Ein Cyf / Our Ref: EP/JH/250211

25 February 2011

Mr ....

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Dear Mr ....

Re: Newborough Forest – Proposed clear felling

I am replying to all those who have raised the issue, both recently and in the past, of the proposed clear felling of the Newborough Forest by the Countryside Council of Wales (CCW) and the Forestry Commission (FC).

I have met with both CCW and FC and made it clear that any felling or management of the Forest be done within the strictest guidelines to protect the designated SSSI. There should also be the widest practical consultation with residents and stakeholders.

I believe the latest proposal to be wrong and unwarranted. Anglesey has a diverse and unique coastline and the Newborough Forest has become an established part of that coastline. It is a habitat for numerous species and wildlife, including the Red Squirrel. I met recently with the Red Squirrel Society and intend to take their views, along with other constituents, to the appropriate bodies.

The Welsh Assembly (WAG) is responsible for the environment in Wales and it must link up its departments to protect and enhance our natural environment. WAG should also quantify the value in social and economic terms (tourism, jobs etc) before allowing felling of trees in its managed areas. I have already raised this with WAG ministers and, following further research discussion, I will be taking this matter further.

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WAG, *via* its agencies, claim that it is a European Union Directive that is driving the wide-scale felling proposals. I intend to look at this further, as WAG too has responsibilities to protect wildlife and forestry, and should not hide behind the EU but standing up for its people and to ensure sensible tree management.

To conclude, I oppose the current proposals and will raise my concerns and those of constituents to prevent the large scale destruction of Newborough Forest, and urge WAG to direct its agencies to consult with residents prior to felling.

Yours sincerely

Albert Owen MP/AS
Ynys Môn