

Japanese Knotweed
Fallopia japonica
Method Statement
For Removal

20 Forest Avenue
Cowplain
Hampshire
PO8 8JD

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 I have been instructed by Debtorbook Solutions to formulate a Method Statement for the eradication of Japanese Knotweed from the land at the rear of 18-20 Forest Avenue Cowplain PO8 8JD
- 1.2 This Method Statement outlines the course of action that needs to be taken to eradicate this invasive weed. It is proposed to employ a company that has expertise in the eradication of this weed and which employs staff with 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.

2.0 The Site

- 2.1 The site is to the rear of 18 and 20 Forest Avenue Cowplain PO8 8JD and accessed between the two houses. The site is surrounded by housing on all sides with a number of mature trees in two areas of the site which are predominantly Oaks. The middle of the site is open rough ground with little vegetation. The two areas of trees have been fenced off which has allowed the grass and vegetation to grow unrestricted.
- 2.2 My client purchased the land at the beginning of 2012 which had an existing approval for development. The previous owner had used the site to store and dump an assortment of what could be termed as builder's rubbish.
- 2.3 On purchasing the site my client had the area cleared of rubbish and fenced off the trees in line with the recommendations of BS 5837:12 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. The rubble that was on site was levelled out but contained within the central area.
- 2.4 The proposed development will require the construction of three properties, construction of roadway and parking areas, installation of drainage and services. Some material will be exported from site and the remaining inert material will be used on site in construction work. New top soil will need to be brought in for areas to be landscaped.
- 2.5 On May 17 2012 ECOSA Ltd carried out a Phase 1 ecology survey of the site at the request of Debtorbook Solutions; during this survey they found a small area of Japanese Knotweed with at least ten shoots showing. Appendix one shows the area marked on the

plan by ECOSA Ltd. No other areas on site were identified by ECOSA Ltd to contain Japanese Knotweed. ECOSA Ltd published their final report on the 16 October 2012. The report refers only to this one area where the Japanese Knotweed was found.

2.6 Further inspections of the site have been made. I have visited the site on Thursday 22 November 2012. No evidence of Japanese Knotweed in the area identified by ECOSA Ltd or across the site especially in the undisturbed areas within the trees was found. That is not to say that it is still not in the area first found by ECOSA Ltd but their concerns of it being spread throughout the site are at this time unfounded.

2.7 At the time of the inspection of the site by ECOSA Ltd they took a picture of the knotweed which is attached as Appendix two. It can be seen that the plants are small and not as yet established which leads me to believe that the weed has been brought to site by the previous owner in some dumped rubbish and as yet the rhizomes have not become established and are still contained within the first identified small area.

2.8 Attached as appendix three is a proposed site plan and it can be seen that the area of Japanese Knotweed comes within the road and car parking area. This area on site has now been fenced off.

3.0 Method Statement Objectives

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

3.2 Agree a control method and programme of works with an agreed control company to eradicate the Japanese Knotweed from the site and stop its spread.

3.3 To commence active control of the Japanese Knotweed immediately and have the site cleared of the weed within one year.

3.4 To monitor the site for a further year after development to ensure the site is clear of Japanese Knotweed.

4.0 Methods of Removal

4.1A herbicide spraying programme would involve the use of a contact herbicide and the weed treated over several occasions throughout the growing season in situ. To be effective the treatment needs to be carried out over a number of years and away from any required ground works as a result of this it would not be effective in this situation on this site.

4.2 Digging over the ground to generate growth coupled with a herbicide treatment is time consuming and this method of control is not suited to a development site

4.3 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 4.2 in that disturbance of the soil will stimulate growth which allows treatment to be carried out quicker thus reducing the risk of further contamination.

- 4.4 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 and the soil is a wet heavy clay which would make sifting difficult.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 Excavation of the area and removal to landfill could be considered in this instance due to the small area involved. The landfill site must be a Hampshire County Council licensed site and the operator of the landfill site must be notified that the waste contains Japanese Knotweed and permitted under their licence to receive contaminated waste.

