



**Chairman - Keith Duff**  
**Secretary – George Muskett**

**Minutes of the Fourteenth Meeting of the UK Minerals Forum,  
held at The IoMMM HQ, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5DB  
on Thursday 17 March 2011 at 11.00am.**

**Present; -**

Keith Duff - Chairman  
George Muskett - Secretary

Andrew Bloodworth – BGS  
Ruth Chambers - CNP  
John Cummins – DoENI  
Bob Fenton – CBIMG/MAUK  
Chris Hall - CBIMG/BCC  
Clare Harding – DECC  
John Herson – BCA/Lafarge  
Lester Hicks  
David Highley  
Jon Humble - English Heritage  
Peter Huxtable – CBIMG/BAA/IOM3  
Nigel Jackson – CBIMG/mpa  
Bob LeClerc – CBIMG  
Hugh Lucas –CBIMG mpa AI  
Brian Marker - Former Chairman  
Mark Plummer – CLG  
Richard Read – Hampshire CC/POS  
Ian Selby – Crown Estates  
Joanne Smith – Welsh Assembly Government  
Hannah Townley – Natural England  
Simon van der Byl- CBIMG/mpa  
Chris Waite - SEERAWP/LAWP  
Peter Whittington - BIS  
Paul Wilcox - Staffs CC/POS  
Paul Wilkinson – The Wildlife Trusts

**Apologies**

David Brewer – Coal Pro  
Mick Daynes – CBIMG/mpa/Hanson  
Alan Everard –CBIMG/mpa/Tarmac  
Nick Horsley – CBIMG/SAMSA Sibelco

Darren Moorcroft – RSPB  
Clare Robertson – EA  
Andy Tickle - CPRE

**Guests**

Barney Pilgrim – Banks Group  
Dave Walton – Sibelco

NB. mpa in lower case refers to The Minerals Products Association

**14/1 Welcomes and Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed Paul Wilkinson to his first meeting, Barney Pilgrim, attending as a guest and Dave Walton, standing in for Nick Horsley.

**14/2 Minutes of the Last Meeting (18.11.2010)**

These were agreed, subject to deletion of the comment attributed to Clare Harding under item 13/10; the addition of a reference to an Agenda item to be included as 'Environmental Update and the acknowledgement that Nick Horsley had offered his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

**14/3 Matters Arising, not dealt with elsewhere**

These were summarised in the paper (UKMF/14/P1) circulated with the Agenda.

Minute 12/4 – It was agreed that all the reports of the Working Groups would be archived on the UKMF website hosted by BGS.

**Action: Andrew Bloodworth**

Minute 12/4 – Nigel Jackson referred to the Working Group template circulated for the March 2010 meeting of the Forum and it was agreed that this provided a good steer on the format required for reports from the Working Groups

It was noted that the meeting lacked a representative from Defra and it was agreed that someone from the environmental side of Defra should be approached to join, although organisational changes within Defra may impact on their ability to contribute. See item 14/7.

**Action: Chairman to pursue with Defra**

The Chairman reminded the Working Group convenors that papers should be produced by 9 June and at the June meeting members should agree the sign off procedure. It was intended to devote most of the June meeting to consideration of the Working Group reports.

**Action: Working Group Convenors**

**14/4 Working Group Progress Reports** – discussion of key issues

Working Group reports had been previously circulated. Summaries and discussions were as follows.

## **WG1 – UKMF/14/P2**

Paul Wilcox thanked those who had contributed to the paper, particularly Lester Hicks and Chris Waite.

Paul focused on the conclusions and recommendations and noted that there were still matters to take into account when they become available, notably AM2009 collation, the ASRP- funded project led by Colin Buchanan on distributing aggregates to future markets and the BGS work for MIRO on an evidence based approach to predicting the future supply of aggregate resources in England. Paul indicated that this was a first draft, which would be reviewed between now and June, and invited comments. Discussion centered on the inherent difficulties in achieving rail connection and paths on the rail network, together with the considerable and largely prohibitive costs involved in the development and construction of even very short connections to the network. In discussion it was suggested that the report as currently drafted was somewhat anecdotal, and that the final version should include more factual material (in Annexes), plus a range of relevant diagrams.

Whilst the Buchanan and BGS reports would provide much more detail than would be possible for WG1, it was suggested that the DfT be asked to look at what may be considered strategic resources and their potential connection to the network, and the Recommendations should include the need for a new strategic policy on rail transport of bulk minerals.

With regard to the conclusions and recommendations and the email response of Andy Tickle to the draft report, it was considered that the second bullet point of conclusion 6 warranted more detailed discussion between NGO members and the WG, together with some further clarity with respect to some of the terminology used. A meeting would be set up between members of the Working Group and environmental members of the Forum, to discuss and agree these matters.

