



THE
ENVIRONMENT
PARTNERSHIP



WINGATES BOLTON HORSETAIL GUIDANCE NOTE

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1.0 Introduction

Purpose of the Guidance Note

- 1.1 This Guidance Note has been produced by The Environment Partnership (TEP) Limited on behalf of Harworth Group, to provide a summary and considerations for the management of Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) associated with the commercial development at Wingates, Bolton (hereby referred to as the 'Site').
- 1.2 An Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) survey of the Site was completed by Japanese Knotweed Solutions in August 2021.
- 1.3 Several infestations of Horsetail were identified, a native plant species which spreads in an invasive manner and can become dominant if left unchecked. This can impact the landscaping within the proposed development, including the landscape buffer zones shown on the Combined Illustrative Landscape Masterplan (TEP ref: D9665.001B), which is appended to the Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Strategy (TEP Ref: 9665.02.006).
- 1.4 The Horsetail infestations are shown on the Proposed extents of excavation and vertical membrane barrier (Japanese Knotweed Solutions ref: JK21-7525-02) which is also appended to the Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Strategy (TEP Ref: 9665.02.006).
- 1.5 Several of these infestations are within an area associated with the new permission for the Chorley Road frontage (ref. 16770/23, dated 17th January 2024), which was granted to incorporate a new access, road realignment and altered landscape buffers in this area.
- 1.6 This Guidance Note has therefore been produced to provide considerations for those works which are required in the close vicinity of the species, with particular concern within the Landscape Buffer Zone associated with the A6 Road Realignment, as shown on Combined Illustrative Landscape Masterplan (TEP ref: D9665.001B).

Structure of the Strategy

- 1.7 Chapter 2.0 comprises a summary of Horsetail and Chapter 3.0 provides a summary of the factors influencing management.
- 1.8 This Strategy should be read in conjunction with the Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Strategy (TEP Ref: 9665.02.006), and all documents referenced within the strategy.

Horsetail

Prevalence

- 1.9 Horsetail is a native, deep-rooted perennial weed which is found in a wide range of habitats, preferring acidic, poorly draining soils but can grow in almost any soils, with little nutrition requirements. There are several species of horsetail which are all poisonous to livestock and wild animals. The species is highly invasive, out-competing other plants within a habitat. Horsetail is extremely difficult to eliminate entirely, with management usually tailored toward suppressing vegetative growth. Figure 1 shows an image of the species.
- 1.10 Horsetail is a native species and therefore is not a Schedule 9 species and not subject to the legislation detailed within the Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Strategy (TEP ref: 9665.02.006). There is no legal obligation to prevent the spread of the species, however, due to its invasive nature, further spread could have significant impacts upon the habitats and landscape proposed within the Site, including the Landscape Buffer Zones.



Figure 1 Horsetail

Spread

- 1.11 Horsetail have fast-growing rhizomes which spread underground, allowing the plant to quickly colonise an area. Horsetail can also spread through spores dispersed by the wind. The plant forms in dense carpets which prevents other plants from establishing.

Biosecurity

- 1.12 The species can be extremely fast-spreading, and therefore consideration must be given to avoid further spread of the species.
- 1.13 Plans showing the location of Horsetail should be provided to all staff and a toolbox talk will be given during the site induction to ensure that site workers are able to identify Horsetail and apply measures to reduce the risk of spreading the species to the wider site. This will ensure that further spread of the species is minimised.

Treatment Methods

- 1.14 The Horsetail on site could be managed through cutting and suitable herbicide treatment in order to prevent further growth of the species. However, should the species require eradicating, excavation, and transport of contaminated to an identified receptor site will be required.
- 1.15 Use of herbicide should only be used where necessary and with caution, as it can harm other plants and species within adjacent habitats.
- 1.16 Any cuttings should be removed and disposed off-site, as they can cause the species to spread if inadvertently moved to other habitats.



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