

APPENDIX 6/3 – ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL VISUAL EFFECTS

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following tables set out the assessment of the visual effects on viewers present at the location of the chosen representative viewpoints. This assessment is used to inform the anticipated visual effects on the various types of viewers likely to be present across the study area.
- 1.2 The sensitivity of visual receptors to the proposed development is comprised of two factors, firstly the value of views to viewers, and secondly the susceptibility of viewers to the type of development in question. Full details of how these factors are defined are included in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 The magnitude of visual effects is a combination three factors; the scale and size of change; the extent of the change; and the duration or timescale of the change. Full details of how these factors are again defined in Appendix 6/1.
- 1.4 The approach taken is that the proposed extension area would result in permanent effects, as an extension of the permitted quarry development.
- 1.5 Tables are included in Appendix 6/1 illustrating how these factors may be combined. However, these tables are only indicative and the various factors are combined using professional judgement.
- 1.6 These tables should be read in conjunction with the section on Visual Effects in the main report, which provides a more detailed examination of the importance of effects and their potential significance. The viewpoint photographs, and where included visualisations, provide a useful reference in terms of the context of views and magnitude of potential change, and should also be consulted.
- 1.7 The proposed development largely comprises the extension area to the existing quarry. The proposed development also includes extending the tip use by 2-3 years to allow the accommodation of the waste from the proposed extension area. However, these tips are existing, disturbed landscapes, and the timescale involved is very limited. It is therefore considered (by professional judgement) that no significant visual effects would occur and only negligible change at the most would be recorded. The focus of this assessment is therefore restricted to the visual effects of the proposed extension area only where notable effects are most likely to be perceived.

Table 1 – Viewpoint Locations

No	Viewpoint Name	Description	Distance to site area	Easting	Northing	Elevation mAOD
1	Gerlan Road, Bethesda	This viewpoint is located on the rising hill side in the eastern part of Bethesda. The lack of built development to the south of the road provides wide open views towards the majority of Penrhyn Quarry with the current working area in the southern quarry screened by former and current tips. The extension area is screened by existing tips and not visible from this elevation.	3.2km	263108	366521	204.148
2	Open Access Land, Moel Faban	This viewpoint is located near the summit of Moel Faban, which has open 360 degree views. The majority of Penrhyn Quarry is visible from this location. The extension area is visible above and beyond the tips due to the increased height from Viewpoint 1.	4.5km	263394	367907	400.950
3	PRoW, Cefn Yr Orstedd	This viewpoint is located on a PRoW that rises from the A5 up the flank of the Nant Ffrancon Valley and across the higher ground of Cefn yr Orstedd. As the PRoW extends south views of Penrhyn Quarry become restricted due to the area of historic tipping and flank (Ffronllwydd) of the eastern valley rising above the quarry. The extension area is screened again by the existing tips	2.6km	263365	365294	322.267
4	Ridge at Carnedd y Filiast	This viewpoint is located near the summit of Caernedd y Filiast where views down towards the northern part of Penrhyn Quarry are present. A large part of the quarry is screened by intervening ground from this position. The extension area is screened by the Fronllwydd Ridge.	1.5km	262047	362779	819.675
5	Open Access Land, Elidir Fach	This viewpoint is located in Open Access land on a ridge of land descending towards the Marchlyn Bach Reservoir. Wide open views are present from the ridge to west and east. The extension area is visible from this location with the viewpoint looking down into the quarry extraction.	1.7km	260403	361374	733.000

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No	Viewpoint Name	Description	Distance to site area	Easting	Northing	Elevation mAOD
6	PRoW, Gwaen Gynfi	This viewpoint is located from a Public Right of Way that crosses an area Open Access land comprising peat bog / boulder field to the west of the application site. The lack of tree cover and hedgerows allow open views to the adjacent mountains in the national park land to the south, as well as views out in other directions. The extension area forms a narrow slither of land just below the extent of currently disturbed ground marking the existing quarry workings.	0.3km	260089	363409	360.640
7	Public Road, Pen-y-Bwlch	This viewpoint is located from an elevated section of road adjacent to a small group of residential properties and opposite a path over Open Access land that links to Tan-y-Bwlch. The view looks out over the intervening unenclosed peat bog / boulder field at Gwaen Gynfi towards Penrhyn Quarry and the Carneddau and Glyder ridges on the skyline. The extension area forms a narrow slither of land just below the extent of currently disturbed ground marking the existing quarry workings.	1.8km	259342	364976	330.274
8	Settlements, Mynydd Llandegai	This viewpoint is located on the edge of the settled land of Mynydd Llandegai close to the western edge of the Penrhyn Quarry boundary. The view looks out towards the quarry with the Carneddau and Glyder ridges beyond. The extension area forms a small narrow area of land just below the extent of the currently permitted quarry workings.	0.9km	260492	366098	288.472
9	Bryn Eglwys	This viewpoint is located from a local road in the residential area of Bryn Eglwys to the west of Bethesda. From this location the existing quarry at Penrhyn represents an extensive feature within the view, covering a large proportion of the lower slopes of the Glyder Ridge. The extension area forms a small narrow area of land just below the extent of the currently permitted quarry workings.	2.1km	260492	366098	255.541

