

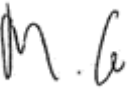
INVASIVE SPECIES METHOD STATEMENT

JULY 2023

JD Campus, Phase 1
Hollins Brook Way,
Bury,
BL9 8RR

U R B A N
G R E E N

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the Scheme

JD Group Ltd are proposing to develop land at Hollins Brook Way in Bury (hereafter referred to as ‘the site’). The proposals include the development the site in two phases. Phase 1 is planned to develop a “Kiddy Hub”, comprising a creche, private garden, car park, and one multi-purpose all weather pitch.

Urban Green have been appointed to undertake an Invasive Species Method Statement (ISMS) for the site.

The author of the report is Jake Healy, MSc, QCIEEM, Ecologist at Urban Green. Jake has experience providing ecological consulting services for a range of development schemes across the UK, including residential and commercial schemes.

1.2 Site Context

The site is located at National Grid Reference SD 81480 08664 and comprises a total area of approximately 0.8ha (see Figure 1).

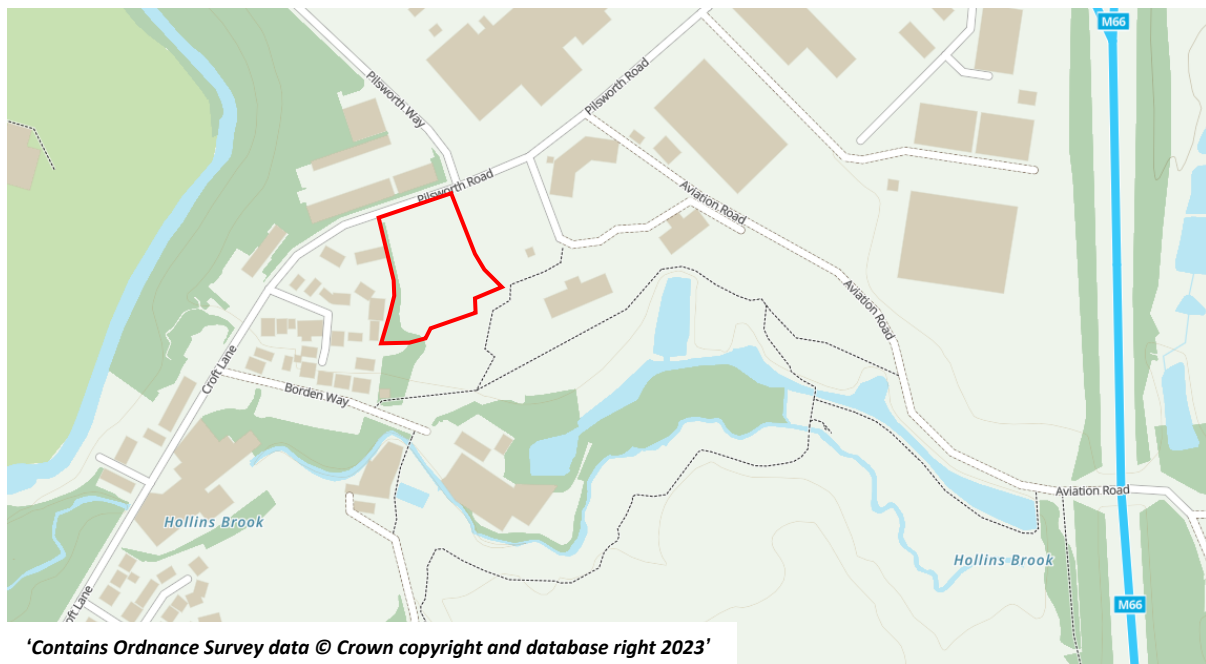


Figure 1 – Site Extent

The site is located on the rural-urban fringe of Bury, which is located approximately 2.5km north-west of the site. Pilsworth Industrial Estate is present immediately to the north-east of the site, comprising office blocks and commercial retail outlets. Hollins Vale Local Nature Reserve (LNR) immediately borders the south of the site. Hollins Brook and the River Roch are present close to the site, located approximately 100m south and 200m west of the site, respectively.

1.3 Purpose of this Report

This report has been produced to support the proposed planning application for Phase 1 of the site.

