

NL436 Telford: Park Road Japanese Knotweed Excavation Works 2015

ITT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS LOG_v3.0 30.07.2015

21.07.2015

Q1. Wheel Washing/Brushing & Spraying

On the BOQ you are asking for a price for a wheel washer but in the tender documents it states that brushing off and spraying with glyphosate is required. Which do we need to price?

A. Please price for brushing off and spraying with glyphosate as per the Specification.

Q2. Financial Standing

For the plywood frame can you give me some specs on this please? Its not something we are used to doing?

A. The purpose of the plywood is to reinforce the root barrier membrane, we understand this to be common practice as it is stipulated within EA Guidance on Management of Knotweed on Development Sites. You should determine the most appropriate method of installation to achieve the required objective, this will be subject to approval by the Contract Administrator prior to installation on Site.

24.07.2015

Q3 Sample Data

Please confirm that no soil sample data is available for the site.

A. Park Road Ground Conditions Report has been provided to Suppliers. Due to size, of the document, this has been provided on a Client Access Web Portal for you to access and download. To obtain the documents please complete the following instructions:

- Enter the following URL into the address bar of your internet browser
<https://clientportal.tep.uk.com>
- When prompted for a username enter: **Tep\tepca1** (be careful not to include a space after the username)
- When prompted for a password enter: **Tepca2907**

Please ensure your **type** in the username and password and do not copy and paste as this will not work.

Please be aware that the above report is historic. This information is made available on a 'without warranty' basis given the passage of time.

Q4 Possible Hazardous Waste

Excavated material containing Japanese Knotweed is classified as contaminated. It must therefore be transported to a licenced waste disposal facility. Each Supplier will price accordingly. However, given that no soil sample data is available and that there is evidence of former mining activity, it is possible that the excavated material may be treated as hazardous by the Waste disposal facility. This may significantly increase disposal costs post submission of tender. Please could the HCA provide a position statement should this situation arise?

- A Please refer to response included within Q3. Suppliers shall price on the basis of this report, however if excavated material is subsequently found to be hazardous, this will be addressed via a variation to the Contract.

Q5 2 No. Stands Close to Park Road

The site drawing supplied identifies a 2 no. stands of Japanese knotweed close to Park Road. The documents state a requirement to dig 5m beyond the site boundary. Please confirm whether the HCA believes excavation is required onto Park Road?

- A The HCA does not intend to undertake excavations within Park Road. Excavations are to be undertaken to site boundary and root barrier to be installed along roadside. Suppliers to price for inclusion of root barrier.

Q6 Tracked Excavator

The development site is very uneven and there is considerable evidence of former mining activity. We believe that the use of a wheeled excavator may well be dangerous on some parts of the site and would therefore propose to use a tracked excavator. Is this change acceptable to the HCA?

- A The HCA will allow the use of tracked excavators however it is acknowledged that they are harder to clean, it would be the Suppliers responsibility to ensure plant is appropriately cleaned in accordance with the biosecurity measures of the Contract.

29.07.2015

Q7 Previous Treatment

Have the Japanese knotweed areas previously been treated with herbicide? If they have been treated with herbicide; can you let us know when they were treated and how many times they were treated and what herbicides were used (if residuals, this could affect the categorisation of any waste?

- A Yes, the stands have previously been treated with Glyphosate (so there are no residuals and no effect to the categorisation of the waste. Treatment has been for approximately 5 years, with 3 applications per year.

Q8 Likelihood of Contamination

What is the likelihood of contamination that could affect categorisation of the knotweed material? Is the site and/or Japanese knotweed areas contaminated?

- A Please refer to Question 7 above in regard to residual herbicide. Soil sample data has been provided, please refer to response provide in Question 3 as to means to access this data.

Q9 Time of Survey

When was the TEP Japanese knotweed survey undertaken? Was it undertaken during the winter of 2014/2015?

- A Yes. It is understood that this is not optimum time of year as no plant material was showing. The information supplied in the tender pack is based on last year's growth – which was dying back significantly.

Q10 Original Japanese Knotweed Area

Is there any information on the original Japanese knotweed area sizes?

