

**Himalayan
Balsam
Control
Method
Statement**

Thongsbridge Mills
Miry Lane
Thongsbridge

For

Marsden Tractors

28 August 2018

By

Howard Booth MRICS MICFor BSc(Hons)

Ref: 1857MS-01

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This method statement has been prepared to detail how Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) will be controlled at Thongsbridge Mills, Miry Lane, Thongsbridge, Holmfirth, land that forms the site of planning application reference 2017/60/90207/W. The location of Himalayan balsam is shown in drawing reference (17562)100_Himalayan Balsam location produced by JG-D in Appendix 1.
- 1.2. The purpose of this method statement is to set out measures that will be taken to ensure legal compliance and the proposed work is designed to eradicate Himalayan balsam from the site.
- 1.3. Himalayan balsam is listed in Schedule 9 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Under section 14 of the Act it is an offence for any person to plant or otherwise cause to grow Himalayan balsam in the wild.
- 1.4. Waste material containing Himalayan balsam is classed as controlled waste under the Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991. Where controlled waste is produced, carried and/or disposed of, a code of practice needs to be followed and records kept. Failure to comply with current guidelines can lead to prosecution.

2. Himalayan balsam overview

- 2.1. Himalayan balsam is a non-native plant which escaped from gardens after being introduced to the UK in 1839. It grows well in damp and semi shaded areas especially banksides of watercourses and waste land.
- 2.2. Himalayan balsam is a herbaceous annual plant with pink-purple flowers, matt darkish green finely serrated leaves and succulent hollow reddish stems that can grow as tall as 2m – images to aid identification are in Appendix 2.
- 2.3. As an annual plant the entire life cycle is completed in one growing season. The highly viable seeds germinate from March and flowers tend to appear from June. Plants that have been cut above the first node will vigorously regrow and can produce more flowers and seeds than it would have if not cut.
- 2.4. Once the seed pods have matured they explode when touched and this can scatter seed over 3m from the original plant. Individual plants can produce over 1000 seeds which can be dormant in the ground for at least 2 years. Control of Himalayan balsam should be undertaken to prevent new seeds from being spread.

3. Preventing spread

- 3.1. All operatives working on the site will be given training about Himalayan balsam, its identification and best practice for avoidance of causing it to spread. All operatives will comply with the details of this method statement.
- 3.2. A fence will be erected around the Himalayan balsam to restrict access. The fence will be located at least 3m from the nearest plant and attached to the fence will a sign stating that the area has Himalayan balsam and access is not allowed.
- 3.3. Within the exclusion zone no material will be disturbed or removed without code of practice followed to comply with Environmental Protection Act (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991.