The aim of the report is to demonstrate the appropriate methods for the treatment and disposal of the non-native invasive species identified on site, which include montbretia (*Crocsmia x crocosmiiflora*)

and rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*). With the inclusion measures to prevent spread and the inclusion of a timetable to be followed as part of the development.

2 Site Assessment

2.1 Site Survey

A field survey was conducted on the 8th of February 2022 by Ecologist Jake Healy. Jake is suitably qualified at identification of non-native invasive species.

In summary, a small, isolated stand of montbretia (TN5) and individual rhododendron bush (TN6) were observed on site during the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Urban Green 2022), both of which are non-native flora species. These were observed growing within the south-western periphery of the site adjacent to residential gardens.

No other non-native invasive species were identified during the survey within the site.

2.2 Montbretia Information and Identification

Montbretia is a horticultural cross derived in France from species native to South Africa. First introduced as an ornamental plant to the UK in the 1880s it was first recorded in the wild in 1911. As the plant multiplies rapidly, it is thought to have likely spread from gardeners removing excess plants and disposing of them unsuitably throughout semi-rural/ suburban habitats. Although viable seeds can be produced, it is more commonly spread by underground corms and long creeping rhizomes, forming new plants at a short distance from the parent. This process can lead to the formation of large colonies, suppressing other plant growth.

Montbretia form low stand (up to 60cm tall) of green, spear shaped leaves up to 3cm wide. The flowers are borne on long dark-brown spikes from the centre of the plant from July – September. Flowers are red/orange and tubular in nodding clusters up to 2.5cm long with extended stamens (see Appendix 2 for Non-native Species Secretariat, Information sheet).

2.3 Rhododendron Information and Identification

Rhododendron is native to south-west Europe and south-west Asia.

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.

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

3 Relevant Legislation

It is an offence under Section 14(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to “plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild” any plant listed in Schedule 9, Part II, which includes montbretia and rhododendron. Offences under Section 14 carry a maximum penalty of £5,000 fine and/or 6 months imprisonment on summary conviction (i.e. at Magistrates’ Court) and an unlimited fine (i.e. what the court feels to be commensurate with the offence) and/or 2 years imprisonment on indictment (i.e. at Crown Court).

Soil and other waste containing viable propagules of invasive non-native plant species is classified as ‘controlled waste’ under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Subsequently, waste containing montbretia and rhododendron must be disposed of in accordance with official Environment Agency guidance designed to prevent further spread of the species. Any waste being disposed of must be accompanied by appropriate waste transfer documentation.

Local councils and the police (in most cases the local council) have the power to issue Community Protection Notices against “individuals who are acting unreasonably and who persistently or continually act in a way that has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality”. The notice could require an individual or organisation to make reasonable efforts to rectify problems arising from invasive non-native species and/or make it a requirement to take reasonable steps to prevent future occurrence of the problem. For more information see “Reform of anti-social behaviours powers: Japanese knotweed and other invasive non-native plants” (Home Office, n.d.) found: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/364846/Japanese_Knotweed_information_note_pdf.

See Property Care Association Guidance Note – Legislation and Policy for Invasive Non-Native Plant Species Including Japanese Knotweed (PCA, 2014) for further information.

Failure to comply with the relevant invasive non-native species legislation could lead to prosecution.

4 Method Statement

An Environment Agency permit will not be required to eradicate the onsite invasive species, providing that the conditions of the Environment Agency Regulatory Position Statement 178 – Treatment and Disposal of Invasive Non-Native Plants (RPS178) are met. The following method has been provided in order to comply with these conditions. **Note – If at any point the conditions of the RPS178 cannot be met, a permit must be applied for with the Environment Agency.**

See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/treatment-and-disposal-of-invasive-non-native-plants-rps-178> for further details.

4.1 Site-Specific Method Statement

All actions involving invasive and non-native species should be conducted under appropriate biosecurity measures as detailed in Section 4.2 for Site Biosecurity.

It is recommended that the removal of invasive species is undertaken by a specialist contractor who can confidently identify Schedule 9 non-native invasive species and are suitably trained in various removal techniques.

The non-native invasive species found on the site are present in multiple areas, detailed within Table 1 and Appendix 2.

