An Coimisiún Pleanála

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Proposed Kilmartin Soil Recovery Facility

40000103-R05
DECEMBER 2025

PUBLIC

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WSP

Town Centre House
Dublin Road
Naas
Co Kildare

WSP.com

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Checked by	Steven Tooher	Rhian Llewellyn		
Signature	ST	RLL		
Authorised by	Luis Iemma	Luis Iemma		
Signature				
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

This Invasive Species Management Plan has been prepared by WSP Ireland Consulting Ltd (WSP) on behalf of Kilmartin Junction 14 Limited (the Applicant) to accompany a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application to An Coimisiún Pleanála. The Proposed Development is a Soil Recovery Facility situated at the applicant's lands at Kilmartin, Coynes Cross, Newcastle, County Wicklow.

The Site has an approximate central location at National Grid Reference of 328517E, 201025N and will be hereafter referred to as the 'Site'. Figure 1-1 illustrates the Site location.

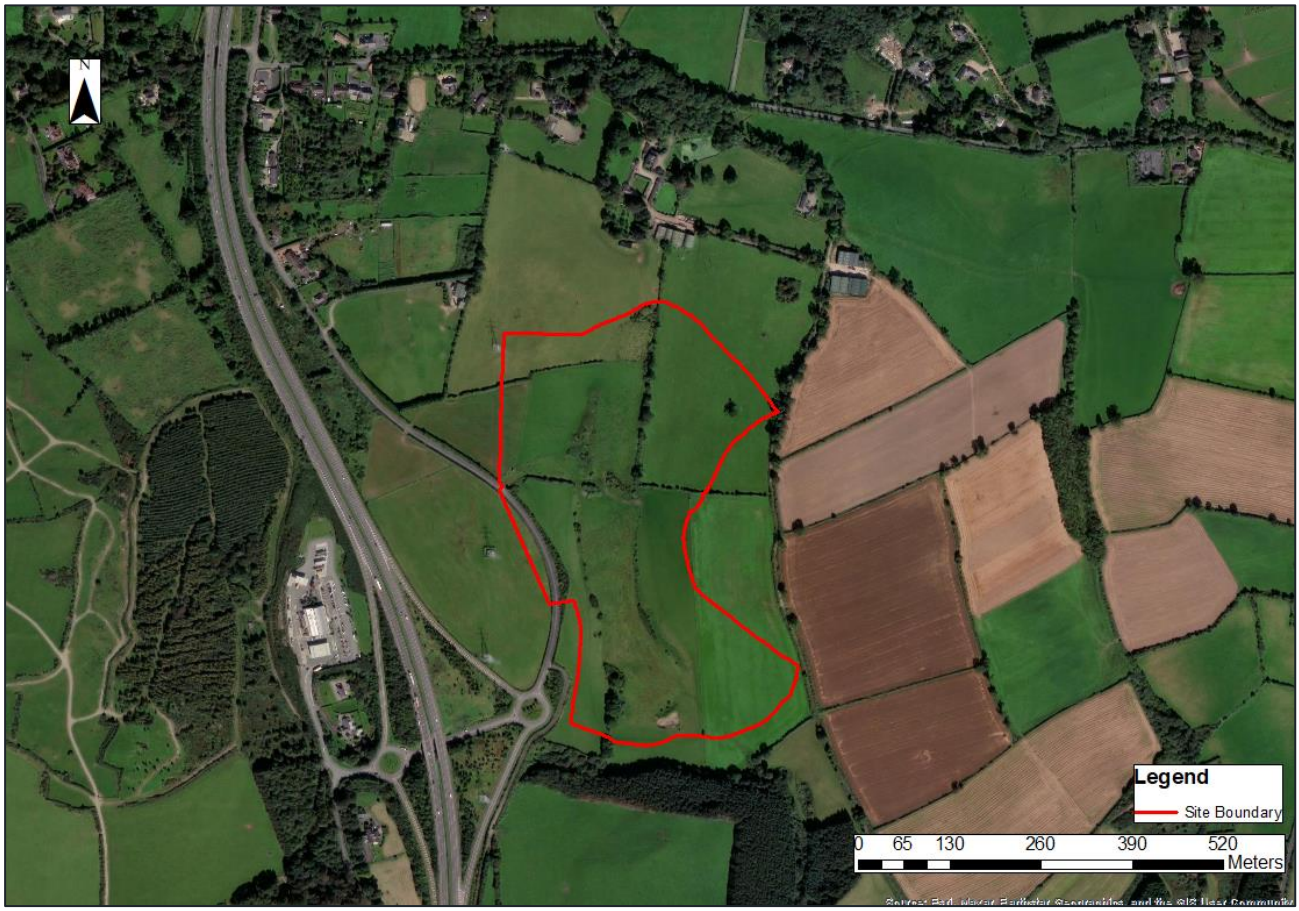


Figure 1-1 - Site location and planning application boundary

The proposed Soil Recovery Facility will facilitate the infilling of a naturally occurring topographic feature (i.e. a deep depression) to levels that tie in with ground levels elsewhere on the Site. The fill material will comprise inert surplus soil and stone from construction and development sites predominantly located in the greater Dublin area and eastern counties such as Counties Wicklow, South Dublin, Wexford, Carlow and Kildare. Grassland and hedgerow will be reinstated in phases at the Site in the medium-term to return the land to agricultural use in the longer term.

No legally-designated invasive flora species have been identified from the Site to date. However, it is recognized that, even with biosecurity measures in place (as outlined in the Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment Report accompanying the SID application submission), that there is the potential for invasive species to be imported to Site, especially considering the potential 10-year lifespan for the proposed facility. Therefore, this document has been created to act as a precautionary measure that can be referred to if any invasive alien plant species (IAPS) are identified at the Site.

Note on terminology

The project phasing terms used in this document adopted the same approach as set out in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report prepared to support the strategic infrastructure application. The term 'works phase' is used to describe the period of time comprising the following construction activities:

