



GILLESPIES

SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE & VISUAL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT
WESTON RHYN & PREESGWEEENE
[54WRN]

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54. WESTON RHYN & PREESGWEENE [54WRN]



LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Weston Rhyn is a large village and civil parish in the north west of Shropshire. It is located between the town of Chirk, in Wales, and Oswestry, in England. It was originally a mining village. The village is on the Shrewsbury to Chester railway line, however there is no station. Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site is to the north of the settlement. The population is 1,550. This settlement has been divided into 3 parcels for the purpose of this study.



WESTON RHYN A [54WRN-A]

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

Parcel A is located to the north of Weston Rhyn. The eastern and western boundaries are defined by local roads. The northern boundary is well-defined by Temple Wood, associated with the parkland landscape of Quinta Park, now an Evangelical Christian retreat centre. The cultural pattern of a planned parkland landscape of Quinta Park and Old Deer Park, although modified, remains apparent. Weston Rhyn is a clustered settlement undergoing expansion. Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site (WHS) is located to the north of the parcel.



1. FROM OLD CHIRK ROAD, LONG DISTANCE VIEWS WEST ACROSS THE FARMLAND LANDSCAPE



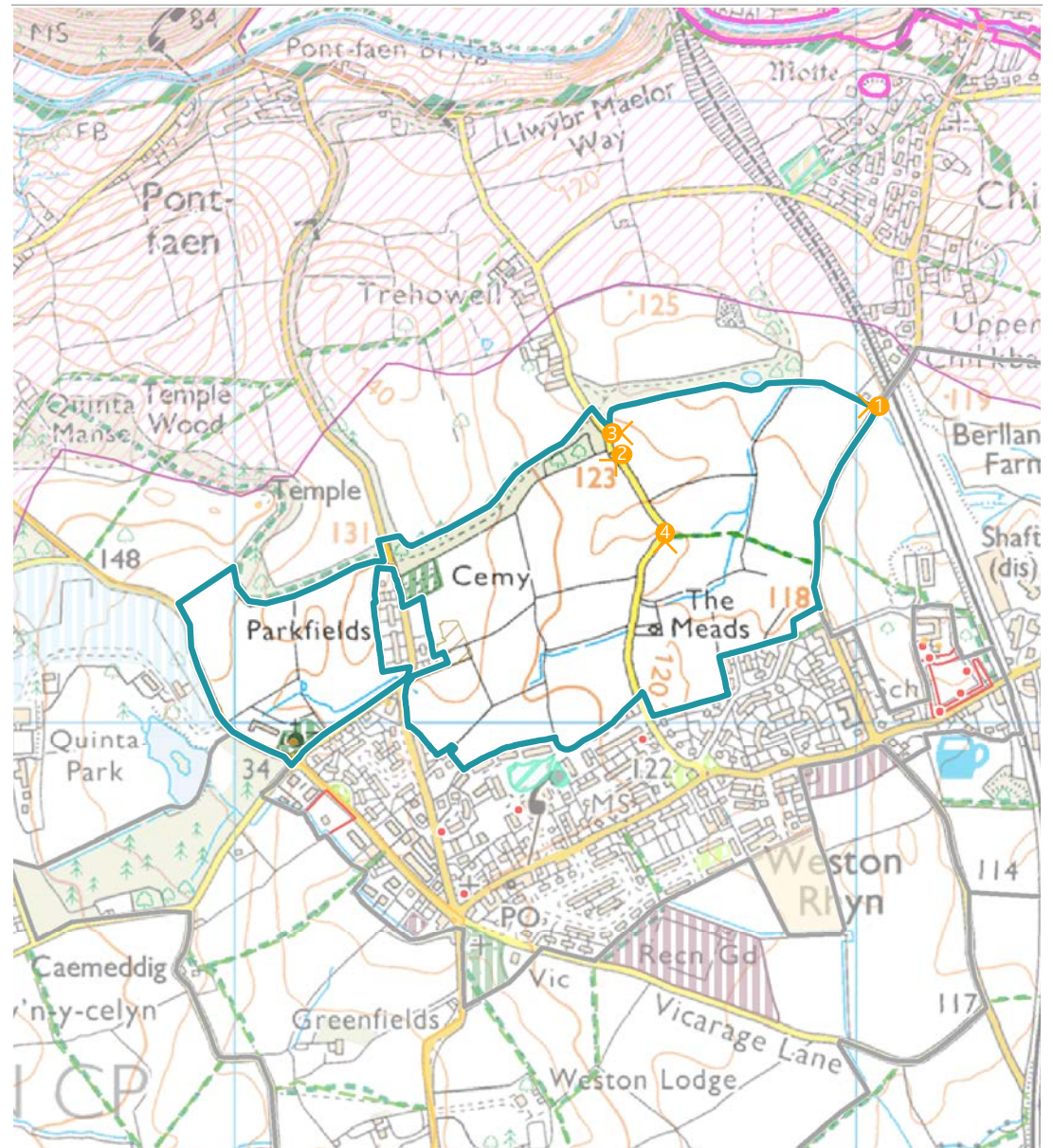
2. FROM TREHOWELL LANE, VIEW SOUTH WEST ACROSS THE FARMLAND LANDSCAPE



3. FROM TREHOWELL LANE, VIEW EAST OF TEMPLE WOOD



4. FROM TREHOWELL LANE, VIEW SOUTH TOWARDS THE SETTLEMENT EDGE



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

This is a landscape of moderate strength of character derived from the former parkland landscape. Natural features include Temple Wood, which connects to Quinta Park in the west, having association with the parkland setting of this landscape. The parcel however is almost wholly of a typical rural character; with intact historic field patterns which are vulnerable to erosion. The landscape fails to make a significant contribution to the enjoyment of the area as it has a limited PRoW network. The landscape does not benefit from the setting of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal WHS despite some intervisibility to landscape which is designated as a buffer zone, which is functionally important and contributes to protection of the designated landscape.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

This is a small to medium scale gently rolling landscape of pastoral use, set within the lower end of the wide Ceiriog river valley. The irregular patterned landscape has a very limited tree cover, however Temple Wood significantly contributes to the wooded character of the wider landscape to the north and would be vulnerable to loss of features that would change its character. There is some sense of tranquility at the woodland edge which is vulnerable to loss or erosion due to visual or noise disturbance from new development. The sense of place is more significant in the west of the parcel, with the setting of Quinta Park being wholly influential. Elsewhere the sense of place is eroded by settlement expansion. The existing settlement edge is abrupt and lacking integration with the absence of tree planting. Housing infill could be appropriate providing an opportunity to improve the settlement edge. There is an area allocated for housing to the east of High Street.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

