



TIM O'HARE ASSOCIATES
SOIL & LANDSCAPE CONSULTANCY

Darren Thorpe
British Sugar plc Co-products
Wissington Sugar Factory
Stoke Ferry
Kings Lynn
Norfolk
PE33 9QX

28th July 2017

Our Ref: TOHA/17/3318/HS
Your Ref: O/N 60021878

Dear Darren

Japanese Knotweed and Horsetail Survey: Wissington Sugar Factory

We have completed the Japanese Knotweed and Horsetail survey at the British Sugar factory at Wissington 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 Wissington currently 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.

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Site Survey

The survey was undertaken on 25th July 2017 by Helen Stanley of Tim O'Hare Associates. 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 accessible banks of active soil ponds located within the main factory site. The perimeter vegetation of the accessible sections of Cornerways Farm currently used for TOPSOIL conditioning, screening and soil storage were also inspected.

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 survey, the soil pond banks within the main factory site were densely vegetated with fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), tall nettles (*Urtica dioica*) and occasional burdock (*Cousinia sp.*).

The majority of the soil windrows within active conditioning areas to the north-east of the Cornerways Farm site were densely vegetated with fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) which limited access. Soil windrows to the north-west of Cornerways Farm had recently been turned and were free from vegetation.

The soil screening areas and storage sheds are currently located on areas of hardstanding. The perimeter of these areas were typically vegetated with opportunistic weeds, dominated by fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) and tall nettles (*Urtica dioica*).



Soil pond



Soil drying lagoon



Typical soil windrows at Cornerways Farm



Typical soil windrows on Springfield areas of Cornerways Farm



Typical perimeter vegetation at Cornerways Farm



Soil Storage area

Area	Japanese Knotweed	Horsetail
Soil Pond	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 survey no stands of Japanese Knotweed or areas of Horsetail were observed in any of the areas 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



— - Approximate
Area Inspected



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Client:	British Sugar plc		
Project:	Japanese Knotweed and Horsetail Survey		
Job ref no.:	TOHA/17/3318/HS		
Drawing no.:	3318/JKH/Cornerways		
Drawing title:	Wissington Survey		
Date:	July '17	Scale:	NTS
Drawn by:	HS	Checked by:	LHJ

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— - Approximate
Area Inspected



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Client:	British Sugar plc		
Project:	Japanese Knotweed and Horsetail Survey		
Job ref no.:	TOHA/17/3318/HS		
Drawing no.:	3318/JKH/Ponds		
Drawing title:	Wissington Survey		
Date:	July '17	Scale:	NTS
Drawn by:	HS	Checked by:	LHJ

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