibly earlier, and has a painted rendered exterior. The scale of the building is quite substantial for the area, created in part by the attic storey which has hipped dormer windows surmounted with finials. Rendered end stacks and coped gables with kneelers enclose the steeply pitched slate roof. The windows are also distinct with timber transoms and mullions forming a cruciform pattern. To the rear is the current vicarage built in the late 1970's, its warm brickwork and hipped roof is just visible through the trees.

4.28 Adjacent to the current Vicarage is Chirk Manor. The grade II listed building was built in 1853 as the replacement vicarage to Old Vicarage and has subsequently been used as a nursing home before returning to private residential use. The property has a definite presence and is set within large grounds, set back from Trevor Road and largely obscured from views by mature trees. The large house is of snecked sandstone construction in a simple Tudor Gothic style favoured by the Victorians, with a series of steeply pitched gables, tall axial and end stacks and heavy stone mullion and transom windows. Two modern, two-storey detached houses have been built within the former grounds of Chirk Manor however their spacious plots, abundance of trees, both on and surrounding the sites, soften their design and weaken their presence within wider views.

4.29 Brynkinallt Park lies to the east of Trevor Road, the mature trees within the park creating an impressive backdrop and terminus to views along the Road. Chirk Lodge sits quietly within the park to the north side of the western driveway and is enclosed behind cast iron railings terminated with arrow heads. The railings form the re-entrant to the central cast iron gates which are supported by sandstone gate-piers formed from four clustered shafts capped with a domed point. The lodge, railings and gate-piers, which are all grade II listed, were built between 1813 and 1814 as part of a scheme of extensive remodelling and extension of the main hall and parkland. The lodge is an interesting and well preserved example of an early 19<sup>th</sup> Century lodge of gothic influence; the castellated octagonal tower drawing particular attention. The castellation is continued along the parapet of the single storey lodge with decorative inscriptions, emblems and coats of arms relevant to the Trevor family adorning the principle elevations.



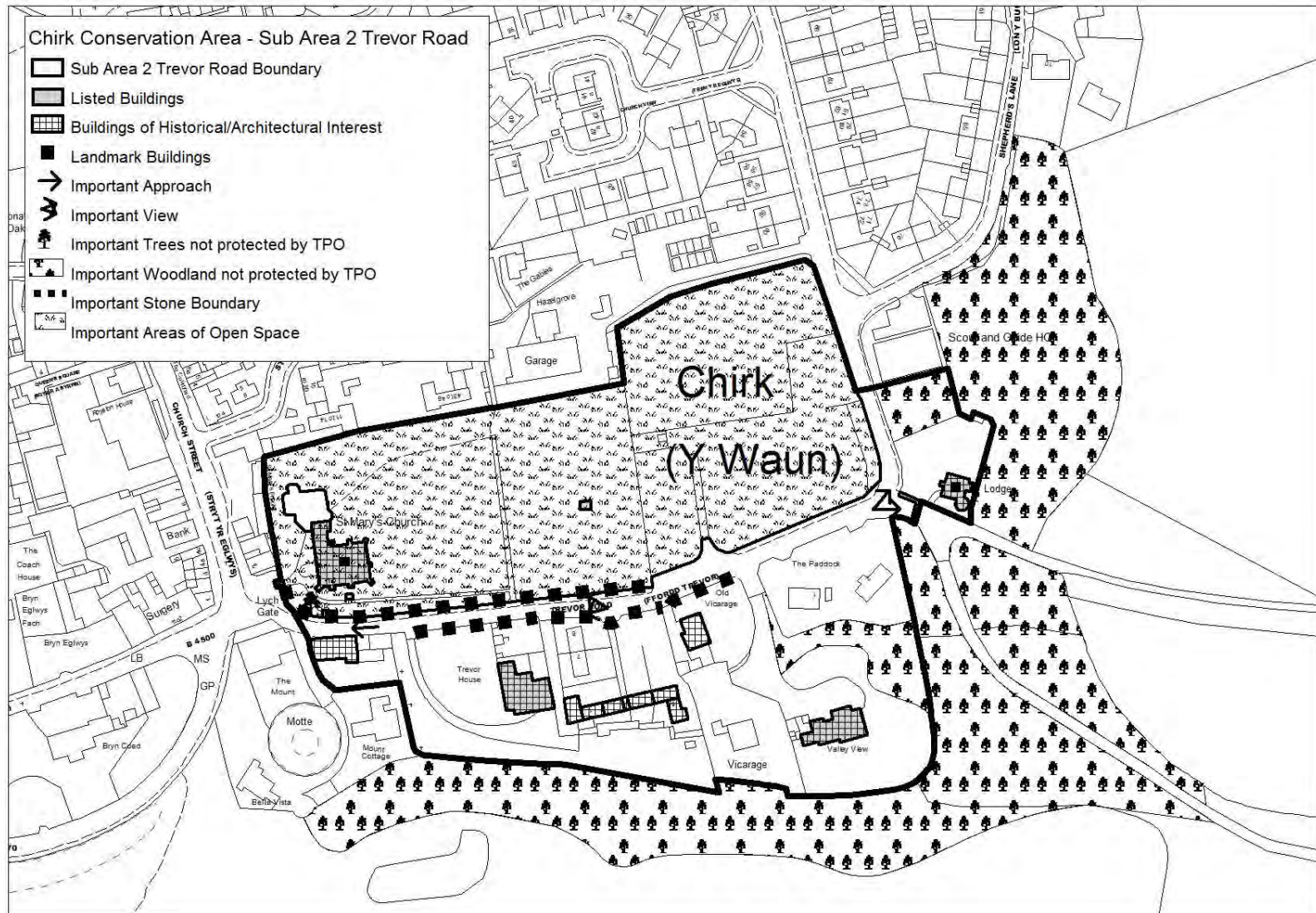


Figure 6 – Trevor Road Sub-area Character Map

## **Holyhead Road**

4.30 Holyhead Road extends northwards as a continuation of Church Street and is named after its position along the historic coach route to Holyhead. The area has a linear pattern of development with buildings located to the eastern side of the road. There is strong visual cohesion to the sub-area created through the use of local sandstone in both buildings and boundary treatments with the public buildings of the Chirk Town Council offices and the former girls school being particularly good examples. The recreational ground to the west is a focal point within the area where its openness coupled with the regular spacing of the built development opposite creates a pleasing composition. The recreational ground also allows for excellent views out of the Conservation Area towards Chirk Castle where there appears to be an intentional visual connectivity between the Castle and the town.

4.31 To the north of the area the street is dominated by Chirk Town Council Offices and the former National Girls School, their strong architectural detailing reflecting their importance as public buildings. The grade II listed Town Council Offices is set close to the road behind a mature hedge boundary. It is built in local yellow sandstone in a Jacobean revival style and is particularly well detailed and intact. The strong symmetrical design to the front elevation creates a sense of rhythm to the façade, and the imposing, central, two-storey ashlar porch, with raised Tuscan columns further adds to the building's sense of importance. Also of note are the coped gables with square finials, mullion and transom stone windows and the substantial stone stacks and cupola which decorate the roofline. The symmetry of the building's design is carried through to the boundary with Holyhead Road, with separate accesses set at both the northern and southern ends of the site. Both entrances are marked by matching sandstone gate-piers, constructed in alternating sized sandstone blocks which culminate in large ball finials surmounted on a swept pedestal.

4.32 The former National Girl's School, now Shannon Sales Carpet and Furniture Store, is set adjacent. The grade II listed building, built in 1834, was designed by the noted architect A.W.N Pugin, who was employed at Chirk Castle at the time, and funded by Charlotte Myddleton-Biddulph at a cost of £450. The design of the building is in the Elizabethan idiom with the coped gables and pointed finials complimenting the architecture and sense of rhythm created by the Town Council Offices. The pronounced stone bell-cote and tall, octagonal stone stacks punctuate the skyline and further add to the building's prominence.

4.33 Moving towards the town centre, buildings become more modest in scale and linear in form with low, hipped slate roofs, simple architectural design and tighter grouping reflective of their domestic origins. Continuing the built frontage are Beech House and Stanton House, which are set back from and slightly angled towards the road. The buildings likely date from the early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century and were at some point sub-divided into two cottages, as identified on the early Ordnance Survey maps. Both Beech House and Stanton House are of simple design with three bay, symmetrically planned frontages under hipped slate roofs. Both have been greatly modified with renewed windows, doors and front extensions. The loss of boundary treatments to the properties is also unfortunate as it interrupts the continuity of streetscape and blurs the lines between public

and private space. However the original vernacular charm of the buildings remains prominent through the use of local sandstone as the main building material and their simple rectangular form.

4.34 Talking Teeth Dentist Surgery and Stevens Lucas Solicitors are set between Stanton House and the junction with Colliery Road completing the row. The two buildings are likely to have early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century origins and originally comprised two cottages. Talking Teeth Dentist Surgery, formerly used as the Post Office, retains the original sandstone construction however the original pattern of fenestration to both properties has been obscured through the addition of two storey canted bay windows either side of the centrally positioned entrances. Windows to both properties are renewed in timber with sliding sash windows to Stevens Lucas Solicitors and mullion and transom windows to Talking Teeth. The two properties are enclosed behind iron railings with small front gardens softening their appearance.

