

## Minutes of London Aggregates Working Party

3 December 2024

### Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Chair: Mathieu Proctor, GLA and John Diver, GLA

Secretariat: Ngaire Thomson, Capita

Attendee	Abbrev	Organisation
Mathieu Proctor	MP	Greater London Authority (GLA) (Chair)
John Diver	JD	GLA
Ngaire Thomson	NT	Capita
Linda Beard	LB	LB Havering
Duncan McKane	DM	LB Hounslow
Mark Wrigley	MW	Crown Estate
Simon Treacy	ST	Brett
Harveer Chahal	HC	LB Redbridge
Phil Aust	PA	Day Group
Jo Baker	JB	Aggregate Industries
David Payne	DP	Mineral Products
Prag Shah	PS	LB Hillingdon
Joel Morris	JM	Heidelberg Materials (formerly Hanson)
Mark Kelly	MK	Cemex
Marie Canny	MC	Marine Management Organisation
John Oosthuizen	JO	Transport for London
Jill Warren	JW	LB Havering
Niamh Murphy	NM	MHCLG
Clare Loops	CL	LB Bexley
Scott Wilding	SW	Transport for London

## 1. Introductions and apologies

### 1.1 Apologies were recorded in advance of the meeting from

- Mike Phillips
- Andrew Scott
- Emma Lucy Pearman
- Sidonie Kenward
- Michael Clarkson

- Jasvir Mann
- Catherine McRory
- Lauren Miller
- James Trimmer (JT)
- Joe Collinson
- Davis Dewar
- Valerie Mowah
- Ewan Coke
- Tom Bright
- Eben West
- Richard Read
- Dean James
- Gavin Polkinghorn
- Katie Ryde
- Ben Ayres
- Lisa Russell
- Jake Hamilton
- Dean James
- Steven Wallis
- Alan Everard
- Marina Molla
- Suzanne Lansley
- Nina di Certo
- Christina Davey

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

### **2.1 Meeting notes agreed as satisfactory record of last meeting (10 July 2024).**

#### Actions in the minutes to follow up on:

ACTION 1: NT to work with the members of the group and others and discuss at NACG, a national definition of wharf capacity. This matter is ongoing it was discussed at the NACG meeting but no definitive definition was forthcoming.

ACTION 2 : Form B returns for the National Aggregate Survey NT will contact Boroughs to remind them to submit the forms.

This has been completed, thanks to the Boroughs for their assistance while there were a few boroughs who did not reply, BGS has assumed these are a nil return as they have neither a wharf or aggregate supply.

ACTION 3: MP to follow up on undertaking a London LAA and update members at next LAWP meeting.

This is to be discussed later in the meeting.

ACTION 4: MP to speak to the GLA mapping team and find out what already exists and what is possible.

This is to be discussed later in the meeting.

ACTION 5: JT to provide information on carbon emissions for water versus road transportation for the next meeting.

Ongoing NT and JT still need to meet again to discuss.

### **3. Annual Monitoring Report 2023 (2022 data)**

- 3.1 This has been approved for publication by Jules Pipe the Deputy Mayor for Planning Regeneration and Infrastructure and will be put onto the website once the accessibility has been checked. This is expected to be available online from early January.

### **4. Progress on Annual Monitoring Report for 2024 (2023 data)**

- 4.1 Thanks to the operators that supplied the rail depot information that was lacking from the BGS data that was provided (this only covered quarries and wharves).
- 4.2 Data is showing healthy sales of aggregate from quarries, rail depots and wharves of both sand and gravel and crushed rock.
- 4.3 The drafted report will be released shortly, (was released for comment 11 December 2024).

### **5. MHCLG (previously DLUHC) Update**

- National Aggregate Monitoring Survey (2023 data)

- 5.1 BGS distributed all form A data back to the MPAs (NT also received this directly)  
NT did check some matters with BGS.
- 5.2 With Form B relating to planning applications nearly all Local Authorities have now submitted this (thanks to NT for chasing).
- 5.3 National Aggregate Coordinating Group (NACG) meeting was held on 24 September 2024 several topics were discussed including the standardisation of the aggregate survey forms, best practice for LAAs, recycled aggregate data, mineral safeguarding, calculating wharf and railhead capacity, national guidelines for aggregates provision, AWP contracts beyond 2025, infrastructure and aggregate demand.
- 5.4 Planning reforms – analysis is ongoing on the responses to the consultation earlier this year. Still hoping to get the Government response to the consultation by the end of the year.

## **6. London Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) (JD)**

- 6.1 Generally there are meant to be separate LAAs for each Mineral Planning Authorities. For the GLA it is therefore seen as being voluntary to produce a LAA, as technically the GLA is not a MPA. Having said that GLA does need evidence for any review of London Plan Policy SI10. The evidence needs to be updated.
- 6.3 Procurement of services for delivery in the next few months with delivery by mid 2025. Requested assistance from NT and NM especially around the standardisation of the LAA template. The LAA will also discuss the critical supporting infrastructure such as wharves and rail depots, as London is so heavily reliant on the importation of aggregate from outside London.
- 6.2 The draft LAA will be brought back to the LAWP for comment although most members will be included in the development of the documents.

## **7. GLA's mapping of railheads/ depots/ aggregates-related land and (safeguarded) wharves (JD)**

- 7.1 GLA will include this into a wider piece of work that looks at safeguarded wharves (last published in 2019). While the Secretary of State issues the directions the obligation to review them is deferred to the Mayor.
- 7.2 Will commission shortly for the safeguarded wharves study review, it is likely to be a longer piece of work and involve collection of evidence as well as assessment and audit of the wharves and then recommendations to the SoS. Most persons in the LAWP likely to be involved.
- 7.3 Important to have a full picture of current threats to operations and changes in the markets especially for light freight, so the evidence review is likely to go further than previously to provide evidence for policies in the reviewed Plan.
- 7.4 Aware that the previous methodology to calculate wharf capacity was problematic so stakeholder work will be undertaken to address this. There will also be a separate public consultation on this.

