

Chris Lowden

Subject: FW: Penrhyn Quarry Scoping Request C18/1000/16/SO: increase in ecology scope

From: Meilleur Emily Thea (AMG) [<mailto:emilytheameilleur@gwynedd.llyw.cymru>] **On Behalf Of** Bioamrywiaeth
Sent: 14 January 2019 15:34
To: Jess Colebrook; Bioamrywiaeth; Jones Dafydd Gareth (AMG)
Cc: Chris Lowden
Subject: RE: Penrhyn Quarry Scoping Request C18/1000/16/SO

Dear Jess,

Thank you for the site visit last week.

As I mentioned during the site visit that the quarry proposal is for an extension of the quarry (the site we visited); and the tipping onto existing slate tips. Some of the slate tips have become vegetated with heather, grasses, trees, bryophytes and lichens. These have created habitats such as heathland, acid grassland and open mosaic habitat of previously developed land which are all of biodiversity importance.

Ecological surveys and impact assessment of the tips will be needed. They should include vegetation/habitats, lower plants (bryophytes and lichens), reptiles, birds and invertebrates.

With regard to the quarry extension (into the Eryri SAC & SSSI) and your proposed survey method below I agree with your proposed method for reptiles, birds, otters and badgers, however for vegetation and habitat survey previous data can be used but must be ground-checked and it must extend to include the deposits of stones and gravels from the leat, and the new features in the landscape i.e. the leat and trackways.

Planning condition 14 of C12/0874/16/MW is for the review of works (within 3 and five years of the date of the permission) and includes monitoring of habitats in the mitigation area, monitoring of dust, monitoring of habitat creation, and monitoring of leat flow and functioning and the hydrology of Gwaen Gynfi.

Emily Meilleur

Senior Biodiversity Officer
Gwynedd Council
01286 679977

From: Jess Colebrook <jcolebrook@slrconsulting.com>
Sent: 11 January 2019 15:49
To: Bioamrywiaeth <Bioamrywiaeth@gwynedd.llyw.cymru>; Jones Dafydd Gareth (AMG) <dafyddgarethjones@gwynedd.llyw.cymru>
Cc: Chris Lowden <clowden@slrconsulting.com>
Subject: RE: Penrhyn Quarry Scoping Request C18/1000/16/SO

Hello Emily,

Thanks again for agreeing to meet on site on Tuesday. I set out below a brief summary of our visit and discussion:

Habitats

The proposed extension area includes acid grassland, rushes, bracken and boulders. The acid grassland was mapped and classified as habitat NVC U6c in an undated plan you have from NRW (possibly predating the SAC designation), and U5a in the 2012 NVC survey undertaken by Rod Gritten on behalf of Welsh Slate to inform the earlier ES. Bracken classified as U20c in both cases.

Whilst the types of vegetation present appear not to have materially changed, the extents have due to consented extension of the quarry and creation of the leat.

As part of the Ecological Impact Assessment, all habitats potentially affected by the proposed extension will be accurately mapped from current aerial images and described using NVC definitions. This will enable the extent of each type of habitat loss to be quantified. Habitat loss will be mitigated/compensated for as part of the proposed scheme, with full details included in the EclA (and appended shadow HRA).

Species

We agreed that reptiles are likely to be present, albeit at low density given the site location, context and that only one individual lizard has been noted during earlier survey and mitigation work. ***Further survey for reptiles is not proposed, but a reptile mitigation plan will be provided with the EclA. It will include Reasonable Avoidance Measures to reduce the risk of killing or injury to individual reptiles such as directional stripping of site during the period that reptiles are active, with an ecologist on watching brief, and will also include details of mitigation, in the form of creation of hibernaculae within undisturbed areas of the site. This will also assist local amphibian populations.***

Otter and badger are considered to be absent from the site based on current evidence and further survey is not considered necessary. ***Since they are known to be present locally and are highly mobile the potential presence of badger and otter will be included in the EclA.***

Ground nesting birds are also considered to be present (in particular, meadow pipit and skylark) during spring and summer. Due to the small size of the proposed extension the number of territories potentially affected would be small and as a result no significant effects are predicted to the local breeding bird population. ***No further survey for breeding birds is therefore proposed. Mitigation for breeding birds will include stripping of vegetation outside of the bird breeding season, or if this is not possible, a check for the presence of nesting birds by a suitably experienced ecologist no more than 48 hours in advance of work. If nesting birds are confirmed present, they would be left undisturbed until such time as the young fledge the nest.***

During our visit, we also took a look at the leat that was installed as part of the currently consented activity at the site. You seemed satisfied that remedial work (stone infill of the channel and repairs) has addressed the issue of the structure overtopping during downpours, and that the gravels which washed out from the structure have not affected/did not reach the bog/peatland habitats below.

