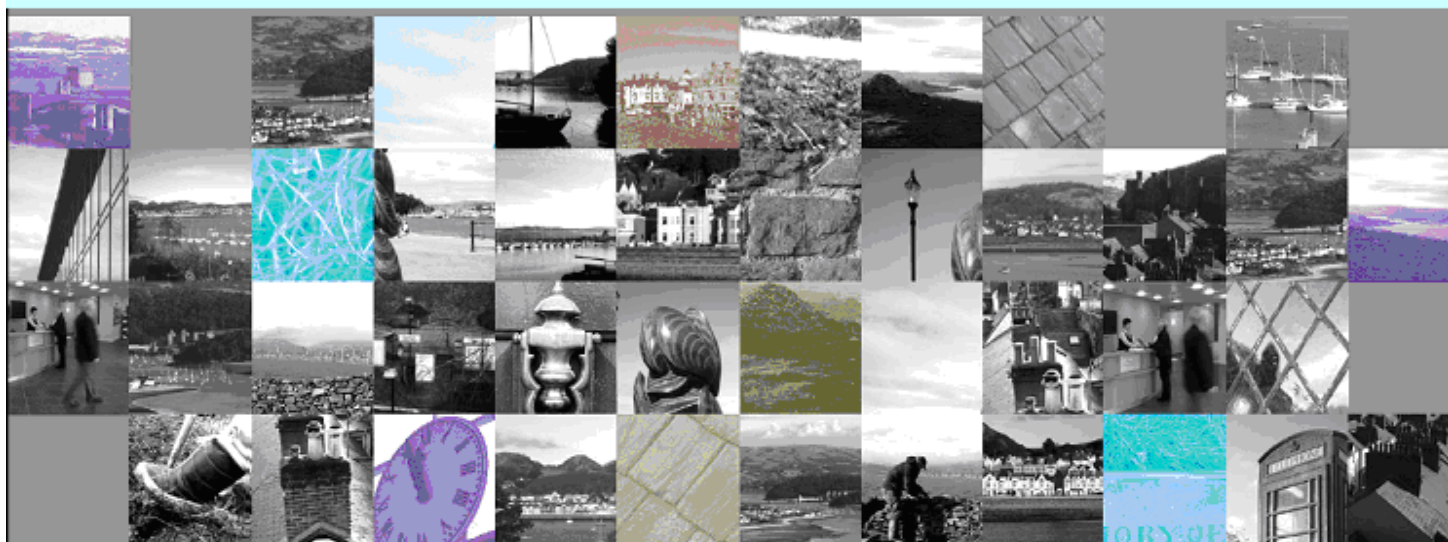


# Conwy Deposit Local Development Plan 2007 – 2022 (Revised edition 2011)



## REVISED BACKGROUND PAPER 32 – SUBMISSION

### Burial Grounds Demand and Supply Report

August 2012

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## **1. Background**

- 1.1 During the compilation of the Deposit Local Development Plan, it became evident through public consultation and discussions with the Council's Environment Department that there is a need to make provision for additional land for burials. The areas with the greatest need have been identified as Llanrwst and Abergele. The Council has since undertaken work to identify suitable locations for either extensions to existing cemeteries, or new burial grounds.

## **2. Locations for new burial grounds**

### **Llanrwst**

- 2.1 The existing capacity at the Cae Melwr cemetery will have reached its capacity by the end of 2013, therefore an extension to the existing cemetery is proposed. Consultation has been undertaken with the statutory bodies. No objections have been raised but the original site area has been adjusted due to the elevated water table. The proposed allocation can be viewed at Appendix 1.

### **Penmaenmawr**

- 2.2 Council-owned land adjoining the existing Penmaenmawr burial ground is allocated for future development. Although this is unlikely to be required for use during the LDP Plan Period, the site is allocated in order to safeguard the land for this purpose. The proposed allocation can be viewed at Appendix 2.

### **Abergele**

- 2.3 The existing cemeteries in Abergele are nearing their capacity and procuring and developing a new cemetery in the area is of prime importance to the Council.
- 2.4 The search for a suitable site has been ongoing for some time. In March 2005, a plot of land along St George Road to the south-east of Abergele was identified as a potential site for the burial ground, and in September 2008 feasibility work was commenced into developing this site. As part of the approval process for the new site; a review of the development was undertaken by the Environment Agency (EA). During this review concerns were raised in relation to the ground water pollution potential of the shallow water table that was encountered during the site's ground investigation.

