MONTBRETIA INVASIVE SPECIES METHOD STATEMENT FOR WEST BOLDON SCHOOL

DATE:	10th November 2023
CLIENT:	GEORGE F WHITE
PROJECT NUMBER:	5303
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This statement must be copied to the site owner, designer, clerk of works, and to those contractors whose work may affect hedgehogs including those involved in all elements of the work detailed above. A signed copy should be kept at the site offices.

This method statement contains information regarding:

- **Species identification and environmental issues**

	Print Name	Signature	Date
Supervisor:			
Operative:			
Operative:			
Operative:			
Operative:			

- **Working methods**

We have read and fully understood this method statement and this has been explained to the site operatives:

Background

Montbretia *Crocosmia x crocosmiifolia*, a Schedule 9 non-native invasive species, was found to be present in the south of the site (see Target Note 4 in figure below) in July 2022. As this species can spread quickly, particularly in urban areas which may be subject to additional garden waste being deposited on site, it is recommended that prior to vegetation clearance, the site is searched by the site manager or appointed contractor to identify if any further areas are present. However, supervised removal of Montbretia is not considered to be required as an appropriate location and identification details have been provided within this method statement.



Montbretia was introduced to the UK in 1880 as a garden plant. By 1911 it had escaped from gardens through natural dispersal (mainly by rhizomes, rarely by seed) and through the disposal of garden waste. By the late 20th century it had spread across most of the UK. Montbretia is a dominant species and can exclude many native plant species.

Typical characteristics of the plant include;

- Grows to 60cm tall
- Leaves less than 3cm wide, upright, flat and bright green



- Orange tubular flowers in nodding clusters and long stamens
- Flowers born on long spikes
- Rusty brown dead leaves with dead flower/seed heads (in winter)

Montbretia is often found along hedgerows or road side verges. It is widespread and found throughout the UK, it is usually found close to gardens however it is no longer confined to urban locations.

What are the environmental issues associated with *Montbretia*?

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 / Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, which was updated in 2010, under section 14(2) it is an offence "to plant or otherwise encourage" the growth of Montbretia. This could include cutting the plant or roots and disturbing surrounding soil if not correctly managed.

Any polluted soil or plant material which is viable that you discard, intend to discard should be appropriately disposed of at a licensed landfill.

Control of *Montbretia*

Although there are a number of options available for the treatment, the majority of these require a number of years in order to be effective. The method outlined below is considered to be the most appropriate for the site.

Physical Control

Small, individual plants can be removed by hand, ideally before seed heads develop to prevent further spread, although most growth and spread is by rhizomes.

Larger plants or groups of plants can be removed with mechanical equipment with the roots dug out. It is essential that the stumps and roots are completely removed, as both can re-sprout. In such a situation it pays to remove too much material – which can involve clearing the area 2m around the plant to a depth of 1m, in order to ensure that the entire root system has been removed.

Ongoing maintenance of such areas needs to be undertaken to ensure that there is no re-growth through seedlings.

Even with great care, a certain amount of regrowth in the spring would be expected and any should be treated with an appropriate herbicide (the most effective active ingredient for use is called glyphosate. This is the active ingredient found in 'Round Up' and other similar herbicides).

Disposal of Montbretia– Removal from Site

- Polluted material should be removed from the site for disposal, unless otherwise agreed with the Environmental Regulator and Client.
- Any bags/skips containing these species should be covered to avoid spread of seeds along public highways.
- If contaminated soil is not treated on site or retained on site, Waste Transfer documentation will be required for any polluted material leaving the site.

- Check with the disposal site in advance that they can receive material containing these species. Be aware, the disposal site may require notice to allow an area to be prepared for this material away from the landfill liner.
- Chipped waste that is removed from the site should not be disposed of in adjacent waterbodies or left on adjacent land.

Timing and Working Methods in Areas Where *Montbretia* is Present

Prior to Construction

- Polluted areas should be clearly marked out on site and the area of Montbretia should be isolated prior to site clearance.

During Construction

- All site operatives should be made aware of the requirements associated with the removal/disposal of this species in order to help limit accidental spread.
- Use of tracked machinery should be limited until areas polluted with Montbretia have been cleared and/or identified and cordoned off.
- Care should be taken to ensure that polluted material is not dropped or transferred to other areas of the site.
- Only essential vehicles should be present in polluted areas.

Post-Construction

- The previously contaminated area should be monitored for regrowth, particularly during the growing season and, if necessary, treated with an appropriate herbicide.

General Working Methods

- All haulage lorries or dumpers carrying Montbretia should be covered.
- Never use a strimmer, mower (without collection bucket) or chipper on Montbretia.
- Areas where Montbretia have been identified should be cleared slowly, one at a time with ongoing assessment of the extent of polluted ground.
- Never stockpile potentially polluted material within 10 metres of a watercourse.