Canine Detection Solutions Standard Operating Procedure



Title: Invasive Plant Detection Operations
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Purpose, Scope, and Responsibilities

1. Purpose

This SOP outlines the standard procedure for conducting invasive plant detection using trained canine teams under Canine Detection Solutions (CDS). It ensures a consistent, safe, and professional approach across all projects and supports the credibility and traceability of the service provided.

2. Scope

This procedure applies to all field operations undertaken by CDS involving canine detection of Japanese Knotweed across residential, commercial, and construction sites within the United Kingdom.

3. Responsibilities

Handler

- To conduct all canine detection work in accordance with this SOP.
- To maintain the welfare, safety, and professional conduct of all dogs under their care.
- To ensure all data, observations, and findings are accurately recorded.

Client / Site Representative

- To provide accurate site information and access arrangements.
- To facilitate any required pre-site clearance or safety measures.

CDC Management

- To ensure handlers and dogs are appropriately trained and competent.
- To review and update this SOP as necessary.

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Procedure: Initial Enquiry and Assessment

4.1 Initial Enquiry and Assessment

01

Receive enquiry via phone, email, or referral.

02

Request the following information from the client:

- Site address and access details
- Type and size of site
- Description of vegetation and ground cover

03

Conduct a preliminary desk-based assessment using mapping or satellite imagery to determine site conditions and accessibility.

04

Advise the client if pre-clearance or vegetation reduction may be required for safe and effective canine deployment.

4.2 Quotation and Confirmation

- Provide a written quotation outlining costs, estimated duration, and any site preparation requirements.
- Issue Terms and Conditions for client agreement prior to scheduling the survey.
- Upon acceptance, confirm booking and proposed survey date(s).
- Supply Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMS) upon request.

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On-Site Operations: Arrival and Preparation

4.3 On-Site Operations

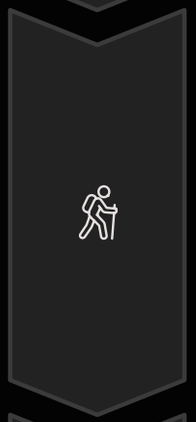
Arrival and Preparation



Arrive on site at the agreed time and report to the site manager or main contact.



Conduct a Health and Safety briefing with the site representative (if required).



Complete a pre-search human walkover survey (without dogs) to:

- Assess risks and hazards
- Identify areas unsuitable for canine deployment
- Plan the search pattern
- Conduct an initial human-based survey for visible plant evidence



Input preliminary site notes and known knotweed locations into the digital tracking app.

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Search Phases and Operational Conduct

Search Phases

Phase 1 – Area Search

Dogs conduct a systematic search across defined zones. Any areas of interest or initial indications are noted on the tracking app.

Phase 2 – Detailed Search (if required)

Where suspicion of buried or residual plant matter is high, a more focused search is carried out.

Operational Conduct

Each dog works in individual **30-minute shifts** to maintain accuracy and welfare.

The handler rotates dogs as appropriate, allowing for rest, hydration, and monitoring between sessions.

All areas of canine interest are checked for secondary confirmation:

- If an indication occurs with no visible knotweed, a second dog is deployed.
- If necessary, a small hand excavation or mechanical assistance (e.g., digger) is used to explore the area, followed by a 20-minute settling period before re-searching.
- Visible knotweed constitutes confirmation without secondary verification.

All detections, interest points, and confirmed findings are logged immediately within the tracking app.

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Post-Survey Procedure

4.4 Post-Survey Procedure

Conduct a final site walkover to ensure all equipment, dogs, and personnel are accounted for and the site is left in a safe condition.

Review recorded data and confirm entries in the tracking app.

Prepare a written report detailing:

- Site address and conditions
- Date of survey and personnel present
- Detection results and maps
- Summary of areas searched and findings
- Recommendations or follow-up actions (e.g., excavation or monitoring)

Submit the report to the client within the agreed timeframe.

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Canine Welfare

5. Canine Welfare

All dogs are handled in accordance with UK animal welfare legislation and CDS's welfare policy.



Monitoring

Dogs are monitored throughout operations for signs of fatigue, heat stress, or discomfort.



Work Sessions

Each dog is limited to 30-minute operational sessions followed by adequate rest. They have comprehensive fitness regimes and are regularly assessed by veterinary physiotherapists.



Hydration

Fresh water is provided at all times, and operations are adjusted for weather conditions (e.g., temperature limits).



Transport

Vehicles used for canine transport are professionally fitted and maintained .

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Documentation, Records, and Review

6. Documentation and Records

- Client enquiry records
- Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMS)
- Tracking app data and site maps
- Detection report and supporting images

All documentation is stored securely and retained in line with data protection requirements.

7. Review

This SOP will be reviewed annually or following any significant change in operational procedure, regulation, or best practice.

Canine Detection Solutions

Specialists in Invasive Plant Detection

whttp://www.k9detectionsolutions.co.uk/

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