INVASIVE SPECIES METHOD STATEMENT

JANUARY 2022

Wythenshawe Park
Wythenshawe
Manchester
M23 0AB

URBAN GREEN

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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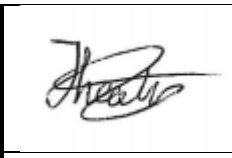
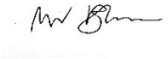
Prepared By:	Jake Healy	Signature		Qualifications	Assistant Ecologist, Qualifying CIEEM
Checked By:	Mark Blacker	Signature		Qualifications	Senior Ecologist, MSc, ACIEEM
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CONTENTS

1 Introduction 1

1.1 Background to the Scheme 1

1.2 Site Context 1

1.3 Purpose of this Report 1

2 Site Assessment 3

2.1 Site Survey 3

2.2 Japanese Knotweed Information and Identification 3

2.3 Rhododendron Information and Identification 3

2.4 Variegated Yellow Archangel Information and Identification 4

3 Method Statement 5

3.1 Site-Specific Method Statement 5

3.1.1 Rhododendron 5

3.1.2 Variegated Yellow Archangel 6

3.1.3 Japanese Knotweed 7

3.2 Site Biosecurity 7

3.3 Timetable of Works 9

4 Conclusion 10

5 References 11

Appendix 1 - Invasive Species Relevant Legislation 12

Appendix 2 - Invasive Species Location Map 13

Appendix 3 - Non-native Species Secretariat Identification Sheets 14

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the Scheme

Manchester City Council are proposing to develop land at Wythenshawe Park in Wythenshawe (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). The proposals include the creation of cycling facilities at Wythenshawe Park to include a 'Learn to ride' area, a perimeter trail and a skills area and skills trail.

Urban Green have been appointed to undertake an Invasive Species Method Statement (ISMS) for the site.

The author of the report is Jake Healy, Qualifying CIEEM, Assistant Ecologist at Urban Green. Jake has experience providing ecological consulting services for a range of development schemes across the UK, including residential and commercial schemes.

1.2 Site Context

The site is located at National Grid Reference SJ 81268 89961 and comprises a total area of approximately 1.9 ha (see Figure 1). The site lies within Wythenshawe Park, the boundary of which is shown in blue on Figure 1.

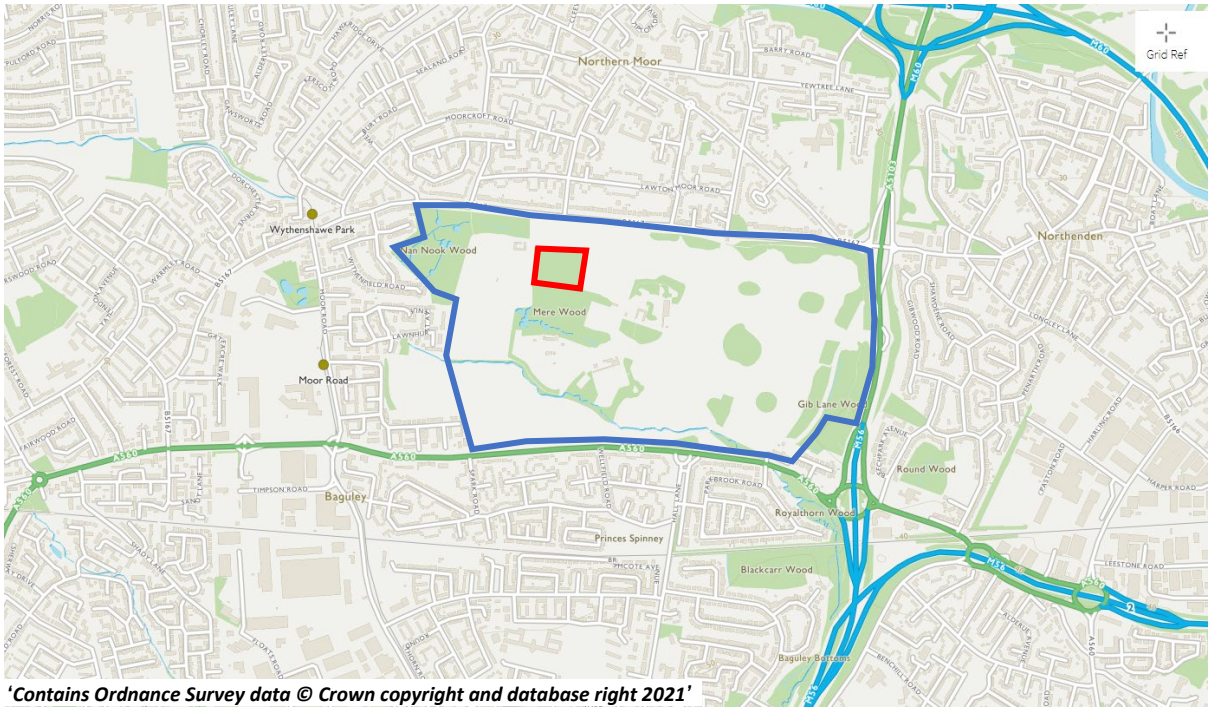

Figure 1 – Site Extent

The site is located within the 109-hectare open parkland of Wythenshawe Park, in Wythenshawe. It is located approximately 8km south of Manchester City Centre. The M56 is located approximately 1km southeast and the A560 is located approximately 500m south.

