



Southfield Farm

Hawick, TD9 0PE

Area:

628 acres (254 ha)

533 acres (215 ha) effective, made up of:

64 acres (26 ha) forestry

361 acres (146 ha) lower lying

172 acres (69 ha) rough grazing

Soil:

Soil is predominantly a loam; this increases to silty loam in the fields at the bottom of the farm.

Soil depth +14", reducing on the highest points of the farm to 6".

Soil structure is good with descent levels of organic matter based on visual assessment (currently being measured).

Soil pH was on average 5.5 across the farm.

Grass:

On taking over the farm in September 2020, the 533 acres of grassland were

down to permanent pasture - a mix of meadow grass, couch, Timothy, Cocksfoot and perennial rye grass. The rough grazing areas had more diversity of grasses and herbs. There was very little clover across the whole farm.

Total grass yield was predicted at under 6,000kgDM/ha.

Farm Infrastructure:

On taking over the farm, average field size was 19 acres across the 361 acres lower lying ground with the 172-acre rough grazing in two blocks.

Water supplies are limited, especially to the third of the farm southeast of the road where there were no troughs of streams.

Existing sheep handling pens were in a good location but required renewal and also the creation of additional pens to allow drafting, a treatment race and additional holding paddocks for groups to be held.

Improving Southfield

Nutrient plans

Developed by Rhiza and the following applications made:

- 880 tonnes ground limestone applied in 2020 and 56 tonnes in 2022
- Phosphate & Potash - 954 tonnes manure (digestate and FYM) applied in 2020, 320 tonnes in 2021 and 300 tonnes thus far in 2022.

Sub-division

2,000m of permanent fencing has been made for sub-division of fields to give an average paddock size of 3.7ha with an electric top wire to allow temporary sub-division thereafter. Over 3,000m of temporary 3 strand electric fences are used through the grazing season and on the winter-feed crops/deferred grazing.

Water supply

A new water system has been installed

with two 5,000 litre tanks fed from two springs near the steading. Water is then pumped up to a 20,000 litre header tank at the top of the hill block to supply troughs that have been installed across the whole farm.

Grassland Improvement

60 acres of winter crops are planted annually followed by grass re-seeds the following spring. High sugar ryegrass, clover and plantain seed mixes are used.

Livestock are rotational grazed most of the year. Pregnant ewes are block grazed on the rougher pastures through early/mid pregnancy and set stocked for a three-week lambing period in April.

Livestock Handling

The pens have been upgraded and a mobile system also purchased. Field gate positions have also been adjusted to make for easier stock movement.