

## North East England Aggregates Working Party Note of Meeting

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| <b>Meeting Date:</b>  | Friday 24 June 2022 | <b>Meeting Venue:</b> | Meeting held virtually |
| <b>Meeting Chair:</b> | Claire Teasdale     | <b>Note Taker:</b>    | Jack Freeman           |

### **Attendees:**

#### Chair:

Claire Teasdale (CT)

#### Technical secretary:

Kevin Tipple (KT) (also representing Northumberland County Council)

#### Mineral Planning Authority representatives:

Susannah Buylla – Northumberland National Park Authority

Jack Freeman – Northumberland County Council

Charlton Gibben – Middlesbrough Council

Jason Mckewon – Durham County Council

David Nelson – Darlington Borough Council

Jamie Simpson – Sunderland City Council

Helen Smith – Hartlepool Borough Council

#### Aggregates industry representatives:

Neil Beards – Tarmac

Nick Everington – The Crown Estate

Kris Furness – British Aggregates Association

Nick Horsley – Mineral Products Association

Geoff Storey – Aggregate Industries UK

### **Apologies/not in attendance:**

Vineeta Sharma (DLUHC), Christina Davey (DLUHC), Sidonie Kenward (Marine Management Organisation), Peter Huxtable (British Aggregates Association), Jon Rippon (Newcastle City Council), Rachel Cooper (South Tyneside Council)

### **Agenda:**

- 1) Welcome, introductions and apologies
- 2) Notes and actions from the meeting held on 12 November 2021
- 3) Aggregates Working Party update
- 4) Annual Survey and Annual Report 2021
- 5) Local Aggregate Assessments
- 6) Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities update
- 7) Industry update
- 8) Mineral Planning Authority updates
- 9) Any other business
- 10) Date of next meeting

| Item | Details  | Action |
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| 1.   | <p><b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed those attending. Introductions were made and apologies were noted.</p> <p>NH expressed disappointment that no representative from DLUHC was present and felt that it left a void.</p> <p>KT agreed, particularly given meeting was taking place in virtual form. In future, meetings will not take place on Fridays to increase the likelihood of a DLUHC representative being able to attend.</p>   |        |
| 2.   | <p><b>Notes and actions from meeting held on 12 November 2021</b></p> <p>The draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2021 were circulated prior to the meeting. The draft notes were reviewed and an update on the actions identified in the meeting notes was given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Item 4 (Annual Report) – The Annual Report has been published for the previous year. The relevant actions are complete.</li> <li>• Item 6 (Local Aggregates Assessment) – Action has been completed, responses correlated and sent to relevant Mineral Planning Authorities</li> </ul> <p>No other matters were raised and the notes of the meeting held on 12 November 2021 were agreed.</p>  |        |
| 3.   | <p><b>Aggregates Working Party update</b></p> <p><u>Work programme 2022/23</u></p> <p>KT provided an update on the AWP work programme for 2022/23. The work areas are the standard areas and consistent with previous years. The main work areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two meetings this year, with the second planned to take place around October</li> <li>• Annual survey – This commenced in January 2022 and is expected to be completed soon</li> <li>• Annual report target is to be published by the end of December 2022</li> <li>• Scrutiny of updated LAAs</li> <li>• Monitoring the obligations of MPAs to prepare LAAs and participate in the AWP</li> <li>• Liaise with DLUHC, other AWP secretaries, MPAs and the Industry. This includes providing quarterly updates to DLUHC</li> <li>• Participating in the National Aggregate Co-ordinating Group meeting on 6 July 2022</li> <li>• Providing consultation responses</li> </ul> <p>NH was pleased that quarterly meetings with DLUHC were happening and asked if minutes of these meeting were taken, and if so, could the minutes be shared in order to try and ensure a consistent approach across AWP. KT informed that the first meeting had not occurred yet, so this was not clear.</p> |        |

