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The Chief Executive - Mr. Chris Jones,
Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water,
Pentwyn Rd., Nelson, Treharris,
Mid Glamorgan, CF46 6LY.

19th December 2019

Dear Mr. Jones

Byway LC 296 (The Monks Trod)

The ancient route which links the upper Teifi Basin to the Upper Wye is a 24 mile byway across the Cambrian Mountains linking the Cistercian Abbeys of Ystrad Fflur (Strata Florida) near Tregaron, to Abbey Cwm Hir near Rhyader. It crosses a landscape in whose upper reaches blanket bog and sky meet in an ethereal wilderness which has for centuries witnessed significant dramas of Welsh history. A land which is still farmed today by descendants of those who have known, and managed the landscape for generations and where the Welsh and English languages meet. It deserves recognition for its increasing relevance as one of the best preserved medieval roads in Britain.

It has sadly become popularly known as the Monks Trod, a name which is not befitting of its rural Welsh location and the agricultural custodians who look after it, as well as the indigenous populations residing within its proximity. Farm names such as Pant-y-fedwen, Caemadog, Glanhirin and many hundreds more of old Welsh place names as well as the traditional belief of the burial place of one of Wales' leading poets, Dafydd ap Gwilym at Ystrad Flur do not sit comfortably alongside this Anglicised title

The Cambrian Mountains Society strongly believes that the "Monks Trod" should be renamed Ffordd y Mynach or Sarn Cambria to more appropriately reflect its location and to provide the status and protection due to a linear ancient monument, similar to that afforded to the Ridgeway in England. The Society believes that the Welsh name should be used in all official documentation, signage and where possible on all mapping nomenclature.

We would welcome your organisation's support in achieving this and that the process of re-education should start as early as possible.

Yours

Mr. Peter Foulkes, Acting Chairperson Cambrian Mountains Society.

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