

TECHNICAL NOTE

Scheme Name	Blackford to Ickenham
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Introduction

This technical note outlines the addition of 3 hedgerows as an addendum of the Hedgerow Assessment Report (Dalcour Maclaren, 2020) submitted to Hillingdon Council on 18th December 2020. Our client, Affinity Water Limited (AWL) has instructed us to further assess potential alternative routes as indicated in Figure 1. Details of affected hedgerows within the original route are included within the Hedgerow Assessment Report. The alternative route (Figure 1) would require the removal of Hedgerows H9a, H10a, H11a (with hedgerow numbering referring to the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report (Wenman Ecological Consultancy, 2020)). The alternative route is being explored as the original route may potentially conflict with High Speed 2 (HS2) works within the area.

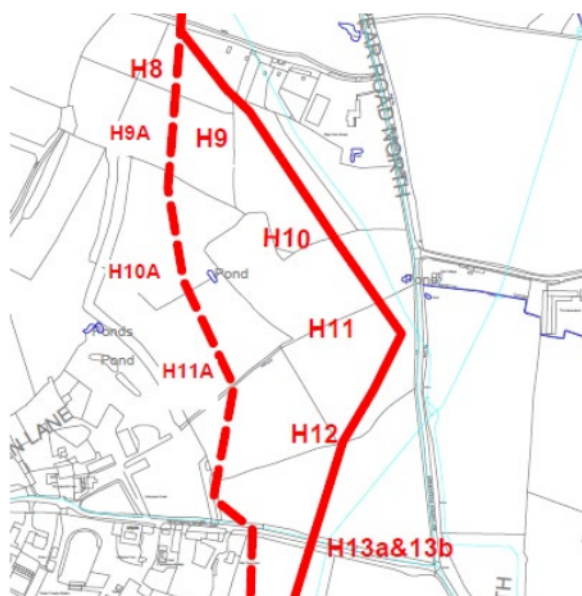


Figure 1: Alternative Route shown with the Red dotted line and Hedgerow Locations

Objectives

DM has confirmed the potential requirement for temporary removal of the above-mentioned hedgerows, therefore confirmation is required as to whether these hedgerows are 'Important' under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (hereafter referred to as the 'Hedgerow Regulations'), and therefore require hedgerow removal licences from the Local Planning Authority prior to removal.

Assessment Methodology.

The Hedgerows are assessed on the basis of the ecological, landscape archaeological features and historical presence as laid out within the Hedgerow Regulations. With all of the hedgerows present being over 30 years old, the presence, or lack of, the other criteria will be the determining factor of importance.

Full details of the Hedgerow Regulations are detailed in the Hedgerow Assessment Report.

The same approach as the original Hedgerow Assessment is followed in this report, with all hedgerows being assessed against the Hedgerow Regulations criteria using available information including the PEA, online imagery, and online historical data¹. This is also detailed within the original Hedgerow Assessment report.

Results

Hedgerow H9A is 3-4m in height and largely unmanaged, dominated by blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), occasional hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), English Elm (*Ulmus procera*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*) and dog rose (*Rosa canina*). Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) saplings and field maple (*Acer campestre*) were also present interspersed with patches of bramble growth.

Hedgerow H10a and 11a were previously assessed within the Hedgerow Assessment Report as they are continuations of hedgerow 10 and 11 respectively.

Hedgerow 10 was located within the north-east of the site and was approximately 2-3m in height. Within this hedgerow, blackthorn was abundant with locally frequent elm and occasional hawthorn. Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and False-oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) were present within the ground flora and further a dry ditch was present along the base of the hedgerow.

Hedgerow 11 was in the east of the site and was approximately 2-3m in height and showed signs of recent management, similarly to Hedgerow 3. This hedgerow supported abundant blackthorn with occasional willow and dog rose. Tree species within the hedgerow included occasional ash and pedunculate oak.

Table 1 below outlines the features of the hedgerows which determine whether the Hedgerows are deemed as 'Important' under the Hedgerow Regulations ecological and landscape criteria.

¹ <https://maps.nls.uk/explore/side-by-side/#zoom=5&lat=56.0000&lon=-4.0000&layers=1&right=BingHyb>

Table 1- Hedgerow Assessment Results

Hedgerow No.	H9A	H10A	H11A
Important			
Bridleway/Path			
No. Woody Species (Schedule 3)	5	3	5
Bank/Wall			
Intact			
Trees	✓		✓
3 Flora Spp. (Schedule 2)			
Ditch		✓	
Connect >4 points			
Parallel Hedge			
Protected Species			
Rare Sp..			

As laid out within Section 3.1 of the Hedgerow Assessment Report, hedgerows must be over 30 years old, which H9A, 10A and 11A are and meet at least one of these heritage and archaeology criteria. These criteria are set out in Paragraphs 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 of the Hedgerow Assessment Report. Hedgerows H9A, 10A, and 11A do not satisfy these criteria as assessed through the use of online historical imaging and the Historic Environment Record (HER) which indicated the hedgerows did not contain an archaeological feature or site, were not part of a parish boundary or building before 1850 and 1845 respectively.

Conclusion

As none of the hedgerows meet the combination of criteria of being over 30 years old and the ecological and landscape criteria shown in table 1 and archaeological criteria explored in the previous paragraph, the hedgerows are not classed as 'Important under the Hedgerow Regulations.

Therefore, Hedgerow Removal Licenses are deemed not to be required for the temporary removal of the hedgerows laid out within this assessment.

At this stage it is not known which route will be progressed, when this is confirmed a single route will be progressed, minimising the temporary removal of sections of hedgerow.