

Press Release July 2012

DWF and Grainger Dig Deep in Durham

A team of volunteers from national law firm, DWF and the UK's largest listed specialist residential landlord, Grainger plc, have taken up tools to halt the progress of a highly destructive plant at Castle Eden Dene Nature Reserve, County Durham.

The reserve, which is the largest area of semi-natural woodland in the North East, is currently suffering from an invasion of Himalayan Balsam, which smothers significant expanses of the park, harming riverside habitats and native plants, and eroding riverbanks. On Wednesday 25th July, volunteers from DWF and Grainger plc took part in what is known locally as 'balsam bashing' – a technique used to uproot the problem trees.

The activity took place through Business in the Community (BITC), a business led charity focused on promoting responsible business practice. The charity works with businesses throughout the UK to transform communities by tackling social and environmental issues that make a real difference.

Michael Whitworth, Real Estate Associate at DWF, comments: "DWF is determined to demonstrate a responsible approach to the environment and the local communities in which it operates. Having successfully worked in partnership with Grainger to support BITC last year to clean up Boggart Hole Clough in Manchester, we were keen to combine forces again to help protect such an important site of scientific interest in the North East."

"As a business, we pride ourselves on having a strong, firm-wide culture of corporate responsibility – it is incredibly high on our agenda. Caring about the environment is one of DWF's core values, so supporting local community and environmental initiatives like this, is just part of the way we do business. We continually encourage our people to get involved and to make a difference where they can."

Dave Butler, Director of Corporate Affairs, at Grainger plc, says: "We were pleased to team up with DWF again, especially for a project of such vital environmental importance. Grainger is the UK's largest listed specialist residential landlord and we take our social, environmental and economic responsibilities very seriously. Initiatives like this one, which really benefit the local community, are something that we're particularly keen to be a part of."

For more information about DWF please see www.dwf.co.uk

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

About DWF LLP

DWF LLP is one of the fastest growing law firms in the UK. It offers a full range of services to both businesses and private clients with teams specialising on all aspects of law, as well as providing specialist advice across a range of sectors including education, energy and infrastructure, food, health, public sector, retail, outsourcing and technology, and transport.

It has 1,800 people based in Birmingham, Coventry, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Preston and Teesside and has an international reach through its relationships with law firms around the globe.

DWF was ranked second in the 2011 Legal Week Client Satisfaction Survey and was also voted 'National Law Firm of the Year' in the 2011 Legal Business Awards.

About Grainger plc

Grainger plc is the largest residential property owner and manager traded on the London Stock Exchange. Grainger's business activities in the UK and Germany cover ownership, trading, fund management, property management and development of residential property. Grainger plc is also a leading provider of retirement housing solutions, including home reversion products through its subsidiary brand Bridgewater Equity Release. Grainger plc owns approximately £2.3bn property assets and has over £3.0bn of property assets under management.

Media enquiries to:

DWF

Claire Gamble / Cerys Wason

Tel: 0161 817 6600

Email: claire.gamble@tangerinepr.com / cerys.wason@tangerinepr.com

Grainger PLC

Kurt Mueller

Tel: 207 795 4704

Email: kmueller@graingerplc.co.uk