

North East England Aggregates Working Party Note of Meeting

Meeting Date:	Thursday 10 November 2022	Meeting Venue:	Meeting held virtually
Meeting Chair:	Claire Teasdale	Note Taker:	Jack Freeman

Attendees:

Chair:

Claire Teasdale (CT)

Technical secretary:

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

DLUHC Representatives

Christina Davey

Niamh Murphy

Mineral Planning Authority representatives:

Susannah Buylla – Northumberland National Park Authority

Rachel Cooper – South Tyneside Council

Jack Freeman – Northumberland County Council

Jason Mckewon – Durham County Council

David Nelson – Darlington Borough Council

Rebecca Ravellin – Gateshead Council

Jamie Simpson – Sunderland City Council

Helen Smith – Hartlepool Borough Council

Aggregates industry representatives:

Kris Furness – Breedon and British Aggregates Association

Mike Hodges – Hanson UK

Nick Horsley – Mineral Products Association

Apologies/not in attendance:

Geoff Storey (Aggregate Industries), Nick Everington (The Crown Estates), Charlton Gibben (Middlesbrough Council), Sidonie Kenward (Marine Management Organisation), Peter Huxtable (British Aggregates Association)

Agenda:

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies
2. Notes and actions from the meeting held on 24 June 2022
3. DHLUC and Aggregates Working Party update
4. Annual Survey and Annual Report 2021
5. Local Aggregate Assessments
6. Industry and The Crown Estate updates
7. Mineral Planning Authority updates
8. Any other business
9. Date of next meeting

Item	Details	Action
1.	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>The Chair welcomed those attending. Introductions were made and apologies were noted.</p>	
2.	<p>Notes and actions from meeting held on 24 June 2022</p> <p>The draft minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2022 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"> • Item 3 (AWP Update) – KT circulated notes regarding the National Aggregates Co-ordinating Group meeting on 6 July 2022. • Item 4 (Annual Survey and Annual Report) – These had been circulated to be discussed at the meeting. <p>A number of minor errors were highlighted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 3, paragraph 4: Second sentence should read, 'DLUHC have responsibility...' • Item 6, paragraph 2: Third sentence should read, 'Vineeta Sharma remains...' • Item 7, Mineral Products Association Update: Third bullet point should read, '....to be replaced by Jon Prichard.' <p>No other matters were raised, and the note of the meeting held on the 24 June 2022 were agreed.</p>	<p>ACTION 1: Note of the meeting on 24 June 2022 to be amended to correct the minor errors identified (KT).</p>
3.	<p>DLUHC and Aggregates Working Party update</p> <p>Christina Davey (CD) introduced herself as team leader for minerals and waste at DLUHC having joined DLUHC in November 2021. The following update was provided:</p> <p><u>Staff changes</u> Vineeta Sharma is leaving the minerals and waste team on 16 November 2022. Going forward Niamh Murphy will now pick up the work associated with the Aggregates Working Parties Group and the secretariat contracts.</p> <p><u>Political changes</u> Michael Gove has been reappointed as the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The new minister for housing is Lucy Frazer.</p> <p><u>Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill</u> It remains a government priority to progress the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. The Bill has now passed through the Committee Stage in the House of Commons and the next step is the Report Stage in the Commons. It is anticipated that the Bill will gain Royal Assent by May 2023.</p> <p>A policy paper has been published by DLUHC alongside the Bill. Updates to the NPPF are also to be progressed.</p> <p><u>National Aggregates Co-ordinating Group</u></p>	

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	<p>The Co-ordinating Group met in July with another planned for January. The focus was to discuss approaches for updating the Mineral Guidelines with the outcome to write a paper in advance of the next meeting.</p> <p><u>DLUHC Meetings with AWP secretaries</u> DLUHC now have scheduled meetings with each of the AWP Secretaries every quarter. These are continuing with no major issues to report. The last meeting with a joint meeting on 4 October 2022 with all the AWP secretaries to share issues and best practice.</p> <p>Nick Horsley flagged up that a meeting involving the Mineral Products Association and Welsh Government took place last week regarding the RAWPs in Wales. The Mineral Products Association had outlined concerns they have regarding the situation developing in North Wales. It was agreed this would be discussed outside of the meeting with DLUHC.</p> <p>KT asked about the scope of the NPPF updates, including whether it was envisaged that the changes would involve a wholesale review to the document and whether there would be consultation. CD advised that the intention was that consultation would take place on the changes necessary for the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, then once the bill had royal assent further consultation would take place.</p> <p>David Nelson asked if there was any indication on when the consultation on the NPPF prospectus might take place. CD replied that it was getting closer but no exact date had yet been set.</p> <p>CT asked about whether there had been any revival of past talk about a standardised minerals application form. CD was unaware of discussions and stated this was not something being actively pursued. CD wondered if there was scope for the NEAWP to develop a form for the region.</p> <p>KT and NH asked question about the staffing changes at DLUHC. CD confirmed her one year secondment at DLUHC from Devon County Council had been extended by three months and at the end of this period the job would be advertised. Simon Gallagher has left the Director of Planning role at DLUHC with Cathy Francis currently in post as the Interim Director of Planning been replaced until the new permanent Director of Planning, Conrad Smewing, takes up the role.</p>	

