Update to Appendix 1 – Further Actions in relation to Strategic Planning Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue: To plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Action: Preparation of second Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partners: West Midlands Aggregate Working Party (WMAWP) members and other Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs)</td>
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<td>Outcome: The Duty to Cooperate Statement (June 2015) indicates that comments prepared by the WMAWP technical secretary on the first LAA for Staffordshire were received in January 2015 and that these comments were discussed at the WMAWP meeting on 27-3-15. On the basis of these comments and the discussions of the WMAWP (see appendices 1, 2 and 3), a second LAA was prepared using the latest data available (2013 survey data) and was published in June 2015 to support the Final Draft of the Plan.</td>
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Representations received in respect of the published Final Draft of the new Plan included feedback on the second LAA (refer to representations made by the Mineral Products Association, Lafarge Tarmac, Cemex, Birmingham City Council and the Black Country Authorities). Representations on the New Plan have commented on the need for the WMAWP to agree the LAA and the need to take into account potential growth in construction particularly in relation to development within the West Midlands conurbation. No comment was received, however, specifically from the West Midlands Aggregates Working Party. It is noted that after the WMAWP meeting on 27-3-15, changes were being made to the technical secretariat supporting the WMAWP.

Representations were also received from Derbyshire County and Cheshire East Councils (not members of the WMAWP) and no adverse comments were made in respect of the level of provision for aggregates nor the allocations included in the new Plan. In both cases, the authorities confirmed their intention to liaise with Staffordshire County Council which will include monitoring cross border movements of aggregates.

In advance of the formal appointment of a new technical secretary to the WMAWP, a meeting of the WMAWP was held on 30-11-15. This provided an opportunity to review progress with the “Aggregate Minerals Survey 2014” co-ordinated by the British Geological Survey and the preparation of LAAs.

Key findings from the meeting (see appendix 4) were:
- The need to make progress with publishing the latest data from the 2014 AM survey;
- To provide comments on the latest published LAAs including Staffordshire’s LAA published in June 2015;
- To map out a timetable for the preparation and consideration of future LAAs.
Addendum to Duty to Cooperate Statement (June 2015)

(to incorporate an opportunity for the AWP to agree data prior to publishing); and
- To consider the “Strategic Statement” produced by the former technical secretary (refer to appendix 2).

Issues for ongoing co-operation include:
- The timely production of LAAs including latest data is critical to gaining an overview of supply and demand of aggregates in the West Midlands and to assessing the resilience of landbanks within the constituent mineral planning areas; and
- The minutes of the most recent WMAWP meeting indicate the progress of relevant Local Plans in the West Midlands and there will be a need to review/comment on emerging Plans. It is noted that Staffordshire County Council has commented recently in relation to modifications to the Birmingham Development Plan (October 2015), Walsall’s Site Allocation Document (November 2015) and the first draft of the Warwickshire Minerals Local Plan (January 2015). The Council will continue to co-operate with these MPAs in the further preparation and review of these Plans.

**Issue: Provision of industrial minerals (cement/clays)**

**Action to assess requirements for the supply of shale minerals from Staffordshire to Tunstead cement works, Buxton, Derbyshire**

Outcome: Representations made in relation to the new Plan by Lafarge Tarmac have sought to seek additional provision of clay/shale minerals from Staffordshire in the event that existing sites are depleted. Correspondence with Derbyshire County Council has indicated that there are currently sufficient reserves for the Tunstead Works but in view of the recent representations from Lafarge Tarmac, it is proposed to change the monitoring framework for the new Plan in Staffordshire to accommodate the monitoring of sales and reserves at sites supplying the Tunstead works. This monitoring would incorporate continued co-operation with Derbyshire County Council.

**Action to assess requirements for the supply of brick clays from Staffordshire to clay product works outside Staffordshire.**

Outcome: Representations made in relation to the new Plan by the Black Country Authorities have sought to seek additional provision of clay from Staffordshire in the event that there is a requirement identified for the maintenance of supply to brick works in Walsall. It is proposed to change the monitoring framework for the new Plan in Staffordshire to accommodate the monitoring of sales and reserves at sites supplying clay product works outside the county but with the co-operation of other MPAs in the West Midlands (meetings have been held to discuss issues relating to clay minerals on 27-3-15 [see note of meeting as appendix 5] and 30-11-15), it is possible that monitoring across the West Midlands could be achieved. This monitoring would also require the co-operation of the clay industry in the West Midlands. Initial contact has been made by Staffordshire County Council with industry representatives regarding the requirements for monitoring (November 2015).
Appendix 1:

Comments on

Draft Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Local Aggregates Assessment,

2014

1. This is the second annual LAA for the area. It completely accords with the approach advocated in the NPPF and the on-line Planning Guidance which replaced the “Guidance on the Managed Aggregate Supply System, October 2012” when it went live on 6 March 2014. It is comprehensive, clear and balanced. The coverage is commensurate with that to be expected of a major aggregates producing county.

2. Unusually, this LAA correctly (NPPF para 143) begins its detailed analysis by considering recycled and secondary aggregates. Their past and anticipated role in meeting demand is thoroughly explored, particularly in segregating source types. However despite much evident effort, this section mainly serves to highlight the significant more general inadequacies in the related data. CD &EW processing rates crudely appear to reflect past trends in construction and primary aggregates. Provision in plans allows for an increase in capacity in order to meet the EU Directive, but a potential fall which might result from a possibly diminished stock of recycleable redundant buildings, does not appear to have been addressed.

3. Unlike most other mpas in the region, the LAA appropriately focuses on the required past 10 year sales average. Whereas the other LAAs in the region initially, or only apply the former Sub-Regional Apportionments (SRA) based on 2003 calculations, the Staffordshire LAA only makes passing reference that approach. Although the Staffordshire document does consider the three year average figures, on this occasion the downward trend makes this largely academic. In regard to projections, it is notable that for sand and gravel, two baseline sets of 10 years (differing by only a single start year) are considered, which produce significantly differing annual averages.

4. Also unlike the other mpas in the region, attempts are made to segregate the various types of sand and gravel deposits and their end uses.

5. Permitted reserves on a simple arithmetic basis provide a landbank almost twice the seven year level and plan allocations increase this provision. However in detail, productive capacity profiles suggest a less optimistic picture. It is acknowledged that additional allocations will be needed in future plans to take the position through to 2030. The limitations presented by the Cannock Chase AONB are noted. Reference is also made to severe shortfalls in...
two neighbouring MPAs but it is concluded that additional provision is not required in the county.

6. In respect of crushed rock, the situation is not as clear because, due to confidentiality limitations, sales data had to be grouped with that for Warwickshire. This is most unfortunate as the reserves and operations in the two grouped areas are distant from each other and differ both in rock character and, to a degree, markets. In Staffordshire reserves appear to be sufficient to cover needs for considerably longer than the ten year minimum requirement.

