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To whom it may concern,

Non-native Invasive Species Management Plan for Ivy Bank, Walmersley Old Road, Bury , BL9 6RY

Planning Reference: 70409

Introduction

Planning Condition 8 of the above planning permission requires that:

Condition 8: Prior to any earthworks a method statement including updated surveys detailing eradication and/or control and/or avoidance measures for rhododendron and vaiegated yellow archangel should be supplied to and agreed in writing to the Local Planning Authority. The agreed method statement shall be adhered to and implemented in full.

A suitable Non-native Invasive Species Management Plan for the site has been devised (see below) by Richard Roe (BSc, MSc, MCIEEM, CEnv). Richard is a professional ecologist with over 25 years of experience.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Roe
Principal Ecologist

Overview

Development proposals are to demolish an existing building and to construct a new dwelling at Ivy Bank.

An ecology walkover survey was completed by Appleton's on the 22nd April 2020. The ecology walkover survey identified a small area of variegated yellow-archangel located in a flower bed and a stand of Rhododendron *Rhododendron var.* was also identified within a shrub border.

An update ecology walkover survey was completed by Richard Roe on the 16th May 2025. It was identified that the previous stand of variegated yellow-archangel had already been removed from site as had the main stand of rhododendron. The applicant reported that the plants were dug up and were burnt on site. These works were completed approximately two years ago.

The location of the previous non-native invasive species showed no signs of any regrowth; as it is considered very likely that the previous stands have been eradicated from the site. The walkover survey identified a single small patch of dying rhododendron at the south-west corner of the site (see Figure 1 in the Appendix 4 for location and photograph in the Appendix). The plant was identified to the applicant. It is proposed that this small patch of rhododendron is cleared from the site following the methods described below. No other invasive, non-native plant species were identified at the site or considered likely to be present.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) 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. Both variegated yellow-archangel and *Rhododendron ponticum* are listed under Schedule 9, Part II.

Further relevant legislation includes:

- The Environmental Protection Act 1990;
- Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005;
- Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986;
- Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994; and
- Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991.

The management plan will aim to eliminate the risk of further spread of rhododendron to habitats adjacent to the site, within the site and to new sites through transportation of contaminated soils.

Rhododendron Control

Rhododendron is an exotic and invasive shrub that can seriously affect the biodiversity and landscape value of semi-natural habitats in Britain. It is listed on Part II, Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which makes it an offence to plant or otherwise cause it to grow in the wild.

Field survey identified the presence of a small, dying stand of rhododendron near the south-west corner of the site (see location shown on Figure 1 in Appendix and photograph below). No other stands of rhododendron was identified at the site. A fact sheet to identify rhododendron, as produced by the Non-native Species Secretariat, is provided in the Appendix.

The following procedure will be followed to eradicate rhododendron from the site and to prevent its spread:

- The small stand of rhododendron will be removed by hand/hand tools, and will be dug up in its entirety including all roots and destroyed on site by chipping or burning.
- If there is an interval between site clearance and the development works then the site will be inspected monthly for the establishment of seedlings, which will also be removed manually.

Works Programme Summary

- Update INNS Survey-completed May 2025
- Clearance of rhododendron (any time of year)
- Ongoing checks of construction site up to start of works