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|      | <p>Notes of the meeting involving the other AWP secretaries are taken and can be shared.</p> <p>GS commented that it was good to see that the National Aggregates Coordinating Group would be meeting for the first time in ten years and asked if the minutes and agendas would be available.</p> <p>KT stated that the expectation is that notes will be taken and shared with the AWP members. DLUHC have responsibility for setting up the meeting and taking notes. KT stated that he and CT had been invited to attend. It is unclear which MPA and industry representatives have been invited to attend.</p> <p><u>Membership changes</u><br/>An updated list of North East AWP members and their contact details were circulated with the meeting agenda. Recent membership changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sidonie Kenward is now the Marine Management Organisation representative.</li> <li>• Kris Furness has replaced Mike Hodges at Breedon and would also represent the British Aggregates Association</li> <li>• Rob Marsden has now left Hanson. Tom Brown is the Hanson representative.</li> </ul> <p>CT thanked the departing members for their contributions and welcomed the new members.</p> | <p><b>ACTION: KT to report back on what comes out of Coordinating Group meeting and any actions</b></p>      |
| 4.   | <p><b>Annual Survey and Annual Report</b></p> <p>KT introduced an update on the Annual Survey and Annual Report 2021.</p> <p>The survey forms were issued in January 2022 and there has been a good overall response rate. Some survey returns are still outstanding and are being chased. Progress is being made on collecting this data and those with outstanding returns are encouraged to return these. It is expected to be a few more weeks before some of the missing returns are received.</p> <p>KT shared a draft collation at the meeting. This included estimates where data is currently missing. The draft figures show an increase in sales of both crushed rock and sand and gravel compared to 2020.</p> <p>KT felt that it would not be appropriate to begin drafting the annual report until further survey returns are received. A report will be drafted in August and made available prior to the next AWP meeting. The report will be finalised and published by the end of December.</p>  | <p><b>ACTION: KT to progress draft annual report and circulate a draft prior to the next AWP meeting</b></p> |
| 5.   | <p><b>Local Aggregates Assessments</b></p> <p>The North East AWP have a role to monitor and scrutinise LAAs. KT outlined the draft dates for LAA preparation and scrutiny:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drafting in July and August</li> <li>• Submission from August to September</li> <li>• Consideration by the AWP at October meeting</li> </ul>   |  |

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|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AWP advice following the meeting</li> <li>• LAA finalised by the end of December</li> </ul> <p>CT asked if there were any concerns regarding those timescales.</p> <p>HS acknowledged that the Tees Valley LAA is overdue and stated that the timescales work but may be a little tight depending on external pressures.</p> <p>JM anticipates that these timescales can be met for the County Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear LAA.</p>   |        |
| 6.   | <p><b>Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) update</b></p> <p>No representative of DLUHC was present at the meeting.</p> <p>KT reported that there has been a change in staffing within the minerals and waste team at DLUHC since the last meeting of the North East AWP. Christina Davey is now the minerals and waste team leader. Vineeta Sharma remains as the main contact for the AWP contracts but Aimee Smith who has attended past meetings has now moved to another team.</p> <p>KT stated that he had been hoping somebody from DLUHC would have been available to share headlines from the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill and their relevance to minerals planning. NH stated that he felt the Bill is long, but does not contain a lot of detail. The removal of the 'Duty to Co-operate' and its replacement with an alignment test is relevant.</p>  |        |
| 7.   | <p><b>Industry update</b></p> <p><u>The Crown Estate</u></p> <p>NE provided an update from Crown Estate regarding a number of issues.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Marine Aggregates Tender <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current marine aggregate tender closed to bids in January. There has been an exceptionally strong level of interest.</li> <li>• The assessment and moderation process is nearing completion, and it is anticipated a recommendation on which bids should be taken forward into the Habitats Regulations Assessment process will be made in July.</li> <li>• The HRA will take around 6 months to complete. It is expected awards of Exploration and Option Agreements will be made during Q1 2023.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Publications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2021 marine aggregate landing statistics are available on the Crown Estate website</li> <li>• Work on the 24th annual Area Involved report with BMAPA is progressing, with the aim to get published by the end of July (detailing dredging intensity in 2021)</li> </ul> </li> </ol> |        |

