

LLANDULLAS QUARRY, CONWY COUNTY, WALES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

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1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 AOC Archaeology Group has been commissioned by Axis, on behalf of FCC Environment, to undertake a desk- based assessment (DBA) and walkover survey regarding the allocation of land at the Llanddulas Quarry and Waste Management Complex in the Conwy Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP).
- 1.2 The overall Llanddulas Quarry and Waste Management Complex can be broadly divided into six areas with Areas 1-3 currently proposed for allocation. Consultation with the Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC) and the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) has been undertaken with regard to these proposals and it was determined that a strategy for assessing the archaeological resource within Areas 1-3 (hereafter 'the Site') was required.
- 1.3 The site visit has confirmed that structural remains associated with the northern Hoffman Kiln and possibly some of the 19th century quarry buildings survive within the Site. The site visit and LiDAR data has also confirmed that there are also earthwork remains associated with the northern kiln as well as the former route of the railway siding and the tramway to the east of the former kilns. It is also considered likely that although standing remains of the southernmost Limekiln were not apparent, buried remains associated with both kilns are likely to survive within the Site.

1.4 The Site continued to be used as an active quarry for much of the modern period with the major change occurring by the mid-20th century when the Hoffman Limekilns went out of use and the earlier quarry buildings complex were cleared. It seems that these clearances were shortly followed by the development of a conveyor system which allowed material to be directly transported from the quarry to the jetty without the need for using the earlier tramway. Many of these more modern structures including the beach silo conveyor system and later 20th century buildings within Area 2 of the quarry have also subsequently been demolished. There are some structural remains thought to be associated with the former conveyor route surviving beneath the bridges for the A55 and railway, and other wall remnants and earthworks within Areas 1 and 2 seem to belong to structures that date from the 1960s onwards.

1.5 The former remains of the Hoffman Kilns are considered to be nationally rare asset types and should be subject to further schemes of recording, along with the other identified structural remains, in the form of a Level 3 buildings survey. Modern remains are not considered to be of as much importance as the earlier post-medieval remains on the Site, but those that survive within Area 1 are built upon or very near to earlier remains. As such it is recommended that they should be recorded as part of the proposed Level 3 buildings survey. This further survey work would benefit from a programme of vegetation clearance in advance of the works in order to allow for better access to the area than was available during the walkover survey for this desk-based assessment. The structural remains identified within Area 2 that appear to correlate to features visible on OS maps of 1960s onwards are not considered likely to require any further assessment.

1.6 The Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) have indicated that the information gained from the undertaking of a Level 3 buildings assessment, together with that outlined in this assessment, would be used to ask Cadw to assess whether the Hoffman Limekiln remains should be Scheduled as nationally important.

1.7 CPAT should be consulted with regard to the development of the WSI for the proposed Level 3 Building Surveys and with regard to the general mitigation strategy, if required, for the rest of the Site. Given the previous disturbance within the area, however, it is not anticipated that any further archaeological works will be required.

1.8 This assessment has also considered the potential for future development within Areas 1-3 of the Llanddulas Quarry and Waste Management Complex (the 'Site') to impact upon the settings of nearby (within 1km) designated heritage assets. Given that the nature and extent of future development proposals is unknown, this assessment is limited to identifying those designated assets that currently have intervisibility with the Site and are considered to have some sensitivity to changes within their settings. This assessment has established that there are no nearby designated assets that have intervisibility with the current Site, due to intervening topography, development and mature vegetation. As such no setting impacts are predicted, with the caveat that the exact nature and scale of the Proposed Development within the Site is yet to be determined.