- Enabling works to provide facilities required for the operation of the soil recovery facility, and,
- The operation of the soil recovery facility (i.e. acceptance of clean soil and stone to Site and its subsequent emplacement within the fill area).

A 'restoration phase', broadly following the work phase (with some temporal overlap), will comprise the shaping of the final landform in the fill level, restoration of stored topsoil, seeding (where necessary), and planting with subsequent aftercare and maintenance.

1.2. REPORT OBJECTIVES

This report is an Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP).

The purpose of this ISMP is to propose a strategy to be adopted during the works phase and restoration phase of the Proposed Development to manage and prevent the spread of IAPS into and from the Site.

This management plan is intended to be a working document and will be updated during the proposed treatment contract and the works contract, as well as throughout the operational phases as required.

The implementation of this ISMP will require a re-survey of IAPS annually by a suitably qualified person for the period from pre-works commencement, through the operational lifespan of the soil recovery facility (expected to be up to 10 years), and a proportionate post-restoration survey regime based on risk, typically one survey after restoration unless IAPS were previously recorded.

This document will form part of the Environmental Management System (EMS) for the project.

1.3. RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND POLICY

In Ireland, the control and management of invasive species is addressed in **the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000** where it states that:

'Any person who— [...] plants or otherwise causes to grow in a wild state in any place in the State any species of flora, or the flowers, roots, seeds or spores of flora, ['refers only to exotic species thereof'][...] otherwise than under and in accordance with a licence granted in that behalf by the Minister shall be guilty of an offence.'

It is also prohibited to introduce and disperse species listed on the **Third Schedule** of the **Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011),** Section 49(2). It states that:

"any person who plants, disperses, allows or causes to disperse, spreads or otherwise causes to grow [….] shall be guilty of an offence."

Species which are listed in the Third Schedule of this Regulations (S.1.477 of 2011) are outlined in **Table 1-1**.