### **Action: Paul Wilcox to set up meeting with environmental members**

It was questioned whether Recommendation 1 contemplated the Forum lobbying on the issues raised in the paper. It was not felt that this was within the terms of reference of the Forum, but this would be considered further under Agenda item 7.

## **WG2 – UKMF/ 14/P3**

In the absence of David Brewer, Lester Hicks gave a verbal summary of the work so far, as reported in Paper 3.

If in-career training for mineral planners was to be successful, finding finance for start-up development and towards employers' costs in sending trainees on the proposed 5-day programme was a key issue. There had been insufficient demand last year for the 3 day course run by UWE because of restrictions on employers' training budgets. It remained to be seen what take up there may be for the UWE course this year.

The group had discussed the length of course that might be appropriate and proposed a five day in career course as one of its initiatives. An outline of possible costs was given in the paper and firm estimates for this proposal would be brought to the next meeting.

In reply to questions about the scale of the potential market, Lester noted that in the absence of time and resources to survey public and private sector employers of those professionals working in mineral planning (not all are qualified “planners”) it had been difficult to pin down numbers. In local authorities in particular, many staff also worked on other areas as well as minerals, but overall, the Group was fairly confident that there was an overall net shift of about 3:1 from the public to the private sector.

Despite that, Members noted that whilst large companies would tend to train staff there was no longer the same commitment in the LAs. The economic situation in the private sector and very severe expenditure reductions in local government will act as a further disincentive to spend money on such training. It was agreed that it was important to include numerical evidence and data in the report as far as possible, so that it was clear why the actions identified by the Working Group were needed.

It was noted that there were some fundamental gaps in the knowledge of planners in relation to the legal status of mineral extraction as a continuous act of development. Some of the questions posed to organizations such as BGS revealed that this general lack of understanding of the unique features of mineral, and mineral planning law was not confined to junior staff. There was concern however that the senior cadre of experienced mineral planners was progressively being lost through retirements, restructurings and redundancies. It was agreed that it was important to identify and highlight the risks of minerals expertise being lost from planning departments, perhaps in an introduction explaining the economic importance of minerals, why minerals development (and therefore planning) is so different from other development and what the consequences of loss of this expertise could be.

Peter Whittington indicated that the Sector Skills Council – Construction Skills may have information useful to the group, and it was agreed that the Working Group would make contact with SSC to discuss this. Simon van der Byl suggested that reference should be made to support the importance of minerals supply in the recently published the EU Raw Materials Initiative.

**Action: David Brewer to set up discussions with SSC.**

### **WG3 – UKMF/14/P4**

Brian Marker spoke to the paper that had been circulated and stressed that the work differed from that in the other two working groups, as it is about communications rather than issues. He commented on the three key streams into which the work has been divided:

#### **Education**

Material that could link to the National Curriculum. BGS had prepared a specification covering -

- Teaching units
- Material based on “Quarry or not”
- Video clips
- Dissemination to teaching organizations

BGS has estimated the cost at £19k. The Group felt that this was too high and without a clear funding route, but was minded to proceed on the “Quarry or not” module (£1.1k) if funds could be found.

Effort has been focused on fitting the work within the National Curriculum. The Group made two requests;

- Devolved administration representatives were asked to identify contacts who could explain how curricula are constructed in their areas.

**Action: Devolved administrations**

- Suggestions for possible sources of funding

**Action: All members**

## **Communication**

The aim is to provide options for communication and a structured approach to their consideration. Work will continue through March and the draft material will be sent to nominated representatives in the industry and POS for critical appraisal during April. Members endorsed this approach.

## **Public information resource pack**

A resource pack has been prepared covering –

- Minerals and their uses
- How minerals operations are undertaken
- How the planning and environmental licensing systems work
- Communities and the minerals industry
- Frequently asked questions

It had been agreed that further sections would be prepared – a photo library and key statistics. It had initially been prepared for aggregates and then diversified to cover other minerals, the latter needing further work on it. There was a need for more good material on restoration.

It was proposed that the resource be linked to key words and a search engine to enable easy use.

Reviewers from industry and the NGOs were needed to review the material in April. Barney Pilgrim was happy to review for coal industry, and other reviewers are required, particularly from non-aggregates sectors. Brian Marker to be notified please.

**Action: Members**

Consideration will be needed on the ultimate delivery of the resource to the public. Mention was made of the BGS website on which the Forum resides and the MIRO sustainable aggregates website.

