

Title Weed Management Policy

Applicable Company: Calico Homes

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1. Introduction

This policy outlines Calico Homes approach to managing weeds within land owned by us. The aim is to ensure a safe, healthy, and aesthetically pleasing environment for all residents while complying with relevant UK legislation.

1.1 Objectives

- To effectively manage and control invasive weed species.
- To minimise the use of chemical herbicides.
- To promote sustainable and environmentally friendly weed management practices.
- To deliver a balanced focus between reactive management and a preventative approach to reduce future ecological, economic and financial pressures caused by invasive species.
- To ensure compliance with the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 and other relevant legislation.

2. Scope

The Clean and Green Team Manager is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Weed Management Policy.

The Clean and Green Team will deliver the weed management plan as per the guidelines.

Residents are responsible for reporting any sightings of invasive or problematic weeds to the Clean and Green Team. These reports can be made by contacting the team directly, via the Customer Experience team who will forward contacts on or using the Connect App.

For the purposes of this policy, an invasive weed is defined as a non-native species which has been deliberately or accidentally introduced and can become dominant in the environment where they may impact on native species, transform ecosystems and cause environmental harm.

3. Principles

3.1 Integrated Weed Management (IWM) Approach

We have a responsibility to prevent invasive, non-native plants on our land from spreading into the wild, causing a nuisance, or encroaching on neighbouring land. Our approach is designed to manage weeds effectively and sustainably while ensuring compliance with UK regulations and environmental best practices.

3.2 Identification and Prevention

Regular inspections will be conducted to identify and map weed infestations at an early stage.

Residents and colleagues are encouraged to report any sightings of invasive or problematic weeds to the Clean and Green Team.

A comprehensive record of invasive weed locations will be maintained and updated with each new occurrence, including reports of gardens affected by invasive species.

3.3 Mechanical and Manual Control

Knapsack applicators will be used selectively where appropriate.

Manual removal techniques, such as hand-pulling and digging, will be employed for less aggressive species.

Mechanical methods, including mowing and cutting, will be used to manage weed growth while minimising environmental disruption.

3.4 Biological Control

Where feasible, natural predators or competitive plant species will be introduced to control weed populations sustainably.

We will explore habitat restoration to encourage biodiversity and suppress invasive weed regrowth.

3.5 Chemical Control

Herbicides will only be used as a last resort and in strict compliance with UK regulations.

Where chemical control is necessary, only approved herbicides (such as glyphosate-based treatments) will be applied by trained personnel.

Priority will be given to non-chemical alternatives wherever practical.

3.6 Management of Highly Invasive Species (e.g., Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam)

Certain invasive species require specialist management due to their aggressive nature and legal implications.



Legal Responsibilities

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is illegal to cause or allow Japanese knotweed to spread into the wild.

The Infrastructure Act 2015 enables enforcement action if invasive species pose a risk to neighbouring properties.

We will ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which classifies Japanese knotweed-contaminated soil as controlled waste requiring proper disposal.

Treatment and Control Measures

Japanese Knotweed:

- Managed through a dedicated treatment plan, including herbicide applications over a three-to-five-year period.
- Mechanical removal will follow strict guidelines to prevent further spread.

Giant Hogweed:

- Controlled via specialist handling, as its sap can cause severe burns. Only trained personnel will remove it.

Himalayan Balsam:

- Managed through manual removal before seed dispersal, combined with habitat restoration efforts.

4. Measures

All treated sites will be monitored annually to prevent regrowth.

Where necessary, we will work with environmental specialists to ensure best-practice removal methods.

Residents will be informed about their role in preventing the spread of invasive species and the importance of proper disposal of plant material.

4.1 Education and Awareness

We will provide training to colleagues on best practices for weed identification and control.

Residents will receive information on how to identify, report, and prevent the spread of invasive weeds.



5. Compliance and Legislation

Adherence to the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012.

Compliance with the UK National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides.

6. Communication and education

Inform residents about the weed management policy and their role in it.

Provide training for colleagues on best practices for weed management.

7. Linked Information

8. Review

- Tri-annual review of the policy to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.
- Update the policy as needed based on new research, technologies, and regulatory changes

