

# **Auburn Little Auburn ,Malahide**

## ***Invasive Species Study***

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**Client :** Kinwest Ltd

**Prepared by :** Peter W Cuthbert BSc Agr (Hort)

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## **1.0 Summary**

As per instructions of Jim Kenny ,Project Manager Kinwest Ltd , an inspection of the lands to be subject of planning permission was carried out during the optimum period for Invasive Species during May to September 2019 by Peter W Cuthbert BSc Agr ( Hort).

The survey ,concluded that no Invasive alien species were present on site, recommendations are made in terms of Biosecurity to prevent Invasive species being accidentally introduced to the site

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 , Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed and Rhododendron .

The assessment has shown that none were present on site.

### **3.0 Site Inspection**

None of the listed Invasive species were found on this site

This underlines the importance of putting in place **Biosecurity measures** to reduce and prevent any potential impacts of invasive plants spreading to the site.

Some none native bulbous species incl Spanish Bluebell Hyacinthoides non-scripta and Three –cornered Leek Allium triquetrum were found in the woodland.

Concern must be expressed about the large concentration of Cherry Laurel Prunus laurocerasus ,a large non –native evergreen which has become established in the woodland area near Auburn House . While it is not a listed species 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. Cherry Laurel 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 of Sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus.

Sycamore 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 inthis woodland at the expense of Beech ,Oak .

Elm is another component of this woodland and has extensively developed by suckers , however as they develop they become susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease and die off'

The overall impact of these species has resulted in a negative impact on the age structure of this woodland

## **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 , no listed Invasive alien species were found.

It's also vital that measures are put in place in order to ensure that Invasive plants are not accidentally introduced to the site.

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

**Peter W Cuthbert BSc Agr ( Hort) .**