Japanese Knotweed Management Plan

Updated 15/09/25

Background

During the due diligence phase of purchasing the site in 2023, it was identified that a Small area of land near the small lake was infected with Japanese Knotweed (JKW).

JKW is a non-native species to the UK, and whilst we do not legally have to remove it from the Community owned land, we can be prosecuted for causing it to spread to neighbours and other sites.

The Directors of Holton Pits Community Interest Company have taken advice from professionals and Government bodies and decided it would be best to try and aim to eradicate JKW from the site.

Once ownership of the site was secured on 2nd November 2023, a Management Plan was put into place to achieve this aim.

The Management Plan would cover a period of 5 years, be reviewed Annually, and if Treatment was not successful, another 5 year plan may be required.

Start Date: November 2023
End Date: November 2028
Review Dates: Annually

Management Plan

1. Introduction

This Japanese Knotweed Management Plan (JKMP) has been developed to address the invasive spread of *Fallopia japonica* (Japanese Knotweed) at *Holton Pits*. The plan outlines the strategy and actions required to eradicate the species from the site, minimize risks associated with its spread, and restore the site's biodiversity.

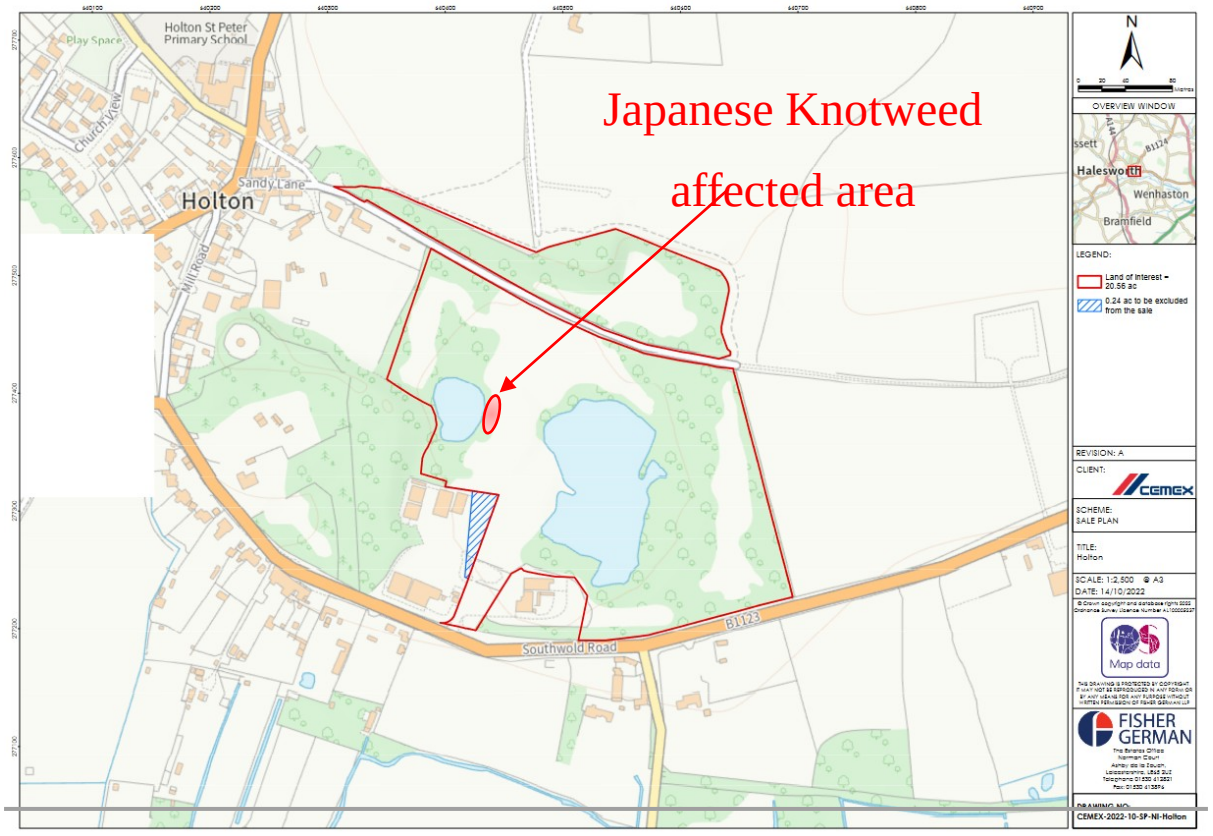
Site Overview:

- **Location:** Holton Pits, Southwold Road, Holton, Suffolk, IP19 8PW
  beside small lake on left-hand side of the site
  (see location plan below)

- **Size of the Infestation:** 12m x 25m

- **Current State:** Large patch of active Japanese Knotweed. (Evidence of one treatment in 2016 by previous owners of the site, but no follow up treatments applied)

- **Objectives:** Eradicate Japanese Knotweed from the site to prevent further spread and damage to the environment, local wildlife, and infrastructure.



2. Legislative and Regulatory Framework

The control and management of Japanese Knotweed is governed by UK legislation, particularly the following:

- **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981** (Amended 2004): The plant is listed under Schedule 9 as an invasive species, meaning it is an offence to plant or cause it to grow in the wild.
- **Environmental Protection Act 1990**: Improper disposal of Japanese Knotweed is considered a waste management issue.
- **Japanese Knotweed Code of Practice (2013)**: Provides guidance on managing Japanese Knotweed infestations and how to handle its disposal.

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3. Site Assessment

A thorough site assessment is essential to determine the extent and distribution of the Japanese Knotweed infestation at Holton Pits. Key steps in the assessment process include:

- **Site Survey:** Map the locations where Japanese Knotweed is growing and record the extent of the infestation.
- **Identification of Affected Areas:** Clearly define the boundaries of the infestation. This may include areas near watercourses, along paths, or on disturbed ground.
- **Invasive Species Control:** Identify any other invasive species present and integrate their control into the management plan.
- **Access Points:** Consideration of site access for machinery and workers during treatment.

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4. Control Methods

The eradication of Japanese Knotweed at Holton Pits will involve a combination of methods, tailored to the size and severity of the infestation. A phased approach will be adopted. The affected area will be cordoned off with a suitable fence; signs erected informing the public of the risk; and cultural clearance of the affected area commence (to aid in the eventual herbicide treatment)

4.1. Herbicide Application Method

- **Herbicide Selection:** A glyphosate-based herbicide, such as Roundup ProBio, is commonly used for Japanese Knotweed control. It should be applied in accordance with manufacturer instructions and legal requirements.

We are using Roundup ProVantage 480g/l; which is the professional grade strength of glyphosate.

- **Treatment Timing:** Herbicide should be applied during the active growing season, ideally in late spring to early autumn (when the plant is in full growth) after the plants have flowered. Multiple treatments will be required over 2–3 years. Due to the timing of purchasing the site (Nov 2023), no herbicide treatment will commence until late summer 2024.

- **Method of Application:** Foliar spraying of the plant, ensuring that the herbicide is applied directly to the leaves for maximum absorption is usual, however given the plants location close to a water source, dab application will be utilised.
- **Follow-Up:** Regular monitoring and follow-up herbicide application (if necessary) during the growing season.

4.2. Excavation and Disposal Method

- **Excavation:** In cases where herbicide treatment is insufficient, or in areas where rapid removal is required (e.g., near buildings or infrastructure), excavation may be necessary. The plant, along with its rhizome system, must be carefully removed. Due to the costs and disruption involved, it is not anticipated that Excavation would be a suitable option at the site. Should the infestation of JKW continue past the first 5 year Management Plan, than a second 5 year Management Plan may be required.
- **Disposal of Knotweed Material:** Excavated material should be securely transported to a licensed landfill facility for invasive plant waste or incineration. The material must not be allowed to regrow. Any knotweed material obtained during the cultural clearence of the affected area will be incinerated on the site.
- **Control of Site:** Any areas of excavation should be carefully monitored for re-growth.

