Parcel N
Arborfield Green
Wokingham

NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGY

Written By:	MJRS
Checked By:	JC
Date:	19.06.2025
Document File Ref:	CREST24802 Non-Native Invasive Species Mitigation Strategy
Revision:	*
Date of last revision:	
Revised by:	

www.acdenvironmental.co.uk

QUALITY ASSURANCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing (2nd Edition, December 2017).

The facts stated in this report are true to the best of our knowledge and belief, and any opinions expressed are held genuinely and in accordance with the accepted standards of the profession. ACD Environmental Ltd is a CIEEM Registered Practice.

Client:	Crest Nicolson
Site/job:	Parcel N, Arborfield Green, Wokingham
Author:	Matthew Simmons
Technical review:	John Constable

CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. ACD Environmental Ltd have been commissioned to produce a Non-Native Invasive Species Mitigation Strategy for Parcel N, Arborfield Green, Wokingham. Parcel N is undergoing an RMA under the outline planning consent for Arborfield Green (O/2014/2280, Wokingham Borough Council).

1.2. Previous invasive species work was originally conducted in 2014 by AECOM (AECOM 2014).

1.3. This document contains details of a methodology to manage invasive species at the site

1.4. Implementing all of the practices, techniques, and prescriptions in this document will help to ensure that there will be no spread of invasive species from the site.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. ACD Environmental Ltd was instructed by Crest Nicolson in June 2025 to produce a Non-Native Invasive Species Strategy for Parcel N, Arborfield, Wokingham. This land is hereafter referred to as the 'Approved Development Site'.

Planning Details:

2.2. Outline permission for: Demolition of buildings and phased redevelopment of Arborfield Garrison and adjoining land for: Up to 2,000 new dwellings (including up to 80 units of extra care housing). District centre comprising a food store up to 4,000 sq m gross with up to a further 3,500 sq m (gross) floor space within Classes A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, B1, D1 and D2 (with residential above - Class C3), and transport interchange, village square, car parking, servicing and drop off area. Up to a further 1,500sq m (gross) floor space within Classes D1 and D2. Neighbourhood centre to provide up to 300 sq m (gross) floor space within Classes A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, B1, D1 and D2, with parking/servicing area. Secondary school for up to 1,500 pupils (Class D1) including sports pitches, floodlit all-weather pitch, and indoor swimming pool and parking areas. Up to three-form primary school (Class D1) with sports pitch and parking areas. Associated phased provision of: car parking; public open space including sports pitches, informal/incidental open space, children's play areas including multi-use games area (MUGA), skate park, community gardens/allotments; landscaping/buffer areas; boundary treatments; new roads, footpaths, cycleways and bridleways; sustainable urban drainage systems, including flood alleviation works.

2.3. PART 2 - FULL PERMISSION FOR phased development of: Creation of two new areas of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGS) (In the north-eastern part of the application site ("Northern SANGS") and at West Court ("West Court SANGS") including car parking areas, path/walkways, fencing and associated landscaping; re-use of existing MoD gymnasium for sports/community uses/centre (Classes D1/D2; new roundabout junction to A327 Reading Road; junction improvements to Langley Common Road, Baird Road and Biggs Lane; junction improvements and new access at Biggs Lane/Princess Marina Drive; re-use and improvements to existing site accesses from Biggs Lane was granted by Wokingham Borough Council on 1st April 2015 (planning ref: O/2014/2280).

Competence

2.4. This report has been written by Matthew Simmons, Assistant Ecologist at ACD Environmental Ltd and Qualifying member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Matthew has undertaken various surveys, ranging from Habitat Surveys to Phase 2 surveys for protected species, including bats, badgers and dormice. Matthew has written various reports, including Preliminary Ecological Appraisals, and Landscape and Ecological Management Plans.

2.5. A Technical Review of this report has been carried out in line with ACD Environmental Ltd's Quality Assurance procedures. The Technical Review was carried out by John Constable, ACD Environmental Ltd.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. The Approved Development Site comprises approximately 2.4 hectares of land. The Ordnance Survey Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is: SU770653.

3.2. The Approved Development Site is situated in a suburban location surrounded by semi improved neutral grassland and to the north and the west there is a line of trees. The Approved Development Site is 4.85 km to Wokingham train station **Image 1**.

