

HOGWOOD FARM, FINCHAMPSTEAD

NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN – PARCEL 6

Prepared for Vistry Thames Valley

by

Hankinson Duckett Associates

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hankinson duckett associates

† 01491 838175 † 01491 838997 e consult@hda-enviro.co.uk w www.hda-enviro.co.uk

The Stables, Howbery Park, Benson Lane, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8BA

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site location and summary description

1.1.1 This Non-native Invasive Species Management Plan describes the approach to minimising the risk of spread of invasive, non-native species listed on Schedule 9 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) in relation to Parcel 6 of the development of approximately 110ha of land at Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead. The Parcel 6 development area comprises approximately 5.2ha of land, hereinafter referred to as 'the site'. The site centre is located by National Grid Reference SU767642. The Non-native Invasive Species Management Plan was commissioned by Vistry Thames Valley in January 2025.

1.1.2 The Parcel 6 site is located to the south of Arborfield Green, Berkshire. In general terms, at the time of the Phase 1 habitat survey in 2023 it comprised part of a former agricultural field dominated by modified grassland with a large area of bare ground in the centre associated with a construction track and material storage. The Parcel 6 site is bounded by areas of woodland, including ancient and aged woodland, in addition to native hedgerows with dry ditches. The Parcel 6 site is bordered to the south and east by the existing Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) (delivered as part of the wider Hogwood Farm development); to the north by residential dwellings associated with a previous development phase; and to the west by a future development parcel which currently comprises tall ruderal vegetation and hardstanding. The location and boundary of the Parcel 6 site is shown in *Appendix A*.

1.1.3 The Parcel 6 site is part of a larger area covering a total of 110ha, hereinafter referred to as the 'wider site'. The wider site includes residential properties and a construction site associated with previous phases in the north-west and a SANG in the south which comprises a mix of wetland, species-rich grassland, scrub and woodland habitats. In general terms, the western area of the wider site is comprised of three fields of disturbed ground dominated by short ruderal vegetation with scattered areas of tall ruderal vegetation and large spoil heaps bordered by mature trees and woodland with scrub field margins. The central and eastern areas of the wider site are comprised of areas of hardstanding and construction/disturbed ground bordered by mature treelines and woodland. The south-eastern areas of the wider site comprise two fields of semi-improved grassland fields intersected by a ditch with associated scrub and scattered trees. A species-rich hedgerow with trees adjacent to Park Lane is present along the southern boundary. Woodland shaws and copses are located in the northern, western and central areas of the wider site, including mixed, broadleaved and broadleaved plantation woodland types, some of which are included on Natural England's Inventory of Ancient Woodland. Wetland habitats within the wider site include drainage ditches and

small streams associated with the field boundaries and several ponds in poor condition are located across the wider site. The wider site is bordered to the north by a construction site, the Bohunt School and the Hogwood Industrial Estate; to the east by Park Lane beyond which lie residential dwellings and park homes; to the south by Park Lane and farmland; and to the west by A327 Reading Road and Sheerlands Road beyond which lie farmland and woodland. The wider area is dominated by agricultural land interspersed with woodland and residential properties.

- 1.1.4 Further information on the extent and composition of habitats across the Parcel 6 site and the wider site is provided in the Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Target Notes (HDA, 2024a).

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 A Non-native Invasive Species Management Plan is a key tool in preventing the spread of non-native, invasive plant species either on to or from a site. It is required to identify the biosecurity measures needed to minimise the risk of spreading invasive, non-native species across the site and the wider area. The Non-native Invasive Species Management Plan considers the risks posed by a species, based on the information available at the time of preparation.

1.3 Development proposals

- 1.3.1 Planning permission (O/2014/2179 and 140764) was granted in January 2017 for a hybrid application. This comprises:
- Outline permission for demolition of all existing buildings on site; up to 1,500 new dwellings; employment floor space; a Neighbourhood Centre; a primary school; sports pitches and associated pavilion building; highways infrastructure; associated landscaping, public realm, open/green space and sustainable urban drainage systems; and
 - Full permission for a 29.7ha Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) in the south of the site.