1.3 Purpose of this Report

Urban Green have been appointed to complete an ISMS in order to discharge Condition 8 of the Planning Application (130542/VO/2021).

Condition 8 states:

"*Prior to the removal of vegetation or any trees details, plans and locations of the following shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the City Council as local planning authority:*

- The extent of removal of invasive plant species

- The extent of areas of proposed replanting with woodland species

- The types and densities of any new plant species to be introduced

- The number, type and location of bird nesting and bat roosting boxes

The development shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed details.

Reason - To enhance the biodiversity of the site pursuant to policy EN9 of the Core Strategy."

The aim of the report is to demonstrate the appropriate methods for the treatment and disposal of the non-native invasive species identified on site, comprising rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*), Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), and variegated yellow archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. argentatum*). With the inclusion measures to prevent spread and the inclusion of a timetable to be followed as part of the development.

2 Site Assessment

2.1 Site Survey

A field survey was conducted on 20th July 2021 by Senior Ecologist Katie Bird ACIEEM and Assistant Ecologist Jake Healy (within the optimal period for non-native invasive species identification). Both Katie and Jake are competent at identification of non-native invasive species.

In summary, several observations of the non-native flora species' rhododendron, Japanese knotweed, and variegated yellow archangel were identified on the site. Japanese knotweed and variegated yellow archangel are labelled as Target Note 1 (TN1) and Target Note (TN2) within Appendix 2 and detailed within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) (Urban Green, 2020a). Rhododendron was not target noted during the PEA as it covered much of the understory on site, however individual stands of this species were noted along the route of the perimeter trail (TN3). No further signs of invasive non-native species were observed within the site.

The stand of Japanese knotweed was located at approximate grid reference SJ81278999 within the centre of the site. Variegated yellow archangel was located at approximate grid reference SJ81288997 in the centre of the site.

2.2 Japanese Knotweed Information and Identification

Japanese knotweed is native to Japan, Taiwan, and northern China. It was introduced into Britain in the early 19th century as an ornamental plant throughout gardens and public spaces. However, it has since spread rapidly and is now widespread throughout the UK in riparian and damp habitats, though it is tolerant to a wide range of soil types, pH, and salinity.

It is a tall herbaceous perennial with hollow stems and distinct raised nodes that resemble the appearance of bamboo (although it is not related). The strands of Japanese knotweed grow in dense formations that suppress growth of native vegetation. In autumn, the plants die back, leaving the banks bare of vegetation, and therefore liable to erosion. The underground network of rhizomes can reach 2m deep and 7m wide causing damage to concrete foundations, buildings, flood defences, roads, paving, retaining walls and architectural sites. It can also reduce the capacity of channels in flood defences to carry water.

In spring the red/purple buds emerge into new shoots. These shoots can grow rapidly at speeds of up to 10cm a day. In summer, the shoots can reach up to 2-3m in height and has the appearance of bamboo. The stems and branches are green with purple flecks with leaves borne alternately along the stems. Leaves are green with a heart shape and can grow up to 14cm in length. White flower tassels are produced July-September (see Appendix 2 for Non-native Species Secretariat, information sheet). In autumn, the leaves appear yellow/brown before falling off, leaving tall clumps of hollow brown stems.

2.3 Rhododendron Information and Identification

Rhododendron is native to south-west Europe and south-west Asia.

A large evergreen shrub with leathery leaves, attractive purple to pink flowers and solid stems forming into a trunk when mature. Relatively easy to identify but can be confused with cherry laurel or horticultural varieties of rhododendron. However, horticultural varieties of rhododendron are relatively rarely found in the wild. Spreads by suckers and seed, which are small and carried long distances by wind.

Introduced by gardeners in the late 18th century into parks and woodlands, where it was also used for game cover. Still widely planted, particularly by gardeners. Often grows in ecologically sensitive habitats, such as heath, broad-leaved woodland, and dunes, where dense growth can considerably alter the structure of the habitat.

Varies little throughout the year as leaves are evergreen and woody stems remain the same. Flowers appear May to June followed by seed pods.

2.4 Variegated Yellow Archangel Information and Identification

The information found within this section is sourced from Japanese Knotweed Ltd (2021) an invasive weeds company.

Variegated yellow archangel is a fast-growing, herbaceous perennial. It primarily spreads via rooting stolons (runners) as natural diffusion from gardens and parks. A small stolon fragment with a single node can grow into a plant.

In the UK, it flowers from mid-April to mid-September, the small yellow flowers are perfect and are pollinated by bees. It grows well in a variety of soil types from sandy to heavy clay and from acid to alkaline. Variegated yellow archangel spreads from garden waste, fly-tipping of viable material, deliberate spread, or the movement of infested soils. If undisturbed, it may spread 1-2 m by natural runners in one growing season. Seeds are not typically viable in the UK.

Variegated yellow archangel leaves are typically variegated with silver-grey markings and are oval-shaped and toothed. Stems are square and the leaves grow opposite. The flowers are small, yellow, and tubular; they grow in pairs of clusters close to stems between leaves on flowering stems that are 1 to 2 feet tall. Distinctive and somewhat unpleasant odour. Key features include:

- Variegated leaves with silver markings
- Oval-shaped and toothed-edge leaves
- Square and opposite stems
- Flowers are small, yellow, and tubular
- Stems 1-2 feet tall
- Unpleasant odour

3 Method Statement

An Environment Agency permit will not be required to eradicate the onsite invasive species, providing that the conditions of the Environment Agency Regulatory Position Statement 178 – Treatment and Disposal of Invasive Non-Native Plants (RPS178) are met. The following methods have been provided in order to comply with these conditions. **Note – If at any point the conditions of the RPS178 cannot be met, a permit must be applied for with the Environment Agency.**

See *https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/treatment-and-disposal-of-invasive-non-native-plants-rps-178* for further details.

