

Cultural Landscape

Aspect Area Name	Rural Landscapes	
Aspect Area Classification	Influences/Material expressions/Rural/Other Rural (specify) (Level 4)	
Aspect Area Code	MNTGMCL051	
Date Of Survey : 29/10/2005		

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Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (Partly, through observation on site visits and on maps at 1:25000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (The entire Study Area)

Description

The classification at level 3 describes the dominant cultural context, but which other contexts are important to the cultural landscape of this area?	Rural Other ("Other rural" is chosen at Level 4 to reflect the richness and diversity of the cultural and aesthetic qualities of the landscape outside other designated Aspect Areas)
Which level 4 classes are particularly significant to the cultural landscape character of this area - Influences?	Agricultural Forestry Fishing/ hunting Rural Settlement Communications & Transport
To what extent do the context and level 4 details selected contribute to the cultural identity, local distinctiveness or sense of place of the area?	Strong (Level 4 details combine to reinforce the cultural essence of this multi-part landscape)
To what extent is the cultural information widely recognised or appreciated?	Regionally (Mostly to those who live there and to the people of Wales)
Are there any artistic expressions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	Not known
Are there any people / movements / institutions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	Not known
Is there any folklore or are there legends that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	Not known
Are there any events/traditions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	Not known
Are there any technical / scientific discoveries that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
What are the attributes of the cultural elements in the Aspect Area?	Mixed
What chronological periods are culturally dominant in the area?	Post 1950 Inter War Victorian & Edwardian Georgian Late Medieval Medieval Early Christian Roman Pre-Roman
Are there certain place-names in the area that are particularly significant?	No
Summary Description: (no more than 150 words)	The Aspect Area is essentially a catch-all of landscapes surrounding other Aspect Areas. It reveals an eclectic mix of landscape type, from fertile lowlands to bleak moorlands, and forms a buffer between other Aspect Areas that are more culturally distinctive or diverse. Surprisingly, there are few statutorily protected landscape types - such as SSSIs or SLAs within the area. Nevertheless, Rural Landscapes forms the background to the more detailed painting on the canvas of Montgomeryshire, contributing greatly to the county's soubriquet of Powis paradywys Cymru.

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Cultural Landscape features of the area?	Yes (Decline in agricultural economy, rural depopulation)
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Description

If yes, give examples of the place-names and their significance	Powys Paradywys Cymru - the ancient name for Gwynwyn, the territory that is now Montgomeryshire
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Aspect Area Boundary

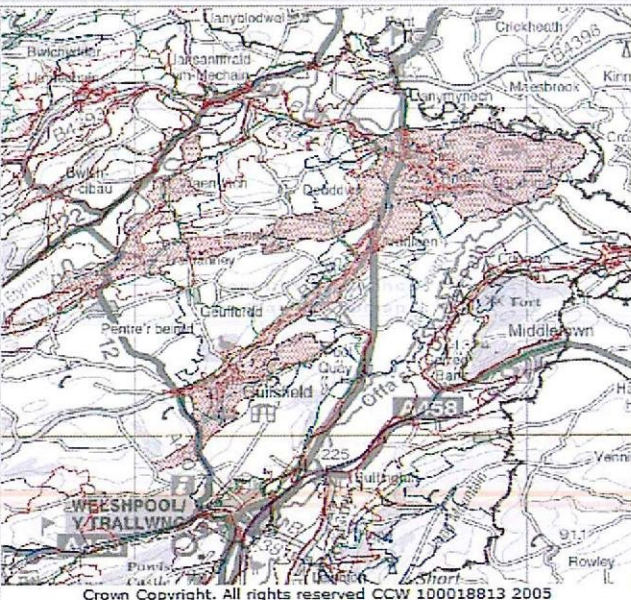
To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 3
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	Some (Boundaries are formed by (a) the Study Area boundary; and (b) the boundaries of other Aspect Areas)
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Raster
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	Boundaries are formed by (a) the Study Area boundary; and (b) the boundaries of other Aspect Areas

Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	In the Heart of Powysland, Robert Owen; Welshpool, 1930
Assessment	

ASSESSMENT	
Additional Assessments	none
Additional Comments	none
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	High (High as a varied, visually rich rural landscape of a wide topographical range that provides the framework for the Study Area as a whole)
Justification of overall evaluation	See Q40
Evaluation Criteria: Recognition/transparency	Sub-regional recognition (Rural Montgomeryshire is well known for the attractiveness of its landscapes)
Evaluation Criteria: Period	Very apparent (High as an essentially evolved agricultural landscape)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity (Culture)	Commonplace (These rural areas share many of the characteristics and cultural essence with large tracts of Wales)
Evaluation Criteria: Documentation	Unassessed
Evaluation Criteria: Group Value	Considerable (Rural Montgomeryshire is well known for the attractiveness of its landscapes)
Evaluation Criteria: Survival	N/A (Rural landscapes survive as evolved examples of human exploitation and occupation)
Evaluation Criteria: Vulnerability	Tolerant (Vulnerable to agricultural decline and consequent land husbandry, and depopulation)
Evaluation Criteria: Diversity	Highly complex (Elements within the Aspect Area display a hugely rich diversity from barren moorland to fertile valleys. Small isolated farmsteads on valley sides add much to the attractiveness of the landscape and their maintenance should be assisted)
Evaluation Criteria: Potential (Culture)	Considerable (High - in the sense that there is high potential for further deterioration)
Description	
Which level 4 classes are particularly significant to the cultural landscape character of this area - Associations?	Places & Place Names Sense of Place
Evaluation	
Condition:	Fair (The rural landscape is generally well maintained, but suffers from its inability to sustain a vibrant agricultural economy - leading to rural depopulation, diversity and hence neglect)
Value:	High (High as topographically and scenically varied and distinctive, comprising bare upland moorland and fertile valleys, the latter containing a variety of field patterns)
Trend:	Declining (Declining through unsustainable economics of agriculture, rural depopulation and neglect)
Recommendations	
Existing management:	Generally Appropriate
Existing management remarks:	As a largely agricultural landscape - and therefore economically important - landscape management is appropriate within the prevailing circumstances of farming economy
Principal management recommendations	Encourage through grants or subsidy the proper management and maintenance of farming landscapes to replace the centuries-old husbandry that made these rural areas what they are today
Guideline	Immediate (Seek more imaginative means of keeping young people closer to the land and their roots by encouraging regenerative or small business activity in this age of the world wide web and e-commerce) Medium Term (Seek to ensure sustainability of income and provide subsidy to retain people so that they may nurture the landscape) Long Term (Provide grants and/or subsidies for the maintenance of structures in the landscape)
Description	
If Classification is "Other", specify here	

Geological Landscape

Aspect Area Name	Four Crosses-Guilsfield-Sarnau	
Aspect Area Classification	Lowland hills and valleys/Lowland glacial and fluvioglacial depositional terrain/Lowland glacial outwash plain / field (Level 3)	
Aspect Area Code	MNTGMGL682	
Date Of Survey : 25/10/2005		

Description

What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?	Includes the broad platform dominated by fluvioglacial sheet deposits with some minor glaciolacustrine deposits in the Four Crosses area on the western side of the Severn valley; the fill of the wide valley in the Sarnau area, which links the Severn and Vyrnwy valleys and the SE apron of the Vyrnwy valley which is also dominated by fluvioglacial sheet deposits, etc. Gentle surface undulations typical and marshy areas. Also includes similar areas SE to Guilsfield and a broad cwm-like area of infill. Gaer bank in the Sarnau valley is probably a low mound of bedrock Ordovician deposits.
What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?	Lowland glacial outwash plain / field
Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?	Stratigraphic formation(s) (Minor Ordovician mudrocks (?Ashgill).) Superficial deposits (Glacial sand and gravel dominant also with glaciolacustrine deposits and probably also minor alluvium and terrace deposits (Quaternary: Pleistocene-Recent).) Active processes (Stream.) Past processes (Glacial, lacustrine.)
What Level 4 components are notable in this area?	Former lake (e.g. silted up) Urban / industrial development
What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?	Stream.
Are there components of significant hydrological importance?	Yes (Stream.)
Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?	Not known
Is there current mineral extraction?	No
Has there been mineral extraction in the past?	Yes (Glacial sand and gravel)
Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?	No
Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?	No