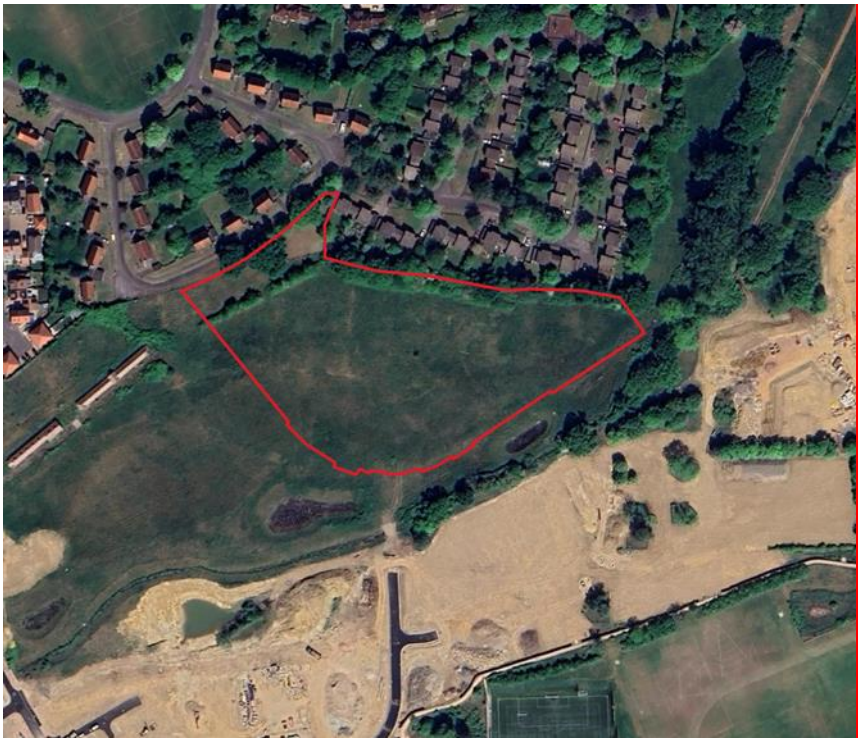

Image 1: Approximate boundary of the Approved Development Site. Source: QGIS 2025.

3.3. AECOM conducted an extended Phase 1 habitat survey of Parcel N as well as the wider Arborofield site on 9th April 2014. This survey found evidence of the non-native invasive plant species: Japanese knotweed Reynoutria japonica, rhododendron Ericaceae sp. and cherry laurel Prunus laurocerasus. and the non-native plant buddleia Buddleia davidii within the wider site but not present at parcel N. Subsequent to this, numerous further surveys were conducted throughout the summer of 2014, both update surveys for the Phase 1 surveys, other dedicated species surveys, including hedgerow surveys, where the recording of non-native invasive species was prioritised.

3.4. During these surveys, any occurrence of the non-native invasive species was recorded.

4. RESULTS AND EVALUATION

Japanese Knotweed:

4.1. A total number of 5 locations containing 6 stands of Japanese Knotweed were recorded during the surveys by AECOM in 2014. A total of 5 stands were recorded within the wider site, with a further stand of knotweed (JK6) identified immediately outside the boundary of the wider site, within the West Court pond area. A number of these stands are in close proximity to mounds created through human deposition of waste. The location details of Japanese Knotweed stands identified can be found in Table 1 below.

Japanese Knotweed (JK) Reference no.	**Location Details**	**Grid Reference**
JK1	Within the Northern SANG area, to the east of the Arborfield Site	SU 774226529
JK2	Within the Northern SANG area, to the east of the Arborfield Site	SU7755165353
JK3	Within the Northern SANG area, to the east of the Arborfield Site, immediately adjacent to JK5.	SU 7745465232
JK4	Within the Northern SANG area, to the east of the Arborfield Site – appears to have received herbicide treatment	SU 7763565313

JK5	Within the Northern SANG area, to the east of the Arborfield Site, immediately adjacent to JK3.	SU 7747465215
JK6	Within the Northern SANG area, to the east of the Arborfield Site	SU7715363822

Rhododendron and Cherry Laurel:

4.2. A total of three areas with significant stands of rhododendron and/or cherry laurel were recorded within the site, although smaller incidental areas are also likely to be present. The location details of the areas identified can be found in Table 2 below.

Rhododendron/Cherry Laurel (RCL) Reference no.	Location Details	Grid Reference
RCL2	To the west of the main site area. Area dominated by Rhododendron	SU 7620165109
RCL2	Within the West Court SANG, along either side of the western access road. Area dominated by rhododendron.	SU7677263841
RCL3	Within the west court SANG, within an area of woodland to the east of the site. Areas are dominated by rhododendron, with only small stands of cherry laurel.	SU 773466387

Buddleia

4.3. A total of two areas with significant stands of buddleia were recorded within the site. However, it must be noted that due to the rapid and wide dispersal of this species there is a high probability of it being found elsewhere during further works.

