Client	Far East Consortium
Contract Title	Victoria Riverside – Enabling Works
Contract Number	TBC

PLAN

VICTORIA RIVERSIDE – ENABLING

INVESTIGATION & DISCOVERY PLAN FOR INVASIVE SPECIES

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ISSUE CONTROL

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VISUAL INSPECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES – VICTORIA RIVERSIDE

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VISUAL INSPECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES – VICTORIA RIVERSIDE

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VISUAL INSPECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES – VICTORIA RIVERSIDE

1 Purpose

1.1.1 This procedure has been prepared in line with the requirements of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to outline the steps to check and report invasive plant species at the Victoria Riverside Project for Far East Consortium.

1.1.2 Construction companies are not permitted to remove, dispose of or manage invasive species. In the event of a discovery an ecological expert such as Eco Control Solutions (ecocontrol.co.uk) will be contacted to offer support, advice and techniques for remediation, removal and monitoring of any species. birds or nests for the purpose of completing their works under this act. Therefore, having a mechanism for checking for plant species, reporting any findings and acting in accordance with The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 is a fundamental pre-construction process.

1.1.3 The procedure in the event of any of the following listed plants (Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, Himalyan Balsam, Rhododendron Ponticum or New Zealand pigmyweed) being discovered is based around expert support being provided by a qualified ecologist to ensure HCPL adheres to environmental legislation at all times.

2 Site Details

2.1.1 The site is located to the North East of Manchester City centre, National Grid reference SJ 84534 99376 and has an area of approximately 8000m². It is bordered by Dantzic Street and Gould Street to the north and west respectively. The River Irk runs parallel to the north of the site, approximately 17m beyond Dantzic Street. The sites southern border lies adjacent to a major elevated railway viaduct serving Manchester Victoria train station. The site also straddles Bromley Street, which runs north west through the site and arches of the viaduct. The site is situated adjacent to pre-existing development along its eastern border. Most notably containing a large warehouse structure and carpark.

2.1.2 The site is currently fenced off to prevent public access and has recently been stored up with a view of providing surface car parking as a temporary use, although this has yet to be made available for public use. The existing ground has minimal vegetation, and no invasive species were identified as part of the LK FINAL PHASE 2 GEOENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION, RISK ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION STRATEGY Reference LKC 19 1267. Dated November 2019 (see site testing locations on plan below)

2.1.3 The ground condition is a backfilled hardstanding, and a visual inspection of the site is a planning condition requirement. The visual inspection will be formally notified in writing to the Employer's Agent with any findings.

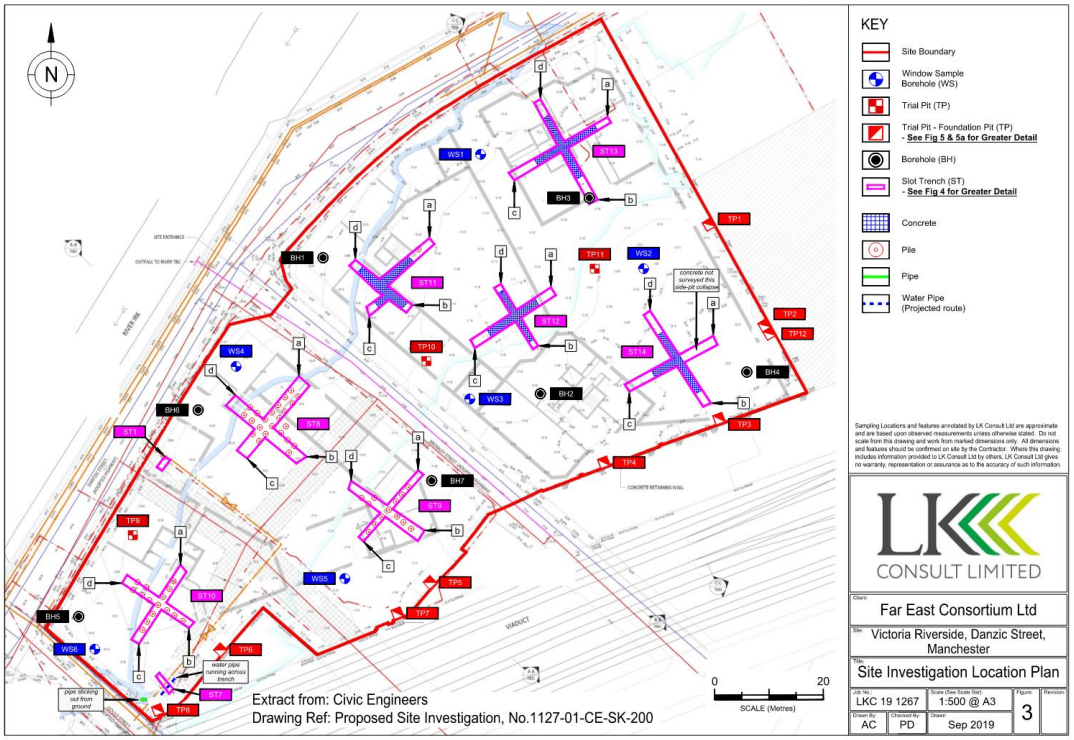
2.1.4 Site location map and site plan are shown for clarity below

