INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES METHOD STATEMENT

LAND OFF DINTING ROAD, GLOSSOP, DERBYSHIRE

2017

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Background

1.1 Rachel Hacking Ecology Limited was commissioned in 2017 by High Peak Architects to produce an Invasive Species Method Statement for a site off Dinting Road, Glossop, Derbyshire. The site has received planning permission from High Peak Borough Council for the construction of 20no. dwellings, with associated access, parking and gardens (planning reference: HPK/2016/0224).

1.2 As part of the planning permission granted, a series of planning conditions were attached. Condition 14 states:

"*Prior to the commencement of development, an invasive non-native species protocol shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority, detailing the containment, control and removal of e.g. Japanese Knotweed on site. The measures shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.*"

1.3 This document aims to discharge planning condition 14.

Site Description

1.4 The site is situated off Dinting Road, Glossop (O.S. grid reference: SK024945 – see Figure 1). The site currently comprises areas of scrub, species-poor grassland and trees, with a hedgerow along the northern boundary and fences along all other boundaries. A railway line borders the site to the south and Dinting Road borders the site to the north. To the east lies a track and to the west lies Dinting Lane.

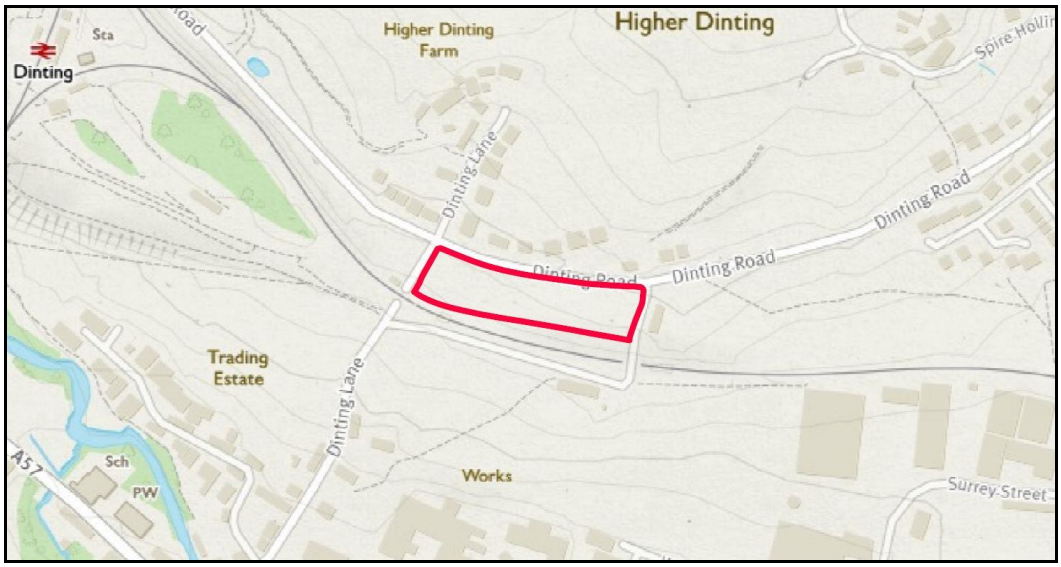

Figure 1 showing the location of the site

Previous Surveys

1.5 An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey was undertaken in 2015 of the site (Arc Ecology). It is known that Japanese Knotweed does not occur on site but occurs 5m (above ground) from the edge of the site across Dinting Lane to the west, where the access road will be constructed. Variegated Yellow Archangel occurs along the western boundary of the site. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust responded to the planning application on the 20th June 2016, recommending that an invasive non-native species protocol be produced for the site detailing the containment, control and removal of Variegated Yellow Archangel on site and Japanese Knotweed adjacent to the site.

Legislation

1.6 Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica* and Variegated Yellow Archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. argentatum* are both listed on Schedule 9 Part II (plants) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The act makes it an offence to cause Japanese Knotweed to grow in the wild. They are both classified as ‘controlled waste’ under the Environmental Protection Act (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991.

2.0 METHOD STATEMENT

Japanese Knotweed

2.1 Japanese Knotweed has rhizomes which can spread 7 metres laterally through the soil and 3 metres deep. Therefore, it is possible that the Japanese Knotweed has spread below ground to where the new access road will be constructed.

2.2 It is understood that the Japanese Knotweed has been treated by the landowner. This is presumed to be herbicide treatment. There are three methods that are frequently used for the removal of Japanese Knotweed:

- Herbicide,
- Excavation & removal off-site and
- Excavation & on-site burial.

2.3 It is important that liaison continues with the landowner to continue the herbicide applications to weaken and eventually eradicate the plant. Herbicide treatment is a long-term, systematic treatment, which should be undertaken over a minimum three-year period. Japanese Knotweed rhizome can remain dormant for a considerable period after re-growth has apparently stopped, so it is important to check if rhizomes are still living before disturbing the site. The most effective time to apply glyphosate is from June to September, with spring treatment being acceptable but less effective. It is essential that a competent and qualified person carries out the herbicide treatment. Contractors must have the appropriate National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC) certification. Herbicide can be applied as a leaf-wipe or by stem injection.

2.4 Following each application of herbicide, the Japanese Knotweed should be monitored by an experienced surveyor and once the plant has been completely killed, the herbicide regime can cease.

2.5 To protect the site from rhizome spread of the Japanese Knotweed, it is recommended that a **root barrier membrane** be dug into the ground vertically at the edge of the site along the western edge. The digging of the trench should be undertaken under the supervision of a surveyor experienced in the identification of Japanese Knotweed rhizome, to check if the rhizome has already infiltrated the site. The root barrier membrane is widely available and will need to be 3 metres in depth below the ground surface.

2.6 It is recommended that during construction, the site is monitored for Japanese Knotweed and that the location of the root barrier membrane be made visible so it is not disturbed.

Variegated Yellow Archangel

2.7 The Variegated Yellow Archangel will require eradication through digging out the entire plant and removal off-site. The plant is shallow-rooted and the roots should be carefully excavated up to 0.5-1 metre in depth and all arisings carefully bagged and removed off-site. The plant can re-grow from a small

piece of root so extra care must be taken to remove all of the plant from the site.

2.8 The arisings from the Variegated Yellow Archangel must be disposed of at a licensed landfill, as it is classed as controlled waste.