3.1 Site-Specific Method Statement

All actions involving invasive and non-native species should be conducted under appropriate biosecurity measures as detailed in Section 3.2 for Site Biosecurity.

The non-native invasive species found on the site are present in multiple areas, detailed within Table 1 and Appendix 2.

Table 1: Locations of non-native invasive species on site

Species	Grid Reference
Japanese knotweed	SJ81278999
Rhododendron	Dominant within the understorey of Fir Coppice and occasionally present around the site perimeter.
Variegated yellow Archangel	SJ81288997

Two forms of treatment could be applied to control the non-native species found on site:

3.1.1 Rhododendron

Rhododendron is present adjacent to the perimeter route of the park and within the understorey of Fir Coppice. The locations where it has been identified are shown in Appendix 2.

Where any rhododendron is present either along the perimeter route or within 2m of the route, it should be eradicated in entirety, following the method outlined in this section.

The proposed route through Fir Coppice has not been finalised at the time of writing this report. The survey of this site identified Rhododendron to be dominant within the understorey of this area. Therefore, it is recommended that where rhododendron is present either along the proposed route or within 2m of the proposed route then it should be eradicated in entirety, following the method outlined in this section. To avoid excess damage to Fir Coppice as a result of opening up the woodland through rhododendron removal and therefore potentially increasing the level of public disturbance and trampling, rhododendron removal should be carried out through a phased approach. Sufficient rhododendron removal will be carried out in 2022 (Construction year) to allow the construction of the cycle path. Then the rest of the rhododendron will be removed in 2023 (one year post construction), 2025 (three years post construction), and 2027 (five years post construction), with no more than 0.3ha

of rhododendron to be removed each year. This will allow replacement planting to establish within the woodland and reduce levels of damage.

Rhododendron stands within Wythenshawe Park are well established, and therefore unlikely to be successfully eradicated via chemical control. Therefore, it is recommended that non-chemical/mechanical methods of control and eradication are used.

It is important that all aspects of the plant are dug up and removed, including the root mass and the surrounding soil in which the plant is rooted. This can be done at any time of the year, ideally using hand tools.

Once all plant material and surrounding soil is removed, all aspects of the plant must then be burnt on site in open air under a D7 exemption. Note, the D7 exemption must be registered with the Environment Agency at least one week prior to burning. A D7 waste exemption online application can be completed using the following link*: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/d7-waste-exemption-burning-waste-in-the-open*. It is important to consider local byelaws and prevent causing a nuisance through this burning.

The ashes and any leftover material must then be buried on the site at a minimum depth of 2m. This will reduce the chance of future regrowth. It is necessary to bury the waste in an area that is unlikely to be disturbed. This area must also be more than 7m away from an adjacent landowner's site.

On-site burning must comply with the restrictions of RPS 178 (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/treatment-and-disposal-of-invasive-non-native-plants-rps-178/treatment-and-disposal-of-invasive-non-native-plants-rps-178) and the guidance from the local fire service (i.e., Wythenshawe Fire Station. Tel: 0161 6081102). Contacting the Environmental Health Team of Manchester City Council is recommended as they might be contacted by members of the public considering their "Statutory Nuisance" powers.

3.1.2 Variegated Yellow Archangel

A single stand of variegated yellow archangel has been identified within the site (location shown in Appendix 2).

The proposed route through Fir Coppice has not yet been finalised. If the route will come within 2m of the identified location of this species, then it should be eradicated in entirety.

Manual removal is recommended for this site due to the limited spread of this species within the site.

All plant parts especially roots, and stems should be removed from site, with additional removal potentially required if regrowth occurs.

Once all plant material and surrounding soil is removed, all aspects of the plant must then be burnt on site in open air under a D7 exemption. Note, the D7 exemption must be registered with the Environment Agency at least one week prior to burning. A D7 waste exemption online application can be completed using the following link*: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/d7-waste-exemption-burning-waste-in-the-open*. It is important to consider local byelaws and prevent causing a nuisance through this burning.

The ashes and any leftover material must then be buried on the site at a minimum depth of 2m. This will reduce the chance of future regrowth. It is necessary to bury the waste in an area that is unlikely to be disturbed. This area must also be more than 7m away from an adjacent landowner's site.

On-site burning must comply with the restrictions of RPS 178 (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/treatment-and-disposal-of-invasive-non-native-plants-rps-178/treatment-and-disposal-of-invasive-non-native-plants-rps-178) and the guidance from the local fire service (i.e., Wythenshawe Fire Station. Tel: 0161 6081102). Contacting the Environmental Health Team of Manchester City Council is recommended as they might be contacted by members of the public considering their "Statutory Nuisance" powers.

3.1.3 Japanese Knotweed

It is noted that the identified stand of Japanese knotweed within Fir Coppice is currently being subject to chemical methods of eradication. No other stands of Japanese knotweed were identified within the site and along the perimeter route of Wythenshawe Park. The success of this control should be monitored to ensure complete eradication and that no further spread of this species within the site occurs.

If further chemical control of the identified Japanese knotweed is required or if additional stands of this species are identified during construction, then the method outlined in this section should be followed.

