

INVASIVE SPECIES REPORT

**Client: Mr C Brennan
(F125-3)**

FIELDODOLOGY WORKS



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 AUTHOR AND QUALIFICATIONS

This report is written and compiled by Julie Wickington BSc, competent Ecologist for Fieldology Works Ltd. The field surveys were also conducted by Julie, as she has undertaken many habitat surveys.

1.2 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND PREVIOUS SURVEY INFORMATION

The proposed plans include in Principle application 24/00969/PIP for the erection of 5no. dwellinghouses with associated access, landscaping and car parking

Fieldology Works Ltd, has previously undertaken a Biodiversity Net Gain Appraisal (BNG) of the Site in 2025 (see planning application Ref: 25/00681) Rochdale Borough Council

1.3 REPORT OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE

This report has been produced to inform management in relation to invasive plant species that were highlighted within the BNG Habitat Condition Assessment walkover survey of the site 31st March 2025.

The Technical Details Consent Condition 13 (referred to below) highlighted the need for an invasive species method statement:

- 13 No development (including any demolition, site clearance or preparation works) shall take place until a detailed method statement for the removal or long-term management/eradication of invasive non-native (alien) species of plant on the site (Himalayan Balsam) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The method statement shall include measures to prevent the spread of invasive non-native (alien) species of plant during any operations such as mowing, strimming or soil movement, and measures to ensure that any soils brought to the site are free of the seeds/roots/stems of any invasive plant covered under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved method statement.

Reason: In accordance with policy G7 of the adopted Rochdale Core Strategy and Policy JP-G8 of the adopted Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan and to ensure the satisfactory treatment and disposal of invasive plant species which, under the terms of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is an offence to be caused to be spread in the wild.

Reason for pre-commencement condition: Construction activity increases the risk of invasive species spreading.

This document sets out all the necessary procedures, timings and mitigation measures to avoid the spread of invasive species during works on site and avoid any potential breaches of legislation. This report should be read in conjunction with appendices 1 – 2.

2 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

2.1 BACKGROUND

2.1.1 HIMALAYAN BALSAM (*IMPATIENS GLANDULIFERA*)

Introduced as a garden plant in the early 19th century and first recorded in the wild in 1855. Often favoured by the general public for its aesthetic appeal and is still deliberately planted on occasion. Now widespread in the UK, especially along urban rivers. Spreads solely by seeds, which are small and easily carried by wind or water. A glabrous annual herb with stout succulent, reddish-translucent hollow stems to 2.5 m; leaves opposite or in whorls of 3, 5-18 cm long and 3-7 cm wide; flowers with short spur, helmeted upper petal, deep purplish pink to white, strong balsam smell. Flowers are pollinated by bees, wasps and hoverflies. Germination occurs in February-March, followed by rapid shoot extension and leaf expansion from April. Plants flower from July to October, setting seed from mid-July onwards. Seeds are set from August to October. There are 4-16 seeds per pod and each plant can produce 800 seeds. At ripening, explosive dehiscence of the fruit capsule; each plant ejecting as many as 800 seeds for a distance of up to 7 m. Most seeds overwinter for one season before germinating the following spring; however, there is some evidence of a persistent seedbank lasting for at least 2 years.

Himalayan Balsam shades out and crowds out many native species and produces much nectar and therefore attractive to pollinating insects, possibly to the detriment of native flowering plants. It out-competes native species in ecologically sensitive areas, particularly riverbanks. Where it grows in dense stands along riverbanks it can impede flow at times of high rainfall, increasing the likelihood of flooding. Dieback of extensive stands over winter can leave riverbanks bare and exposed to erosion.

2.2 LEGISLATION

Relevant Legislation regarding invasive species:

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981;

Section 14(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA 1981) states that "...if any person plants or otherwise causes to grow in the wild any plant which is included in Part II of Schedule 9, he shall be guilty of an offence." Himalayan Balsam is a species listed in Schedule 9. Anyone convicted of an offence under Section 14 of the WCA 1981 may face a fine of £5,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment, or 2 years and/or an unlimited fine on indictment.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA, 1990);

The EPA 1990 contains a number of legal provisions concerning "controlled waste", which are set out in Part II. Any soil or plant material contaminated with Himalayan Balsam that you discard, intend to discard or are required to discard is likely to be classified as controlled waste. The most relevant provisions in the EPA are in section 33 (1) (a) and (1) (b). These create offences to do with the deposit, treating, keeping or disposing of controlled waste without a permit. Section 33 (1) (c) makes it an offence to keep, treat or dispose of controlled waste in a manner likely to cause pollution of the

environment or harm to human health. Section 34 places duties on any person who imports, produces, carries, keeps, treats or disposes of controlled waste. Waste must be handled responsibly and in accordance with the law at all stages between its production and final recovery or disposal.

Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986;

The Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 require any person who uses a pesticide to take all reasonable precautions to protect the health of human beings, creatures and plants, safeguard the environment and in particular avoid the pollution of water.

Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005 (HWR 2005);

The HWR 2005 contain provisions about the handling and movement of hazardous waste. Hazardous wastes are defined by reference to regulation 6 of the HWR 2005.

Consignment notes must be completed when any hazardous waste is transferred, which include details about the hazardous properties and any special handling requirements. If a consignment note is completed, a waste transfer note is not necessary. Material containing Himalayan Balsam which has been treated with certain herbicides, may be classified as hazardous waste.

Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011;

Waste must be transferred to an authorised person, in other words, a person who is either a registered carrier or exempted from registration by the Waste Regulations. A waste transfer note must be completed and signed giving a written description of the waste as per regulation 35 of the Waste Regulations. This must be sufficient to enable the receiver of the waste to handle it in accordance with their own duty of care. Failure to comply with these provisions is an offence.

Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (EPR 2010);

The EPR 2010 includes a reference to the ‘Exercise of relevant functions’ in Schedule 9, paragraph 4. These objectives are derived from Article 13 of the European Waste Framework Directive. These objectives state that necessary measures shall be taken to ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of “without endangering human health and without using processes or methods which could harm the environment and in particular without – risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals; or causing nuisance through noise or odours; or adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest”

2.3 STATUS ON SITE

The site plan at Appendix 1 shows the locations of all invasive non-native species within the site boundary.

2.3.1 HIMALAYAN BALSAM

Himalayan Balsam was observed close to the southern boundary of the site (see Appendix 1).

2.4 IMPACT WITHOUT MITIGATION

Himalayan Balsam is listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. As such, it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause these species to grow in the wild.

Without mitigation, site clearance and setting out could result in the disturbance and dispersal of Himalayan Balsam on and off-site. This could result in a breach of legislation.

3 MITIGATION MEASURES

The following measures are designed with the primary objective of eradicating invasive species from the development site, before any works being carried out. They will ensure that the construction personnel have a high level of understanding about the invasive species and the legislation which requires them to be removed and eradicated from the site.

The below mitigation measures are only required if there is the potential that the areas containing the invasive species will be disturbed or impacted by the proposed works. However, it is recommended that these species are eradicated from the site as part of the development

as an ecological enhancement and to stop any future spread across the site which could have detrimental ecological and financial impacts, particularly relating to the spread of Japanese knotweed.

3.1 PREVENTING SPREAD

1. To avoid contamination around the site, all site operatives with the potential to work within the vicinity of the invasive species should receive training in Himalayan Balsam identification and best practice procedures for avoidance of spreading any species throughout the site.
2. Good site hygiene should be maintained:
 - o All stands of the invasive species should be marked and should be undisturbed until the completion of development works and any treatment and eradication works.
 - o Stockpiles of contaminated soil and vegetative material should be clearly marked and isolated.
3. Avoid any new contamination to the site by minimising the risk of fly-tipping waste onto the development, not importing infested topsoil for use on-site, and inspecting new vehicles entering the site, particularly any caterpillar tracks.
4. Reusing treated soils onsite is possible without the need for a waste management licence. However, to minimise the potential problems there could be if the soil was not treated adequately, you should only use soil again where there is little risk of spreading such as away from watercourses, amenity lawns and gardens, away from boundaries with other properties and in an area what is not disturbed heavily by people or livestock.

3.2 TREATMENT

Works to control invasive species should be undertaken by suitably trained and qualified operatives holding the appropriate certification and licences where applicable. Herbicide application works must be undertaken by an operative certified to use and apply herbicides (i.e. NPTC PA1 and PA6). The invasive species on site are not located within the immediate vicinity of any water courses and hence it is considered that permission from the Environment Agency via submission of form AqHerb01 is not required for the proposed treatment works on Site.

