

5. Planting

Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Landscape Mitigation Guide

Re-establishing the landscape

The planting proposals for the Proposed Development focuses on integrating vegetation to mitigate the overall impact of the project on the local character, aesthetics, and environment. An Operational Corridor of 45 meters on either side of the OHL centerline will be maintained to avoid interference with the infrastructure

Due to the length of the Proposed Development, the planting proposals are presented as a series of '*planting palettes*' that are specific to each of the character areas the OHL passes through. The character areas have

specific topography and formation that influences the existing vegetation. The planting selection therefore takes this into account by selecting plant species that align with, and complement the existing species to be found along the Proposed Development route.

A layered planting approach would be applied, incorporating low-growing native, non-invasive ground covers and grasses to the central area of the OHL corridor, interspersed with shrub planting and then the tree layer. Trees are to be native species and are planted far

away from the OHLs that they would not cause issues to the infrastructure as they mature, to be agreed with the Applicants operation and maintenance team. Naturalistic planting patterns would be employed in open areas, while field hedgerow and boundary planting would be followed where the surrounding area dictates.

The planting would look to reduce the visual impact of the development and help soften the built infrastructure within the surrounding environment. The plant species selected ensure that planting proposals would help to support a

wide range of local biodiversity, maintain visual appeal and bring ecological benefits, without posing a risk to utility infrastructure.

Tree and shrub planting to follow spacing, staking, and mulching guidelines to encourage healthy root development. Regular monitoring and maintenance during establishment to ensure the restored landscape successfully integrates with the surrounding environment over time.

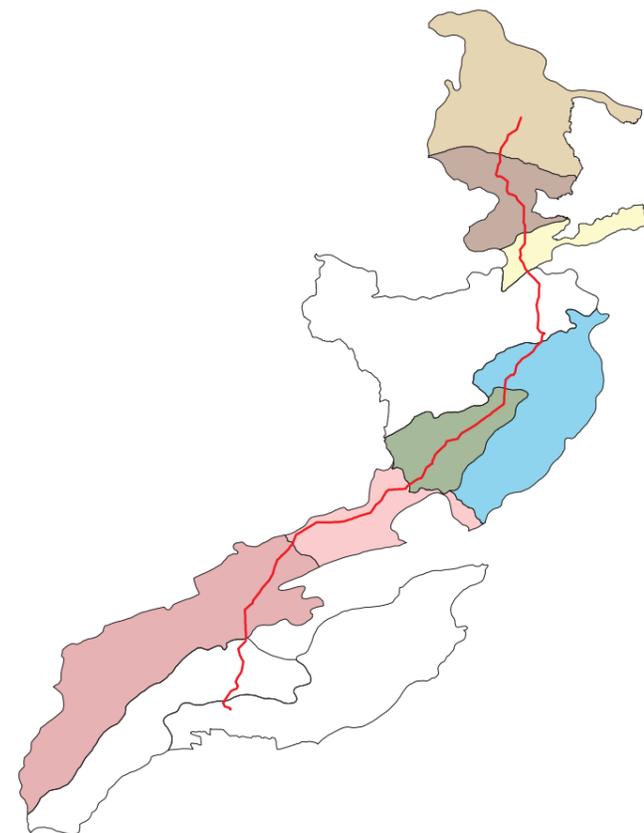


Planting Palette

Lowland neutral to acidic Aberdeenshire & Angus (Page 1 of 3)

Suitable for the following character areas-

1. Wooded Estates
2. Broad Wooded and Farmland Valley
3. Coastal Farmland Ridges and Hills (On southern edge of hills leading up to Fetteresso. Less acidic than upland area, pockets of farmland, increasingly lowland but not flat, instead rolling, not coastal ecologically but fairly inland.)
4. Broad Valley Lowlands, Aberdeenshire
5. Broad Valley Lowlands Tayside



Woodland- Trees



Downy birch (*Betula pubescens*)



Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)



Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)



Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)



Woodland- grass



Sweet vernal (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*)



Creeping soft grass (*Holcus mollis*)



Common bent grass (*Agrostis capillaris*)



Wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*)



Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*)



Heath bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*)



Woodland- Fern



Male fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*)



Scaly male fern (*Dryopteris affinis*)



Broad buckler fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*)



Greater wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*)



Woodland- spring flowers
Lowland acidic birchwoods



Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)



Common primrose (*Primula vulgaris*)



Wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*)

