

North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party

11:30am, Wednesday 10th December 2008

Civic Offices, Conwy Borough Council, Colwyn Bay

Agenda

Present:	Ceri Thomas	(Acting Chair)
	Ian Thomas	(Tech. Sec)
	Gareth Lloyd	Snowdonia National Park
	Gary Nancarrow	Flintshire County Council
	Martha Savage	Denbighshire County Council
	Wynford Rowlands	Wrexham County Borough
	John Williams	Anglesey County Council
	Andrew Bower	Hanson Aggregates/QPA
	Rod de Figueiredo	Welsh Slate Ltd
	Andrew Kent	Tarmac North West/QPA
	Graham Bishop	Wales Environment Trust
	Steve Bool	South Wales RAWP Secretary
	Carolyn Warburton	Welsh Assembly Government

1. Apologies/Introductions

Ceri Thomas noted as chair in the absence of Gareth Jones through illness. Apologies were received from Ken Hobden, Darrell Williams (represented by Tony Cawkwell), Dafydd Gareth Jones, Tom Brown (by Andrew Brown), Ian Pearson, Richard Hulse (by Andrew Kent), Andy Farrow, Siwan Williams, Dafydd Gareth Jones. Rod de Figueiredo will now be representing Welsh Slate.

2. Minutes of last meeting (20.05.08)

Noted that Richard Millard had been present.

P.4 item 7. Re the reference to the permission to extend the mineral working deposit at Arthog, this should be in respect of time limit, not volume or extent

3. Matters Arising

Covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4. Report from Members Forum

Minutes of the last meeting (24.07.08) had been circulated. All the points made had now been discussed and resolved.

5. Regional Technical Statement

All MPAs except Anglesey had now approved the RTS. The Anglesey meeting to consider the RTS was postponed until later in the month. A note on the consultation carried out. (i.e updated since the last meeting) was tabled. An edited version of this note will be included in the final document. Other matters to be actioned since the May version included incorporating any final explanation re – the discussions with MPAs (minor amendments), a foreword and graphics changes to the format and translation etc.

RM questioned the earlier proposal to produce a shorter foreword than that for South Wales. The matter of Assembly endorsement was discussed; CW indicated that it was up to the RAWP to decide the content. **Agreed IAT to draft the foreword in liaison with the chair.** The RTS was likely to be publicised in February.

6. 2007 Annual Report/Survey

A draft had been circulated. It was noted that a short section on marine aggregates and a more substantive chapter on secondary and recycled aggregates (see section 7) were still to be added.

7. Recycled Aggregates including W.E.T. update

Papers setting out the results of the 2007 W.E.T. survey and one by IAT assisted by MS concerning CD&EW had been circulated previously.

GB noted that W.E.T. only reported data gathered with no attempt being made at grossing up. He noted that more recently, (i.e. since mid 2008) there had been a considerable reduction in activity in the industry. Recycling was of course dependent upon a buoyant construction industry. Concerning the future of W.E.T, this was uncertain; the current 4 year ALSF funding was due to run out in 3 months time although a 2 year extension had been applied for. The North Wales office had been closed when Objective 1 funding ended in October. GB regarded the survey as a success with 180 client companies (incl 100 SMEs) signed up. He then referred to various other targets which W.E.T. had set and met. He noted that there were still some significant barriers to contractors using SRAs including market resistance but these were gradually being overcome e.g.

in liaison with recalcitrant LAs tendering procedures were being changed, the WPAP/EA protocol and setting targets for use of inert waste.

IAT introduced the second paper. This was an attempt to reconcile the apparently disparate figures produced by various surveys. Assisted by MS and drawing on her background of information on waste, it had been possible to equate broadly, estimates made in the RTS (based on applying earlier data pro rata i.e. c1Mt CD*EW) with calculations derived from the more recent EA survey the latter, although highly detailed, did not produce a specific CD&EW statistic for North Wales, but applying proportions this was estimated at 1.11Mt. this also compares with 0.88Mt using calculations based on the Faber Maunsell report. It is therefore reasonable to assume that in the period 2005-7, uptake of CD&EW in North Wales was c 1Mtpa. This varies greatly from the 185,000 W.E.T. figure but the latter compares well with the 189,000t, calculated from the EA survey for CD&EW material used **off-site**. Members considered this to be a reasonable explanation although all agreed that there were still major data problems and no material guidance could be provided to the MPAs on this basis.

8. MPA Reports

Denbighshire Craig (Llanarmon) periodic review and EA to consider. Pentre Ucha end of its life; restored 2008; no active sand and gravel now in county. Aberduna – application for a further 1.7Mt reserves; Burley Hill – reactivation proposed – much preparatory work (operational until 2003/4) – ecology studies, newts etc. LDP: working on specific policies – preferred strategy on deposit; safeguarding areas for rock; need a preferred area search for 1Mt of sand and gravel.

Flintshire Hendre – application just received with EIA for periodic review; Fagl Lane – 2002 permission for an extension of 4Mt of sand/gravel – company decided not to work the area; S73 application to give an extension of time and seek non-compliance with condition - report due to go to committee. Trimm Rock – various renewals of permission – latest about to go for decision in respect of an extension of time and 0.87Mt additional reserves. Bryn Gwyn – Prohibition Order considered at a public inquiry – objections by owner dismissed (important implications for other POs); Aberdo/Brynmawr – ongoing discussions re stalled ROMPs – newt and SAC issues; Padeswood short working at the cement works – possible 2-3 months shutdown UDP – public inquiry closed in early 2008 –

report by March 2009; adoption late 2009/early 2010 (17,000 objections).
Now discussing start on LDP.

