

# PENRHYN QUARRY

Proposed lateral extension to working area and  
continuation of working for an additional three  
years

## WELSH LANGUAGE STATEMENT

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## 1.0 Introduction

This document comprises a Welsh Language Statement and has been produced by SLR Consulting Limited on behalf of Breedon Trading Limited (trading as Welsh Slate). This statement forms part of a package of documents being formally submitted to Gwynedd Council (as Mineral Planning Authority, 'MPA') in support of two planning applications relating to land at Penrhyn Quarry, near Bethesda, Gwynedd.

Breedon Trading Limited (hereafter referred to as 'the applicant') is submitting two planning applications for Penrhyn Quarry. The first planning application seeks a small lateral extension to the working area of the quarry at its south-western corner. Land associated with the proposed extension lies wholly within the boundary of the current planning permission. The second planning application seeks to amend the provisions of the extant planning permission in so far as it relates to the duration of extraction operations.

These proposals have been amended from those previously consulted on between 11 December 2020 and 22 January 2021 as part of the formal Pre-Application Consultation process. In this respect, the extent of the proposed extension has been reduced to 1.6 hectares (ha) so that it lies on the inside of the drainage leat that bounds the quarry. In view of the reduced extension, and in the light of being able to sell more of the quarry waste, the requirements for additional tip capacity has reduced. Accordingly, it is no longer proposed to amend the tipping arrangements from those approved as part of the Review of Old Mineral Permissions under the Environment Act 1995 (permission ref. C16/1164/16/MW).

### 1.1 Requirement for a Welsh Language Statement

Policy PS1 "Welsh Language and Culture" within the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan indicates that:

*"The Councils will promote and support the use of the Welsh language in the Plan area. This will be achieved by:*

*1. Requiring a Welsh Language Statement, which will protect, promote and enhance the Welsh language, where the proposed development falls within one of the following categories:*

*a. Retail, industrial or commercial development employing more than 50 employees and/or with an area of 1,000 sq. m. or more. ...*

*2. Requiring a Welsh Language Impact Assessment, which will set out how the proposed development will protect, promote and enhance the Welsh Language, where the proposed development is on an unexpected windfall site for a large scale housing development or large scale employment development that would lead to a significant workforce flow"*

To support the policy, a Supplementary Planning Guidance Note (the 'SPG') "Maintaining and Creating Sustainable Communities"<sup>1</sup> has been prepared which, inter alia, provides guidance on when a Welsh Language Statement or Welsh Language Assessment will be needed.

It should be noted that the planning application does not create any new floorspace but does increase the lateral extent of the quarry workings by around 1.6 ha, notwithstanding this small increase the proposals do not create

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<sup>1</sup> Supplementary Planning Guidance Note "Maintaining and Creating Sustainable Communities". Gwynedd Council and Isle of Anglesey County Council, July 2019.

any new employment opportunities. Whilst on this basis it is considered that a Welsh Language Statement is not required, one has been provided to show compliance with the Development Plan and SPG.

## 1.2 Structure of this Report

The Welsh Language Statement has been prepared having full regard to the provisions of the SPG, and in particular, Appendix 7. In this context, the SPG indicates that the methodology to be used for preparing a Welsh Language Statement should follow three general steps:

- STEP 1 – Collect, record and analyse information about the local community;
- STEP 2 – Collect, record and analyse policy requirements; and
- STEP 3 – Apply the information in Steps 1 and 2.

In the context of Step 3, the SPG indicates that consideration should be given to the characteristics of the development and discuss the key matters, referring to evidence in Steps 1 and 2 as appropriate.

It should be noted that the guidance is aimed at all forms for development, and particularly new housing or employment. As such, some of the considerations are not relevant to the planning application (for example housing profile or facilities and services).

The remainder of this document is structured as follows:

- Section 2 provides a brief description of the application site and surroundings;
- Section 3 provides a brief description of the development;
- Section 4 provides a description of the community profile;
- Section 5 provides a summary of relevant policy documents;
- Section 6 provides an assessment of the effects; and
- Section 7 provides the conclusions.

## 1.3 Application Submission Package

The full submission to the MPA comprises the following:

- Volume 1 - Planning Statement;
- Volume 2 - Environmental Statement;
  - Volume 2A – ES Text;
  - Volume 2B – ES Technical Appendices; and
  - Volume 2C – A Non-Technical Summary of the ES

This document should be read alongside the Planning Statement. To assist, this document identifies the relevant parts of the Planning Statement by indicating the relevant chapter; cross references are indicated by underlined text.

## 2.0 The Site

### 2.1 Introduction

The site has been described in full within [Chapter 2](#) of the Planning Statement. This section provides a brief overview of the site and its surroundings.

### 2.2 Location

Penrhyn Quarry is located immediately to the south of the town of Bethesda, to the west of the A5(T). The settlements of Mynydd Llandegai, Bryn Eglwys, Coed y Parc and Braichmelyn form an arc to the north of the quarry, with the Afon Ogwen lying to the east and the mountains of the Glyder Ridge to the south.