Herbicide must be used only in accordance with the directions on the product label and with all relevant legislation. Any person involved in the professional application of herbicides should possess the appropriate pesticides certificate of competence for the safe use of herbicide and hand-held herbicide applicators. Any non-native invasive species treated with herbicide should be done with a non-residual herbicide, e.g., glyphosate.

Spraying programmes should be required for two to three years to eradicate the plant. Records of herbicide use must be kept in accordance with all relevant legislation, e.g., a record must be made of the type, concentration and quantity of herbicide used, the operative's name, weather conditions and date of application. Records must be retained after each treatment.

If opted to follow the herbicide route the restrictions of RPS 178 must be complied with. An herbicide agreement with the Environment Agency is not required, however reading the product labels of any herbicides used and/or contacting the manufacturer for advice is strongly recommended.

All use of herbicides including stem injection is to be judged at the discretion of an invasive species specialist.

3.2 Site Biosecurity

In accordance with guidance set out by the GB non-native species secretariat (www.nonnativespecies.org/), measures to prevent the spread of non-native invasive species within or off sites with should be followed:

- All site personnel must be fully briefed to ensure all staff are aware of the presence and locations of non-native invasive species on the site and how to identify the species. This can be included during a site induction or through toolbox talks. Everybody working on site must understand the role and authority of the invasive species specialist managing the issue of the non-native species.
- Clearly visible fencing must be erected around the areas of non-native invasive species (including contaminated soil, materials, or water) and signs to warn site personnel of presence and identification of species within.

- Ensure that vehicle use is kept to a minimum around infestations. Keep to hardstanding where possible.
- Do no use vehicles with caterpillar tracks within infested areas.
- All clothes, footwear and equipment including site vehicles and tools should be checked for plant material and soil before entering/leaving the site.
- All vehicles leaving the infested area and/or transporting infested soil/materials must be thoroughly pressure-washed in a designated wash-down area before being used for other work.
- All wash facilities including wastewater from washing vehicles, equipment or personnel should be managed in a responsible way so as not to case spreading of the invasive species or harm to the environment.
- Clothes, footwear, and equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and ensure no contaminated material is present. Keep equipment on site where practical and free of contaminated material.
- Equipment used to treat invasive species should be kept separate to unused equipment and identifiable through clear signage or designated areas.
- All chemicals used for the control of non-native species (if applicable) should be stored and used in a responsible manner.
- Where cross-contamination is possible (i.e., from one site to another), designated vehicles or machinery must be used for specific sites where possible to prevent spread.
- All plant material will comply with BS 3936 1: 1992, BS 4043:1989 and BS 8545: 2014 or European equivalents. All planting shall be UK grown and obtained from a reputable and approved nursery. Plant material should be fully hardy and be free from pests and diseases.
- Existing and imported multipurpose topsoil shall confirm to BS 3882:2015. A Declaration of Analysis sheet should be supplied if requested. If acceptable, topsoil shall be taken from stockpiles on site or imported from an approved source. Imported soil shall be a loam type, to BS 3882:2015, be free of contamination and contain a maximum of 15% clay or silt fines. A topsoil sample shall be provided with topsoil structure analysis for general landscape purposes. Topsoil should be free of any part of invasive plant (as identified by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended).

3.3 Timetable of Works

Works	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Mechanical removal of non-native invasive species	Can be conducted at any time of year											
Burning of non-native invasive species	Can be conducted at any time of year											
Chemical control of non-native invasive species								Spray on cut stumps in late summer or autumn				

4 Conclusion

Non-native invasive species including rhododendron, Japanese knotweed and variegated yellow archangel have been identified on site and all species are listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), meaning it is an offence to cause these species to spread in the wild.

This report has met the objectives and details measures to discharge Condition 8 of the relevant planning application. The report sets out how to identify the non-native invasive species found on site and provides non-chemical and chemical methods of control for these species.

Section 3.2 provides biosecurity measures to prevent the further spread of invasive species, including any soils or plants brought into the site.

All works should be completed under the advice of an invasive species specialist.

If any other invasive non-native plant species are identified on site prior to or during the construction phase, a contractor should be contacted to conduct an assessment and produce a method statement to ensure safe methods of working are followed.

5 References

Environment Agency (2019a). *Treatment and disposal of invasive non-native plants: RPS 178* [online]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/treatment-and-disposal-of-invasive-non-native-plants-rps-178/treatment-and-disposal-of-invasive-non-native-plants-rps-178> [accessed 16/11/21].

Environment Agency (2019b). *Register or renew waste exemptions* (*England*) [online]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-your-waste-exemptions-environmental-permits> [accessed 16/11/21].

Environment Agency (2019c). *Waste: environmental permits* [online]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-environmental-permits> [accessed 16/11/21].

Environment Protection Agency (2018) *Biosecurity and management of invasive non-native species for construction sites and Controlled Activities*.

GB Non-Native Species Secretariat (2018). *Japanese Knotweed* [online]. Available from: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/factsheet/factsheet.cfm?speciesId=1495> [accessed 16/11/21].

GB Non-Native Species Secretariat (2018). *Rhododendron* [online]. Available from: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/factsheet/factsheet.cfm?speciesId=3004> [accessed 16/11/21].

Home Office (n.d.). *Reform of anti-social behaviour powers Japanese Knotweed and other invasive non-native plants* [online]. Available from: < https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20200610184227/https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/364846/Japanese_Knotweed_information_note.pdf > [accessed 16/11/21].

