No. 2 Firhouse Road and the former 'Morton's The Firhouse Inn', Firhouse Road, Dublin 24: Invasive Species Survey Report

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1. INTRODUCTION

Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants were commissioned by Bluemont Developments (Firhouse) Limited to undertake an invasive species assessment at No. 2 Firhouse Road and the former 'Morton's The Firhouse Inn', Firhouse Road, Dublin 24. Assessments were to determine if legally controlled invasive species subject to restrictions under Regulations 49 and 50 of the EC Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations (Irish statutory instrument 477/2011) were present. A site walkover was carried out by Environmental Consultants on the 28th of April, 2022.

Fig. 1 Area under survey at former Firhouse Inn and No. 2 Firhouse Road site.

2. METHOD

Only the main buildings and their immediate surroundings were assessed, as in Figure 1. Open windows and gaps allowed sufficient assessment of flora in areas suitable for vegetation growth.

3. RESULTS

No species listed on the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), were found within the boundary. *Buddleja davidii*, an invasive species with a Medium Impact risk, was noted in abundance. Mature Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is another Medium Impact risk species which occurs in the treeline immediately adjacent the site.

4. CONCLUSION

No species listed on the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), were found within the boundary. The location of stands of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica)* and other High Impact invasive species was a priority during the survey; none were recorded.

Buddleja davidii, also known as Butterfly Bush is a large deciduous shrub that can grow up to 300 cm tall. It is able to survive in poor soil and disturbed ground, colonizing new roads, urban sites, railways, as well as eskers and rock outcrops. It can create obstructions, and where it grows near waterways it

can lead to erosion problems due to its shallow roots. It can also outcompete native vegetation. Control of *Buddleja davidii* is quite straightforward. It may simply be grubbed up during dry periods and the cut material may be mulched and disposed of as per any cut woody material. Herbicide such as Glyphosate or Triclopyr may be applied to leaves or cut stems to kill plants in-situ. As the other invasive species occurring here (Sycamore) occurs outside the site, no action on this species is recommended.

Whilst no legally controlled invasive species were identified on site, biosecurity measures to prevent potential infestation should be strictly adhered to. Possible pathways of introduction of invasive species onto the site include machinery and importation of contaminated topsoil. All machinery, particularly tracked machinery, should be sufficiently checked and cleaned prior to entering the site. If topsoil is being imported into the site at any stage during construction or landscaping, the soil needs to be certified as having been treated for invasive species and / or the source of the topsoil needs to be confirmed as being invasive species free.

Appendix A. Some Photographs of Site

Fig. 1 Dandelion and other non-invasive species growing to rear of site.

Fig. 2 *Buddleja davidii*, a non-listed invasive species recorded in the former beer garden.

Fig. 3 Buddleia (to rear of photograph) and a number of other non-invasive species including Tutsan.

Fig. 4. Nettles and other non-invasive species among discarded materials to the rear of the site.