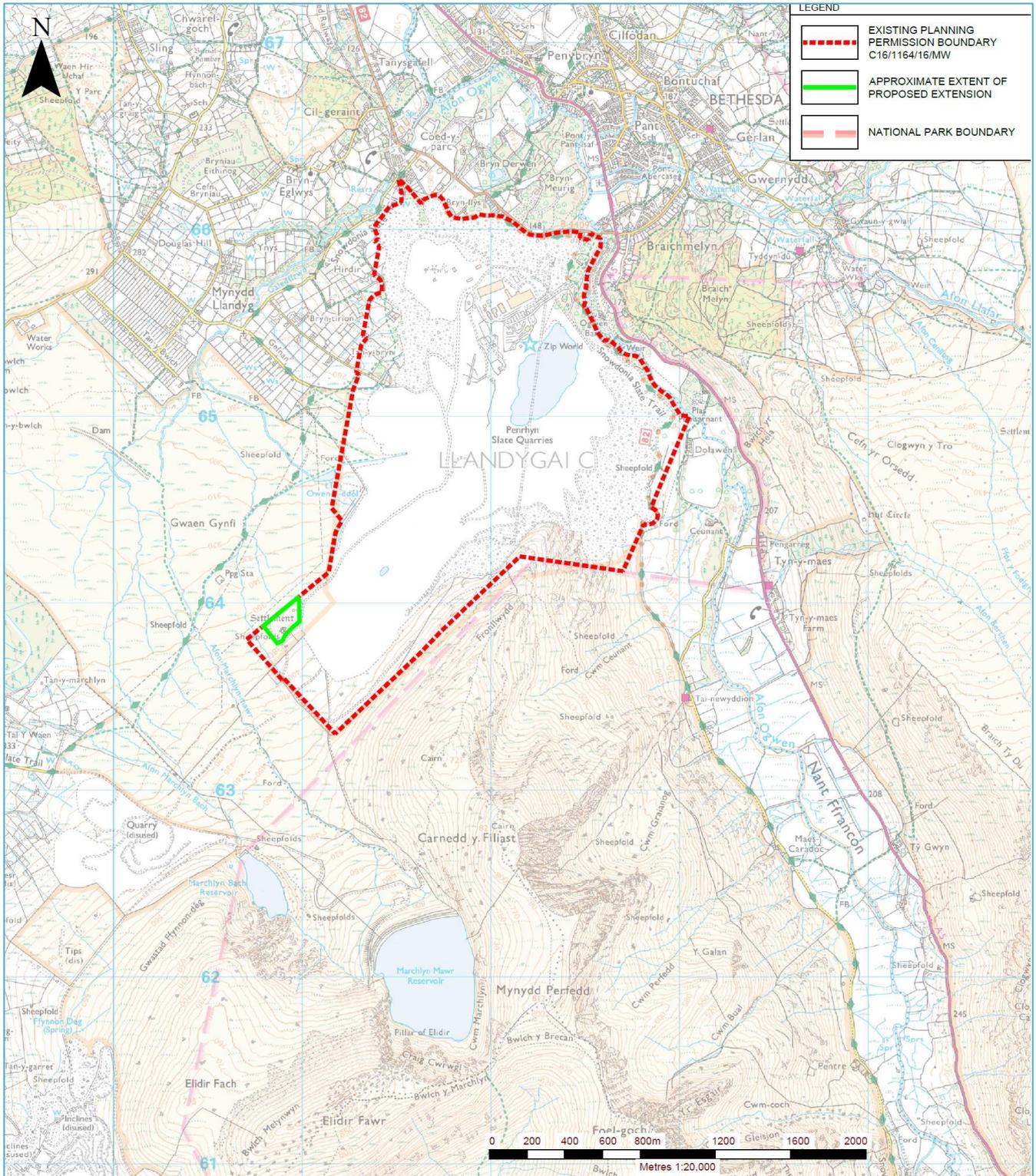
For identification purposes, the quarry is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SH 61947 64839, with the administrative offices located at SH 62016 65382. [Drawing PQ 2/1](#) in the ES illustrates the location of the quarry.

In terms of administration, the whole of the quarry is located within the administrative boundary of Gwynedd Council, but lies adjacent to the area administered by the Snowdonia National Park Authority.

The proposed extension to the quarry lies at the south-western corner of the quarry workings, centred on NGR SH 60904 63891. Again, [Drawing PQ 2/1](#) illustrates the location of the proposed extension within the context of the overall quarry workings at Penrhyn.

Figure 2-1 below provides an illustration of the extent of the quarry complex and location of the proposed extension within it.

**Figure 2-1**  
**Penrhyn Quarry**



### 2.3 Penrhyn Quarry

Penrhyn Quarry extends over an area of some 318 hectares (ha), the majority of which has been disturbed to some degree by quarrying or associated activities. Penrhyn Quarry comprises two quarries: North Quarry and

South Quarry. The North Quarry is separated from the South Quarry by a substantial area of slate waste which has been loose tipped. In addition to the two quarries is a works area within which are situated a range of buildings.

The main elements of Penrhyn Quarry are:

- the old North Quarry (now worked out and flooded. Includes infrastructure associated with 'Zip World');
- the existing permitted working area in the South Quarry;
- the slate waste tips;
- the processing area, aggregate processing plant and the administration offices.

The northern and eastern limits of the quarry are covered in the main by a series of slate waste tips, many of which are very old and reflect the primary means of slate waste disposal in the nineteenth century. The more recent slate waste tips are located on the north-western limits of the quarry and within the current quarry working area (at its northern end).

