



# Invasive Species Report

St. Andrews Court, Dublin

February 2022

## Final Report – Not Confidential

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# Document Control

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Draft V01	15/02/22	Draft to client	Not Confidential	JT	NH	JT
Final V01	18/05/22	Updated Site Plan	Not Confidential	JT	NH	JT

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Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work. Where any data supplied by the client or from other sources have been used it has been assumed that the information is correct. No responsibility can be accepted by EcoÉireann for inaccuracies in the data supplied by any other party.

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## Contents

1. Introduction.....	2
2. Legislation and Background .....	2
3. Guidance .....	3
4. Methodology .....	3
4.1 Site Visit.....	3
4.2 Author’s Qualifications and Expertise .....	4
<b>5. Results .....</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1 4	
5.1 Broad Habitat Types Present.....	4
5.2 Species Present .....	6
6. Interpretation and Discussion.....	7



## 1. Introduction

EcoÉireann was commissioned by O'Donnell Tuomey and Dublin City Council to conduct an invasive species survey for St Andrews Court, Dublin, central grid reference O 16824 33815. The site is subject to an application for residential development.

The purpose of this report is to set out the results of the survey highlighting any relevant constraints and where necessary mitigation or management recommendations for the proposed development plan.

## 2. Legislation and Background

The primary domestic legislative instrument relating to invasive species within Ireland is the Wildlife Act and associated amendments. The requirements of the Wildlife Act are summarised below.

The Wildlife Act, 1976 in the Republic of Ireland covered many aspects of nature conservation but was enacted prior to most recent international instruments, as listed above. The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 complements and strengthens the 1976 Act and provides a legal basis for Ireland to ratify CITES and implement the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations. It provides for control of international trade and holding, possession or domestic trade in specimens of species listed under those regulations (Shine, 2002) and includes “stronger protection for species and their habitats, including control of wildlife trade, introductions of alien species and a regulatory system for commercial shoot operations”. The Wildlife Acts are the main basis for the protection of flora and fauna and the control of activities that may adversely affect their conservation. With regard to non-native species: it is prohibited, without licence,

- to release, wilfully cause to escape or transfer within the State for the purpose of establishment in the wild any species of wild animal or spawn and any wild bird or the eggs thereof;
- 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 thereof.'

EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Some of the core provisions of EU Regulation (1143/2014) which deal with, among other things, bringing into the territory of the Union, keeping, breeding, transporting and placing on the market, species included on the list of invasive alien species of Union concern ( the 'Union list') came into force on the 3rd August, 2016. The list of IAS of Union Concern The first “Union list” of 37 species consisting of 23 animals and 14 plants came into force, following the publication of the Commission Implementing Regulation (2016/1141), in the Official Journal of the Union on the 14 July, 2016. The 'Union list' comprises species whose potential adverse impacts across the European Union are such that concerted action across Member States is required. A copy of the list of species included and controlled on this list is set out in Appendix A.

The EU Regulations are Transposed into Irish law under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 which state:



- 1) Save in accordance with a licence granted under paragraph (7), and subject to Regulation 74, a person shall be guilty of an offence if he or she has in his or her possession for sale, or for the purposes of breeding, reproduction or propagation, or offers or exposes for sale, transportation, distribution, introduction or release
  - a) an animal or plant listed in Part 1 or Part 2 of the Third Schedule,
  - b) anything from which an animal or plant referred to in subparagraph (a) can be reproduced or propagated, or
  - c) a vector material listed in Part 3 of the Third Schedule,

in any place in the State specified in the third column of the Third Schedule in relation to such an animal, plant or vector material.

- 2) Save in accordance with a licence granted under paragraph (7), a person shall be guilty of an offence if he or she imports or transports
  - a) an animal or plant listed in Part 1 or Part 2 of the Third Schedule,
  - b) anything from which an animal or plant referred to in Part 2 of the Third Schedule can be reproduced or propagated, or
  - c) a vector material listed in Part 3 of the Third Schedule,

Development operations without due consideration present a risk of causing to escape or transfer or grow in the wild certain controlled plants through movement of materials on and off site during construction or landscaping operations.

