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Usk Way, Newport

Invasive Non-Native Species Management Plan

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Contract

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This report describes work commissioned by Tai Hedyn Ltd by an instruction dated 15th December 2025. The Client's representative for the contract was Peter Page of Tai Hedyn Ltd. Hannah Webster of JBA Consulting carried out this work

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The methodology adopted and the sources of information used by JBA in providing its services are outlined in this Report. The work described in this Report was undertaken in February 2026 and is based on the conditions encountered and the information available during the said period. The scope of this Report and the services are accordingly factually limited by these circumstances.

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Abbreviations

CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
EPS	European Protected Species
GIS	Geographic Information System
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LERC	Local Environmental Records Centre Wales
MAGIC	Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside
NGR	National Grid Reference
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
PEA	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

In February 2026, JBA Consulting was commissioned by Tai Hedyn Ltd to carry out an updated Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) following a previous PEA completed by JBA in 2021 to support a Section 73 planning application for the redevelopment of a site at Usk Way, Newport.

The survey was commissioned to identify any likely ecological constraints to the proposed works. It was noted during the initial PEA completed in 2021 that two stands of the Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Japanese Knotweed *Reynoutria japonica* were present on site. During the most recent PEA conducted in 2026 it appeared that these stands had been treated and were not recorded however it was noted that the survey was conducted in February, a suboptimal time for recording INNS, when a number of species can be inconspicuous or have died back and therefore may be present to a greater extent than were recorded during the survey. There are numerous records for Japanese Knotweed close to the site.

Subsequently, JBA was commissioned by Tai Hedyn Ltd to prepare an INNS Management Plan. This report details measures required to prevent the spread of Japanese Knotweed that could be encountered within the works area.

1.2 Site Location

The proposed development site is located at Usk Way in Newport, South Wales. The site is located to the east of the A4042 Usk Way in Newport and is 0.86ha. It comprises of brownfield land and has previously been used for temporary car parking. The site is bounded to the north by a residential building, to the east and south by the River Usk and a footpath, and to the west by the A4042 Usk Way. The site is accessed from the A4042 Usk Way to the west of the site. The site location and red line boundary are shown in Figure 1-1.

1.3 Proposed Development

Planning permission under planning reference 21/0983 was granted in 2021 for the development of 122 dwellings, two commercial units (A1 and A3 use classes), and associated works, including landscaping, sustainable drainage, and car and cycle parking. The development will comprise of five blocks, labelled A-E, as shown in

Figure 1-2.

