

# Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru Countryside Council for Wales

CADEIRYDD/CHAIRMAN: MORGAN PARRY • PRIF WEITHREDWR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE: ROGER THOMAS

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Mr William Powell AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF  
CF99 1NA

22 October 2012

Dear Mr Powell

## **PENRHOS COASTAL PARK, HOLYHEAD**

CCW has considered the request to declare Penrhos Coastal Park as a National Nature Reserve (NNR).

CCW is empowered (under Section 19 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949) to declare a NNR on land owned or leased by CCW or managed as a nature reserve by agreement (with the owner) under S16 of that Act. CCW can also declare NNR on land managed as a nature reserve by an approved body under Section 35(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The land in question does not fall within either of these categories. CCW does not hold and has not sought an interest (by purchase, lease or agreement) in that land and given the current development proposals we see no reason why the owner would wish to convey such an interest. In the circumstances, CCW has no power to declare a National Nature Reserve.

It should be noted that NNR status does not, by itself, convey any additional legal protection to an area; it is a statement of intent (by the managers) and a recognition of quality, and may be a material consideration in planning law, but it does not impose any other obligation on the landowner.

As regards the significance of the Penrhos Coastal Park, evaluation of nature conservation importance is undertaken according to a detailed set of criteria for both biological <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2303> and earth science <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2317> features. Following these criteria, parts of the foreshore at Penrhos are notified as

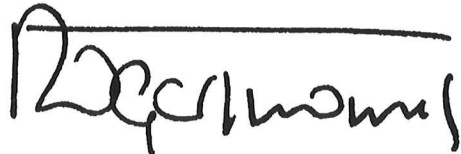


*Gofalu am natur Cymru – ar y tir ac yn y môr • Caring for our natural heritage – on land and in the sea*

Beddmanarch-Cymyran Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its waterbirds and marine biological interests. The main terrestrial area does not meet the criteria for such notification. It remains, however, an important local wildlife and recreational asset.

I trust that this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Thomas', written over a horizontal line.

**Roger Thomas**  
**Chief Executive**