

Biosecurity Risk Assessment for

Lady Margarets Park Caravan and Motorhome Site
Chirk,
Wrexham
LL14 5AA

Project details

Redevelopment of existing touring caravan site with new toilet block, reception refurbishment, all-weather gravel pitches and general sitewide improvements

Introduction

An Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) is a plant or animal that was introduced by humans into the British Isles that would not naturally have been present.

Non-native plants and animals can become a serious problem. This is often because they become invasive, a process where, uninhibited by the usual population controls (eg predation, disease and competition for resources), the plant or animal multiplies and spreads at a rapid rate, growing to dominate in the new environment

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 It is illegal to plant, release or allow the spread of certain INNS animals and plants. If invasive nonnative species are present on your premises you have a responsibility to prevent them from spreading into the wild.

The hierarchy for dealing with INNS on your premises is:

- Prevent them from establishing.
- Detect and rapidly respond to them if they arrive.
- Manage and reduce the impacts of species that become well established.

This risk assessment is to ensure that during the site redevelopment and future operation of the site, measures are taken to prevent INNS from becoming well established in the event any are imported onto the site.

Location of hazard and existing presence of species

The preliminary ecological assessment report for the project in para 4.10 states that whilst *‘Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam have been recorded nearby along the river corridor and at Chirk Castle, they have not been identified on-site’*

The river corridor is approximately 230m south of the site and Chirk Castle 1.3km to the east, although the site does border the wider castle grounds.

Nature of the hazard

The main hazard is the importation of an INNS onto the site from the identified locations in the larger area.

There is also potential for accidental spread as a consequence of importing of materials such as soil and vegetation. Landscaping and planting schemes can represent a particular risk.

Risk

The primary risk for the site is, in the instance of any accidental importation of an INNS, failure to identify and remove it sufficiently quickly to prevent the species becoming well established.

Likelihood

The likelihood of importation to the site during the redevelopment works is considered low as operatives will be arriving by vehicles and not travelling through or in the areas the invasive species have been identified.

The likelihood of importation through topsoil will be removed as no soil is to be imported as part of the redevelopment of the existing site.

The likelihood of importation of an invasive species through long term operation of the site is considered low and most likely through site visitors walking in affected areas at Chirk Castle and the river corridor before returning to site.

Inherent risk

The inherent risk of importation of the identified species is from the operation of the site, following redevelopment, through site visitors walking in the areas affected and bringing the plants onto site via walking boots etc.. This will remain the main route for importation on the the site

This is a difficult risk to manage as it cannot be guaranteed that site visitors will always ensure they have cleaned their boots or walking equipment after being near the plants.

To manage the risk, identification notices will be put up in the reception building to assist with identification and the site managers will be trained in the identification of Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed and how to deal promptly with them if observed on site.

Control measures

During site redevelopment works

Operatives will be made aware of Japanese knotweed and Himalayan Balsam being present in the wider area around the site during the site induction where they will be shown images of the plants to assist identification. The identification notices will be prominently displayed in the welfare cabins.

The Principal Contractor will carry out the Canal and River Trust toolbox talk for operatives on site as a reminder during the project.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/original/43343-invasive-species-toolbox-talk.pdf?v=ac8506>

Further information regarding identification of species is to be found at <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/>

Japanese knotweed identification notice:

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/downloadDocument.cfm?id=369>

Himalayan Balsam identification notice:

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org//downloadDocument.cfm?id=33>

No soil will be imported to the site. All ground levels to be made up with material excavated during the works.

The Hornbeam hedging to be planted between pitches will be purchased from reputable outlets.

If at any stage either plant is identified on site the site manager is to be informed immediately and work cease in the affected area with boots, tools and plant cleaned down prior to removal following the 'Check, Clean, Dry' protocol. The area is to be fenced off, preventing access, until removal of the invasive species can take place.

The client and ecologist are to be informed immediately with the ecologist to advise on next steps which will include removal and disposal in a licensed landfill.

This risk assessment is to be updated as required.

Long term site management measures

On completion of the site redevelopment and prior to handover of the site from the Principal Contractor to the client, the Caravan and Motorhome Club site managers are to receive training in identification of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam and how to promptly deal with them if observed on site.

The most likely pathway onto site is a visitor who has been walking in an affected local areas and transmission through walking equipment.

Notices assisting with identification are to be put up in reception to raise visitor awareness of the plants.

If identified on site, site managers are to inform the area manager and close off the affected area preventing any access by site visitors. The area manager is to be responsible for employing a suitable specialist to remove and dispose of the plants as soon as reasonably practicable. All disposal to be to a licensed landfill.

If identified on site a new biosecurity risk assessment is to be undertaken superseding this document and regular checks made to ensure removal has been successful.