

North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party

Meeting held on 20th October 2004
County Hall, Mold, Flintshire

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Minutes

Present.

Iwan Evans	Gwynedd Council (Chair)
Sue Martin	Welsh Assembly Government
Andrew Dale	Countryside Council for Wales
Gareth Jones	Gwynedd Council
Gareth Jones	Denbighshire CC
Gary Nancarrow	Flintshire CC
Gareth Lloyd	Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri
Andrew Farrow	Cheshire CC (Sec NWRAWP)
Duncan Pollock	QPA
Jo Davies	RMC/QPA
Siwan Williams	Welsh Assembly Government Agriculture Division
Basil Hollington	Welsh Assembly Government Agriculture Division
Steve Hill	Tarmac/QPA
Bob Sheffield	Wrexham CBC
Darrell Williams	Independent Operators
Tom Brown	Hanson/QPA
Roger Bennion	Gwynedd Council (Secretary)

Apologies.

Apologies were received from J Gibbins, Gwynedd Council; C Thomas, Conwy CBC; W Mackenzie, ODPM; R Carter, Environment Agency; P Huxtable, BAA; J Williams, Anglesey CBC; M Adair, Hanson/QPA; N Brown, Norwest Sand & Ballast.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting.

1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2005 in Dolgellau were approved.
(Action; All MPOs should make arrangements to allow public examination of the minutes on demand)

2. Matters Arising from the Meeting on 18th March 2004

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2.1 Re. Para. 4.1 RB said a text only version of the AM2003 report was now available.

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2.2 Re. Para. 4.5 RB reported that he had spoken to the Chairman of the National Federation of Demolition Contractors who said that his Federation had only three members in Wales and none were located in the North Wales region, therefore, it would not be possible for the Federation to nominate a representative. RB said that he was unable to suggest an alternative though the CDW survey (see para. 7.1) may identify a suitable North Wales based company.

2.3 Re. Para. 4.7 RB said there had been little reported progress, as far as he was aware only the NP and Denbighshire had reported the matter to members. There were no other contributions on this item.

2.4 Re. Para. 5.1 the required number of copies the AM2002 report had been sent to the various libraries.

2.5 Re. Para 5.4 The Chair and Secretary together with their SWRAWP counterparts had met with WAG officials on two occasions to discuss a number of issues including the implications of the MTAN on the role of the RAWPs in Wales. The discussions had included the financial implications and WAG were awaiting submissions from the RAWPs on additional costs for the remainder of the current financial year and for 05/06. The existing contract finished in March 2006 and any further work would be subject to a new contract. RAWP officers had made it clear to WAG that the current restrictions on funding could have impacts on the delivery of the RTS.

2.6 Re. Para. 6.2 This was dealt with in detail under item para. 6.3

2.7 Re. Para. 6.4 RB said that he was in regular contact with the SWRAWP secretary. He recommended that once the process of producing the RTS was underway the Welsh RAWP secretaries should attend meetings of both working parties to ensure conformity and to address such issues as apportionment. It is vital that the output of both RAWPs is coordinated to allow cross referencing at a national level.

2.8 Re. Para 8.3 this was dealt with under item para. 6.2

2.9 Re. Para. 9.2 this was dealt with under item para. 4.1

2.10 Re. Para. 9.3 RB said that he had not written to the EA he had requested assistance from the industry in drafting a suitable letter on this subject but unfortunately had not received a response. It was important that the concerns of all interested parties, particularly on the unsatisfactory representation on CAMS consultation, were properly raised with the EA. DP said that there was a move to consider water protection on the basis of river basin planning strategy, it was imperative that the industry and planners were properly represented during the development and implementation of such a process. SM said that QPA Wales had raised the matter at a meeting with the WAG minister for the environment and it had been agreed that the liaison between the industry and EA should be improved. **(ACTION: RAWP secretary to liaise with QPA to agree a way forward).**

2.11 Re. Para. 9.4 RB said he had not received any reports on action taken by MPOs on raising the issue of the Sustainability Funds with local groups. IE said that the panel were satisfied with the level of applications.

