

1 June 2016

Land at the former Lord Mayor Treloar site, Alton

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) received planning permission to build 280 Homes at the former hospital site in Alton in 2015 and a condition of this (often referred to as a Section 106 agreement) is that we provide a country park area with public access. In order to minimise costs to the tax payer, until the homes are built the land is let on an annual basis for agricultural purposes.

The tenant identified that Ragwort was growing on the land. This weed is toxic to cattle and horses and to prevent them being poisoned the tenant took the appropriate action. It has been confirmed to the HCA that a herbicide, which does not affect any insects or orchids, was used to control the Ragwort and other weeds growing in the grass land.

Ends

The most effective herbicides to treat Ragwort have the active ingredient 2,4-D and MCPA which act against certain types of plants (dicots) but have no effect on grasses and orchids which are monocots.

More information on the control of Ragwort is available on the gov.uk website https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69296/pb7190-harmful-weed-control.pdf

DEFRA publish a factsheet on the Injurious Weeds Act 1959 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69707/weed2a.pdf

For further information please contact Tom Hustler 0113 394 9355 / 07876 131488 tom.hustler@hca.gsi.gov.uk at the Homes and Communities Agency.

Notes to Editors

The **Homes and Communities Agency** is the single, national housing and regeneration delivery agency for England, and the Regulator of Social Housing Providers. Our vision is to:

- Create opportunity for people to live in homes they can afford in places they want to live, by enabling local authorities and communities to deliver the ambition they have for their own areas; and
- Focus on governance, financial viability and value for money as the basis for robust economic regulation that maintains lender confidence and protects the taxpayer.

For more information visit: <http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/newsevent> or follow us on [Twitter](#).