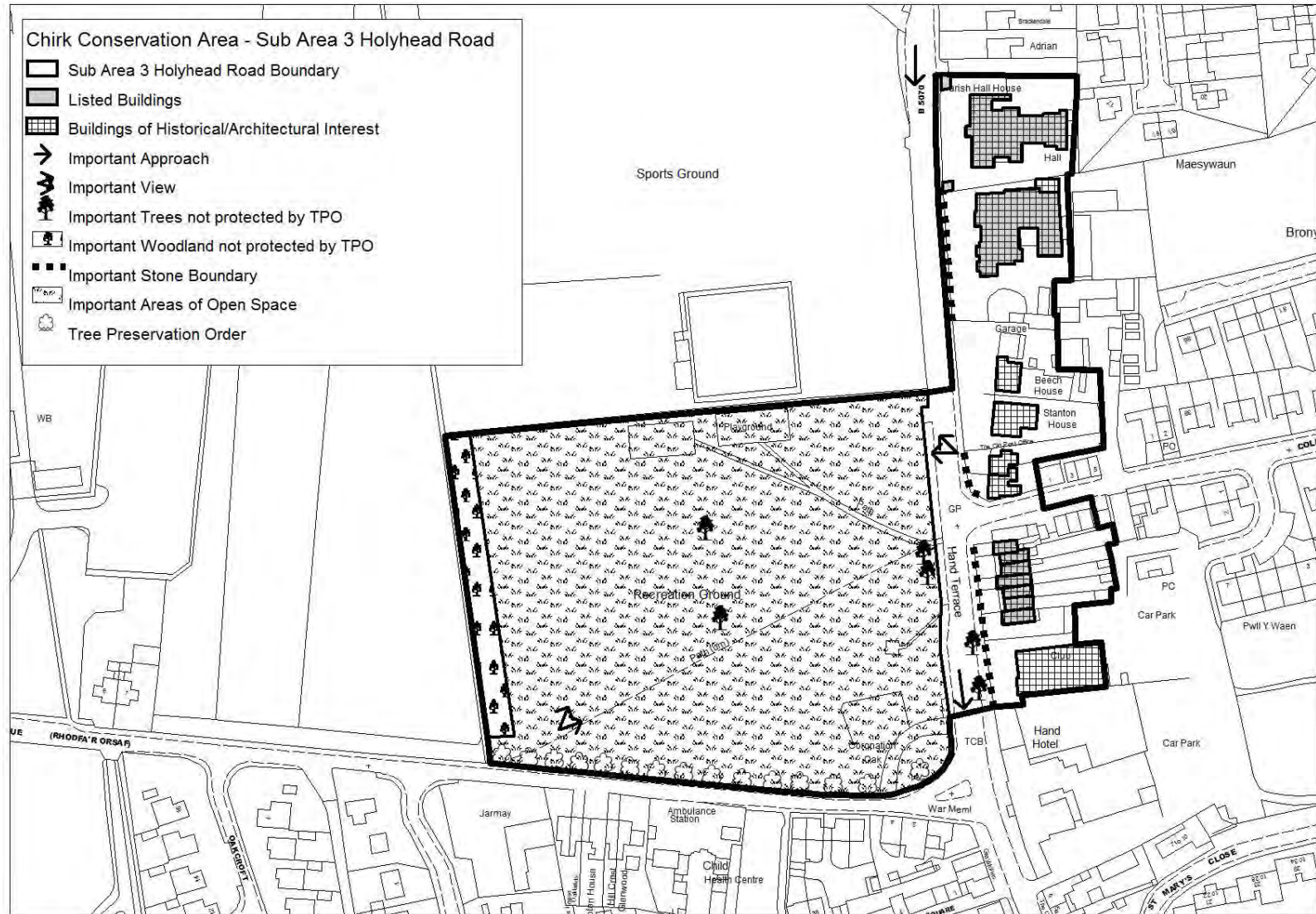
4.35 To the south of the Colliery Road junction and enclosed behind sandstone walling is Hand Terrace. The grade II listed terrace continues the linear pattern of the development and has a more intimate character created through the proximity of the buildings to the road and small, well kept front gardens. The terrace forms a distinctive feature of the sub-area with their picturesque architectural detail and composition contrasting to the simple vernacular detail on nearby buildings, making them a particularly prominent group on the main route into the town centre. The properties date from around 1820 and form a row of seven estate workers cottages, built by the Chirk Castle Estate for Charlotte Myddleton-Biddulph. The row extends over one and half storeys and is constructed of painted roughcast render under a slate roof with brick axial stacks. The terrace has a symmetrical design with the linear form punctuated by three forward wings each with a canted bay window at ground floor level. The wings are connected by two slated open verandas, under which the entrance to each cottage is contained. Fenestration contributes significantly to the distinct character with windows and doors set within pointed arched openings with moulded frames and multi-light casements.

4.36 Sandstone walling continues to bound Holyhead Road enclosing The British Legion and giving visual continuity to the street. Several fine trees are positioned to the front of the wall enhancing the public realm on the approach into the town centre. The design, materials and massing of The British Legion building, formerly a school, mirror that of the public buildings to the north of the sub-area and collectively enclose the more humble domestic buildings contained between. A large extension to the rear of the building detracts from the original architectural composition.

4.37 Opposite the area is dominated by the recreation ground which was given to the parish of Chirk in 1912 by Lord Howard de Walden, tenant of Chirk Castle. The area has a high communal and aesthetic value providing open space for leisure and allowing fine views westwards towards the Chirk Castle Estate. The prominence of both the Mondelez and Kronospan factories is a significant detraction however the high number of trees surrounding the perimeter does help to soften their general appearance. There are some fine individual trees within the ground itself which further add to its aesthetic value. The main entrance to the recreational ground is located at the corner of Holyhead Road and Station



Avenue where decorative iron gates, with details celebrating Chirk's history, are positioned facing an attractive landscaped area with semi-concentric pathways and walling encircling the coronation oak tree with sits at the centre of the area. Set just within the recreational ground is a former stone water pump that formed part of original and early water supply to the town. The system was part of the scheme installed in 1824 to improve the living conditions for the inhabitants of the town by Charlotte Myddleton of Chirk Castle. The pump would have been part of series of similar pumps that originally connected to the town reservoir, the remains of which are located within Reservoir Wood to the north of Lady Margaret's Caravan Park.



**Figure 7 – Holyhead Road Sub-area Character Map**

### **Station Avenue and Castle Road**

4.38 This is the largest sub-area within the Conservation Area and forms a U shaped block encompassing Castle Road and Station Avenue which extend westward towards the Ceiriog Valley and Chirk Castle respectively, and which are connected by Station Road which runs parallel with the railway line. The area remained relatively undeveloped, despite the early introduction of the railway and station, until the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century when redevelopment and expansion of the town seems to have boomed after the Chirk Castle Estate sold off significant amounts of land and buildings within the village. Subsequently, architectural detail is a strong unifying element in this sub-area with many buildings displaying the distinctive black and white mock timber framing to the upper storeys, popular in Edwardian and revival style architecture of this time. The consistent design features give strong visual cohesion and a sense of unity, particularly along Station Avenue. There is a strong linear settlement pattern to both Station Avenue and Castle Road with buildings typically following an intentional and planned building line, being set back from the highway within spacious plots and behind small, well organised front gardens typically enclosed by mature hedging.

4.39 Trees form an integral and important role to the character and appearance of the area, particularly the street trees along Station Avenue which have a strong presence within the streetscape. The trees, which are mostly lime trees, line the edge of the highway and are the primary feature of Station Avenue having been allowed to grow very large with branches forming an archway over the road. The avenue of trees enhances the linear form of the road and their scale and size create a strong sense of enclosure to the street and views. In addition the established woodlands surrounding Castle Road and across the Ceiriog valley at Chirk Bank are essential to the wider setting of the Conservation Area as well as individual buildings. Building use is mostly residential which combined with the low density of buildings creates a more peaceful atmosphere easing the transition from rural countryside to busy town centre, however regular light and heavy traffic flow to Mondelez, Canal Wood Industrial Estate, Chirk Railway Station, Chirk Castle and Lady Margarets Caravan lessen this quality, particularly along Station Avenue. The low density building pattern is complimented by the abundance of open space, with the recreation ground, northern fields of the Ceiriog Valley and the field surrounding Oakcroft House of particular importance to the character of this sub-area.

4.40 The eastern edge of Station Avenue is marked by the attractive Edwardian arcade of shops which wrap around the corner of Station Avenue and Church Street. Their distinct appearance is complimented by Chirk Ambulance Station and Headquarters and the adjacent terrace, which continue the simple Edwardian design and detailing. The Ambulance Station and Headquarters is set back from the road behind a large tarmac car park, this harsh finish softened slightly by the large lime tree set at the edge of the front boundary. The buildings, which are now used as an ambulance station and children's health centre, were purpose built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century for use as a drill hall for volunteers and soldiers from Chirk and the surrounding area. The original form has been retained with Drill Masters house to the right and the former drill hall and workshops attached to the left. The buildings have some attractive detailing with large corbelled chimney stacks to the former house and timber floral motif banding and Ruabon red brick detailing replicated across each building giving

interest to their appearance. The original glass roof to the drill hall also remains intact.

