



Havant Thicket Reservoir – Main Pipeline

Biosecurity Management Plan

20th Feb 2024

Rev: HTR-WAB-PI-XX-HS-W-0012_BIOSECURITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Rev 007 – Addition of Reserved Matters Shaft 1 Removal Options

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Issue and Revision Record

HTR – Main Pipeline

Biosecurity Management Plan

Document Title: Biosecurity Management Plan

Project Number: C725

Client Project Number:

Client: Portsmouth Water

Project Location: Meyrick Road, Havant, PO9 1NR

Rev	Date	Originator	Checker	Approver	Description
001	22/11/22	Chris Bolton	Azeez Soaga	Brien Curran	Issued for Management Review
002	21/02/23	Chris Bolton	Bryn Phillips	Brien Curran	Atkins Review
003	24/05/23	Chris Bolton			Quarterly review
004	13/08/23	Chris Bolton			Quarterly review
005	12/11/23	Chris Bolton			Quarterly Review
006	08/01/24	Chris Bolton			Addition of Reserved Matters Shaft 1 removal options
007	20/01/24	Jamie Campbell			PW comments reviewed

Document Status: 001: Suitable for Construction Approval

Document Reference: HTR-WAB-PI-XX-HS-W-0012_BIOSECURITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Information Class: Standard

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1 Abbreviations and Definitions

Client	=	Portsmouth Water Limited
Contractor	=	Ward and Burke Construction Limited
CMP	=	Communications Management Plan
CSFs	=	Critical Success Factors
EA	=	Environment Agency
HTR MPW	=	Havant Thicket Reservoir Main Pipeline Works
HTR MRW	=	Havant Thicket Reservoir Main Reservoir Works
NR	=	Network Rail
OCI	=	Optimised Contractor Involvement
PW	=	Portsmouth Water Limited
RAMS	=	Risk Assessment / Method Statement
REAC	=	Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments
SPZ1	=	Source Protection Zone 1
SWS	=	Southern Water Services
INNS	=	Invasive Non-Native Species
WBCL	=	Ward and Burke Construction Limited
JK	=	Japanese Knotweed
HB	=	Himalayan Balsam

2 Introduction

This Biosecurity Management Plan has been prepared for the Havant Thicket Reservoir – Main Pipeline Route. Ward and Burke Construction Limited (WBCL) have been appointed by Portsmouth Water Limited (PW) to design, construct, commission and draw down a new pipeline connecting Bedhampton Pumping Station to Havant Thicket Reservoir, including an emergency discharge structure at the Hermitage Stream, culvert upgrades and an Under Track Crossing. Due to the Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) within Bedhampton Pumping Station grounds, this document has been prepared to avoid contact with the Japanese Knotweed (JK) and Himalayan Balsam (HB) on site.

Non-Native Species (NNS) are any animal or plant introduced (deliberately or accidentally) by human activity to an area in which they do not naturally occur. Some animals and plants may have been transported here a long time ago and are considered “naturalised”, but these are still considered non-native species. Others are native to some parts of the UK but not to other parts (for example native to the mainland but not all islands).

INNS), sometimes referred to as ‘invasive alien species’, are those non-native species that have the ability to spread rapidly and become dominant in an area or ecosystem, causing adverse ecological, environmental and economic impacts. INNS can also affect our health.

Examples of the negative effects caused by INNS include; economic cost, structural damage, environmental degradation, aesthetic degradation, biodiversity loss, loss of land function, access restrictions and increased risk to human and animal health and safety. Costs incurred because of INNS can include repairs to damaged structures and environment, delays to works, loss in value of a landholding or other asset, potential for prosecution because of damage caused by invasive species or infringement of legislation. There is also a risk of loss of reputation through mismanagement of invasive species, especially where the interest of sensitive local groups (such as a fisheries trust) could be affected.

2.1 Known INNS on Bedhampton Site

JK and HB at the site has been recorded at the Welfare Site/Launch Shaft 1 site. As this is part of the new red line boundary, further reports and Impact Assessment are required to ensure we are aware of the full extent of the INNS. Figure 1 shows identified INNS in the area. Red areas are JK and Blue is HB.



Figure 1: INNS Locations

2.2 Objective of Biosecurity Management Plan

The objectives of the Biosecurity Management Plan are to prevent the introduction or spread of INNS, weeds, pests and diseases as a consequence of the project works. The biosecurity management plan includes measures to:

- Detect INNS, weeds, pests and diseases and prevent introduction, spread and/or proliferation;
- Control detected controlled weeds, invasive and INNS, animal and crop pests and diseases;
- Mitigate adverse impacts of any control and eradication actions on INNS, weeds, pests and diseases;
- Assess risk, manage supply chains, inform all construction personnel, and manage and inspect vehicles and machinery coming onto site;
- Mitigate any INNS, weeds, pest or disease impacts;
- Report and record any infestation or disease incidents;
- Undertake a review of the Biosecurity Management Plan (BMP) and identify the need for any further studies or actions.

