
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Dunlo Hill

Ballinasloe Housing Project

Co. Galway

INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY REPORT

July 2022

Galway County Council
Áras an Chontae,
Prospect Hill,
Galway



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DUNLO HILL, BALLINASLOE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT,**CO. GALWAY****INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY REPORT****CONTENTS**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Limited have been commissioned by Galway County Council to undertake an Invasive Species Survey for lands at Dunlo Hill, Co Galway. This 1.8 acre site has been acquired by Galway County Council to develop into **16** residential Units to ease accommodation waiting lists.

1.2 LEGISLATION

At an international level Ireland has signed up to a number of treaties and conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity. Such treaties and conventions require the Irish Government to address issues of invasive alien species. This has been implemented through the Wildlife Act 1976 and 2000 and further regulated through the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI 477).

Articles 49 and 50 of these regulations set out the legal implications associated with alien invasive species and Schedule 3 of the regulations lists non-native species subject to the restrictions of Articles 49 and 50.

The EU Regulation (No.1143/2014) on invasive alien species entered into force on 1st January 2015. This Regulation seeks to address the problem of invasive alien species in a comprehensive manner to protect native biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as to minimize and mitigate the human health or economic impacts that these species can have.

The Regulation foresees three types of interventions: prevention, early detection and rapid eradication, and management.

The approach to control will depend on several factors including the scale of infestation, the topography and terrain of the site, the proximity to watercourses or other sensitive receptors (such as protected flora) and the funds available. Current control measures are limited to a combination of physical and chemical means and chemical means alone.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 SITE LOCATION

The site is located at Dunlo Hill, Townparks, Ballinasloe, County Galway and incorporates the prominent focal point of Dooley's Bar and Grocery pivoting the top of Dunlo Street and Dunlo Hill. It also includes a row of derelict workers cottages along Dunlo Hill street. The site covers an area of approx. 1.8 acres.

2.2 SOILS

Since the site is located in a brownfield site, in an urban setting, the underlying soils are denoted as 'manmade' for this area. Corine 2018 also denotes this area as 'Urban fabric' comprised of 'artificial surfaces'.



Figure 2.1 Location of the proposed development site at Dunlo Hill, Townparks, Ballinasloe, County Galway

3. BASELINE CONDITIONS

3.1 INVASIVE SPECIES

3.1.1 Invasive Species Surveys

The footprint of the proposed development site and the surrounding area was surveyed on 27th July 2022 to determine the presence of non-native species included in the Third Schedule, Part 1 of S.I. No. 477 of 2011, EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (Appendix I) prior to the commencement of any site works (Figure 3.1).

The survey was undertaken during the optimal growing season in 2022. Since it is anticipated that Site development works will include roads, paths, services, site boundaries and landscaping, all aspects of the site were surveyed and incorporated a further external 10m outside the Site boundary (to allow for potential Japanese knotweed root system extension).

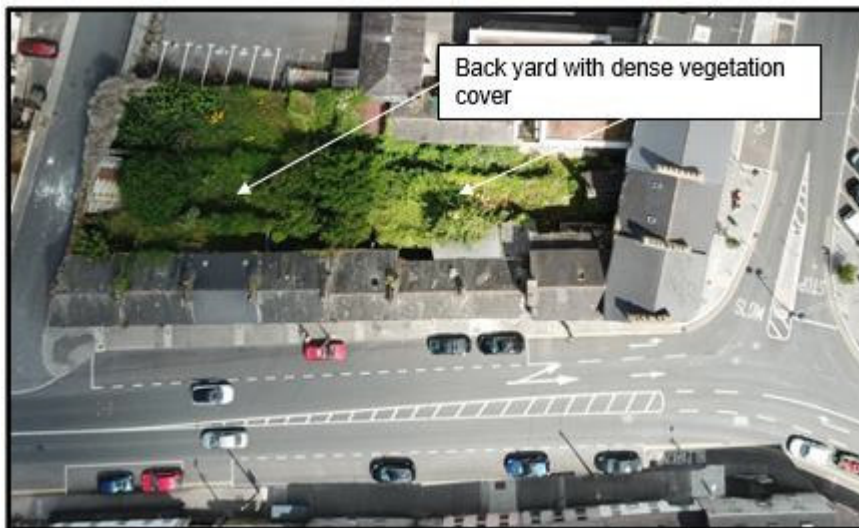


Figure 3.1 Proposed Development site survey area

The orthographic view of the site shows dense vegetation in the backyard areas.

