

Welsh Government

**M4 Corridor around Newport**

Environmental Statement Volume 3:  
Appendix 9.1

Relevant Planning Policy for  
Neighbouring Local Authorities

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# 1 Relevant Planning Policy for Neighbouring Local Authorities

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## 1.1 Neighbouring Local Authorities

**1.1.1** The proposed new section of motorway would be visible from locations outside of the main administrative areas identified above, with potential for far reaching views of the river crossing structure across the Severn Estuary (from the English side).

**1.1.2** The relevant policies of the Local Development Plans of the following neighbouring Local Authorities were considered as part of the assessment

### Wales

- Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council;
- Rhondda County Borough Council;
- Caerphilly County Borough Council;
- Torfaen County Borough Council; and
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

### England

- South Gloucestershire Council;
- Bristol City Council; and
- North Somerset Council.

## 1.2 Wales

### Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council

**1.2.1** The current development plan for Vale of Glamorgan Council is the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 1996 - 2011, adopted by the Council in April 2005. Relevant policies include:

- Strategic Policy 1 – seeks to protect and enhance the distinctive rural, urban and coastal character of the Vale of Glamorgan, with particular emphasis given to conserving areas of importance for landscape, ecology, wildlife and built heritage.
- Policy Env 3 – Green Wedges, seeks to prevent the urban coalescence between and within settlements where development which may prejudice the open nature of land will not be permitted.
- Policy Env 4 – Special Landscape Areas (SLA), permits new development within or closely related to identified SLAs, where it can be demonstrated that it would not adversely affect the landscape character, landscape features or visual amenities of the SLA.

- Policy Env 5 – Glamorgan Heritage Coast, seeks to conserve and enhance the special environmental qualities of the Heritage Coast, which is to be treated as a remote zone, with priority given to agriculture, landscape and nature conservation.
- Policy Env 6 – East Vale Coast, requires that development proposals should not cause unacceptable environmental effects to the undeveloped coastal zone, including visual intrusion and impact on areas of landscape importance, ensuring design respects the local context and is sensitive to the coastal setting.
- Policy Env 10 – Conservation of the Countryside, favours measures to maintain and improve the countryside, its features and resources, particularly the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, areas of high quality landscape and the urban fringe.
- Policy Env 11 – Protection of Landscape Features, permits development where it does not unacceptably affect features of importance to landscape or nature conservation.
- Policy Env 17 – Protection of Built and Historic Environment, seeks to protect the special character, appearance or setting of heritage assets which include listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments and designed landscapes, parks and gardens of historic importance, from the detrimental effects of development.

**1.2.2** The Council began the preparation of a Local Development Plan (LDP) in 2006 and published the Deposit LDP 2011 - 2026 in November 2013, for public consultation which was held from November to December 2013. The relevant emerging policies include:

- Policy SP10 – Built and Natural Environment, requires development proposals to preserve and where appropriate enhance the built and natural environment of the Vale of Glamorgan, particularly historic buildings, conservation areas, historic landscapes, parks and gardens, Special Landscape Areas and the Glamorgan Heritage Coast.
- Policy MG17 – Special Landscape Areas, permits development within the SLAs identified in the policy, where it can be demonstrated that they would not cause unacceptable harm to the important character of the area.
- Policy MG18 – Green Wedges, seeks to prevent the coalescence of settlements and retain the open nature of land with the areas identified in the policy.
- Policy MG24 – Glamorgan Heritage Coast, seeks to conserve and enhance the special environmental qualities of the Heritage Coast from inappropriate development.
- Policy MD9 – Historic Environment, requires development proposals to protect the qualities of the built and historic environment of the Vale of Glamorgan, specifically the character and appearance of conservation areas, listed and locally listed buildings, and the special historic character, quality, settings or historic views or vistas of designed landscapes, historic parks and gardens.

**1.2.3** Other relevant guidance includes the Design in Landscape Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), adopted in 2006, and the County Treasures SPG,

adopted in 2009, which provides an inventory of locally listed buildings and policy guidance for their protection and enhancement in connection with development proposals.

