



**envirotech**

**Ecological Consultants  
Environmental and Rural Chartered Surveyors**

Your Ref:  
Our Ref: 5892

Monday, 02 September 2019

Dear Sirs,

RE: Pendle View, Primrose Lane, Mellor, BB2 7EQ

**Background**

Stands of Himalayan Balsam (Figure 1 and 2) were present over much of the site especially along the ditch/brook to the East of the site (Figure 3). No other invasive weed species were recorded on site. The following letter outlines the methods for treatment.

**Treatment**

Treatment should be undertaken before development commences. Himalayan Balsam can be easily hand pulled as the species has very shallow roots growing to a depth of 10-15 cm. This method is particularly useful for smaller infestations. A gentle tug is usually enough to remove the entire root system.

Multiple plants can be pulled simultaneously. Gloves should be worn to avoid injury, including stings from nettles which are often found growing beside Himalayan Balsam.



Tel: 015395 61894  
Mobile: 07812 081320  
Email: [info@envtech.co.uk](mailto:info@envtech.co.uk)  
Web: [www.envtech.co.uk](http://www.envtech.co.uk)  
Envirotech NW Ltd

The Stables, Back Lane, Hale, Milnthorpe, Cumbria. LA7 7BL  
Directors: A. Gardner BSc (Hons), MSc, CEnv, MCIEEM, MRICS, Dip NDEA  
H. Gardner BSc (Hons), MSc, CEnv, MRICS  
Registered in England and Wales. Company Registration Number 5028111

Hand pulling should ideally commence in May/June when plants can be easily found/identified and they will not have set seed. However, it can be carried out sooner (although identification can be tricky) and there will typically be more plants, as numbers reduce with time due to competition.

Pulled plants should not be placed on soil or in damp areas as they can readily re-root.

The plants can be allowed to dry out or composted. Once dried, the remains can be left on site as they reduce to small amounts, if fully desiccated and seedless, disposed of as inert waste, or burnt.



Figure 1



Figure 2

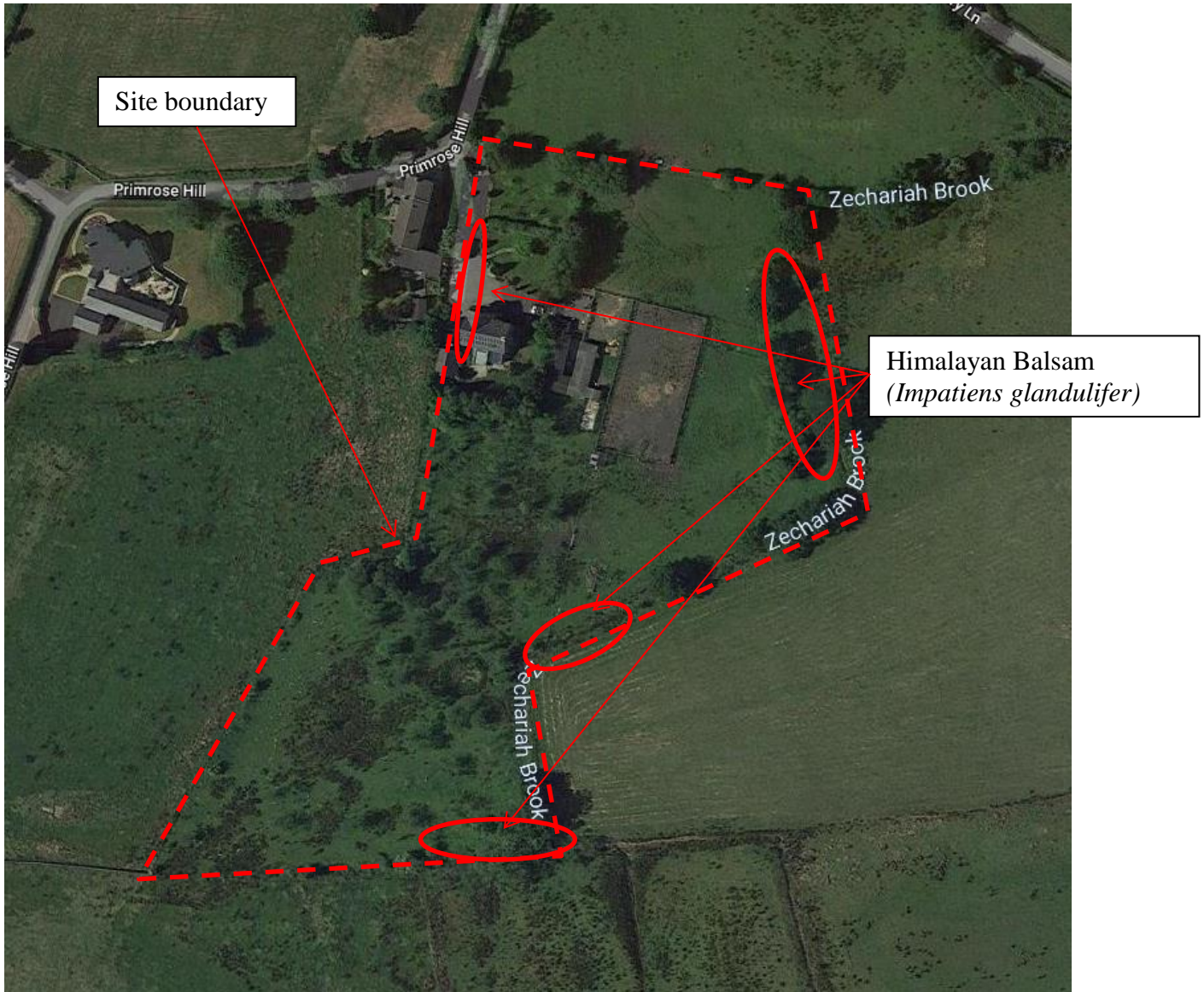


Figure 3

Where immediate eradication is required, for example in a location that is shortly to be developed outside the period the plant is growing or where successive years of pulling is not possible, the most appropriate solution is excavation to a depth of 50cm.

Following excavation, if possible, contaminated soil should be retained onsite, e.g. stockpiled elsewhere on the site and regrowth treated as above. This stockpile area should be cordoned off from the rest of the site with appropriate signage put in place. Once control is achieved, the soil will be suitable for use as backfill or in landscaping

As per Defra (2013) guidance, soil containing Himalayan Balsam seeds should be buried at a depth of at least one metre. Burial at this depth is sufficient to prevent regrowth. Prior to the burial of invasive plant waste the appropriate authority (e.g. the Environment Agency in England) must be contacted and approval granted. Himalayan Balsam seeds do not contain sufficient energy reserves to allow them to germinate and grow up through hard substrates; as such, burial immediately beneath hardstanding (e.g. poured concrete) is appropriate.

Where offsite disposal is unavoidable, you should: 'Try to minimise the amount of waste you generate that contains invasive plants, or their seeds and rhizomes' Defra, 2013). The Environment Agency will accept the removal of soil as controlled waste from Himalayan Balsam infested areas less than the stated limits (6 metres from visible plants and down to 500 mm) if the methodology can be adequately justified. Any contaminated waste that is taken offsite must be taken by a licensed waste carrier and must go to a suitably authorised landfill site (as per the Environmental Protection Act)

**On site control**

In order to prevent the spread of the plant off site, plant and machinery should be cleaned when leaving site such that contaminated soil/ seeds are not carried off site. Tracked machinery in particular should be washed of soil before leaving site.

**Importation of materials**

Any soil brought onto site should be from a known source which is free of Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifer*).

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Gardner'.

Andrew Gardner BSc (Hons), MSc, MCIEEM, MRICS, CEnv, Dip NDEA  
Director Envirotech