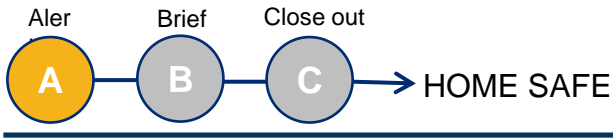


SHE ALERT

Japanese Knotweed

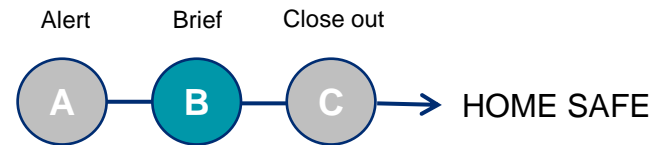


Date of incident which is raised in days	13/08/24		Directorate	Distribution	
Region	Highlands & Islands	Location	Golspie	Classification	Hazard
What happened ?					
<p>An SSEN arborist team were planning to trim trees in Golspie, to prevent line infringement on 13th August 2024. When they arrived on site, approximately 10x3m wide of Japanese Knotweed was identified, restricting access to the trees. The team were unable to complete the works without causing a biosecurity risk.</p> <p>The team used their Safety License to stop the works and reported the event via the 30-minute line. As the team had used their Safety License and managed the risk correctly, the event was reported as a hazard as opposed to an incident on SEARs. This arborist team at Golspie demonstrated a perfect example of Doing The Right Thing.</p> <p>Why do we need to look out for Japanese Knotweed?</p> <p>Japanese Knotweed is a non-native invasive species that is incredibly resilient, it is able to outcompete native species and cause damage to buildings. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, section 114, (2) (WCA 1981), it is against the law to cause or allow the plant to spread. Once established, this species can be extremely difficult to manage and remove.</p> <p>How to identify Japanese Knotweed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knotweed is particularly active during spring months and can reach up to 2-3m height in summer. • New growth resembles asparagus spears, soft red/purple in colour. • Stems grow stronger and resemble bamboo, with growth rates up to 10cm per day. • Emerging leaves form a zig-zag pattern on the stems. • Dense thickets known as stands are formed from new growth. 					



SHE BRIEF

Japanese Knotweed



Key initial learnings to be shared more widely

If Japanese Knotweed is found on site, it should be considered whether the works can be undertaken without causing any disturbance to the plant and risk of spreading, including coming into contact with PPE or equipment. If this is not possible, the Safety License must be utilised, and the works must not go ahead until a methodology is established that does not cause a biosecurity risk. All discoveries of Japanese Knotweed should be notified to an Environmental Advisor, who can provide guidance on the appropriate steps to follow.

Check whether the landowner is aware of Japanese Knotweed on their site, and whether they have a treatment plan in place.

Biosecurity measures:

Defra's biosecurity guidance for controlling the spread of invasive species both on land and water, called ([Check-Clean-Dry](#)):

- CHECK your equipment and clothing carefully – particularly in areas that are hard to inspect
- CLEAN and wash all equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly.
- DRY all equipment and clothing – always ensure you don't transfer water elsewhere

Best practice:

- Implement an exclusion zone around the Japanese Knotweed with signage
- Enter the site with clean footwear and clothing
- Implement biosecurity measures such as ensuring clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles are cleaned
- Ensure no deposits are attached to clothing before moving to another invasive species area
- Tracked vehicles should not be used within the area of infestation as rhizomes of Japanese Knotweed can easily be lodged in the tracks and transported to a different location
- All vehicles leaving the infested area and / or transporting infested soil/materials must be thoroughly pressure-washed in a designated wash-down area before being used for other work.

For more information on Japanese Knotweed, including identification and how to manage and mitigate risk, visit the government website:

- [How to stop Japanese knotweed from spreading - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [How to stop invasive non-native plants from spreading - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

