



Welsh Assembly Government Consultation
People, Places, Futures
The Wales Spatial Plan

Response by
Friends of the Earth Cymru

January 2004

**Friends of
the Earth
Cymru**
**Cyfeillion
y Ddaear
Cymru**

Friends of the Earth Cymru

Friends of the Earth Cymru inspires solutions to environmental problems which make life better for people.

Friends of the Earth Cymru:

- is dedicated to protecting the environment and promoting a sustainable future for Wales
- is part of the UK's most influential environmental campaigning organisation
- is part of the most extensive environmental network in the world, with over 60 national organisations across five continents
- supports a unique network of campaigning local groups working in communities across Wales
- is dependent upon individuals for over 90% of its income

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- We support the statutory authority for The Wales Spatial Plan.
- We feel *People, Places and Futures* is a good starting point for discussion, seeking as it does to deal comprehensively with the spatial challenge facing our nation.
- We are concerned that the overarching achievement of sustainable development does not appear as an objective in the Wales Spatial Plan. In order to join up the objectives of the plan with the other obligations and strategies of the Assembly, the plan should make clear how the four objectives, identified in Chapter 2, relate to the overall imperative of achieving sustainable development.
- The adopted plan must be complementary to, and in harmony with, all other Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) policies relating to development matters.
- If development is to be sustainable then WAG must exert a strong leadership role and promote accepted criteria for establishing what sustainable development is.
- Environmental, Heritage and Cultural issues must be given equal weighting to social and economic ones.
- Collaborative development of the Spatial Plan must include NGOs, environmental and community groups to make it a truly Welsh document owned by the people of Wales.
- The plan cannot credibly be finalised until an assessment has been made of the impact of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) on the plan itself and on the Assembly's powers in general. The lack of any mention of GATS critically undermines the value of both the draft plan and the consultation exercise.
- It is essential that the Spatial Plan is compliant with international treaties and conventions relating to corporate governance and environmental protection at all times.
- The promotion of good public transport systems throughout Wales is essential if use of the car is to be discouraged.
- Climate change requires that alternative forms of renewable energy must be supported.
- A zero waste policy must be the target in the Wales Spatial Plan.
- The zones specified in the plan may require some amendment as a result of responses made at the area workshops.
- "Polycentric" modes need to be considered as an alternative to the linear approach adopted in the plan.

1. Introduction – Strategic Approach

In preparing our submission we have been aware of the contributions being made by other special interest and community groups. It our wish that our submission compliments the statements they have made. Each voluntary sector group has its own specialised experience and gifts to bring to this WAG consultation.

In preparing our response we are aware that the decision to prepare a spatial plan for Wales is breaking new ground and encompassing many professional disciplines in addition to the planning

profession and that an holistic approach is essential and welcome . Much of the draft document is a snapshot of baseline data that will become more valid over time as fieldwork and research data become available under the monitoring and review arrangements proposed. Many of the development proposals for the zones lend a greater weight to economic and social desires rather than environmental and heritage protection. It is necessary to get the balance right between the three legs of sustainable development. To achieve this, the Wales Spatial Plan needs to address more coherently two principal policy issues:

1. The status of sustainable development as a core objective of the plan.
2. The way the plan describes and understands development and economic growth.

The status of sustainable development.

In our view the plan should place greater emphasis on the score objective of sustainable development before discussing how, for example, sustainable communities might fit within this broader agenda. A clearer expression of the meaning of sustainable development would help join up the objectives discussed in Chapter 2 with the summary of the Welsh Assembly Government's policy expressed in Chapter 1 which clearly prioritise his sustainable development. In our view, the plan should restate, as does Planning Policy Wales (2.2), the important policy concepts which flow from the sustainable development ideal.

Sustainable development provides spatial planning with its core purpose to enhance the quality of life of communities by promoting the highest quality forms of development in the most appropriate locations. Such development should seek to promote social equity over private gain and the wise use of limited natural resources to protect the interests of future generations. Spatial planning should promote localised and robust economies and value and protect the intrinsic values of human heritage and biodiversity. These positive outcomes go hand in hand with a planning process which is democratic, open and fair. In practice this requires a system which appreciates the intrinsic value of public participation and seeks to meet, and where possible exceed, the standards of the Aarhus convention.

