

ISSUE REPORT COMMENTS

Landscape

Comment No	Full Organisation Name	Chap. No	Relevant Issue No	Comment Text
7	Monmouthshire County Council, Cwmbran	4., 3., 12.	D1.	Need to maintain the 'green spaces' between settlements (per Gwent Structure Plan Policies C1 and C2, and Monmouth Borough Local Plan Policy C4).
8	Monmouthshire County Council, Cwmbran	12.		Need for landscape improvements esp. of derelict and underused land (particularly if viewed from M4, Second Severn Crossing) and main railway lines.
18	Somerset County Council	12.	Map 12	As Special Landscape Areas are mentioned in the text on page 137, their boundaries could be shown on this map.
80	Inland Waterways Association, London	12.		The "historical landscape" importance of the Gloucester-Sharpness Canal should have been noted. The landscape features of bridges, cottages and the canal itself are also worthy of note.

Comment No	Full Organisation Name	Chap. No	Relevant Issue No	Comment Text
81	Inland Waterways Association, London	12.	L3.	So called "soft engineering" options are acceptable as long as they perform adequately and do not endanger navigation and recreational users.
148	Bristol City Council	12.		There is a need to improve landscape character within the estuary. At present the only issues raised in the report deal with threats to landscape rather than the opportunities.
149	Bristol City Council	12., 13.		In Avonmouth there is a need for the creation of new landscape and habitat opportunities as well as protection of the existing landscape.
150	Bristol City Council	12.	L1.	Account must be taken of the need to make good past losses and for visual enhancement of the industrial complexes.
169	Kingston Seymour PC	3., 4., 12.	D1., L1., R4.	It is imperative that development in coastal areas should be carefully and rigorously controlled.

Comment No	Full Organisation Name	Chap. No	Relevant Issue No	Comment Text
170	Kingston Seymour PC	3., 4., 12.	D1., L1., R4.	Particular concern about the threat of large-scale development to the south of Clevedon, where a large site earmarked for industrial / commercial development has recently received outline approval. This breaches the "natural" southern boundary of the town and must make further incursions into the undeveloped countryside more probable. The North Somerset Levels and Moors are thus under threat - both as historic landscape, and as habitat - together with the small villages it contains.
176	Kingston Seymour PC	6., 12., 4.	T5., T6., T7., T8.	There is a need to avoid unacceptable recreational pressures on fragile and vulnerable landscapes and habitats and in areas where recreational users of the countryside may come in conflict with those who live and work there. Specifically, any extension of recreational access to coastal areas, especially shorelines and the proposed coastal footpath linking Clevedon and Weston (North Somerset Countryside Strategy) must indeed be "agreeable to all concerned".
219	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	12.		Another case where the landowner is not considered important in the report.

Comment No	Full Organisation Name	Chap. No	Relevant Issue No	Comment Text
230	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	12.	L4.	Much of the coastline will be farmed by tenants and landowners can have considerable influence on farming methods, so they may have an important role to play. In L4, it should be recognised that much of today's landscape, so treasured by conservationists, has been created by landowners.
240	WDA, Pontypridd	15., 3., 8., 12.	M7., W24., L1.	In line with central Government policy on Sustainable Development, the WDA works in an integrated way with others to investigate the benefits and impacts of its activity on the environment. They have been working with Industry, the Environment Agency and others on the Dee and SABINA Waste Management projects. In the South Wales Valleys, they have been working with Local Authorities, CCW, EA and others to produce landscape strategies which not only promote positive landscape and environmental action but also sit alongside UDP's, LEAP's, Countryside Strategies and eventually Local Biodiversity Action Plans to help guide more beneficial and sustainable forms of development. It is planned to extend this approach to Newport and the Vale of Glamorgan over the next two years which, it is expected, will bring positive environmental and economic benefits.
270	British Waterways, Gloucester and River Severn	12.	L3.	British Waterways may be involved here (River Severn Navigation) but are not mentioned.

