

■ PART 2 ■

PLANNING TODAY

Part 2 surveys the current planning system with a view to providing a description of its main elements. The emphasis is on clarifying the procedures of the planning system. This survey of the planning system should enable the reader to progress to Parts 3, 4 and 5 where the processes at work within the system are more fully explored. The planning system is taken to comprise: land use planning and conservation (development planning, development control, conservation); countryside policy (countryside access, nature conservation, agriculture and minerals); environmental policy (pollution control, waste management); and urban and transport policy (urban grant and subsidy systems, transfers of landownership, and transport policy). Each area of the planning system is covered in terms of: the organisations involved; the focus of this specific planning activity; the aim of that activity; the timing and geographical scope involved; and the main methods used to achieve the desired end result. The emphasis is on the situation in England. This situation in Wales is usually broader similar. Reference to the main differences in Scotland is made at the end of each section. Generally, the situation in Northern Ireland is not covered, although particularly interesting points of comparison are made where appropriate.

Reference will be made to many different political actors, in particular agencies of the state at national, regional and local levels. These are discussed in more detail in Part 3 but a summary is provided in Figure 4.1. In addition, exhibits in Part 3 amplify some of the policies outlined here. Chapter 8 looks at the conflict over green belts, UDCs, and the EC in relation to environmental assessment. Chapter 9 provides case studies of professionals in the water industry, joint housing studies, and planners negotiating planning obligations. In Chapter 10, the environmental big public inquiry, gentrification and conservation, and the Royal Society for Nature Conservation are considered. Chapters in Part 4 also provides analyses of the economic dimension of problems in major policy areas: housing land policy; minerals exploitation; pollution control; and the inner city problem.

For any practical application, the reader will have to make reference to up-to-date policy documents, indicators of current practice and data. This text does not attempt to replace such reference material. To guide the reader to more detailed material, references are given to sources of data and policy statements at the end of each chapter. A Glossary to the numerous acronyms used is provided on p. xiv.