The sustainable development concept should engender a careful reconsideration of traditional notions of planning decision-making and in particular the need to integrate the objectives of economic growth, environmental protection and social justice. Despite the rhetorical power of the notion of sustainability reflected in current national planning policy, local authorities often uphold short term economic growth over all other considerations. This position, which is often based on unsustainable investment in a road and aviation infrastructure, fails to appreciate not just the economic benefits of high quality environments but the increasing economic and social costs of environmental degradation. These costs are manifest in terms of localised pollution problems on human populations and in the longer term the global consequences of, for example, climate change. The Wales Spatial Plan offers an opportunity to enshrine a concept of sustainability which can identify these long-term costs and seek to apply strategic policy which can mitigate their impact.

Friends of the Earth Cymru recommends the following policy statement:

"It shall be the principle objective of the Wales Spatial Plan to ensure sustainable patterns of development which improve the quality of life of all people while respecting environmental limits and the ability of future generations to enjoy a similar quality of life. In order to uphold this objective all land use decisions must enshrine the principles of:

- **social justice:** putting people at the heart of decision making, reducing social inequality and upholding environmental justice in the outcomes of decisions;
- **inter-generational equity:** ensuring current development does not prevent future generations from meeting their own needs;

- **environmental limits:** ensuring that resources are not irrevocably exhausted or the environment irreversibly damaged. This means, for example, supporting Climate Protection, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, reducing the harmful emissions, and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources;
- **resource conservation:** ensuring that planning decisions assist in the prudent and sustainable use of finite natural resources;
- **the precautionary approach:** the precautionary principle holds that where the environmental impacts of certain activities or developments are not known, the proposed development should not be carried out, or extreme caution should be exercised in its undertaking.
- **the polluter pays:** ensuring that those who produce damaging pollution meet the full environmental, social and economic costs;
- **the proximity principle:** seeking to resolve problems in the present and locally, rather than passing them on to other communities or future generations.”

To achieve these objectives it is necessary to have wide public engagement to identify issues and solutions by consensus building for win-win outcomes. For this reason we feel strongly that collaborative working should include a wide range of community and NGO interests in Wales.

Economic development and growth.

Friends of the Earth Cymru believes that sustainable economic progress is an important part of a strategy which seeks to achieve sustainable living patterns across the Nation. The Wales Spatial Plan should be aiming to achieve sustainable economic growth which is driven by the needs of the population and which is able to be maintained through a diversified economic base. This suggests a need to rely more on a mix of small scale, indigenous business development and less on large scale inward investment.

Friends of the Earth Cymru objects to the assumption that the driver behind the economic development be concerned primarily with measures of economic growth based on GDP per head and not with the measurement of social and environmental indicators. Friends of the Earth Cymru supports the Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare (ISEW) in place of GDP for monitoring purposes. The ISEW is valuable as it ‘adjusts the standard measure of consumer expenditure’ in the following way:

- Defensive expenditures of ‘expenditures necessary to defend ourselves from the unwanted side-effects of production’ are subtracted from the index, e.g. health, education, environmental externalities and commuting. However, some government expenditures are included in the index.
- The index includes measures relating to the formation and depreciation of human-made capital.
- Account is taken of environmental degradation and the loss of natural capital, in other words, a value for depreciation of environmental capital, based on the accumulated damage to the stock.
- The contribution of domestic labour is taken into account.
- Changes in the distribution of income and labour in the economy are considered on the basis that an extra pound for a poor person is clearly a greater contribution to wellbeing than the same pound for a millionaire’. (‘Tomorrow’s World’, McLaren, Bullock and Yousuf, Friends of the Earth, 1998, page 61).

We recommend that ISEW be incorporated into the Wales Spatial Plan as a key measure of sustainable economic progress. In the global context we cannot escape the economic effects of globalisation. We are deeply concerned about the effect of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), on the Welsh economy and public services in particular. This is a vital

challenge to the future of Wales and should be identified as a key policy issue in the spatial plan.

The implementation of the Wales Spatial Plan objectives

It is important to identify solutions to some of the key issues presented in the spatial plan and to this end it is essential mechanisms exist for taking the concept forward by collaboration that embraces all the people of Wales.

It is also important to realise that the Wales Spatial Plan cannot divorce itself from the rest of the United Kingdom and many have said we need a United Kingdom wide spatial plan (RTPI President Vincent Goodstadt for example). Wales also has a keen interest in Europe and under Section 121 of the Wales Government Act is committed to sustainable development, it is therefore, appropriate for the Wales Spatial Plan to have regard to all relevant European Directives and Conventions.

For these reasons our response will be in strategic context rather in detail related to each of the zones outline in the consultation document.

