



better for everyone

RIVERMEAD LEISURE CENTRE

BIO-DIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT PROPOSALS FOR DRAINAGE CULVERT



Date: **25.01.2022**
Planning Application Ref: **201734**

Enhancement Proposals

Please find below GLL' s biodiversity-specific proposals for the drainage culvert at Rivermead Leisure Centre site:

- Management of Japanese knotweed on banks of culvert:
 - The method of control should not cause any ecological damage such as chemical pollution of waterbodies.
 - Any vegetation clearance or groundworks in the vicinity of the knotweed, will need specialist disposal to avoid any tiny fragments of the plant being spread – it is effectively contaminated waste.
 - It is noted that there is not a legal requirement to remove Japanese knotweed from land unless it's causing a nuisance, however there is a risk of prosecution for causing it to spread into the wild.
 - The considerations are detailed on the government website [How to stop Japanese knotweed from spreading - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-stop-japanese-knotweed-from-spreading)
- Removal of some of the dense scrubby vegetation on the banks but retaining small patches to provide continued nesting habitat and cover for small fauna such as mammals, amphibians and reptiles.
- Use of pre-planted coir mats with mature, native wetland plants in areas devoid of vegetation to restore removed habitat, increase plant diversity and help reduce soil erosion – they are self-sustaining once established and require minimal maintenance initially [Native Wetland Plants - Salix Products \(salixrw.com\)](https://salixrw.com/).
- Remove any large patches of dominant submerged/emergent vegetation in the water that is reducing the flow of the ditch and building up silt, particularly where the *Typha* sp. is densely growing, to provide some more open water areas.
- Quarterly litter picking of the ditch to avoid wildlife getting harmed/stuck in litter.
- Change adjacent lighting to motion-sensored or directional away from the ditch to avoid unnecessary light pollution on to the ditch.
- No spraying of pesticides or herbicides near or in the waterway.