Plate 9.6.74. Lowland neutral to acidic Aberdeenshire & Angus planting locations

Planting Palette

Lowland neutral to acidic Aberdeenshire & Angus (Page 2 of 3)

Suitable for the following character areas-

1. Wooded Estates
2. Broad Wooded and Farmland Valley
3. Coastal Farmland Ridges and Hills (On southern edge of hills leading up to Fetteresso. Less acidic than upland area, pockets of farmland, increasingly lowland but not flat, instead rolling, not coastal ecologically but fairly inland.)
4. Broad Valley Lowlands, Aberdeenshire
5. Broad Valley Lowlands Tayside

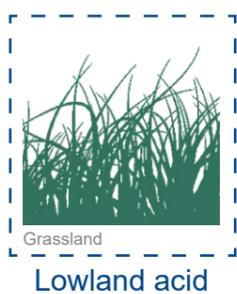
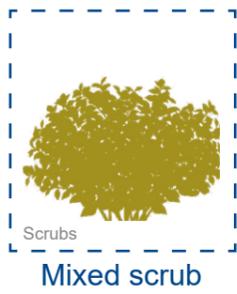
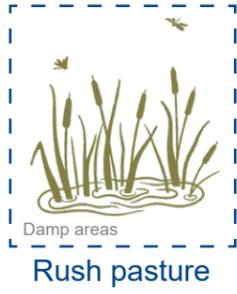
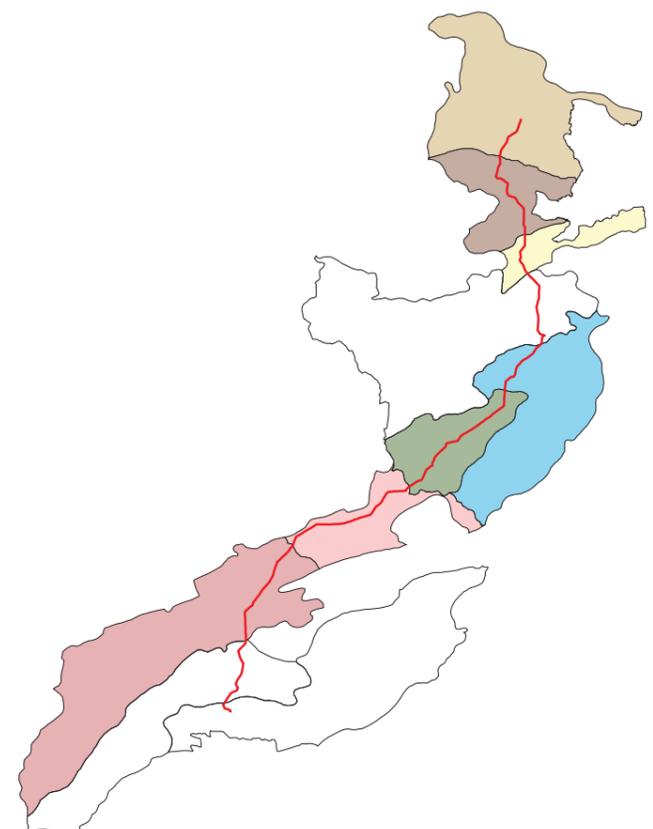


Plate 9.6.75. Lowland neutral to acidic Aberdeenshire & Angus planting locations

Planting Palette

Lowland neutral to acidic Aberdeenshire & Angus (Page 3 of 3)

Suitable for the following character areas-

1. Wooded Estates
2. Broad Wooded and Farmland Valley
3. Coastal Farmland Ridges and Hills (On southern edge of hills leading up to Fetteresso. Less acidic than upland area, pockets of farmland, increasingly lowland but not flat, instead rolling, not coastal ecologically but fairly inland.)
4. Broad Valley Lowlands, Aberdeenshire
5. Broad Valley Lowlands Tayside

 Hedges	 Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)	 Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>)	 Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>)	 Wych elm (<i>Ulmus glabra</i>)	 Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)	 Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>)	 Roses (<i>Rosa spp.</i>)	 Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>)
 Trees	 Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	 Wild cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>)						
 Grassy strip	 False oat grass (<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>)	 Cow parsley (<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>)	 Hogweed (<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>)	 Tufted vetch (<i>Vicia cracca</i>)	 Red fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>)	 Yorkshire fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>)	 Meadow foxtail (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>)	 Rough meadow grass (<i>Poa trivialis</i>)
H1-Hedgerow	 White dead nettle (<i>Lamium album</i>)	 Meadow crane's-bill (<i>Geranium pratense</i>)	 Wood cranesbill (<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>)	 Knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>)	 Ox eye daisy (<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>)	 Red campion (<i>Silene dioica</i>)		