## Rhondda County Borough Council

**1.2.4** The current development plan is the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Local Development Plan 2006 - 2021, adopted by the Council in March 2011. Relevant policies include:

- Policy AW7 – Protection and Enhancement of the Built Environment, will only permit development proposals which would preserve or enhance the character and appearance of sites of architectural and / or historic merit.
- Policy AW8 – Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment, permits development proposals only where they would not cause an unacceptable impact upon features of importance to landscape or nature conservation.
- Policies NSA24 and SSA22– Green Wedges, identifies a series of areas within the Northern Strategy Area and Southern Strategy Area, where coalescence between and within settlements will be prevented and where development proposals that prejudice the open nature of land will not be permitted.
- Policies NSA25 and SSA23 – Special Landscape Areas (SLAs), identifies a series of SLAs within the Northern Strategy Area and Southern Strategy Area, where development proposals will be expected to conform to the highest standards of design, siting, layout and materials appropriate to the character of the area.

**1.2.5** Other guidance includes The Historic Built Environment Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), adopted in March 2011. This provides detailed guidance to support Policy AW7 of the Adopted LDP, identifying key issues and providing appropriate development guidance to protect or enhance the setting, character and quality of heritage assets in the Borough, including listed buildings, scheduled monuments, conservation areas, and historic landscapes, parks and gardens.

## Caerphilly County Borough Council

**1.2.6** The current development plan is the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021, adopted by the Council in November 2010. Relevant policies include:

- Policy SP10 – Conservation of Natural Heritage, seeks to protect, conserve, enhance and manage the natural heritage of the County Borough in the consideration of all development proposals in the rural and built environment.
- Policy CW4 – Natural Heritage Protection, only permits development proposals that would affect locally designated natural heritage features, if they conserve and enhance the distinctive or characteristic features of Special Landscape Areas or Visually Important Local Landscapes.
- Policy SI1 – Green Wedges, aims to maintain the open spaces between and within urban areas and settlements to prevent coalescence and to resist

development proposals that would not maintain the open character of the areas identified in the policy.

- Policy NH1 – Special Landscape Areas, aims to protect the Upper Rhymney Valley and Gelligaer Common from inappropriate development, to prevent the distinctive landscape, historical, cultural and natural features and characteristics of these areas.
- Policy NH2 – Visually Important Local Landscapes, requires that development proposals affecting the Northern Rhymney Valley and Manmoel identified landscapes, should protect and where appropriate enhance the distinctive features and visual and sensory characteristics of these areas.

**1.2.7** Guidance for protecting the setting, character and quality of historic assets and historic landscapes, parks and gardens in the Borough, is provided by The Value of Historic Places - Conservation Strategy for the Historic Environment 2014 - 2019, adopted in November 2014.

### Torfaen County Borough Council

**1.2.8** The current development plan is the Torfaen County Borough Local Development Plan (LDP) – Written Statement, adopted by the Council in December 2013. Relevant policies include:

- Policy S7 – Conservation of the Natural and Historic Environment, seeks to ensure that development proposals conserve and enhance the natural, built and historic environment of the Borough, including landscape setting and heritage assets.
- Policy C1 – Green Wedges, seeks to prevent coalescence between settlements and to maintain the open character of the land with the areas identified in the policy, by ensuring that development proposals respect the rural setting in terms of layout and design, minimising visual intrusion into the landscape.
- Policy C2 – Special Landscape Areas, aims to ensure the continued protection and enhancement of the SLAs defined in the policy, where development proposals will be expected to conform to high standards of design and environmental protection appropriate to the character of the area.
- Policies HE1 – Buildings and Structures of Local Importance, seeks to ensure that development proposals do not significantly adversely affect the distinctive appearance, architectural integrity or setting of identified buildings and structures of local importance.

**1.2.9** In addition, the “Development and its Incorporation within the Landscape: A Guide for Developers (2000)” Supplementary Planning Guidance document provides further guidance on landscape considerations.

### Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA)

**1.2.10** The current development plan is the Brecon Beacon National Park Authority Local Development Plan 2007 - 2022, adopted in December 2013, including the designation in 2013 of the Brecon Beacons National Park as an international dark sky reserve.

**1.2.11** Relevant policies include:

- Policy SP1 – National Park Policy, requires development proposals to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park, without harming the special qualities of the area.
- Policy SP3 – Environmental Protection - Strategic Policy, permits development proposals within the National Park that will not have an unacceptable impact on, nor detract from, or prevent the enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park (as identified in the National Park Management Plan), cultural and heritage assets including registered historic landscapes, parks and gardens, listed buildings, conservation areas and important open space.
- Policy 12 – Light Pollution, requires development proposals incorporating lighting schemes to demonstrate that the lighting will not cause a significant adverse effect on the character of the area, the visibility of the night sky and 'dark corridors' for bats and light sensitive species.
- Policy 21 – Historic Landscapes, requires that development which directly or indirectly, either alone or in combination, affects areas listed within Part 2 of the 'Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales', will only be permitted if the essential integrity and coherence of the area is preserved or enhanced.