The hybrid planning permission was subsequently amended by a Section 73 application (181194) which was approved in November 2018. Subsequently, in April 2023 a Non-Material Amendment (NMA) application was submitted to WBC to vary the parameter plans approved as part of the Section 73 application (ref:181194)

1.4 Scope and purpose of report

- 1.4.1 This Non-native Invasive Species Management Plan has been prepared in response to the identification of non-native invasive plant species within the wider site including Rhododendron and an unidentified Cotoneaster species during the initial Phase 1 habitat

survey (HDA, 2018). In addition, during consultation with Natural England Japanese Knotweed was identified in the wider area (Royal Haskoning, 2014) and during an updated Phase 1 habitat survey, Variegated Yellow Archangel was recorded from the wider site boundary (HDA, 2018). An updated invasive species walkover survey was carried out in 2023 of Parcels 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 and the proposed Neighbourhood Centre which recorded no species listed under Schedule 9 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) (HDA, 2024b). Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*, Entire-leaved Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster integrifolius*, Himalayan Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster simonsii*, Hollyberry Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster bullatus*, Small-leaved Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster microphyllus*, Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*, Variegated Yellow Archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* and Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica* are all listed under Schedule 9 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended). It is an offence to release, plant or cause to grow in the wild any plant included on this schedule of the Act.

- 1.4.2 Condition 30 of the planning consent for the development of the site, subsequently requires that:
- “All Reserved Matters applications for any sub phase of the development shall include a detailed non-native invasive species management plan for that phase of the development. The detailed non-native invasive species management plans shall be implemented in accordance with the submitted plans unless otherwise approved in writing by the local planning authority.”*
- 1.4.3 No non-native plant species were recorded within the Parcel 6 site, during either the 2014 or 2017 Phase 1 habitat survey (HDA, 2018) or the 2023 invasive species walkover survey (HDA, 2024b), however this should not be regarded as confirmation of absence or of the distribution of those species recorded¹.
- 1.4.4 The objective of this Non-native Invasive Species Management Plan is to identify, reduce and minimise the risk of spreading invasive, non-native plant species within the Parcel 6 site, the wider site and the wider environment.

¹ The optimal season for surveys of invasive plant species listed under Schedule 9 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) is between May and August. As the survey was carried out in December and January, invasive plant species may have been absent or inconspicuous which increases the uncertainty with regards to presence/likely absence as some species. Although in combination with previous site work it is considered the walkover survey allows an indication of the likely presence/absence of invasive species within the Parcel 6 development area, the survey should not be regarded as confirmation of distribution of those species recorded or absence of species not recorded. Further certainty with regards to the presence/likely absence of invasive plant species could be achieved through multiple visits across the growing season.

2 NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 2.1 The Non-native Invasive Species Management Plan tabulates those species that have been identified as being on the Parcel 6 development site or where current knowledge suggests there is reasonable risk of potential to be imported during construction. In view of the identified historic presence of Rhododendron and an unidentified Cotoneaster species within the wider site and Variegated Yellow Archangel and Japanese Knotweed within the wider area, precautionary preventative measures are also given to prevent their spread within and from the wider site. The likely pathways and operational mitigation have also been identified. This document will be appended to the contractor's Construction Method Statement for use on site for construction of Parcel 6 of the development. A guide to the identification of key non-native invasive plant species known to be present in the wider site and its surrounds is provided in *Appendix B*.
- 2.2 This Management Plan has been based on current knowledge of the extent of non-native invasive plant species present within the Parcel 6 development site and its surrounds. Prior to development commencing however, an updated survey of the site will be undertaken at an optimal time of year (between May and August) to identify the presence, location and area covered by any non-native invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended), not previously identified on site. If any plant species listed on Schedule 9 are identified during the update survey, this Management Plan will be updated accordingly and submitted to the local planning authority.

