

Invasive Species Survey & Management Strategy

Coleshill Canal Quarter, Manchester

Client: Engie Services Limited

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background Information

Ground Control Professional Services team was requested by Engie Services Limited to undertake an invasive species survey and to produce a report in relation to an area of land at Coleshill Canal Quarter, Miles Platting, Manchester M40 8EF. The site is proposed as a potential location for a residential-led mixed-use development including residential housing, apartment accommodation and commercial space. The northern and western areas of the site, adjacent to the Rochdale Canal, previously supported a chemical and dye works which has subsequently been demolished, leaving the site unoccupied.

1.2 Purpose of this Report

A preliminary ecological appraisal carried out by ERAP Ltd in July 2019 (Report reference 2019-176) identified the presence of four invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The species included Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), wall cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*) and Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa*).

Whilst not currently listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), both butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii*) and field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) were identified on site and are widely regarded as an invasive species.

This report has been produced to document the results of an invasive species survey carried out by Ground Control Professional Services, during September 2020 and to provide Engie Services Limited with a management strategy for the treatment and control of these invasive weed species.

1.3 Site Location and Context

The surveyed area is depicted by the yellow line below and is hereafter referred to as 'the site'. The site is approximately 6.45ha in extent and is located at OS Grid Reference SJ 86245 99387 (centroid) / postcode M40 8EF (Figure 1). The wider landscape is urban in nature and is dominated by industrial and residential development. The site is bordered by Hulme Hall Lane to the north-east, by Iron Street to the south-east and by Varley Street to the south-west. The north-western boundary is defined by a brick wall, three metres in height, that separates the site from the Rochdale Canal and associated towpath beyond.



2. Legislation & Policy

Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan balsam, wall cotoneaster and Japanese rose are listed on Schedule 9, Section 14(2) of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981). This makes it an offence to actively plant or otherwise cause the species to grow in the wild.

Section 23 of the Infrastructure Act 2015 amended the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 by inserting a new Schedule 9A to introduce a statutory regime of species control agreements and orders. This schedule ensures that, in appropriate circumstances, landowners take action on invasive non-native species and formerly resident native species, or permit others to enter the land and carry out those operations, to prevent their establishment and spread.

Both butterfly bush and field horsetail are widely regarded as an invasive species and whilst neither are listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) and there are currently no legal obligations surrounding the control of these species, care should be taken to limit spread of plants beyond the site.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990) contains a number of legal provisions concerning “controlled waste”, which is set out in Part II. Any soil contaminated by invasive plant species or plant material that you discard, intend to discard or are required to discard is likely to be classified as controlled waste.

The Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005 (HWR 2005) contain provisions about the handling and movement of hazardous waste.

3. Data Collection Methodology

In order to produce this document, a walkover survey to identify the nature and extent of any invasive species present on site, was conducted by Senior Ecologist Paul Sheridan BSc. (Hons), GradCIEEM on 22nd September 2020. The weather was warm and sunny with a recorded temperature of 21°C.

3.1 Field Survey

The survey was focused on confirming or refuting the presence of invasive plant species on the site and establishing the extent of any infestation. Evidence of invasive weed species including new shoots, actively growing and/or flowering stands, dead stands or plant material and rhizomes was searched for within the site boundary and the accessible areas immediately adjacent to the site.

3.2 Limitations

The areas at the northern and western extent of the site, associated with the former dye works, supported dense scrub that proved impenetrable in some areas restricting access. While these areas proved inaccessible it was possible to perform a visual assessment of the majority of these areas from the perimeter fences surrounding this area of the site or by observing from more open areas of scrub. Given the vigorous nature of these invasive species, as well as the fact that the survey was undertaken during the time of year when growing stands would still remain reasonably obvious, it would be expected that if active stands were present they would have been apparent to the surveyor.