Evaluation

Value	Moderate (Typical landscape of geomorphological feature and deposits. No notable sites recorded.)
Condition	Good (Dominantly rural area with limited development.)
Trend	Constant (Dominantly rural area with limited development.)

Recommendations

Existing management	Generally Appropriate
Principal management recommendations	Maintain landscape character and ensure that no significant geological or geomorphological features are lost or damaged.
Guideline	Long Term (Maintain landscape character and ensure that no significant geological or geomorphological features are lost or damaged.) Medium Term (No contemporary geological map available for part of area: encourage systematic geological mapping of the area to properly document geological character.)

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?	No
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Aspect Area Boundary

To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 3
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	None (Aspect Area boundaries surveyed at 1:10,000, mapped at 1:25,000.)
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	Other (British Geological Survey maps, aerial photographs, OS 1:25,000 Landranger topographical map.)
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	Break of slope at base of solid geology massif and features at edge of active river/floodplain system.

Evaluation Matrix

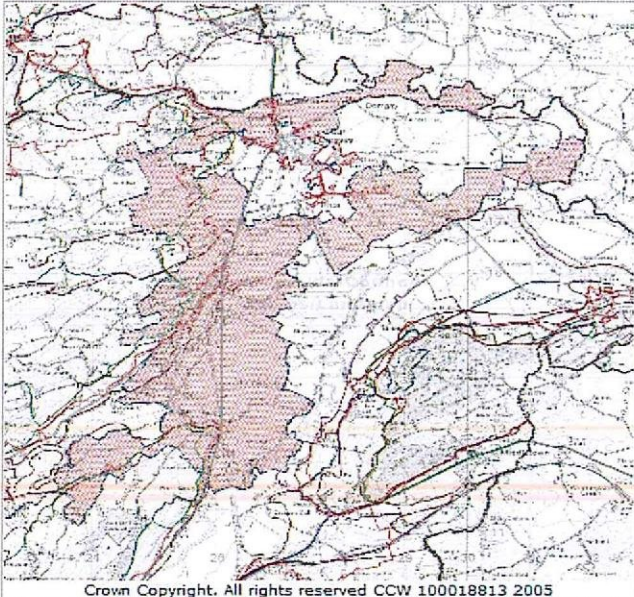
Evaluation Criteria: Research Value	Moderate (Typical landscape of geomorphological feature and deposits. No notable sites recorded.)
Evaluation Criteria: Educational Value	Low (No notable sites recorded)
Evaluation Criteria: Historical Value	Low (No notable sites recorded)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity / Uniqueness	Low (Typical landscape of geomorphological feature and deposits. No notable sites recorded)
Evaluation Criteria: Classic Example	Low (No notable sites recorded)
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Moderate (Typical landscape of geomorphological feature and deposits. No notable sites recorded)
Justification of overall evaluation	Typical landscape of geomorphological feature and deposits. No notable sites recorded.

Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	British Geological Survey (2000), Sheet 137: Oswestry (1:50000); Ordnance Survey (1998), Explorer 239 (1:25,000 scale); Ordnance Survey (2000a), Explorer 240 (1:25,000 scale).
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Assessment	
Additional Assessments	None.
Additional Comments	Additional Level 4 features include: Stream: Disused quarry; Marsh/bog/fen.
Monitoring	
Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (Field transect.)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (Part of broader Wye-Vyrnwy valleys outwash plain.)
Description	
If Classification is "Other", specify here	N/A.
Recommendations	
Existing management remarks:	Dominantly rural area with limited development.
Description	
Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?	Fluvioglacial
Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?	

