



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales**

Marine Advice Team
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13 February, 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

A number of sea areas around Wales are currently being considered for possible identification as new Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). According to scientific evidence, the areas concerned are considered to support internationally important populations of harbour porpoise and a number of species of seabirds.

The purpose of this letter is to let you know that Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh Government are holding informal 'drop-in days' where interested organisations and individuals can come and find out more about the proposals and discuss them with Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government staff.

Decisions on whether to designate SACs and SPAs in Welsh waters are made by the Welsh Minister for Natural Resources, and no such decisions have yet been made. If the Minister decides to proceed with these proposals, they will be subject to full public consultation later in the year, before any decisions are made on whether to designate each area.

To start with, we are holding two sessions, one in North Wales and one in South Wales, details of which are given below. We are aware that not everyone will be able to make these initial dates/locations, so we also anticipate holding further events in other locations, such as in mid-Wales, depending on the level of interest. We would also be able, if appropriate, to meet with interested parties on a one to one basis over the coming weeks.

Details of the first two events are as follows:

- Monday 23 February 2015, midday until 7 pm at the Halliwell Centre, University of Wales, Carmarthen, SA31 3EP, Tel: 01267 676638.
<http://venuewales.co.uk/halliwell-centre-carmarthen/>
- Wednesday 25 February 2015, midday until 7 pm, at Tŷ Menai, Parc Menai, Bangor LL57 4HJ Tel: 01248 675000
http://www.parcmenai.com/en-GB/ty_menai-63.aspx

Refreshments will be available at both venues, and both have ample parking and are wheelchair accessible.

We would very much like to hear from you if:

- you wish to attend one of these first two drop-in days;
- you are aware of other suitable events already taking place over the next few months (for example community meetings, AGMs and so on) where we could come and outline the proposals and answer questions;
- you would like to suggest an additional meeting in another location.

Please let us know if you would like to be involved, either by phoning Natural Resources Wales on 0300 065 3000 (just ask about the marine SAC and SPA proposals), or by emailing us at marine.n2k@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk with your name, organisation (if applicable), and a contact telephone number.

Both of the drop-in days are freely open to all, but it would be helpful if you could let us know by phone or email (as above) whether you plan to attend either event. Also, half hour one-to-one discussion sessions with Natural Resources Wales/Welsh Government staff will be available on both days, and it may be advisable to pre-book a slot if you have a preferred time of day. If so please let us know when confirming attendance. We will do our best to accommodate people's preferences, but depending on demand, it may be necessary to share half hour sessions with other participants.

We very much look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Rhian Jardine
Head of Sustainable Communities