

**Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to
Peterhead 400 kV Project
Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Volume 5 | Appendices**

**Appendix 7.6 – Forestry Landscape Mitigation
Principles**



Plate 1 - Plan view of forest edge fringe planting strategy on The Aird



Operational Corridor

Deciduous forest edge fringe planting

Key view
(Impacted by the appearance of a linear tract of forestry felling to accommodate the Operational Corridor. Deciduous forest edge fringe planting with a naturalistic edge is intended to soften the artificial linear edge of visually prominent sections of felling.)

Plate 1 - Key

A82

Core Path IN23.02

Great Glen Way Long Distance Path

Woodland Report Parcels

- Parcel 13138
- Parcel 3314
- Parcel 2800
- Parcel 270
- Parcel 13792
- Parcel 104
- Parcel 300

Plate 2 - Plan view of fringe planting strategy on Ordiequish Hill and through the Wood of Ordiequish

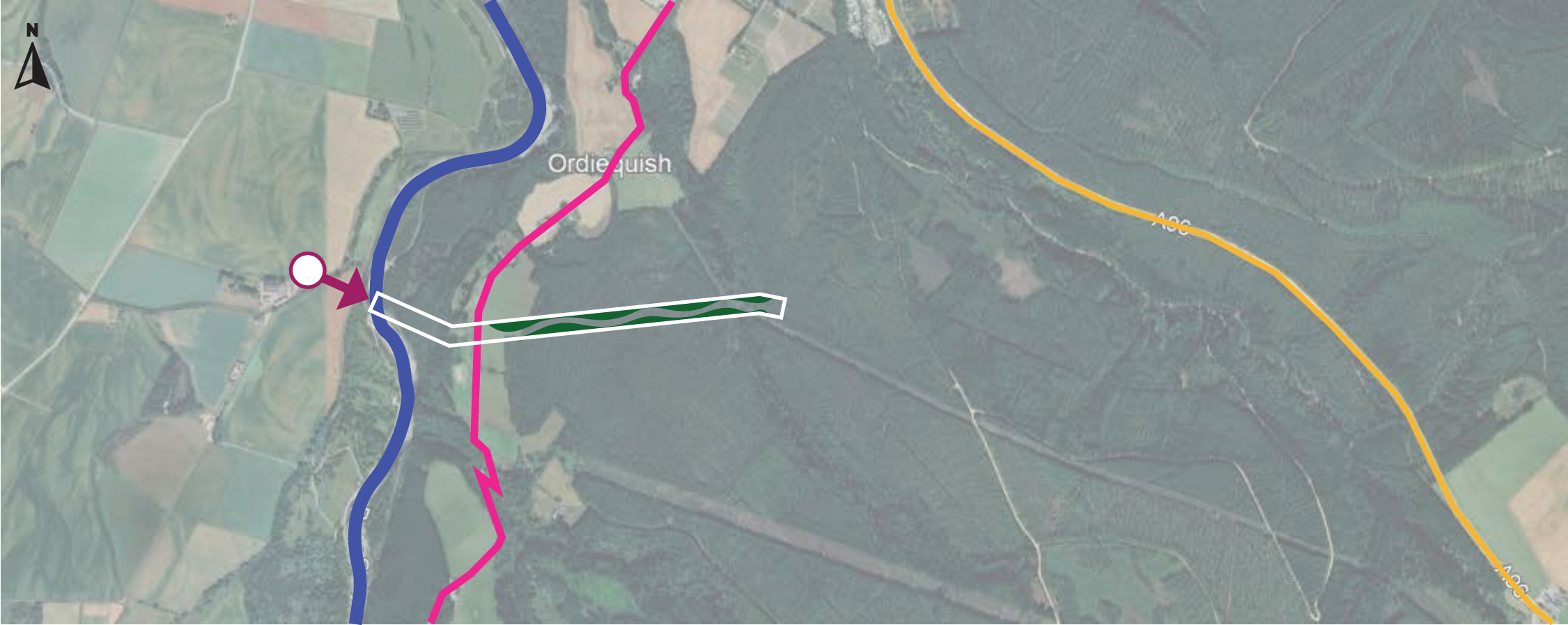


Plate 2 - Key

Speyside Way Heritage Trail

River Spey

A96

Woodland Report Parcels

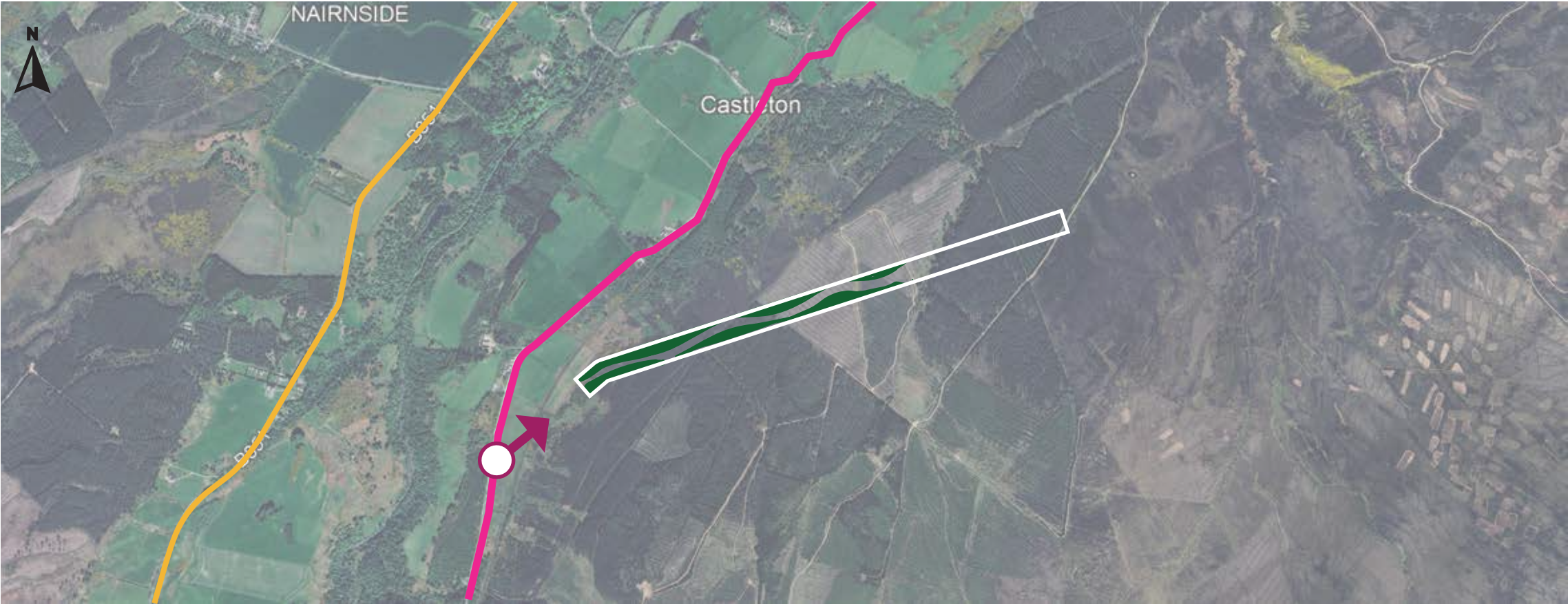
- Parcel 13800
- Parcel 38

Planting strategy

Deciduous forest edge fringe planting is intended to soften the appearance and artificial linear operational corridor edge of particularly visually prominent sections of felling to accommodate the 90 m Operational Corridor through making the edges more organic and natural looking in the landscape; and commercial coniferous forestry by:

- having a naturalistic edge and avoiding straight edges; and
- soften the appearance through a staggered height of planting to the forest edge i.e. smaller shrubs, medium sized shrubs, medium sized trees then larger trees up to the edge of the first row of conifers.

