Cumbria Woodlands

# WOODLAND CREATION PLAN

# ANIMAL CONCERN CUMBRIA

## Contact and Property Information

| | |
|---|---|
| Woodland name | |
| Grid Reference | NX989101 |
| Date of Assessment | 26/03/21 |
| | |
| Applicant name | Animal Concern Cumbria |
| Address | The Mary Irwin Centre, Egremont, CA22 2UA |
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## Introduction

Animal Concern Cumbria are currently redeveloping their site near the town of Egremont. They care for and rehome pet animals, such as dogs and cats.

## Objectives

- Create a varied environment for the exercising of dogs and other animals
- Encourage wildlife to the site
- Improve the site's aesthetics

## Site Description

One large field surrounded by large native hedge. Formally grazing land, now mown for maintenance

## Constraints

- Species of tree must be non-toxic to dogs
- Exposed site near the coast.

# Planting Plan

Planting will fall into the following categories as shown on the map attached (at bottom of document)

1. Long term native woodland planting – planting of woodland mimicking the natural woodland native to the area
2. Hedgerow Planting

# 1. Native Planting

Native trees planted in clumps to complement the existing trees in the area.

5 trees to planted individually in sensory garden, see map.

## Cultivation

Trees will have to be given an edge over the competitive grasses, by aiming to achieve a 1m wide weed free area around each tree. This will be achieved by screefing (removal of the top layer of turf either by hand, using a spade or excavator) or herbicide applications.

## Planting

The trees will average 2m spacing or 2500 stems per ha and will be planted at irregular spacing, to create clumps and more open areas, providing a diversity of light conditions reaching the floor to mimic natural woodland planting. Mix species to create a varied woodland i.e., intimate mixture.

## Protection

The new planting will be protected from any herbivores. These include rabbits. 0.6m tubes would be suitable

## Maintenance

After a year any losses will be surveyed and if possible, the reasons for the deaths addressed (for example if the trees have been heavily grazed by deer consider control) and then the missing trees will be replanted. Application of limited herbicide might be necessary due to the very aggressive nature of agricultural grasses.

## Maintenance

In the second and third year the planting should benefit from a small amount of maintenance to reduce the impact of competing plants. This will take the form of hand weeding and a careful application of herbicide using a cone guard to spray spots around each planting location.

# 2. Hedgerow

## Cultivation

In the area hedgerows are traditionally planted on top of a ‘kest’ a small continuous mound, this has many benefits, providing an elevated planting location for the trees, reducing competition from weeds and slowing down movement of water in the wider landscape. Competing grasses will be removed either physically or with use of herbicide.

## Planting

Hedging trees are to be planted at 6 plants per metre, in 2 rows of 3 trees offsetting the rows so that the trees are staggered. Trees must be dormant before nurseries can lift and ship them, this usually happens in late November, trees then need to be planted whilst they are still dormant, this means keeping them cool and planting before April.

## Protection

Protection will be provided by a single stock fence on the inside margin of the kest after discussion with the fencing contractor, to enable an increased width of planting across the kest (the existing stock fencing runs across the high point of the kest and would impair planting). Spiral guards on the hedging plants will be used to prevent significant damage from rabbits.

## Maintenance

In the second and third year the planting will benefit from a small amount of maintenance to reduce the impact of competing plants. This will take the form of hand weeding and careful limited application of herbicide using a cone guard to spray spots around each planting location.

# Species selection

Species are based on influences from the two classification tools described below:

## NVC

National Vegetation Classification (NVC) is a tool used by ecologists to determine which type of ecosystem would naturally occur on the site without the intervention of man. This indicates nativeness as well as suitability for the site. Often in the case of improved grazing land, original indicator plants are rare or completely missing, making it tricky to know exactly which of the types of woodland grew there before.

As the surrounding area has been heavily fertilised in the past it is difficult to suggest what woodland type would exist naturally in the area and, due to the much higher nutrient content of the soil, these original woodland types might not be most appropriate woodland types anyway. The Forestry Commission guide to NVC types suggests this site is suited to W11 in Oak/Birch woodland with Bluebells.

