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MAES Y DROELL QUARRY

Welsh Language Statement

Silica Sand Mold Limited

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Document history

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This Welsh Language Statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for proposed quarry development in Denbighshire. The assessment has been undertaken with reference to:

- Future Wales: The National Plan 2040,
- Planning Policy Wales (PPW),

Technical Advice Note (TAN) 20: Planning and the Welsh Language,

- the relevant policies of the Denbighshire Local Development Plan, and
- Planning and the Welsh Language Supplementary Planning Guidance.

1.1.2 The purpose of this Statement is to consider whether the Proposed Development is likely to have any significant effects on the Welsh language or the linguistic character of local communities.

2 THE SITE

2.1.1 Silica Sand Mold Limited (hereafter 'the Applicant') is seeking full planning permission for the proposed continued winning and working of industrial sand and associated minerals with restoration to amenity (nature conservation) (hereafter referred to as 'the Site') located at Maes y Droell Quarry, Graianrhyd, Mold, Denbighshire.

2.1.2 The Site is within the Llanarmon-yn-Ial Community Civil Parish, which is itself in Denbighshire. This makes Denbighshire County Council the Mineral Planning Authority for the Site.

2.1.3 The application boundary is presented in **ES Volume IV, Figure 1: Site Location Plan** and **ES Volume IV, Figure 2: Aerial Context Plan**.

3 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

3.1.1 The full extent of the Proposed Development can be seen in section 5 of the planning statement. This Chapter provides a comprehensive description of the Proposed Development, the proposed method of working, and relevant operational details. It summarises the proposed mineral extraction operations, associated infrastructure, and the restoration strategy.

3.1.2 The Proposed Development comprises the extraction of high-grade industrial sand, followed by the progressive restoration of the Site. Full planning permission is sought for the winning and working of industrial sand and associated minerals, together with the restoration of the Site to nature conservation after uses.

4 COMMUNITY PROFILE

Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section provides an overview of the characteristics of the community within which Maes y Droell Quarry is located. It draws on data from the 2021 Census, the Office for National Statistics' Population Estimates for the UK, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: Mid-2024, and Denbighshire County Council's Welsh Language Strategy 2023-2028 to establish the area's demographic and linguistic profile.

Area and Population

- 4.1.2 Maes y Droell Quarry is located within the village of Graianrhyd, Mold, Denbighshire.
- 4.1.3 In 2024, Denbighshire had a total population of 98,202 and a median age of 46 years. In terms of population makeup, 51.5% of the population was Female, and 48.5% Male (Office for National Statistics, 2025).

Welsh Language

- 4.1.4 According to the Welsh Language Strategy 2023 – 2028 (Denbighshire County Council), the 2021 Census recorded 20,940 people in Denbighshire were able to speak Welsh, representing 22.5% of the population. This compares with 22,240 Welsh speakers in 2011, equivalent to 24.6% of the population. Over the ten-year period, the number of Welsh speakers fell by 1,300, while the proportion fell by 2.1 percentage points. This change reflects both a reduction in the number of Welsh speakers and an increase in the county's overall population.
- 4.1.5 A detailed analysis of these trends is provided in the Welsh Language Strategy 2023-2028, which concludes that there was no significant overall decline in the number or proportion of Welsh speakers in Denbighshire between 2011 and 2021. The analysis also notes that, beyond the 45+ age group, the number of Welsh speakers remains relatively stable, although Welsh speakers make up a smaller proportion of the population within these older age cohorts.

Engagement with the Local Community

- 4.1.6 The nature of the development is such that pre-application consultation is required via the statutory Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) process legislated for in the Planning (Wales) Act 2015.
- 4.1.7 A copy of the complete planning application, including this Welsh Language Statement, has been made available to members of the public for comment. In addition, a meeting with Llanarmon-yn-iâl Community Council and members of the public was held on the 1st July 2026.
- 4.1.8 The event was advertised via the community council website and email circulation. Explanatory leaflets were distributed and available at the meeting. Representatives from Silica Sand, Mold, and Stephenson Halliday were in attendance to explain and clarify elements of the proposal and answer questions. Over 30 people attended the event.

5 POLICY BACKGROUND

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

5.1.1 Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 is the Welsh Government's national development framework and forms the highest tier of the statutory development plan in Wales. It provides the overarching spatial strategy for sustainable development and must be taken into account when preparing lower-tier development plans and determining planning applications.

5.1.2 Specifically, within Future Wales: The National Plan 2040, there is an ambition to:

Have a million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050 – an increase of almost 80% on current levels. The language will be an embedded consideration in the spatial strategy of all development plans. Where Welsh is the everyday language of the community, development will be managed to ensure there are jobs and homes to enable the language to remain central to those communities' identities.