4.41 Set adjacent and closer to the highway is a fine Edwardian terrace built in 1914. The two-storey, Ruabon red brick row comprises five properties designed to a symmetrical plan with the outer properties having two storey canted bay windows set under advanced gables decorated with characteristic mock timber framing. Compton House, the central property is wider and retains an original Edwardian shop front at ground floor to the left, and garage/workshop to the right. Two, original tripartite sash windows are aligned above at first floor with two cat-slide dormer windows in the slate roof completing the simple symmetry of the façade. The majority of the original windows across the row are unaltered, with multi-panes to the upper sashes and a single undivided pane to the lower sashes. Some original doors also remain, those to the outer properties are slightly recessed behind the façade and set under entablature hoods carried on corbelled brackets. To the roof are two large corbelled chimney stacks positioned centrally along the ridge line. To the front, the need for off street parking has resulted in the loss of the original front boundary walls however the original dividing walls between each plot remain and are capped with half round terracotta copings.

4.42 The recreational ground and meadow bound the northern side of Station Avenue and provide an important visual buffer between the village and the industrial buildings at Mondelez and Kronospan. These public areas are enclosed behind thick hedgerow boundaries which have established between and in front of the many trees which dominate the streetscape. Hedgerow boundaries also line the southern edge of the highway enclosing the predominantly single storey, later 20<sup>th</sup> Century developments, and softening their appearance within the streetscape.

4.43 The density of buildings decreases significantly as Station Avenue extends westwards, particularly to the south where the substantial grounds and fields surrounding Oakcroft House create a sense of openness and space which strengthen the rural character of the sub-area. Oakcroft House, a large two storey red brick building with red tile roof, sits well back within the site and is accessed by a private drive, enclosed between large lime trees, with attractive black and white painted iron railings, gate-piers and gates fronting Station Avenue. The property was built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century and displays characteristic black and white mock timber framing to the western elevation and retains some original sliding sash windows. The building was formerly used as a Convent and later as a school; a second school building recorded on the site has since been demolished.

4.44 Directly opposite are Numbers 6 and 7 Station Avenue, an attractive pair of semi-detached two storey houses. The properties were built in 1914 and have a distinctive symmetrical plan with paired advanced, steeply pitched gables to the centre and matching, advanced gables to the side elevations. Small red clay tile roofs, simple black and white mock timber framing to the upper storey and overhanging eaves and deep verges further enhance their appearance. Some windows have been renewed, however the original composition remains unaltered. To each side elevation a small terracotta date stone sits within the gable apex.

4.45 The architectural cohesion of Station Avenue is further strengthened by numbers 1, 2 and 3 which form part of a small cluster of six dwellings located close to the junction of Station Avenue and Station Road. The properties are more elaborately decorated than their neighbours with their numerous and prominent front gables, jettied upper storey, mock black and white framing, substantial lateral and axial brick stacks, casement windows and low, hipped dormers being fine examples of the revival style common within the area. The row is enclosed behind low timber fencing, the painted picket style to number 1 enhancing the character of the property. The properties are particularly prominent on the approach from Station Road and from the west where they form an important backdrop to views on entering the Conservation Area.

4.46 Adjacent is The Poplars, a two storey property built at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The property occupies a prominent position at the head of Station Road and at the entrance to the Chirk Station car park where the simple design, which has similarities with the Arts and Craft styled Ty Ririd located to the south at the junction of Station Road and Castle Road, and mature hedgerow boundary make it a pleasing terminus to views. The non-deciduous trees lining the edge of the car park access further enhance views of The Poplars providing an attractive backdrop and offering important, all-year screening to the industrial buildings to the north.

4.47 Set down from the highway is Chirk Railway Station, from which the road gains its name, with the metal and local sandstone bridge which carries Station Avenue over the railway line and former Glyn Valley Tramway marking the western boundary of the Conservation Area. Just beyond, the Llangollen Canal emerges from Chirk Tunnel where the significant tree cover on the canal embankments contributes significantly to views out of the Conservation Area and to the wider landscape setting. Continuing along Station Avenue out of the village, the road retains the linear form ascending gently and leading to the exquisitely detailed grade I listed Chirk Castle Gates which are positioned at the eastern entrance to the estate.

4.48 Station Road extends southwards running parallel with the railway line to the west. The road has an open and rural character strengthened by the mature hedgerows and trees which bound the road and by the lack of built development. The openness of the area allows for far reaching views; to the north the rolling, grassed and tree covered hills of the Chirk Castle Estate can be glimpsed above the trees lining the railway line and the Llangollen canal; and to the south the Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct are viewed against the woodland backdrop of Chirk Bank as they cross the picturesque Ceiriog Valley.

4.49 The density of buildings begins to increase on the approach to the junction of Station Road and Castle Road where there are several buildings of high architectural and historical value clustered around this prominent convergence. Whitewalls, Ty Ririd, Chain Bank and Telford Lodge are of particular value due to their positioning, architectural design and integrity, with each retaining elements of their original configuration and materials. Whitewalls, a grade II listed building, sits back from Station Road within large open grounds proportionate to the scale and size of the property. The building was erected in 1924 for the local Edmondson family in a free vernacular revival style, reflective of the earlier Arts

and Crafts movement. It is the simplicity of the design that gives the property its inherent character and aesthetic value with the white painted brick walls and plain, brown tile hipped and sprocketed roof modestly decorated with tall, ribbed brick chimney stacks with corbelled heads, joined by a recessed panel and the original multi-paned metal casement windows.

4.50 Ty Ririd and Telford Lodge sit astride Castle Road as it enters the Ceiriog Valley. Ty Ririd dates from the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and is bound by the former Glyn Valley Tramway to the west and the Shrewsbury to Chester Railway to the east. The property was constructed in a simple Arts and Crafts style and retains some original elements such as small red, clay tile roof, hanging tiles to the gable apex and open front porch carried on decorative timber posts. There are some significant trees both within the grounds of the property and to the west which obscure much of the property from view but which add to the wider setting of the Conservation Area.

4.51 Telford Lodge, known historically as Min y Waun, is positioned to the south of Castle Road and occupies a commanding position elevated above Chirk Basin and the southern portal to Chirk Tunnel. The property dates from the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century and has strong historical associations with the building of the aqueduct and canal and is believed to have been the resident engineer's house positioned to overlook the major works undertaken at Chirk. The simple symmetrical design of the property is typically Georgian and has definite similarities with Woodbank, a grade II listed property adjacent to the canal in Trevor reputedly used as Thomas Telford's drawing office. Later alterations such as rendering, renewed windows and doors and numerous extensions have sadly eroded much of the original charm however the low pitched, hipped and slated roof with central, tall, brick chimney stack remain prominent.

4.52 Extending southwards across the Ceiriog Valley are the grade II\* listed Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct. The two structures are individually exceptional pieces of functional yet elegant architecture however collectively they form one of the most significant and striking features of the Conservation Area, their complimentary stone arches rising twenty to thirty metres above the Ceiriog River and effortlessly span the picturesque Ceiriog Valley. The landscape of the Ceiriog Valley is integral to the significance of the structures providing a stunning backdrop against which the scale and strength of the structures can be fully appreciated.

4.53 Chirk Aqueduct was built to the designs of Thomas Telford as part of the extension of the Ellesmere Canal to carry the Llangollen branch of the canal and is recognised as an outstanding industrial monument of canal engineering in Britain, forming one of the key visitor attractions within the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site. The railway viaduct was designed by Henry Robertson and built between 1846 to 1848 in recognition of the need to transport materials to Wrexham and Chester; a need which the canal system could not meet. As such the viaduct was built deliberately higher than the aqueduct a representation of the superiority of rail over canal transport.

4.54 Of equal significance is Chirk Tunnel which continues the canal northwards from Chirk Basin at the northern end of the Aqueduct. The grade II\* listed tunnel, also designed by Thomas Telford, is four hundred and twenty one metres long,

built of brick to a semi-circular section and includes a cantilevered tow-path, a recent innovation of tunnel building at the time. The southern entrance to the tunnel tapers out in the form of a parabolic arch of limestone voussoirs rising to a keystone, all of which are set slightly proud of the high rubble-faced curved retaining wall. The wall rises to a flat string course with a low parapet behind which is an important area of public realm with seating and sloping grassed banks on which magnificent views of the structures and the surrounding landscape can be appreciated.

4.55 To the east Castle Road leads back to the centre of the village and is an important route linking the vibrant and attractive village centre with the World Heritage Site. Here hedgerow boundaries continue to be a common feature lining the southern edge of the highway and enclosing many of the residential properties to the northern side, where development is concentrated. The majority of buildings date from the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries and are generally detached and set back from the highway. The regular spacing between properties as well as the consistent plot size give some rhythm to the streetscape whilst their southward orientation, overlooking the Ceiriog Valley, provides visual interaction with the street.

