

Information from Peter Fenemore

The following note sets out to provide an update on the growth of knotweed in and around Croston. A series of photographs (Figs 1-11) show areas of particular concern. In some instances (figs 3,7&10), they also show evidence of flail cutting where knotweed debris will have been spread by the flail process. As knot weed debris is classified as " hazardous waste" it indicates a serious legal issue.

Further photographs (figs 12-17) show a river in Hungary, where knotweed has spread for several kilometres along the banks. The river is of a similar size to the Yarrow and is also subject to storm surges.

The knotweed can be seen growing in the surge retaining walls and adjacent buildings. One photograph shows knotweed debris caught on railings after a storm surge and indicates the probability that other debris will have been washed downstream to establish new growth sites.

Another, shows the ruins of a house completely taken over by knotweed. I have no information as to whether the knotweed caused the ruin of took over afterwards - in any event the cost of sanitising the site for further development of to prevent further spread is likely to be significant.

The Hungarian illustrations are intended to underline the urgency of preventing uncontrolled knotweed infestation in Croston and down the Yarrow.

I ask that Croston Parish Council endorse this note so that it can be circulated to encourage CBC to show some urgency in providing training for herbicide application volunteers. There is also a need to encourage LCC take action to control knotweed on their property and to prevent the spread of knotweed debris by flail cutting.

List of figures: -

- 1) Syd Brook (taken from the bridge opposite Syd Brook Farmhouse drive) on the bank nearest the road, showing that treatment of the verge has failed to control knotweed growth beside the brook.
 - 2) Taken from the same bridge showing growth on both banks of the brook.
 - 3) Southport Road near the turn to Midge Hall and the Prisons. There is vigorous growth behind the hedge where previous verge treatment has failed to treat growth through the hedge. The verge has recently been flailed and knotweed growing from the far side of the hedge has been flailed with a high probability of spreading knotweed debris to establish new growth sites.
 - 4) Taken from Croston Town Bridge, looking upstream, showing knotweed growing above the river retaining wall.
 - 5) A closer view showing newly established growth near the bridge.
 - 6) Meadow Lane, near the entrance to Isle of Man Farm, showing knotweed growing through the hedge.
 - 7) The same area showing cut knotweed growth where the verge has recently been flailed. The same issue as fig 3.
 - 8) The Yarrow downstream from Castle Walks Bridge showing knotweed on both banks.
 - 9) Back Drinkhouse Lane opposite Almshouse no 7, showing a large well established knotweed patch in the field behind the hedge.
 - 10) Cut knotweed stem where hedge has been flailed. The same issue as Fig 3.
 - 11) Large knotweed growths on the bank of the Yarrow near Fishery Bridge.
- These were only thumb sized shoots when the BBC Northwest TV programme was filmed earlier in the year (26/3/19).
- 12, 13, 14 & 15) Eger, Hungary, extensive knotweed growth along both banks of the river and growing through storm surge retaining walls and riverside buildings.
 - 16) Eger, Hungary, showing knotweed debris from storm surge caught on railings. Other debris will have been swept downstream to establish new growth sites.
 - 17) Eger, Hungary, showing the ruins of a house completely infested with knotweed. The costs of sanitising this site for further development or to prevent spread into neighbouring property will be horrendous.

Fig 1



Fig 2

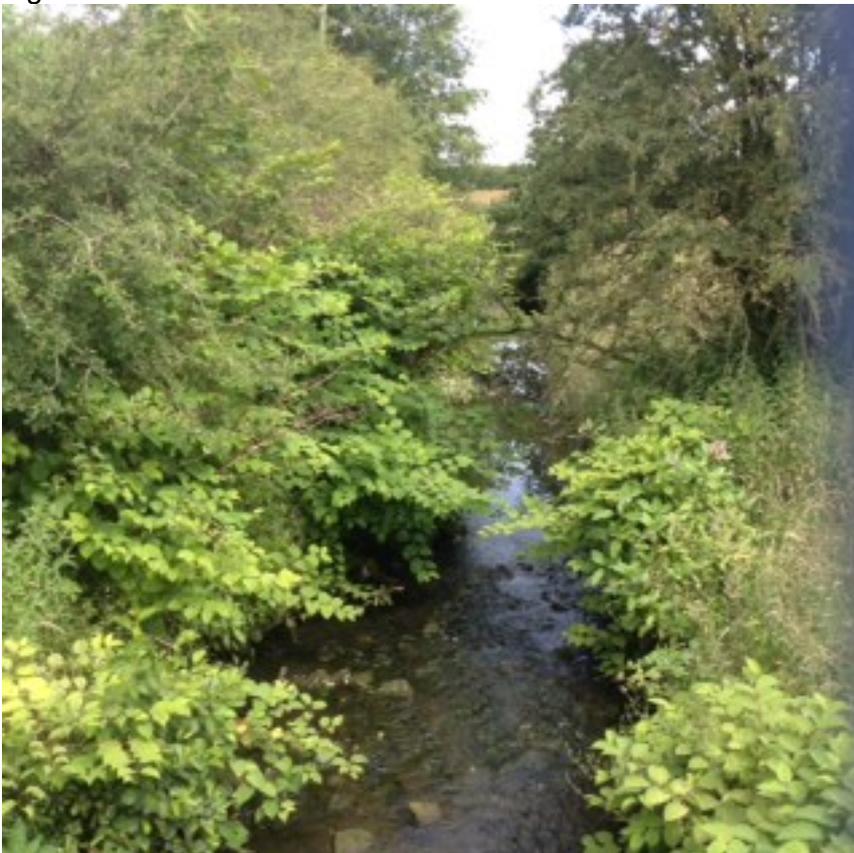


Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6



Fig 7



Fig 8



Fig 9



Fig 10



Fig 11



Fig 12



Fig 13



Fig 14



Fig 15



Fig 16



Fig 17

