

Birch Business Park

Yeargate Ltd

Method Statement for removal of Himalayan Balsam

SITE LOCATION



Background

Avian Ecology were commissioned to perform a survey of the site to support the planning application. The survey identified, on the south-east border of the estate along Whittle Lane, a small amount of Himalayan Balsam, which is an invasive non-native species, listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; under the Act it is against the law to cause or allow a plant listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to spread in the wild.

Condition 4 of the draft planning permission requires:

No development including works of demolition shall take place until a method statement and/or biosecurity protocols to control and/or avoid Himalayan Balsam has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The agreed measures shall be adhered to and implemented in full throughout the course of the development.

A pre-construction survey should be undertaken to establish if any further stands of invasive non-native species have established within the Site. Upon identification, invasive species present within or immediately adjacent to proposed working areas should be cordoned off with fencing erected around the stand(s) (with suitable signage), to highlight the presence of invasive species and avoid the accidental spread.

The identified stand of Himalayan balsam should be subject to a regime of targeted vegetation control / removal on an annual basis. Small infestations can be controlled by hand pulling before the plants flower (generally before June). The plant is shallow rooted

and easy to uproot. Pulled or cut plants should be left in the open to allow the stems and roots to dry out and die quickly. If there are large volumes of pulled plants, they should be left in piles to compost, and covered with a tarpaulin or similar to prevent re-growth.

Method Statement Objective

To identify, remove and check for reoccurrence of Himalayan Balsam on the southeast boundary of Birch Business Park alongside Whittle Lane

Method Statement

The method statement adopts the advice of Groundwork, a federation of Charities, mobilising practical community action on poverty and environment in the UK and the Royal Horticultural Society. The work will be undertaken by Yeargate's in-house maintenance staff supported by our landscaping contractors, Cottage Landscapes. All staff involved will be briefed on the appearance of the plant and the method of its removal. It will be completed before June each year to ensure the plants do not have the opportunity to seed.

1. In May of each year, beginning in May 2022, survey the South-east boundary of the business park alongside Whittle Lane. Identify and mark areas of growth of Himalayan Balsam.
2. Uproot the balsam by holding it at its lowest point and tugging it out
3. Break the root by snapping it just below its lowest nodule point to prevent it re-rooting itself.
4. Pile up the individual plants to allow them to degrade naturally.
5. Revisit the site after three weeks to ensure there are no areas of regrowth, or areas that have been missed and repeat treatment if necessary.