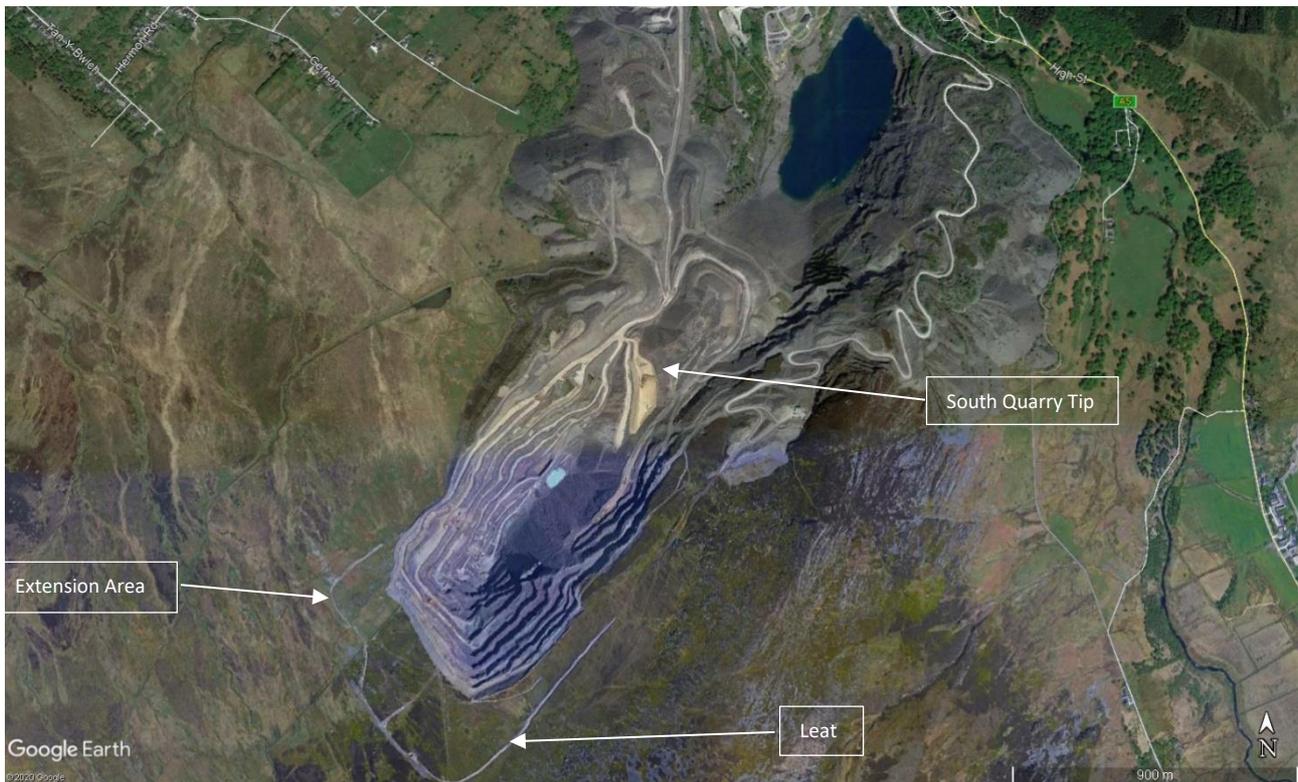
The old North Quarry is some 150 metres deep having been taken down in approximately 15m high benches. Mineral extraction (with the exception of reworking some of the waste tips) has ceased and it is now flooded to a depth of some 90m and overflows via an adit into the Afon Ogwen. The eastern side of the North Quarry is formed by steep faces, many of which are now covered by scree hiding the form of the quarry benches. To the east of the old quarry are historic slate tips; between the tips and quarry rim is an access track providing access to the launch pad for the zip lines (associated with Zip World). The northern and north western aspects to the old quarry are more open, with the site infrastructure (offices, buildings, plant and machinery) located on a plateau, shielded by peripheral slate tips. To the west and south are areas of more recent tipping.

The current quarry workings are located in the South Quarry and are advancing in a general south-westerly direction, averaging some 120m in depth from original ground levels. The South Quarry is rectangular in shape, approximately 1400m long and 500m wide. On the south-eastern side the quarry has been developed into the slopes of Y Fronllwyd, whilst to the west the land is more open, comprising heath/bog (Gwaen Gynfi). On the western side of the quarry, located at the toe of the tips, is an area that is being managed as an "*ecological compensation area*" (refer to Drawing P7/73C in Appendix 2/1 in the ES) which was agreed following the removal of land from the Special Area of Conservation as part of an earlier planning application for an extension in c. 2012 (see below). As in the North Quarry the benches are approximately 15 metres in height and are permitted to extend to within 350m of the Afon Marchlyn Mawr.

The works area is at an elevation of around 180m AOD, with the peripheral tips rising to the north and west to between 200m and 220m AOD. Further to the south (and on the western side of the South Quarry) the tips increase in height to around 360m AOD, with a similar elevation reached by the tip that divides the North and South Quarries. Between these two tips is routed the main haul road. The haul road steadily climbs from the works site to a peak of 315m AOD, before dropping into the void of the South Quarry. The base of the South Quarry is currently at an elevation of 250m AOD, whilst the rim reaches around 400m to 440m AOD on the south eastern side and between 365m and 315m AOD on the north western side.

Figure 2-1 below provides an illustration of the current form of the southern part of the quarry workings.

**Figure 2-2**  
**Context of the Southern Quarry**



## 2.4 The Proposed Extension

The proposed extension to the slate workings is located at the south-western corner of the quarry workings, contiguous with the working area. Notably, the extension would be wholly within the confines of the area covered by planning permission C12/0874/16/MW (dated 18 December 2012) but out with the extraction limits shown on the approved plans attached to that permission.

It is approximately rectangular in shape, measuring around 2.3 ha and effectively 'squares off' the quarry workings within the area bounded by the peripheral leat.

The proposed extension is bounded to the north and east by the approved quarry working area (including areas within the permission still to be worked) with a recently constructed 'leat' (drainage channel) forming the southern and western boundaries, beyond which are areas of open upland land (Gwaen Gynfi). The proposed extension currently forms part of Gwaen Gynfi (be it severed by the leat) and so has no dominant land use other than upland grazing.

