
Project:	New Yatt Rising Main		
Our reference:	L959.06-JE-NYATP1ZZ-PSFO-100-TN-EN-0061	Your reference:	Hedgerow Removal Notice - Technical Note
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Subject:	Hedgerow Removal Notice Technical Note		

1 Introduction

Mott MacDonald Bentley have been commissioned by Thames Water to carry out upgrade works on the New Yatt Rising Main, New Yatt, Witney, OX29 6TG, hereafter referred to as the 'Site'. The works form part of a wider programme to replace ageing and deteriorating assets as well as improve network resilience, operational reliability, and compliance with Thames Water Asset Standards.

The proposed rising main route follows an alignment through agricultural land to the north of the existing rising mains route, broadly following an existing trunk water main corridor. This alignment has been identified to reduce disruption to local residents and businesses, minimise traffic management requirements, and avoid areas of significant utility congestion associated with New Yatt Road.

The new below ground rising main will start at the New Yatt Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) (NGR: SP37501325), after which it will travel across third party agricultural land ending at a manhole (MH1201) along Green Lane (NGR: SP38151321).

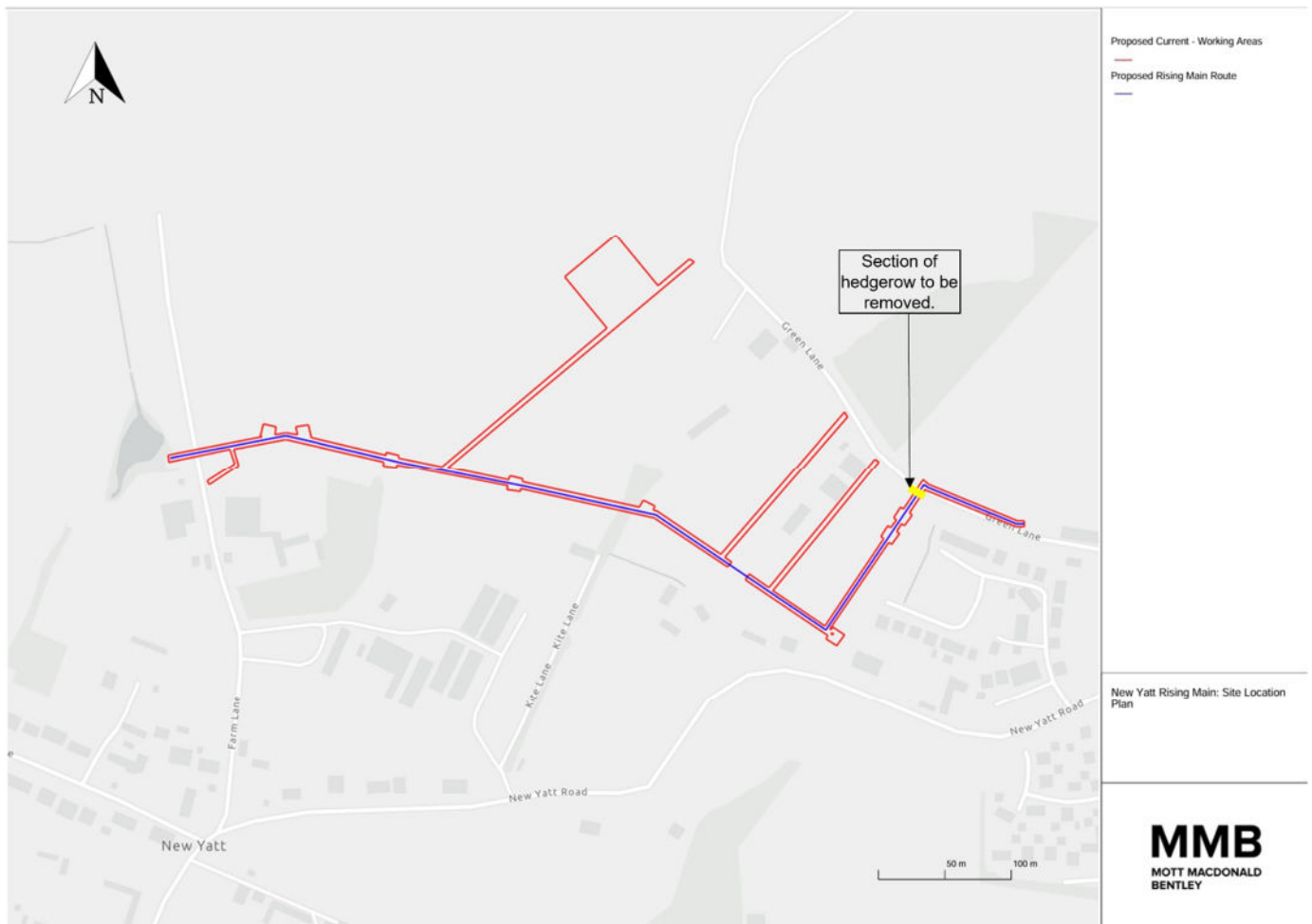
The majority of the route will be undertaken using a horizontal directional drilling (HDD) methodology, meaning that impacts to adjacent trees and hedgerows will be avoided. However, towards the end of the route, the rising main will need to cross the boundary between an agricultural field and Green Lane using an open-cut method due to congestion of services in Green Lane. This will require the removal of 8m of hedgerow along this boundary, hence requiring Hedgerow Removal Notice under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. This technical note will outline the information required for Hedgerow Removal Notice application.

