



Japanese Knotweed Eradication

Terra Vac (UK) Ltd at a Yorkshire Watercourse

An major industrial organisation in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire had an open watercourse at its boundary. The entire bankside has become infested with Japanese Knotweed.

Japanese Knotweed was first brought into Britain by the Victorians as an ornamental plant. With its natural habitat being on the slopes of volcanoes, this perennial plant thrives to extremes in the calm and fertile environment of Britain. Outside of Asia, there is no natural biological enemy to keep its spread under control.

Japanese Knotweed is extremely invasive. It engulfs riverbanks, railway embankments, road verges, gardens and hedgerows which in turn threatens the survival of other native plant species, insects and some animal species. It damages paving and tarmac and has been known to come up through floorboards. It grows at a rate of 100 to 120mm per day and reaches up to 3 metres high. It's expansive stem system, which can reach depths of 3 metres, gives the plant tremendous resistance to eradication.

Under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act the plant has been listed as a 'pest species' and it is now an offence to cause it to grow in the wild in the UK. It is essential that its disposal is in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Duty of Care) Regulations.

A total area of approximately 700m² bounded on one side by the watercourse was infested with Knotweed. Access was gained to the stand of Knotweed from the security fence side and the watercourse.

Treatment began at the beginning of the growing season with monthly repeat treatments using DEFRA and Environment Agency approved pesticides.

Treatment ceased at the end of the growing season and recommenced the following March. Complete eradication was achieved after two seasons treatments.

All technicians are fully NPTC trained and approved for backpack, manual, motorised and aquatic applications and we provide certified advice from BASIS registered and approved experts.



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Contaminated Land and Groundwater Remediation