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Code of Practice to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort



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Ministerial Foreword

Common ragwort is a native plant and an important part of our biodiversity, however it can cause challenges for land managers because, like many plants, its natural defences can pose risks to the health and welfare of horses and livestock. This updated Code provides practical guidance to help support land managers when determining whether to control ragwort, while also considering the ecosystems which we all rely on.

The natural environment is one of our nation's greatest assets, underpinning our wellbeing, cultural identity, and long term resilience. In making this Code, the Welsh Ministers reaffirm their ongoing commitment to safeguarding and enhancing Wales' biodiversity.

I am grateful to all those who responded to our consultation about updating the Code. The Code recognises the vital contribution made by farmers, foresters, conservation bodies, and local communities in managing Wales' Landscapes, and seeks to assist them in adopting practices that promote sustainable outcomes for both people and nature.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'H' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Huw Irranca-Davies MS,

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Climate Change and Rural Affairs

Preface

The aim of this document is to provide guidance on how to prevent the spread of **common ragwort** (*Jacobaea vulgaris*, synonym *Senecio jacobaea*) where there is a risk to the health and welfare of horses and livestock. The significance of common ragwort in this context is the presence of pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs) which can be toxic to a range of animals when ingested.

Common ragwort is specified in the Weeds Act 1959 and the Ragwort Control Act 2003. It is not illegal to have ragwort growing on your land however a legal notice may be served requiring an occupier to take action to prevent it from spreading. A measured and responsible approach to the management of common ragwort is advised, within the remit of the current legislation.

This guidance does not seek to eradicate common ragwort, or to control it indiscriminately, as it is a native plant that supports many species of wildlife in the UK. This includes common broomrape (*Orobanche minor*), a large number of fungi,

and many different invertebrates such as butterflies, moths, bees, hoverflies and beetles. Some of these species are scarce or rare. Common ragwort is a natural component of many types of unimproved grassland and greatly contributes to the biodiversity of the flora and fauna in our countryside.

The guidance promotes good practice and co-operation. It is intended for use by owners of horses and livestock; landowners and occupiers, and other stakeholders representing a wide variety of interests.

Information is included on:

- Identification of common ragwort
- Assessing the risk of spread
- Control methods – their suitability and efficacy
- Welfare considerations
- Environmental considerations
- Health and safety issues.

Scope

1. This Code of Practice to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort applies to common ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*, synonym *Senecio jacobaea*). All subsequent references to 'ragwort' in this code refer to 'common ragwort'. This code applies to Wales (separate documents are available in England and Scotland).
2. Common ragwort is one of several ragwort species and look-alike plants which are native to Britain. Accurate identification is essential to prevent the mistaken removal of non-target plants (see **Appendix 1** for identification details). Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence if any person, not being an authorised person (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/section/27) intentionally uproots any wild plant. This includes common ragwort.

Use

3. This Code can be used to help landowners or occupiers define situations where there is a likelihood of ragwort spreading to neighbouring land where it poses a risk of ingestion by vulnerable animals. This Code provides information on the various means of control, as well as outlining animal welfare and environmental considerations.

What is ragwort and why is it important?

4. Ragwort is a native species in the UK which is important for our wildlife. It is the food plant of at least 77 species of foliage eating insects, the most well-known being the cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaeae*). At least 38 insect species and 8 fungi species are entirely reliant on ragwort species as their only food source or have a limited number of alternative hosts and cannot switch to other plants. About a third of these insects are scarce or rare and the majority are confined to common ragwort or the closely related hoary ragwort (*Jacobaea erucifolia*). Some species use ragwort flowers as territory markers or vantage points to find passing prey or mates. Individual ragwort patches may be important to native fauna in the wider area.
5. Ragwort is a natural component of many types of unimproved grassland. With the decline in flowering plant diversity, it has assumed increasing importance as a source of food for generalist nectar feeding insects in the late summer. More than 200 species, including butterflies, bees, moths, hoverflies, and other invertebrates have been recorded feeding on ragwort nectar. This important source of insects is exploited by many species of birds and mammals.

Why can ragwort sometimes cause problems?

6. Ragwort contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs) which can be toxic to a range of animals when ingested. Pigs, chickens, cattle, horses and ponies are susceptible, and equines in general are all considered susceptible. Sheep and goats are considered more tolerant but are not free from risk. Most subsequent references will be to horses and livestock; this includes equines and farmed stock.
7. About 3% of the worlds flowering plants contain at least 1 PA. Ragwort contains a number of different PAs; they are present in all parts of the plant and highest concentrations are reported in the flowers.
8. PAs are metabolised in the liver, potentially leading to severe liver damage and death. The effects depend on the total amount of PAs ingested, the susceptibility of the species involved and the individual tolerance of the animal (e.g. age, nutritional status and general health). There are a considerable number of variables.
9. PA poisoning can be acute due to rapid intake of a large quantity, and death can occur in a few days. However, the effects of ragwort poisoning are more likely to be chronic and may not be immediately apparent as damage caused by PAs on the liver can be progressive. It may take weeks, or even months, for symptoms to become visible, generally leading to death. Symptoms of PA intoxication in horses include photosensitivity, jaundice, weight loss, loss of co-ordination, depression, seizures, coma, lethargy and yawning.
10. There is no specific test for ragwort poisoning and several other factors may also produce the same effects on the liver, including other toxins. A diagnosis of ragwort poisoning cannot therefore be substantiated without known ingestion of the plant. This may be difficult to document where there is a long delay between ragwort exposure and signs of poisoning.

11. Fresh ragwort is generally considered bitter and unpalatable; horses and cattle are often observed to avoid eating it when adequate alternative forage is available. However, behaviour differs between species, for example sheep and goats may choose to graze ragwort even where there is alternative forage. Consumption of fresh ragwort by horses and cattle may occur in some situations, the most obvious is when they are left with inadequate alternatives for feed. Other suggested possibilities include if they have a mineral deficiency, if the young plants cannot easily be distinguished, when newly turned-out stock are hungry, or when individual animals develop a taste for it. However, there is limited research on this subject, and information is mostly anecdotal and based on observation. There is some recent evidence which suggests ragwort can be nutritionally attractive to sheep due to factors such as its sugar and protein content.
12. A key feature of ragwort is that the PAs present in the living plant remain toxic in the dead plant. This includes plants that are wilted, dried or conserved in feed/forage, and plants that have been chemically treated or culturally controlled (e.g. by pulling or cutting).
13. Once withered, horses and cattle cannot distinguish ragwort and are more likely to eat it. Therefore, if ragwort is incorporated into forage, it presents a higher risk than in the grazing situation. Preserved forage may involve several tonnes and batches of product and ragwort may be unevenly distributed throughout it. It is impractical to measure to an effective level of assurance on the basis of cost. As such, any hay, silage, feed or other forage that contains ragwort should be deemed unsuitable as animal feed and disposed of safely.
14. Excluding horses and livestock from fields where ragwort is growing and preventing access to contaminated feed is the only way to completely eliminate the risk of ragwort poisoning. Denying access to fields containing ragwort is impractical in some cases, and in such instances, removing ragwort and reducing the likelihood of reintroduction/regrowth should be the aim of good pasture management strategies (see **Appendix 2**). If ragwort is removed it should be disposed of safely as it is more likely to be eaten and so presents a poisoning risk (see **Appendix 5**).
15. Regarding the health risk to humans from touching ragwort, only rudimentary data concerning absorption of PAs through the skin exists. However, dermal contact with ragwort may cause an allergic reaction called Compositae Dermatitis. This is caused by sesquiterpene lactones which are commonly produced by plants of the daisy family, they are not the same as PAs. Sensible precautions should be taken such as wearing gloves if handling ragwort e.g. for hand pulling (see **Appendix 6** Safety Guidelines). The risk to human health through PA contamination of food of both animal and plant origin is an ongoing area of research. Contamination appears to be fairly limited in animal derived products in an EU context. There is an array of analytical methods now in use, in conjunction with guidance on acceptable levels of PAs in food.

Legal framework

16. Under the Weeds Act 1959 (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/7-8/54/contents), Welsh Ministers, if satisfied that injurious weeds are growing upon any land, may serve a notice requiring the occupier (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/7-8/54/section/11) to take such action as may be necessary to prevent the weeds from spreading. Any unreasonable failure to comply with a notice is an offence.

The Act applies to¹:

- Common ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*, synonym *Senecio jacobaea*)
- Spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)
- Creeping or field thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
- Curled dock (*Rumex crispus*)
- Broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*)

¹ Welsh Ministers are empowered to add to this list as necessary

17. The Ragwort Control Act 2003 (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/40/contents) permits Welsh Ministers to make a Code of Practice to provide guidance on how to prevent the spread of ragwort. The Code is admissible in evidence and will be taken into account in court if it appears to be relevant to proceedings.
18. The provisions of the Weeds Act 1959 do not apply to other ragwort species, e.g., marsh ragwort (*Jacobaea aquatica*) and hoary ragwort (*Jacobaea erucifolia*).
19. Some ragwort species are rare, such as Welsh ragwort (*Senecio cambrensis*, also known as Welsh groundsel) which is currently restricted in its distribution entirely to North Wales. Its distribution can be found on the National Biodiversity Network Trust NBN Atlas (www.species.nbnatlas.org/species/NBNSYS0000004368#overview) or the Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI) *Senecio cambrensis* distribution map (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9hg14). Where ragwort is identified on land protected through environmental or ecological designation, or by means of other land management agreements, those additional obligations and restrictions must be fully considered and discussed with the appropriate authorities before any ragwort control action is initiated (see **Appendix 4**). Also, under section 13 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence if any person, not being an authorised person (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/section/27), intentionally uproots any wild plant.
20. Any feed or forage for horses and livestock that contains ragwort should be deemed unsuitable as animal feed and be disposed of safely. The following legislation governs the sale of animal feed and forage:
 - The Agriculture Act 1970
 - The Feeding Stuffs Regulations 2000
 - The Animal Feed (Hygiene, Sampling etc. and Enforcement) (Wales) Regulations 2016
 - The Animal Feed (Composition, Marketing and Use) (Wales) Regulations 2016

Enforcement

21. Where a concern about ragwort is identified contact should first be made with the occupier or relevant body responsible for the land on which the ragwort is growing, to attempt to resolve the matter informally.
22. If this approach fails, the injurious weeds complaint form (www.gov.wales/injurious-weeds-complaint-form) can be completed and returned to the Rural Inspectorate for Wales (RIW).
23. RIW gives priority to investigating complaints where:
 - there is a risk of ragwort spreading to land used for keeping or grazing horses or livestock, land used for forage production, and other agricultural activities.
 - the complainant has made reasonable efforts to contact the occupier where the weeds are growing, and to resolve the matter informally.
24. It is not illegal to have ragwort growing on your land. However, RIW can serve a notice, on behalf of Welsh Ministers, requiring an occupier to take action to prevent ragwort from spreading. Where a notice is served it is an offence for that person to unreasonably fail to comply and they may be liable to a fine up to level 3 (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/17/section/122) on the standard scale. If a failure is not remedied this is a further offence.
25. Where the occupier has not complied with a notice RIW may take action to recover the cost of doing so (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/7-8/54/section/3).

