



DEMONSTRATION FARM

Woodhead



Farmer: Hugh Broad

Address: Woodhead, Gifford, Haddington, East Lothian, EH41 4JL

Located in East Lothian, Woodhead is a 217 hectare arable farm, North of the Lammermuir Hills. It is a family run business, providing contract farming services to five other local farms, currently producing a range of combinable crops.



The Farm

Woodhead is a typical East Lothian farm, one mile west of the village of Gifford. Its undulating land lies 135 meters above sea level. The soil type is Humble series with an annual rainfall of 675mm. We have diverse habitats including areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland, new plantations, species-rich permanent grassland and open arable farmland. Woodhead is divided by two burns, which link into wetlands and ponds. The marches and field boundaries are lined with hedges, ditches and dry stone dykes to form a rich mosaic.

Crops for food

I believe in sustainable intensification and concentrate our crop production on the field centres, allowing good management of the biodiverse field margins. I endeavour to produce my crops as efficiently as possible, following LEAF's Integrated Farm Management principles. We grow winter wheat, spring malting barley, oil seed rape and milling oats. Winter wheat and spring barley is grown for the distilling trade and our oats go to Quaker for the Scotts porridge oats brand.

Conservation

I have always managed the farm with conservation in mind, protecting and enhancing our biodiversity to form a wealth of valuable habitats for wildlife, including grey partridges, skylarks and brown hares. Over the years, I have implemented a programme of tree, shrub and hedge planting, the construction of a conservation reservoir, fencing of species-rich waterside margins and establishing buffer strips next to all water courses. In addition, we have several beetle banks and conservation headlands on the farm that provide ground nesting for farmland birds and beneficial insects. Sustainable conservation can only be carried out on profitable farms, with good knowledge transfer.

Visits

Come and visit us at Woodland and see how we are combining environmental sensitivity with running a profitable business. Visits can be arranged throughout the year through the LEAF office.



About LEAF Demonstration Farms

LEAF Demonstration Farms are commercial farms, which show the beneficial practices of Integrated Farm Management (IFM) to a broad range of audiences, through organised visits. They communicate an understanding of IFM in order to encourage uptake by farmers, support from the industry and political awareness of sustainable food and farming. For more information, visit www.leafuk.org.