Japanese Knotweed (2021). Variegated Yellow Archangel [online]. Available from: https://www.japaneseknotweed.co.uk/other-invasive-species/variegated-yellow-archangel [accessed 16/11/21]

NNSS (n.d.). *Biosecurity and Prevention* [online]. Available from: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?sectionid=119> [accessed 16/11/21].

Property Care Association (2014). *PCA Guidance Note – Legislation and Policy for Invasive Non-native Plant Species including Japanese Knotweed* [online]. Available from: <https://www.property-care.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Guidance-Note-on-Legislation-for-Invasive-Non-native-Plant-Species-v5.pdf> [accessed 16/11/21].

The National Archives (1990). *Environmental Protection Act 1990* [online]. Available from: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents> [accessed 16/11/21].

The National Archives (1981). *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* [online]. Available from: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/6/section/14#section-14-2-a> [accessed 16/11/21].

Urban Green (2021). Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for Wythenshawe Park. Ref. UG_1106_ECO_PEA_02.

Appendix 1 – Invasive Species Relevant Legislation

It is an offence under Section 14(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to "plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild" any plant listed in Schedule 9, Part II, which includes Japanese knotweed, rhododendron, and variegated yellow archangel. 'Offences under Section 14 carry a maximum penalty of £5,000 fine and/or 6 months imprisonment on summary conviction (i.e., at Magistrates' Court) and an unlimited fine (i.e., what the court feels to be commensurate with the offence) and/or 2 years imprisonment on indictment (i.e., at Crown Court).

Soil and other waste containing viable propagules of invasive non-native plant species is classified as 'controlled waste' under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Subsequently, waste containing Japanese knotweed must be disposed of in accordance with official Environment Agency guidance designed to prevent further spread of the species. Any waste being disposed of must be accompanied by appropriate waste transfer documentation.

Local councils and the police (in most cases the local council) have the power to issue Community Protection Notices against "individuals who are acting unreasonably and who persistently or continually act in a way that has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality." The notice could require an individual or organisation to make reasonable efforts to rectify problems arising from invasive non-native species and/or make it a requirement to take reasonable steps to prevent future occurrence of the problem. For more information see "Reform of anti-social behaviours powers: Japanese knotweed and other invasive non-native plants" (Home Office, n.d.) found: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/364846/Japanese_Knotweed_information_note_pdf.

See Property Care Association Guidance Note – Legislation and Policy for Invasive Non-Native Plant Species Including Japanese Knotweed (PCA, 2014) for further information.

Failure to comply with the relevant invasive non-native species legislation could lead to prosecution.

Appendix 2 - Invasive Species Location Map



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Invasive - Rhododendron understory

N

Target Note

- TN1 - Japanese Knotweed
- TN2 - Variegated Archangel
- TN3 - Rhododendron

0 50 100 200 Meters

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Client: **Manchester City Council**

Project: **Wythenshawe Park**

Title: **Invasive Species Plan**

Issue: **01**

Drawn:	Checked:	Approved:
AB	MB	MB

Project:	Scale @ A3:	Date:
UG1106	1:4,350	22/11/2021

Dwg No:	Revision:
UG1106_ECO_ISP_01	01

Appendix 3 - Non-native Species Secretariat Identification Sheets

www.nonnativespecies.org

Produced by Olaf Booy, Max Wade and Vicky White of RPS

Rhododendron

Species Description

Scientific name: *Rhododendron ponticum*
AKA: Rhododendron
Native to: South-west Europe and south-west Asia. UK's stock is believed to come from Spain.
Habitat: Common on acid, peaty or sandy soils in woodland, heathland, rocky hill-sides, river banks, gardens and parks



A large evergreen shrub with leathery leaves, attractive purple to pink flowers and solid stems forming into a trunk when mature. Relatively easy to identify, but can be confused with cherry laurel or horticultural varieties of rhododendron. However, horticultural varieties of rhododendron are relatively rarely found in the wild. Spreads by suckers and seed, which are small and carried long distances by wind.

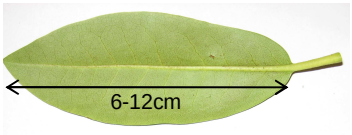
Introduced by gardeners in the late 18th century into parks and woodlands, where it was also used for game cover. Still widely planted, particularly by gardeners. Often grows in ecologically sensitive habitats, such as heath, broad-leaved woodland and dunes, where dense growth can considerably alter the structure of the habitat.

For details of legislation go to www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation.

Key ID Features



Leathery leaves with dull green upper surface



Pale underside









Identification throughout the year

Varies little throughout the year as leaves are evergreen and woody stems remain the same. Flowers appear May to June followed by seed pods.

Distribution

Widespread across the whole of the UK, most common in the south and west.

