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South Pavenhill Farm, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4FH

Invasive Species Method Statement

Lovell

P.1464.21
June 2026

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Reference	Site	Client	Date
P.1464.21	South Pavenhill Farm, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4FH	Lovell	09 June 2026

Field work	Document author(s)	Technical review	Quality & approval
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Revision	Date	Details
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1	Drawing P.1464.21.E21 Phase 1 Habitat Survey P.1464.21.E22 Invasive Species Locations
2	Timetable for Invasive Species Treatment

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Report

Ascerta has been instructed by Lovell to prepare an Invasive Species Method Statement for South Pavenhill Farm, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4FH (hereafter referred to as the site). The site OS grid reference is SU 07761 87326 and the What3Words reference is sour.cherubs.bookshop.

The site was visited on 19 May 2026 to determine the extent of invasive species cover at the site and provide a method statement for the control of the species identified. This report sets out the details of the existing invasive species on-site. The invasive species present within the site are wall cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*). This report provides a management plan for the control of this species. Associated drawings can be found within the appendices of this report and within the Ascerta report P.1464.21 Ascerta (Preliminary) Ecological Appraisal, South Pavenhill Farm.

2. Site Description and Legislation

2.1 Site Location and Background

The site is set on the western outskirts of Purton. It is almost entirely comprised of improved grassland with a small area of dense scrub located along the eastern boundary. Several hedgerows bound the north, west, south and partial eastern boundaries. Our client seeks to construct a number of residential dwellings as well as associated access road, parking and Public Open Space (POS). All habitats within the site are likely to be impacted by the proposals.



Photograph 1: Extent of the site

The site lies on the western edge of Purton. To the east lies an area of residential dwellings. To the north, south and west lies expanses of agricultural land with areas of woodland. The areas of invasive species are presented within the wider site habitat context in drawing P.1464.21.E21 Phase One Habitat Survey, Appendix 1, and drawing P.1464.2.E22 Invasive Species Locations, Appendix 1, and are detailed below in Section 2.2 with accompanying photographs.

2.2 Invasive Species Present

Wall cotoneaster is present along the northernmost section of the eastern site boundary.



Photograph 2: Section of hedge along eastern boundary which contains wall cotoneaster

2.3 Legislative Context

Schedule 9 (Part II) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA) provides the principal legislative framework for invasive non-native plant species (INNS) in the UK. Under Section 14(2) of the WCA, it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant listed on Schedule 9. While landowners are not required to remove invasive species from their land, they are responsible for preventing the spread of any INNS into neighbouring land and the wider landscape.

3. Cotoneaster Method Statement

Wall cotoneaster is present within a section of hedgerow along the northern section of the eastern site boundary.



Photograph 4: Hedgerow containing wall cotoneaster

3.1 Management Prior to Site Clearance

The wall cotoneaster should be isolated prior to site clearance. Cotoneaster should be fully excavated, including 5m of earth surrounding the plant to ensure all roots have been removed. This can be done at any time of the year; however, it is recommended that it be removed in spring or early summer (April-July) when the plant is in flower and does not have berries. Earth should be shaken off of roots and the entire plant removed from site by a licensed contractor. If berries are present on the plant, the stems should be covered to prevent berries falling to the ground during transfer and the plant should be burned to prevent seeds from sowing and establishing further individuals.

3.2 Management Throughout Works

Regular checks for wall cotoneaster will be required following development, with an ongoing treatment programme agreed. This ongoing treatment programme would occur as part of the landscape management requirements for the site and would likely involve a check for and removal of wall cotoneaster annually. If then no wall cotoneaster is found on the site within a two-year period following the hand pulling, the site can be considered cleared of wall cotoneaster for development purposes.

3.3 Post-construction Management

If wall cotoneaster is found on the site during subsequent monitoring, it should be controlled by herbicide spraying smaller individuals. If larger individuals are found, mechanical removal will be required.

Regular monitoring of the site should be undertaken, with a log kept of any new growth arising and requiring removal. Monitor site annually for any regrowth or seedlings, and treat with herbicide and excavation as required until a 12-month period of no new plants are observed.

