

## Save Our Common Mountain Environment

Mynydd y Gwair Farm  
Felindre  
Swansea  
SA5 7NU

16<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Dear Sir or Madam

Save Our Common Mountain Environment (SOCME) is a group of dedicated volunteers, inspired by the great natural beauty of Mynydd y Gwair (the Gower of the North) to campaign for its protection and conservation. We wish to express our sincere support for The Gower Society's petition to you, seeking an extension to the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to include the Gower of the North.

It is concerning to note that more than seven years have elapsed since formal demands for this extension were first made, especially in view of some of the legislative changes currently under consideration in Wales, which could have profound implications for how our natural environment is managed in future. We are grateful that many bodies, including the Welsh Assembly, have recognised the value of the precious peat habitat within the proposed extension, but there are many other reasons besides the scarce nature of the habitat of the Gower of the North for viewing it as suitable for AONB classification. The habitat supports an amazing array of biodiversity, including breeding skylarks, and provides a valuable feeding ground for a number of other protected species. It has important historical features, including not only prehistoric features, but also Penlle'r Castell, documented from 1287, which sits at the highest altitude point of Swansea. The views from Mynydd y Gwair are breathtaking, and are accessible to all, the majority of the area being common land, with a number of important recreational routes across the common, including both the Gower Way and St Illtyd's Way. It is of value to the local community and visitors alike, and presents an important economic resource for farming and tourism. Conserving it, and recognising its value as an AONB, can only enhance the benefits it offers to us, and to future generations.

Yours faithfully

**Glyn Morgan**

Chairman

Save Our Common Mountain Environment