Buddleia (B) Reference no.	Location Details	Grid Reference
B1	Within the Northern SANG area, to the east of the main Arborfield Site.	SU 7760465340
B2	Within the Northern SANG area, to the east of the main Arborfield Site.	SU 7755365177

Other Non-Native Invasive Species

4.4. No presence of other Non-Native Invasive Species (as defined by Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act) was recorded onsite or in close vicinity to the Site; however, there is potential for these species to colonise the Site at any time. It is considered possible that *Cotoneaster Cotoneaster sp*. and/or Virginia creeper *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* may be discovered upon the Site during clearance works, especially within areas that have not been accessed. As such an approach to dealing with the species is outlined in the subsequent sections.

Recommendations

4.5. Although no invasive species were found to be present within the Approved Development Site at the time of the survey, given the invasive nature of the species that were found to be present in the wider area during previous surveys, it is likely that they may spread to Parcel N. Should they be found to be present within Parcel N in the future, the following mitigation methods should be followed in order to mitigate the spread of these species outside of the Approved Development Site.

5. MITIGATION STRATEGY

Japanese Knotweed

5.1. A number of Japanese Knotweed stands are located within close proximity to young and semi-mature trees and other types of flora throughout the wider Site.

5.2. It should be noted that some control methods involving chemical application or soil excavation could compromise the health and stability of these trees. An arboriculturist should be consulted prior to any control methods within close proximity to the trees.

5.3. Where ground breaking works are not required immediately, chemical control using a translocative herbicide applied via stem injections is considered the most effective and cost-efficient method of control in this instance. This will allow targeted and direct application without spray drift and will avoid the need to excavate soil material within the rooting area of trees within the Site, also preventing potential contamination of water courses, root damage and potential tree failure.

5.4. It is recommended that a competent person make the specification for the correct herbicide to be applied. Application of the herbicide should be carried out be a suitably qualified contractor with the necessary qualifications for herbicide applications.

5.5. Ongoing control of knotweed and monitoring on the development Site is recommended to prevent re-infestation of the Site by Japanese Knotweed in the future.

Rhododendron and Cherry Laurel

5.6. Control of these species should consist of manual removal of stems followed by chemical treatment of stumps with a suitable herbicide. It is recommended that a competent person should make the correct specification correct herbicide to be applied. Application of herbicide must be carried ot by a competent contractor with the necessary qualifications for herbicide application.

Buddleja

5.7. Control of this species should consist of manual removal of stems followed by chemical treatment of stumps with a suitable herbicide. It is recommended that a competent person should make the correct specification correct herbicide to be applied. Application of herbicide must be carried out by a competent contractor with the necessary qualifications for herbicide application.

Cotoneaster/ Virginia Creeper

5.8. Seedlings and small plants can be grubbed out using a mattock or spade at any time of the year but preferably when soil is moist to lessen disturbance. Berries should be carefully collected and disposed of in a bin. If plants are removed before the fruits ripen, any seeds that fall to the ground during removal are not likely to be viable. Seedlings may also be smothered with mulch, old carpet or black plastic. To remove larger plants, branches should be cut off first and then the roots dug out with a shovel or backhoe. It is important to entirely remove stumps and roots as both are capable of resprouting. Roots can penetrate deep into rock crevices and may requiring extensive excavation to ensure that stumps and shallow roots are completely removed, as both can re-sprout.

5.9. Small plants and stump regrowth can be treated with a glyphosate or triclopyr herbicide, applied as a wipe or hand-held spray.

5.10. when plants are actively growing between spring and autumn. This method is not suitable for use in species-rich habitats as the glyphosate is indiscriminate and will kill other plants too. For larger plants, glyphosate or may also be applied to cut stumps or abraded bark.

5.11. Virginia creeper can also be treated with a glyphosate or triclopyr herbicide, applied as a wipe or hand-held spray when plants are actively growing between spring and autumn. This method is not suitable for use in species-rich habitats as the glyphosate is indiscriminate and will kill other plants as well.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1. Numerous non-native invasive species have been identified as being present within the wider Arborfield site including Japanese knotweed, rhododendron., cherry laurel and buddleja. Cotoneaster and Virginia creeper may also be present.

6.2. Suitable management procedures should be followed and implemented by an appropriate contractor in order to successfully eradicate these invasive species should they spread to Parcel N. All waste materials should be disposed of correctly, avoiding removing the waste from site where possible.

7. REFERENCES

7.1. [1] Arborfield Garrsion – *Non-Native Invasive Species Strategy* (AECOM) (2014)

7.2. [2] Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)

7.3. [3] Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)

www.acdenvironmental.co.uk

ACD
ENVIRONMENTAL