3. Secretary's Report.

3.1 RB reported that since the last meeting he had attended a number of seminars on behalf of the NWaRAWP including; *Modelling Bird- strikes in Relation to Airfield Type and Surrounding Land Use, The Regeneration of West Cheshire and North East Wales, The Demand and Supply of High Specification Aggregates in England*. A copy of the definitive guidance from ODPM on the use of building stone in England and Wales and the 2003 annual report by the North West Aggregates Working Party had been received. A copy of the ODPM report *National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England, 2001- 2016* had been received and the AMRI survey for 2003 was available via the Internet. DP said that the easiest access was through Google, type in PA1007. RB said the it was difficult to compare the AM survey with the AMRI because the two surveys had divided North Wales differently and there were other differences that were difficult to explain. The secretary

represented the NWaRAWP on the steering groups for *Implementing the Methodology for Assessing the Environmental Capacity for Primary Aggregates (IMAECA)* and the *Survey of Construction and Demolition Waste and Quarry Waste in Wales for 2003*. He also attended the steering group for the project to develop the RIGS in North Wales. Information and Papers on any of these topics can be obtained from the secretary.

3.2 RB recommended that regular meeting with the secretaries of those regions sharing the same market areas should be set up; he suggested an annual meeting to discuss the survey results. This would allow a greater understanding of the supply and demand for aggregates, for example how a reduction in supply from one region was impacting on another. He said that he had met with AF accompanied by SM of WAG and the meeting had proved very useful.

3.3 RB said he had responded on behalf of the NWaRAWP on a consultation by the North West Regional Assembly on the partial review of Regional Planning Guidance for the North West (RPG13). He had suggested that the guidance should contain a statement to reflect that contained in MTAN that, planning to meet the demand for aggregates should recognise the responsibility not to “export” environmental problems by switching the reliance on supply to sources outside the region if the demand could be met from within the region. RB said that there will be a public examination of the review in November 2004 and the views of the NWaRAWP would be taken into account.

4. Aggregates Levy.

4.1 RB said that as agreed at the last meeting he had written to The Treasury expressing the concerns of the NWaRAWP about the impact of the levy. The letter had prompted a positive response acknowledging that the NWaRAWP had a role in the consultation process for the assessment of the levy and it would be consulted in future, the response requested that the NWaRAWP provided additional factual information to support the concerns previously outlined. RB said that he had received some information from mineral planning officers and one response from the industry; unfortunately this had proved inadequate to allow a response. DP said that the issue had proved equally difficult to deal with in the QPA and RB said that P.Huxtable of the BAA had encountered similar difficulties in collecting data. Copies of all correspondence had been circulated to all NWaRAWP members. The matter was now in abeyance and would require further consideration of the NWaRAWP. **(ACTION; Discuss at next meeting)**

5. Annual Report – AM2003

5.1 IE presented the annual report and said that he wished to thank Ms. L Slaven of Gwynedd Council who had been responsible for producing the final document. Members noted minor typographical errors and it was agreed that the document circulated at the meeting should be considered as a draft any corrections should be sent to the secretary by 3rd ~~November~~ 2004 after which date the final version will be issued including being placed on the WAG and ODPM web sites. It was agreed that the reports would be available free of charge.

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5.2 RB raised the issue of the reliability of some of the data provided in response to the survey, some of the errors only came to light when statistics were discussed at a Public Inquiry. Any failure on the part of the industry to provide the correct information, for whatever reason, could seriously undermine the whole process; AF said he was not aware of a similar problem in his region.

5.3 AF said that he was coordinating a study to revise the survey forms; the draft version would be available at the beginning of 2005 with a view to having the final version available for the comprehensive survey of 2005 in 2006. RB said that he hoped the revision would seize the opportunity to revise the forms to allow more meaningful/accurate information on end use to be gained.