7. Account is taken of imports/exports (to the extent that the 2009 survey data allows). A significant volume of sand and gravel was destined for the West Midlands conurbation. Although a reasonably high level of rock reserves are permitted in the county, they lie in a relatively confined area and as the Staffordshire urban concentrations are relatively proximate to other sources, the county is a net importer of rock.

8. The examination of demand prospects is particularly thorough. Past housing data is compared with future proposals, which are anticipated to rise. This review also encompasses the Black Country and Birmingham key markets. Usage in concrete and major infrastructure projects are also flagged up.

9. To assist the reader in understanding the pattern of operations with respect to resources in the county, a general indication of deposits would be a helpful addition to the existing map showing plant locations.

10. The former rail despatch depot at a quarry, was noted.

11. In conclusion, the Staffordshire LAA has been well prepared, fully in accordance with the NPPF and new Planning Guidance. Indeed it provides a template for others.

IAT Tech Sec WMAWP
ITEM 8  

WMAWP STRATEGIC ISSUES

[The introduction to this paper was prepared for discussion at a recent meeting of the AWP Secretaries and met with general support. It has been modified to relate to the W Midlands]

The AWPs are ideally placed to identify issues of supply and demand, and the options for provision, pinchpoints, and relative significances to inform priorities for action. Government guidance in England from the early 1950s to the present day, has required local authorities with responsibility for minerals planning, to respond appropriately to national and local needs respectively. This last differentiation has sometimes been encoded in local policies for certain comparatively rare, industrial minerals but hardly ever in respect of aggregates need.

AWPs should consider, prioritise and set action plans to address strategic issues relating to provision for their areas and dependent areas. Action plans should identify data needs, potential partners, dialogue/liaison and related research requirements. The stipulation that AWPs should assess the compliance of LAAs regarding adequacy of provision, is likely to strengthen the case for setting out a definitive strategic framework at regional scale.

As in the past, AWPs should not engage in policy-making, but point up key issues which demand to be addressed.

It is therefore recommended that each AWP annual report should carry an agreed Strategic Statement accompanied by a brief monitoring account, recording progress.

In the West Midlands, a range of matters are becoming apparent and this initial brief note attempts to identify some of the key issues. These reflect factors which could influence the region’s (or parts of its) ability to maintain supply to internal markets and maintain an equally balanced and fair relationship with other regions. They are not necessarily in order of priority; the numbering is for convenience of reference. The note, and in particular, the recommendations, are for discussion. At this stage, no attempt has been made to allocate actions or to cost them, although the agencies concerned in some cases are self evident or implicit.

ISSUE 1 - Presentation of primary aggregates data

At the outset, it should be emphasised that three factors hamper any analysis probably to a greater degree than in most other regions. Firstly the considerable reduction in the number of active aggregates quarries over the last decade and secondly the rationalisation of company controls have limited the ability to present data in public to such a degree, that the ability to publish meaningful figures for provision is very limited indeed. The third issue relates to the delay in conducting the National Collation exercise. The dynamics of flows, particularly internally in the region, have certainly changed significantly in recent years, especially in response to quarry closures. Not only has the absence of such data rendered some of the LAAs out of date before their completion, for the reasons just mentioned, the output will almost certainly be too coarse to point up such changes and therefore to
accommodate them. *More flexibility in the use of data is essential if the MASS is to be maintained in the region.*

**ISSUE 2 - Supplying the West Midlands Conurbation**

The most evident characteristic of the West Midlands supply/demand situation can best be described as a having a ‘donut effect’. The dynamics within the region display tensions (actual or perceived) between the supplying and consuming areas – ie respectively, the ring of ‘county’ Mpas delivering most of the requirements of the urban core of metropolitan areas, where production of land-won material effectively ceased in the later 2000s. The flows between the two zones need to be quantified explicitly in the 2014 survey and compared with earlier flow data.

To improve and maintain goodwill, the West Midlands conurbation authorities need to demonstrate that they are actively promoting and tracking more thoroughly:

a) recovery of aggregates from CD&EWs,
b) safeguarding remaining geological resources (including open land and brownfield sites),
c) safeguarding rail transfer sites (existing and potential),
d) insistence on greater levels of extraction prior to development (especially of brownfield sites) as comprehensive packages

e) for any significant planned development, clear indication of the implications for aggregates demand and where it is not possible to meet such needs via the routes implied above, to be able to demonstrate that they have adequately discharged their Duty to Cooperate with other potential supply areas.

**ISSUE 3 Measuring the recycled materials and secondary aggregates contribution**

Bearing in mind that recycled materials and secondary aggregates should be accounting for 30% (2009 Guidelines) of aggregates supply to meet the Region’s needs, the impoverished database in this respect is quite remarkable. There are a number of inherent and widely recognised problems and this is not the appropriate place to repeat them. Laudable attempts have been made by some Mpas to interpret statistics collected by the Environment Agency but, apart from providing relative trends and only then at regional level, the data is too impaired to be regarded as a reliable source. On the other hand, Warwickshire has demonstrated that, by developing a good rapport with operators, much better quality data (indicative but still partial) on CD & EW processing can be gathered. Further pressure needs to be directed to the EA and central government to rectify the situation nationally. Within the region, Mpas and waste authorities need to collaborate more closely and to emulate the Warwickshire example, especially in the urban areas.

**ISSUE 4 Reliance on imports**

In net terms, the region is an importer of aggregates and has been for many years. The main reason historically is not necessarily related to an overall dearth of resources, but rather reflects their distributional mismatch with respect to consuming areas. More specifically it is a significant importer of rock, mainly from the East Midlands, but also from Wales, although it is in fact a small net exporter of sand and gravel, principally from Staffordshire. The decline of hard rock capacity in Warwickshire and to some extent the West Midlands Conurbation, was anticipated in the early 2000s by the East Midlands AWP but, in the
context of the large permitted in Leicestershire, was not at the time specifically addressed. Since then, those resources appear to be coming under increasing pressure in the medium and longer terms, as their markets have broadened. **It is recommended that the respective mpas and AWPs establish a dialogue in this regard.** Bearing in mind the past significance of the Warwickshire hard rock industry, **the resource there should be investigated further to ascertain whether additional zones should be safeguarded** well in advance of development.

**ISSUE 5 - Replacement provision for Peak District National Park**

The matter of winding down production in the Peak District National Park (ie a nationally endorsed policy) was in part accommodated by increased apportionment accepted by other mpas in the East Midlands region, but in the medium term, the **possible sharing of this provision by Staffordshire should be considered.** In practical terms, the impact is likely be minimal as there are significant unworked permitted limestone reserves in the county outside the Park and the existing operations concerned in the Park, mainly serve the West Midlands. Any inter-regional switch may need to be reflected in drafting any future guidelines prepared nationally.

