



govannon consultancy

Consultant **Dr David Gwyn** MIFA FSA

Nant y Felin, Llanllyfni Road, Caernarfon, LL54 6LY, UK

☎ +44 (0)1286 881857 govannonconsult@hotmail.com



ASSESSMENT OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DEVELOPMENT ON HISTORIC LANDSCAPE: DOLBEBIN, NANTLLE

Bryn Hughes – client

April 2013

Govannon Report GC316B

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT DOLBEBIN: ASIDOHL2 ASSESSMENT

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are standard in this report;

<i>BU</i>	<i>Bangor University</i>
<i>CCW</i>	<i>Countryside Council for Wales</i>
<i>CRO</i>	<i>Caernarfon Record Office</i>
<i>GAPS</i>	<i>Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services</i>
<i>GAT</i>	<i>Gwynedd Archaeological Trust</i>
<i>HER</i>	<i>Historic Environment Record</i>
<i>HLCA</i>	<i>Historic Landscape Character Area</i>
<i>ICOMOS UK</i>	<i>International Committee on Monuments and Sites United Kingdom</i>
<i>NLW</i>	<i>National Library of Wales</i>
<i>NMR</i>	<i>National Monuments Record</i>
<i>RCAHMW</i>	<i>Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales</i>

STAGE 1 INTRODUCTION – CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Summary description

Govannon consultancy has been commissioned by to carry out an ASIDOHL2 by Mr and Mrs B Hughes of Ffridd, Nantlle of a slate waste tip associated with the Tan'rallt slate quarry in the Nantlle valley, Gwynedd, which it is proposed to remove for secondary aggregate. This area lies within the Nantlle Valley, which is identified as a landscape of outstanding historic interest by the *Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales*.

This document constitutes that study. It concludes that the impact of the proposed development on the *Register* historic landscape would be *moderate*, with the caveat that future development will be *considerable*.

Context to the present study

Location and topography

The site is located in the present-day community of Llanllyfni in the County of Gwynedd , at grid reference SH 4904 5340 C. This location lies within the historic parish of Llanllyfni, in the commote of Uwch Gwyrfaï in the cantref of Arfon in Caernarvonshire.

The site is a tip of slate rubble projecting northwards and eastwards from Tan'rallt slate quarry on the southern flanks of the Nantlle valley, below a natural shelf on the hill-slopes. It is situated just above the break of slope above the flat valley floor, an area traditionally known as 'Dol Bebin', and is partly shielded from view to the west by another tip from a nearby quarry, Singrig, at SH 4892 5238. Tan'rallt and Singrig form part of a group of smaller slate quarries situated on the south side of the valley and on the lower southern slopes, which are separate from the major slate quarries which are situated on the valley floor and on the northern slopes of the valley.

Commission

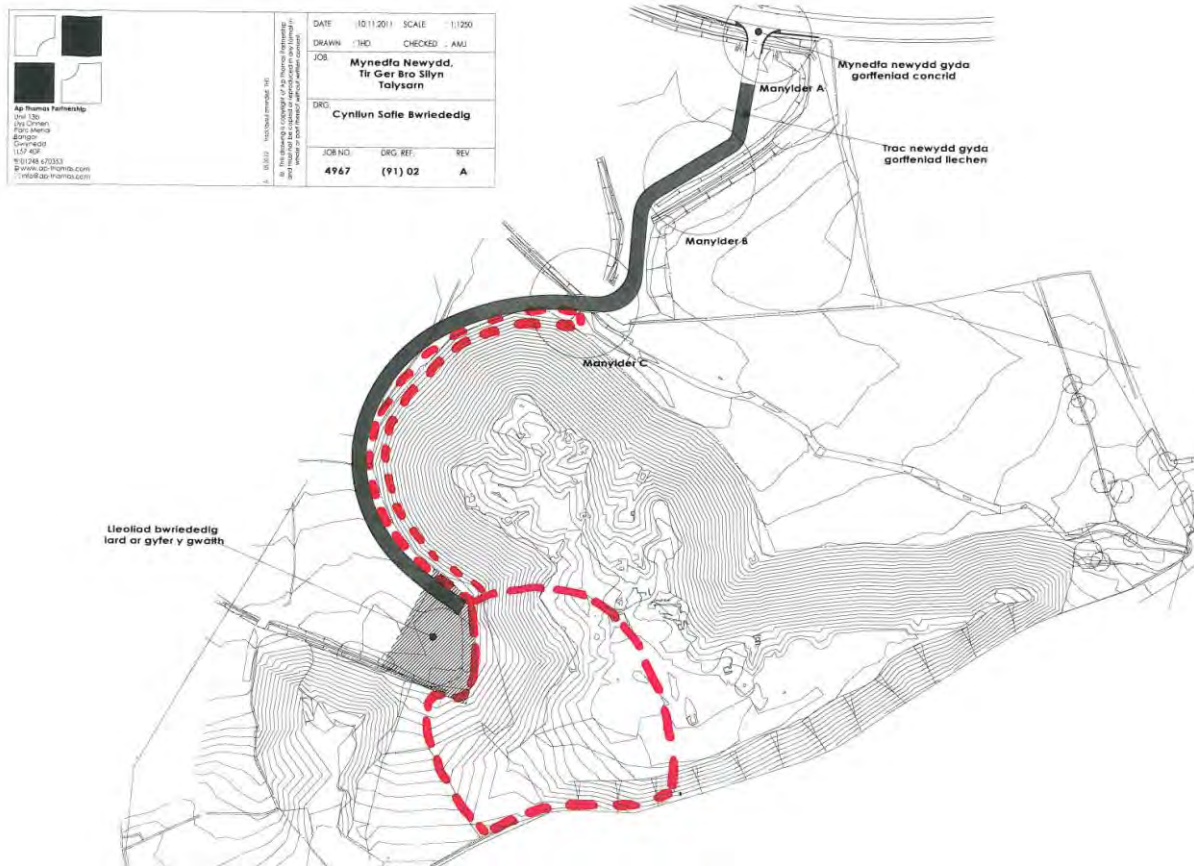
At the request of Mr and Mrs B Hughes of Ffridd, Nantlle, Govannon Consultancy has been commissioned to undertake the ASIDOHL2 assessment of the significance of the impact of the proposed development on the Historic Landscape of the Nantlle Valley. The Nantlle Valley is identified as a landscape of outstanding historic significance by the *Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales*, sponsored by Cadw, CCW and ICOMOS UK; its slate quarries form an important element in its landscape. Identification as a landscape of historic interest is non-statutory but is a material consideration in the planning process.

An ASIDOHL (Assessment of the Significance of Impacts of Development on Historic Landscape) 2 is a detailed process for assessing, as objectively as possible, how much change a proposed development might bring to the fabric and appearance of the surrounding historic landscape. They are normally prepared as an integral part of the planning process, particularly where an Environment Statement is required. The system was developed as an assessment tool for larger-scale developments affecting identified Historic Landscapes appearing in the *Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales*.

