

wye valley
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

dyffryn gwy
Ardal o Harddwch
Naturiol Eithriadol

Himalayan Balsam Action Toolkit



*Designed by Community Action Groups
for Community Action Groups*

WISP
Wye Invasive Species Project
Prosiect Rhywogaethau Goresgynnol Gwy

Introducing the Balsam Action Toolkit

This Toolkit has been designed to help community groups (new or long-established) negotiate the steps to getting organised and taking action to control Himalayan balsam in your local area.

The Tools in your Toolkit:

1. GET TO KNOW YOUR BALSAM

- **IDENTIFICATION SHEET** - get to know Himalayan Balsam using this GB NNSS guide
- **HIMALAYAN BALSAM LIFECYCLE** - lifecycle stages and when to control it
- **BALSAM AND POLLINATORS LEAFLET** - answers to common questions about Balsam

2. SET UP

- **PRACTICAL GUIDE TO BALSAM BASHING** - advice to help you organise a Balsam work party
- **BALSAM BASH ROUTE MAP** - the key steps in organising a well supported event
- **TAKING ACTION SAFELY GUIDE** - health and safety advice for volunteer groups
- **VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM** - get to know the volunteers in your group
- **GET INVOLVED POSTER** - helping you to recruit new volunteers

3. PLAN EVENT/S

- **LAND/PROPERTY OWNER CONSENT FORM** - gain support and written permission
- **EVENT KIT LIST**, including the essential biosecurity kit
- **BIG BALSAM BASH POSTER TEMPLATES** to help spread the word
- **WELFARE ASSESSMENT** (example plus a blank form you can complete)
- **RISK ASSESSMENT** (example plus a blank form you can complete)

4. AND ACTION!

- **MAPPING BALSAM USING APPS AND MAPS** - note where it's growing locally and share info.
- **VOLUNTEER SIGN-IN SHEET** - ensure you've got emergency contact details
- **PHOTO CONSENT FORM** - so you can feature those photos after your event
- **GIVING 'PERMISSION TO PULL BALSAM'** - poster for owners of land with public access. Just print this poster, fill in the location information, laminate and pin up where it's visible.

We'd love your feedback!

This Toolkit has been created with help from active community groups within the Wye Valley AONB who've been successfully controlling Himalayan balsam. We hope the Toolkit is straightforward to use, but if you have any thoughts about how it could be improved do send your feedback to us via our website.

The Toolkit is available as a set of downloads from our website www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk

This format will enable us to update it as we receive feedback and if and when national guidance changes. If you need a Toolkit printed or in a different language please do get in touch.

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www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/closed-programmes/nature-networks-fund

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www.stwater.co.uk/about-us/environment/biodiversity/

Wye Valley AONB's Sustainable Development Fund

www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/caring-for-wye-valley-aonb/grants/grants/

Content support

GB Non-Native Species Secretariat (GB NNSS)

www.nonnativespecies.org/

Nature Conservation Services

www.natureconservationservices.com/

Wales Resilient Ecological Network (WaREN)

www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/waren

Pembrokeshire National Park's INNS Team

www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/conservation/invasive-non-native-species

Tees Rivers Trust

www.teesrivertrust.org/inns

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

www.ywt.org.uk/wildlife/conservation-action/west-yorkshire/invasive-species

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