

REMEDICATION SOLUTIONS FOR **GIANT HOGWEED**

Surveys
Management Plans
Remediation Control
Solutions
Eradication
Giant Hogweed



Welcome to CCNW

Creating Living Environments

At CCNW we are committed to providing our clients with the specialist expertise and experience to successfully complete their projects and developments.

Our passion is in Creating Living Environments, which enable the crucial balance to be maintained between the need for development, and in maintaining the rich and healthy biodiversity of our local surroundings.

Invasive Species

CCNW are professional land management and environmental contracting experts specialising in Habitat Management works on all aspects of sensitive projects.

We can undertake an extensive range of practical conservation work to the highest quality at competitive prices.

CCNW offers a range of **Invasive Species** control solutions and management plans for residential customers and commercial businesses. If you are a home or landowner concerned about the presence of **Invasive Species** at your site, get in touch with CCNW to discuss the most appropriate remediation option for your location.



A Fully Integrated Invasive Species Service

Our Invasives department provides specialist invasive non-native species (INNS) consultancy. We offer an integrated service complimented by our ecology department and professional environmental contracting service specialising in invasive plant species remediation services.

Over the past 20 years, we have had experience in providing solutions to invasive species on a wide variety of projects, including habitat-sensitive projects, housing, highways, renewables, and commercial development sites, as well as domestic customers.

We provide advice on suitable remediation programmes for invasive plant species, which consider what the project can deliver, given the budgetary and programme constraints, and aim to highlight any project risks straightaway.

We pride ourselves on providing a bespoke service, and we take the time to understand how invasive plant species impact the site and any development works.

Invasive plant species can create a serious problem, not only on domestic and development sites where they can affect structures, amenities and project delivery but also in ecologically sensitive areas, displacing native species.



Quality Assurance

Professional Competency – Our staff are fully trained and qualified, holding NPTC, PA1, PA6AW, CSCS cards. We are accredited with ISO 9001:2015, CHAS and Constructionline. Our Ecology Department is a CIEEM Registered Practice.



Invasive Species Services

CCNW provide consultancy on Invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, **Giant Hogweed**, Himalayan Balsam, Bracken, Rhododendron, Horsetail, Ragwort, Buddleia and a variety of Aquatic Invasive Flora.

Our fully equipped Invasive plant species team provides the following services:

- Identification
- Initial advice and consultation
- Preliminary site survey to map and identify specific invasive plant species and any associated site constraints
- Production of Management Plans - detailing the findings of the surveys, and methods for treatment and priced remediation strategies
- Clerk-of-work services for remediation
- Herbicide treatments
- Excavation and on-site bunding
- Excavation and on-site burial, often involving encapsulation or cell burial
- Excavation, haulage and licensed off-site disposal
- Hand-pulling and mechanical cutting of Himalayan Balsam
- Clearance, control, and treatment of other invasive species such as aquatics, Rhododendron, Horsetail, Ragwort, Bracken, Buddleia, Cotoneaster, Japanese Rose, Sea Buckthorn, Variegated Yellow Archangel and more

Giant Hogweed - *Heracleum Mantegazzianum*

Caution - Avoid contact with Giant Hogweed as it causes serious skin burns

- **Relevant legislation: Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, EPA 1990, Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014**

Giant Hogweed was originally introduced to the UK in the 1800s and was valued for its size and appearance when flowering; it grows up to 6 metres. It spreads incredibly quickly through the deposition of large numbers of seeds, and it represents a **danger to human health**.

The sap of the plant contains harmful toxins that cause photo-dermatitis. Upon exposure to sunlight, painful blistering occurs where the sap has contacted the skin. The effects may not become apparent for up to 48 hours after contact with the sap/stem, but a reaction may also occur within just 15 minutes of contact. This reaction can recur for many years. If exposure is to the face, subsequent swelling can impede breathing.



Immediate Action

- **Minimise or avoid contact with plants and infested substrate**
- **Record and mark location; isolate if possible**

If you come into contact with Giant Hogweed

- **Immediately wash the affected skin thoroughly with water and cover the area to avoid exposure to direct sunlight**
- **Seek medical advice**

Other potentially negative impacts of Giant Hogweed include:

- **Shades out and suppresses the growth of native plants reducing biodiversity and bank stability**
- **Increased risk of flooding due to reduced bank stability, constricted water flow, and siltation of watercourses**
- **Legal implications for allowing the plant to spread onto adjoining land**
- **Loss of amenity value of land**

Remediation Solutions for Giant Hogweed

There are several recognised methodologies for controlling the Giant Hogweed species:

Chemical Control

Incorrect herbicide use can cause serious harm and damage to the environment, and users should have recognised training. Use of herbicide near water or other designated site (e.g. SSSI) will require the prior approval of the relevant authority.

A foliar herbicide programme of 2 -3 treatments per year is recommended.

Chemical treatment only affects germinated plants and not the seeds which are persistent in the soil.

Seeds can remain viable for several years, so a 2-3 year treatment programme is usually required, as a minimum, to control the established plants on the site, with annual monitoring following on from that for up to 5 years until it can be sure the seed bank has been deleted.

Excavation of the plant and its roots

Giant Hogweed infested soils can be excavated when time constraints mean a faster approach is preferable. Potentially, this method can result in considerable volumes of waste soil classed as 'Controlled waste', which must be removed to an off-site by a licensed carrier to an appropriately licensed waste-management facility.

The excavation is required to be around 100mm below the ground surface to remove the majority of seeds. It will be necessary to remove soils from some distance out of the immediate area of the plants to ensure that all the seeds are removed. Generally, this is the quickest but most costly (excavation, transport and landfill taxes) and involves significant disruption.

