

**Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.**



ROUGHBIRCHWORTH LANE, OXSPRING.

OS REF: SE 27162 02085.

**INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES
MITIGATION PLAN.**

Ref No: 210543/INNS MP.

Date: 20th December 2022.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. Planning consent number 2020/1387 has been granted for the construction of seven new dwellings on the Roughbitchworth Lane residential development area.

1.2. Planning condition number 4 states: -

An Invasive Non-Native Species Management Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, prior to the commencement of the development. The plan shall detail measures to be implemented in order to minimise the spread of Himalayan balsam on site.

1.3. This document is designed to satisfy that condition.

2. HIMALAYAN BALSAM MITIGATION PLAN.

2.1. Himalayan balsam is an annual plant that propagates through seeds. Therefore once the plants seed in late summer and early autumn they die back and new plants grow the following year from the seeds scattered the previous year.

2.2. Himalayan balsam is therefore best controlled by preventing the plants from seeding by cutting back or pulling the plants before they can produce seeds.

2.3. Commencing in early June, all Himalayan balsam plants will be pulled or cut back. The plants can be left on the ground to die back or disposed of in piles as once pulled they will not produce seed.

2.4. Repeat visits should be carried out at two weekly intervals throughout the season and until no further flowering plants remain.

2.5. If any plants are allowed to produce seed, the whole exercise will be aborted until the next flowering season.

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Toolbox Talk: Himalayan Balsam

Himalayan Balsam was introduced into the UK in the early 19th century as an ornamental garden plant. The plant has since become established in the wild growing in a wide range of habitats, predominantly damp habitats and along watercourses. Himalayan Balsam grows in dense stands and therefore along river banks it can increase the likelihood of flooding during periods of heavy rainfall and can leave the river banks bare and exposed to erosion during the winter.

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Identification.

Himalayan Balsam grows to around 2m and has a hollow, brittle stem. The plant stem is green to red early in the season and turns pink to red during the summer.



The plant has leaves up to 15cm long which are finely serrated along the edges and may have a pink mid-rib. The flowers are trumpet shaped and pink.



Habitat and Spreading.

Himalayan Balsam grows in a range of habitats but prefers damp habitats and river corridors. The plant grows in dense stands that out-compete native species. Along river corridors the plant can increase the likelihood of flooding during periods of heavy rainfall and leaves the river banks bare and exposed to erosion during the winter.



Himalayan Balsam spreads solely by seeds, which are small and easily carried by wind or water. The seed heads are approximately 2.5cm long and explode on touch when ripe.

The best form of control of the plant is to prevent it from seeding by cutting back or pulling before it can seed.

Legislation.

Under section 14 and Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence for it to be planted or otherwise caused to grow in the wild. This includes spreading the species by transferring polluted ground material from one area to the other.

If Himalayan balsam is identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk