A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme TR010060

6.5 First Iteration Environmental Management Plan

Appendix H: Invasive Species Management Plan

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme

Development Consent Order 202[ ]

6.5 First Iteration Environmental Management Plan
Appendix H: Invasive Species Management Plan

Regulation Reference	Regulation 5(2)(q)
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference	TR010060
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Author	A12 Project Team & National Highways

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Rev 1	August 2022	DCO Application

CONTENTS

Appendix H Invasive Species Management Plan

H.1 Background to the plan

H.1.1 The proposed scheme comprises improvements to the A12 between junction 19 (Boreham interchange) and junction 25 (Marks Tey interchange), a distance of approximately 24km, or 15 miles. The proposed scheme involves widening the A12 to three lanes throughout (where it is not already three lanes) with a bypass between junctions 22 and 23 and a second bypass between junctions 24 and 25. It also includes safety improvements, including closing off existing private and local direct accesses onto the main carriageway, and providing alternative provision for walkers, cyclists and horse riders (WCH) to existing routes along the A12, which would be removed. A detailed description of the proposed scheme can be found in Chapter 2 of the Environmental Statement [TR010060/APP/6.1].

H.1.2 This Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP), in outline, sets out the measures that would be used by the Principal Contractor (PC) to control and prevent the spread of invasive non-native species (INNS). The ISMP describes how non-native plant and animal species would be managed or removed where required in order to prevent their spread in the terrestrial and aquatic environment during construction of the proposed scheme.

H.1.3 An INNS is any non-native animal or plant that can spread, causing damage to the environment, the economy, human health or wellbeing, as defined by the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat (2020).

H.1.4 For the purposes of this plan, INNS comprise legally controlled plant species as defined within Schedule 9, Part II, of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Additionally the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019 (as amended) makes it an offence to release or allow to release into the wild any specimen of an invasive alien species and provides for the permitting of activities relating to invasive alien species. Eleven species are identified under the legislation as being widely spread in England and Wales and requiring management.

H.1.5 This ISMP would be updated by the PC and included within the second iteration Environmental Management Plan (EMP), as appropriate and necessary, prior to commencement of works in accordance with the relevant Requirements in Schedule 2 of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [TR010060/APP/3.1] and the requirements of the first iteration EMP [TR010060/APP/6.5].

H.1.6 The ISMP would specify in detail the biosecurity measures to be undertaken to ensure that none of the Schedule 9 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 species are spread off, or within, the Order Limits during construction, and that

measures are specified to ensure that no such species are inadvertently brought into the Order Limits during the works.

H.1.7 All works affecting INNS would be completed in accordance with

- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra). Guidance on stopping invasive non-native plants from spreading (2019)
- Environment Agency. Regulatory position statement (RPS) 178 for Treatment and disposal of invasive non-native plants (2019)
- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011

H.1.8 The movement of materials would also be undertaken in accordance with the Materials Management Plan (Appendix J) and the Soil Handling Management Plan (Appendix M), to be developed by the PC as part of the second iteration EMP.

H.2 Survey results

H.2.1 A total of 38 invasive non-native plant species were identified through desk studies and field surveys. Of these, six invasive plant species listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were recorded within 50m of the Order Limits.

H.2.2 The following invasive species were found to be present within the Order Limits or in the immediate environs:

- Giant rhubarb, *Gunnera tinctoria*
- Giant hogweed, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*
- Himalayan cotoneaster, *Cotoneaster simonsii*
- Japanese knotweed, *Fallopia japonica*
- Montbretia, *Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*
- Three-cornered garlic, *Allium triquetrum*

H.2.3 There were also five plant species considered invasive but not currently on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) recorded within 50m of the Order Limits:

- Alexanders, *Smyrnium olusatrum*
- Butterfly-bush, *Buddleja davidii*
- Himalayan balsam, *Impatiens glandulifera*
- Least duckweed, *Lemna minuta*
- Snowberry, *Symphoricarpos albus*

H.2.4 Invasive animal species identified through desk studies and field surveys that are likely within 50m of the Order Limits include American mink *Neovison vison* and Turkish crayfish *Astacus leptodactylus*.