Table 1. Biosecurity Risk Assessment for Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational Procedure
Cotoneaster sp. (Wall Cotoneaster <i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>, Entire-leaved Cotoneaster <i>Cotoneaster integrifolius</i>, Himalayan Cotoneaster <i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>, Hollyberry Cotoneaster <i>Cotoneaster bullatus</i> and Small-leaved Cotoneaster <i>Cotoneaster microphyllus</i>)	Species present within wider site. Spread of species via construction machinery/movement of soil. Introduction of seed material via contaminated soil.	<i>Export/spread risk:</i> Moderate. Species is known to be present in wider site. <i>Import risk:</i> Low. If possible soil will not be imported.	Ensure contractors know what the non-native invasive Cotoneasters looks like and its identified presence in the wider site (see www.nonnativespecies.org) (see <i>Appendix B</i>). If any further suspected plants are identified within the site, contact the project ecologist (HDA: 01491 838175). These seedling plants should be hand pulled and burnt on site. If there is a requirement to import soil, the soil will be to the BS 3882:2015 standards. All construction machinery tyres/wheels and soil/vegetation carrying equipment will be cleaned prior to entering and leaving the site.
Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Species present within wider site. Spread of species via construction machinery/movement of soil. Introduction of seed material via contaminated soil.	<i>Export/spread risk:</i> Moderate. Species is known to be present in wider site. <i>Import risk:</i> Low. If possible soil will not be imported.	Ensure contractors know what Rhododendron looks like and its identified presence in the wider site (see www.nonnativespecies.org) (see <i>Appendix B</i>). If any suspected plants are identified within the site, contact the project ecologist (HDA: 01491 838175). These seedling plants should be hand pulled and burnt on site and/or managed by application of a glyphosate-based herbicide to the foliage during the spring or summer. If there is a requirement to import soil, the soil will be to the BS 3882:2015 standards. All construction machinery tyres/wheels and soil/vegetation carrying equipment will be cleaned prior to entering and leaving the site.

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational Procedure
Variegated Yellow Archangel <i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	Species present within wider area. Spread of species via construction machinery/movement of soil. Introduction of seed material via contaminated soil.	<i>Export/spread risk:</i> Moderate. Species is known to be present in wider area. <i>Import risk:</i> Low. If possible soil will not be imported.	Ensure contractors know what Variegated Yellow Archangel looks like and its identified presence in the wider area (see www.nonnativespecies.org). If any suspected plants are identified inform the project ecologist (HDA: 01491 838175). These should be pulled up and left to dry before the seeds set (July/August) and/or managed by application of a glyphosate-based herbicide to the foliage during the spring or summer. If there is a requirement to import soil, the soil will be to the BS 3882:2015 standards. All construction machinery tyres/wheels and soil/vegetation carrying equipment will be cleaned prior to entering and leaving the site.
Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Species present within wider area. Spread of species via construction machinery/movement of soil. Introduction of seed material via contaminated soil.	<i>Export/spread risk:</i> Moderate. Species is known to be present in wider area. <i>Import risk:</i> Low. If possible soil will not be imported.	Ensure contractors know what Japanese Knotweed looks like and its identified presence in the wider area (see www.nonnativespecies.org). If any suspected plants are identified inform the project ecologist (HDA: 01491 838175) and refer to the Environment Agency's Japanese Knotweed Code of Practice². If there is a requirement to import soil, the soil will be to the BS 3882:2015 standards. All construction machinery tyres/wheels and soil/vegetation carrying equipment will be cleaned prior to entering and leaving the site.

