

Our ref: 10300/ALS
Approved: APD / 07.09.23

Keepmoat Homes Limited
The Waterfront,
Lakeside Boulevard,
Doncaster
DN4 5PL

masterplanning ■
environmental assessment ■
landscape design ■
urban design ■
ecology ■
architecture ■
arboriculture ■
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7th September 2023

RE: Discharge of Condition 24 in relation to Planning Application SMD/2015/0424 - Invasive Species Survey and Method Statement

1.0 INTRODUCTION

24. Prior to the commencement of development, a detailed method statement for the removal, treatment and control of Himalayan Balsam shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall be fully implemented in accordance with the details herein approved.

Reason:- In the interests of nature conservation.

- 1.1 The following report has been prepared by FPCR Environment & Design on behalf of Keepmoat Homes. It provides details of an invasive species survey undertaken on land west of of Cheadle Road, Upper Tean, Staffordshire. Results of the survey are provided, with mitigation and methods presented for the treatment and removal of the species recorded on site.
- 1.2 The site was surveyed for the presence of invasive species on the 13th July 2023 following the discovery of a number of areas of Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* during the Phase 1 Survey 7th and 18th July 2020.
- 1.3 Himalayan balsam is listed on Schedule 9 Part 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA) as invasive weeds. As such, they are banned from sale and release. Section 14 of the WCA 1981 (as amended) prohibits the establishment of non – native plant species, in particular those species listed on Schedule 9 Part 2. Under provisions made within the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an offence to spread this species and liability may also be extended to situations where a landowner has knowingly permitted the spread of these invasive, non-native species onto neighbouring land.

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- 1.4 Failure to manage and dispose of Himalayan balsam in accordance with current guidelines and legislation can lead to prosecution.

2.0 LEGISLATION

- 2.1 Section 14 (2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) states that:
“if any person plants or otherwise causes to grow in the wild any plant (or hybrid of any plant) which is included in Part 2 of Schedule 9, he shall be guilty of an offence”.
- 2.2 Himalayan balsam is a Schedule 9 listed plant. Under the Environmental Protection, (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991 and Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section 34, soil contaminated with these plants is classed as ‘controlled waste’ and can only be disposed of in a registered landfill site, unless appropriate on-site treatment and disposal is undertaken.
- 2.3 More recently the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, Section 57 can also be used to require someone to control the growth of Japanese knotweed and other plants that are capable of causing serious problems to communities.

Other relevant legislation includes:

- Town & Country Planning Act 1990 Pt VIII, Chapter II, Sects 215 – 219
- Environmental Protection Act 1980 section 80
- 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

3.0 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 A systematic walkover of the site was undertaken on the 13th of July 2023 to ascertain the extent of Himalayan Balsam (HB) within the site boundary. The location and approximate extent of the species was recorded and mapped as shown in Figure 1.

4.0 SURVEY RESULTS

- 4.1 Himalayan balsam was recorded frequently in the western side of site. The location and extent of cover is mapped on Figure 1: Himalayan Balsam Location Plan, with photographs included below.



Photograph 1: Himalayan Balsam on the edge of the woodland

Photograph 2: Himalayan Balsam scattered within the grassland in the west

5.0 DISCUSSION

Himalayan Balsam Growth and Spread

- 5.1 Himalayan balsam is an invasive non-native aggressive annual weed. It typically grows along water courses on damp soils establishing dense stands over the late spring/summer and dying back in autumn. Reproduction is by means of seed dispersal. Able to grow up to 3m in height, Himalayan balsam flowers between June and October, producing between 4-16 seeds per seed pod from August until October. Once mature, pods explode scattering the seed as much as 7m away, although as they can be transported by water, this can lead to spread further downstream of any stand. Seeds may remain viable for up to two years in suitable conditions.

Problems caused by Himalayan Balsam

- 5.2 Himalayan balsam causes problems related to both nature conservation and the landscaped environment. The dense nature of stands suppresses the growth of native flora. On die back in the autumn, banks are usually bare of other stabilising vegetation and become liable to erosion.

Potential impacts

- 5.3 Himalayan balsam is present frequently in the western side of the site and along the watercourse on the edge of site. The appropriate remediation, removal and mitigation will be required to ensure that any construction works do not lead to the spread of the balsam on or off site. Where works will not directly affect the balsam, treatment is still needed due to the Biodiversity Net Gain commitments to enhance the western area of site.