4. Results

Areas of bare ground and managed amenity grassland, surrounded by semi-mature and mature scattered trees, dominate the eastern extent of the site. Unmanaged species-poor grassland is present along the southern boundary, while an area of woodland fills the south-western corner of the site. The former dyeworks, located at the northern and western extent of the site, covers an area of approximately 2.8ha and is enclosed by palisade fencing and a brick wall reaching three metres in height. The area is dominated by hardstanding with numerous piles of spoil and has been colonised by stands of dense scrub and pioneer plant species.

The survey found evidence of several species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), namely, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, wall cotoneaster and Japanese rose. The survey also identified the presence of field horsetail and extensive stands of butterfly bush. All locations of invasive species are shown in Appendix 1.

Japanese knotweed

The ecology report compiled by ERAP in July 2019 identified a single stand of Japanese knotweed (JKW) located close to the centre of the site. During the assessment carried out on 22nd September the area where the JKW had been identified was found to be covered by dense scrub. On closer inspection dead JKW stems were identified within the scrub suggesting the stand had been treated at some point (Appendix 2: Photograph 1). No regrowth was evident at the time of the survey and no further stands were identified elsewhere on the site.

Himalayan balsam

The previous ecological survey carried out by ERAP in July 2019 identified stands of Himalayan Balsam within the former dyeworks site. While these stands were no longer evident during the most recent survey, a single stand was identified on a waste pile within the old dyeworks site (Appendix 2: Photograph 2), close to the northern boundary (Grid Ref SJ 86183 99421). The infestation covered an area approximately 45m².

Wall cotoneaster

The stands of cotoneaster identified within ERAP's original ecology report remained in-situ. During the survey an additional stand was identified close to the access gate into the dyeworks site, at the end of Coleshill Road (Grid Ref SJ 86226 99386). The density of the scrub within the dyeworks site made an accurate determination of the scale of the infestation difficult, however, collectively the stands covered an estimated area of 80m².

Japanese rose

The stands identified by ERAP during their walkover survey, in July 2019, remained in-situ (Appendix 2: Photograph 3). This most recent survey identified additional stands within the dyeworks site, close to the entrance gate on Coleshill Road (Grid Ref SJ 86247 99378). While the two stands identified during the initial survey, were relatively small, collectively covering an area of approximately 10m², the stand on the periphery of the dyeworks site was significantly larger, covering an estimated area of 20m².

Field horsetail

Isolated stands of field horsetail were identified across the northern half of the site, with the majority occurring within the dyeworks site. Small stands were present within the scrub layer formerly occupied by the Japanese knotweed (Grid Ref SJ 86260 99411). Further small stands were recorded within the areas of dense scrub located within the dyeworks site. The dense nature of the scrub prevented an accurate determination of the scale of the infestation.

The most significant stand was recorded at the eastern extent on the dyeworks site (Appendix 2: Photograph 4). The infestation in this area covered approximately 50m².

Butterfly bush

Stands of buddleia were recorded across the site (Appendix 2: Photograph 5). While the stands were more scattered in nature within the southern half of the site, within the dyeworks site frequent stands were present within the areas of hardstanding and dense scrub. Given the frequency and scattered nature of the buddleia infestation it was difficult to accurately determine the total area the stands covered, however the most significant stands covered approximately 0.4ha.

5. Management & Control Recommendations

This section sets out a detailed management strategy for the control and disposal of those invasive weed species identified on site.

5.1 Japanese knotweed

The latest survey suggests that the previously identified stand of Japanese knotweed has been treated and controlled, however it remains possible that rhizome material beneath the surface remains viable. The JKW management strategy outlined within this document is designed to completely eradicate the infestation on site and involves the excavation and off-site disposal of all contaminated soil and plant material. Given that the soil material is predominately a heavy clay, the McAuliffe Group, believe the JKW rhizomes should be reasonably contained. The following measures should be implemented on site to both control and eradicate the infestation:

Pre-Excavation Control Measures

- A site-wide survey should be undertaken to identify any areas of fresh JKW growth and inform a chemical treatment programme.
- Any green foliage identified should be treated with herbicide, prior to excavation works taking place, to reduce the amount of live plant material. If possible, this programme would coincide with the optimal periods to treat JKW which is recognised as the early summer (May or June) and/or the early autumn (September or October). Once the above ground stand has been treated the excavation process can commence.
- Should no green foliage be identified the excavation of the contaminated soil can begin immediately.
- Recent studies, reported by the Property Care Association, suggest that mixing glyphosate with de-ionised water rather than tap water increases the effectiveness of herbicide treatment. This is due to the fact that glyphosate reacts with the minerals within tap water, particularly in hard water areas, reducing the effectiveness of the chemical treatment.