2.3 Existing and potential weeds, pests and diseases

A weed can be defined as an exotic species (foreign/introduced species) or a native species that colonises and persists in an ecosystem in which it did not previously exist and is unwanted in that environment. Weeds are able to successfully establish and spread due to their competitive edge over native species thereby changing the natural diversity and balance of ecological communities.

An induced disturbance to the natural environment (such as clearing) and movement of machinery, vehicles and equipment creates ideal conditions for weed growth and contribute to weed spread.

A number of weeds are a danger to animals, or cause problems to general land area if left to spread unchecked. The following weeds are controlled by law in the Weeds Act, 1959:

- common ragwort
- spear thistle
- creeping or field thistle
- Broad-leaved dock
- Curled dock

It is not an offence to have these weeds growing on land, but the occupier must:

- stop them spreading to agricultural land, particularly grazing areas or land used for forage, like silage and hay
- choose the most appropriate control method for the site, e.g. if it is a protected site; and
- not plant them in the wild

If these weeds are allowed to spread onto someone else's property, Natural England could serve the occupier with an enforcement notice. A livestock keeper can also be prosecuted if they allow animals to suffer by eating these weeds.

2.4 Invasive and non-invasive species

INNS data searches and field surveys of all working areas will be undertaken before project starts to identify any INNS. Some of the following have been identified within or in close proximity to working area.

- Localised stands of Japanese knotweed.
- Localised stands of Himalayan balsam

These species are listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, making it “illegal to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild”. Further INNS surveys would be undertaken if any new working areas or modifications to existing working areas are identified. In addition, pre-commencement checks of all working areas for INNS would be undertaken at an appropriate time of year by the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) or Ecologist prior to commencing any works on site.

2.5 Management Strategy

Biosecurity good practice refers to a way of working that would minimise the risk of contamination and the spread of animal and plant diseases, parasites and non-native species. As disease causing agents, plant pests, parasites and non-native species cannot always be easily seen, they can be picked up and carried on clothing and footwear, and on vehicles and equipment to other locations.

Prevention is the most cost-effective method to control the infestation of INNS and weeds within the project area and their associated damage to the environment. Common means by which INNS and weeds are introduced or spread include:

- Movement of contaminated machinery, vehicles and equipment into weed-free areas;
- Importation and spreading of contaminated landscaping and construction material into INNS and weed-free areas;
- Implementing inadequate controls when undertaking works in contaminated area;
- Introducing INNS and weed species during reinstatement or environmental mitigation

The following should be carried out to prevent spread and provide information

- pre-commencement walkover survey will be undertaken to identify the current status of any weed or INNS present within the working easement, access/egress locations, storage compounds, and welfare facilities.
- All INNS identified within the working easement would be clearly identified with demarcation fencing. Demarcation fencing would be installed around any INNS present within or within close proximity to the working easement, including an appropriate offset which is to be advised by an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW) before any activities commence on site.
- All construction operatives will be given a toolbox talk on the presence of any weed or INNS, how to identify them and any associated biosecurity procedures.
- A strict protocol of CHECK-CLEAN and DRY for all plant, machinery and equipment would be employed prior to deployment to site.
- Further cleaning or disinfection may be required where any plant, machinery, equipment, and Personnel PPE disturbs or potentially disturbs any areas known to contain an INNS.
- Where disturbance of any INNS is required, a site-specific method statement outlining the treatment or control strategy would be prepared.

All employees are encouraged to:

- Ensure footwear is clean (visually free from soil and debris). If necessary, brush or wash in soapy water.
- Ensure vehicle/machinery to be used on the site is cleaned and disinfected as appropriate at the commencement of the works and thereafter is kept clean and, in particular, remove any accumulated mud, especially when moving between holdings, and pay particular attention to tyres and wheel arches
- Make use of any facilities provided to clean footwear and vehicles/machinery if required by the site manager
- Not access areas unnecessarily and if practical do not take vehicles/machinery onto premises - keep to established and agreed access routes/tracks
- Respect any notices or instructions

- Scrape or knock soil from footwear, tools and equipment

2.6 Management Options

The management of HS and JK on site should be overseen by the site manager or a suitable person appointed by the site manager. The management plan should be kept on site during the works and communicated to all personnel on site. It is not the intention of this management plan to attempt to eradicate HS and JK. However, measures will be undertaken to prevent its spread as detailed below.

2.6.1 Himalayan Balsam

Although no work is planned to be ongoing around HB, the plants may develop seedheads throughout the project. The seeds are contained in a pod, which, as it ripens and dries, comes under tension before splitting and catapulting the seeds up to 7m from the plant. Therefore, a 7m exclusion zone should be implemented where possible, specifically from July to September which is typically the seeding stages of HB. The purpose of this plan is to prevent these seeds being released away from the site of existing infestation, there is no plan to remove HB stands.

