Committee Chair
Environment and Sustainability Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardif Bay CF 99 19A.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on
the environment and sustainability of areas under
the guidance of Natural Resources Wales in particular.
This area is in the South west of Anglesey a
local attraction vital to the economy of this area
and the island is Newborough Forest and its
environs. A local liaison Committee was formed to
develop a dialogue about the sustainable future
of this area, unfortunately many concerns have
been held in contempt by NRW.

We have repeatedly been told the E.U has ordered the
constant felling of large areas of timber
The so called expansion to enlarge the dune system
along the shoreline undertaken this winter was
again at the behest of the E.U. Both instances
have been denied by officials at the E.U.

Their Directive does not require the dune habitat
to be artificially extended beyond what was
present when the protected site was created in 2002
why has this action, in both cases, been
sanctioned by the Welsh Assembly?

We have seen substantial loss of rare orchids
lizards, insects etc lost during the winter
as machinery tore up their hibernation areas.
buying them under thousands of tonnes of sand along the coastline nearby at Abermenai Point mobile dunes are clearly seen occurring naturally with the work of tides and winds onshore.

Why the need for the expenditure?
The forest tracks and areas are being badly degraded by the heavy machinery in use. Many species are being lost particularly orchids specific to Anglesey.

On September 25th 2011, a promise was made to transform the Newborough Forest into a major asset for the island's economy. The majority of the development would take place within the existing footprint of the site to minimise the impact on the sensitive environment. Clearly this promise has been treated with contempt. It is impossible to understand why hundreds of thousands of pounds has been spent to improve the experience for visitors and now many thousands of pounds are being spent to destroy that wonderful area.

How encouraging it would be for a leaflet to be produced on the forest and its environs which could be handed to visitors at the toll with a welcoming smile. The income from these tourists is vital to this, the poorest area of Anglesey.

Wales as a whole, Anglesey in particular has one of the lowest woodland covers in Europe for our environment, to be sustainable this must be reversed perhaps this could be a Welsh Assembly policy?
Abermenai Reserve is also part of the NRW remit. Sadly once again there have been dramatic losses of species particularly in flowers and butterflies.

I have lists of butterflies produced by Dr. Paul Whall with whom I spent many hours surveying the Abermenai Reserve. I also meet botanists who studied at Bangor University and one shocked at the loss of flowers there. There were wide beds of species such as butterwort, orchids, wintergreen, adder's-tongue, grass of Parnassus these have been lost due to the 365 day grazing policy, no flowersseed - no renewal of plants.

Ponds on the reserve were a wealth of aquatic life a joy for adults and children to sit on the bank and watch amphibians, dragonflies, water beetles etc. now the grazing stock have been allowed to feed the water remaining all the wonderful habitat.

The loss of experiences with our wildlife and plants on has clearly reduced any sustainability of species in both sites.

The Welsh Assembly are the trustees of these areas for the next generations. There are scientists, geologists, botanists, oceanographers, foresters a plenty on this Island who I have no doubt will express their concerns. They are after all not in the pay of the Welsh Government or granted by N.R.W so their comments are impartial.

The E.U has made sincere efforts through the Habitats Directive towards encouraging a holistic approach to environmental sustainability for habitats wildlife within our communities perhaps Newborough Forest offers a wonderful opportunity to commit the Welsh Assembly to this principle.
Thank you once again for this opportunity to put my views and opinions before the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Evans