

## **Wylfa Newydd Project**

**6.5.4 ES Volume E - Off-Site Power Station Facilities: AECC, ESL and MEEG E4 - Public access and recreation**

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PINS Reference Number: EN010007

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Application Reference Number: 6.5.4

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June 2018

Revision 1.0

Regulation Number: 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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## 4 Public access and recreation

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This chapter describes the assessment of potential public access and recreation effects resulting from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities.
- 4.1.2 The chapter excludes the construction and operational traffic-related effects to public access and recreation receptors. These are considered in the assessment contained within chapter C3 (public access and recreation effects of traffic) (Application Reference Number: 6.3.3), which covers project-wide effects of traffic upon public access and recreation.
- 4.1.3 Please refer to chapter B4 (public access and recreation) (Application Reference Number: 6.2.4) for the technical basis for the assessment including a summary of legislation, policy and guidance; key points arising in consultation that have guided the public access and recreation assessment; and assessment methodologies and criteria.

### 4.2 Study area

- 4.2.1 This section describes the study area(s) relevant to the public access and recreation assessment for the Off-Site Power Station Facilities.
- 4.2.2 The study area for public access and recreation includes the footprint of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities plus a buffer area extending 250m from the site boundary. This study area has been determined based on professional judgement to enable consideration of receptors in close proximity to the Off-Site Power Station Facilities that may experience a loss of access or recreational amenity, and also receptors further afield which may experience a reduction in recreational amenity. The study area is shown on figure E4-1 (Application Reference Number: 6.5.27).

### 4.3 Baseline environment

- 4.3.1 This section provides a summary of the baseline conditions for public access and recreation within the study area described in section 4.2.

#### *Public access*

- 4.3.2 There are six footpaths within 250m of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities; these are described in table E4-1. All of the Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) within the study area have been assigned a medium value as they form part of a wider network of routes within the area. Five of these footpaths are PRoWs, with one further footpath not present on the definitive map [RD1] but identified using aerial photography. The locations of these footpaths are shown in figure E4-1 (Application Reference Number: 6.5.27).

**Table E4-1 Footpaths within 250m of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities**

Footpaths	Description	Value
29/007/1	Located 186m west of the A5025 opposite the Off-Site Power Station Facilities, this footpath links PRoW 29/007/2 to the main street in the village of Llanfaethlu, having been routed along the boundary of St Maethlu's Church. The footpath is signposted from the road across a stile.	Medium
29/007/2	Located west of the A5025 approximately 240m north of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities. The footpath provides a route to Bryn Maethlu and takes the form of an access track as it leaves the road heading west. Part way along its length it connects to PRoW 29/008/1. This footpath is not signed as it leaves the road. There is evidence to suggest that this footpath is used.	Medium
29/008/1 (as shown on the definitive map [RD1])	<p>Located west of the A5025, this PRoW links to PRoW 29/007/2 or 29/007/1, providing a route to Llanfaethlu. Access to this route from the A5025 is hindered by vegetation and stone walling with no signage at the point where the definitive map [RD1] indicates this route should meet the road opposite and approximately 35m north of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities site entrance. Given that this footpath cannot be accessed from the A5025, it is considered likely that this route has not recently been used.</p> <p>However, given the use of an alternative route which is signed from the A5025 (see below), this path has been assigned a 'medium' value as there is a clear desire for there to be a path at this general location and its lack of use is likely to be as a result of inaccurate siting of the PRoW</p>	Medium

Footpaths	Description	Value
	signage.	
29/008/1 (actual route as determined from a review of aerial photography)	<p>There is a kissing gate located approximately 70m south of the access point for PRoW 29/008/1 (as shown on the definitive map) [RD1] (see figure E4-1, Application Reference Number: 6.5.27) opposite the residential property located immediately south of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities and approximately 15m south of the Logistics Centre site entrance. The access point is identified by a PRoW sign erected by the Isle of Anglesey County Council. Aerial photography shows that the route traverses east of the pond in the adjoining agricultural field before joining the alignment of PRoW 29/008/1 (as shown on the definitive map) [RD1] and 29/007/1 at the field boundary.</p> <p>Given that the official alignment of PRoW 29/008/1 is not passable and this route is clearly signposted it is considered to be extremely likely that this route has been assumed to be a PRoW by members of the public walking the route and has been assessed on this basis.</p>	Medium
29/009/1	<p>Located approximately 70m south of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities. The path is accessed from a layby off the A5025 through a farm gate and takes the form of a farm track. There is clear signage to this PRoW from the layby. This PRoW provides a link between the A5025 and Cae'r-bryniau and having passed this property continues south to re-join the A5025. There is evidence to suggest that this footpath is used.</p>	Medium
29/029/1	<p>Located approximately 120m north of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities. The path is accessed</p>	Medium