Historic Landscape	
Aspect Area Name	Arddleen
Aspect Area Classification	Rural environment/Agricultural/Regular Fieldscapes (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	MNTGMHL501
Date Of Survey : 27/03/2006	



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Description

If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area? (Tick all that apply)	Nucleated Settlement Communications
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Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field?	No
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	

Description

Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area? (Tick all that apply)	Hedgerow Hedgerow With Trees Hedgebank Post & Wire Fence
What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area? (Tick all that apply)	Buried-dry Relict-Earthworks Relict-Stone Monuments Buildings & Structures Documentary
Which chronological period is dominant in the area?	Post Medieval (1536+) Prehistoric Medieval (to 1536)
Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?	No
Are there SMR sites here?	Yes
Are there SAMs here?	Yes
Are there Listed Buildings here?	Yes
Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?	No
Are there Conservation Areas here?	No
Are there World Heritage Sites here?	No
Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?	No

Aspect Area Boundary

To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 3
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	All
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Raster
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:10,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	Defined with reference to topography and field pattern...

Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	See general bibliography in Technical Report, and sources quoted in Regional Historic Environment Record...
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Assessment

Additional Assessments	
Additional Comments	

Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Outstanding (See overall justification.)
Justification of overall evaluation	Straggling area of regular fields occupying flat land above the Severn floodplain. The area contains significant remains of ridge and furrow field systems associated with medieval and later farms and farmsteads all of which overlie significant areas of earlier and later prehistoric settlements and burial monuments and is overlain by canal archaeology and a Turnpike road. Its complexity contributes to its high scores.

Evaluation

Condition:	
Value:	Outstanding
Trend:	

Recommendations

Existing management	
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Existing management remarks:

Principal management recommendations

Guideline

Description

Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements	Regular, straight-sided, lowland fieldscapes on the western side of the floodplain of the Severn valley in the Four Crosses and Llandrinio areas, north of Pool Quay. The distinctive field patterns in this area appear to represent enclosure in the late 18th and 19th centuries of lowland commons and medieval open fields, the latter represented by areas of ridge and furrow cultivation. Early settlement and land use indicated by complexes of Neolithic to Bronze Age burial and ritual monuments in the Four Crosses area and by possibly later prehistoric pit alignments and enclosed farmsteads. The early medieval Offa's Dyke crosses the area. Dispersed farmsteads and houses of medieval and post-medieval origin. Small nucleated church settlements of early medieval origin at Llantysilio and Llandrinio, with small nucleated settlement of medieval origin at Arddleen. The present-day nucleated settlements at Four Crosses and Arddleen originated in the 18th century onwards from their position on the road, railway and canal networks. The late 18th-century Montgomeryshire Canal and the dismantled later 19th-century Cambrian Railway line between Oswestry and Buttington run through the area.
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If Classification is "Other", specify here

Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	High (See overall justification.)
Evaluation Criteria: Potential	Outstanding (Significant buried archaeology)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	Outstanding (Complex multi-layered landscape)
Evaluation Criteria: Survival	N/A (See overall justification.)
Evaluation Criteria: Condition	

