

In this issue

- [Sponsorship opportunities](#) - this newsletter & the CESW Conference 2007
- [Have you enjoyed yourself this week?](#) - assessing project health
- [Managing uncertainty in construction](#) - survey
- [rethink, reuse, recycle, resource](#) - report on month 1
- [Advice to aspiring Construction Management Grads](#) - what else should they look for?
- [Architectural placement sought](#) - by Pole in UK
- [nD design](#) - 3D + time + cost + measuring the impact on the whole supply chain
- [Swindon Club](#) - inaugural meeting + Plymouth and Cornwall progress

Previous issues and pdfs <http://www.leanconstruction.org/cesw>

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Sponsorships

I'm looking for Sponsors for this Newsletter - an opportunity for you to have your logo and/or brief message in the Newsletter. This could be an annual agreement or it could be per issue. This issue will go direct to around 1500 people across the region, a handful of others in the rest of UK and worldwide + pdf versions are now made available on three websites CIOB, ICE, The Lean Construction Institute <http://www.leanconstruction.org/cesw>. It is also available on Google Groups. If you would like to discuss this please <mailto:alan@cesw.org.uk?subject=Sponsorship>.

We are planning a 2-day [CESW Conference](#) at the end of March next year when I want to hear [practitioners speaking to practitioners](#) about what they have improved and what they have learnt. There will be a number of associated sponsorship opportunities. Please let me know if your company would be interested in any of those.

Technology and Construction Court (TCC) meetings

3 July 1800 Exeter and 4 July 0730 Bristol

[Ashfords](#) will be sponsoring meetings with HHJs Rupert Jackson and Frances Kirkham in Exeter (1800-2000 3 July) and Bristol (0730-0930 4 July) to talk about the new [User Guide to the Technology and Construction Court](#) and how to avoid spending time there. Details <mailto:helen@cesw.org.uk?subject=TCC>

Have you enjoyed yourself this week?

No 2 in an occasional series of *good questions*. David Adamson spoke at the University of the West of England (7 Apr) about *Emerging Government Policy on Construction Procurement*. It was a great talk (download a copy of the slides and an mp3 of the talk - the first CESW podcast? - at <http://www.leanconstruction.org/cesw>).

En passant David talked about his best indicator of project health. He was Bursar at Bristol U and Director of Estates at Cambridge before joining the Office of Government Commerce where he is Director, Smarter Construction. At the end of each week he'd go round sites and ask operatives if they had enjoyed themselves that week. A simple affirmative was, he said, a good indicator of project health. Anything less was an indicator of current or imminent crisis.

How could your organisation make good use of that kind of simple data? It seems to me much more potent than KPIs which tend to be results measures. This is a really great process measure.

Managing uncertainty in construction

I co-edit the *Lean Construction Journal* (<http://www.leanconstructionjournal.org>) with Tariq Abdelhamid of Michigan State University. Tariq's current research project is to assess the way uncertainty is managed in Architectural, Engineering and Construction organizations. This study is the first in a series looking for more effective uncertainty management practices in our industry.

The survey is available online at <http://www.hostedsurvey.com/takesurvey.asp?c=CWCS06> -- it consists of around 50 statements to rate on a 7 point scale and a number of simple supplementary questions - it takes around 10 minutes. You respond anonymously.

Tariq expects to conclude the research and publish the results by December 2006 and I will let you know when they are available. He would greatly appreciate your participation by completing the survey.