#### **14/5 Living with Minerals 4**

Nigel Jackson summarized progress for the event on 7 November 2011. The full programme was expected to be complete by end of the month. The following people had agreed to be involved:

Michael Rodd – facilitator and to run the interactive sessions

John Cridland – (CBI DG) to open.

Sir John Beddington – UK Chief Scientific Advisor

Prof. Iain Stewart – University of Plymouth, Earth Sciences

To be secured, speakers on:

EU Raw Materials Initiative.

World mining resources.

Localism –a legal view

Closing summary – Nigel Jackson trying to get an NGO Chairman or CEO to do this.

Baroness Andrews – English Heritage to host House of Commons reception.

It was hoped to get students of earth sciences and planning to the event.

Working Groups would be allocated one hour each – 15 minutes presentation summarizing reports (which should be available for conference packs) and 45 minutes panel and general discussion. Voting will be arranged as previously.

CBIMG is looking for industry support as it is intended to market the event externally in May.

#### **14/6 CLG Issues**

Mark Plummer informed the Forum about some current CLG issues: -

1. The Localism Bill had passed through the Committee Stage and a date was awaited for the Report Stage. The ‘duty to cooperate’ and strategic planning had been raised as issues for further consideration.
2. Katrine Sporle is retiring from the Planning Inspectorate and Sir Michael Pitt will take over a combined Planning Inspectorate and Infrastructure Planning Commission
3. National Planning Policy Framework – 3,000 responses had been received, which are being analysed with a view to a consultation in the summer. Mark confirmed that CLG would continue to engage with industry as this is developed. Comments on what should be consulted on may still be put to CLG.
4. Managed Aggregate Supply System – the current RAWP secretary contracts cease at the end of March. The recommendation is for a further

4 years, but the outcome is not certain. It will be announced alongside the NPPF consultation.

5. Abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies – Mark made reference to the Select Committee report which highlighted the confusion and tension about how the new planning system would deal with mineral and waste issues. The Committee confirmed that aggregate minerals and waste would remain with the upper tier planning authorities, effectively retaining the existing arrangements. There was a need to address strategic planning issues, including MASS.
6. BGS reports – these were still stuck in the system:
  - Open cast coal - awaiting Ministerial agreement
  - Mineral Safeguarding – awaiting printing before Ministerial approval
  - AM2009 collated data – not yet producedThe latter two items may be subject to ‘fast tracking’ but this will only see them produced ahead of others and not before end of April.
7. Private Members Bill- Opencast Mining Separation Zones (Andrew Brigden MP) The Bill was talked out and would be at bottom of pile in October. It may yet be resurrected.
8. Marine Sector – Work has started on defining EIA requirements for this sector. The Marine Management Organisation has started the preliminary work for the production of a Marine Plan for the east inshore and offshore plan areas in the North Sea. A Marine Policy Statement is about to be produced. (post meeting note – The UK Marine Policy Statement was jointly published by all UK Administrations on 18 March 2011 – <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/>)
9. Planning fees – currently considering the results of the consultation. The regulations will be subject to affirmative resolution and will therefore be debated in both Houses. The target date of 1 April will not be met.
10. National Planning Casework Unit – this new Unit will handle work previously dealt with by the regional government offices as set out in a letter from the Chief Planner to LAs on 10 March. It will include mineral prohibition and suspension orders, modification, discontinuance and revocation orders, but will not deal with appeals against ROMP decisions, which will be heard by the Planning Inspectorate.
11. Waste Policy Review – will be applying the EU target of 70% of construction and demolition waste to be recovered/ recycled. The outcome of the energy review is expected in May.
12. Budget – the budget on 23 March will include planning. Mention has been made of new enterprise zones.

#### **14/6 – Conclusion of discussions at previous meeting on CLG issues**

There was a brief discussion on outstanding issues from the previous meeting, for which inadequate discussion time had been available. There was a strong view that MASS is a critical strategic issue, and that this should be made clear to government. There was also some discussion on the nature and form of the proposed National Planning Policy Framework. It was thought that MPS1 provided essential minerals policy that should not be lost and that there was a danger in omitting policy that was once in place as there would be an implication that these missing elements no longer held any weight. A dangerous vacuum could be created, both for the industry and others.

It was agreed that individual trade associations and companies needed to consider these matters, and act as they considered appropriate.

#### **14/7 – Review of Terms of Reference**

This item was introduced by the Chairman, who had circulated a paper with the agenda to stimulate discussion. He believed that it was important that the Forum periodically stepped back and considered how far the existing ToR reflected current needs of Forum members.

The Forum agreed that the existing ToR remained appropriate, and that no changes were needed to them. There was, however, a strong view that the Forum should debate environmental matters more explicitly, and that a representative from Defra needed to be attending the Forum to contribute to this. Nigel Jackson and Keith Duff will seek to secure Defra representation. If successful, Chairman should facilitate a discussion between Defra and the environmental representatives on the Forum, to identify and scope out a discussion item for the next Forum meeting.