Assessing the risk of spread and deciding if action is needed

26. Occupiers of land should identify land on which ragwort is present (see **Appendix 1** for identification details). Where it is present, the occupier should make an assessment to determine the risk of it spreading to land used for keeping or grazing horses and livestock, or land used for feed/forage production.
27. A single ragwort plant can produce thousands of seeds. Each plant has two types of seed: ones which are heavier and fall around the base of the plant, and ones with mechanisms to aid dispersal by wind. There are gaps in the data on ragwort seed dispersal, however field experiments indicate that the majority of seed is likely to be carried only short distances in the wind.
28. Table 1 below provides a suggested methodology for assessing the risk of spread of ragwort. The three risk categories and distances are provided as **guidelines** only. However, where a notice has been served by RIW action is required as described in **paragraph 24** of the Enforcement section.

Table 1: Assessing the risk of spread

Category of risk of the spread of ragwort	Description	Action
Higher risk	Ragwort is present within 35m of land used for keeping or grazing horses and livestock, or land used for feed/forage production.	Notify neighbouring land occupiers where there is a risk of ragwort impacting horses or livestock, or land used for feed/forage (if feasible). Take action where necessary to prevent the spread of ragwort using an appropriate control technique (see Appendix 3) taking account of the status of the land (see Appendix 4).
Medium risk	Ragwort is present within 35m to 100m of land used for keeping or grazing horses and livestock, or land used for feed/forage production.	Monitor regularly so that a move from a medium to a higher risk of spread situation can be anticipated and acted upon where necessary, e.g. if there is a local change of land use. Also reassess if a complaint is received regarding ragwort spreading from your land.
Low risk	Ragwort is present more than 100m from land used for keeping or grazing horses and livestock, or land used for feed/forage production.	No immediate action is required but the situation may need to be reassessed, e.g. if there is a local change of land use, or a complaint is received regarding ragwort spreading from your land.

29. When assessing risk, account should also be taken of local circumstances and other relevant factors such as:

- Prevailing winds
- Topography
- Shelter belts and natural barriers which may hinder seed dispersal
- The height of seed release compared to surrounding vegetation
- Vegetation cover of receiving land

30. Whether or not the density of ragwort is high or low, the risk factor will be determined by the likelihood of it spreading to land used for keeping or grazing horses and livestock, and/or for feed or forage production.

31. Where a higher or medium risk has been identified owners and occupiers are encouraged to keep records of ragwort presence, to help inform any subsequent action taken. Where the size and nature of the estate make this more difficult e.g., railway land and trunk roads, managers should be encouraged to build records of ragwort using information gathered from inspections, ad-hoc visits and public observations.

Welfare considerations

32. Owners of horses and livestock are legally responsible for the welfare of their animals, and they should satisfy themselves that their animals are not exposed to risk. See the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/45/contents) and the animal welfare pages (www.gov.wales/animal-welfare) on the Welsh Government website, which include the Horse Welfare Code of Practice (www.gov.wales/code-of-practice-for-the-welfare-of-horses). Owners of horses and livestock should:

- provide a suitable diet
- inspect grazing land regularly for ragwort, especially when animals are present (see **Appendix 1** for identification).
- ensure pastures are maintained in good condition and are not under or overgrazed (see **Appendix 2**).
- ensure that conserved forage is of good quality and not contaminated with ragwort or other contaminants. It should smell fresh and be free from dust and mould. Contaminated forage should be deemed unsuitable for animal feed and disposed of safely.

- move horses and livestock to ragwort free land where practicable, and in the case of livestock by taking into account the experience of the stock person on the likelihood that particular animals will ingest ragwort.
- on land where livestock and horses graze remove ragwort plants using an appropriate control technique (see **Appendix 3**) which takes account of the status of the land (see **Appendix 4**).
- dispose of ragwort plants (alive or dead) in a way that ensures horses and livestock cannot access them. Dead or wilted ragwort presents a higher poisoning risk because it is more likely to be eaten than in its green state but remains toxic (see **Appendix 5**).
- follow safety guidelines (see **Appendix 6**).

33. Grassland conserved for forage production including hay, haylage and silage may contain ragwort. Horses and livestock cannot detect ragwort once dried, however the PAs within the ragwort remain a poisoning risk. In its dried form ragwort is more likely to be eaten and therefore poses a higher risk of poisoning to the animal than in the grazing situation. Producers of conserved forage should:

- inspect land regularly for ragwort, especially in the growing season (see **Appendix 1**).
- ensure managed grassland is maintained in good condition (see **Appendix 2**).
- remove ragwort plants using a suitable control technique (see **Appendix 3**) appropriate for the status of the land where the control is to take place (see **Appendix 4**).

- dispose of ragwort plants (alive or dead) in an approved manner which ensures that plants cannot contaminate forage (see **Appendix 5**).
- follow safety guidelines (see **Appendix 6**).
- ensure that conserved forage is not contaminated with ragwort. Any feed or forage for horses and livestock that contains ragwort should be deemed unsuitable for animal feed and disposed of safely. See the **Legal framework** section for the legislation which governs feed production and **Appendix 5** for disposal.

Further advice

34. **Appendix 8** provides links to a range of relevant government guidance and other publications.
35. Advice may also be available from organisations which are responsible for the management of land in their ownership and/or control i.e., the Trunk Road Agents, Local Highways Authorities, Network Rail,

Canal and Rivers Trust, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Cadw (Welsh Historic Monuments), and Local Authorities (see **Appendix 7**). Technical advice and advice on ragwort control may also be available from other organisations (see **Appendix 9**).

Appendix 1: Biology and Identification

Identification

1. Common ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris* synonym *Senecio jacobaea*) establishes a rosette of basal leaves during its first year and overwinters in this way (see **Photograph 3**). In its second or subsequent years the rosette produces a tall flowering stem from late June. At this stage it is an erect plant, usually 30-90cm high but may exceed 100cm. The stems are tough and often tinged purple-red at the base, but brighter green and branched above the middle. The basal rosette of leaves usually dies before flowering, but the stem leaves persist. They are deeply

dissected, with irregular, jagged-edged lobes. All the leaves are dark green and rather tough and may be sparsely hairy on the lower side. The flower head is a conspicuous, large, flat-topped head of densely packed bright yellow flowers. These are numerous and daisy-like, with 11-15 yellow petals which are 5-10mm long (see **Photograph 1** and **Photograph 2**).

Further photographs to assist with identification can be found on the **Gallery** tab of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) Plant Atlas 2020 (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.aqkn6c).



Photograph 1: Common ragwort in flower.



Photograph 2: Close up of common ragwort flowers.



Photograph 3: Common ragwort basal rosettes.



Photograph 4: Common ragwort basal rosettes.

Flowering and lifecycle

2. Flowering typically occurs in the second year from June until late October after which the plant sets seed and plants are generally reported to die. Occasionally, plants can be seen flowering in winter and early spring. A small proportion of the common ragwort population may behave as short-lived perennials.
3. Damage to the crown such as cutting, grazing, hoof damage, caterpillar attack, damage by machinery and incomplete/ineffective pulling can encourage a perennial habit. In poor ground rosettes may take more than 2 years to come to flowering size and they can also remain in the rosette stage for several years where intensive cutting regimes are usual practice e.g. on amenity grassland.

Reproduction

4. Ragwort reproduces by seed and also by vegetative regeneration from damaged roots and crowns.
5. Seeds are borne singly and begin to ripen in July/August until December. Dispersal usually peaks around August/September. Seed numbers vary enormously, with estimates ranging from under 5,000 to 150,000 and occasionally more per plant. Plants that have been damaged, e.g. from cutting or grazing, are likely to produce the highest seed numbers.

Seed germination and longevity

6. Seeds require bare patches in which to germinate and grow. Young seedlings are unlikely to establish in closed swards but once they reach the rosette stage they compete readily with the surrounding vegetation.
7. Seed that becomes buried in the soil can lie dormant for several years and may germinate if disturbed and brought to the surface. There is some disagreement about how long seeds can persist, but a small and declining percentage of seed may remain viable for 10-16 years and possibly longer in the right soil conditions.
8. The likelihood of ragwort establishing from seed depends on it dispersing to a suitable site for germination and growth, and, over the longer term, whether the seed becomes buried.

Seed types and dispersal

9. Each daisy-like flower produces two distinct types of seed:

- **Disc seeds** – these are most numerous and are equipped with a downy appendage (like dandelion seeds) for wind dispersal, and structures thought to aid animal dispersal. In damp conditions the downy appendage becomes ineffective for wind dispersal.
- **Ray seeds** – these are heavier and lack any apparent dispersal structures. They remain on the plant until they are shaken out, typically falling around the base.

