

Supporting letter

17 February 2012

To whom it may concern

It has come to my notice that a proposal has been made to install a coastal path between Cardiff and Newport, as a part of a coastal path around Wales. It is part of my present job to share birds and wildlife with the public, and professionally I am familiar with where, and where not, to take people so that wildlife is not disturbed.

From my many years living in Cardiff (through 1981, with regular visits back home up to the present) and studying the coastal birds between Cardiff and Newport, I am concerned that increased public access to this stretch of coast would be detrimental to the wading birds and waterfowl of the area. There is already existing informal public access, should people wish to visit, but present disturbance is, fortunately, minimal. Encouraging foot traffic could have disastrous consequences for the wading birds that use this area as a safe haven for roosting at high tide. Cardiff Bay has already been destroyed to make homes and recreation space for humans, and adding pressure to other sensitive coastal areas and their wildlife is simply adding insult to injury.

Sincerely

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Author, *A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America* (1995, Oxford University Press)

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