

ISSUE REPORT COMMENTS

Agriculture and rural land use

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).
63	Inland Waterways Association, London	4.		The paragraph detailing the Internal Drainage Boards' duties should say "They have permissive powers to carry out the work..."
108	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	4.		Agricultural Development and Advisory Service (ADAS), has now been privatised and operates as a commercial consultancy (known as ADAS). The part of the work which was not privatisable is now carried out by the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA), which now manages all of MAFF's agri-environment schemes. Page numbers to make these amendments given.

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110	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	4.		The Environment Agency's powers over drainage and abstraction outside designated water board areas are not mentioned.
111	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	4.	R5.	No mention of Environment Agency powers to affect pollution from agricultural activity through the exercise of their statutory powers, e.g. enforcing the Control of Pollution (Silage, slurry and agricultural fuel oil) Regulations, or their non-statutory powers such as designation of inner and outer source protection zones.
112	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	4.	R1.	DETR should be included before local authorities, as they set the local Government and planning policy framework within which they operate.
113	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	4.	R2.	DETR and local authorities should be included.

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114	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	4.	R4.	DETR should be included.
115	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	4.		MAFF's aims in respect of land use are specifically to : Promote a positive approach to the diversification of the rural economy. Ensure adequate recognition of the need for efficient, flexible agricultural industry. Ensure that the land restored to agriculture, following minerals extraction or waste disposal, is restored to an acceptable standard.
116	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	4.		First paragraph could be amended to read : The MAFF Agricultural Land Classification system is based on analysis of long-term physical limitations of land for agricultural use. There are five grades, with grade 3 subdivided into two subgrades 3a and 3b. Grade 1 has virtually no limitations, whilst grade 4 and 5 are described respectively as poor and very poor. The planning system offers special protection to land in Grades 1, 2 and 3a. Most of the land around the estuary is Grade 3, although.....

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117	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	4.	R5.	Could include a reference to the revision of the MAFF Codes of Practice on soils, air and water.
118	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	4.	R6.	Consideration should be given to extending ESA's (unlikely) or Countryside Stewardship (not Farm Stewardship as mentioned) and Habitat Schemes. The MAFF Severn Estuary Agricultural Issues Report should be helpful here to show recent trends.
119	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	4.	R7.	Countryside stewardship could be mentioned as a means of achieving appropriate management.
169	Kingston Seymour PC	3., 4., 12.	D1., L1., R4.	It is imperative that development in coastal areas should be carefully and rigorously controlled.

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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.
171	Kingston Seymour PC	4., 15.	R1., M8.	It is encouraging to see a recognition of the key role of farmers in management planning.
172	Kingston Seymour PC	4., 15.	R1., M8.	The high quality of the agricultural land in this area is sometimes not recognised, and it is to be hoped that farming, in both its traditional and "diversified" forms, will continue to play a major role in the region's economy. Many farmers own land which abuts the coast and we believe that they have a vital contribution to make, especially in the effective management of wildlife habitats.

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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".
186	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	4., 15.	M2.	There is concern that SES could greatly increase regulation and become a drain on the rural economy. Every effort must be made to avoid this.
188	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	4., 3.	R4, D1.	Concern as to the effect that urban development might have on rural areas.

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193	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	4.		Disappointed in the lack of consideration given to agriculture in the Report, given the greater part of land in the plan area is in agricultural use and will remain so.
195	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	4.		CLA point out that agriculture is not declining (para. 2). It is employment within agriculture which is. CLA suggest that the reduction in set aside indicated that this view is correct.
196	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	4.	R2.	CLA emphasise the importance of diversification to the rural economy and that this is the most likely way of bringing jobs back into the countryside. There is however, concern that planners do not appreciate that many sustainable rural businesses are not ancillary to agriculture nor should they be required to be.

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197	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	4.		It must be clearly understood that the farming industry supports the need for CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) reform along the lines of CLA proposals in "FOCUS ON THE CAP" (report attached). This will take time before Europe is ready to follow the British lead.
198	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	4.	R3.	Agriculture is led by market forces and the present CAP support for farming does not encourage agri-environment schemes except in ESA's and Stewardship schemes.
199	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	4.	R3.	The CLA is pressing for changes to the CAP which will channel future aid through environmental management schemes and pump priming of small rural businesses.
200	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	4.	R3.	At the present time Stewardship is seriously under-funded, but the take up is excellent which suggests that farmers will embrace agri-environment schemes when they are more widely available.

