

Meeting Actions



Partneriaeth **Bioamrywiaeth** Cymru
Wales **Biodiversity** Partnership

Title of meeting: **WBP Invasive Non-native Species Group**

Date of meeting: 5th October 2021 **Venue:** MS Teams

Time of meeting: 10.00 – 12.00

Present: **WG:** Leasa Fielding (Chair), Tom Warren, Becky Phillips,
WBP: Michaela Scrivin (secretariat)
Other: Ben Rowson (NMW), Bradley Welch (BIS), Chloe Powell-Jennings (NRW), Chris Tucker (NRW), David Jermyn (BBNPA), Dawn Thomas (NWWT), Debbie Murphy (CEFAS), Gareth Thomas (NRW), Gemma Williams (Dwr Cymru), Jennie Jones (NRW), Joanne Cable (Cardiff Uni), Laura Jones (TfW), Max Jones (WaREN), Olaf Booy (APHA), Phil Stone (Canoe Wales), Robert Smith (Public Health Wales), Sean Hathaway (Swansea CC), Theresa Kudelska (NRW), Tomos Jones (WaREN)

Apologies: Adrian L Jones (NWWT), Alison Smith (WG), Beverley Lewis (BBNPA), Caroline Orr (Wye & Usk), David Thorpe (NRW), Judith Oakley (Swansea CC), Katie Havard-Smith (Cardiff Uni), Louis Macdonald-Ames (Wye & Usk), Niall Moore (APHA),

[WaREN Update](#)
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[GBNNS Inspectorate project](#)
[Any Other Business](#)

ACTIONS OVERVIEW

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Update
1. Michaela to contact Kate Rodgers for INNS badge update, share info with group	Michaela Scrivin		
WaREN Update 2. Group members to contact Tomos Jones if they wish to feed into WaREN project website and biosecurity strategy etc	Interested members to contact Tomos Jones		
Partner updates 3. Any further partner updates to Michaela by end of November	All to email Michaela		
Talk – GBNSS Inspectorate 4. No actions arising.			



Action	Lead	Timeframe	Update
Any Other Business / Next steps 5. WBP INNS Group meeting to be organised for Sept/Oct 2021	Michaela Scrivin		Done

KEY POINTS & ACTIONS

Leasa Fielding welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies. The list of actions from the last meeting was reviewed:

List of actions from March 2021 meeting

1. Contact Jennie Jones if you would like hard copies of Check Clean Dry literature. **Done.**
2. Contact Kate Rodgers if you would like hard copies of the Gwent Levels INNS guide. **Done.**
3. Kate Rodgers to share INNS badge information with Gemma Light. **Done.**
4. Contact Kate Rodgers if you use any providers other than Coleg Gwent for PAW/PAW6 training. **Done**
5. Topmouth Gudgeon: Phil Stone, Gareth Thomas and Rhys Jones to speak about biosecurity options for TMG waterbodies. **Ongoing**
6. Rhys Jones to email Jo Cable with NRW freshwater monitoring information.
7. WBP INNS Group meeting to be organised for autumn 2021. **Done**

WaREN Project: Phase 2 Update

Project Manager Thomas Jones introduced himself, North Wales' Project Officer Max Jones, and South Wales' Project Officer Jess Minett. Funded until April 2023, the aim of the second phase is to promote biodiversity and ecological resilience through the development of a collaborative and sustainable approach to the management of INNS across Wales.

- WaREN 1 achieved several key actions
 - Engagement with stakeholders such as LAGs to identify gaps, barriers and opportunities
 - Analysis of invasive species impacts and distribution in Wales
 - Scoped a variety of toolkits and action reporting tools.
- WaREN 2 objectives include:
 - Develop a sustainable funding stream
 - Feasibility studies for innovative approaches to tackling priority species
 - Build a collaborative network of stakeholders
 - Develop links between existing projects
 - Establish an online forum to share information and best practices
 - Engage with LAGs to: develop links between groups, support and facilitate formation of sustainable LAGs, run topical surgeries, develop project website, provide training and toolkits
 - Raise awareness among the general public by working with an agency to develop project branding, and a charter for organisations to sign up to



