The British Aggregates Association was formed in October 1999 and is run by highly experienced individuals who have exceptional expertise in all aspects of the minerals industry. Essential support is provided to the independent sector and the Association ensures that their voice is heard at all levels of the UK and EU administrations. BAA members are able to meet industry decision makers and regulating authorities at a number of wellstructured meetings throughout the year, providing a wide pool of informed knowledge and opportunities for networking.

Membership of the Association has recently opened up to allow quarry supply companies to become associate members.

The Effective Association
• BAA is engaged with all Government departments ensuring that the view of its members are represented on all planning, environmental, health and safety, competition and SME issues.
• BAA provides responses to Government consultation papers on a variety of subjects including Minerals Planning, the Environment and Health and Safety.
• BAA has representatives on all of the leading Regional Aggregate Working Parties (RAWPS) and also on the National Technical and Plenary Advisory Councils for Aggregates Provision.
• BAA is a member of the Quarries Joint National Advisory Committee on Health and Safety.
• BAA is a member of the Confederation of British Industry and sits on the influential CBI Minerals Committee.
• BAA has a Restoration Guarantee Fund to provide cost effective bonds for minerals planning authorities.
• In Scotland BAA is a member of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) allowing the association to raise devolved issues that affect its Scottish members.
• BAA sits on the steering group for SSP4, which is concerned with minerals planning in Scotland.
• The BAA is a member of the Construction Products Association (CPA) an umbrella association that lobbies UK and EU bodies on construction policy.

The British Aggregates Association
Profile
Image provided by Ennstone Thistle
The UK Quarry Industry is one of the oldest in the country and an integral part of industrial heritage. Over 250M tons of material is extracted each year to provide the needs of society - building houses, roads, hospitals and schools. The industry provides employment for around 40,000 people, mainly in rural communities, and contributes around £3Bn in primary products to the GDP. With over 1,300 quarries in the UK, modern quarrying methods are environmentally friendly and the UK leads the world in environmental standards.

The quarry industry is proud of its excellent international reputation for restoring sites to a high standard and often for recreational purposes. Over one third of the SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) nationally are old quarry sites. BAA maintains the highest regard for environmental matters and operates a Restoration Guarantee Fund similar to the SAGA scheme which was launched in October 2002.

Every year the quarry industry supports:
- The building of 180,000 homes.
- Maintenance of 230,000 miles of road.
- Maintenance of 10,000 miles of rail track.
- £1Bn of hospital construction and maintenance.
- £1.6Bn of school and university construction and maintenance.

The Association provides vital support and information for Independent Quarry Operators. Roger Cullimore, Managing Director of Moreton C Cullimore & Son said: “Since our Company became members of the British Aggregates Association we have enjoyed an unprecedented level of support and essential information. However, the biggest benefit is the reassurance that the BAA is first and foremost protecting the interests of the independent quarry operator.”

Services offered to members of the British Aggregates Association include:
- Information - a weekly newsletter and regular updates on all issues.
- Meetings - including an annual seminar, regular planning meetings for England and Wales and twice-yearly Scottish members meetings.
- Moisture rebates - Aggregates Levy discounts and reliefs.
- Safety checklist CD.
- Energy buying - advice on purchasing services cost effectively.
- Energy Audit -

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BAA is actively involved with ODPM, Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly over plans to update and improve the planning process. BAA is concerned that the system and process is cumbersome, over-long and increasingly time-consuming and costly and that there are ever-increasing obstacles to both access to mineral resources and the ability to provide these essential materials to society.

Current Issues:
• The Road Transport Directive - EU inspired legislation which affects all road transport operators and is the forerunner to the Working times Directive. As quarries are almost entirely dependent on road haulage and freight is less valuable than most other industries this legislation will cause major problems unless...
it can be overturned.
• The Working Time Directive - The BAA is strongly opposed to this legislation as it will cause staffing problems, cripple the haulage industry and drive up imports.
• The Quarry Regulations and Competent Managers - The key to safe and efficient sites is competency and effective supervision. The BAA has therefore helped to develop training courses specifically tailored for independent operators. Because of the diverse nature of the industry, a one cap fits all assurance scheme is not possible and competency should be ascertained either by the appropriate level of NVQ or by ongoing practice career assessments.
• Aggregates Levy (AGL) - The association still has an appeal pending against the legality of the levy in the European Court of First Instance and it is clear that the AGL has failed to fulfil the requirements for it to be classified as an 'Eco' tax. The BAA has successfully achieved rebates, often backdated, for its members on such things as moisture contents, asphalt fillers and geological exemptions.
• Waste Incineration Directive - EU legislation which could prevent the use of recovered fuel oil as an alternative to virgin gas oil in heating stone for asphalt.

Keeping Britain moving image provided by Ennstone Thistle

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- Ground and surface water management, Lagoon design, Hydrogeological risk assessment, PPC Licence application, Planning applications and Environmental statements
- Expert Witness support and dispute resolution

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