Newcastleton & District Community Trust Management Plan

2022 to 2032

Abbreviated for households

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| 2. Woodland Description |

Give information about the following:

* past management of the woodland
* current species and ages
* statutory and non-statutory constraints (e.g. designations, archaeological interests)
* existing or potential public access
* woodland protection

Use the Land Information Search to help you complete this section. For more detailed information on the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland use the Scottish Forestry Map Viewer found on our website: [forestry.gov.scot](http://www.forestry.gov.scot)

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| 2.1 Maps required |

Provide maps to support your plan, as outlined in the guidance note. Please list all of the maps that you are including with your management plan.

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| List of maps: |
| 1:50,000 location map showing property boundary. |
| 1:50,000 location map showing extent of woodland. |
| 1:10,000 detail map showing woodland species etc. |
| 1:10,000 detail map showing proposed management |
| 1:10,000 detail map showing constraints & opportunities |

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| 2.2 History of management |
| The woodlands were previously covered by the 2014-24 Liddesdale FP (contract 4165341); four blocks have been harvested and restocked since 2010.  Compt 1001A, 0.45 ha felled and restocked with native broadleaves (NBL) in 2016.  Compts 1002B and E, 2.98 ha selective fell (i.e. larch removed) and restocked with NBL in 2011.  Compts 1003A and B, felled and restocked with Sitka spruce/Norway spruce 70/30, 1.26 ha and NBL, 0.41 ha in 2013.  Compts 1003C and D, felled and restocked with NB , 3.11 ha in 2021. |

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| 2.3 Species and age |
| Species by Area (ha)  P Year  **JL 0.19**  1997 0.19  **MB 1.45**  1888 0.04  1909 0.82  1973 0.16  1997 0.43  **NBL 4.00**  2013 0.41  2016 0.46  2021 3.13  **NS 0.72**  1973 0.34  2013 0.38  **OAK 3.00**  2011 3.00  **OG 0.97**  0 0.97  **SP 1.02**  1909 0.82  1937 0.04  1973 0.16  **SS 12.60**  1973 0.20  1990 2.73  1991 2.59  1997 6.19  2013 0.89  **Grand Total 23.95** |

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| 2.4 Constraints and designations |
| Compts 1002A, B, C, D, and F are designated Native Woodland in the NWSS.  The Historic Environment Record identifies a mill lade, probably to serve the old sawmill (not within this ownership).  There are three named watercourses: Coulter Sike, Short Sike, and Charlie’s Sike.  Compt 1003F is bisected by a 33kV overhead electricity line.  The central section of the woodlands is served by Langholm Street, a de-facto Consultation Route, the remainder can be accessed from the B6357 road – an Agreed Route as defined by the Timber Transport Forum. |

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| 2.5 Public access |
| The northern half of the woodland holding is criss-crossed with several paths – some designated (core path, promoted path, right of way), some informal. Additional paths will be created and maintained in compt 1002A, designed to link with existing paths, creating a choice of circular routes from the caravan park. |

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| 2.6 Woodland Protection |
| Plant Health (including tree health and invasive or noxious plants) |
| No Phytophthora ramorum has been identified in any of the larch, most of which were removed between 2010 and 2015. Chalara dieback is present in ash regen in various parts of the woodlands. There are some rhododendron plants in the woods behind Lidalia caravan park. |
| Deer, Livestock and other mammals |
| The woods are protected from livestock by fencing. Broadleaved trees planted recently are protected with shelters. Due to ground conditions and proximity to the village, deer, rabbit and hare numbers are low. |
| Grey Squirrels |
| Grey squirrels are present and currently trapped by volunteers under the guidance of SWT. There is no evidence of bark stripping but numbers are controlled to protect the resident red squirrels. |
| Water & Soil (soil erosion, acidification of water, pollution etc.) |
| Three named watercourses cross the woods. There are also several small burns and ditches feeding into these watercourses. All operations will conform to UKFS Forests & Water guidelines. |
| Environment (flooding, wind damage, fire, invasive species etc.) |
| The mature spruce stands are at higher risk of windthrow, the younger (planted 1995) spruce on Boosie Plantation has largely blown in storm Arwen. As part of the restructuring, the mature commercial crop will be harvested in the 2nd phase (2027-32).  Despite the proximity to the village, risk from wildfire is low due to species and climate. A Wildfire Risk Assessment and Response Plan will be produced. Findings and recommendations will be incorporated into the management plan.  Flooding is not expected to be a risk.  There are no problem areas of invasive plant species although rhododendron will be managed in the woods next to the caravan park. |
| Climate Change Resilience (provenance, lack of diversity, uniform structure) |
| Restock species will be chosen that are suitable for present and future climate scenarios, wherever possible plants with a local provenance will be used. Existing broadleaved trees will be retained where risk assessment allows. This will help maintain diversity in age classes of the woods. |

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| 3. Vision and Objectives |

Tell us how you intend to manage the woodland in the long term and your goals for its development.

