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For

WINWORTH CONSTRUCTION LTD

HIMALAYAN BALSAM METHOD STATEMENT

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HIMALAYAN BALSAM METHOD STATEMENT – ANDREW LANE, COMPSTALL

1.0 Background

1.1 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) undertaken dated July 2029 undertaken and reported by Egniol Environment Ltd (Ref: EEL.7161.R03.001) recorded Himalayan balsam to be present in five location within the development site. These locations are indicated on the maps below as presented within the PEA at 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

1.2 Recommendations were made for the Himalayan balsam to be removed within these areas prior to construction work commencing on site. Use of a Gltphosate herbicide was recommended. As to whether this was undertaken is not known to Appletons.

1.3 At the time of writing construction work is well underway and Himalayan balsam within locations identified as 7, 9, 10 and 11 was not evident and unlikely to re-emerge given the ground works that has now been constructed in these area. Himalayan balsam within location 8 is around the banks and adjacent areas of Gigg Brook. It is likely that the species will re-emerge each season within this area and subsequently should be treated with a view to eradication at the earliest opportunity and managed in subsequent years as detailed in the following Method Statement.

1.4 Any other areas within the open wooded areas within the red edge planning site should also be monitored for Himalayan balsam and the same managed undertaken.

1.5 This Method Statement assumes that Himalayan balsam may still be present along the banks of Gigg Brook and makes recommendations for treatment to eradicate the species.

2.0 Himalayan balsam - Invasive Species Legislation

2.1 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 provides the primary controls on the release of non-native species into the wild in Great Britain. It is an offence under section 14(2) of the Act to 'plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild' any plant listed in Schedule 9, Part II. This includes Himalayan Balsam.

2.2 Section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 states that a person shall not:

- deposit controlled waste, or knowingly cause or knowingly permit controlled waste to be deposited in or on any land unless a waste management licence authorising the deposit is in force and the deposit is in accordance with the licence;
- treat, keep or dispose of controlled waste, or knowingly cause or knowingly permit controlled waste to be treated, kept or disposed of:
- in or on any land, or
- by means of any mobile plant, except under and in accordance with a waste management licence;

- treat, keep or dispose of controlled waste in a manner likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health.

2.3 Section 34 (3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and in Northern Ireland Section 5 (3) of the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 describe the types of persons authorised to carry or dispose of waste. The client must ensure that anyone removing wastes from a business's premises is one of the following:

- An authority which is a waste collection authority.
- A person who has a waste management licence.
- A person who is registered as a carrier of controlled waste.
- A person exempt from registration as a carrier of controlled waste.
- In Scotland, a waste disposal authority acting in accordance with a resolution made under section 54 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- Any district council in Northern Ireland.

2.4 As each company is responsible for its own waste, it is important that a client should ask for proof that an individual/ business is authorised to handle or transport it. The responsibility for the waste does not stop when the Waste Carrier removes it from the site; it extends until the waste has either been finally and properly disposed of or fully recovered. It is important to ensure that the waste is disposed of at a suitably licensed or exempt facility.
Further details available on the Environment Agency website www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

3.0 Species Characteristics – biology and ecology

3.1 **Himalayan balsam is a** tall annual herb which grows up to 2.5m in height. Himalayan Balsam grows in moist and semi-shaded damp places including waste ground, and thin woodlands. It commonly exploits linear corridors such as rivers or disused railway lines. Seeds germinate in February-March, followed by rapid growth in spring. Plants flower from July to Oct ober setting seed from mid-July. A single plant can produce 800 seeds which can remain viable for up to 2 years.

When ripe the seeds 'explode' when touched and are flung up to 7m away from parent plant with the slightest distu rbance.

3.2 The plant can spread rapidly along riverbanks as the seeds are carried downstream and will germinate on soft exposed, mud banks. Seeds may also be transported unintentionally by wildlife, machinery, grazing livestock and people using sites for recreation.

3.3 Himalayan balsam can rapidly out-compete native flora due to its ability to rapidly reproduce and grow in dense stands. The plant produces a large amount of nectar which may result in less pollination of native species by bumblebees and a subsequent loss of biodiversity. Overwinter, populations along river banks die back exposing banks to erosion and providing minimal cover for native fauna. Dead plant material can impede river flow as it gets washed into the water during flooding events.

4.0 Treatment

4.1 To prevent the spread of the plant naturally, treatment shall be carried out. This will ensure that the plant does not spread within the development site or onto adjacent landholdings which is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The plant is shallow rooted, so can be hand pulled or cut and is the preferred management technique. This should be undertaken annually, preferably in spring before the plant has flowered and set seed Any plants that emerge in spring and early summer shall be hand pulled before the plant has flowered. This will control and minimise the extent of the species as much as possible. The plant can also be cut which involves cutting or strimming at ground level below the first node on the stem of the plant.

4.2 Any pulled or cut vegetation will be either:

- Draped over trees / structures preventing contact with the ground,
- Spread across controlled areas of root membrane (e.g. Terram) to allow the cut plants to completely dry out, or;
- Destroyed through crushing the roots and base of the plants.

4.4 Alternatively, herbicide spot spraying treatment can be undertaken, carried out during May before the plant sets seed of each year until eradicated. The herbicide shall be Glyphosate based, which is permitted for use near water. The use of the herbicide requires consent of the Environment Agency in advance of any application. The licence may be applied for with the Aqherb01 form.

4.3 The works area shall be regularly monitored annually to identify any new shoots.

5.0 Future Contamination and Monitoring

5.1 Contaminated material/ soil must not under any circumstances be spread or stored within the retained habitats within the development envelope or outside of the site area. If contaminated spoil must be temporarily stored within non-contaminated areas on site, it must be stored either in a skip, on hardstanding or on Terram.

5.2 Upon leaving the contaminated area, all footwear, machinery and tools (used in the breaking of ground within contaminated areas) will be thoroughly cleaned to avoid the spread of invasive species, with all arisings remaining within the contaminated areas.

5.3 The are of treatment shall be monitored annually for up to 5 years until the Himalayan balsam is completely eradicated. Repeated treatment shall be undertaken if the species re-emerges.

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