Planning Policy Wales (2024)

5.1.3 Edition 12 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. The primary objective of PPW is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales

5.1.4 At the heart of PPW is the concept of sustainable development. PPW defines sustainable development as:

“... the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.

Acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle means that a body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language

5.1.5 The purpose of this TAN is to provide guidance on how the Welsh language should be considered within the planning system. It supports the policies set out in Planning Policy Wales by promoting the use of the Welsh language and ensuring that planning decisions take account of their potential effects on Welsh-speaking communities.

5.1.6 TAN 20 advises on when Welsh Language Statements or Welsh Language Impact Assessments may be required and seeks to ensure that development contributes towards the creation of sustainable communities where the Welsh language can thrive.

Local Development Plan Policy

Denbighshire County Council Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 (Adopted June 2013).

- 5.1.7 The LDP contains Policy RD5 - The Welsh language and the social and cultural fabric of communities.
- 5.1.8 The policy requires the potential effects of development on the Welsh language to be considered in all planning applications. Planning permission may be refused where a proposal would cause significant harm to a community's character or linguistic balance.
- 5.1.9 Additionally, developers are expected to provide bilingual signage as a minimum measure to support the Welsh language. Where adverse impacts are identified, mitigation may be secured through planning obligations, including Section 106 agreements.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)

Supplementary Planning Guidance – Planning and the Welsh Language.

- 5.1.10 The Denbighshire Planning and the Welsh Language Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) provides guidance on how the effects of development on the Welsh language should be considered through the planning process.
- 5.1.11 The SPG supports Policy RD5 of the Denbighshire Local Development Plan by seeking to protect and strengthen the Welsh language and the social and cultural fabric of local communities. It advises on when a Welsh Language Statement or Welsh Language Impact Assessment may be required and identifies the matters to be considered as part of the assessment.

6 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE

Characteristics of the Proposed Development

- 6.1.1 The development has been summarised in Section 3 above, as well as being described in more detail within the Planning Statement which accompanies the planning application
- 6.1.2 In terms of compliance with the Development Plan, Section 6 of the Planning Statement should be referred to. It sets out the main policies at the national and local level and how the development accords with the thrust of these policies.

Key Considerations in the Context of Welsh Language

- 6.1.3 The following table has been prepared in accordance with Denbighshire County Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance: Planning and the Welsh Language, which sets out a series of questions to assess the potential effects of development proposals on the Welsh language and Welsh-speaking communities.

- 6.1.4 Whilst the proposed development does not involve the construction of new housing, all relevant questions have been completed for completeness and to demonstrate that the proposal would not give rise to significant effects on the Welsh language.

Table 1: key considerations in the context of Welsh Language

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	
1. Is the development likely to lead to a population increase/decrease that might: Affect the balance of Welsh speakers (positive or negative way); or Lead to an absolute or proportional decline in the number of Welsh speakers?	The proposal is not anticipated to generate significant population growth or decline within the local area. The proposal is unlikely to affect the balance of Welsh and non-Welsh speakers within nearby communities or lead to either an absolute or proportional decline in the number of Welsh speakers.
2. Is the development likely to lead to increased in-migration?	No. The nature of the development is unlikely to create a substantial influx of new workers in the area.
3. Is the development likely to lead to increased out-migration?	No. The nature of development is not expected to result in increased out-migration
4. Is the development likely to lead to a changing age structure of the community?	No. The proposal is not expected to affect the age structure of the local community. It would not generate population changes of a scale sufficient to alter the area's demographic profile.
QUALITY OF LIFE	
5. Is the development likely to have an impact on the health of local people?	No significant impacts on the health of local people are anticipated. Potential effects relating to noise, dust, air quality and traffic have been assessed as part of the Environmental Statement and are subject to appropriate mitigation and management measures. These measures are detailed within the relevant chapters of the Environmental Statement.
6. Is the development likely to have an impact on the amenity of the local area?	As above. Potential effects on local amenity, including noise, dust, traffic and visual impacts, have been assessed within the Environmental Statement and are subject to appropriate mitigation measures. Following mitigation, no significant adverse effects on the amenity of the local area are anticipated.
7. Is the development likely to lead to the threat of increased crime or violence in the community?	No. The development is not expected to lead to an increased risk of crime or violence within the community. The proposal relates to the continuation and extension of an existing quarry operation and is not of a type that would typically

