



## **Nottinghamshire Invasive Non-native Species Initiative. Himalayan Balsam Control**

*Chris Jackson*

## **Nottinghamshire Invasive Non-native Species Initiative**



Himalayan Balsam



Japanese Knotweed



## Himalayan Balsam

- Introduced in gardens in early 19<sup>th</sup> century - first recorded in wild in 1855.
- Can grow up to 3m tall
- Found in and adjacent to waterways and on damp ground (woods)
- Spread by explosive seeds, wind and water
- Out-competes native flora especially on river banks
- An annual plant - in winter the die back leaves soil exposed to erosion especially on river banks



Himalayan Balsam - flowers and seedpods



## Situation in Notts in 2010

Lots of people are tackling Himalayan Balsam across the county at various locations.

No overall plan or coordination.

We have no detailed information of where all the Himalayan Balsam is in the county.

We need a more joined up catchment based approach, across the county and across borders.



## Strategy for Himalayan Balsam in Nottinghamshire (2011 onwards)

### Key Aims

Improve our knowledge of the distribution of HB across the county.

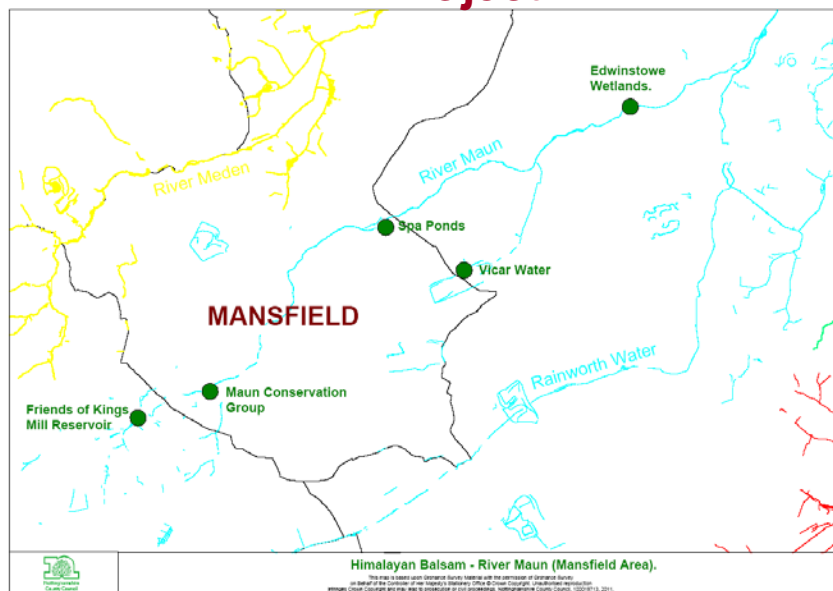
Using survey data identify key catchments and sites.

Work with landowners and local communities to coordinate control measures in key catchments.

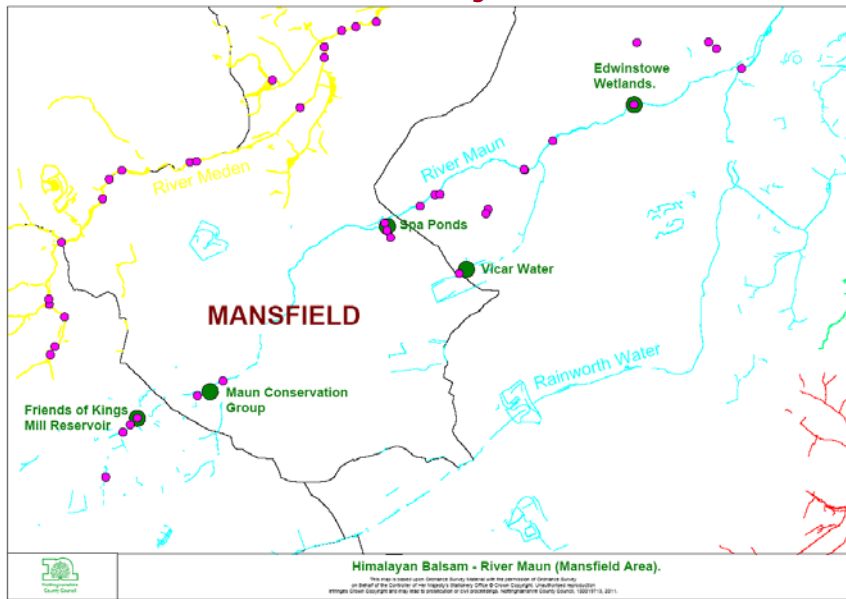
Undertake pilot projects (River Leen & Maun).