Biosecurity Risk Avoidance Measures

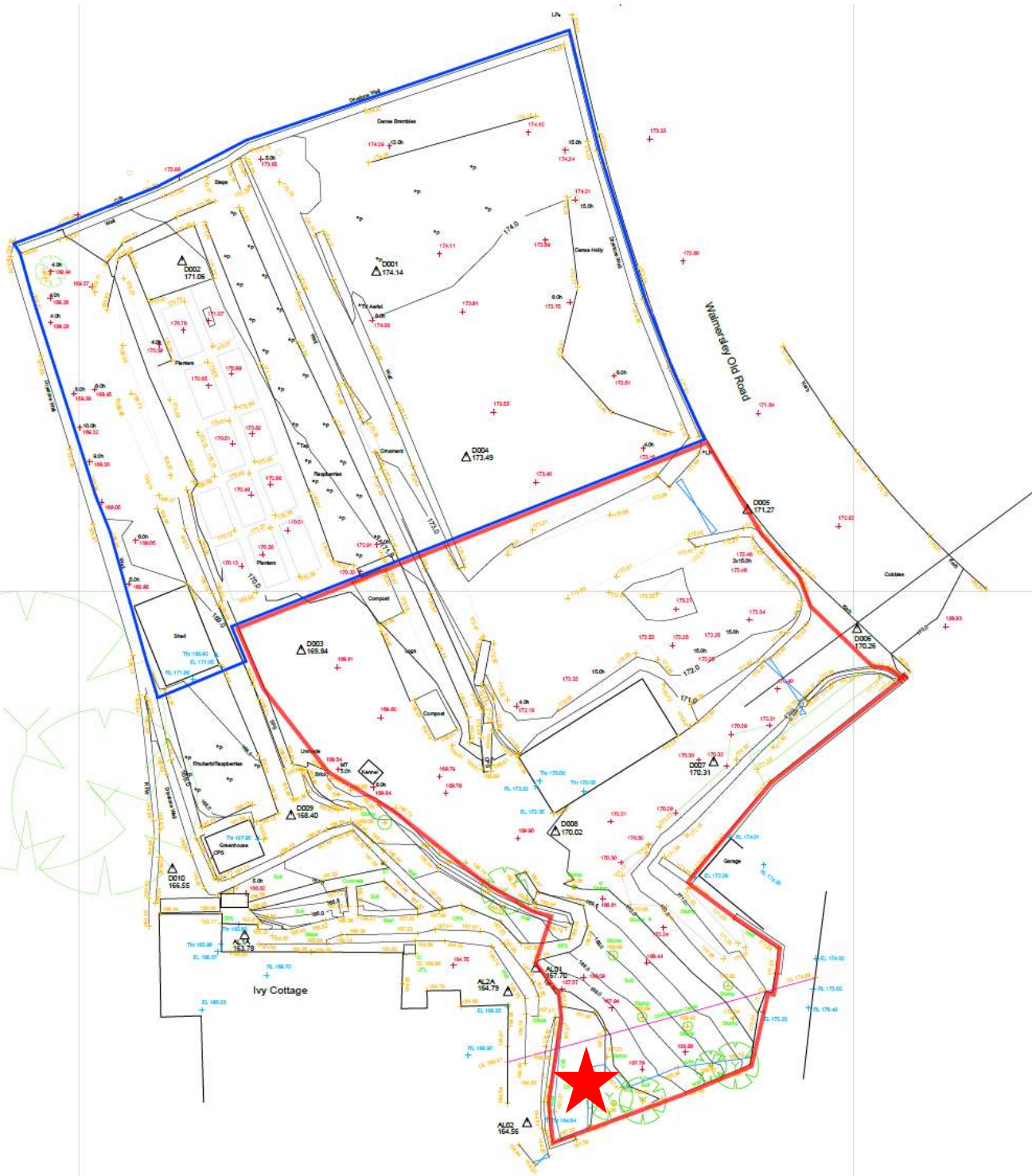
To limit the risk of spreading contaminated soils and seeds to other sites, it is recommended that the following measures are followed:-

- Contractors should wear footwear and outerwear that can easily be kept clean. With all footwear and outerwear cleaned and kept visually free from soil and organic debris.
- Vehicles and construction machinery should be cleaned of mud and organic debris particularly around tyres, wheels or under wheel arches before leaving the site.
- All tools and equipment used for vegetation clearance and any excavations should be kept clean, serviceable and free from organic debris.

Photograph 1- Remaining Small Stand of Rhododendron



Figure 1- Rhododendron
Location



Rhododendron Location

Rhododendron

Species Description

Scientific name: *Rhododendron ponticum*

AKA: Rhododendron

Native to: South-west Europe and south-west Asia. UK's stock is believed to come from Spain.

Habitat: Common on acid, peaty or sandy soils in woodland, heathland, rocky hill-sides, river banks, gardens and parks

A large evergreen shrub with leathery leaves, attractive purple to pink flowers and solid stems forming into a trunk when mature. Relatively easy to identify, but can be confused with cherry laurel or horticultural varieties of rhododendron. However, horticultural varieties of rhododendron are relatively rarely found in the wild. Spreads by suckers and seed, which are small and carried long distances by wind.

Introduced by gardeners in the late 18th century into parks and woodlands, where it was also used for game cover. Still widely planted, particularly by gardeners. Often grows in ecologically sensitive habitats, such as heath, broad-leaved woodland and dunes, where dense growth can considerably alter the structure of the habitat.

For details of legislation go to www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation.



Key ID Features



Leathery leaves with dull green upper surface



Pale underside



Leaves in spiral at end of stem



Stem usually up to 15cm diameter and 5m tall

Stems / trunk often dense and twisted



Usually pink / purple, occasionally whiteish

5 petals



Seeds pods are formed after flowering

3cm

Identification throughout the year

Varies little throughout the year as leaves are evergreen and woody stems remain the same. Flowers appear May to June followed by seed pods.

Similar Species

Cherry laurel
Non-native
(*Prunus laurocerasus*)



Leaves arranged alternately, ending in a single leaf



Flower heads white and clustered to form a spike

Rhododendron leaf
(for comparison)



Cherry laurel leaf



Toothed edge →

Glossy surface

Distribution

Widespread across the whole of the UK, most common in the south and west.

Source: NBN Gateway. Check website for current distribution



Varieties of Rhododendron

There are a large number of highly sought after species and varieties of rhododendron, of which the invasive *Rhododendron ponticum* is just one. It is unusual to encounter other varieties or species outside of planted habitats.

Examples of rhododendron varieties:



References in the further reading list can be used to distinguish between the different varieties if necessary.

References and further reading:

- Cullen, J (2005) "*Hardy rhododendron species: a guide to identification*". Collins
- Preston, C D and Croft, J M (1997) "*Aquatic plants in Britain and Ireland*". Harley Books
- Preston, C D, Pearman, D A and Dines, T A (editors) (2002) "*New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora*". Oxford University Press
- Stace, C (1999) "*Field Flora of the British Isles*". Cambridge University Press