

**Hingston Down quarry
Community Liaison Group Meeting
13th June 2024
Meeting Room at Hingston Down quarry**

DRAFT MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Cllr Richard Newton-Chance (RNC)	Calstock Parish Council
Cllr Jim Wakem (JW)	Calstock Parish Council
David Jenkins (DJ)	Heidelberg Materials UK, Hingston Down quarry Unit Manager
James Hynes (JH)	Heidelberg Materials UK, Estates Surveyor, Land & Minerals South
Alexandra Hemming (AH)	Heidelberg Materials UK, Senior Landscape Architect
Michelle Beasley (MMB)	Heidelberg Materials UK, Secretariat
Mike Brown (MB) (CHAIR)	Heidelberg Materials UK, Southwest Area Operations Manager

APOLOGIES AND MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joanne Addeems (JA)	Calstock Police Community Support Officer
Ed Davis (ED)	Callington Community College
David Adams (DA)	Gunnislake Community Matters
Cllr Alex Polglase (AP)	Calstock Parish Council
Gill Court (GC)	Calstock Parish Council

AGENDA FOR HINGSTON DOWN QUARRY COMMUNITY LIAISON MEETING

- 1. Welcome and introduction - Chair Mike Brown.**
 - Welcome and introductions.
 - Apologies.
 - Matters arising from the last meeting.
- 2. Heidelberg Materials UK update – Mike Brown, Aggregate Area Operations Manager, Southwest**
- 3. Hingston Down update – David Jenkins, Unit Manager, Hingston Down quarry**
 - Operations overview (inc. blasting)
 - Feedback received (complaints)
 - Traffic Management
- 4. Community giving and communication update – David Jenkins, Unit Manager, Hingston Down quarry.**
- 5. Land and mineral planning update – James Hynes, Estates Surveyor, Land & Minerals South**
- 6. Landscape and biodiversity update – Alexandra Hemmings, Senior Landscape Architect South**
- 7. AOBs**
- 8. Date for future meetings**

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome and Chair introduction.

- **MB welcomed the attendees and advised there were no new members since the last meeting, and apologies had been received from DA.**
- **MB asked the attendees if they had read the minutes from the previous meeting and if they agreed with its contents. All attendees said they were happy with the content.**
- **MB went through the actions from the previous meeting.**
- **MB said MC had provided some data sheets as requested at the previous meeting, and they would be sent out with the draft minutes from this meeting.**
- **RNC asked if a data sheet for bitumen was included as it's the most important one to the community due to the smell being so powerful.**
- **MB said the data sheet for bitumen was included and once sent out MC would be available to discuss further should it be required.**
- **MB said communicating with residents with details of blasting would be covered in the main agenda of this meeting.**
- **DJ said he investigated the lights being left on at night but could not find any time it had happened. He said there were no lights left on, on the plant, the only lights on are in the yard which light up the walkways, which is monitored with CCTV.**
- **MB asked the group if they see lights on in the future, it would be helpful if they could provide the date and time to help us investigate.**
- **JH said regarding the question about how deep the water in the quarry would be when its fully restored, the current restoration design shows it at 45 metres. AH added even though the restoration design shows water, we are decades away from it being fully restored and is subject to change, for instance it could end up as a reservoir for example.**
- **MB said more information on the planning application for the tip will be covered in the main agenda.**

2. Heidelberg Materials UK update.

- **MB said since the last meeting, Heidelberg Materials UK had acquired two businesses. Mick George two months ago, who will continue to trade as Mick George, and recently B & A Aggregates in Avonmouth, which is the same type of business.**

- **MB said with the purchase of these two businesses, HMUK want to reduce the amount of primary aggregate it uses by reclamation and reuse of waste aggregates.**
- **RNC said I thought you have a recycling plant here on site.**
- **MB said Asphalt recycling yes, RAP processing. The recycling business that Heidelberg Materials UK has entered is recycling of a full range of materials, e.g., demolition waste, utility waste and then reclaim the aggregates from this.**
- **MB said the parent company are investing a considerable amount in the UK regarding sustainability. Carbon neutral cement is now on the market in Norway, and Padeswood cement works in North Wales are signed up to a contract for a carbon capture plant, which will capture up to 800,000 tonnes of CO2 year and could produce carbon captured net zero cement as early as 2028.**