Please see Figure 1.1 below which shows the proposed rising main route and the section of hedgerow to be removed.

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Figure 1.1 New Yatt Proposed Rising Main Route

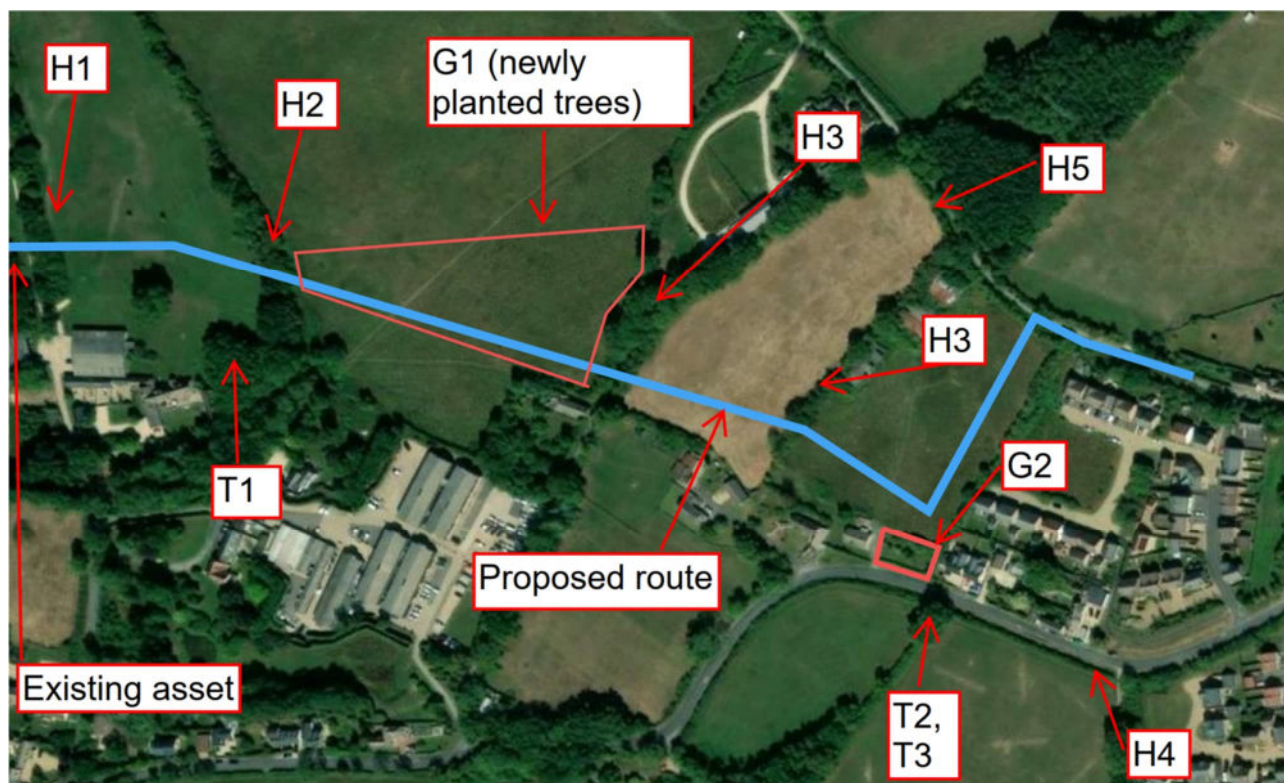
2 Arboriculture

A Senior Arboriculturist from Mott MacDonald visited the Site in July 2026 and identified various trees and hedgerows in the vicinity of the Site (please see Figure 2.1 below).

