

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau  
Petitions Committee

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



Christine Chapman AM  
Chair of the Communities, Equality and  
Local Government Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Our ref: P-04-439

12 June 2013

Dear *Christine*

The Petitions Committee is currently considering the following petition which was submitted by Coed Cadw Cymru and collected 5,320 signatures.

*We believe that the ancient, veteran and heritage trees of Wales are a vital and irreplaceable part of the nation's environment and heritage.*

*We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to provide greater protection for them, for example by:*

*Placing a duty on the new Single Environmental Body to promote the conservation of such trees by providing advice and support for their owners, including the grant aid where necessary;*

*Amending current Tree Preservation Order legislation to make it fully fit for purpose in protecting ancient, veteran and heritage trees, in line with proposals by Coed Cadw (the Woodland Trust);*

*Incorporating the database of trees recorded and verified through the Ancient Tree Hunt project as a dataset in any successor to the Wales Spatial Plan, recognising these as 'Trees of Special Interest' and providing this information to Local Planning Authorities in Wales so that it can be incorporated into their GIS system, for information.*

The Committee considered this petition at our meeting on 4 June and discussed correspondence from Natural Resources Wales. A copy is enclosed.

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Ffôn / Tel: 029 2089 8393  
E-bost / Email: [William.powell@wales.gov.uk](mailto:William.powell@wales.gov.uk)

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg/We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

We thought this would be a good opportunity to highlight the petition to you, in advance of your likely consideration of the Heritage (Wales) Bill.

Additionally, we are writing to the Environment and Sustainability Committee in advance of their likely consideration of the Planning (Wales) Bill and Environment (Wales) Bill.

If you would like any further information on this petition, please contact the Committee Clerk at [naomi.stocks@wales.gov.uk](mailto:naomi.stocks@wales.gov.uk) or on (029) 2089 8393.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill', followed by a comma.

**William Powell AC / AM**  
Cadeirydd / Chair

Enc: Correspondence from Natural Resources Wales dated 8 May.



**Cyfoeth  
Naturiol  
Cymru  
Natural  
Resources  
Wales**

William Powell AM  
Chair,  
Petitions Committee,  
Cardiff Bay,  
Cardiff,  
CF99 1NA

Your ref: P-04-439

08 May 2013

*Dear William,*

Thank you for your letter seeking my views on the petition submitted by Coed Cadw calling for greater protection for ancient, veteran and heritage trees across Wales. The issues raised by Coed Cadw are matters that Natural Resources Wales takes seriously. Natural Resources Wales is committed to the sustainable management, use and enhancement of Wales' trees and woodlands as a key delivery partner of the Welsh Government's Strategy for Woodlands and Trees.

Whilst the legislation regarding Natural Resources Wales' functions did not place additional duties on us in the area of woodland and tree protection, we are working closely with the Welsh Government to explore how this might be best achieved. As the Welsh Government has indicated, there are opportunities in the planned Environment, Heritage and Planning Bills for improvement of tree protection legislation, management and advisory work. We are listening to our many interested stakeholders, including Coed Cadw, and we will continue to work closely with them and others, including teams in Cadw and the newly established forestry policy team in the Welsh Government, to ensure that we effectively contribute our collective expertise to these processes.

As stated in our 2013-2014 Business Plan, Natural Resources Wales will continue to deliver the commitments set out in Forestry Commission Wales' Corporate Plan 2012-2015. This includes action for trees and woodlands in rural and urban settings and working with a broad range of stakeholders and partners. We will continue to encourage public involvement with woodlands for example through recreation, enterprise and the provision of learning opportunities in woodland and about woodland for people of all ages.

As part of the development of our Corporate Plan for the next three years, there will be an opportunity for interested stakeholders to contribute their views on our future priorities, including the management, conservation and protection of trees and woodland.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Emyr*

**EMYR ROBERTS**

Prif Weithredwr, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru  
Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales

[emyr.roberts@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:emyr.roberts@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

Natural Resources Wales,  
Ty Cambria, Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0TP

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