² https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/296930/LIT_2695_df1209.pdf

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational Procedure
Himalayan Balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Spread of species via construction machinery/movement of soil. Introduction of seed material via contaminated soil.	<i>Export/spread risk:</i> Low. Not recorded as present on site or in vicinity of site. Albeit likely to occur in the wider area. <i>Import risk:</i> Low. If possible soil will not be imported.	Ensure contractors know what Himalayan Balsam looks like (see www.nonnativespecies.org). If any suspected plants are identified inform the project ecologist (HDA: 01491 838175). These should be pulled up and left to dry before the seeds set (July/August) and/or manage by application of a glyphosate-based herbicide to the foliage during the spring or summer. If there is a requirement to import soil, the soil will be to the BS 3882:2015 standards. All construction machinery tyres/wheels and soil/vegetation carrying equipment will be cleaned prior to entering and leaving the site.
Virginia Creeper <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Spread of species via construction machinery/movement of soil. Introduction of seed material via contaminated soil.	<i>Export/spread risk:</i> Low. Not recorded as present on site or in vicinity of site. <i>Import risk:</i> Low. If possible soil will not be imported.	Ensure contractors know what Virginia Creeper looks like (see www.nonnativespecies.org). If any suspected plants are identified, contact the project ecologist (HDA: 01491 838175). These should be pulled up (using gloves as the sap in the plant can cause irritation to skin) and burnt on site and/or manage by application of a glyphosate-based herbicide to the foliage during the spring or summer. If there is a requirement to import soil, the soil will be to the BS 3882:2015 standards. All construction machinery tyres/wheels and soil/vegetation carrying equipment will be cleaned prior to entering and leaving the site.

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational Procedure
False Acacia* <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> * Note: False Acacia is not currently a Schedule 9 species in England. It is however invasive and can displace native vegetation.	Spread of species via construction machinery/movement of soil. Introduction of seed material via contaminated soil.	<i>Export/spread risk:</i> Low. Not recorded as present on site or in vicinity of site. <i>Import risk:</i> Low. If possible soil will not be imported.	Ensure contractors know what False Acacia looks like (see www.nonnativespecies.org). If any suspected plants are identified, contact the project ecologist (HDA: 01491 838175). It should be noted that this plant 'suckers' from the roots and may arise some distance from the trunk of a tree. Any suckers or saplings should be managed by applications of glyphosate based herbicides to the foliage during the spring or summer. If there is a requirement to import soil, the soil will be to the BS 3882:2015 standards. All construction machinery tyres/wheels and soil/vegetation carrying equipment will be cleaned prior to entering and leaving the site.
Garden escapes (e.g. Crocosmia and Spanish Bluebell)	Spread of species via construction machinery/movement of soil. Introduction of seed material via contaminated soil.	<i>Export/spread risk:</i> Low. None of these species are known to be present on site or in the vicinity of the site. <i>Import risk:</i> Low. If possible soil will not be imported.	If there is a requirement to import soil, the soil will be to the BS 3882:2015 standards. All construction machinery tyres/wheels and soil/vegetation carrying equipment will be cleaned prior to entering and leaving the site.
Water Fern <i>Azolla filiculoides</i> Parrot's-feather <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> Floating Pennywort <i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	Dispersal of species through movement of construction machinery. Introduction via	<i>Export/spread risk:</i> Low. None of these species are known to be present on site or in the vicinity of the site.	All construction and appropriate operational staff to familiarise themselves with the species (see www.nonnativespecies.org). Contractor is to provide detail on where construction machinery has been previously used and confirmation that appropriate cleaning/antifouling has been carried out if machinery has been used in or around water within the

Species	Potential contamination route	Likelihood of risk	Operational Procedure
New Zealand Pigmyweed/Australian Swamp-stonecrop <i>Crassula helmsii</i> (Also sold as <i>Tillaea recurva</i>, <i>Tillaea helmsii</i>, or <i>Crassula recurva</i>)	aquatic planting of the waterbodies to be constructed on site.	<i>Import risk:</i> Moderate. Many of these species are sold by plant suppliers.	past 3 months (or unknown). All construction machinery tyres/wheels and soil/vegetation carrying equipment will be cleaned prior to entering and leaving the site. Plants for planting of the SuDS features to be of native stock and checked for presence of alien species prior to planting.
Water Hyacinth <i>Eichornia crassipes</i>			
Water Primrose <i>Ludwigia peploides</i>			
(Also sold as <i>Jussiaea grandiflora</i>, <i>Ludwigia uruguayensis</i>)			
Canadian Waterweed <i>Elodea canadensis</i>			
Curly Waterweed <i>Lagarosiphon major</i>			
Nuttall's Waterweed <i>Elodea nuttallii</i>			
Waterweeds (other <i>Elodea</i>) <i>Elodea spp</i>			

