



Project Site Address (including postcode – nearest building if no site postcode and Grid Reference)

Ladywalk Nature Reserve  
Hams Hall Distribution Park  
Off Faraday Avenue  
Coleshill  
Warks  
SP 21167 92334 area

Brief description of the project and all structures / assets to be installed

Himalayan Balsam is a non-native invasive species. It degrades riparian habitats by dominating the environment with tall plants, overshadowing native species which struggle to survive. During winter months it leaves the banks bare and loose soils wash in to watercourses easily, degrading the river habitat for fish and invertebrates. Pulling balsam, spraying balsam has been the main method of removal with millions being spent on its control. Scientists have been working for the Government for 10 years to find a natural solution to aid its removal. A rust fungus was found and tested in laboratories with site trials starting in 2014. Now Government Agencies see that this is the only viable/effective solution to aid removal of this plant from the environment.

The project will introduce rust fungus to a plant in a dense 10m<sup>2</sup> area as per the rust fungus 2017 protocol for release (see attached CABI document). The rust on the leaves will be monitored and reported back to CABI in 2018. Land owners will continue to feed data back to CABI. Universities have been approached to carry out studies.

The release site will be on the north of the reserve, which is little used/managed and will be a good control point to see how much the rust fungus moves and to compare it with manual management carried out nearby on a ditch. It is out of the way of the main areas of the reserve and not near homes or private gardens.

Name of organisation / group proposing project if different to your organisation

CABI Europe - UK

Timescale (including proposed start and completion dates)

June 2017 –

Name / Role / Employer Organisation of Project Manager from the TVWLPS

Tracey Doherty, Wetland Landscape Officer