

2 3 23 Ecology response for DC/22/94340 Land to east of Stoneham Lane, south of Kingdom Hall, Stoneham Lane, Eastleigh, SO50 9HQ

Discharge of condition 4 (eradication/management of Himalayan/Indian balsam) of planning permission F/20/88820 for proposed scheme for nitrate removal and net biodiversity gain through ecological enhancements, creation of ponds and associated works.

Dawn Errington

2/3/23

I have reviewed the Invasive Weeds Management plan Rev 5 (February 2022) and it is now satisfactory.

Images 1 and 2 have been updated and are now readable. Himalayan balsam is shown covering most of the site except where dense vegetation prevented surveyor access. It may also be present in these areas and come up when they have been cleared.

The spoil bund along the eastern end of the site has been removed from the plans and the pond sizes will not be changed from the original plans.

The plan now states that surplus soils from forming the ponds that cannot be retained on site will have to be removed. It will be considered contaminated soil (with Himalayan balsam) and will have to be disposed of as controlled waste.

A temporary water flow filtration system will be in place in any channel between pond B and the Monks Brook during and for a short period after construction to help remove the risk of floating Himalayan balsam seed leaving the site and a decontamination station to prevent plant material from being carried off site by personnel, plant and vehicles.

Enhancement of the eastern boundary vegetation is covered under application F/20/87451.

I am now satisfied that condition 4 can be discharged, however,

From previous comments: *The active monitoring and control of Himalayan Balsam on this land and the land and banks of Monks Brook needs to continue for as long as it takes, otherwise it will act as a seed source in perpetuity for land downstream. This should be secured via the planning process on this site. As eradication is not an aim of the management plan, Highwood should confirm this in place in perpetuity not just for the 5-year monitoring plan as proposed.*

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

13/2/23

We have reviewed the additional information submitted by Environment Controls Ltd (7/2/23). The following information needs to be reviewed before condition 4 can be discharged:

Please can Highwood supply original full resolution copies of images 1 and 2 and an updated proposed development plan of the site (so that the captions can be read) with details of the Japanese Knotweed Limited proposed works and any re-modelling required to accommodate the proposed bund. As previously mentioned, the presence of the bund will change the volume of water that can be held in the pond and the amount of nitrates that it would be able to remove. The presence of the bund needs to be accounted for in the drainage plans.

As mentioned in the additional information, this would include adjustment of plans to enhance the vegetation on the eastern boundary with trees and native shrubs.

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We need to see clarification of how the planning process will secure the whole site and the bund in a programme of monitoring and herbicide treatment so that there is no risk to neighbouring sites or any areas downstream as a result of the works being done on this site.

Lisa Malter, Ecologist and Rachel Hardy, Countryside Manager