

Biosecurity Risk Assessment & Protocol for Land off Jacques Way, Wrexham, LL11 2BY

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INTRODUCTION

COMMISSION & AIMS

Pearce Environment Ltd were commissioned by Castlemead Group Ltd to produce a biosecurity risk assessment and protocol document for the Land of Jacques Way, Wrexham, LL11 2BY (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). The site is centred on approximate Ordnance Survey Grid Reference (OSGR) SJ 32850 50620.

This document is to be used to discharge Condition 4 of planning permission for the residential development of the site involving the erection of affordable housing units comprising 19 no. dwellings and 6 no. flats, and associated works (P/2018/0898). Planning permission was granted on 7th June 2019.

ECOLOGICAL SURVEYS & REPORTS

A Reptile Survey Report was produced by Pearce Environment Ltd in May 2018 (report reference: 200318).

KEY RISKS

INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES (INNS)

Non-Native Species (NNS) are any plant or animal species which have been deliberately/ negligently introduced by human activity to an area in which they do not naturally occur. Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) are NNS which cause adverse environmental, ecological and/ or economic impacts due to their ability to spread rapidly and overtake natural ecosystems.

Legislation

INNS are listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) making it an offence under Section 14 of the Act to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any non-native plant, or to release any non-native animal. If you have INNS on your premises you have a responsibility to prevent them from spreading into the wild. Examples of INNS listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) include Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Himalayan cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster simonsii*), montbretia (*Montbretia × crocosmiiflora*), rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*), signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*), Turkish crayfish (*Astacus leptodactylus*) and American mink (*Neovison vison*).

Additionally, under Section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act (1990), it is an offence to keep, treat or dispose of the waste products of invasive plant species in a manner likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health.

A number of other pieces of legislation restrict the keeping, transporting, introduction etc. of invasive, non-native animal species.

DISEASE

Harmful pathogens, such as bacteria, viruses and fungal spores, can cause huge damage to crops, trees and other wildlife if introduced into a new area. Examples include ash dieback (caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus*) and root rot (caused by fungus-like *Phytophthora* species). Furthermore, disease can be spread by INNS. For example, signal crayfish are a vector for crayfish plague which can be passed on to indigenous white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*), devastating natural populations.

SITE ASSESSMENT

INNS DATA

A search for INNS using Aderyn Wales¹ identified records for Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Bohemian knotweed (*Fallopia × bohemica*), wall cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*) and New Zealand Pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*).

STATUS ON THE SITE

No Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) were found on or adjacent to the site throughout the course of Phase 2 reptile surveys by Pearce Environment Ltd in 2018.

None of the trees on the site were found to display any symptoms of significant disease at the time of the Phase 2 reptile surveys by Pearce Environment Ltd in 2018.

RISK FACTORS

Given the likely absence of INNS on the site at the time of ecological survey(s) undertaken in 2018, the following risk factors are considered the most likely to result in the establishment/ disturbance of INNS on the site:

- Import of construction materials, topsoil, plants etc. containing INNS;
- Spread of INNS from adjacent railway;
- Spread of INNS from construction traffic.

BIOSECURITY PROTOCOL

Disease-causing agents and fragments, seeds or spores of INNS cannot always easily be seen and can adhere to clothing, footwear, plant/ machinery/ vehicle tracks and wheels, or equipment. Common means by which INNS/ disease are introduced or spread include:

- Movement of machinery/ vehicles/ equipment from contaminated areas into INNS/ disease-free areas without adequate cleaning and disinfection;
- Site personnel or machinery/ vehicles/ equipment entering into waterways without adequate cleaning and disinfection (in the case of aquatic INNS/ diseases);
- Importation and spreading of contaminated landscaping/ construction materials (particularly soils) into INNS/ disease-free areas;
- Inadequate control measures when undertaking works in contaminated areas.

The following biosecurity protocol must be followed throughout the entirety of the construction, operational and/ or decommissioning phases of the project, in order to minimise the risk of contamination and/ or the spread of INNS/ diseases.

¹ Aderyn, LERC Wales' Biodiversity Information & Reporting Database website (www.aderyn.lercwales.org.uk)

ECOLOGICAL CLERK OF WORKS (ECW)

- An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECW) must be appointed prior to the commencement of the development in order to monitor the status of INNS on the site.

CHECK, CLEAN, DRY

- A strict protocol of **CHECK, CLEAN, DRY** is to be strictly followed for all machinery/ vehicles/ equipment/ personnel prior to the commencement of works, before leaving the site and/ or when moving between sites:
 - 1) **CHECK** machinery/ vehicles/ equipment/ clothing for organisms – pay particular attention to areas that are damp or hard to inspect (such as wheel arches and tyres)
 - 2) **CLEAN** and wash all machinery/ vehicles/ equipment/ clothing thoroughly (within the infestation area when working in areas known to contain INNS)
 - 3) **DRY** all equipment and clothing – some organisms can live for many days in moist conditions
- Cleaning/ washdown facilities (including personnel boot washes) are to be installed in strategic locations for use by all contractors/ machinery/ vehicles on the site, and managed appropriately.
- Where water, steam or disinfectants are used to clean any machinery/ vehicles/ equipment, the resultant water/ material is to be appropriately disposed of and not discharged to any watercourse/ drainage system.
- A poster at the site entrances/ exits is recommended, containing the below information²:



- It is recommended that machinery/ vehicles utilise the same established tracks, wherever possible.

IMPORT OF MATERIALS/ PLANTS

- Any imported materials (such as topsoil and plants) must be obtained from a reputable source, which practices good biosecurity, and be free from INNS fragments/ spores/ seeds/ derivatives.
- Imported plants are to be checked for INNS/ disease prior to being planted on the site.

² NNSS – GB Non-Native Species Secretariat (2019) <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry>

TREATMENT/ CONTROL

- In the event INNS are identified on the site at any time during the construction period, the control/ eradication of INNS should be implemented.
- Method(s) of control are to be determined at the time based on the nature/ location/ species etc., and a control/ eradication plan produced following discussion with the ECW – methods may include chemical or physical control.
- All INNS derivatives resulting from control/ treatment will need to be removed by an appropriate operator and transferred to a licenced landfill.
- All chemicals used for the treatment/ control of non-native species should be stored and used in a responsible manner.

MONITORING & REPORTING

- Any new sightings of INNS are to be reported to the site manager immediately, who is to contact the ECW for advice.
- A search for INNS within the reptile conservation area (RCA) will be made by an ecologist during annual monitoring visits as part of the prescribed Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for this area by Pearce Environment Ltd (reference: 120919.HMP).
- Visits by an ECW throughout the development (and in relation to other ecological constraints) will ensure known INNS are contained, control/ treatment programmes are being followed (where appropriate) and biosecurity protocol are being adhered to.

TRAINING

- We would recommend that the site manager/ senior site staff undertake relevant training in INNS/ biosecurity – E-learning on the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) website is freely-available (<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/elearning/>).

Any further questions should be directed to Pearce Environment Ltd:

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