



108 ABBEY ROAD SOUTH, WREXHAM

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE:

BIOSECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT

DATE	ECOLOGIST	APPROVED	VERSION	COMMENTS
25/11/2022	Richard Cutts	Dr Katy Read CEcol MCIEEM CEnv DipSM	V1	

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Executive Summary

Site	108 Abbey Road South, Wrexham Industrial Estate, Wrexham, LL13 9RF	OS Grid Reference:	SJ 38680 49732
Surveyor(s)	Richard Cutts	Survey Date:	20/09/2022
Type of Report	Biosecurity risk assessment		
Summary of Proposed work	Construction of a building, and landscaping to upgrade and expand the existing parking facilities.		
Habitats affected	Hardstanding, bare ground.		
Species affected	No invasive non-native species (INNS) were identified on site but several species have been recorded in the vicinity.		
Control measures	General site biosecurity recommendations have been provided. Operational measures have been provided for species and pathogens posing potential risk at the site.		

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Enfys Ecology Limited were commissioned by Jackie Huxley to provide a biosecurity risk assessment for a site at Wrexham Industrial Estate, Wrexham.
- 1.2 The site is centred on approximate OS grid reference SJ 38680 49732. The site is an industrial unit within the Wrexham Industrial Estate. It contained predominantly hardstanding, with areas of bare gravel that had sparse cover of small plants. An agricultural field was immediately to the east of the site.
- 1.3 The proposed works comprise the construction of a building in the south of the site, and landscaping to upgrade and expand the existing parking facilities.
- 1.4 This report assesses the potential for the presence of invasive non-native species (INNS) on the site, and provides an assessment of the biosecurity risks for the proposed works. General biosecurity measures and species-specific control measures have also been provided.
- 1.5 Enfys Ecology carried out an inspection of the site to inform this report in September 2022. Habitats and species found within a discrete area of land are subject to change; this report should therefore be considered valid for a period of two years (from September 2022) in accordance with best practice.

2.0 Site Description

2.1 Survey Area

- 2.1.1 The site is an industrial unit located within the Wrexham Industrial Estate. Its immediate surroundings consist of buildings and associated infrastructure of the industrial estate, with areas of grassland, scrub and woodland interspersed within them. An agricultural field is located immediately to the east. A larger block of woodland lies a short distance to the south of the site (Figure 2.1).



FIGURE 2.1. SITE LOCATION - THE APPROXIMATE SURVEY AREA IS SHOWN IN RED
BACKGROUND IMAGE © GOOGLE 2022

- 2.1.2 The wider landscape consists of the Wrexham Industrial Estate, which is surrounded by agricultural grassland and blocks of woodland. Hedgerows provide some connectivity with the wider landscape (Figure 2.2).



FIGURE 2.2. WIDER SITE LOCATION - THE APPROXIMATE SURVEY AREA IS SHOWN BY RED STAR
BACKGROUND IMAGE © GOOGLE 2022

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Desk Study

- 3.1.1 A desk study was undertaken in September 2022, through Cofnod, North Wales Environmental Information Service, to determine the presence of invasive non-native species (INNS) within a 1km radius of the site. The records were used to inform the site inspection and recommendations, and to provide context for evaluating the species and habitats found during the site inspection. Any relevant species results from the desk study will be referred to in Section 4.

3.1 Site Inspection

- 3.1.1 A site inspection was conducted by a suitably experienced ecologist walking over the site and immediately adjacent areas. All habitat types on site were visited. Notes were taken regarding the habitat types present, and any invasive non-native species found were recorded.
- 3.1.2 The site inspection was conducted on the 20th September 2022 by Richard Cutts, a suitably experienced professional ecologist. Conditions were dry but overcast.

3.2 Limitations

- 3.2.1 The results of this survey consist only of those species encountered during a short space of time on one day. Species that use the site infrequently or at different times of the year may not be recorded, and the absence of species from the results of a single survey should not be taken as indicating the species definite absence from the area in question. Descriptions of plant species concentrate on the most obvious and abundant species present as determinant of habitats present.
- 3.2.2 While every reasonable effort has been made, Enfys Ecology cannot guarantee that all invasive species have been identified and that the survey results are definitive.

