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e-Petition: Designate Penrhos Holyhead Nature reserve (coastal park) a National reserve



“Petition wording: We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to designate Penrhos Holyhead Nature reserve (coastal park) a National Nature Reserve.

Supporting information: Penrhos Nature Reserve (coastal park) Holyhead, has been used by the community for 40 years. It is a Socially valued landscape. A natural heirloom. We believe the lasting legacy of this cherished nature reserve should be acquired and managed for the community and be designated a National Nature Reserve by CCW (countryside council of Wales) with a long term vision that includes a comprehensive initiative which involves the whole community in its 'Natural capital': Run by the people for the people. Penrhos nature reserve is enveloped in a historic coastline that has been designated an AONB area near an SSSI, which make up its iconic landscape. Gorsedd y Penrhyn which dominates the coasts path line has been designated a regionally important geological, geomorphological site by (UK RIGS) by the geoconservation association. Also the freshwater habitats comprise of reed beds priority habitats under the uk habitats action plan (uk hap) By designating it a national park we would maximise the economic benefits of the islands 'natural capital'. Tourism is based on the unspoilt beauty of this island. It is a Inspirational gem at the heart of the community and has a rich tapestry of life and is cherished by the whole community. It is by all accounts a 'theological Paradise'. It is part of Holy islands altar piece, indeed the 100,000 visitors every year recognise this. 'We are a people bred on legends .clinging stubbornly to the proud trees of blood and birth.' R S Thomas

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Petition details

> Petition Status

Petition Status: Open
Petition Start Date: 01/12/2011
Open until midday on: 3/5/2012
Related Link(s):

> Principal Petitioner(s)

> Jenny Amelia Jones

100 most recent signatures

Penrhos Nature Reserve signals a special signal of inclusion

Penrhos has provided a unique ecosystem service for generations, where notions of community and inclusion have been transformed into a strong community bond creating a space that reinforces kinship throughout the community. Generational memories of families threaded throughout the trails of Penrhos: a richer natural order that paves the way amidst the trees informing and flattering the traveller, a natural dawning that seeks no permission to woo: faithfully depicting an eternal landscape of our ancestors that knits and binds healthy hearts and minds: accomplishing a greater providence that serves the economy of mind, body and soul; a Celtic footprint in Penrhos that acts like the umbilical thread between man and nature: his private space, his natural space, his community space, a communion with Wales' natural cultural heritage.

Penrhos Nature reserve the National Reserve acknowledges the settled communities wisdom in communicating Penrhos Nature Reserve is a socially valued landscape that acts as a spacial signal of inclusion: it unites the individual through the provision of nature for the common interest of man. Holy Island people advocate they are the primary shareholders of Penrhos Nature Reserve and they seek recognition as to how their green space is regulated. The National Reserve status shall allow the community to inherit entrance into the universal fruits of nature 'our' reserve, without fear of exclusion from those who would seek the privation of our natural inheritance embodied in Penrhos. How can we regulate our self image, if 'our voice' in the regulation of our community space is refused?

Let us now assume that the long term future of Penrhos as a nature reserve is under debate and one of the potential outcomes is a 'new' corporate model of development, Penrhos nature reserve that used to be a spacial signal of inclusion becomes a spacial signal of exclusion: what message does this send to the people of Holy Island? It sends the message that the individual has no rights concerning their natural local environment Penrhos, however every corporate model does to the detriment of the community. The individual and the community will feel disenfranchised, the benefits that Penrhos has given to the people of Holy Island will have been ignored. AAM acknowledge this Most notably in 2006 they stated,

'To act responsibly in the protection of cultural heritage..... As a large industry we should look at methods of sustaining natural habitats that surround the AAM site' ..(Quoted in pdf: 'Our commitment: addressing global challenges with local actions)

The prosperity gained from the community canopy from access to the Penrhos reserve, if not protected will create an inequality through the depression of disaffection: community cohesion will be compromised for in aid of the corporate few. To communicate the whole we are required to recognise that Penrhos is an iconographical declaration of community space hence the need for National status: The soul of the community that once resided in the town centre, has since the depression of the town centre, been supplanted in the heart of the nature reserve.