Plate 3 - Plan view of forest edge fringe planting strategy over Meall Mor



-  Operational Corridor
-  Deciduous forest edge fringe planting
-  Key view
(Impacted by the appearance of a linear tract of forestry felling to accommodate the Operational Corridor. Deciduous forest edge fringe planting with a naturalistic edge is intended to soften the artificial linear edge of visually prominent sections of felling.)

Plate 3 - Key

-  B851
-  National Cycle Route 7

Woodland Report Parcels

- Parcel 13822
- Parcel 3178

Plate 4 - Plan view of forest edge fringe planting strategy next to the A9 at Drummossie



Plate 4 - Key

-  A9
-  Core Paths

Woodland Report Parcels

- Parcel 168
- Parcel 344
- Parcel 13206

Planting strategy

Deciduous planting is intended to soften the appearance and artificial linear edge of particularly visually prominent sections of felling to accommodate the 90 m Operational Corridor through commercial coniferous forestry by:

- having a naturalistic edge and avoiding straight edges; and
- soften the appearance through a staggered height of planting to the forest edge i.e. smaller shrubs, medium sized shrubs, medium sized trees then larger trees up to the edge of the first row of conifers.

Appendix 7.6: Forestry Landscape Mitigation Principles

Operational Corridor deciduous forest edge fringe planting strategy

Plate 5 - Plan view of forest edge fringe planting strategy at Altonside



-  Operational Corridor
-  Deciduous forest edge fringe planting
-  Key view
(Impacted by the appearance of a linear tract of forestry felling to accommodate the Operational Corridor. Deciduous forest edge fringe planting with a naturalistic edge is intended to soften the artificial linear edge of visually prominent sections of felling.)

