

Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead

Non-Native Invasive Weed Management – Parcel 8

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Derek Finnie Associates was commissioned by Barratt David Wilson (BDW) Homes to provide ecological advice in relation to a residential development at Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead. The wider site has outline planning permission for up to 1,500 new dwellings, up to 12,000 sqm of employment floor space, a Neighbourhood Centre with up to 1,900 sqm of non- residential floor space, a new primary school, new sports pitches and associated pavilion building (Planning Ref: O/2014/2179 and 140764).

1.1.2 BDW are currently taking forward the reserved matters application for Parcel 8 within the wider Site. As part of the Section 73 permission (Ref: 181194), there are certain conditions that must be satisfied prior to the commencement of development. Condition 30 of the Permission states:

Condition 30.

All Reserved Matters applications for any sub phase of the development shall include a detailed non-native invasive species management plan for that phase of the development. The detailed non-native invasive species management plans shall be implemented in accordance with the submitted plans unless otherwise approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: To ensure appropriate mitigation for the biodiversity impact of the development in accordance with Wokingham Borough Core Strategy Policy CP7.

1.1.3 The following report, therefore, has been prepared to discharge Condition 30 as far as it relates to Parcel 8.

2 PREVIOUS SURVEYS

2.1 Site Wide Surveys

2.1.1 Surveys undertaken by HDA to inform the outline planning application identified several non-native invasive weed species from within the wider site, or the neighbouring area. *Rhododendron ponticum* and an unidentified *Cotoneaster* spp. were encountered during the initial Phase 1 habitat survey. In addition, during consultation with Natural England, Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica* was identified as being present the wider area (Royal Haskoning, 2014). Furthermore, several stands of this highly invasive species were also identified within the Arborfield Garrison SANG land and along Park Lane (*Pers obs.*). However, it is believed these were successfully treated in 2016/2017.

2.1.2 In addition, during an updated Phase 1 habitat survey, variegated yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* was recorded from within the wider site boundary (HDA, 2018).

Legislation

2.1.3 *Cotoneaster horizontalis*, entire-leaved cotoneaster *Cotoneaster integrifolius*, Himalayan cotoneaster *Cotoneaster simonsii*, hollyberry cotoneaster *Cotoneaster bullatus*, small-leaved cotoneaster *Cotoneaster microphyllus*, rhododendron, variegated yellow archangel and Japanese knotweed are all listed under Schedule 9 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under Section 14 of the Act, it is an offence to release, plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant included on Schedule 9. Hence, there is a duty of care to control any of these species if they are identified within a site to prevent the spread. Consideration must also be given to preventing the accidental introduction of any species listed on Schedule 9 through the importation of soils, plants or machinery.

3 SITE DESCRIPTION

3.1 Parcel 8

- 3.1.1 Parcel 8 is located towards the north of the Site. It is currently being used as the site compound and contractors' car park. As such it is devoid of any semi-natural vegetation.

4 NON-NATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT

4.1 MANAGEMNT OPERATIONS

- 4.1.1 Although no evidence of non-native invasive weed species have been identified within either Parcel 8 to date, there is the possibility that some may be identified at a more appropriate time of the year through on-going monitoring. It is also possible that some may be inadvertently introduced into the site during site clearance and construction activities.
- 4.1.2 As a precaution, the operational procedures presented in Table 1 will be followed throughout the construction period. For consistency, the procedures presented in Table 1 are based upon the Biosecurity Risk Assessment prepared by HDA for the wider site.

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Table 1. Precautionary Management Procedures

Species	Potential Pathway into Parcels 8 & 9	Management Procedure
Rhododendron	Species known to be present within wider site. <i>Risk: Medium</i> Spread of species via construction machinery/movement of soil. <i>Risk: Low to Medium</i> Introduction of seed material via contaminated soil. <i>Risk: Low</i>	Ensure contractors know what Rhododendron looks like and its identified presence in the wider site. If any suspected plants are identified within the site, contact the project ecologist. The seedling plants should be hand pulled and burnt on site and/or managed by application of a glyphosate-based herbicide to the foliage during the spring or summer. If there is a requirement to import soil, the soil will be to the BS 3882:2015 standards. All construction machinery tyres/wheels and soil/vegetation carrying equipment will be cleaned prior to entering and leaving the site.
Variegated Yellow Archangel	Species known to be present within wider site. <i>Risk: Medium</i> Spread of species via construction machinery/movement of soil. <i>Risk: Medium</i> Introduction of seed material via contaminated soil. <i>Risk: Low</i>	Undertake pre-commencement survey of parcels at appropriate time of year to establish presence/absence of species. Ensure contractors know what variegated yellow archangel looks like and its identified presence in the wider area. If any suspected plants are identified inform the project ecologist. These should be pulled up and left to dry before the seeds set (July/August) and/or managed by application of a glyphosate-based herbicide to the foliage during the spring or summer. If there is a requirement to import soil, the soil will be to the BS 3882:2015 standards. All construction machinery tyres/wheels and soil/vegetation carrying equipment will be cleaned prior to entering and leaving the site.



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Species	Potential Pathway into Parcels 8 & 9	Management Procedure
<i>Cotoneaster</i> spp.	Species present within wider site. Risk: Medium Spread of species via construction machinery/movement of soil. Risk: Medium Introduction of seed material via contaminated soil. Risk: Low	Ensure contractors know what the non-native invasive <i>Cotoneaster</i>s looks like and its identified presence in the wider site. If any suspected plants are identified within the site, contact the project ecologist. These seedling plants should be hand pulled and burnt on site. If there is a requirement to import soil, the soil will be to the BS 3882:2015 standards. All construction machinery tyres/wheels and soil/vegetation carrying equipment will be cleaned prior to entering and leaving the site.
Japanese Knotweed	Species present within wider area. Risk: Low to Medium Spread of species via construction machinery/movement of soil. Risk: Low Introduction of seed material via contaminated soil. Risk: Low	Ensure contractors know what Japanese Knotweed looks like and its identified presence in the wider area. If any suspected plants are identified inform the project ecologist; tape of affected area immediately. If there is a requirement to import soil, the soil will be to the BS 3882:2015 standards. All construction machinery tyres/wheels and soil/vegetation carrying equipment will be cleaned prior to entering and leaving the site.
Himalayan Balsam	Spread of species via construction machinery/movement of soil. Risk: Low Introduction of seed material via contaminated soil. Risk: Low	Ensure contractors know what Himalayan Balsam looks like. If any suspected plants are identified inform the project. These should be pulled up and left to dry before the seeds set (July/August) and/or manage by application of a glyphosate-based herbicide to the foliage during the spring or summer.



Hogwood Farm, Parcel 8

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Species	Potential Pathway into Parcels 8 & 9	Management Procedure
		If there is a requirement to import soil, the soil will be to the BS 3882:2015 standards. All construction machinery tyres/wheels and soil/vegetation carrying equipment will be cleaned prior to entering and leaving the site.



5 SUMMARY

- 5.1.1 No non-native invasive species have been encountered within Parcel 8. However, a pre-commencement survey will be undertaken in conjunction with the implementation of a precautionary management scheme.