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|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2022 Capability and Portfolio brochure (giving reserve data), will be published later in 2022.</li> </ul> <p>3. Key Resource Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In March dedicated geophysical survey work to enhance knowledge of the quality and distribution of marine sand and gravel resources was commissioned. This work is being undertaken to support a refinement of the key resource work undertaken by BGS. It will help preserve the best mineral resources to meet future market demand, whilst releasing other seabed for alternative uses. The survey covered seabed in the English Channel and Southern North Sea</li> </ul> <p>4. Electronic Monitoring System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In late 2021 an upgraded version of our Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) that tracks and logs all dredging activity was launched. Originally this was introduced to be permanently fitted to all ships regularly dredging for aggregate. The new version has wireless capability and can be easily deployed on ships visiting the UK to carry out temporary, one-off projects, such as beach-replenishment contracts. It has already been deployed on four contracts – Examples are Liverpool dock infill for the new Everton football stadium (700,000 tonnes) in late 2021, and the annual “Lincshore” replenishment project (600,000 tonnes), which is ongoing currently.</li> </ul> <p>KT expressed thanks for making the landing statistics available and stressed how useful these were.</p> <p><u>British Aggregates Association</u></p> <p>KF had nothing to update currently from the BAA.</p> <p><u>Tarmac</u></p> <p>NB had no updates from Tarmac.</p> <p><u>Aggregates Industries</u></p> <p>GS raised the A66 dualling project. CT confirmed that the application was received on 21 June 2022. A decision whether or not to accept the application for examination must be made by 19 July 2022.</p> <p>KT mentioned that the DCO decision on the A1 dualling scheme in Northumberland has been delayed by a further period of six months and a decision is now expected by 5 December 2022.</p> <p><u>Mineral Products Association</u></p> <p>NH provided updates on a number of issues from the Mineral Products</p> |        |

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|      | <p>Association (<a href="https://mineralproducts.org/Issues.aspx">https://mineralproducts.org/Issues.aspx</a>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red diesel – Removal of the red diesel rebate and rising fuel process are having a big impact on the industry. Smaller members are finding it particularly difficult.</li> <li>• Recent rail strikes – There have been impacts on the industry associated with this. Potentially more movements of materials by road transport as a result.</li> <li>• MPA CEO – Nigel Jackson is stepping down as CEO of the MPA, to be replaced by Jon Prichard.</li> <li>• The MPA have had meetings with DLUHC plus National Highways and Network Rail on the issue of ‘assumed supply’ and it seems like some progress might be being made here.</li> <li>• Minerals in Designated Landscape – The Mineral Products Association has developed a position statement for mineral resources associated with designated landscapes. This updates and replaces the original Quarry Products Association document published in 1998. A substantial proportion of some mineral resources in England and Wales occur within designated landscapes and the resources within them will continue to have an important role to play in meeting the needs for minerals.</li> <li>• 2042 end dates for minerals permissions – Legislation means that a significant number of mineral planning permissions will expire in 2042. Many sites are likely to still contain commercially viable reserves and it is important to maintaining productive capacity up to and beyond 2042. The MPA have issued a press release to help industry transitioning to beyond 2042; it is critical to start thinking about continuation of supply and production capacity beyond this date.</li> <li>• Regional overview and forecasts of construction and mineral products markets – This document was previously circulated by KT to AWP members. The report provides an assessment of the historic, current and future trends in the construction and mineral products markets across every region, including North East England.</li> <li>• Quarries and dust – Document has been updated to provide up to date evidence on the impact of airborne particulates on air quality.</li> <li>• Quarries and Nature campaign – ‘Quarries and Nature: A 50 Year Success Story’ has won the ‘Planning for the Natural Environment’ category at the Planning Awards 2022. A link to the video is below: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3j54TrOvVs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3j54TrOvVs</a></li> <li>• Extractive Industries Geology conference – This is taking place at Exeter University from 6 to 8 July 2022.</li> <li>• MPA/RTPI minerals conference – This took place on 15 June 2022 and presentations will be circulated soon.</li> </ul> <p>KT asked if the industry had any sense of how much of an issue the 2042 end dates was for the North East England. NH stated that the research was not done on a regional basis at this time. However on at a national level, lots of reserves could potentially disappear if mechanisms (and resources) for renewing permissions are not put in place.</p> |        |

