
Invasive Species Method Statement

Former Mondi Site
(Site 1)
Holcombe Mill
Bridge Street
Ramsbottom
BL0 0BS
Ref: P.1202.19

January 2021

Rev	Date	Details
A	25 th January 2021	Updates following council feedback

P.1202.19

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Holcombe Mill
Bridge Street
Ramsbottom
BL0 0BS**

Invasive Species Method Statement

For

Ecclestone Homes Ltd

26 January 2021

Field Work by	Tosha Allen BSc (Hons), Liz Kenyon BSc (Hons) and Neil Everett BSc (Hons) Grad CIEEM
Document Author	Neil Everett BSc (Hons) Grad CIEEM and Liz Kenyon BSc (Hons)
Technical Review	Dr Rosalind King MCIEEM
QA Review & Approval	Danielle Wood - Office Manager

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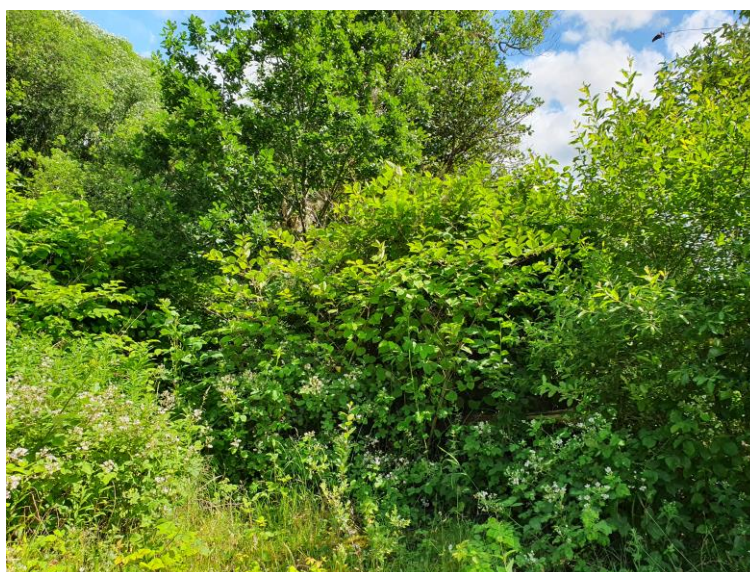
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Ascerta has been instructed by Eccleston Homes to prepare an Invasive Species Method Statement for the Former Mondi Site, Holcombe Hill, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, BL0 0BS (hereafter referred to as the site). The site OS grid reference is SD 793 616.
- 1.2 Our client seeks to construct residential buildings, with associated parking.
- 1.3 The site was visited between 1st July 2019 and 4th October 2019, to determine the extent of invasive species cover at the site and provide a method statement for the control of the species identified. This report sets out the details of the existing invasive species on-site (Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), and a cotoneaster species (*Cotoneaster sp.*)) and provides a management plan for the control of the three species. Associated drawings can be found within the appendices of this report.

2.0 Site Description and Legislation

- 2.1 The site lies adjacent to the local high street with shops and industrial mills lying to the north and west. A railway line borders the site to the west. The river Irwell meanders around the site boundary to the east, with a cricket and football ground located south of the site. Habitats present within the site include dense scrub, broadleaved scattered trees, scattered scrub, tall ruderal, semi-natural broadleaved woodland, introduced scrub, and a water course. These habitats are presented on drawing P.1202.19.03 (*Appendix 1*). The areas of invasive species are presented on drawing P.1202.19.04 (*Appendix 2*)
- 2.2 Stands of Himalayan balsam, and Japanese knotweed are located on the banks of the River Irwell, running along the entirety of the eastern site boundary. Japanese knotweed has begun to spread from the riverbank and has started to encroach upon the areas of scrub on the site (photograph 1). The Japanese knotweed 7m root zone extends further into the site and also needs to be taken into consideration as marked on drawing P.1202.19.04.



Photograph 1: Stand of Japanese Knotweed within scrub vegetation.

- 2.3 It is an offence under Section 14(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to '*plant or otherwise cause to grow*' in the wild any plant in Schedule 9 Part II on which Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and cotoneaster species are listed. These species will need control prior to the commencement of construction activities, including ground works and vegetation clearance on the site. An exclusion zone will be set up during treatment of these species to reduce risk of further spread.