2.6.2 Japanese Knotweed

To avoid the spread of JK, contact with all parts of the plant must be avoided. The following guidance should be followed:

- Any stands of JK will be fenced off with relevant signage during works, with a 7m exclusion zone where no ground works will be permitted.
- If works require extending into the exclusion zone, this INNS management plan will need to be updated and provide information concerning biosecurity and waste removal in accordance with the management strategy (2.5).
- If any further JK is found on site during works, works should stop within 7m of this vegetation and the Environmental Coordinator contacted. A further site walkover will be undertaken, prior to works resuming, to identify any additional stands of INNS or changes to the current extents identified on site.
- A toolbox talk/ RAMS will be given to all site staff on the identification of JK and the site-specific control measures to be take.
- Signs will be placed around areas of JK to ensure site staff are aware if where control measure are located. This should ensure all site operatives are aware of the risks posed by JK and its spread.

In preparation of the Reserved Matters Application – Shaft 1, Ward and Burke have appointed a Sub-Contractor to plan the safe removal of JK within our access route to Shaft 1, who have supplied 3 x options of removal for the construction of Shaft 1. Ward and Burke are to investigate the 3 x options for JK removal. These are:

- Full excavation and removal to Landfill
- Reduced level removal and capping
- Full excavation and relocation onsite

The Plan is to be in place prior to construction works progressing in June 2024 and the chosen method of removal of JK will be updated on this plan.

2.6.3 Designated Washdown Area

A designated wash down area should be located adjacent to the works. This should be situated on an impermeable membrane to collect materials/effluent, and this must be disposed of appropriately. This will be disposed of via an authorised waste disposal company.

Appropriate disinfectant should be available for use on all machinery and equipment that has come into contact with any waterbody to reduce transmission of waterborne diseases. Disinfection areas must be located at least 10m from any watercourses or open drains within a bunded impermeable area to prevent run-off from occurring. Refer to disinfectant Safety Data Sheet (SDS) before use.

Disposal of disinfectant should follow manufacturer guidelines. Chemicals can be harmful to aquatic life and should be disposed of in compliance with local regulations.

2.6.4 Site Materials, Machinery and Equipment

No arisings from the works within the 7m exclusion zones around INNSs should be removed from the site as soil will likely contain viable HB seeds and potentially viable JK seeds/ fragments. Where removal of arising and/ or any geotextile membranes is required from these areas, these should be treated as controlled waste. To dispose of invasive non-native plant waste and contaminated soils off site you must:

- Use a registered waste carrier
- Send it to an authorised landfill site or suitable disposal site.

Machinery, plant, PPE, and other tools should be thoroughly cleaned in a designated clean-down area before moving to other sites (i.e. removing soils and plant debris), and strict biosecurity protocols should be followed as per this Plan.

3 Biosecurity Measures

Biosecurity Measures	Low-risk activities (general works – not disturbing the INNS area)	High risk activities (i.e. excavations, taking samples, disturbing the area)
Personal biosecurity Footwear & outerwear such as shoes, boots, wellingtons, waterproofs & gloves	- Wear footwear and outerwear that can easily be kept clean - Clean footwear and outerwear regularly, before and after each site visit and ensure they are visually free from soil and organic debris. - Chosen sub-contractor for JK removal must consult any detergent SDS before use. - DEFRA approved Virkon Detergent to be used where necessary with reference to Safety Data Sheet before use.	- Plan to visit high-risk sites last. - Clean footwear and outerwear between site visits by removing leaves, soil and other organic material. Virkon disinfectant solution is to be used when cleaning down PPE. Refer to safety data sheet for correct use and storage of this chemical. - When working in areas of JK, operatives will wear overalls to prevent contamination onto clothes. Overalls will be placed in a contamination skip at the end of each shift to be disposed of accordingly. - Spray cleaned footwear and outerwear with disinfectant until it runs off. Set up a hard standing impermeable tray in which the disinfectant is collected in to prevent any runoff entering water courses. These disinfectant areas must be set up at least 10m from any water course. (Upon rewarding of JK removal contract, contractors RAMS will be reviewed to ensure correct measures are taken for disinfectant strategies). - Work in accordance with the Site-Specific method statement for the INNS in the working area.
Vehicle biosecurity Cars vans, timber lorries and forestry machinery such as harvesters and forwarders	Clean vehicles regularly, do not let mud and organic debris accumulate on tyres, wheels and under wheels arches	- Avoid vehicular access to high-risk site park off-site if possible - Keep to established hard tracks - Remove mud and organic debris from tyres, wheel and wheel arches - Clean and disinfect tyres and wheels on arrival and when leaving site in the designated wash down area, particularly if working in areas where JK is known to be present.

		• Vehicles working in an infested area and/or transporting infested material must be thoroughly pressure-washed in a designated wash down area on site before any further use. • Tracked vehicles should not be used within areas of known infestation as particles of the INNS can become lodged in the tracks and be transported to a different location.
Equipment biosecurity Tools and equipment such as spades, shovels and hammers	• Restrict the equipment taken onto a site – take only what you need for the task. • Ensure all tools and equipment are clean, serviceable and free from organic debris	• When taking samples, clean and disinfect cutting tools after each sample. • Clean and disinfect other tools and equipment before leaving site • Keep any samples and containers.

This management plan is based on best practice advice to avoid the spread of invasive species to the wild and is intended as guidance. For more information, please visit www.nonnativespecies.org