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|      | <p>KT also asked if there were still supply issues associated with the HS2 project. NH stated that companies were taking a variety of approaches but the Government has woken up to thinking about supply for big infrastructure projects.</p>  |        |
| 8.   | <p><b>Mineral Planning Authority updates</b></p> <p>Members shared some brief updates from different LPAs.</p> <p><u>Northumberland National Park Authority</u><br/>SB had nothing to update from Northumberland National Park</p> <p><u>Durham County Council</u><br/>JM stated that Durham County Council are currently working on a Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocation document. There have been two stages of consultation to date and the representations are currently being analysed with a view to informing a publication draft document. It is anticipated that consultation on a publication draft will begin in late November 2022. The draft plan allocates two sites for aggregate minerals to maintain supply.</p> <p>An application was received in May for an extension to Hulands Quarry for extraction of 14.3million tonnes of carboniferous limestone, at a site allocated in the Local Plan. A full update will be in the LAA.</p> <p><u>Tees Valley Authorities</u><br/>DN, HS and CG shared an update for the Tees Valley authorities. It was acknowledged that work to begin to review the joint Minerals and Waste DPDs, which were adopted in 2011, is needed. No work has yet commenced. This has been delayed by other work pressures, including recent issues raised by the nutrient neutrality advice issued by Natural England. The nutrient neutrality issue is likely to reduce house building in the short-term due to the restrictions on granting planning permissions and this will impact on demand for aggregates. CG added that Middlesbrough Council would be restarting the review of their Local Plan shortly following the earlier withdrawal of the plan.</p> <p>A meeting to progress the LAA will be happening soon. HS added that the LAA is 75% done and should hopefully be ready for October AWP meeting.</p> <p>No relevant planning applications were noted.</p> <p><u>Sunderland</u><br/>JS provided an update from Sunderland. Work is ongoing on an allocations document and it is anticipated that a Regulation 19 Publication Draft document will be published towards the end of the year. The emerging draft includes a policy to safeguard Eppleton Quarry.</p> <p><u>Northumberland County Council</u><br/>KT provided an update from Northumberland County Council. The Northumberland Local Plan was adopted in March 2022. The Local Plan includes policies and site allocations for aggregate minerals.</p> <p>Planning permission was granted in June 2022 for an extension to Divet Hill Quarry (2.7 million tonnes of crushed rock). Applications are currently pending</p> |        |

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|      | <p>for a proposed sand and gravel site at Anick Grange Haugh and for proposals for crushed rock extraction at Northside and Shiel Dykes. These sites are allocations in the Local Plan.</p> <p><u>South Tyneside</u><br/> KT shared an update from South Tyneside on behalf of RC. South Tyneside Council are currently out to consultation on as Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan at Reg 18 stage. Consultation takes place from Monday 20 June to Sunday 31 July 2022.<br/> <a href="https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/75878/Consultation-on-the-draft-Local-Plan">https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/75878/Consultation-on-the-draft-Local-Plan</a></p>   |   |
| 9.   | <p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>NH commented that if nutrient neutrality is causing such a delay this could make studies out of date. It was also disappointing to hear that mineral plans were being delayed and the Government needs to properly resource LAs for these issues.</p> <p>NH also raised concerns about the quality of service and delays from the Environment Agency. This was causing massive delays and ongoing problems to operations and effects investment. GS stated that he has tended to use the paid pre-application service which has helped, but the process appears slow and bureaucratic. The service is under-resourced and it is going to have major implications for production of aggregates further down the line.</p> <p>CT stated that she was aiming to set up a meeting of the North East Minerals and Waste Planning Officers Group in Autumn, and would like to incorporate some training with the Mineral Products Association</p> |   |
| 10.  | <p><b>Date of next meeting</b><br/> A next meeting date of October 2022 was agreed, avoiding school half-term holidays and Fridays.</p> <p>CT thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.</p>   | <p><b>ACTION:<br/> Arrange meeting for October 2022</b></p> |



**List of actions arising from the meeting on 24 June 2022:**

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| <b>1.</b> | <b>National Aggregates Co-ordinating Group</b><br>Update North East AWP members on the discussions and actions from the National Co-ordinating Group Meeting on 6 July 2022. | <b>KT</b> |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Annual Report 2021</b><br>Draft report to be prepared and draft prior to be circulated prior to the next AWP meeting in October 2022.                                     | <b>KT</b> |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Next North East AWP meeting</b><br>Discuss potential dates in October 2022 for the next AWP meeting and make necessary arrangements                                       | <b>KT</b> |