3.1.2 Survey Results – Initial Survey

No Third Schedule, Part 1 species of S.I. No. 477 of 2011, EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 species were identified onsite or in adjacent lands during the site walkover. While the site is densely overgrown and difficult to penetrate at times, it was possible to access all aspects of the site during the site walkover (Plate 3.1).

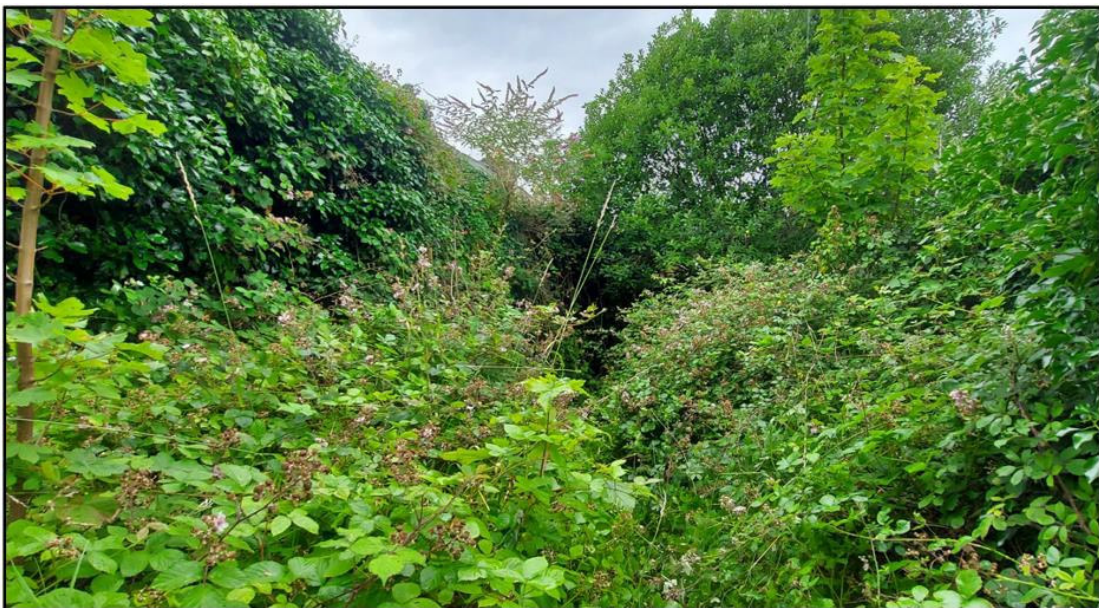


Plate 3.1 Images of dense overgrowth of vegetation onsite.

The Dunlo Hill proposed housing development site is heavily overgrown with several non-native species including *Clematis vitalba* (Traveller's joy) (Plate 3.2) which is vigorously climbing over other shrubbery and using old walls to gain height. It is native to the south of the England, but has spread to Ireland and is forming dense thickets blanketing the walls and other shrubbery onsite. While this plant is a non-native it is visited by pollinating insects during the day, such as bees as well as hoverflies. Traveller's joy is also a food plant for moth species such as the chalk carpet moth, *Melanthia procellata*; the small waved umber, *Horisme vitalbata*; the small emerald, *Hemistola chrysoprasaria*, as well as others. The seedheads of this plant also provide a food source for birds, such as goldfinches.