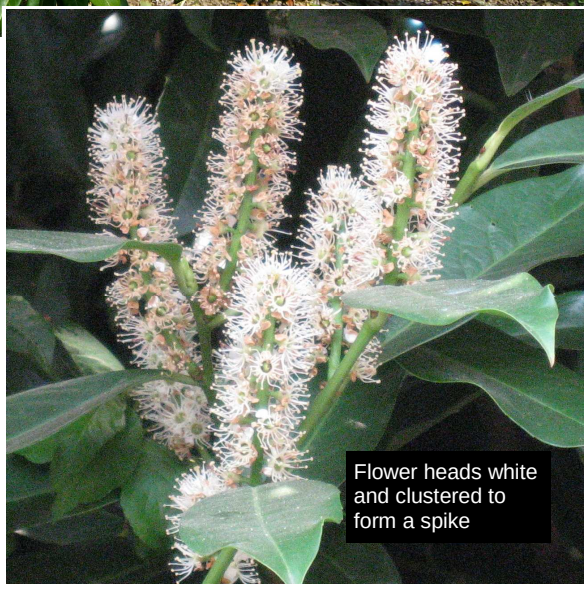


Source: NBN Gateway. Check website for current distribution

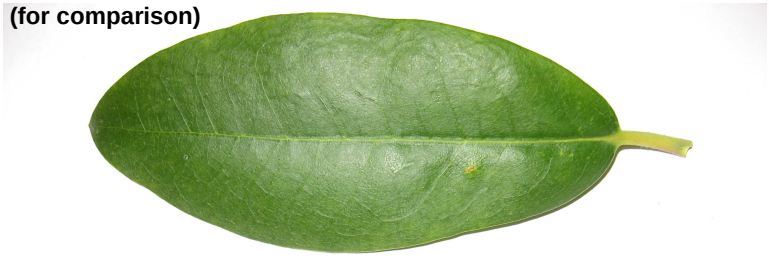
Similar Species

Cherry laurel
Non-native
(*Prunus laurocerasus*)





***Rhododendron* leaf (for comparison)**



Cherry laurel leaf



Varieties of Rhododendron

There are a large number of highly sought after species and varieties of rhododendron, of which the invasive *Rhododendron ponticum* is just one. It is unusual to encounter other varieties or species outside of planted habitats.

References in the further reading list can be used to distinguish between the different varieties if necessary.

Examples of rhododendron varieties:







References and further reading:

Cullen, J (2005) *"Hardy rhododendron species: a guide to identification".* Collins

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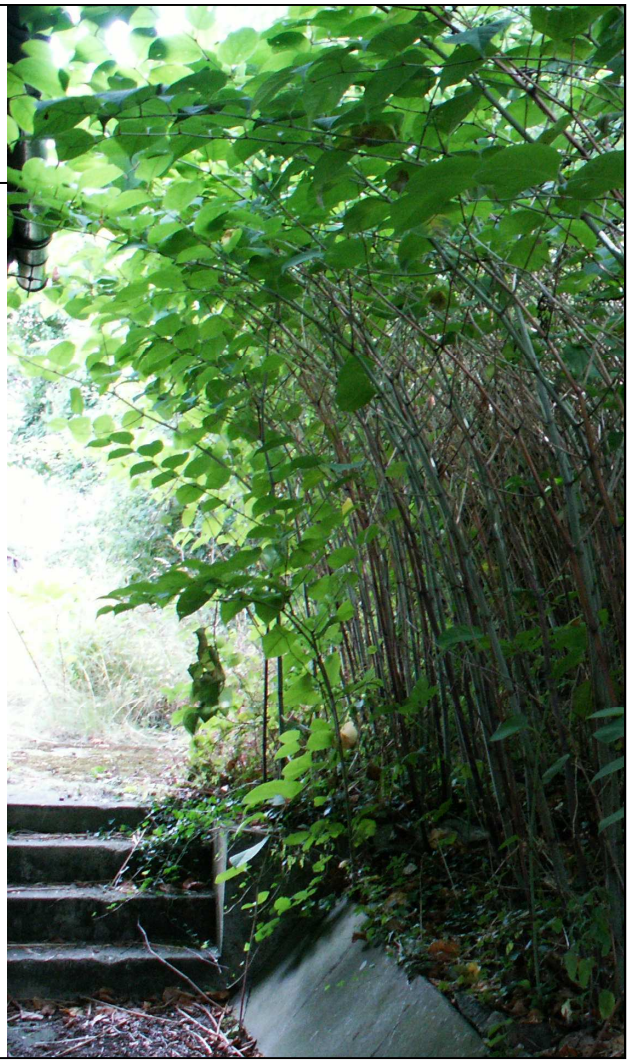
Photos from: Olaf Booy, David Fenwick, Mike McCabe, Helen Parish

www.nonnativespecies.org

Produced by Olaf Booy, Max Wade and Vicky White of RPS

Japanese Knotweed



Species Description

Scientific name: *Fallopia japonica*
AKA: Japanese Bamboo, Pysen saethwr (Welsh), *Polygonum cuspidatum*, *Reynoutria japonica*
Native to: Japan, Taiwan, northern China
Habitat: Common in urban areas, particularly on waste land, railways, road sides and river banks

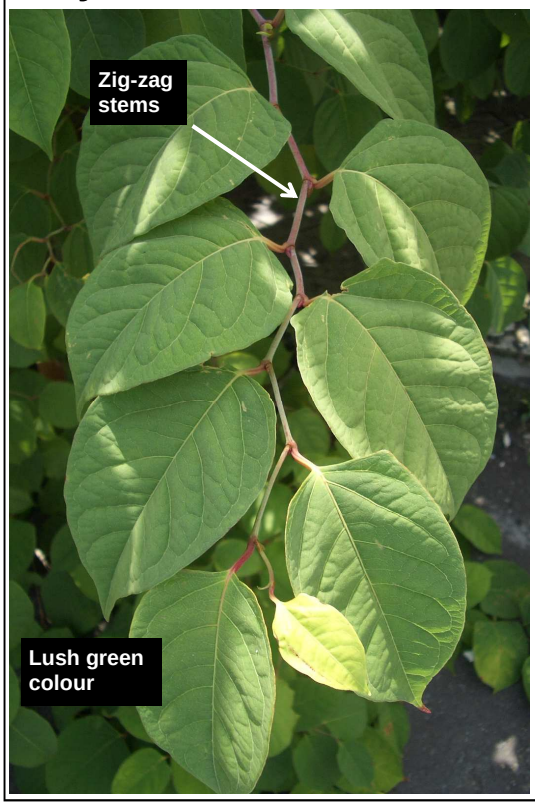
Tall herbaceous perennial with bamboo like stems. Often grows into dense thickets. Characteristic leaves and stems, persistence of last year's dead canes and distinctive rhizome (underground root-like stems) enables year round identification.

