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Forest Holdings

Native woodland planting on farmland can provide shelter and fodder for livestock in addition to providing landscape and conservation benefits. This project was conceived to demonstrate these benefits to farmers and landowners and has involved native tree planting over a 7.7 hectare area of grazing land belonging to Philiphaugh Estates at Teviothead.

The Forest Holding site runs for about a kilometre adjacent to the river Teviot, rising from a flat floodplain to rough grassland and heath. The farm manager was enthusiastic about establishing woodland on the site to provide shelter for sheep and lambs in bad weather.

A site survey identified notable areas of wet flush vegetation including a clump of rare Globeflower (*Trollius euopeaus*). The Forestry Commission approved a Woodland Grant Scheme application for tree planting which has left these areas open so that the Globe Flower continues to flourish.

Planting took place in 1998 to establish 5ha of woodland and the site has required little maintenance since. The types of woodland planted ranged from ash-alder on the lower, more fertile soils to oak-birch woodland on the poorer, higher soils. A major feature of this site is its base rich soil. Since fencing and the removal of stock while the trees get established, there has been a proliferation of base rich vegetation such as wild thyme.

BFT and Philiphaugh Estates hope to use the establishing woodland to demonstrate how native woodlands can be used in preference to conifers for shelter.

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