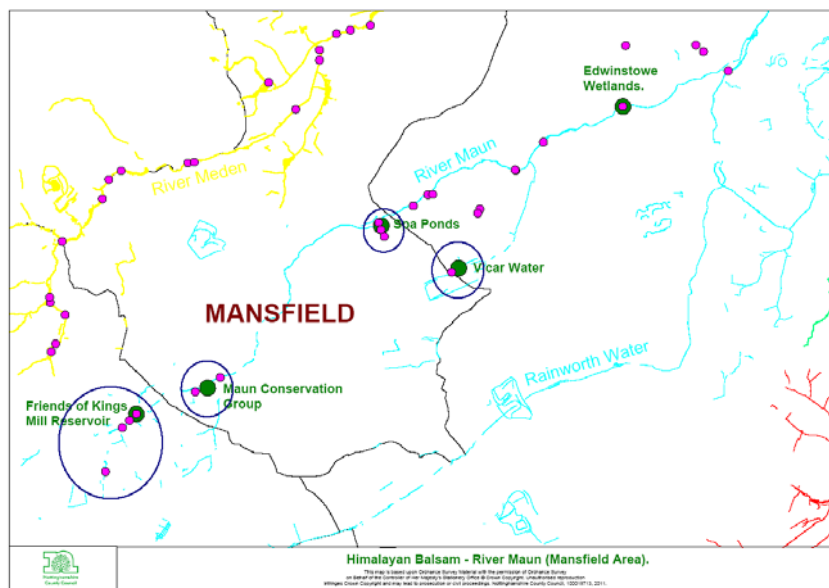
## HB Project



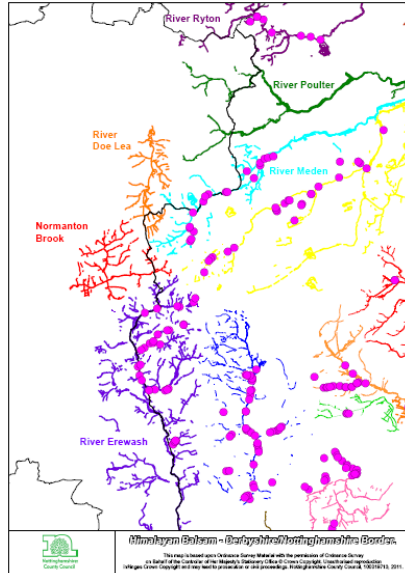
# HB Project



# HB Project



## Potential for cross border working



## Control Methods Used in Notts

Currently all methods used in Notts are through mechanical means

- Pulling
- Cutting
- Grazing



## Control Methods Used in Notts

### Key Principals of control

- Make sure you are aware of the biodiversity interests present at the site - take appropriate measures (eg. water voles)
- Ensure you get started early (end of March/early April)
- Hit the site hard early in the year, it makes it easier when its hot and sweaty later in summer
- Start in a logical location eg. uphill, upstream, at one end of the patch (not in the middle).
- Have realistic expectations - you may not be able to tackle the problem across the site in one year
- If possible undertake control throughout the growing season
- After flowering try and visit the site once a month (at least) and remove all stems that you find

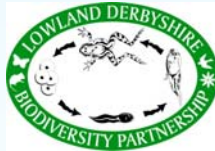


[www.nottsbag.org.uk](http://www.nottsbag.org.uk)

## Peak District and Lowland Derbyshire Non-native Species Initiative

Workshop to run in Jan 2012

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