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Pontcysyllte aqueduct & canal
WORLD HERITAGE SITE
Where is the site located?

Site Location

Pontcysyllte aqueduct & canal

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The Canal Network

Pontcysyllte aqueduct & canal

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UNESCO Inscription

- **Criterion i:** The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct is a highly innovative monumental civil engineering structure by the famous civil engineer Thomas Telford.

- **Criterion ii:** The construction of the Pontcysyllte Canal in a difficult region bears witness to considerable technical interchanges and decisive progress in the design and construction of artificial waterways.

- **Criterion iii:** The Pontcysyllte Canal and its civil engineering structures bear witness to a crucial stage in the development of heavy cargo transport in order to further the Industrial Revolution.

Pontcysyllte was inscribed as a ‘cultural’ site in June 2009
Site Statistics

The Inscribed Site crosses two countries and three Local Authority areas:

- 11 miles of waterway from Horseshoe Falls, Denbighshire to Gledrid Bridge, Shropshire (10.5 miles in Wales, 0.5 miles in England)
- Area of inscribed site: 105 hectares
- Area of the Buffer Zone: 4,250 hectares
- 95% of WHS owned by British Waterways
Principal Features

- Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Chirk Aqueduct and Horseshoe Falls
- 2 others aqueducts
- 2 tunnels and 31 bridges
- 15 embankments and 16 cuttings
- 7 sluices, 2 floodweirs and 18 culverts
Heritage Assets

- Entire WHS site scheduled as Ancient Monument in 2008.
- A further 12 scheduled ancient monuments sites within the Buffer Zone
- 297 Listed Buildings in the WHS and Buffer Zone
- 6 Conservation Areas, 3 of which are protected through Article 4(2) Directions
- 10 registered Historic Parks and Gardens
Landscape Designations

- Vale of Llangollen Historic Landscape Wales (1863ha)
- AONB extended into Dee Valley in 2011
- Special Area of Conservation and SSSI
- Special Landscape Area
- Green Barrier
Pontcysyllte aqueduct & canal

Site of Special or Scientific Interest (SSSI)
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
AONB and/or Special Landscape Area
Green Barrier
Development Pressures

- Development from within settlement limits
- Agricultural development
- Permitted development immediately adjacent the canal
- Tourism development
- Redevelopment of former industrial sites (Flexsys, Air Products)
Settlements

- 6 settlements within the buffer Zone
- Primary settlements at Llangollen, Cefn Mawr and Chirk are adjacent to the site
- Employment areas at Chirk and Cefn Mawr
Flexsys Site Redevelopment

- 21.32 ha mixed use development (LDP)
- Adjacent to inscribed site, 2 conservation areas and within Buffer Zone
- Historic links to Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and canal
- Prominent site which affects setting
Supplementary Planning Guidance

- To provide clarity for applicants and agents as to how the impact of development will be assessed within the World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone
- To amplify the Plan policies of the 3 respective council’s
- To act as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications affecting the WHS and setting
- To ensure a consistent approach to the protection and management of the site
Outstanding Universal Value

Attributes which contribute to and support the Outstanding Universal Value of the site are:

- Integrity and Authenticity
- Views
- Sense of Arrival
- Character
Integrity and Authenticity

Integrity means completeness/intactness of the attributes needed to convey Outstanding Universal Value.

Authenticity is expressed through:

- Form and design
- Materials
- Use and function
- Techniques and management systems
- Location and setting
Views

Pontcysyllte aqueduct & canal
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Landscape and Visual Assessment

- Defines the immediate and wider visual and landscape context of the WHS
- Appraises landscape character
- Describes significant views
- Identifies visual detractors
- Makes recommendations for conservation and enhancement
Comparison with historic and present views
Sense of Arrival

Public transport being promoted to travel to WHS and surrounding area.
Sense of Arrival
Sense of Arrival

Development proposals along major tourist access routes will need to consider how the proposal creates a ‘sense of arrival’ and how it can positively contribute towards the visitor experience.

Principal transport links to the site:

- Give views of difficult geographical environment in which the WHS was engineered
- Reveals views of monumental architecture
- Passes settlements with historic associations to the WHS
- Reveals the engineering solutions to the difficult terrain
Urban Characterisation Studies

- To describe and explain the historic character of the principal settlements within the WHS and Buffer Zone.

- To give a focus to local characteristics and serve as a tool for the sustainable management of the historic management

- As adopted SPG to inform planning decisions and support positive conservation and regeneration of the area
Air Products Redevelopment
Images courtesy of e*scape Urbanists
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Next Steps

- Adoption of SPG by each LPA
- Completion and adoption of Characterisation studies
- Identify measures required to limit effects from permitted development
- Further archaeological investigation of Flexsys site to inform Master Plan
Key Contacts

- Wrexham County Borough Council,
  Planning Department,
  Lambpit Street, Wrexham, L11 1AR.
  Tel. 01978 292485 General Enquiries.
  Tel. 01978 292019 Conservation Enquiries.

- Denbighshire County Council,
  Development Control,
  Caledfryn, Smithfield Road, Denbigh. LL16 3RJ.
  Tel. 01824 706727 General contact line.

- Shropshire Council,
  Development Services,
  Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND.
  Tel. 0345 678 9004
Any Questions