2.5 Although engineering methods were identified as potential ways of mitigating the pollution issues, including installing deep drainage and sealed pre-cast concrete burial chambers, the associated cost implications rendered the solutions unfeasible. Consequently it was decided that the Authority would not progress with this site and alternative sites would be sought.

2.6 The Authority decided to commission consultants to identify a suitable site for a new burial ground to meet the following requirements:

- Approximate Area of Site: 12,000m<sup>2</sup>
- Burial Rate: 15 per annum
- Approximate Total Number of Burial Plots: 1000
- Easily accessible by all
- Requiring minimal or no engineering solutions such as deep drainage and pumping.

2.7 The study contains two distinct phases:

### **Phase 1 – Site Identification Study**

The key requirement for phase 1 is to undertake a desk study to identify sites which potentially are suitable for developing a cemetery, prior to intrusive works such as a ground investigation work being undertaken. The identification takes into account the following for each site:

- Site layout requirements – including consideration of highway requirements such as access and egress to the cemetery site, topography of the land, pavement design requirements etc.
- Location and Access – proximity to Abergele itself and ease of access for visitors, including footpaths and public transport links.
- Approvals – undertake preliminary enquiries into the approvals that will be required in order to develop the site e.g. planning approval.
- Services – assessment of the site in relation to the proximity of any statutory undertaker's apparatus.

- Flood risk – assessment of the site in relation to potential for any flooding.  
Note: CCBC can provide flood risk maps for this element of the study.
- Groundwater Pollution in relation to the requirements of the Environment Agency – consideration should be given to EA report P223; and to the following (as a minimum)\*:
  - Soil nature and type.
  - Presence and nature of drift, including type and thickness.
  - Water table depth.
  - Groundwater flow mechanisms.
  - Groundwater vulnerability and aquifer type.
  - Abstractions.
  - Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ).
  - Proximity to watercourses, springs and drains.
  - Soil contamination – consideration of any aspects that would suggest the sites are contaminated.
  - Excavation – consideration of the suitability of the site in relation to excavation of graves, including as a minimum:
    - Soil properties in relation to ease of excavation.
    - Grave plot side support requirements.
    - Depth and position of any underlying rock.
    - Grave Depth Legislation – the study should consider the ground requirements in relation to the requirements of The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 (LACO).
- The key deliverable of phase 1 will be a report summarising the identification study with a ranked list of potential sites that can be investigated further during phase 2.

## **Phase 2 – Detailed Feasibility Study into the Council’s preferred site from Phase 1**

Following a review of the findings and recommendations from phase 1, the Council will advise the Consultant of its preferred site(s) and approximate layout for the development. The phase 2 works shall comprise the following deliverables:

- Site Investigation Work – the consultant will be responsible for designing, organising and supervising the ground investigation work. The ground investigation should be designed such that sufficient information is obtained to determine the site suitability as a burial ground, considering the key issues listed in phase 1 above, including groundwater issues, underlying rock, suitability for excavation and pavement design.
- Interpretation of the Ground Investigation Information.
- Environment Agency Approval – liaise and obtain approval in principle from the EA to proceed with the development.
- At the end of phase 2, the Council are looking to have the key approvals in principle and information in place in order to determine if the site can be feasibly developed into a burial ground. The key deliverable of phase 2 will be a feasibility report summarising the actions undertaken during phase 2, highlighting any key areas of risk and cost associated with the development.

### **3. Progress to date and timescales**

- 3.1 Regarding Llanrwst, it is known that there are flooding and ground water constraints which will require drainage works to be completed prior to the cemetery being used; some of the necessary works have commenced.
- 3.3 No work has yet started on the site in Penmaenmawr, as the demand for this burial ground is longer-term. The land is presently licensed as grazing land; this will not compromise its future use as a cemetery.
- 3.3 In Abergele, the consultants have identified a number of possible sites to the east and south of the town. Some of these sites have been selected for further investigations, which are currently underway.
- 3.4 When a suitable site has been found a number of actions will take place. Firstly a business case will be drawn up outlining the proposals in more detail, then the land will be purchased and the necessary infrastructure will be laid down. Due to the ongoing nature of this process, no definite timescale for completion of the project can be given at this moment.



## Appendix A: Llanrwst



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Appendix B: Penmaenmawr