Planning Policy Wales Edition 5 (November 2012), section 6.5.25 states:

Local planning authorities should protect parks and gardens and their settings included in the first part of the 'Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest

in Wales'. Cadw should be consulted on planning applications affecting grade 1 and II* sites and the Garden History Society should be consulted on all parks and gardens on the Register³¹. Information on the historic landscapes in the second part of the Register should be taken into account by local planning authorities in considering the implications of developments which are of such a scale that they would have a more than local impact on an area on the Register (see para 6.4.9). The effect of proposed development on a park or garden contained in the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, or on the setting of such a park or garden, may be a material consideration in the determination of a planning application.



Map 1 - proposed development from outline planning application

Planning history

The proposed development comprises an access road, working area for crushing of slate waste and an area of secondary reworking within an established slate tip at SH 4900 5240 C on approx 0.12539 km² of land of which part is currently agricultural land and part is a disused tip of slate rubble and processing waste associated with the Tan'rallt slate quarry immediately to the south at SH 491 522.

It was agreed by officers of Cadw and the Countryside Council for Wales in discussion with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services that an ASIDOHL2 and Assessment were required in response to an approach made in 2008, though no applications were submitted until 2011 (C11/1140/22/LL). In November 2012 the Mineral Planning Authority decided that extraction from the tip historically associated with the quarry immediately to the west of Tan'rallt quarry was considered permitted development (under Part 23B to Schedule 2 of the General Permitted Development Order 1995).

It is understood that there are no extant consents on the site as far as Gwynedd Archaeological

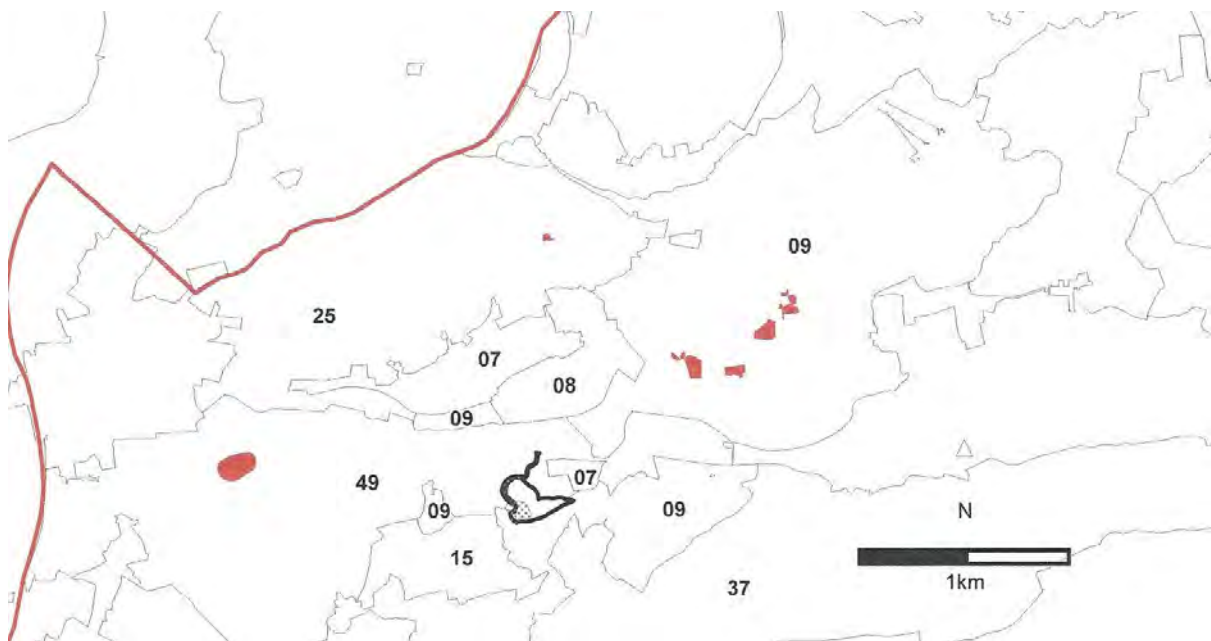
Planning Services are aware, and the current proposal is still pre-application.

Related assessments

A number of archaeological assessments and other studies have been carried out of the area and its surroundings. Those relevant to the ASIDOHL2 are noted in the Bibliography. The ASIDOHL2 is also specifically informed by an archaeological assessment (*Archaeological Assessment, Tan'rallt Quarry Rubble Tip, Dolbebin*, report 316A, April 2013), carried out at the same time by Govannon consultancy. The present document should be read in conjunction with this document.

Crucial to the ASIDOHL2 is the Historic Landscape Characterisation of the Nantlle Valley Register landscape area carried out by GAT. This identifies that the proposed development at Dolbebin needs to be considered in the light of its direct physical impact on two character areas within the Historic Landscape, *09 Nantlle Slate Quarries* and *49 Floor of Nantlle Valley*. The full characterisation of these two areas is given in **Appendix 2**.

The GAT Historic Landscape Characterisation of the Nantlle Valley Register landscape area further identified that the proposed development at Dolbebin needs to be considered in the light of its indirect impact on five further character areas within the Historic Landscape, *07 Tal y Sarn*, *08 Cloddfa'r Coed*, *15 Nebo*, *25 Moel Tryfan lower slopes* and *37 Nantlle valley lower slopes*. The full characterisation of these five areas is given in **Appendix 2**.



Map 2 – site shown outlined in black, with area of proposed removal in stippled red. Relevant HLCAs identified by number. Boundary of Nantlle Valley Register landscape shown in red. SAM sites shown in solid red.

Also relevant is the LANDMAP all-Wales Geographical Information System (GIS) -based resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent spatial data set. LANDMAP information resource can be used to improve understanding of an area in a wider landscape context and can highlight significant features, characteristics and qualities. Of the five GIS layers used in LANDMAP, the Historic layer and the Cultural layer are significant here. The area falls within two Historic landscape areas in LANDMAP terms, namely *LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect GWNDDHL005 Nantlle Slate Quarries* and

LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect GWNDDHL011 Floor of Nantlle Valley. The full description of these two areas is given in **Appendix 2**.

The area falls within two Historic landscape areas in LANDMAP terms, namely *LANDMAP Cultural Landscape aspect GWNDDCL025 Slate Quarries* and *LANDMAP Cultural Landscape aspect GWNDDCL031 Floor of Nantlle Valley*. The full description of these two areas is given in **Appendix 2**.

National, regional and local planning policies in relation to historic landscapes in the development area

National, regional and local planning policies in relation to historic landscapes in the development area are as follows:

The Gwynedd *UDP* was adopted on 16 July 2009. As a consequence, all of the Local Plans as well as the Gwynedd Structure Plan have been replaced. This therefore means that from henceforth all planning decisions made within the Gwynedd Planning Authority area will have been made, or will be made, in accordance with the *GUDP* unless there are material planning considerations that indicate otherwise. The *GUDP* does not include any reference to the WH bid, which evolved after 2009. The relevant policies are:

POLICY B7 - SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

Proposals that will damage or destroy archaeological remains of national importance (whether scheduled or not) or their setting will be refused.

A development which affects other archaeological remains will be permitted only if the need for the development overrides the significance of the archaeological remains.

In areas where there are likely to be archaeological remains, the developer will be required to commission either an Archaeological Assessment and/or field evaluation in order to determine the archaeological impact of the proposed development before the Planning Authority determines the application. The assessment/evaluation results must be submitted with the planning application, in addition to a plan showing how the impact of the proposal on the archaeological remains will be mitigated.