3.0 Himalayan Balsam Method Statement

- 3.1 Himalayan balsam is present on the site, along the banks of the River Irwell and along a stream which runs along a section of the western boundary of the site (Photograph 2). Himalayan Balsam is highly invasive, spreading rapidly via seed dispersal and reducing biodiversity where it is present. The River Irwell and the stream both provide corridors that can carry the seeds of the Himalayan Balsam and distribute variable seeds within surrounding habitats. It is recommended due to the sensitive locations of the Himalayan balsam that the plant is controlled through hand pulling and other non-chemical methods to reduce the damage to native species within the vicinity.
- 3.2 Himalayan balsam plants will be hand pulled in the first instance during the autumn prior to seed pods developing, and two further times in between March and the end of June. To ensure that no plants are missed a further visit to remove any material my hand pulling will be required in early winter (following the first frost of the year) to ensure their eradication before they set seed. All removed material will be disposed of at an appropriate landfill site as controlled waste or composted within a bunded area on the site until all viable material, including seeds, is fully composted.
- 3.3 As the site lies on the banks of a river and off-site habitats have Himalayan balsam infestation, regular checks for this species will be required following development, with an ongoing treatment programme agreed. This ongoing treatment programme would occur as part of the landscape management requirements for the site and would likely involve a check for and removal of Himalayan balsam between mid-May and Mid-July annually. If the no Himalayan balsam is found on the site within a two-year period following the hand pulling, the site can be considered cleared of Himalayan balsam for development purposes.
- 3.4 If Himalayan balsam is found on the site during subsequent monitoring, it should be controlled by hand pulling as it reduces the risk to non-target species. Pulling should occur in Autumn, March-June and during the winter months, following the first frosts before the plant has set seed and all removed material should be disposed of at an appropriate landfill site as controlled waste or composted on site.
- 3.5 Once the exclusion zone has been declared free of Himalayan balsam and any other invasive species, it should be re-vegetated with grasses and wildflowers and managed to maintain a dense sward. This will limit the potential for re-invasion by Himalayan balsam and other undesirable plant species.



Photograph 2: Stands of Himalayan balsam on the banks of the stream on the western boundary of the site.

4.0 Japanese Knotweed Method Statement

- 4.1 The riverbank and areas within the site infested with Japanese knotweed, will be fenced off and no building works will occur in this exclusion zone until it is confirmed that Japanese knotweed has been successfully eradicated from this zone by chemical treatment. An appropriate notice will be placed on the fence informing the workforce that a Japanese knotweed exclusion zone lies within the fenced area (see appendix 4 for notice example).
- 4.2 As the Japanese knotweed lies within 8m of the River Irwell (designated as a 'Main River'), the Environment Agency will be contacted to confirm that the proposed methods are acceptable for the treatment of Japanese knotweed in this location. This is because treatment options for Japanese knotweed are limited when it is present adjacent to water courses.
- 4.3 Japanese Knotweed will be controlled through stem injection of herbicide and in an attempt to reduce the impact on native species within the vicinity.
- 4.4 The Japanese knotweed will first be stem injected with glyphosate in July.
- 4.5 The site will be treated with stem injection glyphosate again in September to ensure all Japanese knotweed is treated including any regrowth or any stands missed during the initial treatment.
- 4.6 As the site lies on the banks of a river and off-site habitats are likely to have Japanese Knotweed infestation, regular checks for this species will be required, with an ongoing treatment programme. This would occur as part of the landscape management requirements for the site and would most likely involve a check for and treatment of Japanese knotweed between April and July annually. If no Japanese knotweed is found on the site within a two-year period following the herbicide treatment the site can be considered cleared of Japanese knotweed for development purposes.
- 4.7 If any Japanese knotweed is recorded during these checks it will be treated using appropriate methods (most likely stem injection of herbicides) and by suitably licensed contractors.
- 4.8 Once the exclusion zone has been declared free of Japanese knotweed and any other invasive species, it should be re-vegetated appropriately to maintain a dense vegetation covering that will limit the potential for re-invasion by Japanese knotweed and other undesirable plant species.

5.0 Cotoneaster Method Statement

- 5.1 Multiple stands of cotoneaster were noted on the site on the western boundary and spreading further into the site (Photograph 3).



Photograph 3: Cotoneaster spreading into the site from the western boundary.

