

Invasive and Non-native Species Management Plan

Site Address: **Phoenix Works, Middleton, Rochdale, M24 2WL**

Client Name: KMM Group

Date: 13/04/2026

Invasive and Non-native Species Management Plan at Phoenix Works, Middleton, Rochdale, M24 2WL

Arbtech Consultancy Ltd was instructed to write an Invasive and Non-native Species Management Plan for the above-named site to discharge planning conditions relating to an planning application with Rochdale Borough Council. The proposal is described as:

20no. affordable dwellings including associated landscaping and access following demolition of existing buildings

Planning Application Number:

23/00911/FUL

Background

The survey is informed by a previous Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Invasive Species Walkover (PEA) which was carried out by Arbtech Consulting Ltd in October 2023. During the PEA survey, Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*, was identified scattered within the areas of scrub present along the eastern and southern site boundaries and a management plan was recommended detailing how this would be eradicated from the site.

Given the time passed since the pervious site visit it is considered likely that the balsam will have spread furthered throughout the site.

Site location and context

The site is located at National Grid Reference SD 8706 7160 and has an area of approximately 0.548ha comprising of abandoned urban infrastructure, scrub and lines of trees. It is surrounded by residential dwellings, roads and scattered trees with Middleton Cemetery ~390m to the east and Brassey Recreation Ground ~125m to the west. The wider landscape comprises built up, urban landscape with residential dwellings, patches of urban green spaces and scattered trees.

Management Plan Objectives

The plan aims to ensure all identified areas of Himalayan balsam are removed prior to the commencing of works on site, this reducing any risk of cross contamination via soil.

Cotoneaster status on site

During the PEA undertaken in October Himalayan balsam was identified scattered within the areas of scrub along the eastern and southern site, shown in Figure 1.

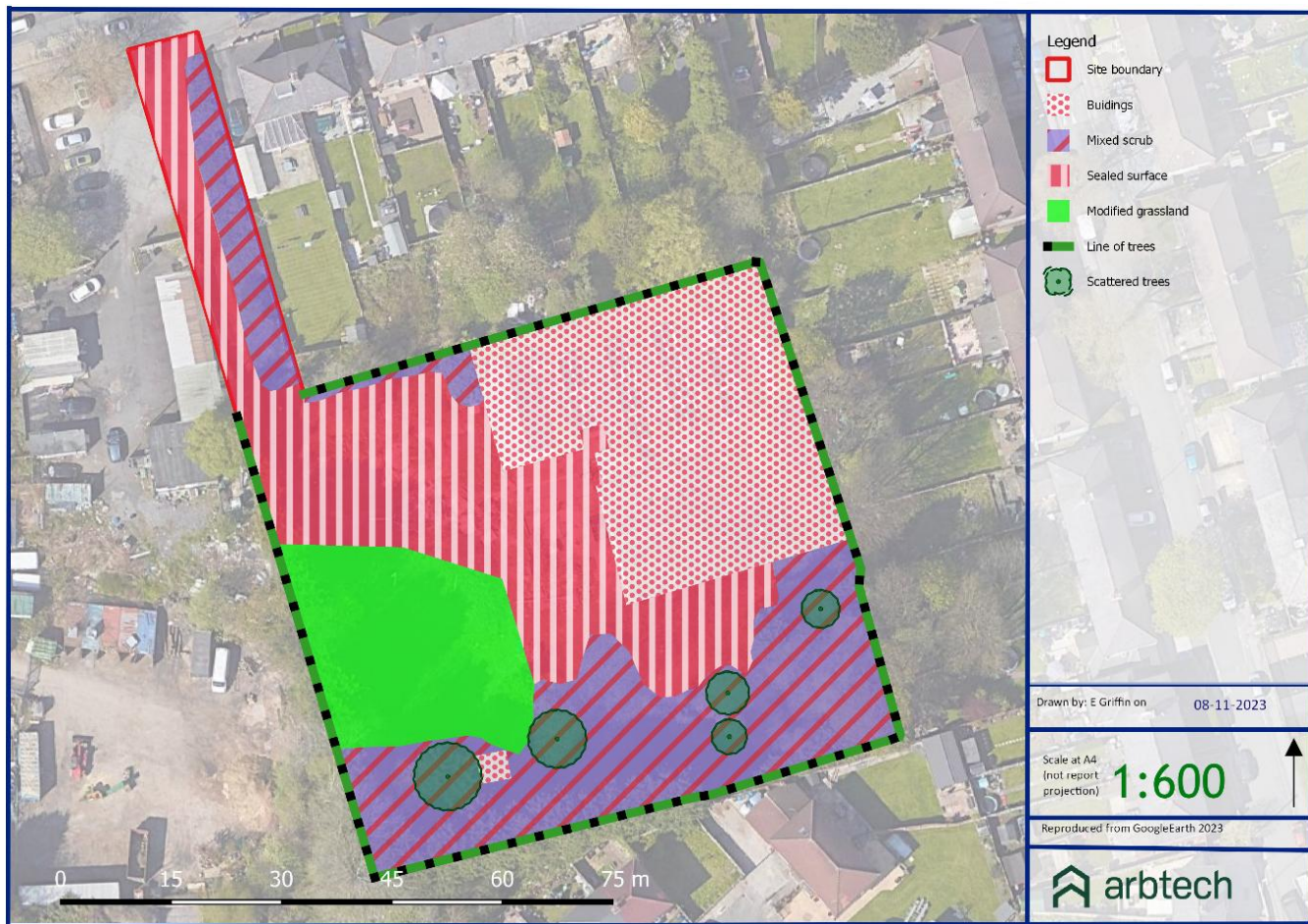


Figure 1

Environmental constraints to treatment

The site is not within a SSSI or other designated site, a nitrate vulnerable or source protection zone and no watercourses are directly adjacent to the site. There are limited semi natural habitats adjacent to the site due to the sites urban nature being surrounded by existing housing and other urban infrastructure. It is not anticipated that herbicide use will impact upon local plant communities to a significant degree. Therefore, there should be no specific constraints to treatment beyond statutory legal compliances surrounding pesticide use and controlled waste disposal.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