The 'old' corporate model has nurtured positive ties with the community through a positive environmental legacy in delivering wildlife benefits,

'AAM sets out to build enduring relationship with neighbours that are characterised by mutual respect, active partnership and long term commitment'

Natures virtue has never left Holy Island destitute, it is the gateway to the community the source of our natural wealth. We seek a natural justice where issues of the environment are concerned, without this our participation becomes degraded. Holy Island people do not seek an unnatural concrete alternative - a concrete Island, that has never been voted for,

where legislators and local authorities devise a Political Principality to mould their fatality of the landscape.

Penrhos Nature Reserve a local and national treasure

Ocean born gales salute the AONB coastal path giving rise to a grandeur woodland scene: Penrhos open woodland. The Northern area of Penrhos comprises of agricultural land. The coastal path front the morewelon approach includes the Battery (ancient monument) and the remains of the boat house. Penrhos beach to the Stanley embankment includes the coastal park, the SSSI Bedmanarch Bay and UKRIGS status Gorsedd y Penrhyn. The quality of the AONB is significantly enhanced by the agricultural land following the Ancient monument and plays a fundamental role in the landscape character and integrity of the AONB status: an unspoilt and distinctive coastal path that captures the rural essence that visitors and ramblers find so attractive. At this point visitors can also view a panoramic view of the island incorporating the port, Morawelon (Community first ward) and the mountain backdrop. Towards Penrhos beach with Gorsedd y Penrhyn in full view, opens up to another distinct vista Penrhos open woodland, the only open woodland in Holyhead, the majority of which is protected by tree preservation orders (TPO). Gorsedd y Penrhyn overlooks Beddmanarch Bay SSSI. The entire area provides the local community with an unrivalled area of ecosystem and habitat biodiversity: Woodland. Wetland, tidal meadowland. Wales failed to meet its 2010 biodiversity targets, Penrhos Nature Reserve being made into a national reserve will demonstrate that Wales takes its biodiversity targets seriously: Penrhos Reserves TPO, quillet area of managed meadows with wild flowers, fungi and historical monuments, encompassed in the AONB coastline, Gorsedd y Penrhyn majestic headland and Beddmanarch bay SSSI comprises a staggering patriotic landscape of Welsh Natural Heritage, with no other country we need compare; a local initiative of biodiversity conservation that delivers for the Welsh Assembly and the local community.

Penrhos reserve environmental buffer

Penrhos has provided an invaluable ecosystem defence for it local inhabitants: local policeman Ken William OBE first secured its 'promise' in the conscience of the community when he fought for its local reserve status. The stability of this creation has never been so important as we turn away from the old industries and make way for the new industries. A biomass plant is planned for the old Anglesey Aluminium site, adjacent to Penrhos reserve and the longevity of Penrhos is necessary to act as a buffer for environmental pollution for this new industry as it did for the old. Developers of biomass plants must take measures to mitigate environmental pollution (environment protection UK. IACORS). Any perceived or imagined defect in industry old or new can be seen as a small part within the greater sphere of the natural surroundings, namely Penrhos Nature Reserve and it's all encompassing declaration of natures creation Penrhos National Reserve and it's continued charitable nurturing of community life.