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4.	<p>Annual Survey and Annual Report 2021</p> <p>KT apologised for the late circulation of the 2021 report; extra time will be allowed after the meeting for AWP members to read the report in more detail and provide feedback.</p> <p>The annual report follows the standard template provided by DLUHC, which aims to give some consistency in reports across the different AWP areas.</p> <p>Sales of primary aggregate have seen a bounce back after a drop in sales in 2020, with sales returning to similar levels to those in 2019.</p> <p>Reserves for both sand and gravel and crushed rock have decreased again and are now at their lowest level in the ten year period. This is due to no significant new planning permissions being granted in recent monitoring periods. The draft report identifies that there are planning applications in the system which would replenish some of these reserves so this may change in the future. There has been a sharp increase in marine aggregates landed and this has been primarily down to landings on the River Tees.</p> <p>CT thanked KT and suggested a time period of three weeks (1 December 2022) for AWP members to provide comments on the draft report.</p> <p>Jason Mckewon mentioned that there are two crushed rock sites in County Durham (Hawthorn Quarry and Harrow and Ashy Bank Quarry) that have not previously been included in the landbank. These sites were incorrectly identified as dormant but are Phase 1 active. To ensure consistency the permitted reserves at the sites should be included in the landbank figures. This will result in a change in the reserves that will be reported in the final version of the report. It was agreed that Jason Mckewon would discuss this with KT after the meeting.</p>	<p>ACTION 2: Feedback on the draft AWP Annual Report to be provided before 1 December 2022 (All AWP members)</p> <p>ACTION 3: Durham County Council to discuss crushed rock reserve figures for Durham for inclusion in the final report (Jason Mckewon and KT)</p>
5.	<p>Local Aggregates Assessments</p> <p>KT apologised for the late circulation of the draft LAA documents prior to the meeting. This had been discussed with the Chair and it was agreed that additional time should be provided following the meeting for AWP members to provide feedback.</p> <p>In previous years a joint LAA has been prepared for County Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear but it had not been possible to prepare the document in the same way this year due to other work pressures experienced by key officers at Durham County Council. As a result, separate interim LAAs for Northumberland and Tyne and Wear have been prepared to show some progress and provide updated figures for these areas.</p> <p>Northumberland Joint LAA: This LAA covers Northumberland County Council and Northumberland National Park Authority. The approach has been to use the three-year sales average to calculate future demand, excluding figures for 2020, as this is considered to be more representative of demand pressures. The exception is sales of sand and gravel in Northumberland which shows a current downward trend due to some site ceasing extraction in recent years. The LAA is proposing to use the ten year sales average here as it is felt that the downward trend is due to issues with supply rather than pressures on demand.</p>	

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	<p>Tyne and Wear Joint LAA: This LAA covers the five authorities in Tyne and Wear – Gateshead Council, Newcastle City Council, North Tyneside Council, South Tyneside Council and Sunderland City Council. The approach has been to use the three year sales average to calculate future demand, excluding figures for 2020, as this is considered to be more representative of demand pressures.</p> <p>Tees Valley Joint LAA: This LAA cover the five Tees Valley authorities – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton on Tees Borough Councils. A 2021 Tees Valley LAA has been prepared but the authorities have some queries about some of the data which will be discussed and clarified with KT before this draft document is circulated to AWP members to be scrutinised. David Nelson (Darlington Borough Council) stated that nutrient neutrality issues will affect house building trajectories with current assumptions probably being over-optimistic.</p> <p>Durham LAA: Jason Mckewon (Durham County Council) apologised for not progressing work on an LAA for Durham. It is hoped this will be prepared as soon as possible. JM stated that he would like to see the co-operation present in the Joint LAA approach continuing.</p> <p>CT discussed the timescales for AWP members to read and scrutinise the submitted LAAs. It was agreed a deadline of 4 weeks from the date of the meeting (i.e. 8 December 2022) would be appropriate.</p>	<p>ACTION 4: Feedback on the draft LAAs to be provided before 8 December 2022 (All AWP members).</p>
6.	<p>Industry and The Crown Estate updates</p> <p>Mike Hodges (Hanson) stated that 2022 had been a good year, but there is now some uncertainty regarding future years due to the economic outlook.</p> <p>Kris Furness (on behalf of British Aggregates Association) raised the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed with earlier views regarding the economic outlook. • Issues such as recruitment and retainment of minerals planners had come up during recent British Aggregates Association planning meeting, which DHLUC also attended. Some universities are now setting up specialist courses. The Institute of Quarrying Mineral and Derby University also run a Planning for Mineral Planners course which can be done as SPD. • When looking at LAAs, issues with productive capacity and quality of the material have been identified where there are otherwise large landbanks in place. <p>KT asked if the notes of British Aggregates Association planning meeting could be shared to provide more context on the discussion.</p> <p>Nick Horsley raised the following points on behalf of the Mineral Products Association:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic situation – NH agreed with the comments of the other industry representatives on the economic outlook. The Mineral 	<p>ACTION 5: Notes of the BAA Planning Meeting to be circulated (KT and KF)</p>

