



## **DOD FARM – WOODLAND CREATION PROPOSAL**

Scottish Woodlands Ltd are developing woodland creation proposals for the owners of Dod Farm, which lies to the south of Hawick, in the Scottish Borders.

The primary objective behind the proposals is timber production, along with secondary objectives such as carbon capture, habitat enhancement, and native woodland creation.

The proposal is at an early stage in its development, but currently we envisage a proposal area covering around 90 hectares (ha) of the 124 ha property.

Within the application area it is hoped to plant around 80 ha, primarily with productive conifers along with a strong element of native broadleaved woodland (over 15% of the planting), focused on the Dod Burn and by the existing woodlands. These existing woodlands, which cover over 5 ha, will be retained and integrated into the design.

Within the scheme, open ground covering roughly a quarter of the site, will be used to protect features of ecological and archaeological interest, to buffer small pockets of deep peat, and to soften the woodlands appearance.

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 D 24 public road, which runs northwards from Dod farm to connect with the A 7. The D 24 is a timber transport 'consultation route', and timber haulage plan will be drawn up prior to its use.

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

- Habitats and Breeding Birds
- Archaeology
- Soils and Peat
- Landscape

In addition, hydrology and agricultural impact 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>



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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.

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 [alicia.mctavish@scottishwoodlands.co.uk](mailto:alicia.mctavish@scottishwoodlands.co.uk)

It would be appreciated if initial comments or questions could be submitted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> March.