

Technical Document

Biosecurity Risk Assessment

Ysgol y Hafod Infant Site, Melyd Road,
Johnstown

Wynne Construction Ltd

November 2021



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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 Infant School.

Planning permission (Ref: P/2021/0871) was granted by Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) on 4th November 2021 with attached planning conditions.

Condition 14: “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 Melyd Road, Johnstown, Wrexham, LL14 2TB to the west of the A483 road. The Site primarily exists of improved grassland playing fields bordered by species rich hedgerows, hardstanding, school buildings and smaller structures such as small wooden storage sheds.

The surrounding area consists mainly of housing estate 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 works 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).

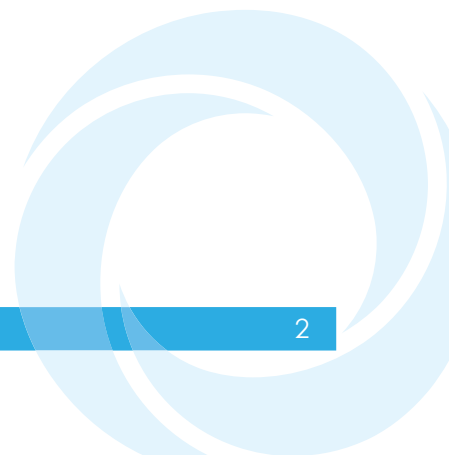
2 Biosecurity Risk Assessment

2.1 Procedure

A biosecurity risk assessment has been produced for the Ysgol y Hafod Infant 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 Summary 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 August 2021.

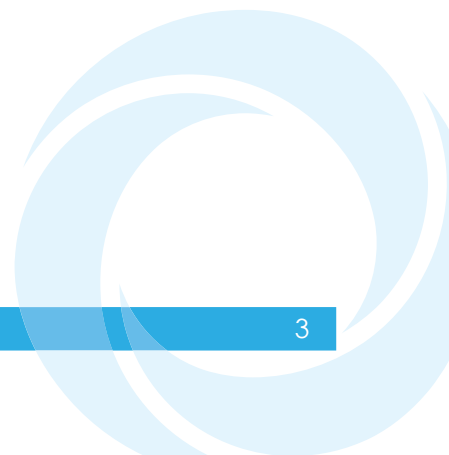
There are portacabins being set up on semi-improved grassland fields to provide temporary facilities for Junior pupils from the Bangor Road site whilst works are underway going on in that school. The Site of the portacabins is entirely comprised of managed grassland along with hedgerow boundaries. The wider school site includes hardstanding, scattered trees and a single fenced off dipping pond.

Although none of the species identified in the biosecurity risk assessment are known to be present on the Site, they are potentially present in the surrounding area and so Site staff must be aware of:

- the potential presence of invasive species on Site;
- measures to be taken to avoid bringing them on to site; 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.

Furthermore, 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 these risks 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 but is known to be present 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 are to 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	Low. No garden escapee species known within working areas. There is no requirement to import soil	Ensure the contractor is aware of the potential presence of garden escapees and the need to prevent spreading these species and that any sightings are reported to the Site manager
Rhododendron Rhododendron ponticum	Spread of species via construction machinery/	Low. There is no known rhododendron on Site or in the wider area.	All plants should be cleared down to ground level, stumps appropriately treated, debris chipped or burnt and small growth chemically treated.

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational Procedure
	movement of soil. Introduction of seeds via contaminated soil		
<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.	Low. Due to the limited woodland in the surrounding area and few ash trees in vicinity of the Site.	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. Habitats approximately 300m east and west of the Site are designated of international and national importance for their amphibian populations. Chytrid is known to be present on these sites. However, it is less likely the species will range onto Site where the portacabins are located due to sub-optimal habitat.	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 - Brush - Disinfectant- Virkon/household bleach - Disposable gloves

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational Procedure
			• 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

Table 1: Invasive species identification

Species	Image
Japanese knotweed	 
Himalayan balsam	

Species	Image
Giant hogweed	
Montbretia	

Species	Image
Rhododendron	
Japanese rose	
Cotoneaster	