4. Treatment of plants

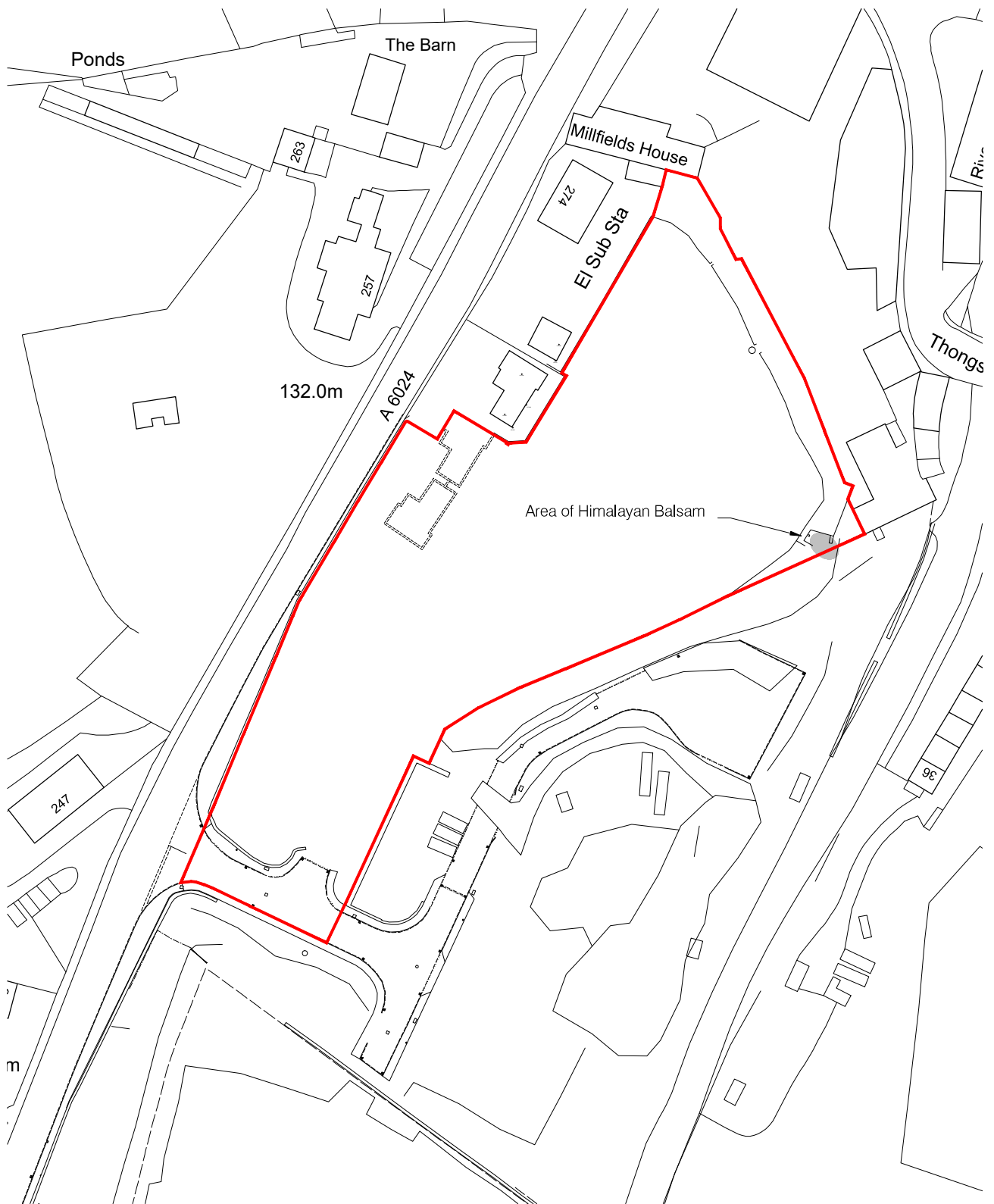
- 4.1. Treatment will be carried out to prevent spread of Himalayan balsam and avoid offence under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- 4.2. Control needs to be undertaken to prevent the production of new seeds. The plant is shallow rooted and hand pulling is the most effective method of destroying the plant before seeds are formed.
- 4.3. Plants will be pulled from the ground manually before flowering in June and excess soil shaken off to prevent development of seeds. The plants will be retained on site and either:
 - burnt to destroy;
 - additionally cut directly above the roots to reduce risk of regrowth; or
 - placed so that roots cannot regrow.
- 4.4. From May to August monthly site visits will be carried out to monitor for the presence of Himalayan balsam. All live Himalayan balsam plants will be removed as set out in 4.3.
- 4.5. The hand pulling of Himalayan balsam plants will be undertaken for a minimum of 3 years. If new plants continue to grow after this then further annual treatment will be undertaken until removed.
- 4.6. The hand pulling of Himalayan balsam does not require specific qualifications. The hand pulling will be undertaken by someone who is given training on Himalayan balsam and appointed by Marsden Tractors. Specific guidance can be provided on appointing a contractor if required.

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Appendix 1

Drawing reference (17562)100_Himalayan Balsam location produced by JG-D



Drawings based on Ordnance Survey
(Streetwise License No 100047474)



0 10 20 30 40 50 60m
Scale 1:1250



Project	Proposed B1 and Light Industrial Units at Thongsbridge Mills, Thongsbridge
Client	Mr S Marsden, Unit 1, Thongsbridge Mills Business Park, Holmfirth HD9 7 RW
Dwg Title	(17562)100_Himalayan Balsam location
Scale	1:1250 @ A4
Date	Aug 18

Appendix 2

Non-native species secretariat Information sheet

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.

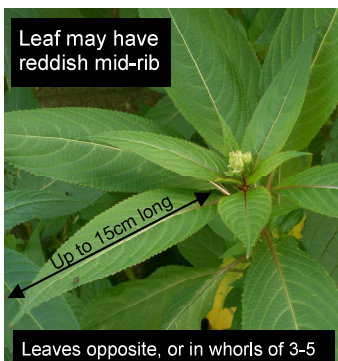
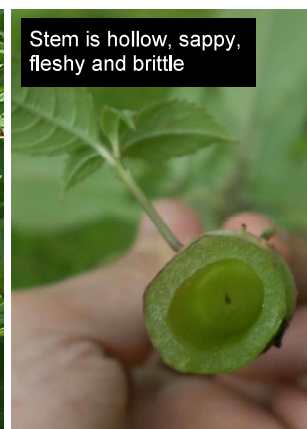
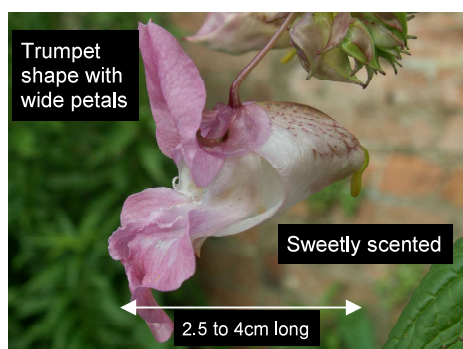
Out-competes native species in ecologically sensitive areas, particularly river banks. Where it grows in dense stands along river banks it can impede flow at times of high rainfall, increasing the likelihood of flooding. Die back of extensive stands over winter can leave river banks bare and exposed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

