



Welcome to our newsletter which brings you the latest news from Ambition North Wales including the North Wales Growth Deal. If you would like further information about our work, please contact us on [info@ambitionnorth.wales](mailto:info@ambitionnorth.wales).

## DAIRY SHEEP WALES

A centre dedicated to sheep milk innovation and processing will soon begin to take shape as Dairy Sheep Wales is established at Grŵp Llandrillo Menai's Glynllifon campus near Caernarfon.

With global demand for sheep milk products continuing to rise, the project aims to position North Wales as a leader in this emerging sector. It will also create jobs and training opportunities whilst collaborating with businesses.

The state-of-the-art facility is being backed by £3.5m from the North Wales Growth Deal, which is jointly funded by the UK and Welsh Governments, with a further £1m from Welsh Government and £200k from Grŵp Llandrillo Menai.

Dairy Sheep Wales is one of four key components of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub, part of a wider £19.2m investment supported through the North Wales Growth Deal.

The Hub is designed to unlock the economic potential of rural areas through innovation, sustainability, and diversification. Other elements include Sustainable Dairy Development and a Knowledge Hub, with agri-tech playing a central role throughout the programme.



[Find out more](#)

## APPROVAL GRANTED FOR FREEPORT GATEWAY PROJECT TO REVITALISE LLANGEFNI



The £19.1 m Freeport Gateway project took a significant leap forward, aiming to bring new jobs, investment and life back to the former Eastman Peboc site. The development will create new employment space, support over 200 jobs, and is expected to contribute over £65m to the local economy by 2036.

Isle of Anglesey County Council is leading the project, with the work involving clearing the land, creating new development plots and helping with the expansion of the neighbouring Tregarneidd Industrial Park. The project is funded by the North Wales Growth Deal, the Anglesey Freeport Seed Capital Fund, as well as private-sector partners, who will help attract new businesses to the island.

[Find out more](#)

## 4G+ PROJECT DELIVERS FIRST SMALL CELL DEPLOYMENT WITH O2 AND ONTIX, BOOSTING MOBILE CONNECTIVITY IN FLINTSHIRE

Mobile connectivity in North Wales has taken a significant step forward with the region's first O2 4G and 5G small cell sites now live in Flintshire.

Small cells are compact mobile radio units installed on street furniture, such as street lighting columns, that strengthen coverage and add capacity in areas where demand is high or traditional masts are not suitable. The new sites, delivered by infrastructure provider Ontix on behalf of O2, are already improving service for residents, businesses, and visitors.

The achievement follows work led by Ambition North Wales, via its Growth Deal's 4G+ digital project, to help councils across the region introduce 'Open Access Agreements'—making their infrastructure available to telecommunications companies like O2.



[Find out more](#)

## NORTH WALES REGIONAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIP SETS OUT PRIORITIES AHEAD OF 2026 SENEDD ELECTION

The North Wales Regional Skills Partnership has set out its key priorities for the next Welsh Government ahead of the 2026 Senedd election, emphasising the need to keep skills development central to the region's economic growth.

The Partnership is calling for stronger links between skills planning and regional investment, long-term support for training infrastructure, and a greater role for employers in shaping programmes that meet real workforce needs.

[Find out all the details](#)

## CALLING FOR APPLICATIONS FOR CLEAN ENERGY FUND

Voluntary organisations and businesses across the region are being encouraged to learn more about the North Wales Clean Energy Fund.

Investment in clean energy and decarbonisation projects can lower operating costs, improve efficiency, and unlock new opportunities. The £24.6m fund, part of the region's Growth Deal, is designed to enable businesses and voluntary organisations to deliver their clean energy projects.

[Apply now](#)

## NEW £180M MINERAL WOOL INSULATION PLANT OPENS IN FLINTSHIRE, SHOTTON

Plans for a low-carbon insulation manufacturing facility in the region have moved forward, following approval of its outline business case for £14.39m of Growth Deal funding.

This is part of a total £180m investment, which will see Knauf Insulation Ltd. redevelop a site currently owned by Tata Steel into an advanced rock mineral wool factory. The facility will use submerged arc furnace technology to produce low-embodied-carbon, non-combustible insulation materials.

The new plant is expected to deliver significant economic and environmental benefits to the region creating new jobs in high-value manufacturing. It will also complement Knauf's existing operations in Queensferry, further anchoring the company's presence in North Wales.



[Find out more](#)



## DISCOVER ACADEMI CROESO!

Academi Croeso - the major skills initiative aimed at strengthening the future workforce of North Wales' tourism and hospitality sector - is making a significant impact. The project is led by Grŵp Llandrillo Menai and supported through the North Wales Growth Deal. To further explore:

- Watch: A video of the Academi Croeso launch, which took place at Theatr Clwyd
- Listen: Podcast where four of the project's main partners - Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, Ambition North Wales, Portmeirion and Theatr Clwyd discuss the details and benefits of Academi Croeso



[Find out more](#)

## NINE AGRI-TECH AND FOOD-TECH PROJECTS RECEIVE £2.95M INNOVATE UK FUNDING

The latest round of Innovate UK funding, totalling £2.95m has been awarded to a series of agri-tech and food-tech initiatives across Mid and North Wales, strengthening the region's growing innovation ecosystem.

The investment is part of the Agri-Tech and Food Technology Cluster for Mid and North Wales, a programme designed to drive innovation across these sectors. The cluster is coordinated by a regional partnership led by Growing Mid Wales and delivered with Ambition North Wales, M-SParc, AberInnovation, AMRC Cymru, Innovate UK, and the Welsh Government.



[Get all the details](#)

## NEW TELECOMS FORUM TO IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY ACROSS NORTH WALES

Strengthening mobile networks, tackling digital communications challenges, and promoting the region's digital transformation will be top of the agenda for the recently launched North Wales Regional Telecoms Forum.