	give rise to crime, anti-social behaviour or community safety concerns.
ECONOMIC FACTORS	
8. Is the development likely to have a detrimental impact on local businesses?	No. The development is not expected to have a detrimental impact on local businesses.
9. Is the development likely to have a detrimental impact on local jobs?	No. The development is not expected to have a detrimental impact on local jobs. Instead, it would support jobs within the wider supply chain, positively affecting local employment.
10. Is the development likely to lead to greater economic diversity?	No. The development is not expected to significantly increase economic diversity, as it relates to continuing and extending an existing quarrying operation. However, it would support associated supply chains contributing to the stability of the local economy.
11. Is the development likely to have an impact on local wage / salary levels?	No significant impact on local wage or salary levels is anticipated.
12. Is the development likely to have an impact on the average cost of housing?	No.
INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPLY	
13. Is the development likely to have an impact on local schools?	No. The development is not expected to have an impact on local schools. As the proposal does not involve residential development or significant population growth, it is not anticipated to alter demand for school places or educational services.
14. Is the development likely to have an impact on health care provision?	No. The development is not expected to have an impact on healthcare provision. As the proposal does not involve residential development or significant population growth, it is not anticipated to increase demand for local healthcare services.
15. Is the development likely to have an impact on the provision of local services, such as shops/post offices/banks/pubs?	The development is not expected to have a significant impact on the provision of local services, such as shops, post offices, banks or pubs. As the proposal would not result in significant population growth or demographic change, no material change in demand for local services is anticipated. The continued operation of the quarry would help support existing economic activity within the area.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS	
16. Will the development potentially lead to social tensions, conflict or serious divisions within the Welsh speaking community?	No. The development is not expected to lead to social tensions, conflict or serious divisions within the Welsh-speaking community. The proposal would not result in significant population change or alter the linguistic balance of the area and is therefore not anticipated to adversely affect community cohesion.
17. Will the development potentially lead to changes in local Welsh traditions/culture?	No. The development is not expected to lead to changes in local Welsh traditions or culture. As the proposal would not result in significant population or demographic change, it is not anticipated to affect the cultural identity, traditions or linguistic character of the local community.
18. Will the development be likely to have a potential impact on local voluntary / activity/youth groups?	No. The development is not expected to have a significant impact on local voluntary, activity or youth groups

Summary of Key Findings

- 6.1.5 The assessment concludes that the Proposed Development at Maes y Droell Quarry would not result in significant social, economic, demographic or linguistic effects. The proposal is not expected to generate substantial population change, affect the number or proportion of Welsh speakers, alter community cohesion, or impact Welsh culture and traditions.
- 6.1.6 Potential effects on local amenity, including noise, dust, traffic and visual impacts, have been assessed within the Environmental Statement and are subject to appropriate mitigation measures. Following mitigation, no significant adverse effects on the amenity of the local area are anticipated.
- 6.1.7 Overall, the development is considered to have a neutral effect on the Welsh language and Welsh-speaking community.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1.1 This Welsh Language Statement has been prepared by Stephenson Halliday on behalf of Silica Sand Mold Limited.
- 7.1.2 The Statement forms part of the suite of documents submitted to Denbighshire County Council, in its capacity as Mineral Planning Authority (MPA), in support of a planning application for the continued extraction of high-grade industrial sand at Maes y Droell Quarry.
- 7.1.3 The proposed development is not anticipated to result in significant social, economic or demographic change within the local area. The proposal relates to the continuation and expansion of an existing quarrying operation and does not involve residential development, significant population growth, or the creation of a substantial permanent workforce.

- 7.1.4 Consequently, it is not expected to affect the linguistic balance of local communities or place additional pressure on housing, infrastructure, community facilities, educational facilities, or services that support the use of the Welsh language.
- 7.1.5 Appropriate measures will be adopted throughout the operation of the quarry to respect and promote the use of the Welsh language, which could include the provision of bilingual signage and communications where appropriate.
- 7.1.6 Additionally, the applicant has extensive experience of operating mineral and waste facilities and working collaboratively with local authorities, regulators and local communities. To support this commitment, a Quarry Liaison Committee will be established to provide a regular forum through which local residents, the Community Council, the local County Councillor, and representatives of Denbighshire County Council can receive updates on site activities and raise any matters of interest or concern. The proposed Terms of Reference for the Committee accompany the planning application.
- 7.1.7 Overall, the Proposed Development would have a neutral effect on the Welsh language and Welsh-speaking community, and no additional mitigation measures are considered necessary. The development is therefore consistent with the objectives of Planning Policy Wales, TAN 20 and local planning policies, including policy RD5 - The Welsh language and the social and cultural fabric of communities and Denbighshire Supplementary Planning Guidance, Planning and the Welsh language.

8 REFERENCES

Office for National Statistics (2025) *Population estimates for the UK, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2024*. Available at: [ONS Population Estimates Mid-2024](#) (Accessed: 23 September 2026).

Denbighshire County Council (n.d.) *Welsh language in Denbighshire*. Available at: [Welsh Language in Denbighshire](#) (Accessed: 23 September 2026).