

# Control of Invasive Non-native Plant Species – Follow-up Monitoring and Treatment

**This is an old version of the page**

**Date published: 5 January, 2016**

**Date superseded: 15 December, 2025**

To see recent changes to this guidance, [check the bottom of this page](#).

**Note: In September 2023, references to Scottish Natural Heritage have been updated to NatureScot.**

## Aim

The aim of this item is to benefit water margins, woodland and grassland habitats by controlling Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed or Himalayan balsam and preventing their spread. This will allow native plants to thrive and provide better habitat for wildlife.

Primary treatment to control invasive non-native plants will not completely eradicate them and follow-up treatment will be necessary. It can take three or four seasons of follow-up treatment to achieve successful control. It is also likely that new plants will germinate in areas nearby. These areas should be checked and treated under this item, as well as regrowth.

## Eligibility

Any land with re-growth following primary treatment, or where new plants from seed of Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed or Himalayan balsam is likely is eligible.

You must combine this item with the [Control of Invasive Non-native Plant Species – Primary Treatment](#) item.

## Spatial targeting



[Map of target area – Control of Invasive Non-native Plant Species – Follow-up Monitoring and Treatment \(PDF, Size: 1.3 MB\)](#)

doc\_external\_url: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/Updated-targeting-map---Control-of-invasive-non-native-plant-species-16-12-2015.pdf> This item is available within the target area shown on this map.

It may be possible to apply for this item outside this area where there is strong justification as endorsed by NatureScot.

You can check if this item is available on your holding using the search targeting tool which can be found on any of the following AECS guidance pages:

[AECS Home](#)

[Eligibility](#)

[How to Apply](#)

[Management Options and Capital Items](#)

[Capital Items](#)

## Application requirements

Your invasive plant management plan must include a map and photographs showing the area to be monitored and treated for follow-up control.

It must include the type and timing of the treatment you propose and identify the locations of sensitive areas, where herbicide treatment would not be appropriate.



[Invasive Plant Management Plan Template \(MS Word, Size: 143.5 kB\)](#)

doc\_external\_url: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/Invasive-Plant-Management-Plan-AECS-April-2015.docx>

## Requirements

- you must monitor for and treat any regrowth or secondary infestation as detailed in your invasive plant management plan by one of the following methods:
  - Japanese knotweed must be treated with herbicide
  - giant hogweed must be treated with herbicide, unless agreed in your plan in sensitive areas by tap-root cutting, mowing or grazing
  - Himalayan balsam must be treated by either herbicide, strimming or hand pulling
- you must keep photographic evidence of the site before and after treatment as part of your claim
- you must treat any regrowth that develops during the growing season
- when using herbicide near water, you must use a glyphosate-based chemical that is approved for use and you, or your spray operator, must have Scottish Environment Protection Agency authorisation
- you must maintain a diary

## Payment

You can claim:

- Japanese knotweed: £700 per hectare monitored and treated
- giant hogweed: £340 per hectare monitored and treated
- Himalayan balsam: £340 per hectare monitored and treated

## Inspections

The inspectors will check:

- the location and extent of the work
- you have treated the infested area as detailed in your invasive plant management plan to ensure there is no regrowth
- when using herbicide near water, you must use a glyphosate-based chemical that is approved for use and you, or your spray operator, must have Scottish Environment Protection Agency authorisation
- you have maintained a diary which includes the dates treatment was undertaken
- you have kept photographic evidence of the sites before and after treatment as part of your claim

## Additional guidance

[Supporting guidance is available for this item.](#)

## Recent changes

| Section                           | Change                   | Previous text | New text |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------|
| <a href="#">Spatial targeting</a> | Updated target area map. | -             | -        |

## Previous versions

[Previous versions of this page](#)

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