

Everything you need to know about giant hogweed

Giant Hogweed has been discovered growing wild against a wall at the West End of the High Street. If left the plants can grow as high as 5m (15ft) in height.

The plants discovered at the West End of the High Street were reported and disposed of correctly by Durham County Council.

Is giant hogweed dangerous?

The sap of giant hogweed can cause burns. It contains furocoumarin, which makes skin extremely sensitive to sunlight (phytophotodermatitis). If the sap gets onto your skin and it's then exposed to the sun, your skin can blister badly. Blistering can then recur over months and even years. This is known as phytotoxicity.

What does it look like?



What do I do?

If you have found Giant Hogweed on the one of the road verges or public places please contact the Clerk with a picture of the Hogweed together with the exact location using 3word app.

What should I not do?

Please do not ignore the find. Do not attempt to cut it down or dispose of it yourself.

Familiarise yourself

Giant Hogweed does grow down by the river. Know what it is and keep away from it. If you do get stung by it seek medical assistance.

clerk@wittonlewear-pc.gov.uk