

Technical Document

Biosecurity Risk Assessment

Ysgol y Hafod Junior Site, Bangor Road,
Johnstown

Wynne Construction Ltd

November 2021



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Version	Date	Reason
26613 R8 Rev1	23 rd November 2021	Draft issued to client for comment



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1 Introduction

1.1 Terms of Reference

In November 2021, Atmos Consulting Ltd (Atmos) were commissioned by Wynne Construction Ltd to prepare a Biosecurity Risk Assessment for Ysgol y Hafod Junior School.

Planning permission (Ref: P/2021/0870) was granted by Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) on 4th November 2021 with attached planning conditions.

Condition 15: *"No development or phase of development, with the potential to impact on invasive species, shall commence until a Biosecurity Risk Assessment has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

The Risk Assessment must include:

- (i) appropriate measures to control any INNS [invasive non-native species] on site;*
- (ii) measures or actions that aim to prevent INNS from being introduced to the site for the duration of construction and operational phases of the scheme. The Biosecurity Risk Assessment shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details"*

1.2 Site Description

The Site is located on Bangor Road, Johnstown, Wrexham, LL14 2SW to the west of the A483 road. The Site comprises the existing school building, the Old School House in the west of the Site, hard-standing and a large amenity grassland to the east of the school building. The school is bordered by fences and there are scattered shrubs and smaller trees along the school boundary. There is a line of large mature trees, mostly oak *Quercus robur* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior* along the southern edge of the large amenity field.

The surrounding area consists mainly of housing estates and residential gardens.

1.3 Objectives

The objective of this technical document is to assess the potential biosecurity risks that may be encountered during the construction phase and outline a means to control them. This document will then be suitable for submission to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC).

2 Biosecurity Risk Assessment

2.1 Procedure

A biosecurity risk assessment has been produced for the Ysgol y Hafod Junior site and is provided as Appendix A to this document. Measures will be put in place on Site to ensure that all site staff will be made aware of the biosecurity risk assessment provided as Appendix A to this document. This risk assessment will be periodically re-assessed and updated by the Site Manager as relevant.

2.2 Site inductions

Identification sheets for the species covered in this risk assessment are provided in Appendices B to D. These should be displayed in the Site office. All staff will be provided with a formal induction to the Site and made aware of the risk assessment. This will include identification of the species and risks identified in the document and the means of controlling them. A record of staff inductions should be kept.

3 Conclusions and Recommendations

The baseline set out below is based on a desk study, review of aerial photography and mapping, local knowledge of the immediate area and an Extended Phase One Survey undertaken in September 2021.

The Site is comprised of a mix of hardstanding playing areas and amenity grassland, along with school buildings. The extension to the main school building will be located on the tarmac playground. The new playground to replace the one lost to the development will be on the amenity grassland, and the extension to the School House will result in loss of hardstanding and a garden habitat.

The following Schedule 9 (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) non-native invasive species were recorded on the Site or the immediate vicinity during the survey:

- *Rhododendron spp.* and *Cotoneaster spp.* within the ornamental shrub planting along the east of the school access road.
- Japanese rose *Rosa rugosa* in the raised bed area in the west of the Site.
- *Montbretia Crocosmia x crocosmiflora* was noted on the previous 2019 survey in the north-western part of the site boundary towards the Old School House.

These plants must not be permitted to spread and any removed from the Site must be treated as waste. Site staff must be aware of the following:

- the presence of the above invasive species on Site and potential for others;
- measures to be taken to avoid spreading them onto site and introducing others; and
- identifying features should they be found on site during the construction stage.

There are no statutory designated nature conservation sites on Site, but two are present within 500m. Johnstown Newt Sites Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Stryt Las yr Hafod Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The sites are of international and national importance for their populations of amphibian, including great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*. As GCN may be present in the wider area surrounding the Site, measures to prevent the spread of diseases such as Chytrid are included in the risk assessment.

There are diseases found around the United Kingdom that could potentially be spread to this Site and the surrounding area from soil, either imported to site intentionally or via machinery. The means to minimise this risk are detailed and should be followed throughout the construction phase.

