

Biosecurity Risk Assessment

New Development

Big Green Farm

Ellesmere Lane

Penley

Wrexham



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1. Scope of Works

This document outlines the principles that would be adopted for Biosecurity Management. It is recognised that the key risks to the environment are:

- Animal diseases
- Crop pests and diseases
- Tree diseases
- Weeds
- Invasive & Non native species (INNS)

2. Objectives

The objective of the Biosecurity Risk Assessment are to prevent the introduction or spread of INNS, weeds, pests & diseases as a consequence of the development works this includes measures to:

- Detect INNS, weeds, pests & diseases & prevent introduction, spread and/or proliferation
- Control detected controlled weeds, invasive & INNS
- Mitigate adverse impacts of any control & eradication actions on INNS, weeds, pests and diseases
- Assess risk, manage supply chains, inform all construction personnel and manage and inspect vehicles / machinery coming on to site.
- Mitigate any INNS, weeds, pests or disease impacts
- Report and record any infestation or disease incidents
- Identify performance standards to be achieved by the BMP
- Undertake a review of the BMP and identify the need for any further studies or actions
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This BMP assesses the potential for weeds, pests and diseases to be introduced to the project area as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed development.

Erlas Developments Ltd has identified the need to effectively manage potential impacts associated with weeds, pests and diseases for the construction and operation of the development.

3. Land

The site is approx 1.038 acre and is fronted by Ellesmere Lane with a property to the east and west boundaries and greenfield land to the rear. The land is currently stripped and clear.

4. Existing and Potential Weeds, Pests and Diseases

4.1 Weeds

A weed can be defined as an exotic species or a native species that colonises and persists in an ecosystem in which it did not previously exist and is unwanted in that environment. Weeds are able to successfully establish and spread due to their competitive edge over native species thereby changing the natural diversity and balance of ecological communities.

An induced disturbance to the natural environment such as clearing and movement of machinery, vehicles and equipment create ideal conditions for weed growth and contribute to weed spread.

4.2 Pests and Diseases

Many diseases threaten crops, plants and natural environment, these are spread by germs-bacteria, viruses, fungal spores and the eggs or larvae of insect pests. These germs often survive in soil and leaf litter, as well as on plants themselves. They can not move far on their own, but if they are carried diseases can spread more quickly.

5. Management Strategies

5.1 Overview

Biosecurity good practice refers to the way of working that would minimise the risk of contamination and the spread of animal and plant diseases, parasites and non-native species. As disease causing agents, plant pests, parasites and non-native species cannot always be seen, they can be picked up and carried on clothing and footwear, and on vehicles and equipment to other locations.

Biosecurity is therefore important when any land is entered where there is a risk of spreading pest or disease

5.2 INNS and Weed Management Strategy

Prevention

Prevention is the most cost-effective method to control the infestation of INNS and weeds within the project area and their associated damage to the environment

In order to minimise the potential spread of any weed or INNS, a pre-commencement walkover of the site will be undertaken to identify the current status of any weed or INNS present within the site. All effort will be made to avoid or minimise contact with any weed or INNS present.

Any INNS identified within the working area would be clearly identified with demarcation fencing. Demarcation fencing would be installed around any INNS present within the site.

All construction personal would if required be given a tool box talk on the presence of any weed or INNS, how to identify them and any associated bio-security procedures.

5.3 Treatment and Control

Physical methods of weed and INNS control include carefully controlled excavation, hand pulling, mowing and strimming. Any disposal off site would be as controlled waste.

Chemical control involves the use herbicides. Although widespread use of herbicides is generally not regarded as a suitable long term practice in weed control, it can be of value in localised situations. Where chemical control is deemed necessary adjacent to any watercourses stem injection would be employed instead of spraying. Where chemical control is required only

appropriately trained staff would carry out these works. Only a registered chemical would be used according to the instructions provided on the label.

5.4 Application of Biosecurity controls

The level of biosecurity control that should be practiced would vary according to the risk disease spread and the specific nature of the work to be done. For the purpose of this assessment the level of biosecurity control has been described in two levels, with level one covering the standard practices and level two in the event of a disease out break.

The level of biosecurity that is required to be applied is,

Level 1: Mainly good practice, ensuring footwear, equipment and machinery is clean.

Level 2: Under disease management restrictions specialist advice and official authorisation would be required before entering the site. In these situations the default action would be to avoid entry until advised otherwise.

6. Monitoring and Performance

Ongoing monitoring is an essential part of a biosecurity management plan, it can monitor the success of any implemented actions and confirm there are no impediments to native flora and fauna from potential increased competition of weeds or increased incidence of pest/diseases.

The monitoring will continue for the duration of the development.

Performance of the biosecurity plan against weed and pest control measures would be assessed against the following.

- There are no INNS or weed introductions within the working area
- There is no spread of existing INNS within the working area
- The working area is restored to a state that minimises potential for weed colonisation from disrupted areas

7. Permits and Consents

If needed any permits or consents will requested as required.