

ENVIRONMENT CONTROLS PART OF JKL

INVASIVE WEED CONTROL

AQUATIC WEED CONTROL

AMENITY WEED MANAGEMENT

CONTAMINATED GROUND REMOVAL



**PUBLIC
HIGHWAYS
WEED CONTROL
METHODOLOGY**

Japanese Knotweed Ltd & Environment Controls
NATIONAL SPECIALIST CONTROL SERVICES

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MANAGEMENT PLAN | SURVEY | TREATMENT | REMOVAL | TRAINING RESOURCES

PUBLIC HIGHWAYS CONTROL

Environment Controls, providing specialist control services for; Invasive Native and Non-Native Weeds (INNS), aquatic weeds, invasive species, amenity weed management, and removal of asbestos contaminated soils.

Environment Controls works with industry bodies and others to promote best practice in vegetation and weed management in the amenity sector. We support the work of the Amenity Forum in promoting the importance of sustainable pesticide use and developing user practice so that all amenity pesticide users are operating to consistently high standards. More information on our methods of control can be found in our Amenity Weed Management section.



This document, written by Darren Greatbatch outlines the Environment Controls methodology for public highways.

AMENITY WEED CONTROL SPECIALIST

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Japanese Knotweed Ltd has established itself as one of the industry leading companies in the remediation of Japanese knotweed. Providing Surveys and Knotweed Management Plans, including services for chemical treatment programmes and excavation methods. All provided with the option of Insurance Backed Guarantees.

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WEED CONTROL

Weed growth on the Public Highway is unsightly and can result in damage to the surface of the carriageway or footway. It can also impede the flow of surface water into the highway drainage system. To address this issue, most local Authorities undertake a programme of weed spraying treatments two or three times a year usually in March/April/May and July/August/September on all urban roads throughout the urban network. Environment Controls (part of Japanese Knotweed Ltd) works with industry bodies and others to promote best practice in vegetation and weed management in the amenity sector. We support the work of the Amenity Forum in promoting the importance of sustainable pesticide use and developing user practice so that all amenity pesticide users are operating to consistently high standards.

MANAGEMENT OF ASSOCIATED RISKS

Risks associated with the use of pesticides in amenity areas, such as parks, is specifically considered as part of the authorisation process. Legally enforceable conditions of use are imposed on the way products can be applied to ensure the public are not exposed to levels of pesticides that would harm health or have unacceptable effects on the environment.

Pesticides in amenity areas should be used responsibly and only as part of an integrated programme of control. They can help deliver substantial benefits for society which include management of conservation areas, invasive species, and flood risks; access to high quality sporting facilities; and safe public spaces (for example, by preventing weed growth on hard surfaces creating trip hazards), industrial sites and transport infrastructure.

MANAGEMENT OF HERBICIDES

The popular herbicide to treat these areas is Glyphosate, this has many trade names, but only certain Glyphosate based products are approved for amenity use and namely upon a hard surface for on or near water.

For that reason, we only use approved Glyphosate products for Amenity weed Control.

- Roundup Pro Vantage
- Gallup Amenity
- Gallup Hi Aktiv
- Barbarian XL
- Quartz Adjuvant
- Top Film Aquatic Adjuvant
- Firebrand Adjuvant
- Mixture B Adjuvant

Most treatments are carried out in March, April and May, then July, August and September.

OPERATIONAL METHOD

The provision of the highway weed control will be undertaken by several means appropriate for the topography and accessibility of the areas. A BASIS certified crop Advisor/Agronomist oversees all herbicide recommendations for each project.

Large accessible areas will be treated with Yamaha 350cc quad bikes with fully mounted 70 litre spray tanks, each of these units is NSTS tested every three years and has a full yearly service to maintain all working parts meet the current legislation. 70 litres is the maximum size of tank before the vehicle is deemed overweight and infringes on road traffic laws, The maximum speed limit for the quad bikes whilst on the road travelling is 20mph.

The units are fitted with two low level footrest mounted spray nozzles, one on each side of the quad bike, these are fitted with very low drift ceramic core nozzles specifically angled to treat the 30cm (300mm) specification as laid out in the "Best practice Guidelines" at the front and centre of the unit is a further nozzle which treats independently the main footway.

All weeds along the length of the footway are targeted and all nozzles are independently controlled by the operator. A hand lance is also fitted to the units with a long hose for access to footways inaccessible via the vehicles, all operators on the quad system also have a 1.5 litre handheld unit which again enable access to footways and inaccessible areas.

