

Prosiect Maen Hir

Solar a Storio Ynni



Preliminary Environmental Information Report Volume III

Appendix 16-1: Socio-economics Policy

Prosiect Maen Hir - September 2024

EN010156

lightsource bp



Table of Contents

1	Introduction	4
2	National Legislation, Policy and Guidance	4
2.2	The Equality Act (2010)	4
2.3	Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy EN-1 (2023)	4
2.4	Planning Policy Wales (2024)	5
2.5	Future Wales: National Plan 2040	5
2.6	Local Ownership of Energy Generation in Wales – benefitting Wales today and for future generations (2020)	6
2.7	Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)	6
2.8	The Additionality Guide, Fourth Edition (2014)	6
2.9	The Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC now MHCLG) Appraisal Guidance (2023)	7
3	Regional policy and guidance	7
3.1	North Wales Skills and Employment Plan (2023-2025)	7
4	Local policy and guidance	7
4.1	Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP)	7
4.2	Isle of Anglesey County Council Plan 2023-28	9
4.3	Anglesey Energy Island Programme	9
4.4	The Isle of Anglesey – A vision for 2025	9
4.5	North Anglesey Economic Regeneration Plan	9
4.6	Anglesey Destination Management Plan (2023-2028)	10
5	References	11

1 Introduction

1.1.1 This section summarises the key policy and guidance related to PEIR Chapter 16: Socio-economics.

2 National Legislation, Policy and Guidance

2.1.1 , living standards and participation in communities and accessing services.

2.2 The Equality Act (2010)

2.2.1 Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010 imposes duty regarding socio-economic inequalities on public bodies when making decisions of a strategic nature to exercise their duty in a way that is designed to reduce the inequalities of outcomes which result from socio-economic disadvantage.

2.2.2 Inequalities of outcomes resulting from socio-economic disadvantage are related to education, health, work, justice and personal security, living standards and participation in communities and accessing services.

2.3 Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy EN-1 (2023)ⁱ

2.3.1 The national policy for energy infrastructure outlines the guidance for likely scope and geographical coverage for energy infrastructure developments, including the associated likely socio-economic impacts.

2.3.2 It states that all relevant socio-economic impacts should be considered, which may include: job creation, training opportunities, contribution to the development of low-carbon industries, provision of additional local services and improvements to local infrastructure, the impact of a changing influx of workers during construction, tourism effects and cumulative effects. It also states that any indirect beneficial impact for the region hosting the infrastructure in particular in relation to the use of local support services and supply chains. The policy also states that the applicant is strongly encouraged to carry out engagement with relevant local authorities early on to better understand issues and opportunities.

National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure EN-3 (2023)ⁱⁱ

2.3.3 The National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure (EN-3) in conjunction with EN-1 provides the primary policy decisions by the Secretary of

State on applications for nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure, including solar.

- 2.3.4 Key policy relating to socio-economics includes that applicants should set out where there may be socio-economic benefits in retaining site infrastructure after the operational life, such as retaining pathways through the site. It also states that the Secretary of State should take into the account the economic (and other benefits) of the best and most versatile agricultural land and ensure the applicant puts forward appropriate mitigation measures to minimise the impacts on soils or soil resources.

2.4 Planning Policy Wales (2024)ⁱⁱⁱ

- 2.4.1 Chapter 5: Productive and Enterprising Places reiterates the seven goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)^{iv} as a mechanism to achieve productive and enterprising places.
- 2.4.2 The chapter states that development proposals should look to the long term to consider how they can adapt to future employment needs and practices, including the decarbonation of the energy system. A key policy topic relates to the economic benefits of energy schemes and in particular supporting developments which maximise planning-related benefits to communities.
- 2.4.3 Chapter 5 also states that in relation to community solar, the social, environmental and economic benefits should be fully factored into and given weight in the decision making process. However, planning decisions must be based on an assessment of the impacts of the proposed development as a whole.

2.5 Future Wales: National Plan 2040^v

- 2.5.1 The national development framework is a strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, achieving decarbonisation and climate-resilience, developing strong ecosystems and improving the health and well-being of our communities.
- 2.5.2 Policy 9 of the National Plan outlines its aim to have resilient ecological networks and green infrastructure. It states that the Welsh government will work with key partners to identify opportunities where existing and potential green infrastructure

could be maximised as part of placemaking, requiring the use of nature-based solutions as a key mechanism for securing sustainable growth, ecological connectivity, social equality and well-being.

