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Landscape, Arboricultural & Ecological Solutions
for the Built Environment

Invasive Species Method Statement

Don Street, Rochdale
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Ascerta

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Don Street, Rochdale

Invasive Species Method Statement

For

Kellen Homes

15 September 2022

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Appendix 1 Timetable for Invasive Species Treatment

Appendix 2 Example notices to be erected on protective fencing

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Ascerta has been instructed by Kellen Homes to prepare an Invasive Species Method Statement for the site at Don Street, Rochdale (hereafter referred to as the site). The site OS grid reference is SD885062 and the what three words location is birds.bleat.angle.
- 1.2 Our client seeks to construct residential buildings, with associated access roads and parking. Pockets of Public Open Space (POS) are present throughout the main site and to the north of the proposed development.
- 1.3 This report sets out the details of the existing invasive species on-site, Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon* subsp) and provides a management plan for the control of the species.
- 1.4 Prior groundworks or any earthworks within the site an updated survey for invasive species will be required to check if there has been any further spread of the species and to confirm the locations of the invasive species recorded.

2.0 Site Description and Legislation

- 2.1 The site lies to the south of Rochdale and is surrounded by residential dwellings, industrial and retail premises. The River Irk flows to the south of the proposed development site. The existing public access route runs along Don Street and along the north of the site through the retained tree line that bounds the northern site boundary.
- 2.2 Stands of Himalayan balsam are located on the banks of the River Irk, running along the entirety of the southern site boundary.
- 2.3 It is an offence under Section 14(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to '*plant or otherwise cause to grow*' in the wild any plant in Schedule 9 Part II on which Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and yellow archangel species are listed. The species will need control prior to the commencement of construction activities, including ground works and vegetation clearance on the site. An exclusion zone will be set up during treatment of these species to reduce risk of further spread.

3.0 Himalayan Balsam Method Statement

- 3.1 Himalayan balsam is present on the site, along the banks of the River Irk, throughout the site and to the eastern site boundary. Himalayan Balsam is highly invasive, spreading rapidly via seed dispersal and reducing biodiversity where it is present. The River Irk provides corridors that can carry the seeds of the Himalayan Balsam and distribute variable seeds within surrounding habitats. It is recommended due to the sensitive locations of the Himalayan balsam that the plant is controlled through hand pulling and other non-chemical methods to reduce the damage to native species within the vicinity.
- 3.2 Himalayan balsam plants will be hand pulled in the first instance during late summer prior to seed pods developing in early August. Regular checks and the hand pulling of any new material will be required every 4 weeks between late March and October. To ensure that no plants are missed a further visit to remove any material my hand pulling will be required in early winter (following the first frost of the year) to ensure their eradication before they set seed. All removed material will be disposed of at an appropriate landfill site as controlled waste or composted within a bunded area on the site until all viable material, including seeds, is fully composted.
- 3.3 As the site lies on the banks of a river, regular checks for this species will be required following development, with an ongoing treatment programme agreed. This ongoing treatment programme would occur as part of the landscape management requirements for the site and would likely involve a check for and removal of Himalayan balsam between mid-May and Mid-July annually. If the no Himalayan balsam is found on the site within a two-year period following the hand pulling, the site can be considered cleared of Himalayan balsam for development purposes.
- 3.4 If Himalayan balsam is found on the site during subsequent monitoring, it should be controlled by hand pulling as it reduces the risk to non-target species. Pulling should occur in Autumn, March-June and during the winter months, following the first frosts before the plant has set seed and all removed material should be disposed of at an appropriate landfill site as controlled waste or composted on site.
- 3.5 Once the exclusion zone has been declared free of Himalayan balsam and any other invasive species, it should be re-vegetated with grasses and wildflowers and managed to maintain a dense sward. This will limit the potential for re-invasion by Himalayan balsam and other undesirable plant species.

4.0 Japanese Knotweed Method Statement

- 4.1 The riverbanks of the River Irk are infested with Japanese knotweed. All Japanese knotweed should be isolated prior to site clearance. The Japanese knotweed should be fully excavated, to a depth of 3m to ensure all material is removed, including 3m of earth surrounding the plant to ensure all the rhizome root material has been removed. This can be done at any time of year. Alternatively, if timescales allow the Japanese knotweed can be controlled through stem injection of herbicide to reduce the impact on native species within the vicinity. The areas will be fenced off and no building works will occur in this exclusion zone until it is confirmed that Japanese knotweed has been successfully eradicated from this zone. An appropriate notice will be placed on the fence informing the workforce that a Japanese knotweed exclusion zone lies within the fenced area (see appendix 4 for notice example).
- 4.2 As the Japanese knotweed lies within 8m of the River Irk (designated as a 'Main River'), the Environment Agency will be contacted to confirm that the proposed methods are acceptable for the treatment of Japanese knotweed in this location. This is because treatment options for Japanese knotweed are limited when it is present adjacent to water courses.
- 4.3 If the Japanese knotweed is to be controlled by herbicide injection, by a suitably experienced contractor licensed to control invasive species near water. The plants will first be stem injected with glyphosate in July.
- 4.4 The site will be treated with stem injection glyphosate again in September to ensure all Japanese knotweed is treated including any regrowth or any stands missed during the initial treatment.
- 4.5 As the site lies on the banks of a river and off-site habitats are likely to have Japanese Knotweed infestation, regular checks for this species will be required, with an ongoing treatment programme. This would occur as part of the landscape management requirements for the site and would most likely involve a check for and treatment of Japanese knotweed between April and July annually. If no Japanese knotweed is found on the site within a two-year period following the herbicide treatment the site can be considered cleared of Japanese knotweed for development purposes.
- 4.6 If any Japanese knotweed is recorded during these checks, it will be treated by excavation or using stem injection of herbicides by suitably licensed contractors.
- 4.7 Once the exclusion zone has been declared free of Japanese knotweed and any other invasive species, it should be re-vegetated appropriately to maintain a dense vegetation covering that will limit the potential for re-invasion by Japanese knotweed and other undesirable plant species.

