

AUGUST 2016

Ashford Park Quarry

Pest Plant and Animal Control Plan

This Pest Plant and Animal Control Plan has been developed for the Ashford Park Quarry, Otaki as required by Conditions 43 and 44 of the Kapiti Coast District Council Land Use Consent RM150184





CONTACT DETAILS

DOUGLAS NEL [GBC WINSTONE SOUTHERN OPERATIONS MANAGER]

- +64 3 342 8623 / +64 27 404 2734
- Douglas.Nel@gbcwinstone.co.nz

SHANE HAGAI [GBC WINSTONE OTAKI/ASHFORD PARK QUARRY MANAGER]

- +64 27 449 9145
- Shane.Hagai@gbcwinstone.co.nz

GBC WINSTONE GENERAL CONTACT DETAILS

Postal Address: PO Box 17-195, Greenlane, Auckland (Attn: Environmental Manager)

Phone: 09-525 9004 (Ask for the Environmental Manager)

Revision Record:

Date of Revision	Version	Summary of Revision
August 2016	1	N/A – Version 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	4
1.1	PURPOSE.....	4
1.2	RESOURCE CONSENT REQUIREMENTS.....	4
2	CONTROL PROGRAMME TARGETS & METHODOLOGY	5
2.1	ANIMAL & INSECT PESTS	5
	RODENTS	5
	CHICKENS.....	6
	POSSUMS.....	6
	RABBITS / HARES	7
	MUSTELIDS	7
	FERAL CATS.....	7
	WASPS	8
2.2	PLANT PESTS.....	8
3	CONTROL PROGRAMME STAGING	9

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

The Pest Plant and Animal Control Plan (“Pest Plan”) provides an overview of pest control targets and proposed control methods. The Pest Plan is intended to provide information for regulatory authorities (Kapiti Coast District Council (“KCDC”) and Greater Wellington Regional Council (“GWRC”)), GBC Winstone staff, contractors and field personnel who will undertake the pest management programme.

The overall aim of the Pest Plan is to A) reduce low weed and animal pest densities throughout the site so they do not encroach into neighbouring properties and become a nuisance and B) maintain low weed and animal pest densities at the site. GBC Winstone recognises that the Ashford Park site is in relatively poor condition as of July 2016 and that site-wide pest control is required.

Prior to the commencement of Stage 2 of the Ashford Park quarry GBC Winstone will prepare an Ecological Island Plan which will contain further pest control methods specifically targeted at improving the ecological health of the two areas of native trees which are to become ecological islands. This Ecological Island Plan will compliment rather than replace the wider Pest Plan.

1.2 RESOURCE CONSENT REQUIREMENTS

Conditions 43 and 44 of KCDC Land Use Consent RM150184 require the following:

Condition 43 Within six months of the commencement of this consent, the consent holder shall prepare, in consultation with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, and submit for certification by the Resource Consent Compliance Manager, KCDC a Rehabilitation Strategy for the site. A copy of the Draft Strategy shall be provided to the CLG prior to the time it is submitted to the Resource Consent Compliance Manager, KCDC for certification. The CLG shall be given a period of two weeks in which to forward any comments it may have on the draft strategy to the Resource Consent Compliance Manager, KCDC prior to any certification being given. Evidence of consultation, or attempts to consult, shall be provided to the Council with the Strategy provided for certification.

Condition 44 The Rehabilitation Strategy shall be prepared in consultation with a suitably qualified ecologist and in accordance with the principles contained in the Landscape Strategy and shall include the process and principles for preparing the following plans:

- a) Stage Plans 1-4;*
- b) Pest Plant and Animal Control Plan;*
- c) Planting Plan;*
- d) Protection and enhancement of significant vegetation to be retained via an Ecological Island Plan.”*

2 CONTROL PROGRAMME TARGETS & METHODOLOGY

Pest control programmes (animal and plant) require a systematic and long-term approach due to the ability of many pests to experience rapid increases in population growth given favourable conditions, and also to become highly mobile and move from one location to another.

The pest control programme at Ashford Park involves the targets below. These targets have been chosen following on-site assessments undertaken by pest control experts in June 2016 and will be regularly reviewed as both site operations and seasons change.

