

Japanese Knotweed in Devon

Devon County Council are undertaking an initiative to inform the public about the identification and control of the highly invasive and potentially structurally damaging Japanese Knotweed. A new leaflet written by both the Devon and Cornwall Knotweed Forums is to be sent out to libraries, garden centres and promoted at Devon County Show. The aim of the leaflet is to provide guidance for householders and landowners who have identified Knotweed on their properties and to encourage them to control the plant. Two clear flow charts give information on what to do after identifying the problem and recommend treatment programmes.

This education initiative follows on from work by DCC to control Japanese Knotweed alongside roads. Records sent into Devon Biodiversity Record Centre by members of the public have been verified, mapped and a treatment programme started. Off-road records have now been verified and mapped in South Hams, East and North Devon. The next stage is to encourage, help and advise landowners and community projects to control Knotweed.

Community involvement in knotweed control - Lee, North Devon:

A community project in the village of Lee in North Devon treated 23 sites in the area involving 18 different landowners. The project originated with a public meeting identifying the spread of knotweed as a significant problem. To keep costs down members of the group undertook training so that they could treat the knotweed themselves. Free knotweed treatment was offered to landowners but many made a donation to augment funding from North Devon District Council and North Devon AONB. These sources paid for training, equipment and the chemical needed to undertake the work.

For more information on Japanese Knotweed visit Devon Japanese Knotweed Forum website www.devon.gov.uk/knotweed