Comment No	Full Organisation Name	Chap. No	Relevant Issue No	Comment Text
290	Gloucestershire County Council	12., 3.	L1., D2.	Stronger emphasis needs to be placed on the consideration of the effects of development on the landscape character of the estuary.
291	Gloucestershire County Council	5., 12.	C5., L1.	More emphasis should be given to the consideration of soft engineering options or managed retreat as hard engineering solutions often have an unacceptable impact on the landscape.
301	The Vale of Glamorgan Council	4., 12.	R6., L4.	Reference could be made to hedgerow loss (e.g. Vale of Glamorgan coastal areas) and current protection measures under new Hedgerow Regulations, 1997.
306	The Vale of Glamorgan Council	12.		This section concentrates on the descriptive / aesthetic aspects and largely ignores other critical factors such as the underlying geography and geomorphology together with the historical and cultural influences which make for the distinctive local landscape areas. Reference should also be made to CCW's policy document "Welsh Landscape" (July 1997).
340	Youth Hostels Association	6., 14., 12.		A section on Education should be included. This should include interpretation of the landscape including geology and the historic environment.

Comment No	Full Organisation Name	Chap. No	Relevant Issue No	Comment Text
368	Youth Hostels Association	12.	L1., L4.	Many people have little appreciation of the characteristics of landscapes. It may be appropriate for our hostels and other establishments to provide an interpretation of the locality around the hostel linking geology, land use, historical and cultural background, present day pressures and management techniques for the interest and education of hostellers.
369	Youth Hostels Association	12., 14.		The geology of the estuary should be described in the report - it is a fundamental constituent of the landscape, which should be identified.
385	University of Reading	14., 12.	H1., L4.	Landowners and landusers need to be alerted to the existence and importance of archaeological field monuments.
386	University of Reading	5., 12.		Sections of the report should be amended where possible to make clearer the origins and the significance of certain archaeological, engineered structures on the lowland coastal lands (full description given).

Comment No	Full Organisation Name	Chap. No	Relevant Issue No	Comment Text
466	South Gloucestershire Council	12.		The Government Aim should be broadened to include the wider concepts of countryside character and local distinctiveness which the government strongly promotes through the Rural White Paper (1995) and PPG7 (1997). Given the variety of landscapes which constitute the single entity of the estuary, this should be reflected and carried through the subsequent background section and then highlighted as a separate issue. Landscape character areas drawn from the Countryside Commission and/or each of the relevant authorities should be integrated and shown in this section.
468	South Gloucestershire Council	12.		The landscape chapter needs to explicitly consider how the character and local distinctiveness of the strategy can be conserved and enhanced. The issues L1, L2, Ls and L4 then flow out of this, i.e. what are the impacts of, for example, development, flood defences, river bank protection and farming on the character of the landscape and how can policies be integrated to address these problems.
529	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	11., 6., 12., 13.	F4., F6.	People fishing for elvers can also cause problems on the Wye between Brockweir and Bigsweir, more due to car parking difficulties than for any other reason. It seems to be a thriving industry, with accompanying refreshment facilities at Bigsweir, and is popular with families from the Welsh Valleys. (See also inf re. elver issue in Ch 2. p28).

Comment No	Full Organisation Name	Chap. No	Relevant Issue No	Comment Text
593	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	7., 12.	P6., L1.	It should not be overlooked that port development can have an adverse influence upon landscape and upon adjacent wildlife conservation sites.
627	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	3., 10., 12.	D2., X10., L1.	<p>Protecting the environment from additional reservoir development and from disfiguring infrastructure associated with water transfer schemes.</p> <p>What is happening: Environmental bodies and others are pressing for more stringent demand management.</p>
645	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	12.		<p>Point 4 Local authorities may work with other bodies in the preparation of management plans. For example, the Wye Valley AONB draft Nature Conservation Strategy produced in December 1996 was a collaborative effort between the Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature, the Environment Agency and three county councils.</p>
646	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	12.		It is considered that the Government, at least the administration superceded in May, was misguided in seeking to 'enhance' "natural beauty" which only needs to be 'protected'. Enhancement should be reserved for poor quality and degraded landscapes.

Comment No	Full Organisation Name	Chap. No	Relevant Issue No	Comment Text
647	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	12.		As Map 12 clearly indicates, the Wye Valley AONB does not extend along the estuary coast. It is therefore incorrect to describe the "mixed and broadleaved woodlands" as "lying within the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty".
648	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	12.		The "Forest of Dean" adjoins the Wye Valley, rather than "lying within"
649	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	12.		The Oldbury Power Station should have been sited as having a dominating influence upon the landscape.
650	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	12.	L3.	As is testified by a serious long-standing problem on the banks of the River Usk north of Newport, the Agency is not always successful in easily enforcing sound construction methods and use of appropriate materials. Riparian owners need to be restrained from using bank protection as an excuse for tipping waste without a licence.