Excavation & Disposal Method Statement

The following measures are to be implemented during the excavation of plant material and soil to avoid any contamination of the area between the ongoing excavation and the vehicles transporting the material off site for disposal. If necessary, a haul road will be established to allow vehicles closer access to the area of excavation.

- A toolbox talk covering the risks associated with JKW contamination and legal implications associated with the mishandling of the species will be delivered to all operators working on site and involved in the excavation and disposal of JKW contaminated material.
- The area of the infestation should be marked up using barrier tape. The tape should be placed 7m from the nearest JKW stand to form a buffer zone. Appropriate signage should also be installed warning of the presence of JKW.

- Prior to commencing work all plant must arrive onto site in a clean condition. This will assist the process of cleaning down and decontaminating all plant and machinery on completion of the project.
- Any excavators used during the work must have a boom of sufficient length to ensure that the excavator does not need to enter the contaminated area whilst in operation.
- The excavation process will involve an initial surface scrape to a depth of 200mm, in all contaminated areas. This should remove much of the rhizome material however the excavation will continue until all the plant material has been removed.
- All vehicles will be loaded on the available areas of hardstanding or non-contaminated areas adjacent to the knotweed infestation. Care will be taken to ensure that all vehicles remain outside the exclusion zone.
- The excavator will carefully load the soil into the vehicles, ensuring no material spills over the edge. The load will be kept level and beneath the sides of the dumper to prevent any spillage. The contaminated material should be lightly compacted using the back of the excavator bucket.
- All vehicles used to transport the waste off-site will be fitted with a load cover which will be drawn across whilst in transit to prevent contaminated plant material or soil being blown from the vehicle.
- All contaminated material will be transported off-site and disposed of at an approved and appropriately licenced landfill site as 'controlled waste'.
- Personnel working onsite will ensure that all clothing, and in particular footwear, is decontaminated before leaving the area of infestation.
- Upon completion of the project each of the excavated areas will be accurately surveyed and mapped. This information will then be used to inform the Site Remediation Plan.

5.2 Himalayan balsam

Himalayan Balsam has a very shallow root system that grows to a depth of only 10-15 cm. Given the limited size of the infestation, control and eradicate of the species should involve a combined strategy of chemical treatment to kill the above ground stands and excavation of the below ground rhizomes and seed bank. All plant material and contaminated soil will be disposed of off-site.

Control & Disposal Strategy

- A toolbox talk covering the risks associated with Himalayan balsam contamination and the legal implications associated with the mishandling of the species will be delivered to all operators working on site and involved in the excavation and disposal of Himalayan balsam contaminated material.
- A site-wide survey should be undertaken to identify any areas of fresh Himalayan balsam growth.
- Any above ground stands should be hand pulled or treated with herbicide to reduce the amount of live plant material. If possible, the chemical treatment programme would coincide with the active growing season, which is the optimal period to treat the plant, and runs between May and September. Once the above ground stands have been pulled out or treated the excavation process can commence. Any plant material should be disposed of off-site as 'controlled waste'.
- Should no green foliage be identified the excavation of the contaminated soil can begin immediately.