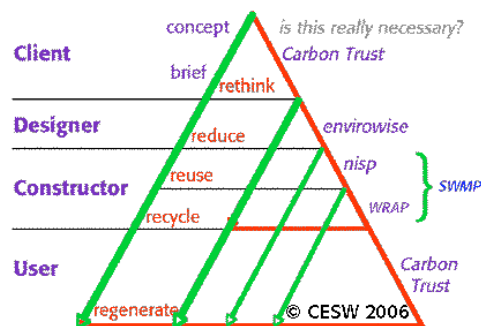
rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle, regenerate, resource

Last month I said this was going to be a key topic for me in April. I got an early start at a *Trade Waste recycling seminar* in Newton Abbott at the end of March where I met someone from Devon Roads and then got home to read an article in *contract Journal* about how Devon Roads/SW Highways has been recycling the planings from the A38 work at Ashburton; then on 4 Apr there was the excellent SSAD - that stands for **Safe and Sustainable Awareness Day** - for design practices and small building contractors. There was humour, engagement and lots of good information.

So what does SSAD have to do with **rethink, reuse, recycle?** -- Lots. Here's one -- **Site Waste Management Plans** (SWMP http://www.dti.gov.uk/construction/sustain/site_waste_management.pdf) can help reduce trips and slips as well as reducing waste disposal costs.

Over the next two years the SSAD will progress around the region. If you missed Exeter, the next is at Cheltenham Racecourse on 16 May (for info mailto:yvonne.mazzotta@hse.gsi.gov.uk?subject=SSAD_Gloucestershire_info_please)

Mid month **Lesley Seymour** and I met with Envirowise, NISP and Envision to try to understand the relationships between these and other BREW funded organisations - BREW (= **B**usiness **R**esource **E**fficiency and **W**aste) is a programme financed by Landfill Tax. Construction and demolition waste contributes 32% of total waste generated and is beginning to receive systematic attention. The diagram below is my first attempt to clarify the roles and relationships. The small red triangle (**reduce, reuse, recycle**) is the original **waste triangle**. I realised during the meeting that here are two other levels that apply in construction - **rethink** = this is a root and branch review of the proposed construction project asking the question do we really need this building. If we answer yes to that question it becomes important to add the bottom layer - **regenerate** = being able to adapt the building to new and changed uses during its life and emphasises the need to consider open building technologies during the design phase. On the right are the BREW funded organisations and how they relate to the different levels. The green lines relate to the savings that are possible - the higher up the triangle you start the more you can save.



SWMP - Site Waste Management Plans - will become mandatory in 2007 (see link above). BREW funded organisations offer advice and may be able to help you with your SWMP - search for them by name on the web. *Note: although they are funded from the same pot, these organizations are not linked. They have been active in the manufacturing sector for a while but are largely new to construction industry. Lesley and I are working with these programmes, so that they are able to offer a joined up service to construction and construction projects. We are also working to create some Construction based Resource Efficiency Clubs for the Region. More anon.*

The observant of you will have noticed the change in the last word of the title from waste to resource. It is intentional and it is much more than the “nice to have” alliteration - it is the idea that one person’s waste can be someone else’s resource. Timber off-cuts can become pellets to fire someone else’s heating scheme, sawdust can help make fired clay blocks, ... And of course I have extended the whole alliterative scheme.

UWE has developed a **Home Inspection** Certificate training in association with BRE - already 300 students are enrolled and this will be up to 500 by July. Its attracting forty- and fifty-somethings who want a change of career and those who fear for the robustness of their pension. More info
<http://www.bre.co.uk/homeinspector/section.jsp?sid=415>
[mailto:homeinspector@bre.co.uk?subject=Home_Inspection_Certificate.](mailto:homeinspector@bre.co.uk?subject=Home_Inspection_Certificate)

Advice to aspiring Construction Management Grads

A US colleague was in touch asking for ideas about how to respond to a journalist wanting advice for aspiring construction grads looking to make a choice of course. We talked it through for a while and she subsequently talked to a lawyer, a guy working on a start-up, an Apple employee and a library accountant. This is Dr Cynthia Tsao’s final response:

“Look for programs that offer training in unique skills such as the following:

- Lean Project Delivery - management of projects as production systems.
- Building Information Modelling - use of a common 5-D model (3-D + time + cost) to coordinate work between different companies.
- Green Design and Building - reduction of project impact on the environment by using sustainable materials.

