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**PENISTONE CRICKET CLUB.**

**OS REF: SE 25435 03459.**

**OTTER AND INVASIVE NON-NATIVE  
SPECIES (INNS) PRECAUTIONARY  
WORKING AND MANAGEMENT METHOD  
STATEMENT.**

**Ref No:- 240803/PWMS.**

**Date:- 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to replace the existing cricket club pavilion, score box, and umpire shed with new pavilion (planning application reference number: 2024/0583) at Penistone Cricket Club. There are a number of conditions attached to the planning condition. Condition Number 13 relates to ecology, specifically otter and invasive non-native species (INNS) and is outlined below:

*'13. No development shall take place (including vegetation/site clearance) until a Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) for otter and invasive species has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The PWMS should also include a pre works survey for otter. The PWMS will be completed by a suitably qualified ecologist and the approved PWMS shall be implemented in full according to the specified timescales.*

*Reason: In the interests of Biodiversity in accordance with policy BIO1 of the Local Plan.'*

1.2. The site survey was carried out by Sam White BSc ACIEEM. Sam has had experience in a professional capacity as an Ecologist focusing primarily on survey work for protected species and botanical surveys. Sam has a BSc in Environmental Conservation from Sheffield Hallam University and Graduated in 2015. Sam joined Whitcher Wildlife Ltd in May 2018 as an Ecological Consultant and is now a Senior Ecological Consultant at the company. Sam holds a survey licences for Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*, Barn Owl *Tyto alba*, a Level 2 Class Licence for Bats and a CL23 maintenance licence for crayfish. Sam is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and is accredited to undertake MoRPh river condition assessments.

1.4. This document outlines precautionary working methods and management that will be implemented during the works on the site ensuring that there is no breach of legislation.

1.5. Appendix I and Appendix II of this report contains information on otter and Schedule 9 species and otter and is to aid the reader in understanding this report.

1.6. Appendix III of this report contains a toolbox talks and identification information on both otter and Himalayan balsam.

1.7. This document will form part of the site induction and will be briefed to all personnel working on the site.

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## **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION.**

### **2.1. The Survey Area.**

2.1.1. The survey area is located in Penistone, South Yorkshire. The surrounding area comprises arable land, woodland pockets, the River Don and residential housing.

2.1.2. The aerial photograph below shows the location of the survey area, indicated by the red arrow, and the surrounding area.



2.1.3. The survey area comprises Penistone Cricket Club, specifically the clubhouse and equipment store.

2.1.4. The limits of the survey area are outlined in red in the aerial map below.



2.1.5. During the preliminary ecological appraisal no otter holts were found to be present on either bank of the river. Otter spraints were found on the western bank of the river at SE 25396 03385, showing the river is used by otter.



2.1.6. Himalayan balsam was present behind Building 1, likely to have spread from the corridor of the River Don. Himalayan balsam is a non-native invasive plant species

listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). This species is shown in the photograph below.



2.1.7. No records of Himalayan balsam were returned within the data search although this species is frequently identified along watercourse and within adjacent land.

2.1.8. The plan below highlights the location of the Himalayan balsam which is marked by T1.



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### **3. PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES - OTTER**

3.1. Measures to prevent disturbance to foraging and commuting otter will be implemented through this Precautionary Working Method statement (PWMS) covering the demolition and construction period.

3.2. Foraging and commuting otter have been shown to be present along the river, however given the localised nature of the works, the development will have no impact on otter if the following precautions are in place.

3.3. The evidence suggests that otters do use the watercourse infrequently and therefore works can proceed in the area without a licence from Natural England; but a precautionary method of works should be adopted.

3.4. All site personnel will be briefed on the potential presence of otter, their identification and legislation. A toolbox talk, to be used in this briefing, has been appended to Appendix III. A signed briefing sheet should also be kept on site.

3.5. All works will be kept to daytime working, when otters should not be present within the waterbody. This will limit the chance of disturbance from the demolition and rebuild.

3.6. All lighting will be directional and directed inwards to work areas rather than outward facing towards the watercourse and associated habitats. All lighting should be turned off when not in use, alternatively automatic sensors should be considered.

3.7. Open excavations will be kept to a minimum across the whole site and covered overnight or fitted with a means of escape to prevent otters or other animals becoming trapped by means of ramped access / egress. This will be inspected every morning to ensure no animals, such as otter or badger have fallen in.

