

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PARK DIRECTION

SUBJECT: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: REGIONALLY IMPORTANT GEODIVERSITY SITES SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE (SPG)

Purpose of this Report

1. This report seeks approval to add an additional site to the above guidance which was originally adopted in October 2011.

Background

2. The Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS) are a non-statutory geodiversity designation. The supplementary planning guidance helps to identify whether development has an adverse effect on the main features of interest within a RIGS. It is supplementary to Policy 10 'Local Sites of Nature Conservation or Geological Interest'.
3. The details of the amendment proposed is shown in Appendix A.

Officer Appraisal

4. A public consultation on the proposed amendment to the guidance took place between 11th May and 6th July 2016. A formal notice was published in the Western Telegraph advertising the consultation and a press release advertising the consultation was also sent to local papers and radio outlets.
5. No adverse comment was received. Appendix B refers.
6. At your meeting in April one Member queried whether the designation would cause difficulties when research was being undertaken at the site. This has been checked and there are no issues arising.

Financial considerations

7. The Authority had funding available to carry out this consultation. It is a requirement to complete a consultation for such documents to be given weight in the Authority's planning decision making.

Risk considerations

8. The guidance when adopted will provide an updated position regarding sites to be protected under Policy 10 'Local Sites of Nature Conservation or Geological Interest'.

Equality considerations

9. The Public Equality Duty requires the Authority to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different communities. This means that, in the formative stages of our policies, procedure, practice or guidelines, the Authority needs to take into account what impact its decisions will have on people who are protected under the Equality Act 2010 (people who share a protected characteristic of age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, and religion or belief).
10. The proposal has been screened and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

Welsh Language considerations

11. The publication and consultation exercises were carried out in accordance with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards Regulations (No.1) 2015.
12. Assessing impacts on the Welsh language is also an integral part of the Sustainability Appraisal process for Local Development Plan preparation.
13. Policy 10 'Local Sites of Nature Conservation or Geological Interest' of the Local Development has been subject to Appraisal and the guidance is subservient to that policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members approve Appendix A for insertion as an update to the Supplementary Planning Guidance on Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites which was originally adopted in October 2011.

Background papers:

[Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Local Development Plan, September 2010](#)

Local Development Plan Manual – Welsh Government

<http://gov.wales/topics/planning/policy/policy-and-guidance-on-development-plans/ldpmanual/?lang=en>

Current Local Development Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance on Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites

http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk/files/files/dev%20plans/AdoptedSPG/RIGS_SPG_FinalOct11Eng.pdf

Planning Policy Wales (Edition 8, July 2016):

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/ppw/?jsessionid=959D17CBE44B4C21C123285AA5AE6E99?lang=en>

(For further information, please contact Martina Dunne, ext 4820)

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Appendix A to the Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites Supplementary Planning Guidance Report

Proposed Inclusion to the Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites Supplementary Planning Guidance by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