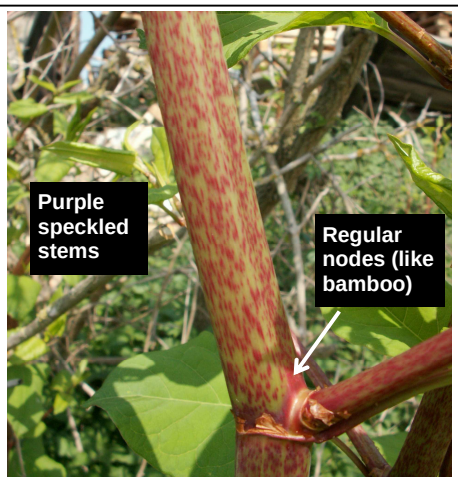
Introduced in the early 19th century as an ornamental plant. Now common and wide-spread across the UK. Spreads rapidly in the wild by natural means and as a result of spread by humans. Spread is solely by vegetative means, either fragments of rhizome or stem. Does not produce seed in the UK. Negative impacts include outcompeting native flora, contributing to river bank erosion and increasing the likelihood of flooding. Can also cause significant delays and cost to development as well as structural damage (it can grow through asphalt and some other surfaces).

Japanese Knotweed is listed under Schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 with respect to England, Wales and Scotland. As such it is an offence to plant of other-wise cause Japanese knotweed to grow in the wild. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Japanese Knotweed is classified as controlled waste.

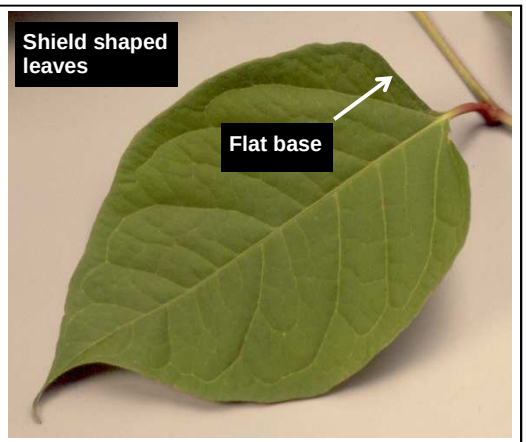
For details of legislation go to www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation.