Landscape Habitats

Aspect Area Name

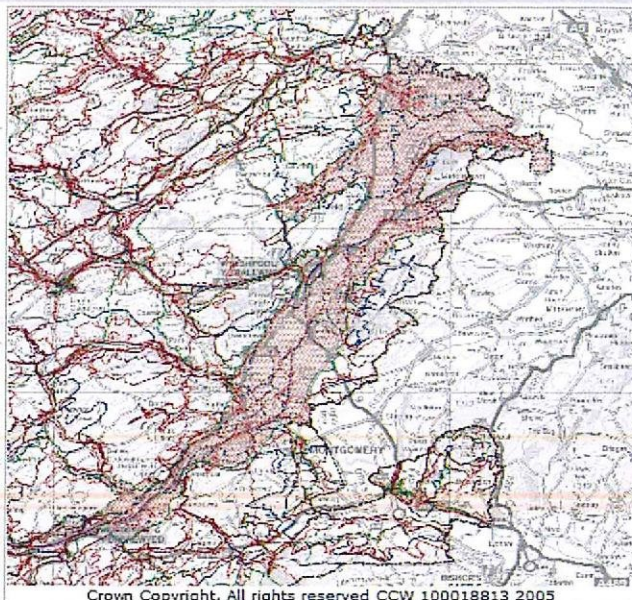
Aspect Area Classification

Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats/Mosaic/Mosaic (Level 3)

Aspect Area Code

MNTGMLH033

Date Of Survey : 19/09/2005



Monitoring

Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (The River Severn flows through this aspect area into MONTLH101 Newtown and beyond into MONTLH051.)
What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?	12481 ha

Description

What are the dominant soil types? (specify up to 3 types)	Brown soils Ground-water gley soils
What Phase 1 habitat types are present? Only select the five most dominant types and, for each of these, specify below what percentage of the Aspect Area is made up of these.	Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland (3) Planted Coniferous Woodland (2) Improved Grassland (71) Arable (17) Buildings (2)
Does the area contain habitats of international importance?	Yes
Does the area contain BAP habitats?	Yes
Does the area contain protected sites?	Yes
If yes, which ones?	SSSI (MONTGOMERY CANAL SSSI GWAUN BRYN (BRYN PASTURE) SSSI GRANLLYNN KINGSWOOD MEADOW SSSI)
Approximately what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?	1-10%
Does the area support important species?	Yes
Are there any significant threat species present in abundance? (Field visit required)	Yes (Alien crayfish have been recorded.)
What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?	Streams Hedgerows Veteran Trees
Are any of these features in a very good condition? (Field visit required)	
Are any of these features in a poor condition? (Field visit required)	
What are the main land management activities taking place in the area? (Field visit required)	Cultivation Stock grazing Mowing
Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity? (Field visit required)	Some (Hay cutting on SSSI maintains its diversity.)
Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity? (Field visit required)	
Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?	Not known
Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?	Yes (Where the hedges are not stockproof in their own right they would benefit by maintenance work and replanting of gaps)
Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character	This area is made up of pasture and arable fields along the flat valley floor adjacent to the river Severn. The mixed pattern of grass and arable fields together with small ribbons of woodland which follow streams and the river itself give an important mosaic to the landscape which is enhanced by the occasional unimproved fields containing interesting native species such as Gwaun Bryn Pasture SSSI. This mosaic is also important for a wide range of bat and bird species. Of great significance to this area is the Montgomery Canal which runs from Llanymynech to Freestone Locks near Newtown. Montgomery Canal is of special interest because it supports aquatic, emergent and marginal plant communities of exceptional richness, including a large population of the internationally rare and threatened floating water plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> and a several other rare and scarce water plants. An important aquatic invertebrate assemblage is also present.

Evaluation

Value	High (Although the area is mainly improved and arable land there are some very significant features in the area including the river Severn, and the Montgomery canal which is of special interest because it supports aquatic, emergent and marginal plant communities of exceptional richness, including a large population of the internationally rare and threatened floating water plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> and a several other rare and scarce water plants. There are also some traditional species rich hay meadows in the area. The existence of hedges and mixed land use all contribute to this area's richness and its High value.)
Condition	Good (the information and air photography suggests a good condition although a site visit would be needed to confirm this.)
Trend	Unassessed

