

Action	Officer	Response
<p>Ecological Emergency Report Update Funding and actions related to the “car-free Cotswolds” initiative</p>	Joseph Walker	<p>Car-Free Cotswolds is a campaign being run by Cotswolds Tourism, across Cotswold and West Oxfordshire Districts to support visitors to the area to access local attractions without private motor vehicles. This could be visitors arriving via train or coach, or choosing to travel on arrival without using the car. The campaign has launched focusing on itineraries from the area's train stations. The campaign is funded by Cotswold Tourism, from income from partners businesses, and was supported in West Oxfordshire from their Shared Prosperity Funding.</p> <p>To see the campaign, members can visit the Cotswold Tourism website Car-Free Travel in the Cotswolds Sustainable Ways to Explore</p>
<p>Ecological Emergency Report Update Details around the use of weedkiller with street cleaning.</p>	Peta Johnson	<p>Provided during the actions for 1 June 2026</p> <p>“Our contract in the Cotswolds is to provide three treatments throughout the growing season. When applied at the optimum time, the weeds will not have flowered and therefore would not be attractive to pollinators. We are aware that seasonal weather patterns affect the rate at which weeds grow and mature, which is why we remain flexible in our application timing. The evidence shows that, in terms of pollinators, more treatments are better than less. Compared with a two-treatment program, the herbicide use on a three-treatment program is not proportionately more due to the much smaller weeds.</p> <p>We use a glyphosate and adjuvant mix. The adjuvant is a rapeseed oil additive to create a heavy, controlled droplet application and reduces our herbicide use by 25%. In line with Best Practice and Codes of Practice, we operate a spot treatment method and only apply herbicide where there are weeds growing. Apart from that it does not make commercial sense to broadcast herbicide where it is not required.</p> <p>Our contractual obligations require us to treat all hard standing areas for weed growth. The spray equipment has five, independently operated nozzles which are turned on and off to capture the weeds present. This means we must travel all pavements and roadways in a co-ordinated way to ensure this is carried out. From a lay-persons point of view, this may appear to be random.</p>

		<p>Regarding protective equipment, our operatives wear workwear and gloves whilst spraying. When applied properly, the spray solution does not become airborne and is therefore not inhaled.</p> <p>Glyphosate remains to be a safe system of treating weeds when mixed and applied according to all recommendations. This is backed up by the WHO downgrading it from a probable carcinogen and the EU giving a 10-year extension to its use, based on extensive scientific data. In terms of human wellbeing, the WHO have stated that the human body can withstand 1mg per kilo of body weight per day. With regard to spraying next to gardens etc, glyphosate does not leach through soil and is not taken up by roots.</p> <p>Our safe systems of work consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual health and safety induction at the beginning of each spraying season. Part of this is to review and discuss our company RAMS, whether they have changed or not. The RAMS include working speeds and working in the public environment.• All new operatives are trained on-site regardless of experience. This starts with the new operative shadowing staff to view how to operate the sprayer in the public environment. Each aspect of spraying is taught separately until the operative is fully conversant with the entire operation. This usually takes at least a week but continues for as long as necessary.• All of our ATV's have GPS trackers which record vehicle speeds. As part of our monitoring, we make random checks on the trackers to assess that working speeds are not exceeded. <p>From extensive knowledge and experience we know how long areas should take to treat. If an area is completed too quickly, we will make a full assessment of the speeds on the tracker system. The same applies to the amount of herbicide used. If usage is particularly low, we assess the speeds of the operative."</p>
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