- The excavation process will involve an initial surface scrape to a depth of 200mm, in all contaminated areas. This should remove the root material. However, in order to remove the seed bank in its entirety the excavation should continue to a depth of 500mm.
- Mechanical excavation should not be carried out during the period when the plants are setting seed (August to October).
- The process of mechanical excavation should follow the guidance outlined within the 'Excavation & Disposal Method Statement' in the JKW section above.
- All contaminated material will be transported off-site and disposed of at an approved and appropriately licenced landfill site as 'controlled waste'.
- Site wide monitoring surveys should continue throughout the duration of the development phase. These surveys should be undertaken by an experienced invasive species surveyor.
- Any Himalayan balsam that re-emerges should be subject to chemical treatment following the protocol outlined above.

5.3 Wall cotoneaster

Like all species of cotoneaster, wall cotoneaster, produces clusters of berries that are fed upon by birds and dispersed over a wide area.

Control & Disposal Strategy

Given the relatively small scale of the infestation, mechanical control represents the most suitable control option in this case.

- The entire root mass should be mechanically excavated to remove the entire plant and prevent regrowth. Mechanical control techniques can be applied at any time of year.
- Plant material and soil can be taken off-site and disposed of as green waste.

5.4 Japanese rose

Japanese rose forms dense thickets that can quickly out compete native plants. The species distribution is increasing in the wild, facilitated by birds and mammals that spread the seeds across wide areas.

Control & Disposal Strategy

Given the relatively small scale of the infestation, mechanical control represents the most suitable control option.

- The entire root mass should be mechanically excavated to remove the entire plant and prevent regrowth. Mechanical control techniques can be applied at any time of year.
- Plant material and soil can be taken off-site and disposed of as green waste.

5.5 Field horsetail

Field horsetail is a deep-rooted native perennial that spreads rapidly via the fast growing rhizomes or spores creating dense stands of foliage. Field horsetail is widely regarded as an invasive species and whilst it is not listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) and there are currently no legal obligations surrounding the control of this species, care should be taken to limit spread of plants beyond the site.

While mechanical removal can prove effective in removing infestations it is essential that all of the plant material is removed as regeneration can occur from any small pieces of plant material that are left behind. It is therefore recommended that a combined strategy of mechanical and chemical control measures is applied to manage the infestation.

Control & Disposal Strategy

- A toolbox talk covering the risks associated with the field horsetail infestation, the species ecology and the appropriate control and disposal of the infestation will be delivered to the Site Manager.
- A site-wide survey should be undertaken prior to the implementation of a treatment programme, to identify any areas of fresh horsetail growth.
- All visible above ground growth should be treated, using an approved herbicide. The effectiveness of a chemical treatment strategy can be enhanced by damaging the stems of the plants, by crushing or breaking, prior to applying the herbicide.
- Treatment should be applied during the active growing season, which runs between March and September.
- Thickening the herbicide using starch and painting directly on to the fronds may enhance the effectiveness of the treatment.
- Mechanical control should only be implemented once all of the above ground growth is dead.
- The rhizomes beneath the surface should be excavated to remove the infestation. The process will involve an initial surface scrape to a depth of 200mm, in all contaminated areas. This should remove much of the rhizome material however the excavation will continue until all the plant root material has been removed. This could involve digging to a depth of several metres.
- All contaminated plant material and soil can be taken off-site and disposed of as green waste.
- Site wide monitoring surveys should continue throughout the duration of the development phase. These surveys should be undertaken by an experienced invasive species surveyor.
- Any field horsetail that re-emerges should be subject to chemical treatment following the protocol outlined above.

5.6 Butterfly bush

Buddleia is widely regarded as an invasive species and whilst it is not listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) and there are currently no legal obligations surrounding the control of this species, care should be taken to limit spread of plants beyond the site. Buddleia plants can produce up to three million seeds per-plant per year and left unchecked the root systems of the plant can weaken any materials they grow through including masonry and brickwork.

Control & Disposal Strategy

Given the size and scattered nature of the buddleia infestation recorded on site, mechanical control methods would be appropriate.

