

Planting Trees on Peatlands in Wales: The Rules



Prifysgol
Abertawe
Swansea
University

Dr Victoria Jenkins
HRC School of Law
Swansea University

Law and Inter-disciplinary Research on Sustainable Land Management


What is the evidence from natural science and/or geography and landscape?



What should the role of law be in achieving this aim?



How do current rules and rule systems support this aim or create potential barriers to the implementation of policy and guidance?



How could we change the rules and rule systems to better support this aim?

Rules. What are they good for?

- Different types of rules:
 - Regulating direct actions, e.g., stating that an activity must happen, must not happen or the circumstances in which it can take place.
 - Creating a framework for decision-making, e.g., stating what information should be taken into account and who should be consulted.
 - Encouraging or discouraging certain forms of behaviour, e.g., rules governing the allocation of funding.



Law on afforestation

- Environmental Impact Assessment Forestry Regulations.
- Rules underlining the Sustainable Farming Scheme.

Conclusion

- Will the 'rules' that currently exist ensure that scientific evidence is taken into account in all decision making regarding tree planting on peatlands? No
- What can we do about this? Read the rules carefully and argue for change, especially when rules are 'in the making' e.g. the Agriculture Bill for Wales.