



STIDRIGGS – WOODLAND CREATION PROPOSAL

Annandale Estates, assisted by Scottish Woodlands Ltd, are developing woodland creation proposals for part of Stidriggs Farm, near Beattock, in Dumfries and Galloway.

The primary objective behind the woodland planting is timber production, in tandem with secondary objectives such as carbon capture, habitat restoration, and native woodland creation.

The proposal is at an early stage in its development, but currently we envisage a proposal area covering around 275 hectares (ha) of the 435 ha property. Most of the excluded land will remain in agriculture (including most of the higher quality land), while restoration of the damaged peatlands is also being actively considered.

Within the application area it is hoped to plant around 210 ha, primarily with productive conifers along with a strong element of native broadleaved woodland (over 20% of the planting)

Within the scheme, open ground covering roughly a quarter of the site, would be used to protect features of ecological and archaeological interest. Stidriggs Wood, an ancient semi-natural woodland, will be brought in to positive management, and all Scheduled Ancient Monuments will be outwith of the application area.

It is likely that at least some of the site will be deer-fenced, but full public access will be facilitated in any event.

Future timber haulage will use the Ae Forest Timber Haulage road, giving direct access onto the A701 and avoiding the use of local minor road.

Specialist site surveys covering the following aspects have been drafted and made available:-

- Habitats and Breeding Birds
- Archaeology
- Soils and Peat

In addition, hydrology, agricultural impact and landscape assessments will be undertaken, and these too will be made available.

The outline (concept) woodland 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.

Two maps have been made available; one showing the site's location and context, with the other map showing key issues and approaches overlain on a copy of the concept design.

Details of the project, including copies of the completed surveys and assessments are available on Scottish Woodlands Ltd.'s web page; this page will be updated at relevant stages, and will provide a platform for comment and questions. The link for this page is:-
<https://www.scottishwoodlands.co.uk/public-consultations>

The proposals will be developed through Scottish Forestry's Forestry Grant Scheme. Following receipt of feedback from the initial consultation stage, we will submit an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Opinion Request to Scottish Forestry.



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If they decide that an EIA is not required, we will then submit a Forestry Grant Scheme application to Scottish Forestry. 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 your comments to Charlotte.Cavey-Wilcox@scottishwoodlands.co.uk.

It would be appreciated if initial comments or questions could be submitted by the 1st September.