3.3 Report and Terminology

- 3.3.1 For the purposes of this report, the terms 'site' and 'survey area' are used to refer to the area surveyed on the ground by the ecologist at the clients request, which usually includes the entire area subject to the proposed works.

4.0 Site Inspection Results

4.1 Desk Study Results

4.1.1 The desk study returned records for several invasive non-native species (INNS) from the last 20 years within the 1km search area, including species listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended):

- **Himalayan balsam** (*Impatiens glandulifera*). Three records within 1km, with the closest accurate record approximately 400m south of the site. Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) Schedule 9 plant.
- **White stonecrop** (*Sedum album*). Two records within 1km, with the closest accurate record approximately 400m south of the site.
- **Water fern** (*Azolla filiculoides*). One record, 460m north of the site. WCA Schedule 9 plant.
- **Giant hogweed** (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*). One record, 780m west of the site. WCA Schedule 9 plant.
- **Japanese knotweed** (*Fallopia japonica*). Two records within 1km, with the closest accurate record 830m west of the site. WCA Schedule 9 plant.
- **Montbretia** (*Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora*). One record within a 1km grid to the north of the site. WCA Schedule 9 plant.
- **Canada goose** (*Branta canadensis*). One record within a 1km grid to the north of the site. WCA Schedule 9 animal.
- **Mandarin duck** (*Aix galericulata*). One record within a 1km grid to the east of the site. WCA Schedule 9 animal.

4.2 Habitats

4.2.1 A large industrial building covered most of the northern part of the site. The remainder of the site was dominated by hardstanding and bare gravel, with patchy cover of grass and ephemeral/short perennial plants. The site also contained a concrete shed, a metal storage container, and various other materials. Site photos and brief habitat descriptions are included in a separate RAMs method statement for the site (Cutts, 2022).

4.3 Flora

4.3.1 Floral diversity at the site was very low, and almost entirely consisted of small grass tussocks and ephemeral/short perennial plants. Taller vegetation was only present in the vicinity of a

transmission tower in the south-west of the site, and along a hedgerow on the eastern boundary.

- 4.3.2 No INNS plants were observed during the survey and they are considered unlikely to be present on the site. However, while every reasonable effort has been made to identify INNS, it is possible that individual plants may have been overlooked and the results of this inspection cannot be taken as definitive confirmation of their absence.

5.0 Biosecurity risk assessment and control methods

- 5.1 Biosecurity means taking measures to ensure that good practices are in place to minimise the risk of importing and spreading invasive non-native species (INNS), pests and infectious disease. As non-native species or diseases could be transmitted in any water or material, a good biosecurity routine is essential, even if invasive non-native species are not apparent.
- 5.2 General biosecurity measures help to prevent the spread of INNS and pathogens, and implementing the following steps are good practice for any work site:
- Providing tool box talks for contractors on any INNS that may be present, relevant control measures and general biosecurity procedures.
 - A cleaning station should be set up at the site exit including facilities to wash boots and vehicles.
 - Footwear of staff leaving site (for any reason and no matter for how short a time) must be cleaned (i.e., visually free of soil and debris) before leaving site.
 - Soil and vegetation should be washed off with clean water (and brushes). Water (which should not be contaminated with any disinfectant or other pollutants) should then be disposed of by pouring on site to soak away, ensuring this does not enter any watercourses.
 - The wheels or tracks (and any other part which has come into contact with the soil) of all vehicles which have entered the area should be thoroughly washed and be free of soil and debris before leaving the site. No one should remove any soil or vegetation from the working area for any reason.
- 5.3 No INNS are thought to be present on this site; however, INNS are present in the vicinity. The biosecurity risk assessment in Table 5.1 summarises the risk at this site, and additional measures required to prevent the spread of INNS and pathogens.