This is an historic irregular patterned landscape with limited hedgerow trees, but with some association to the former parkland landscape. Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from new housing is medium and to employment is medium-high.



LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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VISUAL

VISUAL VALUE

This landscape has no association with the Shropshire Hills AONB as it is approximately 32km away. Views within this typical farmed landscape are relatively visually contained by landform and woodland. There are some views to rising landform in the north east and west which are areas designated as a buffer site to the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal WHS. The landscape is intact with Temple Wood forming a strong visual feature in the landscape.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Views from within the parcel are generally visually contained. At elevations there are long distance views to rising land in the west, which is designated as the buffer zone for a WHS contributing to the setting of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal. To the north, long distance views are limited as Temple Wood forms a visual barrier within the landscape. The ribboning woodland block instead forms a physical feature within the landscape. A Grade II Listed Sunday School conical spire to the east also forms a physical feature within the landscape, and has associated with the Evangelical Christian retreat centre which is based within the house and grounds of the former parkland landscape of the Quinta. There are some glimpsed views to Parcel B across Old Chirk Road. There is a visual relationship with the settlement edge which detracts from the high scenic quality elsewhere. Development would be an obvious change within the landscape and would be likely to be experienced by road users, residents and users of the PRoW.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

This is a typical historic farmed landscape with visual association with the setting of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal and Quinta Park. The high scenic quality combined with a number of landscape features and associations means that the views experienced are of medium-high sensitivity to change arising from new housing and high sensitivity to change arising from employment.



LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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WESTON RHYN B [54WRN-B]

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

Parcel B is located to the east of Weston Rhyn, where its western boundary is defined by Old Chirk Road, and to the north, south east and south of Preesgweene. The A5 forms the eastern boundary of the parcel. There is an extensive PRoW network, which is intersected by the railway line and Shropshire Union Canal. This rolling landscape of former coal workings is now pastorally used and well wooded with the north east extent of the parcel designated as a World Heritage Site (WHS). It is regarded as the buffer zone for the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal.