5.0 Yellow Archangel Method Statement

- 5.1 Yellow archangel is present within the site. All yellow archangel should be isolated prior to site clearance. The yellow archangel should be fully excavated, to a depth of 3m to ensure all material is removed, including 3m of earth surrounding the plant to ensure all root material has been removed. This can be done at any time of year. Alternatively, if timescales allow the yellow archangel can be controlled through stem injection of herbicide to reduce the impact on native species within the vicinity. The areas will be fenced off and no building works will occur in this exclusion zone until it is confirmed that yellow archangel has been successfully eradicated from this zone. An appropriate notice will be placed on the fence informing the workforce that a yellow archangel exclusion zone lies within the fenced area.
- 5.2 As the yellow archangel lies within 8m of the River Irk (designated as a 'Main River'), the Environment Agency will be contacted to confirm that the proposed methods are acceptable for the treatment of yellow archangel in this location. This is because treatment options for yellow archangel are limited when it is present adjacent to water courses.
- 5.3 If the yellow archangel is to be controlled by herbicide injection, by a suitably experienced contractor licensed to control invasive species near water, the plants will first be stem injected with glyphosate in July.
- 5.4 The site will be treated with stem injection glyphosate again in September to ensure all yellow archangel is treated including any regrowth or any stands missed during the initial treatment.
- 5.5 As the site lies on the banks of a river and off-site habitats are likely to have yellow archangel infestation, regular checks for this species will be required, with an ongoing treatment programme. This would occur as part of the landscape management requirements for the site and would most likely involve a check for and treatment of yellow archangel between April and July annually. If no yellow archangel is found on the site within a two-year period following the herbicide treatment the site can be considered cleared of yellow archangel for development purposes.
- 5.6 If any yellow archangel is recorded during these checks, it will be treated by excavation or using stem injection of herbicides by suitably licensed contractors.
- 5.7 Once the exclusion zone has been declared free of yellow archangel and any other invasive species, it should be re-vegetated appropriately to maintain a dense vegetation covering that will limit the potential for re-invasion by yellow archangel and other undesirable plant species.

6.0 Conclusions & Recommendations

- 6.1 Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and yellow archangel are present on the site and will need control prior to works commencing to avoid risk of spreading these invasive species in the wild.
- 6.2 The Japanese knotweed, yellow archangel and Himalayan balsam will be fenced off prior to treatment. Approval should be granted from the Environment Agency as the three species lie on the banks and adjacent to the River Irk, which is classified as a 'Main River'. The Japanese knotweed and yellow archangel will be excavated or treated in July and September with herbicide stem injection by a suitably experienced contractor licensed to control invasive species near water. The Himalayan balsam will in the first instance hand pulled in late summer, prior to the seed pods developing in early August. Any new plant material will be hand pulled every 4 weeks between March and October and following the first frost of the winter before they are able to set seed. All removed material will be disposed of at an appropriate landfill site as controlled waste or completely composted in a secure bunded area on-site. The timetable for treatment of the species is presented in Appendix 1.
- 6.3 It is recommended that the surrounding land is checked for invasive species. If any are found the owners of the adjacent land should be advised to control any invasive species on their land at the same time and potentially placed on legal notice of liability. If an invasive species spreads from the adjacent land back onto the site, owners of the adjacent land could be liable for costs of controlling invasive species on the Don Street site.

Appendix 1

Timetable for Invasive Species Treatment

Date	Himalayan balsam	Japanese knotweed	Yellow Archangel
Every 4 weeks between March to October	Hand pull in the first instance before seeds have set in late summer. Continue to regularly hand pull any new stems until October. All removed material should be disposed of at an appropriate landfill site as controlled waste or fully composted on the site in a secure bunded area.		
July		Excavation of all plant and root material by digging (can be carried out at any time of the year). Stem injection with chemical herbicide can be used as an alternative as agreed by the Environment Agency.	Excavation of all plant and root material by digging (can be carried out at any time of the year). Stem injection with chemical herbicide can be used as an alternative as agreed by the Environment Agency.
September		Stem injection with chemical herbicide as agreed by the Environment Agency.	Stem injection with chemical herbicide as agreed by the Environment Agency.
Following the first frost	Hand pull before seeds have set. All removed material should be disposed of at an appropriate landfill site as controlled waste or fully composted on the site in a secure bunded area.		
From July (for 3-5 years)	Check for and removal of Himalayan balsam between mid-May and mid-July annually. If no Himalayan balsam is found on the site within a two-year period following initial hand pulling the site can be considered cleared of Himalayan balsam for development purposes.	Continue monitoring the site and treat any new growth. (Until a 12-month period in which no growth is observed).	Continue monitoring the site and treat any new growth. (Until a 12-month period in which no growth is observed).

Appendix 2

Himalayan Balsam

If found or suspected please report to site manager



Japanese Knotweed

If found or suspected please report to site manager & Ascerta (0845 463 4404) immediately

