

South Stack Island Feasibility Study

Ynys Môn Borough Council / Welsh Development Agency

Brief

BE Group, in conjunction with landscape consultants Gillespies, was commissioned to examine the commercial feasibility of developing public access and tourist facilities at South Stack Island and Lighthouse, Anglesey.

Project objectives included:

- Exploring the commercial viability of South Stack as a tourist/educational resource
- Reintroducing public access to the island
- Maintaining and enhancing the existing environmental assets (ANOB, SSSI, Heritage Coast)
- Minimising public sector revenue costs and maintenance
- Assessing impact of increased visitors.



Activities

- Examination of the constraints and possibilities in terms of its environment, physical setting and access
- Research potential legal agreements and liabilities
- Investigation of the possibility of South Stack as a visitor destination
- Review comparable attractions in the UK
- Production of business plan including forecasts of expenditure and income.



Outcome

Recommendations included:

- Free public access to the cliff face steps
- Public access to South Stack Island, lighthouses and ancillary buildings (at a charge)
- Establishment of a visitor centre on the mainland.

The recommendations were accepted and implemented by the local authority and the Welsh Development Agency. Over 60,000 people visited South Stack between 1997 and 2000 after public access was introduced; annual attendance remains steady at around 20,000 for the April-September season.