10. Field experiments indicate that the majority of seed is likely to disperse only short distances by wind. Convection currents and/or strong winds are thought necessary for long distance dispersal but there are no specific studies on this for ragwort. Whilst ragwort seeds are adapted to spread by wind, other methods of dispersal are also mentioned or observed in the literature. These include water (there are indications that seed may spread downstream), animals (e.g. seed has been observed entangled in the coats of livestock and viable seed found in rabbit droppings), and human activity (e.g. seed transported in contaminated hay or soil). However, information on these routes is limited. Regardless of how seed is spread, it can only grow if it lands in a suitable site to germinate.

Distribution

11. Common ragwort is widespread throughout the UK and can be found on wasteland, development land, meadows, pastures, sand dunes, roadside verges, railway land, amenity land, conservation areas, set-aside, woodland, and grazing land. Poor quality and poorly managed horse pastures are particularly susceptible to high densities of ragwort. It is rarely found as an arable weed but does establish in fallows and field margins.

Habitat

12. Common ragwort can be found over a large range of climatic conditions and soil types (although it prefers freely drained soils). It can be characteristic of badly managed grasslands, where trampling breaks the sward, where patches of turf have died in drought, or in areas of over/under grazing. However, well-managed, dry, acid, or calcareous grasslands may naturally contain ragwort. Disturbances to grass verges, embankments, woodland areas leading to open soil, as well as sand-dunes, are most favourable conditions for seedling establishment as it is a pioneer plant.

Other species of ragwort

13. Whilst only the more frequently found common ragwort is subject to the provisions of the Weeds Act 1959, there are other closely related members of the *Senecio* and the *Jacobaea* genera which may cause some identification problems. Photographs to assist with identification can be found on the **Gallery** tab of the BSBI Plant Atlas 2020, links are included in the descriptions below:

- a. **Hoary ragwort** (*Jacobaea erucifolia* synonym *Senecio erucifolius*) occurs mainly on roadsides, semi-natural meadows, and field boundaries. Leaves have dense cottony grey hairs on the underside. Stem leaves are finely divided but rosette leaves are not divided and could be confused with common ragwort in grazed or mown grassland. BSBI Plant Atlas (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.aqkn63).
- b. **Marsh ragwort** (*Jacobaea aquatica* synonym *Senecio aquaticus*) is locally abundant in wet areas of fields, ditches, riverbanks and marshes often with an unkempt appearance. The flowers which emerge in June, July and August are larger and much less densely clustered than those of common ragwort. A further distinguishing feature is the rounded ends to the leaves. BSBI Plant Atlas (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.aqkn5p).

- c. **Groundsel** (*Senecio vulgaris*) is abundant on arable land and wasteland. It grows up to 40cm in height and has branched stems with open clusters of small, yellow flower heads that can be seen flowering all year round. BSBI Plant Atlas (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.ckm)



Photograph 5: Groundsel.

There are also a number of non-native species including:

- d. **Oxford ragwort** (*Senecio squalidus*). There is further information on the Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSI) website www.nonnativespecies.org/non-native-species/information-portal/view/3229).
- e. **Narrow-leaved ragwort** (*Senecio inaequidens*). BSBI Plant Atlas (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.ghk).
- f. **Sticky groundsel** (*Senecio viscosus*). Although this is non-native it has genetically dwarf variants occurring on maritime shingle which could conceivably be native. BSBI Plant Atlas (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.990).

Rare ragwort species

14. **Welsh ragwort** (*Senecio cambrensis*, sometimes known as Welsh groundsel), is currently restricted entirely to North Wales. It arose from hybridization between two related species. Its distribution can be found on the BSBI *Senecio cambrensis* distribution map (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.g14).
15. **Fen ragwort** (*Jacobaea paludosa* synonym *Senecio paludosus*) is a very rare British native. It was previously extinct but re-introduced in fen sites in England. It is listed in Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/8). Photographs and distribution can be found on the BSBI Plant Atlas (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.aqkn69).

Ragwort look-alike plants

16. There are some other plant species which may look like common ragwort. Photographs to assist with identification can be found on the **Gallery** tab of the BSBI Plant Atlas 2020, or on the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas. Links are included in the descriptions below:

Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) is a perennial found widely in hedgerows and waste places, reaching a height of 60-100cm. It has erect, angular, leafy stems, with alternate leaves which are much cut into. Flowering occurs in August and September and has heads of round, flat, dull yellow flowers which grow in clusters and have a peculiar odour. BSBI Plant Atlas (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.9b1).



Photograph 6: Tansy.

Yellow Loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*) is a perennial which can grow up to 100cm and forms large dense patches in moist areas such as ditches, marshes, roadsides, stream banks, pond margins and open woodland. The bright yellow flowers are bunched together in terminal spikes. BSBI Plant Atlas (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.1ez).



Photograph 7: Yellow Loosestrife.

Goldenrod (*Solidago virgaurea*) is easily recognised by its golden yellow flower heads forming tight cylindrical panicles in late summer/early autumn. It has slender stems, with alternate linear to lanceolate leaves, and grows between 60-100cm high. BSBI Plant Atlas (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.w23)



Photograph 8: Goldenrod.

Imperforate St John's-Wort (*Hypericum maculatum*) is an erect perennial that grows 25-50cm tall, often with black glands on the leaves and petals. It is usually found in grassy moist places, such as hedgerows and wet meadows. The bright yellow flowers emerge from June through to September. BSBI Plant Atlas (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.c4h).



Photograph 9: Imperforate St John's Wort.

Hawkweed spp. (*Hieracium spp.*) are creeping perennials with fibrous roots, creeping stolons, milky sap and showy yellow dandelion-like flowers. Found mainly on fields, pastures and meadows, roadsides and disturbed areas. NBN Atlas (www.species.nbnatlas.org/species/NHMSYS0000459324).



Photograph 10: Hawkweed species.

Also:

- Common Cat's-Ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*). BSBI Plant Atlas (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.18f).
- Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*). BSBI Plant Atlas (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.1nx).
- Field Fleawort (*Tephrosia integrifolia*). BSBI Plant Atlas (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.w1p).
- Heath Groundsel (*Senecio sylvaticus*). BSBI Plant Atlas (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.98s).
- Smooth Hawk's-Beard (*Crepis capillaris*). BSBI Plant Atlas (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.rx)

Appendix 2: Grassland Management

Pastures

1. Pasture management plays a crucial role in preventing the establishment and spread of ragwort. Maintaining a dense, continuous, and competitive sward over the long term can help prevent ragwort seeds from germinating and establishing. See **Appendix 1** for the biology of ragwort.
2. It is not possible in guidance of this nature to provide comprehensive information on pasture management. Best practice varies according to specific circumstances, e.g., in relation to managed grassland or unimproved semi-natural grassland.
3. Horses are very selective grazers and will eat down some areas until they are almost bare. Coarser grasses can dominate, particularly in those areas where horses dung or urinate, and the grass is left to seed creating a very uneven sward. Bare patches can develop resulting in ideal conditions for the establishment of ragwort. Careful management of horse pastures can help to prevent this. Leaving horses out in wet winter conditions can exacerbate the situation causing the ground to become poached (i.e., churned up by animals), damaging the grass sward and providing an opportunity for ragwort to establish in the bare ground. Disturbance can also bring buried seed to the surface where it may germinate.
4. To maintain horse pasture in good condition:

- stocking densities should be appropriate to the size of grazing area and available herbage; dung should be collected and removed regularly;
- plants poisonous to livestock should not be allowed to proliferate;
- prevent poaching by maintaining drainage and limiting time spent by horses on fields in wet conditions wherever practicable. For example, this could be by providing alternative surfaced winter turnout areas;
- ensure that winter fields have healthy and dense grass swards which will be more resistant to poaching;

- graze on a rotational basis where possible. This allows the pasture to rest and regrow and can significantly reduce the prevalence of ragwort compared to continuous stocking;
- remove stale fodder.

For further information on pasture management see the British Horse Society website (www.bhs.org.uk/horse-care-and-welfare/health-care-management/pasture-management/grass-management/).

5. Agriculturally improved grassland should be managed to achieve a dense and continuous, ground cover of grasses and herbs. Nutrient and pH levels should be maintained through the appropriate application of fertilisers and lime. Application rates should be determined by soil analysis and in accordance with current regulations, including The Water Resources (control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 (www.gov.wales/water-resources-control-agricultural-pollution-wales-regulations-2021-guidance-farmers-and-land/):

- Appropriate stocking levels should be maintained to avoid under and overgrazing. Graze on rotation where possible as this can significantly reduce the prevalence of ragwort on pasture compared to continuous stocking.
- Where pastures deteriorate to such an extent that other methods do little to improve the sward cover, renovation through reseeding may be necessary. It is recommended to follow this with good pasture or cropping management to suppress ragwort that may germinate from the seed bank.
- Poaching should be minimised to prevent sward damage.

Semi-natural and uncultivated areas

6. Where grassland is being managed for its ecological value, but is also being used for grazing, different constraints will apply. Here it will be necessary to keep the population of ragwort to a level consistent with the ecological requirements of the site, the species of conservation significance living there, and the welfare of the grazing animals. Animals grazing on such sites should always have access to adequate, palatable vegetation.
7. Wherever possible uncultivated land with low levels of ragwort should remain undisturbed. Where an open sward is maintained and ragwort can be expected to be a natural component of grassland, other control methods might be necessary to prevent ragwort becoming a problem.
8. Prior to undertaking any agricultural intensification projects on semi-natural land, you must first enquire with Welsh Government as works of this nature need to be considered under the 'Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2017/565/contents). Semi-natural land includes land which contains less than 25% improved agriculture grass species and/or white clover. Agricultural intensification projects include, but are not limited to, cultivation, soil spreading, drainage, reclamation, increased application of fertilisers and increased grazing by livestock. Enquires should be made to the EIA.Unit@gov.wales (see **Appendix 7**). Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guidance (www.gov.wales/environmental-impact-assessment-guidance) is available on the Welsh Government website.