Plate 5 - Key

 B9103

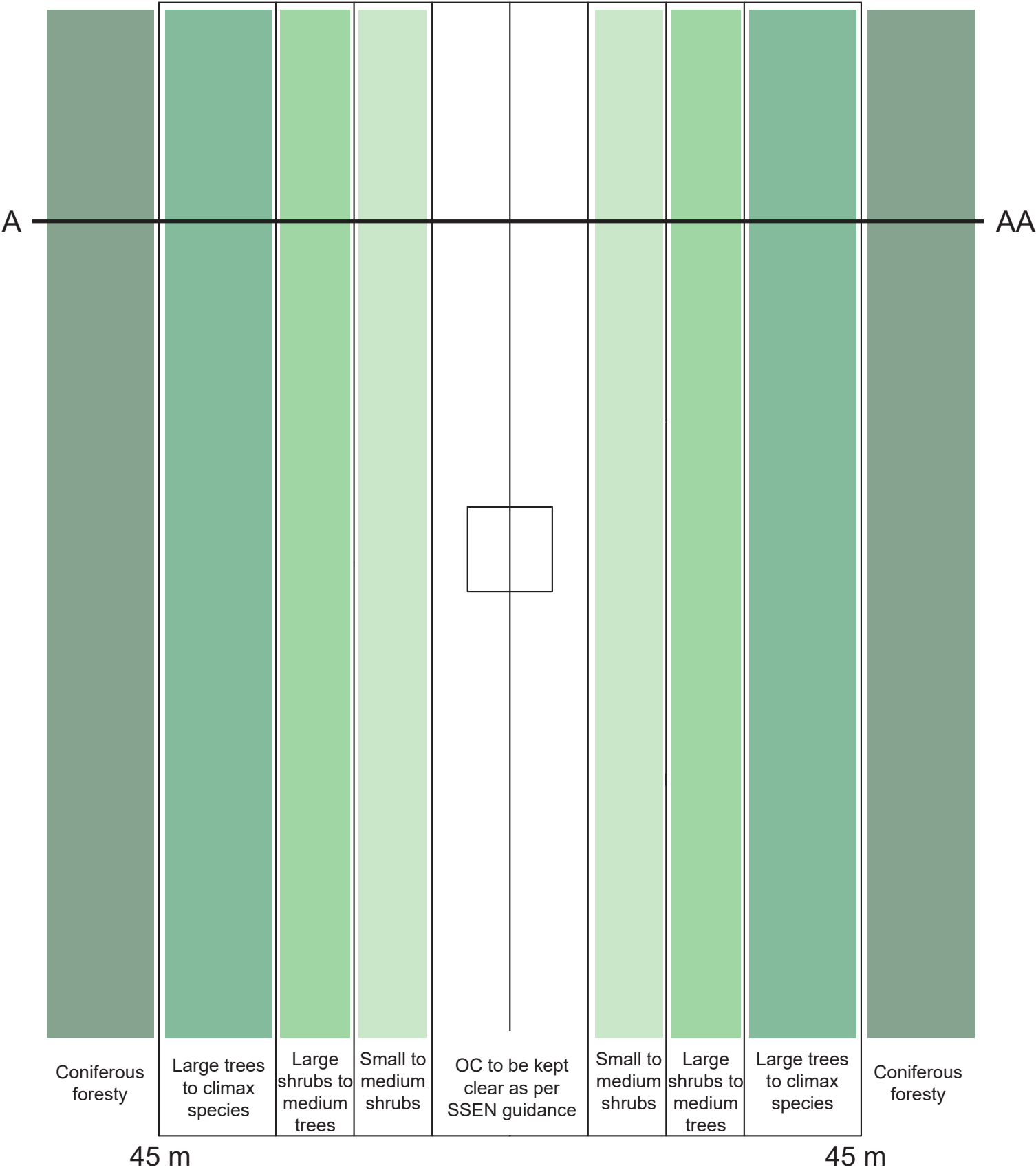
Woodland Report Parcel

- Parcel 658

Appendix 7.6: Forestry Landscape Mitigation Principles

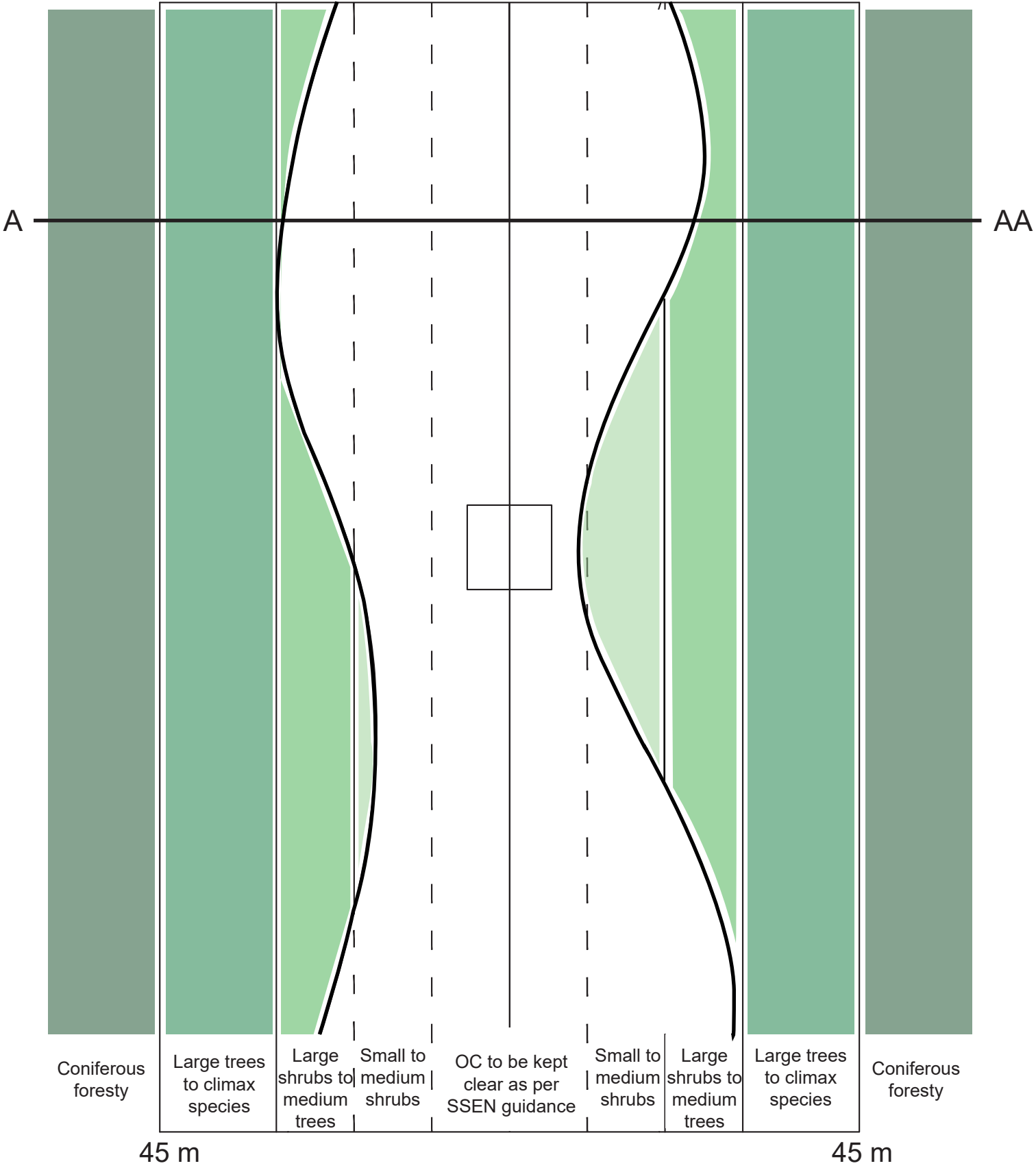
Operational Corridor deciduous forest edge fringe planting strategy

Plate 6 - Operational Corridor forest edge fringe planting strategy options plan - linear



Height graded replanting within the 90 m Operational Corridor - linear deciduous planting slightly emphasises the ‘tram line’ effect but the linear forest edge would still be softened by the height graded deciduous planting.

Plate 7 - Operational Corridor forest edge fringe planting strategy options plan - naturalistic edge, preferred approach



Height graded replanting within the 90 m Operational Corridor - height graded deciduous planting with a naturalistic edge would reduce the impact of the linear ‘tram line’ effect through the forest.

Appendix 7.6: Forestry Landscape Mitigation Principles

Operational Corridor deciduous forest edge fringe planting strategy

Example visualisation of the deciduous forest edge fringe planting within the Operational Corridor. An operational clear zone of 8 m beyond conductors on either side would have to be maintained

Plate 8 - Visualisation demonstrating view of cleared Operational Corridor with no forest edge fringe planting



Plate 9 - Visualisation demonstrating the Operational Corridor appearance with forest edge fringe planting with an organic naturalistic edge

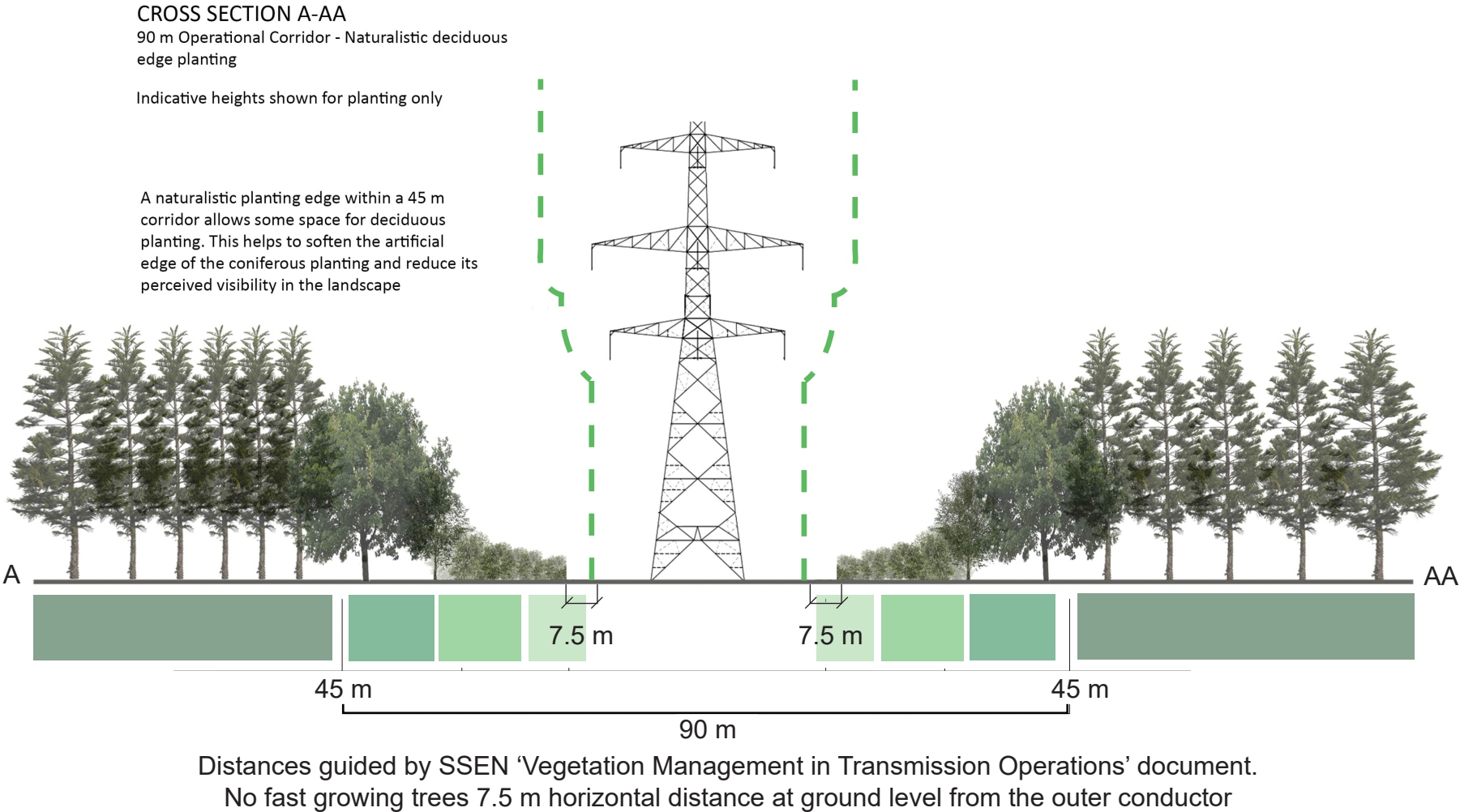


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Operational Corridor deciduous forest edge fringe planting strategy