2.1 ANIMAL & INSECT PESTS

RODENTS

ASSESSMENT

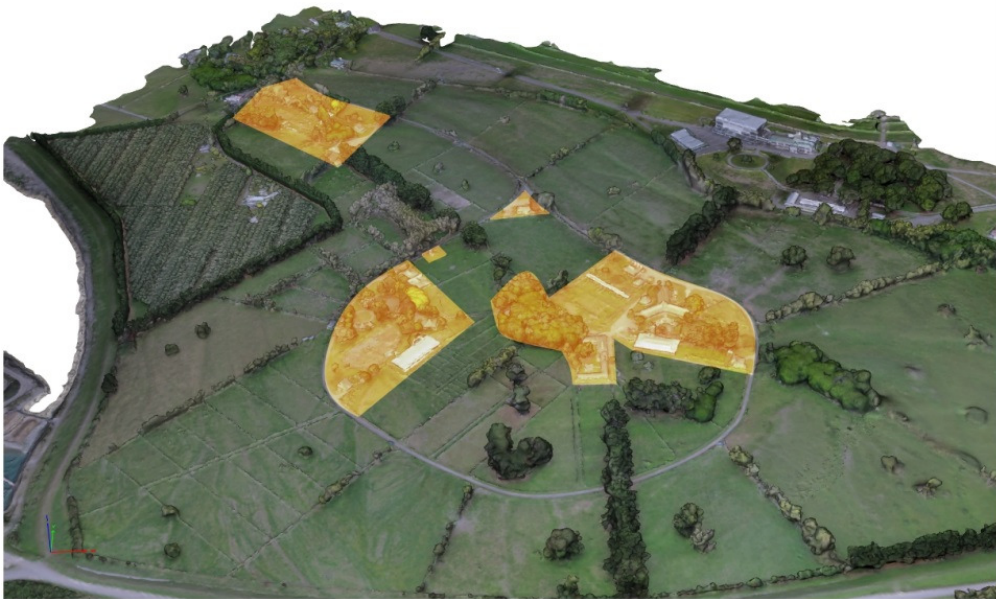
If left uncontrolled, rat and mice populations can increase to the point where they move off-site onto adjacent properties in search of food and shelter. Rodent control is therefore regarded as an important part of the Ashford Park pest management programme.

A June 2016 assessment by pest control experts identified a relatively low level of rodent activity at Ashford Park. This is due to bait stations having been set by pest control experts, and checked monthly, since February 2015. This has resulted in a significant reduction in on-site rodent activity.

CONTROL METHODOLOGY

Eleven bait stations are deployed onsite and this number has been consistent since February 2015. The number of bait stations was determined following an assessment by the pest control company of optimal spread given the layout of buildings onsite.

The bait stations are placed in appropriate locations both inside and outside site buildings and in adjacent vegetation (in the general locations identified in yellow in the plan below). This control programme will continue monthly and will be reviewed as on-site buildings are removed as quarrying proceeds across the Ashford Park site.



CHICKENS

ASSESSMENT

Wild birds, including chickens, can create a mess with their droppings, consume feed, contaminate feed and damage insulation. A small population of chickens released on the Ashford Park around 2008 has grown in number to the point where they are now a nuisance both on-site and for neighbouring properties.

CONTROL METHODOLOGY

GBC Winstone's preferred methodology is the live capture of on-site chickens while they roost at night. This will be undertaken by pest control experts after which the chickens will be re-located. Any chickens that cannot be caught this way will be dealt with humanely following consultation with pest management professionals. This may include both the use of poisons and/or shooting. Neighbouring landowners will be made aware of any proposed use of firearms on Ashford Park for the purpose of chicken population control. The pest control professional proposing to use firearms will also be made explicitly aware of the location of neighbouring properties.

GBC Winstone will work with neighbouring landowners to manage any chickens that have migrated to their properties. This may include GBC Winstone's pest control experts entering neighbouring properties (with consent of landowners) to remove chickens from those properties.

POSSUMS

ASSESSMENT

The benefits of controlling possums have been well documented and include prevention of impacts on rare or vulnerable plant species and prevention of predation on large-bodied invertebrates. A

June 2016 assessment by pest control experts identified a relatively low level of possum activity at Ashford Park evidenced by very few signs of possum droppings on-site.

CONTROL METHODOLOGY

Pest control experts will monitor levels of possum activity during monthly site visits. Localised control will be carried out, via a grid of bait stations, on an as needed basis if evidence of possums is identified.

RABBITS / HARES

ASSESSMENT

Rabbits and hares browse grass and low lying vegetation, and may be a nuisance to neighbouring landholders if they venture onto their properties, and either compete with domestic livestock, or cause damage to gardens. A June 2016 assessment by pest control experts identified a relatively low level of rabbit and hare activity at Ashford Park evidenced by few burrows on-site and little evidence of feeding areas or droppings.

CONTROL METHODOLOGY

Pest control experts will monitor levels of rabbit and hare activity during monthly site visits. Localised control will be carried out, via burrow fumigation, on an as needed basis as burrows are located.

MUSTELIDS

ASSESSMENT

A June 2016 assessment by pest control experts identified a relatively low level of mustelid activity across the wider Ashford Park.