Appendix 3: Control Techniques

Introduction

1. Common ragwort must be accurately identified to prevent the mistaken removal of non-target plants (see **Appendix 1**). It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to intentionally uproot any wild plant without being an authorised person (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/section/27), this includes common ragwort. This guidance does not seek to eradicate ragwort, or to control it indiscriminately.

2. Where control is deemed necessary, three primary control methods are available:

- cultural/mechanical
- chemical
- biological.

3. The control method should be chosen in consideration of the site conditions (see **Appendix 2** and **Appendix 4**) and any other relevant legal requirements. Non-chemical control methods should be considered first and herbicides only used after all other control measures have been carefully considered.

The decision tree in **Figure 1** may also assist with selecting the most appropriate method of control.

4. The immediate impact of any control action will need to be monitored to ensure its effectiveness e.g. for up to six months or to the end of the growing season if sooner. Longer term monitoring may also be required because of the potential for re-establishment from the seed bank and the potential for vegetative regrowth (see **Appendix 1** Biology).

Cultural/mechanical control techniques

5. Cultural and mechanical techniques include good pasture management (see **Appendix 2**) pulling/levering, and the use of burners.

Good pasture management

6. Maintain a dense sward and prevent bare ground areas resulting from heavy poaching and/or overstocking wherever possible. This can be achieved by limiting the time spent by animals on land during wet weather conditions, particularly December to March, to prevent poaching, and by avoiding over grazing at other

times. Rotational grazing is advised wherever possible. Bare patches provide ideal conditions for ragwort seeds to germinate and for seedlings to establish. Disturbance to the soil can also bring buried seed to the surface where it may germinate. Control of rabbit populations may be necessary to maintain ground cover. See **Appendix 2** for grassland management.

Pulling and levering

7. Hand pulling is frequently used as a control option for smaller or sparse populations of ragwort. Pulling or levering up plants can prevent seed spread but efforts should be made to remove all root fragments to prevent regrowth and to minimise soil disturbance. Best results are achieved when the soil is damp to aid root removal, and before ragwort has seeded. For larger areas the use of machine pulling could be considered.
8. Sensible precautions should be taken when handling both live and dead ragwort plants. All operatives involved in handling the plant should have received the appropriate instruction for the task and should be supplied with the appropriate type of personal protective equipment (see **Appendix 6**).
9. Follow-up management will be needed to eliminate plants that have been missed and those regenerating from root fragments or seed. This includes from buried seed that may be brought to the surface and germinate.
10. A combination of manual/mechanical pulling or levering and good pasture management (including reducing disturbance to soil) may be effective against ragwort if repeated over several years, without the need to use herbicides.
11. Ragwort which has been either manually or mechanically pulled or levered should be **removed immediately** and **disposed of safely** (see **Appendix 5**). Plants left lying in the field, or incorporated into conserved forage, are a higher poisoning risk to horses and livestock as they remain toxic and are more likely to be eaten than the live plant. Recent research also suggests that PAs leaching out from decaying ragwort plants into the soil may potentially be taken up, and therefore delivered, by neighbouring acceptor plants which do not produce PAs themselves. Flowering plants may also still set seed.

Cutting

12. Cutting is a control method of last resort and should only be used to reduce seed production and dispersal where other more effective control methods cannot be used. Cutting stimulates growth and plants may subsequently form numerous side shoots that re-flower later in the season. Finding the optimal cutting date is difficult and plants in the target area can be at different stages of growth.
13. **Cut plants should be removed immediately and safely disposed of** (see **Appendix 5**). Horses and livestock should not be allowed to return to the field until plants are removed, and plants should not be incorporated into conserved forage.

Burners

14. Spot burners (handheld flame guns) can be used for plants at the rosette stage, and on flowering and seeding plants. Consideration will need to be given to the potential damage that may be done to surrounding vegetation and the risks of fire. Operator safety will also need to be considered carefully. In most circumstances the use of spot burners is unlikely to be suitable except on hard surfaces and paved areas. Where the use of spot burners is a preferred method of control, a suitable and sufficient risk assessment must be undertaken prior to use.

Chemical Control Techniques

Using herbicides

15. Before buying and using any herbicide consider whether it is really necessary to control the pest, disease or weed in question and whether there is an alternative to traditional chemical control.
16. Any person who uses, or employs contractors to use, professional herbicides is subject to a number of legal requirements. These include specified training, equipment testing, record keeping and taking all reasonable precautions to protect human health and the environment. These requirements are set out in the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/1657/contents).

17. The Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products provides further advice for all professional users of plant protection products in England and Wales. Information about the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use Regulations) 2012 and Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products (www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/using-pesticides/codes-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-using-plant-protection-products.htm) can be found on the HSE website. The Code of Practice is due to be updated in 2026 so where the newer version is available this should be referred to.
18. Application of professional herbicides should only be carried out by a competent person who has undertaken relevant training, or by someone who works under the direct personal supervision of a person who has undertaken the training.
19. Certain types of herbicide application equipment must be tested regularly under the National Spray Testing Scheme (NSTS). More information is available on the NSTS website (www.nsts.org.uk). The operator should keep up-to-date records of inspections checks and repairs.
20. Herbicides should only be used after a risk assessment has been completed which considers both short and long-term, local and remote effects, impacts on animals as well as non-target plants, and possible indirect effects (e.g., through destruction of nesting sites, deoxygenation of ponds caused by organisms decomposing or dead vegetation).
21. To minimise the effects of herbicides on non-target species:
 - use a weed wiper or spot treatment wherever practicable.
 - use a selective herbicide that is less damaging to non-target species.
 - leave an unsprayed buffer zone between treated and vulnerable species/habitats.
 - use appropriately sized droplet nozzles.
 - keep spray nozzles as close as possible to target plants.
 - consider use of low drift nozzles.
 - avoid spraying in unsuitable weather, e.g., when wind speed is greater than Beaufort Force.
22. Before any herbicide can be used, sold, supplied or stored it must be authorised for use. The pesticide database webpages (www.secure.pesticides.gov.uk/pestreg) on the HSE website can be used to search for information on Plant Protection Products authorised for use in Great Britain. Where no suitable authorised product is available, use of a product may be allowed under an 'extension of authorisation for minor use' (EAMU). The HSE's pesticide database webpages can be used to search for information on EAMU's (www.secure.pesticides.gov.uk/offlabels/search.asp).
23. Always read the product label before using any herbicide and comply with all the statutory conditions on the product label. Where an EAMU exists information on use can sometimes be found on the label but not always. Where there are no details on the label users must obtain and read the text of the EAMU before commencing use (www.secure.pesticides.gov.uk/offlabels/search.asp). Users should be aware that pesticides used under an EAMU are done so at the user's own risk and may not be as effective as a fully authorised product.
24. Herbicides are not equally effective at all stages of plant growth and repeated treatments at different times of year may be recommended for optimum control. Instructions for use are stipulated on the product label. Decisions on use should take into account the efficacy of the herbicide against the target species (e.g. many herbicides are more effective when applied to actively growing weeds) and any probable impacts of different timings on other non-target species at that site.
25. **The product label will also contain information about any period of time when animals need to be kept away from the treated area. If a ragwort plant has not sufficiently rotted down and disappeared by the end of the specified period continue to exclude animals from that area until they have.** As a precaution land managers may want to consider an additional 2 weeks of exclusion after all the treated ragwort has disappeared.

26. The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 includes provisions to protect water such that the frequency of herbicide use is as low as reasonably practicable. Further guidance on preventing contamination of surface water and groundwater can be found in the Code of Practice for using Plant Protection Products (www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/using-pesticides/codes-of-practice/index.htm#)
 27. The use of herbicides to control ragwort will affect other plant species within the treated area. Areas protected by legislation, e.g., Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and agri-environment schemes, also restrict the use of certain chemicals or the method of application and the relevant authority should be consulted prior to operations (see **Appendix 4**).
 28. Surplus chemicals must be disposed of according to the Code of Practice for using Plant Protection Products (www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/using-pesticides/codes-of-practice/index.htm#) and the legislation in force in Wales.
- vehicles (e.g. quad bikes) may be more suitable for larger areas of relatively even ground but are, by their nature, more indiscriminate in coverage than hand-held sprayers and may not be appropriate for all situations.
32. Weed wipers provide a method for the targeted treatment of weeds that are taller (at least 10 cm taller) than the associated non-target vegetation. Weed-wipers are available for different scales of operation, from small hand-held wipers to large tractor-mounted equipment.
 33. **If the treated ragwort has not completely died and disappeared after the period specified on the label livestock should continue to be excluded.** This is because treated ragwort retains its toxicity but is more likely to be eaten than in its green state, it is only safe to graze once the plants are no longer accessible to them. Recent research also suggests that PAs leaching out from decaying ragwort plants into the soil may potentially be taken up, and therefore delivered, by neighbouring acceptor plants which do not produce PAs themselves. As a precaution land managers may want to consider an additional 2 weeks of exclusion after all the treated ragwort has disappeared. The same principles apply to treated grassland which is intended to be conserved for hay, haylage or silage.
 34. The Weed Control Handbook: Guidance on the use of herbicides on nature conservation sites (www.naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2025/10/06/new-weed-control-handbook-published-a-smarter-greener-approach-to-vegetation-management/), published by Natural England in August 2025 provides a table (Table 5). which lists possible herbicides that can be used against target species including common ragwort. Before using any of these herbicides a user should consider all the information in this Appendix 3 and check the herbicide is still authorised for the use stated in that guidance (see **paragraph 22** of this Appendix).