### 3. Guidance

This invasive species report has been prepared with reference to the following guidance;

- Species controlled through Regulations 49 and 50 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations (2011), Third Schedule.
- Species listed as being of union concern on the list of Invasive Alien Species of union concern.
- Species identified by invasive species Ireland as being non-native - [Invasive Species Ireland](#)

### 4. Methodology

#### 4.1 Site Visit

The information collected for this report, to assist the competent authority to screen the proposal for AA, was based on a single site visit carried out on the 25th November 2022. The site visit was undertaken in daylight hours only and comprised of a survey to set out an overview of the nature of the habitats present but specifically to complete a search of the site for species which are controlled as invasive non-native species under relevant legislative instruments or which are considered to be non-native.

Broad habitats were described in accordance with guidance Fossit (2000)<sup>1</sup> and species were identified using references including Rose (2006)<sup>2</sup>.

## 4.2 Author’s Qualifications and Expertise

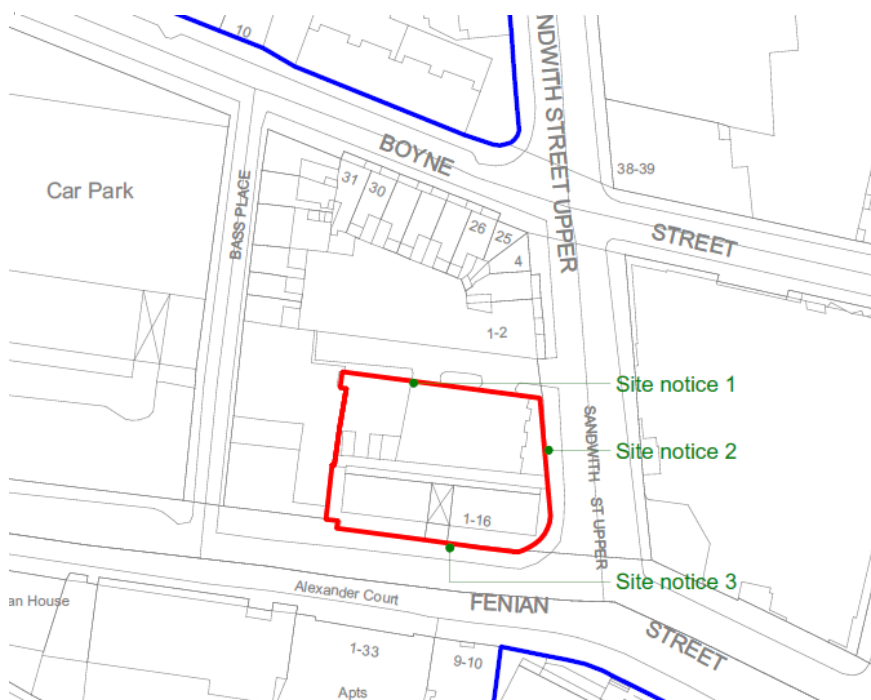
This invasive species survey and report have been completed by John Thompson. John holds a bachelor’s degree in environmental science, and a master’s degree in ecological assessment. John is an experienced ecologist and has been a practicing ecologist for over 20 years. John has completed an extensive range of ecological assessments including surveys for and developing mitigation requirements with regard to invasive species throughout the U.K and Ireland.

## 5. Results

### 5.1 Broad Habitat Types Present

St Andrews Court is located within a highly urbanised location and most of the site comprises of an existing building which has fallen into some level of disrepair. The surrounding areas has very limited vegetative cover which is limited mainly to plants which are establishing in small borders or areas of earth surrounding the buildings. Images of the site are illustrated in photos 1 and 2 below.

**Figure 5.1. Proposed works Area**



<sup>1</sup> Fossit A. (2000). A Guide to Habitats In Ireland. The Heritage Council.

<sup>2</sup> Rose, F. (revised and updated by O’Reilly, C.) (2006). The Wild Flower Key: How to identify wild flowers, trees and shrubs in Britain and Ireland. Frederick Warne.



The site boundary is occupied by existing buildings and hardstanding. The existing buildings appear to be vacant and derelict. A small number of herbs and shrubs are present growing opportunistically where small borders and accumulations of earth or other growing medium are present.

