



**PWYLLGOR DATBLYGU STRATEGOL A CHYFLENWI GWEITHREDOL
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONAL DELIVERY COMMITTEE**

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	26 October 2023
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	Reinforced Autoclave Aerated Concrete (RAAC) Planks
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Andrew Carruthers, Director of Operations
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Rob Elliott, Director of Estates, Facilities and Capital Management

**Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)
Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)**
Er Gwybodaeth/For Information

**ADRODDIAD SCAA
SBAR REPORT**

Sefyllfa / Situation

This report sets out the position with regards to Reinforced Autoclave Aerated Concrete Planks (RAAC) at the Withybush Hospital (WH) site. It includes the actions being taken in response to the risks identified and the costs to provide corrective action across the 2023/24 and 2024/25 Financial Years.

The RAAC surveys undertaken to date at the WH site have identified a significant risk and the essential need for intervention works. In addition, we have a small area of RAAC in a remote plant room at Bronglais Hospital (BH) which has been inspected and is not considered high risk.

The Institution of Structural Engineers guidelines ‘Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) Investigation and Assessment – Further Guidance’ (April 2023) has been used to provide guidance on the critical risk factors associated with RAAC panel construction.

Assessment category	Risk category	
Red	Critical risk	Requires urgent remedial works which may include taking out of use or temporary propping to allow the safe ongoing use of a building. Depending on the extent, this may be part or all of the building. Combined with awareness campaign for occupants including exclusion zones.
	High risk	Requires remedial action as soon as possible. Combined with awareness campaign for occupants, which may include exclusion zones, signage, loading restrictions and the need to report changes of condition, eg, water leaks, debris, change in loading, etc.
Amber	Medium risk	Requires inspection and assessment on a regular basis, eg, annually. Combined with awareness campaign for occupants, which may include signage, loading restrictions and the need to report changes of condition, eg, water leaks, debris, etc.
Green	Low risk	Requires inspection and assessment occasionally, say three year period depending on condition. Combined with awareness campaign for occupants, which may include signage, loading restrictions and the need to report changes of condition, eg, water leaks, debris, etc.

The above guidance includes a proposed approach to the classification of these risk factors and how these may impact on the proposed remediation and management of RAAC.

This paper considers the latest information available from the RAAC survey and remediation programme underway at WH.

The programme of works identified in this paper are currently proceeding to plan. It should be noted that further detailed surveys are still being undertaken which could impact the delivery programme now presented.

This paper also sets out the current position on Capital costs for the remediation of critical and high-risk planks. This will be continually updated as further survey and procurement exercises continue for the remaining areas in the programme.

Cefndir / Background

RAAC is a material used in construction in many buildings between the 1960s and 1990s. Its presence has been confirmed in a range of National Health Service (NHS) properties across the United Kingdom (UK) and includes several properties in Wales.

All actions now being undertaken by Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB) are fully aligned to revised industry guidance which was updated in early 2023.

This new industry guidance is based on more intensive research which has shown that this material has a far lower structural loading capacity than other generic reinforced concrete products. Due to this fact, there is a risk of structural collapse should the product fail. The condition of RAAC Planks has been shown to deteriorate if water is present due to roof leaks etc, which can compromise the reinforcement bars contained within these planks.

Asesiad / Assessment

A detailed programme of work has been developed to remediate all critical and high-risk planks. In addition, where we have been able to safely temporarily prop areas, these facilities have also been reopened pending future repair works.

In order to proceed urgently with this remedial work a capital plan has been developed and fully supported by Welsh Government (WG) in the sum of £12.8m.

A summary of this financial position is as follows:

Programme of Work	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
All inpatient areas impacted by RAAC and commitment to temporary catering facilities in year.	7.7m	
All remaining areas impacted by RAAC including continued temporary catering facilities.		5.81m

To date the status of the RAAC surveys and repair programme is as follows:

- **Pot Wash in Main Kitchen** – Scheme now completed
- **Ward 9** – Project works now complete
- **Ward 12** – Project due to complete early November 2023
- **Ward 7** – Project due to complete late December 2023
- **Wards 8, 10 and 11** - Projects all due to complete prior to 31 March 2024

In addition to the above we are now fast-tracking the remedial work to Outpatient Dept (OPD) A to bring this area back into service as soon as possible (this area could not be reused due to the number of temporary props).

The main kitchen provision for WH has been temporarily relocated to the dining room with the introduction of CookFreeze food for the interim period before a full field kitchen is commissioned. This is currently programmed to come online late November/ early December 2023 when the Health Board will return to traditional cooked food and recommission the dining room for patients, staff and visitors.

All further work to the above will be undertaken from 1 April 2024 and we are currently working with service managers to agree the priority order that this will follow.

It should be noted that the above works and approved funding will only cover remediation repairs to P1 and P2 Planks (critical and high-risk respectively). The amber risk planks and green risk planks will require regular inspection every 6 or 12 months (frequency currently being considered).

This inspection regime will be disruptive going forward and we have been advised by the specialist structural engineers that further deterioration of RAAC planks should be expected and therefore further costs will be incurred in the future. Also given the concerns on the structural stability of RAAC planks any future maintenance that requires access to these flat roof areas will be challenging and will require a range of measures to avoid inappropriate loading of these areas.

These matters have been reported to WG to make them fully aware of the ongoing challenges of RAAC at WH.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Strategic Development and Operational Delivery Committee is asked to:

- **NOTE** the above report.
- **NOTE** temporary propping of areas, where possible, to allow clinical services to continue.
- **NOTE** the support funding from Welsh Government for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 Financial Year
- **NOTE** the ongoing surveys of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Planks areas in the future and the expectation of further deterioration and further investment being necessary.
- **NOTE** that further updates will be presented at future Strategic Development and Operational Delivery Committee meetings.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau)	
Objectives: (must be completed)	
Committee ToR Reference: Cyfeirnod Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor:	Not Applicable
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	1382 1699 1707
Galluogwyr Ansawdd: Enablers of Quality: Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	Not Applicable 6. All Apply

Parthau Ansawdd: Domains of Quality Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	2.1 Managing Risk and Promoting Health and Safety Governance, Leadership & Accountability
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	4. The best health and wellbeing for our individuals, families and communities
Amcanion Cynllunio Planning Objectives	5a Estates Strategies
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2021-2022	10. Not Applicable

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:

Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	Within the report
Rhestr Termiau: Glossary of Terms:	Within the report
Partïon / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Pwyllgor Datblygu Strategol a Chyflenwi Gweithredol Parties / Committees consulted prior to: Strategic Development and Operational Delivery Committee	Pwyllgor Iechyd a Diogelwch Health & Safety Committee

Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)

Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	Capital funding required to deliver the survey programme
Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	Direct Impact on Patient Environment. Ward decants being arranged to maintain capacity. Some risk that it will be challenging to maintain capacity dependent on the outcome of the survey findings.
Gweithlu: Workforce:	Staffing impacts being mapped out by operational site teams with full HR support.

Risg: Risk:	The risk is identified on the corporate risk register. Targeted meetings being arranged to manage the programme, to include development of project specific risk register.
Cyfreithiol: Legal:	Not Applicable
Enw Da: Reputational:	High potential for media and political interest. Communication team supporting the programme.
Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:	Not applicable
Cydraddoldeb: Equality:	Not applicable