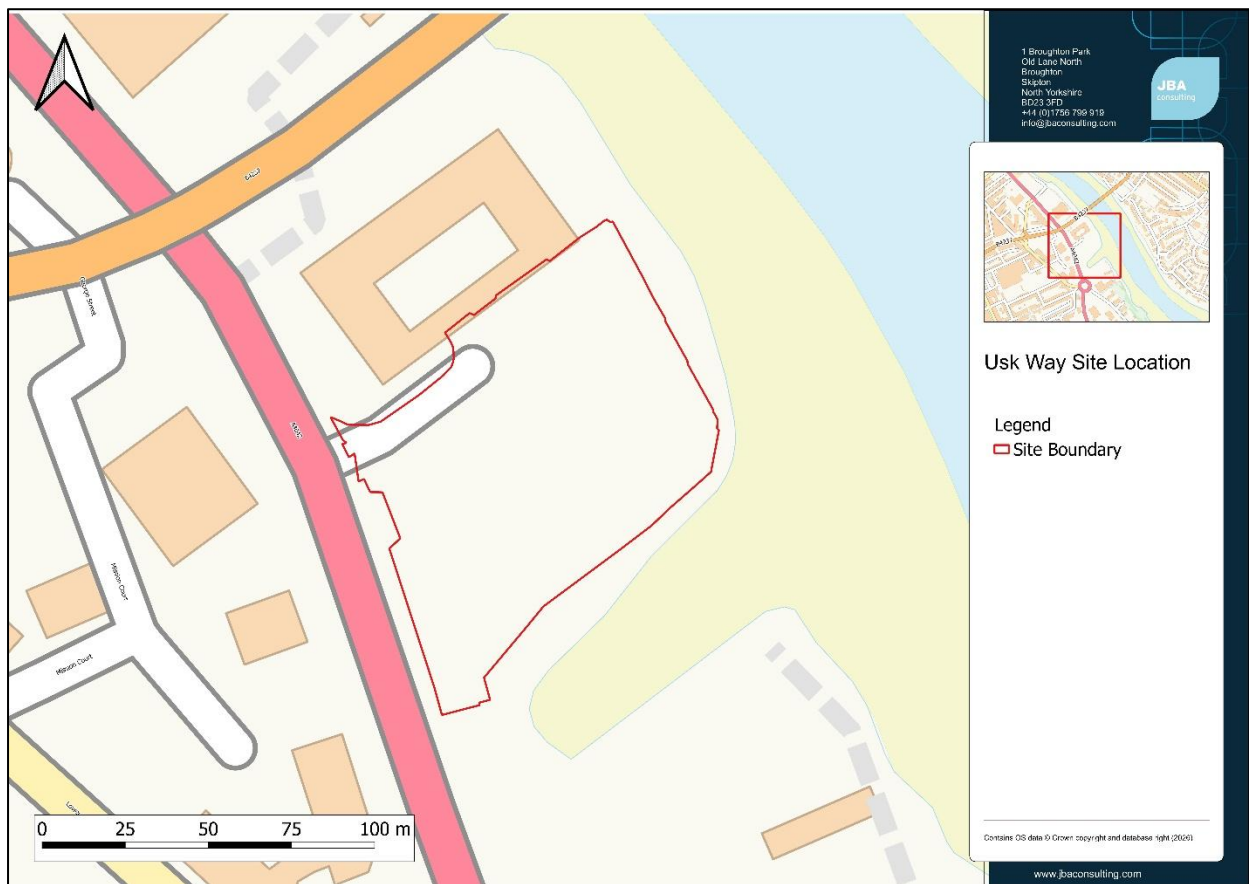


Figure 1-1. Site Location and red line boundary.



Figure 1-2. Proposed Site Plan.

1.4 Legislation

Japanese Knotweed is listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) with respect to England and Wales. As such it is a criminal offence to plant or cause the spread of this species in the wild. Any plant material and contaminated soils removed from a site containing Schedule 9 plant material (roots, rhizomes, seeds etc) is regarded as 'controlled waste', unless it has been treated with residual herbicides which would cause it to be reclassified as hazardous waste. Removal of controlled or hazardous waste material from site is subject to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and, therefore, a waste management licence would be required prior to any removal of material from site.

2 Specific Control Plan

The aim of this Invasive Non-Native Species Management Plan is to prevent the spread of Japanese Knotweed within and outside of the site, as a result of the works. The Plan will ensure that all work activities and processes are designed to prevent the spread of invasives species on site. The management plan should be kept on site during the works and disseminated to all personnel on site. This management plan should be read in conjunction with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Defra advice on the identification, control and disposal of Japanese Knotweed (GOV.UK, 2016). All staff undertaking the works should be briefed on the two invasive species and biosecurity.

2.1 Japanese Knotweed

2.1.1 Japanese Knotweed Ecology

Japanese knotweed is a non-native invasive perennial (plant that lives more than one year) species in Ireland. Since it was introduced as an ornamental plant in the 19th Century from Japan it has spread across the UK and Ireland, particularly along watercourses, transport routes and infested waste areas.

It is rhizomatous (produces underground stems) with distinctive branched hollow, bamboolike canes that can grow to over 3m in height. Red/purple shoots appear early in spring but as the canes grow, the leaves unfurl and the plant turns green. The mature canes are hollow and have a characteristic pattern of purple speckles. Flowering occurs in late summer/autumn and consists of creamy white flowers. The underground rhizomes are thick and woody with a knotty appearance and when broken reveal a bright, orange-coloured centre. During the winter the leaves die back and reveal orange/brown woody erect stems. Only female Japanese knotweed plants have been recorded to date in Ireland and although seeds are produced, they are hybrids and rarely survive. The principal means of spread is through the deliberate or accidental movement of rhizome fragments or cut stems.

2.1.2 INNS survey

During the most recent survey completed in 2026 no INNS were recorded during the survey however the survey was completed February, a suboptimal time for recording INNS, and as such the presence of INNS on site may have been under recorded. Japanese Knotweed has been recorded previously on site, and a number of other INNS have been recorded in close proximity.

It is therefore recommended that a walkover survey is carried out during the summer months to ascertain the presence of INNS plants and determine whether Japanese Knotweed has returned to site. If Japanese Knotweed is recorded on site this management plan should be followed and the best practice measures adhered to as outlined below.

2.1.3 Best Practice Measures

The removal of Japanese Knotweed is typically best avoided where possible as only a small fragment of rhizome is required to establish a new stand. This makes removal and disposal extremely high risk. Best practice measures include fencing within 7m of the Japanese Knotweed stand to prevent access and disturbance to plant material. If this is not possible and removal is required for the works, then the use of a specialised contractor is advised. It is recommended that site personnel should not work within 7m of the visible growth, particularly the identified dense stands. Site inductions should include clear instructions to not enter exclusion zones and to be vigilant about potentially unidentified stands.

