

John Griffiths AC /AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-439
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/07689/12

William Powell AM
Chair Petition's Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
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committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

| February 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter asking for my views on the need to increase the protection of ancient, veteran and heritage trees in Wales. I welcome Coed Cadw highlighting this matter and recently visited them in Wentwood forest to hear their ideas on how this work can be taken forward.

Although it was not possible to place additional duties in this area on Natural Resources Wales (NRW) ahead of its vesting in April this year, the conservation of trees and promotion of woodlands will be a major part of the remit of the new body and there will be other opportunities in the coming months in the form of the planned Environment Bill to explore how we might do this.

The legislation and management of Tree Protection Orders is currently complicated due to the involvement of several public bodies but I believe that the establishment of NRW and also of a forestry policy team in Welsh Government offers a real opportunity to deliver improvements in this area too.

I will be highlighting these issues to the forestry policy team when it has taken its place within my Department and I am sure that officials in this new team will be contacting Coed Cadw and a range of other interested stakeholders to discuss how they can work together to address these issues.

*Best wishes
John*

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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