



Our ref: ATISN 13259

22 July 2019

Dear ,

**ATISN 13259- Request for clarification on permissions given for work being undertaken on Eglwysilan Common**

Thank you for your request, which I received on 24 June 2019, regarding permissions and/or relaxations on common land bordering Sengenydd, Abertridwr and Penyrheol, Caerphilly.

Please see the response below and attached maps.

**Summary of eastern common permissions:**

- Area outlined in red - currently improved therefore no permissions required from the Environmental Impact Assessment Unit;
- Areas outlined in pink - classified as semi- natural, but non-significant therefore can be agriculturally improved;
- Areas outlined in green - classified as semi-natural and significant, no agricultural improvement works to be carried out here.

**Summary of western common permissions:**

- The six areas outlined on the attached map can be agriculturally improved.

The above are the result of due consideration through the Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (the 2017 Regulations) process and are not 'relaxations'.

In addition, the 2017 Regulations define agricultural improvement as:

Any improvement project on semi-natural land.

- Semi-natural land is any area containing less than 25% of improved agricultural species (e.g. Perennial Ryegrass and/or White Clover). This can

include a range of land, from lowland meadows to moor;

- Examples of projects could be cultivation (e.g. ploughing, harrowing, rotovating) re-seeding, direct drilling, new drainage and clearing scrub;
- Existing highly improved agricultural land (e.g. silage fields) will not need screening, if it contains more than 25% of Ryegrass and/or White Clover.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ

or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

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