1. FROM PROW, VIEW NORTH WITH THE BUFFER ZONE OF THE WHS



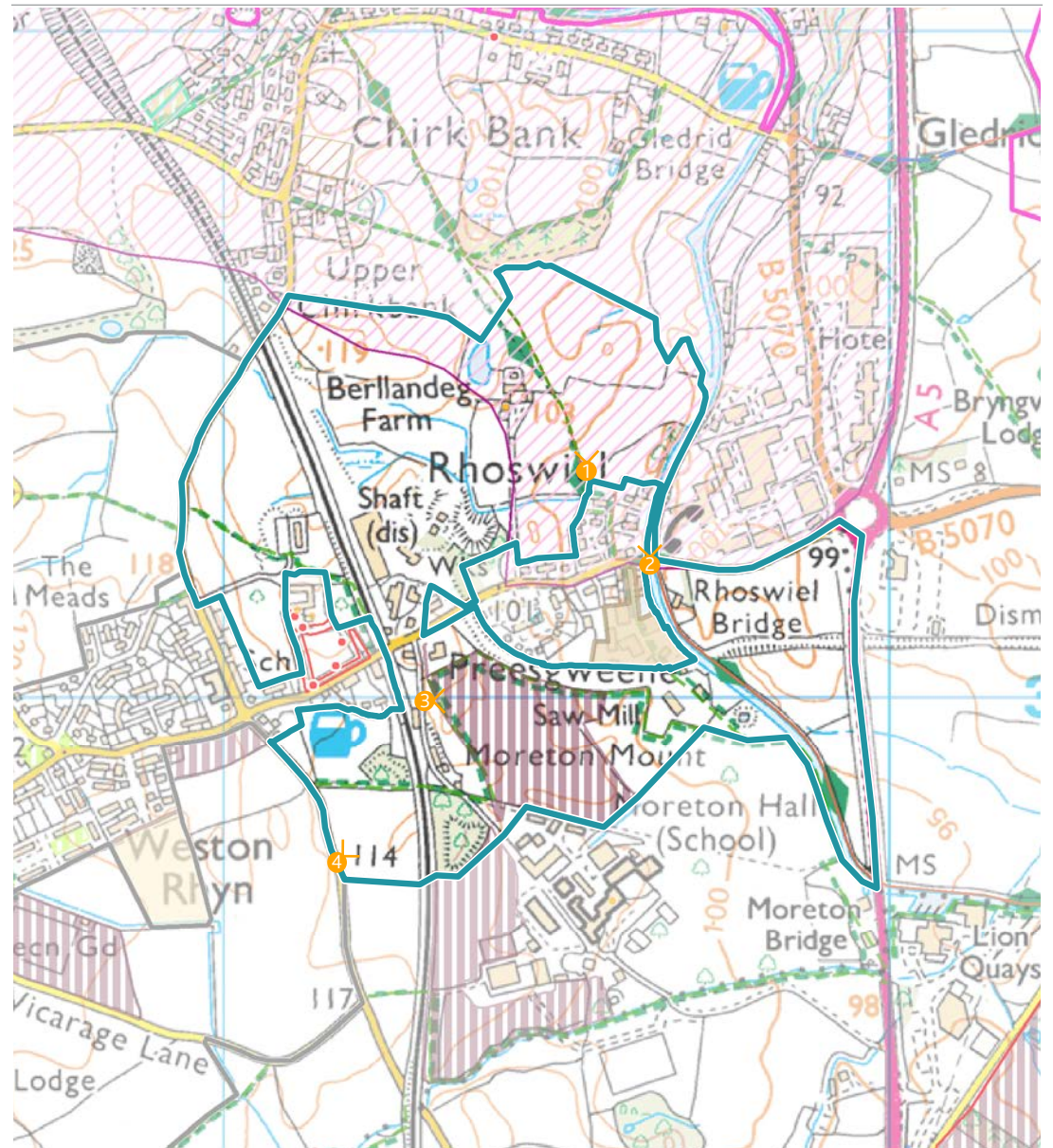
2. FROM STATION ROAD, VIEW NORTH OVERLOOKING THE SHROPSHIRE UNION CANAL



3. FROM UNNAMED LANE SERVICING MORETON HALL, VIEW EAST



4. FROM UNNAMED LANE, VIEW NORTH EAST ACROSS THE RURAL LANDSCAPE



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

This is a landscape of high rarity and positive character with the parcel being partially designated as a WHS. The landscape is an important setting to the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal WHS contributing to the expression of its overall value. The Shropshire Union Canal makes an important contribution to the recreational enjoyment of the area, with a long distance PRow following its path in parts and the canal itself is well used by water craft. There is a well-connected network of PRow and a large recreational ground also contributes to the recreational value of the area.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

This is a small to medium scale gently rolling landscape of pastoral use set within the lower end of the wide Ceiriog river valley. This irregular patterned landscape is well wooded with a number of well-connected woodland blocks encompassing Preesgweene. Planting along the Shrewsbury-Chester line and tree planting along the Shropshire Union Canal form strong elements in the landscape, contributing to rural character and would be vulnerable to loss of features as a result of development. The Shropshire Union Canal hosts a strong sense of place, which is particularly vulnerable to change, as well as its associated landscape which is designated as a WHS. There is some sense of tranquility, however this sense of remoteness is substantially reduced in proximity to Station Road and the housing and employment buildings along it. The existing settlement comprises of the compact village of Preesgweene, which is fairly well integrated, as it is encompassed by woodland blocks. The village of Weston Rhyn, to the west of the railway line, in contrast has an abrupt settlement edge.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

This is predominantly a pastoral landscape with a well wooded character and significant features including the landscape setting of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal WHS and the Shropshire Union Canal itself. As the landscape has associated high rarity, the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from new housing is high and to employment is very high.



LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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VISUAL

VISUAL VALUE

This landscape has no association with the Shropshire Hills AONB as it is approximately 32km away. Views within this gently rolling landscape of predominately pastoral use are mostly visually contained by woodland which form visual features within the landscape. There are views across the WHS buffer zone associated with the setting of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal. There are also views along and to the Shropshire Union Canal. Although the cultural pattern of the landscape has seen some change, it is intact with few detracting elements.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

There are limited views throughout this parcel, where woodland blocks contain views to within field boundaries. There are more open views in the north of the parcel across the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal WHS buffer zone which are relatively scenic and views along the Shropshire Union Canal and across it from Station Road. There are some glimpsed views to Parcel A and C across Old Chirk Road and there is some intervisibility with the settlement edge where there is an absence of woodland planting. There is generally high scenic quality however there are detractors including glimpsed views to the Moreton Business Park from Station Road. The level of access within this parcel is constant, as it is situated off the A5, and is concentrated along Station Road. Receptors of higher susceptibility include residents at the settlement edge, users of the canal and its waterside path and users of the long distance footpath which adjoins the waterside path and intercepts the WHS.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

This is a landscape with some views into the WHS and along the Shropshire Union Canal. Despite a large number of receptors, these views are localised as there is a high level of tree cover containing and filtering most views throughout the parcel. Overall, the views experienced are of medium-high sensitivity to change arising from new housing and high sensitivity to change arising from employment.



LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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WESTON RHYN C [54WRN-C]

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

Parcel C is located to the south of the village of Weston Rhyn, with its southern boundary tracing field patterns. The eastern boundary is defined by Chirk Road and the western boundary encompasses woodland associated with Quinta Park. The landscape is gently rolling in character and supports mixed farming with some hedgerow loss. There are scattered isolated and hedgerow trees and a substantial woodland block at Quinta Park. The settlement pattern comprises scattered farmsteads, isolated properties and the settlement edge of Weston Rhyn.