If a proposed development would affect nationally important archaeological remains, then the developer should prepare sympathetic plans, which retain the remains in situ. Where preservation in situ is not feasible planning conditions or agreements will be used in appropriate cases to ensure that the work of excavating and recording the remains takes place prior to commencement of the development.

POLICY B12 - PROTECTING HISTORIC LANDSCAPES, PARKS AND GARDENS

Proposals that are within or on sites visible from a park and garden identified and described in Part 1 of the Register of Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Interest in Wales will be refused if they cause significant harm to their character, appearance or setting.

Consideration will be given to the information about the historic landscapes identified in Part 2 of the same Register when assessing the impact of proposals that are of such a scale and magnitude as to have more than a local impact.

Schemes that will facilitate the appropriate management and interpretation of archaeological sites for educational or tourism purposes will be supported.

It is anticipated that the Gwynedd Local Development Plan will be adopted in 2016.

National policy in relation to historic landscapes requires information on the *Register* to be treated as a material consideration in the planning process. This is set out in paragraph 6.5.25 of the Welsh Assembly Government's Planning Policy Wales, March 2002, with further, more detailed information available in the *Register's Guide to Good Practice* also noted above.

Paragraph 6.5.24 of Planning Policy Wales states that World Heritage Sites (and their settings) are also:

a material consideration to be taken into account by local planning authorities in the determination of planning applications, and by the Welsh Government in determining cases on appeal or following call-in. The impact of development proposals on both the sites and their settings should be carefully considered.

Provisional status

It is likely that the area will either form part of the intended property or the buffer zone of the Gwynedd Slate Quarries World Heritage bid, currently on the United Kingdom's tentative list, and intended for submission to UNESCO in 2017. At the time of writing (March 2013), the boundaries of the bid have not been established, neither has any management plan been drawn up.

Confidence

The following constraints apply to the ASIDOHL2 assessment presented below.

The significance of impacts of the proposed development has been assessed in relation to the structure and layout shown on the developer's plan, **map 1**.

Site visit(s) to the proposed development site and the relevant HLCAs were undertaken on 29 March 2013. Weather conditions were good for the time of year.

No Zone of Theoretical Visibility wire-frame diagrams were available.

Personnel

The assessment was undertaken by Dr David Gwyn, MIFA, FSA and Richard Kelly MA, MIFA, FSA.

Dr David Gwyn is an industrial and landscape archaeologist with several years' experience of survey work and publication, with a particular interest in the socio-economic impacts of industrialisation in North Wales. He has undertaken a number of ASIDOHL2 assessments, including as part of preparing evidence for to Public Inquiries.

Richard Kelly is a freelance consultant, recently retired from the Countryside Council for Wales where he was responsible for leading the research work to compile the *Register* and the *Guide to Good Practice*, and for providing advice to government, local planning authorities and developers, on issues relating to the areas on the Register.

Dr Gwyn and Mr Kelly are both Welsh-speakers.

Processed used and work undertaken

Detailed guidance on the use of the *Register* is provided in the *Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and development Process* (revised [2nd] edition, Cadw, 2007), which includes a Technical Annex setting out the ASIDOHL2 process (Assessment of the Significance of Impact of Development on Historic Landscapes) used in this assessment.

The ASIDOHL2 process is based on assessing development impacts in relation to discreet Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCAs), into which the Historic Landscape has been systematically and geographically sub-divided. Full details of the HLCAs can be found in the appendix.

Historic landscape citation

This is set out in **Appendix 1**.

STAGE 2 – ASSESSMENT OF DIRECT, PHYSICAL IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT

The *Guide to Good Practice* notes (p. 18) ‘the distinction between “Extrinsic Importance” and “Group Value” will to some extent depend on the scale and level of detail at which (a) elements or characteristics and (b) Historic Character Areas have been identified.’ It is noted here that the Nantlle slate industry, which constitutes this character area, has been very extensively studied and is very well understood, as the Bibliography to this report and to GC316A make clear, but the level of archaeological identification of features has been extremely varied. Overall, features within the Nantlle slate industry have been identified by a process of rapid landscape assessment (GAT report 154), by more detailed examination of specific structures and technologies (GAT report 252), by more detailed archaeological assessments of specific sites features GC316A, as well as by an overview PhD study (Jones 1996). As a result, it is known that that features such as squatter-occupation *gwaliau* are very common indeed within this Landscape Character Area, but the overall resource has not been calculated at the level of detail offered in Govannon report 316A. The *Guide* further notes (p. 17) that ‘Where large areas are involved, or where there is a high concentration of elements as, for example, in industrial or urban areas, it is suggested that groups of similar, or related, elements are brought together and considered as a single element or characteristic.’ Govannon supports the advice offered by GAPS that each element be considered separately for the purposes of the archaeological assessment (and that the entire tip be included in the assessment), but follows the advice of the *Guide* in regarding these sites and features as a single element/characteristic for the purposes of the ASIDOHL2, here identified as *area of secondary reworking*, co-terminous with the tip itself.

The proposed development would have a direct impact on the following two HLCAs, HLCA09 and HLCA49.

HLCA09 NANTLLE SLATE QUARRIES				
Key historic landscape characteristics: slate quarries, mills, pyramids, engine houses, tips				
Absolute Impact (loss of area) 0.007km ² out of 2.946 km ² = 0.24%				
Magnitude and score – Very slight 1 – with the caveat that absolute impact has been calculated as surface loss in plan but should also include loss in elevation.				
Relative and landscape impacts (loss of known elements or characteristics) and scores				
Element / % loss	Status	Magnitude	Landscape value	Landscape value effect

Tan'rallt slate quarry tip PRN: 37040 – 22.9%	B – 3	Moderate – 3	Moderate – 3	Moderately reduced – 3
Tan'rallt slate quarry mill PRN: 37041 25%	E – 1	Moderate – 3	Very low – 1	Very slightly reduced – 1
Footpath PRN: 37042 100%	E – 1	Very severe – 6	Very low – 1	Very slightly reduced – 1
Bridge abutment PRN: 37045 100%	B – 3	Very severe – 6	Low – 2	Slightly reduced – 2
Pressure vessel PRN: 37046 100%	E – 1	Very severe – 6	Very low – 1	Very slightly reduced – 1
Area of secondary reworking PRNs: various – 22.9%	B – 3	Moderate – 3	Moderate – 3	Slightly reduced – 2
Wall PRN: 37081 100%	D – 1	Very severe – 6	Very low – 1	Very slightly reduced – 1

In the present instance, **10 + 1 = 11 moderate**

HLCA49 FLOOR OF NANTLLE VALLEY				
Key historic landscape characteristics: canalised river, road				
Absolute Impact (loss of area) 0.004 km ² out of 3.290 km ² = 0.14% through possible attrition of other parts through secondary quarrying; possible erosion though construction/operation of access road.				
Magnitude and score – Very slight 1				
Relative and landscape impacts (loss of known elements or characteristics) and scores				
Element / % loss	Status	Magnitude	Landscape value	Landscape value effect
Field system PRN: 15748 0.12%	A - 4	Very slight – 1	Very high - 6	Very slightly reduced – 1
Modern agricultural features within PRN: 15748 – gates, bridges 0.12%	D – 1	Very slight – 1	Very low – 1	Very slightly reduced – 1