Description

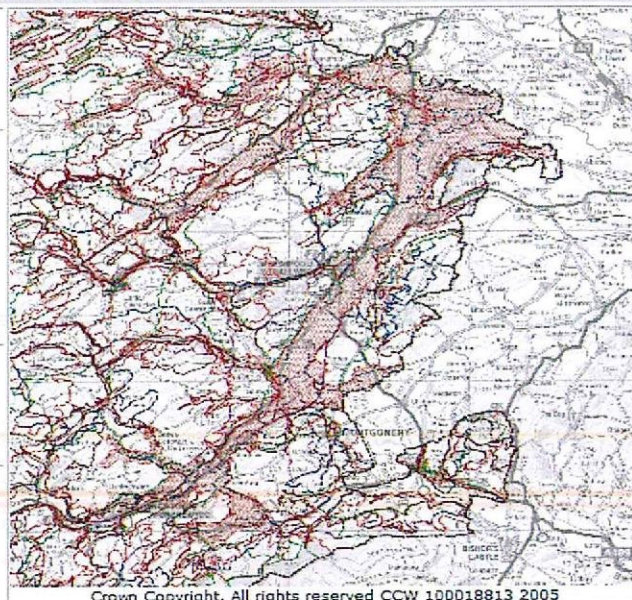
If yes, which habitats of international importance?	Lowland hay meadows
If yes, which BAP habitats?	Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows Lowland Meadows Eutrophic Standing Waters