On-Site Burial/Bunding

This method can be used as a combined method with herbicides or as a stand-alone option.

Permission must be sought from the Environment Agency to ensure that this is permissible.

Giant Hogweed material must be buried at least 1m below ground level. The site location should remain undisturbed for the next 15 years or more. Therefore, careful consideration of the burial location is required.

When Giant Hogweed is present upstream from the affected land, an annual monitoring programme is recommended to ensure the population does not re-establish from seeds that have floated downstream. Often a catchment-level approach involving other landowners and partners may be required to achieve long-term control.

Management Plan

Although the methods of tackling Giant Hogweed will depend on the site circumstances and the client's choices, the Management Plan should reflect the current legislation, guidelines and practices as set out in the most up-to-date Codes of Practice (e.g. GBNNSS, PCA, etc.).

Survey Report/Management Plans would include the following features:

- In-depth site inspection and survey
- A detailed, scaled plan showing property boundaries, the dimensions of each stand
- An evaluation of the most effective remediation methodologies with pros and cons in consideration of the site, time and budgetary constraints, the owner's requirements, and any proposals for the site/property
- Biosecurity method statements to avoid cross-contamination and further spread
- A treatment schedule that is updated as treatments (or monitoring) is carried out
- A written quotation

Invasive Species Legislations

The following summarises the key legislation concerning invasive plant species throughout the UK.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Current legislation means that landowners and developers are responsible for ensuring that any invasive species listed under schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 on their property do not spread outside the boundary. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 9 currently lists 139 species for which it is an offence to introduce or cause to establish in the wild.

Listed invasive plants include Japanese Knotweed, **Giant Hogweed**, Himalayan Balsam, Rhododendron, and a range of aquatic plants such as Canadian Pondweed.

Section 14(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA 1981) states that “if any person plants or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant which is included in Part II of Schedule 9, he shall be guilty of an offence.”

Giant Hogweed is one of the plants listed in the Schedule.

Anyone convicted of an offence under Section 14 of the WCA 1981 may face a fine of £5,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment, 2 years and/or an unlimited fine on indictment.

The Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986

Requires any person who uses a pesticide to take all reasonable precautions to protect the health of humans, creatures and plants, safeguard the environment and, in particular, avoid water pollution. For the application of pesticides in or near water, approval from the Environment Agency should be sought before use.

The appropriate pesticide certificate of competence must be possessed for the safe use of herbicide and hand-held herbicide applicators.

CCNW staff are trained to the relevant standard, e.g. NPTC Level 2 award in the safe use of pesticides PA1 and PA6/aw.

Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA)

In the 1990 Environmental Protection Act (EPA), **Giant Hogweed** is identified as a controlled waste.

This includes excavated/removed invasives and associated soil.

This act sets forth certain terms that regulate the management, storage, treatment and disposal of waste.

Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement & Permitting) Order 2019

This came into force on October 1st 2019, and applied in England and Wales; it was part of the UK's implementation of EU Regulation 1143/2014. The core of these regulations was the EU's list of Invasive Alien Species of Union Concern (the Union List). The Union List currently includes thirty-six plant species, including Giant Hogweed. The Order specifically stated that "A person who plants or otherwise causes to grow in the wild (any plant on the Union List) is guilty of an offence." As Regulations, these transpose the EU Directive, and as such, fall under the changes brought about by the EU (Withdrawal) Act and all European law (i.e. Regulations), which is copied across into UK legislation to ensure legal continuity is retained after BREXIT.

Quick Facts

- Numerous pieces of legislation cover Giant Hogweed – contravening these could result in prosecutions or fines
- It is not illegal to let Giant Hogweed grow on your land. However, it is illegal to allow it to spread to adjoining land
- Giant Hogweed is listed in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as it threatens our native species and habitats

Costings

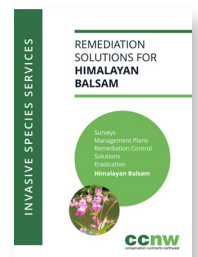
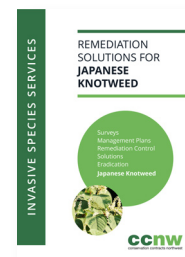
The cost of Giant Hogweed removal will depend on several factors, for example, the scale of your infestation, the location, your property type, how soon you need the Giant Hogweed removed, and what the plans for the land are. In many cases, herbicide treatments can effectively remediate Giant Hogweed and are a cost-effective solution. But if there are plans for the property to be developed and/or soil disturbed or there are time constraints, it is likely an alternative would be required, resulting in a higher cost. As a result, Giant Hogweed treatment costs will vary.

Other Invasives Species

CCNW provide consultancy on invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam, Bracken, Rhododendron, Field Horsetail, Common Ragwort, Buddleia, Variegated Yellow Archangel, Montbretia, Cotoneaster & a variety of Aquatic Invasive Flora.

Please download or request our other comprehensive documents on invasive species Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam which include:

- Remediation, Eradication Solutions & Control Services
- Surveys and Management Plans/Method Statements
- Invasive Species Legislation



Quality Assurance

We are committed to the highest standards of excellence

Constant testing to the latest standards ensures that quality is maintained and a programme of improvement is regularly reviewed and updated.
Below are some of our current accreditations and trade associations memberships.



ccnw

conservation contracts northwest

conservation contracts north west limited

29-31 Lee Lane Horwich Bolton BL6 7AX

T: 01204 693500 E: contact@ccnw.info

www.ccnw.info