Penrhos Natural health service, education and community well being

The holistic phenomenon of Penrhos regarding its benefits to the community should not be underestimated. Physical activity can aid increased lifespan, improve mental wellbeing, improve social relations and enhance personal and communication skills (Open Space: Health, Wellbeing and Open Space literature review. Nina Morris. 2003. PDF). The medicinal green space of Penrhos has been celebrated through the changing seasons. Generations of Holyhead people for recreation and education have perceived the lessons of nature under the community canopy. The mysteries of nature bring the knowledge of

meaning to our wider surroundings the natural world. The reserve is used by all the primary schools in Holyhead in line with learning by doing initiatives (Ysgol LLanfawr school. letter addressed to Sara Wollaston. Head teacher Mr Gwyn Williams. February 2nd 2012). A healthy intelligence of our surroundings teaches us about our common inheritance: understanding natural diversity within the heritage of Wales past, present and future. The unique marvel of each plant and animal within the woodland is accessible to the entire community, an all encompassing recreational experience, unifying the generative power of Penrhos as a universal teacher; everyman his equal all with common interests, a distinct natural provision not dictated by the inequalities of poverty or status. Where the affinity of natural surroundings is akin to a sense of social justice: the natural justice of a small Island community hence the autonomy of natures pilgrim. The value and symbolic resonance of Penrhos is measured in its people (all of natural Wales is embodied in the Penrhos landscape), it is our natural constitution, our portion of Welsh liberty and wealth.

Penrhos National Reserve helping to fully capitalise on the great natural legacy of Holy Island

Anglesey has the most extensive range of palaeozoic and following formations of geology in England and Wales: the quartzite of Holyhead mountain and the subdivisions of the South Stack 'series'- Llwyn division and South Stack moor (The Geology of Anglesey. Edward Greenly. Page viii) with Gorsedd y Penrhyn UKRIGS status, this should easily establish Holyhead as a Geo-tourism destination. The AONB coastal walk comprising of Beddmanarch Bay SSSI, Penrhos open woodland and Holyhead town centred on an old Roman town, neolithic burial chambers and huts and of course the Royal connection (Prince Charles opened the reserve in the 1980s and the Duchess of Cambridge frequently walks her dog here) provides us with a perfect marketing opportunity. A comprehensive initiative to fully deepen Holy Island's great natural and historical legacy, as a desirable destination within Britain's top places to visit for experiencing the unspoilt landscape of Wales. By designating Penrhos a National Reserve, run by the Countryside Council of Wales, we could fully utilise our natural inheritance that spans the reserve and the wider tapestry of our natural capital. To survey Holy Islands beautiful landscape as an enchanted Island, unspoilt by ugly design, we understand the humble expostulation of the rural plight. Acknowledging our greatest brand as having served families and small businesses throughout the ages; the constancy of natures heritage has been a spiritual host throughout the ages, heroic lore glitters throughout this natural composition, the landscape horizon is our steadfast industry, our steadfast companion, our steadfast reserve, poetry we must conserve!

Penrhos nature reserve and tourism: Holy island as 'the pilgrims trail'.

Any discussion of tourism should begin with Anglesey Aluminiums preamble as 'custodian',

'of a 200 acre coastal park, that boasts breathtaking scenic views and provides a natural shelter for many varieties of flora and fauna, each year about 100,000 people visit the park...in early 2006 AAM Appointed kehoe countryside to ensure it remains a beautiful and safe place for both the local community and visitors to enjoy', (Quoted from Website Anglesey Aluminium Metals Ltd - Community initiatives).

This was achieved with the wildlife partnership programme (Red squirrel introduction and bird watch events) in unison with CCW.

To one who has been long in city pent, 'Tis very sweet to look into the fair and open face of heaven, - to breathe a prayer full in the smile of the blue firmament.

~John Keats, *Sonnet XIV*

' The natural environment is a source of enjoyment and inspiration, contributes to physical and mental wellbeing, underpins our culture, and contributes to our own sense of place and our identity. ..is also critical to underpin Wales' tourism businesses..... Protected landscapes in Wales are a key component in defining Wales' sense of place..(quoted from *One Wales: One Planet*)

This can be evidenced in the NEF Case study 'National trail good for business' Pembrokeshire Coast National Park In 2006 'almost half of businesses surveyed rated the Trail as 'very important to their profitability', This case study explains how the creation of a national walking trail is helping tourism and businesses. It is exemplified by its 'high quality public access and coastal habitats', I believe Penrhos nature reserve(coastal park) with its **Key** geodiversity (geomon European status ANOB, SSSI credentials) could be marketed in a similar way. ', Penrhos is a marvellously picturesque piece of diversity of landscape/seascapes, Promoting 'activity tourism' as part of the 'living Wales' framework in action delivering economic benefits for small businesses on Holy island. Forming part of the 'cluster of attractions' on offer as well as the environmental and social benefits for the local community the tourist who finds solace in

'The trail, strung upon it, as upon a thread of silk, opalescent dawns and saffron sunsets. It has given me blessed release from care and worry and the troubled thinking of our modern day. It has been a return to the primitive and the peaceful. Whenever the pressure of our complex city life thins my blood and benumbs my brain, I seek relief in the trail', quote by Hamlin Garland,

Designating it a National reserve would be a blueprint for the future of Holy island as 'the pilgrims trail'.

'Tourism is vitally important to the North Wales economy. It brings in £1.8bn of income to the region each year, supports over 37,000 jobs and provides the lifeblood for many small businesses. I believe it can make an even greater contribution in future and is a sustainable sector which, properly managed, will continue to thrive for generations to come.' (Quoted from TOURISM STRATEGY NORTH WALES 2010-2015)

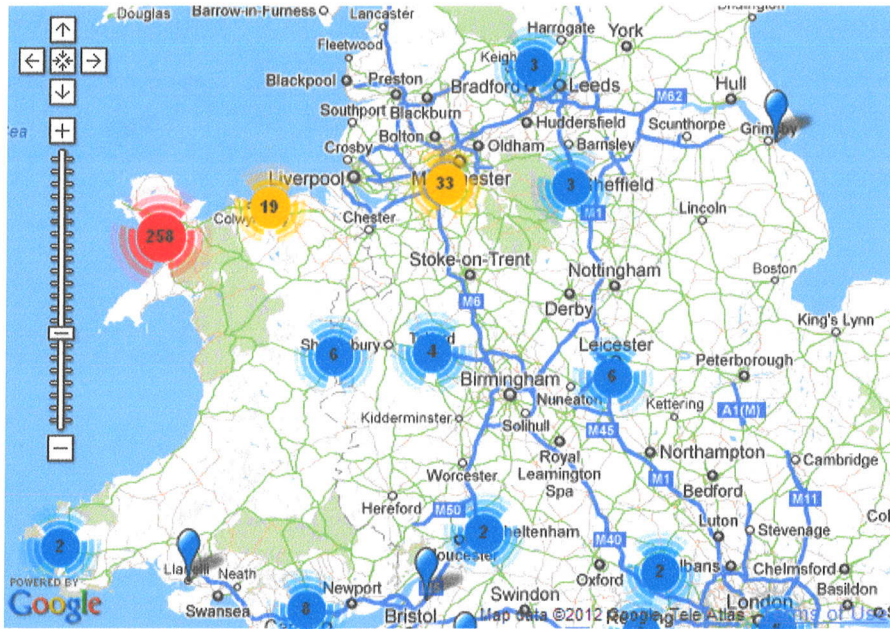
Penrhos coastal path ANOB and its accessibility into the open woodland is an integral factor in encouraging the regular return of tourists; the go petition signature clusters (see picture below) from the North of England and signatures on the Welsh assembly petition suggest that Penrhos is a known and valued destination for North England tourists,

'catchment population, accessibility and strength of its core offer
(<http://www.tpnw.org/docs/strategies/STRATEGYenglish.pdf>),

giving credence to the coastal path status ANOB. Any change of character to the woodland area and the infinity greens would cause the ruination to the stature of the one of the most beautiful coastal areas in Britain.

public viewing. Please allow 30 seconds for the map to load.)

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