CONTROL METHODOLOGY

Pest control experts will monitor levels of mustelid activity during monthly site visits. Localised control will be carried out, via bait stations, on an as needed basis as evidence of mustelids is discovered.

FERAL CATS

ASSESSMENT

A June 2016 assessment by pest control experts did not identify evidence of feral cats however both on-site and off-site reports have indicated they are present either in or near to Ashford Park.

CONTROL METHODOLOGY

Pest control experts will monitor the site for signs of feral cat activity during monthly site visits. The most characteristic and obvious signs are scats (droppings). Domestic cats usually bury their scats, but feral cats often deposit them in conspicuous places on tracks or clumps of grass. The scat usually consists of about 3-6 cm round to elongated segments, which contain matted fur, feathers and bones and is dark in colour.

Due to the relatively close proximity of neighbours, and the risk of harm to domestic cats, live capture cage traps are the only safe method to catch unwanted cats. Once trapped, a feral cat must be humanely disposed of under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and all traps must be checked at least once every 24 hours. As of August 2016 GBC Winstone is arranging for a number of live capture cages to be placed onsite to gauge the extent of the potential feral cat population.

WASPS

ASSESSMENT

Wasps are a significant pest species in the Kapiti District and provide stiff competition with native birds, insects and honey bees for limited food supplies. A June 2016 assessment by pest control experts did not identify any on-site wasp activity although it was noted that recent rain and a drop in average temperature would likely restrict wasp activity until spring.

CONTROL METHODOLOGY

A targeted eradication program will be implemented, led by pest control experts, which includes direct spraying of nests and protein poisons. This program will commence at the start of September 2016 (i.e. the start of Spring).

2.2 PLANT PESTS

ASSESSMENT

The following pest plant species were identified as being on-site at Ashford Park by Wildlands Consultants in their 2015 ecology assessment of the site¹:

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>CONTROL METHOD</u>
• Blackberry (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>)	Pull or spray
• Tradescantia (<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>)	Pull or spray
• Inkweed (<i>Phytolacca octandra</i>)	Pull or spray
• Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>)	Cut-treat or pull or spray

¹ "Ecological Assessment of a Proposed Gravel Quarry at Otaki" Wildlands Consultants – Contract Report 3683 (July 2015)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| • Hemlock (<i>Conium maculatum</i>) | Pull or spray |
| • Nettle (<i>Urtica urens</i>) | Pull or spray |
| • Montbretia (<i>Crocasmia</i>) | Pull or spray |

CONTROL METHODOLOGY

Ecological weed control will be carried out annually over a 5-year period. Each species will be targeted using the methods identified in the list above. Distribution and density of ecological weeds will need to be assessed by site visit prior to each summer season. GBC Winstone recognises that disturbance of plant pest species (e.g. blackberry), particularly when the disturbance is close to the Ashford Park boundary, has the potential to facilitate the spread of seeds and plant remnants across property boundaries. GBC Winstone will ensure that pest plants are subjected to weed control (e.g. spraying) prior to their disturbance.

3 CONTROL PROGRAMME STAGING

Initial stripping works at Ashford Park commenced May 2016. These initial works required the mulching of some pest plants, most notably Blackberry. While weed pest plant control is planned for summer months going forward, GBC Winstone recognises the need to spray these mulched weeds as soon as possible. This spraying is planned for June 2016. GBC Winstone also recognises that rodents have been a problem on-site in the last few years. A monthly rodent control programme was therefore put in place at Ashford Park from February 2015 in advance of any quarrying works commencing on-site.

Ongoing pest control will be undertaken in accordance with the following timetable.

FINANCIAL YEAR (JULY TO JUNE)	TIME	WORK
Year 1 (2016–2017)	July-June	Operate rodent bait stations (monthly)
	September 2016	Capture & relocation or other humane control of wild chickens both on Ashford Park and neighbouring properties (with the consent and full knowledge of proposed methodologies and timing)
	June + September	Ecological weed control
	July-June	Possums / rabbits / hares / cats / wasps monitored and controlled as required
Year 2 (2017–2018)	July-June	Operate rodent bait stations (monthly)
	October	Ecological weed control
	July-June	Possums / rabbits / hares / cats / wasps monitored and controlled as required
Year 3	July-June	Operate rodent bait stations (monthly)

(2018–2019)	October	Ecological weed control
	July-June	Possums / rabbits / hares / cats / wasps monitored and controlled as required
Year 4 (2019–2020)	July-June	Operate rodent bait stations (monthly)
	October	Ecological weed control
	July-June	Possums / rabbits / hares / cats / wasps monitored and controlled as required
Year 5 (2020–2021)	July-June	Operate rodent bait stations (monthly)
	October	Ecological weed control
	July-June	Possums / rabbits / hares / cats / wasps monitored and controlled as required