## 3.0 The Proposed Development

### 3.1 Introduction

The nature of the development has been described in [Chapter 3](#) of the Planning Statement. This section provides a brief overview of the development for which planning permission is sought.

### 3.2 Overview

The principles of the quarry development scheme were established at the time of granting planning permission for an extension to the working area in 2012 (permission ref. C12/0874/16/MW and referred to as the 're-alignment application'). Details submitted to the MPA included a comprehensive working scheme for the remaining reserves at the quarry, involving the development of the quarry in a series of benches being advanced in a south-westerly direction. The working scheme was then reviewed under the Environment Act 1995 as part of the 'Review of Old Mineral Permissions' process.

The approved scheme can be divided into the following distinctive operations:

- mineral extraction (within the southern quarry);
- mineral waste tips (within the southern quarry and periphery of northern quarry);
- mineral processing for secondary aggregates (within the northern quarry area);
- production of roofing slates and ancillary building products (within the northern quarry area);
- mineral stockpiling (within the northern quarry area);
- slate products stockpiling (within the northern quarry area);
- removal of material from historic waste tips (within the northern quarry area);
- site offices and administration (northern quarry area);
- weighbridges and office (northern quarry area);
- restored mineral workings.

In the context of the proposed extension, it is only the mineral extraction and restoration (due to the subsequent change to the final profile of the quarry workings) that are relevant to the consideration of the planning applications and notably this EIA. All other aspects of the development of the quarry, including waste tipping and haulage would be undertaken in accordance with the approved scheme.

Under the current planning permission the above operations can continue until 31 December 2032, with final restoration to be completed by 31 December 2034 (condition 2 of planning permission C16/1164/16/MW refers).

In order to demonstrate the acceptability of the development proposals, a development scheme has been prepared and is described in the Planning Statement. In general terms it is proposed that the extraction operations reflect current practices and remain largely as currently permitted. Slate extraction has been phased to ensure that the application site is worked in an efficient and systematic manner, and ensures potential

environmental impacts are kept to acceptable levels whilst maintaining an adequate supply of quality of slate for the production of roofing slates etc.

In general terms it is proposed that the extraction operations continue to reflect current practices.

### 3.3 Construction Phase

As an established operation site infrastructure is already in place. To facilitate extraction of slate within the proposed extension, soils (peat) and overburden would need to be stripped to expose the slate rockhead.

### 3.4 Operational Phase

Extraction of the quality slate is undertaken to minimise fragmentation and so maximise the recovery of slate suitable for conversion into roofing or cladding slates.

To reduce the amount of waste slate produced, wire saws were introduced which increased the yield and results in minimal impact on the advancing face. Notwithstanding this, it is not always feasible to employ sawing, such as the lower faces within the quarry workings; in such instances 'black powder' blasting is used for block recovery. By widening the workings, as proposed by the extension, it will become feasible to use sawing on the lower faces which will improve the recovery of primary (roofing) slate and reduce waste.

Extracted slate is transported from the face to the processing area by dump trucks using haul roads that are routed along the working benches and join with the main haulage route located on the western side of the quarry voids.

Operations within the proposed extension would represent a continuation of the practices established at the quarry.

In common with most quarrying operations there is a need to dispose of overburden, inferior rock and mineral wastes. However, unlike conventional aggregate quarries, the volume of material to be tipped is significantly greater. Under the proposals, quarry waste will continue to be tipped within the main quarry tip located at the northern end of the current working void (South Quarry)

#### 3.4.1 Operating Hours

Under planning permission ref. C16/1164/16/MW there are no restrictions on operating hours. Notwithstanding this, conditions 17 and 18 set noise limits for certain times of the day, with condition 18 restricting 'temporary operations' (i.e. overburden stripping) to between 0600 and 1900 hours.

Under planning permission ref. C16/1164/16/MW, condition 24 provides restrictions on blasting, drilling and soil stripping/overburden removal as follows:

- Blasting
  - 1000 to 1600 hours Monday to Friday;
  - 1000 to 1300 Saturdays;
  - No blasting on Sundays, bank or public holidays.
- Drilling
  - 0700 to 1900 hours Monday to Friday;
  - 0700 to 1300 hours Saturdays;

- No drilling on Sundays, bank or public holidays.
- Soil/Overburden stripping
  - 0700 to 1900 hours Monday to Friday;
  - 0700 to 1300 hours Saturdays;
  - No drilling on Sundays, bank or public holidays.

### 3.4.2 Employment

The operation of the quarry and associated processing plant results in the employment of around 200 full-time/direct personnel.

The development also supports the indirect employment of a number of 'downstream' jobs including haulage, engineering services.

## 3.5 Restoration

The proposals do not seek to amend the restoration scheme *per se*. As part of the ROMP review a comprehensive restoration scheme was approved for the quarry workings, based on earlier reviews undertaken in 2014 and 2012. These proposals have been amended to incorporate the proposed extension so that it is amalgamated into the overall scheme.

## 4.0 Community Profile

### Introduction

This section provides an overview of the profile of the community within which the Oakeley Quarry is situated. It draws from information gathered in the 2001 and 2011 Census (and held on the Gwynedd County Council website) and provides information on:

- Area and Population
- Welsh Language
- Employment

### 4.1 Area and Population

Penryn Quarry is located within the Gwynedd Council area which has a population of some 121,874 (2011 Census) and extends in area to 253,494 hectares (ha). Compared to 2001, the population has increased in Gwynedd by 5,031 people (representing a 4.3% increase). The population in the whole of Wales was reported as 3.06 million people in 2011, increasing by 5.5% since the 2001 census. As such, the increase in population in Gwynedd is below the national figure.