Buddleja davidii (the butterfly bush) is also a conspicuous common non-native on site (Plate 3.3). It is native to China and has become widespread across Ireland, causing many issues with its prolific growth and ability to spread. It can self-sow on waste ground and old masonry structures and derelict sites. It produces small winged seeds that are easily distributed and as noted on this site, have fallen and colonized within a few meters of the parent plant. *Centranthus ruber* (red valerian) has gained a foothold in open ground areas and on some walls and roof spaces; this plant was introduced in the 1600s from Europe.



Plate 3.2 Images of *Jacobaea vulgaris* (ragwort) in the foreground with *Clematis vitalba* (Traveller's joy) climbing over the ruins of a building in the background (white flower)



Plate 3.3 Images of *Buddleja davidii* (butterfly bush) in the foreground (pink flower)

Site walls are in general, heavily vegetated with *Hedera hibernica* (ivy) and *Rubus fruticosus* (bramble) (Plate 3.1), often atop with clusters of the common small fern, *Asplenium trichomanes* (maidenhair spleenwort) and *Polypody interjectum* (intermediate polypody). The lower walls close the entry, also support non-native *Cymbalaria muralis* (ivy-leaved toadflax). Several trees are growing on site with younger saplings developing including non-native *Acer pseudoplatanus* (sycamore) and native *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash) and *Sambucus nigra* (elder). A fallen sycamore tree also is prostrate on the ground. Two semi-mature sycamore trees (up to approximately 6m tall) are growing in the northwest corner of the gardens. Tall stands of *Epilobium* spp. (willowherbs) were common (and in bloom) onsite also.

There are several non-native plants on the site which could cause a problem if not managed carefully, especially the above noted climber *Clematis vitalba* (Traveller's joy) which has vigorous growth and *Buddleja davidii* (butterfly bush) which self-seeds readily in wasteground.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Biodiversity Net Gain Ireland is experiencing a biodiversity crisis and there are high level objectives to halt and ameliorate biodiversity loss. The Galway planning authority has an opportunity in this proposed development to showcase how development projects can enhance biodiversity, and to showcase best practice in relation to biodiversity and climate change.

Appendix I: Third Schedule Invasive Alien Species, Part 1 Plants

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THIRD SCHEDULENon-native species subject to restrictions under *Regulations 49 and 50***Part 1: PLANTS**

First column	Second column	Third column
Common name	Scientific name	Geographical application
American skunk-cabbage	<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>	Throughout the State
A red alga	<i>Grateloupia doryphora</i>	Throughout the State
Brazilian giant-rhubarb	<i>Gunnera manicata</i>	Throughout the State
Broad-leaved rush	<i>Juncus planifolius</i>	Throughout the State
Cape pondweed	<i>Aponogeton distachyos</i>	Throughout the State
Cord-grasses	<i>Spartina</i> (all species and hybrids)	Throughout the State
Curly waterweed	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	Throughout the State
Dwarf eel-grass	<i>Zostera japonica</i>	Throughout the State
Fanwort	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	Throughout the State
Floating pennywort	<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	Throughout the State
Fringed water-lily	<i>Nymphaeodes peltata</i>	Throughout the State
Giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Throughout the State
Giant knotweed	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	Throughout the State
Giant-rhubarb	<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i>	Throughout the State
Giant salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Throughout the State
Himalayan balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Throughout the State
Himalayan knotweed	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	Throughout the State
Hottentot-fig	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Throughout the State
Japanese knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Throughout the State
Large-flowered waterweed	<i>Egeria densa</i>	Throughout the State
Mile-a-minute weed	<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i>	Throughout the State
New Zealand pigmyweed	<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	Throughout the State
Parrot's feather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Throughout the State
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Throughout the State
Salmonberry	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Throughout the State
Sea-buckthorn	<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	Throughout the State
Spanish bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Throughout the State
Three-cornered leek	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Throughout the State
Wakame	<i>Undaria pinnatifida</i>	Throughout the State
Water chestnut	<i>Trapa natans</i>	Throughout the State
Water fern	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Throughout the State
Water lettuce	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Throughout the State
Water-primrose	<i>Ludwigia</i> (all species)	Throughout the State