Appendices

Appendix A. Biosecurity Risk Assessment

Biosecurity 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 soil	Low. Himalayan balsam is not known to be present on Site or in the wider area. Low. There are no requirements to import soil	Ensure contractors able to identify Himalayan balsam at various growth stages (see ID sheet below). Any sightings to be reported to the Site Manager. If any plants are found in work areas, these should be pulled up and left to dry before the seeds set in June to August. Vehicles must be clean and be free from soil when coming to site from other sites.
Japanese knotweed/Giant knotweed and hybrid knotweed	Spread of species via construction machinery/ movement of soil. Introduction of rhizomes (roots) via contaminated soil	Low. Japanese knotweed is not found on site or in the wider area. Low. There are no requirements to import soil	Ensure contractors are able to identify Japanese knotweed (see attached ID sheet below). If it is identified on Site, report to the Site Manager and refer to the Environment Agency's Japanese knotweed Code of Practice
Giant hogweed	Spread of species via seed or contaminated soil	Low. Giant hogweed is not known to be present on Site but is present in the county. Low. There are no requirements to import soil	Ensure contractors are able to identify giant hogweed (see attached ID sheet) and any sightings are reported to the Site Manager
Garden escapees (e.g. Montbretia Crocosmia and Spanish bluebell)	Spread of species via construction machinery/ movement of soil	High. There are several garden escapees recorded on site, including Cotoneaster, montbretia and Japanese Rose, all in working areas.	Ensure the contractor is aware of the presence of garden escapees and the need to prevent spreading these species and that any sightings are reported to the Site manager. All of these plants that are present in working areas should be cleared down to ground level, stumps appropriately treated, debris chipped or burnt and small growth chemically treated. Any material containing these plants that is removed off-site is to be treated as hazardous waste.

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational Procedure
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Spread of species via construction machinery/ movement of soil. Introduction of seeds via contaminated soil	High. There is rhododendron on Site and in the wider area. Low. There are no requirements to import soil	All plants in the working areas should be cleared down to ground level, stumps appropriately treated, debris chipped or burnt and small growth chemically treated. Any material containing these plants that is removed off-site is to be treated as hazardous waste.
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> - a parasitic fungi causing dry rot in plants.	Spreads through traversing heathland and woodlands sites, spread via soil and material.	Low. Due to limited suitable habitat in the surrounding area and on Site.	All soil and material to be removed from wheel arches, tyres, machinery and footwear sprayed with 'Propeller' disinfectant when coming on to site.
<i>Chalara</i> - Ash dieback disease- fungus eventually causing the death of the ash tree affected	Mostly spread through the air.	Moderate. Due to the limited woodland in the surrounding area. There are ash trees around the Site margins, but none affected by the works.	It is not thought it can be spread on clothes and no ash trees are to be planted. Any suspected signs of the disease will be reported to the Site Manager and statutory body Natural Resources Wales (NRW).
<i>Chytridiomycosis</i> , known as Chytrid - a disease of amphibians causing mortality	Movement of amphibians, water or materials between sites.	Moderate. The surrounding area is designated for its amphibian population. However, it is unlikely the species will range onto Site due to the unsuitability of the working area (hardstanding and managed grassland).	Amphibians are not to be moved off site if found within working areas. - All equipment that potentially comes into contact with amphibians to be disinfected between sites. - All footwear to be disinfected between sites if entering water- see additional disinfection guidelines below. - Vehicles entering water will also be disinfected between sites. - Dead amphibians to be treated as high risk and avoided. Disinfection procedure for chytrid: All equipment that has been in contact with amphibians or water will be disinfected. Equipment required: - Bucket

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational Procedure
			• Brush • Disinfectant- Virkon/household bleach • Disposable gloves • Bin bags • Fresh water Where disinfection is required, as identified above, the following procedure will be followed: 1. Brush off any soil or plant material 2. Rinse with clean water 3. Disinfect the boots with Virkon, mixed to the manufacturers guidelines, usually 10mg/ml, for one minute 4. Fabrics should be washed on a 40 degree cycle, with detergent. If this is not possible between sites, a change of clothes will be required. 5. Any nets used should be boiled, or if the fabric allows, sprayed with a bleach/disinfectant. 6. Allow to dry or if going on to another site rinse equipment with clean water 7. If the above is not possible until off site, then field equipment and footwear must be transported in plastic bags to avoid transmitting chytrid. 8. Disinfectants would ideally be poured down a drain after use. If this is not possible they may be poured onto a hardstanding away from vegetation.

Appendix B. Identification Sheets

Species	Image
Japanese knotweed	 
Himalayan balsam	
Giant hogweed	

Species	Image
	
Montbretia	

Species	Image
Rhododendron	
Japanese rose	
Cotoneaster	