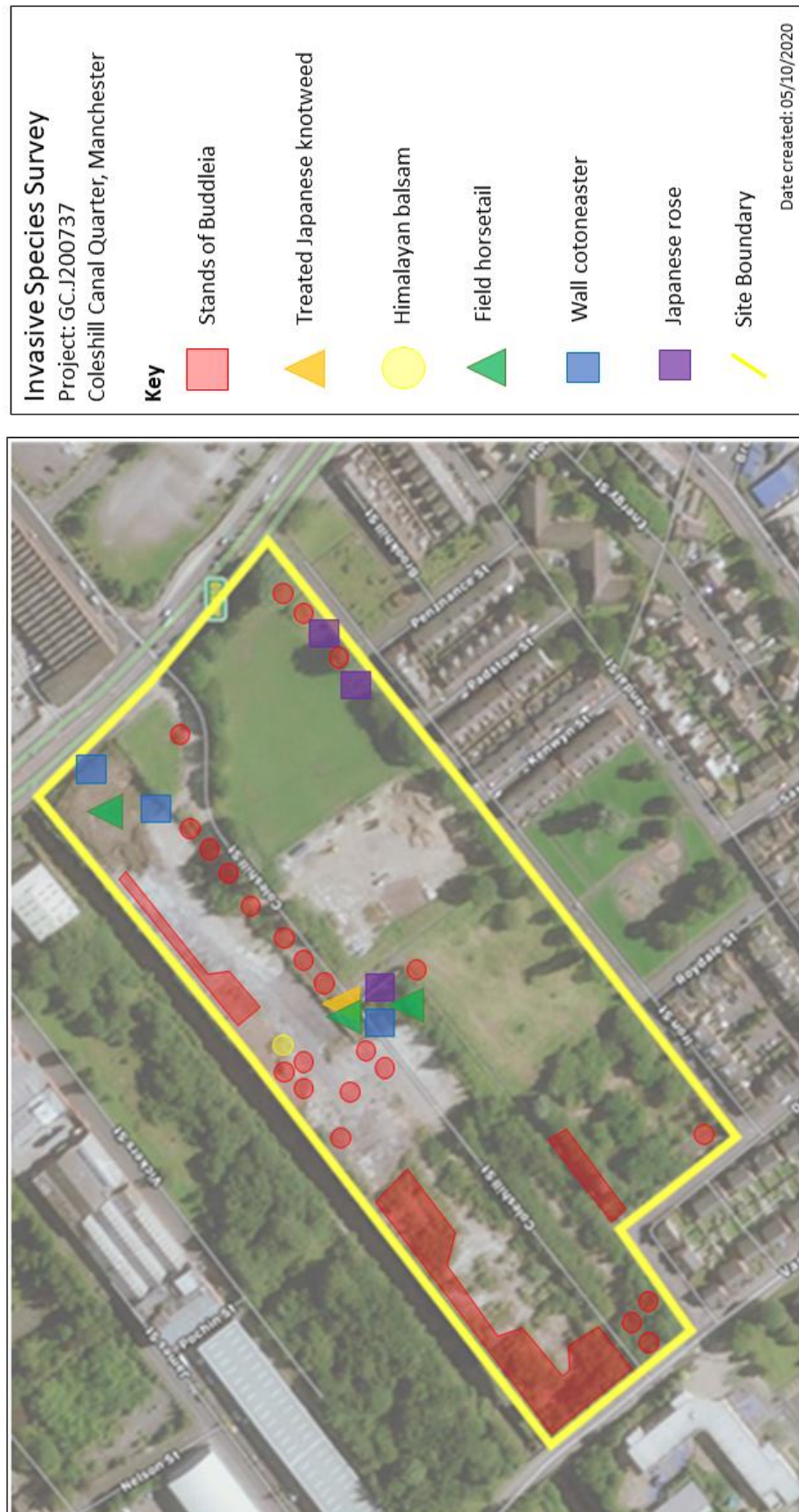
- Stands should be pulled out by hand or mechanically dug out and removed from site. Mechanical control techniques can be applied at any time of year.
- Plant material and soil should be taken off-site and disposed of as green waste.
- Spot spraying with herbicide can prove effective in eradicating any remaining roots or plant material.

