



Barratt Homes Manchester

Henthorn Road, Clitheroe

INVASIVE SPECIES TREATMENT & CONTROL

METHOD STATEMENT

June 2014

FPCR Environment and Design Ltd

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This method statement has been produced on behalf of Taylor Wimpey and Barratt Homes by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd in order to discharge Condition 21 of The Planning Inspectorates appeal decision reference APP/T2350/A/11/2161186 and to ensure that development undertaken by Taylor Wimpey, Barratt Homes, or their sub-contractors does not contravene any current legislation. Works proposed include the construction of residential buildings with associated green infrastructure.
- 1.2 As part of the original planning application an Initial Ecological Assessment (FPCR, November 2010) was undertaken which detailed the presence of stands of Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* both on site and adjacent to the site along the banks of the River Ribble.
- 1.3 FPCR conducted a survey on October 4th 2012 to map areas of Himalayan balsam in order to inform this method statement. During this survey small stands of Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* were discovered along the south eastern site boundary that is adjacent to Siddows Hall.
- 1.4 In order to ensure that all works are undertaken in compliance with the above legislation the Appeal Decision condition 21 states that:

'no development shall begin until a detailed method statement for the removal treatment and control of Himalayan Balsam on site has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local Planning Authority.'
- 1.5 Section 4 below details the methodologies to be followed.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Himalayan or Indian Balsam (figure 1) is an invasive 'alien' species that grows in dense stands that suppresses the growth of native grasses and other flora. Each plant produces at least 500 seeds which are capable of being catapulted up to 7m away from the parent plant by the slightest disturbance of the seed pods.
- 2.2 Japanese Knotweed (figure 2) is an invasive 'alien' weed and is able to spread from fragments of the plant as small as 10 mm. The ability of Japanese knotweed to reproduce vegetatively by means of resilient rhizomes, either directly by rhizome extension or by earth cartage containing rhizome fragments enables large stands to develop. The rhizome system can extend up to 7m away from the parent plant and 2m deep and is primarily responsible for the spread of the plant within sites with stands potentially spreading at a rate of several metres per year. The movement and use of soil contaminated by fragments of rhizomes is the primary method of spread between sites, however, the plant is also able to spread by transfer of cut stem material.



Figure 1: Himalayan Balsam



Figure 2: Japanese Knotweed

- 2.3 The on site areas where these invasive species have been found is shown in Figure 3. The Japanese knotweed consists of two small stands adjacent to Siddows Hall. The Himalayan balsam is spread over a wide area in the south eastern corner of the site, in stands of varying size.

3.0 LEGISLATION

- 3.1 Under Section 14, Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – it is an offence to knowingly introduce both Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam. Under the Environmental Protection, (Duty of Care) Regs 1991 and Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sect 34, soil contaminated with Japanese Knotweed or Himalayan Balsam is classed as 'controlled waste' and can only be disposed of in a registered landfill site.
- 3.2 Other relevant legislation includes:
- Town & Country Planning Act 1990 Pt VIII, Chapter II, Sects 215 – 219
 - Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949
 - Highways Act 1980, Sect 154, Section 100 (9)
 - Environment Protection Act 1980, Section 80 Water Resources Act 1991 – care needs to be taken when spraying or treating invasive species in the presence of a watercourse (whether occasionally dry or otherwise). Under section 221 of the Act watercourses are deemed to be "rivers, streams, ditches, drains, cuts, culverts, dykes, sluices, sewers and passages through which water flows"

4.0 METHOD STATEMENT

- 4.1 Prior to the commencement of works all construction staff shall be briefed in relation to the contents of this method statement which should then be displayed prominently within the site office.
- 4.2 Treatment areas should be clearly signposted and demarked

Himalayan Balsam

- 4.3 Control measures for Himalayan Balsam should aim to prevent seeding therefore stands of Himalayan Balsam should be sprayed with a glyphosate based herbicide or hand pulled around July when the plant begins to flower.
- 4.4 If spraying is the selected control method, this should only be undertaken on dry days with no wind to avoid drift to other species within the area.
- 4.5 Due to the proximity of some of the stands to a water course the Environment Agencies consent will be required for spraying. This should be sought through completion of form AqHerb01 (January 2010).

Japanese Knotweed

- 4.6 The owner of the land adjacent to the south eastern boundary of the site should be informed in writing regarding the presence of Japanese Knotweed on their land and that in accordance with the Environmental Agency Code of Practice 2006 they could be breaking the law by allowing it to spread into adjacent land and thereby causing a common nuisance.
- 4.7 If possible a good quality root barrier membrane should be installed between the contaminated area on site and the neighbouring property to prevent re-infestation. Installation should be done under supervision of an experienced ecologist/Japanese knotweed specialist. Installation would

need to cover an area 7m from the edge of the stand and 2m down to try and prevent rhizome growth into the site.

- 4.8 There are several ways to treat Japanese knotweed and this depends on the speed of removal required and whether there are any other areas within the site that the stand can be stored on or buried under. As the plant is in an area where no development is to occur and consists of only two small stands the following method is considered the most appropriate for this site.
- 4.9 The infected area of Japanese Knotweed should be sprayed or injected with herbicide by a specialist Japanese Knotweed sub-contractor and remain untouched for a minimum of 14 days. Spraying can only occur once the plant reaches 1-1.5m and should not be carried out after the first frosts.
- 4.10 Once spraying/injection has taken place the surface crowns and rhizomes should be scraped into a pile, the exposed ground cultivated to the depth of the rhizomes and the piled material turned and spread over the cultivated area.
- 4.11 A herbicide treatment regime should then be put in place. The excavated knotweed should be treated with glyphosate or similar over the growing season and once the plant has reached 1-1.5m. Following treatment the plants should be left for 14 days and then rotovated to stimulate growth. This regime should continue through the growing season until the first frosts and should be continued over a number of years.
- 4.12 To prevent cross contamination all hand held tools and boots must be washed prior to leaving the infected area. Plant must be jet washed before leaving the contaminated area with particular care taken with the tracks, buckets, wheel arches and tyre treads.

Monitoring and On-going Management

- 4.13 It is recommended that the affected areas should be monitored for any regrowth over a seven year period, and that if regrowth is discovered the areas be retreated either using herbicide alone or by digging and burial/removal off site or treatment on site.
- 4.14 It is extremely unlikely that Himalayan Balsam will be completely eradicated due to the high possibility that water borne seeds will continue to be dispersed along the River Ribble. Treatment with herbicide or hand pulling will need to continue over a number of years.