

CGI INSTRUCTIONS & GUIDELINES FOR INVASIVE SPECIES MAPPING PROJECT

Thank you for volunteering to help us map Japanese Knotweed growth along the River Carron. The following guidelines will help to ensure a successful and safe project for us all.

1. Basically we are interested in the growth of Japanese Knotweed along the River Carron, to determine where it starts, where it ends, and how much of it there is. Mapping began in May 2009, to be completed by Spring 2010.
2. Please follow basic safety procedures for hiking, especially if you are mapping a part of the River Carron that is not close to a populated area. Correct clothing for weather, sturdy foot gear, carry water for distance walking, etc.
3. Always travel in a team of at least two mappers, preferably one of whom is familiar with the area you will be mapping.
4. The A4 maps we will provide are only to help you fill out the Survey Form; you may need to also bring a more detailed Ordnance Survey map of the area for navigation.
5. Let someone know where you are going and when you anticipate returning, give them your itinerary and agree on a specific plan for them to undertake if you do not return or contact them at the appointed time.

PLEASE NOTE: You may wish to have a CGI member be your contact person for this purpose. We are happy to do this for you with at least 48 hours advance notice. Call or email at the numbers listed at the end of this instruction sheet.

6. If you are driving to an area and then hiking, consider leaving a map and copy of your itinerary on the dashboard of your car before you head out; this way if you do not return at the appointed time, those searching for you will have an idea of your route.
7. Make sure that one of your team is carrying an operating and in-credit cell phone the batteries of which have been recently charged.
8. All volunteers are required to fill out the CGI Volunteer Contact Sheet before their first survey day, and to hand it in at training day, or transmit it to CGI by email at communitygreeninitiative@yahoo.co.uk or to mail it to CGI, 14 Jubilee Road, Dunipace FK6 6NH.
9. Please keep track of the hours you spend on the mapping project on the CGI Timesheet provided and turn these into CGI at the end of the project. With

these timesheets, CGI will compile and be able to document a record of all volunteer hours expended on the project. These will be helpful as "in kind contributions" when CGI begins to seeking funding to deal with the knotweed problem

10. Follow the procedures explained in the training and training materials to ensure that you do not contribute to the spread of Japanese Knotweed. Do not undertake to remove any Japanese Knotweed during the mapping exercise; CGI does not assume any responsibility for removal of this plant, we are only mapping at this stage.

11. Always carry the CGI ID card - and a few extras - with you when doing a survey; if you are mapping on privately-owned land, produce the card if you meet up with the owner. It also serves as a wee generic information card (see the back) you can give to people you meet while doing the survey.

12. Use your best judgement about undertaking mapping on private land; if the owner indicates that he/she does not wish you to do so, then simply leave. Please remember that you are representing Community Green Initiative and it is our policy to be courteous and friendly, not confrontational.

13. Inaccessible or complex areas: Please contact CGI before venturing to map areas above the Carron reservoir in the Campsie Hills so that we can put you in touch with a Ranger first. The streams in this area aren't particularly dangerous to survey but they do need someone who is very fit and can read a map and is willing to trudge up gullies on mountainsides. It will take a long time to map these and most have their sources high in the hills. We can provide you with provisional notes on several watercourses to be mapped around the reservoir, where they rise and where they join the Carron or reservoir. We do have a Ranger who will be taking a second walking survey there in the winter, in case you wish to contact us and join in that effort.

Rangers advise that the area that any volunteer should **NOT** go into for mapping purposes is Carron Glen - from Denny to Carron Bridge. This area is dangerous and not really accessible.

14. If anything about the area you have chosen to map - either the terrain, wildlife, farm animals, humans - should appear risky or uncomfortable to you, please do not proceed, simply leave and let us know about the problem as soon as possible. Do not do anything or go into any area which may put you at risk!

15. If you need more copies of the survey forms, maps, timesheets, ID cards, hi vis vests, etc. for your volunteer team, or need a contact person, or have any questions about this project, please contact CGI at communitygreeninitiative@yahoo.co.uk or 01324 824843.