For administrative purposes Gwynedd is divided into three sub areas namely:

- Arfon;
- Dwyfor; and
- Meirionnydd (in which the quarry lies).

The Meirionnydd Sub Area, which covers an area of 150,612 ha, is further divided into 20 Wards; the quarry is located in Tregarth and Mynydd Llandegai Ward (TMLW). The majority of the town of Bethesda lies within the Ogwen and Gerlan Wards, with the western part of being within TMLW.

TMLW covers an area of 2,792 ha and has a population of 2,218 recorded in the 2011 Census, being very slight decrease over the 2001 Census (2,230 people). In terms of the make-up of the population 49% are male and 51% female. Table 4-1 below summarises the age structure of the community. For comparison, figures are also provided for the County as a whole.

**Table 4-1**  
**Age Structure (2011 Census)**

	TMLW	Gwynedd
Age	Percentage (%)	Percentage (%)
0 - 4	6	5.6
5 - 15	13.8	11.6
16 - 64	63.9	62.2
65 - 74	9	10.8

	TMLW	Gwynedd
75 - 84	5.6	7.0
85 - 89	1.3	1.9
90+	0.5	1.0

From this it can be seen that the age profile for the ward is similar to that for the county. The proportion of the population being of a 'working' age is slightly higher, and the proportion of the population over 65 is slightly lower.

## 4.2 Welsh Language

Gwynedd contains the highest proportion of Welsh speakers in Wales (65.4% of people above the age of 3 can speak Welsh; the figure nationally across the whole of Wales is 19%). Compared to the 2001 Census, this has fallen slightly (by 5.2%) from 69%.

Within the TMLW 69% of the population aged 3 and above can speak Welsh; this is a very slight decrease (of 0.8%) since the 2001 census, which reflects the overall trend in the county (being a small decline). As such, it can be seen that the proportion of the population that can speak Welsh within the ward is higher than the figure for the county as a whole.

Table 4-2 summarises the information from the 2011 Census in terms of the proficiency of the population in the TMLW and county to speak, read and write Welsh.

**Table 4-2**  
**Welsh Language Proficiency**

	TMLW	Gwynedd
Proficiency Level	Percentage (%)	Percentage (%)
Population aged 3+	96.7	96.6
Can speak Welsh	69	65.4
No skills in Welsh	21.6	26.5
Can understand spoken Welsh only	8	6.9
Can speak but cannot read or write Welsh	5.7	5.8
Can speak and read but cannot write Welsh	4.2	3.4
Can speak, read and write Welsh	58.5	56
Other combination of skills in Welsh	2	1.5

In terms of the ability to speak, read and write Welsh by age group, the 2011 Census<sup>2</sup> provides the following information for Gwynedd.

**Table 4-3**  
**Welsh Language Ability by Age Group in Gwynedd**

Date	2011					
Geography	Gwynedd					
Measures	Count					
Welsh Language Skills	All usual residents aged 3 and over	Can understand spoken Welsh	Can speak Welsh	Can read Welsh	Can write Welsh	No skills in Welsh
Age						
All categories: Age 3 and over	117,789	79,395	77,000	71,236	66,703	31,177
Age 3 to 15	16,866	14,912	15,035	13,144	12,533	917
Age 16 to 24	16,723	10,014	9,805	9,491	9,017	5,910
Age 25 to 34	12,532	8,993	8,632	8,227	7,724	2,852
Age 35 to 49	22,808	16,179	15,208	14,229	13,267	5,255
Age 50 to 64	23,720	14,749	13,730	12,634	11,636	7,536
Age 65 and over	25,140	14,548	14,590	13,511	12,526	8,707

### 4.3 Employment

From the 2011 Census 73% of the population in Gwynedd are aged between 16 and 74, whilst 72.9% of the population within the ward fall within this age banding. In the 2001 Census, 71.6% of the population in the county and 70% of the population in the ward were between 16 and 74.

Table 4-3 below summarises the data from the 2011 Census.

**Table 4-4**  
**Employment Characteristics**

	TMLW	Gwynedd
Economic Activity	Percentage (%)	Percentage (%)
Economically active	72.6	65.2
Economically active: Unemployed	4.6	5.5
Economically Inactive	27.4	34.8
Economically Inactive: Long term sick or disabled	12	12.5

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/LC2106WA/view/1946157384?rows=c\\_age&cols=welsh\\_language\\_skills](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/LC2106WA/view/1946157384?rows=c_age&cols=welsh_language_skills)

	TMLW	Gwynedd
Social Class	Percentage (%)	Percentage (%)
Managerial and Professional	39.3	26.7
Skilled	28.9	30.4
Part/Unskilled	21	25.9
Students/Other	10.8	17.0

Within Gwynedd, the majority of the population between 16 and 74 are employed within the following sectors:

- Health and Social (14.7%);
- Wholesale and Retail (14.5%);
- Education (12.6%);
- Accommodation and food services (9.8%);
- Construction (9.6%).

Across the county, 2.6% are employed within the “*mining, quarrying, energy and water*” sectors.

For the TMLW, the main employment are:

- Education (19.2%)
- Health and Social (17.5%);
- Wholesale and Retail (13.9%);
- Construction (7.8%);
- Public administration and defence (7.3%);
- Communication, finance and property (5.6%);

Finally, 2.7% of the population are employed within the “*mining, quarrying, energy and water*” sectors.

#### 4.4 Local Infrastructure - Facilities and Services

Penrhyn Quarry is located to the south of the town of Bethesda, with access onto the B4409, which joins the A5 a short distance to the east; the A5 is a major road in the region. Bethesda is a main service centre within the local area.

