



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

Nick Halfhide
Chief Executive
NatureScot

8 January 2026

Dear Mr Halfhide,

Register of Ancient Woodland

The Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee undertook its second annual review of the fourth National Planning Framework in 2025.

During that review, the issue of protections of ancient woodland arose.

The Minister for Public Finance and his officials indicated that NatureScot had established a steering group and was working to create a register of ancient woodland.¹ The Committee seeks details of the work NatureScot has undertaken and the progress towards the establishment of the register.

On behalf of the Committee, I request a response by 6 February.

Yours sincerely,

Ariane Burgess MSP
Convener

¹ Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, [Official Report](#), 24 June 2025, Col 6 and [letter](#) from the Minister for Public Finance on the second annual review of NPF4 – 20 October 2025