ETIVE ECOLOGY
Ecological Services & Solutions

INSTALLATION OF HIGH VOLTAGE CABLE, MAELOR WORKS TO MAELOR GAS WORKS

P/2023/0752

BIOSECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT

1.1 Introduction

Innova Ltd have been granted consent to install buried high voltage cables within a corridor between Land North of Maelor Works and Access Roads to Maelor Gasworks (P/2023/0752). The scheme is to connect the approved solar park on Land North of Maelor Works to a new substation approved under the permission for a solar park on land at Cefn Park.

The decision notice for the approval includes a planning condition that states:

6. Prior to the commencement of development, a Biosecurity Assessment shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This assessment must include:

i) appropriate measures to control any INNS on site; and

ii) measures or actions that aim to prevent INNS being introduced to the site for the duration of construction and operational phases of the scheme.

The works shall only be carried out in strict accordance with such details as are approved.

This document presents a tabulated Risk Assessment for those non-native species that have been identified as having the potential to be imported or spread during the implementation of the scheme. The likely pathways and operational mitigation have also been identified in relation to the non-native species of flora.

This document will be appended to the Principal Contractor's Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for reference on site.

1.2 Pre-Construction

A pre-commencement survey should be carried out prior to construction to ensure there is an absence of INNS on site by a suitably qualified ecologist. If any INNS are identified, they will be eradicated accordingly with the methods outlined in the operational procedures of the Biosecurity Risk Assessment below.

1.3 Biodiversity Risk Assessment

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational procedure
Himalayan balsam	Spread of species via construction machinery / movement of soil. Introduction of seeds via contaminated soils.	Moderate. Himalayan balsam is known to be present in adjacent land to the north. Low. There is no requirement to import soil.	Ensure constructors know what Himalayan balsam looks like. If any plants are identified these should be pulled up and left to desiccate before the seeds set (July).
Japanese knotweed	Spread of species via construction machinery / movement of soil. Introduction of rhizome via contaminated soils.	Low. Japanese knotweed is not known to be present on site. Low. There is no requirement to import soil.	Ensure contractors know what Japanese knotweed looks like. If it is identified, refer to the Welsh Government guidance on 'The Control of Japanese Knotweed in Construction and Landscape Contracts'.
Garden escapes (Montbretia and Cotoneaster)	Spread of species via construction machinery / movement of soil.	Low. Neither species is known to be present on site.	Ensure contractors know what these species look like. If identified on site these should be dug out and disposed of appropriately. Construction vehicles to keep to established routes, to park in designated areas and not encroach on any adjacent land.
Rhododendron	Spread via natural propagation of viable seeds from existing plants on site. Spread of species via construction machinery / movement of soil. Introduction of seeds via contaminated soils.	Low. Species is not known to be present on site. Low. There is no requirement to import soil.	Identification of all rhododendron on site and eradication of plants prior to the commencement of earth works / excavations in the affected areas. Eradicate via mechanical means (excavate and chip or burn). Ensure any regrowth or new shoots are treated immediately with a suitable herbicide.
Chytridiomycota	Spread via contaminated equipment and footwear. Translocating amphibians due to mitigation measures.	Low. Species is not known to be present on site.	Disinfect equipment and footwear before going on site and between sites. If any GCN are encountered during construction, works in the area of the discovery should cease immediately and an experienced ecologist called for advice.

1.4 Post-Construction

A post-installation survey will be conducted after works are completed, undertaken by a suitably experienced ecologist to ensure INNS remain absent from the site. If any INNS are identified, they will be eradicated accordingly with the methods outlined in the operational procedures of the Biodiversity Risk Assessment above. Further monitoring visits will be required until such time as INNS are confirmed to be absent.

The applicant (Innova) will then be responsible for any ongoing site checks, recommended to be undertaken annually. These site checks should aim to identify INNS and take the necessary remedial action, to remain compliant with the relevant planning condition.