As an ‘Urban Service Centre’ (as defined by the Settlement Strategy in the LDP) there are a range of facilities and services located within the town including schools, leisure centre, shops, library, GP surgeries, pharmacies, train station, bus routes, hotels and restaurants. There are also residential areas and industrial areas within the town.

It is therefore considered that there are adequate services and facilities in the local area and the proposed development would not affect these.

#### 4.5 Engagement with the Local Community

The nature of the development is such that a pre-application consultation is required. Such a consultation was undertaken during December 2020 to January 2021 and is reported in the Pre-Application Consultation Report which accompanies the planning application.

## 5.0 Policy Background

### 5.1 National Policy

#### 5.1.1 Planning Policy Wales (2021)

Edition 11 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. The primary objective of PPW is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

At the heart of PPW (as with previous editions) is the concept of sustainable development. PPW defines sustainable development as:

*“... the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.*

*Acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle means that a body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.*

PPW is divided into five key chapters covering People and Places; Strategic and Spatial Choices; Active and Social Places; Productive and Enterprising Places; Distinctive and Natural Places. In relation to the Welsh Language, it crops up in several chapters including Chapters 2 (People and Places); 3 (Strategic and Spatial Choices); 4 (Active and Social Places). Firstly, chapter 2 comments that the planning system should create sustainable places, which are *“attractive, sociable, accessible, active, secure, welcoming, healthy and friendly”*<sup>3</sup>; the Welsh language helps to support this aim through the sociable, welcoming and friendly aspects referred to. Referring to Figure 5 in chapter 2, creating and sustaining communities enables the Welsh language to thrive, which is an integral part of the *‘National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes’*. Paragraph 2.28 adds that key factors in the assessment process include *inter alia “cultural considerations – how far the proposal supports the conditions that allow the use of the Welsh language”*.

In chapter 3 paragraphs 3.25 to 3.29 address the Welsh language. In paragraph 3.25 it states that *“the Welsh language is part of the social and cultural fabric and its future well-being will depend upon a wide range of factors, particularly education, demographic change, community activities and a sound economic base to maintain thriving sustainable communities and places. The land use planning system should take account of the conditions which are essential to the Welsh language and in so doing contribute to its, use and the Thriving Welsh Language well-being goal.”*

In chapter 4, within the introductory PPW comments that *“active and social places are those which promote our social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing by providing well connected cohesive communities”*. It goes on to set out the ways places which are active and social contribute to the seven goals in the Well-being of Future Generations Act including:

*“A vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language ... Culture and the Welsh language make a distinctive contribution to the vitality of communities”.*

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<sup>3</sup> Paragraph 2.3

## 5.1.2 Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language

The purpose of this TAN is to provide guidance on how the Welsh language may be given appropriate consideration in the planning system and on compliance with the requirements of planning and other relevant legislation.

Section 1.7 in the introduction addresses the Welsh language. In paragraph 1.7.1 it recognises that the Welsh language is part of the social and cultural fabric of Wales. Paragraph 1.7.3 goes on to add that *“The future of the language across Wales will depend on a wide range of factors beyond the town and country planning system, particularly education, demographic change, community activities and a sound economic base to maintain thriving sustainable communities. The planning system can contribute to the future well being of the Welsh language, by establishing the conditions to allow sustainable communities to thrive. For example, creating conditions for well-paid employment opportunities and a range of quality housing options are integral to planning for sustainable communities”*.

In the context of ‘Development Management’ (Chapter 3) paragraph 3.1.2 states *“In determining individual planning applications and appeals, considerations relating to the use of the Welsh language may be taken into account so far as they are material. Section 70(2) TCPA does not give any additional weight to the Welsh language above any other material consideration and decisions on all applications for planning permission must be based on planning grounds only and be reasonable”*.

Finally, under the heading of mitigation, paragraph 3.4.1 comments *“Mitigation measures can reduce or eliminate potential adverse impacts of development on the Welsh language, while enhancement measures may deliver wider benefits from a development. Circumstances in which the LPA expect mitigation or enhancement measures to be applied should be identified in the LDP, while further matters of detail may be set out in supplementary planning guidance (SPG). These should provide the developer and decision maker with information relating to appropriate measures for the type and location of development. For large windfall developments, an impact assessment may identify additional or site-specific measures”*.

## 5.2 Local Policy

### 5.2.1 Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan

The Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 31 July 2017. The LDP is a land use development strategy for a period of 15 years which concentrates on sustainable development. It will aim to achieve the following:

- guide the development of housing, retail, employment and other uses;
- include policies which will aid the Local Planning Authority’s decision with regard to planning applications;
- protect areas to ensure the maintenance and enrichment of the natural and built environment

The LDP contains a number of Strategic Policies and general policies which are grouped by topic area. As the LDP covers all forms of development not all of the policies are relevant. Of note is Strategic Policy PS:1 which considers the Welsh language and culture indicating that the Councils will promote and support the use of the Welsh language in the Plan area. It then sets out how the policy will be achieved, referring to the need for Welsh Language Statement or Assessment. Strategic Policy SP 1 is also directly referenced in policy ISA 1: Infrastructure Provision and PS5: Sustainable Development.

## 5.2.2 Supplementary Planning Guidance: Maintaining and Creating Distinct and Sustainable Communities (July 2019)

The purpose of this SPG is stated (paragraph 1.4) as being to *“help applicants for planning permission to understand relevant policies that integrate 'sustainable development' into the development process, in order to maintain and create distinctive and sustainable communities. This will ensure that legislative and policy requirements are met and that best practice standards are achieved. It provides a standardised methodology that all applicants should follow.”*

The SPG may be considered to be material planning considerations during the process of assessing and determining planning applications.

