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17th January 2025
Reference: TKC3652

Merthyr Valley Homes Ltd,
Ty Brychan, 22 Lansbury Road,
Gellideg,
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 1HA

FAO Leon Williams

Dear Leon

Re: Cotoneaster

Site: Cefen Isaf Flats, Pontycapel Road, Cefn Coed, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 2RA

I attended the above site today to assess an area of Cotoneaster, which had been identified as being a Schedule 9 species by Elcot Environmental Limited in a report dated 29th November 2024 (updated 5th December 2024).

The above report, had failed to identify the species of Cotoneaster, which had raised concerns about the report's accuracy.

To supply some necessary background to this report. There are over 100 species of Cotoneaster which occur in the UK. The Wildlife and Countryside Act covers 6 species. One Cotoneaster cambricus (which is native to Wales) is protected (Schedule 8) – and is only found growing wild on the Great Orme Peninsula). Another five Cotoneaster species are listed under Schedule 9 (i.e. the same legislation as Japanese knotweed). The remaining 90+ species have no special legal status. As can be seen from this, correct identification is therefore vital and must be stated in any competent management plan.

The five Cotoneaster species listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act are:

- Cotoneaster horizontalis (Wall Cotoneaster)
- Cotoneaster bullatus (Hollyberry Cotoneaster)
- Cotoneaster simonsii (Himalayan Cotoneaster)
- Cotoneaster microphyllus (small-leaved Cotoneaster)

The Knotweed Company Limited.
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- Cotoneaster integrifolius (entire-leaved Cotoneaster)

The above species should all be familiar to any competent Invasive Plant Surveyor and they should be able to confidently identify these species, if they are working to produce reports concerning them.

On arrival on site this morning, I was able to assess the Cotoneaster and make a detailed examination of the plant. The immediate key points that I was immediately able to see, were a pendulous growth habit; evergreen leaves; the presence of bright red obovoid berries; small to medium oval leaves. I also measured the leaves, berries and also crushed a few berries to count the seeds within each berry.

In my considered professional opinion this is a planted area of Cotoneaster dammeri (Bearberry Cotoneaster), which is a very commonly planted shrub, and one which is widely available.

I was able to dismiss the presence of any Schedule 9 Cotoneaster plants in this area (or elsewhere on site) as these plants have considerably different growth habits, leaf size, berries, etc. from the plants on site.

In conclusion therefore, I did not find any Schedule 9 Plants on this site and this area of Cotoneaster is not covered by any specific legislation and would not be regarded as controlled waste. In my opinion, it can therefore be removed as green waste in the usual way for development sites.

Yours sincerely

Brian Taylor

Brian Taylor MSc. MBPR CSJK
Director

MBPR No. AR/E/5799/ICMAH



***Cotoneaster dammeri* – photograph taken on the 17th January 2025. Note the leaf shape, presence of bright red obovoid berry and growth habit.**