

# Invasive Plant Species Site Survey Report

Drumshanbo Co. Leitrim



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Knotweed Control Ireland 04/12/2023

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## 1. Introduction

On 10 November 2023, Knotweed Control Ireland was appointed by McCabe Architects to conduct a site survey at the Drumshanbo development site searching directly for evidence of high impact invasive plant species. The aim of the survey is to confirm the presence and identify (if found) the locations of high impact invasive plant species listed in the Third Schedule: Part 1, Plants - Regulations 49 & 50 of S.I. 477, 2011 (see Appendix A).

High impact invasive plant species are plants that have been assessed to pose a high risk of causing negative impacts on the environment, economy, or human health in Ireland. Plants listed on the Third Schedule Part 1 are non-native species that are subject to restrictions under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 [S.I.477/2011].

Medium invasive plants are invasive plants that although invasive, are not deemed to pose a high risk of causing negative impacts on the environment, economy, or human health in Ireland (Appendix B). However, some of the medium invasive plants such as the spreading Bamboo species, and Buddleia can damage the built environment (paths, walls) by growing through fissures, cracks, and expansion joints and if left unmanaged on some sites, over time can become troublesome.

See [Species Profile Browser · Species Profile \(biodiversityireland.ie\)](#) for more information including a list of Medium impact invasive plant species.

On 14 November 2023, a site survey searching directly for evidence of high impact invasive plant species was carried out at the Drumshanbo site in Drumshanbo, County Leitrim. Due to limited access to some areas, KCI revisited the site on 22 November to complete the survey.

## 2. Site Description

The Drumshanbo site is situated between Main Street (R208), Carrick Road (R207) and Carraig Breac in Drumshanbo. The site consists primarily of commercial buildings on the eastern boundary and People's Park, a community park area, on the western boundary. A small stream runs the full length of the site from south to north, semi mature trees were recorded in a small, wooded area located in the south of the site beside the stream. Near the centre of the site there are old, listed buildings behind which can be found an interesting old granite bridge over the stream.

