

THE SCREENING CHECKLIST – P2017/0036

Brief Project Description:

Planning permission for a lateral extension to the quarry, a new saw shed and quarry restoration was granted in August 2011 (application subject to EIA) subject to conditions. This application seeks to vary Condition 15 of the planning permission to allow an increase in output from 717 tonnes per week to 750 tonnes per week together with additional flexibility on the vehicle sizes permitted.

The proposal is considered to fall within the scope of Schedule 2(13) of the EIA Regs as a change to a project listed in Schedule

Questions	Yes / No / ? . Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
1. 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 – but already granted planning permission	No – planning permission granted already
2. Will construction or operation of the Project use natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or in short supply?	Yes – building stone	No – planning permission granted already for the removal of the rock
3. Will the Project involve use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health or the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health?	Yes –the production of dust from quarry operations	No- planning permission granted already for the removal and processing of the rock
4. Will the Project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes – waste rock not required for building stone	No – waste rock will be utilised in restoration of the site following extraction
5. Will the Project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air?	Yes potentially – diesel fumes	No – traffic generation will not change significantly as a result of the proposals. Site operations will not change in terms of the amount of rock produced

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6. Will the Project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Yes – potential to produce noise	No- noise limits considered at the time planning permission was granted for the excavations. Any increase in noise from vehicles will be minimal.
7. Will the Project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	Yes	No – surface water drainage system approved and installed is considered to be working effectively in terms of pollution
8. Will there be any risk of accidents during construction or operation of the Project which could affect human health or the environment?	Yes potentially	No – unlikely to occur given H&S requirements
9. Will the Project result in social changes, for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?	No	
10. 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 with other existing or planned activities in the locality?	No	
11. 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 lies within the Mynydd Y Garth Special Landscape Area as defined in LDP	No – site is well screened in the landscape by topography and vegetation. The proposal will not change the potential impact
12. Are there any other areas on or around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, which could be affected by the project?	No	

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13. 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 by the project?	Yes potentially	No – Mitigation included within the terms of the planning permission already granted
14. Are there any inland, coastal, marine or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No	
15. Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No	
16. 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 – road system	No – planning permission has already been granted for up to 717 tonnes per week (14 vehicles carrying stone). An increase to 750 tonnes and with potentially larger vehicles is not considered to be significant as there would be no increase in the number of vehicles.
17. 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 Cwmllynfell	No – planning permission has already been granted for up to 717 tonnes per week. An increase to 750 tonnes and with potentially larger vehicles is not considered to be significant. There are 11 existing passing places between the site and Cwmllynfell
18. Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	No	

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19. Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No	
20. Is the project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?	No	
21. 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	No – the impacts on these was considered when planning permission was granted for the development in 2011
22. Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No	
23. Are there any areas on or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, which could be affected by the project?	No	
24. 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 – there is a school in Cwmllynfell which is along the transport route but lorry traffic during school drop-off and pick-up times is controlled by condition
25. 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	
26. Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project?	No – not aware of any	
27. Is the project location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions e.g. temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?	Yes – site is in a location where wind and rain can be an issue.	No – surface water drainage system is working effectively. Rain keeps the dust down. Wind can make noise travel but there have been no breaches of noise conditions to date

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Summary

The proposal results in a relatively minor change to the amount of tonnage permitted to be taken from the quarry in any given week. There are likely to be changes in the size of lorries but the overall numbers will not increase significantly – they may even reduce.

The change is not likely to have significant environmental effects over and above those already considered when planning permission was granted in August 2011 – that application was subject to EIA and the impacts were considered to be acceptable having taken all the environmental information into account.

For these reasons, the Screening Opinion of the LPA is that the proposal does not amount to EIA Development