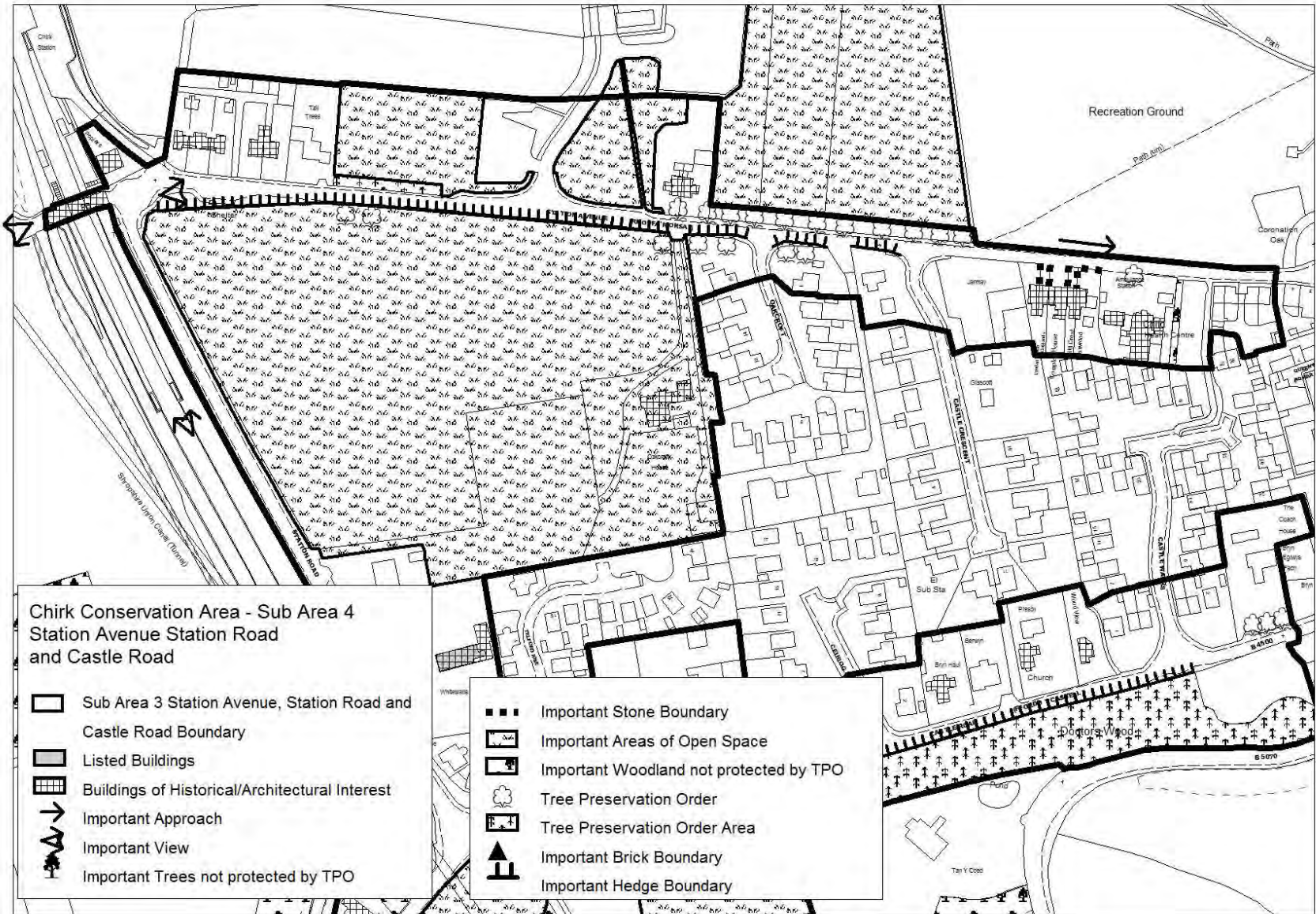
4.56 To the west of the public footpath leading to the canal is Chain Bank, another early 20<sup>th</sup> Century property of Arts and Crafts style. The building, set at the top of the northern slope of the Ceiriog Valley, is of high architectural value to the Conservation Area, retaining much of its original character and having group value with the other Arts and Crafts influenced buildings of Whitewalls, Ty Ririd and Glyn Wylfa. Of particular note are the original leaded windows, elegant bowed window to the western elevation, tall, brick chimney stacks and sprocketed, Westmorland slate roof. The garden of the property, which follows the steep slope of the valley, also contains some fine trees including a copper beech which adds variety of colour to wider views during the summer months.

4.57 Glyn Wylfa is a particularly prominent and important building within this section of the Conservation Area, contributing to the architectural quality of the street through its design and position, and the vibrancy of the area through its use as a café and visitor centre in support of the World Heritage Site. The original building dates from the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and is an excellent Arts and Crafts interpretation of Tudor revival style with mock timber framing to the upper storeys, diapered brickwork at lower level and a variety of stone mullion and transom and cusped leaded windows. A recent extension to the side uses complimentary materials to provide café, visitor and conference facilities. The expanse of tarmac to the front of the building is an unfortunate dominant feature within the site.

4.58 Continuing east there is a strong sense of enclosure to Castle Road created by the trees within Doctors Wood, an area of protected woodland bounding the road to the south, which overhangs the narrow highway and by the mature hedgerow boundaries to many of the properties to the north. The enclosure is further enhanced by the protected trees within the grounds of Bryn Eglwys Fach and those surrounding Bryn Coed, which collectively form a terminus to views along the road. Looking up, the stone tower of St Mary's Church can be glimpsed within views.

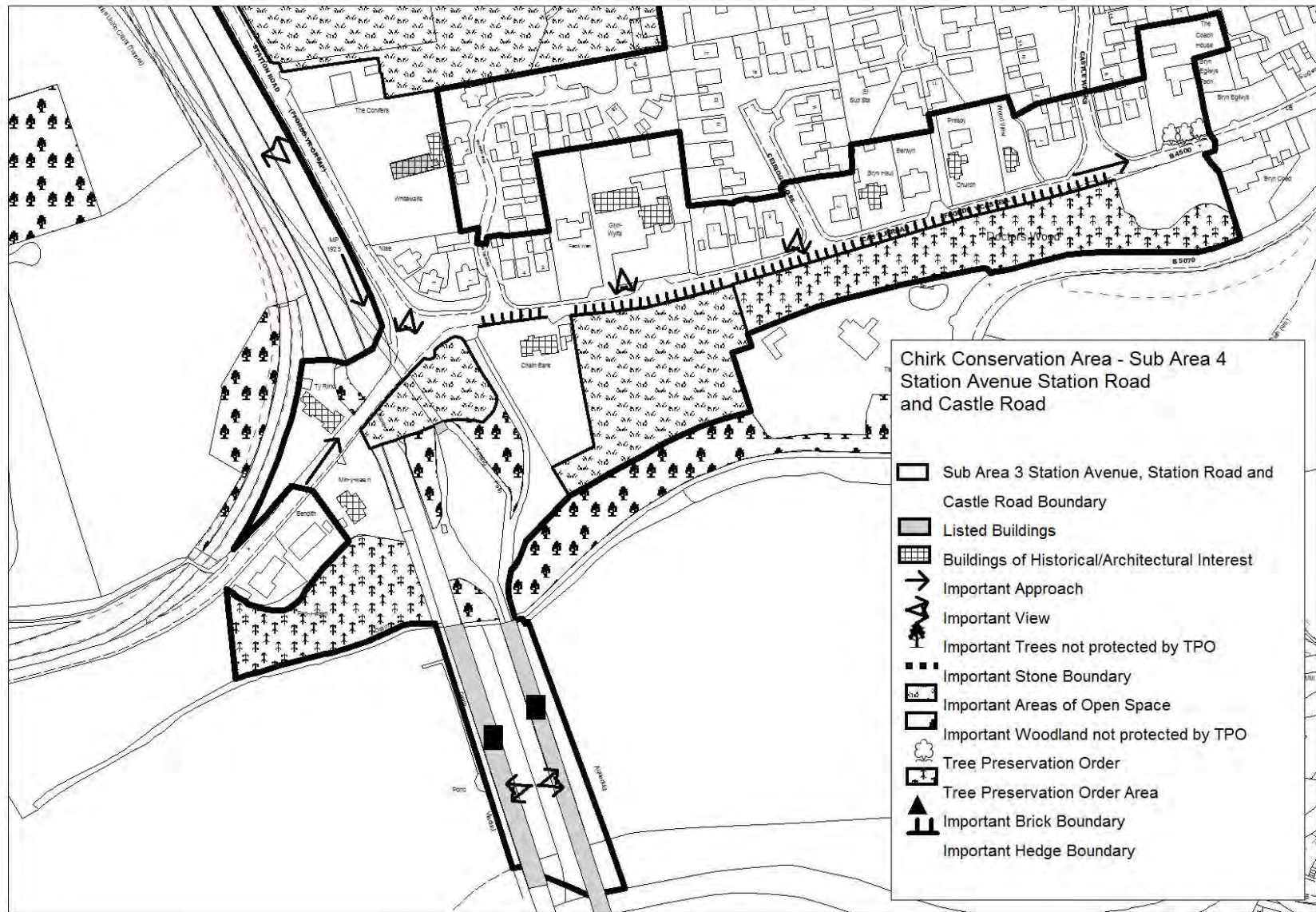
4.59 Bryn Haul, the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church and Woodview are buildings of interest on the approach to the town centre. The buildings date from the earlier half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century with the black and white mock timber framing and the use of the both Ruabon red brick and render to the residential properties, typical of their era and a reflection of the architectural character of Station Avenue.





**Figure – 8 Station Avenue & Castle Road Sub-area Character Map (North)**





**Figure – 9 Station Avenue & Castle Road Sub-area Character Map (South)**

## 5.0 SUMMARY OF NEGATIVE FEATURES

5.1 A number of factors have been identified as causing detriment to the visual quality and character of the area. These include:

### **Industrial Factories**

5.2 Both the Kronospan and Mondelez factories are dominant features within the town and the wider landscape. Their huge height and scale detracts from views both on arrival into the Conservation Area from the north and west particularly, views through the Conservation Area along Station Road, Station Avenue and Holyhead Road, and from the wider landscape with industrial structures, chimneys and smoke plumes crudely interrupting the rural landscape, intruding within wider views and dissecting the visual links between the town and Chirk Castle. The attempts made to screen the sites from near views is positive with grassed bunds, many trees and generally well maintained verges and banks helping to minimise the impact on the streetscape.

