

Aberffraw to Abermenai SAC – Newborough Forest - Position statement

The Welsh Assembly Government recognises that there are a number of considerations to be taken into account in managing Newborough Forest. These include recreational needs and the conservation needs of the protected species on the site, as well as the requirements arising from the site's various nature conservation designations. We seek to reconcile the potential tensions between these considerations wherever possible, whilst complying with the legal obligations in relation to the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) of which Newborough Forest forms a part.

The legal obligations in relation to the SAC include a requirement to establish conservation measures that meet the ecological requirements of the particular habitat types and species for which the SAC has been designated: such measures must be designed to maintain or restore these habitats and species at favourable conservation status (FCS). Legal proceedings may be brought against the United Kingdom if these obligations are not complied with.

We are carrying out a review of the science before making any decision as to whether removal of trees would be of benefit to the habitat types for which the SAC has been designated.

In the meantime, ongoing forest management of the other areas of Newborough Forest will continue to apply a full range of techniques to ensure that the forest is managed in line with best practice and in a manner which delivers as wide a range of objectives as possible. We expect the revised plan currently under development by Forestry Commission Wales with advice from CCW to be presented to the Newborough Liaison Partnership from September 2009 onwards.

FCW, CCW, WAG
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