

Japanese Knotweed and its impact on building structures, including the health & safety implications of treatment techniques.



Many members will be aware of knotweed, the ornamental plant introduced to Britain by the Victorians. Dennis Powell of Knotweed Services (UK) Limited (pictured to the right of MD Alan Hicks) explained how this particular plant was becoming a real nuisance as it is now rampant in the UK and very difficult to eradicate, not least because of its prolific growth; the root system of one plant can spread up to

3 metres down and 7 metres across in a very short period of time. Its main growth period is from May to October. It is extremely hardy and can even grow through cement, concrete and tarmac. It is now illegal to dispose of the plant without special permission and compliance with several regulations.

Specialist contractors employ several



Regulations

- ◉ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
- ◉ Environmental Protection Act Part 2 (1990) – Waste removal
- ◉ Control of Pesticide Regulations 1986
- ◉ Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005

methods such as chemical spraying, 'digging and dumping', stem injection and burial (only suitable for sites which will never be built on again, such as motorways), which can in turn lead to health and safety issues. For more details on Japanese Knotweed and its treatment options for removal please

visit their website:

www.knotweedservices.co.uk