The SPG is structured into three main sections and a series of Appendices:

- SECTION 1 (Parts A and B) – this section gives a general description of what is meant by distinctive and sustainable communities and how specific types of development contribute to maintaining and creating distinctive and sustainable communities;
- SECTION 2 (Part C) – The first Section of the SPG highlights the relevance of the Welsh language to a number of developments that are necessary to maintain and create distinctive and sustainable communities. The second Section of the SPG provides information on the detailed requirements of the Local Planning Authority about the way Policy PS 1 of the Local Development Plan will be implemented. It shows how Welsh language considerations are expected to be incorporated into every relevant development. It includes requirements about how to record the way the relevant development would benefit the Welsh language through a Welsh Language Statement or a Report about a Welsh Language Impact Assessment;
- SECTION 3 (Parts CH and D) – this section provides guidance in terms of how supporting evidence should be provided having regard to the wider considerations associated with sustainable development.

At paragraph A3 the SPG links sustainable development with the Welsh language stating *“With respect to the Welsh language, a sustainable development involves the promotion, protection and strengthening the situations in communities that are important cornerstones of linguistic planning, such as passing on the Welsh language in the home (or the socialisation of Welsh in the family), and providing and replicating the necessary social context to use the Welsh language as part of the normal fabric of society.”*

Table 1 (planning policy considerations for specific types of development) indicates how a development helps or maintains distinctive and sustainable communities. For employment developments it comments:

- developments that support jobs in the area of the Plan are crucial in fostering the economic and social well-being of our local communities (Policy PS 13);
- developments that require a location in the countryside are likely to be approved if they support industries that are in keeping with the site and local area (Policy PS 13, Policy CYF 6, Policy TWR1 - Policy TWR 5);
- places of work are one of the important linguistic places where the aim is to encourage and enable the use of the Welsh language in the workplace and when interacting with customers, the public, and other workers in the workplace (Policy PS1, Policy ISA1).

Finally, in paragraph C1, in considering The Welsh Government's ambition is to "see a million people being able to enjoy talking and using Welsh by 2050" the SPG comments that *“it is important for applicants to understand therefore that there is an expectation for developments over the Plan period to contribute positively towards the sustainability and viability of the Welsh language and not only avoid contributing to a reduction in the proportion of the population that can speak the Welsh language”*. However, Paragraph C12 adds that the

system cannot “*discriminate against a planning application on the grounds of an applicant's linguistic ability and the linguistic ability of the individuals who will occupy or use a property or land*”.

## 6.0 Assessment of the Effects of the Development on the Welsh Language

### 6.1 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

The development has been summarised in Section 3 above, as well as being described in more detail within the Planning Statement which accompanies the planning application.

The quarry and associated slate processing/cutting operations are an established operation for which planning permission was first granted in 1947 under the Town and Country Planning (General Interim Development) Order 1946 (be it the quarry has been in existence for much longer). Over the years, investment has been provided for the quarry and the business has developed, supplying a roofing and architectural slate products to the local and regional construction sector.

The quarry currently supports the employment of around 200 personnel directly.

The proposals seek to continue the development of the quarry and associated processing into the long term.

In terms of compliance with the Development Plan, Chapter 4 of the Planning Statement should be referred to. That chapters sets out the main policies at the National and local level and how the development accords with the thrust of these policies. It is not proposed to repeat this policy analysis in this statement.

### 6.2 Key Considerations in the Context of Welsh Language

Based on the issues shown in the table following paragraph 23 in Appendix 7 to the SPG the following table sets out the analysis of how the planning application may affect Welsh language. As the development does not involve the construction of any new housing, issues relating to housing have not been included.

LANGUAGE AND POPULATION MOVEMENT	
How will the development ensure opportunities for local people to stay in their communities?	The development increases slightly the reserves of slate at the quarry, but more importantly, makes working easier by widening the working area. this will help maintain the existing employment opportunities for the workforce into the long term. This will mean that there would be no pressures on the workforce to relocate to other areas.
Is it likely that the development will attract people to the community? If there is, how many are expected? How many and what percentage are likely to be Welsh speakers?	The development will maintain the status quo at the site and as noted above, maintain existing employment. As such there is not expected to be any inward migration to the area.
Is there a likelihood that local people will migrate from the community as a result of the development?	Again, as an established operation it is not considered that the proposals will cause a migration from the local community.
Balance between Welsh speakers (including learners) and individuals that do not have any Welsh language skills?	As the development will maintain the status quo at the site the proposals are unlikely to change the current balance of Welsh speakers.

Is the development likely to lead to a change in the age structure within the population: more or less children, young people, middle- age people, elderly?	As the development will maintain the status quo at the site the proposals are unlikely to change the age structure.
Is the change likely to be a permanent one or a temporary one?	Any changes would be long term for the duration of the planning permission.
<b>VISUAL ELEMENTS</b>	
Whether the development will increase the visibility of the language?	The development will continue the extraction of slate and associated processing operations of an existing quarry and ancillary works and so there would be no change to the visibility of the Welsh Language.
Corporate image and branding - signs and advertisements on the site that are within the planning remit, e.g. advertising/marketing sign for a new housing site, signs and advertisements to customers in public places on employment sites	The site has a corporate sign at the entrance. There are few signs around the site other than the usual health and safety notices. No additional signage is proposed as part of the development.
The name of the site or development –will it retain an old Welsh name or will any new name be derived from historic, geographical or local ties to the area, if practical	The site will continue to be known as Penrhyn Quarry (for which a corporate sign is already in place – see previous question).
<b>QUALITY OF LIFE INCLUDING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	
Is there a sufficient supply of childcare and preschool places in the locality?	Given there are no changes to the level of employment (and thus no inward migration) at the site there would be no effects on childcare/pre-school places
Is there sufficient capacity in schools in the locality? Is the development likely to require more school places or is the provision already sufficient? Is there sufficient resources to ensure that the schools are able to carry on to accomplish their role of producing fluent Welsh speakers?	As above. Given there are no changes to the level of employment (and thus no inward migration) at the site there would be no effects on school places.
The balance between non-Welsh speakers and Welsh speaking pupils in the school	As above. Given there is no change to the level of employment there are no implications for the balance between non-Welsh and Welsh speaking pupils.
Will the development increase the demand for Welsh immersion support for newcomers?	No.
Will the development increase the demand on local facilities and services?	No.
The extent to which the development will have a positive or negative impact on existing facilities or services?	The development will have a limited positive effect. Maintaining the level of employment at the site into the long term will continue the level of support to local services and facilities. As such there will be a small positive effect.

