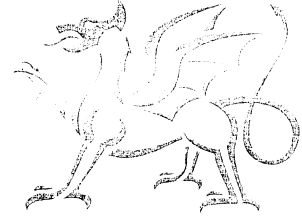
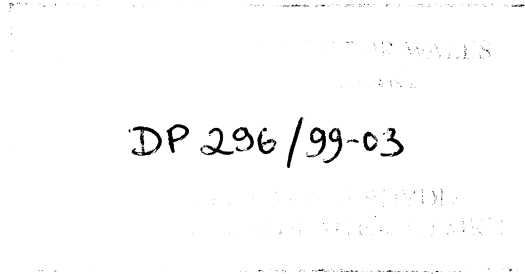


Sue Essex AM

Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd
Minister for Environment



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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|---------------|-------------|
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Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas
Presiding Officer
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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31 January 2003

Annwyl Dafydd

It has been drawn to my attention that, in answering questions that arose from my statement on Sand and Gravel position paper, there were two points made that are incorrect or could cause misunderstanding.

I therefore wish to ensure that the plenary record is accurate and that the policy is not misunderstood.

I made a factual error in my reference to the height of the crest level at the east end of Nash Bank. The plenary record states that the crest of this sandbank is being reduced. This is not the case. Monitoring shows that the crest level at the east end of Nash Bank is not reducing.

In addition, I said that there is a presumption against land based extraction. This is not the case. What I should have said was that safeguarding the resources does not necessarily imply that they should be extracted. The acceptability of any extraction proposal would need to be carefully considered on its merits, in the light of the need for the material, the current circumstances at that time and the information then available. I did say that we intend to work with the local authorities to ensure that unitary development plans are worded appropriately. As I said in the Position Statement, the use of marine dredged sand and gravel is likely to continue to meet the demand for the foreseeable future where this remains consistent with the principles of sustainable development.



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

I wish to clarify that where there appears to be any inconsistency between the content of the statement and anything in my replies to questions, the statement should take precedence.

Yn gywir iawn
De

Cc Party Spokespeople: David Davies AM
Janet Davies AM
Eleanor Burnham AM