### **Glyn Wylfa, Chirk Ambulance Station and St Mary's Precinct Car Parks**

5.3 The expanse of macadam surfacing to the parking areas creates a harsh and stark appearance and introduces a more urban feel to the predominantly rural and open character of Station Avenue and Castle Road. At Glyn Wylfa the addition of height restriction barriers further detracts from the appearance of the area and the setting of the building.

### **Loss of Architectural Detail**

5.4 Inappropriate and unsympathetic alterations strip away the original historic character and fabric of the buildings and weaken the contribution to the sense of place and appearance of Chirk. The removal of chimney stacks and the replacement of original and traditional windows and doors with modern and inappropriately detailed alternatives such as uPVC as well as the enlargement of original openings to suit contemporary glazing styles is particularly damaging within the Conservation Area.

### **Insensitive Signage**

5.5 The signage within the forecourt of Shannon Sales is overly large and detracts from the setting of the grade II listed building. Additionally the abundance of signage and lack of consistent materials/design at the adjacent Beech House garage detracts from the general appearance of the buildings and the streetscape. Large and insensitively positioned Highway signage is also damaging to the character of the area and has in instances, detracted from the setting of several listed buildings within the town.

### **Alterations to Boundaries**

5.6 Boundaries within the Conservation Area have suffered mainly due to the desire to create hardstandings and vehicular access. This has also involved the loss of some hedges and garden areas and has impinged upon the sense of enclosure in some instances. In addition, the use of inappropriate hard cement mortars to repair existing boundaries is accelerating the rate of decay of the original stone and brick work and detracts from their appearance. Modern close boarded and poor quality

fencing has been used in certain areas and is in contrast to the traditional brick and stone boundaries and natural hedging characteristic of the Conservation Area.

## 6.0 ENHANCEMENT PLAN

The Local Planning Authority has a duty to formulate proposals for the preservation and enhancement of Chirk Conservation Area. The aim of the following proposals in sections 6.1 and 6.2 is to improve the general visual quality of the Conservation Area and create a more distinctive environment by building upon the area's architectural and historic character. In addition it is hoped that developing a more attractive environment will help support the existing community, businesses and visitors to Chirk.

### 6.1 GENERAL ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Reinstatement of lost features and preservation of traditional and original detailing	Traditional architectural details, local materials and vernacular features are important in creating the special character of the Chirk Conservation Area. The retention, repair and reinstatement of such features is strongly encouraged. Detailed design guidance is provided within Section 7.0 of this document.
Archaeology	Archaeological mitigation may be required in response to development proposals within the Conservation Area. Early consultation with the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in relation to any proposed new dwelling or extension is encouraged to prevent delay at the application submission stage.
Highway Improvements	Highway works should be designed in accordance with guidelines as set out in Section 7.0 of this document and should take account of the potential enhancement proposals detailed below.
Trees	Trees contribute greatly to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and some of those which are considered to make a significant contribution have been identified on Figures 5 to 8 of this document. Their unnecessary removal or works that may be considered detrimental will be resisted. Where removal is essential then an appropriate replanting scheme will be encouraged to mitigate any detrimental affects on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.
New Development and Alterations	It is possible to successfully incorporate new development into a historic settlement but it is essential that the development respects the scale, design, proportions and materials of the surrounding architecture to strengthen the cohesion of the street and enhance the sense of place. It is crucial that an imaginative and high-quality design is employed. Planning applications for alterations and new development may be refused if they fail to preserve or enhance the special character of Chirk Conservation Area. Detailed design guidance is provided within Section 7.0 of this document.

## 6.2 SPECIFIC ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The following have been identified as more specific opportunities for the enhancement of the Conservation Area. The undertaking of these works is dependent upon the availability of funding or grant assistance:

ENHANCEMENT PROPOSALS	RESPONSIBLE BODY
<p><b>Signage to the World Heritage Site</b> and Chirk Town Centre – the signage scheme outlined in the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site Signage and Interpretation Strategy should be implemented in accordance with the recommendations and the design guidance in Section 7.0. At the same time the opportunity should also be taken to strengthen the connections and pedestrian activity between Chirk Town Centre and the World Heritage Site – information and directional signage guiding visitors to the World Heritage Site should be considered within the public car park to the area of Church Street and on the public realm area to the front of St Mary’s Church. Equally information and directions to guide visitors to Chirk Town Centre, as well as the Ceiriog Valley and Chirk Castle, from the World Heritage Site should be considered.</p>	<p>WCBC/Canal and River Trust/Chirk Town Council</p>
<p><b>Replacement surface materials to car parks</b> – Where the opportunity arises, the replacement of the existing macadam surfacing to Glyn Wylfa, Chirk Ambulance Station and St Mary’s Precinct car parks with a material that offers a more sympathetic and softer appearance, such as pavers, setts or bonded gravel should be considered. In addition the replacement of the height restriction barriers to Glyn Wylfa car park with more discreet signage would offer an improvement to the appearance of the area.</p>	<p>WCBC/Private Ownership</p>
<p><b>Improved public realm to St Mary’s Precinct Frontage</b> – the public realm areas of the town are very well maintained however there is an opportunity for further enhancements with the creation of additional open space in place of the informal parking area to the front of St Mary’s Precinct. Should the opportunity arise in the future appropriate landscaping and additional seating within the area would enhance the appearance of the principle shopping area and help ease traffic flow within the town centre.</p>	<p>Private Ownership/Chirk Town Council/WCBC</p>
<p><b>Reinstatement and introduction of traditional shop frontages and signage</b> – Where the opportunity arises the reinstatement and introduction of traditionally detailed and proportioned shop frontages and display windows to Church Street should be considered. This will help enhance the appearance of the main retail area by strengthening the historic character and the sense of place within the town.</p> <p>It is recognised that signage is essential to advertise and sustain the businesses within the town. Any new and replacement signage should be sympathetic to the character of the building and the area and use of traditional materials, proportions and designs should be</p>	<p>Private Ownership</p>

considered. The implementation of a simplified, consolidated and consistent signage scheme at Beech House Garage would offer an enhancement on the current arrangement. Additionally the use of smaller freestanding signage and/or more traditionally detailed signage at the Shannon Sales would enhance the setting of the grade II listed building.

## 7.0 DESIGN GUIDANCE

7.1 The character of the individual buildings, which together form the Conservation Area, derives from a number of factors described above. The following design guidance seeks to enhance that character:

### **Proportion**

7.2 Older building styles follow traditional systems of proportion. In most of the traditional buildings within the Conservation Area, the relationship between windows, doors, floor heights and the relationship of solid to void (brick or stone work to windows/doors) in the design of elevations is crucial. Traditional proportions should be emulated in new development so that the rhythm of the streetscape is respected.

### **Roofs**

7.3 The roof line is nearly always a dominant feature of a building and retention of the original shape, pitch, verge and eaves detail and ornamentation is essential. Heights and shapes of roofs are important; flat roofs are alien to local tradition and are generally unacceptable. In Chirk Welsh slate is the prevalent roofing material and should be used in new developments and additions. Where roofing materials are to be replaced they should match the colour, size and texture of the original. Roofs should be roofed or re-roofed in traditional materials on a like for like basis where historically appropriate. If ventilation of the roof void is required, this should be achieved by inconspicuous means; under eaves ventilation is acceptable, but visible roof vents are not. Chimney-stacks are important features of the roof-scape and should be retained even if no longer required. The inclusion of chimney stacks within new development will be encouraged where appropriate.

### **External Walls**

7.4 Any alteration or repair to external walls must respect the existing building materials and match them in texture, quality and colour. Every effort should be made to retain or re-use historic brickwork and stonework, which should not be rendered, pebble-dashed or painted. Re-pointing should be carried out with a mortar to match the existing in colour, type and texture and historically would have consisted of lime and sand only. Modern hard cement mortar and renders prevent the evaporation of moisture which can accumulate within the wall causing damp internally. When appropriate, hard cement renders should be replaced with a lime alternative. New developments will be expected to take account of the local building materials and detailing when treating elevations. The application of external wall insulation to buildings within the Conservation Area will be resisted.

### **Rainwater Goods**

7.5 Rainwater goods should be repaired if original or reinstated in original or traditional materials. uPVC guttering is not appropriate on Listed Buildings and buildings in Conservation Areas. It is not historically correct, and it does not enhance a building's character. If properly installed and maintained cast iron guttering can last for a lifetime.



## **Windows**

7.6 Windows form one of the most significant constructional elements of a building and their style and proportions are essential to the character and appearance of the building and its surroundings. Both vertical sliding sash windows and multi-light casement windows are common throughout the Conservation Area and contribute significantly to its appearance and historic integrity. New or replacement windows should be correctly proportioned, well related to each other and adjoining buildings and should respect existing openings. Any repair or replacement should always try to match the original in terms of materials, design, size and glazing pattern. This includes not only structural elements of the window but in the case of listed buildings the historic glass and original window furniture. Particularly important is the method of opening, the recessed depth within the reveal and the sections of glazing bars. Replacement of historic and traditional timber windows in an uPVC alternative, no matter what the pattern, is generally unacceptable and will be resisted in both existing and new buildings. All windows must have a traditional painted finish rather than a modern stained alternative. Further guidance is available within the Council's information sheet entitled The Repair and Replacement of Traditional and Historic Windows.

