

Japanese Knotweed control

As customer awareness of Japanese Knotweed continues to increase, the choice of a credible and reliable treatment contractor has never been more critical. For one London-based operations team at the forefront of the industry, professionalism remains the watchword.

ITS over a decade since Japanese Knotweed Control (JKC) launched its treatment company, and in that time there has been a dramatic increase in knowledge and awareness of problems caused by invasive, non-native plants in both the commercial and, more recently, the domestic market.

But for a few specialist companies, and perhaps some construction companies and property developers that had seen their sites affected by the scourge of Japanese Knotweed, there was little understanding, less still concern, about this problem. Today, that is no longer the case.

Driven to some extent by scare-mongering press headlines about 'triffid-like' infestations, but also by more genuine examples of mortgage refusals and house sales falling through, Japanese Knotweed has emerged as a growing national problem. One unfortunate consequence is that everyone is suddenly an expert on how best it should be treated, even though too many new entrants into the market simply don't have the necessary equipment, experience, qualifications and insurance cover to carry out treatment work effectively.

Unlike many traditional landscaping and weed control practices that opportunistically diversified into Japanese Knotweed treatment as a sideline practice, JKC was established specifically for this purpose and was, from the outset, determined to adopt a thoroughly professional approach. Every aspect of its business reflects an ongoing commitment to industry standard accreditations, legislative compliance, best practice training and development and full insurance-backed guarantees on its work.

JKC believes that, when choosing a treatment specialist, one critical consideration should be that a contractor is



Amenity Assured and BACCS registered, which means they have the minimum requirements to work and preferably hold UKAS ISO 9001 accreditation. Another requirement should be some credible warranty backed insurance cover on all work undertaken. Inadequate insurance cover continues to undermine many treatment programmes with some guarantees at best misleading and at worst, not worth the paper they are written on.

JKC's commitment to professional integrity has been continually tested by an increasingly competitive marketplace and the emergence of more and more 'cowboy' treatment companies, but it has, nevertheless, established itself at the forefront of its industry with a reputable, and growing,

list of commercial clients in both the private and public sector as well as an increase in domestic customers.

The company is now 10-strong, including a London-based operations team, and is involved in treatment programmes nationwide. Local authorities and housing associations are responsible for much of JKC's commercial treatment work and one such London client with which it has worked for a number of years is Metropolitan.

Metropolitan is a leading provider of integrated housing services, care and support and community regeneration. It manages over 38,000 affordable homes and serves over 80,000 customers across London, the East of England and the East Midlands.

With housing stock in such numbers, Japanese Knotweed can be a frequent problem and Metropolitan provides ongoing guidance and advice on how to identify this invasive plant and encourage residents to immediately report it to its customer service centre. JKC is then instructed to carry out the

specialist treatment work.

As dozens of sites are being treated at any one time, JKC maintains a spreadsheet mapping the progress of every programme, providing Metropolitan with a constant update on all work undertaken.

John Fagan, estates contracts officer has been delighted with the JKC partnership:

"JKC has worked with Metropolitan providing Japanese Knotweed treatment and control to our properties all over the country. It provides an excellent, courteous and professional service to us and our residents that is second to none at all times."

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Japanese Knotweed
Control Limited
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