Footpaths	Description	Value
	from the A5025 through a gateway and takes the form of a farm track. The path connects to a number of other footpaths that link to 29/029/2 and 29/029/3 at the residential property named Isle of Man and then to other footpaths in the network. There is no clear signage to this PRoW from the A5025. There is evidence to suggest that this footpath is used.	

4.3.3 There are no bridleways or areas of open access or common land within the study area.

### ***Onshore recreation***

4.3.4 Recreational walkers will be using the A5025 within the study area for the Off-Site Power Station Facilities to create recreational routes that involve linkages between residential properties and the PRoW. While important in terms of the connectivity that it provides, the A5025 has low value for recreation due to the existing levels of traffic using the road.

4.3.5 The A5025 within Llanfaethlu has been assigned a low value for onshore recreation in accordance with the methodology set out in chapter B4 (Application Reference Number: 6.2.4). Whilst it is used by recreational cyclists, it is not of particular importance and other routes of greater recreational value are available within the local area.

### ***Active travel***

4.3.6 There is a school within Llanfaethlu and children travelling to this school from within the village are likely to make the journey on foot. On this basis, the A5025 link within the village has been assigned a high value.

### ***Evolution of the baseline***

4.3.7 Ysgol Rhyd y Llan, a new school located in Llanfaethlu approximately 250m south of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities, has opened since the initial baseline was completed. Children who previously attended primary schools in Llanfachraeth, Llanfaethlu and Llanrhuddlad have transferred to Ysgol Rhyd y Llan.

4.3.8 It is feasible that children based in the nearby communities of Llanrhuddlad, Llanddeusant and Rhydwyn would travel to and from Ysgol Rhyd y Llan by foot or cycle, with a proportion of the journey routed along the A5025 within the study area for the Off-Site Power Station Facilities. While it is unlikely that children from these communities would access the school by means of active travel, children within the community of Llanfaethlu are likely to undertake the journey on foot. The A5025 within the study area for the Off-

Site Power Station Facilities has been assigned a high value for active travel purposes.

4.3.9 No further changes to the baseline environment are predicted in the absence of the Wylfa Newydd Project.

## 4.4 Design basis and activities

4.4.1 This section sets out the design basis for this assessment of effects. It sets out where any assumptions have been made to enable the assessment to be carried out at this stage in the evolution of the design. This section also identifies the embedded and good practice mitigation that will be adopted to reduce adverse effects as inherent design features or by implementation of standard industry good working practice.

4.4.2 As described in chapter E1 (proposed development) (Application Reference Number: 6.5.1), the application for development consent is based on a parameter approach. The assessment described within this chapter has taken into consideration the flexibility afforded by the parameters. A worst case scenario has therefore been assessed from a public access and recreation perspective within the parameters described in chapter E1 (Application Reference Number: 6.5.1).

### **Construction**

#### **Basis of assessment and assumptions**

4.4.3 The assessment of public access and recreation effects is based on the construction project description provided in chapter E1 (Application Reference Number: 6.5.1).

#### **Embedded mitigation**

4.4.4 No embedded mitigation measures have been identified as being required beyond those identified within the chapter E5 (air quality) (Application Reference Number: 6.5.5), chapter E6 (noise and vibration) (Application Reference Number: 6.5.6) and chapter E10 (landscape and visual) (Application Reference Number: 6.5.10) of this Environmental Statement.

