



Lilburn Estates Farming Partnership Woodland Management Plan Parish Council Summary Document.

Property Details:

Woodland property name		Lilburn Estates	
Name	Lilburn Estates Farming Partnership	Owner	Tenant
Agent name (if applicable)		Verity Williams	
Email	Verity.williams@scottishwoodlands.co.uk	Contact number	
County	Northumberland	Local Authority	Northumberland County Council
Grid ref (e.g. ST 625 785)	NU 00060 24316 (Estate Office)	Single Business Identifier	
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (in hectares)		1006.46 ha	
Do you intend to use the information within this woodland management plan and associated Inventory and Plan of Operations to apply for the following?		Felling licence	Yes
		Thinning licence	Yes
		Woodland regeneration grant	No
You declare there is management control of the woodland detailed within the woodland management plan?		Yes	
You agree to make the woodland management plan publicly available?		Yes	

Vision and Objectives:

The long-term vision is to maintain the estate policy of enhancing species and age class diversity in the woodlands. These woodlands will produce timber and enhance the sporting, recreational and biodiversity aspects of the estate.



Scottish Woodlands Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for non-investment insurance business only

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



Management Objectives:

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	To manage the productive woodland areas to produce a range of timber products, which will meet estate woodfuel and external market requirements. Woodlands to be thinned on a regular basis and conifer blocks to be felled when mature.
2	Gradual removal of shelterbelts on the moorland areas and their replacement by native woodland species. This will enhance the sporting potential of the estate and enhance biodiversity.
3	Identify suitable areas to be managed under a continuous cover silvicultural system. Sites chosen on soil types, exposure and access.
4	Manage deer population across estate to facilitate the establishment of any areas of continuous cover silvicultural system if adopted.
5	Manage the deer population across the estate to a level that allows establishment of young tree crops within restocking as well as any new areas of planting.
6	Manage the woodlands to conserve the resident red squirrel population.
7	Maintain and enhance the sporting potential of the woodlands for shooting by the gradual process of diversifying species and age classes.

Woodland Survey and Description:

Brief description of the woodland property:
<p>4.1 Physical Aspect</p> <p>4.1.1 Location</p> <p>Lilburn Estates are located in North Northumberland to the South east and west of the town of Wooler. The estate is made up of 25 individual farms centred around Lilburn Towers. About 30% of the estate (8 farms) could be classified as upland and the balance (17 farms) as lowland. The woodlands are varied in nature but are predominantly a mixture of mixed species shelterbelts and game covers. There are a few larger blocks of mixed conifers as well as areas of native broadleaves planted on the upland fringe. The woodlands are primarily bounded by moorland and farmland, but with adjoining conifer plantations on the southern boundary. OS Grid Reference 1:50,000 sheet 75: NU019238</p> <p>4.1.2 Soils</p> <p>The predominant underlying soils are variable ranging from brown earths through peaty gleys, surface water gleys and podsols to deep peat. However soils have little implication for most forest operations.</p> <p>4.1.3 Topography, Aspect, Elevation and Rainfall</p> <p>The topography of the estate is very variable with extensive areas of upland moorland with some steep slopes. The lowland part of the estate is typified by undulating farm land with</p>

steeper slopes associated with the tributaries of the River Till on the eastern boundary of the estate. Elevation ranges between 50 and 815m with annual rainfall of 839mm/yr.

4.1.4 Access

The estate is bisected by the A697 North-South. Most of the other council roads passing through the estate have junctions off the A697. In addition to the public roads there are several estate farm tracks providing access to the woodlands. There are several public footpaths and bridleways across the estate and most of the upland areas are classed as "CRoW Act 2000 Access land".

4.1 Tree Crop and Historical Management

The woodland blocks on the lowland part of the estate were planted for a combination of livestock shelter and shooting. The earliest plantings predate 1900 but the majority of the current woodlands were planted between 1950 and 2000. The species planted are predominantly oak, beech, sycamore, ash, Scots pine, Norway spruce, and larch. In the upland areas large blocks of conifers were felled in the period 1995-2000 and replaced by native broadleaf and mixed woodlands. Most of these native woodlands are on the moorland fringes and many were planted to aid black grouse conservation efforts. The owners bought Lilburn Towers in the 1970's and since then have significantly increased their landholding buying neighbouring farms when they came up for sale. In the late 1990's they bought some conifer blocks from the Forestry Commission and have progressively felled these areas, converting them back to moorland and undertaking replacement planting elsewhere on the estate.

Current species proportions as at March 2026

Native Broadleaves - 23%
Mixed Broadleaves - 15%
Mixed Conifers - 16%
Intimate Mix (Conifer/Broadleaf) - 34%
Open Ground - 12%

Please note:

Mixed broadleaves - are predominantly an intimate mix of oak, ash, sycamore and beech.

Native broadleaves - are predominantly alder/birch woods in the uplands and oak/ash/woody shrubs in lowlands. The upland areas contain an element of open space ca. 20%

Mixed conifers - there are practically no areas of single species conifer. Mixtures are mainly SS/SP/JL with some NS/WH/CP

Conifer/broadleaf mixtures are generally woods planted in last 40 years for sporting activities and comprising a mixture of 50% conifer (CP/SP/SS/NS) and 50% MB (oak/ash/syc/beechn)

Forest management to comply with European protected species legislation and red squirrel conservation. EPS checklists to be completed as required to comply with legislative requirements. Monitoring and recording of sightings to enable forest management to take account of protected species. Control of grey squirrels as required.

Management to comply with tree health legislation and best practice with woodlands managed to comply with UKFS and UKWAS.

The estate is in the process of investigating CS granted funded agroforestry within selected agricultural land holdings. The intention is this would remain agricultural land and not be converted to woodland.