

NATIONAL CORING REPORT 2010/2011

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of the National Coring Programme 2010/2011.

2 PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION:

- 2.1 The National Coring Programme was developed and implemented at Area level (excluding Island Councils) and built on the lessons learned in the seven previous programmes. RAUC (S) set a timetable for the exercise across the five Areas. The programme was delivered more quickly than previous programmes in some areas, however as with previous programmes, there exists further room for improvement in the delivery of the results. There were particular problems encountered by RAs and the Coring Contractor in carrying out coring operations during the bad weather experienced during the winter. It was considered that the timetable would be more easily met if the coring operations were to be carried out during the summer months when delays due to bad weather and winter operations were less likely to affect progress.
- 2.2 The methodology and specification for the coring programme is detailed in Advice Note 3, 7th Edition, approved by RAUC (S) and formed the basis for the five Area programmes. A Lead Road Works Authority (Lead Authority) was identified and a UKAS approved testing consultant appointed in each Area to deliver the Area programmes. It was agreed that the reasonable costs of the Lead Authority could be recovered from the local Road Works Authorities on a pro-rata basis from the coring results. It should be noted the costs of failed cores are borne by the appropriate Undertaker.

3 RESULTS

- 3.1 The coring programme results for 2010/2011 are detailed in the table below. They are graphically itemised by Undertaker in Figure 1 to this report.
- 3.2 The details of the Local and Area results are discussed in greater detail at Local and Area level; this report focuses on the overall National results.
- 3.3 The summary results shown graphically in Figures 1 and 2 are compared with the results from previous coring programmes in the table below:

Year	2001/02	2003/04	2005/06	2008/09	2010/11
Cores Taken	1909	1861	1340	1566	1349
Pass	44%	59%	59.9%	64%	74%
Fail	*56%	*41%	*40.1%	*36%	26%

* In previous years, cores that failed were recorded in categories of “Fail/Monitor” and “Fail/Replace”. Cores recorded as “Fail/Monitor” were still fails. Both sides agreed, for the 2010/11 programme there would be no “Fail/Monitor” results. It had previously been agreed, these cores be monitored over a two year period and would not be replaced immediately (unless necessary due to rapid deterioration or other unforeseen circumstances). In the above table “Fail/Monitor” and “Fail Replace” have been grouped together and recorded as “Fail”.

- 3.4 The findings of the 2010/11 coring programme have shown improvement over previous years:
- a. The proportion of core samples meeting the specification has increased by 10-percentage points over the 2008/09 programmes.
 - b. The proportion of core samples requiring to be replaced has reduced from 36% in the exercise of 2008-09, to 26% this year.
- 3.5 Over the reinstatement time period (1 July 09 to 30 June 2010) the SRWR showed 66,064 works were reinstated. The coring programme sampled approximately 2% of these reinstated excavations.
- 3.6 As in previous years, failure to achieve the required bituminous layer thickness is the prevalent reason for non-compliance with the specification. Undertakers pass and fail results are shown graphically, below, in Figure 1.

Figure 2 details the percentage and the reason for core failure:

Figure 1: Overall Results 2010/11 Coring Programme

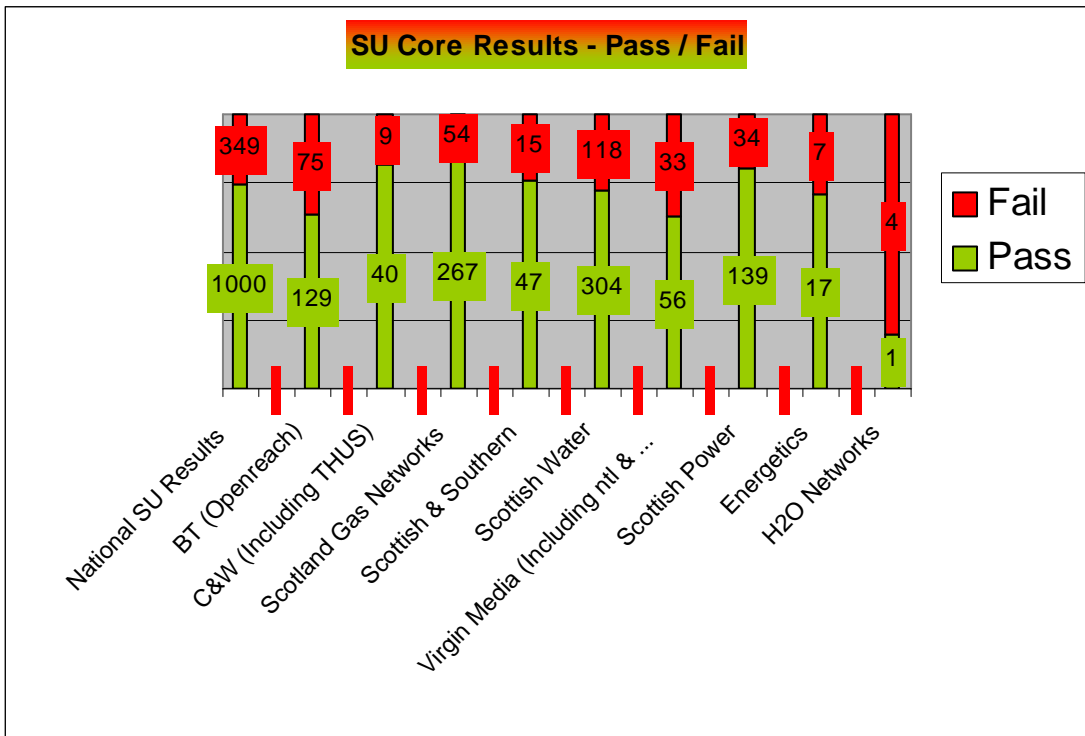
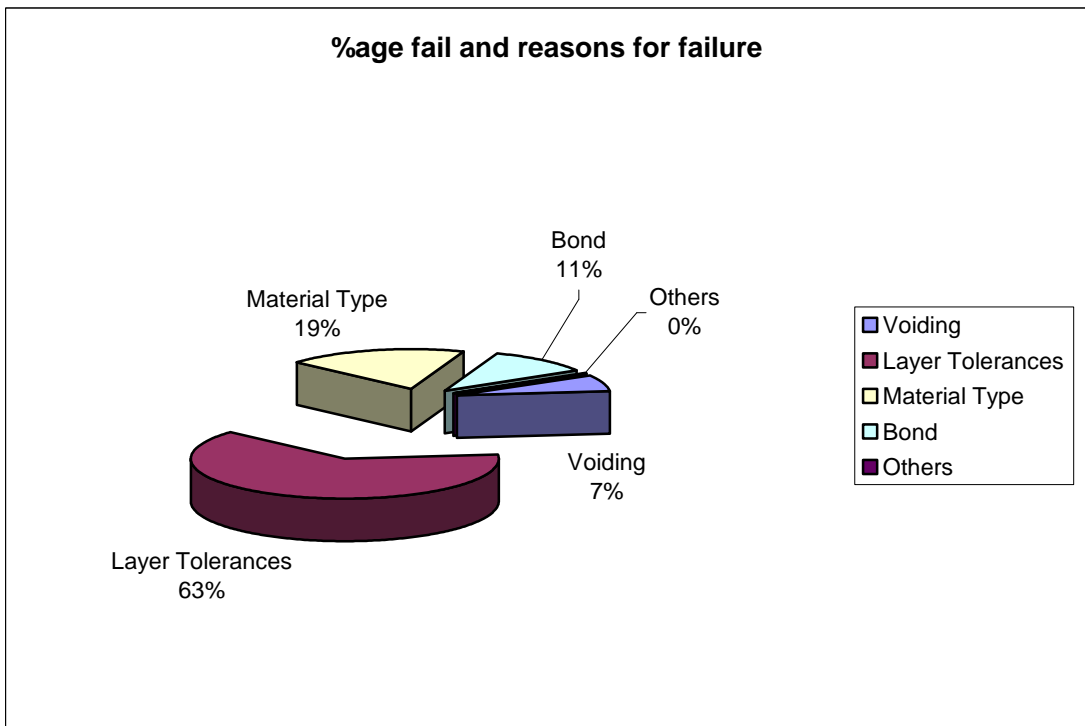


Figure 2: Causes of failure



4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The results indicate that whilst there has been an improvement in the core sample compliance, a major problem continues to exist for the User Community.
- 4.2 On the results of this coring programme, the Group agree there is a definite need to undertake another coring programme.
- 4.3 The Coring Working Group, through their discussions, recognise RAUC (S) Advice Note 3 is a dynamic document. Continued review is required to improve the consistency of implementing future coring programmes and interpretation of results. This will require further consideration by the Coring Working Group.
- 4.4 There has been a consistent failure in the depth of material laid. The findings of this report should be referred to the Compliance Working Group for consideration of the implications for performance of reinstatements.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Coring Group recommends that RAUC (S) discuss the content of this report and approve the following recommendations:
 - 5.1.1 An eighth National Coring Programme should commence. Cores to be taken from reinstatements recorded on the SRWR between dates to be agreed, under direction from RAUC (S). RAUC (S) take into consideration the difficulties encountered trying to carry out coring operations during the winter months and recommend that the timing of any future programmes take this into account.
 - 5.1.2 RAUC (S) Co-Chairs report the results of this coring programme to HAUC (UK).
 - 5.1.3 ScotJUG review existing action plans to ensure that undertakers deliver an acceptable continued improvement, reporting to RAUC (S) at a time to be decided by RAUC (S).
 - 5.1.4 Road Works Authorities and undertakers liaise at local and Area level to determine any issues identified, and then decide the action to be taken to deliver the required improvements.
 - 5.1.5 RAUC (S) Co-Chairs be authorised to write to the Chief Executives of Undertakers to engage their support in ensuring the reviewed action plans are implemented. Any letter sent will be copied to the Scottish Road Works Commissioner.

- 5.1.6 RAUC (S) Co-Chairs be authorised to write to the Chief Executives of Road Works Authorities that fail to support the next National Coring Programme. Any letter sent will be copied to the Scottish Road Works Commissioner.
- 5.1.7 Coring Working Group update Advice Note 3 as necessary, following lessons learned from this exercise. A draft version of Advice Note 3 will be available for the RAUC (S) pre-agenda meeting prior to the start of the next programme.
- 5.1.8 The results of this coring programme are passed to the Compliance Working Group to consider the implications for the performance of reinstatements
- 5.1.9 RAUC (S) release a press statement on behalf of the User Community.