The new forum brings local authorities, government, industry leaders, emergency services, telecoms and transport operators, and Eryri National Park together to help shape the future of mobile and broadband infrastructure in North Wales.



[Discover more](#)

## WREXHAM CENTRE OF ENGINEERING AND INNOVATION SET FOR MAJOR EXPANSION

A £3m investment to enhance Wrexham University's CanfodAu - Centre of Engineering and Innovation has been approved, strengthening plans to boost advanced manufacturing in North Wales.

Having funded CanfodAu, the North Wales Growth Deal will now invest £1.5m in the Society 5.0 Manufacturing and Business Capability project, alongside £1.5m from the Welsh Government's MEDR - which supports research and innovation across the tertiary sector.

The project aims to create skilled jobs, support low-carbon businesses, and generate more than £4m for the regional economy.

[Find out more](#)

## FUNDING APPROVED FOR AMLWCH £10.4 MILLION REGENERATION PROJECT



A £10.4m regeneration project for Amlwch has taken a major step forward after Ambition North Wales approved the Business Justification Case, allowing the scheme to move into its next phase.

The project will refurbish the former Marine Terminal Building at Porth Amlwch and create ten new business units at the nearby industrial estate, following an agreement on almost £7m of Growth Deal funding.

Isle of Anglesey County Council will lead the regeneration, with the development expected to support 95 jobs, create 2,300 m<sup>2</sup> of new commercial space, and boost the regional economy by £33.9m by 2036.

[Find out more](#)

## HELPING LOCAL DEVELOPERS STRENGTHEN THEIR SKILLS STRATEGIES

With a growing number of large-scale projects progressing in North Wales, particularly in the low-carbon energy sector, the North Wales Regional Skills Partnership (RSP) has been working closely with developers to build their skills strategies, ensuring alignment with regional priorities, skills policies, and other regional projects.

Working with RWE and GBE-N on their respective projects has provided a strong example of best practice, as both organisations are using RSP governance structures to progress their projects, ensuring consistency across the region.

## AMBITION NORTH WALES APPOINTS NEW NON-EXECUTIVE ADVISORS

Dave Penrith and Nick Bennett have been appointed as Non-Executive Advisors to Ambition North Wales. Together, they bring extensive industry expertise in capital projects, governance, engineering, digital transformation, and economic development to support sustainable growth and attract investment to the region.

They will play leading roles as Chair and Vice-Chair in the formation of a new Business Advisory Board, which will represent businesses and employers across North Wales.



[Find out more](#)

## CYDNERTH'S CABLE PROGRESS

There has been exciting progress on the Growth Deal's Cydnerth project at Parc Cybi, Holyhead.

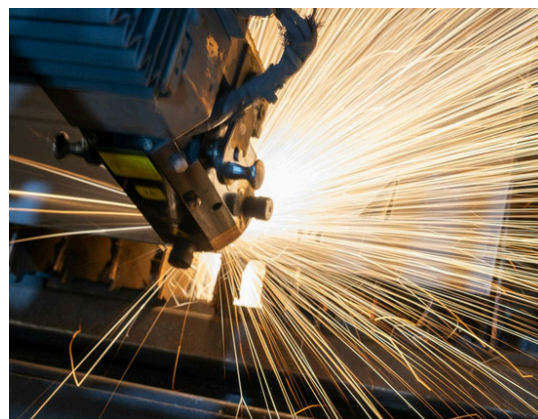
Cables have now been pulled through ducts to extend the Morlais infrastructure and connect it to the National Grid. This is a major step for Cydnerth, a project that will enable grid capacity to increase from 18MW to an eventual 240MW - futureproofing the Morlais tidal energy scheme.

## FORMAL GREEN LIGHT FOR FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM INVESTMENT ZONE

The Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone has been formally approved by the UK and Welsh governments, marking the start of a 10-year programme that will turbo-charge the regional economy.

Work has now begun in earnest, with a programme of grants, training, infrastructure improvements, and business support helping to unlock new opportunities for local employers, investors, and communities.

The initiative will focus on advanced manufacturing, innovation, skills, and infrastructure, aiming to create high-quality jobs and strengthen the area's position as a major industrial hub.



[Find out more](#)

## SMART FARMING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS DIGITAL TOOLS FOR NORTH WALES FARMERS

Derwydd Farm in Corwen recently welcomed farmers and rural professionals from across the region for an event showcasing how digital technology can support day-to-day operations.

The session featured short talks and hands-on demonstrations highlighting real examples of Long Range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN) sensors, data dashboards, and smart connectivity, demonstrating how these tools can make farming more efficient, productive, and sustainable.

The event was organised by Mentera as part of the Ambition North Wales Farm Trials project, which is funded through the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund.



## SUPPORTING PRISON LEAVERS: A KEY PRIORITY FOR NORTH WALES' SKILLS AGENDA

The North Wales Regional Skills Partnership and HMP Berwyn are working closely to ensure prison leavers can contribute to the region's workforce at a time when many sectors face growing skills shortages. By linking training inside the prison to real labour-market needs, the partnership helps prepare individuals for meaningful employment on release.

Construction has already shown strong results, but opportunities are expanding across manufacturing, tourism, and hospitality, where high-quality facilities and training at HMP Berwyn equip learners with both technical and essential workplace skills. Collaborators involved in this work have recorded a podcast focusing on Realising the Potential of Prison Leavers.

[Find out more](#)

If you would like further information about our work, please contact us on [info@ambitionnorth.wales](mailto:info@ambitionnorth.wales) or visit [ambitionnorth.wales](http://ambitionnorth.wales).