#### **1.2.12** Other relevant supporting guidance includes:

- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), August 2012. The LCA includes character area profiles for distinct areas across the National Park and provides a clear geographic reference for landscape character, special qualities and issues of landscape change across the Park, with a view to ensuring development proposals protect and enhance the distinctive characteristics and sensitivities of each area identified in the guidance.
- Landscape and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), October 2014 and Appendix 3 - Area Profiles. The guidance has been informed by the LCA 2012, and is used as a material consideration in the determination of development proposals within the Park and also located outside and in close proximity to the BBNPA administrative area, where the proposal is of a scale and significance that may impact on the landscape quality of the National Park.
- Obtrusive Lighting and Light Pollution SPG, March 2015. This provides guidance to supplement and support Policy 12 of the Adopted LDP, and seeks to encourage developers to incorporate appropriate external lighting that will prevent obtrusive lighting impacts such as glare, light trespass, scenic intrusion and sky glow within the National Park.

## **1.3** **England**

### **South Gloucestershire Council**

#### **1.3.1** South Gloucestershire Local Plan – Core Strategy 2006-2027, Adopted December 2013:

- Policy CS2 – Green Infrastructure, seeks to conserve and enhance landscape character, historical, built and cultural heritage features. Zone 1 of

the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network includes the Severn Estuary SPA/SAC/RAMSAR site, Strategic Nature Areas, and Landscape Character Areas 19, 20 and 21.

- Policy CS5 - Location of Development, states that any proposals outside the Green Belt should be commensurate with the locality in terms of its form, character and landscape and cumulatively acceptable when considered with any other development identified in the Core Strategy, Policies Sites and Places DPD, replacement Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plans.
- Policy CS9 – Managing the Environment and Heritage, seeks to conserve and enhance the character, quality, distinctiveness and amenity of the landscape.
- Policy CS35 – Severnside is safeguarded for the development of distribution and employment uses, including energy generation, where a strategic development approach is helping to mitigate site constraints including coastal protection and biodiversity.

**1.3.2** South Gloucestershire Council also adopted a revised Landscape Character Assessment SPD on November 2014. As it relates to the proposed new section of motorway, the SPG indicates that any proposals in adjacent areas should be planned and designed to minimise their prominence in rural and open views along the Severn Shoreline, the Severn Way and the Estuary, and within the setting to the Grade 1 listed Severn Bridge.

### Bristol City Council

**1.3.3** Bristol Local Plan – Core Strategy, Adopted June 2011:

- Policy BCS4 – Avonmouth and Bristol Port, states that development proposals are expected to respect the area’s environmental assets and take account of its physical constraints, mitigating any potential adverse impacts.
- Policy BCS9 – Green Infrastructure, seeks to maintain, protect and enhance the integrity and connectivity of the green infrastructure network as well as to improve the landscape quality and visual amenity. Green infrastructure assets include landscape features, which are to be taken into consideration during the development process.
- Policy BCS22 – Conservation and the Historic Environment, ensures that all new development safeguards or enhances the historic environment, its setting, landscape and views.

**1.3.4** Bristol Local Plan – Site Allocations and Development Management Policies, Adopted July 2014:

- Policy DM19 – Development and Nature Conservation, builds on Core Strategy Policy BCS9 and states that development adjacent to sites of nature conservation value will be expected to enhance the site’s nature conservation value through the design and placement of any green infrastructure provided.
- Policy DM26 - Local Character and Distinctiveness, highlights that development should contribute positively to an area’s character, landscape and identity, creating or reinforcing local distinctiveness.



- Policy DM27 – Layout and Form indicates that proposals are expected to respond to and reinforce the character and landscape of the context within which it is to be set.

## North Somerset Council

### 1.3.5

North Somerset Local Plan – Core Strategy up to 2026, Adopted April 2012:

- Policy CS4 – Nature Conservation, identifies the Severn Estuary as an outstanding habitat to be maintained and enhanced by maximizing benefits to its landscape setting and character, amongst others.
- Policy CS5 – Landscape and the historic environment, seeks to protect and enhance the character, distinctiveness, diversity and quality of North Somerset’s landscape and historic environment by overseeing the quality and design of new developments.
- Policy CS9 – Green infrastructure, states that the network of green infrastructure within North Somerset is to be safeguarded and protected in order to maintain and improve local biodiversity and landscape character.