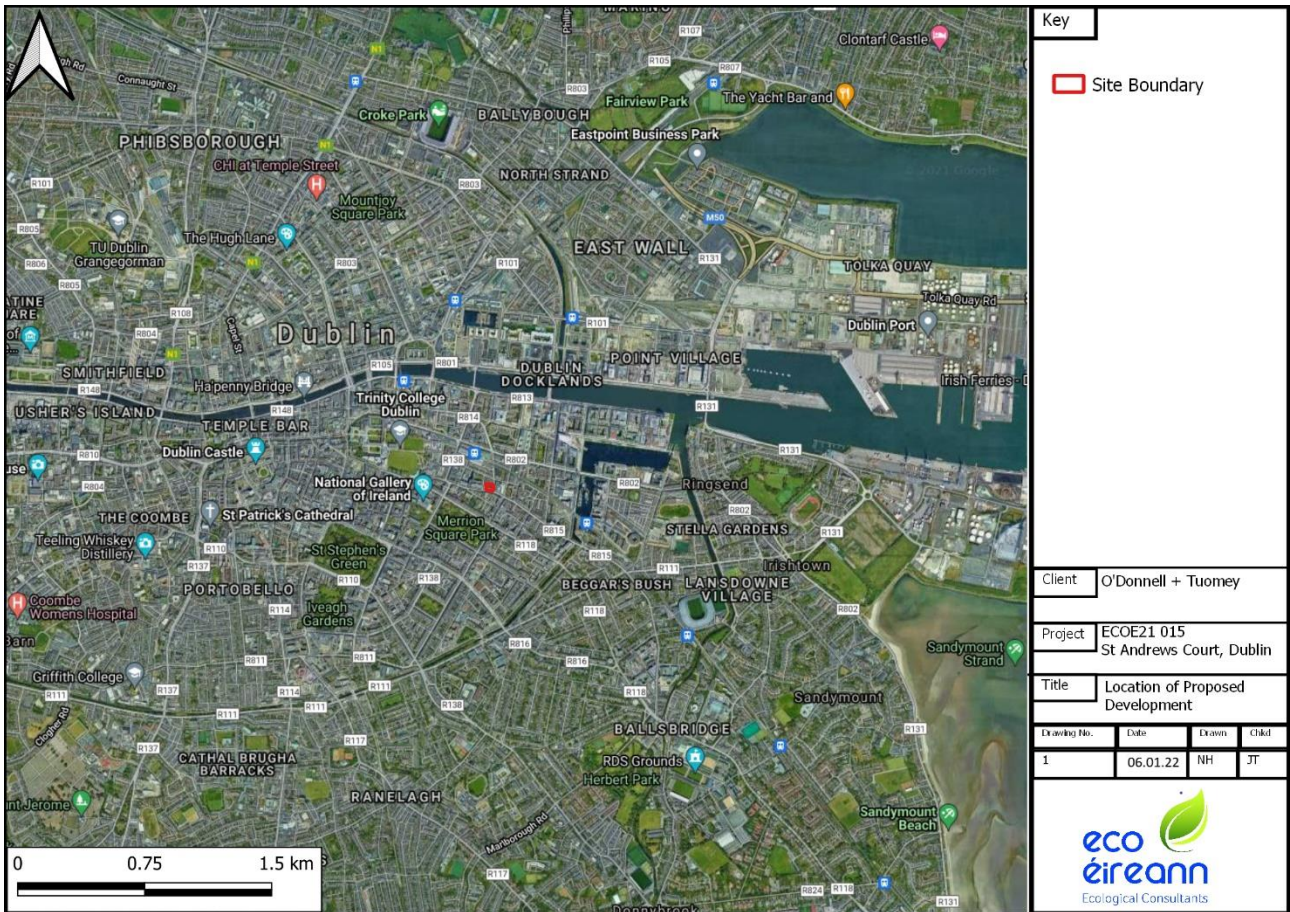
There are no natural watercourses on the site and no waterbodies are present. The nature of existing conditions is illustrated in Photographs below.

