New Proposed Facility at Minera Quarry

At Minera Quarry, the project will replace an existing former weighbridge building at the entrance to the reserve with a new, purpose-built larch-clad building with kitchenette, facility room, tool store and accessible composting toilet, with a new mains power supply. Currently, environmental engagement events and volunteering sessions rely on the use of gazebos and are limited by the lack of nearby facilities, and the building will provide a more sustainable base for conservation equipment storage, volunteer facilities, and indoor space for environmental events or training sessions. This will:

- support improved management of the natural environment going forward through regular volunteering sessions which are accessible to a wider range of people,
- enable more people to become involved in conservation activities through the provision of accessible facilities, and
- provide new and more accessible opportunities to educate visitors on the wildlife and habitats of the area through improved provision for environmental events.

We aim to particularly engage with three key groups throughout the whole Clywedog Valley project, who have been identified as having less access to nature or heritage. These are young people, disabled people, and people who are socioeconomically disadvantaged. These groups are intersectional, and individuals who engage with the project may fall into more than one of these demographics.

At Minera Quarry, people from all the above-mentioned under-represented groups, as well as wider society, will benefit from improved opportunities to access volunteering sessions and events as a result of the new building. Disabled people and families with young children can be barred from accessing activities if there are no reliable toilet facilities available, and the new building with toilet provision will ensure that more people can access activities and volunteering at Minera Quarry who may not have been able to do so previously. This will bring opportunities for skills development, social contact, and wellbeing benefits as a result of engaging with nature.

The new building and facilities within will allow the National Landscape to be accessed from additional locations through the provision of facilities in Minera, removing visitor pressure from honeypot sites where visitors tend to access the NL in large numbers. This has potential to reduce harmful impacts on habitats and communities within the NL.

At Minera Quarry, the new building facility will provide an improved base for conservation volunteering, ensuring that biodiversity is better supported within the NL

and across the valley. It will also provide an improved base for events and learning activities which increase understanding of the wildlife and habitats of the NL, such as species ID sessions and talks, or guided walks which can be delivered with the building as a meeting point, and through the provision of improved information onsite and online.