

Method Statement for the Eradication of Himalayan Balsam

Site Address: North West of Cloud Park Farm, Dial Lane, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 3QJ

Application Reference: SMD/2024/0361

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Date: 27/05/2025

1. Introduction

This Method Statement outlines the procedures that will be followed for the safe and effective eradication of Himalayan Balsam from the site. The works will be undertaken in compliance with Environment Agency guidelines, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and relevant best practices to prevent further spread and ensure environmental and human health protection.

2. Site Survey and Identification

A qualified invasive species specialist conducted a site survey on 26/09/2025. The following was identified:

- Location(s) of infestation have been logged.
- Himalayan Balsam is currently located in areas covering the Northwest corner and along the Northeastern length of the field border.

3. Objective

To eradicate Himalayan Balsam from the site using a structured, legally compliant, and environmentally responsible approach that prevents its spread both on-site and off-site.

4. Eradication Strategy

4.1 Hand pulling (Primary Method)

- During the early active growing season before the plant starts flowering. (March - June).
- Frequency: Initial removal and multiple pulling sessions every 3-6 weeks, to clear any further regrowth, over a minimum of 3 years.

Cutting/Strimming:

- For the infestation down the northeastern border of the field, cutting below the lowest node to prevent regrowth. (March – June)
- Frequency: Repeat cuttings as necessary every 3-6 weeks, to control and prevent any further seed formation, over a minimum of 3 years.

4.2 Monitoring & Retreatment

- Treated areas will be monitored monthly for any further regrowth.
- Repeat pulling/cutting as needed to control regrowth and prevent seed formation.
- A five year monitoring programme will be implemented with evidence logged.

5. Biosecurity Measures

- Fencing: A boundary fence and a gate have been installed to restrict unauthorized access and prevent the movement of seeds or plant fragments.
Access Controls: Restricted access to the infected areas are in place.
- Cleaning Protocol: All tools and footwear disinfected or cleaned after contact with affected area.

6. Disposal of Himalayan Balsam Material

- All Balsam-contaminated material will be treated as controlled waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- Material will be bagged, labeled, and burnt on site. With the ash buried on site to prevent spread around the site and off site.

7. Contingency Plan

In the event of site disturbance or discovery of new growth:

- A reassessment will be conducted.
- Retreatment and monitoring.
- Seed spreading: avoid all work in any infected area once the plants begin to seed, (mid-July onwards).

8. Record-Keeping and Reporting

- A full log of treatment dates, methods, and any herbicides used will be maintained.
- Annual reports will be submitted to the planning authority detailing progress and photographic records, if necessary.

9. Completion and Aftercare

- Eradication will be deemed successful after 5 consecutive years of no regrowth.
- A final report, including photographic evidence and treatment logs, will be kept for submission if required.

Signed:



C L Shaw - Applicant

27/05/2025