The support unit is retro fitted with a water tank, so all water is self-contained with no need to draw water from standpipes, mitigating any risk of herbicide leakage into any water system and also means quad bikes are not carrying 40 plus litres of neat herbicide with them, again this mitigates any environmental risk if a leak occurred from an RTA for instance.

Within the support unit is also a fixed herbicide store, banded to 185% of the volume and is suitable for use within a SSSI site. All filling of the spray units is conducted adjacent to the support vehicle, the use of spill mats is used to instantly clear any spillage which may occur, all tanks are soon to be converted to induction style tanks or closed couple transfer, this will eliminate completely the risk of spillage.

Within the support vehicle is all relevant PPE and spare for the operational vehicles, this includes.

- Washing and drying facilities
- First aid kits
- Eyewash stations
- Herbicide Spillage kits

EQUIPMENT SUPERVISION

The Quads and support vehicles are audited under the Amenity Standard and the Amenity Assured scheme. All quads have tracker units and daily reporting of areas treated can be forwarded, this data includes speed, distance travelled, idle time. Some areas will not be accessible via the quad units, in this instance we use knapsack sprayers to complete this task, all handheld spray units are serviced and have regular checks to ensure they meet legislation. All staff involved within the application of the herbicide are qualified to: -

- PA1
- PA6
- PA6 AW
- PA6 INJ
- PA2
- BASIS NSK storekeeper (only one member)

All operatives/technicians have yearly in house training for PA6 refresher, asbestos awareness and Manual Handling. All operatives will at all times be required to wear full PPE as per our standard operating procedure, this does include the use of bump cap and or helmets whilst on the quad bikes all quads have a working strobe light and direction arrows and will only travel at a low speed to ensure safety of the public and to ensure the correct amount of herbicide is applied at any one time.

MANAGEMENT OF SERVICE DELIVERY

The onsite supervisor will make daily contact and inform of areas treated, areas to be treated, via email all tracker maps will be forwarded, at any point but preferably once per week a face-to-face update briefing with the onsite Supervisor and the Client Manager. All staff are contactable via mobile phone throughout the day.

To ensure the correct treatment and uptake of the herbicide it is important that areas are treated when they are actively growing and weed growth is visible, signage will be laid out where required.

To meet KPI's, we will ensure regular Worksheets (daily work records) Calibration sheets, weekly and end of treatment herbicide usage, daily updates to managers and 14 days following treatment an audit on all areas. Within the documentation provided will be the inclusion of roadways with excessive vehicular parking this can have a detrimental effect on treatment due to vehicles being parked half on and half of pavements limiting the application of the herbicide.

All the above remains the same if it is decided to use a non-Glyphosate product the above principal of treatment will remain the same, however the products currently are not widely available, and choice of product is minimal, Pelegonic Acetic and Citric acid-based products are used.

These are only contact herbicides or non-systemic and thus do not translocate to the root of the plant like a glyphosate-based product, this does mean further and usually more applications of these products are required per annum and at a greater cost per litre.

On average a 100m² area treated with a glyphosate-based product would cost £0.10p whereas a product such as new-way weed spray would cost £17.13 to cover the same area.

New WAY WEEDSPRAY 240g Acetic acid Application rate of 1:3, 1 litre per 3 litres of water.

ACCREDITATIONS/ QUALIFICATIONS

Japanese knotweed Ltd has been trading since 2010 within the invasive weeds control sector, specialising in the remediation of Japanese knotweed. Environment Controls launched as a sister brand in 2022 to provide services for the control of and other invasive non-native plant species. We hold the following accreditations and association memberships:

- Property Care Association (PCA) Invasive Weeds Group (IWCG) members
- Amenity Assured
- Amenity Standard
- Amenity Forum Members
- Qualified surveyors; CSJK PCA qualified
- Qualified staff; CSCS, CPCS, SSSTS & PCA qualified technicians PCAQT
- Licensed Operatives; NPTC PA1, PA6 and PA6AW (and PA6INJ)
- £10m Public & Product Insurance, £1m Professional Indemnity
- Adherence to the Environment Agency 'Treatment and disposal of invasive non-native plants: RPS 178' (Nov 2016) and PCA, Code of Practice, for the Management of Japanese knotweed (version 2.7, Nov 2014)
- Removing the risk of contravening the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Section 14, clause 2
- Waste Management in accordance to the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990) sections 33 and 34