



HAMILTON HILL

CONCEPT

The landowner aspires to create a primarily coniferous woodland over approximately 110 hectares (272 acres) of land on Hamilton Hill, located to the northwest of Peebles.

To support this, they will be applying for Woodland Creation Grants administered by Scottish Forestry. The application involves various checks and planning processes, including this public consultation. The process is being managed by Fountains Forestry on the owner's behalf.

The species / planting design is not yet finalised and will be informed by a number of factors, including:

- ❖ climatic suitability for tree species- "the right tree in the right place"
- ❖ results of the breeding bird and habitat survey
- ❖ an archaeological survey
- ❖ a landscape character analysis/impact assessment
- ❖ this public consultation.

Conifer species are likely to include Norway Spruce, Sitka Spruce, Scots Pine and Douglas Fir, depending on site and climatic suitability. In addition, all woodland creation grant application designs must also incorporate areas of unplanted open ground and native broadleaf species, which potentially include Oak, Aspen, Willow, Blackthorn, Rowan, Crab Apple, Hazel, Elder, again dependent on site and climatic suitability.

BENEFITS OF WOODLAND CREATION

- ❖ **Carbon positive** – forestry reduces global CO₂ and, when timber is turned into a product, the CO₂ is 'locked up', otherwise it is biodegradable.
- ❖ **Support the local and wider economy** – through planting and establishment work, subsequent timber harvesting and haulage, as well as timber processing.
- ❖ **Provide a long-term habitat** – for a multitude of flora and fauna in both broadleaf and coniferous areas, each providing different benefits to the local ecology.

BACKGROUND

The land was purchased from Upper Kidston Farm following their on-market sale of an area on the west side of the farm in the Meldon Hills. Following formal surveys investigating breeding birds and archaeology, the Meldon Hills area was determined to be of high sensitivity for both birdlife and particularly archaeological interest. However, the Hamilton Hill area in this current proposal was determined to be of much lower sensitivity and we will work with Scottish Forestry throughout the woodland creation process to minimise and mitigate any impact on birdlife, archaeology, public access, infrastructure etc.

As part of the land purchase agreement with Upper Kidston Farm, we will also be constructing two lengths of new private roadway, for management access to the forest and future timber haulage.

WOODLAND CREATION PROPOSAL

AIMS

The landowner's core business is forestry, and they have a long history of establishing new woodland throughout the UK which meets UK Forest Standard requirements. At Hamilton Hill, the aim is to create good quality domestically grown timber. Throughout the new forest's life, it will support the local and wider economy through planting and establishment work, subsequent timber harvesting and haulage, as well as timber processing.

The forest will also provide a long-term habitat for a multitude of flora and fauna in both the broadleaf and coniferous areas, each providing different but significant benefit to the local ecology, as well as helping to mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration.



FOUNTAINS FORESTRY UK LTD

A subsidiary of F&W Forestry Services, Inc.

CONTACT:

David Smith, Forest Manager

Email: david.smith@fountainsforestry.co.uk

Dumfries Office Tel: 01387 440 160

GENERAL ENQUIRIES:

Email: enquiries@fountainsforestry.co.uk

Web: www.fountainsforestry.co.uk

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