Having such skills would increase the student’s marketability when looking for a job and provide valuable perspectives in planning and executing future projects.”

What advice would you give to a British sixth former?

Architectural placement sought

Zuzanna Sternik from Poland z_sternik@o2.pl (tel: +48509928364) writes:

I am a 22 year-old Polish student from Warsaw University of Technology Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering. I will be graduating with an MEng in Civil & Architectural Engineering in June 2006.

During my studies I have prepared several complete architectural projects such as a single-family house, a primary school, a housing estate, a museum, a student house and an info-box for foreigners in Warsaw. I took additional modules in interior design and town planning. Furthermore, I have worked with a number of Polish architects, for whom I have made technical drawings and illustrations of their projects comprising a library, a single-family house and a residential district.

I am literate in professional software: AutoCad, Photoshop, Cinema and 3d studio max. I have excellent written and spoken English. I am also a member of Christian community and Polish Yachting Association.

I would like to undertake a placement (from second part of July to end of September), which allows me for further improvement of my professional skills. I also believe that my knowledge and experience would enable me to make a valuable contribution to your office.

Lean, Last Planner and other Workshops

I will be sending a special issue CESW Newsletter describing our workshop offerings between now and Christmas in 10 days or so.

nD design - building information modelling

According to Graphisoft “The time is upon us where architects [can] work collaboratively with estimators from construction companies in a new workflow that [provides] architects, construction companies and most importantly building owners with much more real-time information on cost [and buildability and programme] as the design is progressing through its various phases.”

I wonder if there is anyone in the SW construction supply chain who has experience of using nD design in this way – or of being on the receiving end of information generated from nD software. If so I would like to hear from you please mailto:alan@cesw.org.uk?subject=nD_experience

Swindon Club

Last Wednesday Swindon Club got off to a flying start - a sumptuous breakfast at Hochtief UK HQ in the town. 32 clients, contractors, consultants, lawyers, architects and others with an interest in the health of our industry in this important M4 corridor town agreed that a club would be a good idea, 18 volunteered to form the Steering Committee and two volunteered to convene it. The Convenor is Allan Bland of Beards, his deputy is John Coltman of Step Change Consultants. For more info mailto:Swindon@cesw.org.uk?subject=CE_Swindon_Club

At the meeting I learnt that it was the Bluestone MD, Graham Shennan, who has been asking **What does good look like?** Thanks for the question and thanks to Tom Holbrow for telling me. Now I understand the sheepishness when it was mentioned at the last Plymouth Club Steering Group in Bluestone’s Plymouth office! ;-)

Since the meeting I learnt that the Swindon Club initiative is being closely watched by senior members and officers at Swindon BC who have high hopes that the club will enable more local employment on local contracts.

Meanwhile further south and west **Plymouth Club** mailto:Plymouth@cesw.org.uk?subject=CE_Plymouth_Club and **Cornwall Club** mailto:Cornwall@cesw.org.uk?subject=CE_Cornwall_Club are making progress. Plymouth Club already has active working groups on Utility Connections and on Skills/Apprenticeships.

If this has been forwarded to you and you would like to receive future issues and details of CESW events please mailto:helen.davies@cesw.org.uk?subject=please_add_me_to_CESW_mailing_list or sign up at <http://groups.google.com/group/CESW-Newsletter>

Finally – please tell me how the newsletter is or could help you **make difference in your organisation**, what you want to see in it and what you are proud of doing to improve the overall construction process – or even just the bit you are responsible for. mailto:alan@cesw.org.uk?subject=Newsletter_feedback

Thanks for reading

With best wishes

Alan

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Alan Mossman
Director,
Constructing Excellence South West
c/o FBE, UWE, Bristol BS16 1QY
m: 07968 485627
f: 0117 328 3002
home: 01453 765611
Skype ID: alanmossman
alan.mossman@cesw.org.uk
<http://www.cesw.org.uk>

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mailto:helen@cesw.org.uk?subject=CESW_Events_Digest_please.

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