REFERENCES

HDA (2018) *Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan*. Hankinson Duckett Associates, Wallingford.

HDA (2024a) *Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan with target notes*. Hankinson Duckett Associates, Wallingford.

HDA (2024b) *Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead: Summary of Parcels 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 and NC Invasive Species Walkover Survey Findings*. Hankinson Duckett Associates, Wallingford.

NNSS (2020) *GB non-native species secretariat*. Website accessed on 2nd December 2020: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm>

Royal Haskoning (2014) *Hogwood Garden Village, Arborfield SDL, Hybrid Planning Application: Environmental Statement*. Royal Haskoning DHV.

Royal Haskoning (2014) *Hogwood Garden Village, Arborfield SDL, Hybrid Planning Application: Environmental Statement. Appendix I: Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey*. Royal Haskoning DHV.

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	Personnel	Position
Author	Clare Bird MCIEEM	Associate Ecologist
Approved for issue	Sarah Thornton-Mills MCIEEM	Principal Ecologist

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Appendix A

Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan (showing Parcel 6 development area and wider site)



- KEY**
- Parcel 6 boundary
 - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland - (w1f)
 - Other woodland - mixed - mainly broadleaved (w1h5)
 - Ancient Woodland - based on Natural England's Inventory of Ancient Woodland
 - Aged Woodland
 - Scattered trees (indicative)
 - Native hedgerow - (h2a)
 - Native hedgerow with trees - (h2a - 11)
 - Non-native and ornamental hedgerow - (h3b)
 - Mixed scrub - (h3h)
 - Scattered scrub
 - Ruderal - (81)
 - Developed land - sealed surface - (u1b)
 - Modified grassland - (g4)
 - Standing open water - (r1)
 - Wet ditch / Dry ditch - (50)
 - Bare ground - (510)
 - Buildings
 - Fence

CLIENT:
Vistry Thames Valley

PROJECT:
Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead

TITLE:
Parcel 6 - Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan

SCALE AT A3:
NTS

DATE:
June 2025

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The Stables, Howbery Park, Benson Lane, Wallingford, OX10 8BA
t 01491 838175 e consult@hda-enviro.co.uk w www.hda-enviro.co.uk

Landscape Architecture
Masterplanning
Ecology

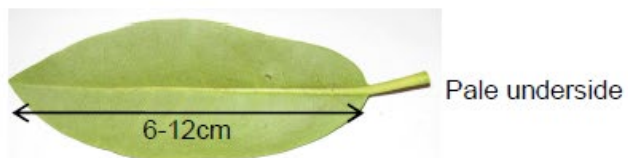


Appendix B

Key identification features of the invasive, non-native species recorded on the wider site or wider area

