

Gwrhyd Quarry - Screening Criteria Checklist

Proposals for s73 planning application seeking minor changes to transport planning conditions and an extension to the life of the Quarry.

SCREENING CRITERIA QUESTIONS	Response to the Screening Criteria Question YES/NO? - Briefly Describe	Is this likely to result in a significant environmental effect? Yes/No? – Why?
Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the Project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies etc)?	Yes, however, the Site already has planning consent.	No The Proposed Development does not involve any lateral extension or deepening of the Quarry beyond the approved levels. Extraction has already occurred up to the lateral limit of the consented working area and now the focus is on working to the approved depths, so confining any impacts within the quarry void. It is proposed to make minor changes to the approved restoration profile which will allow for a more sympathetic graded profile in keeping with the topography of the surrounding land.
Will construction or operation of the Project use natural resources above or below ground such as land, soil, water, minerals or energy which are non-renewable or in short supply?	Yes – building stone and mineral waste	No The Site already has planning consent for removal of the rock and production of dimension stone and masonry products. The Proposed Development does not involve any lateral extension or deepening of the Quarry beyond the approved levels. Extraction has already occurred up to the lateral limit of the consented working area and now the focus is on working to the approved depths and the area underlying the remaining waste tip. In addition to the primary stone and masonry products, most of the mineral waste material would be crushed and screened into aggregate products; rather than adding a valuable resource of high specification value to the tips and ultimately sterilising it, this material would be sold either in bulk loads or as bagged aggregates and would avoid the need for such material to be won from elsewhere.

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		There would be no change to the permitted maximum weekly output of 750 tonnes of mineral products, within which there is sufficient headroom to incorporate dimension blockstone/masonry products and aggregates from the Quarry. An extension to the life of the Quarry will be sought to enable the remaining mineral reserves, including waste material, to be fully accessed, extracted and processed. Based on up-to-date survey, maximum permitted outputs and operational hours, an additional 20-year period will be sought for working and final restoration of the Quarry.
Will the Project involve the use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health.	Yes – potential to produce dust from quarry and processing operations.	No The Site already has planning consent for the removal and processing of the rock and there would be no change to the total permitted reserves or maximum weekly output of mineral products from the Quarry. The Site is required by planning condition to be operated and monitored in accordance with a Dust Action Plan approved by the mineral planning authority. Such measures would be carried forward as part of a future consent.
Will the Project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes - waste rock	No The Site already has planning consent to use the waste rock during restoration of the Site following extraction. It will be proposed to also crush and screen waste material into usable aggregates, supporting sustainability by reducing waste and satisfying a demand for products that would otherwise be sourced from other sites, thereby reducing demand for new resources and possibly new quarries.

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Will the Project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air?	Yes - potential diesel fumes, but operations will continue within current permitted levels.	No The Site already has planning consent for the transportation of rock from the Quarry and there would be no change to the total permitted reserves or maximum weekly output of mineral products from the Quarry. Associated traffic would be almost half that previously approved and deemed acceptable under the temporary planning consent (P2017/0036) which allowed for a cumulative output of 1450 tonnes of stone per week. The Proposed Development would seek greater flexibility in the HGVs serving the Quarry, however, these would not exceed a payload of 24 tonnes which is the maximum permitted vehicle size. The permitted routeing strategy would be retained.
Will the Project cause noise and vibration or release of light or heat energy?	Yes - potential to produce noise.	No The Site already has planning consent for removal and processing of the rock and there would be no change to the total permitted reserves or maximum weekly output of mineral products from the Quarry or to the permitted operational hours. The planning consent does not permit blasting. Extraction has already occurred up to the lateral limit of the consented working area and now the focus is on achieving the approved depths, so confining any impacts within the quarry void. The Site operates in accordance with appropriate noise limits which were considered at the time of the 2011 consent and defined in planning conditions. Similarly, any noise impacts are monitored in accordance with a Noise Action Plan approved by the mineral planning authority. Any noise impacts would continue to be regulated by planning condition.

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Will the Project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters or groundwater?	Yes	No The Site already has planning consent for removal and processing of the rock. The Site operates in accordance with pollution prevention measures a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP). It is proposed to update the SWMP to reflect the installation of rainwater harvesting systems and additional primary settlements tank capacity with re-circulation of process water on site. This significantly reduces the requirement for abstracted water for processing and the volume of waste passing through the site processing lagoons. The management of surface water run-off from access roads, un-processed stone stocking areas, adjacent catchment areas and restored areas would continue to be managed through the established water management system and through the incorporation of swales incorporated in the final landform, ensuring that there is no discharge from the Site in an un-controlled manner. Management of water within the Quarry void would continue to be managed by directing it to a sump from where it would free drain into the groundwater system and Cwmllynfell Fault. As is currently the case, no dewatering of the working area would be undertaken.
Will there be any risk of accidents during construction or operation of the Project which could affect human health or the environment?	Yes	No The Site already has planning consent, and it would continue to be operated in accordance with planning conditions to regulate impacts and in

