

Linhay Hill Quarry Local Liaison Group

Minutes of Meeting

Date and Time:	15 September @ 10am	Location: Teams
Present:	B Wilson (BW) James Aven (JA) Phil Townsend (PT) Mark Bullard (MB) Joshua Lewis (JL) Tom Aldridge (TA) Jago Burrage (JG) Jane Couch-Finnemore (JCF) A Hoey (AH)	Glendinning, Managing Director DNPA DCC Highways Officer SDCC, Estates Director, DCC Lead Local Flood Authority DCC Local Flood Authority DCC Local Flood Authority Waye Resident Glendinning, Project Coordinator

1. Introductions

Barry Wilson introduced himself and invited other participants to introduce themselves, which each did as per the list above. BW proposed that he would chair the meeting and that the Chairmanship for future meetings can be decided upon at a later date.

He explained that the purpose of the Local Liaison Group was to provide a means of communication between the quarry, elected members of the local community, statutory bodies, and other interested parties about progress of the extension of the quarry. He would use a Presentation on Powerpoint to illustrate this and other items on the agenda.

2. A. Update on Conditions discharge and other consents

BW said that all **pre-commencement conditions** had been discharged as reported at the last meeting, and that some schemes have since been updated as we progress through the detailed design for the various elements in Stage 0. The schemes which have been updated are: no 14. Arboricultural Method Statements, no 22. Method of Construction Statements and no 23. Construction Environmental Management Plan. We have also made some minor amendments to the details of Alston Farm Access and the Alston Farm Ponds for which we have sought and been granted approval under the Non Material Amendment process. We are currently preparing an application for minor amendments to the LEMES (details already discussed with the DNPA via the Environmental Steering Group).

In terms of **other Consents**, BW confirmed that the Dormouse License had come through on 11 February very shortly after the last meeting, and work on clearing the vegetation along the Waye Lane route and elsewhere commenced 3 days later! We have also been working with DCC and the EA on the drainage details for Waye Lane and to date have obtained nine DCC Land Drainage Consents and three EA Flood Risk Activity Permits covering a range of installations, now in various stages of progress. We anticipate a final consent application to be granted soon. Thank you to DCC and the EA for their assistance on these.

At the last LLG meeting, we were awaiting a decision on the Stopping Up of Alston Lane following the Public Inquiry which had been held in December 2021. The

decision came through on 17 February allowing our application to close this road once all alternative routes are in place.

To allow for walkers to still use the Ashburton footpath no 16 during construction of Waye Lane, we have applied to the DNPA for Temporary Footpath Diversions to separate walkers from the construction areas for reasons of Health and Safety. The applications were made in two parts and approval decisions were made on 21 February and 5 May 2022. The temporary diversions were for 6 months each, so we then had to apply to the Department of Transport via the DNPA for a time extension until the end of the construction period. The application was to the end of 2025. We anticipate that work will be completed before then, but this allows for contingencies. This application was approved on 11 August. Thank you to Andrew Watson for his assistance with these diversion applications.

We are also in discussions with the service undertakers – WPD, SWW, BT about diversions of their infrastructure.

2. B. Update on Progress since the last meeting

BW showed a snapshot from the current programme summary to illustrate the range of matters that Glendinning are progressing, alongside operating business as usual at the Quarry. The full programme has more than 200 lines!

BW then progressed the presentation to show photographs of the current state of the various projects on the ground – as follows:

The alterations to **South Devon Community College Turning Circle** have been completed. This was a relatively straightforward project which we decided to get done early, recognising that the one-way system for coaches can't be introduced until work on Balland Lane is completed. (Currently we are on the point of sending plans to DCC to start the adoption process for Balland Lane).

The vegetation clearance to allow the widening of **Balland Lane** is a two-stage process. We have completed stage 1, which involves cutting back vegetation above ground, and stage 2, which is removal of roots and stumps, will be done imminently. We will contact the School soon to liaise about the details.

The presentation then showed photos of the **temporary footpath diversion**, including ramps through gaps in hedgerows and bridges over ditches and streams that have been built. This means that the diversion can be activated, with **direction signs** to guide walkers.

Meanwhile work has started on the first length of the **new permanent footpath route**. The photos show the surfacing to be used for the permanent diversion.