## **Doors and Porches**

7.7 Original door-cases, doors and door furniture are prevalent throughout the area and should be retained wherever possible. Replacements must match the original in proportion, style and materials and should have a painted finish. Simple canopy and recessed porches are a common feature of the Conservation Area. The reinstatement or introduction of external porches should be integrated sympathetically within the streetscape and where their addition is appropriate they should be designed within the overall context and architectural style of the building and in reference to any appropriate nearby styles in the surrounding area. They should not dominate the front elevation. New buildings have greater opportunity to include recessed porches within the initial design however they should again be designed within the overall context and architectural style of the building.

## **Boundary Treatments**

7.8 The removal or alteration of historic brick and stone boundary walls will be resisted. Repair should be carried out using identical materials and in the same style or bond and missing copings replaced to match the existing. The use of a hard cement mortar to re-point joints is unacceptable, increasing the rate of deterioration of sandstone in particular. The use of stone and brick boundaries as well as native hedgerow boundaries will be encouraged in schemes for new developments over close boarded fencing or similar modern treatments.

## **Highway Works and Surface Finishes**

7.9 It is essential to the conservation of the character of Chirk that future highway schemes and works are designed and implemented as sensitively as possible. Any new items such as sign-posts, etc must be carefully integrated within the streetscape and positioned to respect adjacent buildings and the area as a whole. Traditional painted or powder-coated finishes to sign posts and lighting columns will be encouraged over the standard galvanised finish; the current gold

or black finishes present should be replicated. The number and size of road signs must be kept to a minimum and only illuminated where essential. Redundant or unnecessary street furniture such as signs or poles should be removed and where possible consolidation of signage should be considered to prevent additional street clutter. Backing plates to signage should be grey or black and luminous yellow must be avoided. Where road lines are essential they must be of a restricted width and primrose yellow. Street name plates within the Conservation Area are historically themed with a unifying design and finish which should be retained and replicated on new signage and street furniture – the railings to Church Street demonstrate the success of this approach.

7.10 The overuse of insensitive macadam finishes should be avoided and the opportunity taken to lay traditional materials, where colour, texture and pattern are in sympathy with the character of the area and sensitive to adjacent buildings. Traditional surface finishes can successfully help identify private and public realms as well as offer an alternative to additional road signage.

### **Micro Energy Generation**

7.11 Whilst the use of micro energy generation systems is to be encouraged, careful consideration as to the most appropriate location for such equipment is essential to ensure that the character and appearance of the Conservation Area is preserved. The installation of micro energy equipment will not be supported where they would have a negative visual impact upon the Conservation Area or where the fabric or setting of a Listed Building is detrimentally affected.

### **Shop-fronts and Signage**

7.12 Modern shop windows with large areas of unrelieved glass can be difficult to integrate successfully within a historic street. The retention of original shop-fronts and/or associated features is essential and they should be repaired or replaced on a like for like basis. Replacement or new shop fronts must reflect the vertical proportions of the elevation. Careful consideration as to the incorporation of new signage is essential to ensure that they are sympathetically integrated into the design and composition of the building. New or replacement signs should be discreet and unobtrusive. Display signs will be restricted to fascia level and fascia boards and lettering must be in scale with the building as whole and not obscure traditional elevational features. Corporate styles will be accommodated where possible and where they are sympathetic to the historic character of the area. Hand painted signs or the application of individual lettering will be encouraged above plastic, aluminium or vinyl signs. Discreet external illumination of both fascia and projecting signs is encouraged. Internally illuminated signs must be avoided.

## 8.0 CONSERVATION AREA CONTROLS

### Special Controls

8.1 In order to protect the special environment, stricter controls exist within Chirk Conservation Area. These are not intended as a hindrance to change, but as positive management to safeguard the character of the area as a whole. These include:

- Additional powers of control to dwelling houses for extensions, roof extensions and alterations, cladding, external wall insulation, alterations to chimneys, garages and satellite dish location;
- Most works involving total demolition, of either buildings or boundary walls, require Conservation Area Consent. Consent for demolition will not normally be granted until it is known what form redevelopment will take.
- Provisions which apply restrictions to the felling and pruning of trees with a stem diameter of 75 mm or above, when measured at 1.5 metres from ground level. Six weeks advance notice is required to be submitted to the Local Planning authority for such tree works within the Conservation Area. Failure to comply is a criminal offence and may result in significant penalties for those involved following a successful prosecution.

8.2 With all proposals for development and the display of advertisements in a Conservation Area, greater care is necessary to ensure that schemes enhance and preserve the area's special character. Design and choice of materials are of particular importance in this respect.

### The Chirk Conservation Area Article 4(2) Directions

8.3 Small-scale and piecemeal change can cause the greatest damage to the character and appearance of a conservation area. The replacement of traditional materials with inappropriate alternatives or the removal of original features may seem to have insignificant effect but it is the cumulative effect of these small alterations that gradually erodes the special character of an area. Such changes are normally not controlled as they are considered 'Permitted Development' under the Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995.

8.4 In order to protect original and traditional features present on many of the buildings in the Conservation Area an Article 4(2) Direction was introduced in 2002. A second Article 4(2) Direction was introduced in 2014 to cover the domestic buildings included in the amended boundary along Station Avenue, Station Road and Castle Road.

8.5 The Article 4(2) Directions are a legal direction which gives the Local Planning Authority additional controls over alterations to dwelling houses within the Conservation Area. As a result Planning Permission will be required for the following alterations:

- The enlargement of dwelling houses including the erection of structures or laying of hard surfaces within their curtilages;

- Change of materials to external walls of dwelling houses including external doors, windows, window frames, rainwater goods and other external items and painting of those items (other than re-painting in the same colour);
- Any other alterations to the fenestration and external doors of dwelling houses;
- Any other alterations to the roofs including chimneys of dwelling houses (including provision of rooflights);
- Installation of satellite antennae on dwelling houses or within their curtilages;
- Alterations to, or the demolition of, boundary walls or other means of enclosure;

insofar as the development would front onto a highway, waterway or open space.

### **Making an Application for Works Controlled under an Article 4(2)**

#### **Direction**

8.6 It is always advisable to discuss your proposals with the Council's Planning Service prior to submitting an application. In planning alterations to your dwelling every effort should be made to retain original features and materials. Where possible features such as original windows should be repaired and where this is no longer possible should they be replaced and then on a like for like basis only. The re-instatement of lost features is to be encouraged based on accurate historical evidence. The replacement of traditional materials with modern alternatives is unlikely to be acceptable, in particular the replacement of traditional timber windows and doors with a PVCu alternative.

There is no fee for applications required solely as a result of the Article 4(2) Direction.

#### **Listed Buildings**

8.7 A Listed Building is a building that is considered to be of 'special architectural or historic interest' and as such requires special protection. Once listed, a building is protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The Listing protects the building both externally and internally irrespective of the reason for listing as well as any object or structure fixed to the building (whether or not mentioned in the listing description). The listing also extends to any object or structure within the 'curtilage' of the building, which has existed since before 1<sup>st</sup> July 1948. This is to ensure that the special character of both the building and its setting are protected.

8.8 Where works are proposed to a Listed Building, it is always advisable to check with the Council's Planning Department whether Listed Building Consent is required. In any works proposed, special regard must be given to the desirability of preserving the building, its setting and special features of interest.

8.9 In considering any works to a Listed Building the principle objective must be to retain all original features and fabric of the building wherever possible. Listed Building Consent is required for the demolition of a listed building or for alteration, which would affect the building's character, integrity or special interest. This could

include changing windows and doors, changing roofing materials, painting brickwork, moving or removing internal walls or plasterwork, fireplaces, floorboards or staircases. Like for like repairs may not need consent but it is always advisable to check prior to undertaking any works as the carrying out of works without the necessary consent is a criminal offence with significant penalties for those involved following a successful prosecution.

### **World Heritage Site**

8.10 The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Scheduled area comprises the Aqueducts and Canal, its towpath and immediate banks, cuttings and embankments. Scheduled Ancient Monuments are nationally important sites and monuments, which have legal protection. World Heritage status highlights the outstanding international importance of this site as a material consideration to be taken into account by Local Planning Authorities in determining applications which affect their setting and Outstanding Universal Significance. Chirk is situated within the World Heritage Site Buffer Zone which has been drawn to allow historic cultural and landscape elements which contribute to the authenticity and integrity of the World Heritage Site to be conserved.

### **Commercial Buildings**

8.11 Properties in commercial use do not have Permitted Development Rights under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. Therefore the only works that may be carried out without Planning Permission are works of repair and maintenance and internal alterations, provided the building is not a Listed Building.

## 9.0 SOURCES OF FUNDING

9.1 A fundamental principle of all grant schemes is that grant cannot be offered after the work has been started. All grants are discretionary and rates may vary. Early consultation with possible providers is essential.