3. Hingston Down quarry update

Operational and logistics overview

- **DJ showed some production figures to the attendees.**
- **MB said the building trade in general had gone quiet, plus with the election looming, building projects had been put on hold. He said its generally a static environment.**
- **DJ said development to the quarry had increased on the eastern side of “Lawrence Land”, with a new lower level 4 water discharge pump to allow for “horseshoe” reserve removal on level 3.**



- **DJ said we use a lot of water for dust suppression.**

- RNC, looking at the photo, asked who the land to the right belongs to.
- MB said there are three landowners, to the South is the Duchy of Cornwall (currently not being operated), the main quarry which is currently under extraction is owned by Cornwall County Council and the right-hand side is owned by Heidelberg Materials UK. He said any land not owned by Heidelberg Materials UK has a royalty payable when mineral is extracted.

Blasting

- DJ said he was currently blasting on levels 1-5.
- DJ said blasting in the quarry in 2024 so far has been done 7 times, and of these blasts no complaints were received.
- DJ went on to explain how blasts were monitored. He said vibration, which is measured as Peak Particle Velocity (PPV) in millimetres per second. (mm/s), and Air Over Pressure (AOP) which is recorded in decibel (Linear) or (dBL) scale.
- DJ said Hingston Down quarry has planning permission for blasting, which has a limit for vibrations of 12mm/s, where 95% of the blasts must be below 8mm/s to remain compliant.



- DJ said every blast has a minimum of two vibrographs for monitoring, these are always placed in the same two properties. East and West of the main extraction area.

- DJ said the 7 blasts so far in 2024 have provided 172,000 tonnes of rock and 43t of explosive was used.
- JW said he had seen a few people mention the blasts on social media, but felt most people know when they are as they belong to the Facebook page “Community matters”.
- MB said HMUK would prefer to communicate directly with residents than reply on social media. We have something to share regarding this a bit further on in the agenda.
- JW asked if HMUK’s own staff carry out the blasting or contractors.
- MB replied HMUK instruct specialist contractors to carry out blasting. At Hingston Down, this is a company called EPC Europe Ltd. Blasting is highly regulated and while we use specialists, we are duty bound under law to check their specifications and competences etc.

Feedback received (complaints)

- DJ showed the group a list of 5 complaints received since the last liaison meeting. There were 2 complaints about noise, 1 about water and 2 about the smell of bitumen.
- MB said the site will investigate all complaints, and the more information received the better, such as date and time, description of vehicles including registration numbers. Anything to help speed up the investigation.
- RNC said he had noticed water running out from where the metal gate is.
- DJ said it runs into the grate and down into the ditch.
- MB said the EA came out and were satisfied it was heavy rain that was causing it, and not from the quarry.
- RNC said he had noticed it was always when it rains, and that it had washed out a pothole that had been repaired.
- MB said regarding the 2 complaints about smell, its normally when a bitumen tanker vents when delivering. He said we will always be transparent and will tell you about complaints received at the site. The bitumen smell was covered in detail by Matt Carver at the last liaison meeting.
- RNC said if it is venting that’s causing the smell, there must be a lot of tankers delivering every day.
- DJ said one or two tankers a day made deliveries.

Traffic management

- **DJ said staff had reported 13 incidents of speeding vehicles passing the quarry from February to May 2024.**
- **MB said the staff had stopped reporting speeding traffic on our internal system as they thought they had mentioned it enough already, but we have asked them to start reporting everything again, so we have a record that we can present to the police in the future when trying to get something done about the issue.**
- **MB said HMUK staff carry out HGV speed monitoring at other sites and it's something that could be put in place at Hingston Down quarry.**
- **JW said the village has its own speed watch in place.**
- **RNC said it's not just cars that are speeding, lorries are as well.**
- **DJ said if you can pass on registration numbers to us, we can speak with the hauliers.**
- **MB said we want to speak with Highways and the police and are looking at the possibility of straightening up the entrance and installing traffic lights.**
- **RNC said he thought it was already being done.**
- **MB said the site is having a visit from HMUK's executive team in a few weeks, it's something that will be discussed at that meeting, but in my experience, it's Highways that won't allow changes to road layouts to be done.**

4. Community

- **MB said a blasting notification text service was being developed for the local community. He said it will be a free service that includes a weekly update, setting out the planned blast times for the week ahead, plus a follow up notification approximately half an hour before each blast takes place.**
- **MB said it was being trialled at HMUK's Whatley quarry in Frome, but it would be now adopted at Hingston Down quarry.**

Example

A graphic for a notification text service. It features a blue background on the left with white text, and a white background on the right with a blue smartphone icon and a blue speech bubble icon. The text on the left reads: "Notification text service", "To keep local people informed about planned blasts we are launching a blast notification text service for residents living within 1.5km of Whatley quarry. If you would like to be added to the circulation for this, please email us at: whatley.quarry@hanson.com", and "Please include your address and the mobile phone number on which you would like to receive these texts." The smartphone icon is a dark blue outline with a white screen area. The speech bubble icon is a blue outline with a white interior and a tail pointing towards the smartphone.

