

GWYNDY QUARRY, LLANDRYGARN, LLANNERCHYMEDD, ANGLESEY LL71 7AW

**PLANNING APPLICATION FOR PROPOSED EXTRACTION OF TWO ADDITIONAL
LIFTS TO EXISTING QUARRY TO -10 METRES BELOW AOD**

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT

JULY 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This Green Infrastructure Statement has been prepared by House Associates on behalf of Hogan Aggregates. It supports an application for the proposed extraction of two additional lifts to the existing quarry to -10 metres below AOD, (hereinafter referred to as 'the site').

1.2 This Green Infrastructure Statement is structured as follows:

- Section 2 explains the purpose of the Green Infrastructure Statement
- Section 3 describes the benefits of the development in terms of biodiversity and
- Section 4 draws some conclusions to this Statement

1 THE REQUIREMENT FOR A GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

- 1.1 The Welsh Government published a 12th edition of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) in February 2024. A key change introduced in the revised PPW is the requirement for all planning applications to be submitted with a 'Green Infrastructure Statement' (para 6.2.5). A 'Green Infrastructure Statement' is now required with all new applications and should describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal.
- 1.2 PPW advises that the Green Infrastructure Statement should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the proposed development. The Green Infrastructure Statement is intended to be an effective way of demonstrating positive multi-functional outcomes which are appropriate to the site in question and must be used for demonstrating how the 'Step-wise Approach' (Paragraph 6.4.21) has been applied.
- 1.3 The 'Step-wise Approach' looks to maintain and enhance biodiversity, build resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits for biodiversity by ensuring that any adverse environmental effects are firstly avoided, then minimized, mitigated, and as a last resort compensated for.

2. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND BIODIVERSITY IMPACTS

- 2.1. In order to extend the operational life of the quarry and to maximise the extraction of the granite resource, it is proposed that the quarry will be deepened by two benches (30 m) and extend laterally to the permitted extraction limit. The proposed development does not involve additional land outside of the already permitted quarry area.
- 2.2 A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the quarry was undertaken in April 2024. The survey boundary had an area of approximately 20ha and mainly comprised a working quarry with associated access roads, spoil mounds and buildings associated with the ongoing operation of quarry machinery. The PEA identified three ponds and two ditches within the base of the quarry, with a further three ponds in the ownership boundary. The areas surrounding the quarry were found to contain a range of additional habitats including dense scrub, semi-improved grassland, scattered trees and a mixed, semi-natural woodland.
- 2.3 The PEA highlighted the requirement for further work in relation to the following habitats and species as follows:
- **Amphibians** – it was recommended that a great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* impact assessment and environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis should be undertaken to assess all ponds / waterbodies onsite and within proximity to the site to determine whether they are suitable to support breeding GCNs. eDNA analysis should also be undertaken between mid-April to June inclusive. A GCN Impact Assessment was subsequently carried out and published in June 2024. The results of the impact assessment is set out in paras 2.4 and 2.5 below.
 - **Bats** – No significant vegetation removal will be undertaken as a result of the proposed development, however if the proposals change to include tree removal or arboriculture works, bats may be affected by the development. If trees are due to be removed, a ground level tree assessment (GLTA) will be undertaken of all trees that have the potential to be adversely impacted by the development (felling, arboriculture works or significant level of disturbance), to assess their potential to support roosting bats. This ground level assessment can be undertaken any time of year. If any trees due to be adversely impacted are found to have the potential to support roosting bats, further aerial tree inspections will be conducted (any time of year). If any potential roosting features are found to still be suitable following the inspections, further bat presence / absence surveys or further aerial inspections will be carried during the bat survey season (May to September inclusive).
 - **Breeding birds** – No significant vegetation removal will be undertaken as a result of the development proposals, however if the proposals change to include vegetation clearance, this will take place outside of the breeding bird season and will not be undertaken from March to August inclusive. If not possible and works need to take place during this period, a targeted nest survey will be undertaken immediately prior to the works by a suitably qualified ecologist or an ecological clerk of works appointed to oversee the works.
 - **Ponds / waterbodies** – in the longer term only ponds 1 and 5 will be retained. The Landscape and Ecology Management Plan will set out the regime to maintain and manage these onsite ponds.
 - **Reptiles** – reasonable avoidance measures (RAMs) will be implemented during the construction phase of the development.
 - **Trees** – these will be retained where possible or replaced as part of the detailed landscaping scheme.
 - **Watercourse** – specific procedures and control measures will be implemented to ensure that there is no risk of input into the watercourse, including the retention of a buffer zone.

The measures will be set out by the contractors prior to commencement and agreed with the LPA and other statutory consultees.

- **Woodland** - will be retained. A detailed woodland management plan will form part of the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan.

