

Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Ddirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1345
Ein cyf/Our ref DB/00349/23
Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
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09 June 2023

Dear Jack,

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to comment on Petition P-06-1345 submitted by the Ruperra Castle Preservation Trust to make conservation management plans compulsory for scheduled monuments at risk such as Ruperra Castle.

Conservation Management Plans are a useful tool used by owners and managers of heritage assets to set out the significance of a heritage asset, and how to conserve and manage the asset. They help with the sustainable management of change to heritage assets and are often used to secure significant grant funding to undertake conservation work.

Scheduled monuments in Wales range from small Bronze Age standing stones to complex and extensive masonry ruins such as Ruperra Castle. There is no legal requirement on owners to maintain a scheduled monument in good condition or to produce Conservation Management Plans, even if the monument is at risk.

In its guidance, Cadw advises that conservation management plans provide a long-term, whole site approach to management. Their use can help owners to avoid inappropriate and unplanned changes. Cadw heritage specialists regularly work with owners of scheduled monuments providing advice on the content and means to produce conservation management plans. However, whilst their use is justified in some cases, for example for larger, more complex and sensitive proposals, it would not be appropriate to apply this methodology wholesale to many smaller and simpler scheduled monuments at risk in Wales. Making such plans compulsory would also require new legislation. Extensive changes to the law to improve the protection for scheduled monuments were made in 2016 with the Historic Environment (Wales) Act. Despite extensive consultation there were no calls for compulsory conservation management plans. In fact, such a proposal would be

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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.

disproportionate in scale and cost, and in many cases unachievable. For these reasons I do not consider it appropriate to make such plans compulsory.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dawn Bowden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

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