- Run invasive species campaign in spring 2022 to increase awareness of INNS and biosecurity
- INNS online portal – scoping report
 - Need a user-friendly portal to record all GB INNS
 - Why? Evidence building, transparency, improved communication and collaboration, better understanding of best management plans
 - Welsh strategy: proactive vs reactive, GB level campaigns, key messages
 - Current progress: identified prevention and biosecurity priorities, working with partners, determining key aims and objectives of strategy
- Toolkit – scoping report
 - Internet based portal with information for many different species, technical support and information, legislation, regularly updated
 - Outline for six planned sections: General INNS, information, managing INNS, project planning tools, biosecurity, raising awareness and communication, guidance and advice
 - Current progress: accumulating resources that are already available, and developing new resources such as guides on INNS identification and best practise management, pesticide information, funding database, biosecurity kit

Discussion points

- Jo Cable: is campaign going to be extended to microbes and other pathogens? Information and ways to stop spread included where possible e.g. Check Clean Dry
- Leasa: How can group members feed into biosecurity strategy? Tomos Jones (Tomos.Jones@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk) can be contacted.
- Sean Hathaway: how is information security going to be handled? Useful information can be misused, Swansea has had no win no fee insurance claims. Tomos going to consider this going forward.
- Chloe: marine species included? No, just terrestrial and fresh water
- Phil Stone: Canoe Wales interested but not really a 'local' action group – further discussion about opportunities off-line.

Actions: All to contact [Tomos Jones](#) if interested in helping with the biosecurity strategy.

Partner Updates

Written updates circulated before the meeting. Additional points include:

- **National Museum of Wales.** Marine INNS workshop held in Pwllheli on 23rd October in collaboration with NRW & NWWT.
- **Brecon Beacons NPA:** source of Himalayan Balsam found in upper Tawe and upper Usk, now starting to be controlled
- **CEFAS:** Project looking at improving marine INNS surveillance with e.g., eDNA, Debbie to contact Chloe re similarities with Living Seas work.
- **GBNNS.** Pathway action plans ongoing. Horticultural subgroup looking at plants and contaminants. Lionfish photo being investigated, but don't think it's a species that can establish in GB waters. Report on GBNSS strategy been submitted to DEFRA, now looking to refresh 2015's strategy



- **LERCs.** Looking at environmental connectivity with regard to INNS.
- **Living Seas NWWT.**
- **NRW.** Concentrating on supporting the embedding of the IAS order, and actions in relation to the GB strategy. Two FTA posts extended (Topmouth Gudgeon and Biosecurity Officers). SoNNaR chapter published on NRW website.
- **Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation:** Working with Aber university on viability of using eDNA to identify presence of marine INNS, and marine INNS added to fishers catch report app. Biosecurity workshop held with stakeholders in June. Still working on marine INNS ID guide
- **Transport for Wales.** Still coping with a lot of INNS track-side, looking to decrease pesticide use where possible. Looking at JK in urban areas in particular after Network Rail was successfully sued.
- **Welsh Water:** New Conservation Advisor coming on board soon, position statement for formal processes being developed, wider biodiversity strategy with INNS component also being developed.

Actions: Anyone who hadn't managed to send a partner update to Michaela ahead of the meeting please feel free to send one by end of November and this can be included with the minutes when circulated.

GBNNS Inspectorate project

Iain Henderson, APHA, spoke about this pilot project scoping the creation of a dedicated INNS inspectorate. His presentation will be circulated with the minutes.

- Funded by WG, Scottish Government & Defra.
- Max Jones asked about the 5% target for Wales, planned work in Wales includes visiting zoo's & garden centres to help understand Welsh needs. Bethan (NRW) also looking at Welsh ports (no designated ports, but Swansea receives timber products), aim to meet and compare notes.
- Olaf noted that due to process and contacts not being clear earlier, having a known contact/process for reporting concerns is leading to a wider range of contacts being made.

Any Other Business

- Online Wildlife Crime Conference held mid-October.
- New legislation for companies who display animals coming into force, license will be issued and enforced by local authorities
- IAS regulation mean that review of 'List of species of special concern' needs to be undertaken to see if they meant new criteria. Further information next year – species that aren't able to establish in GB might come off the list (formerly they had to be able to establish in the EU).
- Next meeting to be organised for March/April 2022.