#### **Good practice mitigation**

4.4.5 The assessment of effects has assumed taken into account that the following good practice mitigation measures would be implemented:

- The effects of dust on general recreational amenity would be mitigated by implementing good practice measures included within section 7 of the overarching Wylfa Newydd Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (Application Reference Number: 8.6) and section 7 of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities sub-CoCP (Application Reference Number: 8.9), and described in more detail in chapter E5 (Application Reference Number: 6.5.5); and
- Noise effects on general recreational amenity would be mitigated by implementing the good practice measures included within section 8 of

the overarching Wylfa Newydd CoCP (Application Reference Number: 8.6) and section 8 of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities sub-CoCP (Application Reference Number: 8.9), and described in more detail in chapter E6 (Application Reference Number: 6.5.6).

## ***Operation***

### **Basis of assessment and assumptions**

4.4.6 The assessment of public access and recreation effects is based upon the following assumptions:

- three staff associated with the Environmental Survey Laboratory (ESL) would be present on site on a daily basis, with daily sample deliveries made via car;
- a small number of additional staff would attend training at the Off-Site Power Station Facilities on a regular basis, who would park within the staff parking area; and
- events such as a training exercise or emergency situation that require a larger number of staff to be present on site, and which necessitate the use of the overflow car park and access by Heavy Goods Vehicles, would be limited to once or twice per year.

### **Embedded mitigation**

4.4.7 The southern portion of the site surrounding the overflow parking area and adjacent to PRoW 29/008/1 will be soft landscaped in accordance with the landscape strategy objectives that are set out in chapter E1 (Application Reference Number: 6.5.1) and shown on figure E1-1 (Application Reference Number: 6.5.27). This embedded mitigation is secured within volume 3 of the Design and Access Statement (Associated Developments and Off-Site Power Station Facilities) (Application Reference Number: 8.2.3).

### **Good practice mitigation**

4.4.8 The assessment of effects has taken into account that the following good practice mitigation measures would be implemented:

- the effects of dust on recreational amenity would be mitigated in accordance with the air quality management strategy set out in section 7 of the Wylfa Newydd Code of Operational Practice (CoOP) (Application Reference Number: 8.13) and described in more detail in chapter E5 (Application Reference Number: 6.5.5); and
- the effects of noise on recreational amenity would be mitigated by implementing good practice measures included within section 8 of the Wylfa Newydd CoOP (Application Reference Number: 8.13) and described in more detail in chapter E6 (Application Reference Number: 6.5.6).

## ***Decommissioning***

### ***Basis of assessment and assumptions***

4.4.9 The assessment of public access and recreation effects has assumed that the buildings would be demolished as part of the decommissioning of the site.

### ***Embedded mitigation***

4.4.10 No embedded mitigation measures have been identified as being required beyond those identified within chapter E5 (Application Reference Number: 6.5.5), chapter E6 (Application Reference Number: 6.5.6) and chapter E10 (Application Reference Number: 6.5.10) of this Environmental Statement.

### ***Good practice mitigation***

4.4.11 The assessment of effects has taken into account that the following good practice mitigation measures would be implemented:

- the effects of dust on recreational amenity would be mitigated by implementing good practice measures during the demolition of the buildings and decommissioning of the site (a Development Consent Order (DCO) requirement in the Draft Development Consent Order (Application Reference Number: 3.1); and
- the effects of noise on recreational amenity would be mitigated by implementing good practice measures during the demolition of the buildings and decommissioning of the site a DCO requirement in the Draft Development Consent Order (Application Reference Number: 3.1).

## **4.5 Assessment of effects**

4.5.1 This section presents the findings of the assessment of effects associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities.

### ***Construction***

#### ***Public access***

4.5.2 The construction of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities would not require the closure or diversion of any PRoW.

4.5.3 There would be a minor adverse effect on the recreational amenity of PRoWs 29/008/1 (alignment as shown on the definitive map [RD1] and alignment as determined from a review of aerial mapping) and 29/009/1 as a result of the noise generated by construction activities. While the construction activities would generate noise that would be heard from these PRoWs, this would be temporary and would not significantly affect the recreational amenity of the routes and therefore would only be a small magnitude of change.

4.5.4 The construction of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities would not affect the recreational amenity of PRoWs 29/007/1, 29/007/2 and 29/029/1 on this basis the effect of the construction would be negligible.