Table 1-1 – Invasive Alien Plant Species (As per Third Schedule of S.I. 477/2011)

Common Name	Scientific Name
American skunk-cabbage	*Lysichiton americanus*
A red alga	*Grateloupia doryphora*
Brazilian giant-rhubarb	*Gunnera manicata*
Broad-leaved rush	*Juncus planifolius*
Cape pondweed	*Aponogeton distachyos*
Cord-grasses	*Spartina* (all species and hybrids)
Curly waterweed	*Lagarosiphon major*
Dwarf eel-grass	*Zostera japonica*
Fanwort	*Cabomba caroliniana*
Floating pennywort	*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*
Fringed water-lily	*Nymphoides peltata*
Giant hogweed	*Heracleum mantegazzianum*
Giant knotweed	*Fallopia sachalinensis*
Giant-rhubarb	*Gunnera tinctoria*
Giant salvinia	*Salvinia molesta*
Himalayan balsam	*Impatiens glandulifera*
Himalayan knotweed	*Persicaria wallichii*
Hottentot-fig	*Carpobrotus edulis*
Japanese knotweed	*Reynoutria japonica*
Large-flowered waterweed	*Egeria densa*
Mile-a-minute weed	*Persicaria perfoliata*

Common Name	Scientific Name
New Zealand pigmyweed	*Crassula helmsii*
Parrots feather	*Myriophyllum aquaticum*
Rhododendron	*Rhododendron ponticum*
Salmonberry	*Rubus spectabilis*
Sea-buckthorn	*Hippophae rhamnoides*
Spanish bluebell	*Hyacinthoides hispanica*
Three-cornered leek	*Allium triquetrum*
Wakame	*Undaria pinnatifida*
Water chestnut	*Trapa natans*
Water fern	*Azolla filiculoides*
Water lettuce	*Pistia stratiotes*
Water-primrose	*Ludwigia* (all species)
Waterweeds	*Elodea* (all species)
Wireweed	*Sargassum muticum*

1.4. SURVEY

No IAPS were identified during walkover surveys undertaken on 9 February 2022 (by O'Donnell Environmental), on 21 August 2023 (by WSP) and on 18 June 2025 (by WSP). There are no NBDC records of legally designated invasive floral species within the boundary the site (National Biodiversity Data Centre, 2025).

2. MANAGEMENT PLAN

2.1. GUIDANCE

This report applies the most relevant and current guidance in relation to the treatment and management of IAPS in construction projects. The following literature was consulted in preparation of this report:

- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) The Management of Invasive Alien Plant Species on National Roads – Standard, GE-ENV-01104 (2020);
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) The Management of Invasive Alien Plant Species on National Roads – Technical Guidance, GE-ENV-01105 (2020);
- National Roads Authority (NRA) Guidelines on The Management of Noxious Weeds and Non-Native Invasive Plant Species on National Roads (2010);
- Managing Japanese knotweed on development sites - The Knotweed Code of Practice - produced by the Environment Agency (2013);
- Managing Invasive Non-native Plants in or near Freshwater, Environment Agency (2010); and
- Best Practice Management Guidelines Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, Invasive Species Ireland (2015).

The unintentional spread of IAPS during the proposed works is a significant issue, and if not managed in the correct manner, species could spread to un-infested areas, which poses public health and safety risks[1], as well as risks to the diversity and favourable condition of natural habitats, flora and fauna.

The most common ways that these species can be spread are:

- Site and vegetation clearance, mowing, hedge-cutting or other landscaping activities;
- Spread of seeds or plant fragments during the movement or transport of soil;
- Spread of seeds or plant fragments through the local surface water and drainage network;
- Contamination of vehicles or equipment with seeds or plant fragments which are then transported to other areas; and
- Importation of soil from off-site sources contaminated with invasive species plant material.

2.2. GENERAL BIOSECURITY MEASURES

Maintaining biosecurity standards is essential to preventing the spread of IAPS. It is similarly essential where IAPS are not present on site but there is a risk of contaminated material being brought onto the site via site machinery or staff travelling between sites. Vehicles, equipment and footwear can be vectors for the spread of invasive species.