**ISSUE 6 – High specification hard rock**

Certain hard rock resources in Shropshire/Telford and Warwickshire exhibit qualities which meet the demanding specifications for wearing course roadstone or perhaps rail ballast. Such deposits in England extend over very limited areas. **They should be specifically identified and given a higher, ie national level of safeguarding, than for aggregate resources in general.**

**Other Matters**

i) The industry has advised that there are no issues in the region concerning imbalances in the reserves/demand balance for various types of sand and gravel. Over many years only the gross reserve and sales positions have been reported in the region. **Perhaps in major survey years, more subdivision should be attempted to monitor the situation.**

ii) A recent assertion that the proposed HS2 railway line is unlikely to make a call upon the region for aggregates appears to be counter-intuitive and therefore merits further scrutiny.

iii) There appear to be no immediate issues in respect of the dual uses of limestone reserves for aggregates and industrial uses as there are in the East Midlands but the situation could change for example as a result of corporate reorganisation.

**Ian Thomas**
**Tech Sec WMAWP  27:03:15**
WEST MIDLANDS AGGREGATES WORKING PARTY

MINUTES

11 am Friday 27th March 2015
Venue: Birmingham City Council Offices
Room G01b, 1 Lancaster Circus, Staniforth Street, Queensway, Birmingham B4 7DJ

Present

Adrian Cooper, Shropshire (Chair)
Tony Lyons, Warwickshire
David Piper, Dudley
Maurice Barlow, Solihull [from Item 8]
Matthew Griffin, Staffordshire
Mark Watkins, Sandwell
Marianne Joynes, Worcestershire
Nick Dean, Worcestershire
Vicky Eaton, Herefordshire
Rebecca Jenman, Herefordshire
Sarah Clifton, Telford & Wrekin
Dawn Sherwood, Walsall
Martin Eade, Birmingham
Ken Hobden, MPA
Nick Atkins, MPA [Lafarge/Tarmac]
Shaun Denny, MPA [Cemex]
Tim Claxton, Aggregate industries
Jim Davies, Environment Agency
Colin D’Oylye, BAA [Breedon Aggregates]
Keith Bird, MPA [Hanson]
Eamon Mythen, DCLG
Ian Thomas, National Stone Centre WMAWP, Technical Secretary

1. Apologies: Tom Podd [Wolverhampton], Robert Haigh [Coventry], Joanne Mayne [Stoke on Trent],

The chairman reported that Mick Daynes [MPA/Hanson], who had been a member of the WMAWP for about 20 years, was stepping down; members wished him well in his partial retirement.

2. Minutes of last meeting (24:06:14 - circulated)

Page 2 item 5 penultimate para, last line for ‘assessing’, ND preferred ‘advising upon’. Otherwise, agreed.

3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

No discussion

4. Presentation by Ian Humphreys, International Synergies – Highways implications (paper circulated)

Ian Humphreys assisted by his colleague Rachel Lombardi made a Powerpoint presentation in which he identified several areas of potential mutual interest concerning for example, data collection and analysis, especially of recycled construction materials. He pointed to several joint projects with other agencies [public and private sector] with which the AWP might wish to become involved. He referred to the possibility of joint LEP bids and the importance of gathering non-cash support, eg where stimulating employment was a major
aim. In response to questions concerning for example data-sharing and confidentiality, he indicated that this varied from case to case dependent upon context and 'buy-in' arrangements.

It was agreed that the two visitors should be permitted to observe the remainder of the meeting.

5 Annual Surveys

i) 2011 and 2012 Surveys and Reports

A joint report covering the two years and based upon data gathered by Warwickshire County Council and the National Stone Centre had been circulated and published. Copies had been sent to DCLG for inclusion on their website. The Chair indicated that they will also be available on a joint West Midlands website [RTAB is currently hosted at: http://www.westmidlandsiep.gov.uk/rtab and the West Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership have previously indicated a willingness to replicate this arrangement for AWP if required]. **Action:** Chair/Secretary/TL

ii) 2013 Survey and Report

Draft key statistics had been circulated. There were incomplete as data from Solihull was still awaited. Preparation of the remainder of the report was in hand [see also Item 8 re forecasting] **Action:** Secretary

iii) 2014 Survey and National Collation (verbal update)

EM explained the reasons for the delay in this major survey noting that it should have been run in respect of 2013 to maintain the 4-yearly cycle, but that it was intended to revert back to this pattern in future. Delays in awarding the contract for National Collation had resulted in setting back the issuing of the 2014 survey requests, but the BGS had now been appointed and would be in contact with mpa officers shortly. BGS was expected to complete by March 2016.

EM also reported that AMRI data for 2013 was published on 27:02:15. The 2014 survey is in hand and arrangements for DCLG to continue funding ONS were under discussion.

6 Crushed Rock provision in Worcestershire

A memo drafted by Nick Dean on the above, approved by Worcestershire CC [WCC] Cabinet, had been circulated previously. ND sought a collective view from WMAWP, effectively to confirm that WCC had appropriately carried out its Duty to Cooperate. In discussion members pointed out that a combination of geological resources and markets were likely to lead to future demand being met from neighbouring areas, but respected WCC’s proposals to conduct a thorough review of internal sources. WMAWP were happy to accept the memo in principle. It was agreed that the main potential external supply was likely to be Gloucestershire and that the Chair, in liaison with WCC, would make a formal approach via the South West AWP. **Action:** Chair

7. LAAs

i) Overview of LAAs to 31st Dec 2014

IAT had circulated in January, his comments on individual LAAs then available and a summary report providing an overview. No responses had been received. The Chair welcomed these analyses pointing out that the various mpas were at different stages in the preparation and, over the last two years had been finding their way. Agreed that the summary report should be included in the WMAWP Annual Report.

During discussion of Item 8, the consensus view in respect of LAAs considered that many were far too long and over-sophisticated, particularly in those areas were there very few sites. Although mpas might consider that every eventuality needed to be addressed so that documents would stand up to scrutiny, the level of detail in some was unnecessary. An earlier suggestion that LAAs might be combined with local authority...
Annual Monitoring Reports was reiterated. In summing up, the Chair suggested that future LAAs could be shorter with cross reference being made to the evidence set out in earlier reports.

Members agreed to formally endorse the LAA’s which had been submitted as they are, noting the comments made in the summary report as ‘lessons to be learnt’ and considered during the next round of LAA preparation.

ii) Progress reports since LAAs as reported above

No discussion

iii) LAAs re Unitary Authorities in West Midlands Conurbation

To date, no LAAs had been produced for the areas of the group of Unitary Authorities in West Midlands Conurbation, although it was reported that a joint LAA was in preparation, but a release date was not given. [see also Item 8].