If there is the possibility that the invasive species could be disturbed by contractors throughout the construction period, any invasive species should be eradicated / removed prior to start of works in the affected areas. The following procedures should be followed:

1. Identify all existing and emerging stands within the site area and mark all clumps with a single stake (for small clumps), 2 or 3 stakes (for bigger clumps). Each stake shall be driven until firm by hand. All stakes shall be 75mm diameter x 2.5m long peeled, tanalised softwood with the top painted for ease of identification. Stake on the edge of all identified clumps. Mark all areas on a site plan and take a photographic record.
2. An exclusion zone around each clump will be marked out on site (5m for Himalayan Balsam).
3. Access to all infected areas shall be on foot at all times. No plant or vehicles shall pass within 5m of the identified stands or staked areas.
4. No excavation or tipping of any material shall be allowed within 5m of any identified stands or staked areas.
5. All site staff shall be briefed upon the identification of invasive species and the need to avoid contact or cross-contamination within the site, including points 2, 3 and 4 above.

The following steps then need to be followed according to each invasive species.

3.2.1 HIMALAYAN BALSAM

Mechanical/physical control

Mechanical control, by repeated cutting or mowing, is effective for large stands, but plants can regrow if the lower parts are left intact. The plant must be cut below the lowest node to stop regeneration. Access to the sides of riverbanks can be difficult and inaccessible stands can quickly recolonise accessible cleared areas, so vigilance is needed if an area is to be effectively cleared. Regular grazing also suppresses this species.

Small infestations (most common in gardens) can easily be controlled by hand-pulling as the species is shallow-rooted. Padded gloves should be worn to avoid the risk of injury to hands. Seeds are not very robust and only survive for up to 18 months so a two-year control programme can be successful in eradicating this plant if there is no further infestation from upstream or adjacent sites.

To avoid additional spread do not disturb plants if seeds pods are visible (usually sometime after May). Programmes should be undertaken in April or early May. If hand pulling after this time, bag plant tops to prevent seed spread.

Chemical control

Himalayan Balsam can be controlled by spraying the foliage with glyphosate. The plants should be sprayed in the spring before flowering but late enough to ensure that germinating seedlings have grown up sufficiently to be adequately covered by the spray. Glyphosate is sold under a number of brand names. Small infestations and individual plants can be controlled by using glyphosate in a weed wiper. This has the advantage of preserving native plants and grasses which would otherwise be killed by the glyphosate. The herbicide 2,4-D amine controls many broadleaved annual weeds and may also be used to control this species but is not recommended for use near waterbodies. This selective herbicide will not kill grasses. It may be preferable to glyphosate in situations where the weed has not reduced complete cover of the grasses. A long-lance sprayer may assist in the spraying of less accessible areas out of the reach of conventional knapsack sprayers. Always follow health and safety procedures outlined by the herbicide manufacturer and take appropriate precautions when working near water.

Excavated material proposed to be removed from site must be treated as controlled waste and disposed of accordingly via a licenced handler or at a licenced facility.

4 CONCLUSION

In summary, there is one species of invasive, non-native plants within the proposed development site boundary at a single stand of Himalayan Balsam located close to the southern boundary of the site (see Appendix 1 – Phase 1 habitat plan for specific locations).

Himalayan Balsam is listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. As such, it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause this species to grow in the wild. Without mitigation, site clearance and setting out could result in the disturbance and dispersal of these species on and off-site. This could result in a breach of legislation. Information on preventing spread and treatment options is detailed within sections 3.1 and 3.2 of this report respectively.

REFERENCES

Control of Pesticides Regulations (1986). [The Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (EPR 2010).
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2010/9780111491423/contents>

Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005 (HWR 2005).
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The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA, 1990).
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents>

Waste (England and Wales) Regulations (2011). <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/988/contents>