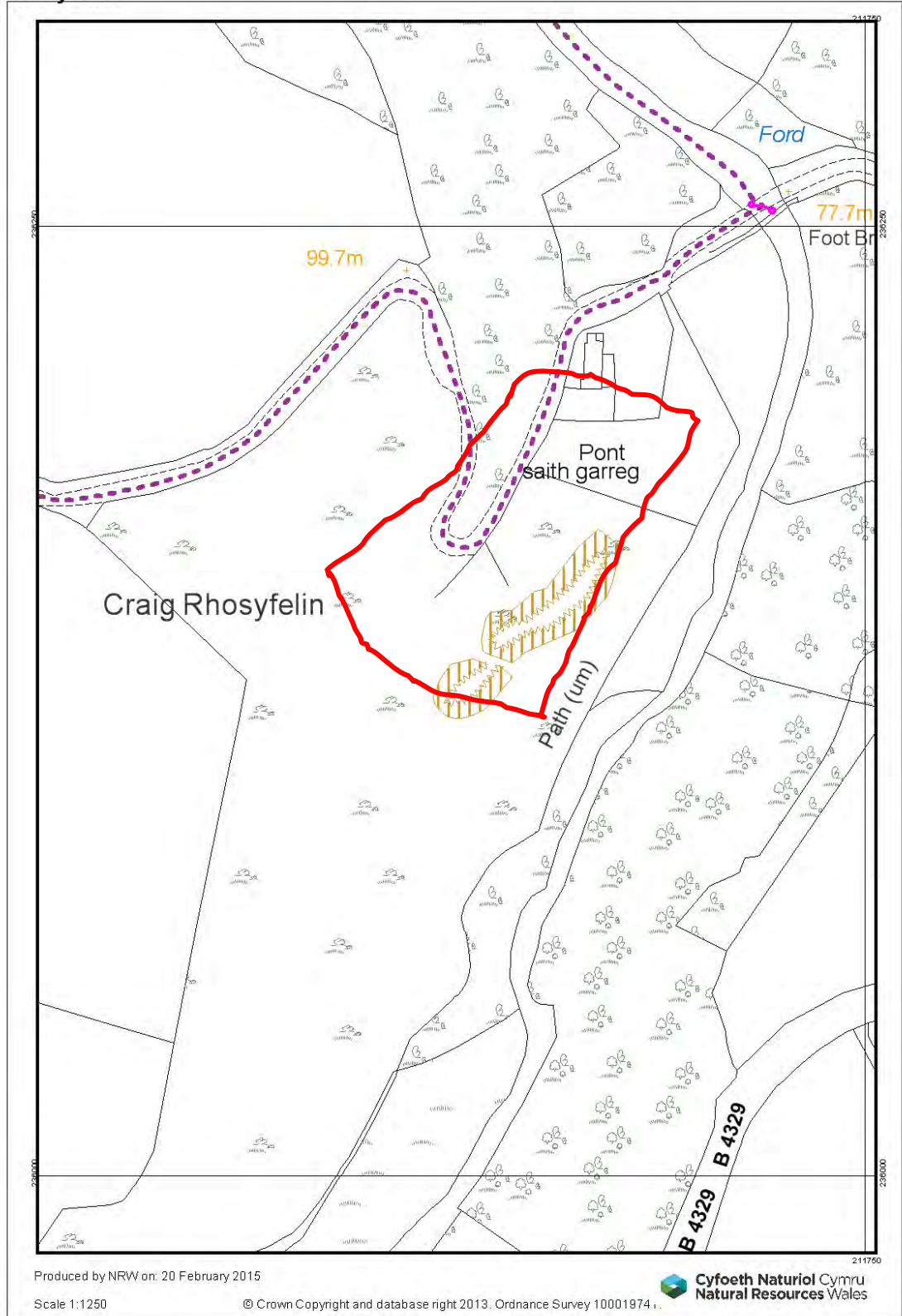
RIGS Statement of Interest: Craig Rhosyfelin is a craggy outcrop of Ordovician rhyolite in the valley of the Afon Brynberian. The rhyolite belongs to the Fishguard Volcanic Group which outcrops along the northern margin of Mynydd Preseli. This site is of particular interest since the rocks are exposed on a series of fracture planes and rhyolite samples from the rock face have recently been matched to "bluestone" fragments in the "debitage" at Stonehenge (See also Carn Menyn RIGS 555). Rhosyfelin is also significant in that it offers an opportunity to examine some of the geomorphological processes and landforms typical of the Pleistocene period in the area. There are examples of scoured surfaces, frost shattered crags and scree, glacial till, fluvio-glacial gravels and solifluction deposits. With regard to the rock face, from a geomorphological perspective there is ample evidence that glacial, periglacial and biological processes have all contributed to the widening of joints and the accumulation of rock debris at the foot of the Rhosyfelin crag.

Addendum

Recent archaeological excavations (Parker Pearson et al, 2015), however, have led to the assertion that part of the Craig Rhosyfelin outcrop and some of the stone debris at its base (including a large, roughly rectangular block) are the result of prehistoric quarrying. This suggestion has been strongly refuted by the current authors (John, Elis-Gruffydd & Downes, 2015a, 2015b) who have argued that the features of the site constitute an association of natural geomorphological landforms and Quaternary sediments. Continued research at the site, both geomorphological and archaeological, including the possible application of Terrestrial Cosmogenic Nuclide (surface exposure) dating, may help resolve the relative contributions of natural and anthropogenic processes at the site.

Appendix A con'td RIGs Committee Report

Rhosyfelin



Representations on the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Local Development Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites

Reference	Representation	Officer Response and Recommendation
LDP2/RIGS/2577 National Grid via agent Amec Foster Wheeler	<p>National Grid has appointed Amec Foster Wheeler to review and respond to your development plan consultations on its behalf.</p> <p>We have reviewed the above consultation document and can confirm that National Grid has no comments to make in response to this consultation.</p> <p>To help ensure the continued safe operation of existing sites and equipment and to facilitate future infrastructure investment, National Grid wishes to be involved in the preparation, alteration and review of plans and strategies which may affect our assets. Please remember to consult National Grid on any Development Plan Document (DPD) or site-specific proposals that could affect our infrastructure.</p>	Response noted. The National Grid is included as a consultee for all Local Development Plan preparation stages.