

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Summary Report for Cumberland Council

Prepared by Alistair Hearn

Reference: 4/25/2298/TPO

Location: LAND NORTH OF SPUNHAM FARM, THE HILL, MILLOM

Officer: Christie M Burns

Date: 15 October 2025

CONSULTANTS REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

APPLICATION	REASON
Hedgerow Removal Notice for removal of less than 6m of the hedgerow.	'Removal of c.8m of hedgerow is sought to facilitate the entry of plant required to carry out essential refurbishment work upon the steel tower structures which form the AF Route 132kV overhead powerline. Condition based assessments upon the AF053 tower have determined that the structure is at the end of its functional life and in need of urgent upgrading. Currently no gates exist to permit entry into tower AF053 with 2 x 12ft gates.'



HEDGEROW REMOVAL NOTICE APPLICATION APPRAISAL

Under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, a hedgerow is 'important' if it:

- has existed for 30 years or more; and
- satisfies at least one of the criteria listed in Part II of Schedule 1 of the Regulations

Part II of Schedule 1 separates the criteria in into two sections:

- Archaeology and history; and
- Wildlife and landscape.

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These two sections assess a variety of different historic and environmental considerations to determine the 'importance' of a hedgerow.

Archaeology and History

The archaeological and historic importance of a hedgerow involves investigating if the hedgerow:

- marks a pre-1850 parish or township boundary;
- incorporates an archaeological site;
- marks the boundary of, or is associated with, a pre-1600 estate or manor; or
- forms an integral part of a pre-parliamentary enclosure field system.

We have not assessed the historic importance of the hedgerow.

Wildlife and Landscape

The wildlife and landscape importance of a hedgerow considers the number of plant species within a section of hedgerow along with insect and animal populations. The Regulations give details of rare plants, insects and animals.

The table below shows our evaluation of the hedgerow shown on the application plan.

Feature		
Bank or Wall	No	• 7x woody species; OR • 6x woody species + 3x features; OR • 5x woody species + 4x features; OR • highway + 4x woody species + 2x features
Gaps less than 10%	Yes	
Standard trees	No	
Ditch	No	
Parallel hedge	Yes	
Footpath/Bridleway	No	
Connection points	2	
Woody species	3	
Average ground flora species	-	
Hedge classified as 'important'	No	

Following the criteria detailed in the landscape section of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, the hedgerow, totalling 6m, specified in the application does not fulfil the criteria of an 'important' hedgerow.

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Hedgerow Removal Notice

Using the criteria above, we were unable to find any historic importance for this hedgerow from our internet investigations.

If Cumberland Council can find no archaeological or historic 'importance' for the hedgerow, inform the applicant they can remove the hedgerow as detailed in the application.