



Rhododendron Removal, Stronachlachar

The Client: Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust

The Challenge: Soilutions were contracted to remove circa 3.5 hectares of dense, mature Rhododendron Ponticum, improving the immediate character of Stronachlachar on the banks of Loch Katrine which had become overrun with the plants, and ultimately removing a significant seed source.

Due to the natural beauty of the area works needed to be planned around the important tourist season. The local population had to be considered with noise levels kept to a minimum. The life cycles of the local wildlife couldn't be affected by the works. Removal couldn't go ahead during the nesting season and works to cease and be reevaluated upon finding evidence of otters.

Consideration was needed for employing the most appropriate eradication method for certain areas. Factors which had to be taken into account were accessibility, gradient, wildlife and local residents.

The Solution: An Initial Otter Survey was conducted to ascertain their presence in the vicinity of the proposed works.

To remove the rhododendron in close proximity to local residents and holiday homes a manual removal method was used to keep noise at a minimum. The shallow roots lend themselves to being levered via their stems from the earth. The branches of the plant are cut off allowing access to the stems, these act as a natural lever allowing complete removal of the root bole and its bud bearing material.

For the larger areas away from residents where manual removal was an impossibility, the use of mechanical clearance whereupon the whole plant including the roots are flailed and chipped providing a bed of mulch restricting regrowth was utilised.

A coordinated treatment program is in place for the next two growing seasons to eradicate any regrowth through manual removal and/or the use of herbicide.

The Result: The area on a whole has been transformed removing an almost suffocating feeling caused by the plant. The clearance will provide the chance for natural flora to regain a foothold in the area

Duration: 30 Days

Project duration expected to last up to 2 years



3.5 HECTARES OF DENSE RHODODIES FOR REMOVAL



MANUAL REMOVAL IN OPERATION



MECHANICAL REMOVAL



THE VIEW AFTER REMOVAL



Certificate Number 4733
ISO 9001 / ISO 14001 / OHSAS 18001

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