8. Strategic statement

As agreed at the last meeting, IAT had prepared and circulated a draft discussion paper setting out strategic issues in respect of aggregates supply, facing the region. This generated a detailed debate.

In particular there was considerable discussion in respect of the means of estimating future needs. It was agreed that, in the light of national advice, all provision should be based upon projections using average sales over the previous 10 years. Averages for the last three years should be presented as an early steer or ‘direction of travel’ for possible changes. Only when these basic figures had been produced should any really major additional influences be considered as a reality check. In response to questions seeking definition of such major changes, it was suggested that there was sufficient expertise on WMAWP to assess the significance of such factors at mpa or regional level and that this should be a matter for liaison, should issues arise. This approach was to be applied in LAAs and in the WMAWP Annual Reports.

In considering demand generated by housing, various approaches, some of which had been tried in the past, were mentioned, but it was agreed that this sector should be subjected to the general ground rules set out above, particularly in the absence of reliable methodologies for establishing relationships. ME commented incidentally that much of the housing growth generally ascribed to Birmingham was in fact being delivered by other areas.

In respect of data presentation, the issues arising from the small number of sites in some LAA areas were again acknowledged and KH specifically reminded mpa officers that there was always the option of seeking dispensation from companies to disclose. It was also agreed that in some instances, it might be desirable for data to be subdivided into end-use categories so that local balances between deficiencies and surpluses might be identified, but it was recognised that this would not be feasible where there were too few sites present.

Commenting on the references in the draft to matters to be addressed by the West Midlands unitary authorities, DS considered that a number of these were impracticable on the basis of lack of appropriate officer resources and, for example in respect of prior-extraction, for logistical reasons.

KH challenged the reference to national policy in respect of winding down production in the Peak National Park. ND called for mention to be made regarding wharf landings in Worcestershire.

Members agreed that it had been a useful exercise in prompting discussion and had summarised key issues that would need to be addressed in future.

It was agreed to redraft relevant sections of the document in the light of the discussion and specifically to tone-down some of the references to issues in the conurbation areas; some of the latter phrasing had been
9. Progress on plans

All mpa represented, reported briefly [separate note to be circulated]

10 Proposed non-aggregate minerals planning group – (update)

IAT reported that, as discussed at the last meeting, he had canvassed potential representatives of the following sub-sectors seeking their attendance at a meeting in the afternoon on the same day as the WMAWP: clay/fireclay, building stone, coal, oil/gas, non-aggregate limestone/dolomite, special sands. All those contacted welcomed the opportunity to discuss planning issues with planning officers, but the date offered proved unsuitable for one key player and another senior representative did not respond until after a decision to postpone had been made. It was agreed that a further attempt be made to convene a meeting after the next WMAWP meeting. In the interim, mpa officers agreed to have an informal discussion on issues relating to clay, over lunch.

11 Industry reports

KH reported a rise in crushed rock sales of 13% and 5% in all UK aggregates in 2014 with output almost back to pre-recession levels in some areas. The number of planning applications generally continued to lag behind replacement levels. A brief reference was made to the sequence of recent mergers and the Competition Authority.

KH reiterated concerns expressed by the Welsh Government’s Chief Planner regarding the diminishing pool of mineral planning expertise; there was a need for safeguarding the position and reversing the trend.

12 Future actions

Highlighted in action points above.

13 Date of next meeting

No date fixed but early 2016 suggested.

14 Any other business

VE referred to the protocol regarding the Duty to Cooperate; the obligation to consult the RTAB and WMAWP had been specifically mentioned as evidential benchmarks of compliance. PINS had regarded this as a significant factor in their recent assessment of the Herefordshire Plan. VE’s suggestion that AWP might wish to consider establishing a similar protocol to that adopted by RTAB was agreed.

EM reported on the National Aggregates Minerals Survey 2014 (AMS 2014): BGS had been awarded the contract for the 2014 collation survey and had made contact with AWPs and MPAs.

The competitive tender process regarding the AWP Technical Secretariat, began on 20 March, but potential applicants still had a further 30 days before being able to submit tenders. The contracts are for 3 Financial Years, but with an annual break clause. Contracts were likely to be awarded in May-July 2015.

DCLG is also taking steps to scope out renewing the Joint Minerals Information Programme (JMIP); the contract is currently with BGS.
It had been decided to hold the National Aggregates Coordinating Group (NACG) meeting after the General Election.

Updated household projections were published on 27 February which will provide an up to date basis for local authorities to determine their housing need. The new household projections cover the period 2012-2037 for England and local authorities; they update the previous “2011-based Interim Household Projections”, and have taken account of the latest ONS 2012-based sub-national population projections. Planning guidance has been updated to make clear that the new projections are most up-to-date and should now be used to take forward plan making.

Members were recommended to read the Written Statement (HCWS352) made by: Minister of State for Housing and Planning (Brandon Lewis) on 5 March 2015, which can accessed via the Parliamentary website.

IAT referred to his book Quarrying industry in Wales – a History published on 6th March; a number of quarries described supply the West Midlands. He was investigating the establishment of a UK-wide Quarry Industry Heritage Network.
Appendix 4:

West Midlands Aggregate Working Party

Minutes of Meeting Monday 30th November 2015

14:00 - The Hive Worcester

Attendees:

Adrian Cooper Chairmen (Shropshire Council)
Carolyn Williams Urban Vision
John Martin Urban Vision
Mark Watkins Sandwell MBC
Kelly Whitehouse Birmingham CC
Jim Davies EA
Tony Lyons Warwickshire CC
David Piper Dudley MBC
Matt Griffin Staffordshire CC

Sarah Clifton Telford and Wrekin
Phil Ward Worcestershire CC
Marianne Joynes Worcestershire CC
Victoria Easton Herefordshire Council
Dawn Sherwood Walsall Council
Mark Page Hanson UK
Shaun Denny CEMEX
Ken Hobden MPA

Apologies:

Keith Bird Hanson
Brian Dore Birmingham City

Maurice Barlow Solihull
Mick Atkins Lafarge

Item 1 - Introduction and Apologies

1.1 Adrian Cooper (AC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies for Keith Bird (Hanson), Brian Dore (Birmingham CC). Maurice Barlow (Solihull) and Mick Atkins (Lafarge). The Chair thanked Worcestershire County Council for hosting the meeting and for providing refreshments.

1.2 Adrian introduced Carolyn Williams and John Martin from Urban Vision and noted that, contract formalities notwithstanding, Urban Vision would be taking on the Secretariat role for an initial period up to the end of March 2016 with potential for a 2 year extension.

