

Cinders Farm, Ruabon

Report to Inform Discharge of
Condition 11 (Planning Ref: RUA
P/2018/0577)

January 2020

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Issuing office

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1 Introduction

Site Description

- 1.1 The Site is the proposed location of a new poultry unit, located to the east of the town of Ruabon, near Wrexham, centred at OS grid reference SJ 3241 4404.
- 1.2 The Site consists of part of an arable field (the western field) and part of a species-poor semi-improved neutral grassland (the eastern field) within Cinders Farm. Species-poor hedgerows with mature trees form three of the field boundaries; wet ditches are located just outside the northern boundary of the Site and the along south-eastern boundary of the Site. The Site is surrounded by further arable fields to the north, south and west, with a minor road located to the east.

Planning Background and Proposed Works

- 1.3 Indigo Planning Limited, on behalf of the client, Wynnstay Home Farm Partnership, submitted a planning application on 12 July 2018 for:
- “Erection of four agricultural buildings for rearing livestock (poultry), ancillary buildings and plant, associated infrastructure, landscaping and access arrangements”.*
- 1.4 Wrexham County Borough Council granted planning consent on 4 March 2019, subject to the discharge of twenty conditions (Ref: RUA P/2018/0577). Planning condition 11 relates to ecology and states:
- “No development shall take place until there has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA a Biosecurity Risk Assessment that shall include measures to address invasive non-native species. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved Biosecurity Risk Assessment and its measures shall be retained thereafter”.*

Ecology Background

- 1.5 Ecological surveys have been undertaken by BSG Ecology on 28 March 2017, 23 May 2017 and 17 January 2018. No non-native invasive plant species, such as Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* or Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*, have been recorded on site. No other invasive species have been recorded. There is therefore, no risk of the spread of these invasive species from on-site sources during proposed development work.
- 1.6 During the construction stage of the development there is however, a potential risk that invasive plant species, such as Japanese knotweed, could be inadvertently introduced to the Site from off-site sources, such as stem and root fragments in imported soils.

Purpose of this document

- 1.7 The purpose of this report is to:
- Identify potential pathways whereby invasive/non-native species could be introduced to the site along with appropriate risk avoidance measures.
 - To provide a strategy to minimise the risk of importing invasive/non-native species to the site as a result of construction and operational phases of the development.
- 1.8 A copy of this document will be kept on site throughout the construction period for reference by the Contractor and will be appended to the contractors Construction Method Statement.

2 Biosecurity Risk Assessment

2.1 Table 1 sets out a) details of potential invasive/non-native species that could be inadvertently bought to the site and b) operational procedures required to minimise these risks and to deal with any occurrences.

Table 1: Invasive/non-native species risk assessment

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational procedure	Likelihood of risk
Himalayan balsam.	Spread of species via construction machinery/movement of soil from within the site.	Very low/Negligible. Species not present on site.	Ensure that contractors are aware of what Himalayan balsam looks like. Posters to be displayed in site cabin. If Himalayan balsam is recorded on site a specialist contractor will be employed to remove the plant.	Very low/negligible. Species not present on site.
Himalayan balsam.	Introduction of seeds via contaminated soil.	Medium. Potential to introduce invasive species through landscaping scheme, if soil/compost is imported.	All plants and planting are to comply with the requirements of all current/relevant British Standard Specifications. Including BS3936: Parts 1 & 4 and BS4428: 1989. All planting to be British Grown stock and all native species to be local provenance. Compost/soil will be obtained from a reputable supplier to comply with BS3882: 2015.	Very low. With the operational procedures in place.

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational procedure	Likelihood of risk
Himalayan balsam.	Introduction of seeds via contaminated soil on construction machinery from off-site sources.	Medium. Potential to introduce invasive species through contaminated soils.	Construction machinery and footwear and clothing of site personnel will be thoroughly cleaned to ensure that they are free from mud prior to entering the site to avoid any potential contamination from other sites.	Low. With the operational procedures in place.
Japanese knotweed.	Spread of species via construction machinery/movement of soil from within the site.	Very low/Negligible. Species not present on site.	Ensure that contractors are aware of what Japanese knotweed looks like. Posters to be displayed in site cabin. If Japanese knotweed is recorded on site a specialist contractor will be employed to remove the plant.	Very low/negligible. Species not present on site.
Japanese knotweed.	Introduction of plant fragments via contaminated soil.	Medium. Potential to introduce invasive species through landscaping scheme, if soil/compost is imported.	All plants and planting are to comply with the requirements of all current/relevant British Standard Specifications. Including BS3936: Parts 1 & 4 and BS4428: 1989. All planting to be British Grown stock and all native species to be local provenance. Compost/soil will be obtained from a reputable supplier to comply with BS3882: 2015.	Very low. With the operational procedures in place.

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational procedure	Likelihood of risk
Japanese knotweed.	Introduction of seeds/plant fragments via contaminated soil on construction machinery from off-site sources.	Medium. Potential to introduce invasive species through contaminated soils.	Construction machinery and footwear and clothing of site personnel will be thoroughly cleaned to ensure that they are free from mud prior to entering the site to avoid any potential contamination from other sites.	Low. With the operational procedures in place.
Garden escapees (e.g. Spanish bluebell).	Spread of species via construction machinery/movement of soil.	Very low. Species not present on site.	Posters of potential species to be displayed in site cabin. Advice of landscape architect to be sought if any garden escapees are identified on site.	Low. Species not known to be present on site.
Garden escapees (e.g. Spanish bluebell).	Introduction of plants via landscaping scheme.	Medium. Potential to introduce invasive species through landscaping scheme.	All plants and planting are to comply with the requirements of all current/relevant British Standard Specifications. Including BS3936: Parts 1 & 4 and BS4428: 1989. All planting to be British Grown stock and all native species to be local provenance. Compost/soil will be obtained from a reputable supplier to comply with BS3882: 2015.	Low. With the operational procedures in place.

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational procedure	Likelihood of risk
Invasive non-native aquatic plant species.	Introduction of plants via survey equipment and personnel.	Medium.	The transfer of amphibian diseases, as well as invasive non-native species will be minimised by undertaking cleaning and disinfection of equipment. Equipment will include footwear, clothing, nets and bottle traps. All debris, plant fragments and mud will be scrubbed off and rinsed with water before attending site. Disinfection will comprise soaking in a Virkon solution for 1 minute (or as otherwise stated in product instructions). Fabrics will be washed on a 40°C cycle. Field equipment will be stored in plastic bags during transit and storage to reduce potential contamination. Bottle traps will be pond-specific to avoid any cross contamination between different ponds. Disinfectant will be disposed of appropriately.	Low. With the operational procedures in place.

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational procedure	Likelihood of risk
<i>Chytrid</i> (fungus affecting amphibians).	Introduction via survey equipment and personnel.	Medium. Chytrid fungus has been identified in the local area.	The transfer of amphibian diseases, as well as invasive non-native species will be minimised by undertaking cleaning and disinfection of equipment. Equipment will include footwear, clothing, nets and bottle traps. All debris, plant fragments and mud will be scrubbed off and rinsed with water before attending site. Disinfection will comprise soaking in a Virkon solution for 1 minute (or as otherwise stated in product instructions). Fabrics will be washed on a 40°C cycle. Field equipment will be stored in plastic bags during transit and storage to reduce potential contamination. Bottle traps will be pond-specific to avoid any cross contamination between different ponds. Disinfectant will be disposed of appropriately.	Low. With the operational procedures in place.