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201	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	4.	R3.	SES could attempt to persuade MAFF and English Nature / CCW to reach and fund managment agreements where overstocking is taking place.
202	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	4., 13.	N1.	Local management initiatives which can be considered on their merits and which achieve biodiversity should be supported, and it is considered there is no substitute for them.
203	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	4., 8.	R5., W11.	Due to close liaison between MAFF, EA and farmers, farm pollution incidents are decreasing and represent less than 1/5 of all pollution incidents so that agriculture is no longer the main source of Category 1 incidents.

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204	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	4., 8.	Related to R5.	Concern about the application of sewage sludge to agricultural land (likely to increase when sea-dumping ceases). Spreading of untreated sludge to farm land is already causing supermarkets and others to refuse to accept products (including apples) from land treated in this way. Farmers should be warned of the dangers of not securing written undertakings from water companies before agreeing to sludge being spread. Water companies must propose and adopt acceptable methods of disposal be it land-borne or otherwise.
217	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	8., 4.	W11., W12., R5.	Levels of nutrients and pesticides in run off are now negligible.

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220	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	4., 10.		<p>The need for farmers to have sufficient water supplies for irrigation and relevant regulation. The use of water to irrigate crops is only necessary in some years, to bring crop up to supermarkets' standard etc. Without it many crops would not reach the market at all. Farmers who use surface water for irrigation can be stopped without drought orders while car washers and gardeners can continue at will.</p> <p>Some Suggestions Compensation will be necessary if farms are no longer able to operate efficiently as before. The long term future of grants for such schemes must be assured and their designers remain accountable.</p>
293	Gloucestershire County Council	3., 4.	D1., R4.	<p>It should be recognised that rural areas may require development to help sustain them and diversify their economy.</p>
301	The Vale of Glamorgan Council	4., 12.	R6., L4.	<p>Reference could be made to hedgerow loss (e.g. Vale of Glamorgan coastal areas) and current protection measures under new Hedgerow Regulations, 1997.</p>

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302	The Vale of Glamorgan Council	4., 13.	R6., N1.	Changing agricultural processes / use of more efficient machinery mean less food resources for many species - especially songbirds i.e. combination of loss of habitat and food source.
317	NFU, South West Region	4.		Agricultural Development and Advisory Service (ADAS) split in April 1997, with the majority of statutory functions now handled by the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA). ADAS itself is now a commercial consultancy providing farmers and landowners with agronomic advice. Nevertheless, it still holds a number of contracts for providing Government with technical advice. The FRCA Land Use and Rural Economy Team for the West of England is headed by John Darby, (MAFF Regional Service Centre in Bristol).
318	NFU, South West Region	4.		This chapter eloquently describes most of the issues affecting agriculture.

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319	NFU, South West Region	4.	R2.	NFU do not believe that English Nature, FWAG and the Wildlife Trust are sufficiently involved in diversification schemes on farms (Issue R2) to warrant inclusion. The Rural Development Commission is an omission from this list and it is a suggestion to add the NFU since they advise their members on alternative enterprises.

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320	NFU, South West Region	4.		<p>Market driven moves towards farm assurance and environmentally friendly farming.</p> <p>Largely as a result of recent food scares and consumer concern about food safety, all farming sectors, but particularly the livestock sectors, are facing tough pressure to assure consumers about the quality and safety of food and the environmental and animal welfare standards under which it is produced. At a time when many agricultural commodities, particularly beef, cereals and milk are experiencing falling prices, most farmers tend to see this as an opportunity to gain a marketing edge on imported produce, rather than a threat. The escalating demand and supply of organic produce is an example of this, with a number of other environmentally friendly farming standards also being developed.</p> <p>Who is involved Farmers and growers, National Farmers' Union, major food retailers, the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), the Soil Association, MAFF, Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF).</p> <p>What is happening : Increasing numbers of farmers around the estuary will be joining environmentally friendly Farm Assurance Schemes.</p>

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321	NFU, South West Region	4.	R3.	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food should be added since they administer the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and ESA's and are involved in the Biodiversity Action Planning process.
322	NFU, South West Region	4., 13.	R3., N1.	Biodiversity Action Plans could be mentioned specifically.
323	NFU, South West Region	4.	R2.	The impending form of the Common Agricultural Policy is expected to have a major effect on the direction of farming from the year 2000 onwards. As debate in Europe and the UK intensifies, this is an issue which is likely to be of increasing importance to farmers on the margins of the estuary. Initial indications are that European agricultural support will reduce, with support being withdrawn from initiatives which encourage production. In future, it is likely that farmers will have to rely much more on the world price for their products. As yet, it is not clear whether there will be radically increased funding for environmental initiatives.

