1. Biosecurity risk assessment

The following will be used as a template but may be subject to change as the final details of the development are yet to be decided.

SITE NAME: MAELOR NURSERIES			
BIOSECURITY PROTOCOL			
DATE: 5 NOVEMBER 2024			
SPECIES	**POTENTIAL CONTAMINATION ROUTE**	**LIKELIHOOD OF RISK**	**OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES/ ACTIONS TO MINIMISE RISKS**
Himalayan Balsam	Export of excess soil/spoil from the site during construction phase.	Moderate. Species restricted to the banks of the Guilsfield Brook and work in this area is minimal. However, drainage outfall will be required along the banks of the brook and therefore the possibility of encountering the species with machinery is likely.	Focus will be on preventing the spread of the plant, rather than eradication. All areas to be worked as part of the drainage plans will be inspected by the ECoW prior to work starting. If Himalayan Balsam is identified in the working areas the following CHECK, CLEAN, DRY method will be adopted: 1. All equipment, shoes, clothing will be checked for signs of plant matter once work is complete. 2. All equipment, shoes, clothes will be cleaned as thoroughly as possibly on site within the working area. 3. All machinery, boots and clothes will be left to dry for at least 12 hours before using them on site again. If there is any spoil/waste arising from the work along the banks of the brook, this will be disposed of separately and as **controlled waste,** going to a licenced centre for waste disposal.

			See Good Practice Management: Himalayan Balsam, RAPID https://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Good_Practice_Management_-_Himalayan_balsam.pdf
Japanese Knotweed	Introduction of species via: • construction machinery • fragments in contaminated soil	Low. Not known to be present on site or in the immediate locality. There are no requirements to import soil.	Ensure owner and contractors know what Japanese Knotweed looks like. If it is identified on site, refer to the Environment Agency's Japanese knotweed Code of Practice.
Invasive aquatic plants: **Water fern, Parrots-feather, Floating pennywort, Australian swamp stonecrop, Water hyacinth, Water primrose, Canadian waterweed, Curly waterweed, Nuttall's waterweed, Least duckweed, New Zealand pigmy weed.**	Introduction of species via construction machinery and as propagules on boots, waders, bottle traps, and nets.	Medium. Surveyors and contractors may well have previously been to sites where these species are present.	Avoid entering ponds/watercourse whenever possible. Consider using survey techniques that constitute a lower bio-security risk (e.g. torching). Use bottle traps on a site-specific basis. Consider using nets and other equipment on a site-specific basis where non-native species have been recorded. Clean equipment, boots/waders and clothes after each survey. Where surveys entail two or more ponds, consider provision of duplicate equipment.

			Based on degree of risk, consider survey ponds supporting invasive species last or use a team to specifically survey ponds supporting non-native species.
Invasive plants.	Introduction to new ponds via aquatic plants to be used for colonising the marginal zones of pond features.	Low. All plants will be purchased from reputable and reliable sources.	All plants to be planted around the pond margins will be closely inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist/botanist before being put into the ground. If any plants appear to be contaminated with non-native species growth, they will be discarded and disposed of appropriately. If non-native plant species are accidentally introduced to the site/ponds, they will be removed. The plants will be identified during the growing season and staked. The ponds will be drained during the winter months and all identified plant material removed. Annual monitoring of the ponds will include an inspection for INNS. All non-native plant material will be disposed of appropriately. Monitoring of the pond will ensure the following spring to ensure that all non-native plant material has been successfully eradicated.
Chytrid fungus	Ecologists, aquatic survey equipment.	Low.	Ecologists and other contractors to disinfect boots and equipment before entering ponds.
Fish	Deliberate introduction.	Low.	Continued agreement with land owner.