In the present instance, **8 + 1 = 9 moderate**

STAGE 3: ASSESSMENT OF INDIRECT IMPACTS

Stage 3.1 Assessment of indirect physical impacts

The proposed development would have an indirect physical impact on HLCA: 09 Nantlle Slate Quarries

Indirect physical impacts on HLCA09 NANTLLE SLATE QUARRIES – 14%		
Key historic landscape characteristics: slate quarries, mills, pyramids, engine houses, tips		
Impacts	Category and score	Magnitude and score
Risk of erosion to Tan'rallt slate quarry tip PRN: 37040 – 14%	B – 3	Moderate – 3
Risk of erosion to areas of secondary reworking PRNs: various – 14%	B – 3	Moderate – 3

In the present instance, **6 = slight**

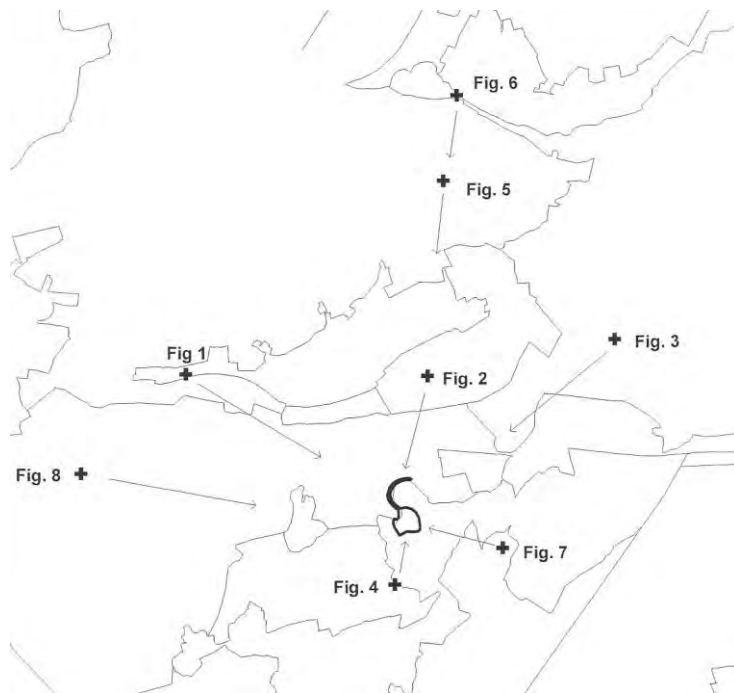
AVERAGE = 6 *slight*

It is not considered that there would be appreciable indirect physical impact on HLCA049 Floor of Nantlle Valley.

Stage 3.2 Assessment of indirect non-physical (visual) impacts

The proposed development would have an indirect (mainly non-physical, visible) impact on the following HLCAs: 07 Tal y Sarn; 08 Cloddfa'r Coed; 09 Nantlle Slate Quarries; 15 Nebo; 25 Moel Tryfan lower slopes; 37 Nantlle valley lower slopes; 49 Floor of Nantlle valley

Note that fieldwork identified the Tan'rallt slate quarry tip PRN: 37040 and the field system PRN: 15748 as the significant sites, as others identified in Govannon report GC316A are on an extremely small scale and barely visible from any distance.



Map 3 - viewpoints for figures following relative to HCAs

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 07 TAL Y SARN		
Key Historic landscape characteristics: quarry settlement, speculative builder.		
Impacts	Category and Score	Magnitude and Score
Change to profile of Tan'rallt slate quarry tip PRN: 37040; secondary re-working evident	B – 3	Moderate – 3
Change to views of Field system PRN: 15748	A – 4	Very slight – 1
Development form	3.5	Slight – 2
Development appearance	2	Slight – 2
Result = 5 slight		



Fig. 1 - view from SH 4813 5298 (steps of 56 Hyfrydle Road) to south-east

Historic Landscape Character Area 08 Cloddfa'r Coed		
Key Historic landscape characteristics: reclaimed industrial land.		
Impacts	Category and Score	Magnitude and Score
Change to views of Field system PRN: 15748	A – 4	Moderate – 3
Possible visual evidence of secondary quarrying from dimunition of revegetated area on surface of Tan'rallt slate quarry tip PRN: 37040	B – 3	Slight - 2
Development form	3.5	Slight – 2
Development appearance	2	Slight – 2
Result = 5 slight		



Fig. 2 - view from SH 4907 5292 to south-west

Historic Landscape Character Area 09 Nantlle Slate Quarries		
Key Historic landscape characteristics: slate quarries, mills, pyramids, engine houses, tips		
Impacts	Category and Score	Magnitude and Score
Possible evidence of secondary reworking from diminution of revegetated area on surface of Tan'rallt slate quarry tip PRN: 37040	B – 3	Slight – 2
Development form	3	1
Development appearance	1	1
Result = 4 slight		



Fig. 3 - view from SH 4981 5306, showing intervisibility from SAM CN199 (Dorothea quarry – table incline etc.)

Historic Landscape Character Area 15 Nebo		
Key Historic landscape characteristics: nineteenth-century enclosures, dispersed settlement		
Impacts	Category and Score	Magnitude and Score
Change to views of Field system PRN: 15748	A - 4	Very slight – 1
Area of secondary working in Tan'rallt slate quarry tip PRN: 37040 evident	B – 3	Moderate – 3
Development form	3.5	Slight – 2
Development appearance	2	Slight – 2
Result = 5 slight		



Fig. 4 - view from SH 4896 5215 looking to north-north-east

Historic Landscape Character Area 25 Moel Tryfan lower slopes		
Key Historic landscape characteristics: irregular and curvilinear enclosures, relict archaeological sites, scattered settlement		
Impacts	Category and Score	Magnitude and Score
Proposed road will be apparent	A - 4	Moderate – 3
NOTE however that the alignment of the road may serve to outline the distinctive form of the traditional slate tip. NOTE also that other haulage roads in quarries where recent working or secondary reworking has taken place are also evident features from this HLCA.		
Secondary reworking of Tan'rallt slate quarry tip PRN: 37040 possibly evident through diminution of revegetated area on tip surface	B – 3	Moderate – 3
Development form	3	Moderate – 3
Development appearance	1	1
Result = 5 slight		



Fig. 5 - view from SH 4911 5369 showing intervisibility from SAM CN265 (Hafodlas homestead)



Fig. 6 – view from Cilgwyn quarry at SH 4915 5402 looking south

Historic Landscape Character Area 37 Nantlle valley lower slopes		
Key Historic landscape characteristics: relict medieval archaeology (settlement and agriculture), farmhouses		
Impacts	Category and Score	Magnitude and Score
Partial loss of Tan'rallt slate quarry tip PRN: 37040 evident through diminution of tip surface	B – 3	Moderate – 3
Change to views of Field system PRN: 15748	A - 4	Very slight – 1
Development form	3.5	Slight – 2
Development appearance	2	Slight – 2
Result = 5 slight		