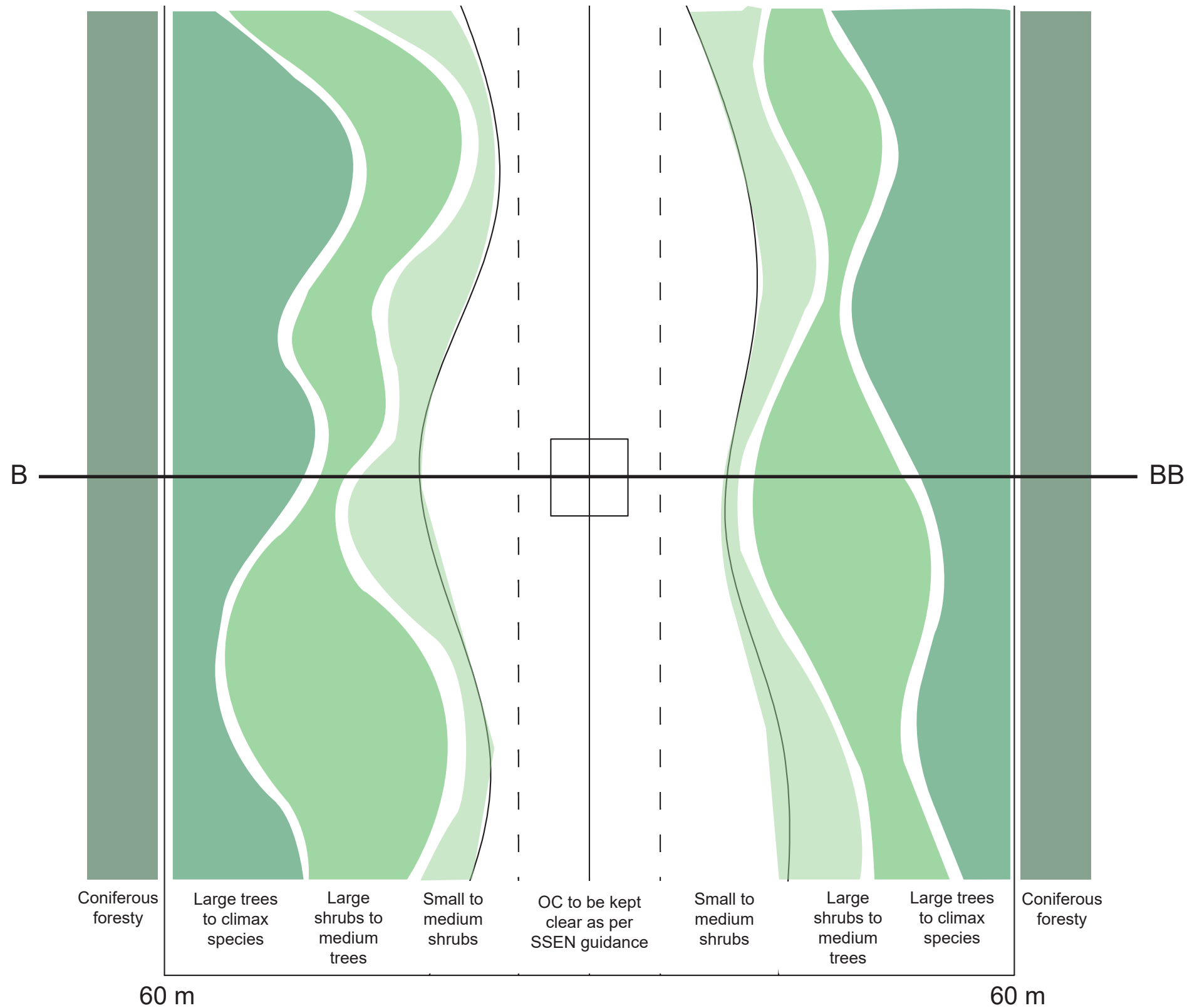
Plate 10 - Cross Section 2

90 m Operational Corridor - Replanted with an organic naturalistic edge



Specific forest edge fringe planting - Opportunity to increase width of Operational Corridor

Plate 11 - Plan showing Forest edge fringe planting with an organic naturalistic edge within a 120 m Operational Corridor



Opportunities should be sought to widen the Operational Corridor from 90 m to 120 m at the following locations:

- The eastern slopes of The Aird, where viewed from key tourist routes of the A82 and Caledonian Canal; and
- Ordiequish Hill, viewed from within The Spey Valley SLA and Speyside Way Great Trail.

