

Dear First Minister Mark Drakeford,

Re: Penrhos Nature Reserve & Coastal Park.

We the undersigned wish to highlight the plight of acres of ancient woodland, indigenous trees, plants, and wildlife that are under threat of being displaced or removed, due to Ynys Môn County Council granting planning permission on Penrhos Nature Reserve, Ynys Gybi, Ynys Môn.

Ynys Môn Council, has been aware of public concern regarding the proposal to build 500 holiday chalets by the English based, Land & Lakes (Anglesey) Limited. The site is home to protected wildlife, flora, and fauna and is a highly popular destination for both locals and tourists. The edge of the area, due for development, has a status of 'A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)', with the location itself, being listed as an **Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB).

Penrhos Nature Reserve, as it is known by hundreds of thousands of Nature lovers, is the only publicly accessible woodland on Ynys Gybi. It is highly respected as such, by locals and visitors some of whom, visit the reserve itself every day.

Penrhos has been a part of our local history for nearly 300 years. Visited by thousands of wildlife and bird lovers every year.. a special place for the local community to meet, walk or simply be. A place where time has stood still, whilst nature has continued to prosper.

Penrhos Nature Reserve, is also the legacy of **Ken Williams MBE**, a local policeman, whose vision for the area to become a public Nature Reserve, was granted by the heads of Rio Tinto Zinc, in 1968. Ken also co-authored a book 'Wildlife in Custody' which covered his time in both the local police force and his passion for the community Nature Reserve. Ken, ran a Bird Sanctuary on-site and dedicated his life to tending the reserve. Hundreds of local youngsters were drawn to Penrhos and helped shape the reserve into what it is today. The paths and trails were established by the dedication of this great man and a team of nature-loving children, from Ynys Gybi and Ynys Môn, who spent their free time volunteering.

The pond, known as 'Scouts Pond', was established by Boy Scouts, who came from Scout Groups all over Anglesey. Girl Guides and Brownies from across the Island, also played their part in establishing the Reserve. This was indeed, a labour of love and learning for all involved.

**Save Penrhos Coastal Park Holyhead**, a grass roots, local campaign supported by 10,000 followers, was founded by Hilary Paterson-Jones. It is continuing to gain support over all social media platforms. Many locals have stated that Penrhos became a lifeline during the pandemic. It is imperative that the positive mental health impact of accessing such a precious site, never be underestimated.

Ynys Môn and Ynys Gybi are recognised by **UNESCO**, with **Global Geopark Status**. **Anglesey Isle** ([www.angleseyisle.co.uk](http://www.angleseyisle.co.uk)) a hugely popular online site, which directs visitors to Anglesey, to places of interest states: 'History, sea, and wildlife are blended into one fantastic park to visit. The park covers an area of around 200 acres too so there's plenty of room'. Another link, describes how Penrhos Coastal Park and Nature reserve is an ideal place to spot and photograph red squirrels - 'Penrhos Coastal Park is another good place to view Red Squirrels, there are many pathways to take through the wooded sections. Some of these have feeding stations that serve a dual purpose. Both birds and the Squirrels use the feeders making them easier to spot. They are also more used to visitors walking around here and so are less skittish, makes getting a few pictures easier too'.

'**Visit Anglesey**'([www.visitanglesey.co.uk](http://www.visitanglesey.co.uk)), an online site, which is endorsed by Ynys Môn County Council titled Beddmanarch Bay and Penrhos Coastal Park, Wildlife: 'Beddmanarch Bay is adjacent to Penrhos Coastal Park on Holy Island. It makes up part of the Beddmanarch and Cymyran Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is an expansive bay with far reaching sand and mudflats and views across Traeth y Gribin to mainland Anglesey's western coast.' Adding 'There is also a nature walk through the woodland, and there are plenty of benches and picnic tables from which to admire the views over the bay and the gently undulating landscape beyond.'

**The Woodland Trust web site** ([www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)) states 'This area has been a Nature Reserve for decades with generations of Holyhead people being able to enjoy the natural heritage that Penrhos Coastal Park has to offer. The wooded area was planted in the 19th century and has a wealth of mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland, flora and fauna, bluebell beds, meadow butterflies, and freshwater habitats. This area alone attracts 100,000 visitors every year.'

The media have also started to cover this story: **Wales Online** 27th June 2022:

'A beautiful Welsh nature reserve is to be relocated to a "toxic waste dump" to make way for a new holiday park. English construction company Land and Lakes has secured planning permission from the council to build 500 holiday chalets at Penrhos Coastal Park near Holyhead, Anglesey.

Penrhos is a conservation area dating back to the 1700s and parts of it are considered a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The plans would see 27 acres of trees felled from the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), while the cherished reserve is relocated to Cae Glas, an area used as a toxic waste dumping ground for decades.

The site has been an AONB since 1967 and is home to a variety of protected species including red squirrels, bats, foxes, badgers and more. An array of beautiful flowers, trees and other forestry make up their habitat.'

**The National For All of Wales online: Nature Emergency:  
Four green spaces under threat in Wales. 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

'This Ynys Môn nature reserve - designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) since 1967 - is the planned site of a £120m holiday village.'

'As part of its planning permission for the project - under a regulation known as Section 106 - Land and Lakes is required to make good for any loss or damage caused as they develop the holiday village. Back in April 2021, the firm submitted three new planning applications to the local council, seeking a discharge from the conditions attached to the 106 agreement.'