1. FROM UNNAMED ROAD, VIEW SOUTH EAST OF THE SETTLEMENT EDGE OF WESTON RHYN.



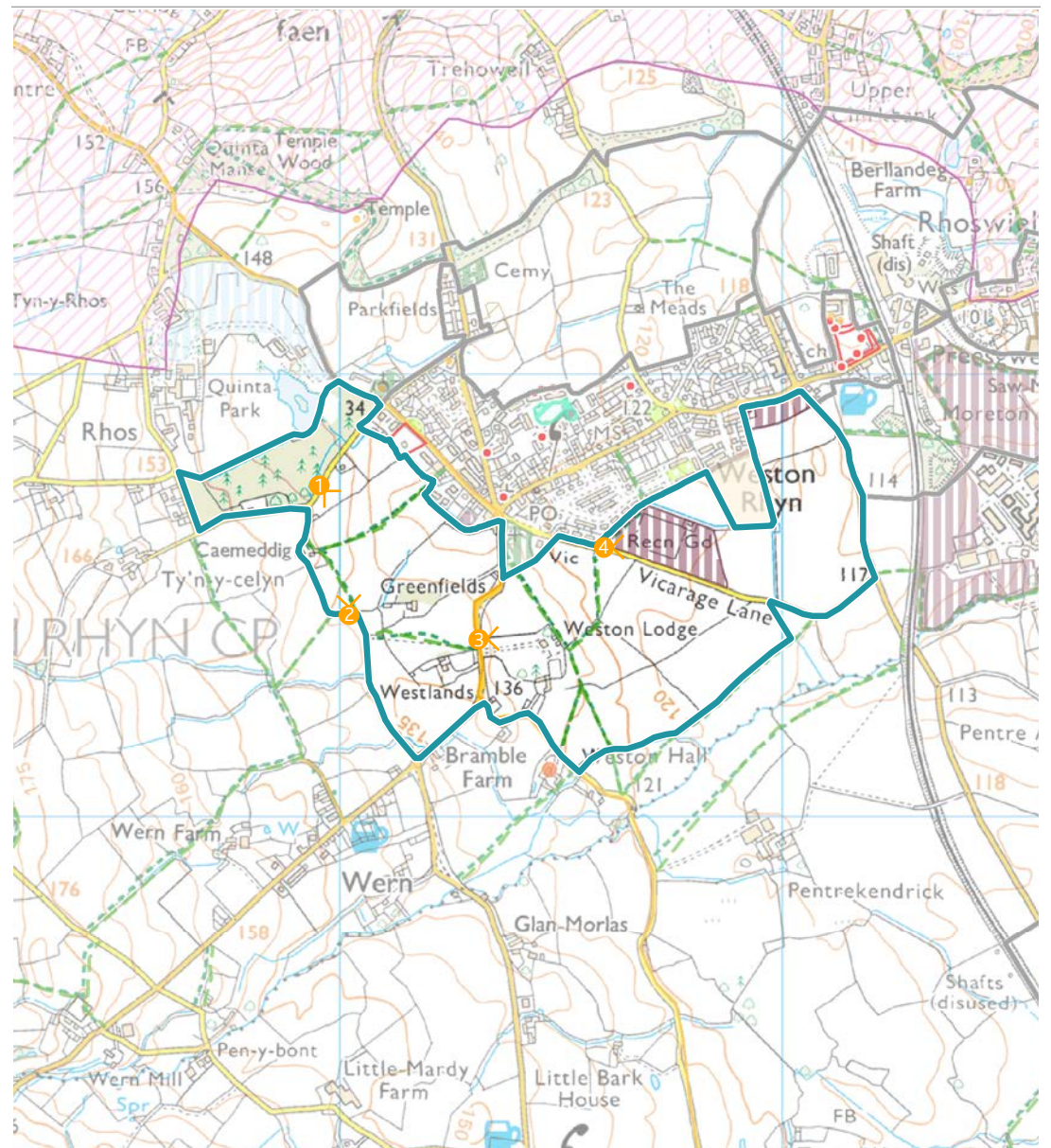
2. FROM GREENFIELDS, VIEW NORTH OF WOODLAND ASSOCIATED WITH QUINTA PARK



3. FROM STATION ROAD, VIEW EAST ACROSS THE RURAL LANDSCAPE TO THE SETTLEMENT EDGE



4. FROM VICARAGE LANE, VIEW NORTH EAST ACROSS THE RECREATIONAL GROUND



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

This is a landscape of typical rural character and moderate condition. The cultural pattern is intact, with minor erosion to hedgerow boundaries. The landscape makes a contribution to the enjoyment of the area with an extensive PRoW network in the west and two recreational grounds in the east. Aside from this, there are no designations which could contribute to a high landscape value. Despite being near to the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site (WHS), there is no landscape association as the settlement of Weston Rhyn forms visual and physical separation.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

This is a small to medium scale gently rolling landscape of pastoral use set within the lower end of the wide Ceiriog river valley. There is a medium sense of place derived from the typical rural character. Smaller fields would be susceptible to any expansion, however, in comparison to Parcels A and B, Parcel C is much less susceptible to change with few associations with designated sites of importance. There is a substantial woodland block within the parcel, which forms a strong landscape feature and is associated with the parkland landscape of Quinta the influence of which is more prominent to the north. Tree planting is limited along hedgerows and at the settlement edge. There is some sense of tranquility, however this is reduced in proximity to the settlement edge which is rather abrupt and could be improved and enhanced in association with development.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

This is a typical rural landscape which has no association with nearby designated sites. Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from new housing is medium and to employment is medium-high.



LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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VISUAL

VISUAL VALUE

This landscape has no association with the Shropshire Hills AONB as it is approximately 32km away. Despite close proximity to the WHS and the parkland landscape of Quinta Park, the landscape does not take in any of the special qualities as there is no intervisibility or association. The landscape is intact with the settlement edge presenting some detracting elements.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Views within this parcel are relatively open, with some views being filtered by planting along field boundaries. There are long distance views to hills in the east which adds to the scenic quality of the landscape. There is intervisibility with Parcel B and the settlement edge. Residential receptors at the settlement edge and recreational receptors using the recreational grounds are of higher susceptibility to changes to their surroundings. The level of access is frequent with receptors along roads and PRoW.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

This is a landscape of typical rural character overlain a gently rolling landform. Some scenic quality combined with a lack of landscape features means that the views experienced are of medium sensitivity to change arising from new housing and medium-high sensitivity to change arising from employment.