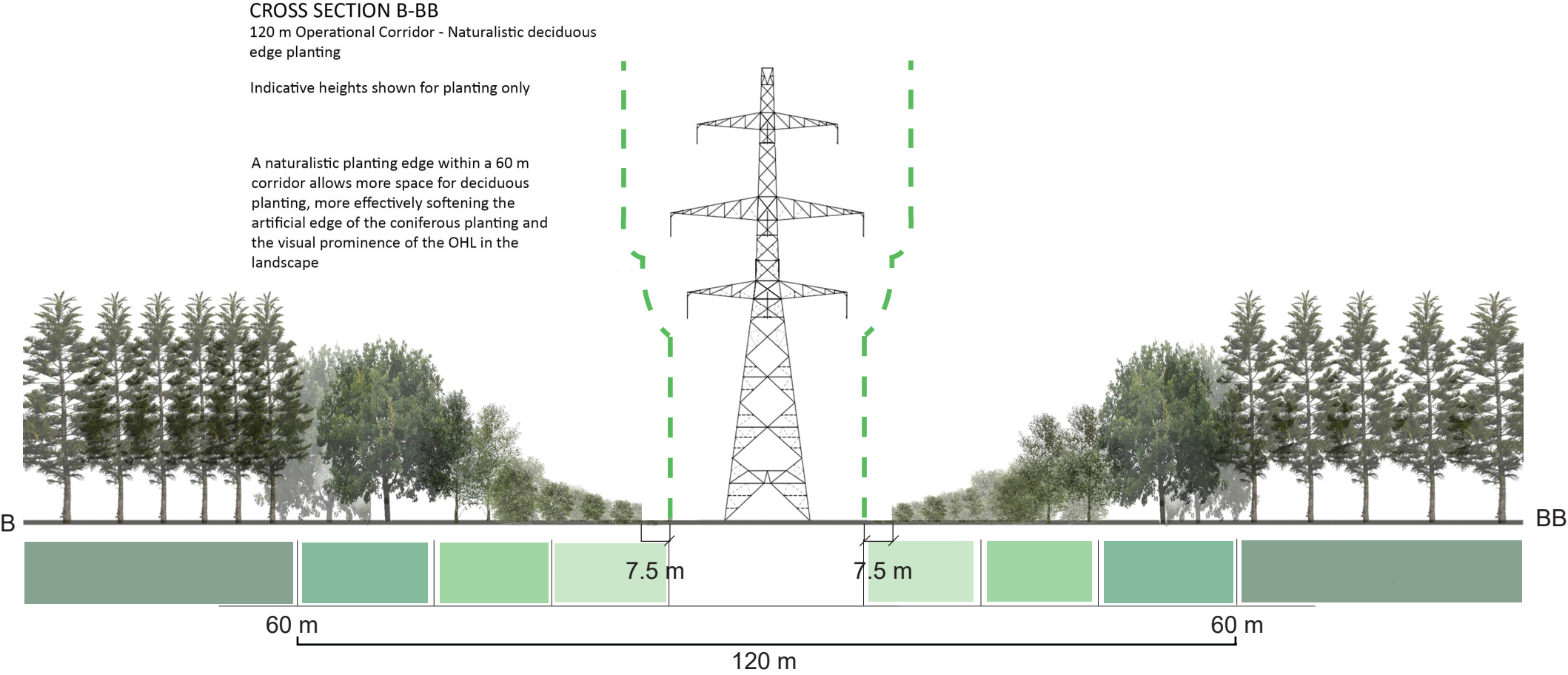
The additional space in which to plant deciduous species on the forest edge would allow for a more naturalistic edge and a greater range of plant sizes to soften the appearance of the artificial linear edge within these key sensitive locations.

Appendix 7.6: Forestry Landscape Mitigation Principles

Specific forest edge fringe planting - Opportunity to increase width of Operational Corridor

Plate 12 - Cross Section 3

120 m Operational Corridor - Replanted with an organic naturalistic edge



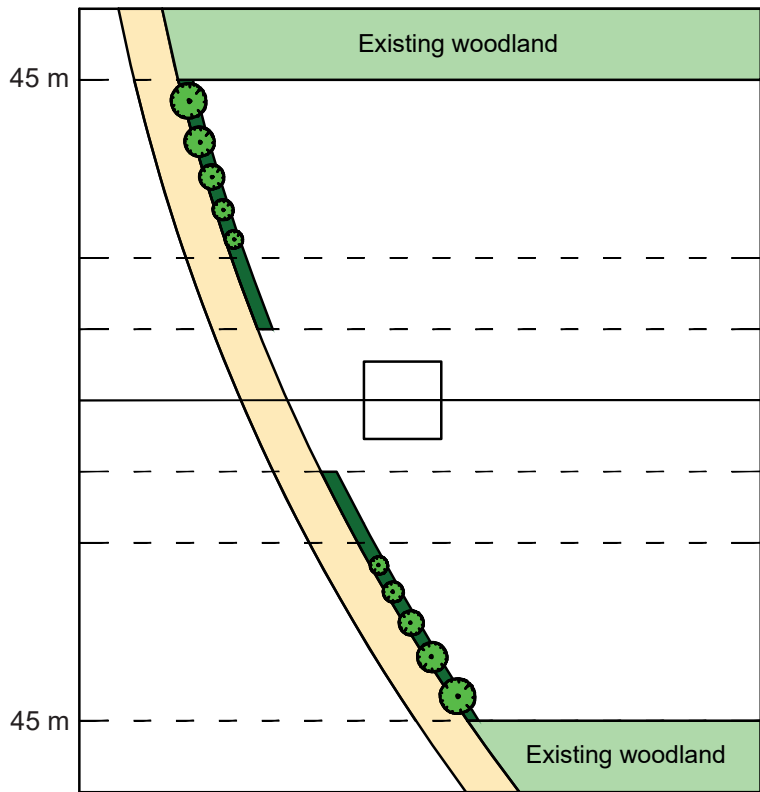
Distances guided by SSEN 'Vegetation Management in Transmission Operations' document.

No fast growing trees 7.5 m horizontal distance at ground level from the outer conductor

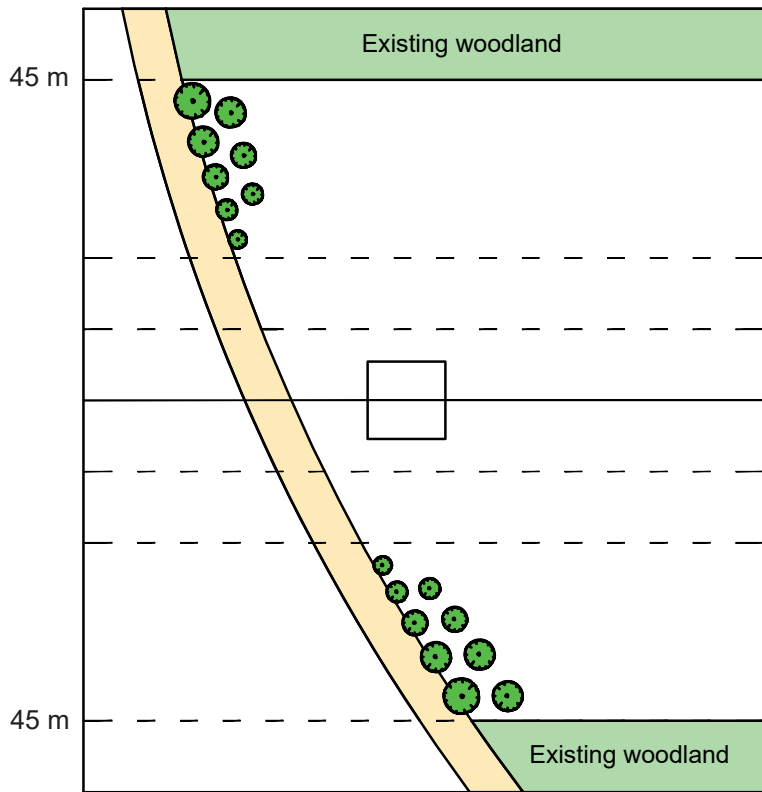
Appendix 7.6: Forestry Landscape Mitigation Principles

Specific forest edge fringe planting - roadside planting opportunities

**Plate 13 - Planting approach 1:
Hedgerow with trees**



**Plate 14 - Planting approach 2:
Scattered trees**



**Plate 15 - Planting approach 3:
Shrubs / scrub**



There is an opportunity for additional roadside planting at the following locations:

- alongside the A862 at Beaully (Plate 14);
- alongside the A862 at Easter Moniack (Plate 15);
- alongside the B862 at Scaniport / The Caledonian Way (NCR Route 78) Long Distance Path (Plate 16);
- alongside National Cycle Route 7 at Mains of Daltulich/ Meall Mor (Plate 17);
- alongside the B9007 at Ferness (Plate 18);
- alongside the A939 at Ferness (Plate 19);
- alongside the B9103 at Altonside (Plate 20);
- alongside the A96 at Gallows Hill, Keith (Plate 21);
- alongside the B9016 at Auchinderran (Plate 22);
- alongside the A947 at Darra (Plate 23); and
- alongside the A981 at New Deer (Plate 24).