The project was personally endorsed by Ken Skates, then Economy minister for the Welsh Government, back in 2016 - who said the resort would boost tourism and create jobs.

They have since agreed to create a new nature reserve on neighbouring land at Cae Glas, a former dumping site for toxic waste produced by the now-closed Anglesey Aluminium works.' Adding ' local planning manager Rhys Lloyd Jones told *Corgi Cymru* in June this year, would "mitigate the impact" of demolishing the Penrhos site and turning it into a holiday village.'

It is thought that historically, there were numerous conflicts of interest regarding the granting of planning for this area and we now trust that The Senedd become involved Ynys Môn County Council to initiate an immediate investigation.

This letter, however, is focused on the protection of our dwindling public spaces and wildlife. The flora and fauna. The UNESCO granted Global Geopark status. Protecting the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (**SSSI**) and Penrhos Nature Reserve's status as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (**AONB**). Of huge importance is how the loss of this area will negatively impact our local community. The history and meaning of Penrhos Nature reserve is woven into the fabric of the lives of so many of us Islanders and to its 100,000 visitors, each year.

As of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022, publicly noted Flora and Fauna within Penrhos Nature Reserve includes (but is not restricted to):

1. Badgers - five setts
2. Three known species of Bat. (Pipistrellus Pipistrellus, Barbastella Barbastellus, Daubenton's bats)
3. Greater Crested Newt
4. Red Squirrel
5. 19<sup>th</sup> Century woodland
6. Ancient woodland
7. Woodpeckers
8. Kingfishers
9. Barn Owl
10. Tawny Owl

This does not include the tens of thousands of migrating waders and birds, who frequent the area annually, alongside the indigenous species. Five hundred chalets equate to huge noise and footfall disruption to this established, wildlife haven.

We ask that your personal attention is applied to this, as a matter of urgency and that the local community, its heritage, and the wildlife which rely on Penrhos Nature Reserve & Coastal Park, remain the highest priority.

The letter to be delivered to The First Minister Mark Drakeford, has been signed by:

**Sylvia Lee** - Resident of Ynys Mon

The following members of: Achub Parc Arfordirol Penrhos Caerdybi/ Save Penrhos Coastal Park Holyhead Campaign

**Hilary Paterson-Jones** - Campaign Leader

**Nicholas Bounds** - Campaign Member

**Lisa Black** - Campaign Member

**Sharon Jones** - Campaign Member

**Elaine Green** - County Commissioner (lead volunteer) for Girl guiding Anglesey.

**Carol Vorderman MBE** - Hon FIET - TV host Entrepreneur/philanthropist Best-selling author. Pilot. RAF Hon Gp Captain

**Will Travers OBE** - Co-Founder Born Free

**Dr Mark Jones** - Born Free

**Marc Abrahams OBE** - (MarcTheVet) multi award winning vet, Author, campaigner., documentary & television presenter.

**Dominic Dyer** - Wildlife Protection & Animal Welfare Campaigner. Author & Broadcaster.

**Peter Egan** - BAFTA Award winner. Actor of stage and screen & Animal rights campaigner.

**Dame Joanna Lumley DBE** - BAFTA Award winner. Actress, presenter, Author and campaigner.

**Conrad Jones** - Best Selling Author - 'The Anglesey Murders' series.

**Adam Sugalski** - One Protest - Legislative Campaigner for Wildlife, Wildlife Advocacy - Executive Director.

**Rhun Ap Iorwerth AS MS** - Deputy Group Leader, Plaid Cymru.

The following Green Party Members:

**Anthony Slaughter** - Leader of Wales Green Party.

**Adrian Ramsay** - Co-Leader of the Green Party of England and Wales.

**Carla Denyer** - Co-Leader of the Green Party of England and Wales.

**Cllr Pip O'Niell** - Tref Cybi (Welsh Labour).

**Cllr Howard Browes** - Holyhead Morawelon Ward.

**Paul Christian** - Trustee, Protect All Wildlife.

**Christine MacSween** FCMA, FRSA - Director & Founder Lion Aid.

**Rachel Sharp** - Director, Wildlife Trust, Wales.

**Tony Roberts** - **Former Welsh International** & Premier league player, currently Wolverhampton Wanderers and **Cymru/Wales International Goal keeping coach.**

**Dafydd Iwan** - B.Arch LL.D - Singer/Songwriter. Chair Hunaniathith; Secretary: Cymdeithas Tai Gwynedd (Housing Assc), Trustee: Clough Williams-Ellis Trust (Portmeirion); Vice-Chair, Age Cymru (Gwynedd & Anglesey). Past-President, Plaid Cymru - Party of Wales 2003-21010; Past-Chair Cymdeithas yr Iaith.

**Iolo Williams** - Ornithologist, Naturalist, Television Presenter, Speaker & Author.

**Heather Abbott MBE** - For services to the community in Holyhead & Anglesey.

**Jack Abbott MBE**

**Jeremy Caldwell** - Holyhead Nature enthusiast

**David Crystal OBE** - FBA, FLSW, FCIL - Writer, Editor, Lecturer and Broadcaster.

**Ben Crystal** - Actor, Author and Creative Producer.

**Sarah Greene** - Television presenter, actress and environmental campaigner.

**Besureis, One Fight. Unite**

**Melody Lee-Gattenby** - Wildlife Advocacy.