If you have any queries, or if I have missed anything then please let me know. I would be grateful if you could confirm that you agree with the above survey scope for the EclA, noting that all pre-existing ecological survey information and a current COFNOD supplied data search will also be used to inform the baseline.

Best regards,

Jess



Jess Colebrook

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From: Meilleur Emily Thea (AMG) [<mailto:emilytheameilleur@gwynedd.llyw.cymru>] **On Behalf Of** Bioamrywiaeth
Sent: 04 January 2019 15:52
To: Jess Colebrook; Bioamrywiaeth; Jones Dafydd Gareth (AMG)
Cc: Chris Lowden
Subject: RE: Penrhyn Quarry Scoping Request C18/1000/16/SO

Dear Jess,

Yes Tuesday 8th January is fine for me. I will meet you at your proposed location – I know it. I will see you there at 1pm. Would we also be able to look at the leate?

Emily Meilleur

Senior Biodiversity Officer
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01286 679977

From: Jess Colebrook <jcolebrook@slrconsulting.com>
Sent: 21 December 2018 09:46
To: Bioamrywiaeth <Bioamrywiaeth@gwynedd.llyw.cymru>; Jones Dafydd Gareth (AMG) <dafyddgarethjones@gwynedd.llyw.cymru>
Cc: Chris Lowden <clowden@slrconsulting.com>
Subject: RE: Penrhyn Quarry Scoping Request C18/1000/16/SO

Dear Emily

Many thanks for the response; I'd be please to meet you on the afternoon of the 8th, shall we say 1pm? I suggest we meet at the gate near to the David Fricke Mountain Cottage at the south end of Tan y Bwlch (LL57 4DX), but note

there is no parking on the lane down to it, your car is best left in the village. The site can then be accessed by



walking across Gwaen Gynfi on the approach.

I hope this suits, but if not just let me know. Im off over the festive break from this afternoon, and back on the 8th. Ill check my emails over the interim though.

Best regards and merry midwinter,

Jess

From: Meilleur Emily Thea (AMG) [<mailto:emilytheameilleur@gwynedd.llyw.cymru>] **On Behalf Of** Bioamrywiaeth

Sent: 18 December 2018 10:56

To: Jess Colebrook; Bioamrywiaeth; Jones Dafydd Gareth (AMG)

Cc: Chris Lowden

Subject: RE: Penrhyn Quarry Scoping Request C18/1000/16/SO

Dear Jess,

I think that meeting at the site would be useful. I can meet on the 7th or 8th of January. It would be good to have a look at the vegetation and other ecological features.

This proposal is within two protected sites –

Eryri SAC

Eryri SSSI

I disagree with your recommendation for ecological surveys, due to the installation of the leate there may have been some changes to the vegetation. I recommend that a vegetation/habitat survey is undertaken. A detail map should be provided showing the vegetation communities & habitats. This map should include target notes. To identify vegetation communities it is necessary to undertake NVC (i.e. quadrats). I have attached a list of environmental consultants.

The lichens and Lichenicolous fungi may have been affected by dust and I think it would be worth re-surveying them.

I agree there is no need to undertake surveys for great crested newt, the habitat is not suitable and there are no GCNs in the area. However consideration should be given to other amphibians such as toads which as listed under section 7 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 by the Welsh Government as species of principle biodiversity importance.

It would also be very useful to have all the data that has been generated through the surveys for the quarry to be digitized and submitted to Cofnod.

Reptiles are within the site and I recommend a survey is undertaken and that a plan for the reasonable avoidance measures to avoid harm to reptiles is drawn up.

With regard to other species surveys I can assess the site during our site visit. It is essential that vegetation surveys are undertaken to inform the impacts to the Eryri SAC and to inform a HRA.

To assist in the assessment of impacts a hydrological and soil survey is required.