Himalayan balsam is an invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the WCA. Whilst removal of Himalayan balsam is not a legal requirement, it is illegal to allow Himalayan balsam to spread from the applicant's land and into the wild. Soil and plant material contaminated with non-native and invasive plants such as Himalayan balsam may be classified as controlled waste.

Regulatory position statement **Treatment and disposal of invasive non-native plants: RPS 178**. requires that the client treat or bury all types of invasive non-native plant material to be eradicated from a site. As part of this a management plan must be provided detailing how material will be treated to prevent further growth or spread beyond the site.

MANAGEMENT PLAN ADMINISTRATION AND AUDITING

Responsible Persons

The applicant is responsible for ensuring this management plan is implemented and appropriately licenced and qualified removal and controlled waste contractors are used. Any method statement produced by such contractors must be followed. A copy of this document will be provided to the site managers and contractors.

Contractors

No specific legal licence is required to be held by the relevant contractor for the removal of Himalayan balsam. However, the contractor must meet the following requirements to ensure the removal and management of invasive species is appropriately handled:

- Be competent in handling invasive plant species.
- Hold appropriate NPTC (PA1/PA6) or equivalent if applying herbicide.
- Follow waste regulations if transporting/disposing of contaminated material.
- Adhere to site-specific risk assessments and method statements (RAMS).

MANAGEMENT PLAN – MANUAL REMOVAL

The site is known to contain multiple areas of Himalayan balsam along the eastern and southern site boundaries.

Removal Method:

- The Himalayan balsam should be isolated in so far as possible prior to any site clearance activities.
- Removal should be undertaken between April and June, prior to seeding.
- Himalayan balsam is shallow rooted therefore immature or small stands can be removed through hand-pulling. Hand pulling of seedlings and young plants should take place when soil is moist. This is to target any recently established shrubs around the existing plants.
- If cutting: the stem must be cut below the lowest node, to prevent the growth of new stems. As strimming cannot accurately ensure that the stems are cut below the lowest node it is not a suitable approach.
- Complete excavation of root systems for mature plants and 500cm of earth surrounding the shrub to ensure all root systems have been removed.
- Remaining earth left on the roots should be shaken off.
- Cut or pulled plants cannot be left on the ground as Himalayan balsam can send out new roots at every node point. Cut or uprooted plants should be left on a non-permeable surface to dry, be burned or removed from the site for disposal.

If required, site clearance can commence once all strands of Himalayan balsam have been removed from site providing all other ecological recommendations have been adhered to as per the PEA (Arbtech Consulting Ltd, 2023), this includes the potential presence of nesting birds. If new strands of Himalayan balsam are identified during site clearance, these should be removed as per this management plan.

Timing: Best undertaken during growing season (April-June) when plants are actively growing and in flower but before seed production to reduce further spread.

Site should be monitored for at least 5 years following eradication. With additional site visits within a 2-year period to ensure no new plants have grown since the management occurred.

Equipment Required:

- Hand tools (spades, mattocks, pruning shears).
- Collection bags/containers for plant material.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE).

MANAGEMENT PLAN - FINAL TREATMENT - DISPOSAL

To prevent spread beyond the site, propagative material such as roots and soils containing potential Himalayan balsam propagules **must** be burned on site or removed from the site by a licenced waste contractor to a site with relevant permits.

Disposal activities will involve one or a mixture of the following as appropriate;

- **Composting:** The material must be fully dried off-ground and composted onsite for a minimum of 3 years before use.
- **Burning:** This method would only be permitted where appropriate licences are held and fire safety protocol are followed.
- **Off-site disposal:** licensed landfill could be utilised which is the preferred method for large quantities.

MANAGEMENT PLAN - PREVENTING FURTHER SPREAD

During treatment, all plant and other tools will be cleaned and checked for propagative material to ensure other parts of the site are not contaminated. Areas to be treated will be fenced off and signposted. Once treatment works are complete, all plant and other equipment must be cleaned prior to removal from site.

Once waste contractors have transferred the Himalayan balsam waste at the disposal site they must

- Brush jet-wash vehicles and any equipment to clear them of any propagative material.
- Inspect vehicles and equipment for pieces of plant material.

It is advised that any vehicles coming on site are checked for evidence that this is being done between sites.

SHOULD WASTE CONTRACTORS SHOW EVIDENCE THAT THEIR EMPLOYERS HAVE NOT ADEQUATELY TRAINED THEM IN THE APPROPRIATE TRANSFER OF HIMALAYAN BALSAM IMPATIENS GLANDULIFERA THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY SHOULD BE INFORMED.

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