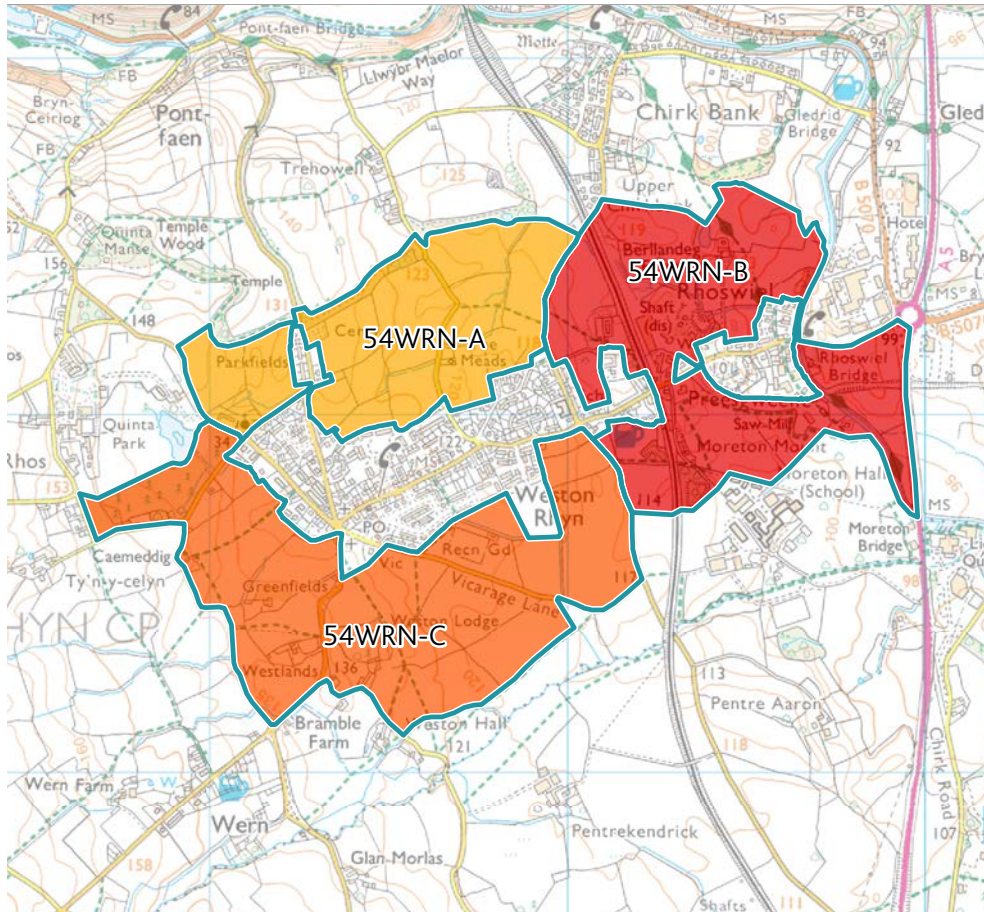
LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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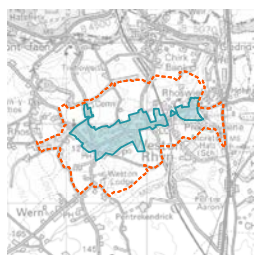
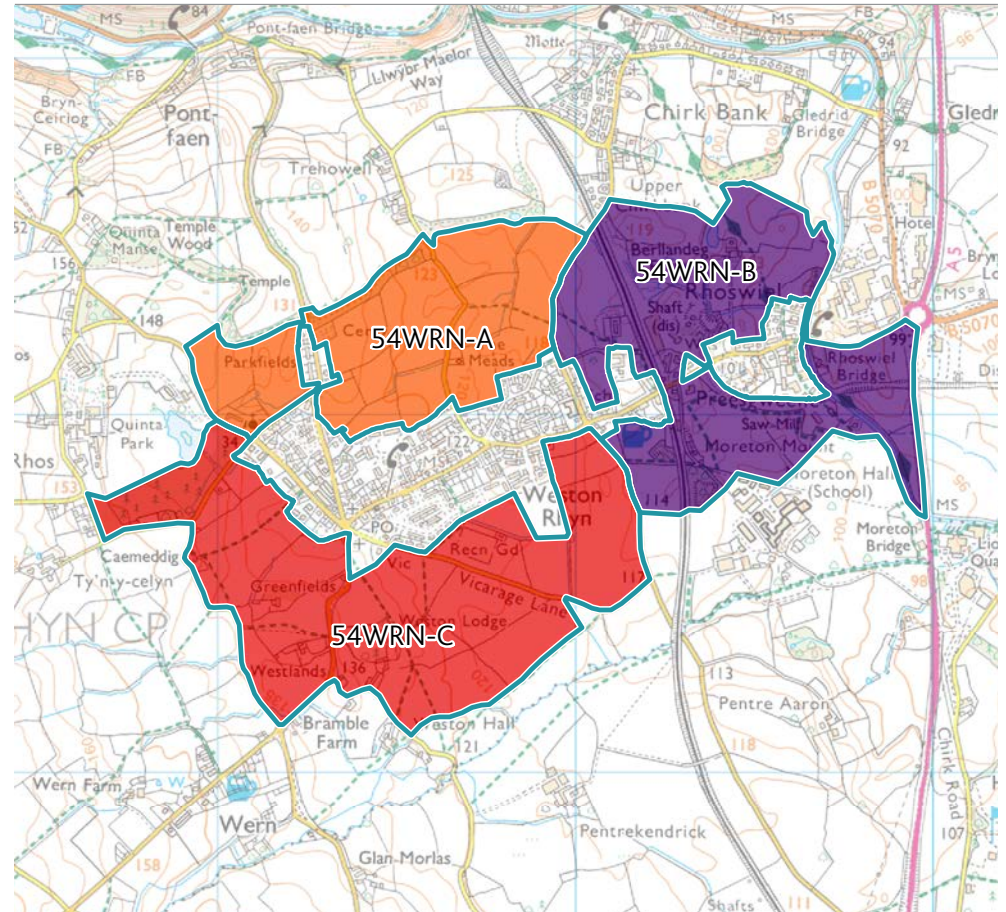
LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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WESTON RHYN & PREESGWEENE LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