Planting is recommended only within the 90 m Operational Corridor and is intended to slightly offset the impact of sequential views from key tourist routes and soften the appearance of the Proposed Development from the road.

This would be achieved with planting appropriate to the location and is anticipated to be a mix of hedgerow, shrubs and scrub and scattered trees, dependant on roadside verge space available and appropriateness of existing connected vegetation.

There is an opportunity to extend planting beyond the Operational Corridor in order to further mitigate views from the road, the extent of which has been indicated on Plates 14 to 24 below.

The suggested planting approach (1, 2 or 3) is indicated on each Plate.

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Specific forest edge fringe planting - roadside planting opportunities

Plate 16 - A862 at Beaully (Woodland Report Parcel 13072)



Plate 17 - A862 at Easter Moniak (No Woodland Report Parcel)

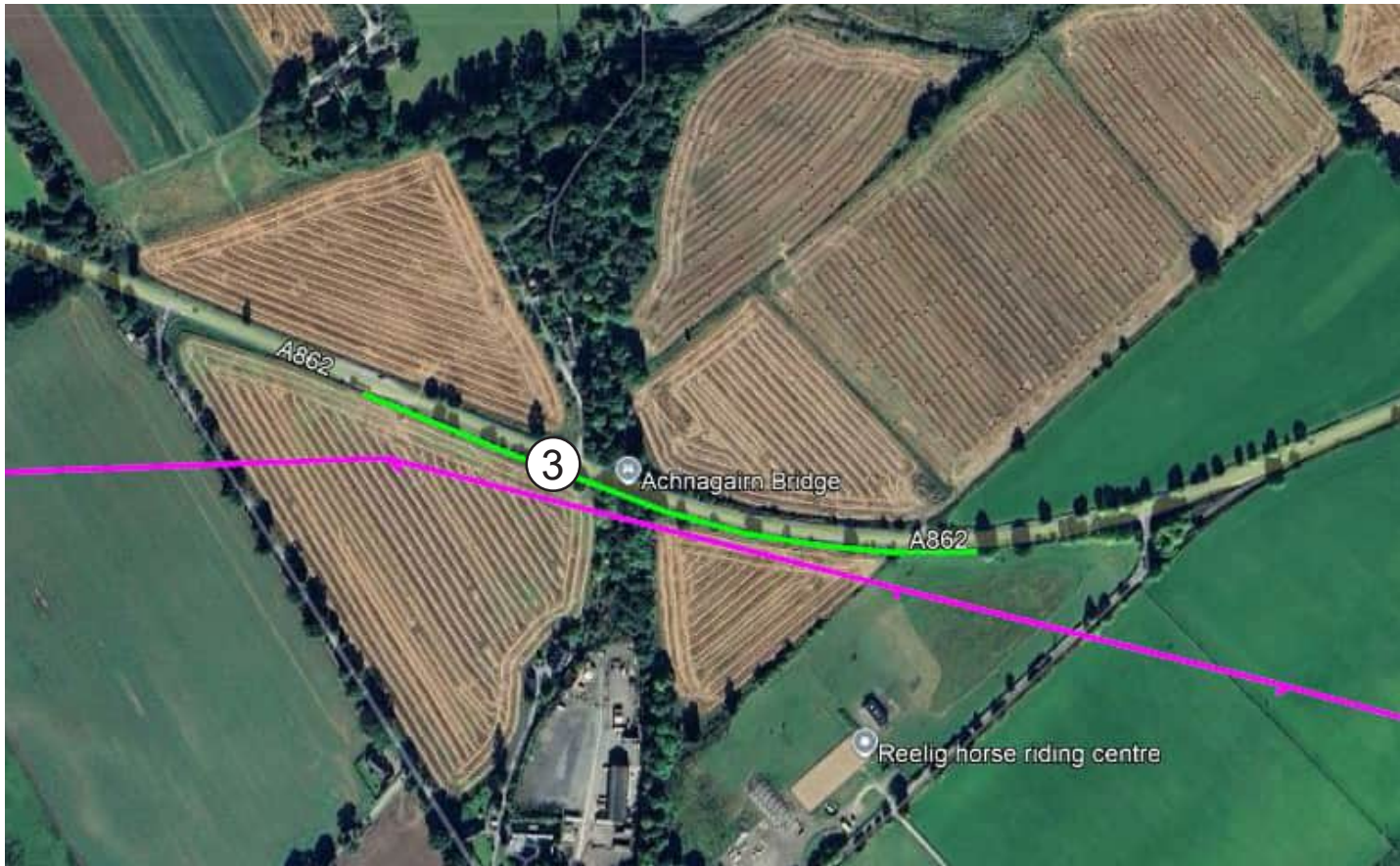


Plate 18 - B862 at Scaniport / The Caledonia Way (NCR Route 78) Long Distance Path (Woodland Report Parcel 13198)



Plate 19 - National Cycle Route 7 at Mains of Daltulich / Meall Mor (No Woodland Report Parcel)



Appendix 7.6: Forestry Landscape Mitigation Principles

Specific forest edge fringe planting - roadside planting opportunities

Plate 20 - B9007 at Ferness (Woodland Report Parcel 3510)