### **Onshore recreation**

4.5.5 There is the potential for there to be an adverse effect on the recreational amenity of the A5025 for walkers and cyclists travelling between PRoWs and minor roads as a result of the noise and dust generated by the construction works and the small number of construction vehicles travelling along the A5025 and entering and exiting the site. However, this should be seen in the context of existing land use and the volumes of traffic currently utilising the road. On this basis, it is considered to be of a negligible magnitude of change and the resultant effect on these recreational users would be negligible.

### **Active travel**

4.5.6 There would be a small increase in traffic flows along the A5025 as a result of construction vehicles travelling to and from the Off-Site Power Station Facilities. However, in the context of existing traffic flows this would be of a negligible magnitude of change and the significance of effect on active travel walkers and cyclists would be negligible.

### **Operation**

#### **Public access**

4.5.7 The Off-Site Power Station Facilities would not require the closure or diversion of any PRoW.

4.5.8 As mentioned in section 4.1, the effects on public access and recreation associated with the traffic generated by the operation of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities are set out in chapter C3 (Application Reference Number: 6.3.3).

4.5.9 The Off-Site Power Station Facilities would be little used on a day-to-day basis, other than a small number of staff and traffic movements associated with the ESL. Greater numbers of staff and traffic movements would be associated with training and incident response, with the overflow car park being used on these occasions. On a daily basis, there would be no effect on recreational amenity. The training events would be sufficiently infrequent to only result in an intermittent reduction of the tranquil nature of the PRoWs. This is a small magnitude of change which would result in a short-term minor adverse effect on walkers using the PRoWs. In addition, the woodland planting to the south of the site would screen the visual and noise effects experienced by users of PRoW 29/009/1 during use of the overflow car park. This would reduce the magnitude of the effect further, and so the minor adverse effect would be reduced further to a negligible effect on PRoW 29/009/1.

### **Onshore recreation**

4.5.10 Effects on recreational walkers and cyclists during operation would be related solely to the additional traffic generated by the operation of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities. These effects are discussed within chapter C3 (Application Reference Number: 6.3.3).

### **Active travel**

4.5.11 Effects on active travel walkers and cyclists during operation would be related solely to the additional traffic generated by the operation of the Off-Site Power Station Facilities. These effects are discussed within chapter C3 (Application Reference Number: 6.3.3).

### **Decommissioning**

#### **Public access**

4.5.12 The Off-Site Power Station Facilities would not require the closure or diversion of any PRoW.

4.5.13 It is anticipated that effects on PRoWs within the study area would be similar to those experienced during the construction phase. The decommissioning work would create a temporary reduction in the tranquil nature of the routes, resulting in a small reduction in recreational amenity. This would result in a minor adverse effect on the recreational amenity of PRoWs 29/008/1 (alignment as shown on the definitive map [RD1] and alignment as determined from a review of aerial mapping) and 29/009/1, and a negligible effect on the recreational amenity of PRoWs 29/007/1, 29/007/2 and 29/029/1.

#### **Onshore recreation**

4.5.14 It is anticipated that effects on on-shore recreation during decommissioning would be similar to those experienced during the construction phase.

#### **Active travel**

4.5.15 It is anticipated that effects on active travel users during decommissioning would be similar to those experienced during construction.

## **4.6 Additional mitigation**

4.6.1 In accordance with chapter B1 (introduction to the assessment process) (Application Reference Number: 6.2.1), embedded and good practice mitigation measures relevant to public access and recreation were taken into account when determining the 'pre-mitigation' significance of effects. These are detailed in the design basis and activities section of this chapter.

4.6.2 No significant effects are predicted for public access and recreation, and therefore no additional mitigation measures are required.

## 4.7 Residual effects

- 4.7.1 No significant residual effects are predicted for public access and recreation.
- 4.7.2 Minor effects identified in the assessment of effects section are summarised in appendix I3-1 (master residual effects table) (Application Reference Number: 6.9.8).

## 4.8 References

Table E4-2 Schedule of references

ID	Reference
RD1	Isle of Anglesey County Council. 2011. <i>Definitive map</i> . [Online]. [Accessed: 14 October 2016]. Available from: <a href="http://publicrightsofway.anglesey.gov.uk/">http://publicrightsofway.anglesey.gov.uk/</a>

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