Recommendations	
Existing management	Generally Appropriate
Principal management recommendations	Where the hedges are not stockproof in their own right and would benefit by maintenance work and replanting of gaps
Guideline	Immediate (Manage and replant gaps in hedges) Medium Term (Manage a buffer zone alongside the river edge) Long Term (Replant woods especially alongside streams.)
Monitoring	
Has the information ever been verified in the field?	No
Aspect Area Boundary	
To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 3
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	All
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	Aerial photographs
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:10,000 and 1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	The boundary on the northwest side of the valley follow the break of slope to the south the boundary follows the larger meadows and arable fields with the smaller pastures of MONTLH056 following the rolling land to the east.
Bibliography	
List the key sources used for this assessment	MWT Dolydd Hafren Bird Monitoring 2002 Odonata Records MWT Casual Records CCW Priority Invertebrate Records Middletown Area Mammal Surveys CCW Montgomeryshire Potential SSSI Files CCW Montgomeryshire Potential SSSI Files CCW Montgomeryshire BAP Species Files MWT Casual Records Montgomery Canal Data MWT Llyn Coed-y-Dinas MWT Summer Bird Survey 2001 CCW Montgomeryshire Tir Gofal File Notes RSPB Records SSSI citations Wildlife trust reserve leaflets
Assessment	
Additional Assessments	
Additional Comments	
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Priority Habitats	High (Although the area is mainly improved and arable land there are some very significant features in the area including the river Severn, and the Montgomery canal there are also some traditional species rich hay meadows in the area. The existence of hedges and mixed land use all contribute to this areas richness and its High value.)
Evaluation Criteria: Significance	High (Area contains small but extremely important example of certain habitats and a mosaic of land use.)
Evaluation Criteria: Opportunity	High (Replanting and managing hedges would significantly enhance the area.)
Evaluation Criteria: Expansion rates	Unassessed
Evaluation Criteria: Sensitivity	Unassessed
Evaluation Criteria: Connectivity/Cohesion	High (The are is tied together by the river and canal together with hedges where they exist.)
Evaluation Criteria: Habitat Evaluation	High (A number of significant habitats occur from traditional hay meadows to the Montgomery canal)
Evaluation Criteria: Importance for key species	High (Very large numbers of important species are recorded form the area.)
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species	High (Although the area is mainly improved and arable land there are some very significant features in the area including the river Severn, and the Montgomery canal which is of special interest because it supports aquatic, emergent and marginal plant communities of exceptional richness, including a large population of the internationally rare and threatened floating water plantain Luronium natans and a several other rare and scarce water plants. There are also some traditional species rich hay meadows in the area. The existence of hedges and mixed land use all contribute to this areas richness and its High value.)
Description	
If yes, which species? (for each of the species, also note the source of information)	Skylark Alauda arvensis 2002 MWT Dolydd Hafren Bird Monitoring 2002 High Brown Fritillary Argynnis adippe 1987 Odonata Records Water Vole Arvicola terrestris 2000 MWT Casual Records White-Clawed Crayfish Austropotamobius pallipes 1988 CCW Priority Invertebrate Records Brown Hare Lepus europaeus 2003 Middletown Area Mammal Surveys Bullfinch Pyrrhula pyrrhula 1997 CCW Montgomeryshire Potential SSSI Files Linnet Carduelis cannabina 2002 MWT Dolydd Hafren Bird Monitoring 2002 Prickly Sedge Carex muricata 1996 CCW Montgomeryshire Potential SSSI Files Reed Bunting Emberiza schoeniclus 2002 MWT Dolydd Hafren Bird Monitoring 2002 Red Hemp-Nettle Galeopsis angustifolia 1986 Ad hoc records Great Crested Newt Triturus cristatus 1999 CCW Montgomeryshire BAP Species Files Juniper Juniperus communis 1991 MWT Casual Records Red-Backed Shrike Lanius collurio 1985 RSPB Records Floating Water-Plantain Luronium natans 2001 Montgomery Canal Data Otter Lutra lutra 2004 CCW Licence Returns Data Common Scoter Melanitta nigra 2000 MWT Llyn Coed-y-Dinas Spotted Flycatcher Muscicapa striata 2001 MWT Summer Bird Survey 2001 Tree Sparrow Passer montanus 2002 MWT Dolydd Hafren Bird Monitoring 2002 Common Fan-Foot Pechipogon strigilata 1987 MWT Casual Records Grey Partridge Perdix perdix 1996 Dolydd Hafren Monitoring 1996 Grass-Wrack Pondweed Potamogeton compressus 2001 Montgomery Canal Data Bullfinch Pyrrhula pyrrhula 2002 MWT Dolydd Hafren Bird Monitoring 2002 Lesser Horseshoe Bat Rhinolophus hipposideros 1998 CCW Montgomeryshire BAP Species Files Brown Trout Salmo trutta fario 2000 Ad hoc records Skylark Alauda arvensis 2003 CCW Montgomeryshire Tir Gofal File Notes Song Thrush Turdus philomelos 1997 CCW Montgomeryshire Potential SSSI Files Turtle Dove Streptopelia turtur 1982 MWT Casual Records Tree Sparrow Passer montanus 1997 CCW Montgomeryshire Potential SSSI Files Song Thrush Turdus philomelos 2002 MWT Dolydd Hafren Bird Monitoring 2002 Lapwing Vanellus vanellus 2002 MWT Dolydd Hafren Bi
Evaluation Matrix	
Justification of overall evaluation	Although the area is mainly improved and arable land there are some very significant features in the area including the river Severn, and the Montgomery canal which is of special interest because it supports aquatic, emergent and marginal plant communities of exceptional richness, including a large population of the internationally rare and threatened floating water plantain Luronium natans and a several other rare and scarce water plants. There are also some traditional species rich hay meadows in the area. The existence of hedges and mixed land use all contribute to this areas richness and its High value.
Recommendations	
Existing management remarks:	Area is grazed, cut for hay and silage and has arable farming.
Monitoring	
Date of monitoring?	2016-01-15
Monitoring undertaken by	Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.
Has this record has been updated following monitoring work?	

Visual and Sensory

Aspect Area Name	River Severn Flood plain
Aspect Area Classification	Lowland/Flat Lowland/Levels/Flat Open Lowland Farmland (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	MNTGMVS650