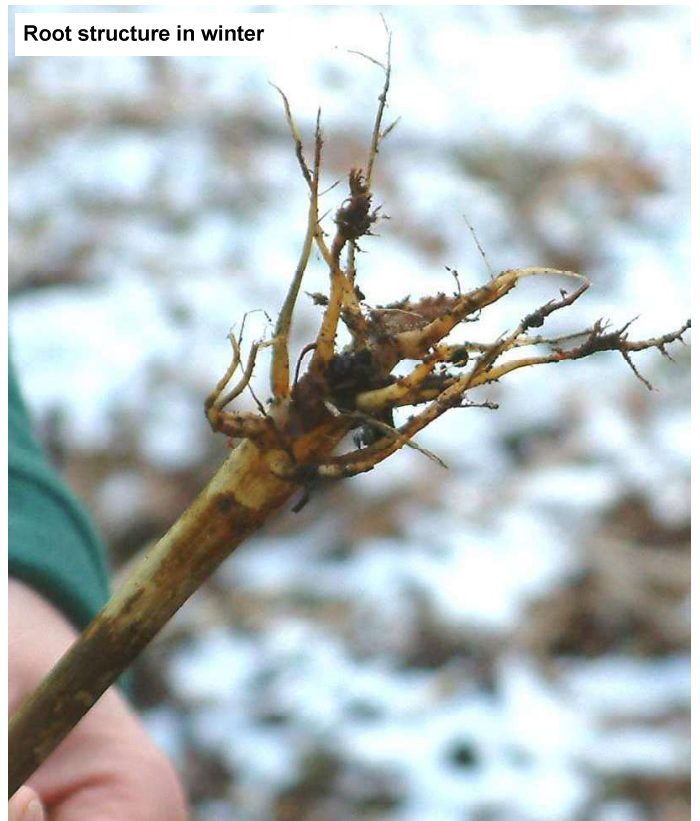


Identification throughout the year

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.



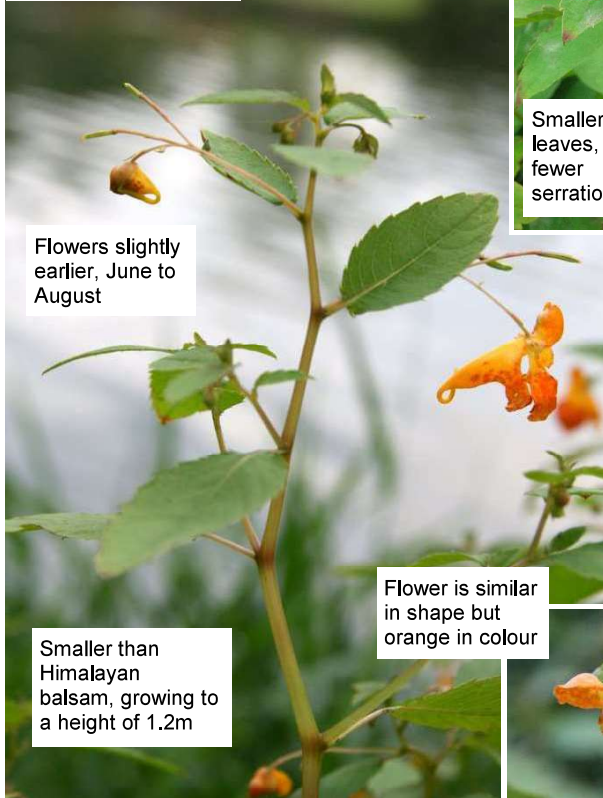
Hay like remains in winter



Root structure in winter

Similar Species

Orange Balsam Non-Native (*Impatiens capensis*)



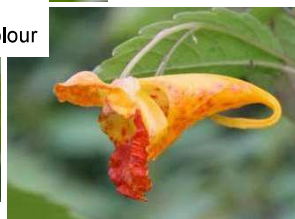
Smaller leaves, with fewer serrations

Flowers slightly earlier, June to August

Orange balsam is much less aggressive than Himalayan balsam, forming smaller less dense stands

Flower is similar in shape but orange in colour

Smaller than Himalayan balsam, growing to a height of 1.2m



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