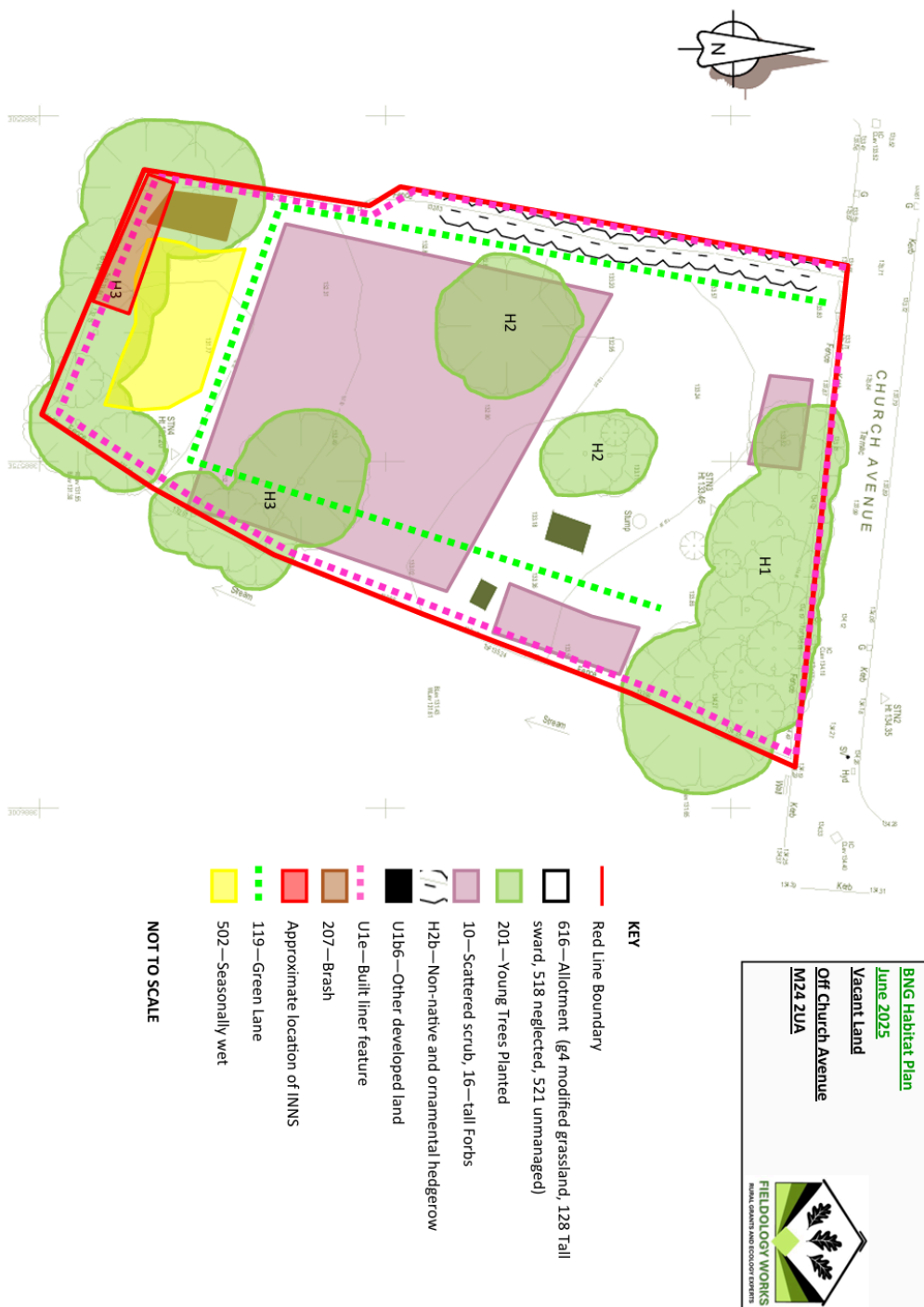
Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981). <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES PLAN

APPENDIX 2 - HIMALAYAN BALSAM INFORMATION SHEET

APPENDIX 1 – NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES PLAN



APPENDIX 2: HIMALAYAN BALSAM INFORMATION SHEET



For more information visit www.nonnativespecies.org

Produced by Olaf Booy, Max Wade and Vicky White of RPS

Himalayan Balsam

Species Description

Scientific name: *Impatiens glandulifera*

AKA: Policeman's Helmet, Indian Balsam, Jac y Neidiwr (Welsh)

Native to: West and central Himalayas

Habitat: Found mostly on river banks and in damp woodland, can grow in other damp habitat

A tall, attractive, annual herb with explosive seed heads. Although easy to identify as a mature plant with its pink-purple flowers, fleshy stem and characteristic leaves, the seedlings and last year's dead stems of this annual are more difficult to spot.