- 5.2 All cotoneaster should be isolated prior to site clearance. The plant should be fully excavated, including 500cm of earth surrounding the plant to ensure all roots have been removed. This can be done at any time of year; however it is recommended that the plant should be removed in spring or early summer (April-July) when the plant is in flower and does not have berries. The earth should be shaken off the roots and the entire plant mulched or burned. If berries are present on the plant, the stems should be covered with a strong paper bag to prevent berries falling to the ground during transfer and the plant should be burned to prevent the seeds sowing and establishing further individuals.
- 5.3 Once all cotoneaster has been cleared from the site, site clearance can begin, provided other ecological issues have been addressed, including the potential presence of breeding birds should the site be cleared between 1 March and 31st August inclusive.
- 5.4 Cotoneaster spreads by seeds carried by birds and there may be a seed bank on the site. Should new stands of cotoneaster be noted during works these should be removed following this method statement. Cotoneaster could return to the site at any time if other plants are nearby.

6.0 Conclusions & Recommendations

- 6.1 Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and cotoneaster are present on the site and need control prior to works commencing to avoid risk of spreading these invasive species in the wild.
- 6.2 The Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam will be fenced off prior to treatment. The Japanese knotweed will be treated in July and September with herbicide stem injection by a suitably experienced contractor licensed to control invasive species near water. Approval should be granted from the Environment Agency as the stand lies on the banks of the River Irwell, which is classified as a 'Main River'. The Himalayan balsam will be hand pulled between March and the end of May, during the autumn and following the first frost of the winter before they are able to set seed. All removed material will be disposed of at an appropriate landfill site as controlled waste or completely composted in a secure bunded area on-site. The timetable for treatment of these three species is presented in Appendix 3.
- 6.3 The cotoneaster will be controlled by excavation, prior to setting seed (April-July). The timetable for treatment of this is presented in Appendix 3.
- 6.4 As stands of Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam are likely to exist off-site, annual checks will be undertaken for these species and any found within the site will be controlled as required by suitably qualified contractors. Full details of ongoing monitoring and management can be provided in a Landscape Management Plan for the site.
- 6.5 It is recommended that the surrounding land is checked for invasive species. If any are found the owners of the adjacent land should be advised to control any invasive species on their land at the same time and potentially placed on legal notice of liability. If an invasive species spreads from the adjacent land back onto the site, owners of the adjacent land could be liable for costs of controlling invasive species on the Former Mondi site.

Appendix 1



Ascerta

Landscape | Trees | Ecology

t: 0845 463 4404
e: info@landscapetreescology.com
Web: www.landscapetreescology.com

CLIENT:
Eccleston Homes

PROJECT:
Former Mondri Site, (site 1) Holcombe Mill, Bridge Street, Rammsbottom BL0 OBS

