

Wrexham Power Limited ♦ Proposed Wrexham Energy Centre

The historic environment

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. As a part of its application to the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order for the proposed power station, Wrexham Power Limited will assess the effects of the proposals on the historic environment. The assessment will identify the potential effects on built heritage assets and their setting, such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, registered parks and gardens, and also the potential effects on buried archaeology.
- 1.2. This section provides an overview of the historic environment aspects of the Wrexham Energy Centre project, and explains how these will be taken into account as the proposals are developed.

2. THE POTENTIAL FOR EFFECTS ON THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- 2.1. The proposed development site at Bryn Lane on the Wrexham Industrial Estates contains no designated heritage assets. A portion of the site has been previously developed as a fibreglass factory, and in these areas any significant archaeological remains are likely to have already been damaged or destroyed. However, some areas of the site have not been previously developed. As with any greenfield land these areas might contain buried archaeological remains.
- 2.2. With respect to the electricity and gas grid connections, the installation of pylons would be unlikely to result in direct disturbance to buried archaeological remains, subject to a normal archaeological watching brief being maintained to ensure works can be halted if necessary should significant unknown remains be identified. However the construction of the new gas pipeline would require a 3km long corridor of ground disturbance, in which previously unknown buried archaeological remains might lie.
- 2.3. In the wider area around the power station site and grid connection corridors are a number of statutorily Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments. The effects of the proposed development on the setting of these designated heritage assets will be assessed. Features of interest in the locality include Wat's Dyke and Offa's Dyke, and the historic park and garden at Erddig Hall and Country Park.

3. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

- 3.1. An environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the proposals will be undertaken, which will incorporate a detailed assessment of the potential effects on heritage assets. The EIA process is an integral part of the review of options and the evolution of the final project design to ensure that heritage sensitivities are properly understood. The heritage assessment will take account of relevant guidance including the Institute of Archaeologists' "Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments", Cadw's "Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process" and the Highways Agency's "Design Manual for Roads and Bridges".
- 3.2. Wrexham Power Limited will review site and route options which will take into account the presence of known cultural heritage assets. Once preferred routes for the gas and electricity networks have been selected a detailed assessment of the implications of the development proposals for the historic environment will be undertaken. This will consider two principal issues:
- **Unknown buried archaeological remains** - the potential effects on archaeological remains within the development footprint of the proposed power station site and the gas grid connection route corridor.
 - **Designated built heritage assets** - the potential changes to the setting of designated heritage assets in the landscape around the proposed power station and route corridor for the overhead electrical connection.
- 3.3. A study area of 1 km radius centred on the proposed power station site and 500m either side of the finally selected gas grid connection route will be established to gather data on known buried archaeological remains. This will support the assessment of the potential for the development footprint to contain unknown archaeological remains. Data will be gathered from the relevant local historic environment record. In addition historic map data and readily available secondary sources will be consulted. From this an archaeological desk-based assessment will be prepared.
- 3.4. The potential effects on the setting of the designated built heritage assets will require a more extensive study area. The scope of the study area will be determined by the zone of visual influence established for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. Data for the following asset types within the study area will be collated:
- Statutory and locally-listed buildings
 - Conservation Areas
 - Scheduled Monuments
 - World Heritage Sites and their Buffer Zones

- Assets in the Part I and II Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales
- Battlefields

3.5. Consultation will be undertaken with Cadw, the National Trust and Wrexham County Borough Council's archaeological and conservation officers.

4. ADDRESSING EFFECTS ON THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

4.1. Wrexham Power Limited's approach is to identify and, where possible, avoid adverse effects on heritage assets. To this end, the following principles will be applied.

- The design of the power station and its gas and electricity infrastructure will seek to minimise any significant adverse effects on archaeological remains or the setting of heritage assets. These measures may include a re-siting of structures or altering the architectural form or design of structures.
- The landscape mitigation strategy for the project will address the location of built heritage assets and the effects the scheme could have on their setting.
- Where significant adverse effects cannot be designed out, appropriate mitigation measures and / or archaeological recording programmes will be identified and incorporated into the development proposals.

4.2. These measures will be drawn up in consultation with the corresponding stakeholders and statutory bodies.