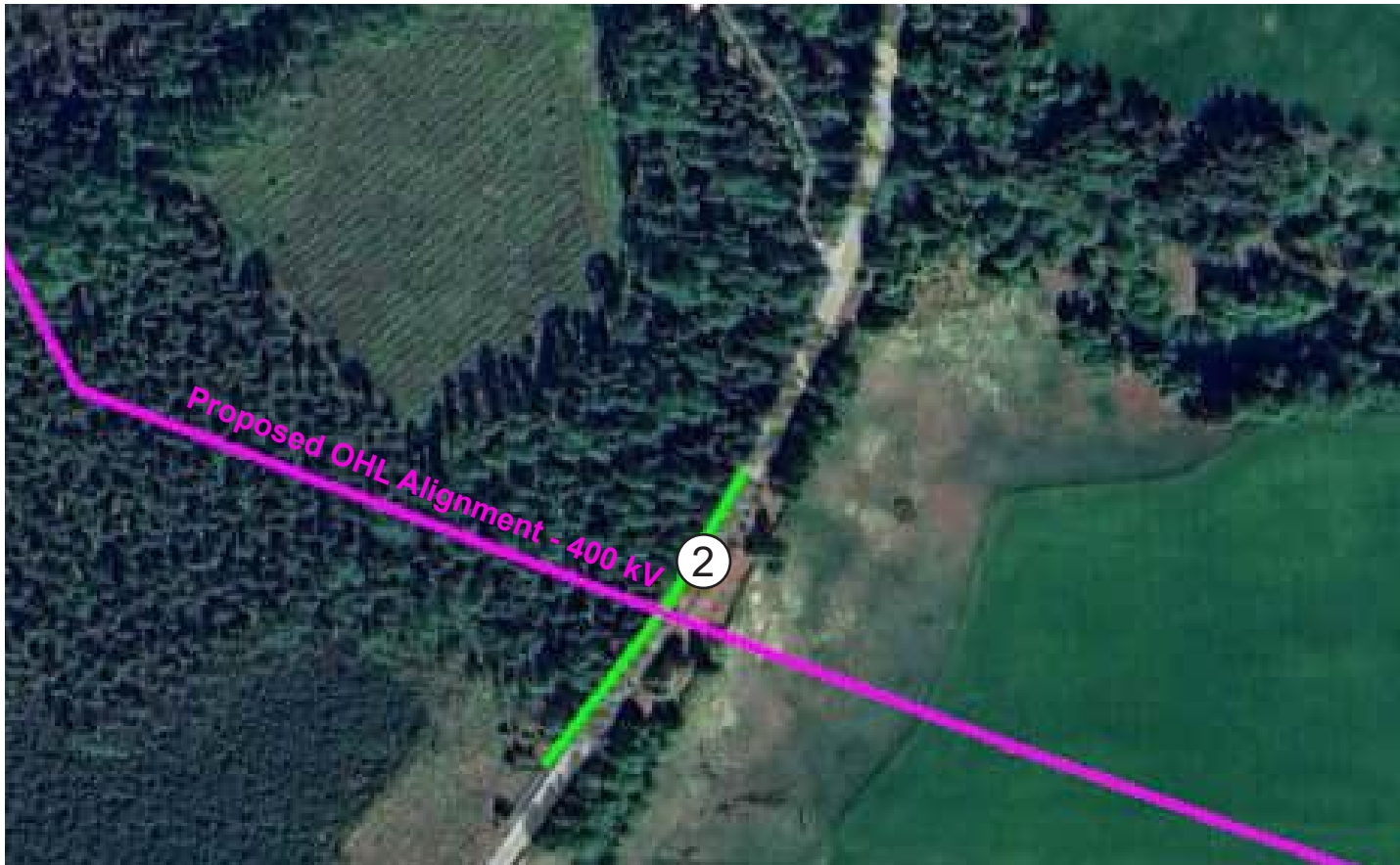


Plate 21 - A939 at Ferness (No Woodland Report Parcel)



Plate 22 - B9103 at Altonside (Woodland Report Parcel 658)

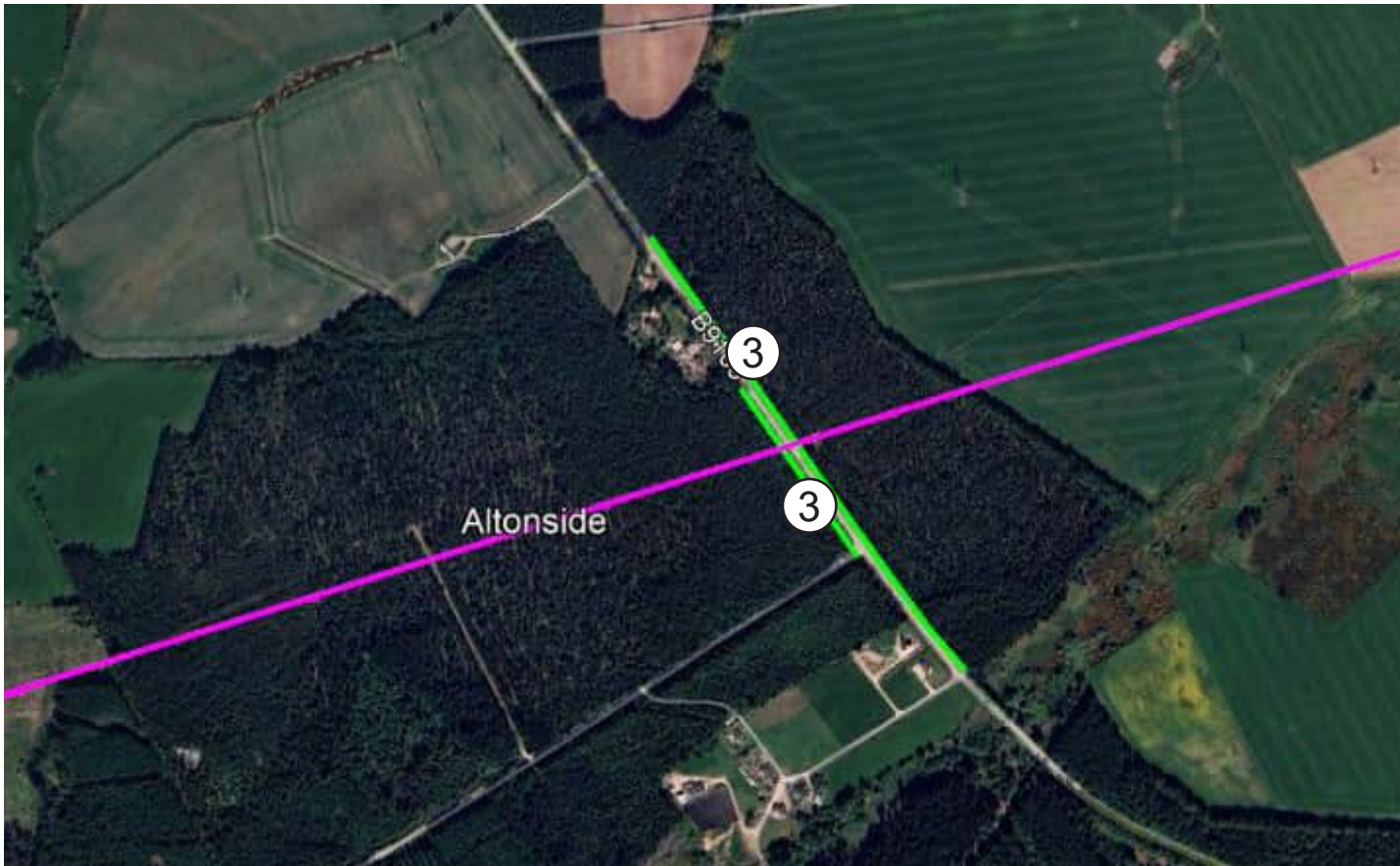
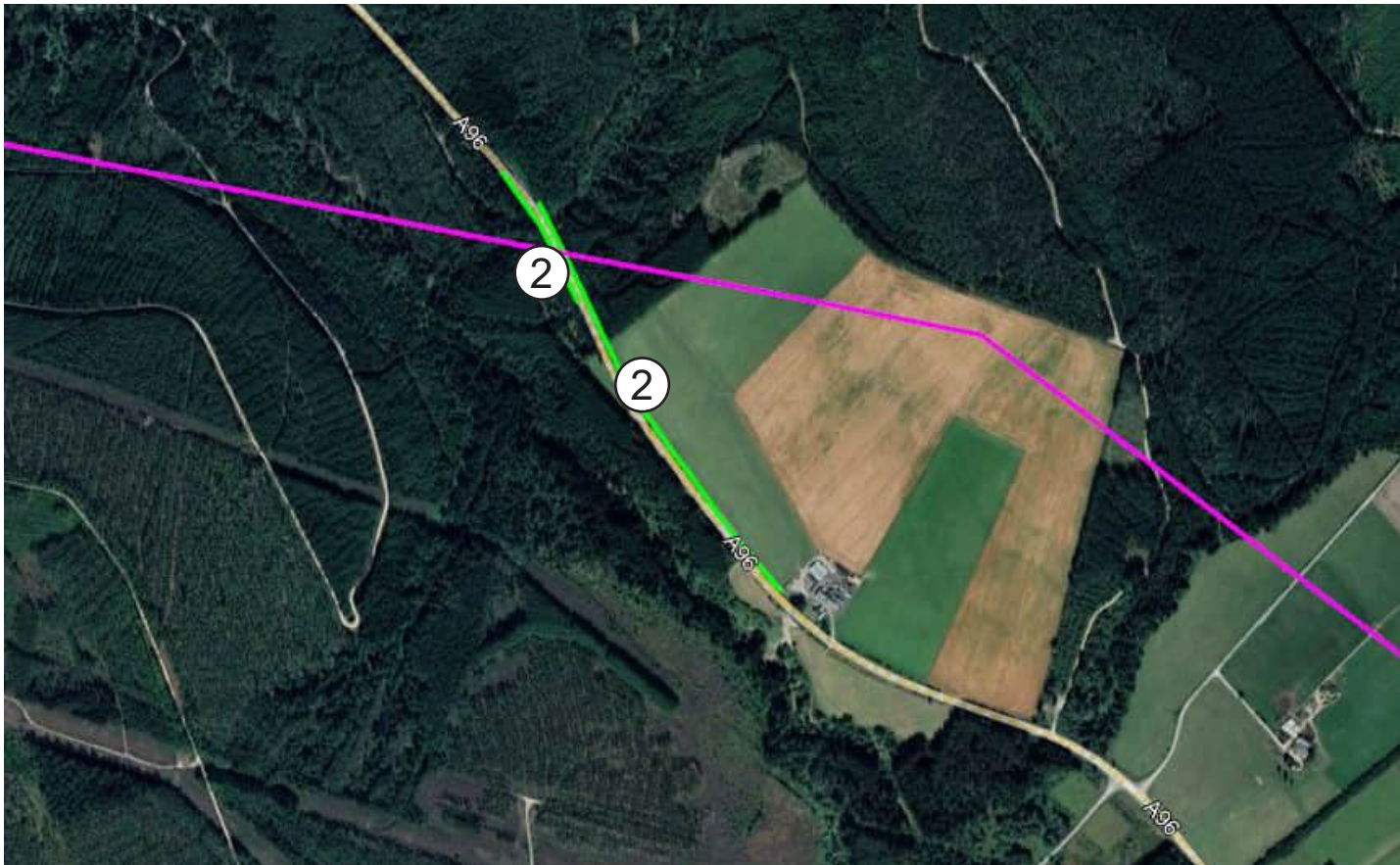