HOUSING



EMPLOYMENT



KEY:

SENSITIVITY PARCEL

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY:

VERY HIGH

MEDIUM-HIGH

MEDIUM-LOW

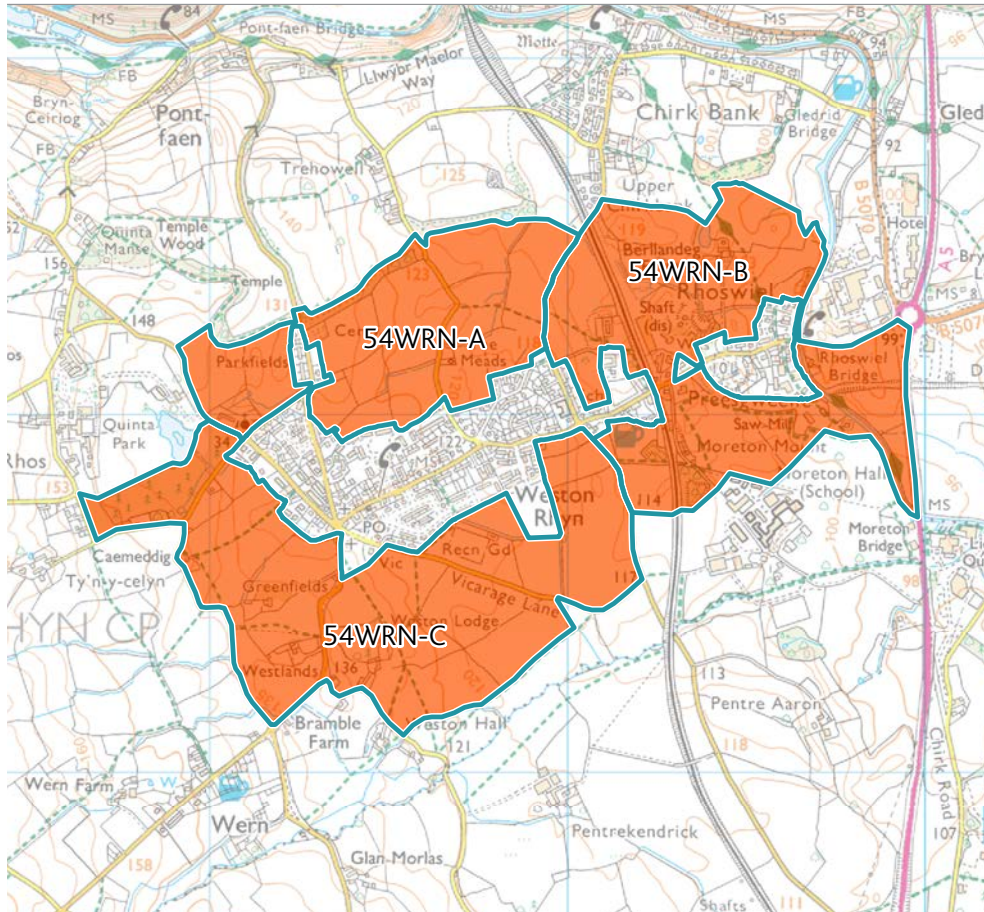
HIGH

MEDIUM

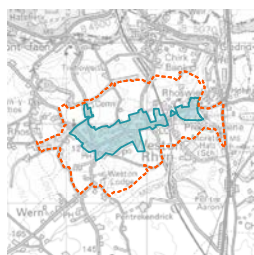
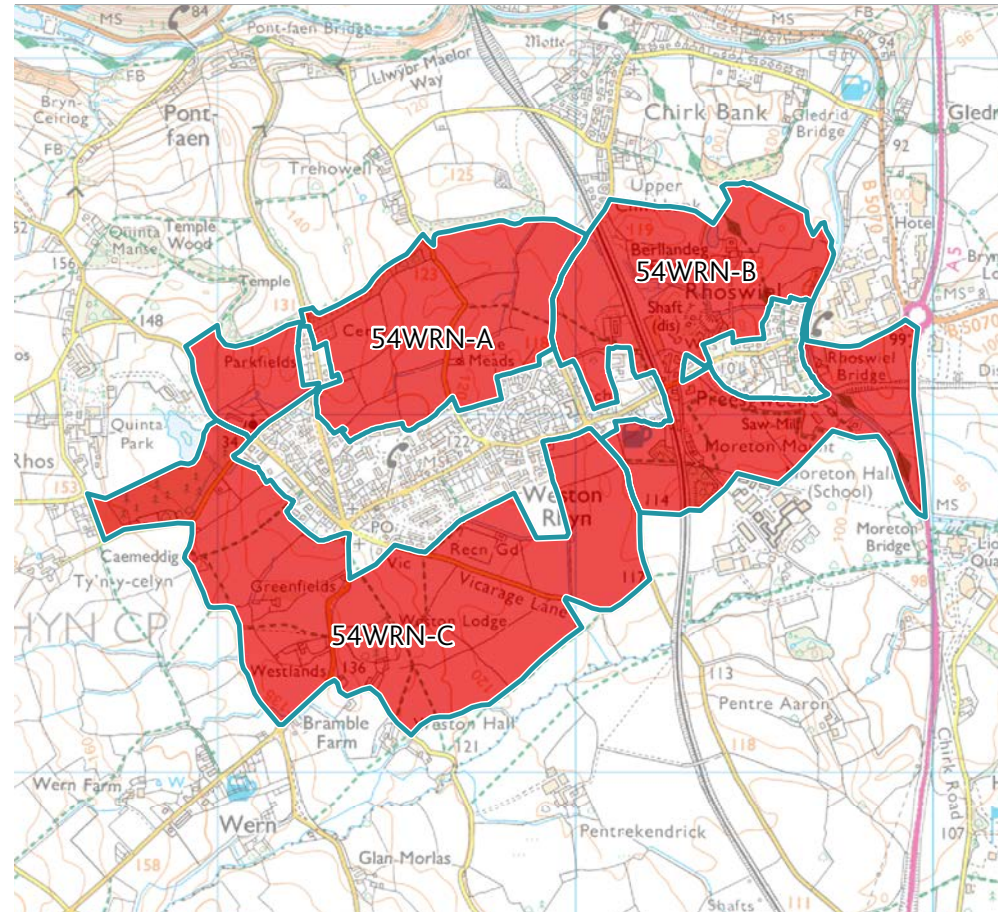
LOW

WESTON RHYN & PREESGWEENE VISUAL SENSITIVITY

HOUSING



EMPLOYMENT



KEY:

SENSITIVITY PARCEL

VISUAL SENSITIVITY:

VERY HIGH

MEDIUM-HIGH

MEDIUM-LOW

HIGH

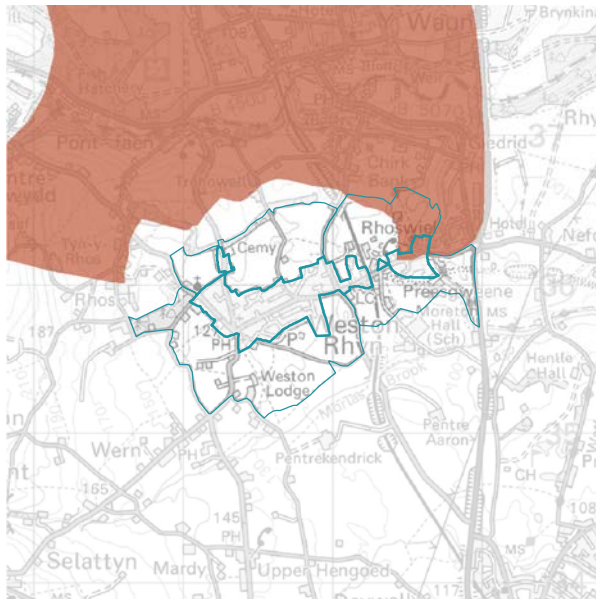
MEDIUM

LOW

DESIGN GUIDANCE FOR WESTON RHYN & PREESGWEEENE

[54WRN]

3 SENSITIVITY PARCELS



WHS

KEY



PARCEL BOUNDARY



SETTLEMENT



HIGHER LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY TO DEVELOPMENT



HIGHER VISUAL SENSITIVITY TO DEVELOPMENT



VIEWS TO BE PROTECTED



DESIGNATED FEATURES WHERE THE SETTING SHOULD BE CONSIDERED



VISITOR DESTINATION WHERE THE SETTING SHOULD BE CONSIDERED



IMPORTANT LANDSCAPE FEATURE WHICH SHOULD BE RETAINED