2.1.4 Identification

All site operatives and site visitors should be informed what Japanese Knotweed looks like so that they can avoid it. Identification sheets have been provided in Appendix A to be delivered within the site induction.

2.1.5 Working around Japanese Knotweed stands

If it is not possible to remain 7m from a stand extreme caution is required. Access routes must not enter stands of Japanese Knotweed but can pass within 7m so long as precautions to prevent disturbance to root systems are in place. Root barrier membranes and temporary track matting is required to bring machines to site. There must be no direct contact with plants and the ground surface to avoid fragments of rhizome material being collected on treads and tracks. All plant, machinery and boot treads must be thoroughly cleaned before being removed from site. Extreme care must also be used when removing and track matting on access routes to ensure that fragments are not collected and moved to the next site.

2.1.6 Offsite and within site transfer of Japanese Knotweed

This INNS Management Plan does not cover transfer of Japanese Knotweed material. The below is a general guide and a specific plan must be drawn up if such removal is deemed necessary. This plan aims to avoid conflict with stands through avoidance and exclusion.

If Japanese Knotweed removal from site is required, all contaminated material must be transferred offsite to an appropriate, licensed landfill site or moved on site for burial or banded for treatment. All material (including geotextile membranes) must be treated as controlled waste. The material must be removed from site by a licenced waste carrier following strict biosecurity measures including the covering of the material during transport. A landfill licenced to receive Japanese Knotweed should be informed as soon as possible prior to the transfer of the waste. The Waste Transfer Note should be kept in the site office. Removal of Japanese Knotweed should be avoided as much as possible.

For more information go to: www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-the-spread-of-harmful-invasive-and-non-native-plants (GOV.UK, 2014) for more information on how to dispose of controlled waste.

2.2 Management Summary

Table 2-1. Management Summary

Species/ Area/ person	Description ad Justification of Mitigation
Identification of Japanese Knotweed on site	A walkover survey should be carried out during the summer months prior to any construction activities to determine whether Japanese Knotweed has returned to site.
Japanese Knotweed (Dense Stands)	No working within 7m of identified stand. No removal of Japanese Knotweed. If access within 7m is required, further ecological advice should be sought for the appropriate management of this species. Removal of plant material or working within stands will require a bespoke management plan.
Clean down areas for plant, machinery, tools and PPE	A cleaning area must be instated at all works areas and this should comprise a root barrier membrane upon which equipment can be checked and cleaned (using a wire brush and water hose). This is to reduce the risk of spread on site and the likelihood of movement off site of INNS plant material and waterborne pathogens. All equipment used within the site should be thoroughly cleaned with Virkon.
Appoint responsible person to oversee implementation, and maintenance of, INNS management plan.	The responsible person must be appointed by the site manager to oversee full implementation of the plan and will be responsible for ensuring the plan is up to date, in line with changing site conditions. All site works must be investigated for the presence of potentially viable material prior to the area being utilised.
Post works monitoring	Monitoring of the site should take place during the following growing season after works completion to investigate any new infestations caused by the works. Chemical treatment of such stands should be undertaken for a minimum of three years post completion. Continued chemical treatment of new stands of Japanese Knotweed may be required.

3 Biosecurity

Good biosecurity practices are vital for preventing the spread of invasive species. The following points should be followed in order to prevent the spread of Japanese Knotweed both within the site and the wider area.

- All site operatives and visitors should be inducted in good biosecurity practices. This should include adoption of the check-clean-dry campaign (NNSS, 2016).
- All site operatives should be provided information at site induction on what Japanese Knotweed looks like and be informed of the any stand locations of Japanese Knotweed within the works boundary. Species ID sheets have been provided in Appendix A.
- A cleaning area must be installed at the work areas and this should comprise a root barrier membrane upon which machinery/equipment can be checked and cleaned of soil and vegetation after each instance of dealing with an infested area and also before leaving site.
- Working boots and clothes which have come into contact with areas of the infestation must also be cleaned over a membrane (using a wire brush or water hose) within the same area and all washed off material must be contained, collected and disposed of at the infested site.
- Disinfectant must be supplied at the cleaning area to be used on all plant, machinery, tools and equipment (including PPE), which has been in use within areas of the infestation. This would entail the use of a suitable disinfectant e.g. Virkon® S Aquatic to decontaminate all machinery and PPE prior to entering site and upon leaving. Following application of a suitable disinfectant, machinery and PPE should be allowed to fully dry for at least 72 hours before being used on another aquatic site.
- If the cleaning area is not immediately adjacent to the infested area the route between the area of infestation and the treatment area must be protected by a membrane layer which should be inspected for contamination on a daily basis, contaminant removed and disposed of as below.

