Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru | National Assembly for Wales Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig | Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee Ymchwiliad i bolisi coedwigaeth a choetiroedd yng Nghymru | Inquiry into Forestry and woodland policy in Wales

FWP 02

Ymateb gan : Unigolyn Evidence from : Individual

Please would you note my concern with reference to Section 13 on page 10 of your consultation document.

For several decades, myself and many friends have both walked our dogs and ridden our horses through two areas of forestry in the South Wales area.

Unfortunately, neither areas are now accessible.

Ynysmaelog Forestry's western entrance is now too dangerous to walk or ride as its surface has eroded over several years, without having had any maintenance. There are approximately a dozen livery yards in the surrounding area contributing thousands of pounds into the local economy. Also, there must be hundreds of dog owners and cyclists who try to keep fit and well by using paths such as this one, but who now can't for fear of a twisted ankle or worse.

The other area which was used regularly by horse riders, cyclists and dog walkers is Gellifeddgar Woods, near Blackmill. This has been used and enjoyed in the same way as Ynysmaelog, mentioned above, but has recently been fenced off, not allowing access at all.

Having used these two woods for 38 years without interruption they are both eligible to be classed as rights of way. Also, to keep walkers, dogs, cyclists, children and horse-riders off main roads will reduce motor accidents, as well as keeping the public fit and healthy.

I would be most grateful for your opinion on these matters.