



## Ashiestiel

### Land Management Plan Consultation

## Core Management Objectives

- Utilise high yielding softwood species to contribute to the **productivity** of surrounding woodland
- Increase **biodiversity** by retaining and expanding connectivity between native habitats
- Mitigate against the effects of **climate change** by planting fast growing conifer

- Two existing blocks of conifer, predominantly spruce, totalling 13.95ha
- The two areas of conifer will be worked into the new planting to benefit the overall design

- Existing hawthorn scrub provides a diverse habitat frontage to potential productive tree species
- Native scrub to be retained in order to comply with the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) - with the opportunity to expand with further native species

- There are a mix of soils present, but most are low in nutrient values
- Utilise best of the soils in order to plant high yielding productive conifers for thinning and harvesting revenue plus sequestering carbon to mitigate the effects of climate change

- The site is close to existing forest roads plus there is good access from the south of Elibank
- A small section of new forest road will be needed to gain access to the areas of new planting

- Sharp tree cover edge at the top of the Elibank part of the site
- Productive conifer will be planted in Ashiestiel in order to create a more organic transition into the areas of new planting

- Ashiestiel is an important feature in the wider landscape but has low visual dominance within the Tweed Valley
- The site is located within 1km of the Yair site and could become an important habitat corridor. Community engagement and collaboration is needed to assess the potential

- Areas of upland heath present - this is a priority habitat
- Leaving areas of managed open land while also creating buffers of native forestry will protect the existing habitats

- Areas of mixed willow, hawthorn and wet alder, hosting invertebrates and birdlife
- Some of this area does not require planting but could benefit from low density stock grazing on lease. Retaining the existing patchy areas of wooded scrub would increase the amount of broadleaf habitat within Elibank

- The Glenkinnon and Williamshope SSSI's lie within 1km of the site. The river Tweed is connected to the site via Stiel Burn which is a SSSI and Special Area of Conservation
- Opportunities to work with neighbours and statutory bodies to improve habitat connectivity. Sensitive management along the internal burns in order to improve water quality and mitigate the impact of flooding

### Key

- Native broadleaf
- Productive conifer
- Mixed productive conifer & broadleaf
- Existing conifer

- Open land
- Site of special scientific interest (SSSI)
- Key viewpoint
- Proposed access

- Land management plan area
- Forestry & Land Scotland boundary
- Proposed track
- Proposed forest road

- Existing forest roads
- Water course
- Surrounding planted land