Table 1: Locations of non-native invasive species on site

Species	Grid Reference	Description
Montbretia	SD 81461 08630	Small, isolated stand in scrub along south-western boundary
Rhododendron	SD 81462 08626	Single shrub along south-western boundary

Two forms of treatment could be applied to control both invasive species on site:

4.1.1 Option 1: Non-chemical Control

It is important that all aspects of the plant are dug up and removed, including the root mass and the surrounding soil in which the plant is rooted. This can be done at any time of the year, ideally using hand tools.

Once all plant material and surrounding soil is removed, all aspects of the plant must then be burnt on site in open air under a D7 exemption. Note, the D7 exemption must be registered with the Environment Agency at least one week prior to burning. A D7 waste exemption online application can be completed using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/d7-waste-exemption-burning-waste-in-the-open>. It is important to consider local byelaws and prevent causing a nuisance through this burning.

The ashes and any leftover material must then be buried on the site at a minimum depth of 2m. This will reduce the chance of future regrowth. It is necessary to bury the waste in an area that is unlikely to be disturbed. This area must also be more than 7m away from an adjacent landowner's site.

On-site burning must comply with the restrictions of RPS 178 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/treatment-and-disposal-of-invasive-non-native-plants-rps-178/treatment-and-disposal-of-invasive-non-native-plants-rps-178>) and the guidance from the local fire service (i.e. Wesham Fire Station. Tel: 01772 684425). Contacting the Environmental Health Team of Bury Council is recommended as they might be contacted by members of the public in light of their “Statutory Nuisance” powers.

4.1.2 Option 2: Chemical Control

Chemical control is less invasive than physical removal. It should be noted that chemical treatment of cotoneaster is more suited to smaller plants, as larger and more established plants can be resistant to chemical treatment.

Herbicide must be used only in accordance with the directions on the product label and with all relevant legislation. Any person involved in the professional application of herbicides should possess the appropriate pesticides certificate of competence for the safe use of herbicide and hand-held herbicide applicators. Any cotoneaster treated with herbicide should be done with a non-residual herbicide, e.g. glyphosate.

Spraying programmes should be required for two to three years to eradicate the plant. Records of herbicide use must be kept in accordance with all relevant legislation, e.g. a record must be made of the type, concentration and quantity of herbicide used, the operative’s name, weather conditions and date of application. Records must be retained after each treatment.

If opted to follow the herbicide route the restrictions of RPS 178 must be complied with. An herbicide agreement with the Environment Agency is not required, however reading the product labels of any herbicides used and/or contacting the manufacturer for advice is strongly recommended.

All use of herbicides including stem injection is to be judged at the discretion of an invasive species specialist.

4.2 Site Biosecurity

In accordance with guidance set out by the GB non-native species secretariat (www.nonnativespecies.org/), measures to prevent the spread of non-native invasive species within or off sites with infestation include:

- All site personnel must be fully briefed to ensure all staff are aware of the presence and locations of montbretia and rhododendron on the site and how to identify the species. This can be included during a site induction or through toolbox talks. Everybody working on site must understand the role and authority of the invasive species specialist managing the issue of the non-native species.
- Clearly visible fencing must be erected around the areas of non-native invasive species (including contaminated soil, materials or water) and signs to warn site personnel of presence and identification of species within.
- Ensure that vehicle use is kept to a minimum around infestations. Keep to hardstanding where possible.
- Do not use vehicles with caterpillar tracks within infested areas.

