



WESTER KINLEITH – WOODLAND CREATION PROPOSAL

Rosebery Estates Partnership, assisted by Scottish Woodlands Ltd, are developing woodland creation proposals for Wester Kinleith, near Harlaw Reservoir, Balerno, within the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

Woodland creation is being considered as agricultural use has become increasingly difficult on the site. The primary objective behind the woodland planting is timber production, with other benefits such as carbon capture, enhanced public access, and native woodland expansion being delivered.

The proposal is at an early stage in its development, but we envisage the creation of a range of woodland types over roughly three-quarters of the 152 hectare site, and that the bulk of the planting would be comprised of productive coniferous trees, with the balance being mixed broadleaved/coniferous woodland (reflecting the nature of nearby woodlands) and native broadleaved woodland. Open ground, covering roughly a quarter of the site, would be used to protect features of ecological and archaeological interest, and to retain path corridors and views.

Specialist site surveys covering the following aspects have been completed:-

- o Habitats
- o Breeding Birds
- o Archaeology

Copies of the above are available (see below). Please note that these surveys cover a wider area than the site itself. In addition, site, soil and landscape assessments have been completed.

The outline woodland boundary and design has been informed by these surveys to ensure that the site's valued habitats, heritage, and features of interest are protected, and that the new woodland fits well into the existing landscape. Existing public access routes will be retained, and new linking routes established.

Three maps are available at this stage:-

- o Location and Context
- o Constraints and Opportunities
- o Concept Design with issues and approaches

As the project develops this web page will be updated. A drop-in event will be held in Spring, most likely in Balerno, which will provide an opportunity to find out more about the project, to talk to the staff who are involved, and to provide further feedback.

The proposals will be developed through Scottish Forestry's Forestry Grant Scheme. They will undertake formal consultation and when they are content with the proposals, they will be placed on their 'Public Register' - <https://casebook.forestry.scot/w/webpage/prhome>.

In the meantime we would welcome any initial comments and observations you may have, together with any information or details of constraints that you are aware of. Please send you comments to neil.aitchison@scottishwoodlands.co.uk



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Registered office:
Research Park,
Riccarton
Edinburgh EH14 4AP
Company No.
SC101787
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