Comment No	Full Organisation Name	Chap. No	Relevant Issue No	Comment Text
651	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	12.	L4.	The National Farmers Union has an influence upon agricultural practices and ought to have been listed.
652	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	12.	L4.	The Secretary of State's all-Wales agri-environmental scheme has the potential to benefit the estuary's farmed landscape.
702	Cardiff County Council	12.	L4.	Planning Dept. comments Although not a major player, the role, or potential role, of local authorities should be referred to, whether through the preparation and involvement of the farming community in countryside strategies (in Wales) and to the work being done in landscape assessment, through countryside management services or via other specific initiatives.

Comment No	Full Organisation Name	Chap. No	Relevant Issue No	Comment Text
703	Cardiff County Council	12.		<p>Planning Dept. comments</p> <p>It is necessary to identify the issue of how, if at all, the Severn Estuary Strategy process is going to relate to landscape assessment in Wales (CCW intend to promote LANDMAP across Wales) and to the work being done on landscape character areas in England. In general, terminology such as "impact of" discourages consideration of positive measures such as landscape enhancement / action programmes which CCW have rightly identified as a key output of the LANDMAP process.</p>
704	Cardiff County Council	12.		<p>Planning Dept. comments</p> <p>The reference to local authorities needs to be expanded to reflect the above.</p>
743	The Ports Panel	12., 15.		<p>For final framework document - suggested statement outlining the basic requirements of this chapter.</p> <p>"To ensure that the special and distinctive qualities of the Severn landscape are protected and promoted, enhanced where appropriate and, where necessary, restored".</p>
786	Individual	3., 12.		<p>It seems significant that Chapt. 3 (Urban Development) is given 8.5 pages, where Chap. 12 (Landscape) is given only 3.5.</p>

Comment No	Full Organisation Name	Chap. No	Relevant Issue No	Comment Text
787	Individual	13., 12., 15.	L1., D1., D2.	Any project for the Severn Estuary conservation must extend far inland in South Wales, where pressures for all sorts of development are so enormous that the existing landscapes are likely to disappear in the next decade. Maintenance of much of the remaining landscapes of the South Wales coastal belt is essential to preserve the attractiveness of the existing townships, the physical and mental health of residents, and the general integrity of the whole estuary area.
820	Individual	12., 13.	L1., N1, N2.	It is essential that the unique nature of the Gwent Levels must be preserved for posterity.
844	Individual	12., 3.	L1., DD1., D2.	Stop all further industry / coastal development and keep the 'wild' quality of the coastline.
884	Individual	12., 8.	L1., W22., W23.	The County Councils, Welsh Office and the DETR should be more vigilant - Avonmouth and Hinkley Point are eyesores and dangerous (reference to buffer stores of bread and milk stored outside Cwmbran). Also concern expressed regarding nuclear submarines using Cardiff (should be kept at major installations).

Comment No	Full Organisation Name	Chap. No	Relevant Issue No	Comment Text
974	WDA, Pontypridd	15., 3., 8., 12.	M7., W24., L1.	In the South Wales Valleys, they have been working with Local Authorities, CCW, EA and others to produce landscape strategies which not only promote positive landscape and environmental action but also sit alongside UDP's, LEAP's, Countryside Strategies and eventually Local Biodiversity Action Plans to help guide more beneficial and sustainable forms of development. It is planned to extend this approach to Newport and the Vale of Glamorgan over the next two years which, it is expected, will bring positive environmental and economic benefits.
977	Individual	13., 12., 15.	L1., D1., D2.	'Rogue' authorities with only lip service to conservation, and corporate bodies exploiting the green environment with the collusion of quangos like Land Authority Wales. The advent of bodies like Severn Estuary Strategy and various schemes for Countryside Strategy are merely continuation of the endless talk. The cure to the problem is therefore essentially political : will there ever be the political will in this country at national and at local level, to implement the spirit of the Rio agreements?