

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LG/1167/19

Alun Davies AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

10 April 2019

Dear Alun,

In relation to your concerns about 'the Canyon in Torfaen, Rebecca Evans AM has asked me to write to you regarding the designation of SSSIs and other special areas.

As you point out it would not be appropriate for WG to comment on an ongoing planning case.

On your more general enquiry, the following is drawn from the NRW SSSI website-

"Natural Resources Wales is responsible for selecting and notifying SSSIs in Wales. NRW chooses sites carefully after detailed survey and evaluation against published criteria available on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website. There are different selection criteria for geological sites.

They select areas of land that we consider to be of national importance for:

- fauna (animals)
- flora (plants)
- geology (rocks)
- or geomorphology (landforms)

When notifying a new SSSI, NRW contacts every owner and occupier to discuss why we are proposing the designation and what it would mean to them. This is followed by a formal consultation process."

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Where sites are of amenity rather than nature conservation value, this is a matter for Local Authorities.

Regards
Lesley

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