Notification text service

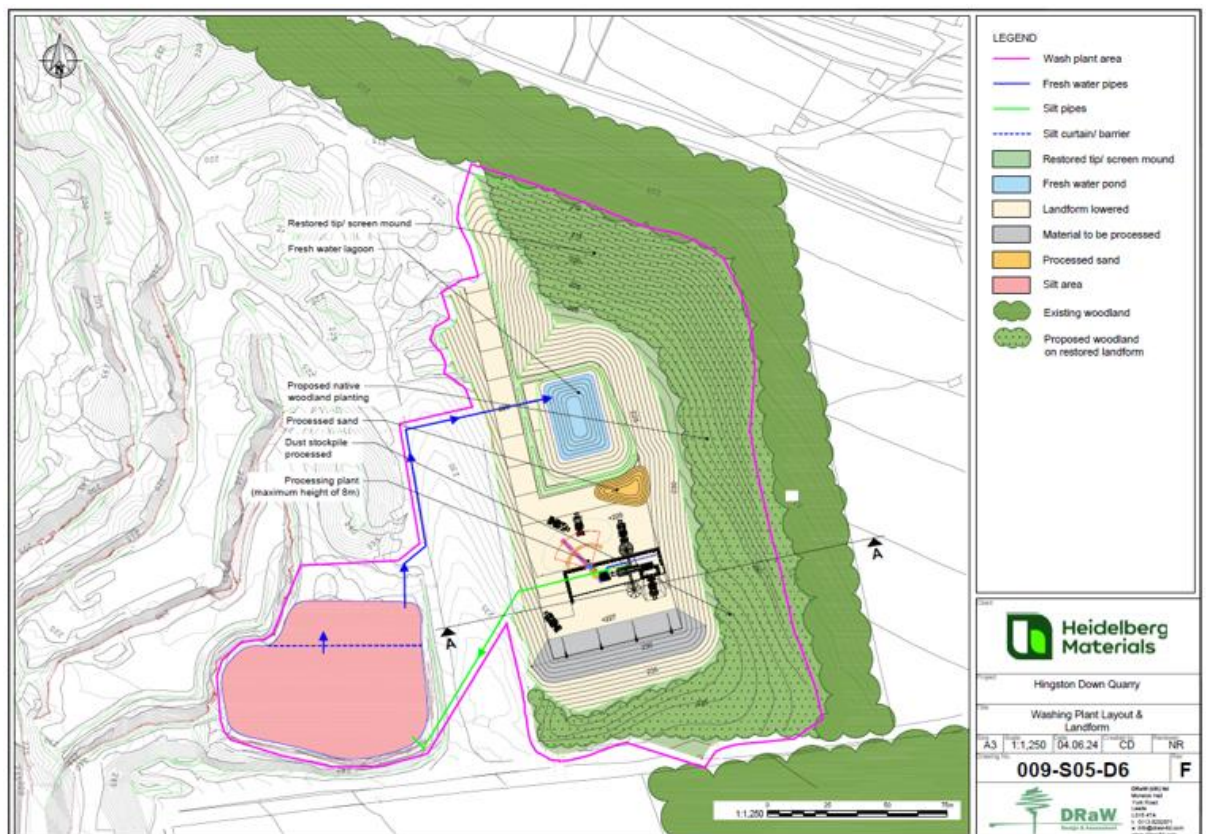
To keep local people informed about planned blasts we are launching a blast notification text service for residents living within 1.5km of Whatley quarry. If you would like to be added to the circulation for this, please email us at: whatley.quarry@hanson.com

Please include your address and the mobile phone number on which you would like to receive these texts.

