Vivod Partnership
PLAS YN VIVOD
LLANGOLLEN
NORTH Wales
DENBIGHSHIRE LL20 7LS
Telephone: [redacted]

24th April 2025

Denbighshire County Council
PO Box 62
Ruthin
Denbighshire
LL15 9AZ

Dear sir or madam,

RE: TPO Mixed Broadleaf and Conifer A5, Cilmedw, Llangollen

Further to your letter undated but received in April 2025, I would like to confirm that I am responsible for the management of these trees and I would like to add some detail and clarity to your proposal, as well as object against it.

Firstly, I should state that we have no intention of felling these trees and indeed regularly inspect and maintain them. We have carried out a canopy lift as required using Malcolm Claybrook in 2017 and we remove the ivy in 3 year intervals. We have lost 3 mature trees in the last 10 years, 2 beech and an oak. All were blown over, and fortunately all fell into the field. Whilst they are located on the A5, they are in healthy condition with no sign of basal rot, and the trees that have fallen would appear to have been by chance, and not an underlying health issue with the tree or due to any internal fungus.

As a member of the Royal Forestry Society and Dendrology Society, I am fully committed to the preservation and creation of veteran trees and we actively grow and store carbon that all help contribute to our Farmtool Carbon Calculation.

Llangollen is a rural area with a large amount of surrounding broadleaf woodland under our management and so I suppose I am curious as to why this area has been singled out over the wider area that, in my opinion, holds more habitat value, amenity and historical context for the vale of Llangollen.

The reason for the TPO is stated as “providing habitat for wildlife and contribute positively to the character and amenity of the local area” I therefore assume that you have carried out an ecology report to justify this and I would be grateful if you could supply me with a copy?

Please can you also provide more clarity to the TPO as the register refers to “a tree” but the plan outlines a group of trees.

I note the second reason for a TPO is that the tree is “perceived to be at risk”

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As the landowner and manager of these trees, I do not perceive them to be at risk, other than from the ever increasing harsh environmental factors of prolonged droughts and prolonged rain as well as disease, neither of which we can control with a TPO.

Please advise on what grounds you perceive these trees to be at risk?

Whilst I hold the same values as your TPO, I disagree with the need for it on these particular trees. I formerly object to the proposal unless you can provide evidence that this group of trees holds more biodiversity than any other group of trees on our farm or the surrounding area of Llangollen?

The species are typical of the area, containing Corsican pine, lime, elm (aswell as some dead elm), sycamore, beech, maple, oak as well as some hawthorn and douglas fir. There are no champion or rare species although they are approaching veteran age and certainly form part of the landscape, owing to their maturity.

As landowner, I do not know of any risk to these trees being felled. The A5 has run past them for many years and the town has been developed both opposite and to the south without any reason to touch them.

We have always managed them as best we can, given their proximity to the A5 trunk road and our obligations for this. And we do this ourselves, with our own judgement and experience, and that has preserved these trees for the past few generations.

My biggest concern is that by putting a TPO on these trees you actually draw attention to them, which will require third party input with an arborist tree survey who will need to satisfy their own liability that these trees are completely safe next to the A5 trunk road. Their liability concerns could easily lead to them advising a crown reduction of worse still a felling order, all because of their own concern for their own liability and not that of the longevity and carbon sequestering of the trees.

As woodland managers, we are able to take a broader view of the importance of these trees, and not just their liability next to a trunk road. As such, a strongly object to the requirement of a TPO.

Yours sincerely,

William Best
(As Trustee of 1981 Settlement Trust)