



Level 4 Certificate for Surveyor of Japanese Knotweed (CSJK)

Qualification Specification

610/6738/6
CertSJKL425

November
2025

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1. ABBE

1.1 Introduction

ABBE, the Awarding Body for the Built Environment, is a forward-thinking organisation that offers a range of qualifications, benefits and support.

ABBE is regulated by Ofqual for the delivery of a range of qualifications. Our qualifications are nationally recognised helping learners to achieve their full potential and ambitions.

The full range of qualifications can be found on our website at www.abbqa.co.uk

1.2 Mission Statement

Our Values - Quality through Standards: Our aim is to provide a high-quality experience by building a strong community of mutual support and trust. We can use our collective talents to build meaningful partnerships to help us all to achieve our goals. ABBE is a recognised Awarding Organisation with strong professional integrity.

Our Vision: Is that every learner is confident, successful and has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Our Mission: ABBE Educates, inspires and empowers learners

1.3 Qualification Specification

The aim of this specification is to provide learners and centres with information about the content of this qualification. This specification is a live document and, as such, will be updated when required.

1.4 Enquiries

Any enquiries relating to this qualification should be addressed to:

ABBE

Birmingham City University

Curzon Building

4 Cardigan Street

Birmingham

B4 7BD

Tel: 0121 331 5174

Email: abbeenquiries@bcu.ac.uk

Website: www.abbqa.co.uk



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2. Qualification Information

2.1 Qualification Purpose

Achievement of the ABBE Level 4 Certificate for Surveyor of Japanese Knotweed (CSJK) demonstrates that the learner has obtained a good level of knowledge and experience within this sector. It is aimed at those involved in and with some prior knowledge and experience of the identification, assessment and management of Japanese knotweed, and other common invasive non-native plant species.

2.2 Who could take this Qualification?

The CSJK certification is a nationally recognised professional qualification for individuals involved in the management of Japanese knotweed. It requires candidates to have a vast amount of knowledge, reading, practical experience and preparation in order to complete the assessment.

2.3 Qualification Number

ABBE Level 4 Certificate for Surveyor of Japanese Knotweed (CSJK): 610/6738/6

2.4 Qualification Level

This qualification has been listed on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) at: Level 4

2.5 Total Qualification Time

This qualification is allocated Total Qualification Time (TQT) this includes Guided Learning (GL) expressed in hours, which indicates the number of hours of supervised or directed study time and assessment. Credit has also been allocated to this qualification.

- The Total Qualification Time (TQT) for this qualification is: 170 hours
- Guided Learning (GL) for this qualification is: 30 hours
- Credit Value: 17 credits

2.6 Age ranges

Pre 16	No
16-18	No
18+	Yes
19+	Yes

2.7 Structure of the Qualification

To achieve this qualification, learners must achieve **2** mandatory units.

Mandatory Unit(s)				
Unit No.	URN	Unit name	Level	Credit value
1	J/651/8598	Surveying Invasive Non-Native Plant Species	4	12
2	K/651/8599	Identification, Control and Management of Japanese Knotweed	4	5



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2.8 Grading

This qualification is graded Fail, Pass, Distinction. In order to successfully pass the qualification with a Pass, learners must achieve at least 50% in all units. In order to successfully pass the qualification with a Distinction, learners must achieve at least 70% in all units.

The grade achieved has no effect on the credit value of the qualification. The lowest grade achieved will determine the overall grade of the qualification.

Grading Scales:

FAIL – Below 50% on **any** unit

PASS – 50% or above on **all** units

DISTINCTION – 70% or above on **all** unit



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3. Qualification Unit(s)

Unit 1 – Surveying Invasive Non-Native Plant Species

Unit reference Number: J/651/8598

Level: 4

Credit: 12

GLH: 20

Learning outcomes:

1. Be able to identify characteristics of some terrestrial invasive non-native plants (INNPs), their pathways of introduction, and their environmental and economic impacts
2. Be able to interpret UK legislation relevant to invasive plant management
3. Understand the principles of site biosecurity to prevent contamination and spread of invasive species
4. Understand how to conduct site inspections, risk assessments, and monitoring for terrestrial invasive non-native plant infestations
5. Understand how to evaluate control options for terrestrial invasive non-native plant management
6. Understand the safe and effective use of herbicides for terrestrial invasive non-native plant treatment
7. Understand the management of waste from terrestrial invasive non-native plant activities
8. Be able to produce site reports, treatment records, and communicate findings effectively
9. Understand warranties, quotations, insurance, and bonds used in terrestrial invasive non-native plant management
10. Be able to recognise invasive plant species of concern in the UK

Unit 2 – Identification, Control and Management of Japanese Knotweed

Unit reference Number: K/651/8599

Level: 4

Credit: 5

GLH: 10

Learning outcomes:

1. Understand the ecology, impacts, and features of Japanese knotweed
2. Understand the control methods for Japanese knotweed
3. Be able to develop, implement and present a comprehensive Japanese knotweed management plan



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