- 2.4 The GCN Impact Assessment was carried out for the three ponds and two ditches within the base of the quarry, a further three ponds within the ownership boundary, and an additional pond directly adjacent to the western boundary of the site. These waterbodies were subject to eDNA analysis in April 2024. Ponds 2-7 and Ditches 1-2 returned negative eDNA results showing 0 replicates out of 12, indicating that GCNs are likely absent from these waterbodies.
- 2.5. Pond 1, however, returned positive eDNA results, indicating GCNs are likely to be present within this pond. Although GCNs are present on the site, due to the nature of the works, the steep side of the quarry between the pond and working area, and as the access to the working area (base of the quarry) is located on the opposite side of the quarry to Pond 1, the Impact Assessment considered it unlikely that GCNs will be present within the proposed development area. As such, works may proceed under a non-licensed GCN method statement which will detail the necessary mitigation and compensation to avoid impacts on GCNs and to avoid any potential breaches of protected species legislation, in the unlikely event that GCNs are present within the working area.
- 2.6. The area of quarry workings has been established in planning consent 14/LPA/621A/CC in 1994. The proposed development involves a depth extension which lies entirely within the permitted working boundary. When quarrying ceases and the quarry void begins to fill with water, there are small areas of habitat that will be lost including ponds 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, some small areas of scrub and a small area of semi improved neutral grassland. However, the final restoration proposals set out in the current application provides for the retention of areas of mixed woodland and scrub, of Pond 1 within which GCNs are present and provides for the creation of significant new habitats around the water body.
- 2.7 It is anticipated that the total period of mineral extraction will be in the region of 30 -35 years during which time there is potential for the creation of temporary habitats to be developed on worked out benches. Where spoil is available on the lower benches these could be hydroseeded to create rough grassland. Whilst the final water level will be achieved in the region of twenty years from the cessation of mineral extraction. During that time a ramped access track will be maintained at all levels to ensure that wildlife is able to ingress and egress the waterbody. At each level it will be possible to establish some marginal wetland habitat, accepting that over time these will be lost as the water level rises.
- 2.8 The final restoration proposals for the site are described in full in the Restoration Proposals Document submitted with this application. As referred to above, the quarry void will gradually fill with water once mineral extraction ceases and pumping no longer takes place. Around the periphery of the quarry, there is potential for habitat retention and creation. On the eastern margins of the water body, an area of acidic grassland will be created. An area of deciduous woodland will be planted on the west of the site adjacent to the quarry entrance. Substantial areas of mixed scrub woodland will be created on the eastern, southern and northwestern periphery of the quarry. Finally additional GCN habitat will be created in the form of scrapes and ponds in the vicinity of Pond 1.
- 2.9 The development also presents an opportunity to improve the habitats on site for wildlife, such as bats and birds. The inclusion of nest boxes and bat boxes will provide suitable nesting and roosting features in the long term.

2.10 The provision of bat boxes as part of the development proposals will increase the roosting opportunities for bats on site and will also increase the ecological value of the site. Bat boxes that will be used on site include:

- Schwegler 1FF box (affixed to trees or buildings)
- Schwegler 2F box (affixed to trees or buildings)
- Schwegler 1FW hibernation box (affixed to trees)
- Schwegler 2FR bat tube (installed in connected pairs or threes into the external walls of buildings)

2.11 Bat boxes will be affixed to trees at a height of between 5 and 6m metres on a southerly aspect. The bat boxes will also be affixed to, or installed into the external walls of buildings just below the eaves / roof height.

2.12 The enhancing of the nesting habitat on site will also be achieved by the installation of bird nest boxes. Bird boxes that will be used on site include:

- Schwegler 1B nest box (affixed to trees)
- Schwegler 1SP sparrow terrace (affixed to building below the eaves)
- Schwegler 2H robin nest box (affixed to trees)
- Schwegler 3S starling nest box (affixed to trees or buildings)
- Schwegler 1MR Avianex box (affixed to trees or buildings)

The bird boxes will be installed at a minimum height of three metres above ground level. Unless there are trees which shade the box during the day, the boxes will be oriented between north and east, thus avoiding strong sunlight and the wettest winds.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 During its operational life, the proposed quarry depth extension is unlikely to have any adverse impacts upon biodiversity. There is potential for the creation of temporary wildlife habitats during the working life of the quarry however these will be lost as the water level rises. Upon the cessation of quarrying, the final restoration proposals will include planting of new areas of woodland, scrub woodland, acidic grassland and ponds and scrapes. These features together with installation of bird, bat and nature boxes will lead to a substantial increase in biodiversity.
- 4.2 The development will, therefore, make a positive contribution to the objectives of Planning Policy Wales in terms of maintaining and significantly enhancing biodiversity.