Plate 23 - A96 at Gallows Hill, Keith (Woodland Report Parcel 590)



Appendix 7.6: Forestry Landscape Mitigation Principles

Specific forest edge fringe planting - roadside planting opportunities

Plate 24 - B9016 at Auchinderran (Woodland Report Parcel 5264)

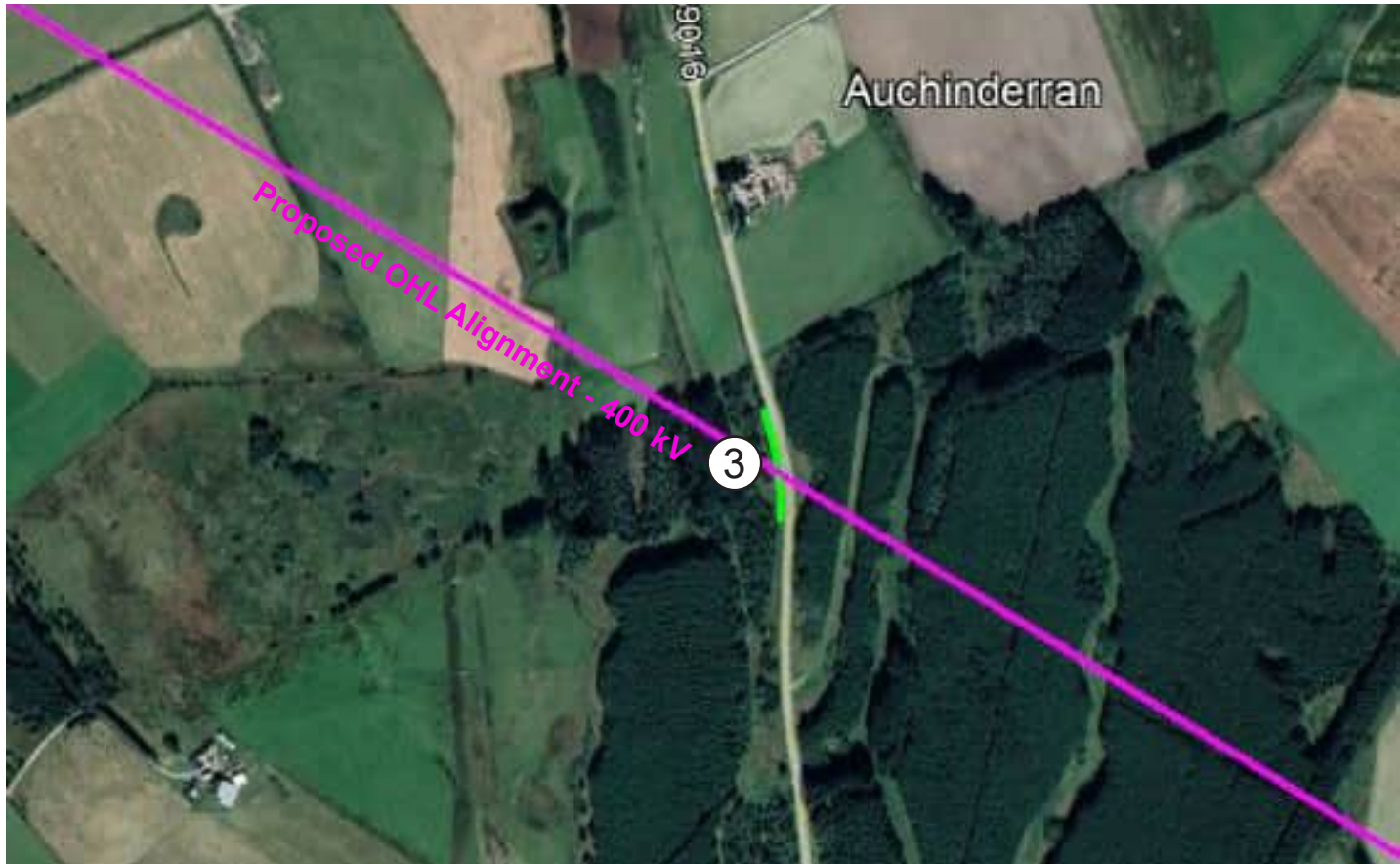


Plate 26 - A981 at New Deer (Woodland Report Parcel 3158)



Plate 25 - A947 at Darra (Woodland Report Parcel 2150)