Introduced as a garden plant in the early 19th century and first recorded in the wild in 1855. Often favoured by the general public for its aesthetic appeal and is still deliberately planted on occasion. Now widespread in the UK, especially along urban rivers. Spreads solely by seeds, which are small and easily carried by wind or water.

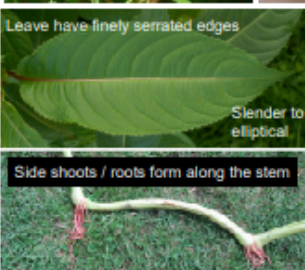
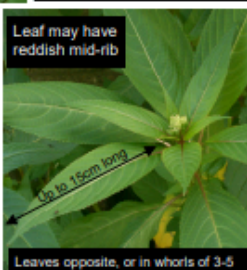
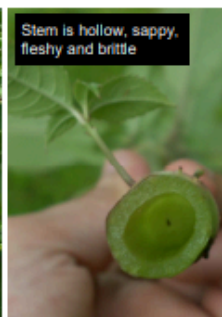
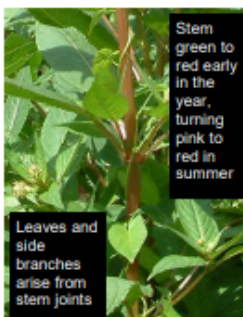
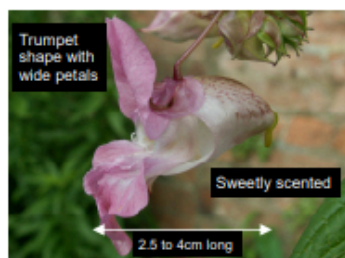
Out-competes native species in ecologically sensitive areas, particularly river banks. Where it grows in dense stands along river banks it can impede flow at times of high rainfall, increasing the likelihood of flooding. Die back of extensive stands over winter can leave river banks bare and exposed to erosion.

Himalayan balsam is listed under Schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 with respect to England and Wales. As such, it is an offence to plant or otherwise allow this species to grow in the wild.

For details of legislation go to www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation.



Key ID Features



Identification throughout the year

Can be identified at most times of the year: March-June by its seedlings, stem and leaf shape, from July to September by its stem, leaf shape and flowers. More difficult to identify over winter (October to February), look for hay like remains and distinctive root structure.

Hay like remains in winter

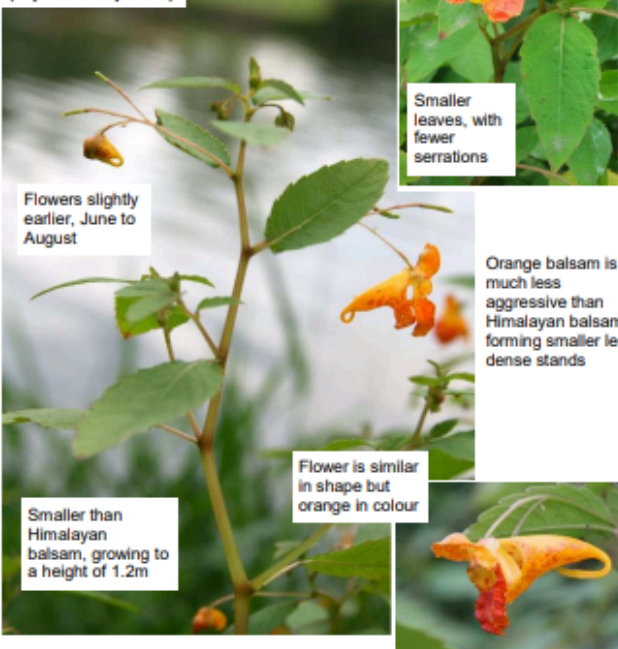


Root structure in winter



Similar Species

Orange Balsam Non-Native (*Impatiens capensis*)



Distribution

Widespread and common across the whole of the UK. Primarily on riverbanks and in other damp areas.

Source: NBN Gateway. Check website for current distribution



References and further reading:

- Blamey, M, Fitter, R and Fitter, A (2003) *The Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland. The Complete Guide to the British and Irish Flora*. A & C Black
- Preston, C D, Pearman, D A and Dines, T A (editors) (2002) *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora*. Oxford University Press
- Stace, C (1999) *Field Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge University Press

Photos from: Olaf Booy, Mike Harris, Max Wade