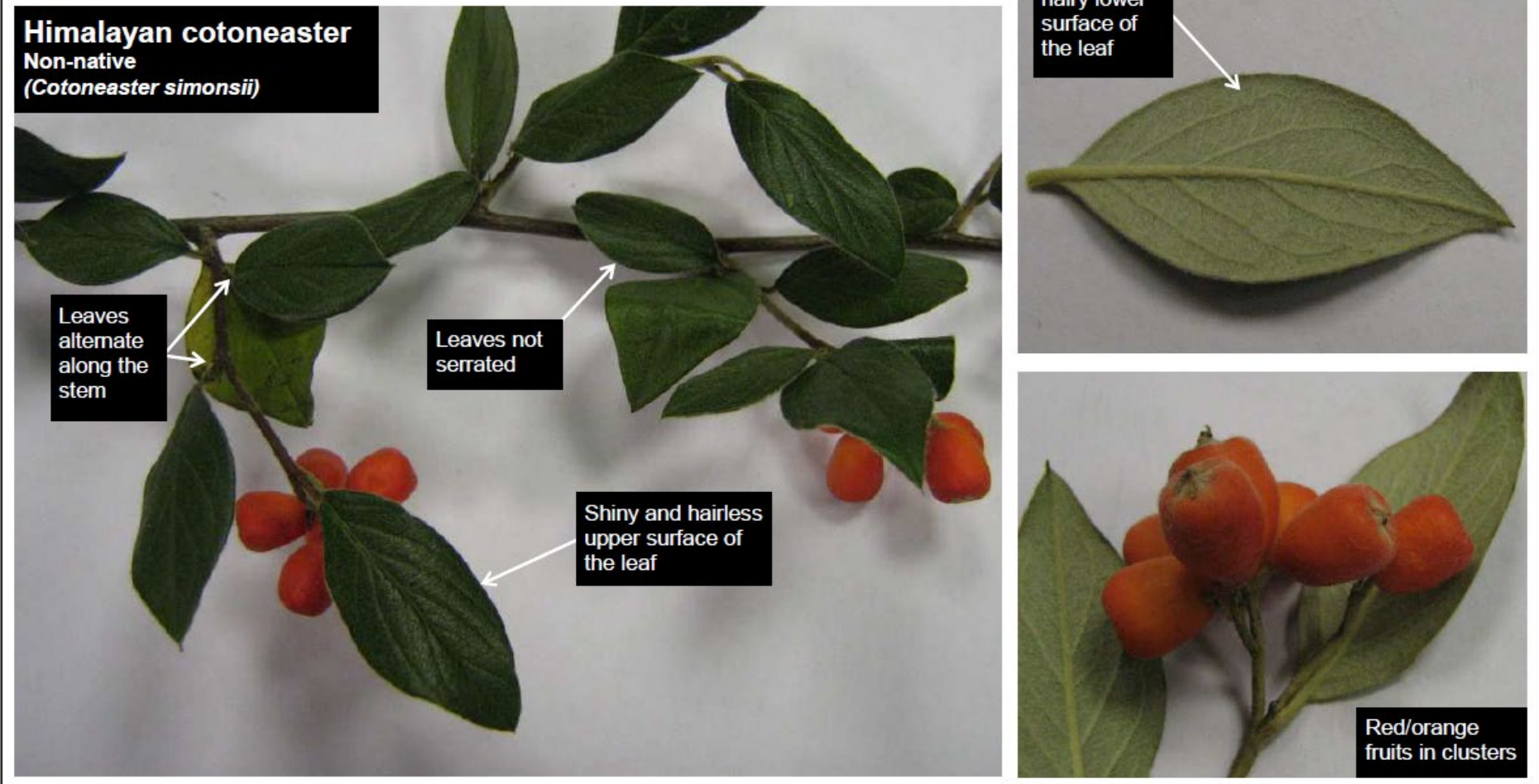
Rhododendron (www.nonnativespecies.org)

Key ID Features



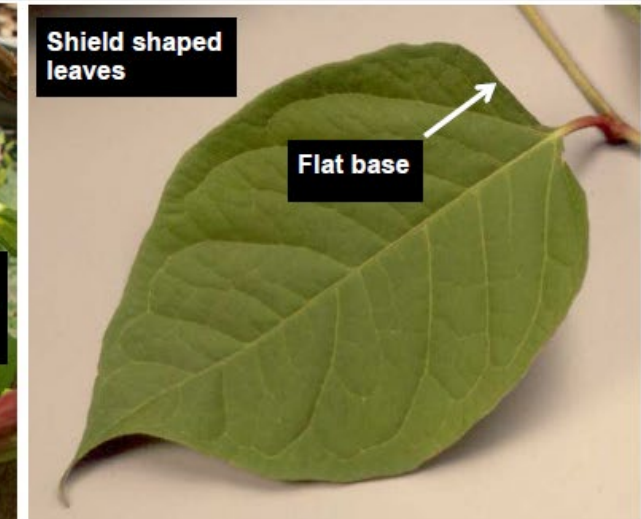
Cotoneaster (www.nonnativespecies.org)