Table 2 - Analysis of Sensitivity of Viewpoints/Visual Receptors

No	Viewpoint Name	Potential Receptors	Value	Susceptibility	Overall Sensitivity	Notes
1	Gerlan Road, Bethesda	Road Users	Medium/Low	Medium/Low	Medium/Low	There is no designated value to views from this road and it is used by the community to provide access through the settlement. Viewers are likely to be travelling to a destination and views from along the road thus incidental to the journey, although some appreciation may exist.
		Residents/ Community	High	High	High	Residents in this area benefit from the open views out to the Glyder and Carneddau ridgeline within the national park. Residents with views out are likely to enjoy such views and take advantage of them.
2	Open Access Land, Moel Faban	Users of Open Access Land within Snowdonia National Park	High	High	High	Walkers and visitors are likely to visit the viewpoint position specifically to enjoy the open views from within the national park.
3	PRoW, Cefn Yr Orstedd	Users of Open Access Land and PRoW within Snowdonia National Park	High	High	High	Walkers and are likely to be enjoying the open views from the PRoW within the national park looking across the Nant Ffrancon Valley to the Glyder ridge.
4	Ridge at Carnedd y Ffilliast	Users of Open Access Land within Snowdonia National Park	High	High	High/Medium	No PRoW are present within this area and access is not promoted as widely as other areas of the national park. Users of the Open Access Land are likely to be enjoying the open panoramic views across the national park and northwards towards Anglesey.
5	Open Access Land, Elidir Fach	Users of Open Access Land within Snowdonia National Park	High	High	High/Medium	No PRoW are present within this area and access is not promoted as widely as other areas of the national park. Users of the Open Access Land are likely to be enjoying the open views from within the national park looking north towards Anglesey or eastwards towards
6	PRoW, Gwaen Gynfi	Users of Open Access Land and PRoW	High/Medium	High	High/Medium	The PRoW is not in the national park but is associated with the Snowdonia Slate Trail between Bethesda and Llanberis.
7	Public Road, Pen-y-Bwlch	Road Users	Medium	Medium	Medium	There is no designated scenic value to this road, but the elevated nature of the road and available views out have value in themselves.

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No	Viewpoint Name	Potential Receptors	Value	Susceptibility	Overall Sensitivity	Notes
		Residents/Community	High	High	High	Residents houses take advantage of the good views on offer in the area of the viewpoint.
8	Settlements, Mynydd Llandegai	Users of Open Access Land and PRoW and Community	High	High	High/Medium	The PRoW is not in the national park but is associated with the Snowdonia Slate Trail between Bethesda and Llanberis.
9	Bryn Eglwys	Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	There is no designated scenic value to this road, but the elevated nature of the road and available views out have value in themselves.
		Residents/Community	High	High	High/Medium	Residents houses take advantage of the good views on offer in the area of the viewpoint.