2.6 Local Ownership of Energy Generation in Wales – benefitting Wales today and for future generations (2020)^{vi}

2.6.1 This policy statement specifies that new renewable energy projects in Wales should have at least an element of local ownership from 2020 onwards. It contains an aspiration that 1GW of renewable electricity and heat capacity is to be locally owned in Wales by 2030. The overriding purpose of this policy is to retain social and economic benefits from future energy developments located in Wales. It emphasises that locally owned generation provides a strong opportunity to retain money in the local economy, contributing to prosperity.

2.6.2 Subsequently, in June 2024 Welsh Government adopted an amendment to the local ownership target to at least 1.5GW of renewable energy capacity to be locally owned by 2035, excluding heat pumps.

2.7 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)^{vii}

2.7.1 The Act identifies seven wellbeing goals to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales in the context of sustainable development. Whilst all elements of the Welsh Wellbeing Act are considered throughout this assessment, the most relevant to the scope of this assessment are related to the following:

- A more equal Wales – ensuring equal access to decent jobs and developing knowledge and skills of Welsh residents.
- A prosperous Wales – ensuring skills fit for the future and supporting inclusive local economies.

2.8 The Additionality Guide, Fourth Edition (2014)^{viii}

2.8.1 The guidance was produced by Homes and Communities Agency and provides guidelines to assess the impact of a proposed development after accounting for displacement, multiplier and leakage impacts. Additionality is defined as ‘the extent to which activity takes place at all, on a larger scale, earlier or within a specific designated area or target group as a result of the intervention’. Whilst this

document has now been withdrawn, it contains helpful guidance on assessing additionality.

2.9 The Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC now MHCLG) Appraisal Guidance (2023)^{ix}

2.9.1 The DLUHC appraisal guidance (2023)^x has superseded the HCA Additionality Guide, which is has now been withdrawn. The DLUHC guide reflects the revised Green Book (2020) and Levelling Up White Paper (2022), providing additional advice on how to rigorously assess value for money and a greater focus on spatial and distributional impacts. However, in the context of additionality, the guidance is not as detailed in terms of specific assumptions around additionality. Therefore, this analysis has utilised both the DLUHC guidance and the HCA Additionality Guide to assess additionality.

3 Regional policy and guidance

3.1 North Wales Skills and Employment Plan (2023-2025)^{xi}

3.1.1 The North Wales Skills and Employment Plan aims to meet the current and future job needs in North Wales. The plan outlines three priorities to support this goal:

- Enabling and empowering employers – support employees to develop their employees.
- Enabling and empowering individuals – developing people’s skills to meet the needs of employers now and in the future.
- How support is provided and making the connections – bringing support providers and key stakeholders together.

4 Local policy and guidance

4.1 Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP)^{xii}

4.1.1 Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan^{xiii} presents the land use development strategy for Anglesey and Gwynedd for a period of 15 years. Policies guide the development of employment, housing and other uses. Relevant policy themes to this assessment are as follows:

- Objective SO2 - Support and create, healthy, distinctive and vibrant communities – ensuring appropriate physical and community infrastructure and strengthen the Welsh language and culture.
- Objective SO5 Sustainable living – ensuring development supports the principles of sustainable development and creates sustainable communities.
- Theme 3 - Support growth and regeneration that will transform the local economy under the umbrella of Anglesey Energy Island Programme – secure opportunities to improve the workforce’s skills and education, offer local employment opportunities with good quality jobs, ensure a network of employment sites and premises of a size and quality is safeguarded and allocation in sustainable locations, manage the area as a sustainable tourist destination throughout the year.
- Strategic Policy PS 7 Renewable Energy Technology - promotes renewable energy criteria within the policy. Most relevant for this Project is supporting installations outside designated areas that would not cause demonstrable harm to landscape character, biodiversity, or amenity of residential or holiday accommodation either individually or cumulatively.
- Policy ADN 2 refers to the requirement to justify an alternative location to the potential opportunity areas identified in the JLDP, which includes showing the proposals will not have significant harm on the residential visual amenities of nearby residents.
- Policy ADN 3 of the JLDP is relevant to the Battery Energy Storage aspect of the development, stating proposals for renewable and low carbon energy technologies other than wind or solar, which contribute to a low carbon future, will be permitted, provided it conforms to outlined criteria.
- The Former Oil Depot (Former Shell land, Amlwch as in the JLDP) is also allocated under policy CYF 1: Safeguarding allocation and reserving land and units for employment use as a secondary reserve employment site in the JLDP. The policy states that proposals for B1, B2 or B8 uses on these sites would need to demonstrate that there was no suitable safeguarded or allocated employment sites or the supply is insufficient to meet the need"