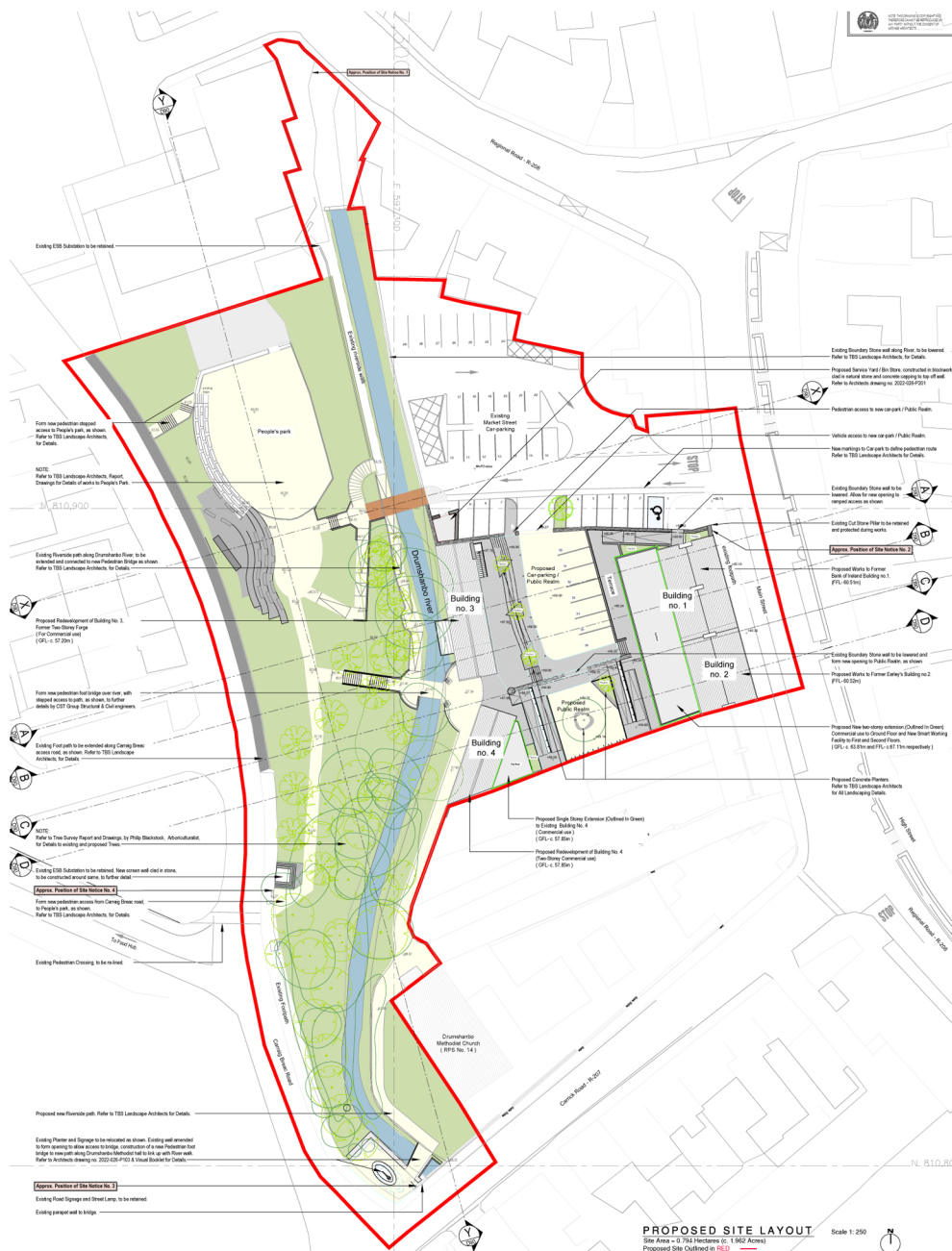


Figure 1: Red-line boundary plan of the Drumshanbo site [McCabe Architects

### 3. Methodology

The survey was based on a plant identification walkover survey, whereby all accessible areas of the survey site were walked by the surveyor in daylight hours, carrying out a visual search for the target species (High Impact Invasive plants).

Particular focus was also given to areas where the target species were most likely to be found, for example close to waterways, areas of recent disturbed ground or recently imported soil or spoil heaps.

### 4. Legislative Framework

At an international level Ireland has signed up to a number of treaties and conventions, including the **Convention on Biological Diversity**. Such treaties and conventions require the Irish Government to

address issues of invasive alien species. This has been implemented through the **Wildlife Act 1976 and 2000** and further regulated through the **European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI 477 of 2011)**.

Regulations 49 and 50 of these regulations include legislative measures to deal with the dispersal and introduction of invasive alien species:

**Regulation 49:**

‘a person shall be guilty of an offence if they: plant; disperse; allow or cause to disperse; spread or cause to grow the plant in the Republic of Ireland’. The list of species in the Third Schedule includes Japanese Knotweed, Giant Knotweed and their hybrid Bohemian Knotweed’.

**Regulation 50:**

‘an offence to or intend to; import; buy; sell; breed; reproduce or propagate; offer or expose for sale; advertise; publish a price list; transport; and distribute any plant species or vector material listed in the Third Schedule’. Non-native species subject to restrictions under Regulations 49 and 50 are included in the third schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats)

Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011). The Third Schedule, Invasive species in this list include: Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, Giant Knotweed, Giant Rhubarb, Himalayan Balsam, Himalayan Knotweed, Bohemian Knotweed and Rhododendron.

The vector which applies to Knotweed species is: “Soil or spoil taken from places infested with Japanese knotweed material (i.e. facilitates spread), referred to in the regulations (Third Schedule Part 3), Giant knotweed or their hybrid Bohemian knotweed”.

## 5. Survey Results

There was **no** high impact invasive plant species such as Japanese knotweed, Giant hogweed or Himalayan balsam recorded on or adjacent to the Drumshanbo site.

Buddleia, also known as The **Butterfly Bush** (*Buddleia davidii*) was recorded growing on the old walls of the car park area that can be accessed off the main street. Buddleia was also recorded growing on the west side of the stream overgrowing a pathway leading from the People's Parks out into the town centre on the north boundary.

## 6. Recommendations

Buddleia, although a very good source of food for our important declining pollinators (bees, butterflies, and moths), is still a medium invasive plant species. Due to potential damage to protected structures such as walls and buildings, if control can be carried out in a short time this can reduce costs as it is difficult and more expensive when the Buddleia plants become overgrown, and the roots become embedded into old structures. Due to Buddleia plants providing a good source of nectar for our important pollinators the plants do not provide good habitat for caterpillars and may be best removed before going into the flowering stage and seed set; however, efforts should first be made to replant with pollinator-friendly plants.

Efforts should be made with the suppliers of any soil, sand or hard-core material coming onto site, to ensure these supplies are free from invasive plant material.

## 7. Conclusion

There was no high impact invasive plant species such as Japanese knotweed, recorded within the Drumshanbo development site.

The medium invasive plant, *Buddleia davidii*, identified at the site can be controlled by cutting back the plants with hand saws and garden loppers. Young saplings on walls and buildings can sometimes be pulled out carefully removing the root completely. However, on larger diameter plants cutting back as close to the structure as possible is best. Medium invasive plant species, such as Buddleia, when growing in the ground can also be eradicated by digging out the plants ensuring that as much of the root system is removed as possible.