Item 2 – Minutes from Last Meeting

2.1 AC noted that the minutes were circulated. As a preamble it was noted that former secretary Ian Thomas has retired but has not yet completed the
Annual report for 2013 although this is substantially completed but has yet to be received and approved.

**Action:** AC to contact Ian Thomas for Annual report and on receipt for CW to sign off/complete as necessary as part of new role

**Item 3 – Matters Arising**

3.1 **Annual surveys** – AC wanted an understanding of where Authorities were up on latest survey and although there have been difficulties co-ordinating due to changes in Secretariat some activities have been ongoing – noted that there is a particular issue on crushed rock in Worcestershire and this is discussed under item 4 below.

3.2 **Strategic Statement** – Ian Thomas was preparing this document but not yet received by AC. Noted that this was a discussion paper only.

**Action:** AC to contact Ian Thomas for Strategic Statement

3.3 AC informed the meeting that there had been a non-aggregate minerals discussion prior to the meeting with regard to provision of clay and duty to cooperate issues where brickworks were relying on clay feedstock from cross boundary authorities.

3.4 KH Stated that on Item 11 he was not quite sure what this means.

**Action:** AC to provide clarification through amending the wording

Minutes approved subject to the amendment to Item 11.

**Item 4 - Crushed Rock**

4.1 Item introduced by Marianne Joynes (MJ). Worcestershire is unlikely to be able to contribute any crushed rock and this could have a knock on effect for the region. At the previous meeting in March a memo was provided setting out a way forward for dealing with crushed rock issues in Worcestershire covering the following issues – can they continue to provide crushed rock at the existing levels? What is the impact of this within the WM AWP area and with other surrounding AWP areas? There has been no crushed rock production in Worcestershire since 2010, some poor quality resources and some significant constraints on resources. There is very little data on sales figures as data combined with Herefordshire for many years due to commercial confidentiality. Worcestershire’s LAA, in
agreement with Herefordshire, assumed they had produced one third of the total crushed rock for that sub region until production ceased in 2010.

4.2 Worcestershire SRA is 0.163 million tonnes per annum, however based on the above assumptions, the 10-year average at 2011 was 0.093 million tonnes. The last site ceased production in 2010 and is currently undergoing restoration.

4.3 Main issues are that, of the land containing crushed rock resources in Worcestershire:

- Approximately 15% is adjacent to or within 2.5km of the Bredon Hill SAC
- 95% is within either the Cotswolds AONB or Malvern hills AONB
- 75% is in land under the control of the Malvern Hills Conservators who have a unique legislative requirement to protect the Malvern Hills from the threat of quarrying.
- There have been two calls for sites but no sites for crushed rock have come forward.

4.4 The memo presented at the March meeting had been supported by AWP in principle but Worcestershire was also proposing to seek agreement from Gloucestershire and AWP members suggested South Gloucestershire should also be contacted. AC wrote to South West AWP, and also East Midlands and South Wales AWPs (at WCC’s request after looking at imports data) and a number of responses were received:

- South Wales accepted DtC had been discharged;
- South West AWP had no objection in principle to support the position statement but found there was insufficient evidence to support joint policy – this was a misunderstanding as not asked for comments on joint policy. Considered resources within West Midlands should be the first option but recognised movement of aggregates is determined by industry not administrative borders. Suggested Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire may have further comments;
- No response had been received from East Midlands AWP at the time of meeting.

4.5 Worcestershire received further email discussion and held a meeting with Gloucestershire (GCC) and South Gloucestershire (SGC). Gloucestershire officers advised they understood and fully appreciated the need for cross border movements of crushed rock now and in the future and that the amount of supplies was relatively small and had not undergone notable fluctuation over time. Worcestershire should not be expected to supply the
apportionment figure within the WM AWP. South Gloucestershire agreed with those views.

4.6 AC stated that there was a positive policy position to encourage crushed rock development and that there is a review mechanism to provide a 10 year landbank and strategic corridors in the plan to allow crushed rock proposals to come forward.

4.7 MJ mentioned that after looking at the ‘strategic corridors’ for crushed rock which were outlined in the March memo, Worcestershire believe that the “Bredon Hill” corridor would fail on HRA grounds in regards to proximity Bredon Hill SAC, and the “Malvern Hills” corridor is unlikely to be deliverable as 83% of the land in that corridor is controlled by the Malvern Hills Conservators who have a unique responsibility to protect the hills from quarrying. Considered unreasonable to include a strategy that is clearly undeliverable.

4.8 It was recognised, as part of this group, that there is not likely to be any production in the foreseeable future and that future revisions of the LAA should reflect this but that Worcestershire’s plan should provide a policy framework to allow options to come forward in the future.

**Item 5 - Annual Surveys**

5.1 No discussion on 2011 and 2012 Surveys and Reports.

5.2 2013 survey – completed in draft and AC will contact former AWP Secretary Ian Thomas to ask him to forward what has been completed.

5.3 2014 survey - the following update was provided

- **Shropshire** – survey work completed
- **Warwickshire** – chasing up few last figures – crushed rock figure and sand and gravel. More work needed on recycled aggregate
- **Dudley MBC** – not completed at present – sent out their own version of the report and may be able to use this information
- **Staffordshire** – Estimated a couple of sites as not had returns
- **Telford** – completed and returned
- **Herefordshire** – Officer assigned to complete this work but not clear of been completed commented that any support needed to complete colleagues will be happy to help.
- **Walsall** - Completed
Mets – some seem to have been missed out the BGS survey, this may be due to its focus on primary aggregates. It was recognised that some Mets have significant secondary/recycled aggregates and need to check if this information has been collected for those areas.

Action: All to send any forms and update on progress

5.5 Discussion took place on ways to improve the form to assist with completion of LAAs. 2015 survey forms to include statement in front saying that this information will also be used to inform development of LAA unless the operator objects. UV to provide copy of form sent from NW AWP as an example.

5.6 KH provided an MPA update on disclosure. Dealing with AWP surveys first - as far as his members were concerned they were happy for MPAs to hold data and to use that data for whatever planning purpose they want it for but not to publish, except in collated form, so that individual sites could not be identified. Change of rules in respect of keeping forms – you can now keep them. The original stance was concern about Freedom of Information challenges.

5.7 Second issue – 3 company rule – recent development from the MPA board and their Council have agreed that the 3 company rule can be waived for purposes of the 4 yearly surveys – with the caveat that it applies to MPA members and no BAA rep was present at meeting.

5.8 For 4 yearly surveys it is a question for BGS but not for us as data collection it is effectively a transfer of information from them. The 3 company rule is not a consideration for 4 yearly surveys but still applies for annual surveys. MPA are having internal discussions and a presentation will be made to the Board that this rule should be relaxed for all the surveys – general trend that most operators are more relaxed about it. Cannot do anything that is perceived as anti competitive.

