Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

60 CORONATION DRIVE, BIRDWELL.

OS REF: SE 34796 02234.

INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES PROTOCOL.

Ref No: **241141/INNS.**

Date: **13th November 2025.**

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. Planning permission has been obtained to develop a 2-storey detached house and associated vegetated garden and hard landscaping on an area of land within the property of 60 Coronation Drive, Birdwell, Barnsley.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd carried out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site in November 2024. During that survey, Himalayan cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster simonsii*), an invasive non-native plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), was found present within the survey area.

1.3. As part of the conditions set out by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC), in the permission granted for these plans, Condition 8 includes the need for the following:

"An Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) protocol to ensure INNS are not spread in the Wild"

1.4. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd have been commissioned to prepare a document to satisfy that section of condition 8.

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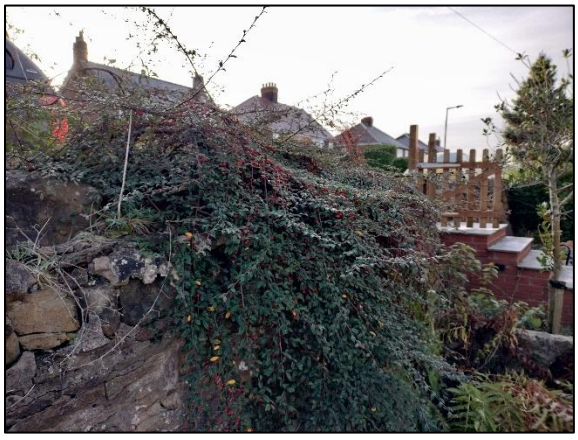
2. SUMMARY OF SURVEY FINDINGS.

2.1. One non-native invasive species of plant listed under Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 was identified on the site. This was Himalayan cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster simonsii*).

2.2. Himalayan cotoneaster was identified on site and is shown in the photographs below against the wall. Cotoneaster is spread by seed in the berries, which are present on the plants in the autumn and winter.

2.3. Bearberry cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster dammeri*) was also identified on site during the initial survey. This is not a schedule 9 species and therefore the same protocol as detailed below is not necessary for this plant. A photograph of these plants are shown below to help avoid confusion for workers on site.



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3. COTONEASTER PROTOCOL.

3.1. Cotoneasters are small trees and shrubs which can be either evergreen or deciduous. It is spread by seed in the berries produced on the plants in autumn and remain on the plants into the winter.

3.2. The plants will be cut back and the roots dug out during the spring or early summer when there are no berries present on the plants. The plants will then be chipped on site.

3.3. If it is essential that the plants are removed when there are berries present, then the plants will be cut down in their entirety and placed directly into bags, along with the soils within 2m of the plant, and sealed. They will then be disposed of as controlled waste.

3.4. The site will be regularly checked for the regrowth of the plants throughout the development phase and if any new plants are identified they will be treated as above.

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www.nonnativespecies.org

Produced by Kevin Doidge, Max Wade, Vicky Ames and Kelly McKee of RPS

Cotoneaster

Species Description

Scientific name: *Cotoneaster* species
AKA: Cotoneasterau (Welsh)
Native to: Majority of species originate from east Asia
Habitat: Rough ground

A large group of small trees and prostrate shrubs that can be either evergreen or deciduous. They are becoming increasingly naturalised due to birds which eat the small red berries and spread the seed. There is one native species, wild Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster cambricus*) which occurs as a few individuals in North Wales. This ID sheet includes those introduced species which are relatively common. Where they become established they can become dominant to the exclusion of native species.

Himalayan cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster simonsii*) is an erect deciduous shrub 3-4 metres high with 1.5-2.5 cm long leaves; small-leaved cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster microphyllou*) is an evergreen low-growing shrub with very small leaves (0.5-0.8cm long) and tree cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster frigidus*) is a deciduous or semi-evergreen shrub or small tree with leaves between 6-15 cm long and flowers in dense clusters. All these species have leaves which are shiny and hairless on the upper surface and slightly hairy on the lower surface. Cotoneaster species do not have thorns.

Wall cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*) is the most widely recorded species and is distinctive in having stems that spread horizontally in flattened herring-bone like branches and bears single flowers. Unlike the other cotoneasters mentioned, the underside of leaves of this species are relatively hairless.

