

Mission Statement and Core Values

Environmental protection

Natural environmental

Core Value: QPA members recognise the potential their operations have to affect the environment and are committed to minimising and mitigating such effects.

QPA Position: the industry is very conscious of the need to carry out its work sensitively and responsibly. We are committed to minimising and mitigating the environmental impact of industry operations and to making a positive contribution to the environment through restoration of former sites.

Restoration of land

Core Value: Quality restoration and aftercare of industry operations, sensitive to local requirements is an essential part of the responsible stewardship that QPA expects from its members.

QPA Position: the aggregates and quarry products industry has a history of high quality restoration of its operations. Restoring quarries can mean more than the chance to return the land to its former state - it can also provide a rare opportunity for beneficial change. This may involve returning land to agriculture of a higher quality, or creating new environments that benefit wildlife and the community.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Core Value: QPA members are committed to improving their management of Biodiversity and Geodiversity.

QPA Position: the aggregates and quarry products industry is making a substantial and growing contribution to the UK's biodiversity targets. It recognises the opportunities provided by its management of land and habitats. QPA also contributes to our earth heritage through exposure and management of important geological sites.

Prudent use of natural resources

Resource conservation

Core Value: QPA members recognise that they must make the most efficient use of all resources.

QPA Position: The industry fully supports making the most efficient use of all resources including primary aggregates, energy, water and the minimisation of waste. QPA members

recognise that recycled and secondary materials should be the first source of supply into aggregates markets.

The use of recycled and secondary materials is already well established and currently accounts for around a quarter of the market. This volume has more than doubled since 1990.

Economic prosperity

Employment

Core Value: QPA members recognise that their operations are an important source of employment and economic activity.

QPA Position: Quarrying and associated industries are an important source of employment. Some 60,000 people depend upon the aggregates and quarry products industry for their livelihoods, many in rural areas where there are limited employment opportunities.

Providing Essential Materials

Core Value: QPA members recognise that the materials they supply are, and will continue to be essential for the improvement of standards of living and the quality of life in the UK.

QPA Position: The improvement of our infrastructure and public services will require a continuing supply of aggregates and quarry products. The industry will meet this need in a sustainable fashion.



Members of the QPA belong to an association that has clear views on what it stands for, its mission, aims and objectives.

To help the Association achieve these objectives, all members sign-up to a series of Core Values which give the QPA a foundation for success.

The QPA Mission

To be the voice of the UK aggregates and quarry products industry, representing and promoting the industry so that its economic, environmental and social contributions are recognised and valued.



Association aims and objectives

- To represent members' interests effectively and to add value to member companies' businesses.
- To identify, assess, respond to and influence all issues that will affect or are affecting member companies' ability to operate.
- To have effective and influential relationships with all levels of Government and regulatory bodies.
- To have effective and influential relationships with other trade associations and NGOs involved in these issues.
- To communicate with member companies so that there is a clear understanding of issues and their implications, QPA positions, action plans and campaigns.
- To develop with member companies, key industry messages and strong core values.
- To review the relevance of the key messages and core values annually and effectively promote them.

Key messages

Although there are a huge number of messages that the QPA communicates to stakeholders to support members, we believe that the following key messages are at the heart of our industry:

- We are an essential industry.
- We are socially and environmentally responsible operators.
- We are a valuable and active part of our communities.
- We are committed to the principles of sustainable development.

Core Values

The QPA's Core Values help unite the Association's members under a common understanding of what the QPA stands for. The Core Values are arranged under four themes that cover the full scope of our members' operations: Social Progress, Environmental Protection, Prudent Use of Natural Resources and Economic Prosperity.

Social progress

Health and safety

Core Value: the highest priority for QPA members is the health and safety of their employees, contractors and everyone who visits their operations and other premises.

QPA Position: health and safety is the top priority for our members. We are committed to continually reviewing behaviour and working practices to improve safety with the ultimate aim of achieving zero incidents and implementing occupational health management systems.

Competence

Core Value: QPA members recognise the need to maintain and develop a competent workforce.

QPA Position: QPA members are committed to continually improving levels of assured competence within the industry.

Working with the community

Core Value: QPA members recognise that their operations are part of the local community and strive to be good neighbours.



QPA Position: as a key contributor to their local communities, quarries and associated industries will engage positively with their neighbours.

Partnerships with stakeholders

Core Value: QPA members value their partnerships with all relevant stakeholders and recognise that good communications are essential to maintaining these relationships.

QPA Position: the industry is regulated by, and interacts with a wide range of authorities and agencies and recognises the need to work with these organisations in a cooperative and constructive fashion.

In addition, the industry works closely with a large number of conservation and community organisations and is committed to improving communications with all industry stakeholders.

Heritage

Core Value: QPA members recognise the importance of our national heritage.

QPA Position: QPA members recognise the contribution that the industry can make to furthering knowledge of our heritage through archaeological exploration, including where appropriate, preservation in situ. It is industry practice to work closely with archaeologists in accordance with the CBI Archaeological Investigations Code of Practice. For the marine environment our operators work to the standard agreed with English Heritage as set out in the guidance note 'marine aggregate dredging and the historic environment.'