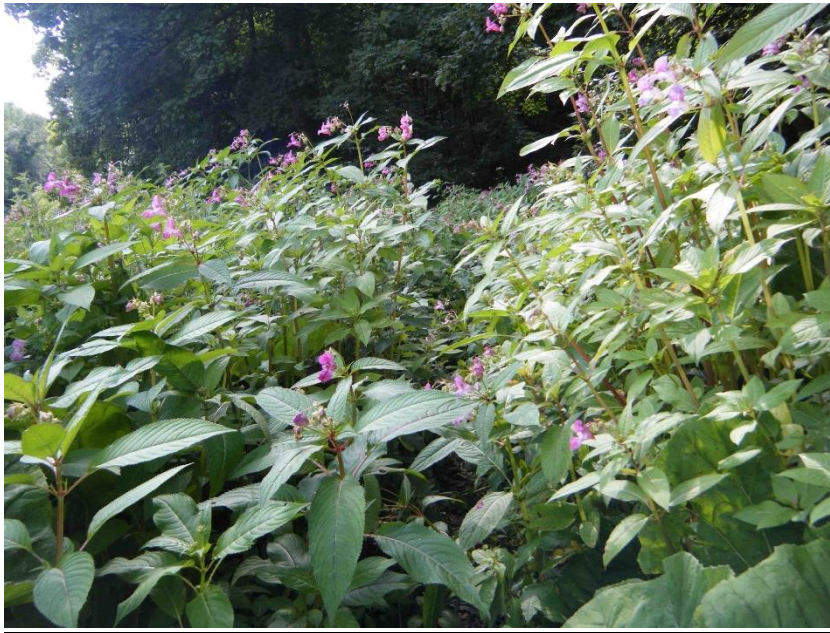


Himalayan Balsam



Himalayan Balsam is native to the Himalayas but was introduced in the UK as an ornamental garden species. It has since spread and is now common along river banks and ditches throughout England, Wales and Ireland and a few places in Scotland. It can often easily be recognised by their bright pink flowers.

What Does It Mean?

Himalayan Balsam can be found throughout the Tweed district. It forms thick stands which can result in native species of plants being outcompeted and displaced. It also grows very fast and has exploding seed heads, making the river a very effective route in which Himalayan Balsam can spread.

What Can Be Done?

Himalayan Balsam is one of the main target species in an Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) project being run throughout the Tweed catchment by the Tweed Forum. Himalayan Balsam can either be sprayed with chemical or hand pulled to get rid of it. There are also trials being run in which a natural pathogen in the form of a rust fungus is being used to eradicate Himalayan Balsam. You can find out more about the work being carried out by the Tweed Forum relating to Himalayan Balsam using the link below.

<https://tweedforum.org/our-work/projects/tweed-invasives-project/himalayan-balsam/>

You can also help controlling Himalayan Balsam throughout the Tweed catchment. If you spot any Himalayan Balsam growing in the Tweed district then please either contact the Tweed Forum directly or contact the Tweed Foundation using the details below.

The Tweed Foundation
Drygrange Steading, Melrose, Roxburghshire, TD69DJ
Tel: 01896 848271
Email: info@tweedfoundation.org.uk