

## Knotweed Eradication

Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is an invasive alien plant species originally from Japan and introduced as a garden plant in Ireland in the 19th century. Since then it has spread rapidly throughout the country and can outcompete native plants. In built environments it can also become a major and persistent problem causing serious financial damage. In Ireland it is an offense to plant, disperse, allow the dispersal or cause the spread of Knotweed. Both communities and individuals need good advice on dealing with knotweed, and on how to minimise damage to surrounding nature when doing so.



## Knotweed Treatment

In 2015, Wild Work embarked on a project to treat Japanese Knotweed infestations at a number of sites in Cork. As well as treating the Japanese Knotweed, the project was designed to examine the effects of different application methods and dosages for a proprietary herbicide. Due to the ability of Knotweed to spread rapidly, it is important to consider the wider context rather than just a population of the plant in isolation. For example where Knotweed is found on river bank, treatment should first be tackled at the upstream source, systematically moving downstream to avoid recontamination from an upstream source.

## About Wild Work

Wild Work is a unique initiative with biodiversity at its heart.

We support everyone committed to helping nature and our particular focus is to connect business, biodiversity and local communities. We also support the work of both local and national organisations involved in the conservation and protection of our natural environment.

With our practical expertise, we create and care for meadows, woodlands, beaches, rivers and other natural habitats, both in urban and rural settings.

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This requires the collaboration of all relevant state agencies and community based organisations in order to access the various sites and engage all landowners. Wild Work and SECAD, with a long history of working across state and community organisations, is the ideal organisation to facilitate this process.

From the start of the project, Wild Work worked closely with relevant state bodies including National Parks and Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Cork County Council. We are particularly grateful for the help provided by Cork County Council in selecting the sites and providing road safety equipment.

Communicating what we have learnt from the project is a vital component of this work. Wild Work was invited to talk about our knotweed experience for Cork County Council's Invasive Species Policy Development group.

The project has also led to a [recommendation report](#) using our experience to suggest the safest and most effective methods for treating knotweed while protecting nature.