



Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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Dear Sir or Madam,

## **DRAFT WOODLAND CREATION PROPOSALS – WOODSIDE**

We have been asked to draw up new woodland creation proposals for land at Woodside, near New Abbey. The site extends to around 84 hectares, and the proposals include for approximately 70 hectares of planting (84% of the site). The remainder of the site will be left open for conservation of biodiversity and cultural heritage values.

The objectives behind the woodland planting include timber production in the main, and carbon sequestration through woodland establishment. To achieve these objectives, the proposals include for the planting of diverse conifers, such as Douglas fir, Norway spruce, Scots pine and Western red cedar (57%); mixed broadleaves (36%), and native broadleaved woodland (7%). We have attached copy of the current draft design for your consideration, showing the location of the proposed planting.

The design has been informed by a suite of specialist surveys (vegetation, breeding birds, soil types, peat depth and archaeology) and initial scoping with statutory bodies (such as NatureScot).

All existing woodland will be retained, and it is proposed that the planted trees will be protected by a combination of deer fencing and, to a lesser extent, stock fencing, around the woodland's perimeter. Public access will be facilitated throughout the woodland, in line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

We would welcome any feedback you may have on the potential for woodland creation in this area. If you are able to comment or have any other information that may assist in the preparation of our proposals, please write, email or phone us by 22<sup>nd</sup> August. If this date is not practical, please let us know. Similar correspondence has been sent to properties in the locality, as well as to neighbouring community councils.

When the proposals are finalised, an application will be submitted to Scottish Forestry for their assessment, and they will formally consult with a range of statutory bodies. If and when they are content with our proposals, they will place the application on their Public Register <https://casebook.forestry.scot/w/webpage/prhome>.

Please note that all comments received, and our responses, will be made available to Scottish Forestry.

Yours sincerely,

Carlota Martin Souto