



TIM O'HARE ASSOCIATES
SOIL & LANDSCAPE CONSULTANCY

Andy Spetch
British Sugar plc Co-products
Oundle Road
Peterborough Cambridgeshire
PE2 9QU

14th August 2015

Our Ref: TOHA/15/3255/A/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 Wissington factories and have pleasure in presenting our findings.

The purpose of the survey was to confirm the absence of Japanese Knotweed and Horsetail within all areas of the each site 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.

Tim O'Hare Associates LLP
Howbery Park Wallingford Oxfordshire OX10 8BA
T:01491 822653 F:01491 822644 E:info@toha.co.uk
www.toha.co.uk

Site Survey

The surveys were undertaken between 17th and 22nd July 2015 by means of a site walkover at each factory. The aim of the survey was to identify any stands of Japanese Knotweed or areas of Horsetail establishment.

The site walkover inspected the vegetation established on the banks of the soil ponds. The perimeter of the TOPSOIL conditioning, screening and storage areas were also inspected for any visible stands of Japanese Knotweed or Horsetail.

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 cannot accept any responsibility for vegetation that has not been exposed by this survey.

Site Observations

At the time of our surveys, the soil screening and storage areas were located within areas of hardstanding. Soil windrows were generally free from vegetation, possibly as a result of regular turning. The boundaries of the drying and conditioning areas were also generally free from established dense vegetation, possibly due to regular strimming and spraying with herbicide. The banks of the soil ponds were predominately vegetated with opportunistic weeds, typically comprising of fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), tall nettles (*Urtica dioica*) and thistles (*Cirsium sp.*).

Area	Japanese Knotweed	Horsetail
Soil Ponds	X	X
Drying Lagoons	X	X
Conditioning Areas	X	X
Screening and Storage Areas	X	X

X = Japanese Knotweed and Horsetail absent

✓ = Japanese Knotweed or Horsetail present (refer to comment section of report)

Comment

At the time of our surveys, no stands of Japanese Knotweed or areas of Horsetail were observed at any of the sites inspected.

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
BSc MSc MISOilSci CSci
Senior Associate

For & on behalf of Tim O'Hare Associates LLP



Client:	British Sugar plc Co-products
Project:	Japanese Knotweed and Horsetail Survey
Date:	August 2015
Job Ref No:	TOHA/15/3255/HS/A

Factory Site

Bury St Edmunds Cantley Newark Wisington

TOPSOIL Pond

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 (refer to attached report)

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