

Technical Note

Project: **Hertfordshire Constabulary Headquarters redevelopment** Job No: **60600329**

Subject: **Invasive non-native plant species management plan**

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Date: **15th August 2022**

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Date: **22nd August 2022**

Approved by: **John Simmons**

Date: **25th August 2022**

Revised:

Summary

An extension to the 2020 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the Hertfordshire Constabulary Headquarters site was undertaken by AECOM in 2022 to assess the biodiversity value and identify any new invasive species of three additional areas of the wider Hertfordshire Constabulary site which have been included within the boundary of the proposed redevelopment (see Figure 1).

No new invasive species were found in 2022 and this technical note describes the measures required to deal with the existing invasive species identified in 2020.

1. Introduction

1.1. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) undertaken by AECOM in September 2020 (AECOM, 2020) identified two invasive non-native plant species on the area of the Hertfordshire Constabulary which it is proposed to redevelop ('the Site'). The two plants, wall cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*) (TN1, TN3 and TN4 in Figure 1) and false Virginia-creeper (*Parthenocissus inserta*) (TN2 and TN5 in Figure 1), are listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and occur within the red line boundary. As recommended in the PEA report (AECOM, 2020) this document provides an Invasive Non-native Plant Species Management Plan for the Site to:

- deal with the wall cotoneaster and false Virginia-creeper before the commencement of the proposed redevelopment including measures to ensure that the plants are not spread beyond the Site and may necessitate eradication;
- provide recommendations to avoid invasive non-native plants being brought onto the Site during demolition and construction works.

This INNS management plan will form an appendix of the CEMP.

2. Method

2.1. An update site visit was made to the Hertfordshire Constabulary Headquarters on 9th August 2022 using the same method as for the PEA of September 2020. The three additional areas (dog handling facility; expansion of the SuDS pond; and the relocation of the memorial garden) and the wider site for the proposed redevelopment was surveyed for invasive non-native plants

and in particular those which are scheduled in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) . It is an offence under the Act to cause any scheduled species to grow or be spread into the wild.

3. Results

- 3.1. The survey was undertaken as planned on 9th August 2022 and full access was provided to the Site and the wider Hertfordshire Constabulary site. The conditions on the day were good for undertaking the survey though the region had been experiencing very warm and dry weather. The latter did not limit the information that needed to be collected.
- 3.2. The survey confirmed that there were two invasive non-native plant species within the Site, false Virginia creeper and wall cotoneaster. The two invasive plants were growing in the quadrant area in the centre of the Site in the borders, the latter growing intertwined with an escallonia plant (*Escallonia macrantha*). They were labelled during the survey with red and white barrier tape to aid their recognition. Table 1 provides essential details for these two species.

Table 1. Summary of key features of false Virginia creeper and wall cotoneaster

<i>Invasive species</i>	<i>Growth habit</i>	<i>Means of reproduction</i>	<i>Means of spread</i>
False Virginia creeper	Grows up walls, trees and shrubs and across the ground	Seeds and sections of stem	Birds and sections of stems in garden waste
Wall cotoneaster	A shrub spreading laterally as well as vertically	Seeds and can regrow from stumps and roots	Berries eaten by birds; seeds spread in droppings

- 3.3. No additional species were found in the wider site or three additional areas.

4. Recommendations and Conclusion

Dealing with false Virginia creeper and wall cotoneaster

- 4.1. Manual removal coupled with digging using a garden fork should suffice to dig out both the false Virginia creeper and wall cotoneaster. Cutting the wall cotoneaster with loppers immediately prior to removal will removal easier and avoid damaging the escallonia plant. It is important in both cases to remove roots, especially the wall cotoneaster.
- 4.2. The plant material should be bagged up to avoid any sections of stem or berries being spread. The waste can be put into a commercial green waste stream, incinerated in a commercial incinerator or taken to landfill. In the case of the latter, the waste would be classified as controlled waste.

- 4.3. The top 10 cm of soil under the two plants and for up to 0.5 m around, should be scraped up and likewise bagged off for disposal, the options for which are as for the green material.
- 4.4. Before removing the wall cotoneaster, this section of shrubs should be checked for any late season nesting birds before dug up. If any active nests are present, or suspected to be present, removal should be delayed until young are fully fledged.
- 4.5. The expansion of the SuDS pond and the new memorial garden provide the opportunity for biodiversity enhancement. For the SuDS pond, this could be achieved by choosing an appropriate meadow seed mix with species less palatable to rabbits. For the memorial garden, choosing plants that provide nectar and pollen sources for insects across the seasons would make a valuable contribution to the biodiversity of the Site.

Biosecurity measures to prevent invasive non-native plants being spread onto the Site

