



## Invasive Weed Control Limited

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| Date          | 18/01/2019                                       |
| Client        | JHD Ecological                                   |
| Site          | Queen Court Farm, ME13 8UA                       |
| Author        | Tom Williamson CSJK                              |
| Report Status | Final  |
| Title         | Post-works update – Japanese Knotweed Mitigation |

### Description of works

The initial removal works were completed over two weeks between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018. IWC provided a clerk of works to oversee the implementation of the management plan and ensure works complied with best practice throughout the project and adhered to relevant environmental legislation concerning invasive plants (primarily the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and the Environmental Act 1990).

### Works method

The works consisted of a complete excavation of two areas of knotweed and underground rhizome system, as identified in the initial survey and management plan. All material was processed through a Maximus aggregate screener to separate rhizomes, fine soils and larger debris.

Before the excavation began a stockpile area was created and lined with an approved knotweed-resistant geotextile. The fine soils collected during the process were transferred to this area for future monitoring. The soil was distributed to ensure that the depth did not exceed one metre. This will allow any remaining rhizomes to produce growth which can be chemically treated, rather than becoming dormant in the soil.

A team of workers were stationed on the rhizomes belt to pick out all rhizome pieces. These rhizomes were temporarily stored on an area of hard standing, awaiting disposal to a licensed landfill facility.

Larger debris was collected and inspected for contamination. Clean loads were recycled back into the excavation area as backfill material.

The larger knotweed infestation was in an area that had previously been used for landfill. In some areas the rhizomes were chased out to a depth of approximately 5 metres and appeared to originate from within the landfill material, as opposed to growing down from the surface.

The smaller knotweed infestation was more typical and proceeded to a maximum depth of approximately 2 metres. A section of disused barn was deconstructed and removed in order to chase out the rhizome system completely.

### **Biosecurity**

The site was segregated into clean and contaminated zones. Disinfection stations were set up at the entrance/exit to the contaminated zone and all workers were required to pass through the facilities to clean boots and equipment before exiting.

All machinery involved in the excavation was kept within the contaminated area for the duration of the works.

Upon completion of the works the vehicle transport routes were subjected to a soil scrape. This soil was deposited within the stockpile area.

Before leaving site all vehicles and machinery were inspected, cleaned and disinfected to ensure no knotweed material would leave the contaminated zone.

### **Site precautions**

The excavation and stockpile areas will be subject to a monitoring program. Disturbance should be avoided in order to prevent causing accidental spread of contaminated material. If disturbance or works cannot be avoided IWC should be contacted to provide assistance on how to proceed without causing further spread.

### **Monitoring and herbicide retreatment program**

IWC will undertake a twice-yearly monitoring and retreatment program for the works area (excavation and stockpile), applicable for up to five years or until two years without regrowth is achieved.

A glyphosate-based non-residual herbicide such as Roundup ProActive 360 will be applied via a knapsack sprayer or stem injection gun during the growing season (April – October) by a City & Guilds qualified member of staff, accompanied by a management plan update for each visit. JHD and the land owner will be given due notice of each visit to ensure access can be granted.

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### **References**

*IWC (2018) Japanese knotweed management plan – Queen Court Farm 2018*

*PCA Code of Practice for Control of Japanese knotweed*

*EA – Code of Practice for Japanese Knotweed: Managing Japanese knotweed on Development Sites*

## Works images



*Excavator and Maximus screener in the contaminated area.*



*Rhizomes ready for collection.*



*The larger excavation area after back-fill and levelling*



*Positioning the stockpile geotextile liner*



*Rhizome separation in progress*



*Soil bund - fenced off with signage*



*Overhead view of the treatment area post-works*