No invasive faunal species of any kind were recorded on site throughout the course of the survey. Furthermore, habitats present were considered unsuitable for invasive faunal species.

<b>Photo 1: Existing buildings present on site</b>	<b>Photo 2: Existing buildings and colonisation by Buddlejia</b>
	



Figure 5.2. Location of Proposed Development Within the Greater Area



## 5.2 Species Present

Table 1 Below sets out a list of species recorded and identifies which species are 1; controlled under relevant legislation, 2; not subject to specific legal controls but which are considered non-native species. The Table also sets out some information of distribution and abundance of such plant species.





**Table 1: Species recorded**

Species	Latin Name	Controlled invasive species (regulations 49/ 50 )	Union List of concern	Non-native species	Notes on Distribution and abundance.
Buddleja sp. (Butterfly bush)	<i>Buddleja</i> sp.	N	N	Y	Present at the base of the main building along part of the site on Sandwith St upper and along the base of the building on Fenian Street in smaller quantities. Significant mature bushes are present adjacent to / with the site boundary on the western aspect towards bass place.  Some appears to have established in gutters at roof level.
Common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	N	N	Y	Small number of well-established plants with further growth / generation identified throughout the site.
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	N	N	N	Establishing in amongst Buddleja scrub.
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	N	N	N	Establishing where small areas of earth are present in borders surrounding buildings.
St John’s wort sp	<i>Hypericum</i> sp.	N	N	N	Occasional plants establishing in small areas in borders surrounding buildings.

## 6. Interpretation and Discussion

No species which are legally controlled under section 49 or 50 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 are present on site. Non-native species are however present which are typical of urban sites comprising of Buddleja and common milkweed. While these are known to host some value to biodiversity as a nectaring plant for pollinating species, Invasive Species Ireland acknowledges them as non-native.

While no strict legal controls are in place in relation to the species which are identified as being non-native the appointed contractor for the works should develop working methods during site clearance and construction which avoid the risk of spreading these species off site and similarly all plant arriving on site should be subject to suitable biosecurity protocols to prevent the introduction of other non-native species on to site during the construction phase.

**Appendix A - Non-native species subject to restrictions under Regulations 49 and 50 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.**

**Part 1: PLANTS**

First column	Second column	Third column
Common name	Scientific name	Geographical application
American skunk-cabbage	<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>	Throughout the State
A red alga	<i>Grateloupia doryphora</i>	Throughout the State
Brazilian giant-rhubarb	<i>Gunnera manicata</i>	Throughout the State
Broad-leaved rush	<i>Juncus planifolius</i>	Throughout the State
Cape pondweed	<i>Aponogeton distachyos</i>	Throughout the State
Cord-grasses	<i>Spartina</i> (all species and hybrids)	Throughout the State
Curly waterweed	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	Throughout the State
Dwarf eel-grass	<i>Zostera japonica</i>	Throughout the State
Fanwort	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	Throughout the State
Floating pennywort	<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	Throughout the State
Fringed water-lily	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Throughout the State
Giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Throughout the State
Giant knotweed	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	Throughout the State
Giant-rhubarb	<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i>	Throughout the State
Giant salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Throughout the State
Himalayan balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Throughout the State
Himalayan knotweed	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	Throughout the State
Hottentot-fig	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Throughout the State
Japanese knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Throughout the State
Large-flowered waterweed	<i>Egeria densa</i>	Throughout the State
Mile-a-minute weed	<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i>	Throughout the State
New Zealand pigmyweed	<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	Throughout the State
Parrot's feather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Throughout the State
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Throughout the State
Salmonberry	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Throughout the State
Sea-buckthorn	<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	Throughout the State
Spanish bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Throughout the State
Three-cornered leek	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Throughout the State
Wakame	<i>Undaria pinnatifida</i>	Throughout the State
Water chestnut	<i>Trapa natans</i>	Throughout the State
Water fern	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Throughout the State
Water lettuce	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Throughout the State
Water-primrose	<i>Ludwigia</i> (all species)	Throughout the State
Waterweeds	<i>Elodea</i> (all species)	Throughout the State
Wireweed	<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	Throughout the State

## Part 2: ANIMALS

A: animals to which Regulations 49 and 50 apply throughout the State or in particular places or categories of places.

