

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-683
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01043/17

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of 2 June, regarding tree cover in towns and cities.

With Welsh Government support, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has recently published an update to their 'Tree Cover in Towns and Cities' study. This is a desk-based mapping analysis of aerial photographs for 220 urban areas. It allows comparison of urban tree cover in Wales between 2013 and previous tree cover studies based on images from 2009 and 2006.

The results show an overall trend of a decrease in the percentage of tree canopy in urban areas in Wales. An average of 16.3% canopy cover was found in 2013, down from 17.0% in 2009. Total cover varies dramatically across the country, for example from just 6% in Rhyl and 8% in Port Talbot to 30% in Treharris and 27% in Abertillery. Natural Resources Wales has made their analysis available to local authorities to inform local management of canopy cover, including for example where protection of trees from loss which may be considered.

This study captured data on tree canopy only and not the other plant species or wider green spaces that exist in towns and cities.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Information about the survey is published on the NRW website and reported in the Woodlands for Wales Indicators which are published annually by Welsh Government.

Regards
Lesley

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