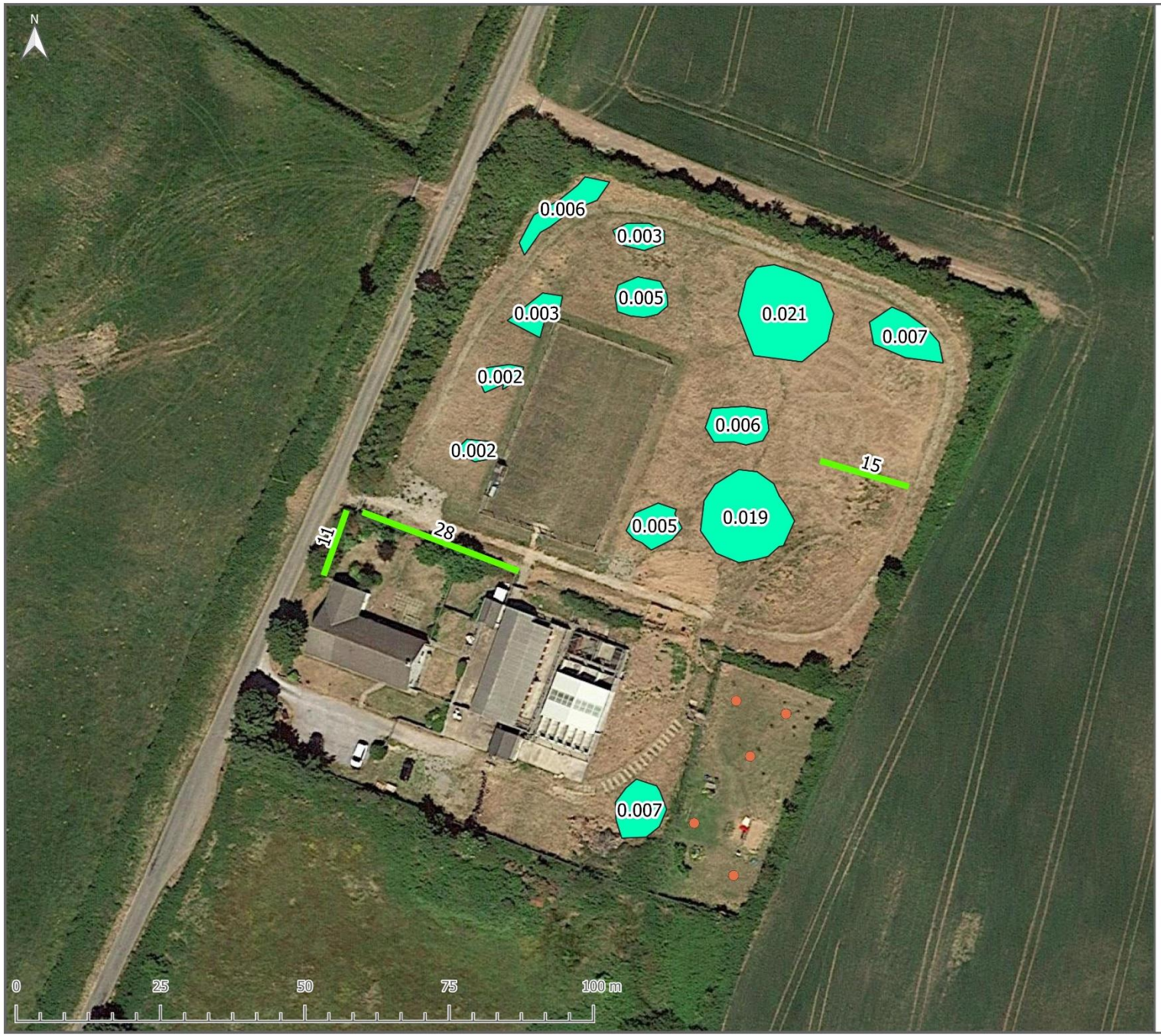
## ESC

The Forestry Commission Environmental Site Classification (ESC) tool is used by foresters as a guide on what species will grow well on a given site. It holds a database of all common native and non-native trees used for forestry purposes. It will give a recommendation based on the sites moisture and nutrient regimes. It will also give a guide on the suitability of tree species in future climate scenarios.

The ESC tool and the NVC guide have been used to inform the species selection show in the table below.

**TABLE 1 OUTLINE OF SUITABLE SPECIES FOR PLANTING**
**KEY: VS-VERY SUITABLE**
**S-SUITABLE,**
**MS- MARGINALLY SUITABLE**
**LS – LESS SUITABLE**

| Species | ESC | NVC | Position | Proportion | No trees |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LTR native mix | | W11 | 2500 | 0.086 | 200 |
| Aspen | S | | Canopy | 20.00% | 40 |
| Goat Willow | S | | Canopy | 10.00% | 20 |
| Downy Birch | S | Y | Canopy | 10.00% | 20 |
| Wild Service | s | | Canopy | 10.00% | 20 |
| Sycamore | S | | Canopy | 10.00% | 20 |
| Silver birch | S | Y | Canopy | 10.00% | 20 |
| Scot's pine | S | | Shrub | 10.00% | 20 |
| Hazel | N/A | Y | Shrub | 10.00% | 20 |
| Rowan | VS | Y | Shrub | 10.00% | 20 |
| Totals | | | | **100.00%** | |
| Hedgerow | | | | 54 | 324 |
| Hawthorn | | | Hedge | 60.00% | 190 |
| Blackthorn | | | Hedge | 20.00% | 60 |
| Bird Cherry | | | Hedge | 5.00% | 20 |
| Holly | VS | | Hedge | 5.00% | 20 |
| Crab Apple | | | Hedge | 5.00% | 20 |
| Hazel | | | Hedge | 5.00% | 20 |
| | | | | | |
| Individual trees | | | | | |
| Sycamore | S | | | | 5 |




# Animal Concern Cumbria

## Planting Area Suggestion

### Legend

- *Individual Trees*
- *Hedge (M)*
- *Planting Areas (Ha)*

*Scale @A4:* 1:1,500

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