The following measures will be undertaken where applicable:

[1] IAPS can cause damage to buildings and built infrastructure.

- Survey and treatment, if required, will be prepared cognisant of the possible extent of the underground rhizome/root system of different IAPS (particularly relevant for knotweed species);
- Fence off the infested areas prior to and during works where possible in order to avoid spreading seeds or plant fragments around or off the Site. In relation to knotweed plant species, allow for a 7m buffer around the area;
- Clearly identify and mark out infested areas. Erect signs to inform 3rd parties of the risk;
- Avoid, if possible, using tracked machinery in infested areas;
- Clearly identify and mark out areas where contaminated soil is to be stockpiled on site. This cannot be within 50m of any watercourse or within a flood zone;
- Create designated entry and exit points for operators on foot and for small mobile equipment. Access track(s) will be established through the site to avoid the spread of IAPS by vehicles/machinery accessing the site;
- Power washing of construction machinery prior to arrival at the Site;
- Installation and use of vehicular wheel-wash facilities;
- All HGVs entering and leaving the Site will use the wheel wash facilities provided.
- Material gathered in dedicated in the wheel-wash sump/tank will be transported offsite to an appropriately-authorised waste facility, along with any contaminated soil, where required.
- Installation of boot cleaners for site personnel at the Site entrance – to be used upon entry and exit if travelling around the Site on foot;
- Ensure all site users are aware of measures to be taken and alert them to the presence of this ISMP; and
- Erection of adequate site hygiene signage in relation to the management of IAPS.
- Verification that suppliers of all imported material are aware of the prohibition on invasive species.

2.3. PRE-WORKS AND MID-WORKS MONITORING

Monitoring during the works phase and restoration phase will follow a risk-based approach consistent with CIEEM guidance.

- Pre-works survey will be undertaken at least one month prior to commencement of enabling works.
- During the works and restoration phases, annual surveys during the growing season (April–October) will be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist.
- If no Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS) are detected during these surveys, the risk of introduction remains low, and monitoring will continue annually until restoration is complete.
- If IAPS are detected, treatment will be implemented promptly, and additional targeted surveys may be scheduled to confirm eradication.

This approach ensures monitoring effort is proportionate to the level of risk and site conditions.

Potential treatment options are discussed in Section 3.

2.4. POST-RESTORATION MONITORING

After the restoration phase is completed, the Site will be re-surveyed for the presence of Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS). Monitoring will be proportionate to the risk and based on survey results during the operational phase. The following approach is recommended:

2.4.1. NO IAPS IDENTIFIED DURING WORKS AND RESTORATION PHASES

One survey during the growing season, at least one year after completion of restoration.

If no IAPS are identified, monitoring may cease.

2.4.2. IAPS IDENTIFIED DURING WORKS AND RESTORATION PHASES

If IAPS were recorded during the works and restoration phases and successfully treated, undertake annual surveys for **up to two years post-restoration phase** to confirm eradication.

If no IAPS are detected during this period, monitoring may cease.

2.4.3. IAPS IDENTIFIED DURING POST-RESTORATION SURVEYS

If IAPS are detected during the restoration phase survey, implement appropriate treatment measures and undertake **follow-up surveys for two consecutive years** after successful treatment.

Monitoring may cease once two consecutive surveys confirm absence of IAPS.

3. TREATMENT METHODS

At the commencement of any excavation works and in advance of site clearance works, if any area is identified as requiring specific treatment for IAPS, it will be set out and the designated control measures will be implemented at the earliest possible stage to reduce the risk of spread throughout the Site or beyond. Kilmartin Junction 14 Limited will be responsible for the procurement of a treatment specialist for the Proposed Development.

There is a number of management options that can be implemented to control and prevent the spread of IAPS, if they are identified at the Site.

The approach to controlling IAPS will depend on several factors including the species in question, the scale of infestation, the topography and terrain of the site, the proximity of watercourses or other sensitive receptors (such as protected flora) and the funds available. Control measures are usually limited to chemical means (i.e. herbicide) or a combination of physical and chemical means.

