

**From:** Nick Horsley  
**Sent:** 17 November 2016 12:31  
**To:** localplan@nnpa.org.uk  
**Subject:** Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment - Draft Methodology

Dear Sir/Madam

The above consultation has recently been brought to our attention and whilst it does not address the issue of minerals direct, there are potential issues which need to be brought to your attention during your consideration of the document.

The Mineral Products Association (MPA) is the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries. With the recent addition of British Precast and the British Association of Reinforcement (BAR), it has a growing membership of 480 companies and is the sectoral voice for mineral products. MPA membership is made up of the vast majority of independent SME quarrying companies throughout the UK, as well as the 9 major international and global companies. It covers 100% of GB cement production, 90% of aggregates production, 95% of asphalt and over 70% of ready-mixed concrete and precast concrete production. Each year the industry supplies £20 billion worth of materials and services to the Economy and is the largest supplier to the construction industry, which has annual output valued at £144 billion. Industry production represents the largest materials flow in the UK economy and is also one of the largest manufacturing sectors.

#### Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment - Draft Methodology

With reference to the above consultations, we are pleased to note that the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment - Draft Methodology, will take in to consideration Minerals Safeguarding Areas and would seek your assurance that this will include not only mineral resources, but minerals infrastructure. Paragraph 143 of the NPPF requires the safeguarding of existing, planned and potential rail heads, rail links to quarries, wharfage and associated storage, handling and processing facilities for the bulk transport by rail, sea or inland waterways of minerals, including recycled, secondary and marine-dredged materials; and existing, planned and potential sites for concrete batching, the manufacture of coated materials, other concrete products and the handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material.

Where there is a risk of sterilisation, the local plan should set out policies to encourage the prior extraction of minerals, where practicable and environmentally feasible, if it is necessary for non-mineral development to take place. Policies within the developing local plan must recognise that exceptional circumstances may prevail for major developments, where it can be demonstrated they are in the public interest.

It is important to stress the significance of locally sourced building materials which help maintain the distinctive landscape character of the area. Minerals of local importance help sustain heritage assets and local distinctiveness. There are many parts of the UK including the Northumberland National Park whose distinctive character is set by the natural stone buildings which form them. To remain viable those communities need to grow and to evolve, which creates a need for extensions and new buildings. Use of the original stone is often the only way of ensuring that new development is in keeping with the old.

#### Statement of Community Involvement - Consultation Draft

We note the current Local Plan review will lead to a consolidated single Local Plan, plus a proposals map, covering the whole of the National Park. This will incorporate mineral planning policies for the Park. As the Northumberland National Park Authority is the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for the entire area of the National Park, including those responsibilities for the minerals planning function for the area, we should be grateful if future consultations could be directed by email to [nick.horsley@mineralproducts.org](mailto:nick.horsley@mineralproducts.org). Alternatively, mailed correspondence should be forwarded to the address below.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss the above

**Nick Horsley**

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