TABLE 5.1. BIOSECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational Procedure
Himalayan balsam	Spread of species via construction machinery/ movement of soil.	Low. Himalayan balsam is not known to be present on site.	Ensure contractors know what Himalayan balsam looks like.
	Introduction of seeds via contaminated soil.	Low. There are no known requirements to import soil.	If any plants are identified on site these should be pulled up and left to dry before the seeds set (July/ August).
	Introduction via natural dispersal.	Moderate. Himalayan balsam is present in the area and able to rapidly spread through seed dispersal.	
Japanese knotweed	Spread of species via construction machinery/ movement of soil.	Low. Japanese knotweed is not known to be present on site.	Ensure contractors know what Japanese knotweed looks like.
	Introduction of seeds via contaminated soil.	Low. There are no known requirements to import soil.	If it is identified on site, seek advice on control and removal.
	Introduction via natural dispersal.	Low. Japanese knotweed has been recorded some distance from the site and typically spreads slowly if left undisturbed.	Japanese knotweed must not be mechanically cleared, cut or otherwise removed except under expert guidance.
Giant Hogweed	Spread of species via construction machinery/ movement of soil.	Low. Giant hogweed is not known to be present on site.	Ensure contractors know what giant hogweed looks like.
	Introduction of seeds via contaminated soil.	Low. There are no known requirements to import soil.	If any plants are identified on site, seek advice on control and removal.
	Introduction via natural dispersal.	Low. Giant hogweed has been recorded some distance from the site.	The sap of giant hogweed can cause phytophotodermatitis upon contact with

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational Procedure
			skin. Ensure that any contractors working in the vicinity of giant hogweed have appropriate PPE.
Montbretia	Spread of species via construction machinery/ movement of soil.	Low. Montbretia is not known to be present on site.	Ensure contractors know what Montbretia looks like.
	Introduction via contaminated soil.	Low. There are no known requirements to import soil.	Excavate the plants including their corms and surrounding soil. Removed material should be treated as controlled waste and sent to licenced landfill, or buried on site in waste management areas.
	Introduction via natural dispersal.	Low. Montbretia has been recorded some distance from the site and typically spreads slowly if left undisturbed.	
Other INN plants	Planting	Medium	All new planting stock be to grown in an environment free from INN plants. Non-native ornamental plants with tendencies to spread in the wild should be avoided as planting stock (e.g. Cotoneasters, <i>Buddleja davadii</i>).
Non-native aquatic plant species including water fern	Spread of species on footwear or machinery.	No risk. No standing water on site and no contact by personnel with other water bodies.	Ensure contractors know what these plants look like.
	Introduction via natural dispersal.	No risk. No standing water on site.	Ensure all contractors clean their footwear and machinery prior to arriving on site. If any plants are identified on site, seek advice on control and removal.

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational Procedure
<i>Chytrid</i> fungus (impacting amphibian species)	Transport of spores on boots or equipment from one water body to another, or between amphibian populations.	Low. No standing water on site and no contact by personnel with other amphibian sites.	Ensure all contractors and ecologists working in proximity to ponds clean their footwear and equipment between sites. If amphibians are handled, disposable vinyl gloves should be worn.
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> (sudden oak death)	Via spores which can be dispersed by wind, rain and watercourses. Pathogen may be transmitted in debris e.g. leaves, needles, bark and soil on machinery. Introduction via new tree planting	No risk. No oak present on site.	All equipment (machinery and footwear) thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before entering site. All stock to come from supplier free of infection.
<i>Chalara</i> (ash die back)	Via spores but the main threat is introduction via imported nursery stock.	No risk. No ash present on site.	No new ash to be planted as part of the planting scheme.

6.0 Legislation

6.1 *Invasive Non-Native Species*

Invasive non-native species are listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), for which the following are offences:

- Release into the wild, or to allow the escape of, any animal which is not ordinarily resident, or a regular visitor to, Great Britain in a wild state, or which is included in Part 1 of Schedule 9.
- Plant in the wild, or otherwise cause to grow there, any plant included in Part 2 of Schedule 9.

7.0 References

Cutts, R., 2022. *108 Abbey Road South, Wrexham Industrial Estate: Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) for Great Crested Newts (GCN)*. Enfys Ecology Ltd.