## 8. References

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, 2021. Alien Invasive Plant Species  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/ceb39-alien-invasive-plant-species/>

Early J, McDowell S, Caffrey J, O'Callaghan D, Meenan K, Toomath C, Fitzsimons B, Kelly J (2009) & Muir R A (2018). Field Guide to Invasive Species in Ireland. 2nd Edition. NIE.

The Environment Agency, UK (2018). Managing Knotweed on Development Sites, Knotweed Code of Practice.

Guidelines on the Management of Noxious Weeds and Non-native Invasive Plant Species on National Roads v1, 2010

Invasive Alien Species in Ireland <https://invasives.ie/about/irelands-invasive-species/>

Invasive Species Ireland (2008). Horticulture Code of Practice.

Property Care Association, UK (2014/18). Code of Practice for the Management of Japanese Knotweed

The National Biodiversity Data Centre <https://biodiversityireland.ie>

Appendix A: List of High Impact Invasive Plants (subject to restrictions under S.I. 477, 2011) [Invasive Species Ireland, <http://invasivespeciesireland.com>]

<b>Third Schedule: Part 1 Plants</b> <b>Non-native species subject to restrictions under Regulations 49 and 50</b>		
<b>Taxon Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Taxon Group</b>
<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>	<u>American skunk-cabbage</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Grateloupia doryphora</i>	<u>A red alga</u>	Lower plant
<i>Gunnera manicata</i>	<u>Brazilian giant-rhubarb</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Juncus planifolius</i>	<u>Broad-leaved rush</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Aponogeton distachyos</i>	<u>Cape pondweed</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Spartina</i> (all species and hybrids)	<u>Cord-grasses</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	<u>Curly waterweed</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Zostera japonica</i>	Dwarf eel-grass	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	Fanwort	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	<u>Floating pennywort</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	<u>Fringed water-lily</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	<u>Giant hogweed</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	<u>Giant knotweed</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i>	<u>Giant rhubarb</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Giant salvinia	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	<u>Himalayan balsam</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	<u>Himalayan knotweed</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	<u>Hottentot-fig</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	<u>Japanese knotweed</u>	<u>Higher plants</u>
<i>Egeria densa</i>	<u>Large-flowered waterweed</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i>	<u>Mile-a-minute weed</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	<u>New Zealand pigmyweed</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	<u>Parrot's feather</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	<u>Rhododendron</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>



<b>Taxon Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Taxon Group</b>
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	<u>Salmonberry</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	<u>Sea-buckthorn</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	<u>Spanish bluebell</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	<u>Three-cornered leek</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Undaria pinnatifida</i>	<u>Wakame</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Trapa natans</i>	Water chestnut	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	<u>Water fern</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Water lettuce	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Ludwigia</i> (all species)	<u>Water-primrose</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Elodea</i> (all species)	<u>Waterweeds</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>

## Appendix B: List of Medium Invasive Plants (not subject to restrictions under S.I. 477, 2011)

Note: Some of these medium invasive plants should be managed with recommendations given to keep them from spreading further on-site, including property maintenance guidance of cutting back as plants such as Buddleia, Sycamore, and Bamboo (Running spp.) which, if left unmanaged for several years, can cause damage to structures and hard standings.

<b>List of Medium Invasive Plant Species Not subject to restrictions under S.I. 477, 2011</b>		
<b>Taxon Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Taxon Group</b>
<i>Acaena ovalifolia</i>	<u>Two-spined Acaena</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	<u>Sycamore</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	<u>Tree-of-heaven</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	<u>Three-cornered Garlic</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	<u>Ragweed</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	<u>Thunberg's Barberry</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	<u>Barberry</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	<u>Butterfly-bush</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	<u>Creeping Bellflower</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	<u>Traveller's-joy</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	<u>Canadian Fleabane</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	<u>Pampas-grass</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	<u>Wall Cotoneaster</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Egeria densa</i>	<u>Large-flowered Waterweed</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Erucastrum gallicum</i>	<u>Hairy Rocket</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	<u>Leafy Spurge</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Fallopia baldschuanica</i>	<u>Russian-vine</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Gunnera manicata</i>	<u>Brazilian Giant-rhubarb</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Heracleum sosnowskyi</i>	<u>Sosnowskyi's hogweed</u>	<u>Higher plants</u>
<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	<u>Sea-buckthorn</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Lemna minuta</i>	<u>Least Duckweed</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>

<b>Taxon Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Taxon Group</b>
<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>	<u>Himalayan Honeysuckle</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	<u>Japanese Honeysuckle</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i>	<u>Garden Lupin</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>	<u>American Skunk-cabbage</u>	
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	<u>Common Broomrape</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	<u>Virginia-creeper</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	<u>Wild Parsnip</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	<u>Himalayan Knotweed</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	<u>Rum Cherry</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	<u>Turkey Oak</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	<u>Evergreen Oak</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	<u>Red Oak</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Ribes nigrum</i>	<u>Black Currant</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	<u>False-acacia</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	<u>Japanese Rose</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	<u>Salmonberry</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Sarracenia purpurea</i>	<u>Pitcherplant</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Senecio inaequidens</i>	<u>Narrow-leaved Ragwort</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Solidago gigantea</i>	<u>Early Goldenrod</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>
<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>	<u>Field Penny-cress</u>	<u>flowering plant</u>

## Appendix C: Photo Record

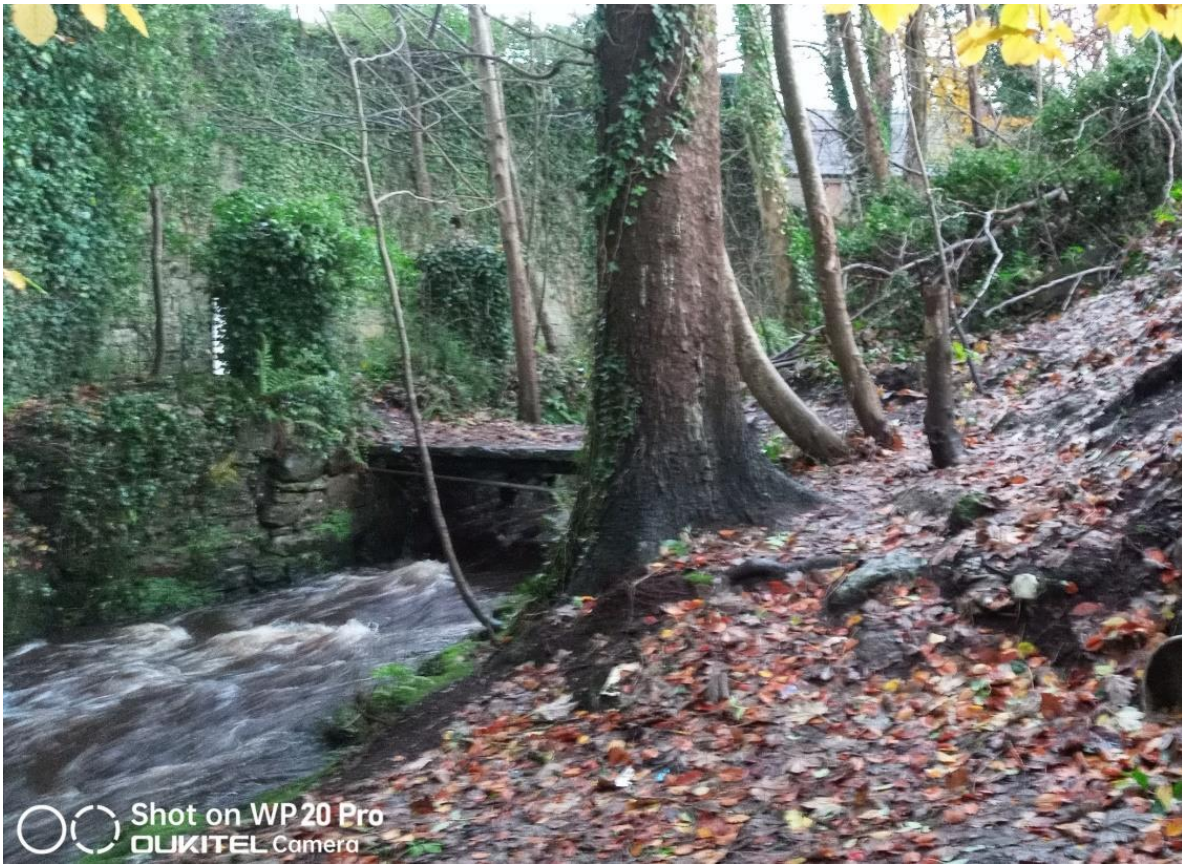


Figure 2: View of the waterway and bridge on the Drumshanbo site [photo taken on 14 November 2023]





Figure 3: Corner in carpark area where Buddleia is out of control and growing up through pavement and on the old walls.



Figure 4: Well-established Buddleia growing along stream





Figure 5: Buddleia overgrowing onto pathway from stream on north boundary







Figure 6: Old granite bridge to rear of listed buildings





Figure 7: Area behind double gates near stream; listed building seen in foreground





Figure 8: Rear of a derelict building accessed through double gates in laneway