

Brian McMahon  
Senior Engineer  
Network Operations and Traffic  
AECOM  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Adelphi Plaza  
George's St. Upper  
Dun Laoghaire  
Co. Dublin

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
Ref: 15.195  
Re: Navan GDA Cycle Route  
Subject: Invasive Alien Plant Species Survey

Dear Mr McMahon,

I have pleasure in providing this summary on the Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS) Survey which ROD conducted along the Navan GDA Cycle Route, Navan, Co. Meath on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Project Survey**

The scope of the survey was to identify any IAPS along the proposed Navan GDA cycle route in Navan, Co. Meath. The route is generally within the curtilage of existing roads and footpaths. However, in a number of locations, it includes land-take within adjacent vegetation (grassy verges and hedgerows) and private properties.

An initial ecological desk study accessed the NBDC invasive species database and identified two IAPS, namely Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), potentially within the survey area. These species are subject to restrictions under Regulation 49 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended).

The field survey was conducted on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and adhered to best practice guidance methodology (Guidelines for the Management of Noxious Weeds and Non-Native Invasive Plant Species on National Roads (TII, 2010)). The entire route was driven slowly and where areas of vegetation were observed, i.e. scrub or open areas along roadsides and riparian habitats along the River Boyne, these were surveyed on foot. The location of any IAPS was noted.

### **Survey Findings**

The site survey found no IAPS of concern i.e. listed on the Third Schedule to the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended), along the proposed cycle route.

Road verges and river corridors often provide a conduit for IAPS to spread, and it was suspected that the bank of the River Boyne along the Kells Road may have infestations of Himalayan Balsam which is known to occur 2.5 km upstream. The survey, however, did not identify any.

If you require any further information regarding this matter please feel free to contact ROD and we will clarify any enquires you may have.

Yours Sincerely,



**Patrick O'Shea**

MSc ACIEEM

Ecologist

**Roughan & O'Donovan**