Key ID Features



Japanese Knotweed (www.nonnativespecies.org)

Key ID Features



Identification throughout the year

Spring



Summer

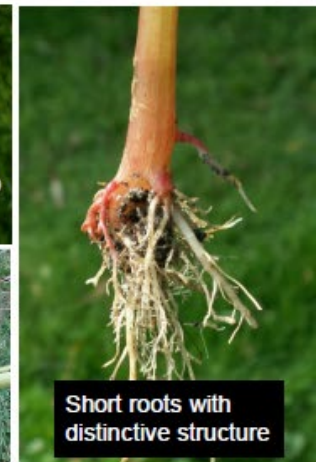
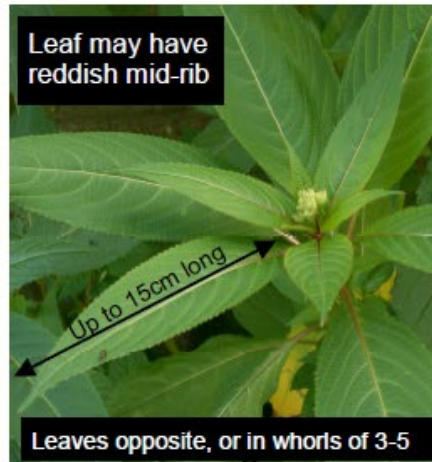
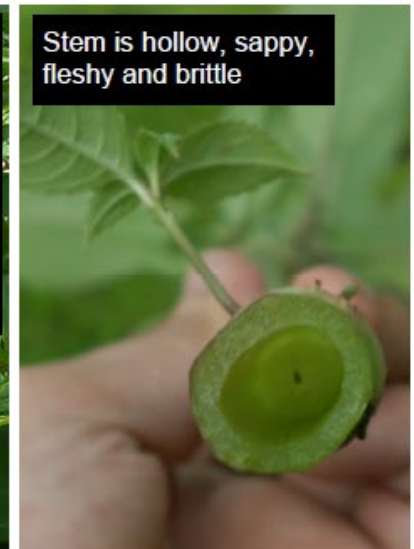
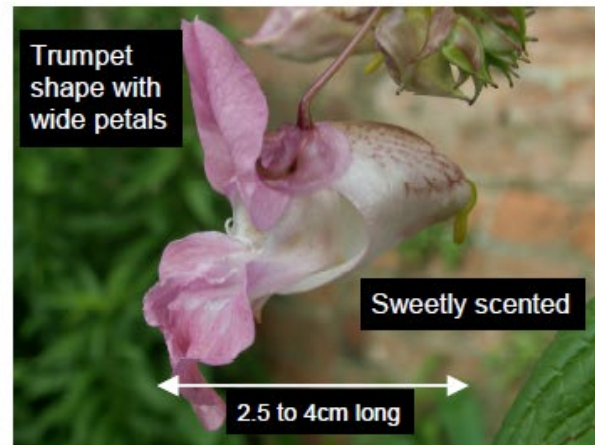


Winter



Himalayan Balsam (www.nonnativespecies.org)

Key ID Features



Variegated Yellow Archangel (www.nonnativespecies.org)

- Erect hairy perennial. The green variegated leaves have characteristic and distinctive silvery patches, they are hairy with toothed edges, growing in opposing pairs to a length of 4-7cm.
- Yellow flowers which are lipped and hooded, flowering from April to June.