### **Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments**

9.2 Cadw is the historic environment division of the Welsh Assembly Government. One element of their activities is to offer grants to owners for the repair or restoration of historic buildings. The key grant scheme summarise as:

- ***Historic Buildings Grant***

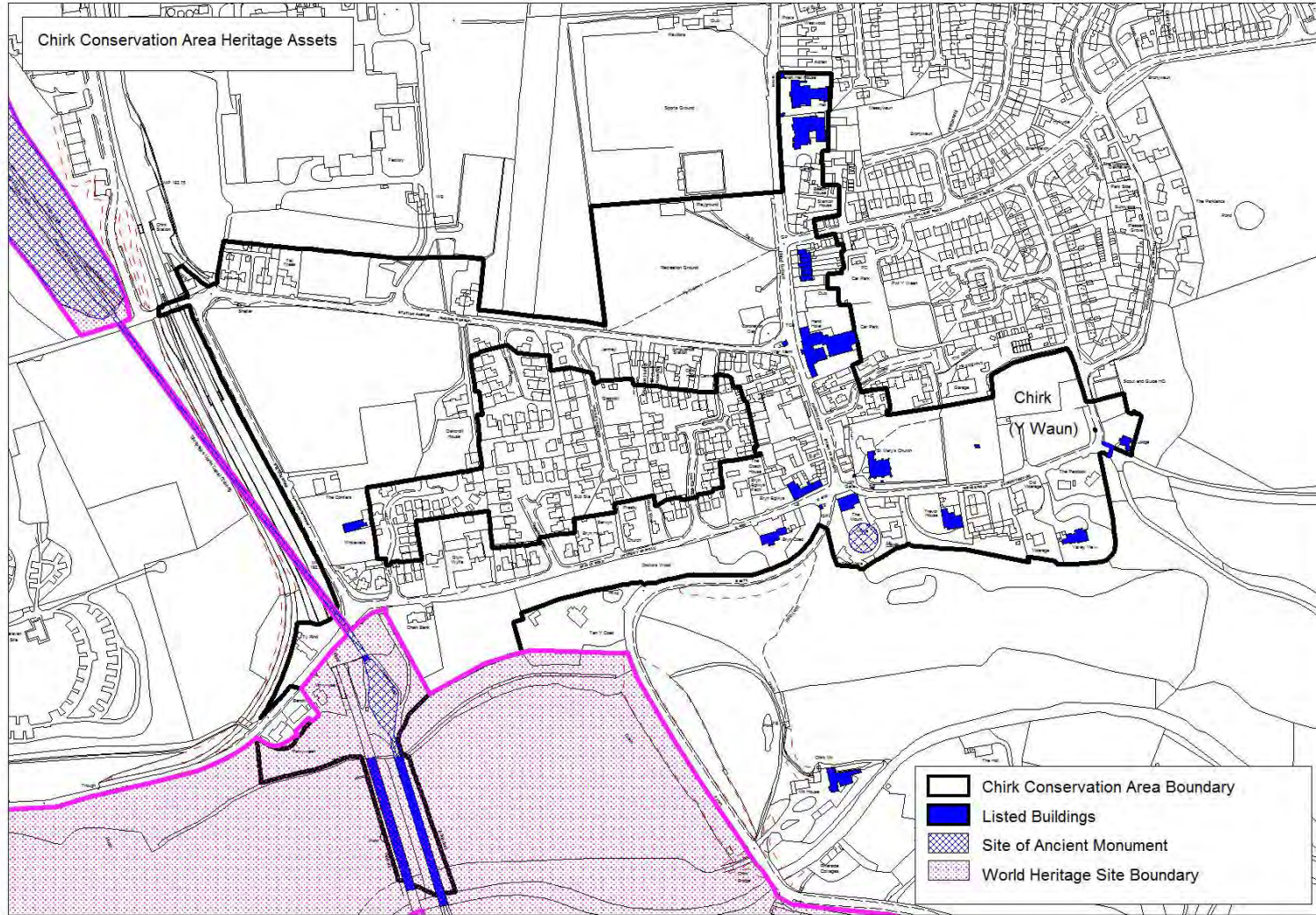
For the repair and restoration of historic fabric of building's of 'outstanding' architectural or historic interest. Grants are normally paid in instalments or on completion of the work.

9.3 Conditions of the grant may require a specialist to undertake and oversee the works and allow a degree of public access to the property once works are completed. The owner must also ensure that the property is kept in good condition and take out and maintain adequate insurance cover for the property.

9.4 The key focus for Cadw's grant giving currently is on schemes of repair which support regeneration opportunities and/or help conserve listed buildings which are included on the Council's Buildings at Risk Register. Applications for grant aid should be submitted between January and April.

**APPENDIX 1  
STATUTORY DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS**

<b>Listed Buildings</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Bryn Eglwys, 3 Castle Road	II
Chirk Surgery, 2 Castle Road	II
1 Castle Road	II
Milestone, Castle Road	II
Bryn Coed, Castle Road	II
The Mount, Church Street	II
Chirk Tunnel North portal and Chirk Basin	II*
Lychgate outside Church of St Mary	II
Sundial in Churchyard of Church of St Mary	II
Ward Monument in Churchyard of Church of St Mary	II
Trevor Mausoleum in Churchyard of Church of St Mary	II
Trevor House, Trevor Road	II
Railway Viaduct over Ceiriog River	II*
Chirk Manor, Trevor Road	II
Chirk Lodge, Brynkinallt Park	II
Gates, piers and railings to the west gate at Chirk Lodge, Brynkinallt Park	II
Hand Hotel, Church Street	II
War Memorial, Station Avenue/Church Street junction	II*
Chirk Town Council Offices, Holyhead Road	II
Chirk Aqueduct	II*
1 Holyhead Road	II
2 Holyhead Road	II
3 Holyhead Road	II
4 Holyhead Road	II
5 Holyhead Road	II
6 Holyhead Road	II
7 Holyhead Road	II
South gate piers to Chirk Town Council Offices, Holyhead Road	II
North gate piers to Chirk Town Council Offices, Holyhead Road	II
Chirk Furniture and Carpet Centre and attached dwelling, Holyhead Road	II
Whitewalls, Station Road	II
Church of St Mary	I
<b>Scheduled Ancient Monuments</b>	
Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal incorporating Chirk aqueduct, basin and tunnel	
Castell y Waun Motte	
<b>World Heritage Sites</b>	
Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal	



**Figure 10 - Heritage Assets in Chirk**



**APPENDIX 2  
CONSERVATION POLICY GUIDANCE**

<b>Main Legislation</b>	<b>National Policy Guidance</b>	<b>Local Policy</b>
Town and Country Planning Act 1990	Planning Policy Wales	Wrexham Unitary Development Plan in particular policies EC7, EC8, EC9, GDP1 and PS2 (LDP in preparation)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Welsh Office Circular 61/96: Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas	Local Planning Guidance Note 12 – Shopfront Design and Security
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Welsh Office Circular 1/98: Planning and the Historic Environment: Directions by the Secretary of State for Wales	Local Planning Guidance Note 30 - Design
	Technical Advice Note 12: Design	Local Planning Guidance Note 33 – Poncysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site
	Welsh Office Circular 60/96: Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology	Wrexham LANDMAP
		Wrexham County Borough Council Buildings At Risk Strategy 2012 - 2016
		Clywdian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2009 – 2014 (Revised Plan in preparation)

**APPENDIX 3  
GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

<b>Advanced Gable</b>	A gable that projects forward of the main wall/façade of a building
<b>Aqueduct</b>	A bridge like structure, usually supported on arches to carry a canal across a valley
<b>Architrave</b>	Moulded frame of a door window
<b>Arts &amp; Crafts</b>	A movement in the later 19 <sup>th</sup> Century which took inspiration from the theories of John Ruskin and William Morris relating to craftsmanship
<b>Ashlar</b>	Cut stone worked to even faced, used on the front of a building
<b>Axial Stack</b>	A chimney which is set on the axis between two rooms and equally between the lateral walls
<b>Bargeboards</b>	A timber piece fitted to the outer edge of a gable, sometimes carved for decorative effect
<b>Bay</b>	Division of an elevation as defined by regular vertical features such as arches, columns or window etc
<b>Bellcote</b>	Belfry, usually in the form of a smooth gabled or roofed housing for the bells
<b>Bow Window</b>	A curved window of one or more storeys projecting from the face of a building at ground level
<b>Burgage</b>	tenure of land or tenement in a town or city, which originally involved a fixed money rent
<b>Buttress</b>	Vertical members projecting from a wall to stabilise it or to resist lateral movement
<b>Cambered Arch</b>	A slight rise or upward curved arch in place of a horizontal line or plane
<b>Canopy</b>	Projection or hood
<b>Canted Bay</b>	A projecting semi-octagonal window
<b>Cantilever</b>	Horizontal projection supported by a downward force behind the fulcrum – without external bracing and appears to be self-supporting
<b>Capital</b>	Head of crowning feature of a column or pilaster
<b>Casement</b>	A window where the opening lights are hung on hinges
<b>Castellation</b>	A form of battlement usually a fortified parapet for defensive and later for decorative purposes
<b>Chamfer</b>	Surface formed by cutting off a square edge usually at an angle of 45 degrees
<b>Classical</b>	Term referring to Greek and Roman architecture and styles derived from it subsequently
<b>Cock &amp; Hen Column</b>	A toothed type An upright structural member of round section with a shaft and capital – common in classical architecture
<b>Console</b>	Ornamental bracket of compound curved outline
<b>Coping</b>	The top course of a wall, parapet or chimney
<b>Corbel</b>	Projecting piece of timber, stone or brick supporting an overhanging structure, such as an arch or balcony
<b>Cornice</b>	Moulded ledge, projecting along the top of a building. Also a decorative moulding in the angle between a wall and ceiling
<b>Cresting</b>	Ornamental finish along the top of a screen etc

