



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

# Invasive Alien Species Survey

Proposed Accelerated Social Housing Scheme  
*Ballymakenny West*

---

## Document Details

**Client:** Louth County Council

**Project Title:** Invasive Alien Species Survey

**Document Title:** Proposed Accelerated Social Housing Scheme Ballymakenny West

**Prepared by:** Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants

Rev	Status	Date	Author(s)	Approved by
01	Draft	19/01/2024	ID	ID
02	Final	21/03/2024	ID	ID

## Contents

1	Introduction .....	4
1.1	Site & Project Overview .....	4
2	Relevant Legislation.....	4
3	Invasive Species Survey .....	6
3.1	Desk Survey .....	6
3.2	Field Survey.....	8
4	Results and Discussion .....	8
	References.....	9

---

## 1 Introduction

The purpose of this Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Survey is to outline the results of a pre-construction invasive species survey conducted at Ballymakenny West Drogheda Co. Louth. These surveys aimed to identify invasive plant species which may impact the proposed works and local ecology.

### 1.1 Site & Project Overview

The Ballymakenny West site is located on Ballymakenny Road on the northern edge of Drogheda. The site is currently croplands surrounded by hedgerows to the West and Northwest. Adjacent to the south and west of the site are further housing developments. To the north is the McCloskey's Bakery and to the east is the Ballymakenny Road and Ballymakenny Collage. No sensitive ecological receptors were noted within or directly adjacent to the subject site. The closest receptor is the Tullyeskar River which is found 70m from the site north western boundary. The closest European designated site is the River Boyne and Blackwater SAC which is 1.6km south of the subject site.

The proposed development site is composed entirely of **Arable Land (BC1)** at the time of surveys these lands were growing Maize. Hedgerows are found around the western and northwestern site boundaries. Hedgerows were dominated by Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Butterfly-bush (*Buddleja davidii*) with Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Dog-rose (*Rosa canina*) and Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*) abundant throughout. A large bank (**GS2 – Grassy verge**) separates the subject site from the Ballymakenny Road this was vegetated with Rape (*Brassica napus*) and lesser amounts of Black Medick (*Medicago lupulina*), Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) and Thistles (*Cirsium arvense*, *C. vulgare*). An area of fallow ground (**GS2 – Grassy verge**) is found along the site's northwest boundary. Here Rape, Oats, Redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*), Hedge Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*), Cock's-foot grass (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Meadow Fox-tail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) were recorded.

The Ballymakenny West site is located in a Regional Growth Centre as defined in the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027. Currently, the development is proposed to include:

The construction of 97no. houses including 12no. 2-bed bungalows, 40no. two storey 2-bed houses, 30no. two storey 3-bed houses, 13no. two storey 4-bed houses, and 2no. 3-bed bungalows.

The development will also include the construction of a new entrance onto the Ballymakenny Road; provision of new cycleway, footpath, and public lighting along the Ballymakenny Road; new estate roads and homezones within the site; 120no. car parking spaces including both on-street and in-curtilage parking; cycle parking; hard and soft landscaping including public open spaces, playground, and private gardens; boundary treatments; ESB substation; lighting; laying of underground sewers, mains and pipes; underground pump station and attenuation tanks; and all associated works.

The site area is 2.93 hectares and the density is 33 dwellings per hectare. The proposed development will also include 14.5% public open space. General works associated with the proposed development include:

- The removal of soil and overburden material
- Connection to services including water, wastewater, stormwater, electricity and broadband, where applicable
- The construction of 97 social housing units
- The installation of SuDS infrastructure including attenuation tanks, petrol/ oil interceptors, bio-retention systems/ rain gardens and tree pits
- Landscaping and;
- All associated site works.

Attenuation tanks will only be used as a last resort where other measures are not feasible. They will be provided on site and will have the capacity for site storage for 1/100 storm and 20% climate change with hydrobrake connection to mains. Petrol/ oil interceptors will be included in the overall drainage design. Bio-retention systems/ rain gardens and tree pits will be included in the landscape design but are not included in SuDS calculation due to impermeable ground conditions and poor infiltration however they will still contribute to overall SuDS.