Fig. 7 - view from SH 4937 5227 looking north-west

Historic Landscape Character Area 49 Floor of Nantlle valley		
Key Historic landscape characteristics: canalised river, road		
Impacts	Category and Score	Magnitude and Score
Area of proposed secondary reworking on Tan'rallt slate quarry tip PRN: 37040 largely hidden by trees and by Singrig quarry slate tip to west, but will be visible.	B – 3	Very slight - 1
Development form	3	Very slight – 1
Development appearance	1	Slight – 2
Result = 4 slight		



Fig. 8 – view from SH 4772 5262 from Caer Engan defended enclosure/hillfort (showing intervisibility from SAM CN148 looking east-south-east)

HLCA	Direct impact	Indirect physical impact	Indirect visual impact	Total indirect score	Overall indirect impact	Overall impact 2+3
07 Tal y Sarn	None	None	5 (slight)	5 = 7/28	Slight (high)	7/28 (slight)
08 Cloddfa'r Coed	None	None	5 (slight)	5 = 7/28	Slight (high)	7/28 (slight)
09 Nantlle slate quarries	11/28 (moderate)	6 (slight)	4 (slight)	10 = 14/28	Moderate (low)	12.5/28 (considerable)
15 Nebo	None	None	5 (slight)	5 = 7/28	Slight (high)	7/28 (slight)

25 Moel Tryfan lower slopes	None	None	5 (slight)	5 = 7/28	Slight (high)	7/28 (slight)
37 Nantlle valley lower slopes	None	None	5 (slight)	5 = 7/28	Slight (high)	7/28 (slight)
49 Floor of Nantlle Valley	9/28 (moderate)	None	4 (slight)	4 = 5.6/28	Slight	7/28 (slight)

STAGE 4 EVALUATION OF RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF AREAS

Stage 4.1 Relative importance of HLCAs areas directly affected by the proposed development

4.1.1 Directly affected

As noted above, two HLCAs would be directly affected by this proposed development, HLCA09 Nantlle Slate Quarries and HLCA49 Floor of Nantlle valley. We consider these areas to be closely associated in terms of historic landscape. Whilst it is the slate industry that has shaped the distinctive landscape of the Nantlle valley, what distinguishes the quarrying areas in the Nantlle valley from other slate quarrying districts in Wales (and on present evidence, also elsewhere in the world) is the landscape evidence of the *longue durée*, both the industry's own historic evolution, beginning in the Roman period and continuing at the present time in terms of small-scale and secondary working, and also its rootedness in a broader historic community which encompasses other landscape evidence for the resourcefulness of the people who have made the area their home. This point has been agreed by professional colleagues who have worked with Govannon when it was commissioned by Gwynedd Council to consider areas for potential inclusion in the bid for World heritage status for the Gwynedd slate industry, Sir Neil Cossons, formerly Chairman of English Heritage, and Dr Sian Rees, formerly Senior Inspector with Cadw.

The question of *cultural associations* is relevant here. As noted in report GC317A, it is highly likely, given the concentration of *Mabinogion* names in the Nantlle valley and Arfon, that the Dol Pebin within the study area is mentioned in Wales' best-known medieval prose tale. The poem 'Y Ddol a aeth o'r golwg' by Robert Williams Parry, written in 1945, quoted in GC317A, explicitly associates the two HLCAs – arguably a third (see 4.1.2 below) landscape as well. The interconnectedness of these two HLCAs is apparent in that they together provide the *mise-en-scène* for the poem, even though the poet's purpose is to contrast them. The poem may equally be adduced as argument for retaining the *status quo* as an anti-capitalist statement (albeit from a culturally conservative stand-point) or as an argument in favour of maintaining the cultural contrast between the landscape of myth and legend and the landscape of economic gain and industry as giving meaning to the poem.

On this basis, the following evaluation is offered:

ASIDOHL 2 STAGE 4: EVALUATION OF THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE PART OF HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA 09 NANTLLE SLATE QUARRIES DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE DEVELOPMENT

Value	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none
	(a) Whole of historic landscape character area 09					(b) Whole of historic landscape area on the <i>Register</i>				
<i>Criterion</i>										
RARITY			√					√		
REPRESENTATIVENESS	√						√			
DOCUMENTATION				√					√	
GROUP VALUE			√					√		
SURVIVAL		√						√		
CONDITION		√					√			
COHERENCE		√						√		
INTEGRITY		√					√			
POTENTIAL			√					√		
AMENITY				√			√			
ASSOCIATIONS	√					√				
<i>Evaluation score</i>	39					38				

ASIDOHL 2 STAGE 4: EVALUATION OF THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE PART OF HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA 49 FLOOR OF NANTLLE VALLEY DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE DEVELOPMENT

Value	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none
	(a) Whole of historic landscape character area 49					(b) Whole of historic landscape area on the <i>Register</i>				
<i>Criterion</i>										
RARITY				√					√	
REPRESENTATIVENESS	√						√			
DOCUMENTATION			√					√		
GROUP VALUE			√					√		
SURVIVAL		√						√		
CONDITION		√					√			
COHERENCE		√						√		
INTEGRITY		√					√			
POTENTIAL			√					√		
AMENITY				√					√	
ASSOCIATIONS	√						√			
<i>Evaluation score</i>	39					34				

As noted above, five additional HLCAs would be directly affected by this proposed development, 07 Tal y Sarn; 08 Cloddfa'r Coed; 15 Nebo; 25 Moel Tryfan lower slopes and 37 Nantlle valley lower slopes. The same observations set out in 4.1.1 apply here in a slightly broader context. The landscape character areas all reflect the long and evolving story of this *Register* area as a whole, both in its multi-period evolution and in the different facets of its industrial history, with a Victorian quarry-worker village at Tal y Sarn (the vantage point from which Williams Parry viewed the site), a late-20th century post-industrial approach to landscape evident at Cloddfa'r Coed, scattered agricultural and dual-economy settlements in Nebo, the Moel Tryfan lower slopes and the Nantlle valley lower slopes. Govannon considers that the most significant vantage point from which to assess this proposal is at Cilgwyn quarry from SH 4915 5402 looking south (see photograph above). This vantage point has been chosen to introduce the landscape dimension to the slate industry in the forthcoming RCAHMW study, to be published in August 2014. The relevant draft section reads as follows:

... if there is anywhere that can be identified as the historic heart-land of the industry, it is the Nantlle valley and the Moel Tryfan uplands immediately to its north, in the Snowdon massif of Gwynedd, the area historically known as Arfon. A writer from the industry's heyday called this 'the home of slate quarrying. Slate quarrying has been carried on here since time immemorial. It is useless to speculate at what date slates were first discovered here ...' Unless evidence emerges for quarrying in Prehistory, it is probably safe to say that it began in the second century CE, since the slates and slabs used in nearby Segontium and Tremadoc appear to have come from here. By the Medieval period workings centred on what became Cilgwyn quarry, on the lip of the valley. Like most of the quarries that came to be worked here, it was opened in a series of pits. These are now filled in, but its huge tips of rubble remain, as do the outcrops of rough slate which may have prompted the first attempts to work the rock. ...