Snowdonia – no development control activity to report. LDP – draft report to go to the authority prior to public consultation that day.

Anglesey – pre deposit draft LDP to go to public consultation soon. Planning application submitted in respect of extension of time in respect of limestone extraction at Nant Newydd Quarry in Brynteg; two requests re Gwyndy and Caer Glaw to delay periodic review for five years. Major new mixed development proposed at Ty Mawr, Llanfairpwll including 1.5Km of new roads etc, refused last Friday by 1 vote. Matter to be referred to Full Council in January under constitution regulations relating to refusing proposals contrary to officer recommendation. If subsequently approved possible call-in by WAG.

Wrexham – no additional developments.

Conwy – no development control matters. Amendment re the Delivery Agreement with the Assembly, confirmed. LDP to be issued on deposit in March 2009.

Gwynedd – (reported later to Tech Sec). Permissions to open up a mineral working deposit (for A419 scheme) and to extract dimension stone (curling stones) both at the Trefor Quarry. UDP – public consultation ended in August; changes incorporated; adoption planned for mid/late 2009.

9. **South Wales and Other RAWPs**

The South Wales RAWP 2007 report was published in October as was the final RTS. Date of next meeting 19/03/09.

A sub-committee had been set-up to look at the delivery of mineral planning in South Wales, in response to the various problems encountered over the last few years. Industry representatives had attended. Martin Hooker was producing a paper on options for greater joint working. There were potential collaborative initiatives between Carmarthenshire/Pembrokeshire and Bracon Beacons NPA. RM commented that stronger mineral teams were essential; particularly in the context of implementing the RTS.

There was little to report from the North West RAWP apart from the impending reorganization of Cheshire into two unitary authorities.

10. Evaluation of Welsh RAWPS

Particular reference was made to section 7. The report suggested that the construction industry (as consumers) should become RAWP members but bearing in mind the poor attendance of some sectors, it was considered questionable in practice. A number of issues which have much broader implications such as those just mentioned re-South Wales were debated for example the need for consistency of treatment for safeguarding process, lack of available technical advice in-house in some instances, the whole issue of secondary/recycled aggregates and implementing related policies etc – RM in particular voiced concerns about the future implementation of the RTS and in particular the need for industry to be able to be confident that momentum already gained would not be lost over the next five years. CW referred to the briefing paper on RAWPs (“the Rough Guide”) which had been advocated in the review and was now in hand. Others noted that there was a need to emphasise to the MPAs, the advantage of participating in the RAWP. CW questioned whether the RAWP needed to be extended to cover all minerals. RM suggested that there were many contentious issues raised and that they demanded proper discussion. Agreed to setup a small group to discuss further.

Action IAT

11. Research and Legislation

CW reported that stalled ROMPs procedures were still under consideration; the potential for regional working/collaboration and possible research were being discussed; monitoring of open-cast coal sites would be the subject of a research project upon which EOIs would be sought in early 2009. Concerning the safeguarding and geological mapping project, the steering group met on 8th December – CW emphasised the need for MPA nominees to represent the wider interests of colleagues. Many questions were raised. The next meeting would be in February.

IMAGIN – project – further information sought but not made available.

12. Future Action

Concerning the 2008 survey, SJB noted an intention to change proceedings. The SWaRAWP had been advised in line with AMRI

practice, to send out forms in April, seeking a response by the same deadline as AMRI, i.e. 30th June [subsequent to the meeting, IAT/SJB were advised that the AMRI deadline was in fact 31st January not June; in which case the requests will be sent out in January seeking a response to MPAs by the end of March].

It was also agreed to design a standard survey form in liaison with SJB. RM welcomed this. **Action IAT/SJB**

RE RTS actions see Item 5.

13. Date of Next Meeting

To be agreed. Noted that there was insufficient business to merit a meeting before the end of March and that final versions of the 2007 report and RTS would be circulated for information and the group conducting the evaluation of the RAWPs Report would report back as appropriate.

14. Any Other Business

GN referred to the quality of and differences between data presentation by industry for RAWP surveys and that provided in the course of other planning activities e.g. in support of planning applications/appeals. When called upon to cite examples, MPAs were unable to quote specific amounts as some of the information was outside the public domain. RM, while challenging the extent of this practice did acknowledge that reserve data was absolutely critical to the whole process. He suggested that in the context of the new plans etc and the need to maintain the Managed Aggregate Supply System, industry was considering relaxing its stance on confidentiality.

On safeguarding – it was agreed that it needed to be emphasised that there was no presumption whatsoever in favour of working such areas. Other issues included size thresholds for resource areas and scale of development, the inclusion of AONBs/NPs, designation of resources in/below urban areas. The task of BGS was to identify the resource, not to produce related policies.

Stalled ROMPs regulations – where environmental information is not forthcoming, in the English regulations there is an obligation for the MPA to secure a Suspension Notice and ultimately a Prohibition Order.

Future of mineral planning in Wales – in North Wales, the “Making the Connections” report by Urban Vision was pertinent and a high level meeting was to be held in Anglesey at the end of the week. Various models would be considered.