3.8. Pipes stored on site should also be inspected daily, or capped at the end of each shift.

3.9. If otters or their features, such as holts, couch, slide, spraints etc, are identified within or immediately to the works area, works will cease, and Whitcher Wildlife Ltd should be contacted for further advice.

3.10. No site operative will be permitted to disturb a feature potentially identified as resulting from an otter (holt, couch, slide, spraint site etc.) until investigated by a suitable qualified ecologist.

3.11. All site personnel to be aware that otter may utilise stacked pipes or the base of pallets to rest. These features should be inspected daily before the start of works.

3.12. Current pollution prevention guidelines for working near to watercourses should be adhered to at all time.

3.13. No Fuel, oil or any other potentially harmful or polluting fluids / chemicals to be stored within 10m of the watercourse.

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## **4. PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES – HIMALAYAN BALSAM.**

4.1. Himalayan balsam was present behind Building 1, likely to have spread from the corridor of the River Don. Himalayan balsam is a non-native invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).

4.2. It is an offence to allow or cause these plants to spread into the wild. The plant spreads through seeds present on the plant in late summer to autumn and within the soil all year round.

4.3. All personnel on site will be briefed on the identification of Himalayan balsam. This briefing will be undertaken using the appended toolbox talk in Appendix III. A signed record of this briefing should be kept on site.

4.4. The site clearance will ideally be undertaken outside of July to November, to avoid disturbing the plants when seed pods are present. If site clearance is undertaken within this period, a rigid barrier will be in place providing a 2m exclusion zone to prevent accidental dispersal of seeds.

### ***4.5. On-Going Control Methods***

4.5.1. In order to control Himalayan Balsam in situ, it must be prevented from producing seeds until the seed bank is exhausted. Methods to remove Himalayan Balsam in order of preference are:

4.5.2. Himalayan Balsam has very shallow roots and can be easily hand pulled. Hand pulling is time consuming but has the benefit that other species can be easily avoided. This should ideally commence in May/June when plants can easily be identified and will not have set seed. Pulled plants should be collected and dried or composted. If fully desiccated and seedless, they are inert.

4.5.3. Cutting/trimming – Cutting should be at ground level below the first node prior to setting seed in order to be most effective.

4.5.4. Applying herbicide – Spot spraying during May, before the plants set seed, but late enough to ensure that germinating seedlings have foliage to absorb the herbicide. This would need to be a herbicide safe for use near to a watercourse.

4.6. If site personnel are on site in advance of this treatment, the area will be demarcated with a fence / physical barrier and sign posted.

4.7. Any soils within 7m of the plant will be treated as controlled waste as these may contain seeds. Any machines that have come in contact with this soil will be washed down on site to prevent soils containing seeds being dispersed off site.

4.8. Boot and tool washdown stations will be available to prevent any soils containing seeds leaving the site. All arisings from the wash station will be contained, ensuring they do not enter the river and will be disposed of as controlled waste

4.9. Vehicles will be checked for mud, debris and vegetation prior to leaving the site and washed if required, with careful management of run-off to avoid spread of seeds.

4.10. Any materials and waste leaving the site, which cannot be cleaned, must be disposed of as controlled waste.

4.11. There will be on going monitoring of this species and the species will be controlled, whilst the plant is not seeding.

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Prepared by:	
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Checked by:	
Ruth Georgiou. BSc, MCIEEM.	Date: 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025

## **Appendix I. OTTER INFORMATION.**

### ***Ecology***

Otters are nocturnal, are active all year around and live by undisturbed waters where there is plenty of cover; mostly by freshwater lakes, rivers and small streams as well as some coasts.

Fish are the otter's main source of food, especially eels and they therefore rely on good fish populations. They also eat amphibians and the occasional birds and small mammals.

An otter may use over 40km of river and needs many resting places throughout this range. A female otter will give birth to 1 to 3 cubs in a natal holt which is often away from the main river and must be completely undisturbed.

### ***Surveys***

Generally, the only evidence seen of the otter is its faeces or 'spraint', which are deposited along a watercourse in prominent positions. Surveys will look for the presence of these spraints, along with any tracks or potential holts or other resting places which may be used by otters.

### ***Legislation***

Otters are protected under Appendix II of the BERN Convention Act (1981), partly covered by Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive, Annex II of the Conservation and Habitats Regulations (2010), Appendix I of the CRoW Act (2000) and are listed under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Communities Act (2006) making them a species of principal importance. Otters are considered to be 'Near Threatened' by the IUCN Red list.