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| 3.1 Vision |
| Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s). |
| The vision for the woodland is to remove the spruce plantations and restock with native broadleaf species to soften the view approaching the village from the south. Income from timber sales will be used to fund the restructuring. The existing woodland areas will be developed to encourage visitors with expanded footpaths.  Existing native woodland on the hill ground adjoining the woodland blocks will be brought into management.  An area of hill ground behind Sawmill Bank has been identified as a potential woodland creation site to provide an economic return to help fund future projects.  The southern end of the woodland holding is predominantly spruce of between 31 and 48 years old. Planted on the east-facing bank next to the B6357, it dominates the view west. As part of the restructuring it is intended to remove the even-aged spruce conifer plantations and restock with NBL. A more appropriate area has been identified for potential commercial conifer woodland creation, not visible from the village or the B6357. This will follow the Woodland Creation – Conifer model.  Compt 1003A (NS/SS, P 2013, 1.26 ha) will be thinned to favour NS and create a more open and inviting woodland.  Woodlands next to the B6357 and the disused railway to the west of the village will have footpaths created and developed to promote community use. These will be linked to longer paths where appropriate. |

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| 3.2 Management objectives |

Give your objectives of management and also how you will manage the woodland sustainably. Your objectives should be specific and you should also be able to measure their outcomes.

| No. | Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations) |
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| 1 | Improve landscape design. |
| 2 | Encourage visitors to the woodlands and beyond. |
| 3 | Provide an economic return. |
| 4 | Increase the proportion of native woodland. |
| 5 | Encourage local school children to participate in woodland management |

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| 5. Analysis and Management Strategy |

Analyse the information from the previous sections and identify how to make best use of your woodland and its resources to achieve your objectives.

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| 5.1 Constraints and Opportunities |

Using the table below analyse any issues raised or relevant features within your woodland and record the constraints and opportunities.

| Feature/Issue | Constraint | Opportunity |
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| Windthrow in compt 1003H (Boosie Plantation) | Economically premature felling | Restructure with native species. |
| Proximity to village | Increased risk of vandalism. Sensitivity to landscape design. Disruption due to forest operations. | Woodlands used as educational resource. Redesign sympathetically. Expand footpath network. |
| Red squirrels present | Grey squirrels present | Control grey squirrels |
| Compt 1002 is largely designated as Native Woodland | Exotic conifers within the crop | Remove exotic conifers, enrich with native species |
| Heavily used footpath network in compt 1002 | Numerous individual trees have blown. Footpath users will be inconvenienced. | Income from timber. Expand footpath network. |
| Timber transport | Timber from Boosie hauled via Consultation Route | Restructure so that future timber will only use Agreed Route. |
| Watercourses | Potential for diffuse pollution during forestry operations | Restructuring will allow vegetation to establish in riparian zone. |
| Removal of commercial crops. | Reduction in income for maintenance of woodlands. | Improved landscape design and species diversity. |
| Additional detail: | | |

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| 5.2 Management Strategy |

Following your analysis, provide a broad statement describing your management strategy. Consider all aspects (economics, access, biodiversity, landscape) and pay particular attention to your silvicultural strategy for meeting your management objectives.

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| Clearfell early-nineties Sitka spruce plantations in two coupes to improve views for motorists, restock with native tree species. Clear windblown trees in Boosie and Sawmill Bank plantations. Restock with native tree species. Mature trees immediately overlooking the caravan park will be removed and restocked with lower growing native trees and shrubs to comfort caravan users. Remaining trees on Sawmill Bank will be retained as long-term retention and managed for amenity and education. A new 25-hectare commercial conifer plantation with access to B6357 will be planted. |

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| 6. Management Proposals |

Tell us the management operations you intend to carry out over the next 10 years to help meet your management objectives for the woodland. The submission of this plan will be considered as an application for permission to thin the woodland over the 10 year plan period, subject to the completion of Table 1 and the submission of appropriate maps. If you intend to carry out other types of felling (e.g. clearfelling) you must apply for that permission separately.

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| 6.1 Silvicultural Practice |
| Outline silvicultural practice and management prescriptions. Include any past management practice that is relevant and the strategies to address the issues identified in section 5. |
| Boosie Plantation and Pollach Plantation will be clearfelled. Brash will be harvested where practicable. Restock trees will be planted on excavator mounds where flatter, straight planted on the steeper ground and protected with 0.6m shelters. Deer numbers have been assessed as low near the village and the removal of the older spruce plantations will reduce the risk of browsing damage further. However, should browsing damage occur deer will be controlled by suitably qualified and insured stalkers. Annual surveys will be carried out following planting to assess animal damage, weed competition and tree deaths. Surveys will continue until successful establishment of the crop. Weed competition will be controlled with herbicide where deemed necessary. Where trees have failed they will be replaced. Browsing damage will be used to inform control measures. |

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| 6.1 Thinning Prescription |
| If you are applying for thinning, you must provide a map as per Appendix 2 of the Forest Plan Applicant’s Guidance. The map must show all areas proposed for thinning. Provide any further details required here in reference to your map(s). |
| See map. |

**Table 1 – Thinning**

This table shows the total management plan area as well as the thinning compartments proposed for management. The felling site/compartment in this table must be shown as the same on the thinning map(s). Please select method of displaying thinning regime:

Pre/Post stocking density Pre/Post basal area Volume to be removed

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| **Total Plan Area:** | | **23.95** | **hectares** |  |  |  |  |  | | |
| **Thinning Compartment** | **Area (ha)** | **%** | **Species to be felled (one per row)** | **Age (Years)** | **Marking of Trees** | **No of Trees** | **Volume (m3)** | **Thinning Density**  **(per ha)**  **Pre Post Total** | | |
| 1003A | 1.26 |  | SS | 20 | Paint | 1,000 | 40 |  |  | 40m³ |
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| **Total Area** | 1.26 |  |  | | **Total Volume m3** | | 40 | **Total to be removed:** | | 40m³ |