5.0 Herbicides

- 5.1 It is essential that a competent and qualified person carries out the herbicide treatment. Contractors must have the appropriate National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC) certification. They must carefully follow the instructions on the herbicide label. You can only use certain herbicides in or near water.
- 5.2 Glyphosate contact herbicide, applied May- October, late season preferable, non-persistent

2,4-D Amine contact herbicide, applied May–October early season preferable, persistent up to one month.

Triclopyr contact herbicide applied May–October, early season preferable, persistent up to six weeks

Picloram residual herbicide, applied all year, can be applied in winter, persistent for up to two years

6.0 Summary

- 6.1 On purchasing the site at the beginning of 2012 the trees were fenced off in line with BS 5837:2012 and the site cleared of builder's rubbish. Rubble and soil was retained on site and levelled out.
- 6.2 Japanese Knotweed was first noticed on the site in May 2012 by ECOSA Ltd in carrying out an ecology assessment of the site. Ten shoots were counted and the area of contamination plotted on a plan Appendix 2. Japanese Knotweed was only found in this one area of the site.
- 6.3 During the summer of 2012 the site other than the areas contained by the tree protection fence were trimmed twice and weed killed using a Glyphosate herbicide.
- 6.4 A further inspection of the site was carried out in November 2012 where no evidence of Japanese Knotweed was found across the whole site.

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1 From what can be assessed from the information above that it would appear that a small amount of Japanese Knotweed has been brought on site by the previous owners and the soil/rubble in which the rhizomes were contained has been spread over this small identified area amounting to ten shoots noted in May 2012 which have not as yet become established.
- 7.2 The strimming and herbicide treatment has restricted its growth and spread thus preventing the rhizomes to become established and the plants have not been able to set seed.
- 7.3 Because of the invasive manner of Japanese Knotweed it is agreed that it is still in the original area as first indicated by ECOSA Ltd and treatment should be undertaken to eradicate it and to stop its spread to other areas of the site.
- 7.4 It can be seen from the attached plan appendix 3 that the area of Japanese Knotweed is within the car parking and roadway area and not near the proposed footprint of the proposed new properties.
- 7.5 Because the area of infestation is only small and the plants as yet have not become 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 before removal to a licenced tip.

8.0 Method Statement for removal of Japanese Knotweed on land to the rear of 18- 20 Forest Ave Cowplain

- 8.1 Set up a contract with a company that has the expertise to deal with the removal of Japanese Knotweed.
- 8.2 The management of the Japanese Knotweed on site shall be overseen by the site foreman or a representative of the client. This management plan and appendices should be kept for future site owners. The Management Plan should be read in conjunction with the Environment Agency Code of Practice for Japanese Knotweed.
- 8.3 All information concerning the identification of Japanese Knotweed to be displayed in the site foremen's office and mess room facilities.
- 8.4 The area of Japanese Knotweed as shown by ECOSA Ltd and is presently fence off should be enlarged by a metre and excavated to a depth of 600mm and stockpiled on an agreed area of the site. This excavation to be carried out as soon as possible.
- 8.5 This area of excavation to remain fenced off and treated with a residual herbicide. Prior to any construction work of this area a root barrier membrane should be laid across the entire area. Extreme care should be taken to ensure the material is not holed and all joints are sealed correctly. The membrane should have a life span of at least fifty years.
- 8.6 The stockpiled area as shown on the attached plan appendix 3 should be clearly signed and stored on a root barrier membrane to avoid further contamination. In the spring the

stockpile should 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 and the following spring if no new growth occurs then the spoil heap can be removed from site to a licence tip. The licence holder of the tip should be informed of the fact that it contained Japanese Knotweed and what herbicide treatment it has received so the correct method of disposal is achieved i.e. chemical or controlled waste.

- 8.7 The site throughout the development work and for the following year should be inspected for any other signs of Japanese Knotweed. All inspections should be recorded and made available for viewing by any interested parties.

N J Trowell
3 December 2012



Picture taken by ECOSA Ltd 17 May 2012 Picture shows Japanese Knotweed on land behind 18-20 Forest Avenue