



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1449
Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/05516/24

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

12 June 2024

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 24 May 2024 regarding Petition P-06-1449 to designate the Tywi Valley as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is responsible for undertaking the process of designating AONBs and National Parks in Wales. They are currently examining the case for designating a new National Park in north-east Wales. This is an extensive and exhaustive process and will be the priority for the remainder of this Senedd term for NRW in terms of new designations. We also have much to do to improve and empower current designations to contribute more significantly to combatting the nature and climate crises.

As part of their designation programme over 2022-25, NRW has also committed to undertaking an all-Wales technical assessment of natural beauty. Amongst the evidence NRW is considering is the Landscape Character Assessments mentioned as they assess areas across Wales against the statutory natural beauty criteria. This work will clearly be of interest to those campaigning for AONB status when completed.

For designations to be taken forward it is important to demonstrate a level of local support including local political support for designation. A question remains to the extent campaigners have secured local support and aligned different, sometimes conflicting, approaches to protecting landscapes.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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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.

I am happy for my officials to request that NRW officers discuss some aspects of the proposal with campaigners in greater detail. I will follow these discussions closely.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Huw Irranca-Davies'.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change & Rural Affairs