

The purpose of this advice note is to provide information about Japanese Knotweed specific to Landowners and Estate Managers.

To help you understand Japanese Knotweed, this advice note offers suggestions that you can implement.

The most important issue is that Japanese Knotweed is legislated through the **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981** and that all waste containing Japanese Knotweed comes under the control of the **Environmental Protection Act 1990**.

Why Treat Japanese Knotweed?

Failure to treat Knotweed is financial suicide. The rhizomatous roots grow at an alarming rate, so while a Knotweed stand may not be causing you problems now, you can rest assured that it will be in the future.

If not controlled the destruction of Knotweed will lead to the repair of structures, tarmac and paving, as Knotweed root will persistently cause more damage year on year.

However the repair cost is only half the story; the real issue is not visible and comes in the form of soil contamination. Knotweed roots are akin to icebergs; there is a lot more root underground than there are stems above. One square metre of Knotweed can generate in excess of 20 tonnes of waste. Soil containing Knotweed is classified as controlled waste and at over £80.00 per tonne to move off-site (including Landfill Tax), it becomes easy to understand why PBA Solutions promote the use of herbicide. Through early intervention and the use of herbicides to control Knotweed, huge savings can be found, against the financial penalty of doing nothing.

Key issues

- **Get good advice**
- **To gain maximum financial benefit, have a strategy for Knotweed control (Knotweed Management Plan)**
- **Early identification makes financial sense**
- **Understand legal implications & responsibilities**
- **Educating land users and staff is important**
- **A control program is essential**

How does this legislation affect you the Landowner?

The Wild life Act 1981 states that you should not grow or cause Japanese Knotweed to grow. **Someone convicted of an offence can be fined £5000 and/or 6 months imprisonment.**

The Environmental Protection Act states that once Japanese Knotweed is dug or cut it becomes controlled waste. Depositing of controlled waste without a licence is an offence. However in some circumstances exemption can be sought from the Environment Agency (EA).

The Environment Agency advise in their document 'The Knotweed Code of Practice' (EA CoP) that if a Landowner fully complies with the EA CoP they would not normally need to have an exemption certificate or permit. It is therefore critical that Landowners understand how to deal with Knotweed.

Using a Japanese Knotweed Consultant may be the best way forward.

More information:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

How to deal with Knotweed?

It is important to gain the best advice possible. It is essential that advice given is supported by the EA CoP.

In most cases anyone promising a quick fix will be working outside of the EA Code.

Appointing a consultant or clerk of works, allowing them to **educate staff, map Knotweed and provide a strategy for control is critical**. This should be in the form of a Knotweed Management Plan (KMP). Any strategy should identify best possible control measures that conform to legislation requirements, are environmentally sound and meet any future land use or development.

The Environment Agency give the following advice **“Site managers need to be careful of claims made about products and methods on offer for the management of Japanese Knotweed”**. They also state that it is **“essential that you set up some form of Japanese Knotweed Management Plan (KMP)”**.



Financial Sense

It has been quoted in the media that Japanese Knotweed costs a lot of money to control. Indeed on development sites **it can be said that just several square metres of the weed can cost £10,000 to dig out** and take to a landfill. However these costs can be avoided and **a lot of money saved if a strategy for managing Japanese Knotweed is implemented**. For example through a herbicide programme thousands of pounds can be saved. However herbicide control does take time so early identification and action make financial sense.

The Environment

Understanding the site where Knotweed is growing, and being able to interpret the site situation is critical:

The following fundamental points need to be considered.

1) The correct chemicals are used, so that they don't have an adverse effect on the surrounding environment, including plants, trees and vegetation in close proximity to the stand of Knotweed being controlled.

2) In what circumstances and under which control methods does the Environment Agency need to be informed? For example, it is necessary to advise the EA when applying chemicals near water courses.

3) Ensure that environmental precautions are implemented during treatment, such as protective equipment, environmental records, the provision of chemical spill kits, eye wash kits, herbicide records, appropriate chemical storage and transportation.

Failure to treat Knotweed can lead to structural damage of buildings. Tarmac is particularly susceptible to Knotweed damage and contamination; repair is often expensive. Early implementation of a herbicide programme would negate the need to replace the tarmac.

It is important to get good advice to gain maximum financial benefit and understand that

sometimes an integrated approach is needed for effective control. Combining a range of control methods on a site may be necessary to ensure that all present and future land use needs are met.

Equally, combining the control of Knotweed with Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed, may also be advantageous.

Take Action

At PBA Solutions we are able to professionally survey your site and offer the most effective and financially viable solution in the control of Japanese Knotweed. We offer a range of control solutions and treatment packages. Furthermore we offer GPS mapping and treatment together, enabling us to quickly identify and get your weed problem under control.

This advice note is intended to demonstrate that through taking appropriate action, **identifying a strategy, understanding methods of control, coupled with future land use, will save you money in the long run.** Using Knotweed and invasive weed professionals will help you implement a strategy to achieve this goal.