



INVASIVE WEED SURVEY

Prepared For: Donegal Country Council – Tara Quinn

Address Surveyed: **Main Street Laghey, 54°37'01.9"N 8°05'12.2"W
(54.617192, -8.086728)**

Date of Survey: 29/4/22

Date of Report: 06/05/22

PRIORITIES

- Survey Purpose
- Impacts of Invasive Species
- Legal
- The national invasive species database
- Field Assessment
- Overview of Process
- Site specific Information
- Greentown Environmental Ltd recommendations
- Invasive species location
- General biosecurity measures
- Appendices
- References

SURVEY PURPOSE

Greentown Environmental Ltd was commissioned by Donegal County Council to provide a survey of any invasive species documented on the site. The purpose of this survey is to provide relevant information in simple terms to help clients understand the specific situation relating to their lands and give guidance on most suitable way forward.

IMPACTS OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Given the increasing pace of global change, it is becoming more important than ever to understand how human activities are altering biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. A key driver of change is the invasion of ecosystems by alien species, many of which attain sufficiently high abundance to influence biodiversity. In contrast to the extensive literature and syntheses on the processes leading to biological invasions, a robust framework to understand impacts has yet to be developed. For example, various invasive plants are known to decrease local plant species diversity, increase ecosystem productivity and alter the rate of nutrient cycling, and hence impact upon ecosystem services and human well-being.

LEGAL

The Bern Convention, the Biodiversity Convention and the Habitats Directive are all pieces of international legislation that require the regulation of prohibition of organisms likely to detrimentally affect wildlife or natural biodiversity in the wild. In the Republic of Ireland these requirements are reflected in the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.

The regulation contains measures for preventing the establishment of species not native to Republic of Ireland which may be detrimental to native wildlife and prohibits the release of animals and the planting of

plants listed on Part 2 of the Third Schedule. It also provides a mechanism making any of the above offences legal through the granting of licences by the appropriate authorities.

The Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy identifies the main issues affecting biodiversity in Northern Ireland. Section 5.9 of the strategy refers to the introduction of non- native species. Two of the introduced species currently considered to threaten biodiversity in NI are Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam. Both these species are invasive in the Republic of Ireland and are set to do the same damage as within Northern Ireland.

Whilst there is environmental legislation covering the spread of invasive species, legislation covering the disposal of invasive species at landfill Irish Waste Management Acts 1996-2003 and the use of herbicide in its treatment Statutory Instruments No. 155/2012 European Communities (Sustainable Use of Pesticides) Regulations 2012. Approval from the relevant statutory agency must be obtained prior to use of pesticides in or near water. This situation is evolving, and you should contact the national parks and wildlife service for the appropriate licenses including transport and disposal.

It must be noted however, that waste material treated with certain herbicides may be classified under hazardous waste. Material contaminated with invasive species is class as a controlled waste and its movement off site requires appropriate waste transfer documentation. As part of this waste transfer process the business which produces the waste complete a waste transfer note that details what the waste contains. Not all landfill sites accept invasive species despite being licensed to accept controlled waste under the European waste codes for soil and plant material mainly as their liners are not deep enough to allow deep burial.

THE NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

In response to the threat of invasive species the National Invasive Species Database was established by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in 2008. The National Invasive Species Database provides up to date centralised information on the distribution of invasive species in Ireland. It answers the questions: What invasive species do we have in Ireland? And where do they occur? The database has been developed as a resource to assist recording, monitoring and surveillance programmes, and provides the infrastructure for development of an early warning system for invasive species.

Tracking invasive species in a globalised world requires knowledge of what potentially invasive species are arriving into Europe and which are likely to arrive in Ireland. The National Invasive Species Database project is linked to the European Invasive Species Network (NOBANIS) to track changes across Europe and to provides a mechanism for surveillance, information exchange, and collaboration on projects to support the work of the European Commission.