Finally we note that there is a strong linear approach to economic development along good transport corridors such as the M4 in South Wales and Deeside in North Wales. Both these areas are influenced by English conurbations:

* Bristol in the South * Liverpool and Manchester in the North.

3. Detailed Comments

a. Legislation and Purpose.

We support the "Vision, Values and Objectives" statement given on page 1, of the introduction to the Wales Spatial Plan.

We support the statement on pages 7 and 8 of the Wales Spatial Plan, which relates to "Valuing the Environment".

We welcome the provision contained in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill 2004 for the spatial plans to have statutory authority.

We welcome the undertaking given at the South East Wales Area Workshop that plan will respect international treaties and conventions relating to corporate governance and the environment. This matter is of particular importance with regard to European Directives and Conventions, currently coming into force in the United Kingdom.

Note: Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, July 2004.

We welcome this new holistic approach to development, which widens control beyond the planning process which presumes development will take place.

b. Interpretation

We feel it is important to explain some of the terminology contained in the promotion of spatial planning as this discipline is new to the United Kingdom.

"Spatial": Means related to a space, or place, and the term 'spatial planning' essentially describes the integration of various policies, which impact upon a specified geographical area, in one strategic framework. The focus is on policies which affect land use and development, so this means that

some environmental issues (such as greenfield development) receive a lot more attention than others (such as recycling).

Source: North West Environment Link – A Green User’s Guide to Regional Planning – July 2003.

“Sustainable Development”: The principles contained in 2.2.1 of “Planning Policy Wales” March 2002, should be reproduced in the text of the spatial plan for Wales.

“Underlying Objectives of Wales Spatial Plan” should be derived from paragraphs 19 and 21 of the **“European Spatial Development Perspective” (ESDP) May 1999.**

(19) The Ministers responsible for spatial planning agreed on three policy guidelines for spatial development of the EU.

- **Development of a balanced and polycentric urban system and a new urban-rural relationship;**
- **Securing parity of access to infrastructure and knowledge; and**
- **Sustainable development, prudent management and protection of nature and cultural heritage.**

(21) The ESDP conveys a vision of the future territory of the EU. In its aims and guidelines it provides a general source of reference for actions with a spatial impact, taken by public and private decision makers. Beyond that, it should act as a positive signal for broad public participation in the political debate on decisions at European level and their impact on cities and regions in the EU.

We feel the introductory text for **“The Wales Spatial Plan”** should incorporate the intentions of these two paragraphs from the ESDP suitably modified.

Landscape and spatial planning synergy

- Landscape management is closely linked to the integrative role of spatial development policy, whose task is to co-ordinate various sector policies in connection with their territorial impact. The European Landscape Convention, recognising landscapes as a natural and cultural heritage and part of people’s identity, aims to promote landscape conservation, management and planning. Two of the most important aspects of this convention are the recognition of all landscapes and the need to manage them for sustainability.

Source: Page 14, “Naturopa” No.98 2002

Note: The European Landscape Convention enters into force on 1 March 2004

c. Governance: Collaboration, Mechanisms, Outcomes, Justice

We believe that the central message of sustainable development is that environmental protection and improving people’s quality of life should go hand-in-hand. The present system is far from sustainable, and this is at the heart of FOE strategy for 2003-2008. The quest for growth through so-called free trade, deregulation, and competition is often justified because it will improve human welfare. We are told that environmental damage must occur – it’s the price we pay for growth in the economy. But our growth obsessed system causes global environmental damage and is unable to help people who need it most. For these reasons our key themes will be – environmental justice, environmental limits, diversity, sustainable economies and accountability and participation. It is our view that corporate governance and

the mechanisms adopted for delivery of The Wales Spatial Plan are critical for its acceptance and success.

We believe that the provisions of the Aarhus Convention should be followed throughout the Wales spatial plan process:

- Access to Environmental Information
- Public Participation
- Justice in the outcomes

We believe it is essential that special interest and community groups are involved in the preparation and review and monitoring of The Wales Spatial Plan. Indeed the plan should be owned and accepted by the people of Wales as their key to the future and a better quality of life.

We feel that the status of the spatial plan and its relationship to all other plans and policies of the WAG should be clearly understood and accepted by all levels of public administration; particularly local government where planning administration and development control is located. For this reason the Welsh Assembly Government must exercise a clear leadership role in maintaining the status and outcomes the plan.