Preventing further Himalayan Balsam spread

- 5.4 The following advice should be followed during construction to prevent the spread of Himalayan balsam:
- The area containing plants should be clearly marked out with signs indicating the presence of invasive species

- No material should be disturbed or removed from the exclusion zone unless it forms part of the targeted removal of Himalayan balsam.
- All contractors and site personnel on site are to receive a Toolbox Talk on Himalayan balsam (and other invasive species listed) identification and any relevant site practices on their first day before they commence work. Posters highlighting the key features of the plant should be displayed in all communal areas.
- No new soil materials brought onto site should be stored within 10m of HB infested areas during the period June – October when seeds disperse isolated areas.
- Any arising seed pods should be bagged prior to removal to prevent incidental spread once cut. Arisings can be burned or buried on site.
- Any arising seed pods from balsam removal should not be allowed to enter any watercourse.

Control Strategy

- 5.5 A localised control effort can eradicate an infestation over two to three years. Plants may re-establish from infestations located upstream of the site; therefore, on-going management and control is likely to be required.
- 5.6 Himalayan balsam identified on site is confined near and along the watercourse. As such, hand pulling is likely to be the most effective method of control. Mechanical control can also be undertaken alongside hand pulling. Chemical control is not recommended in this instance due to the potential for harm to fauna and the proximity to the watercourse.

Hand pulling

- 5.7 The shallow roots of Himalayan balsam mean that plants can be easily pulled up by hand. Plants can be pulled as soon as they are visible. This technique is most successful in the first half of the growing season, prior to the production of flowers (from June onwards). Hand pulling must take place before the plant produces seed.
- The most effective period for hand-pulling is generally May – June, when plants are large enough to pull easily and have not produced seed.
 - Arisings should be manually crushed along the entirety of the stem and then left in a single pile to decompose naturally. Once left in a compost pile, plants should not be disturbed or moved. Compost piles should be periodically checked to ensure flowers are not emerging/ seeds are not being produced. If flowers are observed, stems should be re-crushed to ensure the plant cannot re-root or grow. Alternatively, plants may be dried, burnt or buried on site.
 - The soil in an area where plants have been removed will contain a seedbank. Seeds are likely to germinate once adjacent plants have been removed during the growing season. It is therefore recommended that hand pulling is undertaken at least twice within the same area of infestation with a period approximately 4 weeks between to allow subsequent germination to take place. The same disposal method should be used as detailed above.
 - Hand pulling must stop when seed pods are developing to prevent further spread.

- Hand pulling is the most effective technique, however, can be time consuming and labour intensive.

Mechanical Control

- 5.8 Cutting or strimming can be an effective method of control providing the stem is cut below the lowest node (to prevent regeneration). The frequency of cutting must be enough to prevent flowering.
- Stems must be cut to ground level, below the lowest node. Any cuts above the lowest node will lead to regrowth and re-flowering. Cutting too early will promote greater seed production from the plants that re-grow.
 - Any mechanical control must ensure that dense vegetation is not removed during the active bird breeding period (March – August, inclusive) as this may present a risk to nesting birds.
 - Cutting must not take place once the seedheads have formed, as this will distribute them, making the problem worse.
 - When using mechanical control effective washing of equipment should take place to ensure the Himalayan balsam is not spread offsite.

Decontaminating Machinery

- 5.9 The decontamination of vehicles is a critical element of HB control operations. The below points outline the key measures:
- Clean all vehicles before using them to move HB.
 - Clean the rear of dumper trucks after transporting contaminated spoil to the receptor cell to prevent contamination of haul routes.
 - Use a pressure washer and stiff-haired brushes to clean the vehicles, making sure that any areas that might retain rhizomes or seeds are thoroughly scoured.
 - Particular attention should be paid to buckets, quick hitches, the rear of dumpers, caterpillar tracks, tyre treads and wheel arches.
 - Any material dislodged during this process must be included within the HB waste.
 - This process must only be undertaken over a root barrier membrane layer or hard surface that can contain and collect the material washed off.
 - This material must not be allowed to contaminate drains, ditches or watercourses.
 - People who are appropriately trained in HB identification should do the cleaning.
 - A thorough inspection should be carried out before the vehicle is used for other duties.

Monitoring

- 5.10 Monitoring will be carried out by the site foreman and contractor to provide a baseline for future monitoring and every 4-6 weeks during the growing season. The contractor and site foreman will agree the level of control achieved and ongoing treatment schedule. Recording sheets will be used to monitor any re-growth.

I trust the above provides you with all the necessary information needed. Should you require anything further please do not hesitate to contact me at our Sheffield office.

Yours sincerely

Amy Stanyard

Ecologist

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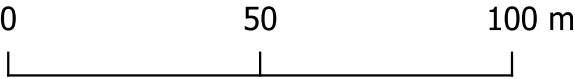
Key

 Red Line Boundary

Himalayan balsam Approximate Locations

 Dense

 Scattered





client
Keepmoat

project
Cheadle Road, Upper Tean

drawing title
Himalayan balsam Location Plan

scale @ A3
1:1,500

drawn
ALS

issue date
5/9/2023



Figure 1