FIELD ASSESSMENT

Field assessments were carried out on Main Street Laghey

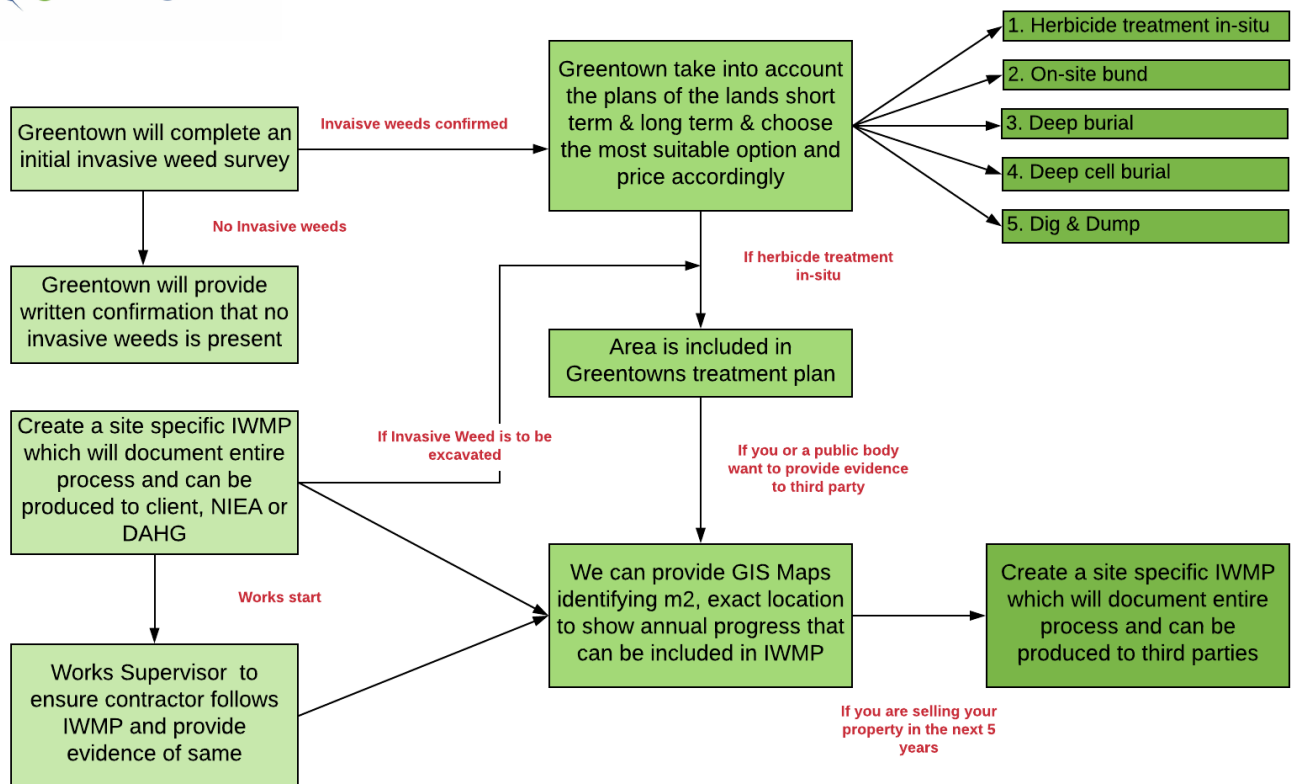
The survey area was systematically searched for evidence of invasive species listed under Part 2 of the Third Schedule in the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.

Equipment used for the survey included a digital camera, field recording sheets including base maps for annotation in the field.

OVERVIEW OF PROCESS



Greentown Environmental Invasive Weed Process Overview



SITE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

On our site visit there was zero plant species that is documented on Part 2 of the Third Schedule in the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.

GENERAL BIOSECURITY MEASURES

Good site hygiene must always be maintained during site investigation works and construction phase. No works should progress within the identified infestation until the required measures identified are implemented. All personnel with access to the site should be made aware of the infestation and the restrictions to access. It is recommended that a toolbox talk is presented to all staff which should detail identification and practice guidelines to prevent further spread.

APPENDICES



Site at Main Street, Laghey was a derelict building with a long narrow garden at the rear. The garden was overgrown but there was no invasive species present on the site.

REFERENCES

- Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
- Wade, M., Fennell, M. and Bacon, K. (2018). *Practical management of invasive non-native weeds in Britain and Ireland*. [Place of publication not identified]: PACKARD Publishing LTD.
- Best Practice Management Guidelines Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*. Prepared for NIEA and NPWS as part of Invasive Species Ireland. Kelly, J., Maguire, C.M. and Cosgrove, P.J. (2008).

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