We recommend that the administrative mechanisms for delivery of the spatial plan must simple and clearly understood by all participants.

d. Environment, Culture and Heritage

We are concerned at the failure of Welsh Assembly Government's obligations under section 121 of the Government of Wales Act to promote sustainable development in planning decisions.

The Friends of the Earth Cymru response to the WAG consultation on the review of the Sustainable Development Scheme shows that controversial development proposals that cumulatively will have a profound effect on the Welsh environment are being passed through the planning system because the local authorities making the planning decisions do not know what sustainable development means. Indeed many Councils believe that economic and social considerations take precedence over environmental ones.

It is important to incorporate a tool kit for determining what is sustainable development into the Wales spatial plan. A key contribution to this would be an examination of the Guidance for Community Strategy Partnerships in Wales (Environmental Issues for Community Strategies), which is shortly to be issued by the Environment Agency Wales. This document has been endorsed by a number of leading environmental groups.

This project shows that environmental groups and governmental bodies can work on joint projects together constructively and proves that consensus building can work in the 21st century.

We are pleased to note that the **European Spatial Planning Adapting to Climatic Events** Project is seeking organisations to join an extended partnership to further the exchange of information and knowledge on innovative planning policies to tackle climate change. This project is being led by Hampshire County Council with partners in north-west Europe.

Its aim is to ensure that measures to adapt to climate change are incorporated into spatial planning mechanisms at all levels.

Throughout Wales there is a need for urban renewal, particularly in areas where there has been a decline in heavy industry. (The Eastern Valleys of Gwent and the North Wales Steel

industry at Shotton) The RTPI is making a proposal to the government renewal unit for a funded study on how spatial planning should support neighbourhood renewal. Such an approach is material to the Wales Spatial Plan.

We recommend that The Wales Spatial Plan should contain a zero waste policy in Wales as set down in our Briefing Note issued in December 2003. Key points for NAW should be:

- Implement a zero waste policy for Wales;
- Declare a ten year moratorium on the installation of municipal waste incinerators;
- Set high statutory recycling and composting targets on local authorities – 50 per cent by 2007 and 70 per cent by 2013;
- Support local authorities, companies, the community sector and people in waste minimisation efforts;
- Introduce kerbside collections of recyclable materials for each household in Wales or Implement the Household Recycling Act.

These considerations should be emphasized at all levels in Wales: Companies, local authorities and the people of Wales at grassroots level.

We support the statement made by Alun Pugh AM, Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport on 13 January 2004 following the Assembly's review of the historic environment in Wales. It is our hope that the findings of this review will be incorporated into The Wales Spatial Plan.

We commend the following policy options contained in the **European Spatial Development Perspective May 1999**:

- 143.41** The integration of biodiversity considerations into sector policies (agriculture, regional policies transport, fisheries, etc) as included in the Communities Biodiversity Strategy.
- 143.42** Preparation of integrated spatial development strategies for protected areas, environmentally sensitive areas and areas of high biodiversity such as coastal areas, mountain areas and wetlands balancing protection and development on the basis of territorial and environmental impact assessments and involving the partners concerned.
- 143.43** Greater use of economic instruments to recognise the ecological significance of protected and environmentally sensitive areas.
- 143.44** Promotion of energy-saving and traffic reducing settlement structures, integrated resource planning and increased use of renewable energies in order to reduce CO2 emissions.
- 143.45** Protection of the soil as the basis of life for human beings, fauna and flora, through the reduction of erosion, soil destruction and over use of open spaces.
- 155.53** Preservation and creative development of cultural landscapes with special historical, aesthetical and ecological importance.
- 155.54** Enhancement of the value of cultural landscapes within the framework of integrated spatial development strategies.
- 155.55** Improved co-ordination of development measures which have an impact on landscapes.

155.56 Creative restoration of landscapes which have suffered through human intervention, including recultivation measures.

e. Transport

We feel it is important to spell out in The Wales Spatial Plan the criteria under which traffic impact assessments will be required.

We support the view of Roger Tanner, strategic planning and urban renewal manager Caerphilly County Borough Council that:

“Most land-use and transport planners in the UK concede that transport works much better on the continent than in the UK. They ascribe this fact to bigger investment in transport in other parts of Europe. This is a major factor, but a closer look at the potential benefits of polycentric development strategies pursued on the continent may also pay dividends in the long run.”

Note: The ODPM has published “The Polycentricity Scoping Study” by Cliff Hague and Karryn Kirk from Heriot-Watt University.

See also Section 3.2 of the “ESDP”: Polycentric Spatial Development and New Urban-Rural Relationship.