<b>Cupola</b>	A small dome, on a circular or polygonal base crowning a larger dome, roof or turret
<b>Cusp</b>	Projecting point defining the foils in gothic tracery, also used as decorative edging to the soffits of gothic arches etc
<b>Dentil</b>	Small cubic projections under the roof line
<b>Diaper</b>	Repetitive surface decoration of lozenges or squares either flat or in relief, achieved in brickwork with bricks of two colours
<b>Double-pile</b>	A house or building that is two rows of rooms thick
<b>Dormer</b>	Window projecting from the slope of a roof, having a roof of its own and lighting a room within it
<b>Eaves</b>	The lower, overhanging section of a pitched roof
<b>Edwardian</b>	Dating from or typical to the period 1901 to 1911
<b>Embattled</b>	Furnished with battlements
<b>End Stack</b>	A chimney projecting through a roof at the end of the building
<b>Entablature</b>	In classical architecture, the collective name for three horizontal members (architrave, frieze and cornice) carried by a wall or a column
<b>Façade</b>	The front of a building
<b>Fanlights</b>	A glazed opening over the door
<b>Fenestration</b>	The arrangement of windows within a building
<b>Fielded</b>	Part of a wooden panel which has a raised square of rectangular central area (the field) surrounded by a narrow moulding.
<b>Finial</b>	A decorative piece to finish off a building element, commonly used on railings and roofs
<b>Fluting</b>	Series of concave grooves, their common either sharp or blunt – common on columns and pilasters
<b>Frieze</b>	The middle member of the classical entablature or a horizontal band of ornament
<b>Gable</b>	Area of wall, often triangular, at the end of a pitched roof
<b>Georgian</b>	Dating from or typical of the period 1714 to 1820
<b>Gothic</b>	Period of medieval architecture characterised by the use of the pointed arch
<b>Hipped roof</b>	A roof having sloping ends and side that meet at an inclined projecting angle
<b>Hood</b>	A flat form of porch usually supported on brackets
<b>Hoodmould</b>	Projecting moulding shown above an arch or lintel to throw off water
<b>Hopper</b>	Usually a funnel shaped receptacle as part of the rainwater collection system on a building
<b>Ionic</b>	In classical architecture, one of the orders which each had their own rules for design and proportion
<b>Jacobean</b>	Dating from or typical of the period 1603 to 1688
<b>Jamb</b>	One of the vertical sides of an opening
<b>Jetty</b>	The projection of an upper storey beyond the storey below
<b>Keystone</b>	Central stone in an arch or vault
<b>Kneeler</b>	Horizontal projecting stone at base of each side of a gable on which the inclined coping stones rest
<b>Lintel</b>	Horizontal beam used as a finishing piece over a door or window

<b>Louvre</b>	One of a series of overlapping boards or panes of glass placed in an opening to allow ventilation but to keep out rain
<b>Lychgate</b>	Roofed wooden gateway at the entrance to a churchyard for the reception of a coffin
<b>Maerdref</b>	A Royal township run on manorial lines comprising demesne land and a llys or mansion house and a hamlet or hamlets or bond tenants
<b>Mediaeval Modillian</b>	Dating from or typical of the Middle Ages (1042-1485) Small consoles placed at regular intervals along the underside of a cornice
<b>Motte &amp; Bailey</b>	Post-Roman and Norman defence system consisting of an earthen mound (motte) topped with a wooden tower within a bailey
<b>Mullion</b>	A vertical bar dividing a window
<b>Multi-pane</b>	Lots of individual, usually square panes of glass within a window
<b>Oculus</b>	Circular opening or window in a wall or vault
<b>Ogee</b>	Double curve, bending first one way and then the other
<b>Oriel Window</b>	Form of bay window which does not start on the ground and rests of corbels or brackets
<b>Over-light</b>	Glazed opening above a door
<b>Quatrefoil</b>	The four lobes formed by the cusping or circular of other shape in tracery
<b>Quoin</b>	Dressed stone which are bonded to the corners of buildings
<b>Parapet</b>	Feature used to conceal a roof and a wall for protection at any sudden drop
<b>Pedestal</b>	A tall block carrying an order, statue, vase etc
<b>Pediment</b>	A formalised gable derived from that of a temple
<b>Pilaster</b>	Flat representation of a classical column in shallow relief against a wall
<b>Polychromatic</b>	Multi-coloured
<b>Pointed Arch</b>	A form of arch where the two side meet to a definite point at the centre
<b>Porch</b>	Covered projecting entrance to a building
<b>Portico</b>	A porch with the roof, and frequently a pediment, supported by a row of columns
<b>Public Realm</b>	An area open to/accessible by all members of the public
<b>Re-entrant</b>	Having inward pointing angles, directing inwards
<b>Render</b>	The plastering of a surface with plaster, stucco or another finish
<b>Revival Style</b>	Elements of building design which revert back to/take influence from earlier fashions, styles and practices
<b>Ruabon Red Brick</b>	A smooth, hard brick characterised by its strong red colour and historically produced in and around Ruabon
<b>Segmental</b>	A form of arch where bricks rise incrementally to form a shallow arch
<b>Sill</b>	Structural member consisting of a continuous horizontal timber forming the lowest member of a framework or supporting structure
<b>Sash</b>	A window which moves on vertical grooves, either with one frame fixed (single hung) or both moving (double hung)

<b>Snecked Stonework</b>	Courses of stone frequently broken by smaller stones
<b>Stretcher</b>	The long face of brick
<b>String/storey course</b>	Horizontal stone course or moulding projecting from the surface of the wall
<b>Stucco</b>	A fine lime plaster worked to a smooth finish, finest rendered external finish characteristic of many late 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 Century buildings
<b>Terracotta</b>	Moulded and fired clay ornament or cladding, usually unglazed
<b>Tracery</b>	Intersecting rib work in the upper part of a window or used decoratively in blank arches or vaults
<b>Transom</b>	A horizontal bar dividing a window
<b>Trefoil</b>	A three sided lobe formed by cusping
<b>Tripartite</b>	Divided into or composed of 3 parts
<b>Tudor</b>	Dating from or typical of the period 1485 to 1603
<b>Tuscan</b>	In classical architecture, one of the orders which each had their own rules for design and proportion
<b>Uncoursed Stonework</b>	Stones laid in a random pattern
<b>Venetian</b>	A window with a form derived from an invention by Serlio with central arch enclosed between two straights
<b>Veranda</b>	Shelter or gallery against a building, its roof supported by thin vertical members
<b>Verge</b>	The outer margin of a roof
<b>Vernacular</b>	Based on local and traditional construction methods, materials and decorative styles
<b>Vexellation</b>	A Roman fortress
<b>Viaduct</b>	A bridge like structure, usually supported on arches to carry a road or railway across a valley
<b>Victorian</b>	Dating from or typical of the period 1837-1901
<b>Voussoirs</b>	Wedge shaped stones forming an arch
<b>Wing</b>	A part of a building projecting from the main or central part

### **Reference Material**

Edward Hubbard, 1986: The Buildings of Wales Clwyd (Denbighshire and Flintshire);  
C. Neville Hurdsman, 2004: A History of the Parish of Chirk;  
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Wrexham County Borough Council & Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, 2008: Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site Nomination Document & Management Plan;  
Cadw, 2011: Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales;  
Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust, 2012: Chirk Historic Settlement Survey  
Royal Commission on the Ancient Historical Monuments of Wales: National Monuments Record of Wales  
English Heritage, 2005: Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals  
English Heritage, 2005: Guidance on the Management of Conservation Areas

### **Further Sources of Information on the History of Chirk & Surrounding Area**

Clwyd County Council, 1989: Telford in the Dee Valley;  
Council for British Archaeology - Jaime Quartermaine, Barrie Trinder & Rick Turner, 2003: Thomas Telford's Holyhead Road – The A5 in North Wales;  
Ron Quenby (Swan Hill Press), 1992: Thomas Telford's Aqueducts on the Shropshire Union Canal;  
Old Photographs of Chirk - <http://www.chirk.org.uk/>  
History of the Llangollen Canal – <http://www.plaskynastoncanalgroup.org>

### **Useful Contacts**

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation - [www.ihbc.org.uk](http://www.ihbc.org.uk)  
Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments – [www.cadw.wales.gov.uk](http://www.cadw.wales.gov.uk)  
The Royal Institute of British Architects – [www.riba.org](http://www.riba.org)  
The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings – [www.spab.org.uk](http://www.spab.org.uk)  
The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors – [www.rics.org.uk](http://www.rics.org.uk)  
The Georgian Group – [www.georgiangroup.org.uk](http://www.georgiangroup.org.uk)  
The Victorian Society – [www.victorian-society.org.uk](http://www.victorian-society.org.uk)  
The Twentieth Century Society – [www.c20society.org.uk](http://www.c20society.org.uk)  
Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust – [www.cpat.org.uk](http://www.cpat.org.uk)  
Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) – [www.rtpi.org.uk](http://www.rtpi.org.uk)  
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