This makes it an offence to disturb any animal while it is occupying a structure or place it uses for shelter or protection or to obstruct access to such a place.

## **Appendix II. INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES INFORMATION.**

### *Ecology*

The Government has acknowledged the problems that can be caused by non-native invasive species. In 2008 the Government launched “The Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain”. The strategy provides a framework for a more co-ordinated approach to invasive species management. It seeks to create a stronger sense of shared responsibility across government, key organisations, land managers and the public.

The Non-Native Species Secretariat has been established to oversee the implementation of the strategy. Details of the secretariat including risk assessments and action plans for some species are available at [www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org).

In general, there are four basic methods of controlling weeds; mechanical, chemical, natural and environmental.

- ***Mechanical control*** includes cultivation, hoeing, pulling, cutting, raking, dredging or other methods to uproot or cut weeds.  
*Where this method is used all plant material must be considered “controlled waste” and must be disposed of properly.*
- ***Chemical control*** uses approved herbicides.
- ***Natural control*** uses pests and diseases of the target weed to weaken it and prevent it from becoming a nuisance.
- ***Environmental control*** works by altering the environment to make it less suitable for weed growth, for example by increasing or decreasing water velocity.

### *Surveys*

A site will be searched for invasive plant species growing on site, from mature plants to new shoots. A site will also be searched for dead stems indicating that plants that may have seasonally died back are present.

## Legislation

Invasive species listed under Schedule 9 are prohibited from release into the wild. Schedule 9, Section 14(2) prohibits 'planting' or 'causing to grow' in the wild of any plant listed in Part 2 of Schedule 9.

The following is a list of all the species of plant listed under Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Common Name	Scientific Name	England & Wales	Scotland
Alexanders, Perfoliate	<i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i>	✓	
Algae, Red	<i>Grateloupia luxurians</i>	✓	
Archangel, Variegated Yellow	<i>Lamium galeobdolon subsp. Argentatum</i>	✓	
Azalea, Yellow	<i>Rhododendron luteum</i>	✓	
Balsam, Himalayan	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	✓	
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	✓	
Cotoneaster, Entire Leaved	<i>Cotoneaster integrifolius</i>	✓	
Cotoneaster, Himalayan	<i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>	✓	
Cotoneaster, Hollyberry	<i>Cotoneaster bullatus</i>	✓	
Cotoneaster, Small Leaved	<i>Cotoneaster microphyllus</i>	✓	
Creeper, False Virginia	<i>Parthenocissus inserta</i>	✓	
Creeper, Virginia	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	✓	
Dewplant, Purple	<i>Disphyma crassifolium</i>	✓	
False-acacia	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>		✓
Fanwort	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	✓	✓
Fern, Water	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	✓	✓
Fig, Hottentot	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	✓	✓
Garlic, Three-Cornered	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	✓	
Hogweed, Giant	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	✓	✓
Hyacinth, water	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	<i>Macrocystis angustifolia</i>	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	<i>Macrocystis integrifolia</i>	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	<i>Macrocystis laevis</i>	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	<i>Macrocystis pyrifera</i>	✓	✓
Kelp, Japanese	<i>Laminaria japonica</i>	✓	✓

Knotweed, Giant	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	✓	
Knotweed, Hybrid	<i>Fallopia japonica x Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	✓	
Knotweed, Japanese	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	✓	
Knotweed, Japanese	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>		✓
Leek, Few-flowered	<i>Allium paradoxum</i>	✓	✓
Lettuce, water	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	✓	✓
Montbretia	<i>Crocsmia x crocosmiiflora</i>	✓	
Parrot's-feather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	✓	
Pennywort, Floating	<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	✓	
Potato, Duck	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	✓	
Primrose, Floating Water	<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>	✓	
Primrose, Water	<i>Ludwigia grandiflora</i>	✓	
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	✓	
Rhubarb, Giant	<i>Gunnera tinctorial</i>	✓	
Rose, Japanese	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	✓	
Salvinia, Giant	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	✓	✓
Seafingers, Green	<i>Codium fragile</i>	✓	
Seafingers, Green	<i>Codium fragile tomentosoides</i>		✓
Seaweed, Californian Red	<i>Pikea californica</i>	✓	✓
Seaweed, Hooked Asparagus	<i>Asparagopsis armata</i>	✓	✓
Seaweed, Japanese	<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	✓	✓
Seaweeds, Laver (except native species)	<i>Porphyra sp. except - P. amethystea P. leucosticta P. linearis P. miniata P. purpurea P. umbilicalis</i>	✓	✓
Shallon	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>		✓
Stonecrop, Australian swamp	<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	✓	✓
Wakame	<i>Undaria pinnatifida</i>	✓	✓
Waterweed, Curly	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	✓	✓
Waterweeds	<i>All species of the genus Elodea</i>	✓	

## Toolbox Talk: Otters

Once found throughout Britain, most of our otter populations crashed in the 1960's due to poisoning from agricultural pesticides, which drained into our river systems. Although this threat has passed and otter numbers are slowly beginning to recover, they are still subject to a number of serious pressures.

