

Tourism

Our aim

The Island of Anglesey receives more than five million visitors a year and we're committed to playing our part to support and enhance the continued success of this industry.

We expect that the increased demand could have an impact on the Island's existing tourism industry, image and infrastructure and we want to ensure that any negative impact is kept to a minimum. We aim to do this by implementing measures to both reduce or avoid negative impacts and enhance positive effects to the local economy and tourism industry.



Background

Tourism accommodation

The increase in demand for accommodation during the construction phase of Wylfa Newydd will result in opportunities for owners of private rented property and tourist accommodation. We expect that the Wylfa Newydd Project will deliver, at peak, an additional £11.9 million per year in tourism revenue due to the accommodation needs of our construction workforce on the Island and across North Wales. We want to make sure that this increased demand does not reduce availability for traditional holidaymakers and tenants.

We will be able to manage this demand in part through the development of our approach to Temporary Worker Accommodation, including the provision of our Construction Worker Accommodation Management Portal.

We are also working closely with the Isle of Anglesey County Council to address local concerns and support the tourism industry in other ways. This includes making sure the quality of tourist accommodation for traditional holidaymakers is maintained to a high level throughout the construction phase. This will include the period of late 2022

to early 2023 when we expect demand for accommodation from the construction workforce to be at its peak.

Food-related tourism

We recognise that an important sector on Anglesey and the wider North Wales region is food-related tourism, and we aim to support and enhance the success of this industry. Wylfa Newydd will create an increasing demand for food supply and catering, generally proportional to the numbers of construction workers at any given time, e.g. as construction worker numbers increase, so will demand for food both during working hours and outside of them. It is important we not only recognise this increased demand but also support the development of this sector to enable local providers to maximise opportunities in meeting this need.

We believe a proactive partnership working with local suppliers, producers and key agencies, for example with Gorau Môn and Welsh Government is essential. By doing this we aim to further enhance the local and regional food supply and production potential, contributing to the development of the food sector on Anglesey, and across the wider North Wales region.

Tourism

Our work to date

We have carried out a number of activities to help us understand and inform our plans to support tourism on the Island. In 2015, we conducted a behavioural survey with more than 500 visitors to Anglesey, to help us gauge opinion of the Wylfa Newydd Project and have an early understanding of potential impacts as a result of the construction and presence of the new power station.

Our Wylfa Newydd Project Liaison Group, which facilitates communication between Horizon and the community, includes a number of tourism organisations, including Anglesey Tourism Partnership, Anglesey Tourism

Association and North Wales Tourism Ltd. These organisations represent the interests and concerns of their members, and play an active and constructive part in discussions that facilitate communication between Horizon and the tourism businesses. We have also engaged directly with the Anglesey Tourism Partnership outlining our proposals to its members.

Over the coming months we expect to increase our engagement with the tourism organisations and focus it around specific aspects of the tourism assessment and the development of our Tourism Strategy.

Construction Worker Accommodation Management Portal

In response to consultation feedback and continued engagement with Isle of Anglesey County Council, we have established the principles of a Construction Worker Accommodation Management Portal to manage available accommodation during construction of the Project.

This will allow people to register a room or property available to rent with us and we will expect all of our construction workers to arrange their accommodation through this portal. The aim is to match workers with accommodation in a way

that avoids or reduces impact on local residents (especially those renting privately) and tourist accommodation.

The portal will ensure registered accommodation meets quality standards and offers bed spaces in accessible locations. The portal will also help to distribute the construction workforce across accommodation types and locations across the Island, thereby providing tourism revenue benefits to the wider community.

Horizon's own tourism and visitor contribution

We are proposing to develop a new visitor and media reception centre. This will add another visitor attraction to the Island and will provide new educational facilities, as well as a permanent interactive exhibition, for locals and visitors alike. The venue will also host special events. In addition, the centre will have a café, along with an outdoor play and eating area, supporting both community engagement and visitor education.

We are also going to make improvements to public footpath networks close to the Power Station site, although there will be some changes to current routes

for health and safety reasons during construction. These improvements range from re-surfacing routes to allow for pushchair and wheelchair access to introducing dual-use footpaths for cycling and walking.

We intend to improve access to Wylfa Head too and will provide a range of facilities here, including the conversion of the existing coastguard lookout to a bird and marine mammal lookout hide, picnic tables and benches, cycle parking and bilingual interpretation boards providing details of the local wildlife and environment.

Next steps

We recognise that while Wylfa Newydd brings many opportunities for the tourism sector, there are a range of potential impacts we need to consider – including the potential for a reduction in the amount of tourist accommodation available in the area during construction, due to increased demand from non home-based construction workers.

We believe Wylfa Newydd can co-exist with a vibrant, modern tourism industry on Anglesey. To do this we want to engage with as many people as we can to get their views on how we can support this industry.

Some of our initial thoughts are to:

- Work with local education establishments to develop skills across the tourism sector, with a particular

focus on catering and food production, potentially via apprenticeships and support for training courses

- Manage and distribute accommodation for our construction workers via a Construction Worker Accommodation Management Portal, to ensure the quality of the accommodation remains high for use by visitors during and following the construction phase
- Develop a monitoring plan which will allow us to assess how our actions are working to protect and enhance the tourism sector locally, which will allow for any lessons learnt or changes required
- Continue to support Anglesey events such as the Sioe Môn/Anglesey Show, Menai Seafood Festival and National Eisteddfod Môn 2017.