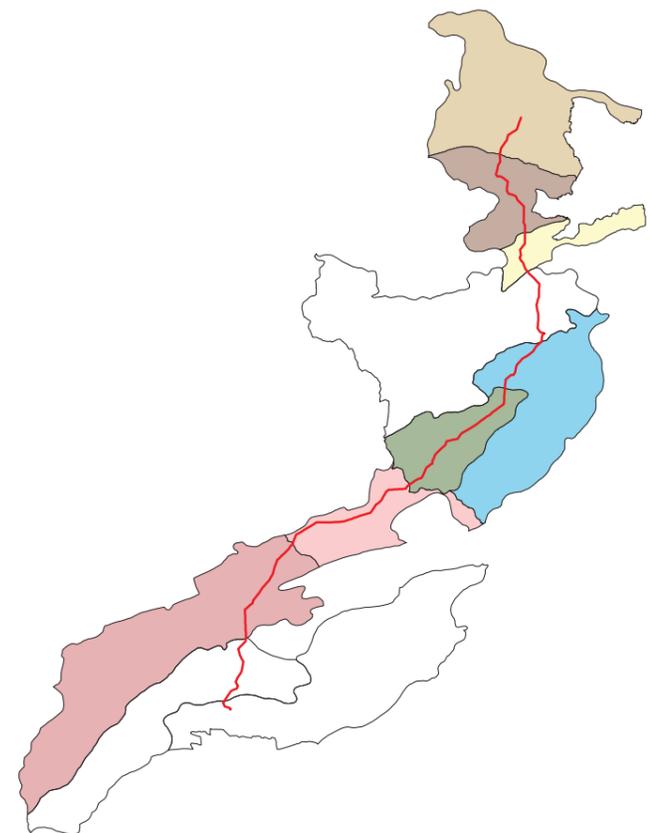


Plate 9.6.76. Lowland neutral to acidic Aberdeenshire & Angus planting locations

Planting Palette

Upland acidic Aberdeenshire (Page 1 of 2)

Suitable for the following character areas-

- Summits and Plateaux



Woodland- Trees



Downy birch (*Betula pubescens*)



Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)



Grey willow (*Salix cinerea*)



Woodland- Grasses



Purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*)



Common heather (*Calluna vulgaris*)



Cross leaved heath (*Erica cinerea*)



Wavy hair grass (*Avenella flexuosa*)



Sheep's fescue (*Festuca ovina*)



Blaeberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*)



Lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*)



Heath bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*)

Upland birchwoods



Sweet vernal (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*)



Creeping soft grass (*Holcus mollis*)



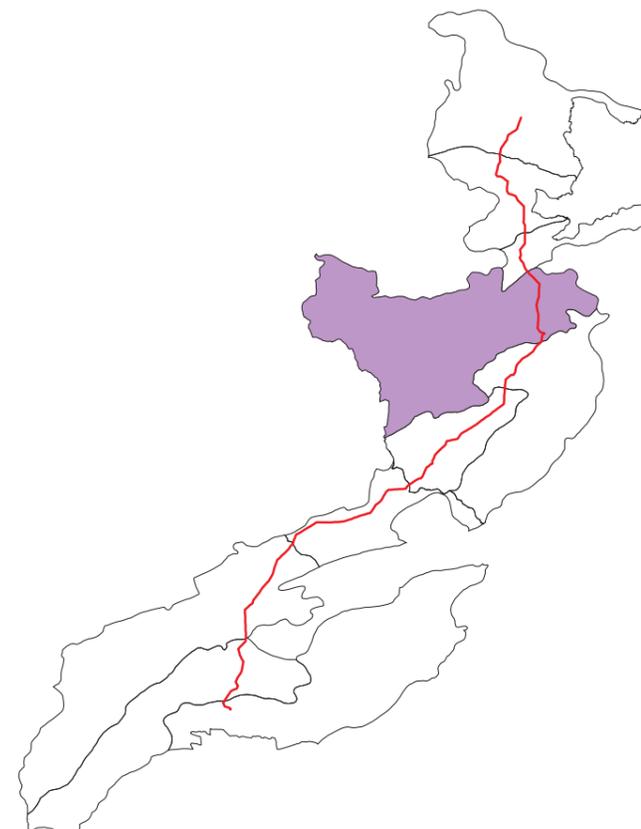
Common bent grass (*Agrostis capillaris*)



Wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*)



Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*)



Grassland

Upland acid grassland



Sheep's fescue (*Festuca ovina*)



Common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*)



Sweet vernal (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*)



Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*)



Heath bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*)



Lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*)



Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*)



Devil's bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*)



Speedwells (*Veronica spp.*)



Common heather (*Calluna vulgaris*)



Blaeberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*)



Cross leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*)



Wavy hair grass (*Avenella flexuosa*)

Plate 9.6.77. Upland acidic Aberdeenshire planting location

Planting Palette

Upland acidic Aberdeenshire (Page 2 of 2)

Suitable for the following character areas-

- Summits and Plateaux



Sharp-flowered rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*)



Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*)



Wild angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*)



Marsh valerian (*Valeriana dioica*)



Tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*)



Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*)



Purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*)



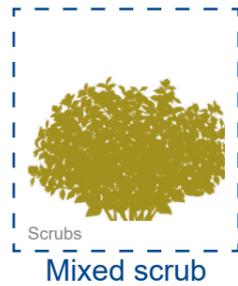
Water avens (*Geum rivale*)



Devil's bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*)



Meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*)



Common gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)



Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)



Sweet vernal (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*)



Creeping soft grass (*Holcus mollis*)



Common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*)



Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*)



Heath bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*)



Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*)



Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*)



Devil's bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*)

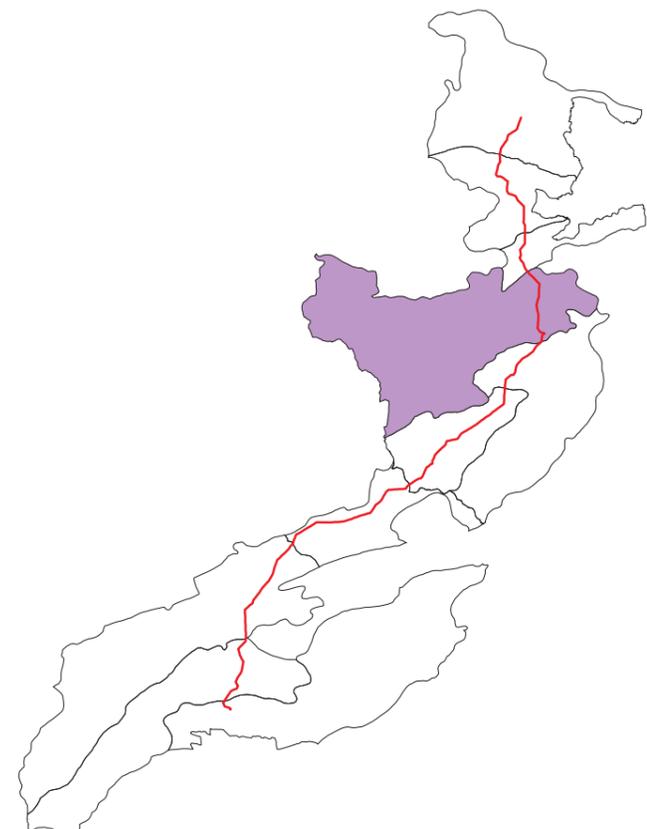


Plate 9.6.78. Upland acidic Aberdeenshire planting

Planting Palette

Lowland Neutral Angus (Page 1 of 2)

Suitable for the following character areas-

1. Lowland Hill Ranges and Dipslope Farmland



Woodland- Trees



Downy birch (*Betula pubescens*)



Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)



Grey willow (*Salix cinerea*)



Woodland- Grassland



False oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*)



Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*)



Red fescue (*Festuca rubra*)



Common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*)



Meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*)



Rough meadow grass (*Poa trivialis*)



Cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*)



Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*)

