

John Griffiths AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-369
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/05547/12

William Powell AM
Chair Petition's committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

15 March 2012

Dear William,

Petition P-04-369 : Against the Proposed Cardiff to Newport Coastal Path

Thank you for your letter of 27 February regarding the above petition.

Important nature conservation designations exist along the Severn Estuary between Cardiff and Newport, including Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar designations. Careful consideration has therefore been given to the route of the Wales Coast Path in that area.

A thorough assessment has been carried out to evaluate the potential impact of the Path on local wildlife. The required Appropriate Assessment was completed by Cardiff, Newport City and Monmouthshire County Councils under the lead of the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) in summer 2011. It concluded that the Path would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the designated sites provided that mitigating measures were taken to ensure that at-risk species were well protected. These include improved screening, severe winter weather restrictions, and appropriate and effective signage. All required mitigation will be implemented.

The local authorities involved have undertaken with CCW to regularly monitor and review the arrangements, and we do not support the view held by the Petitioners.

Best wishes

John Griffiths AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development