

## Environmental Assessment

A full Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') is being undertaken to establish the likely significant effects of the development. This will be reported within an Environmental Statement which will be submitted with the planning application. The scope of the EIA has been agreed with Gwynedd County Council through a formal process known as scoping.

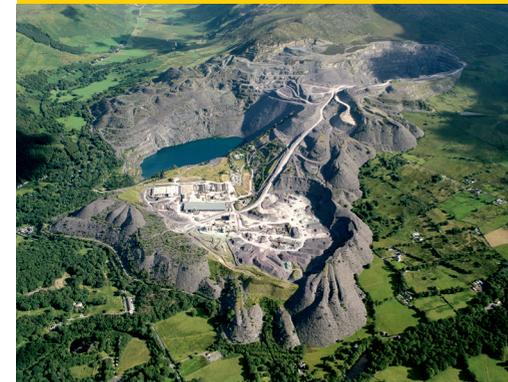
<b>Air Quality</b>	Consideration has been given to the potential for emissions of dust from the site preparation, extraction and tipping operations, having regard to the proximity of nearby dwellings. For the quarry extension, dwellings are over 1km away but properties in Mynydd Llandegai are close to the peripheral tips.
<b>Archaeology</b>	Consideration has been given to the potential to impact upon features of archaeological significance, either directly (as a result of disturbing the ground) or indirectly on features that lie outside of the site (such as listed buildings, scheduled monuments and historic landscapes). To inform the assessment, geophysical and hand dug pits/trenches have been undertaken.
<b>Ecology</b>	EIA has examined the effects associated with the loss of habitat from the site due to clearance and stripping operations, together with any potential effects on features off site. Allied to this consideration has been given to the loss of land from the European and national designated sites at Gwaen Gynfi.
<b>Landscape and visual</b>	The assessment has examined the landscape character of the local area as a result of expanding the quarry, including the effect upon the Snowdonia National Park. It has also examined the potential visibility of the development from sensitive locations, such as public areas, footpaths and residential areas around the quarry. This has been informed by 3D computer models of the development and local landscape. The assessment helps inform the tip design and restoration to ameliorate any identified impacts.
<b>Noise</b>	Noise levels resulting from site preparation, extraction and tipping operations have been calculated and assessed having regard to recognised standards and guidance. In considering the noise effects, consideration has been given to existing background noise levels at nearby receptors. The assessment has had regard to existing controls over noise, including noise limits that have previously been agreed for nearby residences.
<b>Vibration</b>	Existing practices in terms of winning the slate would be employed, which involves the use of controlled blasts for the upper horizons of slate. The EIA has examined the likely levels of vibration from blasting events at nearby properties having regard to previous assessments.
<b>Water</b>	Consideration has been given to whether the development would affect surface and ground waters in terms of quantity or quality, having regard to local abstractions.
<b>Wellbeing</b>	Consideration has been given to how the proposals may affect the wellbeing of the local communities, having regard to the population and existing health of the communities around the quarry. The assessment then looks at how issues such as dust, noise and vibration may affect the wellbeing of the area.

## Penrhyn Quarry

### Proposals for a small north-westerly extension

Breecon Southern Limited will be submitting a planning application for:

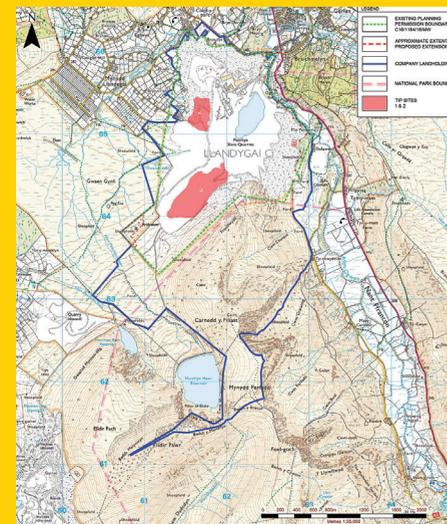
- A small north-westerly extension to the southern part of the working area together with the associated stockpiling of soils and overburden, associated landscaping works and restoration of the workings to a range of habitats
- An amendment to the approved working scheme within the existing quarry in so far as it relates to the tipping of quarry waste.



**Penrhyn Quarry is located immediately to the south of the town of Bethesda, with the settlements of Mynydd Llandegai, Bryn Eglwys, Coed y Parc and Braichmelyn forming an arc to the north of the quarry.**

The 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. The main elements of the quarry are:

- The old North Quarry (*now worked out and flooded*);
- The existing permitted working area in the South Quarry;
- The slate waste tips;
- The processing area, aggregate processing plant and the administration offices.

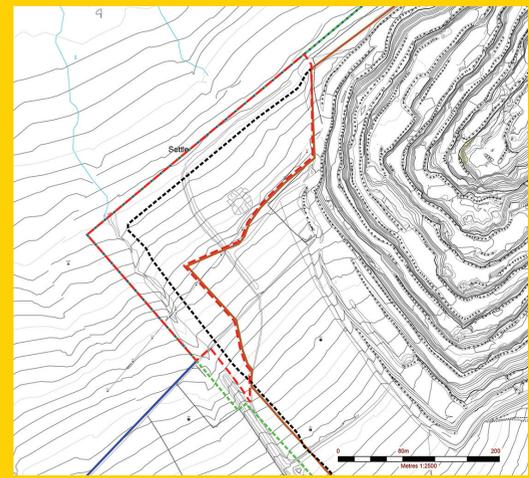


The northern and eastern limits of the quarry are covered in the main by a series of slate waste tips, many of which are very old and reflect the primary means of slate waste disposal in the nineteenth century. The more recent slate waste tips are located on the north western limits and the centre of the previous quarry area.

## > The Proposed Extension

The proposals involve extending the workings into an area of 4.3ha lying adjacent to the current approved working area to effectively 'square off' the quarry workings. The proposed extension currently forms part of Gwaen Gynfi (be it partially severed by the lease) and so has no dominant land use other than upland grazing.

The proposed extension would be worked in an identical fashion to the current workings, for which a comprehensive working scheme was approved in 2017 as part of a review under the Environment Act 1995. The proposed extension would release around 4 to 5 years supply of good quality slate.



## > Amendment to the Tips

Under the approved scheme, the majority of the slate waste is tipped within the southern quarry workings, with limited amounts tipped on the north-western side of the quarry.

The current approved profile of the tips will not accommodate all of the mineral waste arising from the development and so it is proposed to increase the height of two of the tips. In so doing, a revised restoration scheme is being provided, which also shows how the proposed extension will be accommodated within the wider restoration works. It is not proposed to extend the footprint of the tips nor alter the external appearance of any of the historic tips. Under the Environment Act 1995 the proposed extension would release around 4 to 5 years supply of good quality slate.