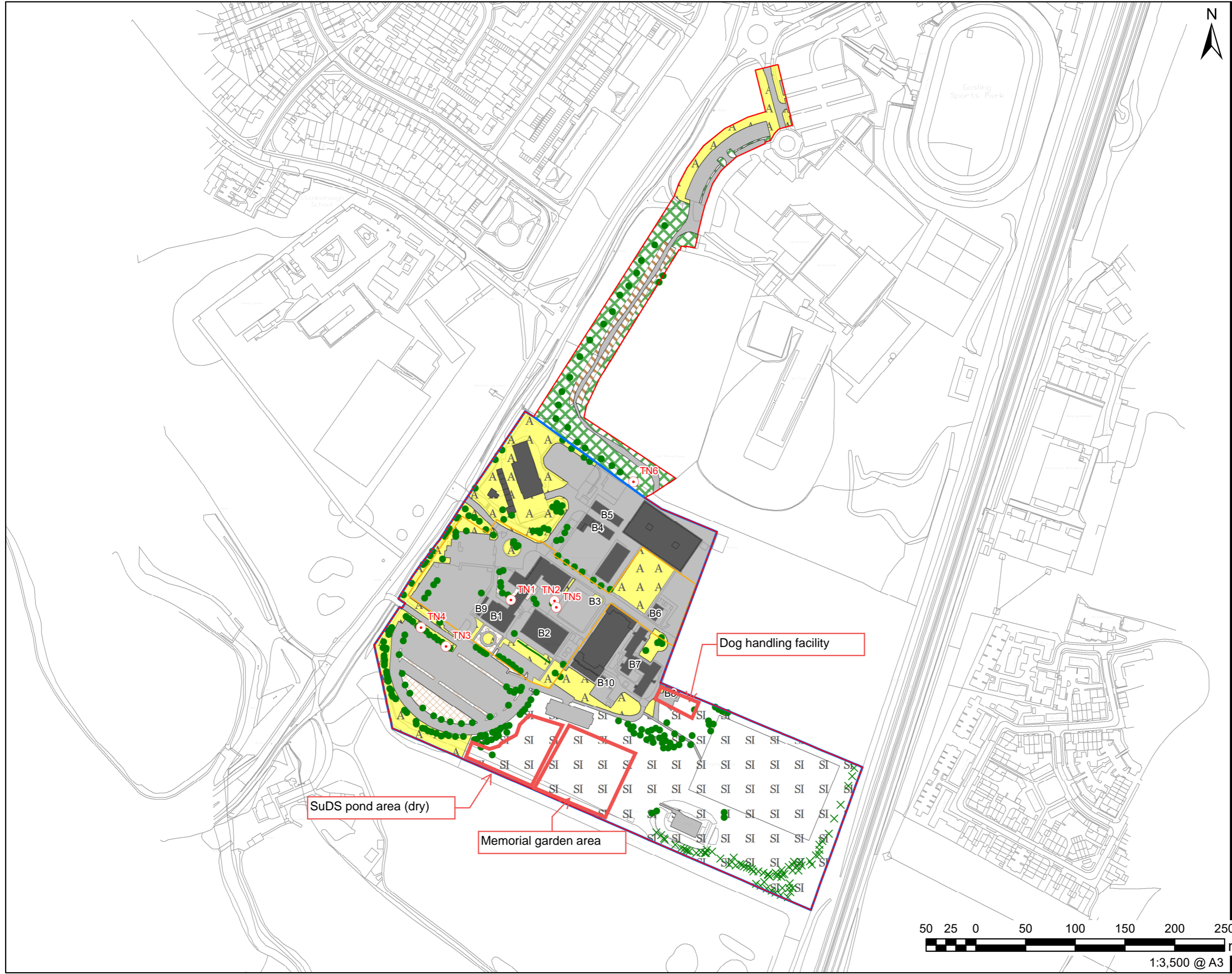
- 4.6. Strict biosecurity protocols should be implemented to avoid invasive non-native plant species being brought onto the Site during demolition and construction. Plants such as Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed, common in Hertfordshire, are spread in soil in tyre treads, on excavators and other plant, footwear and tools.
- 4.7. The following biosecurity measures should be implemented:
 - All appropriate site personnel should be made aware of the risk of invasive non-native plants being brought onto the Site in dirty boots and equipment and informed of the necessary precautions required to prevent spread.
 - Vehicles brought onto the Site, in particular plant used for excavation, should be clean and free from soil and mud including tyres and tracks.
 - Cleaning facilities should be set up at designated entry/exit points and a washing facility made available for dirty tyres coming onto site.
 - Any vehicles, equipment and footwear that may have come into contact with potentially contaminated soils should be inspected and thoroughly cleaned prior to coming onto the Site.
 - Soil brought on site should only be sourced from a reputable source with a good track record relating to not providing soil contaminated with the seeds and other propagules of invasive non-native plants.

Dealing with the false Virginia creeper and wall cotoneaster within the Site should be undertaken as soon as convenient and the plant material and associated soil disposed of appropriately. The Site will then be unconstrained with respect to the risk of spreading these species beyond the Site. Measures are presented to ensure such plants are not brought onto the site during demolition and construction.

5. References

AECOM. 2020. Stanborough Headquarters Redevelopment: Preliminary Ecological appraisal. Report for Hertfordshire Constabulary.

Figure 1. Phase 1 habitat survey showing INNS locations TN1-TN5



LEGEND

- Ecology Survey Boundary
- HCHQ Boundary
- Application Site Boundary
- Target Note

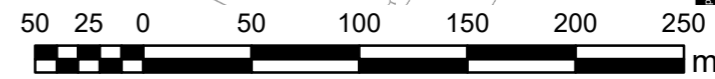
Phase 1 Habitat

- Individual Broad-leaved Tree
- × Scattered Scrub
- Intact Hedge - Species-poor
- Building
- A Cultivated/ Disturbed Land - Amenity Grassland
- Hard Standing
- Introduced Shrub
- Other Tall Herb and Fern - Ruderal
- SI Poor Semi-Improved Grassland
- Scrub - Dense/ Continuous

NOTES
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ISSUE PURPOSE
FOR INFORMATION
PROJECT NUMBER
60600329
SHEET TITLE
Phase 1 Habitat

SHEET NUMBER
Figure 01



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