Date Of Survey : 09/02/2004



Description

Physical Form And Elements: Topographic Form?	Levels
Physical Form And Elements: Landcover Pattern?	Field Pattern/Mosaic
Aesthetic Qualities: Scale?	Vast
Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure?	Open
Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?	Diverse
Aesthetic Qualities: Texture?	Medium
Aesthetic Qualities: Lines?	Angular
Aesthetic Qualities: Colour?	Moderate Contrasts
Aesthetic Qualities: Balance?	Balanced
Aesthetic Qualities: Unity?	Neutral
Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern?	Organised
Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest?	Mixed
Other Factors: Level of Human Access?	Constant
Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution?	Substantial (Significant urban areas situated at Newtown and Welshpool and the partially lit A483(T) together with regular smaller scale settlements and farmsteads that line the valley bottom and follow the A483(T) such as Garthmyl, Berriew and Four Crosses)
Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?	Generally Appropriate
What materials? Give Details:	N/A
There are attractive views...	...both in and out (To and from adjacent higher ground of wooded / mosaic farmland and hill slopes...To the north of the aspect particularly dramatic views are gained to Breidden Hill and Forest... Views into the aspect encompass the scale of the mosaic farmland and provides an attractive setting with the River Severn winding through the valley bottom)
There are detractive views...	...within (On outskirts of settlements / industrial estates)
Perceptual and Other Sensory Qualities	Attractive (Rolling farmland in a valley setting) Tranquil (Adjacent to River Severn and Montgomeryshire Canal) Noisy (In close proximity to urban areas) Settled
What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness	Strong (The main river valley that distinguishes the lowland eastern extent of the study area from the upland dominating the western extents)

Evaluation

Value:	Moderate (Smaller areas within the aspect as a whole displays some and outstanding qualities however this is lessened by the association with urban areas and a heavily used road corridor)
Condition:	Unassessed
Trend:	Unassessed

Recommendations

Define the key qualities that should be conserved:	Balance between arable and dairy farming producing a diverse pattern of land use
Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:	Field boundaries to maintain and enhance balance between open grazed / cultivated land and wooded areas
Define the key qualities that should be changed:	N/A
Define the key elements that should be conserved:	Hedgerow boundaries
Define the key elements that should be enhanced:	N/A
Define the key elements that should be changed:	N/A
Principal management recommendation:	Maintain as existing

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?	Not known
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Aspect Area Boundary

To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 3
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	All
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	Other (OS Landline and Aerial Photographs)
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:10,000 and 1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	Predominant land use and topography

Bibliography

Assessment

Additional Assessments N/A

Additional Comments N/A

Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation Moderate (N/A)

Justification of overall evaluation Smaller areas within the aspect as a whole displays some and outstanding qualities however this is lessened by the association with urban areas and a heavily used road corridor = Moderate

Evaluation Criteria: Scenic quality Moderate (Generally high quality views but lessened by the association with urban areas and a heavily used road corridor)

Evaluation Criteria: Integrity Moderate (Some degradation of the overall character adjacent to urban areas)

Evaluation Criteria: Character High (N/A)

Evaluation Criteria: Rarity High (N/A)

Description

Summary Description

A significant open valley / vale with a patchwork of medium to large field parcels many displaying established field boundaries of managed and overgrown hedgerows with numerous hedgerow trees. Predominantly arable farming with some lowland dairy farming. Settlements of varying sizes are prevalent from farmsteads to significant urban areas such as Welshpool and Newtown. Open skies dominate with wooded valley sides fringing the valley bottom.

Physical form and elements: Settlement pattern Mixture

Physical form and elements: Boundary type Mixture

Recommendations

Guideline Long Term (Avoid amalgamation of smaller fields where possible)
Long Term (Implement design guidance for industrial development)

Existing management Generally Appropriate

Existing management remarks: Mixture of arable and dairy farming maintaining a network of medium to large field parcels that have well managed hedgerow boundaries

Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field? Yes (N/A)

Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area? Yes (Newtown and Welshpool and the valley sides comprising hill and scarp slopes to the east and west of the valley bottom)

During which season(s) was fieldwork carried out? Summer

Date of monitoring? 2015-01-29

Monitoring undertaken by Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Simon White of White Consultants in conjunction with the local planning authority.

Has this record has been updated following monitoring work? This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area (Boundary change to accommodate settlement/development expansion at Abermule which justifies a separate area. Also expansion at Welshpool *(commercial development), Llanfyllin, Four Crosses and Guilsfield.)

Change indicated by OS Data, Aerial Photographs
Fieldwork

What has changed?