Methods of application

29. The type of herbicide used to control ragwort, and the method of application, will be influenced by:
 - the extent, distribution, and location of the target species
 - height and structure of the target species
 - height, structure, and sensitivity of surrounding/adjacent non-target species
 - approval and label requirements.
30. Spot treatment or weed wiping is recommended as the most appropriate form of chemical control for ragwort. Less targeted treatment could exacerbate a ragwort problem by creating bare ground in which ragwort seedlings can establish.
31. The most widely used type of hand-held sprayer is the knapsack sprayer, which is suitable for spot-treatment of ragwort on small areas and on very rough or steep terrain. Sprayers mounted on tractors or all-terrain

Biological control techniques

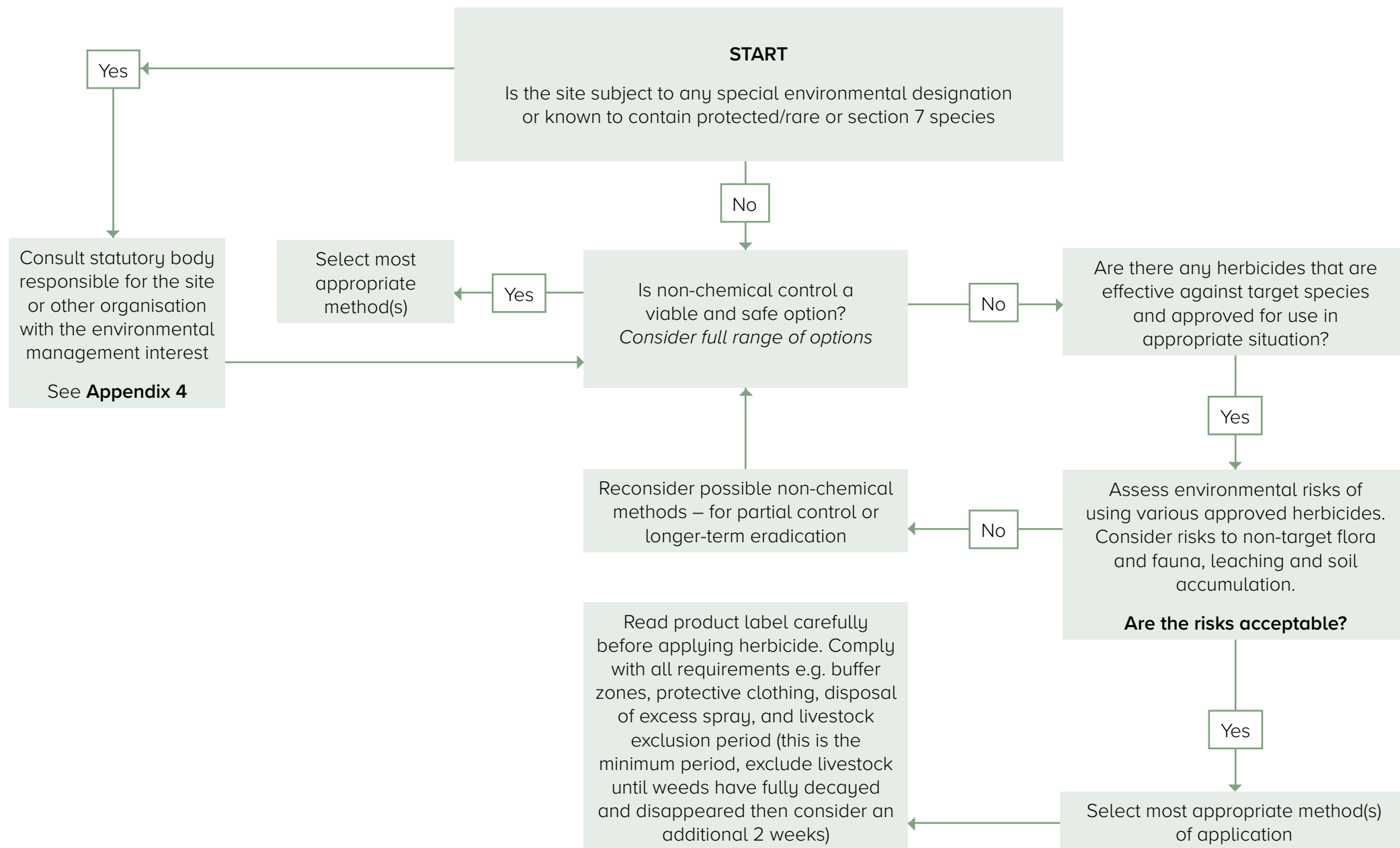
35. Biological control is aimed at controlling ragwort by using the plant's natural enemies to lower its density, thereby suppressing ragwort populations, and allowing other plants to re-establish. Many invertebrate species feed on ragwort including cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaea*), ragwort flea beetle (*Longitarsus jacobaeae*) and ragwort seed fly (*Botanophila seneciella*). High densities or 'plague levels' of cinnabar moths in particular, can destroy complete ragwort populations. However, the natural spread of these species might not always be as wide-ranging as ragwort. Other potential biological control agents include several fungal pathogens (rust diseases) but none of these significantly reduce ragwort populations, nor have they been widely used in the UK to control ragwort populations to date.
36. The introduction of a biological control agent has a potential advantage in areas where chemical/mechanical control is unachievable or undesirable. However, due to natural parasites and predators in the UK, it can be difficult to maintain sufficient populations of the biocontrol agent to provide adequate control and may only result in a reduction rather than a control of spread. Biological control is therefore best used as part of a long-term strategy. Approval is required from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) before this technique is used within SSSIs, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and other areas protected by environmental or ecological designation. Licenses would be required from NRW before a non-native species was approved for release as a biocontrol agent.
37. The deliberate grazing of ragwort by horses, sheep, goats or other livestock is not recommended as a control mechanism on animal welfare grounds. Sheep will actively graze ragwort and are more tolerant than most other livestock, however **they are not free from risk.**

Table 2: Summary of common control methods

Method	Labour required	Cost	Prevention of flowering	Success of control – long term	Grazing removal period – days	Treatments required per year	Optimum time of treatment	Suitable for large areas	Suitable for high ragwort density	Remarks
Pasture Management										See Appendix 2 .
Pulling or levering out by hand	***	*	**	**	0(1)	1-2	R or F	*	*	Consider appropriate PPE. Best results when soil is wet to aid removal of roots. Very dependent on spotting plants, some may be missed requiring further treatment. Where animals have access, or the land is to be used for conserved forage, ragwort plants should be removed immediately and safely disposed of. Tools are available for digging up plants.
Pulling by machine	*	**	***	**	0(1)	2	F	***	***	Selects plants for pulling on height difference & misses shorter plants. Where animals have access, or the land is to be used for conserved forage, lifted plants should be removed immediately and safely disposed of.
Herbicide selective spraying (3)	*	**	***	***	21(2)	1-2	R	***	***	Most products will kill other broad-leaved plants sprayed. Exclude animals until ragwort has died & completely disappeared and then consider a further two weeks.
Herbicide spot treatment (3)	***	**	***	***	21(2)	1-2	R or F	***	*	Very dependent on spotting plants, some may be missed requiring further treatment. Exclude animals until ragwort has died & completely disappeared and then consider an additional two weeks.
Herbicide weed wipes (3)	*	**	**	**	21(2)	1-2	F	***	***	Only taller ragwort plants will be affected. Exclude animals until ragwort has died & completely disappeared and then consider a further two weeks.

Key: * Low; ** Medium; *** High; R – When rosettes start growing; F – early summer before flower heads mature; (1) – Provided ragwort cuttings/lifted plants are removed; (2) These timings are only a guide always follow the instructions on the label and, in addition, exclude animals until ragwort has died & completely disappeared then consider an additional 2 weeks as a precaution (see **paragraph 33** of this Appendix); (3) Ensure the herbicide is authorised for ragwort and always follow the instructions on the label.

Figure 1: Decision tree to assist selecting the most appropriate control method



Appendix 4: Environmental Considerations and Particular Categories of Land

Introduction

1. The nature conservation status and biodiversity attributes of the land, and the contribution to them made by ragwort, must be considered when determining whether action is necessary and is appropriate. This should be considered in addition to the suggested methodology for assessing the risk of spread in **Table 1**.
2. Where land has a special designation and attracts support payments which place conditions on the way the land is managed, or has a specific biodiversity wildlife interest, no action to prevent the spread of ragwort should be taken without the approval of the relevant authority, unless undertaken in compliance with the conditions of any relevant agreement. In the case where an area of land falls within more than one category, broad liaison will be necessary, and all the relevant considerations need to be taken into account.
3. It is an offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 if any person, not being an authorised person (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/section/27) intentionally uproots any wild plant. This includes common ragwort.

Organic farming

4. Where land is farmed organically there will be limitations on the control options that can be used. If in any doubt about the standards covering this area farmers should contact their certification body. Further advice on practical measures should be obtained from suitably experienced organic consultants.

Rural grant schemes

5. Scheme rules for the Sustainable Farming Scheme (www.gov.wales/sustainable-farming-scheme) and other rural grants and payments should be checked before undertaking any

control work. Information on Welsh Government schemes is available at Rural grants and payments | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES (www.gov.wales/rural-grants-payments).

Agricultural intensification projects

6. Prior to undertaking any agricultural intensification projects on semi-natural land, you must first enquire with Welsh Government as works of this nature need to be considered under the 'Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Wales) Regulations 2017'. Semi-natural land includes land which contains less than 25% improved agriculture grass species and/or white clover. Agricultural intensification projects include, but are not limited to, cultivation, direct drilling, soil spreading, drainage, modification of existing drainage, reclamation, increased application of fertilisers and increased grazing by livestock. Enquires should be made to the EIA.Unit@gov.wales (see **Appendix 7**).

National Nature Reserves, SSSIs, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and other statutorily and non- statutorily designated natural heritage sites

7. Several species of ragwort and closely related species occur as native plants on many statutorily designated natural heritage sites such as National Nature Reserves (NNRs), SSSIs, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas (**including sites that support Red Data Book Listed, Nationally Scarce species or habitats and species listed under section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016**). Some species of ragwort are rare.

8. Common ragwort can be competitive and may sometimes need to be controlled to benefit protected species. If the land is a designated nature conservation site Natural Resource Wales (NRW) must be contacted for further information before proceeding (see **Appendix 7**).
9. It is recommended the approach adopted in the above paragraph should generally apply to non-statutorily designated wildlife sites.

