

Cyngor Cymuned Y Borth Community Council

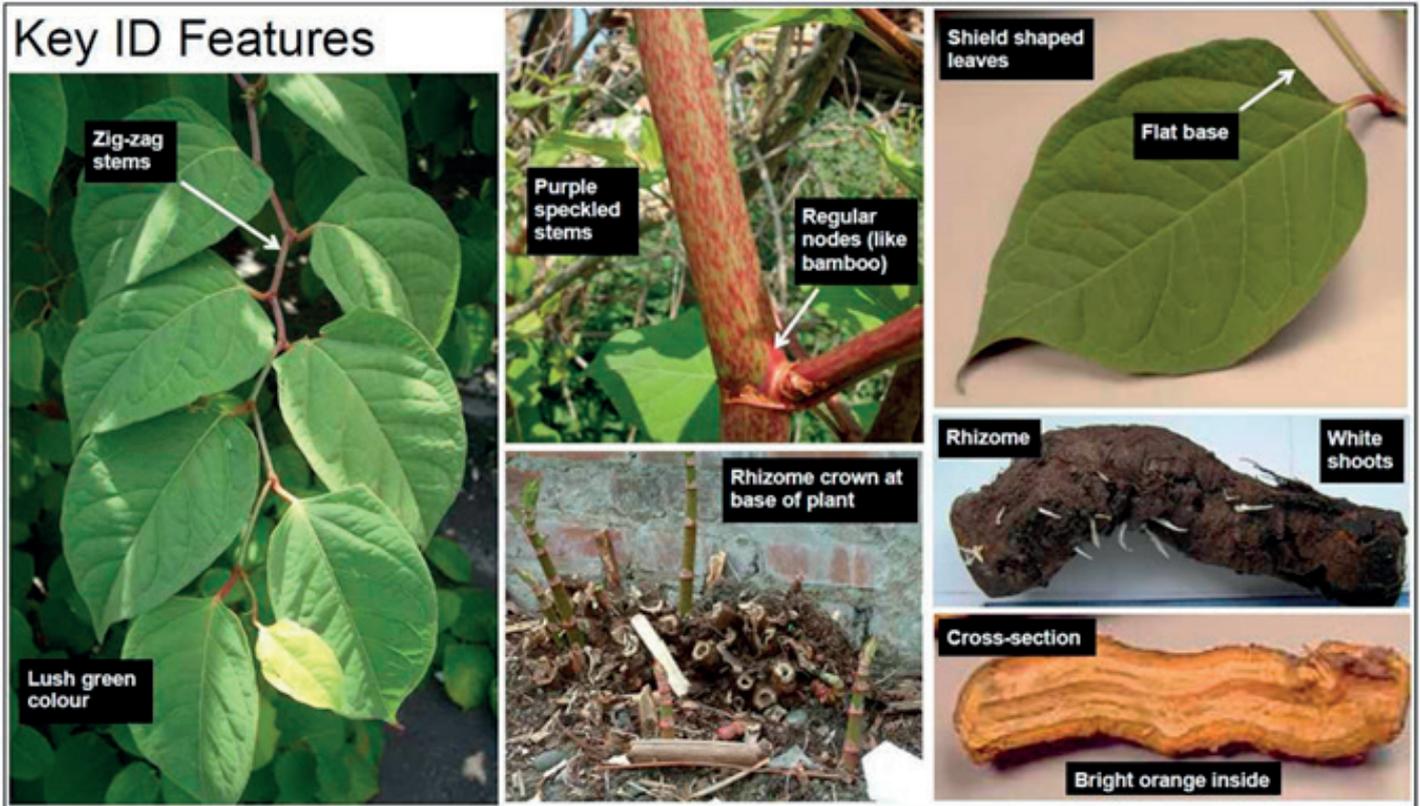
Community Advice for Japanese Knotweed

What is it?

Japanese Knotweed is an invasive, non-native plant with bamboo like stems and dead canes. It can grow into dense thickets.

What does it look like?

Look out for the key identification features below. Source : GB Non-native Species Secretariat



Why is it a problem for residents?

It can cause structural damage to your property, it can penetrate walls and asphalt where weaknesses already exist.

It can significantly reduce your property value.

It may affect your ability to obtain a mortgage.

It outcompetes native plants and plants you might want in your garden.

It can damage river banks acting as flood defences.

It is easily spread by small fragments of the stem or rhizom.



Where is it in our community?

It is already in some gardens, on river banks, leats, along footpaths and unmanaged land, we don't want it to spread further.

What should I do?

Check your property to see if you have any Japanese Knotweed.

Residents and landowners are responsible for treating and managing Japanese Knotweed on their land.

It's better to tackle our problem areas now and get them under control, vigilance and action now can stop new areas of Japanese Knotweed taking hold.

Living stems, root rhizomes and soil with these in it can spread Japanese Knotweed, don't strim or spread it further in garden clippings and don't take it to the Household Waste Site.

Control

If you have Japanese Knotweed please prevent it spreading.

Ensure no fragments, stems or roots are taken off site or from the garden.

Keep an eye out for new outbreaks and monitor known sites.

Eradication - the main options

Non-herbicide routes

Cut at the base (don't strim) every 2-4 weeks during growing season to weaken the plant, for up to 10 years.

If the stems are in grass and you mow the areas, burn or compost clippings on site.

Plants and soil can be excavated and removed to a licenced landfill at significant cost, seek advice from Ceredigion County Council.

Using herbicides

Clear dead stems November to February/March to allow access for treatment and leave on site to dry and burn.

Consider stem injection and directed spraying to minimise local impact near water, habitats with protected species such as otters and water voles and amenity areas.

Spot apply if a small patch, for larger areas spray the leaves or inject into the stems with Glyphosate, found in many commercially available weed killers.

If treating twice, treat early in the growing season (approx. May) and during flowering (August/September). If only treating once, this is best done during flowering for 3-5 years.

Place on a sheet and allow to dry then burn on site, do not burn within 10m of watercourses.

Follow the precautions on the herbicide label, avoid spraying in windy conditions.

Using herbicides near water : providing you abide by the criteria explained at <https://naturalresources.wales/apply-for-a-permit/water-discharges/using-herbicides/?lang=en> then Natural Resources Wales approval may be assumed.

It is your responsibility to ensure certificates for herbicide use and personal protective clothing are obtained.

What is already being done?

Borth Community Council, Natural Resources Wales and Ceredigion County Council will take responsibility for treating land that they own or manage.

Be aware of the Law

It is not mandatory for landowners to control Japanese Knotweed on their land however it is an offence to plant or cause Japanese Knotweed to grow in the wild, if it spreads to the wild you could be liable (**Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981**)

Japanese Knotweed must be treated as 'controlled waste', it can only be disposed of by a licence holder to a licenced landfill (**Environmental Protection Act 1990 & (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991**)

Everyone who uses herbicides authorised for professional use, must be trained and have a specified certificate.

Information and contacts

<https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/English/Resident/Bins-Recycling/Garden-Waste/Pages/default.aspx><http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm>

<http://www.rics.org/uk/knowledge/professional-guidance/information-papers/japanese-knotweed-and-residential-property-1st-edition/>

<http://www.property-care.org/homeowners/invasive-weed-control/>

Borth Community Council, The Clerk,
mirellaborth@googlemail.com
01970 871932

Ceredigion County Council, Rachel Mills,
Rachel.Mills@ceredigion.gov.uk

Natural Resources Wales
enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk
0300 065 3000