

Toun Hill Woodland Creation - Information Sheet

Toun Hill is a 235 ha block of land just outside of Heriot in the Scottish Borders.

The intention of this woodland creation project is to establish a productive, diverse and interesting woodland that supports the strategic objectives of the Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy, and national afforestation targets. The design of this project complies with the UK Forestry Standard.

Design Summary

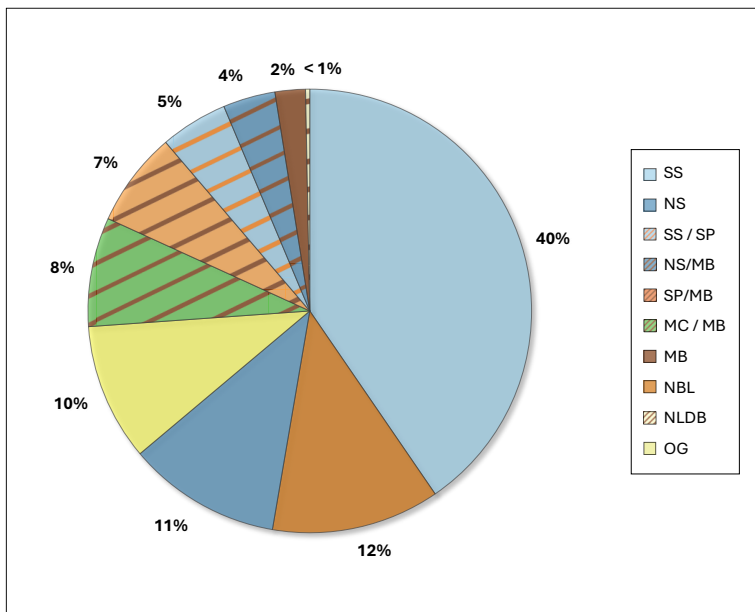


Figure 2: Proposed biodiversity of grant-funded afforestation area.

Legend	Afforestation Notes	Area (ha)
SS	Sitka spruce	63.6
NS	Norway spruce	17.6
SS/SP	Sitka spruce mixed with Scots pine	7.8
NS/MB	Norway spruce mixed with broadleaf species	5.9
SP/MB	Scots pine mixed with broadleaf species	10.9
MC/MB	Douglas fir and Norway spruce mixed with broadleaf species. Norway spruce will be targeted for removal during thinning operations	12.5
MB	Mixed productive broadleaves (e.g., oak, sycamore, Norway maple, beech)	3.5
NBL	Native broadleaf species	19.3
NLDB	Native broadleaf species planted in lower densities	0.5
OG	Designed open ground	15.7
Total:		157.3

The proposed planting would increase the woodland cover on site from 32.4ha (10% of total area) to 174.0 ha (74% of total area). 60.9 ha would remain as open ground habitat (26%).

Key points of consideration:

- How the design sits in the landscape and local access are two factors that have significantly influenced the development of the design.
- Soil type is predominately brown earth, capable of supporting a range of tree species.
- All productive areas will be thinned in the future, except the spruce/pine mix in the west because of exposure from the predominant SW wind. Thinning will create more light and space for trees, allow the understory to develop, and contribute to a more open habitat and pleasant place to access. The initial thinning operations will begin 15-20 years after planting.
- Areas of greatest diversity has been sited where they will be most visible. The MC/MB & MB areas have been designed for potential management as continuous cover forestry. Overtime this will create stands of trees with mixed and varied canopies.
- The pine/broadleaf areas in the southeast of the site have been designed around the rolling landform and will create an attractive feature in the landscape once established.
- Non-productive areas will be planted at a lower density and retained in perpetuity.
- A deer fence with rabbit netting will be erected to protect vulnerable trees from browsing. This will be linked to existing fences where possible. Fencing will significantly reduce the requirement of plastic use for tree protection. Badger gates will be installed where required.
- The design has been developed with public access in mind. Pedestrian gates will permit access through the deer fence and rides will be left as casual walking paths. Deer fencing will not impede access along the core path that runs east-west through the site.
- Survey work is ongoing, however the final design will incorporate recommendations from completed surveys and independent expertise to ensure the protection of important ecological habitats, archaeology, site infrastructure, and the surrounding landscape.

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What is the timescale for delivering this project?

Once survey work and the initial consultation process is complete, an application will be submitted to Scottish Forestry. If this project is approved, the earliest we expect to begin work on site is early 2025.

Consultation and feedback

As part of the woodland creation development process, we consult with statutory stakeholders and special interest groups, including our neighbours and local communities.

What information is usually provided by the community and local stakeholders?

- Location of private water supplies.
- Local recreational use of the land.
- Risks of anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping.
- Local wildlife.
- Proximity to dwelling boundaries.
- Local history.

If you are interested in providing feedback on this project, please send your responses to the email address below. If you would like to discuss the project in person, please refer to the planned community drop-in details outlined in the consultation cover letter.

Email - isaac.adams@ejdforestry.com

If you would like to express your views on the standards that the forestry industry work to or concerning regional and/or national policies encouraging afforestation across Scotland, **please contact your local Scottish Forestry office**. This will ensure that they are considered as part of any revisions or updates to the relevant standards, guidance and/or policy.

Contact details for local conservancy office:

Email - southscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot

Address - Weavers Court, Forest Mill, Selkirk, TD7 5NY