- A Yes this information is held. However horses were previously illegally grazing on the site last year, and therefore this historic data is not felt to be accurate due to potential for the horses to have spread Japanese Knotweed around the site. This is why costs are to be based on survey carried out this year (during optimum period). There is likely to be a mixture of Japanese Knotweed not emerging as a result of successful spraying regimes, and new stands appearing due to the horses.

Q11 Services

Are there any service plans for the site?

- A The HCA is not aware of any service plans for the site. As per the Invitation to Tender, the Supplier should take all necessary precautions in completing the Works to identify the location of services in accordance with HSG47. Any unknown risks should be reflected in any risk assessments and method statements required to complete the Works. It is ultimately the responsibility of the Supplier to establish the location of any Services. The Supplier will be responsible for the costs associated with any reinstatement/repair works required to rectify damage to any utilities on site and any associated costs arising as a result of loss of services.

Q12 Underground Culverts

Are there any underground culverts that pass through the site?

- A The HCA is not aware of any underground culverts, principals as outlined in Question 11 apply.

Q13 Security Fencing

Will the principle contractor provide security and fencing for the whole site? Or does the supplier have to provide this item?

- A In this instance the terms of principal contractor and supplier are interchangeable i.e. the Supplier is the principal contractor for these works. Therefore, the supplier is responsible for the security of the site. The Invitation to Tender does not stipulate the specific security measures, it is the Suppliers responsibility to ensure the security of the site as you deem appropriate.

Q14 Proposed Membrane Location

Does the proposed membrane location impact on any trees? We assume that the membrane location is outside of the woodland area, therefore no significant pruning or tree felling is required?

- A Yes, no significant pruning or tree felling works are deemed to be required.

Q15 Fencing to areas of Work

In regards to the fencing of the Japanese Knotweed areas. We propose to use Chestpale Fencing for the Japanese Knotweed within the woodland. The Japanese Knotweed areas within the woodland and behind the membrane will be remaining for a long period of time. This is the reason why we recommend a more permanent fence. The other areas, which will be excavated, will be marked out with orange netlon fencing. This fencing will only be temporary, so netlon is more appropriate. Do you approve of this approach?

- A Yes, this is acceptable.

Q16 Tracked Excavator

For health and safety reasons we do not recommend the use of a wheeled excavator. We propose to use a tracked excavator as there is no need to enter the Japanese Knotweed areas. We will have a jet washer on site to clean all buckets or other equipment that may come in contact with Japanese Knotweed spoil. A tracked excavator is more stable, especially on uneven ground. There is a risk a wheeled excavator may topple over and injure someone. Are you ok for us to cost for a tracked excavator?

A Yes, this is acceptable. Please refer to previous clarification provided in Question 6

Q17 Cleaning of Machinery

As stated above we do not propose to enter the Japanese Knotweed areas, therefore we would not need to clean down the machines. We do not recommend spraying the machines with glyphosate. This chemical works by being absorbed into green leaf on an actively growing plant. It would not affect loose rhizome pieces. We do not think this process is necessary. Do you approve of our approach?

A Yes, this is acceptable

Q18 Cutting prior to Spraying

Scope states that all Japanese Knotweed above 1.5m should be cut down before spraying. This process is not necessary. We want as much leaf area as possible in order to get the chemical to be absorbed and translocated to the roots. Do you approve of our approach?

A Yes, this is acceptable

Q19 Root Barrier and Plywood Frame

Scope states a root barrier should be 3m deep and reinforced with a plywood frame. We recommend that 2m is sufficient and that a plywood frame is unnecessary (how would this be attached without compromising the membrane with staple/nail holes). Membranes restrict lateral growth of knotweed rhizome. All the knotweed will be treated with herbicide, therefore it will not get the opportunity to spread or grow. The membrane would also act as a marker between clean soil and 'dirty' soil containing Japanese knotweed rhizome. We propose to put the membrane in at depth of 2 metres and backfill with soft material on site, and not use a plywood frame. It is likely a plywood frame would degrade quickly in the soil. Do you approve of our approach?

A Please price this as per the Specification stated within the Invitation to Tender Documentation i.e. to a 3m depth and inclusive of a plywood frame.

Q20 Road Sweeping

Is the road sweeping component part of a planning condition for the site?

A No it is not a planning requirement, it is a requirement of the Employer due to the road providing access to residential properties.