

Japanese Knotweed

Key Identification Features



Stem

Flowers

Leaves

Thick bamboo like stem with regular nodes which branch off at an angle. Stem has red/purple speckles.

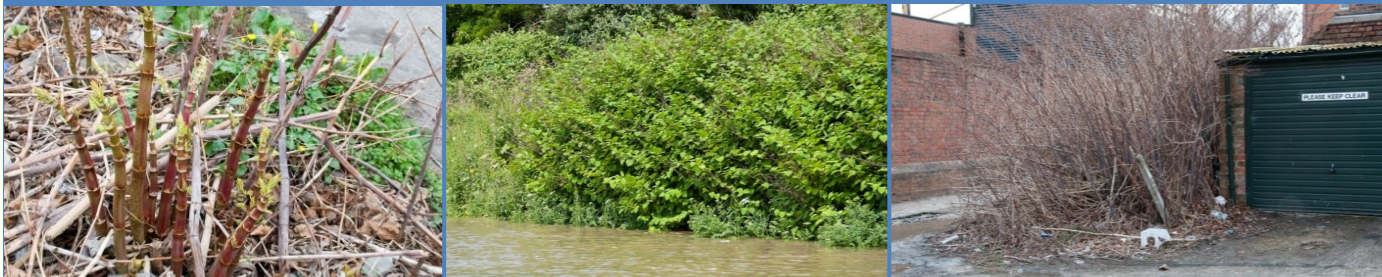
Clusters of small tiny white creamy flowers. Appear in late summer at the tips of most stems.

Young leaves are red and heart shaped. Older leaves are large green with more rounded/oval with serrate edges, up 15cm long. Leaf form in a zig zag pattern.

Spring

Summer

Winter



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Japanese Knotweed is wreaking havoc on our native habitats and species as well as damaging and devaluing our land and properties. Together we can control the spread for the non-native invasive species for the benefit of the wildlife and all river users.

Find your local volunteer group and help conserve wildlife on fun volunteer sessions on your doorstep.

Report any sightings of Japanese Knotweed to a free online recording application for Colne Valley and help map the spread of the species.

cvfc.org.uk/nnis

For further information on the species take a look below at the ColneCAN and Colne Valley Regional Park for local information and the GB non-native species secretariat website for national information.

www.colnevalleypark.org.uk

www.colnecan.org.uk

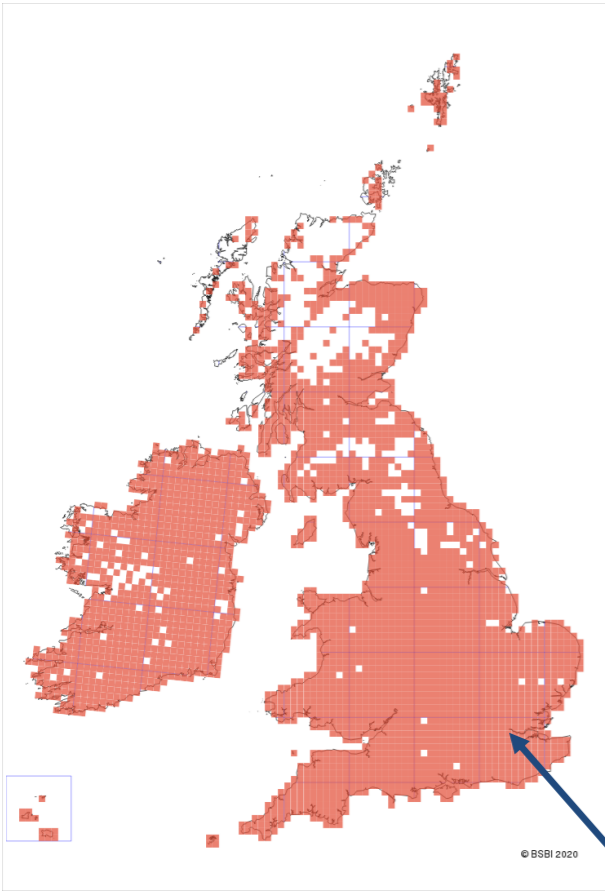
www.nonnativespecies.org



A Non-Native Invasive Species

harming habitats near you!

