



TIM O'HARE ASSOCIATES
SOIL & LANDSCAPE CONSULTANCY

Andy Spetch
British Sugar plc Co-products
Oundle Road
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25th July 2011

Our Ref: TOHA/11/3144/HS
Your Ref: as below

Dear Andy

Japanese Knotweed and Horsetail Survey

We have completed the Japanese Knotweed and Horsetail survey at the Bury St Edmunds, Cantley, Newark and Wisington factories and have pleasure in presenting our findings.

The purpose of the surveys was to confirm the absence of Japanese Knotweed and Horsetail in all areas of the factory sites currently used in the production of TOPSOIL.

Japanese Knotweed

Japanese Knotweed was introduced to the UK in the 1800's as an ornamental garden plant. However, this invasive species spread rapidly throughout the UK, out competing many native species. Today it is commonly found on road verges, railways and derelict land.

Under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to 'plant or otherwise encourage' Japanese Knotweed. In addition, disposal of soil containing Japanese Knotweed rhizomes is subject to Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Horsetail

Horsetail *Equisetum arvense* is a perennial plant also commonly known as 'Marestail', although Marestail is actually an unrelated flowering plant. *Equisetum arvense* is an ancient plant, thought to have existed for around 30 million years. In late spring brown asparagus like shoots emerge from underground rhizomes. The shoots have a spore producing cone shaped tip, which are replaced by green brush like stems which remain until winter.

Horsetail spreads via rhizomes, tubers and spores and, once established on a site, can be very difficult to eradicate.

Site Survey

The Japanese Knotweed and Horsetail surveys were undertaken between 23rd June and 8th July 2011 by means of a site walkover. Particular attention was paid to the soil ponds and the TOPSOIL conditioning, screening and storage areas.

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This report presents our site observations and our interpretation of those observations. Outside of the growing season there may be little evidence of vegetation existence on site. Therefore, we can not accept any responsibility for vegetation that has not been exposed by the surveys.

Site Observations

At the time of each site survey, the soil storage areas were located on areas of hardstanding free from vegetation. The majority of the vegetation observed at each site was established on the banks of the soil ponds and on the perimeter areas of the soil drying, conditioning and screening areas. The vegetation observed comprised predominately of Fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) and tall nettles (*Urtica dioica*).

The majority of the soil windrows within the soil conditioning areas at each site were free from vegetation, possibly as a result of regular tuning. Fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) and tall nettles (*Urtica dioica*) were observed on some of the windrows at the Wissington site.

Comment

At the time of our survey no stands of Japanese Knotweed or areas of Horsetail were observed in any of the areas inspected at each site.

We hope this report meets with your approval and provides the necessary information. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if we can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely

Helen Stanley
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Senior Associate

For & on behalf of Tim O'Hare Associates LLP



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Client: **British Sugar plc Co-Products**
Project: **Japanese Knotweed and Horsetail Survey**
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Factory Site

	Bury St Edmunds	Cantley	Newark	Wissington
TOPSOIL Ponds	X	X	X	X
TOPSOIL Drying Area	X	X	X	X
TOPSOIL Conditioning Area	X	X	X	X
TOPSOIL Screening Area	X	X	X	X
TOPSOIL Storage Area	X	X	X	X

- X Japanese Knotweed and Horsetail Absent
- ✓ Japanese Knotweed or Horsetail Present (see attached report)