Scheduled monuments

10. Control of ragwort on, or removal from, land that is protected as a Scheduled Monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 may also require Scheduled Monument Consent. In such situations, Cadw must be consulted, and advice sought as to the most appropriate method of control (see **Appendix 7**).

Common land and common grazing

11. Responsibility for control lies with the registered owner of the land, grazing committee and/or occupier of the land. Common land and common grazing may also be subject to environmental designation.

Amenity grassland

12. Amenity grassland, which includes sports grounds, playing fields, village greens and grassed areas around buildings and gardens, are usually more intensively managed and would normally pose a low risk of ragwort spreading to grazing land and land used for feed/forage production. However, where land is less intensively managed it can pose a risk if ragwort is allowed to proliferate in areas not frequently cut and/or on the perimeter of the amenity area. Control methods should take into account public access and safety, and a suitably sufficient risk assessment must be undertaken prior to control.

Highways

13. Motorways and Trunk Roads are owned by the Welsh Government's Transport Directorate. They are managed on their behalf by the Trunk Road Agents. All other public roads are the responsibility of local authorities, usually the highways department. See **Appendix 7** for contact details. Private roads are the responsibility of the owner or occupier.
14. Ragwort is frequently found growing by the side of roads, whether motorways, trunk roads, other public roads, or private roads. It can pose a risk of spreading to grazing land and land used for feed/forage production within the locality. The nature of a road corridor is such that it can often act as a conduit for the spread of ragwort, regardless of whether the seed source originated within or outside of the road boundary. See **Appendix 6** for safety guidelines when working within the boundary of a highway.
15. Highway authorities might employ natural regeneration techniques in some areas as part of their sustainability objectives and to establish a diverse seed bank. As part of the establishment process measures should be in place to ensure ragwort is controlled, where it is appropriate to do so.

Railways

16. Most railway infrastructure in Wales is the responsibility of Network Rail. Transport for Wales are responsible for the Core Valley lines infrastructure. Private railway land is the responsibility of the occupier. Ragwort can be found growing by the side of railway lines and, due to the size and broad spread of the railway network, can pose a risk of spreading to adjacent grazing land and land used for feed/forage production. Similarly, the number of neighbours surrounding the network means that ragwort can spread onto railway property.
17. The control of vegetation on railway land, including the control of ragwort, is undertaken to ensure the risks posed to trains, railway personnel and the travelling public are reduced to as low as is reasonably practicable.

18. The control of vegetation is often co-ordinated with other activities to avoid excessive costs and inconvenience to passengers. Due to the potential high risk to personnel working adjacent to railway lines, Network Rail have very strict Health and Safety procedures in place (see **Appendix 6** for safety guidelines and **Appendix 7** for contact details). If there are concerns about ragwort on railway land the first action should be for discussions to be held with Network Rail. Determine what would be a reasonable period for clearance work to be carried out, before making a complaint to the Rural Inspectorate for Wales.

Aquatic areas

19. Land immediately adjacent to water (this includes rivers, streams, brooks, canals, side ponds/side canals, ponds, and reservoirs) can be a source of ragwort, in particular marsh ragwort (*Jacobaea aquatica* synonym *Senecio aquaticus*) which flourishes in damp conditions. Marsh ragwort is not subject to the provisions of the Weeds Act 1959.
20. The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 places a special obligation on all pesticide users to prevent pollution of water. Agreement from Natural Resources Wales is required before using herbicides adjacent (within 5m) to a waterbody or within a waterbody or before using herbicides within a designated site (i.e. Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) or Ramsar site).

Woodland and forestry

21. The Welsh Government woodland estate is managed by Natural Resources Wales. Private woodland/forestry is the responsibility of the owner or occupier. Ragwort in woodland and forestry generally represents a low risk to grazing animals and to feed and forage production.

Development areas, waste ground, derelict land, and land used for mineral extraction

22. This category includes brown-field sites awaiting development, construction sites, abandoned land, and land not utilised or managed surrounding development areas. Welsh ragwort (*Senecio cambrensis*), also sometimes referred to as Welsh groundsel, is a rare species found on waste ground and waysides. It is currently restricted entirely to North Wales and its distribution can be found on the BSBI *Senecio cambrensis* distribution map (www.plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.g14). Land within the urban environment generally represents a low risk to horses and livestock, and to feed and forage production. In some circumstances, this type of land can have benefits for biodiversity, and this should be considered.

Defence land

23. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (an operating arm of the Ministry of Defence) administers the defence estate and are responsible for ensuring that the appropriate standards of weed control are maintained on defence land under its jurisdiction. Some Ministry of Defence land has conservation status and requires grazing. The Ministry of Defence will not control ragwort where there is unexploded ordnance present.

Bridleways

24. It should not be necessary to control ragwort simply because horses will be ridden along the bridleway. It is the rider or leader's responsibility to ensure that a horse when ridden or led on a bridleway does not ingest ragwort.

Appendix 5: Disposal

Introduction

1. The safe and effective disposal of ragwort is an important part of ragwort control.
2. Dead or wilted ragwort presents a higher poisoning risk to horses and livestock as it is more likely to be eaten than in its green state but remains toxic. Where animals have access to the land, or the land is to be used for conserved forage, cut or pulled ragwort plants should be **removed immediately and safely disposed of**. Horses and livestock should not be allowed access to it and there should be no risk of contamination of stored forage or feed, or land used to produce forage or feed.
3. Disposing of ragwort responsibly reduces the risk of further spread by seed dispersal and re-growth from root sections. Effective removal also avoids the risk of PAs leaching out from decaying ragwort plants into the soil and potentially being taken up, and therefore delivered by, neighbouring acceptor plants which do not produce PAs themselves.
Early and effective control of ragwort where appropriate will minimise the problems of disposal.

Disposal options

4. The options for disposal will depend on the amount of ragwort to be disposed of, the type of site, and local resources available. Whenever practicable, ragwort should be disposed of on site. This will reduce the inadvertent spreading of seeds during transport. Options for disposal include rotting down, composting, incineration, controlled burning and landfill. The decision tree shown in **Figure 2** helps to select the most appropriate disposal option.

Legal framework

5. Waste arising from a premises used wholly or mainly for the purposes of a trade or business is considered to be commercial waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/section/75). This includes waste arising from agricultural premises (including ragwort). It does not include household waste arising from such a property.

Household refuse collection

6. Where the Local Authority provides a 'Green Waste Collection', ragwort should not be mixed with the 'Green Waste', unless the Local Authority permits its inclusion. This is because some composting facilities may not have the necessary resources and procedures in place for handling ragwort. Check with your Local Authority whether any domestic collection of ragwort is allowed.

Transporting ragwort

7. Ragwort can set seed even after being pulled, dug or cut and therefore there is a higher risk of seed dispersal to neighbouring land during transportation. To avoid seed dispersal ragwort **should only** be transported in sealed bags or enclosed containers. Where the plants are bulky, they can be cut up to assist packing. To avoid unnecessary seed dispersal, seed heads should be cut off first and packed.
8. Moving ragwort arisings from a domestic setting (i.e. not resulting from any business activity) to a local waste transfer station is allowed provided the facility is a suitably authorised waste operator who can accept ragwort. This should be checked before transportation occurs. However, using a registered waste carrier is ideal when there is a large quantity of ragwort to be disposed of or where other options are not available. www.naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/check-for-a-permit-licence-or-exemption/?lang=en

9. Moving waste from a commercial setting (including farms) to another location will need to be carried out by a registered waste carrier under waste duty of care (www.naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/waste-management/waste-duty-of-care/?lang=en) including the use of waste transfer notes. If waste is transferred to another holder it needs to be taken to a suitably authorised waste operator who can accept and handle that waste type. If waste material is taken to sites within England, permits there will be issued by the Environment Agency.

Small scale composting using a compost bin

10. For disposing of small quantities of ragwort on site. The compost bin should be located away from any ditch, drain or watercourse, or area where animals may have access to it. It should also be located away from grazing land or land used to produce feed or forage. The ground should be levelled where the compost bin is sited; the earth should be loosened so that earthworms, insects and micro-organisms can move into the material, and any liquid can drain and disperse to the soil.
11. This is only suitable for small-scale disposal due to the limited capacity of standard compost bins. Ragwort specific compost bins should be made available.
12. If the material is collected in plastic sacks, these must be emptied into the compost bin directly. If paper sacks are used, these could be loaded into the compost bin and should be sliced and consolidated to increase the rate of biodegradation. The residues should be covered with a layer of grass clippings to help start the biodegradation process and help prevent the material drying out. If the process dries out, then there is the risk that some seeds or root material may not be destroyed and may lie dormant. Sufficient water should be added to keep the residues moist. However, there is still a risk of spreading viable material when the compost bin is emptied. The risks can be reduced by allowing the rotting down to continue for up to 12 months in the compost bin, during which time no fresh material should be added.

Larger scale composting

13. For disposing of ragwort where on-site or off-site facilities and expertise is available to compost ragwort, or green waste containing ragwort, to the British Standard PAS 100:20018². This will ensure that all material is composted effectively. Composting of waste material including ragwort is a waste treatment activity and so will require a suitable permit or exemption under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016 at the place where it is carried out.
14. All composting sites in Wales need to be registered for an exemption. Information on permitted and exempt sites (www.naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/check-for-a-permit-licence-or-exemption/?lang=en) can be found on the NRW website.
15. You can obtain the British Standard PAS 100: 2018 specification for composted materials (www.standardsdevelopment.bsigroup.com/projects/9017-01020) from the British Standards Institute (BSI).