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	<p>Products Association issued a recent press release and note, which reported a decline in sales for Q2 and Q3 of 2022. Sales are now below those in 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning permissions with 2042 end dates – The Mineral Products Association has concerns that some Minerals Planning Authorities are viewing the 2042 end dates as absolute, which could have an impact on productive capacity. There are also concerns with the ability of the Mineral Planning Authorities to deal with these applications due to resources and skills shortages. Developers are looking at ways to extend this deadline and discussions are taking place with DLUHC to pursue a consistent approach. The Mineral Products Association has set up a task and finish group with its members. • Supply for major infrastructure projects – Discussions with the Department for Transport and Network Rail are ongoing around the assumption of supply for major infrastructure projects and the mindset is now starting to change. The Crown Estate are insisting on supply chain considerations in relation to schemes for offshore wind energy development. CD agreed that there is now some realisation about the assumption of supply with the infrastructure providers and some progress is slow but is being made. • UK Minerals Strategy – This has been re-launched and a link would be forwarded to AWP members for information. • Aggregate demand scenarios – The Mineral Products Association have prepared updated aggregate supply and demand scenarios for the UK up to 2035. It identifies a need for 3.2 to 4 billion tonnes of materials across the UK up to 2035. This is quite relevant to the North East. No alternative sources of such information on demand are identified as being available at present. • Quality of material – In relation to High PSV stone, there are discussions with BGS about producing an updated mineral planning factsheet. It was noted there was a recent refusal of planning permission at a site in South Wales that could supply this material. • Annual Mineral Planning Survey (AMPS) – This report has not yet been published. NH shared some information about the initial findings. There has been a continued decline in reserves of primary aggregates and replenishment rates are 63% for sand and gravel and just over 70% for crushed rock. This decline has continued over the period that it has been monitored. • Environment Agency concerns – The Mineral Products Association are frustrated with the Environment Agency as it can take 12 months for license applications to be allocated to an officer. This is causing delays to projects. • Protests – Aggregate supplies and deliveries have been caught up in road protests and protests around controversial infrastructure projects. • Proposed aggregates levy in Scotland – Scottish Government is currently undertaking a consultation on an aggregates levy. The 	<p>ACTION 6: Mineral Products Association documents and links referred to during the meeting to be circulated (KT and NH)</p>

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	<p>review could mean an imbalance between the levy charge on either side of the border which was worth considering.</p> <p>Nick Everington from The Crown Estate was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written update which KT outlined at the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021/22 marine aggregates tender – Tender bids have been evaluated and preferred bids have been selected. The Crown Estate have seen the highest level of interest for over a decade, which spans the last four licensing rounds. Preferred bids are now being evaluated as part of a plan level habitats regulations assessment, which is likely to conclude in Q2 2023. A web notice was issued in September, which contains more detail (See: https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/en-gb/media-and-insights/news/2022-the-crown-estate-confirms-areas-selected-for-202122-marine-aggregates-tender-round/) • The Crown Estate, jointly with BMAPA issued the 24th annual Area Involved report, relating to 2021 data, which provides information on the extent and intensity of marine aggregate dredging on a regional basis. Please follow the following link for access to the report: 2021 Area Involved Report (thecrownestate.co.uk) • The Crown Estate have published their 2022 marine aggregates annual review. This highlights marine aggregate reserves on a national and regional basis, together with relevant case studies and other updates. Please follow the following link for access to the report: marine-aggregates-annual-review-2022.pdf (thecrownestate.co.uk) • The Crown Estate are close to the publication of a map and table that details the quantity of marine aggregate that has been dredged from each of our dredging regions and delivered into each of the AWP / RAWP regions of England and Wales. The data relates to 2021. 	<p>ACTION 7: The Crown estate document detailing extraction of marine aggregates matched to deliveries into AWP areas to be circulated (NE and KT)</p>
7.	<p>Mineral Planning Authority updates</p> <p><u>Northumberland County Council</u> The Northumberland Local Plan was adopted in March 2023. The plan includes a policy for aggregate minerals, site allocations for sand and gravel and crushed rock, policy criteria to assess planning applications, and the safeguarding of mineral resources and infrastructure.</p> <p>There are currently applications in the system for three of these.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anick Grange Haugh – 5.8 million tonnes of sand and gravel. Decision yet to be issued but planning committee has resolved to grant planning permission • Shiel Dykes – 5 million tonnes of crushed rock (dolerite). Currently pending. • Northside – 4 million tonnes of crushed rock (dolerite). Currently pending. • Divethill (extension) – 2.7 million tonnes (dolerite). Granted June 2022. <p><u>Northumberland National Park Authority</u></p>	

