

Landscaping Plan Hedgerows

Low Hall Farm, Whitehaven,
Cumbria.

Produced 11th Oct 2024, Rev 1.

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Summary of Development at Low Hall Farm

Northern Gas Networks Ltd (NGN) have identified a section of high pressure gas main that can be reduced from High Pressure, to Medium Pressure, between the current AGI at Low Hall Farm, Whitehaven, and the former Marchon site, several kilometres away in Whitehaven. This reduces safety risk and environmental risk in the event of a leak or incident within the pipeline to be downgraded, and overall demand on the network. To facilitate this, a new Pipeline Inspection Gauge Trap (PiG Trap) requires constructing at Low Hall Farm to replace the PiG Trap at Marchon.

As a planning condition, and to minimise our impact and even offer some improvement, hedgerows are to be planted around the development to encourage biodiversity, and compensate for the loss of part of a field recorded as g4 modified grassland. The hedgerow will also visually mask some of the site for surrounding residential properties.

Proposal for Hedgerows for landscaping

NGN explored bio-diversity net gain (BNG) with the assistance of Ash Bennett a local ecologist. Cumberland Council confirmed to Diane Martin (NGN Project Manager) that a landscaping plan would suffice.

NGN are required to maintain a boundary around the fence line of the developed site, this is to maintain security and an escape route from the site in the event of an emergency. Due to this constraint, it is deemed only suitable to plant hedgerows along the South, the North West and the upper section of the North East boundary fences of the land.

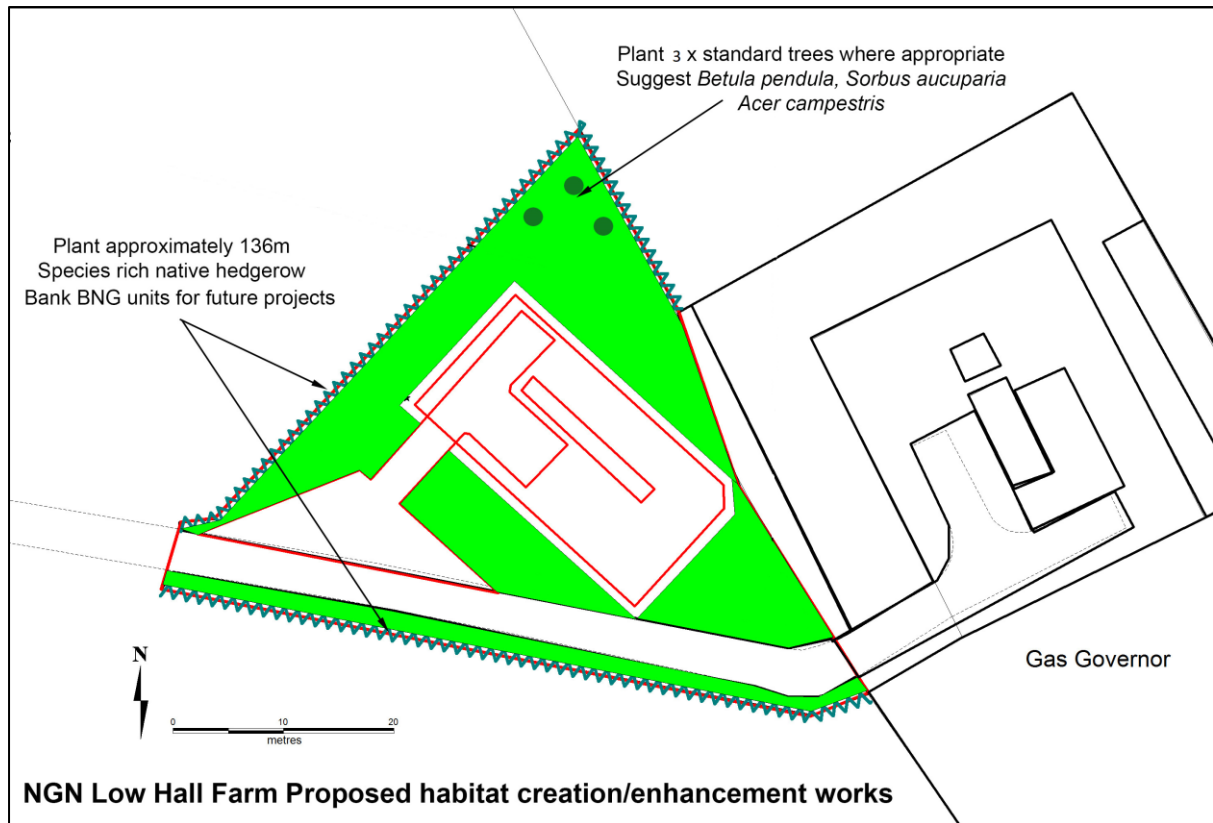


Figure 1: Site layout depicting hedgerow. Note the red line boundary for the new development. The track running West to East is already existing.

Selection of Hedgerow Species

Species rich native hedgerows were recommended by Ash Bennett (Ecologist). Research has found the attached document from the Cumbria Biodiversity Evidence Base (CBEB-Hedgerows), highlighting common species across Cumbria.

With no experience of hedgerows in West Cumbria, Northern Gas Networks will therefore propose the following species:

Up to 75% of Hawthorn.

The remaining species a mix of dog-rose, blackthorn, elder, hazel, ash and holly.

This is based on comments following a Hedgerow Removal application and replanting requirement from Northumberland County Council, and the species noted in the CBEB-Hedgerows).

Appendix 1

Please find attached the Cumbria Biodiversity Evidence Base (CBEB-Hedgerows) highlighting common species.