6. Progress with MTAN Requirements

6.1 RB reported that following the completion of the project to develop a methodology to evaluate environmental capacity in Wales in relation to the supply of aggregates carried out by Arup (EMAADS) Enviro/Liverpool University had won the contract to utilise the methodology and to carry an assessment for the whole of Wales. The outcome would be a two layer GIS system consisting of a simplified geology/resource map and a map of scored environmental constraints. This will allow RAWPs to interrogate the maps to make recommendations on the best environmental options for the continued supply of aggregates in Wales. The outcome will form the basis of the RTS. The contractor will make a presentation to the RAWPs explaining the process; it was anticipated that the final report would be available in March 2005. It was suggested that the contractor could make a presentation to the RTS subgroup to test the system. **(ACTION: SM to raise matter of presentation to the subgroup with contractor)**

6.2 RB referred to the approach by BGS to seek the support of MPAs and the RAWP to access funds to carry out resource mapping in the region. It was agreed that this was unnecessary as the IMAECA study together with the currently available geological information is sufficient to allow completion of the RTS.

6.3 RB said that the subgroup agreed at the last meeting had met on two occasions to discuss the implication of the MTAN for the NWaRAWP and the form of the RTS. Minutes of the meetings previously circulated. The next stage would be to set up the members group. IE said that the North Wales Chief planning Officers Group had discussed the issue but they had failed to reach a consensus. The CPOs were now to discuss the matter with their Members with two options; (i) an RTS specific members group (ii) a members planning forum to deal with a range of strategic planning matters including the RTS. They would be taking a decision in December. IE said that if no agreement he will write to all Authorities asking for nominations, one member plus reserve per authority. It was agreed that the group would need to be up and running prior to the IMAECA launch as members would need to be present, having already been fully briefed on the issues.

(ACTION: IE to progress members group)

7. Survey of Construction and Demolition Waste and Quarry Waste in 2003

7.1 This mirrored the survey recently completed in England. The RAWPs had formed a partnership with Smiths Gore of Wrexham to bid for funds from the Sustainability Funds to carry out the survey. The survey would be more comprehensive in Wales than previous joint England Wales surveys and would include a survey of quarries to provide data on all waste arising to enable the RAWP gain a complete insight into the total potential resource and any impact of the Aggregate Levy. Although ambitious the survey is to try to gain some data on total CDW arisings in Wales. The draft survey forms have been agreed by the project steering group and should be issued in the next two weeks. The final report, which will include recommendations for future surveys, will be presented in March 2005 to coincide with the IMAECA study and will also inform the RTS.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 AD raised the matter of dormant sites referred to in para.9.2 of the minutes of last meeting. RB said that QPA was concerned about this issue and requested that the RAWP consider the matter. AD was assured that the RTS would deal with dormant site and would contain recommendations for UAs. DGJ referred to the success of Gwynedd in serving five Prohibition Orders effectively reducing the crushed rock landbank by 1000 years! SM referred to the successful seminar arranged by WAG in October 2004 to disseminate good practice to Welsh UAs on the serving of POs.

8.2 AD was unable to offer any further information on the timetable for the Habitats Directive timetable.

8.3DP informed members about the action by ODPM to try to deal with the issue of pre 2002 review sites that had been stalled by the need to provide additional environmental information. A consultation document had been issued with a final response date set at 28th November 2004 The QPA welcomed the ODPM action although it believed that the procedure could be streamlined. Essentially if companies failed to provide the information ODPM would order on an individual basis that the relevant site would be subject to an immediate periodic review. If the operator failed to comply within a given time the planning permission would lapse. SM said that WAG would be issuing a similar consultation in the near future; a recent survey suggested that there were 24 relevant sites in Wales.

8.4 SM reported that at the meeting of QPA and WAG it had been agreed that there should be better liaison between QPA and both EA and CCW in Wales. WAG would be writing to EA and CCW on this matter after the new QPA Wales post had been appointed.

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8.4 IE informed members that it RB would be leaving the post of secretary before the end of the year. RB suggested that the members consider replacements for the steering groups on which the secretary represented the NWaRAWP. IE said that he would deal with the matter with a view to RB remaining on the 3 Steering Groups (ACTION: IE to arrange replacement Secretary)

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9. Date of the Next Meeting

9.1 This was fixed for 11.30am on Wednesday 20th April 2005 at County Hall, Mold(ACTION: All members note date of meeting)