



Appendix V – Hartwood LMP Agricultural Impact Assessment

IV/1. – Summary of existing land use

The majority of the Hartwood Home Farm site (circa 279ha, or 86%) is used for pastoral grazing of cattle and sheep, with some limited cropping potential on the lower fields. There are circa 47 hectares of existing woodland on the site, which is split more or less evenly between LCA codes 4.1 and 4.2. Circa 40ha of LCA code 4.2, situated at the North East and North West corners of the new acquisition is likely to function closer to LCA 5.2, while a further 9ha is likely to perform closer to LCA 5.1. (These figures have not been adjusted in the table below as this would skew comparisons with the local agricultural availability.) Table 19 and figure 3, below provide a detailed breakdown of the land capability on the site of the former Hartwood Home Farm (excluding the historic FLS landholdings of Murdostoun and Mossband).

Table 19 - land capability for agriculture (50k) at Hartwood Home Farm.

LCA Code ¹	LCA Type	Area (ha)	% of site
4.1	Non-prime arable land (suited to a narrow range of crops)	137.86	42
4.2	Non-prime arable land (primarily suited to grassland)	172.45	53
1-4	Total 'Arable and mixed land use'	310.31	95
5.2	Improved grassland (moderate quality)	0.30	<1
5.3	Improved grassland (poorer quality)	0.27	<1
5.1-5.3	Total 'Improved grassland'	0.57	<1
888	Urban areas	15.98	5
Total³	All	326.86	100

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

² Given areas do not account for existing woodland within these LCA types

³ Total area for Hartwood Home Farm site, excluding areas of Murdostoun and Mossband which are included as part of the wider Land Management Plan area.

IV/2. – Woodland creation impacts on agriculture

RPID comments

The Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (RPID) were offered the opportunity to comment on the purchase of Hartwood Home Farm by Forestry and Land Scotland for the purposes of Woodland Creation in 2019. The following assessment was completed and submitted in response by Allan Young, Senior Agricultural Officer, Hamilton Office.

Local farming context:

The availability of an area of 211 Ha of pasture land with limited cropping potential, 40 ha of permanent pasture and 28 ha of rough grazing land may have some importance at individual farm business level and may raise interest among potential or actual lessors, purchasers, neighbours, grazing tenants or other interested parties.

District farming context:

The change of land use of 279 ha of agricultural land at Hartwood to woodland creation with its recent use as agricultural research into hill farming by the James Hutton Institute may raise interest among potential or actual lessors, purchasers, neighbours, grazing tenants or other interested parties.

Regional farming context:

The change in land use of 279 Hectares of agricultural land in North Lanarkshire from agriculture to forestry would not be significant in relation to current agriculture activity within this area.

Summary and recommendations:

Supportive of proposal of the change of use of agricultural land to woodland creation and its linkage to the East Tarbrax land purchase proposal for the creation of a “statement” Centenary Forest in Central Scotland.*

[*N.B at the time of these comments, FLS was also investigating the potential purchase of the adjoining East Tabrax Farm, which was not progressed.]

Assessment of land-use change

In order to further support and evidence the comments above, Scottish Forestry have requested an objective assessment of how the proposed land-use change will impact the availability of agricultural land within the immediate local area (advised as a 5km radius from the site). Table 20 and figure 4, below provide a summary of the areas of different agricultural capability within the local area, and the percentage of this within the site.

Table 20 - local land capability analysis (land capability for agriculture 50k)

LCA Code ¹	Area within 5km radius ²	Area within site	% area within site	Indicative threshold ³
3.1	41.71	0	0%	N/A
3.2	421.96	0	0%	N/A
4.1	1160.58	137.86	12%	N/A
4.2	2925.09	172.45	6%	N/A
1-4	4549.34	310.31	7%	>10% of LCA Type
5.1	45.39	0	0%	N/A
5.2	546.83	0.30	<1%	N/A
5.3	1495.33	0.27	<1%	N/A
5.1-5.3	2087.55	0.57	<1%	50 hectares
888	1210.72	15.98	1%	N/A
999	6.38	0	0%	N/A
Grand Total	7853.98	326.86	4%	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 the Hartwood Home Farm site, this overestimates the area of each LCA within the site when compared to a 5km radius measured from the boundary

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

Conclusion

The above assessment, together with the comments provided by RPID, demonstrate that woodland creation on the former site of Hartwood Home Farm will have 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 majority of the site comprising pastoral land with limited cropping potential, which are the most commonly occurring LCA types within the local area.