6. Biosecurity Measures

The following actions should be implemented to prevent the contamination and spread of invasive species, and in particular JKW and Himalayan balsam, during the control and disposal programme.

- All staff involved with the site must be made aware of the presence of invasive species, particularly JKW and Himalayan balsam on site, as well as the risks and legal implications associated with the mishandling of the species. This can be achieved by distributing the briefing material available in Appendix 3.
- All plant and machinery must be decontaminated before being removed from work area. Such decontamination should take place on an area of enclosed hardstanding where recontamination cannot occur.
- The tracks and body of all plant should be scraped by hand and loose material should be brushed off.
- The material removed from the plant and equipment should be double bagged and treated as 'controlled waste'. The material should be taken off-site and disposed of at a licenced landfill facility.
- Once cleaned all plant and equipment should be treated with an approved herbicide.
- A full record of the adopted procedure and the plant and machinery used will be kept.
- Records of any chemical treatments undertaken on site should be kept. These records must include the species concerned, the date of treatment, the atmospheric conditions, any relevant observations and any limitations.
- All records should be stored until such a time that is safe to assume that eradication of the invasive species has been achieved.
- All staff involved in the excavation and disposal of invasive species should ensure that all hand tools and equipment as well as footwear are thoroughly cleaned before leaving the work area. Clothes should be checked for any fragments of plant material which may become trapped in folds etc.

Appendix 1 – Site Survey Results



Appendix 2 – Site Photographs

Photograph	Description	Images
1	Dead JKW stems were identified within an area of scrub where a previous stand had been recorded in 2019.	 A photograph showing several dead, light-colored stems of Japanese Knotweed (JKW) growing through a black chain-link fence. The surrounding area is filled with green foliage and leaves.
2	A single stand of Himalayan balsam was identified on a waste pile within the old dyeworks site, close to the northern boundary.	 A photograph of a dense stand of Himalayan balsam growing on a pile of white plastic waste and other debris. The plants have characteristic pink flowers and are surrounded by other vegetation.
3	Several stands of Japanese rose were recorded within the site boundary.	 A photograph of a large, bushy Japanese rose plant with green leaves and small pink flowers. It is growing in a grassy area with some other plants nearby.

Photograph	Description	Images
4	A significant stand of field horsetail was recorded at the eastern extent on the dyeworks site	
5	Stands of buddleia were recorded across the site.	

Appendix 3. JKW Identification Sheet, Toolbox Talk & Attendance Sheet



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.

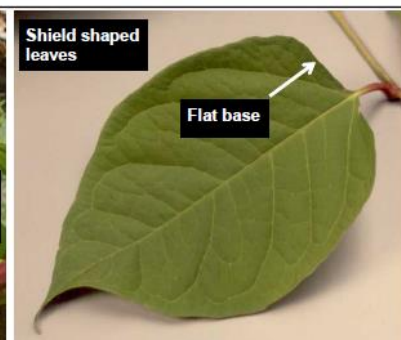
Introduced in the early 19th century as an ornamental plant. Now common and wide-spread across the UK. Spreads rapidly in the wild by natural means and as a result of spread by humans. Spread is solely by vegetative means, either fragments of rhizome or stem. Does not produce seed in the UK. Negative 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 or otherwise 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.