Cilgwyn provides a vantage-point both for the valley and the uplands. Below it to the south, the pits have now mostly flooded up to the water-table, but there are many surviving examples of the huge slate bastions for the chain inclines which once raised wagons from their depths up to the tips, as managers desperately looked for ways to dump waste rock in confined spaces. It is a remarkable landscape, not only for its quarries and workers' villages with their huge chapels but also for the sweep from the sea to the summit of Snowdon, and perhaps most of all for its great time-depth. Ancient field-systems survive on the further slopes; an Iron Age hill-fort guards the entrance to the valley, and on its far side, a neat council estate stands on the site of Dolbebin, the home of the maiden Goewin in the Medieval Welsh tale *Math vab Mathonwy*. In 1945, in one of his most famous poems, 'Y Ddôl a aeth o'r golwg', the bard Robert Williams Parry (1884-1956), born and bred in the valley, and who had gone on to be a lecturer at the University College of North Wales (now Bangor University), lamented how the mean world of industry had blighted this landscape of myth and legend.

Looking northwards from Cilgwyn, the Moel Tryfan uplands offer a very different prospect, a patchwork of smallholdings and tiny villages around quarry pits and tips on what had been until the nineteenth century unsettled moorlands considered too poor for cultivation. This is pre-eminently the cottager-quarryman landscape ... where a few acres of land could at least provide a family with butter, eggs, bacon and buttermilk. Whereas the valley nurtured poets, the uplands inspired writers of prose fiction – 'Dic Tryfan' (Richard Hughes Williams, 1878-1919), author of *Straeon y Chwarel* ('Quarry Tales') a pioneer of the Welsh short story, and above all Kate Roberts (1891-1985), a quarryman's

daughter who returned time and again to her formative years here for inspiration. Through the apparently unremarkable lives of ordinary people, men and women living within their 'square mile' of experience and memory, she recounts the terrors of existence, of loss, disappointment and ageing. For Williams Parry, industry had come between the people of Wales and their ancient genius; for Kate Roberts, the quarries had given life to a strong-willed and cultured working-class community on the mountain waste.

On this basis, the following evaluation is offered:

ASIDOHL 2 STAGE 4: EVALUATION OF THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE PART OF HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA 07 TAL Y SARN INDIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE DEVELOPMENT										
Value	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none
	(a) Whole of historic landscape character area					(b) Whole of historic landscape area on the <i>Register</i>				
Criterion										
RARITY			√					√		
REPRESENTATIVENESS		√					√			
DOCUMENTATION			√					√		
GROUP VALUE	√						√			
SURVIVAL	√						√			
CONDITION		√					√			
COHERENCE		√					√			
INTEGRITY		√					√			
POTENTIAL			√					√		
AMENITY			√					√		
ASSOCIATIONS	√						√			
Evaluation score	44					40				

ASIDOHL 2 STAGE 4: EVALUATION OF THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE PART OF HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA 08 CLODDFA'R COED INDIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE DEVELOPMENT										
Value	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none
	(a) Whole of historic landscape character area					(b) Whole of historic landscape area on the <i>Register</i>				
<i>Criterion</i>										
RARITY			√					√		
REPRESENTATIVENESS				√					√	
DOCUMENTATION				√					√	
GROUP VALUE				√					√	
SURVIVAL			√					√		
CONDITION			√					√		
COHERENCE		√						√		

INTEGRITY			√						√	
POTENTIAL				√						√
AMENITY		√						√		
ASSOCIATIONS				√					√	
<i>Evaluation score</i>	34					26				

ASIDOHL 2 STAGE 4: EVALUATION OF THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE PART OF HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA 15 NEBO INDIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE DEVELOPMENT

Value	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none
	(a) Whole of historic landscape character area					(b) Whole of historic landscape area on the <i>Register</i>				
<i>Criterion</i>										
RARITY			√					√		
REPRESENTATIVENESS			√					√		
DOCUMENTATION				√					√	
GROUP VALUE			√						√	
SURVIVAL		√					√			
CONDITION			√					√		
COHERENCE		√					√			
INTEGRITY		√					√			
POTENTIAL			√						√	
AMENITY			√						√	
ASSOCIATIONS			√					√		
<i>Evaluation score</i>	35					32				

ASIDOHL 2 STAGE 4: EVALUATION OF THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE PART OF HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA 25 MOEL TRYFAN LOWER SLOPES INDIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE DEVELOPMENT

Value	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none
	(a) Whole of historic landscape character area					(b) Whole of historic landscape area on the <i>Register</i>				
<i>Criterion</i>										
RARITY			√					√		
REPRESENTATIVENESS		√						√		
DOCUMENTATION		√						√		
GROUP VALUE		√					√			
SURVIVAL		√					√			
CONDITION		√					√			
COHERENCE		√					√			
INTEGRITY		√					√			
POTENTIAL	√						√			

AMENITY	√						√			
ASSOCIATIONS	√						√			
<i>Evaluation score</i>	45					41				

ASIDOHL 2 STAGE 4: EVALUATION OF THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE PART OF HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA 37 NANTLLE VALLEY LOWER SLOPES INDIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE DEVELOPMENT										
Value	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none
	(a) Whole of historic landscape character area					(b) Whole of historic landscape area on the <i>Register</i>				
Criterion										
RARITY			√					√		
REPRESENTATIVENESS			√					√		
DOCUMENTATION			√					√		
GROUP VALUE			√					√		
SURVIVAL		√						√		
CONDITION		√						√		
COHERENCE		√						√		
INTEGRITY		√						√		
POTENTIAL			√					√		
AMENITY			√					√		
ASSOCIATIONS			√					√		
Evaluation score	37					33				

Stage 4.3 Relative importance of the HLCAs in the national context

The Nantlle Valley Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales differs from the other slate-quarrying landscapes in that it is a demotic landscape, unlike Dinorwig and Dyffryn Ogwen, where patrician involvement is very apparent, and Blaenau Ffestiniog in that it is a multi-period landscape. At the same time, there is much that is common between these areas, and it is with them that they are compared here. Like them, it is under active consideration as a potential World Heritage site.

The World Heritage bid is currently at an early stage of preparation, and little can be said relevant to the present document. Given that it is proposed that it include working quarries and sites with extant mineral permissions, and in line with UNESCO's evolving practice of emphasising process and culture, it is understood that the bid will stress *the evolution of the working landscape and its culture*, rather than *the preservation of quarrying remains*.