**Action: Chairman and Nigel Jackson to contact Defra**

#### **Action: Chairman to facilitate discussion to identify discussion item for Forum Agenda**

It was noted that there is no reference to the content of ToR7 on the UKMF website. It was agreed that there should be a summary of key data sets and sources of information on the website, so that people could be directed to the relevant data sources. David Highley offered to draft some text as an introduction to this, as well as creating links to data.

**Action: David Highley**

#### **14/8 MIRO Sustainable Aggregates website (UKMF14/P6)**

A paper had been circulated with the Agenda and was introduced by Bob Fenton.

Following the termination of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund on 31 March 2011 MIRO will be launching a new Sustainable Aggregates website, (supplanting certain previous sites such as GoodQuarry), which will provide a single point of access to all ALSF results, regardless of commissioning source.

It will provide links to project reports where possible and to other relevant sites. Initially for aggregates in England, it will be considered if it can encompass other minerals and the devolved administrations, in due course.

It is a challenge to produce a large library of information, and MIRO is committed to managing and updating it. Funding for the future is expected but not yet quantified. There will be a “layman’s” area for plain, straightforward information to the public. The work of WG3 could provide a further section to this site if members agree, with the site becoming a means to disseminate that work.

Following discussion it was thought that the BGS website should be used to disseminate the WG3 report, but that both sites could be available for this purpose. It was also noted that there is a need to keep up to date with links to other sites, which can change their links without notification.

### **14/9 Environmental Update**

Jon Humble gave a verbal report on environment issues. He outlined matters under three headings – Environmental Legislation/Policy/Guidance; Organization and Strategic Initiatives; and Projects. A paper is attached giving the details of these issues.

In discussion it was stated that planning has also been in the forefront in the protection of environmental assets and that there can be a tendency for a legalistic/negative approach towards environmental protection from environmental organizations. This can delay decisions at a cost to regulators and industry.

The chairman considered that this was an important issue for the Forum to discuss, and that we should have this as a major Agenda item at the November meeting; there would probably not be time to do it justice in June, as most of the meeting will concentrate on discussing the Working Group reports.

**Action: Chairman/Secretary to add to November Agenda**

### **14/10 - UK Constituent States Reports**

Verbal reports were given by the officials from Wales and Northern Ireland, as follows:

**Wales** Joanne Smith (WAG) spoke on the following issues –

- RAWP contracts signed in Wales for 4 year period from 2011/12 (for RAWPS in North Wales and in South Wales)
- A budget has been made available for the ALSF fund to continue to operate (and at the same level of funding)
- Review of Environmental bodies is on-going (possible merging of Forestry Commission Wales, Environment Agency Wales and Countryside Council for Wales) but too early to make any predictions
- Welsh Assembly Government elections to be held in May, following on from the 'yes' vote in the referendum held on 4 March for the Assembly

Government to be able to make laws in areas of devolved competence without the permission of Parliament. New administration and priorities are awaited.

**Northern Ireland** John Cummins reported on the following issues –

- A key issue for the industry remains the termination of the Aggregates Levy Credit Scheme. Representations have been made to the NI Assembly and also to HMRC and responses are awaited.
- Concern has been expressed within the minerals industry regarding the proposal by DoE NI to increase planning application fees. In particular the industry has grave concerns regarding the intention by DoE NI to charge an additional £10K [on top of the application fee] for EIA applications;
- Representations continue to be made to the NI Executive regarding the need for a minerals mapping project to be undertaken for the province.
- Planning Service will cease to be an executive agency on 1 April 2011 and the responsibility for processing mineral applications will become the responsibility of the Planning and Local Government Group within DoE.
- Permitted development rights were being reviewed
- Northern Ireland Assembly elections are to be held in May

#### **14/11 European Raw Materials Initiative**

Simon van der Byl reported that this was published in January 2011 and that it invites Governments to make minerals policy where it does not exist.

It was agreed that the item will be removed from future Agendas, unless there is a specific need for a discussion.

**Action: Secretary**

#### **14/12 Any Other Business**

The following item was raised –

Peter Huxtable suggested that the HSE should be invited to join the Forum. The Chairman will discuss this with Nigel Jackson.

**Action: Chairman/Nigel Jackson**

**The Chairman reminded members that the next meeting will focus on the WG reports**

#### **14/13 Dates of Meetings in 2011**

Thursday 23 June 2011

Thursday 17 November 2011.

At 1 Carlton House Terrace London SW1 - starting at 11.00hrs