We support the **“ESDP” transport options:**

124.30 Better co-ordination of spatial development policy and land use planning with transport and telecommunications planning.

124.31 Improvement of public transport service and the provision of a minimum level of service in small and medium-sized towns and cities.

124.32 Reduction of negative effects in areas subject to high traffic pressure by strengthening environmentally compatible means of transport, levying road tolls and internalising external costs.

f. Economics

We are concerned at the vulnerability of the Welsh economy to globalisation particularly from the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). The plan is supposed to have an impact on the provision of services such as health, education, water, electricity, tourism and transport. All of these areas are specifically included within GATS, yet it clearly has not been taken into consideration during the development of the consultation draft. This fits in with the Assembly Government’s policy of pretending that GATS will have no impact on its work and reflects poorly on the Minister/s responsible.

The plan must not be finalised until an assessment has been made of the impact of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) on the plan itself and on the Assembly’s powers in general. The lack of any mention of GATS critically undermines the credibility of both the draft plan and the consultation exercise.

g. Health Impact Assessments

The European Union (EU) environmental action plan for the period 2001 to 2010 entitled “Our Future, Our Choice” encourages addressing environment and health issues. The Sixth Community Environment Action Programme “Decision No. 1600/2002/EC” carries forward the

precautionary principles of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (SEA) by recommending health impact assessments for significant development proposals.

We understand the National Health Service is promoting Health Impact Assessment tool kits as a means of heading off medical problems arising from inappropriate development.

We welcome the creation by the WAG of a Health Impact Assessment Unit within Cardiff University Business School.

We feel that “The Wales Spatial Plan” should set down the criteria for requiring Health Impact Assessments to be made where development is proposed.

CONCLUSIONS

Friends of the Earth Cymru trusts that this submission will be accepted by the Wales Assembly Government as a constructive response to a complex project that has great value for the future of Wales. We remain convinced that sustainable development should be at the heart of this project and that every effort should be made to secure the highest level of community participation and to carefully consider the new challenges such as GATS and a changing understanding of economic growth.

ANNEX 1

Reference Material

European Commission: Directives and Conventions

- Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC

(Welsh Assembly Guidance Consultation on “**SEA**” implementation in Wales issued 19 January 2004.)
- “Environment 2010: Our future, Our Choice”, the Sixth Environmental Action Programme for the period 2001 to 2010, which is referenced in Decision No. 1600/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council Of 22 July 2002.
- Public Access to Environmental Information and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC. Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003. This Directive implements the provisions of the Aarhus Convention which relates to UN/ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.
- The third Consultation Paper on the Implementation of the EC Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), which should lead to a more comprehensive appreciation of the aquatic environment with the provision of additional guidance that land use planners will need to take into account. (Source RTPI Welsh planning policy officer Rebecca Phillips)
- European Landscape Convention, European Treaty Series No. 176, Florence, 20 October 2000. Entry into force on 1 March 2004.
- Environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage. Proposal made 23 January 2002 Brussels.

- ESDP European Spatial Development Perspective agreed at Postdam, May 1999.
- “Naturopa” No. 98 / 2002 European Landscape Convention. Page 98 “Landscape and spatial planning synergy”.

Welsh Assembly Government

- CAG Report October 2003 “How Effectively has the National Assembly for Wales Promoted Sustainable Development?”
- Report on External Perceptions of “Plan for Wales
- “Starting to Live Differently” – Consultation on the Review of the Sustainable Development Scheme October 2003
- Wales: A better Country – The Strategic Agenda of the Welsh Assembly Government
- Planning Delivering for Wales
- Wales Planning Research Programme 2003- 2004
- Planning Policy Wales March 2002
- Unitary Development Plans Wales February 2001
- Sustainability Appraisal of Unitary Development Plans in Wales: A Good Practice Guide 2002
- “ A World of Opportunity” WAG International Trade Strategy for Wales March 2003
- Review of Historic Environment in Wales Plenary and Written Statement by Alun Pugh AM, Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport: 13 January 2004
- Proposed Retailing and Town Centre Policy Clarification January 2004
- Better Homes Wales
- Community Strategies Guidance in Wales

United Kingdom Government

- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill 2004
- ODPM The Relationships between Community Strategies and Local Development Frameworks – Final Report October 2003 by Entec UK Limited
- DTI “Liberalising trade in services “A new consultation on the World Trade Organisation GATS negotiations – October 2002

Friends of the Earth

- GATS Trade policy

- Briefing Zero Waste in Wales – From Waste disposal to zero waste economy
- “Change your world...” June / July 2003 “How to understand the new planning system” Hugh Ellis Planning Advisor to FOE.
- The new strategic plan 2003 –2008
- FOE Cymru / Wales response to WAG Review of Sustainable Development Scheme October 2003.

