



# Amenity Forum Guidance Document

## Best Practice Note for Integrated Control for Transport Infrastructure

### Introduction

Local Authorities, The Highways Agency, and Network Rail are required to provide a safe and reliable transport infrastructure to allow us all to travel and transport goods around the country unimpeded, in order to continue our daily lives.

Vegetation left unchecked will destroy the fabric of road and railway structures which will ultimately impact on the safety of the users. This is why weed control is important.

Combined management strategies, such as creating an environment to discourage plant growth, provision of good drainage removal of detritus and carefully timed use of herbicides are all essential in maintaining transport networks.

Bodies responsible for the maintenance of our transport infrastructure must recognise that they also have accountability to their neighbours and a general obligation of good environmental stewardship.

In accordance with best practice these bodies should

- Use professionally trained and (BASIS) qualified advisors to ensure that a vegetation problem is evaluated and that if chemicals are selected as the best control method, then the appropriate, approved pesticide is used and at the rate of use as stipulated on the label.
- The use of pesticides in all areas should be limited to the minimum required for efficacy.
- The mode of applications must be approved and appropriate.
- Spraying techniques used are determined by the target species, location and overall objectives.
- Where pesticide products are to be applied, this must be done using efficient and safe guarded equipment and following industry good practice and guidance.
- Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, must be taken into account when planning vegetation clearance.
- Consideration should be given to the viability of adopting alternative techniques and equipment for targeting the use of pesticides and reducing quantities applied, including weed recognition control systems.
- Pesticide users following best practice should investigate alternatives to pesticides for example hot foam or infrared treatment.
- In areas close to water, no use of any pesticide should be used, unless prior permission and site specific assessment has been agreed by all Parties. A [WQM 1 Form](#) is available from the Environment Agency to initiate this process.
- Herbicide when not in use should be stored in a locked, BASIS registered store, under the control of a BASIS certificated store keeper.
- Spraying equipment should be calibrated and tested under the [NSTS](#).

- Spray operators must be trained and certificated in the specific applications they are carrying out.
- The recommendation on the product label must be followed in selecting the personal protective equipment to be used
- A record of all pesticide applications is made and kept for reference. These records should be made available to authorised parties where required.
- Empty containers must be disposed of in accordance with best practice, through a registered waste disposal contractor.

Bodies responsible for the control of vegetation on the UK transport infrastructure may choose to use contractors who are [Amenity Assured](#). BASIS independently assesses these companies to check that best practice is being followed. Amenity Assured contractors have shown that all their staff are trained and hold competence certificates which are recognised by the UK Government. They fulfil all the requirements demanded under Health & Safety, to set and uphold best practice safety standards relating to spraying and weed control.