The majority of the route will be undertaken using a horizontal directional drilling (HDD) methodology, meaning that impacts to adjacent trees and hedgerows will be avoided. However, at the boundary between the agricultural field and Green Lane, an open-cut methodology must be used and an 8m section of H5 (see Figure 2.1) will need to be removed.

H5 is largely a lapsed field boundary, predominantly common hawthorn but also includes common ash and crack willow. This hedgerow is heavily covered by bramble and self-set saplings. The largest stem in this hedgerow is 300mm dictating an RPA of 3.6m.

Approximately 8m of this hedgerow is proposed to be removed for the construction works. Once construction is complete, the hedgerow will be reinstated as agreed with the relevant landowner.

Figure 2.1 Trees and Hedgerows on Site

Source: Mott MacDonald, 2026

3 Biodiversity

An ecologist from Mott MacDonald Bentley (MMB) attended site on the 18th August 2026 to assess the linear habitat labelled H5 requiring partial removal to facilitate the works.

3.1 Habitat

The linear section of vegetation known as H5 is a defunct hedge showing historic, but not recent, signs of management. The hedge aligns northwest to southeast with an abandoned meadow to the southern aspect and an ephemeral ditch to the base of the north aspect which runs adjacent to Green Lane.

The line of woody vegetation comprised of hawthorn, blackthorn, elm, elder dog rose and bramble. The south side of the hedge is dominant for blackthorn with successional suckers encroaching into the meadow. The understory to the south of H5 is predominantly bramble and grass species such as sweet vernal grass, cocks' foot, perennial rye and timothy. The north aspect contains species indicative of shady damp ground such as dominant great willowherb, marsh thistle, hogweed, with frequent bramble, hedge bindweed and greater plantain also present.

The hedgerow provides connectivity to different habitats such as woodland, derelict buildings, waterbodies (ephemeral ditches and dew ponds), farmland, lines of trees and further managed and defunct hedgerows.

Please see Figures 3.1 and 3.2 below which show the section of the hedgerow to be removed

Figure 3.1 Section of hedgerow to be removed – Taken from Green Lane, facing northwest



Source: Mott MacDonald Bentley, 2026

Figure 3.2 Section of hedgerow to be removed – Taken from the field, facing north



Source: Mott MacDonald Bentley, 2026

3.2 Protected Species

Due to the species composition, location and connectivity to further habitats, the hedgerow was assessed for its potential to support protected species. The results are outlined below.

3.2.1 Bat

The linear feature of Green Lane and its adjacent habitats have potential to provide suitable foraging for bat species. A ground level tree assessment (GLTA) for potential roost features (PRFs) was undertaken with no PRFs being seen within 15m of proposed works.

No night works are planned for the proposed development. Should lighting be required, a suitably experienced ecologist will be consulted and appropriate mitigation employed.

Therefore, the impact of the hedgerow removal on bat species is deemed to be negligible.

3.2.2 Birds

The woody species and composition of H5 have the potential to support nesting birds.

The removal of 8m of H5 is not anticipated to impact nesting birds as removal is planned to take place outside of nesting season. If proposed timings change, a pre-start nesting bird check will be performed with Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) presence during H5 removal.

3.2.3 Great Crested Newt (GCN)

The ephemeral ditch which runs adjacent to the north of H5 connects to a dew pond at SP 38032 13272, approximately 50m from H5 removal site.

MMB surveyed the dew pond in April 2026 for GCN environmental DNA (eDNA), and the result was negative. Other waterbodies within 500m suitable for GCN also returned negative results for presence of GCN eDNA. GCN are not expected to be present within the location of H5. Therefore, the removal of H5 is deemed to have a negligible impact on GCN.

3.2.4 Hazel dormouse

The connectivity and composition of H5 have potential to support commuting dormice. Nesting is unlikely due to the open nature of the unmanaged woody species.

