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Date: 19 November 2015

Mr. S Eades
Director Marinet Ltd.
Cedar Lodge
Allington
Chippenham
Wiltshire
SN14 6LW

Dear Mr Eades,

Many thanks for your letter of 16 October outlining a potential alternative to the use of marine sourced sand and gravel. The letter identifies some interesting points so thank you for sharing them with us.

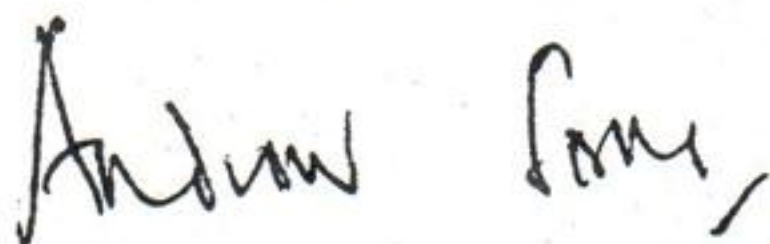
We work closely with the marine aggregate industry and their regulators, the Marine Management Organisation and the Crown Estate to ensure marine resources are developed responsibly. The marine aggregate industry plays an important role in supporting our economy and infrastructure but Natural England and the industry are also aware of the environmental risk such activities pose. We work hard with all parties involved to manage, monitor and minimise these risks.

The industry, with guidance from environmental regulators and advisors, invests considerable resources into environmental monitoring and assessment work. For example their new regional seabed monitoring programme employs one of the biggest marine data collation and collection programmes seen in UK waters and will use cutting edge analytical techniques to inform long term, adaptive management of dredge operations. We are working with Defra and the industry to promote the use of sustainable aggregates and we encourage the use of the most efficient techniques of aggregate production, to keep the total footprint of land and seabed affected to a minimum.

In your letter you outline a method to use quarry waste as an aggregate resource and clearly recycling and making better use of existing resources could be a beneficial part of sustainable aggregates production. It should be acknowledged however that terrestrial aggregate extraction is not without its own environmental risks which must be considered.

Our Senior Specialist, Charlotte Johnson leads on our strategic engagement with the aggregates industry so I have passed your letter to her to ensure she is aware of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,



Andrew Sells
Chairman, Natural England