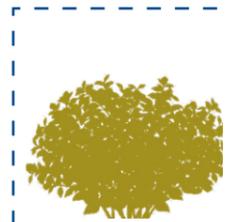
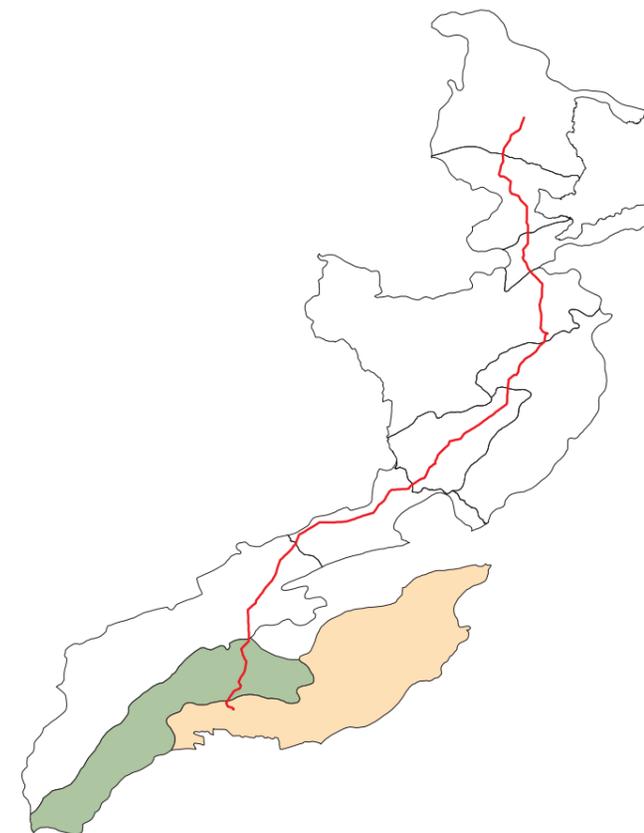
Lowland neutral birchwoods



Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*)



Tufted vetch (*Vicia cracca*)



Scrubs
Mixed scrub



Common gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)



Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)



Sweet vernal (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*)



Creeping soft grass (*Holcus mollis*)



Common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*)



Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*)



Heath bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*)



Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*)



Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*)



Devil's bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*)

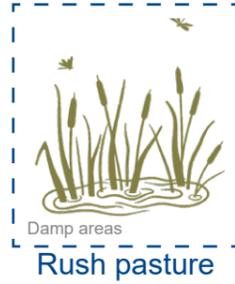
Plate 9.6.79. Lowland Neutral Angus planting location

Planting Palette

Lowland Neutral Angus (Page 2 of 2)

Suitable for the following character areas-

1. Lowland Hill Ranges and Dipslope Farmland



Sharp-flowered rush
(*Juncus acutiflorus*)



Meadowsweet
(*Filipendula ulmaria*)



Wild angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*)



Marsh valerian
(*Valeriana dioica*)



Tufted hair grass
(*Deschampsia cespitosa*)



Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*)



Purple moor grass
(*Molinia caerulea*)



Water avens (*Geum rivale*)



Devil's bit scabious
(*Succisa pratensis*)



Meadow buttercup
(*Ranunculus acris*)

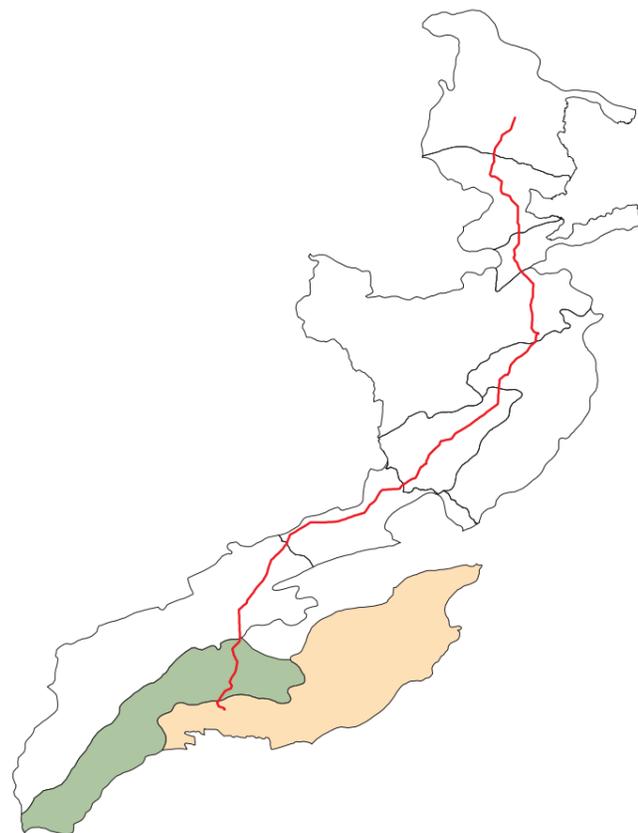


Plate 9.6.80. Lowland Neutral Angus planting location