To what degree will the development create new opportunities to promote the Welsh language in local facilities and services such as halls, shops, and so on?	A high proportion of the workforce, including senior management, are Welsh speakers. Whilst the proposals will not lead to any new opportunities it will maintain the status quo.
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>	
How will the development contribute to current employment opportunities in the area, e.g. will it foster economic variability in the local area or not?	The development will maintain the existing level of employment at the site. In addition, the development supports indirect employment through procuring services and goods. Wherever possible, these are sourced locally.
Number of full and/ or part time jobs	The development supports around 200 direct employees.
Skills which are necessary for the business or organisation and how that compares with the labour skills of local people (within the travel to work area)	As an existing operation the skills necessary for the development are already in place. Aside to this a training development programme is in place which consists of statutory as well as industry specific training. This programme also includes development of management skills.
Salaries that will be offered and how that compares with average wages in the area	As a continuation of the existing operation there would be no change to the payroll for the site; the level of salary would continue, leading to no change in the level of disposal income.
The labour skills of local people (within the travel to work area) and how likely it is according to the above assessment the posts will be filled from among the local population	As an existing operation there is no requirement for any new posts to be filled.
Is it likely that you will need to search outside the local area for employees, e.g. to obtain specialist skills	As above.
What type of Welsh language skills are essential and desirable for the jobs that will be created by the development? These will need to be defined as part of the development's Welsh language Plan (voluntary or statutory).	The ability to speak Welsh fluently is desirable given the level of Welsh spoken on site (and at other sites operated by the applicant).
Welsh Language skills that will be necessary for the workers and their dependants to integrate into the local community	As there is no change to the level of employment then this is not an issue.  In the past when new staff have been employed, they have been recruited from the surrounding local community.
The possible cumulative impact that the development could have, taking account of any other relevant recent development in the local area	As the development is for the continuation of an existing operation then there would not be any cumulative effects.

## 6.3 Analysis and Summary

As an existing operation the workforce is already in place. A substantial number of the workforce, including senior management, have a range of abilities in the Welsh language, including the ability to speak Welsh.

With the workforce in place, there is no requirement to recruit and so there would be no inward migration of workers to the area and thus no likelihood of diluting the proportion of the local population with Welsh language skills. Similarly, no pressure would be placed on local services.

Overall therefore, no further mitigation is considered necessary to promote or enhance the use of the Welsh language.

## 7.0 Conclusions

This document comprises a Welsh Language Statement and has been produced by SLR Consulting Limited on behalf of Breedon Trading Limited (trading as Welsh Slate). This statement forms part of a package of documents being formally submitted to Gwynedd Council (as Mineral Planning Authority, 'MPA') in support of three planning application relating to land at Penrhyn Quarry near Bethesda, Gwynedd.

Breedon Trading Limited is submitting two planning applications for Penrhyn Quarry. The first planning application seeks a small lateral extension to the working area of the quarry at its south-western corner. Land associated with the proposed extension lies wholly within the boundary of the current planning permission. The second planning application seeks to amend the provisions of the extant planning permission in so far as it relates to the duration of extraction operations.

These proposals have been amended from those previously consulted on between 11 December 2020 and 22 January 2021 as part of the formal Pre-Application Consultation process. In this respect, the extent of the proposed extension has been reduced to 1.6 hectares (ha) so that it lies on the inside of the drainage leat that bounds the quarry. In view of the reduced extension, and in the light of being able to sell more of the quarry waste, the requirements for additional tip capacity has reduced. Accordingly, it is no longer proposed to amend the tipping arrangements from those approved as part of the Review of Old Mineral Permissions under the Environment Act 1995 (permission ref. C16/1164/16/MW).

Policy PS1 "*Welsh Language and Culture*" within the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan indicates that a Welsh Language Statement or Welsh Language Assessment will be needed for certain developments. This is expanded upon in the Supplementary Planning Guidance Note "*Maintaining and Creating Sustainable Communities*". Following an email exchange with the Senior Planning Officer at the Council it has been confirmed that a Welsh Language Statement is needed.

This statement has followed the relevant guidance noted above and has collected, recorded and analysed information about the local community within which the development is located; the policy requirements; and then considered this against the questions posed in the guidance.

From this analysis it has been noted that as an existing operation the workforce is already in place. A substantial number of the workforce, including senior management, have a range of abilities in the Welsh language, including the ability to speak Welsh.

With the workforce in place, there is no requirement to recruit and so there would be no inward migration of workers to the area and thus no likelihood of diluting the proportion of the local population with Welsh language skills. Similarly, no pressure would be placed on local services.

Overall therefore, no further mitigation is considered necessary to promote or enhance the use of the Welsh language.

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