- All clothes, footwear and equipment including site vehicles and tools should be checked for plant material and soil before entering/leaving the site.
- All vehicles leaving the infested area and/or transporting infested soil/materials must be thoroughly pressure-washed in a designated wash-down area before being used for other work.
- All wash facilities including wastewater from washing vehicles, equipment or personnel should be managed in a responsible way so as not to cause spreading of the invasive species or harm to the environment.
- Clothes, footwear and equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and ensure no contaminated material is present. Keep equipment on site where practical and free of contaminated material.
- Equipment used to treat invasive species should be kept separate to unused equipment and identifiable through clear signage or designated areas.
- All chemicals used for the control of non-native species (if applicable) should be stored and used in a responsible manner.
- Where cross-contamination is possible (i.e. from one site to another), designated vehicles or machinery must be used for specific sites where possible to prevent spread.
- All plant material will comply with BS 3936 1: 1992, BS 4043:1989 and BS 8545: 2014 or European equivalents. All planting shall be UK grown and obtained from a reputable and approved nursery. Plant material should be fully hardy and be free from pests and diseases.
- Existing and imported multipurpose topsoil shall confirm to BS 3882:2015. A Declaration of Analysis sheet should be supplied if requested. If acceptable, topsoil shall be taken from stockpiles on site or imported from an approved source. Imported soil shall be a loam type, to BS 3882:2015, be free of contamination and contain a maximum of 15% clay or silt fines. A topsoil sample shall be provided with topsoil structure analysis for general landscape purposes. Topsoil should be free of any part of invasive plant (as identified by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended).

5 Conclusion

Montbretia and rhododendron have been identified on site and are listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), meaning it is an offence to cause this species to spread in the wild.

This report sets out how to identify the non-native invasive species found on site and provides non-chemical and chemical methods of control for this species.

Section 4.2 provides biosecurity measures to prevent the further spread of invasive species, including any soils or plants brought into the site.

All works should be completed under the advice of an invasive species specialist.

If any other invasive non-native plant species are identified on site prior to or during the construction phase, a contractor should be contacted to carry out an assessment and produce a method statement to ensure safe methods of working are followed.

6 References

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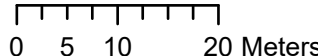
Appendix 1 – Timetable of Works

Works	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Mechanical removal of montbretia and rhododendron	Can be conducted at any time of year											
Chemical control of montbretia and rhododendron								Spray on cut stumps in late summer or autumn				

Appendix 2 - Habitat Map

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- Red Line Boundary
- Line of Trees
- Scattered Scrub
- Ephemeral/Short Perennial
- Poor Semi-Improved Grassland
- Building
- Hardstanding
- Target Note
- TN1 - Montbretia
- TN2 - Rhododendron



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Project: **JD Campus**

Title: **Phase One Habitat Map**

Issue: **03**

Drawn: CL	Checked: MG	Approved: JH
Project: UG1466	Scale @ A3: 1:750	Date: 10/07/2023
Dwg No: UG_1466_ECO_HM_03		Revision: 01

Appendix 3 – Non-native Species Secretariat Identification Sheets

Montbretia

Species Description

Scientific name: *Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*

Hybrid of: *Crocosmia aurea* x *Crocosmia pottsii*

AKA: Coppertips, Falling Stars, Montbresia (Welsh)

Native to: Hybrid, parent species from South Africa

Habitat: Hedgerows, road verges, banks of lakes and rivers, beside woods and waste land, widely grown in gardens

Crocosmia species are easily recognised when in flower by the distinct shape and colour of their flower heads. All are non-native in the UK. The hybrid montbretia, with relatively short stems and orange flowers, is the main species to have escaped into the wild; however, a number of other ornamental *Crocosmia* species are grown in gardens and other landscaped areas. When not in flower, *Crocosmia* species are more difficult to identify. Look for rusty brown dead leaves and remains of previous years flowering heads.

Montbretia was originally created in France from parent plants of South African origin. Introduced to the UK in 1880 as a garden plant. It escaped by 1911 both naturally and through the disposal of garden waste, and spread rapidly across the UK in the latter part of the 20th century. Can completely dominate habitat where it grows, sometimes excluding native plant species. Spreads mainly by rhizomes, rarely by seed.

Montbretia is listed under Schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 with respect to England and Wales. As such, it is an offence to plant or otherwise allow this species to grow in the wild.



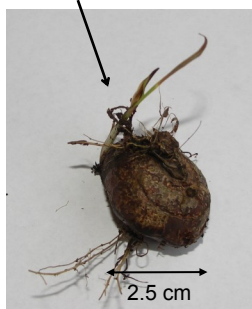
Key ID Features



Flowers orange and tubular in nodding clusters

Long stamens

Corm: a bulblike organ that provides the plant with energy



Leaves less than 3cm wide, upright, flat, spear shaped and bright green

Flowers borne on long spikes



Grows to 60cm tall, usually found in clusters on road verges and in hedge-