

Ascerta

Landscape, Arboricultural & Ecological Solutions
for the Built Environment

Biosecurity Risk Assessment

Commonwood Fishery
Wrexham
LL13 9TF
Ref: P.789.16

February 2018

Revision	Date	Description

Biosecurity Risk Assessment

Of

**Commonwood Fishery,
Wrexham,**

For

Mr and Mrs Paul Dunn

18 January 2018

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Risk Assessment Calculator

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Ascerta has been instructed by Mr and Mrs Paul Dunn to prepare a Biosecurity Risk Assessment for the works to be carried out during the construction of a new fishing lake, eight holiday fishing lodges, twelve holiday fishing pods, a central facility building and a combined reception / office / manager's lodge at Commonwood Fishery, Wrexham. Commonwood Fishery is located to the west of Buck Road, Wrexham, Denbighshire (hereafter referred to as the site). The site OS grid reference is SJ 376 531.
- 1.2 This Risk Assessment has been prepared to discharge condition 10 within decision notice HOLP/2017/0409 which states:

“No development shall commence until a Biosecurity Risk Assessment has been carried out and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with any recommendations that may be made within the assessment which shall include time scales for their implementation.”
- 1.3 The aim of this Risk Assessment is to detail the biosecurity protocols in place during clearing of vegetation and the protocols to be put in place once construction commences. A copy of this Risk Assessment will be held by all ecologists attending the site and will be outlined to contractors when site visits occur. Once the construction compound is in place, a copy of this Risk Assessment will be on display and referred to during site induction. This Risk Assessment will be updated as required should any additional biosecurity risks occur during the works.
- 1.4 This Risk Assessment has been drawn up following the *ARG-UK Advice Note 4. Amphibian disease precautions: a guide for UK fieldworkers, Version 1, February 2008*. The Risk Assessment Calculator has been modified from the *Biosecurity Risk Assessment for Amphibian Monitoring and Surveillance North Wales* undertaken by Matt Ellis for Countryside Council for Wales in March 2011.

2.0 Project Background

- 2.1 The development sites (P.789.16.04 Development site location Plan) are part of Commonwood Fishery, a commercial fishery with nine stocked fishing lakes and one small fry pond located to the west of Buck Road, Wrexham. The development proposals are set within three separate locations within the main fishery complex.

Site 1: This comprises an improved grassland field of approximately 2.2 ha, surrounded by species rich hedgerows containing some scattered trees and a tall ruderal understory. A species rich hedgerow bisects the field from east to west through the centre of the site. To the south of the site lies an improved grassland field containing a fishing lake surrounded by scrub and tall ruderal vegetation. Adjacent to the western hedgerow border lays the broadleaf woodland Borrass Woods. To the east of the site lies another fishing lake. The proposed developments for this area is the construction of a fishing lake, twelve holiday fishing pods and eight holiday fishing lodges.

Site 2: This is an area of tall ruderal vegetation of approximately 0.05 ha surrounded by hardstanding and improved grassland. This site is located between three fishing lakes, which lie to the north, east and west of the site. To the south of the site lies a stand of scrub vegetation with scattered trees followed by improved grassland. The proposed development for this site is the construction of a central facilities building.

Site 3: This comprises an area of improved grassland of approximately 0.01ha, situated on the eastern edge of an improved grassland field. To the east of this site lies a species rich hedgerow followed by amenity grassland, hardstanding and buildings. The proposed development for this site is the construction of a combined reception / office / manager's lodge.

These habitats were considered to have ecological value **within the zone of influence to county**.

- 2.2 Planning permission has been granted for the proposals decision notice HOLP/2017/0409.
- 2.3 Two statutory sites were identified within a 2km radius of the proposed development site and one non-statutory Wildlife Site (WS) was identified within a 1km radius of the proposed development site. Three areas of ancient woodland were identified within a 1km radius of the site.

The following statutory sites were identified within the vicinity of the proposals (with distance and direction from the site):

- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 (Wales) Ramsar (1.2km north west); and
- Vicarage Moss Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (1.2km north west).

2.0 Project Background (continued)

The following non-statutory site was identified within the vicinity of the proposals (with distance and direction from the site):

- Borrás Wood North WS adjacent to the western boundary of the site.

2.4 In addition, Canadian waterweed was noted within one of the ponds onsite which lies 62m north of Site 1 and the location of the new fishing lake.

