**Knotweed control at Llandaff.**

**Introduction**

Japanese knotweed Fallopia japonica is an extremely long-living perennial which spreads solely by vegetative means. Rhizome fragments as small as 0.7 g will regenerate into new plants.

It is not harmful to health in any way; in Japan and some parts of Wales the young leaves and shoots of the plant are eaten. However, it is extremely vigorous and once established is difficult to eradicate. It is easily spread to new areas by earth moving.

In the winter it is not visible above ground although the dead stems, which resemble a reddish brown bamboo, are often obvious.

Due to its vigour and the difficulty in eradicating it, it has come to be extremely prevalent in certain parts of the country. Because of this in 1981 the Wildlife and Countryside Act (Section 14 and Part II of Schedule 9) made it an offence for it to be planted in the wild or otherwise caused to grow in the wild. A defence against the charge is that the accused took all reasonable steps and exercised all due diligence to avoid committing an offence.”

We are fortunate that we do not have any Knotweed on our other sites.

**Plan of works**

With the above in mind the Japanese Knotweed at the Llandaff Campus must be eradicated.

We started treating Japanese Knotweed to begin an eradication programme, May 2013, that would take between 3 and 5 years. We have arranged site is visited 3 times per growing season to treat with a glyphosate based chemical as per the following programme for the following the season just gone and the forthcoming season. This work has also included a large area at the rear of the site, alongside the flood defence embankment and the new playing field. This is in addition to the land at the rear of O Block and the river side of B and N Block.

April 2015 Treat with glyphosate signs of new growth

June 2015 Attend site to check on weed and spray if necessary.

August 2015 Attend site to check on weed and spray if necessary.

May 2016 Attend site to check on weed and spray if necessary.

July 2016 Attend site to check on weed and spray if necessary.

September 2016 Attend site to check on weed and spray if necessary.

May 2017 Attend site to check on weed and spray if necessary.

July 2017 Attend site to check on weed and spray if necessary.

September 2017 Attend site to check on weed and spray if necessary.

Method Statement for the eradication of Japanese Knotweed from the land at the rear of Llandaff Campus, 200 Western Ave, Cardiff CF5 2YB

This Method Statement outlines the course of action that we needs to be take to eradicate this invasive weed in preparation for the installation of an additional grass surface sports pitch. It is proposed that Gavin Jones staff that have the expertise in the eradication of this weed and who have the necessary experience and qualifications to apply herbicides and who will abide by the details contained within this Method Statement. This Method Statement should be read in conjunction with the Environment Agency Code of Practice regarding Japanese Knotweed.

**The Site**

The site is to the rear of Llandaff Campus, 200 Western Ave, Cardiff CF5 2YB and accessed across an overflow car park and existing sports field which are surrounded by mature woodland and existing Japanese Knotweed which is currently being managed.

Following the construction of an additional football pitch at the rear of the site a recent survey found an area of Japanese Knotweed with at least ten shoots showing

**Objectives**

The first objective is to contain the existing Japanese Knotweed on site and prevent further spread across the site.

 An agreed control method and programme of works has been in place for approximately two years with regards the eradication of the existing Japanese Knotweed on site to eliminate its spread.

To monitor the site after development to ensure the site is clear of Japanese Knotweed.

**Methods of Removal**

The method most favoured for a development site is to excavate the area where the Japanese Knotweed is growing and stockpile it elsewhere on site. The stockpiled soil can then be treated with either a contact or residual herbicide. The treatment is quicker as moving the soil to stockpile has the same effect as in that disturbance of the soil will stimulate growth which allows treatment to be carried out more quickly thus reducing the risk of further contamination.

Others methods such as sifting the soil and taking out the rhizomes would in this instance not be effective as the rhizomes would only be in their infancy.

Japanese Knotweed and the soil it is growing in can in some instances be buried on site which is a cheaper method of control. However burial on site in this case is not an option due to the soil conditions and the space available on site.

**Herbicides**

It is essential that a competent and qualified person carries out the herbicide treatment. Gavin Jones employees have the appropriate National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC) certification. They carefully follow the instructions on the herbicide label and wear correct PPE.

Glyphosate contact herbicide, applied April - October, late season preferable.

**Summary**

Japanese Knotweed was first noticed on the site in May 2013 while an ecology assessment was being carried out of the site.

During the summer of 2013/2014/2015 the existing Japanese Knotweed has been treated and will continue to be managed until total eradication has been achieved.

**Conclusion**

We are on course to eradicate the Knotweed but the 3-5 year period has been extended due to the new sports pitch construction.

Because the new area of infestation is fairly small and the plants as yet have not become too well established it would be possible to eradicate the Japanese Knotweed by digging out the area stockpiling it on site and treat the stockpile in the spring/summer before removal to a licenced tip.

The management of the Japanese Knotweed on site shall be overseen by the site Supervisor/ Foreman of Gavin Jones Ltd.

All information concerning the identification of Japanese Knotweed is displayed in the site Supervisors/Foremen’s office and mess room facilities.

The area of Japanese Knotweed has been excavated to a depth of 600mm and stockpiled on an agreed area of the site. This excavation was carried out summer 2015.

The stockpiled area has been clearly signed and stored on a root barrier membrane to avoid further contamination. During the summer months the stockpile will be inspected for any signs of growth of Japanese Knotweed and should be treated with either a contact or residual herbicide. After treatment the herbicide should be allowed to take effect and the heap should be turned to encourage further regrowth and then treated again this should be carried out for a complete season.

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