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	<p>Northumberland National Park Local Plan was adopted in July 2020. There is currently a planning application pending for an extension to Harden Quarry, the only aggregate site in the Northumberland National Park.</p> <p><u>Durham County Council</u> Jason Mckewon provided an update on behalf of Durham County Council. The County Durham Plan was adopted in October 2020. Since then work has been continuing on the preparation of a Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document and it is now well advanced. Consultation on a Publication Draft will take place from 28 November 2022 to 13 January 2023. A report will be considered at a meeting of the Council's cabinet on 16 November 2022 and the documents are now available on the Council website for this meeting. The allocations document contains 24 policies and 4 site allocations. This includes two sand and gravel site allocations with a combined reserves of 6.7 million tonnes and a productive capacity of 340,000 tonnes per annum. During the consultation period an online session with industry will be hosted on 9 December 2022 (2pm to 3.30pm).</p> <p>A planning application to extend Hulands Quarry has been submitted to Durham County Council and is currently pending. The proposal involves 14.3 million tonnes of permitted reserves and is partly allocated in the County Durham Plan.</p> <p><u>Tees Valley authorities</u> David Nelson (Darlington Borough Council) and Helen Smith (Hartlepool Borough Council) provided an update on behalf of the five Tees Valley authorities. It is acknowledged that the Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste DPDs for Teesside are due for review. However, given other time pressures, staff resource issues and the small number of operational sites in Tees Valley it is not being viewed as a priority within management teams at the respective authorities.</p> <p>It was also noted that the nutrient neutrality issues will affect house building trajectories with current assumptions being over-optimistic given the issues and there being no clear way forward at this time.</p> <p><u>Sunderland City Council</u> Jamie Simpson advised that work is continuing with the Allocations and Designations DPD. A Publication Draft is expected in spring or summer 2023. Eppleton Quarry is proposed to be safeguarded.</p> <p><u>Gateshead Council</u> Rebecca Ravellin advised that a Core Strategy review is now being progressed. An issues and options consultation is expected in early 2023.</p> <p><u>South Tyneside Council</u> Rachel Cooper advised that consultation on a Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan took place in Summer 2022. Work is currently ongoing looking at the consultation responses received. A publication draft is Local Plan is expected in 2023.</p> <p>KT noted that the AWP may want to provide a response to the Publication Draft Durham Minerals and Waste Allocations DP.</p> <p>NH expressed disappointment with the issues in the Tees Valley and asked if it was a resource or priority issue. HS confirmed the problem was resources</p>	

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	<p>and is nationwide. DN added that issues existed with recruiting to specialist roles.</p> <p>NH flagged up continued issues with recruitment and retention and stated that Government needs to get the message as this has a massive impact on industry investment and multi-national companies are investing elsewhere as a result.</p> <p>Jamie Simpson raised the matter of Statements of Common Ground and recent correspondence Sunderland City Council had received there had been small movements of materials between authorities. JM stated that Durham had provided a short officer response rather than a full Statement of Common Ground and that it was important to keep an eye on certain strategic minerals but less so for minor flows of aggregate. KT added that it was important to reply to the correspondence, even if this is to identify that the movements are not significant.</p>	
8.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>No matters were raised.</p>	
9.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will take place in May or June 2023.</p> <p>CT thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.</p>	<p>ACTION 8: Arrange meeting for May/June 2023 (KT)</p>

List of actions from the meeting on 10 November 2022:

1.	Note of the meeting on 24 June 2022 to be amended to correct the minor errors identified.	KT
2.	Feedback to the draft AWP Annual Report to be provided before 1 December 2022	All
3.	Durham County Council to discuss crushed rock reserve figures for Durham for inclusion in the final report	JM and KT
4.	Feedback on the draft LAAs to be provided before 8 December 2022	All
5.	Notes of the BAA Planning Meeting to be circulated	KF
6.	Mineral Products Association documents and links referred to during the meeting to be circulated	NH and KT
7.	The Crown Estate document detailing extraction of marine aggregates matched to deliveries into AWP areas to be circulated	NE and KT
8.	Next meeting of the North East England AWP to be arranged for May or June 2023.	KT