

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY – BAT METHOD STATEMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY (AUGUST 2025)

The following Bat Method Statement & Mitigation Strategy has been prepared on behalf of FCC

Environment. It summarises the results of bat surveys conducted at Llanddulas Quarry in relation to the former quarry tunnels (T1-T4) and details the scope of mitigation required to secure the Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) of bats at the site following its development.

Bats are afforded full protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Two hibernation visual inspection surveys were conducted on the abandoned quarry tunnels in

February 2018, whilst nocturnal roost surveys were undertaken during August and September

2017. All surveys were undertaken in line with best practice survey methodology.

During the two winter hibernation surveys, no evidence of hibernating bats was found in Tunnels 1 and 4, however a hibernating lesser horseshoe and a Daubenton's bat were found in

Tunnel 2 and a hibernating lesser horseshoe was found in Tunnel 3. These three bats were present on both surveys in the same locations each time.

The nocturnal roost surveys confirmed two common pipistrelles and one Myotis species emerging from tunnel T4. The number and species of bat identified here confirmed that this tunnel forms a small day roost comprising common and widespread species.

Proposals will entail the loss of Tunnel T3, only, which will be blocked up. T1 will be retained as

an emergency access route to the landfill site to the south, T2 will be retained with limited modification and T4 will be retained and enhanced for the benefit of bats.

Currently, impacts to bats will comprise the risk of death or injury to individual bats as a result

of the loss of T3, as well as the loss of a hibernating site for lesser horseshoe in T3. Whilst lesser horseshoe is an Annex II species and should be given special care in regard to development, the on-site hibernation roosts identified comprise single bats which suggests that the site provides low status supporting habitat for the larger roosts present within the nearby Llanddulas Limestone and Gwrych Castle Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The enhancement of T4 (as mitigation for the loss of T3) may in the long-term result in an increase in the value of the site to bats, such that overall the development is unlikely to have any significant negative effects on the local bat population and the favourable conservation status (FCS) of bats will be maintained if not benefitted as a result of the sites development.

Should further update surveys (where access can safely be arranged) identify a hibernation or

summer roost of greater significance, it is considered that the site could effectively offer the corresponding level of mitigation given the opportunities presented by the retained tunnels and

wider site habitats.