



JAPANESE KNOTWEED BURIAL

ADVICE NOTE

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The environmental advantage of burying knotweed is to keep the waste on-site. From a developers perspective knotweed burial diverts waste from landfill which is helpful when creating a Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP). In addition Knotweed burial can be more cost effective than taking waste off-site. Contact PBA now to see how we can help you economically undertake Knotweed burial.

PBA Solutions can offer cell burial as a complete service or as a management only service, where the developer completes work using their own machinery under the watchful eye of a PBA Knotweed Clerk of works.

There are two methods of burying Japanese knotweed:

Method 1) To a depth greater than 5m
Method 2) In a cell using root barrier to encapsulate the knotweed. Cells are not as deep (top of cell should be greater than 2m) as a straight forward burial and thus often more appropriate.

The Environment Agency (EA) favours Knotweed burial creation because of the environmental benefits of retaining waste on-site. For this reason they have made specific reference to the legal context of the operation in terms of waste licensing. Anyone depositing, treating, keeping or disposing of a controlled waste such as Knotweed should do so under licence. Burial involves at least one of these acts so the EA have said that provided a Knotweed Clerk of Works is appointed, such as PBA Solutions, and work is completed in strict accordance with the EA Code of Practice, then licensing will not be required and action would not usually be taken against anyone burying Knotweed.

Advantages of Knotweed Burial

- Diverts waste away from Landfill
- Can be more cost effective than Landfill
- Helps with SWMP
- Low residual risk of future Knotweed issues

At PBA Solutions, we recommend that cell design is considered early on in a development to ensure that a suitable location is found.

Key factors to be considered when looking at cell burial as a control solution:

- Previous chemical control may render the waste to be hazardous as the contamination may leech into the surrounding environment.
- Contamination status. Only Knotweed-contaminated waste can be buried. The Environment Agency will want contamination test analysis to verify this and must be notified 1 week in advance of treatment.
- Water table. A cell should be located above the water table so as not to be exposed to this type of erosion.
- Design. PBA Solutions can validate a suitable location, specify root barrier type and through assessing the volume of Knotweed waste generated can evaluate a suitable shaped cell.

- The Environment Agency advise that the location of the cell is plotted on a plan and recorded with the property deeds. This informs the landowner that the cell exists and should not be disturbed.
- At PBA solutions we recommend that the plan locating the cell should also record the shape, depth and date of construction. This plan should form part of a Knotweed Management Plan and Building Maintenance Manual. The residual risks attached to the existence of the cell should be stated within this documentation.

- Where a cell is created beneath foundations, a structural engineer must specify the method in which the cover material is installed to prevent subsidence.
- The location of existing and proposed services should be understood.

At PBA Solutions we can help at all stages of a burial solution, and due to the complexity of this method of control, it is suggested that PBA are appointed early on.