### **Discussion on all GLA items**

- 7.5 PA – Great news that the GLA are taking on the development of an LAA and will assist in the gathering of information for the LAA. Estimating rail depot capacity is also important as they are under the same pressures as the wharves. PA reminded the group that this was discussed as part the development of the previous London Plan.

- 7.6 CL – Will the Mineral Safeguarded areas also be reviewed as these appear in the relevant Local Plans of the Boroughs. If Boroughs can share the information on the Data Hub. JD will follow up with the data team.
- 7.7 JB – Rail depot safeguarding is inconsistent across the London Boroughs and would be useful to have a consistent approach.
- 7.8 NT asked NM if this is an issue outside London. NM said she would take this away and look into it.
- 7.9 DP said it does impact on rail depots outside London primarily South East and Midlands. Mapping is being pushed because of a disconnect between Local Planners and minerals policy. This can cause issues of consistency between policy and links to mineral resources and infrastructure safeguarding. Need a consistent map in London of safeguarded infrastructure and buffer areas that planners and applicants can access.
- 7.10 JD – agreed and said that's important for boundaries to be accurate.
- 7.11 PA – raised the work that TfL had done. They had produced an interactive map showing where aggregate can be sourced in London.
- 7.12 PA asked for an update on the London Industrial Land Supply Study which several of the operators had responded to consultation on. MP – This is close to publication which will inform the industrial supply and demand study. Also doing work on waste and the circular economy.

Action – invite Jorn to a future meeting to discuss industrial land studies.

- 7.13 SW (Roads and Freight Team in TfL) important to safeguard the rail depots and wharves but need to also safeguard the road access to the sites and hours of operation. Without these the areas can have their operation compromised.
- 7.14 NT – Do we need a working group on the LAA and in the review of the safeguarded wharves study should aggregates be teased out rather than included in the construction category. PA said this could be useful but will depend on the methodology.

## **8. Greater London Authority Update**

- 8.1 JD - London Plan Update - in the process of undertaking an update to the 2021 Plan. The NPPF necessitates a review of the London Plan within five years of adoption to assess whether policies remain up to date. The Mayor has subsequently asked that a new London Plan be produced. High level milestones identified at this stage are that by late 2025 the evidence base will be largely completed, with formal consultation on a draft London Plan in late

2025/early 2026, public examination later in 2026, and publication of a new London Plan in 2027.

- 8.2 Project scoping and procurement are currently being finalised for the evidence base. Evidence base documents include those discussed in items 6 and 7 above.

## **9. Local Plan Updates**

- 9.1 Hounslow (DM) – Reviewing the Plan as a single Local Plan. Regulation 19 consultation has occurred (6 September 2024 – 28 October 2024). Key Mineral Policy allocates 2 sites for minerals extraction and another 3 have been safeguarded. The rail head in the Borough has also been recognised. Submission will likely occur in spring 2025.

## **10. Industry updates**

- 10.1 DP – [Regional Overview](#) paper has been issued. Monthly members briefing for the end of November headlines to members are showing slow growth for 2024 however this appears to be stabilising. The MPA are forecasting a 2.5% recovery over the next year and the mineral product markets are also being forecast to recover slowly in the next year.

Will be aware of the Finch case - a Supreme Court ruling on assessment of carbon emissions in an EIA, question is it could impact on aggregate extraction. There is current consultation on this for offshore oil and gas.

- 10.2 ST – concerned that the planning permission for the extraction of sand and gravel at Rectory Farm has lapsed. DM – the allocation is being retained.
- 10.3 Aggregate Industries – JB – Update on the hostile planning application at Robins Wharf in Gravesend. This has been referred to the SoS, however haven't heard if the SoS will call it in.
- 10.4 MMO – the following update was received via email.

Issues with Supporting Evidence workshops

There is still a chance for stakeholders to share their perspectives on issues in the east marine plan areas, as part of the ongoing development of England's East Marine Plan.

Following the in-person Issues with Supporting Evidence events we held this November, we are now hosting online events to expand access. These sessions provide an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss the unique challenges, opportunities, and priorities for the east marine plan areas. The online sessions finish this week. To register for an event and learn more about our call for Issues with Supporting Evidence, visit our GOV.UK page [Find out more here](#).

### **Marine Plan user training and guidance**

The Marine Planning team are hosting a number of in-person and online workshops from the 12 November to the 12 December. These sessions are designed to provide stakeholders with the knowledge and skills to effectively implement these marine plans and policies as part of their applications, decision-making and general use of the marine area.

Due to high interest, most of the remaining workshops scheduled are fully booked, and we would like to thank everyone who reserved a ticket or shown interest. In response to the positive engagement and interest in these events, we are going to record the online sessions, which will be shared in soon. For further details on the events with availability, please visit the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

### **Marine Plan monitoring survey is live**

We have launched the latest Marine Plan Monitoring Survey for all marine plan areas in England. This survey is an opportunity for stakeholders to share feedback on how marine plans are working. Responses are open until Monday, 27 January 2025.

We are interested in:

- How marine plans are guiding the development of terrestrial local plans
- How marine plans are being applied in development management
- How marine plans are used in developing or submitting a marine licence proposal
- Any policy effects or changes to the marine environment
- [Learn more and participate](#).

## **11. AOB**

### **11.1 None**

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Brief discussion was held on whether to have three meetings next year – only two are required. Both industry and GLA stated that three meetings were the preference.

NT to arrange the next meeting for the end of March / April 2025.

JD to chair next meeting for the GLA.