First column	Second column	Third Column
Common name	Scientific name	Geographical application
A colonial sea squirt	<i>Didemnum spp.</i>	Throughout the State
A colonial sea squirt	<i>Perophora japonica</i>	Throughout the State
All freshwater crayfish species except the white-clawed crayfish	<i>All freshwater crayfish species except Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	Throughout the State
American bullfrog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	Throughout the State
American mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>	Throughout the State
American oyster drill	<i>Urosalpinx cinerea</i>	Throughout the State
Asian oyster drill	<i>Ceratostoma inornatum</i>	Throughout the State
Asian rapa whelk	<i>Rapana venosa</i>	Throughout the State
Asian river clam	<i>Corbicula fluminea</i>	Throughout the State
Bay barnacle	<i>Balanus improvisus</i>	Throughout the State
Black rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Offshore islands only
Brown hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Throughout the State
Brown rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Offshore islands only
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Throughout the State
Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	Throughout the State
Chinese mitten crab	<i>Eriocheir sinensis</i>	Throughout the State
Chinese water deer	<i>Hydropotes inermis</i>	Throughout the State
Chub	<i>Leuciscus cephalus</i>	Throughout the State
Common toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Throughout the State
Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	Throughout the State
Dace	<i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i>	Throughout the State
Freshwater shrimp	<i>Dikerogammarus villosus</i>	Throughout the State
Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Offshore islands only
Grey squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Throughout the State
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Throughout the State
Harlequin Ladybird	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	Throughout the State
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Offshore islands only
Irish stoat	<i>Mustela erminea hibernicus</i>	Offshore islands only
Japanese skeleton shrimp	<i>Caprella mutica</i>	Throughout the State
Muntjac deer	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	Throughout the State
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Throughout the State
Quagga Mussel	<i>Dreissena rostriformis</i>	Throughout the State
Roach	<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>	Throughout the State
Roe deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Throughout the State
Ruddy duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Throughout the State



Siberian chipmunk	<i>Tamias sibiricus</i>	Throughout the State
Slipper limpet	<i>Crepidula fornicata</i>	Throughout the State
Stalked sea squirt	<i>Styela clava</i>	Throughout the State
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Throughout the State
Wild boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Throughout the State
Zebra mussel	<i>Dreissena polymorpha</i>	Throughout the State



**Appendix B - List of species present on the Union 'List of Concern'.**

**PLANTS**

American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*

Asiatic tearthumb *Persicaria perfoliata* (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)

Curly waterweed *Lagarosiphon major*

Eastern Baccharis *Baccharis halimifolia*

Floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*

Floating primrose willow *Ludwigia peploides*

Green cabomba *Cabomba caroliniana*

Kudzu vine *Pueraria lobata*

Parrot's feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum*

Persian hogweed *Heracleum persicum*

Sosnowski's hogweed *Heracleum sosnowskyi*

Water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*

Water primrose *Ludwigia grandiflora*

Whitetop weed *Parthenium hysterophorus*

**ANIMALS**

Amur sleeper *Perccottus glenii*

Asian hornet *Vespa velutina*

Chinese mitten crab *Eriocheir sinensis*

Coypu *Myocastor coypus*

Fox squirrel *Sciurus niger*

Grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*

Indian house crow *Corvus splendens*

Marbled crayfish *Procambarus* spp.

Muntjac deer *Muntiacus reevesii*

North american bullfrog *Lithobates* (*Rana*) *catesbeianus*



Pallas's squirrel *Callosciurus erythraeus*

Raccoon *Procyon lotor*

Red swamp crayfish *Procambarus clarkii*

Red-eared terrapin/slider *Trachemys scripta elegans*

Ruddy duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Sacred ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Siberian chipmunk *Tamias sibiricus*

Signal crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus*

Small Asian mongoose *Herpestes javanicus*

South American coati *Nasua nasua*

Spiny-cheek crayfish *Orconectes limosus*

Topmouth gudgeon *Pseudorasbora parva*

Virile crayfish *Orconectes virili*