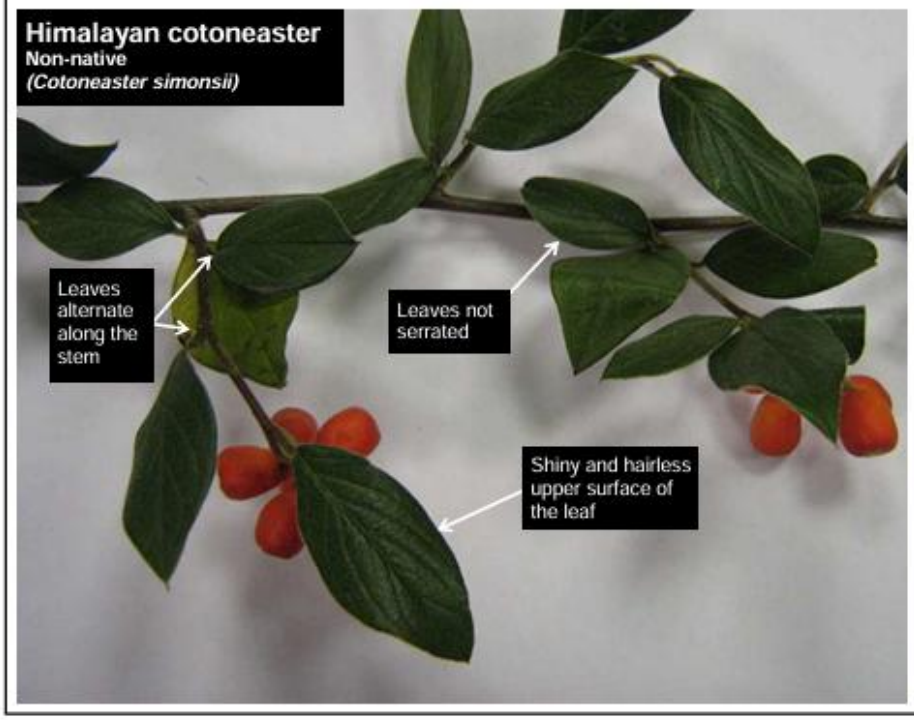
Cotoneasters have been in cultivation in GB since 1824 and there are over 100 species now widely cultivated in the UK. Other species could also become naturalised.

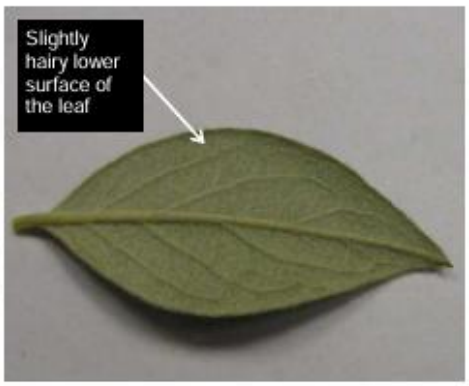
Cotoneaster species are listed under Schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 with respect to England and Wales. As such, it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause these species to grow in the wild.

For details of legislation go to www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation.

Himalayan cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster simonsii*)

Key ID Features





Identification throughout the year

Evergreen species such as the small-leaved cotoneaster can be identified throughout the year by its leaves. Deciduous species can be identified by the presence of the red berries which can remain throughout winter and, in the case of wall cotoneaster, by the distinctive herringbone-shaped branches.

Distribution

Cotoneaster species are widespread throughout Britain.

Source: NBN Gateway. Check website for current distribution.

Similar Species

Firethorn
Non-native
(*Pyracantha coccinea*)

A shrub with small serrated leaves that alternate along the stem, which has long thorns

Wilson's honeysuckle
Non-native
(*Lonicera nitida*)

Similar to the small leaved cotoneasters, leaves opposite not alternate

Aromatic wintergreens
Non-native
(*Gaultheria* species)

An evergreen shrub with alternate leaves and bell shaped flowers, unlike the five petalled flowers of cotoneasters

Other similar species which may be confused with cotoneaster include:

Escallonia *(Escallonia macrantha)* - an evergreen shrub which has alternate serrated leaves and numerous pinkish-red flowers, no thorns;
Barberry *(Berberis vulgaris)* - a thorny shrub with small serrated leaves, yellow flowers and red lozenge-shaped berries; and
Sea buckthorn *(Hippophae rhamnoides)* - a thorny densely branched shrub with alternate long thin leaves with bright orange berries on female plants.

Some other species of Cotoneaster

Wall cotoneaster
Non-native
(*Cotoneaster horizontalis*)

Herringbone-shaped branches

Himalayan cotoneaster
Non-native
(*Cotoneaster simonsii*)

Evergreen habit

Small-leaved cotoneaster
Non-native
(*Cotoneaster microphyllus*)

References and further reading:

Johnson, O and More, D (2004) "*Collins Tree Guide*". HarperCollins

Preston, C D, Pearman, D A and Dines, T A (editors) (2002) *"New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora"*. Oxford University Press

Stace, C (1999) *"Field Flora of the British Isles"*. Cambridge University Press

Photos from: Kevin Doidge, Max Wade, Mike Harris

Toolbox Talk: Cotoneaster species

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants

Cotoneasters are a large group of trees and shrubs with some species being evergreen and some deciduous. The species is becoming naturalised through birds eating the berries and causing the spread of the plant. One of the species is native, Wild Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster cambricus*) which occurs occasionally throughout North Wales.

Identification.

Cotoneaster species vary although the most common species, Wall cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*) is distinctive with flattened herring-bone like branches. Most species have shiny leaves located alternate along the stem.

Habitat and Spreading.

Cotoneaster grows in a variety of habitats. In urban areas the plant is characteristic of disturbed dry sites. Some species are also commonly found in herb-rich limestone grassland, crags and other semi-natural habitats.

Cotoneaster spreads through small red berries that are present on the plant during the later summer and autumn.

The best form of control of the plant is to prevent it from seeding by cutting back or pulling before the berries are present.

Legislation.

Under section 14 and Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence for it to be planted or otherwise caused to grow in the wild. This includes spreading the species by transferring polluted ground material from one area to the other.

If Cotoneaster is identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk