

Holly Farm, Birch Vale, Derbyshire

Invasive Species Method Statement

HPK/2023/0469



RACHEL
HACKING
ECOLOGY

Client Mr Graham Knight

Project Title Holly Farm, Birch Vale, Derbyshire

Project Reference RHE.3901.02

Project Leader Megan Johnson

Contact Details

	Name	Position	Date
Author	Megan Johnson	Ecologist	09/01/2025
Reviewer	Simon Holden	Associate	21/01/2025
Revision			



RACHEL
HACKING
ECOLOGY

The Stables, Paradise Wharf, Ducie Street, Manchester, M1 2JN

0161 465 8971

www.rachelhackingecology.co.uk



RACHEL
HACKING
ECOLOGY

Background

Rachel Hacking Ecology Ltd was commissioned in 2024 by Mr Graham Knight to provide ecology consultancy services in connection with a proposed development on land at Holly Farm, Birch Vale, Derbyshire, hereafter referred to as the 'site'. High Peak Borough Council granted full planning permission on 11th April 2024 for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of replacement dwelling (planning reference: HPK/2023/0469). As part of the planning permission, several conditions were attached. Condition 12 relates to the control of invasive non-native species.

Condition Wording

Condition 12 states: "No development shall commence until an invasive non-native species protocol detailing the containment, control and removal of Himalayan Balsam on site has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in strict accordance with this protocol. Reason:- In the interests of preserving protected species and habitats in accordance with Local Plan Policy EQ5 and relevant paragraphs under Chapter 15 of the NPPF.".

Legal Context

Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* is listed as an invasive non-native species under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981 as amended). This makes it an offence to plant or otherwise cause it to grow in the wild.

Risk

Himalayan Balsam could be spread to other sites through the transport of soil or vegetation during construction. Each plant produces thousand of seeds which spread up to 3m, therefore the soil around the plants will contain a seed bank.

Control Measures

- Prior to the commencement of clearance or construction activities, the areas of Himalayan Balsam will be identified by a suitably qualified ecologist or invasive weeds contractor. Seedlings are usually evident from February (see Photographs 1 and 2).
- Site operatives will be made aware of the presence of Himalayan Balsam and the risk of spreading it during inductions.



- If Himalayan Balsam is identified, the plant will be pulled/raked out of the ground and left lying on the ground to dry out, which will kill the plant.
- The plant can be pulled up prior to it setting seed (before June).
- A specialist contractor should be consulted to advise on chemical treatment.
- Any soil or debris from the site should be treated as controlled waste and taken to a licensed landfill by an authorised operative.



Photograph 1 showing mature Himalayan Balsam



Photograph 2 showing early growth Himalayan Balsam