

Pottery Terrace Weir

Invasive Non-Native Species Method Statement



Ref: OURD-PTW7

Adam Wheeler
Ribble Rivers Trust

Introduction

Pottery Terrace Weir (PTW) on the River Douglas, Wigan, WN3 5BD. The Douglas Catchment is colonised with three invasive non-native plant species, namely Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*). All three species are also found in the Upper Douglas Waterbody.

The construction of the embedded rock ramp at this location poses biosecurity risks in terms of helping to spread these species locally and over greater distances by transport of propagules off site. Control measures before, during and after the construction phase will help to reduce these risks.

Species Distribution

There are records for 3 principle Invasive non-native species (INNS); Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, and Giant Hogweed on the Upper Douglas Catchment. There are also records of *Physella/Physella acuta*, *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* and *Crangonyx pseudogracilis/floridanus*, within a 1km radius of the site. Ensuring that contractors do not introduce additional INNS or spread INNS from this site to others is a key consideration. Additionally, the presence of Giant Hogweed represents a potential risk to the contractors workers and suitable control measures must be in place to remove risk of contact. All plant will be cleaned and disinfected prior to transport to and from site to ensure biosecurity is maintained.

Biosecurity risks

There is a risk of plant and machinery coming on to site bringing invasive species from another site they have previously been used on. This would normally be due to mud attached to wheels, tracks or undercarriage of vehicles.

There is a risk of spreading plant propagules into the river which would then convey them downstream, potentially colonising a new location. The risk of this occurring due to machinery movements is only marginally greater than the natural rate at which these riparian plants will be transported by the river.

There is a risk of spreading plant propagules locally, increasing their abundance within the vicinity of the weir. This would increase potential control costs, increase environmental impact, reduce amenity value for visitors and may pose a public safety hazard.

There is a risk of spreading plant propagules from this site to other sites with vehicles and machinery during transport to or use elsewhere.

Control Measures

As well as providing this report to the contractor a toolbox talk will be given to all contractors detailing the INNS that are present in the area of works. For each species (Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed) and information card will be provided giving contractors the ability to identify INNS, understand why they are classed as INNS and how to work in an area with INNS.

The contractor will be required to ensure that all vehicles and machinery brought to site are clean and have no mud, soil or plant material attached. The contractor will also be required to produce

their own biosecurity risk assessment prior to being awarded the contract, ensuring that they have independently considered the risks and suitable control measures.

Prior to leaving site, all machinery will be washed off with a portable pressure washer at the exit of the last river crossing. This will ensure that any plant propagules remain on site and are not spread away from the river or onto other sites which the machinery may be used on.