



Appendix V – Agricultural Impact Assessment

Introduction

The South East Fife Woods Land Management Plan Area includes proposals for circa 45.6ha of woodland creation on the former starter farm at South Dundonald, for which the tenancy will be ending in Autumn 2025.

The site is located in a ‘preferred’ area for woodland expansion as identified in the Fife Forestry and Woodland Strategy 2013-18 (currently under review), which considered a range of sensitivities – including agricultural capability and landscape values.

Summary of existing land use

The majority of the agricultural land at South Dundonald (totalling circa 52ha) is currently used for sheep grazing, although arable cropping is possible in at least one field (21.5ha). The 1:50,000 James Hutton Institute ‘Land Capability for Agriculture’ map classifies the whole site as grade 3.2 agricultural land allowing for a ‘moderate range of crops with trend towards grass in rotation’ (figure 1).

Woodland creation impacts on agriculture

Assessment of land-use change

Table 1 and figure 2, below, provide a summary of the areas of different agricultural capability within the local area, and the percentage of this within the site.

Table 1 - local land capability analysis (land capability for agriculture 50k)

LCA Code ¹	Area within 5km radius ² (ha)	Area within site (ha)	% area within site	Indicative threshold ³
2	390.23	0	0%	N/A
3.1	900.36	0	0%	N/A
3.2	3371.87	51.87	1.5%	N/A
4.1	266.55	0	0%	N/A
4.2	149.92	0	0%	N/A
1-4	5078.93	51.87	1%	>10% of LCA Type
5.1	614.39	0	0%	N/A
5.2	99.06	0	0%	N/A
5.3	94.13	0	0%	N/A
5.1-5.3	807.57	0	0%	50 hectares
6.2	177.28	0	0	N/A
6.3	38.75	0	0	N/A
6.1-6.3	216.03	0	0	100 hectares
888	1675.46	0	0%	N/A
999	76	0	0%	N/A
Grand Total	7853.98	51.87	0.66%	N/A

¹ Amalgamated classifications based on the thresholds taken from *Woodland Creation on Agricultural Land – Scottish Forestry WEAG Information Sheet*

² 5km radius as measured from the approximate centre of South Dundonald Farm

³ Indicative thresholds from *Woodland Creation on Agricultural Land – Scottish Forestry WEAG Information Sheet*

Conclusion

The above assessment suggests that woodland creation on South Dundonald Farm will have a limited impact on the availability of agricultural land within the local area. No woodland creation is proposed on prime agricultural land (defined as LCA codes 1, 2 and 3.1) with the site being classified as 3.2, which are the most commonly occurring LCA types within the local area and overall the proposed scheme will affect only 1% of the area for combined LCA codes 1-4.

Figure 1 - Land capability for Agriculture (50k) at South Dundonald Farm

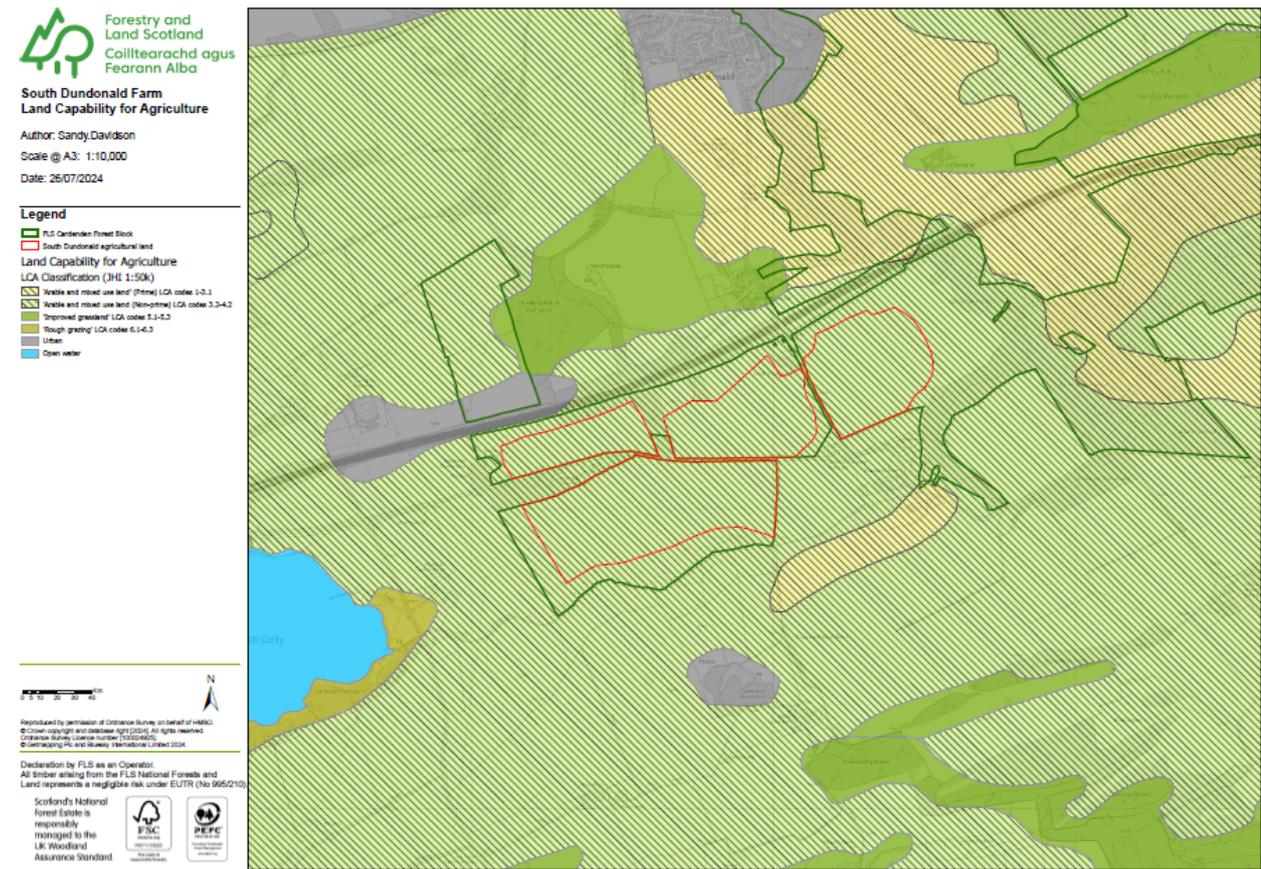


Figure 2 - Land capability for Agriculture (50k) within local area (5km radius from South Dundonald Farm)

