

Summary

Whitehead Gardens in Tottington is situated at the heart of the village on Church Street, providing an open green space for the community.

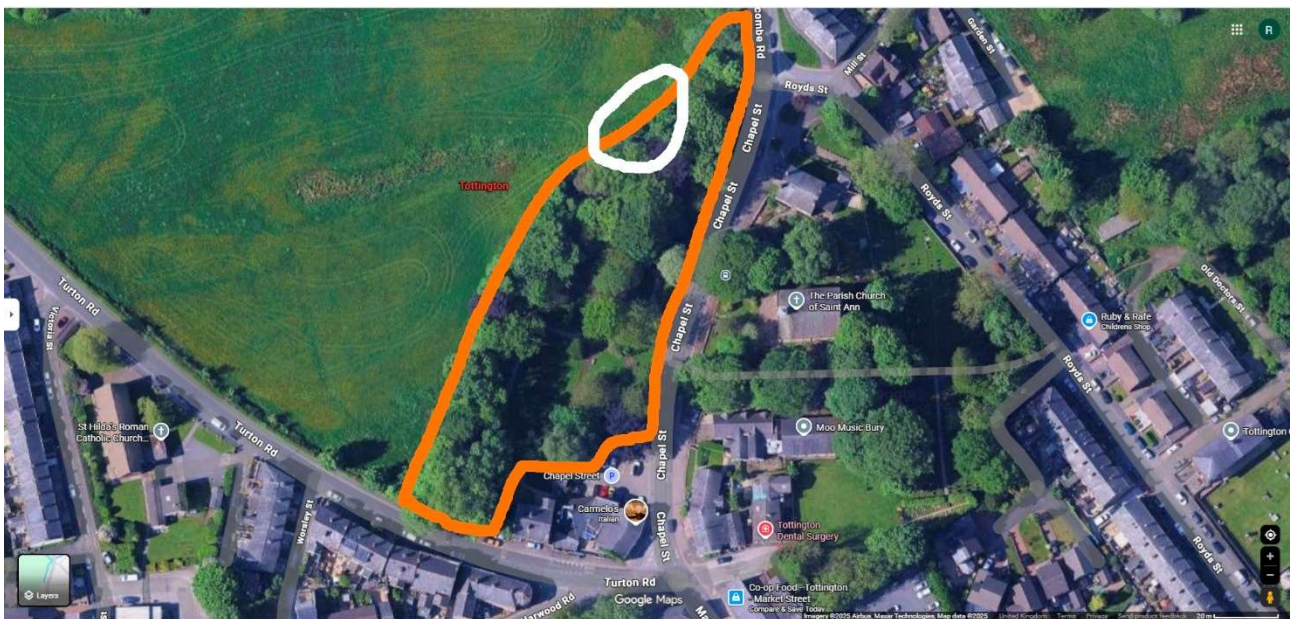
The current proposals are to upgrade and refurbish the site to bring it back into the heart of the community. The surveys carried out have identified areas of Himalayan Balsam on the site which will have an impact on the proposed works.

Management and site hygiene methods are detailed below.

Site Location

The map below (taken from Google Maps) shows the locations of the site in relation to the wider surroundings. Areas of balsam are shown in white with the orange line being the approximate site boundary.

The balsam is located outside of the areas under construction as part of this project so will not be disturbed through the general construction.



Development Control

Planning consent was sought for the refurbishment proposals with consent being granted in December 2023.

Condition 7 requires a method statement re control and avoidance of measures for the balsam; which this document has been created in response to.

Site Survey

A Preliminary Ecological Assessment was carried out by LP Ecological Services in September 2025 which highlighted the constraints of the site as well as opportunities for improvements within the site. Himalayan Balsam was noted in the site along the north western boundary, along the brook.

This particular location is not within any of the proposed areas where construction will take place. However, all best practice methodologies will be implemented to prevent the spread of the plant.

Site Management Proposals

- Creation of temporary fenced exclusion zones to clearly identify areas where balsam is present.
- An area will be set aside and equipment provided to provide a 'boot and vehicle wash'. Contractors will ensure tools, equipment and boots are cleaned before leaving the site and/or when being present near the balsam before accessing other areas within the site.
- Toolbox talks will also be provided to all site operatives during the site induction about the presence of the balsam and site hygiene.
- Balsam treatment – it is not proposed to use chemical means to control the balsam due to the proximity of the brook. Therefore 'balsam bashing' sessions are proposed with the contractors and community (including Horticultural Society) to hand pull the balsam and leave in neat piles, set 1m away from the edge of the Brook to allow the material to rot down.

Monitoring

Construction is due to take place on site between January – December 2026. The main construction is proposed for January – May with planting following in the autumn. This will give a full growing season to tackle and hand pull the balsam whilst monitoring the ongoing site hygiene.