On this basis, the following evaluation is offered:

Value	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none
	HLCA07 Tal y Sarn				

<i>Criterion</i>					
RARITY		√			
REPRESENTATIVENESS	√				
DOCUMENTATION			√		
GROUP VALUE		√			
SURVIVAL		√			
CONDITION			√		
COHERENCE		√			
INTEGRITY		√			
POTENTIAL			√		
AMENITY			√		
ASSOCIATIONS	√				
Score = 42					

Value	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none
	HLCA08 Cloddfa'r Coed				
<i>Criterion</i>					
RARITY				√	
REPRESENTATIVENESS			√		
DOCUMENTATION				√	
GROUP VALUE					√
SURVIVAL			√		
CONDITION			√		
COHERENCE				√	
INTEGRITY				√	
POTENTIAL					√
AMENITY				√	
ASSOCIATIONS				√	
Score = 23					

Value	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none
	HLCA09 Nantlle slate quarries				
<i>Criterion</i>					
RARITY	√				
REPRESENTATIVENESS	√				
DOCUMENTATION				√	
GROUP VALUE		√			
SURVIVAL		√			
CONDITION			√		

COHERENCE			√		
INTEGRITY			√		
POTENTIAL			√		
AMENITY			√		
ASSOCIATIONS	√				
Score = 40					

Value	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none
HLCA15 Nebo					
<i>Criterion</i>					
RARITY			√		
REPRESENTATIVENESS			√		
DOCUMENTATION				√	
GROUP VALUE				√	
SURVIVAL			√		
CONDITION			√		
COHERENCE			√		
INTEGRITY		√			
POTENTIAL				√	
AMENITY			√		
ASSOCIATIONS			√		
Score = 31					

Value	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none
HLCA25 Moel Tryfan lower slopes					
<i>Criterion</i>					
RARITY		√			
REPRESENTATIVENESS		√			
DOCUMENTATION			√		
GROUP VALUE		√			
SURVIVAL		√			
CONDITION		√			
COHERENCE		√			
INTEGRITY	√				
POTENTIAL	√				
AMENITY		√			
ASSOCIATIONS		√			
Score = 45					

Value	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none
	HLCA37 Nantlle Valley lower slopes				
<i>Criterion</i>					
RARITY			√		
REPRESENTATIVENESS			√		
DOCUMENTATION			√		
GROUP VALUE			√		
SURVIVAL			√		
CONDITION			√		
COHERENCE			√		
INTEGRITY			√		
POTENTIAL			√		
AMENITY			√		
ASSOCIATIONS			√		
Score = 33					

Value	V high/good	high/good	Mod/med	low	Poor/none
	HLCA49 Floor of Nantlle Valley				
<i>Criterion</i>					
RARITY				√	
REPRESENTATIVENESS			√		
DOCUMENTATION			√		
GROUP VALUE			√		
SURVIVAL			√		
CONDITION			√		
COHERENCE			√		
INTEGRITY	√				
POTENTIAL			√		
AMENITY			√		
ASSOCIATIONS		√			
Score = 35					

STAGE 5: ASSESSMENT OF OVERALL SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACT ON THE ENTIRE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA	VALUE OF HLCA (Stage 4)	IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT (Stages 2-3)	DEGREE OF CHANGE TO HLCA ON REGISTER
07 Tal y Sarn Key historic landscape characteristics: quarry settlement, speculative builder.	7 – key elements representing historic industrial settlement patterns; strong cultural and literary associations	3 – low visual intrusion, possible loss of integrity	3 – slight change to HLCA on the <i>Register</i>
Total score: 13		Overall significance of impact: moderate	
08 Cloddfa'r Coed Key historic landscape characteristics: reclaimed industrial land.	5 – key elements of some intrinsic importance for this and other <i>Register</i> landscapes	3 – low visual intrusion, possible loss of integrity	4 – development impact is such that there would be appreciable change to HLCA on the <i>Register</i> .
Total score: 12		Overall significance of impact: moderate	
09 Nantlle slate quarries Key historic landscape characteristics: slate quarries, mills, pyramids, engine houses, tips	6 – key elements, both rare and representative, important cultural and technical associations	5 – Some land loss and fragmentation, and consequent diminution of coherence and integrity	4 – appreciable change to overall value of HLCA on the <i>Register</i> .
Overall score: 15		Overall significance of impact: moderate	
15 Nebo Key historic landscape characteristics: nineteenth-century enclosures, dispersed settlement	5 – key elements <i>Register</i> landscape	3 – low visual intrusion, possible loss of integrity	2 – change to HLCA on the <i>Register</i> will be low.
Total score: 10		Overall significance of impact: moderate	
25 Moel Tryfan lower slopes Key historic landscape characteristics: irregular and curvilinear enclosures, relict archaeological sites, scattered settlement	7 – key elements of <i>Register</i> landscape, considerable potential and integrity	3 – low visual intrusion, possible loss of integrity	2 – change to HLCA on the <i>Register</i> will be apparent but will be minimised by distance from key viewpoints; visual coherence impact may be strengthened by construction of road emphasising distinctive tip structure.
Total score: 12		Overall significance of impact: moderate	
37 Nantlle valley lower slopes Key historic landscape characteristics: relict medieval archaeology (settlement and agriculture, farmhouses)	5 – key elements of <i>Register</i> landscape	3 – low visual intrusion, possible loss of integrity	2 – change to HLCA on the <i>Register</i> will be apparent but will be minimised by topography (natural shelf).
Total score: 10		Overall significance of impact: moderate	
49 Floor of Nantlle Valley Key historic landscape characteristics: canalised	6 – key elements of importance for <i>Register</i> landscape; important literary	3 – low visual intrusion, possible loss of integrity	2 – change to HLCA on the <i>Register</i> will be apparent but will be minimised by

river, road	associations		topography.
Total score: 11		Overall significance of impact: moderate	

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

We conclude that the proposed development, if permitted, would overall have a *moderate* impact on the outstanding historic landscape of the Nantlle valley.

Within the consistent *moderate* category we note that there are locally higher impacts, particularly in HLCA08 and HLCA09, whereas other impacts are scored in other HLCAs, which are either more distant or from which the proposed development will be partly shielded, by the natural hill-slope shelf which obscures views of the quarry from the south, by the part of the Tan'rallt quarry tips which it is not proposed to rework to the east, and by the Singrig quarry tip to the west, which obscures views from east and west.

We note that this is an application for one of a series of similar developments that have occurred within the last twenty years, and that its *moderate* impact on the HLA on the Register as a whole has to be weighed up in the context of the degree of change that has already occurred from this type of development, and is likely to occur, and increase, if this and future applications of this kind are permitted.

We conclude that further equivalent or larger scale, development, on the same tip complex or an equivalent development on an adjacent site would potentially have a *considerable* impact on the outstanding historic landscape of the Nantlle valley.

We considered the literary associations of the site of the proposed development as an important factor in our evaluation of the site. It is important to recognise the sensitivity of these associations on character areas HLCA07 and HLCA09. We consider that the literary associations are particularly germane in that they explicitly consider the meaning of landscape, and of landscape change, in a unique Welsh cultural context. However, we conclude that the *Mabinogion* associations and the poem 'Y Ddol a aeth o'r golwg' do not constitute in themselves an argument either in favour of the development or against it. The juxtaposition of ancient field system and 19th century quarry is central to the poem, but the poem's point is that landscapes change, for better or for worse.

MITIGATION

Historic landscapes are a finite and irreplaceable resource. The impact of this proposed development can be lessened by adherence to a number of principles, the objectives of which are to retain as much historic character as possible. We therefore strongly recommend the following:

The proposed plan for the access road, hugging the foot of the tip, should be adhered to, in that it will potentially emphasise, even at a distance, the distinctive shape of a slate tip in a Welsh slate quarry.

Care should be taken to avoid disturbing the profile of the part of the tip which it is not proposed to work, either by road traffic or secondary crushing. In particular, the north-facing part of the tip complex should not be disturbed, as this will shield the proposed development from the main Nantlle quarrying complex.