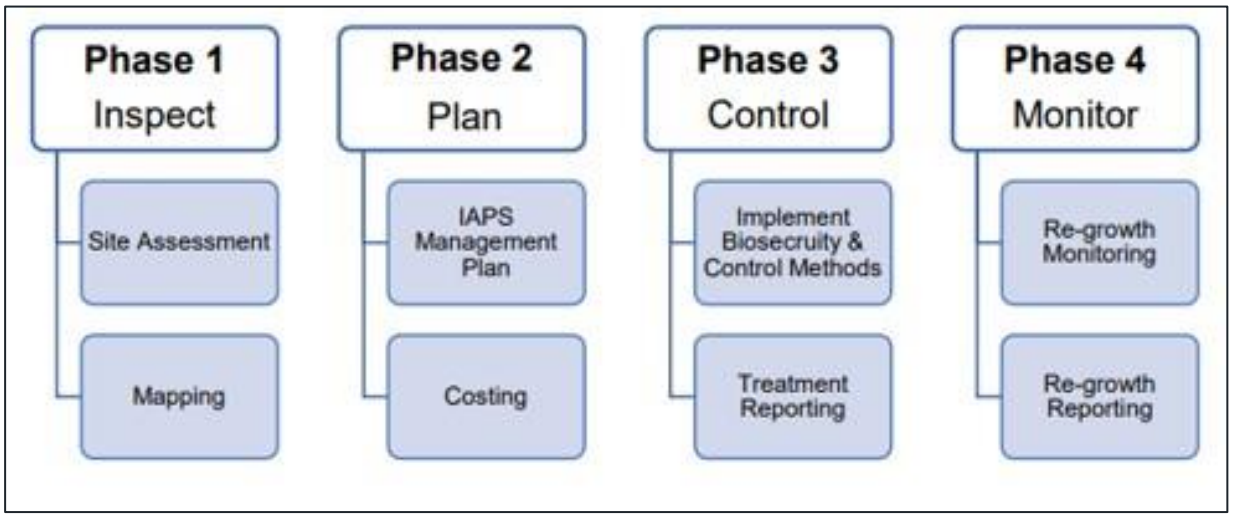
Usually when dealing with invasive species, priority is given to the use of physical control methods, such as excavation, hand-pulling or cutting as appropriate. The biomass is either removed from site or buried at depth. However, in the case of knotweed species, the use of physical methods alone is highly unlikely to be effective, due to the species' ability to propagate from small fragments of tissue. Chemical treatment, either on its own or in combination with physical treatment, will therefore be required to treat knotweed species.

Any required treatment of IAPS will be carried out by a suitably-qualified professional, as required.

The readers of this document are advised to consult the guidance cited in Section 2.1 for species-specific treatment methodologies. These documents include measures to aid the identification of relevant species, with details for the timing, chemicals and methodology for chemical control, and for measures to avoid environmental damage during the use of herbicides.

The control or management of any IAPS should be undertaken in the four distinct phases outlined in the TIIs (2020a) guidance (see Figure 3-1).

Figure 3-1 - Phases Associated with IAPS Management (TII, 2020a)



4. CONCLUSIONS

No Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS) have been recorded on the Site during baseline and update surveys (2022, 2023, 2025). The risk of introduction is considered low but not negligible due to the importation of soil during the operational phase.

The Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) sets out robust biosecurity measures (wheel wash, boot cleaning stations, signage, and supplier controls) to prevent introduction and spread.

Monitoring will be undertaken annually during the operational phase, and one post-restoration survey will confirm absence of IAPS.

If IAPS are detected during operations or post-restoration, treatment will be implemented and follow-up monitoring for two consecutive years will confirm eradication.

This proportionate approach aligns with CIEEM guidelines and avoids unnecessary long-term monitoring obligations while maintaining compliance with legislative requirements and best practice.

5. REFERENCES

Environment Agency (2010). Managing invasive non-native plants in or near fresh water.

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Town Centre House
Dublin Road
Naas
Co Kildare

wsp.com