

ISSUE REPORT COMMENTS

Aggregates and other minerals

Comment No	Full Organisation Name	Chap. No	Relevant Issue No	Comment Text
9	Monmouthshire County Council, Cwmbran	9.	A1.	Concern if WO/Posford aggregates study shows activity to be damaging, as Monmouthshire contains one of the potential onshore sand and gravel resources in the region (Usk Valley between Brecon and Usk).
27	Somerset County Council	9.	A5.	The word 'marine' should be removed from the text.
126	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	9.		There may be an issue at some time in the future about possible working of land based sand and gravel deposits within the Severn Estuary boundary shown. (At the moment the Cotswold Water Park is the preferred area working). Working land in the Severn Estuary boundary will raise problems of restoration after use, and also present opportunities, depending on your viewpoint!
142	Bristol City Council	9.	A8.	The document fails to recognise the City Council's planning powers over the estuary at King Road Avenue, which falls within the administrative boundary. This gives the City Council responsibility for determining planning applications for dredging of minerals.

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244	Ewenny Community Council	9.	A3.	Concern about the high levels of dredging which are causing the loss of sand on local beaches.
304	The Vale of Glamorgan Council	9.		This section is thorough and well-presented, identifying all the main issues regarding aggregates production.
305	The Vale of Glamorgan Council	9.		With regards to limestone quarrying at Rhose (p. 114) it should be noted that mineral extraction at Rhose ceased in 1980, and is unlikely to resume following the grant of planning permission for the comprehensive redevelopment of the quarry in March 1996. However, the planning permission for quarrying will remain valid until the redevelopment work begins.
363	Youth Hostels Association	5., 9.	C5., A3.	YHA do not support activities which lead to coastal erosion and the reduction of beach sand.
364	Youth Hostels Association	9.	A6.	Restoration techniques should be encouraged with planting to screen coastal mineral workings.

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365	Youth Hostels Association	9., 13.		The importance of geological exposures for students and amateurs should not be overlooked and sites should be conserved by means of regionally important geological and geomorphological site designations. YHA would be prepared to assist with interpretation.
437	Crown Estate Commission, London	9.		In the section 'Marine Aggregates and Other Minerals' there are a number of inaccuracies and significant omissions.
438	Crown Estate Commission, London	9.	A3., A4.	The study entitled the 'Bristol Channel Marine Aggregates : Resources and Constraints' is funded by the Crown Estate as well as the Welsh Office.
439	Crown Estate Commission, London	9.		The landowner will continue to license marine aggregate extraction under statutory procedures proposed by DETR / Welsh Office. The Government View is essentially a planning consent which goes with the land. The agreement (licence) is between the landowner and the developer (usually a dredging company) and is subject to any conditions attached to the favourable Government View.

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440	Crown Estate Commission, London	9.		<p>More than 90% of marine aggregates taken from Crown Estate licences in the Bristol Channel comes from two areas, the Nash Bank and Holme Sands. The total area of seabed dredged in 1996 from Crown Estate licences in the Bristol Channel was 18.8km². We understand that material is also taken from the Duke of Beaufort's land under a planning consent.</p>
441	Crown Estate Commission, London	9.	A4.	<p>Increases in turbidity and suspended solids due to marine aggregate extraction must be minute compared with the natural flux of sediments in such a highly energetic environment.</p> <p>The Government View procedure specifically states that applications to extract marine aggregates in fish spawning areas will not be acceptable, i.e. they will not receive a favourable view.</p>
442	Crown Estate Commission, London	9.		<p>Crown Estates are very much aware that marine aggregate extraction is a sensitive issue. CE has had a long term policy of supporting relevant research programmes to provide a basis for sound decision-making by the Government. CE await the results of the Bristol Channel Marine Aggregates Research Study with interest. In the meantime CE will continue to liaise with the Welsh Office, DETR and MAFF about the future of marine aggregate extraction in the Bristol Channel and elsewhere on the UK Continental Shelf.</p>