The spread of Japanese Knotweed should be limited through the adoption of the check-clean-dry campaign.

A Site Resources

A.1 Japanese Knotweed



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.

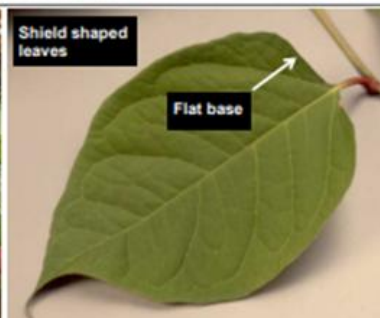
Introduced in the early 19th century as an ornamental plant. Now common and wide-spread across the UK. Spreads rapidly in the wild by natural means and as a result of spread by humans. Spread is solely by vegetative means, either fragments of rhizome or stem. Does not produce seed in the UK. Negative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



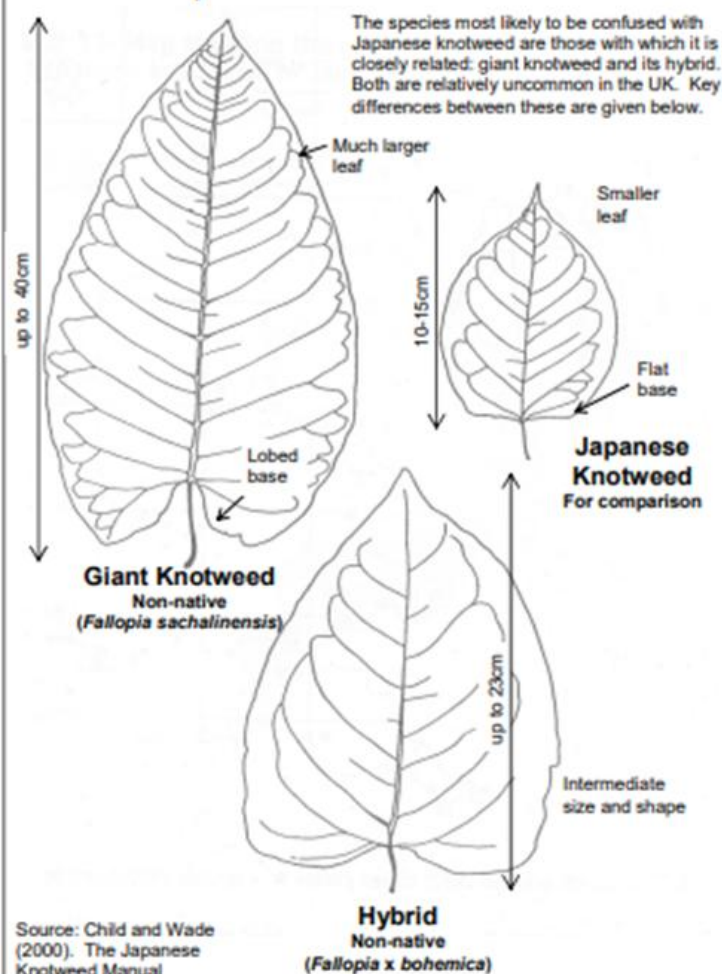
Key ID Features



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:

- Blamey, M, Fitter, R and Fitter, A (2003) "The Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland. The Complete Guide to the British and Irish Flora." A & C Black
- Child, L E and Wade, P M (2000) "The Japanese Knotweed Manual". Packard
- Environment Agency (2006) "The Japanese Knotweed Code of Practice". Environment Agency
- Preston, C D, Pearman, D A and Dines, T A (editors) (2002) "New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora". Oxford University Press
- Stace, C (1999) "Field Flora of the British Isles". Cambridge University Press

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

A.2 Check, Clean, Dry



STOP THE SPREAD

Invasive plants and animals harm the environment and block waterways. They can be small and hard to spot so are easily spread on damp clothing and equipment.

Protect the environment you enjoy:

CHECK

CLEAN

DRY

Check your equipment, boat, and clothing after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site.

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to areas that are damp or hard to access. Use hot water if possible.

Dry everything for as long as you can before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for over two weeks in damp conditions.

Find out more about invasive plants and animals and how you can help to stop the spread at:
nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry











References

GB Non-native species secretariat (2016a) Check Clean Dry [Online] Available at: https://www.nonnativespecies.org/assets/CCD_poster_compressed-1.pdf [Accessed 06/02/2026].

GB Non-native species secretariat (2016b) Turkish Crayfish *Astacus leptodactylus* [Online] Available at: <https://www.nonnativespecies.org/non-native-species/information-portal/view/381> [Accessed 06/02/2026].

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