H.2.5 It is an offence to plant, or cause to grow in the wild, any of the species listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Himalayan (Indian balsam) balsam is also listed in the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019.

H.2.6 Other INNS listed in Schedule 9 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 may be encountered. Should suspected INNS plant species be encountered during the construction of the proposed scheme, works in the area would stop and the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) or project Environmental Manager would be consulted.

H.3 Control measures

H.3.1 All works in the vicinity of/or directly affecting invasive species shall be managed to prevent the spread of such plants. The ISMP would include the best timing of works, biosecurity procedures and treatments and how to carry out the works to minimise the risk of dispersion of invasive non-native plant species from, into and within the proposed scheme and to ensure that they do not cause any delays to the programme.

H.3.2 Responsibilities will be established in relation to the management and control of INNS and included within the updated ISMP in the second iteration EMP.

H.3.3 The approach to managing INNS would be:

- Identification (preconstruction survey)
- Prevention
- Containment
- Control

H.3.4 The ISMP would be updated to ensure that the management applied is appropriate and suits the site-specific needs.

H.3.5 The following general biosecurity measures would be adopted:

- Areas highlighted during the preconstruction survey as supporting INNS would be clearly marked and signed to raise awareness to the construction team of the presences of INNS.
- All staff members would be made aware of the locations of invasive species relevant to their work and would be informed of the necessary precautions required to prevent spread.

- A toolbox talk would be provided by a suitably qualified ECoW at the onset of works, providing details on identification and the required biosecurity precautions.
- When working within an identified area, personnel would be reminded of biosecurity requirements at the start of each work shift and would be updated on any changes to management plans, for example information on the locations of any newly identified stands.
- No plant, equipment or personnel would leave an area with INNS without ensuring that as far as reasonably practicable all mud and/or plant material has been removed from vehicles, equipment, and clothing.
- Washdown areas would be set up at designated entry/exit points to invasive species demarcated areas and all plant and equipment or personnel shall be cleaned prior to leaving this area. For example, a jet wash would be available for vehicles and brushes and buckets of water would be available for clothing and equipment.
- When travelling or working between two different watercourses, measures would be employed to reduce the risk of transferring problem species or diseases between watercourses. Such measures would include, but not be limited to, the checking for and cleaning of mud and vegetation from boots, construction equipment and machinery, and allowing such items to dry in sunlight. Where works are carried out within watercourses with invasive species measures would be taken to avoid or minimise the risk of dispersal of fragments of invasive plants downstream.
- The storage and use of topsoil and other excavated materials for landscaping would be carefully managed to ensure that there is no risk of contamination of such materials.
- If soils potentially containing Japanese knotweed rhizome or Himalayan balsam seeds are taken offsite, such soils are classified as controlled waste and there is a duty of care for their proper disposal. The soil must be transported by an appropriately licensed carrier and disposed of at an appropriately licensed waste disposal facility.
- If INNS are located in areas where no works are planned or are within a short distance of or are on haul roads, a containment approach may be more effective than attempts to control. The use of fencing suitable for the adjacent works to exclude personnel and machinery (which could increase risk of spread) from areas of INNS in retained areas can be effective in the short-term.
- The INNS identified to date and their location in the works areas indicate that a programme of control is most appropriate. This will be identified in the updated ISMP. Based on the extent of INNS requiring treatment/removal and the timescale required in order to meet the construction programme, the following methods would be applied:

- Chemical/spraying and/or
- Excavation and onsite burial or offsite disposal

- It is possible to bury INNS onsite, with approval from landowners, if the conditions of the RPS 178 can be met (Environment Agency 2019). For Japanese knotweed specifically the Environment Agency must be notified at least one week in advance if material is to be buried.
- Prior to undertaking any herbicide spraying within 8m of a watercourse, consent would be obtained from the Environment Agency.

H.3.6 Species specific control methods including any required monitoring would be identified in the updated ISMP included within the second iteration EMP. The appropriate control measures to be implemented would be agreed with the ECoW following a review of the INNS present and the nature of works to be undertaken.

References

Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat (2020). Available at: [redacted] Accessed December 2021.

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