

Westfield – Summary of Proposals

Westfield is located on the Central/Slamannan Plateaux to the East of Caldercruix just off the A89 between Airdrie and Bathgate (see map). Westfield is a recent acquisition of former agricultural farmland surrounded by predominantly agricultural land as well as some areas of mixed woodland and bog and consists of two separate blocks.

The primary objective of the land management plan is to create new woodland capable of maximising the volume of sustainable productive timber sympathetic to biodiversity, environmental quality and landscape.

The main proposal for the site during the ten year plan period is the creation of new woodland (see tables below).

Key Proposals

Total Plan Area	132.5 Ha
Planned operations	2014-2024 plan period
new planting	68.2 Ha

Land use changes

Land use	2014	2024
Open space	95.8%	48.4%
Primary conifers	2.0%	23.0%
Alternative conifers	-	9.2%
Mixed broadleaves	2.2%	8.6%
Native wet woodland W4	-	8.9%
Low growing shrub	-	1.9%

The key considerations in producing this plan were the potential effects on: the lowland raised bog habitat, utilities and landscape. The design retained areas of important open habitat and minimised linear and geometric planting shapes judiciously locating broadleaves and shrubs to soften hard crop edges.

To establish the trees the area will likely be deer fenced. In addition the lowland raised bog will be managed as open habitat with other areas of lower value wet open ground left unmanaged.

Consultation and Further Information

Scottish Lowlands Forest District consulted with local neighbours via postcard drop and onsite posters as well as contacting the local community council whilst Central Scotland Conservancy consulted on the plan with statutory stakeholders.

For further information on the plan please contact scottishlowlands@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.