Key ID Features





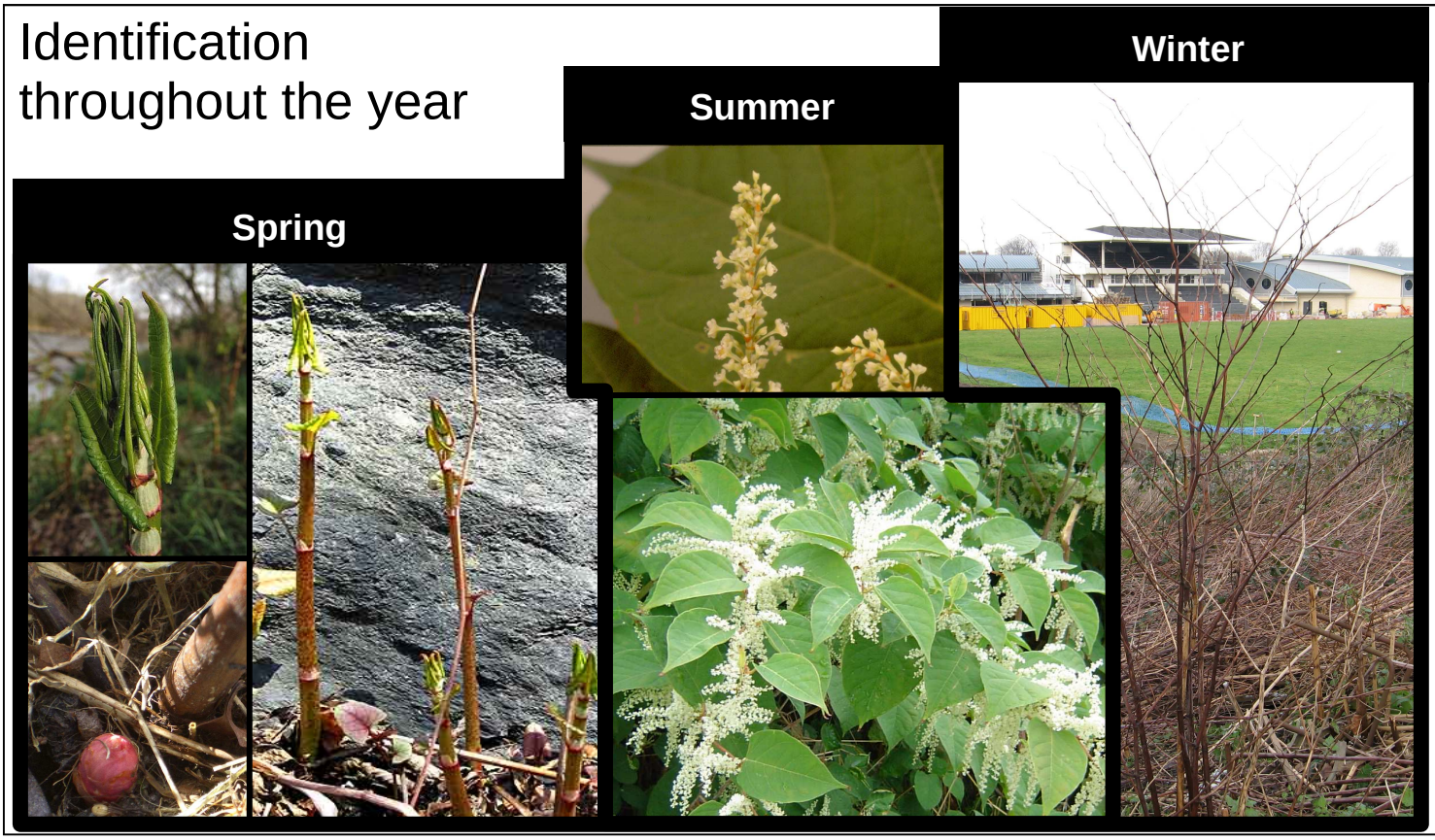






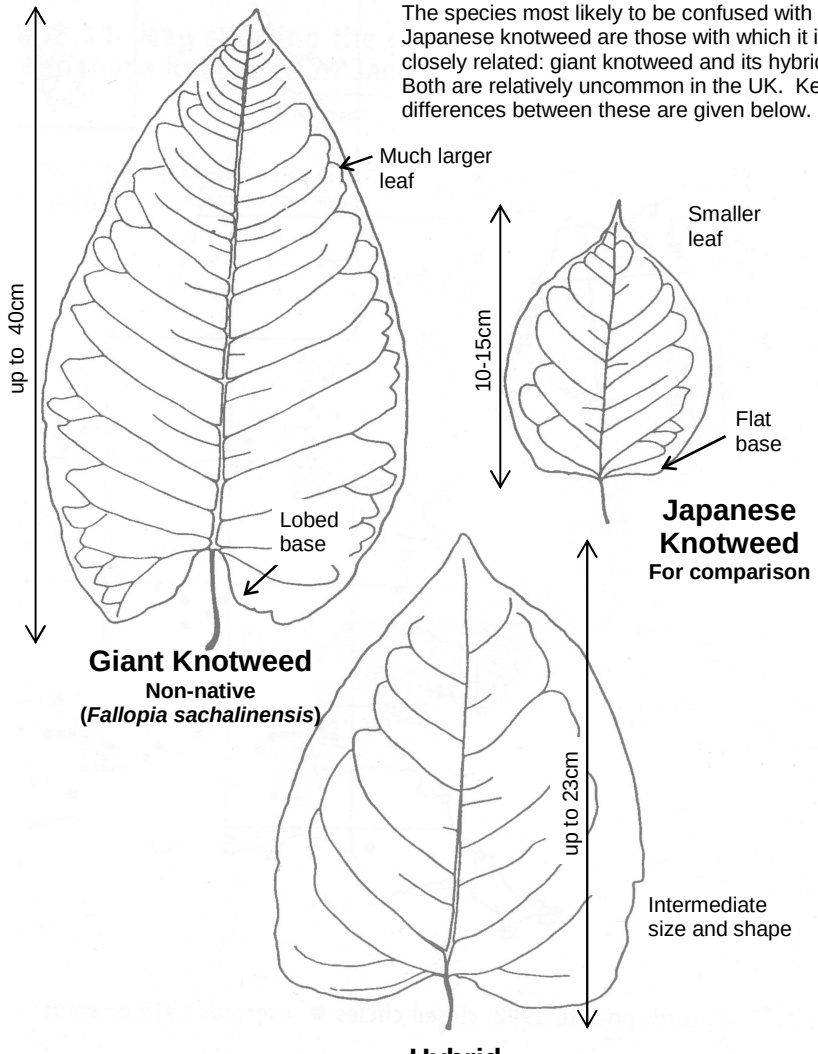


Identification throughout the year



Similar Species

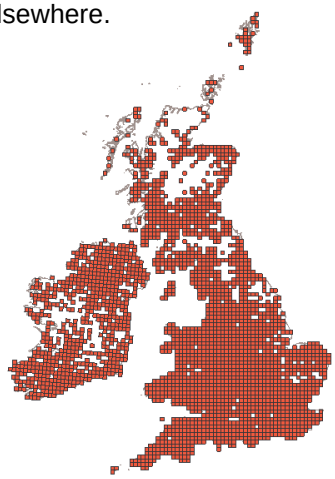
The species most likely to be confused with Japanese knotweed are those with which it is closely related: giant knotweed and its hybrid. Both are relatively uncommon in the UK. Key differences between these are given below.



Source: Child and Wade (2000). The Japanese Knotweed Manual

Distribution

Widespread and common across the UK. Notably extensive infestations are found in the south-west of England, south Wales and Greater London, however similarly extensive populations can also be found elsewhere.



Source: NBN Gateway. Check website for current distribution

References and further reading:

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