

Responses to outstanding questions

20 May 2023 Question and Answer Session

At the recent Question and Answer session held on the 20 May 2023 at Nenthead Village Hall, there were a number of questions that we committed to providing responses to after the event, once we had had the opportunity to gain input from our wider technical team.

Below are the questions and our response to those questions.

How much does it cost to pump 20litres of water per second? Exactly how much will it cost to pump the mine water?

We are still developing the detailed specification of the pumps which is needed to for us to be able to calculate the predicted costs to pump the mine water up to the treatment ponds. We will share these details and estimated costs when they are available in the next few months.

Have you done any research into whether or not they're calaminarian mountain pansies and if they are affected by the zinc in the water?

We have carried out a brief internet search and checked with botanists at the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership (NPAONBP) to understand the different plant species on and around the proposed site. The NPAONBP advised that there is no known analysis of whether mountain pansies within the AONB area are calaminarian (sub-species do exist in continental Europe).

There are black grouse nesting on the mine site.

We commissioned a bird specialist to complete a bird survey on the 22 June 2023 and a further survey will be completed in July 2023 to check for black grouse on the site. It is possible that black grouse use the site without nesting in the proposed treatment pond area.

What have you been doing this week, down at Haggs, down where the construction site is?

Our contractors IH Browns were removing the last loads of excess material from the Nent Haggs treatment pond site. They have used as much material as possible on the site to avoid having to take it elsewhere.