5.9 It was noted that this issue was usually resolved through amalgamation and reporting as one area. Potential issues for Hereford and Worcestershire. It was suggested that operators could be approached and asked if ok – otherwise may need to join up with someone else.

5.10 AC suggested that if there is an issue then write to relevant parties and get permission from operator. Would need to get all operators agreeing rather than just one or two – if a third company has come along and not been asked need to get them to agree to disclosure.
Action: – All - A disclosure note to be added to the form. Draw attention to the disclaimer in covering letter.

Action: - Spreadsheet template to be provided by CW for all to complete with 2014 returns information.

Item 6 - LAAs

6.1 Where have we got to:

Shropshire – Circulated prior to meeting - Incorporating LAA within the Authorities AMR. Noted supplies of crushed rock had risen significantly and that there was clearly a demand for this product. No real change in sand and gravel and approximation made for recycled aggregates

KH – Would like the AWP to have an opportunity to see the document before it is published. Key issue is one of timing – normally AMRs completed by end of calendar year – suggested an end of year meeting early November when in a position to view the material that was proposing to be published. Aim for standardisation and question of updating it year on year with the latest material.

KH - Suggested that we need to get the annual surveys back within first quarter – the quicker process done then the better and fresher the information. Would like to see LAA work bought forward. KH concern is that if all LAAs are being produced to a different timescale based on different information then it is difficult for the AWP to assess the data. Timescale for 2015 to be agreed with AWP following completion of this years reports.

Different approaches – Suggested that a special meeting may be needed to decide what the LAA does and that they cover the same data. (Not slavishly the same but agree on the same data).

Warwickshire – Consulting on Minerals Plan - plan updating LAA based on comments received including those from the MPA. Addressed some of the shortfalls but based on 2013 figures. Can now be updated and would be part of the evidence base for the plan. Available for the next meeting if separate meeting on LAAs.

Worcestershire – Published last year (2014) with 2012 data. Consultation in summer 2015 - helpful comments from MPA. Need wholesale revision of the LAA to reflect Crushed Rock discussion so not planned to produce one for 2015 and likely to publish alongside main consultation in 2016.
Addendum to Duty to Cooperate Statement (June 2015)

**Action:** – All to circulate the remaining LAAs and assess the issues that are being raised. Assess if these issues can be resolved by email or if a further meeting is needed to discuss those issues.

**Action:** – All to prepare a summary of where they have got to – how long to complete to ask for an AWP review

**Action:** - comments to be received on LAAs already produced for Shropshire (with Telford), Met areas, Staffordshire and Warwickshire by 4th January

**Action:** AC to map out standard timetable for business during the year along with reserve dates as a fallback position.

**Item 7 – Strategic Statement**

7.1 No further comment on this issue

**Item 8 - Progress on Plans**

8.1 AC asked members to provide an update on plans progress:-

- **Sandwell** – Nothing to report
- **Birmingham** – Have consulted on proposed modifications – one of policies relates to minerals MSA policy safeguarding. Proposed mods awaiting feedback
- **Warwickshire** – Consulting on preferred options – closing date extended to beginning of next year. 9 preferred sites and policies and strategy. 3 particular sites have generated a lot of interest. Not much concern on policies and strategy
- **Dudley** – Core Strategy to be reviewed in 2016. No minerals allocations but have identified existing mineral sites in the plan
- **Staffordshire** - Looking to get council approval for submission next week. Schedule of proposed changes made which take into account amendments for publication in New Year.
- **Telford & Wrekin** - Consultation\(^1\) on Local Plan in August and early September 3 - finalising local plan this week. Preferred options Jan/Feb 2016. A number of minerals policies. MSAs excluded urban area. No allocations for sand and gravel or crushed rock as have existing supply to 2031, same with brick clay.
- **Worcestershire** – Consulting on draft plan prior to pre submission spring summer next year. Tendering consultants to write some of the standardised issues on the plan - DM issues likely to be outsourced

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\(^1\)Clarification from Sarah Clifton (11.01.2016) Have consulted on the draft Local Plan (Reg 18 version) between August and September 2015. Since the consultation some of the policies have been revised which includes excluding the urban area from the MSA. There are no allocations for sand and gravel or crushed rock as have existing supply, same with brick clay. A copy of the mineral policies were sent round to WMAWP members for comments prior to the meeting. The MPA is looking to finalise the publication version this week. No objections were raised at the meeting. It was asked that any comments or concerns to be emailed. The publication version is likely to go out for consultation around February 2016.
Herefordshire – Core strategy adopted in October minus the minerals and waste as this was found to make the plan unsound. Looking to potentially outsource this work.

Walsall – Site allocations Document – not many comments on minerals - a few from MPA – no sites allocated. Safeguarding policy defining extent of MSA and an explanatory policy. Publication for March possibly.

Shropshire – Site allocations Document to be adopted 17th December. Plan allocates 3 minerals sites for which applications are expected. Immediate review of plan required based to reflect revised housing needs.

**Item 9 - Industry reports**

9.1 MPA produces a quarterly economic briefing for members. Headline figures show that sales are up – Aggregate sales up 6.5% in the year, asphalt sales up 10%; ready mixed concrete up 4% - the general economic outlook estimate is for 2-2.5 % growth for 2016 which is expected to be reflected in aggregate demand. Internal MPA discussion on producing an abridged version for publication on MPA website– would be useful for LAA work. KH to provide update on when/if will happen and send link for circulation.

**Action:** KH to inform AC if abridged version is uploaded onto website.

9.2 Hanson – Confirm that economy is picking up and will probably continue.

9.3 CEMEX – Noted a dramatic contraction in their business in the West Midlands in the last 7 years – however, contraction has now stopped as a number of quarries applying for extensions and looking to grow the business.

9.4 KH noted that another publication of interest is the AMPs survey. Latest survey based on data for 2014 and this has information on number of planning applications submitted; replenishment rates and what new perms are granted. Application numbers fell during recession but it still takes the same amount of time from pre application to decision now as it did before recession – interesting to see how authorities will cope with a surge on applications. Running average from pre application to determination is 34 months. Half of these applications are not allocated in development plans

**Item 10 - Date of Next meeting**

10.1 Date will be determined on what is sent forward in terms of LAAs – early part of next year. Date to be confirmed in January 2016.

**Item 11 – Any Other Business**
11.1 **EA** – Government’s red tape challenge. Guidance for developments requiring planning permission and environmental permits (2012) is being reviewed as will need updating – see link for original guidance. Findings for red tape challenge will be out soon.


