



Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

Site Progress Report

Report date: 28th July 2015 – 25th October 2015

Prepared for Liaison Committee Meeting dated: 29th October 2015

Report prepared by: Georgina Taubman

	Update from FYF
1.0	Water management & Audits All water discharges inspected by Natural Resources Wales have fallen within consented limits since Miller Argent's last Committee report at the end of July 2015. There were no water management issues to report during this period. An Ecological survey of the Taff Bargoed stream running adjacent to the site conducted by an external consultant in October showed that the water quality was very good and continued to offer a healthy invertebrate habitat. An external ISO14001 environmental audit was conducted on the 22nd and 23rd September. No non-conformances were identified. The Auditor was very complimentary of Miller Argent and its performance and strong evidence of compliance. Two planning audits were conducted during this quarter – one on the 27th September (which covered topic areas:- Noise Limits, Plant Silencing Equipment, Screening of Haul Roads Within 500m of Dwellings, Pump Enclosures, Noise from Pumps and Blasting) and the second on the 22nd October (which covered Access Points, Crossing Point, Wheel Wash Facilities, Location and Storage of Materials and Environmental Management Plans). No issues were raised.
2.0	Site labour Labour Employed On Site = 249 in total (inclusive of contractors) 32 Staff (inclusive of Cwmbargoed DP) 125 operatives employed to date with 87% living within 15km from site. 80 Site contractors (Including Coal Haulage, Repair and Maintenance etc.) 12 Site contractors for construction of new dense medium coal washing plant.

Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

Site Progress Report

3.0

Plant Utilisation & Restoration

All excavators continue to develop cuts 13 – 20 inclusive.

Restoration

Fourteen hectares of land was cultivated and seeded in the summer of 2015 bringing the total area now restored to over 30 hectares (approximately 75 acres). All of the grass has established well on the hillside and the previous year's restoration has been managed by grazing in accordance with advice from the Welsh Government at the annual aftercare meeting, which will assist in the development of the land to a self-sustaining landscape.

Detailed discussions are still ongoing with MTCBC, in their role as 'Lead Flood Authority', and our Hydrological Consultant (Amec Foster Wheeler) in order to agree the hydrology of the restored landscape. Once this has been agreed, it is anticipated that an application will be made to the Local Authority in respect of Phase 1 of the Restoration & Aftercare Scheme in early November 2015. Meetings have also recently taken place with MTCBC planning officers to agree the content and format of this submission.



Image of the Restoration as of September 2015

Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

Site Progress Report

4.0	Site production levels to 26/07/2015 Miller Argent total overburden excavation to date is approximately 77.2 million cubic metres. Coal mined to date is approximately 6.25 million tonnes and dispatched 6.23 million tonnes. 38.6million cubic meters of in-pit backfill has been completed. Blasting operations continue on site up to 4 times per day (10.00 – 13.00 hrs & 14.00 -16.00 hrs).
5.0	Complaints There have been four complaints received since the last liaison report. Details and the outcomes of each of these complaints detailed below have been recorded as part of Miller Argent's procedures. There were no complaints recorded for July One complaint was received in August from a resident complaining about levels of noise from the site plus a historical issue with drainage. A representative from Miller Argent spoke with the resident in question and shared monitoring data regarding noise (which showed no significant sound level data – and certainly nowhere near the permitted levels). We were unable to show the complainant a copy of our current drainage plan until it is submitted to MTCBC at which point a copy can be provided. We reassured the complainant that due to the implementation of extensive drainage measures on the restoration the risk of any drainage leaving the site was minimal. Two complaints were received in September. One from a resident in Dowlais complaining about noise during the night keeping her awake which she assumed was coming from the FYF site. We contacted the lady to explain the site is not operational during the night and so the sound must be coming from elsewhere. The second complaint came from a resident living at Incline Side relating to noise from plant near the top of the site near the restoration. Wind directions that day had been NE and so were blowing directly towards his property. He was asked to call Miller Argent if similar noise issues from the plant deployed at the top of the site happened again so someone could come to his property and undertake a noise assessment and arrange for any necessary action on site e.g. move the

Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

Site Progress Report

	trucks to a lower level. He agreed. One complaint received in October from the same resident in Incline Side – this time about blasting vibration and noise on a particular date – this did coincide with a blast. A few days later on and by arrangement, the ELO and blasting engineer visited the property with vibration monitoring equipment to coincide with a larger blast in the same location as the one that was complained about to measure its impacts at the property. Measurements showed no significant impacts at all and the measured vibrations were well below the permitted planning limits. Community Checks MA continue to conduct community checks during start up in the morning and throughout the working day to assess noise/dust/visual impacts of the site within the community to ensure that we remain proactive in our environmental monitoring approach. If necessary e.g. during dry spells, additional and more frequent community checks are undertaken and if necessary, site operations are adjusted e.g. implementation of dust suppression measures following community checks, redeployment of plant to other areas of the site etc.
6.0	Dust Our full dust suppression fleet has been in operation when required during the period. The dust suppression fleet consists of 3 large water bowzers, 5 tractor bowzers and 4 fog cannons. There have been no Air Quality exceedances recorded on the TEOM at Twynyrodyn Primary School or the BAMS station at the Upper Rhymney Primary School during the period.
7.0	Community 168 local groups are registered and regularly use the mini buses. Sponsorship Since the last Liaison meeting (in addition to the Ffos-y-fran Community Benefit Fund), £10,275 of MA sponsorship funding has been allocated to local causes. This included £10,000 sponsorship of Merthyr Town Football Club whereby their new stadium will be renamed the 'Miller Argent Community Stadium', a £100 gift voucher donation to the NSPCC annual

Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

Site Progress Report

	Black Tie fundraising event, £75 towards the cost of holding the Poppy Appeal annual dance fund raiser in Merthyr Tydfil, £100 to Ad-lib productions for an advert in their Christmas Production of 'Snow White and the 14 dwarfs in Merthyr. These recipient local causes are outlined below: • Merthyr Town Football Club • Merthyr Poppy Appeal • NSPCC • Ad-Lib productions Miller Argent also donated a tonne of rocks from the FYF site to Cardiff Council for their 'Out of the Woods' Festival event held on the 23rd August. The rocks were used for fossil hunting activities. Postgraduate placements During the summer August two site based student study placements concluded – one a student from Aberystwyth University studying grass growth on reclaimed soils and the other a Masters student from Cardiff University undertaking an engineering project. Site visits We continue to host site visits as requested by interested parties which vary from local residents through to geology enthusiasts, schools and universities. Since the last meeting we have hosted a number of site visits including: • In August Miller Argent hosted over 35 children from the 3Gs Youth Club. • During September Miller Argent hosted four site visits one with the Macmillan Nurses, one with the Aberfan & Merthyr Vale Youth and Community Project, the South East Wales RIGS (Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites) and officers from Merthyr Council who oversee the Ffos-y-fran Community Benefit Fund projects.
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Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

Site Progress Report

- In October we again hosted a group from the Aberfan & Merthyr Vale Youth and Community Project, a group from Cardiff University, The Coal Authority and a group of youngsters from the local 'Transition into Employment' project.

Filming at Miller Argent

During September two separate TV production companies filmed at the Fyf site. One was for the popular Rhod Gilbert Work Experience show which airs on prime time BBC Wales. The second was for part of a three part BBC 4 documentary detailing the areas through which the river Taff runs – in this case they chose to film at Fyf to reflect Merthyr Tydfil's coal mining heritage. Both programmes are expected to air in February 2016.



Youngsters from the 3Gs Group enjoying the summary activities day

Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

Site Progress Report



Youngsters from the 3Gs Group dissecting owl pellets



Rhod Gilbert – star of the Rhod Gilbert Work Experience show.

Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

Site Progress Report



Film crew filming site operations as part of the programme.



Taff River Documentary Crew interviewing Denzil Hopkins site Supervisor.

Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

Site Progress Report



Filming on the restoration area



Aberfan & Merthyr Vale Youth and Community Project

Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

Site Progress Report



The Macmillan nurses visiting on a very rainy day.



Members of the Coal Authority learning about the sites operations

Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

Site Progress Report



Final year students from Cardiff Universities Palaeontology course searching for fossils on site.

8.0 Environmental

Miller Argent continues to strive towards excellent standards and environmental works are at the heart of all our operations; we had our ISO14001 (Environmental Management System) Audit during in September 2015 – the next is scheduled for April 2016.

Monthly Environmental Site Inspections continue to be carried out to ensure operations on site are undertaken responsibly and continue to have no adverse impact on the local environment.

Ecological works continue to be carried out on site – during this period scrub clearance has been undertaken in Cwm Golau and more trees have been planted. Seeds and berries have been collected from Cwm Golau's ancient forest with a view to planting these. Any trees grown from these will be replanted in the Cwm Golau valley as part of Miller Argent's Ecological Management plan for the site. Grazing of the central ecological area has now been established, again as part of our Ecological Management plan to ensure against overgrowing of vegetation there.