

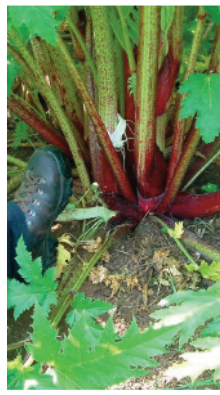
# INVADERS

**WARNING! HAVE YOU SEEN THESE ALIEN PLANTS?**

## GIANT HOGWEED

It can grow to 5m high and has a large umbel of white flowers and a hairy stem.

**DO NOT TOUCH** The sap contains a toxic chemical which can lead to severe blistering of the skin when exposed to sunlight.



*Giant Hogweed ©Crown Copyright, GBNNS & RPS Group plc*

## JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Growing up to 3m tall, often in large stands, it can do damage to property as it's strong enough to grow through asphalt.

Look out for shield-shaped leaves and purple speckled stems.



*Japanese Knotweed: GBNS Crown Copyright*

Thanks to funds made available by Affinity Water, the Ver Valley Society is able to help you access licensed chemical control to impede or eradicate these two aliens at little or no cost to you.

Email Andy Gardiner on [gardiner@gardiner.plus.com](mailto:gardiner@gardiner.plus.com) if you suspect you have these plants on your property or you have seen them by the River Ver.

Andy will confirm your sighting and we'll help you organise the necessary action.



PROTECTING AND IMPROVING THE RIVER VER CHALK STREAM SINCE 1976

[WWW.RIVERVER.CO.UK](http://WWW.RIVERVER.CO.UK)



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We are also on the lookout for **Himalayan Balsam** as although not dangerous or damaging to property, it's not good for the river bank or the river and could make flooding worse.

We organise summer work parties to remove it by hand and replace with more beneficial native plants.

Go to [riverver.co.uk/alien-plants-have-you-seen-them](http://riverver.co.uk/alien-plants-have-you-seen-them) for full details on how to identify these invasive plants, especially when they are still small - and information on what to do next.



Come and lend a hand to remove Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the River Ver!

You only need old clothes with long sleeves, gloves and wellies or walking boots to join in!

We normally work from 10am to 12am and everyone is welcome. However, a condition of our insurance cover, is that you must be over the age of 18.

We look forward to welcoming you alongside or even in the River Ver.

For up-to-date details and how to join in, please check our events page at

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The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service