



Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru
Countryside Council for Wales

Sgwd Yr Eira

The Public Right of Way, which leads to and behind the Sgwd yr Eira waterfall, was closed by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority at the request of the Forestry Commission Wales in May 2007, following concerns over rock falls from neighbouring cliffs. Later, a specialist company, ARUP, carried out an inspection of the site and confirmed the instability of the rock face could pose a danger and risk of injury to the public.

Jessica Poole, Brecon Beacons National Park Team Leader for the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), said: “The Sgwd yr Eira waterfall lies within the Coedydd Nedd a Mellte Special Area of Conservation (SAC). As a SAC this site is of international importance and subject to a high level of environmental protection under European law.

“Because of this any work carried out to stabilise the rock face has to be carefully considered to ensure it does not have an adverse effect on the SAC.”

“As part of their duty, under European law, the Forestry Commission Wales has carried out an ‘Appropriate Assessment’, which outlines whether the work will have an adverse effect on the site.

“This is currently being considered by the Countryside Council for Wales, as part of their duty under the same legislation. CCW will also be meeting the Forestry Commission Wales out on site later this week to provide further advice.

“Whilst the protection of the nature conservation interests of Sgwd yr Eira and the surrounding woodlands is a key issues for CCW, under our wider remit recreation and access to the countryside issues must also be considered.”

CCW, the Forestry Commission Wales and the Brecon Beacons National Park, as the Highway Authority (Public Rights of Way are Highways in law), are working closely to resolve all of these issues.

Much of the waterfalls area, including the Sgwd yr Eira waterfall itself, is dedicated as access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The surrounding area and waterfall therefore remain open to the public.

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- **For more information about this press statement please contact Delyth Willis, CCW's Regional PR Officer, on 029 2077 2455 or d.willis@ccw.gov.uk.**
- **The Countryside Council for Wales is an independent adviser to government, working for a better Wales where everyone values and cares for our natural environment. More information about our work is available on www.ccw.gov.uk**