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443	Crown Estate Commission, London	9.	A7.	<p>The Crown Estate is not a regulator as far as marine aggregate extraction is concerned. CE publicly stated position is that an extraction licence will not be issued in England or Wales, without a favourable view from either DETR or the Welsh Office.</p> <p>Although under the current Government View procedure CE administer the informal stage of the consultations their role is to act as a post box passing all comments to the applicant and DETR/Welsh Office without comment.</p> <p>The views of Local Government are sought and taken into account by the Welsh Office in coming to their decision.</p>
444	Crown Estate Commission, London	9.	A8.	<p>Controls on marine aggregate extraction are very stringent. Since 1993 all dredgers working on Crown Estate licences have had to be equipped with an electronic monitoring system which automatically records and encodes the date, time and position of all dredging activities. Out of a total of 35,000 hours of dredging in England and Wales in 1996 only 30 minutes was out of the area usually by less than a 100 metres. Monitoring conditions on the latest licence to be issued in the Bristol Channel (Nash Bank) include regular bathymetric surveys, beach, nearshore and cliff profiles and aerial photographic surveys. All reports are supplied to the Welsh Office.</p>

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623	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	9.		Government Policy There are current calls for another revision of MPG6 to better reflect the principles of materials re-use and to reduce the emphasis upon demand based minerals extraction.
624	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	9.		A minerals dredging map should have been included.
625	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	9.	A6.	Statutory public access and possible disruption to it must be taken fully into account before consent is given for coastal quarrying. If necessary, but only as a last resort, footpaths should be temporarily diverted. Permission should not be given for very long-term dredging (ten years at any one site should be the limit, depending upon harm to amenity). This can be reviewed at the end of the period if no environmental harm has been caused, or is envisaged.
684	Cardiff County Council	5., 9.	C4., C5., C3., A3., A4., A5.	Planning Dept. comments A lot is being done, but there are conflicts / different interpretations of how natural forces and human activities affect the coast, resulting in deposition and erosion.

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692	Cardiff County Council	9.	A3., A4., A5., A6.	<p>Planning Dept. comments</p> <p>Scientific study of the impact of dredging for more aggregates needs to be continued and the potential impact of alternative sources of sand.</p>
740	The Ports Panel	9.		<p>For final framework document - suggested statement outlining the basic requirements of this chapter.</p> <p>"To ensure that all extraction is undertaken according to the relevant assessments and guidelines set out by the relevant authorities".</p>
772	Individual	9.	A3.	<p>The study of the effects of dredging and its impact on the estuary is welcomed.</p>
780	Individual	9.	A3.	<p>The statement beginning 'The connection between dredging and coastal erosion' is inaccurate. Research by the Polytechnic of Wales on the sand bar at Nash proved sand exchange between the bar and the beach.</p>
781	Individual	9., 15.	A3., M16.	<p>Observation of the beach at Clevedon indicated denudation following the sand extraction for Cardiff Bay construction (thereby removing the natural sea defence of the sand bars). There is an urgent need for monitoring of the wave height at Clevedon Beach as the Georgian dwellings there are literally irreplaceable.</p>

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782	Individual	9.	A3.	It is highly inappropriate for the relevant authority to be Bristol which has no other responsibility for the town of Clevedon, and its sea defences.
805	Individual	9., 8.	A4.,	Pollution and dredging destroys natural life that affects the fisheries.
830	Lancaster University	9.	A3.	There is work available discussing impacts of dredging on intertidal / coastal areas.
887	Individual	9.	A8.	Far more control needed for sand extraction by local authorities and the Welsh Office. Extractors should be charged for their dredged and dug extractions. It is strange that they can remove most of a beach leaving poorer sand and yet pay nothing. The public should know that their extraction licences under the Coast Protection Act gives them the power to despoil beaches.
909	Individual	9.	A1.	Beware of the ideology of 'mineral needs', minerals are a derived demand for buildings and structures which may or may not be needed.

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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.
939	Individual	9.	A3.	The current Welsh Office study should include the effect, if any, of sand dredging from Barry Old Harbour for use as fine aggregate.
940	Individual	9.	A7.	Remove aggregate dredging licencing from the control of sea bed owners.
941	Individual	9.	A8.	Accelerate the process, perhaps by Government establishing licenced workable reserves in advance of need as with many land based mineral workings.
969	Somerset County Council	9.	A5.	An additional sentence should be added to the text as follows: The sub tidal archaeological resource includes not only wreck sites but also the remains of a submerged prehistoric landscape which once covered virtually the entire estuary during a period of lower sea levels.