North West Environmental Link

- **A Green User’s Guide to Regional Planning Guidance 13 – North West**

Environment Agency Wales

- “Environmental Issues for Community Strategies” – guidance for Community Strategy Partnerships in Wales. For release early 2004.

Joint Report by Welsh Assembly Government, Environment Agency Wales, Forestry Commission Wales and Countryside Council for Wales

- “A Living and working environment for Wales – The State of the Welsh Environment 2003

ANNEX 2

Response to submissions by other environmental groups

- Submission by Mike Webb on behalf of the RSPB.

We have studied the contents of this submission and concur with its findings.

- Submission by Dr Madeline Havard, Chair of Wales Coastal and Maritime Partnership

We have studied the contents of this submission and support its findings. The statement on hierarchy and implementation criteria is crucial to the success of the spatial plan document. Additionally we support the call for maritime interests and associated linkages with land uses and designations to be addressed in the finalised spatial plan document. It is our experience that aggregates extraction from the Mouth of the Severn will in the long term have an effect on marine tidal flows. (Reference our submission to the Minerals Extraction consultation)

ANNEX 3

Quotations on Spatial Planning

Vincent Goodstadt, President RTPI Open letter response to Sir Peter Hall’s First annual RTPI lecture:

“Your analysis that we are over-loaded with strategies and suffer paralysis when it comes to their implementation is absolutely right. As you demonstrated so clearly, the effectiveness of UK planning has always been achieved where there has been a close link between plan making and plan delivery, You are also rightly concerned that the communities plan, and the emerging spatial strategies for Wales and Scotland and indeed the new

regional spatial strategies (RSSs) and local development frameworks will prove to be another round of “paper plans” unless we change our ways.”

“We also need to address the fact that without a UK-wide spatial development framework individual initiatives will take place in isolation. Without it there will be no confidence about infrastructure networks on which economic investment relies.”

Sir Peter Hall interview RTPI Magazine 19 December 2003:

“There are too many agencies issuing contradictory agendas and no real agreement”

Klaus Kunzmann Honorary Professor at Cardiff University promoter of spatial planning interview RTPI Magazine 5 December 2003:

“In any future revision of the European Spatial Development Perspective, he suggests, its guiding principles should be to reduce the complexity of planning, promote its spatial dimensions more strongly and address particular issue such as water provision, cultural issues, transport and industrial decline. It should also embrace the countries of central and Eastern Europe which will be joining the EU next year, he recommends.”

Sue Essex at the AGM of the RTPI Wales Branch (RTPI Magazine 12 December 2003)

“The Wales Spatial Plan is a document that breaks new ground. Nothing similar has been attempted in Wales before. We have though carefully about what is important to the Welsh Assembly Government in sustainable development and started a process that will deliver a plan to meet all Welsh needs. It would have been easy to go down the route taken by England, but that would confine the plans remit to land-use planning and limit its potential of demonstrating joined-up government across all policy areas”

The member States of the Council of Europe

“.....Concerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment; (...)

Wishing to provide a new instrument devoted exclusively to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe...”

***Preamble to the European Landscape Convention
Florence, 20 October 2000***

Welsh historian O. M. Edwards

“Our land is a living thing, not a grave of forgetfulness under our feet. Every hill has its history, every locality its romance, every part of the landscape wears its particular glory.”

Extract from “Remaking the Landscape – The changing face of Britain”, Jennifer Jenkins Profile Books

New Economics Foundation “An Environmental War Economy” Andrew Simms

“Climate change is propelling ecological debt to the centre of the globalisation debate. The shift goes deep. A plan to tackle global warming cannot succeed unless it concedes each individual’s logical claim to the atmosphere. Over time, the equal distribution of property rights in the air above our heads will mean the biggest economic and geo-political realignment of recent history.”

Environment Agency Wales – Review of water abstraction charges scheme Consultation

“It’s our job to make sure that air, land and water are looked after by everyone in to-day’s society, so that tomorrow’s generations inherit a cleaner, healthier world.

Our work includes tackling flooding and pollution incidents, reducing industry’s impacts on the environment, cleaning up rivers, coastal waters and contaminated land, and improving wildlife habitats.