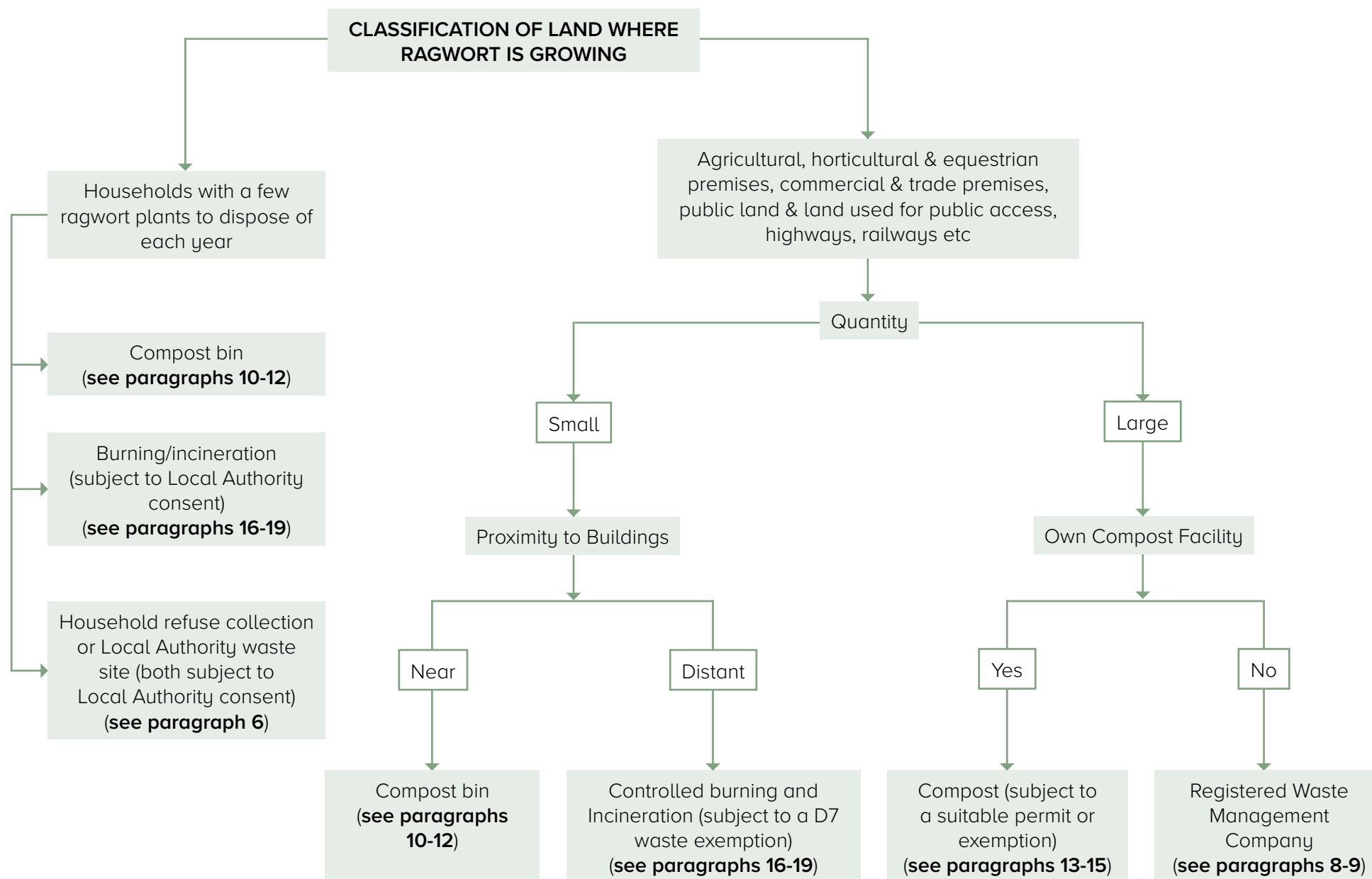
Controlled burning and small-scale incineration

16. This option should only be used for disposing of small quantities where ragwort can be safely wilted prior to burning/incineration. The secure storage and controlled burning of less than 10 tonnes per day of plant matter may be allowed under a **D7 waste exemption**.
17. Exemptions are available from NRW under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (www.naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/waste-permitting/register-or-renew-your-waste-exemptions/?lang=en). **An exemption is not required for householders acting in domestic settings although other rules may apply regarding pollution and public nuisance. It applies to farmers and other landowners/managers acting in a professional capacity.** An exemption is allowed under the Regulations above provided waste disposal is undertaken by the owner or contractor at the site where it was produced and is from agricultural premises or other relevant land including railway land, forest, woodland, and recreational land.

2 PAS 100:2018 Specification for composted materials (BSI).

18. Small scale incineration using a recognised device is preferable to open burning as it provides a greater degree of control and is less likely to cause dark smoke or a public nuisance. It is suitable where ragwort is collected in paper sacks and can be dried sufficiently so that it will burn. It is also suitable for ragwort that has been deflowered and wilted. Weather conditions (especially wind direction) must be taken into account with due consideration for neighbouring ground cover, combustible vegetation, buildings, and housing. Causing nuisance from smoke and deposits from bonfires is an offence.
19. The incinerator should be located away from any ditch, watercourse, or area where animals are kept. It must be well away from any fuel tanks, gas storage cylinders, buildings, domestic property, or road. Due consideration must be taken to avoid nuisance and risk to others.

Figure 2: Decision tree to help select the most appropriate disposal option



Appendix 6: Safety Guidelines

Handling ragwort

1. Sensible precautions should be taken when handling both live and dead ragwort plants. This might include sturdy waterproof gloves, covering broken or irritated skin, and covering arms and legs. Also consider whether a facemask is needed to avoid inhalation of pollen or other airborne particles.
2. If ragwort comes into contact with bare skin, the area should be thoroughly washed in warm soapy water, rinsed, and dried.

General Operator Safety

3. Care must also be taken to ensure operator safety when undertaking ragwort clearance. This is particularly important when clearance takes place on road verges and other public areas accessed by motor vehicles.
4. If assistance in removing ragwort is provided by volunteers, they must be competent to undertake the task and have adequate training (including road safety). They should be supervised to ensure they are not a danger to themselves or to others. This is particularly important when clearing ragwort from verges on roads open to the general public. Volunteers are not permitted to operate on land within the trunk road boundary or land managed by Network Rail or other railway operators.
5. Before clearance commences a sufficient and suitable risk assessment should be undertaken which:
 - identifies the hazards;
 - decides who may be harmed by them;
 - evaluates the risk and decides whether the existing precautions are adequate or whether more should be done;
 - records the findings;
 - reviews the assessment and revises it if necessary.
6. Further guidance on undertaking Risk Assessments is available from the Health & Safety Executive (www.hse.gov.uk/search/search-results.htm?query=hse+risk+assessments#gsc.tab=0&gsc.q=hse%20risk%20assessments&gsc.page=1). See **Appendix 7** for HSE contact details.
6. Control of ragwort within the boundary of public roads should only be undertaken by appropriately trained and qualified persons. Such persons must have had access to the relevant safety and environmental information to ensure that their specialist work does not compromise the safety of road users or contravene environmental legislation.
7. When digging or pulling ragwort adjacent to a public road, pathway, or cycle track, it is essential that operators can be seen by other users. All operators must wear high visibility clothing and generally work facing the traffic as far as practicable. An appropriate level of road safety training should be provided to all operatives to raise the awareness of road safety hazards. No attempt should be made to dig or pull ragwort in poor visibility or during the hours of darkness on roads. Any vehicles used to transport operators to the location where ragwort is being controlled must be parked safely and must not be parked in such a way as to obstruct the road or other public right of way.
8. Road works signing should be set up in accordance with standard practice governing the type of road. On trunk roads, including motorways, different rules apply and traffic signing needs to be approved by the relevant Trunk Road Agent prior to being erected or works beginning.
9. On high-speed dual carriageways and motorways where the speed limit exceeds 50 mph, special traffic management requirements may be required as determined by the Trunk Road Agent.

10. On railway land unauthorised persons must not under any circumstances enter nor purport to authorise entry by any other person. Only the railway undertaker concerned can authorise entry by persons in possession of appropriate railway safety certification meeting the requirements of undertakers' Railway Safety Cases approved by the Railways (Safety Case) Regulations 2000 (as amended). A failure to comply with this instruction is likely to place the persons concerned in breach of duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The person(s) authorising entry may in such circumstances also render themselves liable to prosecution in their personal capacity.
11. Due to the potential high risk to personnel working adjacent to railway lines, Network Rail have very strict health and safety procedures in place. All operatives must conform to these procedures, to ensure their own safety as well as the safe running of the railway. This may require temporary track closures or other forms of phased working linked with reduced services. Personnel involved must also ensure they do not contravene environmental legislation while undertaking weed clearance works.

Prior authority for access to land

12. It is essential that prior authority be obtained before clearance of ragwort is undertaken. Access to land without prior authority would amount to trespass and could lead to a charge of criminal damage. It is also an offence to intentionally uproot any wild plant, including common ragwort, without being an authorised person.

Use of herbicides

13. All herbicides are potentially hazardous if not used in accordance with their approval, and where appropriate, environmental risk and COSHH assessments (see **Appendix 3**). Such products should only be used where absolutely necessary. Unnecessary use is uneconomic, can lead to pesticide resistance and, in some cases, may also damage the non-target vegetation and threaten the local environment. A risk assessment must be carried out before application. The risk assessment should determine the risks to operators and bystanders (including members of the public) and should specify the measures required to adequately control those risks. Any measures deemed appropriate and necessary by risk assessment, e.g., substitution of the product (by a less hazardous one), engineering controls etc, should be implemented, and protective equipment required by and stipulated on the product label should be worn. Information relating to first aid and medical treatment in the event of accidental exposure to the chemical is also given on the product label.

Appendix 7: Contacts

Government Departments and Agencies

Cadw

Welsh Government, Plas Carew Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed,
Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff CF15 7QQ

Tel: 0300 0256000

Email: cadw@tfw.wales (general queries)

Email: scheduledmonuments@gov.wales (Scheduled
Monuments – inquiries and consents)

Website: cadw.gov.wales/contact-us

DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Helpline)

Enquiries from the general public in relation to PPPs
(pesticides) and detergents are handled by the
Defra Helpline.