Figure 3 - Land capability for Agriculture (50k) on Hartwood Home Farm



Forestry and Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus Fearann Alba

Hartwood LMP Agricultural Impact Assessment Site land capability

Author: U322393

Scale @ A3: 1:25,000

Date: 24/08/2023

Legend

- Land Management Plan boundary
- Hartwood Home Farm Acquisition

Land Capability for Agriculture

- LCA 4.1
- LCA 4.2
- LCA 5.2
- LCA 5.3
- LCA 888



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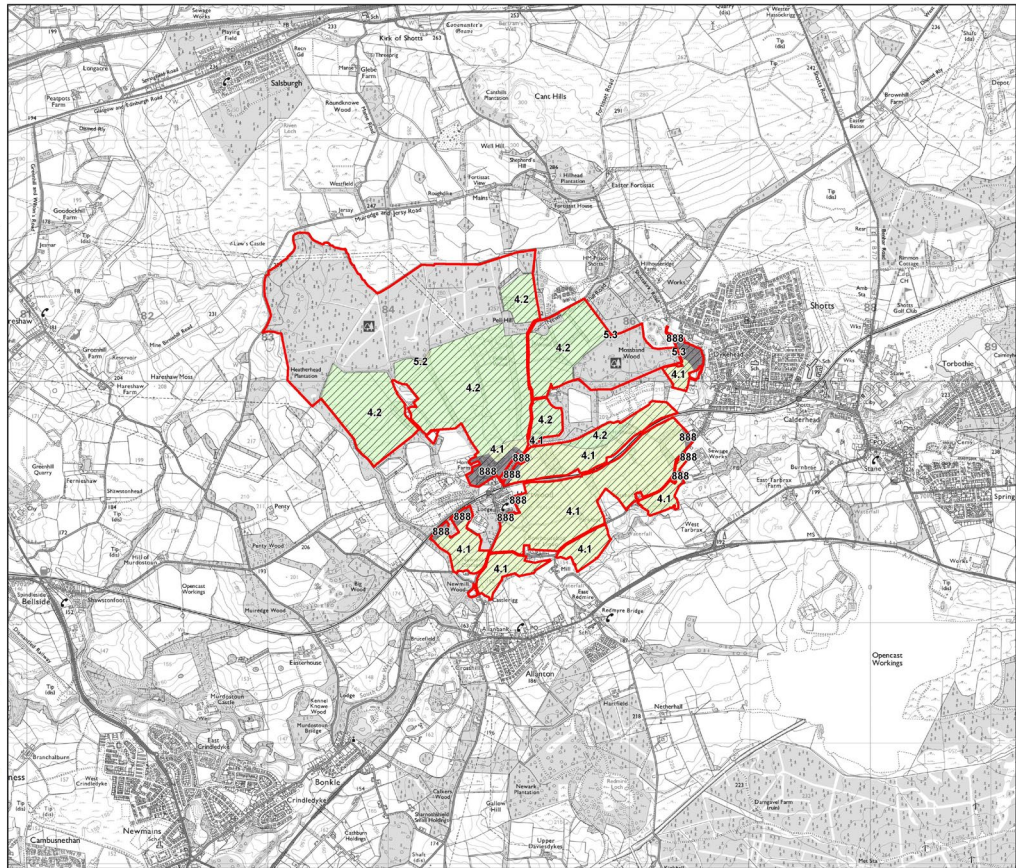


Figure 4 - Land capability for Agriculture (50k) within local area (5km radius from Hartwood Home Farm)



Forestry and Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus Fearann Alba

Hartwood LMP Agricultural Impact Assessment Local Agricultural Context

Author: U322393

Scale @ A3: 1:50,000

Date: 24/08/2023

Legend

- Land Management Plan boundary
- Hartwood Home Farm Acquisition

Land Capability for Agriculture 5km buffer

- Prime agricultural land (LCA codes 1-3.1)
- Non-prime arable land (LCA codes 3.2-4.2)
- Improved grassland (LCA codes 5.1-5.3)
- Rough grazing (LCA codes 6.1-6.3)
- Land of very limited agricultural value
- Built up areas
- Lochs
- Unclassified
- 5km centre point



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