- **DJ said he had donated 40 tonnes of 20mm product to Gunnislake Football club to help with drainage in their car park.**
- **DJ said he had hosted tours in March and May for Gunnislake Community Matters.**
- **DJ said Gunnislake Cricket Club had made a request for material for a road, which will be discussed at the next community meeting.**
- **MB said as you can probably imagine, HMUK gets thousands of requests which all go to head office for review.**
- **RNC asked if we had received anything for the skate park discussed at a previous meeting.**
- **MB said AP was going to meet with DJ to discuss, which didn't happen. He said the earlier in the year we get the request the better, as the fund depletes as the year goes on. If you can drop a note to me or DJ we can have a look at it.**
- **RNC said AP had been tendering for the skate park so will get her to make contact.**
- **MB said we have supported other areas with the material donation for skate parks, Cheddar 3 years ago and Alveston which was earlier this year. He said he would give RNC the details of the contractor who was an expert in this type of facility and was sure that he would assist with specifications and cost.**
- **JW said there are a lot of new people in the area, who won't know about the quarry.**
- **MB said we love to show people around, it helps them understand what we do.**

5. Planning update

- **JH said the plan to relocate the wash plant to the east has not been submitted as an application at this stage as we believe it falls within permitted development. If this is agreed by Cornwall planning, it would be more about how to not change the external appearance and the visual impact.**
- **AH said because of the location, you can't see the quarry. There is green planting and trees will be planted, the wash plant will be tucked in behind it, so it won't be seen or heard. She said the dust that is currently sat in that area will be processed.**
- **JH said a pre-advice request was submitted to Cornwall County Council for the relocation of the wash plant application, they take about 20 days to review it, they will then let us know what we need to do.**
- **RNC asked if the water discharge pipe will move.**
- **MB said yes, it will move to just inside of the quarry, monitoring and everything else will stay the same. We'll update you at the next liaison meeting.**



- **DJ said the wash plant won't be running every day, we will wash possibly three times a year.**

- **AH said the material in Lawrence Land is of inferior quality but will be used instead of going to tip so will be more sustainable.**
- **RNC said at a previous meeting we talked about dust monitoring; do you have an update on that.**
- **MB said we will be installing dust scans, but the locations haven't yet been agreed.**
- **JW apologised as he had to leave for another meeting.**

6. Landscape and biodiversity update

Ongoing works at Hingston Down quarry

- **AH said we are continuing to treat the Japanese knotweed on site and monitoring for any recurrence in the Himalayan balsam.**
- **AH said a maintenance visit to the bench restoration planting will be carried out to control weeds around each plant to reduce competition and give the species the best chance of growing.**
- **AH said heather brashing of the bench restoration will take place this autumn. She said we will collect heather seed from other plants on site for use.**
- **AH said the below photo shows heathland that we manage. She said Cotoneaster grows around the mine and creeps on to our land, which we control by pulling it up or using carefully applied herbicides.**



- RNC asked if squirrels cause problems.
- AH said squirrels and deer. She said we use a tree shelter “Tubex” on saplings, which is recycled when finished with. She said the squirrel population needs managing.
- RNC said he had received a complaint from a resident about tree cutting in bird nesting season.
- AH said she was aware, it’s a screen bank that we planted, but we do not have control over it as we are not the landowner.
- RNC said the landowner lease it to Cornwall County Council, who then lease it to us, Calstock PC.

Environmental update – sustainability commitments

- AH said 4 years ago we had targets set for our sustainability commitments, so this is an update on that. She said HMUK is encouraging its staff to use their volunteering days, trying to increase biodiversity which is extended to concrete plants, reduction in water usage, recycling, and net zero, looking at reducing CO2.





- MB said these targets are all measured, with responsibilities and objectives cascaded down to ensure that it was part of our daily duties.

7. AOB

- None

8. Proposed dates for next meetings

- Thursday 14th November 2024 16:30
- Thursday 13th March 2025 16:30
- MB said we are keen to get as many community groups as possible to these liaison meetings. We'll send out a questionnaire to see if there is a best time for people to attend.

Contact details.

Email: hingstondownquarry@uk.heidelbergmaterials.com

Hingston Down Community Web page

www.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en//Hanson-Aggregates-Hingston-Quarry

Heidelberg Careers Web page

www.careers.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en

Summary of Actions

- 1. MMB to upload draft minutes to community page.**
- 2. MMB to send bitumen data sheets and draft minutes to all liaison group members.**
- 3. DJ to add RNC's email to blast notification list.**
- 4. RNC to get AP to contact DJ about skate park.**
- 5. MB to give RNC details of skate park contractor.**
- 6. MB to send questionnaire to invitees asking what the best time for the liaison meeting is to attract more attendees.**

[ENDS]