

COUNCIL EMPLOY NEW GREEN METHOD FOR REMOVAL OF JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Environmental improvements to green public space at Clifton Park, Rotherham, were hampered by the discovery of mature Japanese Knotweed, a highly invasive weed which is notoriously difficult to eradicate.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and main contractor UCS Civils Ltd shortlisted four knotweed specialist companies to provide proposals for fast effective eradication of the plant to prevent delays to the park's improvement works, funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund.



"We had tried eradicating the offending plant using herbicide unsuccessfully for years... Initially we believed cell burial to be the next logical solution as we had not

encountered Rhizome Xtraction before... Environet outlined the technique enabling us to compare solutions for our two main objectives, cost effectiveness and minimal impact on the environment" explains Andy Lee of Rotherham

Metropolitan Borough Council.

There were various methods available to the Council for controlling or eradicating the Japanese knotweed each with their

advantages and disadvantages. With the cooperation of the three organisations involved a matrix summarising the considerations and deciding factors has been developed to provide a



quick view summary demonstrating the issues faced by projects infested with Japanese knotweed. Please see overleaf.

The knotweed works at Clifton Park were successfully completed by Environet in January 2009, on programme and on budget.



"We were very pleased with the efficiency of the Environet team, and impressed by the unique method used for removing the knotweed rhizome from the soil." Sam West UCS Civils Ltd.

The Xtract method was developed to provide a greener and more cost effective alternative to traditional dig and dump and existing methods.



"We can literally remove the root of the problem at about half of the cost of dig and dump. There is no need to remove vast quantities of infested soil to landfill, so you also save on the costs of

clean import. The environmental benefits are plain to see. You save paying HMRC landfill tax, and being an on site remediation technique, you may well be able to claim Land Remediation Tax Relief," says Nic Seal of Environet.



Specialists in the control and eradication of Japanese Knotweed

MATRIX SUMMARISING VARIOUS JAPANESE KNOTWEED TREATMENT METHODS

	Herbicide	Dig & Dump	Cell burial	Xtract™	Bio-control
Processing cost	✓✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓✓
Reinstatement costs	✓✓✓✓	✗	✓	✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓
Time	✗	✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✗
ESR	✓	✓✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓✓	✗
Space allocation	✓	✓✓✓	✗	✓✓✓	✓
Tax relief	✓✓✓✓	✗	?	✓✓✓✓	✓
Sub-total Score	13	12	8	20	10
Waste minimisation	✓✓✓	✗	✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓
Carbon footprint	✓✓✓	✗	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓
Local impact	✓✓✓	✗	✗	✗	?
Chemical impact	✗	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓
Sub-total Score	9	3	9	14	12
Total Score	22	15	17	34	22 *
Summary	✓✓✓	✗	✓	✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓
ESR = Eradication Success Rate ✗ Least desirable * Bio control not currently available ✓✓✓✓✓ Most desirable					

Environet has worked with a number of local councils and housing associations, in both the residential and educational (BSF Programme) sectors. Environet provides a professional independent consultancy service to ensure that the chosen strategy is correct for the particular site characteristics, the timeframe and budget.

In addition to the Xtract method, Environet provides herbicide treatment and root barrier methods for Japanese knotweed control.

Environet has produced a useful guidance document for [Landowners and Developers of Land](#)

[Infested with knotweed](#) available on Environet's website.



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