3.4 Toolbox Talk

It is recommended that these Method Statement management processes and the identification examples are shared with the wider site team in order to ensure awareness of these species and the management practices to be implemented.

3.5 Biosecurity Measures

- Given that the spread of *Cotoneaster horizontalis* occurs by seed dispersal or local contamination of soil by root fragments, it is vital that steps are taken to ensure no inadvertent spread of the species is to be removed either within the site or off site during the eradication process
- Care must be taken to minimise traffic movement within the site and that any plant parts cut and removed or contaminated soil excavated is carefully loaded onto the transport lorry without any unnecessary movements that could lead to dispersal or spillage
- The SQE must ensure that all material to be disposed of is securely placed into the transport lorry and that any spillage is cleaned up immediately
- Prior to leaving site for transport to the landfill site, each lorry must be inspected in detail for plant parts or contaminated soil
- Wheels, wheel arches and underside of vehicles must be inspected and brushed or hosed down and any loose debris placed into the lorry. The lorry must not be over-filled and must be sealed with a suitable cover/tarpaulin to ensure no escape of contaminants between site and the landfill site
- Prior to moving from one invasive species to the next, all machinery, equipment, tools, loading equipment and PPE must also be cleaned thoroughly to ensure it is free from contaminants from the previous species
- Upon completion of the excavation, all machinery, tools and PPE are to be thoroughly cleaned before leaving site (with any contaminants placed into the last lorry to leave site), paying particular attention to wheels, wheel arches, tracks and underside of bodies
- The SQE will confirm that due attention has been paid

4. Conclusion

Schedule 9 (Part II) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA) provides the principal legislative framework for invasive non-native plant species (INNS) in the UK. Under Section 14(2) of the WCA, it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant listed on Schedule 9. While landowners are not required to remove invasive species from their land, they are responsible for preventing the spread of any INNS into neighbouring land and the wider landscape.

Wall cotoneaster is present within the site and needs control to avoid risk of spreading this invasive species in the wild. The timetable for treatment of these is presented in Appendix 2.

It is recommended that the surrounding land is checked for invasive species. If any are found, the owners of the adjacent land should be advised to control any invasive species on their land at the same time and potentially placed on legal notice of liability. If an invasive species spreads from the adjacent land back onto the site, owners of the adjacent land could be liable for costs of controlling invasive species on the site.

It is considered that there will be no spread of wall cotoneaster into the wider landscape, provided this Method Statement is fully followed.

5. References

C., Edwards. (2006). Managing and controlling invasive rhododendron. Forestry Commission, Edinburgh.

Maguire, C.M., Kelly, J. and Cosgrove, P.J. (2008). Best Practice Management Guidelines Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* and Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*. Prepared for NIEA and NPWS as part of Invasive Species Ireland.

Appendix 1



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Legend

- Site Boundary
- Hedges and trees - native species rich
- Hedges and trees - species poor
- Dense scrub
- Improved grassland
- Target Notes

TN1 - Wall cotoneaster



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PROJECT:
South Pavenhill Farm, Purton,
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DRAWING TITLE:
Phase One Habitat Survey

SCALE:	DRAWN BY:	DRAWING NO:
A3	JK	P.1464.21.E21
DATE:	CHKD BY	REV:
20/05/2026	LK	-



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Invasive species locations
- 5m Buffer

TN1 - Wall cotoneaster



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DRAWING TITLE:
Invasive Species Locations

SCALE:	DRAWN BY:	DRAWING NO:
A3	JK	P.1464.21.E22
DATE:	CHKD BY	REV:
02/06/2026	LK	-

Appendix 2

Appendix 2: Timetable for Invasive Species Treatment

Date	Wall cotoneaster
All year round	Excavate and remove from site (can be done any time of the year but recommended between April and July).
For 2 years	Monitor site annually for any regrowth or seedlings. Treat with herbicide and excavation as required until a 12-month period of no new plants.

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