APPENDIX 1

Historic landscape citation

A glaciated valley situated on the west side of the Snowdonian massif, having contrasting evidence of relict prehistoric and later land use, superimposed by the 19th and 20th centuries remains of the large-scale exploitation of slate. The area includes: Iron Age hillforts, settlements and extensive field systems; 18th century and later copper mines; well-preserved and visually dramatic remains of slate quarries, pits, waste tips, associated structures, transport system and settlements; historic legendary artistic and literary associations

APPENDIX 2

2.1 Historic Landscape Characterisation Report – summaries of the HLCAs included in the ASIDOHL2 assessment.

09 Nantlle Slate Quarries

An area of extensive slate quarrying, active from at least the medieval period to the late twentieth century. Proprietary constraints meant that the slate had to be worked in many separate quarries rather than in one gigantic site as at Penrhyn and Dinorwic, and geology and topography meant that the dominant method of extraction was from open pits on the side or the floor of the Nantlle valley. Key historic landscape characteristics: slate quarries, mills, pyramids, engine houses, tips.

07 Tal y Sarn

Historic background: although there had been some intermittent development probably from the end of the eighteenth-century, associated with the prosperity of the slate workings at Cloddfa'r Coed, the village is largely a development of the period 1850 and 1870, built to house slate quarrymen and their families on the lands of Coedmadog farm, laid out along the course of the turnpike roads and of the Nantlle railway. The village is associated with the preacher John Jones and with the bard Robert Williams Parry. Key historic landscape characteristics: quarry settlement, speculative builder.

08 Cloddfa'r Coed

Historic background: the site of one of the earliest Nantlle slate quarries, operational by the middle of the eighteenth century, and for a while the most profitable and productive in the area. Closed following rock-falls in the 1820s, and revived in the later nineteenth century. Key historic landscape characteristics: reclaimed industrial land.

15 Nebo

Historic background: an area of early nineteenth-century enclosures on what was previously common land. Many of the settlements were abandoned during the great depression owing to the difficulties of obtaining dole for anyone who had any agricultural land. Key historic landscape characteristics: nineteenth-century enclosures, dispersed settlement.

25 Moel Tryfan lower slopes

Historic background: the field patterns show origins in the late prehistoric period, and

there is substantial evidence for settlement and farming of that period. Interestingly, relatively few 'long huts' survive in the area, and there is little evidence for medieval activity and much of the settlement and many of the field walls which characterise the current landscape date from the nineteenth century. Key historic landscape characteristics: irregular and curvilinear enclosures, relict archaeological sites, scattered settlement.

37 Nantlle valley lower slopes

Historic background: an area dominated by the farms of Taldrwst, Ty Mawr, Dol Pebin, Gwernor and Ffridd. Dol Pebin is mentioned in the fourth branch of the Mabinogion. Key historic landscape characteristics: relict medieval archaeology (settlement and agriculture), farmhouses.

49 Floor of Nantlle Valley

Historic background: a flat valley floor, much altered and restricted by the extensive dumping of slate waste in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The area has traditionally been in the hands of a number of lesser local landowners, and represented the lowland holdings of farms situated just above the break of slope. The lower part of the area is dominated by the hill-fort of Caer Engan, associated with Caer Dathyl in the fourth branch of the Mabinogion. The upper part includes the Baladeulyn of the Mabinogion, and forms the foreground setting for Richard Wilson's painting of Snowdon. Key historic landscape characteristics: canalised river, road.

2.2 LANDMAP descriptions

LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect GWNDDHL005 Nantlle Slate Quarries

An area of extensive slate quarrying, active from at least the medieval period to the late twentieth century. Proprietary constraints meant that the slate had to be worked in many separate quarries rather than in one gigantic site as at Penrhyn and Dinorwic, and geology and topography meant that the dominant method of extraction was from open pits on the side or the floor of the Nantlle valley. An outstanding landscape of relict industrial archaeology, exemplifying the industry's technical development from the mid nineteenth-century to the twentieth. Some of the surviving machines are built on such an impressive scale as to form landscape elements in their own right, such as the Cornish pump-engine at Dorothea Quarry and the blondin rope-systems at Pen yr Orsedd. Reworking of tips and some very limited primary extraction threatens the integrity of these landscapes, and the recent attempt to establish Dorothea as a commercial diving centre has resulted in the destruction of historic features without any recording. The massive slate bastions for the chain inclines at a number of quarries are at risk from progressive dilapidation and possible collapse.

Evaluation: Outstanding - of international importance as an historic industrial landscape and for the survival of constituent elements as well as for its relationship with the broader historic environment and for its international parallels.

LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect GWNDDHL011 Floor of Nantlle Valley

A flat valley floor, much altered and restricted by the extensive dumping of slate waste in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The area has traditionally been in the hands of a number of lesser local landowners, and represented the lowland holdings of farms situated just above the break of slope. The lower part of the area is dominated by the hill-fort of *Caer Engan*, associated with *Caer Dathyl* in the fourth branch of the *Mabinogion*. The upper part includes the *Baladeulyn* of the *Mabinogion*, and forms the foreground setting for Richard Wilson's painting of *Snowdon*. A mixture of pasture and marsh, with smaller fields on the sides of the hill-fort at *Caer Engan*. The only major dwelling in the area is *Ty Mawr*, a farmhouse recently reconstructed after a fire on an inappropriate scale and in an inappropriate manner. The principal historical interest in this flat area of irregular pasture fields are the various communication routes. The river was extensively canalised in the early twentieth century. The area includes the diverted *Pen y Groes* to *Nantlle* road and the substantial reinforced concrete bridge at *Tal y Sarn*, completed in 1929, as well as the course of a tramway and a number of permissive footpaths.

Evaluation: Outstanding – Of national value as a dense archaeological landscape within a Register area.

LANDMAP Cultural Landscape aspect GWNDDCL025 Slate Quarries

The landscape of the slate quarries - not only the quarry sites themselves but the landscapes immediately dominated by them. These are vitally important (industrial) archaeology landscapes in their own right as well as forming an important part of the Welsh national heritage. The remains include the quarry areas (typically pits), mills, inclines, railways and the patter of the tips of slate rubble.

Evaluation: Outstanding – These are vitally important post-industrial and cultural landscapes in their own right as well as forming an important part of the Welsh national heritage.

LANDMAP Cultural Landscape aspect GWNDDCL031 Floor of Nantlle Valley

A valley with strong mythological associations and with connections with the pre-Conquest royal house of *Gwynedd*, but which is above all associated with the slate industry. Owing to the variety of land-holdings, quarries were small or middle-rank, unlike the slate working near *Llanberis* and in the *Ogwen* valley. Very little slate is now produced in the valley. The villages of *Tal y Sarn* and *Pen y Groes* remain lively communities; *Tal y Sarn* ward is one of the most deprived on the Assembly's list of multiple deprivation and *Pen y Groes* has the highest incidence of Welsh speakers in Wales (90%+). There are active local regeneration groups in the area. The area is associated with the Rev. John Jones and with R. Williams Parry, who was fascinated by the way in which the industry of the area obliterated the mythological landscape but who made the valley part of his own myth-world.

Evaluation: Outstanding – As a cultural environment this area can only be evaluated overall as outstanding, for its mythological, literary and religious associations, for its educational traditions, for the strength of the language and for its distinctive surviving historic environment.

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