

# Introducing the Himalayan Balsam Action Toolkit

This Toolkit has been designed to help community action groups (new or long-established) negotiate the steps to getting organised and taking action. The different tools are listed below, showing the stage at which they could be usefully applied.

## 1. GET TO KNOW YOUR BALSAM

- **IDENTIFICATION SHEET** - get to know Himalayan balsam
- **HIMALAYAN BALSAM LIFECYCLE** - lifecycle stages and when to control it
- **BALSAM AND POLLINATORS LEAFLET** - what to sow for bees when balsam is cleared

## 2. GETTING SET UP & RUNNING

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

## 3. PLANNING YOUR EVENTS

- **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 MOBILE APPS AND PAPER MAPS** - (plus recording spreadsheet)
- **VOLUNTEER SIGN-IN SHEET** - ensure you've got emergency contact details
- **PHOTO CONSENT FORM** - so you can feature those photos after your event

Tap into the growing community spirit to tackle balsam

For owners of land with public access, the Himalayan Balsam Poster is designed to help you raise awareness and give the public 'permission to pull' and stop it spreading along the permissive paths or Public Rights of Way on your land.

Simply print off as many copies as needed, fill out the blank box with specific details about the balsam pulling location/s, laminate and pin up in appropriate, prominent places. If you need any help do get in touch.



## 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](http://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk)**

This format will enable us to update the tools 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.