

Forestry Projects



Whitelee Moor

A project to restore native broadleaved woodland in Whitelee Moor, an area of conservation importance.

The project will offset over 3100t CO2 over a 100 year period

Project partner

Northumberland Wildlife Trust

Country

England

About our forest

Whitelee Moor

Whitelee Moor is one of Britain's most important upland nature reserves. It's spacious and wild - home to blanket bog, heather moorland, acid grassland and pockets of valley fen. The lower slopes are home to moorland birds such as red grouse and curlew, and birds of prey including merlins, buzzards, peregrine falcons and hen harriers use the area. For hundreds of years, Whitelee has been grazed but levels of stock are carefully controlled and former drainage channels, or grips, are being dammed to make sure the bog stays wet.

Future Forests' goal for this project, along with a few other funding organisations, is to create an area of native broadleaved woodland with access to visitors. In order to best manage the site the planting will be phased and consists of several native species including birch, ash, willow and alder. This 'low impact' approach should allow native species of birds to inhabit the forest. In all, the project will add trees to an already stunning nature reserve and increase its ability to soak up carbon emissions – and so help protect the climate.

High up the Bateinghope Burn, near Buzzard Crag, are two sets of limekilns, which burned limestone from a nearby quarry and mine. Further down the slopes you can see circular stone structures, called stells, which provide shelter for sheep in bad weather. A herd of 'wild' goats can sometimes be seen on the border. The goats are in fact feral – they are from domestic stock, but have been left to roam wild for many centuries. One of the moor's most striking animals is the Emperor moth – it's woolly caterpillars become bright green as they grow, before pupating and emerging as a spectacular day-flying moth.



Directions

From Jedburgh take the A68 towards Corbridge. The site is on the right from Carter Bar down to Catcleugh reservoir. The planting area is at the south eastern corner near the reservoir. There is access from the forestry track.

Grid Reference: NT7244040

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