

Condition 18

Burnt House Farm

HIMALAYAN BALSAM STATEMENT

Himalayan Balsam is an invasive alien species that suppresses the growth of native plants. Each plant can produce at least 500 seeds which are capable of being catapulted up to 7 metres from the plant.

Himalayan Balsam is prevalent in the Tottington area and has taken over many of the roadside verges and hedgerows. Fortunately there is only a limited amount on the site which can easily be controlled

Unlike some other invasive species Balsam is shallow rooted and can be hand pulled before it seeds. This is already being done. Seeds are not very robust and only survive for up to 18 months so the land should be clear of Balsam within 2 years apart from plants which may originate from outside the site. Monitoring needs to be carried out to ensure that the plant does not return.

Alternative methods of treatment are strimming early in the growing season or spraying with glyphosphate weedkiller. Care should be taken to avoid spreading the seeds whatever method is employed.