

**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-04-378  
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/05819/12

William Powell AM

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*Dear William,*

18 April 2012

Thank you for your letter of 26 March asking for my views on the petition put forward by the Gower Society with regard to the possible future extension of the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The decision as to whether to designate an area as being of outstanding natural beauty is entirely down to the Countryside Council for Wales. The Welsh Government has no power to make, or to request decisions on designations other than to confirm, vary or reject orders made by the Countryside Council.

There is no mechanism for making applications to the Countryside Council for changes to landscape designations in Wales. Officers of the Countryside Council have met interested parties over a number of years in relation to proposals for extending the Gower designation, but no commitment has been given by them to initiate the work required to formally consider extending the area of the current AONB.

As you noted in your letter, the Countryside Council for Wales is unlikely to make another order for consideration by Welsh Ministers until the implementation of the Natural Environment Framework and the creation of the new single body has been completed. It would not be prudent to start work on what would be a resource intensive project at this time.

I hope this helps to clarify the Welsh Government's position on the matter.

*Best wishes,*

**John Griffiths AC / AM**  
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