Emily Meilleur

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From: Jess Colebrook <jcolebrook@slrconsulting.com>
Sent: 17 December 2018 14:59
To: Bioamrywiaeth <Bioamrywiaeth@gwynedd.llyw.cymru>
Cc: Chris Lowden <clowden@slrconsulting.com>
Subject: Penrhyn Quarry Scoping Request C18/1000/16/SO
Importance: High

FAO: Emily Meilleur

Dear Emily,

My colleague Chris forwarded the attached response you provided to the planning officer, in respect of the scoping request for a 4.3ha extension to Penrhyn Quarry, of which around 3ha would be extraction area.

I will be preparing the Ecological Impact Assessment in accordance with CIEEMs 2018 Guidelines, and have recently undertaken an update surveys of the site and surrounding area. I am keen to refine the scope of the EclA with you following my recent site visit.

I have reviewed the ecological work undertaken in 2010 for the area 15 quarry extension; specifically, the individual survey reports for Lichenised and Lichenicolous Fungi, Mycology, Great Crested Newt, Bats, Badger, Reptile, Otter, Bird, Botanical, Invertebrates and Water Vole included as Appendices to the 2012 ES. I believe that the majority of these remain sufficient for the purpose of impact assessment and advocate a proportionate approach to additional survey work, based upon the earlier results. I therefore propose;

- An updated desk study and data gathering exercise - *this has already been completed and COFNOD hold no new additional records for the site;*
- An update walkover survey to verify if habitats remain as previously described - *this is confirmed to be the case. Aerial photos confirm the proportions/locations of bracken and acid grassland have remained more or less constant and the adjacent mire habitats (outside of the site) unchanged;*
- Full re-survey for otter and badger, given their recorded presence and occurrence of suitable habitat nearby - *completed, no evidence found. Badger sett(s) considered absent from within the site/30m of it based on lack of suitable habitat for sett digging and lack of signs. No otter spraints recorded along watercourses/at pools but this is not surprising given the time of year (December); the species is anticipated to use nearby streams and pools in the spring/summer when amphibians are most abundant. There are no potential lying up sites or holts within the site.*
- Other than for otter and badger, no additional species specific survey, on the basis that earlier survey results are sufficient for impact assessment.

The rationale for “scoping out” reptiles, bird, fish, lichen, fungi and invertebrate surveys is “*the information submitted with the planning application should be proportional to the likelihood of effects on nature conservation*”

interests and to their potential significance.” (Planning Policy Wales, Technical Advice Note 05, 2009). In the case of the species/species groups listed, there is considered to be sufficient pre-existing information to determine that no significant impact will arise as a result of the proposal, based upon potential impact pathways and the mitigation being proposed/that would be implemented as part of the scheme.

For info - in its response to the Scoping Report, NRW stated that it was “satisfied with this approach in respect to protected species”.

In view of the above information, are you able to review your earlier response and let me know if you agree with the approach I set out here? If you wish to discuss any aspect of this further then please do not hesitate to get in touch, I am happy to talk on the phone or meet you on site if you prefer (I live within a couple of miles of the quarry).

Best regards,

Jess



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From: Jones Dafydd Gareth (AMG)
Sent: 05 December 2018 09:40
To: 'Chris Lowden' <clowden@slrconsulting.com>
Cc: Mark Hodgkinson <mark.hodgkinson@breedongroup.com>
Subject: Penrhyn Quarry Scoping Request C18/1000/16/SO

Dear Chris,

MPA Ref: C18/1000/16/SO
Proposal:

Request for a scoping opinion under Regulation 14, Part 4 of the Town and Country Planning [Environmental Impact Assessment] [Wales] Regulations 2017 - Proposed extension to Penrhyn

Location: Penrhyn Quarry, Bethesda, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL574YG

I enclose for your attention, comments received in response to consultation from the Snowdonia National Park Authority, Gwynedd Biodiversity and Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.

I am still awaiting a response from Natural Resources Wales, Gwynedd Public Protection and CADW and I will keep you informed of progress as soon as I have any further information to hand.

Regards,

Dafydd Gareth Jones

Uwch Swyddog Mwynau a Gwastraff ar ran Gwasanaeth Cynllunio Mwynau a Gwastraff Gogledd Cymru /

Senior Minerals and Waste Planning Officer on behalf of the North Wales Minerals and Waste Planning Service

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