Tel: 03459 33 55 77 (International: +44 20 7238 6951)

Helpline Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30am – 5pm

Email: defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA-Agriculture) unit

Welsh Government, RPW Customer Contact Centre
(Monday to Friday)

Tel: 0300 062 5004

Email: EIA.Unit@gov.wales

Website: [www.gov.wales/assessing-environmental-
impact-agriculture](http://www.gov.wales/assessing-environmental-impact-agriculture)

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

Website: www.hse.gov.uk/contact/index.htm

Land Registry

To find information about a property in England or
Wales search for land and property information
([www.gov.uk/search-property-information-land-
registry](http://www.gov.uk/search-property-information-land-registry)). The type of information you can get
includes who owns the property or land, and the
property or land's location and boundaries. There is
a charge for documents.

Natural Resource Wales

Tel: 0300 065 3000

Email: enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Website: [www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/about-
us/contact-us/general-enquiries/?lang=en](http://www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/about-us/contact-us/general-enquiries/?lang=en)

Plant Health and Environment Protection Team

Land, Nature and Forestry Division, Welsh
Government, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr,
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3UR

Email: Plant.Health@gov.wales

Website: [www.gov.wales/common-ragwort-code-
practice](http://www.gov.wales/common-ragwort-code-practice)

Rural Inspectorate for Wales

Welsh Government, RPW Customer Contact Centre
(Monday – Friday)

Tel: 0300 062 5004

Email: riwmailbox@gov.wales

The Office of Rail and Road (ORR)

25 Cabot Square, London E14 4QZ

Tel: 020 7282 2000

Email: contact.cct@orr.gov.uk

Website: www.orr.gov.uk/contact-us / [www.orr.gov.uk/
about](http://www.orr.gov.uk/about)

Government Agents

North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent

Llys Britannia, Parc Menai, Bangor.

Serving North Wales, Ceredigion and Powys.

Email: contact@traffic.wales

Website: [www.traffic.wales/north-and-mid-wales-
trunk-road-agent-nmwtra/](http://www.traffic.wales/north-and-mid-wales-trunk-road-agent-nmwtra/) /
www.traffic.wales/contact-us

Network Rail

Waterloo General Office, London, SE1 8SW

Tel: National Helpline 03457 11 41 41

Website: www.networkrail.co.uk/contact-us/ /
[www.networkrail.co.uk/our-work/living-by-the-
railway/vegetation/](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/our-work/living-by-the-railway/vegetation/)

South Wales Trunk Road Agent

12a Llandarcy House, The Courtyard, Llandarcy,
Neath SA10 6EJ

Email: contact@traffic.wales

Website: [www.traffic.wales/south-wales-trunk-road-
agent-swtra/](http://www.traffic.wales/south-wales-trunk-road-agent-swtra/) / www.traffic.wales/contact-us

Transport for Wales (TfW)

3 Llys Cadwyn, Pontypridd, Rhondda Cynnon Taff,
CF37 4TH

Tel: 03333211202

Website: [www.tfw.wales/help-and-contact/rail/
contact-us](http://www.tfw.wales/help-and-contact/rail/contact-us)
[www.tfw.wales/projects/metro/building-our-metro/
vegetation-management](http://www.tfw.wales/projects/metro/building-our-metro/vegetation-management)

Local Authorities

To find your local authority visit [www.gov.wales/find-
your-local-authority](http://www.gov.wales/find-your-local-authority)

National Parks

Bannau Brycheiniog

Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way, Brecon, Powys,
LD3 7HP

Tel: 01874 624 437

Website: www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/contact-us/

Eryri National Park Authority

National Park Office, Penrhyndeudraeth, Gwynedd,
LL48 6LF

Tel: 01766 770274

Email: parc@eryri.llyw.cymru

Website: www.authority.eryri.gov.wales/contact/

Arfordir Penfro Pembrokeshire

Llanion Park
Pembroke Dock
Pembrokeshire, SA72 6DY

Tel: 01646 624800

Email: info@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk

Website: www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/contact-us/

Other Contacts

Canal & River Trust

Head Office, Canal & River Trust, National
Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port, Cheshire,
CH65 4FW

Tel: 0303 040 4040

Website: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/contact-us/form/
www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/contact-us

Local Nature Partnership Team

Wales Council for Voluntary Action, One Canal
Parade, Dumballs Rd, Cardiff CF10 5BF

Email: lnpcymru@wcva.cymru

Tel: 0300 111 0124

Website: www.lnp.cymru/Contact / www.lnp.cymru/About-Us

Appendix 8: Useful Publications

Government Publications

The Weeds Act 1959

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/7-8/54/contents

The Ragwort Control Act 2003

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/40/introduction

*Guidance on the methods that can be used to
control harmful weeds*

www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-the-methods-that-can-be-used-to-control-harmful-weeds

*Code of Practice on how to prevent the spread
of ragwort (Defra)*

www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-on-how-to-prevent-the-spread-of-ragwort

How to prevent the spread of ragwort: guidance

www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-guidance-prevent-spread-ragwort/

*NERR158 Edition 2 The Weed Control Handbook:
Guidance on the use of herbicides on nature
conservation sites (NERR158)*

www.naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2025/10/06/new-weed-control-handbook-published-a-smarter-greener-approach-to-vegetation-management/

*The Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection
Products*

www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/using-pesticides/codes-of-practice/index.htm#

*Code of Practice for Suppliers of Pesticides to
Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry (PB3529)
(also known as the Yellow Code)*

www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/assets/docs/yellow_code.pdf
www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/using-pesticides/codes-of-practice/index.htm

Code of Practice for the welfare of horses

www.gov.wales/code-of-practice-for-the-welfare-of-horses

*The Water Resources (control of Agricultural
Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021: guidance for
farmers and land managers*

www.gov.wales/water-resources-control-agricultural-pollution-wales-regulations-2021-guidance-farmers-and-land

*The Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Information
on Plant Protection Products authorised for use in
Great Britain* www.secure.pesticides.gov.uk/pestreg

HSE Guidance on the requirements of the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012.
www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/using-pesticides/codes-of-practice/guidance-sustainable-use-ppp-regs-2012.htm

Review of evidence concerning ragwort impacts, ecology and control options. Report to Defra October 2013. <https://randd.defra.gov.uk/ProjectDetails?ProjectId=19540>

Other publications

The UK Pesticide Guide. Annual publication of available pesticides and adjuvants in the UK for use in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and amenity situations www.bcpc.org/

Information on habit, biology, persistence & spread for common ragwort
www.gardenorganic.org.uk/expert-advice/garden-management/weeds/weed-datasheets/common-ragwort

The biology and non-chemical control of common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea* L.) W Bond, G Davies, R Turner.
www.gardenorganic-assets.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/documents/senecio-jacobaea.pdf

Interspecific transfer of pyrrolizidine alkaloids: An unconsidered source of contaminations of phytopharmaceuticals and plant derived commodities
www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308814616309621?ref=pdf_download&fr=RR-2&rr=974cb919bec5ada5

Appendix 9: Sources of Technical Advice on Ragwort Control

The presence of any organisation on this list does not infer that this **Code of Practice to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort** endorses the advice, guidance, information, products or services of any organisation listed.

ADAS Ltd

Provide chargeable consultancy advice

Unit 10D
Cefn Llan Science Park
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 3AH
Tel: 01974 847000
Email: enquiries@adas.co.uk
Website: www.adas.co.uk

Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)

Member companies supply and distribute agrochemicals

The Forum
Minerva Business Park
Peterborough
PE2 6FT
Tel: 01733 385230
Email: enquiries@agindustries.org.uk
Website: www.agindustries.org.uk

Association of Independent Crop Consultants (AICC)

Provide chargeable consultancy advice

The Courtyard
Shoreham Road
Upper Beeding
Steyning
BN44 3TN
Tel: 01730 823881
Email: info@aicc.org.uk
Website: www.aicc.org.uk

Basis Registration Ltd

Runs the accreditation scheme for advisors of pesticide use

39 Windmill Lane
Ashbourne
Derbyshire
DE6 1EY

Tel: 01335 343945

Email: help@basis-reg.co.uk

Website: www.basis-reg.co.uk

BCPC (formerly British Crop Protection Council)

Member companies can supply technical literature

93 Lawrence Weaver Road
Cambridge
CB3 0LE

Tel: 01223 342495

Contact: www.bcpc.org/contact

Website: www.bcpc.org

British Horse Society (BHS)

National organisation for horse owners and riders

Abbey Park
Stareton Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 2XZ

Tel: 02476 840500

Email: enquiry@bhs.org.uk

Website: www.bhs.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/

Crop Protection Association (CPA)

Member companies can supply technical literature

Stuart House
St John's Street
Peterborough
PE1 5DD

Tel: 01733 355370

Email: info@cropprotection.org.uk

Website: www.cropprotection.org.uk

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)

Advice on farming and conservation

FWAG Cymru
Ffordd Arran
Dolgellau
Gwynedd
LL40 1LW

Tel: 01341 421456

Email: fwag.cymru@fwagcymru.co.uk

Website: www.fwag.org.uk

Garden Organic

Organic gardening, including weed control

Garden Organic
Ryton Gardens
Wolston Lane
Coventry
CV8 3LG

Tel: 024 7630 3517

Email: enquiry@gardenorganic.org.uk

Website: www.gardenorganic.org.uk

National Association of Agricultural Contractors

Member companies can provide contracting services in agriculture amenity and industrial land-based areas

Grange Farm
Wittering Grange
Old Oundle Road
Wansford Peterborough
PE8 6NR

Tel: 01780 784631

Email: info@naac.co.uk

Website: www.naac.co.uk

UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

Provide chargeable consultancy advice

School of Biological Sciences
Deiniol Road Bangor
Gwynedd
LL57 2UW

Tel: 01248 374500

Website: www.ceh.ac.uk