### Identification

Otters have short legs with a flat broad head and small ears. The body fur is mid brown and is paler underneath. The tail is long and sleek. They are large with an adult male reaching 1.2m from nose to tail and weighing about 10kg.



Generally the only evidence seen of the otter is its faeces or 'spraint', which are deposited along a watercourse in prominent positions or footprints along the bank of the watercourse.



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### Habitat

Otters live by undisturbed waters where there is plenty of cover, mostly by freshwater lakes, rivers and quiet small streams as well as some coasts.

Fish are the otter's main source of food, especially eels and they therefore rely on good fish populations. They also eat amphibians and the occasional bird and small mammal.

An otter may use over 40km of river and needs many resting places throughout this range. A female otter will give birth to 1 to 3 cubs in a natal holt, which is often away from the main river and must be completely undisturbed.



### Legislation

The otter is listed on Appendix 1 of CITES, Appendix II of the Bern Convention and Annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive. It is protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981 and Schedule 2 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations, 1994 (Regulation 38). The European sub-species is also listed as globally threatened on the IUCN/WCMC RDL.

- 39.—(1) It is an offence-
- (a) deliberately to capture or kill an otter;
  - (b) deliberately to disturb an otter;
  - (c) to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of an otter.

**If an otter holt is identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at [info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk](mailto:info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk)**

## Toolbox Talk: Himalayan Balsam

Himalayan Balsam was introduced into the UK in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century as an ornamental garden plant. The plant has since become established in the wild growing in a wide range of habitats, predominantly damp habitats and along watercourses. Himalayan Balsam grows in dense stands and therefore along river banks it can increase the likelihood of flooding during periods of heavy rainfall and can leave the river banks bare and exposed to erosion during the winter.

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### Identification.

Himalayan Balsam grows to around 2m and has a hollow, brittle stem. The plant stem is green to red early in the season and turns pink to red during the summer.



The plant has leaves up to 15cm long which are finely serrated along the edges and may have a pink mid-rib. The flowers are trumpet shaped and pink.



### Habitat and Spreading.

Himalayan Balsam grows in a range of habitats but prefers damp habitats and river corridors. The plant grows in dense stands that out-compete native species. Along river corridors the plant can increase the likelihood of flooding during periods of heavy rainfall and leaves the river banks bare and exposed to erosion during the winter.



Himalayan Balsam spreads solely by seeds, which are small and easily carried by wind or water. The seed heads are approximately 2.5cm long and explode on touch when ripe.

The best form of control of the plant is to prevent it from seeding by cutting back or pulling before it can seed.

### Legislation.

Under section 14 and Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence for it to be planted or otherwise caused to grow in the wild. This includes spreading the species by transferring polluted ground material from one area to the other.

If Himalayan balsam is identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at [info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk](mailto:info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk)

## Identification: Himalayan Balsam

If Himalayan Balsam is suspected to be present on site the following document can be used to identify the plant.

If suspected Himalayan Balsam is identified it should be photographed and no work should be carried out within 10m of the plant until a more accurate species identification has been made.

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### Summer Identification.

Himalayan Balsam is a tall annual herb with explosive seed heads and a very shallow root system. It has highly visible pink trumpet shaped flowers on hollow green stems which become red to pink in the summer.



Leaves are narrow with serrated edges, growing up to 15cm long growing either opposite or in whorls of 3-5.



### Winter Identification.

It is more difficult to identify the plant over winter (October to February) and can only be identified from its hay like remains and distinctive root system.



### Spring Identification.

During the spring the plant is growing (March to June) and must be identified by its seedlings, stem and leaf shape.



Himalayan Balsam is highly invasive and spreads from explosive seed capsules.



It is often found to out-compete native species in ecologically sensitive areas, particularly river banks. The die back of extensive stands over winter can leave river banks bare and exposed to erosion.

If Himalayan Balsam is identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at [info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk](mailto:info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk)