

**From the Office of the Minister  
Michelle Gildernew MP MLA**



Department of

**Agriculture and  
Rural Development**

[www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk)

AN ROINN

**Talmhaíochta agus  
Forbartha Tuaithe**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Fairms an  
Kintra Fordèrin**

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Your Ref:

11 November 2009

*Willie, a chara*

As the Minister with responsibility for Agriculture and Rural Development, I am writing to advise you that, following scrutiny of the Hansard report on the Second Stage of the Forestry Bill, agreed in the Assembly on 15 September 2009, I wish to further clarify what is meant by the expressions 'ancient woodland' and 'long-established woodland':

'ancient woodland' means 'land that has been continually wooded since at least 1600'.

'long-established woodland' is defined as:

'those woods that have been continually present since the first Ordnance Survey maps were produced in 1830-44'.

A copy of this letter will go to those who spoke in the debate, the Assembly Library and the Assembly Business Office.

*Is mise le meas*

**MICHELLE GILDERNEW MP MLA  
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development**