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345	Youth Hostels Association	3., 4.	D1., R4.	YHA do not support proposals for the development on the Gwent Levels.
347	Youth Hostels Association	4.		Countryside Council for Wales should be included with respect to the Tir Cymen Scheme.
348	Youth Hostels Association	4.	R2.	YHA support farm diversification schemes concerned with 'green tourism' e.g. farm shops, farm trails, cycle hire facilities. Some redundant farm buildings could be converted to camping barns. A number of networks of these are already managed by the YHA.
551	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	4., 3.		As there is such a small proportion of saltmarsh remaining in the UK, there must be a strong presumption against reclamation works for agricultural or other purposes.
552	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	4.	R2., R3.	Tir Cymen has led to increased ancillary employment and the Secretary of State's promised all-Wales agri-environmental scheme (AWAES) may be expected to do likewise.

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553	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	4., 15.	R1., M8.	While encouragement to participate is important, farmers themselves must be prepared to devote time to this.
554	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	4.	R1.	The Farmers' Union of Wales should have a part to play.
555	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	4., 3.	R2., D2	Light industry can sometimes be successful as a form of diversification, and is regarded by the Government as preferable to the re-use of buildings as dwellings. It is important that local plans include sound policies for resisting proposals that would have an adverse effect upon countryside character and would lead to an unacceptable level of traffic generation, especially on narrow roads.
556	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	4., 13.	R3., N8.	Countryside campaigning bodies such as CPRE and CPRW are also very concerned about the inadequate 'financial incentives for conservation initiatives' offered under the various agri-environmental schemes.

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557	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	4.	R3.	Regional Agri-Environmental Consultation Groups (those for Wessex and South Mercia cover areas adjoining the Severn Estuary) also have a role, as has the Forestry Authority and the Forest of Avon management team.
558	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	4.	R3.	Tir Cymen has led to increased ancillary employment and the Secretary of State's promised all-Wales agri-environmental scheme may be expected to do likewise.
559	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	4., 3.	R4., D1.	This item is misplaced in the Rural Management section, it should have been included in the Development chapter.
560	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	4., 15.	R4., M8.	The consultation meetings called during the earlier part of this year in connection with Monmouthshire County Council's Countryside Strategy have been an excellent means of drawing together a wide range of interests. Local Agenda 21 action may also be relevant.

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561	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	4.	R7.	Wildlife Trusts and such species preservation bodies as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds ought to participate.
609	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	8., 4.	W11., R5.	Re: text of para 2. Sludge Disposal to land. Care needs to be taken over soil enhancement in areas where this would be detrimental to the maintenance of plant communities that are sensitive to high nutrient levels.
696	Cardiff County Council	4.	R2., R3.	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), through countryside management services or via other specific initiatives.
711	Cardiff County Council	3., 4.		Economic Development Department comments The development issue appears in contrast to the issues of rural land use and tourism where the statements are strikingly different in attitude, viz 'representation of farming interests in management planning', 'the threat of development to rural life' and 'promoting sustainable tourism'.

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724	Individual	15., 4.	M14., R5.	Undertake further research into possible beneficial uses of sludge with full monitoring (e.g. methane (generated in treatment)) pasteurisation of dried sludge to make a soil additive for agriculture subject to stringent control of NOx gases discharged from the plant.
735	The Ports Panel	4., 15.		For final framework document - suggested statement outlining the basic requirements of this chapter. "To foster viable and sustainable farm development to support rural communities".
818	Brean & Berrow Down Residents Association	4., 15.	R4., M8	The Council have agreed that SES is most important to the life of the inhabitants living within the area and would be interested in helping where possible.
840	Individual	6., 4., 13., 5., 8.	T7., T5., R6.	More fields are now ploughed by the coast paths. The soil can 'run off' to the estuary thereby adding to the silt problem. Ploughs taken to very edge of cliffs, then huge cracks can appear in dry weather accelerating landslip. Suggested that ploughs should not be taken to within 12 feet of the cliff edge.

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876	Individual	6., 4.	T1., R4.	Respondent considers that 'over tourism' has not been stressed. Areas of the estuary are now ruined by caravan sites and over publicity of beauty spots. Particularly concerned with Sedgemoor District Council's plans for Brean Down. Lottery bid to develop fort into tearoom, accommodation and interpretation centre etc. Brean has lost all its rural attraction with the development of vast caravan sites, council plans for increased tourism (rural roads will become caravan routes).
918	Individual	8., 4., 9.0.	W12., W15., A4.	In order to ensure an environmentally sustainable estuary (of international importance) there should be an absolute prohibition on any activity that damages (to any degree) the estuary or its life, i.e. pesticides, chemical pollution, minerals and aggregate extraction should be prevented from happening.
930	Individual	4.	R4.	Control of overgrazing of salt marsh is vital.