11.2 **Warwickshire** – HS2 responded to latest consultation indicating potential use of a quarry close to the proposed line (not put forward by HS2, independent sites) and the potential benefits of this site for HS2. Previous comments had focused on use of borrow pits along the line.

**Staff** – Ken Hobden announced that he is retiring and that this may be the last time he attends the WM AWP meeting although he could attend a meeting if there is one in the first quarter. Ken was thanked for his input into the service provided for the AWP.
Duty to Co-operate Discussion: Clay Issues V4 FINAL

Dudley (for West Midlands Metropolitan Authorities), Shropshire, Staffordshire, Telford, Warwickshire and Worcestershire and Environment Agency

Date and Time: 27th March 2015 1:30 pm
Location: Birmingham City Council Offices, 1 Lancaster Circus, Birmingham
Present:

- Dudley MBC: David Piper
- Shropshire Council: Adrian Cooper (Chair)
- Staffordshire CC: Matt Griffin
- Telford DC: Sarah Clifton
- Warwickshire CC: Tony Lyons
- Worcestershire CC: Nick Dean (also spoke for Herefordshire), Marianne Joynes
- Environment Agency, National Office: Jim Davis

(Eamon Mythen, DCLG, and Ian Thomas, National Stone Centre, were in attendance as observers for part of the meeting)

1) Introductions

2) Agreement on matters to be discussed, agreed that this discussion would be limited to clay matters.

3) Matters covered:

- Nature, scale and status of clay extraction and associated infrastructure in each MPA,
- Emerging policy issues,
- Cross boundary issues,
- Engagement with the Industry,
- Link to LAAs,
- Any "other" matters to be considered,
- Value of a regional non aggregate minerals group.

Shropshire:

- There are no brick kilns in the Shropshire Council area, but there are 2 claypits:
  - (Moore Farm, owned by Ibstock at Bridgnorth (brick shale) The site contains significant reserves following a recent consent to extend the site in 2010 sufficient to provide for at least 17 years’ production at the current maximum output level.
Addendum to Duty to Cooperate Statement (June 2015)  
o Caughley owned by Broseley Fire Clay at Broseley; (Fire Clay). This site serves a national market, but within the West Midlands is particularly significant in supplying fire clay to kilns in Telford and Walsall. A recent 5.5 mt extension (to produce 100kt pa) has been permitted, subject to legal agreement. The site's supply requirements are therefore assured.  
Both sites are operational, but currently produce limited volumes.  
• The Shropshire Geological Society has mapped all Shropshire’s (and Telford’s) historical mineral production, including clay resources, providing an evidence base for safeguarding.  
• The Council has identified Mineral Safeguarding Areas to safeguard mineral resources including Brick and Fire Clay resources.  
• Shropshire Core Strategy, strategic infrastructure policy CS8 safeguards infrastructure (including brickworks and waste management facilities)  

Staffordshire  
• Has 5 clay product works (3@Newcastle-u-Lyme; 1@Cannock; 1@Tamworth). Three works are operated by Ibstock; one by HBP Building products Limited (formerly Hanson Building Products Limited); and the tile product works by Marley Eternit.  
• There are currently 8x operational clay pits (refer to our list of mineral sites but excluding the shale site associated with Cauldon cement works), mainly extracting clay from the Etruria Formation, a premium quality clay.  
• Our current assessment indicates that all but the works in Tamworth have a 25 year supply of clay. There are no current proposals/ allocations for the extension of the quarry at Wilnecote but a potential extension could be feasible  
• In addition to the supply to clay product works, clay/ shale is supplied to Tunstead cement works in Derbyshire.  
• Fireclay is likely to be imported into Staffordshire (Caughley) and there are no current sites producing fireclay in Staffordshire. An area of search for fireclay adjoins Staffordshire within Walsall but there is no proposed continuation of this allocation within Staffordshire.  
• Clay from Staffordshire is known to support works in Walsall and Warwickshire.  
• The emerging MLP will safeguard Etruria Marl and Fire Clay resources.  
• In terms of safeguarding clay product works, the works at Wilnecote is the only works that remains subject to county planning control.  

Warwickshire  
• Has one claypit serving a brickworks, owned by Weinerberger at Kingsbury near Tamworth.  
  o Extension was previously put forward as part of Revised Spatial Options consultation on MLP (not progressed). Production has declined since, but is now improving and an application to expand production may reasonably be anticipated.  
  o There is a stockpile of fireclay from an opencast coal site outside the brickwork buildings.
Addendum to Duty to Cooperate Statement (June 2015)

- As part of any new application we would expect some production and reserve figures to be available. We are arranging a meeting with Weinerberger very soon.

**Telford**
- Has a brickworks in Hadley, with a an associated brickworks, operated by Blockley:
  - (a claypit working Etruria Marl). The operators import fireclay from Caughley Quarry (Shropshire) and at the moment have no intentions on importing from Staffordshire. They are currently considering importing shale from Welshpool (Buttington) however not a significant quantity (10,000t pa).
- They do not export any material such as shale.

Current production levels take reserves to 2047 (32 years` worth of clay). Reserves would increase if they decide to import shale from Welshpool.

They also said that previously they have extracted prior to non-mineral development, stockpiled and restored a quarry.

They said if its feasible at the time they will consider working clay resources prior for stockpiling.
- The Council intends to safeguard the Etruria Marl and Fire Clay resources.

**Dudley**
- Has 3 Etruria Marl brickpits in the Kingswinford area of Dudley.
  - The local industry is otherwise largely in decline.
  - Ketley claypit (Hinton Perry and Davenhill’s, HPD) has reserves of circa 15 years at current rates of production and use. It supplies HPD’s Dreadnought Brickworks at Kingswinford. This brickworks also imports some material from Redhurst at Cheslyn Hay in South Staffordshire.
  - Himley quarry is operated by Cory Environmental who has confirmed that the site is virtually worked out and any remaining clay will be used on site – the site is now primarily a landfill waste facility.
  - Ibstock closed its nearby Stourbridge brickworks (which used clay from Himley quarry) and it is currently being demolished.
  - Oak Farm claypit, on the border with South Staffordshire, used to be a Weinerberger site, was mothballed, and then sold to Himley Environmental.
  - The associated (Wienerberger) Sedgeley brickworks in South Staffordshire has closed and the site is being redeveloped for housing.
  - Oak Farm claypit (Himley Environmental) has applied for a modest extension in order to maximise clay extraction and ensure the site’s restoration. The last 270,000 tonnes are likely to be exported to Walsall, the site will then be restored by landfilling.