3.0 Potential Risks of the Works

3.1 The works on the site (including estimated timescales) will include:

- Vegetation clearance prior to ground works (March to May);
- Moving amphibians (frogs, toad, smooth and palmate newt) from the site and relocating them to a suitable area within the site (March to June 2018). If great crested newts are found during hand searches, NRW will be contacted to discuss a way forward;
- Groundworks including excavation of new fishing lake (March to May 2018);
- Filling lake with water (May onwards);
- Stocking of fishing lake with fish (May onwards); and
- Construction works including siting of pods (in phases May/June 2018), siting of lodges (in phases, to be sold off plan) and siting of managers office / reception.

3.2 The Biosecurity risks associated with these works include the following:

- Risk of spread of Canadian waterweed within the site;
- Risk of spread of Canadian waterweed off-site;
- Risk of transfer of the fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Chytrid fungus) which can cause potentially fatal chytridiomycosis in amphibians onto the site; and
- Risk of transfer of the Chytrid fungus off-site if present in the on-site amphibian population;

3.0 Potential Risks of the Works (continued)

- 3.3 Other Biosecurity risks have been ruled out at the site, including transfer from the site of non-native invasive species such as Himalayan balsam, giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, Australian swamp stonecrop, parrot's-feather, New Zealand pigmy weed and *Elodea* spp. These species are not present on the site and there will be no transfer of materials to the site that have the potential to support these species.

Canada Goose, Himalayan balsam and New Zealand pigmy weed Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) have been recorded within 1km of the site.

Measures taken to avoid spread of Canadian waterweed and Chytrid fungus will also prevent the spread of these other potential biosecurity risks onto the site.

- 3.4 The measures taken to reduce the biodiversity risks associated with works on the site are detailed in the table over the page. It is considered if the measures detailed below are fully complied with, biosecurity risks associated with works at the site will be minimised. Other ecological issues that may arise as a result of the works, including nesting birds and habitat protection will be dealt with within the Ascerta P.789.16 Ecological Method Statement.

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No	Activity	Risks	Risk Level	Control Measures	Risk after control implemented
1	Vegetation clearance by contractors working on numerous sites across the country	• Transfer of Chytrid fungus onto the site. • Transfer of invasive species onto the site	High	1. Avoid driving onto the site; 2. Wash mud from vehicles and equipment prior to attending site; 3. Ensure vehicles drive across carpet tiles soaked in a disinfection solution placed at the site entrance and exit points; 4. Provide a wheel wash with a 1mg/ml solution of Virkon or a 1ml/9ml of household bleach at the site entrance for use by ecologists using the same footwear to visit different sites; 5. Wash mud from all work clothes and boots prior to attending site;	Low
2	Relocation of frog, toad, smooth newts and palmate newt from work areas to a suitable location on site by ecologist.	• Transfer of Chytrid fungus onto the site or onto the receptor location. • Transfer of invasive species onto the site	High	1. Avoid driving onto the site; 2. Wash mud from all work clothes and boots prior to attending site or keep separate set of boots for use at the site only; 3. Provide a foot wash with a 1mg/ml solution of Virkon or a 1ml/9ml of household bleach at the site entrance for use by ecologists using the same footwear to visit different sites; 4. Ensure all nets, containers and gloves used to move, hold or handle amphibians have been disinfected in the above solutions prior to use at the site. 5. Re-disinfect all equipment used to move or handle amphibians regularly during the movement period; 6. Ponds on the receptor site will not be entered;	Low

No	Activity	Risks	Risk Level	Control Measures	Risk after control implemented
3	Groundworks (including excavation of new fishing lake).			1. Wash mud from vehicles and equipment prior to attending site and when leaving the site; 2. Ensure vehicles drive across carpet tiles soaked in a disinfection solution placed at the site entrance and exit points; 3. Wash mud from all work clothes and boots prior to attending site and when leaving the site or keep work clothing for use at the site only.	
4	Filling lake with water	• Transfer of invasive species onto the site. • Transfer of Chytrid fungus onto the site.	High	Lake to be filled by natural means this will include rain, ground water, surface water and run-off. No water to be taken from existing lakes onsite.	Low
5	Stocking of fishing lake with fish	• Transfer of pathogens, parasites and non-native, non-target organisms.	High	Lake to be stocked in accordance with current legislation relating to fish movement and stocking.	Low

No	Activity	Risks	Risk Level	Control Measures	Risk after control implemented
6	Construction works			1. Wash mud from vehicles and equipment prior to attending site and when leaving the site; 2. Ensure vehicles drive across carpet tiles soaked in a disinfection solution placed at the site entrance and exit points; 3. Wash mud from all work clothes and boots prior to attending site and when leaving the site or keep work clothing for use at the site only;	