DRAWING TITLE:
Phase One Habitat Survey

SCALE:
1:500 @A1

DATE:
01/07/2019

DRAWN BY:
CP

CHKD BY:
TA

DRAWING NO:
P.1202.19.03

REV:
-

KEY

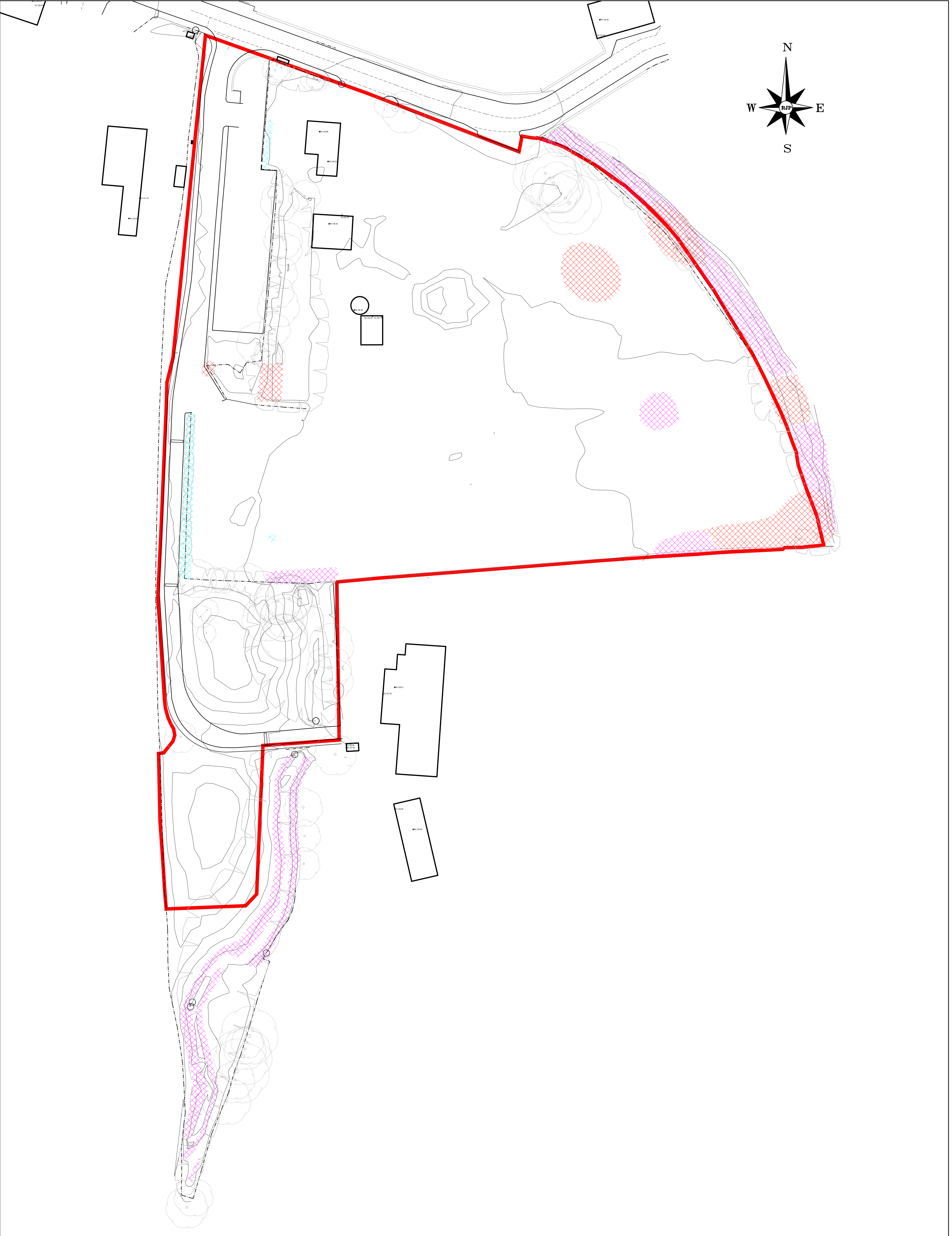
	Hard standing		Wall		Water course		Tree with low bat roost potential		Amenity grassland
	Building		Dense scrub		Scattered scrub		Tree with moderate bat roost potential		Semi-improved grassland
	Bare ground		Broad leaved scattered trees		Tall ruderal		Not accessible		Target note
	Fence		Introduced shrub		Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland		60m buffer (from chimney)		1 - Rubble pile
									2 - Japanese Knotweed
									3 - Metal container full of rubbish
									4 - Himalayan Balsam
									5 - Signal crayfish claw

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Appendix 2



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t: 0845 463 4404
e: info@landscapetreescology.com
Web: www.landscapetreescology.com

CLIENT:
Eccleston Homes

PROJECT:
Former Mondri Site, (site 1) Holcombe Mill,
Bridge Street, Rammsbottom BL0 0BS

DRAWING TITLE:
Invasive Species Location Plan

SCALE: 1:500 @A1	DRAWN BY: CP	DRAWING No: P.1202.19.04	REV: -
DATE: 09/10/2019	CHKD BY: TA		

KEY

	Cotoneaster		Himalayan Balsam
	Japanese Knotweed		

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Appendix 3

Timetable for Invasive Species Treatment

Date	Japanese Knotweed	Cotoneaster	Himalayan balsam
March to 31 May			Hand pull before seeds have set. All removed material should be disposed of at an appropriate landfill site as controlled waste or fully composted on the site in a secure bunded area.
July	Stem injection with chemical herbicide as agreed by the Environment Agency.	Excavate and remove from the site (can occur any time of year but recommended between April and July).	
September	Stem injection with chemical herbicide as agreed by the Environment Agency.	Continue monitoring the site and remove any new growth.	Hand pull before seeds have set. All removed material should be disposed of at an appropriate landfill site as controlled waste or fully composted on the site in a secure bunded area.
Following the first frost			Hand pull before seeds have set. All removed material should be disposed of at an appropriate landfill site as controlled waste or fully composted on the site in a secure bunded area.
From July (for 3-5 years)	Continue monitoring the site and treat any new growth. (Until a 12-month period in which no growth is observed).		Check for and removal of Himalayan balsam between mid-May and mid-July annually. If no Himalayan balsam is found on the site within a two-year period following initial hand pulling the site can be considered cleared of Himalayan balsam for development purposes.

Appendix 4

Himalayan Balsam

If found or suspected please report to site manager



Japanese Knotweed

If found or suspected please report to site manager & Ascerta (0845 463 4404) immediately



Cotoneaster

If found or suspected please report to site manager