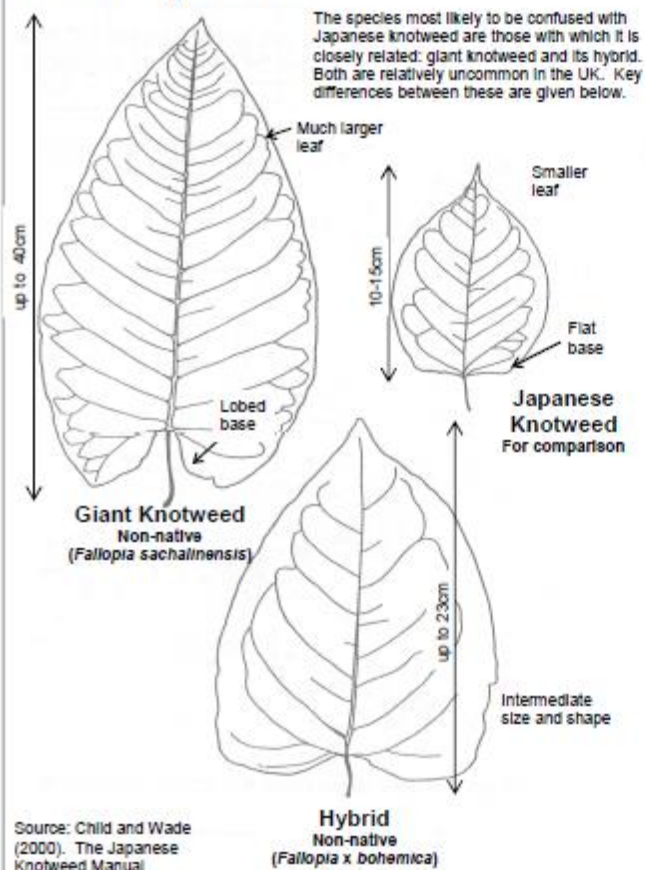
Key ID Features



Identification throughout the year



Similar Species



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:

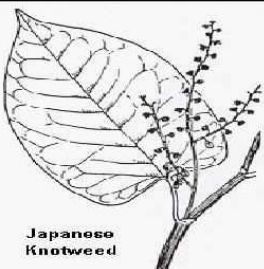
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Photos from: Olaf Booy, Helen Parish, Max Wade, Vicky White

TBT/05

Japanese Knotweed



WHAT? Japanese Knotweed was introduced to the UK as an ornamental plant but has spread extensively in the wild. With its rapid growth of more than 20mm a day, it forms dense clumps over 3m high which crowd out and prevent the growth of native plants. The rhizome root system, from which new plants grow, can extend several metres away from the original plant and be up to 2m deep. The plant spreads so rapidly not only through progression of its root system but because any fragments of its stem or root will grow to form a new plant (a piece as small as 0.8 grams can regenerate). This makes it a very difficult plant to eradicate. Japanese Knotweed will grow in any type of soil no matter how poor and is often found along railways, riverbanks, roads and particularly on derelict sites.		
IDENTIFICATION Japanese Knotweed forms dense clumps and grows up to 3 metres tall. The stem is hollow with distinct nodes like bamboo and breaks easily. In Spring it is fleshy and red tinged and in Summer it is green with purple speckles. Leaves in Spring are pinky red and uncurl as the stem grows. In Summer they become large oval or heart shaped mid-green. Flowers are cream coloured and appear in drooping clusters towards the end of August. The plant dies before November often leaving behind the upright brown, hollow, woody stalks.		
WHY? - Avoid environmental harm: Japanese Knotweed shades out native plants by producing a dense canopy of leaves early in the growing season. Although Japanese Knotweed is not toxic to humans or animals, it offers a poor habitat for insects, birds and mammals. - Avoid prosecution: It is illegal "to plant or otherwise encourage" the growth of Japanese Knotweed. This could include cutting the plant or roots and disturbing or moving surrounding soil which may contain root material unless as part of an eradication process.		
✓ DO IMMEDIATELY stop all work within 7 metres of the suspect plant and contact your line manager for instructions if you think you have identified Japanese Knotweed on your site.	 Japanese Knotweed	✗ DON'T Excavate or move any soil from within 7 metres of a Japanese Knotweed plant without instruction. Track plant/vehicles or walk over the area. Stockpile potentially contaminated material within 10 metres of a watercourse or drain.

Toolbox Talk / Safety Briefing Attendance Register

By signing this document you confirm that you have received and understood the toolbox talk or safety brief, its contents and how it affects you as an individual and to those who may be affected.

[illegible]

Last Revised: August 2013



Vegetation Management
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