

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Japanese Knotweed?

Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) has a harmful effect wherever it occurs, dominating and out-competing native species and causing extensive structural damage to nearby buildings and roadways.

The plant is proscribed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 9, Part 2. All parts of the plant and any soil contaminated with rhizomes are classified as controlled waste. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 c.43 Part 2. Section 34 requires adherence to the outlined Duty of Care.

What is Giant Hogweed?

Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum Mantegazzianum*) is a highly invasive plant originally brought over from Central Asia in the early 19th Century. Since its introduction into Europe, Giant Hogweed plants have spread rapidly, causing issues with the local ecosystems as they have become dominant.

Apart from the ecological issues relating to the dominant Hogweed species, there are also the issues regarding the serious health hazard caused by the clear water-like sap. The combination of contact of the human skin with the sap and ultra violet light causes significant burning and blistering of the skin. The chemical compounds found within this sap have also been linked with causing cancer and malformations of growing embryos. In certain cases it has been reported to cause both temporary and permanent blindness.

When and what activities will be carried out on each visit?

25-29 February	Clearance using brushcutters
26-30 May	Herbicide application using knapsack sprayers
30 June – 4 July	Herbicide application using knapsack sprayers
4-8 August	Herbicide application using knapsack sprayers
22-26 September	Herbicide application using knapsack sprayers
20-24 October	Clearance and herbicide application

Will you need to access my property?

The majority of the work will take place on the existing cycle path (National Cycle Route N75) and the work involves the use of handheld equipment such as sprays and scythes. Should our contractors require entry onto any part of your land, contact will be made direct to the owner.

How long will each activity take?

TCM operatives will move along the route over the course of the dates listed to ensure all areas are managed at each stage of the process.

What herbicides will be used and are they harmful to humans and/or animals?

TCM minimises herbicide dose rates radically by timing the application of herbicides at the most effective times in the plants' growth cycles and targeting the plants with different herbicides depending upon their stage of development. The herbicides which may be used are as follows:

- Round up pro bioactive™
- Tordon 101™
- Tordon 22k™
- Pantheon™
- Timberel™
- Garlon™
- Depitox™

The herbicides used are all approved for use in amenity areas (non agricultural) accessible to the public by the Pesticides Safety Directorate. All herbicides have little or

no mammalian toxicity and are not harmful to humans or animals. As a precaution TCM staff will not leave site until the herbicide is dry.

Are all chemicals tested for safety?

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In addition to this low drift nozzles are used with low pressure knapsack sprayers to minimise drift. Spraying is not undertaken if wind speeds exceed 10 mph. As all spraying is undertaken by hand the direction of the spray can be carefully controlled.

Are all operatives trained in managing these chemicals?

All operatives are professionally qualified and also undergo extensive in-house training at TCM. In addition, the company is a member of BACCS (BASIS Advanced Contractor Certification Scheme), which is the highest level of accreditation for spray contractors.

How do you ensure that surrounding vegetation is not harmed?

These species are targeted by skilled operatives using handheld instruments such as sprays and scythes.

Will other native vegetation re-establish itself?

Once the desired species has been eradicated, natural flora and fauna can quickly re-establish as residual effects of the herbicides are minimal. The rapid regeneration of native vegetation is especially vital when eradicating invasive species as it helps to stop it gaining a foothold again.