Following the various consents from DCC and the EA on drainage, we have made preparations for the **drainage installations along the route of Waye Lane**, including Waye Pond and **the Alston Ponds**. JL asked whether reseeding was planned to follow this work and BW confirmed that this was in hand, including some bullrushes and other pond vegetation being put to one side, ready for reintroduction once the ponds are ready. All this is covered in the approved LEMES.

Work on the **new access to Alston Farm** is progressing well, with most of the new route now ready for asphaltting. The outstanding part is the connection to Alston Lane. This has been programmed to commence in November with removal of the

hedgerow as per the terms of the Dormouse Licence, with construction commencing in accordance with DCC's adoption protocol, currently in progress. We are planning to take the opportunity to put a spur on the SWW water main to avoid a separate road closure later for the water main diversion.

BW showed photographs of stages in the process of **hedge relocation** along the route of the new Alston Farm access, including watering with the specialist water spraying lorry used in the quarry for dampening dust. In all the extension involves relocating about 4km of hedgerow, plus planting some 2.5 km of new hedgerows over a period of about 45 years. All hedge relocations will be covered by a succession of Dormouse Licences from English Nature and will be supervised by an ecologist.

JCF asked about the fencing in the fields alongside the A38. BW explained that this was in preparation for digging the trench to lay the underground diversion of the electricity lines currently running alongside Alston Lane. Work has already started on replacing some poles around the farmstead and the trench digging is imminent.

3. Environmental Steering Group and Karst Liaison Network

BW reported that the first ESG meeting had been held on 13 July and had been a useful session. The next meeting is due early in 2023.

BW showed screen shots from Glendinning's new website, showing the karst logging facility, similar to DCC's pothole reporting facility, where people can report a new or changed karst feature with a description and photographs, as input to maintaining the map of karst features in the locality.

AH said that Glendinning has engaged a local structural engineering firm who is due to start the baseline building surveys required under condition 20 of the planning permission.

AH also reported that Glendinning has organised a local specialist to undertake the research into the underground shrimp, and has commenced dialogue with DCC and with National Highways about the TRO and Signage Strategy as per the S106 Agreement.

BW added that Glendinning is consulting Ashburton Town Council about future use of the Walled Garden, and that water monitoring as per the scheme agreed under conditions 15 and 16 continues.

4. Outline of the proposed Project Programme

Against a copy of a drawing of Stage 0, BW described the next steps in the Project Programme as follows:-

- Drainage works along Waye Lane – aim to complete end 2022
- Alston Farm Access – completion by early 2023
- Stump removal on Balland Lane – imminent – not all stumps can be taken out now. The ones immediately next to the lane will be done separately later.
- Progressing S278 design and Agreement for Waye Lane and Balland Lane with DCC with a view to construction starting in 2023. Before this, BW said he will arrange to meet individual neighbours to update them on the details.

- The WPD electricity line diversion around the outside of the quarry footprint and up behind Alston Farm - ongoing
- SWW water main diversion – anticipated in 2023
- Landscape planting of woodland and grassland – due to commence in the autumn/winter of 2022
- Liaising with National Highways re the improvements to Caton Cross – aim to start vegetation clearance in Spring 2023 and hoping to do the work before the summer season in 2023 if possible.

PT said he would do what he could to progress the discussions on adoption of the various lengths of road as fast as possible, but he was shorthanded having recently lost his main adoption officer, Patrick Harris. Hopefully any issues arising will be relatively straightforward to sort out. BW thanked him for his assistance to date.

5. Future Local Liaison Group arrangements (issue of minutes and future agendas)

AH said she would circulate the minutes to attendees for comment before issuing the final version to all LLG members. The minutes will then be posted on the Glendinning Website and could be accessed via the link in the top RH corner of the screen. In response to a suggestion from MB, this will include a copy of the meeting's Presentation.

BW suggested that a future LLG meeting might include a site visit to see progress on the ground. JA said this would be very welcome. MB reiterated his offer to use the conference room or a classroom at the School as a possible venue for future meeting/s.

6. AOB

JCF asked whether the changes to the BT service line would allow better internet access. BW said he had spoken to BT only the previous week, but they have been very slow to respond to all approaches. This is still on the agenda, but he is expecting ducting to be installed to allow for future provision.

7. Date and format/venue of next meeting

It was agreed that the date and actual venue/format would be decided nearer the time for the next meeting (due March 2023).

There were no other questions or comments, so BW closed the meeting at 11 am.