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		accordance with the requirements of Quarries Regulations and other Health and Safety legislation.
Will the Project result in social changes, for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?	No The Proposed Development would help to secure the ongoing provision of local, direct and indirect employment opportunities, including specialist masonry skills. Currently, the Quarry directly employs 16 people, 13 of whom live within a 25-mile radius of the Quarry. Furthermore, the Quarry indirectly employs up to 280 suppliers, the majority of whom are based in Wales.	N/A
Are there any other factors which should be considered such as consequential development which could lead to environmental effects or the potential for cumulative impacts?	Yes - Cwm Nant Lleici Quarry is located within 2km.	No Planning permission was granted for an extension of time for activities at Cwm Nant Lleici Quarry on 2nd August 2023, under application reference P/2022/1040, to allow the previously permitted reserves to be worked at the historically approved rates. However, as planning condition 32 confirms, the traffic associated with the Quarry must follow prescribed routes, which do not include the Gwrhyd Road / Coedffaldau / Bryn Road corridor used by Gwrhyd Quarry traffic. Notwithstanding this, both the proposed variations to conditions at Gwrhyd Quarry and approved variations at Cwm Nant Lleici Quarry both

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		effectively maintain the historically permitted activities and traffic levels. Therefore, the cumulative impact of the two quarries on the road network has been historically approved and accommodated. Given the continuation of the activities at the same levels previously approved the impact is considered to be negligible.
Are there any areas on or around the location which are protected under international or national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape, cultural or other value, which could be affected by the Project.	Yes – the Site is surrounded by the Mynydd Y Garth Special Landscape Area as defined in the Local Development Plan.	No There are no international, national or other statutory designations on or adjacent to the Quarry. Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland lies to the east of the Quarry. The Site already has planning permission. Any adverse environmental effects were considered at the time of the 2011 consent and the subsequent permissions for ancillary plant and buildings. The Site is well screened in the landscape, topography and vegetation. The Proposed Development would not alter the likely effect on this landscape designation.
Are there any other areas around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other water bodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands which could be affected by the Project?	No	N/A
Are there any areas on or around the location which are used by protected, important or sensitive species of fauna or flora e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, overwintering, migration which could be affected the Project?	Yes - Potentially	The Site already has planning permission. Any adverse environmental effects were considered at the time of 2011 permission and any necessary mitigation secured through the consent. No extension or intensification of activities is proposed.

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Are there any inland, coastal, marine or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the Project?	No	N/A
Are there any routes or facilities on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities which could be affected by the Project?	Yes - Potentially	The nearest registered public footpath is 16/92.Llanguicke/1 which runs adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Site. As was accepted at the time of the 2011 consent, the Proposed Development would not impact on the footpath.
Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion, or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the Project?	Yes – Gwrhyd Road to Cymlllynfell	No The Site already has planning consent for the transportation of rock from the Quarry and there would be no change to the total permitted reserves or maximum weekly output of mineral products from the Quarry or to the permitted operational hours. The Proposed Development would seek greater flexibility in the HGVs serving the Quarry, however, these would not exceed a payload of 24 tonnes which is the maximum permitted vehicle size. Within the permitted output of 750 tonnes there is headroom to export aggregates derived from the processing of on-site mineral waste in addition to the blockstone and masonry products. There are several existing passing places between the Quarry and Cwmllynfell.
Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	No	N/A
Are there any area or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location which could be affected by the Project.	No	N/A

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Is the Project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?	No – the Site is a permitted, active quarry.	N/A
Are there existing land uses on or around the location e.g. homes, gardens, other private property, industry, commerce, recreation, public open space, community facilities, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining, or quarrying which could be affected by the Project?	Yes – a small number of single residential properties are present in the locale.	No Any adverse effects were considered at the time of the 2011 consent and mitigation secured under that permission. This includes planning conditions which stipulate noise limits. No extension or intensification of activities is proposed.
Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the Project?	No	N/A
Are there any areas on or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, which could be affected by the Project?	No	N/A
Are there any areas on or around the location which are occupied by sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities, which could be affected by the Project?	Yes – School on transport route	No Cwmllynfell School is located on the transport route but lorry traffic during school drop-off and pick-up times is controlled by planning condition. The Proposed Development would not alter these operational hours.
Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, which could be affected by the Project?	No - the Site is a permitted, active Quarry and there would be no change to the overall permitted tonnage output of mineral products from the Quarry.	N/A
Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage	No - not aware of any such incidents.	N/A

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e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded which could be affected by the Project?		
Is the Project location susceptible to subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding e.g. fogs, severe winds, which could cause the Project to present environmental problems?	Yes The Site is in a location which is reasonably exposed in windy and rainy conditions.	No The surface water drainage system is working effectively. The Site operates in accordance with pollution prevention measures a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP). It is proposed to update the SWMP to reflect the installation of rainwater harvesting systems and additional primary settlements tank capacity with re-circulation of process water on site. The Site is required by planning condition to be operated and monitored in accordance with a Dust Action Plan approved by the mineral planning authority.