

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY -ECOLOGY REPORT (AUGUST 2025)

This report has been prepared on behalf of FCC Environmental. It provides the results of a suite

of ecology surveys undertaken at Llanddulas Quarry in 2025 to determine the scale of potential

ecological impacts associated with the development of the site.

The site was originally subject to a desk-study, extended Phase 1 habitat survey and suite of protected species surveys between 2017-2019, plus a subsequent update desk study and extended Phase 1 habitat survey in 2022. By request of Conwy Council, the below survey updates have taken place in 2025. All surveys followed standard guidance in-line with best practice. Surveys undertaken are as follows:

- Extended Phase 1 habitat survey.
- Great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* eDNA survey, and
- Internal/external bat survey of the on-site buildings.

Based on a change in usage of the site, and an absence of management in some areas, the ecological value of the on-site habitats has been downgraded since the previous assessment.

Habitats of note that remain present include lowland mixed deciduous woodland, bare ground

habitat with wildflower species and large areas of mixed scrub habitat. Habitats of lower ecological value included the on-site buildings and hardstanding, small, scattered areas of scrub and larger areas of species-poor scrub, dominated by one to two species. Some of the habitats of higher value will be lost to facilitate development, however there are opportunities to manage retained areas to increase their value to biodiversity and restore other habitats, such

as grassland, which has degraded via ineffective management over recent years.

The great crested newt eDNA survey undertaken on two quarry ponds (P1 and P2) was found to

have a 'negative' result, which corresponds with surveys undertaken on the same ponds in 2017

and 2019. Subsequently, great crested newts are considered likely to be absent from the site.

No further surveys or mitigation are recommended in relation to GCN at this stage,

No evidence of roosting bats was identified as part of the assessment and the on-site structures were found to have general low suitability to support roosting bats. No further

surveys are recommended at this stage; it is however recommended that a full suite of bat surveys are completed to inform a future planning application at this site. If at this time evidence of roosting bats is identified it is considered that sufficient mitigation can be provided

on-site to replace lost roosts and ensure the Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) of bats on-

site and in the locality.