Dormouse presence surveys were conducted from April to July by MMB ecologists in the area including H2, the western H3 and the hedge and line of trees opposite H5 (see Figure 2.1.). The surveys produced no evidence of dormouse.

Therefore, the removal of H5 is deemed to have a negligible impact on hazel dormouse.

3.2.5 Badger

The hedgerow and adjacent habitats may support foraging badger. No signs of badger were seen in the vicinity of H5. Removal and construction works will happen during daylight hours with general construction methods being employed outside of working hours such as those preventing mammal entrapment or harm. Therefore, the removal of H5 is deemed to have a negligible impact on badger.

4 Landscaping details

Following completion of the proposed works, the temporarily affected section of hedgerow will be reinstated. Reinstatement is expected to utilise hedgerow species consistent with the existing boundary and local landscape character. The final planting specification will be agreed with the landowner during detailed design. The reinstatement works will seek to restore the continuity and function of the existing hedgerow.

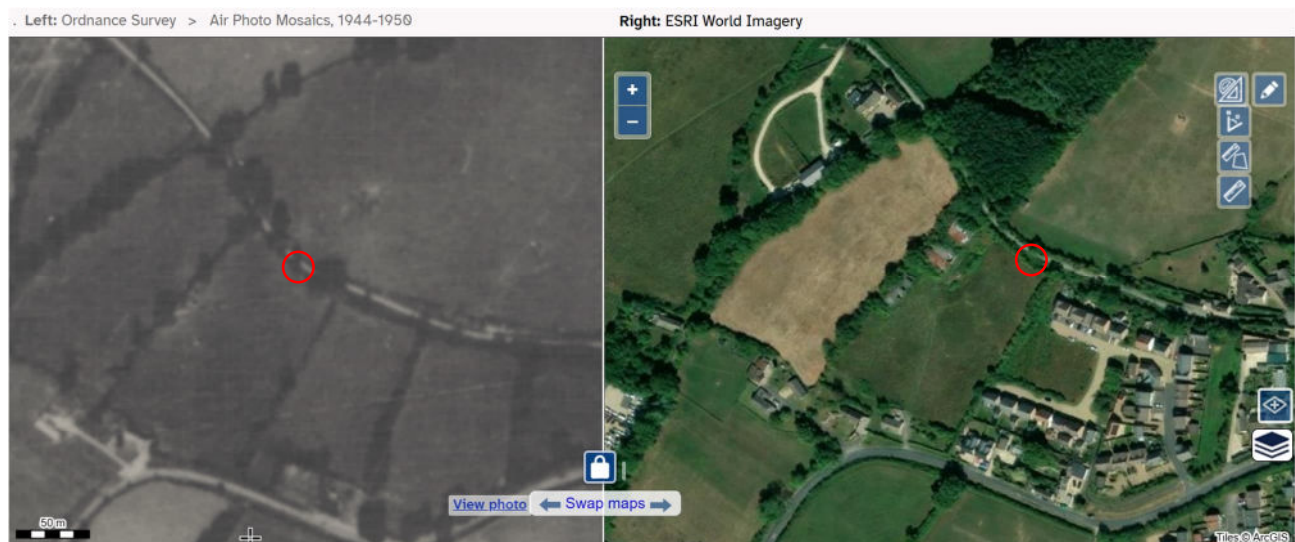
5 Planting Evidence

Historic mapping has been reviewed to establish the likely age of the hedgerow proposed for partial removal. Comparison of historic aerial imagery taken in 1947 with contemporary imagery (see Figure 5.1 below) demonstrates that the hedgerow was mostly present in its current location during the mid-20th century and

has remained as a continuous field boundary to the present day. This could provide evidence that the hedgerow is over 30 years old.

The proposed works require the temporary removal of approximately 8m of hedgerow to facilitate construction activities. The removal represents a small section of a substantially longer and otherwise continuous hedgerow. Following completion of the works, the affected section will be allowed to regenerate naturally from the retained rootstock. It is anticipated that the gap will re-establish within approximately two years, resulting in a temporary and localised interruption to the hedgerow rather than the permanent loss of the hedgerow feature.

Figure 5.1 Historic Mapping Demonstrating Evidence of Hedgerow



Source: National Library of Scotland Side-by-Side Viewer, OS Maps, Air Photo Mosaics, 1947