

Ken Skates AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-607
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/05243/14

William Powell AM
Chair – Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

William.powell@wales.gov.uk

11 November 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 28 October addressed to the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, seeking her views on the Petition received by the Committee calling on the Welsh Government to secure Garth Celyn for the nation. This has been passed to me for reply.

The village of Abergwyngregyn is recognised as being of great historic importance as the location of Garth Celyn, one of the *llysoedd*, or courts of the Princes of Gwynedd. There are a number of important surviving historic sites in and around the village including the house now known as Garth Celyn (and previously known as Pen-y-Bryn) and the medieval motte known as y Mwd. Both sites have been proposed as locations of the historic royal court.

In recognition of their historic importance, elements of both sites have been given legal protection. Y Mwd, and the remains of an adjacent building revealed through excavation, has been scheduled as an ancient monument. The house has been listed as grade II* and the nearby remains of an enclosure, thought to be medieval in date, have also been scheduled as an ancient monument.

Scheduling and listing are both important ways of protecting historic sites and thus securing them for future generations. Listing means that a house can continue to be occupied, whilst providing an important safeguard for managing future change. Consent is required for any proposals that might affect the historic significance of a scheduled or listed site.

Acquisition of historic properties into guardianship by the Welsh Government/Cadw is generally regarded as an option of last resort and is not usual practice for properties that are either occupied or capable of being occupied. However, I am confident that their protected status will give these important sites the care and protection that they need for the future.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Ken Skates AC / AM

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