The Black Country Core Strategy includes two Areas of Search for Etruria Marl at Kingswinford, Dudley. The known resource is safeguarded

**Worcestershire**
- Has two claypits, serving two associated brickworks, all at Hartlebury near Kidderminster.
o All of these are owned and operated by Weinerberge Ltd, the largest brick and tile producer in the UK. The Hartlebury works are their largest units in the country.

o The sites have reserves of between 23 years (Hartlebury) and 48 years (Waresley), an average of 37 years between them.

- The emerging Minerals Local Plan for Worcestershire is likely to safeguard an area of Mercia Mudstone near Hartlebury but not the whole of the Mercia Mudstone, or other, clay resources.

**Herefordshire**

- Has no operational claypits. A large pit, supplying Linton Tile works closed (with the tileworks) about 1985. The site has been re-developed. Clay resources exist in the county but no interest has been expressed in developing them so far as the planning officers are aware.

**Other matters of mutual interest**

**Walsall**

- Was not present at the meeting but had circulated an email to all the MPAs in the region identifying cross boundary movements from Warwickshire and Staffordshire to a brickworks in the Stubbers Green area. The following issues were touched on and need to be taken into account in the region:

  - Walsall has 3 operational brickworks which mostly use Etruria Marl but also other types of clay (mainly for blending), as follows:
    - Aldridge (Ibstock) – has no clay pit and is 100% reliant on imports of clay;
    - Atlas (Ibstock) – has adjacent clay pit, may import up to 30% of clay used but currently imports less than 5%;
    - Sandown (Wienerberger) – has adjacent clay pit, but may import up to 65% of clay used, reliance on imports is increasing as reserves within the clay pit are now becoming depleted, an application has recently (March 2015) been submitted to increase imports to up to 95%, which relevant minerals planning authorities have been consulted on.

  - It is estimated that in combination, the brickworks are likely to require supplies of around 0.4 million tonnes of Etruria marl per annum over the period covered by the Black Country Core Strategy.

  - Walsall has 2 active clay pits each producing Etruria Marl as follows:
    - Atlas Quarry (Etruria Marl) operated by Ibstock, supplies clay to the adjacent Atlas Brickworks;
    - Sandown Quarry (Etruria Marl) operated by Wienerberger, supplies clay to the adjacent Sandown brickworks.

  - Until recently Etruria Marl was also being extracted at Highfields South and was being supplied to Aldridge and Sandown brickworks, but clay extraction ceased here in 2013 and this site is now an operational landfill site only;

  - There is a “dormant” mineral permission for working of brick clay (Etruria Marl) at Highfields North which has never been implemented;

  - Fireclay is also used by Walsall brickworks (mainly for blending) and resources are present in the Brownhills area (associated with coal) but are not currently
worked – another old “dormant” mineral permission for working of clay and coal on part of Brownhills Common has never been implemented.

- There is a manufacturer and supplier of pot clay blends at Swan Works, Brownhills (Potters Clay & Coal Company Ltd), which also uses fireclay – this is currently being sourced from a stockpile extracted from the former Birch Coppice site in Walsall, which is adjacent to the factory.

- Final phase of restoration of former Birch Coppice site (fireclay) is still not complete as clay is still being stocked on this part of the site, however, restoration of the former Vigo/ Utopia clay pit (Etruria Marl) has recently been completed and final landscaping is now underway, and restoration of the former Highfields South clay pit (Etruria Marl) is also underway.

- None of Walsall’s brickworks can identify a 25-year supply of Etruria Marl, although there is a current application to extend Atlas Quarry which if approved would provide a 25-year supply to Aldridge and Atlas brickworks.

- Annual consumption of fireclay at Walsall’s brickworks (and therefore likely demand going forward) cannot be quantified with confidence, but all three brickworks are currently importing 100% of the fireclay used.

- Although annual fireclay consumption at Swan Works is relatively low (2,000 tpa), there are limited reserves remaining within the Birch Coppice stockpile and what remains is not likely to be sufficient to provide a 25-year supply to this factory.

- Other Etruria Formation clay resources exist in Walsall to the north of the A461 Walsall Road but have not yet been exploited.

- A potential new Area of Search for Etruria Marl extraction was identified in this area as an Option in the Issues & Options consultation for their emerging Site Allocation Document (SAD) – this area includes the “dormant” site at Highfields North.

- An indicative Area of Search for fireclay extraction is also identified at “Yorks Bridge” in the Black Country Core Strategy 2011 as recommended in the Inspectors’ Report, in response to representations made by Wyrley Estates and Potters Clay & Coal Company Ltd (operator of Swan Works).

- While the indicative Area of Search for fireclay identified in the Core Strategy is in Walsall, the area promoted for fireclay extraction by the above parties extends across the borough boundary into Cannock Chase District in Staffordshire – there have been discussions between Walsall Council, Staffordshire County Council and Cannock Chase District Council about this proposal under the “duty to co-operate.”

- In practice the fireclay resources in the “Yorks Bridge” area and within the “dormant” site at Brownhills Common could not be worked other than in association with coal as part of an opencast extraction programme, however, engagement with the coal industry by both Walsall Council and Staffordshire County Council suggests that there is no current interest in working the coal resources in this area.

Prior extraction

- Staffordshire looking at whether/when appropriate to require prior extraction of clay – this is being raised at industry forum through Wienerberger.
• The EA wondered whether County's role as LLFA might provide an opportunity to integrate prior extraction (and on-site use of aggregates) with SuDS schemes. This has already happened in Staffordshire based on a Planning Condition ("incidental to construction").

Supply issues

• The aggregates industry’s response to the recession appears to have been to put mineral extraction proposals “on hold” and the major players have not been actively pursuing new sites in most areas. The same appears to be the case in the Clay industry. None of the mpa’s present had received any interest in developing new brickworks.
• The Environment Agency advised that the Ceramics Association have seen a dramatic increase in production, so mpa’s should expect interest from operators to increase.

4) Conclusions

Agreed:

• that the WM Mineral Planning Authorities would seek to develop a parallel, non-aggregate group to discuss other minerals in the region. The views of industry reps would be sought on this.
• That there would be some benefit in exploring data issues for non-aggregates on a regional basis, perhaps through an annual return
• that there was no evidence form the mpa's perspective that there were any region wide issues regarding Clay supply that needed to be addressed. It is not clear however if there a need to safeguard resources throughout the region, or, wheter it is practicable to create long term stackpiles. The views of industry reps would be sought on this.
• that the region as a whole appeared able to meet the needs of the Clay industry, the views of industry reps would be sought on this.
• that no significant Duty to Co-operate over the supply and or demand for Clay had been identified at a regional scale.

Agreed: Nick Dean, Adrian Cooper, Sarah Clifton, Tony Lyons, Matt Griffin, Jim Davies.
(Consulted separately, but also agreeing, Dawn Sherwood (Walsall), Vicky Eaton (Herefordshire).