

BIOSECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT

OAK ROAD, WREXHAM

REC REFERENCE: 1CO106365EC4R2

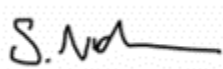
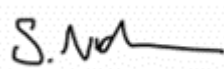
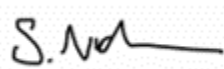
REPORT PREPARED FOR: CONRAD ENERGY LIMITED

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

Issue/revision	Issue 1	Revision 1	Revision 2
Remarks	Final	Revised	Revised
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Resource and Environmental Consultants Ltd (REC) has been commissioned by Conrad Energy Limited, herein referred to as 'the Client', to prepare a Biosecurity Risk Assessment for the site at Oak Road, Wrexham, LL13 9RG (grid reference: SJ38694951) to support the discharge of condition 7 of planning permission P/2018/0890 for the erection of a 9.9 mW gas fired power station and associated infrastructure. The Site Location Plan is available as **Drawing 1** and proposals are available as **Drawing 2** (both appended).

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal has previously been prepared by REC Ltd (Ref: 1CO106365EC1R1, dated October 2018) which assessed the site for any ecological potential and provided mitigation measures as necessary. The report concluded that Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), an invasive non-native species listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), was present on site. Recommendations for the eradication of the Japanese knotweed prior to any works commencing was recommended.

Wrexham Borough Council has since granted permission (P/2018/0890) for the proposals with a number of planning conditions, of which condition 7 states that:

"No development shall commence until a biosecurity risk assessment has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the details as may be approved."

This document will support in the discharge of condition 7.

Due to site clearance in late 2019, the methodology has been modified to be ensure that the recommendations are relevant to the current state of the site.

1.2 Consultation Response

Natural Resource Wales (NRW) provided a consultation response in their letter dated 14/11/2018 (CAS-70594-W4D1) which stated the following:

"We consider biosecurity to be a material consideration owing to the nature and location of the proposal. In this case, biosecurity issues concern invasive non-native species (INNS) and diseases. We therefore advise that any consent includes the imposition of a condition requiring the submission and implementation of a Biosecurity Risk Assessment to the satisfaction of the LPA."

Condition 2: Biosecurity: No development shall take place until a Biosecurity Risk Assessment has been submitted and approved to the satisfaction of the LPA.



We consider that this assessment must include

- (i) appropriate measures to control any INNS on site; and*
- (ii) measures or actions that aim to prevent INNS being introduced to the site for the duration of construction and operational phases of the scheme.”*

1.3 Site Description

The site is currently an isolated piece of land situated south of an industrial site and north of Oak Road, Wrexham (**Drawing 1** - appended). There is a small area of amenity grassland and ornamental hedgerow bordering the site to the south east.

1.4 Development Proposals

The development proposals include the creation of a flexible power plant, which includes transformers and associated units (**Drawing 2** - appended). The proposed development will result in the loss of semi-improved grassland, tall ruderal vegetation, scrub and scattered trees.

The Wrexham industrial estate (WIE), in which the site is located, is an important site at the European and domestic level for great crested newt. As such, the WIE is the subject of specific policy requirements laid out in LPG 29 (LPG 29 – Employment Development and Nature Conservation). These require mitigation measures to be imposed with any development proposals.

1.5 Confidentiality

REC has prepared this report solely for the use of the Client and those parties with whom a warranty agreement has been executed, or with whom an assignment has been agreed. Should any third party wish to use or rely upon the contents of the report, written approval must be sought from REC. A charge may be levied against such approval.





2. BIOSECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT

2.1 Potential Sources

Japanese knotweed is present on site. The location of the Japanese knotweed is available as **Drawing 1** (appended). A photograph of the Japanese knotweed on site can be found in **Appendix 1**.

No additional invasive animal or plant species were observed during the site visit. However, there is potential for invasive species and biological diseases to be transported onto the site via the following pathways:

- ▶ a variety of machinery and vehicles will be on site and within the immediate vicinity. These vehicles may carry invasive species, pests or biological diseases from offsite areas;
- ▶ the materials and equipment to be used during construction may originate from an area where invasive species, pests or biological diseases are present, or may be infected with such species during transport;
- ▶ site operatives and personnel can carry invasive species, pests or biological diseases on their boots;
- ▶ they may naturally colonise the site from the surrounding landscape, if present; and,
- ▶ they may be deliberately introduced to the site.

2.2 Eradication

It is proposed that full eradication of the Japanese knotweed will be undertaken prior to any works commencing on site. All works will be undertaken by a suitably qualified invasive species specialist following the methods below:

2.2.1 Updated Site Visit

An invasive species specialist will attend site prior to any removal work being undertaken. This will be to assess the current spread of invasive species on site. It is likely that rhizomes will still be present within the soil and will need treating. Therefore, following methodology will be undertaken:

2.2.1.1 Chemical Treatment

Chemical treatment is a cost-effective treatment and control method using a Herbicide Treatment Programme. This involves methodical and carefully managed visits where the correct use of chemical over a sustained period of time will exhaust the plant and prevent the spread of knotweed which in turn will remove the risk of damage being caused to the site during the treatment period.

The treatment programmed will be designed to cause maximum damage to the plant and achieve effective control in a short period of time. Suitable herbicides applied correctly can damage the knotweed crown and rhizome significantly enough to eventually prevent stem re-growth.



2.3 Control Measures

The existing Japanese knotweed on site will be eradicated prior to the commencement of any works commencing using either digging or chemical treatment. A number of safeguarding methods will be put in place to avoid and control biosecurity risks on site during the proposed works. The working methods will be:

- ▶ the site foreman is responsible for ensuring all site operatives are aware of potential invasive species and diseases prior to the commencement of works;
- ▶ the site will be fully secured outside of working hours to prevent unauthorised access;
- ▶ a wheel cleaning facility will be installed on site to prevent any fragments of invasive or diseases species leaving the designated area. Care will be taken to the tyres and wheel arches. This will occur within a designated area of concrete next to the entrance gate;
- ▶ all site operatives will be provided with access to a boot cleaning facility with appropriate and approved disinfectants and pesticides;
- ▶ the machinery and equipment (unless disposable) to be used on site will be stored within a designated concrete area and will be disinfected and washed prior to, and after, each use, where applicable; and,
- ▶ works will cease if an invasive species or disease is observed, and advice will be sought from a qualified specialist.

With these mitigation measures in place, the likelihood of invasive species colonising the site via any of the recognised pathways is considered to be low.





2.4 Monitoring and Reporting

The site will be checked regularly during the construction phase of the development to ensure that no invasive species are present on site. If an invasive species is encountered, all works will temporarily cease until the species has been eradicated from the site (under guidance of an invasive species specialist).

During operation, the site will be annually checked for invasive species by an Ecological Clerk of Work (ECoW). The ideal time of year to detect invasive species is between May and August as invasive plant species are easier to identify.





Drawings

- ▶ Drawing 1 – Site Location Plan and Location of Japanese Knotweed
- ▶ Drawing 2 – Site Proposals



DRAWING 1 – Site Location Plan and Location of Japanese Knotweed





Appendix

- ▶ Appendix 1 – Photograph of Japanese Knotweed





APPENDIX 1 – Photograph of Japanese Knotweed

Photograph	Comments
	Invasive Japanese knotweed.

