

Auburn Little Auburn ,Malahide

SHD 2

Invasive Species Study

Client : Kinwest

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1.0 Summary

Inspection of the lands to be subject of was carried out during the optimum period for Invasive Species during May to September 2021 by Peter W Cuthbert BSc Agr (Hort).

The survey ,concluded that a limited number of Invasive alien species were present on site, recommendations are made in the report on control measures

This report will detail the survey, notes on identification, impacts ,legislation, biosecurity , management plan with control options .

2.0 Introduction

The purpose of this survey was to determine if any Invasive Alien species were present on the lands and to prepare a management plan if discovered

The site was examined for a range of Invasive species including the various forms of Japanese Knotweeds of which 4 species occur in Ireland Japanese Knotweed, Giant Knotweed, Hybrid Knotweed and Himalayan Knotweed , in addition the following species were checked for occurrence Gunnera tinctoria, Impatiens glandulifera , Heracleum mantegazzianum , Lysichiton americanus Rhododendron ponticum

The assessment has shown that none of the above listed species were present on site.

Some Hyacinthoides hispanica and Allium triquetrum were located

Also Acer pseudoplatanus and Prunus laurocerasus were found to be growing in the woodland areas , details of impacts are outlined in the report

3.0 Site Inspection

Some non native bulbous species incl Spanish Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and Three –cornered Leek *Allium triquetrum* were located ,both of which can be treated by herbicide application

Concern must be expressed about the large concentration of *Prunus laurocerasus* ,a large non –native evergreen which has become established in the woodland areas on the lands. While it is not a listed species of EU Concern , it causes very significant negative impacts in woodlands due to the allelopathic chemicals produced by the plants which are released into the environment which affect the development and growth of neighboring plants. *Prunus laurocerasus* has the ability to grow and thrive in low light conditions and as a result natural regeneration of other tree species is suppressed . Laurel has spread throughout the woodland resulting in very limited natural growth of other trees species within the exception *Acer pseudoplatanus*.

Acer pseudoplatanus has the ability , to produce large quantities of viable seed which germinate easily ,quickly establishing thicket masses of young seedlings which as they grow out compete other vegetation ,restricting light to the understorey ,inhibiting germination of other seeds . Sycamore is also

tolerant of low light levels and has established and become a dominant trees species in this woodland at the expense of native trees

The overall impact of these species has resulted in a negative impact on the age structure of this woodland , as a result very little natural regeneration has taken place of other beneficial tree species

Prunus laurocerasus is a difficult species to eliminate from a woodland situation due to the large root system which develop, after removal of stems , injection of herbicide into the root stump may need a number of application to totally eliminate the plant . As Laurel can be spread by seed, reintroduction from adjoining lands in the vicinity of the site is possible and it will be important to monitor the woodland on a regular basis

As is good practice surrounding lands were inspected and it was observed that that Prunus laurocerasus was growing in Malahide Demesne

4.0 Legislation

European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations (S.I. No. 477 Of 2011): Regulations relevant to invasive species

Section 49. Prohibition on the introduction and dispersal of certain species

Section 50. Prohibition on dealing in and keeping certain species

Under Regulation 49(2) any person who plants ,disperses, allows or causes to disperse, spreads or otherwise causes to grow Japanese Knotweed or any of the other invasive plants listed in the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations ,2011 (S.I. No 477 Of 2011) shall be guilty of an offence

5.0 Biosecurity

It is important to ensure that Invasive alien species are not brought on to site by accident. In context of this proposed development it is important to ensure that any topsoil if sourced off site is free of Invasive species especially Japanese Knotweed which is capable of growing from very small root sections .

Invasive species are also spread in sand and gravel and it is recommended that throughout the course of development that the site is monitored and if any suspect material is seen growing get it identified by an Invasive species

Specialist

Invasive species are often spread along streams corridors by seeds and roots , and it will be important to periodically check the areas surrounding the stream which flow through the site

Conclusion

Confirming that following site inspection of the lands proposed for development, *Allium triquetrum* and *Hyacinthoides hispanica* were located , in the woodlands *Acer pseudoplatanus* and *Prunus laurocerasus* have established and will need treatment

It is recommended that information relating to the identification of suspect invasive species including photographs during summer growth and wintertime dormancy are retained in the site office and that in the event of any material being observed on site, that professional advice is sought.

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