National Distribution



Species Description

Origin: Native to Japan, China and Taiwan.
Latin: *Fallopia Japonica*
Introduction: mid 19th century for horticultural purposes, became naturalised as early as 1886.
Habitat: thrives in disturbed areas including urban environments, riverbanks and transportations routes.
Reproduction: In the UK, the male plant is sterile so it can only spread through vegetative growth from discarded fragments of the stem and rhizome (underground root like stems). It can hybridise with other species of Fallopia.
Appearance: Tall herbaceous grows in dense thickets. It looks similar to bamboo.
Distribution: Well established in the UK and is common in the Colne Valley especially along riverbanks.

Impact on Environment



Japanese Knotweed is an extremely hardy and versatile species which grows rapidly negatively affecting our economy and local wildlife. The plant is listed under Schedule 9 in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, deeming it an offence to plant, spread or cause this species to grow in the wild. Also it is classified as a controlled waste under the Environment Protection Act 1990. Impacts include:

- Young shoots can grow through concrete and asphalt devaluing property and land.
- Large dense populations shade out and outcompete native plants.
- Reduces diversity of plant and animal life.
- In autumn the plants die back leaving bare riverbanks, leading to increased erosion.

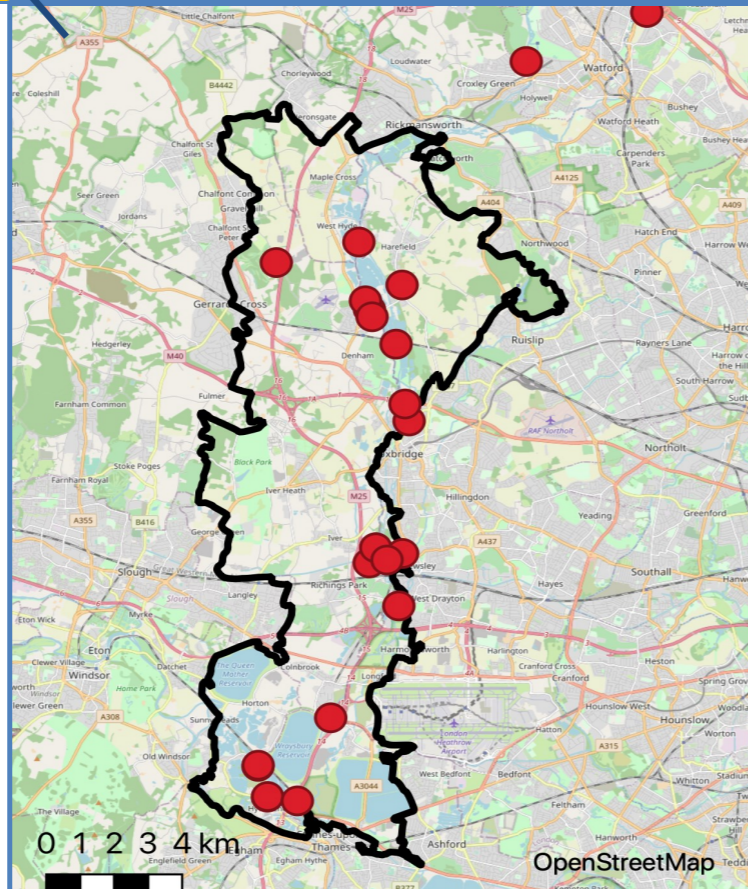
BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity is extremely important to prevent the spread of the species. Japanese Knotweed spreads through watercourses and human transportation routes e.g. cars, footwear.



Make sure to **check** your clothes and any equipment to remove any Japanese Knotweed, **clean** the items then **dry** to prevent the spread.

Local Distribution



Control Measures



Japanese Knotweed is extremely difficult to remove as it has an extensive underground rhizome network and is able to regrow from fragments >1gram of stem or rhizome. A control programme can successfully eradicate the population over five years but to prevent reestablishment from upstream a co-ordinated approach with local landowner is beneficial for long term success. Current control methods are listed below:

- Mechanical Control** - To cut populations use a simple blade (not serrated) so no additional fragments are created and cut from July-October. **Do not flail, pull or mow** this plant as this will spread fragments and increase your population.
- Herbicides Treatment**—glyphosate can be applied via foliar for large dense swards and via stem injection for small infestations, mixed swards and individual plants . You need an Aqherb01 licence and an agreement from the local Environment Agency before application.
- Biological Treatment** - The Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) investigated a psyllid, *Aphalara itadori*, from Asia, which is a true knotweed specialist that sucks the sap from the plant. This has been approved by DEFRA for use in the UK.

Photos sourced from GBNNSS

CHECK

CLEAN

DRY

STOP THE SPREAD