

Japanese Knotweed Elimination Ltd

Method Statement – Herbicide Treatment of Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)

Company Details

Japanese Knotweed Elimination Ltd

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Project: Herbicide Treatment of Japanese Knotweed

Site Address: Premier Inn Merthyr Tydfil, Duffryn Road, Pentrebach CF48 8BB

Proposed Duration of Works: 2026 - 2030

1.0 Introduction

This method statement outlines the procedures to be followed for the effective control of Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), an invasive non-native species listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

The objective of the works is to achieve long-term control of Japanese knotweed at the above location through a structured programme of targeted herbicide application, while preventing spread, ensuring public and operative safety, and complying with all relevant environmental, health and safety, and waste legislation.

2.0 Planned Actions and Objectives

The control of Japanese knotweed typically requires a multi-year herbicide treatment programme due to the plant's extensive rhizome system. Treatments will be timed to maximise translocation of herbicide to the rhizomes and reduce the risk of regrowth.

2.1 Project Objectives

- To control Japanese knotweed at the designated site.
- To prevent the spread of Japanese knotweed via rhizome or contaminated material.
- To ensure the safety of operatives, site users, and the general public.
- To protect surrounding vegetation, wildlife, and water environments.
- To maintain clear, auditable records of all treatment activities.

2.2 Workflow and Procedures

a) Work Initiation and Client Liaison

- Review client instructions and agreed scope of work.
- Confirm the extent and location of Japanese knotweed infestations.
- Establish site access arrangements with the landowner/occupier.
- Confirm programme timescales and communication protocols.

b) Site Appraisal and Environmental Assessment

- Site Survey:
A detailed survey will be undertaken to assess the extent, density, and growth stage of Japanese knotweed, including proximity to structures, boundaries, and non-target vegetation.
- Environmental Considerations:
 - Presence of watercourses, drains, or surface water features.
 - Sensitive habitats or protected species.
 - Soil type and drainage characteristics.
 - Public access routes and neighbouring land.
 - Prevailing and forecast weather conditions.
- Treatment Selection:
Selection of a suitable, approved herbicide and application method appropriate to site conditions and knotweed growth stage, prioritising effectiveness and environmental protection.

c) Planning and Issue Identification

- Work Planning:
 - Identification of optimal treatment windows (typically late summer to early autumn).
 - Identification of areas requiring special controls (e.g. near boundaries or water).
 - Allocation of suitably qualified operatives and equipment.
- Site Preparation:
 - Installation of warning signage and exclusion zones as required.
 - No cutting, flailing, or disturbance of knotweed prior to herbicide treatment unless specifically required and controlled.
- Risk Identification:

- Dense stands or restricted access areas.
- Risk of off-site spread.
- Interaction with members of the public.

3.0 Equipment and Materials

- **Herbicide:**
Approved non-residual herbicide effective against Japanese knotweed (e.g. glyphosate-based formulations where appropriate).
- **Application Equipment:**
 - Knapsack or low-pressure sprayers with controlled nozzles.
 - Injection equipment if stem injection is deemed appropriate.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**
 - Chemical-resistant gloves (e.g. nitrile).
 - Eye protection.
 - Protective clothing / coveralls.
 - Safety footwear.
 - Respiratory protection where specified by COSHH assessment.
- **Site Safety & Ancillary Equipment:**
Warning signs, barriers, spill kits, clean water supply, mixing containers, record sheets, and photographic equipment.

4.0 Herbicide Application Methodology

4.1 Preparation

- All operatives will hold appropriate NPTC qualifications (e.g. PA1 / PA6).
- COSHH assessments and product Safety Data Sheets will be reviewed prior to works.
- Application equipment will be calibrated to ensure accurate dosing.
- Exclusion zones and signage will be confirmed prior to application.

4.2 Herbicide Mixing and Application

- **Mixing:**
Herbicide will be mixed strictly in accordance with manufacturer instructions in a controlled area away from drains and watercourses.
- **Application Method:**

- Foliar spray or stem injection, depending on growth stage and site constraints.
- Targeted application to Japanese knotweed only.
- Avoidance of runoff and drift.
- Optimal Timing:
Treatments will typically be undertaken between August and October, when the plant is actively translocating nutrients to the rhizome system.
- Weather Restrictions:
No application during high winds or heavy rainfall, or where rain is forecast that may compromise efficacy.

4.3 Post-Treatment and Follow-Up

- Japanese knotweed will be monitored regularly for signs of regrowth.
- Follow-up treatments will be carried out annually or as required until control criteria are met.
- Equipment and PPE will be decontaminated after use.
- All waste materials will be disposed of in accordance with legislation.

5.0 Health and Safety

All works will comply with:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- COSHH Regulations
- Company Health & Safety Policy

Key controls include:

- Mandatory PPE use.
- Safe chemical handling and storage.
- Spill response procedures.
- First aid provision.
- Emergency procedures communicated to all staff.

6.0 Environmental Considerations

Japanese Knotweed Elimination Ltd is committed to minimising environmental impact:

- Targeted herbicide application only.
- Protection of watercourses and non-target vegetation.

- Appropriate buffer zones maintained.
- Responsible waste handling and disposal.
- Pre-works ecological awareness.

7.0 Record Keeping and Reporting

Comprehensive records will be maintained, including:

- Dates of treatment.
- Herbicide details (product, active ingredient, batch).
- Application rates and methods.
- Weather conditions.
- Treated areas (plans and photographs).
- Operative details.
- Observations and recommendations.

Progress updates will be provided to the client as agreed.

8.0 Evaluation of Actions

Effectiveness will be assessed through:

- Annual site inspections.
- Reduction in vigour and stem density.
- Absence of regrowth over consecutive growing seasons.

Control is typically confirmed after multiple seasons with no regrowth observed.

Signed:

RL Roberts

Richard Lee Roberts
Managing Director
Japanese Knotweed Elimination Ltd