4.3. Root Barrier Installation Method

- **Barrier Installation:** For areas with persistent infestations or in sensitive environments (e.g., near watercourses), a root barrier can be installed to prevent the spread of the plant's rhizomes. The barrier should be at least 1–1.5 meters deep and made of a suitable, robust material like geotextile fabric. After taking advice, as the small lake does not have running water through to neighbouring properties, it is not thought necessary to install a Root Barrier at the site.
- **Monitoring:** The effectiveness of the barrier should be monitored regularly to ensure that rhizomes do not penetrate it.

4.4. Biological Control

- **Future Considerations:** Research into biological control measures is ongoing. At present, no commercially approved biocontrols are available for Japanese Knotweed in the UK, but this option will be reviewed if viable solutions become available.

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5. Ongoing Monitoring and Maintenance

Once initial control measures have been undertaken, regular monitoring is essential to ensure the complete eradication of the species.

5.1. Site Inspections

- **Frequency:** Site inspections should be conducted quarterly during the growing season (spring to autumn) and annually in winter to assess the success of the eradication measures.
- **Re-growth Detection:** Look for signs of regrowth from the rhizomes or remaining plant material. Even small patches should be dealt with promptly.

5.2. Monitoring Plan

A dedicated monitoring plan should be set up to track:

- **Vegetation Re-growth:** Ensure all treated areas are monitored for Japanese Knotweed re-growth.
- **Invasive Species:** Watch for any other invasive species colonizing the site, and take appropriate action.
- **Ecological Recovery:** Monitor the recovery of native plant species on the site to ensure a return to biodiversity.

5.3. Record Keeping

- Detailed records of all treatment actions, site inspections, herbicide applications, and monitoring results should be kept in compliance with environmental regulations and best practices.

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6. Risk Assessment

6.1. Spread of Knotweed During Works

- **Precautionary Measures:** To prevent the spread of Japanese Knotweed during works, all personnel should be trained in handling and disposal. All equipment used on site should be cleaned before being moved to another area.
- **Biosecurity Procedures:** Temporary fencing around treatment areas, clear signage, and hygiene stations should be set up for staff to decontaminate.

6.2. Impact on Local Environment

- Ensure that any disturbance to local wildlife, such as nesting birds or aquatic life, is minimized during treatment. Temporary exclusion zones should be implemented as needed.

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7. Conclusion and Timetable

Expected Duration of Management Plan:

- **Year 1:** Installation of physical barrier/fence identifying the affected area. Install signs notifying public/visitors to the site. Cultural clearance removing brambles/brash/old JKW stalks and incinerating on site.
- **Year 2-3:** Initial treatment with herbicides. Ongoing herbicide applications, excavation of persistent patches, and monitoring of site recovery.
- **Year 3+:** Long-term monitoring and ensuring all areas are free of Japanese Knotweed.

By following this management plan, we aim to completely eradicate Japanese Knotweed from *Holton Pits*, allowing for the restoration of the site's biodiversity and mitigating risks associated with its spread.

8. Signatories

Prepared by:
John Attridge
Director, Holton Pits CIC

2nd Nov 2023

Approved by:
Jamie Leverett

Director, Holton Pits CIC

2nd Nov 2023

Monitoring Form

Year	Description	Who?	Date Complete
One	Install Fencing	Jamie L	Jan 2024
One	Install signage	Jamie L	Jan 2024
One	Clear old stalks & incinerate	Jamie L	Jan 2024
Two	Cultural Control	John A	June 2024
Two	Dab apply herbicide	John A	Sept 2024
Two	Monitor effects	John/Jamie/All	2025
Three	Cultural Control (if required)	Not required	2025
Three	Dab apply herbicide (if required)	John A	Sept 2025
Three	Monitor effects		
Four	Cultural Control (if required)		
Four	Dab apply herbicide (if required)		
Four	Monitor effects		
Five	Cultural Control (if required)		
Five	Dab apply herbicide (if required)		
Five	Monitor effects		