VISUAL INSPECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES – VICTORIA RIVERSIDE

Site Location:



Site Investigation from LK Document LKC 19 1267



View to Gould Street from Bromley Street



View onto Dantzic Street from Bromley Street



View From Bromley Street to Network Rail Boundary



View to Network Rail Boundary/Adjacent Structure



3 Visual Inspection of Invasive Species – Guide for Identification nder the Countryside and Wildlife Act

3.1 Should any of the following invasive species be identified or suspected then the specialist ecologist should be called and the area cordoned off with physical warning tape and barrier.

3.2 Whilst no invasive species were identified in the previous report, the timing of the survey in winter as opposed to a likely Spring start on site, may mean the presence of invasive plants may not have been obviiosu.

3.3 The visual survety should be exactly that. Visual. No touching of the plants by an untrained operative is permitted. As noted above, if suspected, the specialist (EcoControl or similar) should be contacted to survey the area thoroughly.

3.4 The following visual aids are a guide, more information can be found at Invasive non-native (alien) plant species: rules in England and Wales - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Japanese Knotweed



The fastest Japanese knotweed growth is during the spring. New shoots that emerge are red/purple and can look like asparagus spears. The leaves are normally rolled up and dark green or red in colour. In late spring, canes can reach up to 3 metres (10 feet) high. The pictures below show Japanese knotweed in spring. More information on Japanese Knotweed can be found here: Identifying Japanese Knotweed - Japanese Knotweed Ltd

Giant Hogweed



Giant hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum), is a tall, cow parsley-like plant with thick bristly stems that are often purple-blotched. The flowers are white and held in umbels, (flat-topped clusters, like those of carrots or cow parsley), with all the flowers in the umbel facing upwards. The flower heads can be as large as 60cm (2ft) across. It can reach a height of 3.5m (11.5ft) or more and has a spread of about 1-2m (3.5-7ft). More information can be found at Giant hogweed / RHS Gardening7

Himalyan Balsam



Himalayan Balsam is a distinctive plant with reddish jointed stems and long, green, oval-shaped leaves. The flowers range from fuchsia to pale pink in colour and tend to appear between June and October, followed by seed pods that explode dispersing the seeds from late July to October.

Rhododendron Ponticum



Key identification features of R.ponticum include leaves which are dark green and glossy above, in an oblong to elliptical shape and up to 22cm in length. The leaves grow in whorls around the stem. The wood is hard and light brown, with a rough bark. The flowers vary in colour from light pink to dark shades of purple, which are usually located in the middle of the terminal whorl on the branches. More information can be found here: Rhododendron ponticum – Woodlands.co.uk

New Zealand Pigmyweed



This yellow and green stemmed plant can re-grow from the tiniest fragments. It lives in a variety of habitats, from three-metre-deep waterways to damp ground out of water. It's quite common around the edges of some of our reservoirs. The weed has the potential to cause absolute havoc along our canals and rivers. It forms a dense mat over the water's surface that blocks out light and oxygen, killing anything living beneath it and blocking navigation. More information can be found here: New Zealand pigmyweed | Invasive species | Canal & River Trust

4 Awareness and Site Checking Prior to Commencement on Site

4.1.1 Pre-commencement of Construction Activities a careful visual check for the presence of invasive species needs to be formally carried out during the establishment of the site welfare facilities and accessing the project via Dantzic Street.

4.1.2 The checking of invasive species needs to be carried out formally and the check should be carried out with the Employers Agent (EA). The EA may inform Manchester City Council of the date for the visual check and submit this document in advance of the contractual start date.

4.1.3 HCPL should then formally write to the EA the results of the inspection.

4.1.4 Whilst the likely inspection will be in Spring, the timing of the works on site is likely to fall within the early growing stages of any listed species. So some plants may only be sprouting and therefore if unsure, the site team should seek specialist assistance

5 Action in the Event of an Invasive Species Discovery

5.1.1 Stop further construction works and seek expert help via a qualified ecologist (such as EcoControl) to ensure HCPL work within all environmental legislation. Cordon off the area and do not touch the plant.

5.1.2 Request a survey from the specialist to carry out a formal identification of the vegetation on site.

5.1.3 Seek future mitigation measures including plant eradication removal as advised by the specialist.

5.1.4 Consider longer term mitigation measures to prevent further spread or recurrence

5.1.5 Advise the Employer's Agent of the findings and recommendations of the ecologist.

5.1.6 Complete the recommendations at the timing advised by the ecologist.