Table 3 - Analysis of Magnitude of Visual Change

No	Viewpoint Name	Size and Scale of Change	Geo-graphical Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Magnitude	Notes
1	Gerlan Road, Bethesda	n/a	n/a	n/a	None	Proposed Extension – This area would not be visible from this viewpoint
2	Open Access Land, Moel Faban	Negligible	Negligible	Long term	Slight/ Negligible	The Extension Area - The extension area would comprise a minor part of the Gwaen Gyfni moorland on the edge of the permitted extraction area. The proposed extension area would be visible beyond the existing tips increasing the size of the south quarry void to a negligible level. Direct restoration of the area would not be visible.
3	PRoW, Cefn Yr Orstedd	n/a	n/a	n/a	None	Proposed Extension – This area would not be visible from this viewpoint
4	Ridge at Carnedd y Filliast	n/a	n/a	n/a	None	Proposed Extension – This area would not be visible from this viewpoint
5	Open Access Land, Elidir Fach	Small	Medium/ Small	Long term	Slight/ Negligible	Proposed Extension – The proposed extension would be visible as a slight widening of the permitted quarry void area in the foreground of the quarry, the majority of which are below the level of the intervening ground and not visible. The change perceived by the restoration of the extension area would be small within the context of the quarry void and other restoration.
6	PRoW, Gwaen Gynfi	Negligible	Medium	Long term	Slight/ Negligible	The extension area would comprise a very minor slither of land on the edge of the permitted extraction area seen at the base of the SQ tip. The proposed extension working would be screened by the intervening land and the removed slither of land removed, while the increased view of the workings only marginal.

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No	Viewpoint Name	Size and Scale of Change	Geo-graphical Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Magnitude	Notes
7	Public Road, Pen-y-Bwlch	Negligible	Medium	Long term	Slight/ Negligible	The extension area would comprise a slither of land on the nearest edge of the permitted extraction area. The removal of the extension would allow a slightly larger area of the permitted extraction to be visible beyond. The restoration of the proposed extension area would not be visible as it would be within the quarry void.
8	Settlements, Mynydd Llandegai	Negligible	Medium	Long term	Slight/ Negligible	The extension area would comprise a slither of land on the edge of the permitted extraction area. The removal of the extension would allow a slightly larger area of the permitted extraction to be visible beyond. The restoration of the proposed extension area would not be visible.
9	Bryn Eglwys	Negligible	Medium	Long term	Slight/ Negligible	The extension area would comprise a slither of land on the edge of the permitted extraction area. The removal of the extension would allow a slightly larger area of the permitted extraction to be visible beyond. The restoration of the proposed extension area would not be visible.

Table 4 - Assessment of Visual Effects and Significance

No	Viewpoint Name	Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Visual Effects	Nature of Effect (Adverse, Beneficial, Neutral)
1	Gerlan Road, Bethesda	Road Users	Medium/Low	None	n/a	No effect
		Residents/ Community	High			
2	Open Access Land, Moel Faban	Users of Open Access Land within Snowdonia National Park	High	Slight/Negligible	Minor	A not significant adverse effect caused by the proposed extension.
3	PRoW, Cefn Yr Orstedd	Users of Open Access Land and PRoW within Snowdonia National Park	High	None	n/a	No effect
4	Ridge at Carnedd y Filiast	Users of Open Access Land within Snowdonia National Park	High	None	n/a	No effect
5	Open Access Land, Elidir Fach	Users of Open Access Land within Snowdonia National Park	High	Slight/Negligible	Moderate/Minor	A not significant adverse effect in connection with the quarry extension.
6	PRoW, Gwaen Gynfi	Users of Open Access Land and PRoW	High/Medium	Slight/Negligible	Minor/Negligible	A not significant and adverse visual effect of a minor nature.
7	Public Road, Pen-y-Bwlch	Road Users	Medium	Slight/Negligible	Minor	A not significant and adverse visual effect, reducing to a lesser visual effect after successful restoration.
		Residents/ Community	High		Moderate/Minor	A not significant and adverse visual effect, reducing to a lesser visual effect after successful restoration.
8	Settlements, Mynydd Llandegai	Users of Open Access Land and PRoW and Community	High	Slight/Negligible	Moderate/Minor	A not significant and adverse visual effect, reducing to a lesser visual effect after successful restoration.
9	Bryn Eglwys	Road users	Medium	Slight/Negligible	Minor	A not significant and adverse visual effect, reducing to a lesser visual effect after successful restoration.
		Residents/ Community	High		Moderate/Minor	A not significant and adverse visual effect, reducing to a lesser visual effect after successful restoration.

Summary of Visual Effects

- 1.8 The proposed extension to the extraction area is a narrow area of land adjacent to the permitted extraction limit. In views towards this area it would either be seen as a narrow slither of ground just in front of the permitted extraction, removing a very limited part of the foreground landscape, or be seen as a movement of permitted faces away from the viewer by a minimal distance. In either case the main components and composition of the view would remain as permitted. Such changes are illustrated in Viewpoints 2 and 5 to 9.