## 2 Relevant Legislation

Natural Habitats Regulations SI 477 of 2011 contains a number of provisions relating to invasive non-native species (INNS), covering several sections and subsections of the Acts. It is prohibited, without a Invasive Alien Species Survey

license, to plant or otherwise cause to grow in a wild state, in any place in the State, any species of flora, or the flowers, roots, seeds or spores of invasive flora listed on the Third Schedule. Articles 49 and 50 of the aforementioned Acts set out the legal implications associated with INNS and Schedule 3 (the Third Schedule) of the regulations lists non-native species subject to the restrictions of Articles 49 and 50, which make it an offence to plant, disperse, allow dispersal or cause the spread of invasive species.

As regards to non-Third Schedule invasive species, including noxious weeds (native species that can act in an invasive manner), there are obligations under the EU Habitats Directive to address any threats to the conservation status of the various habitats and species listed for protection under the Directive.

Ireland has also ratified a number of international conventions that oblige the government to address issues pertaining to the spread of non-native invasive species, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Bern Convention and the International Plant Protection Convention.

Under the EU Plant Health Directive, emergency legislation was introduced in 2002 to prevent the introduction into and the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum* within the EU. *P. ramorum* is a fungal pathogen that causes blight in woody plant species, including many broadleaf species like oak, sycamore, chestnut and beech, and causes the disease known as “sudden oak death”. Since 2003, annual surveys have been carried out throughout the EU, and *Phytophthora ramorum* has been found in a number of EU member States including Ireland. *Rhododendron ponticum* is a known host of this pathogen and it has been found surviving on, but not killing, species of *Rhododendron* and *Viburnum*, meaning that they can act as vectors for its spread.

### 3 Invasive Species Survey

#### 3.1 Desk Survey

A search of records for invasive non-native species on the National Biodiversity Data Centre<sup>1</sup> was carried

---

out as part of this project. Table 1 shows the Third Schedule and Non-Third Schedule Invasive species recorded on the NBDC database within 2km of any of the works.

**Table 1: Invasive species recorded on the NBDC within 2km of the works area**

Species Name	Record count	Date of record	Data source	Found during field surveys	Management required
House Mouse (Mus musculus)	1	14/04/1969	Northern Ireland Mammal Database	No	None
Brown Rat (Rattus norvegicus)	1	14/04/1969	Northern Ireland Mammal Database	No	None
Common Garden Snail (Cornu aspersum)	2	31/12/1912	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	No	None
Jenkins' Spire Snail (Potamopyrgus antipodarum)	2	31/12/1912	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	No	None
Keeled Slug (Tandonia sowerbyi)	1	31/12/1905	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	No	None
Wrinkled Snail (Candidula interseca)	2	31/12/1912	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	No	None

European Rabbit ( <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> )	2	22/08/2015	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	No	None
Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> )	2	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	No	None

### 3.2 Field Survey

Field surveys were carried out on the site on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 and the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 as part of a multidisciplinary site walkover survey of the Ballymakenny West site and surrounds. No Third Schedule invasive species were found during the survey site. Non Third Schedule species Butterfly-bush (*Buddleja davidii*) was abundant throughout the site hedgerows.

## 4 Results and Discussion

No third scheduled invasive species were found within or surrounding the survey site. Non Third Schedule species Butterfly-bush (*Buddleja davidii*) was found within the hedgerows along the site boundary. This species is naturalised into the Irish landscape and does not require management under the legislation. If works are planned to commence 12 months after this report was written, it is advised to carry out a pre-construction IAS survey prior to the commencement of works.



---

## References

European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

Guidelines on The Management of Noxious Weeds and Non-Native Invasive Plant Species on National Roads, National Roads Authority 2010.

Invasive Species Ireland, 2021: <https://invasivespeciesireland.com/>

Irish Water AMT-SOP-009 Japanese Knotweed published by Irish Water - Information and Guidance Document on Japanese knotweed

National Biodiversity Data Centre, 2021: <https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/>

The All Ireland Pollinator Plan, 2021: <https://pollinators.ie/>

TII (2010) The Management of Noxious Weeds and Non-Native Invasive Plant Species on National Roads Revision 1, December 2010