4.2 Isle of Anglesey County Council Plan 2023-28^{xiv}

4.2.1 The council's vision is to create a healthy and prosperous island. Key themes related to socio-economics are as follows:

- Regeneration and economic development – support existing businesses, attract new investment and businesses.
- Education – improve educational attainment and achievement of children and young people through supporting their wellbeing.

4.3 Anglesey Energy Island Programme^{xv}

4.3.1 The Anglesey Energy Island Programme^{xvi} presents the Island's vision towards facilitating low carbon development – transforming the future economy and providing a high and sustainable quality of life for Anglesey's residents.

4.3.2 The Energy Island Framework includes six areas for action including:

- Skills – develop a labour force with skills to take maximum advantage of the opportunities from Energy Island.
- Infrastructure – planning and supporting development of community level infrastructure.
- Supply chain – maximise local supply chain opportunities.

4.4 The Isle of Anglesey – A vision for 2025^{xvii}

4.4.1 The Anglesey Legacy Framework^{xviii} outlines the Council's aspirations for major projects on the Island to create meaningful and long-lasting benefits.

4.4.2 A key legacy benefit is associated with providing future employment for Anglesey's residents, ensuring local businesses can capitalise on supply chain opportunities and enhancing Anglesey's infrastructure.

4.5 North Anglesey Economic Regeneration Plan^{xix}

4.5.1 The Regeneration Plan provides a framework to guide investment decisions within North Anglesey. It is informed by data and consultation with the local community to better understand the needs of the area. The plan identifies key issues affecting North Anglesey and outlines five priority themes for regeneration, of which employment/jobs and tourism are particularly related to the socio-economic impacts of the Project:

- Employment/jobs;
- Transport and connectivity;
- The environment, culture and well-being;
- Tourism; and
- Housing and urban regeneration.

4.6 Anglesey Destination Management Plan (2023-2028)^{xx}

- 4.6.1 Given the prominence of Anglesey’s visitor economy, The Destination Management Plan lays out how Anglesey can be managed in its “widest form for the benefit for all”.
- 4.6.2 The plan focuses on elements that attract visitors as well as the infrastructure that supports this. Guiding principles and priorities include a visitor economy whose infrastructure and resources are enhanced to the benefit of local communities and that takes advantage of new skilled roles and local supply chains.

5 References

- 16-ⁱ Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, 2023. Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1).
- 16-ⁱⁱ Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, 2023. National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)
- 16-ⁱⁱⁱ Welsh Government, 2024. Planning Policy Wales – Edition 12.
- 16-^{iv} Wales, 2015. Wellbeing of Future Generation Wales Act.
- 16-^v Welsh Government, 2021. Future Wales: the National Plan 2040
- 16-^{vi} Welsh Government, 2019. Local ownership of energy generation in Wales – benefitting Wales today and for future generations
- 16-^{vii} Wales, 2015. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.
- 16-^{viii} HCA, 2014. Additionality Guide: Fourth Edition.
- 16-^{ix} DLUHC, 2023. DLUHC appraisal guide.
- 16-^x DLUHC, 2023. DLUHC appraisal guide.
- 16-^{xi} North Wales Skills and Employment Partnership, 2023. North Wales Skills and Employment Plan 2023-2025
- 16-^{xii} Isle of Anglesey and Gwynedd Councils, 2017. Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan.
- 16-^{xiii} Isle of Anglesey and Gwynedd Councils, 2017. Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan.
- 16-^{xiv} IoACC, 2023. Council Plan 2023-2028
- 16-^{xv} URS, 2010. Anglesey Energy Island Framework.
- 16-^{xvi} URS, 2010. Anglesey Energy Island Framework.
- 16-^{xvii} Isle of Anglesey County Council, 2025, A vision for 2025
- 16-^{xviii} Isle of Anglesey County Council, 2025, A vision for 2025
- 16-^{xix} Isle of Anglesey County Council, 2019. North Anglesey Economic Regeneration Plan

16-^{xx} Isle of Anglesey County Council, 2023. Destination Management Plan (2023-2028).