

Japanese Knotweed Elimination Ltd

Method Statement: Preventing Knotweed Spread via Tracked Vehicles (On-Site Disposal)

Project: Feeder Pipe Bridge Replacement

Location: Abercynon, along the River Taff

Date: 23/04/24

1. Introduction

This method statement outlines the procedures for preventing the spread of Japanese knotweed via tracked vehicles within the site known as the Feeder Pipe Bridge Replacement, along the River Taff. The plan ensures all work adheres to Environment Agency and Property Care Association (PCA) guidelines while keeping contaminated soil on-site.

2. Responsibilities

- **Site Manager:** Overall responsibility for implementation of this method statement.
- **Equipment Operators:** Responsible for operating machinery in accordance with this method statement and cleaning procedures.
- **Environmental Consultant (Optional):** Advise on best practices and ensure compliance with regulations.

3. Equipment and Materials

- Tracked vehicles (e.g., excavators, dumpers)
- Wheel washing facilities (e.g., commercial wash bay, rumble strips)
- Dedicated stockpile area for excavated knotweed material (with impermeable liner)
- Disinfectant wipes/spray (for cleaning tools and equipment)
- Skip (for general non-knotweed waste)

4. Work Procedures

4.1 Pre-Commencement

- **Knotweed Survey:** A pre-construction survey will identify the extent and location of Japanese knotweed on the site.
- **Exclusion Zone:** A designated exclusion zone will be established around the knotweed infestation.
- **Clean and Dirty Areas:** Clearly demarcate clean and dirty work areas on the site plan. Tracked vehicles will only operate within the dirty (knotweed) area.
- **Wheel Washing:** Establish a functional wheel washing facility at the designated exit point from the dirty area.

4.2 Excavation and Stockpiling

- Tracked vehicles operating within the dirty area will only be used for excavating knotweed material.
- Excavated knotweed material will be loaded directly onto dumpers without driving over clean ground.
- Dumper tracks will be cleaned thoroughly before exiting the dirty area using the wheel washing facilities.
- Excavated knotweed material will be stockpiled in a designated area with an impermeable liner to prevent contamination of underlying soil.

4.3 Cleaning and Inspection

- Wheel washing facilities will be established at all entry and exit points to the site.
- Upon exiting the dirty area, all tracked vehicles will undergo a rigorous cleaning using the wheel washing facilities. This includes undercarriage, tracks, and mudguards.
- Vehicles will be required to pass through these facilities before leaving the site to remove any soil or plant material adhering to tyres.
- The wheel washing facilities will be equipped with high-pressure hoses and cleaning agents suitable for removing Japanese knotweed fragments.
- After cleaning, all vehicles will be visually inspected for any remaining plant material. Any debris will be removed and disposed of within the designated knotweed stockpile.
- Tools and equipment used within the dirty area will be disinfected with wipes or spray before being used in clean areas.

4.4 Waste Disposal (On-Site)

- Excavated knotweed material will be left to decompose on-site using a licensed waste management plan. This plan should be developed in consultation with an environmental consultant, ensuring compliance with regulations.

5. Monitoring and Records

- Daily inspections will be conducted to ensure adherence to this method statement and biosecurity protocols.
- Records will be maintained documenting cleaning procedures, inspections, and waste disposal activities.

6. Contingency Measures

- In case of a suspected spill of knotweed material on clean ground, the area will be immediately cordoned off.
- Contaminated soil will be carefully collected and disposed of within the designated knotweed stockpile.

- The affected area will be thoroughly cleaned using a suitable disinfectant.

7. Health and Safety

- All personnel must wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when working in the dirty area.
- Operators of tracked vehicles must be trained in the identification of Japanese knotweed and biosecurity protocols.
- A risk assessment will be conducted to identify potential hazards associated with the work and implement control measures.

8. References

- Environment Agency: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-japanese-knotweed-from-spreading>