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Committee Clerk
Environment and Sustainability Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardif Bay CF99 19A.

Assembly Members.

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 N.R.W.

We have repeatedly been told the F.U has ordered the constant felling of large areas of timber

The so called experiment to enlarge the dune system along the shoreline undertaken this winter was again at the behest of the F.U. Both instances have been denied by officials at the F.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.

burying 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 "experimenter"?
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 21st 2011, a promise was made "to transform the Newborough Forest into a major asset for the Islands 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 those 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 wildflowers and butterflies. I have lists of butterflies produced by Dr Paul Whalley with whom I spent many hours surveying the Abermenai Reserve. I also meet botanists who studied at Bangor University and are shocked at the loss of flowers. There were large beds of species such as butterwort, orchids wintergreen, adders tongue, Grass of Parnassus these have been lost due to the 365 day grazing policy, no flower seed - no renewal of plants.

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

The loss of experiences with our wildlife and plants etc has clearly reduced any sustainability of species on 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 grant aided 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.

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Thank you once again for this opportunity
to put my views and opinions before the
Committee.

Yours sincerely

Kate Gans