



Japanese Knotweed Eradication

Terra Vac (UK) Ltd and The National Mining Museum

The National Coal Mining Museum for England is located at Caphouse Colliery, on the western edge of the Yorkshire coalfield, where mining has been carried out for centuries. Situated in a rural setting, it provides a genuine insight into the hard working lives of miners through the ages.

Terra Vac (UK) Ltd was approached by The National Coal Mining Museum following the discovery of the plant, 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.

At the Mining Museum site, Japanese Knotweed had infested an area in excess of 800m², some of which was difficult to access and required mechanical man-hoist assistance.

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 three seasons treatments.

All technicians are fully NPTC trained and approved for backpack, manual, motorised and aquatic applications.



Terra Vac (UK) Ltd

Unit 4
Willowbridge Way
Whitwood
Castleford
West Yorkshire
WF10 5NP

Tel: 01977 556637
Fax: 01977 557587
mail@terravac.co.uk
www.terravac.co.uk

Contaminated Land and Groundwater Remediation