

Environmental Standard Operating Procedure 19

Japanese Knotweed Control

Japanese Knotweed was introduced into the UK in the 1800's as an ornamental garden plant. Tall and vigorous growing, it soon dominates and out competes native species. It can regenerate in almost any environment from a fragment as small as 0.7 gram (10mm in length) of rhizome material or cut stems.

Aim

To control and eliminate current stands of Japanese Knotweed, Giant Knotweed and hybrids; and to prevent the spread of this plant in the undertaking of bankside operations.



Environmental Risk

Hazard	Likelihood	Mitigation
Spread of Japanese Knotweed to other surrounding areas via water	High	Control existing stands, no mechanical cutting near water
Existing stands could increase in size outcompeting native species	High	Control existing stands
Disturbing the root network, whilst undertaking works, thereby promoting its growth	Medium	Mark an exclusion area around the plant

Delivery Method

- Japanese Knotweed and its associates are best treated by stem injection in late summer.
- Allow stems to grow then inject with glyphosate before flowering. For plants with small stems, foliar spraying or leaf brushing with glyphosate can be used.
- Some plants in water can be difficult to treat by the above method. Stems can be cut to just below the first node, herbicide dripped into the stem and the stem bunged.

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Standard Procedure

- Identify existing areas of Japanese Knotweed for control;
- Mark an exclusion area of 10m to the nearest stem, when working in the vicinity of the plant;
- Control Japanese Knotweed by herbicide application July–September (see ESOP 15);
- Do not remove cut material from site, treat in situ;
- Place the cut vegetative material on an impermeable membrane, ensuring all foliage is collected above potential flood height, allow to dry then burn;
- Carry out at least two checks per season, and re-treat any living stems as above;
- Continue to check for re-growth and spread, until one whole year after no re-growth is seen.

Consultation Required

- **Environment Agency** – Herbicide application near water (see ESOP 15)
- **Natural England** – Control of species on designated sites

Further Information

Environment Agency guidance on removal – <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/wildlife/130079.aspx>

[http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/nonnativespecies/japaneseknotweed.a
spx](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/nonnativespecies/japaneseknotweed.aspx)