

Meeting Actions



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

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

Date of meeting: 11th March 2020

Venue: Cardiff St Mellons

Time of meeting: 10.40am – 3.00pm

Present:

WG: Leasa Fielding (Chair), Gemma Light,
WBP: Michaela Scrivin (secretariat)
Other: Adam Rowe (SEWBRc), Andrew Lucas (JNCC), Ben Rowson (NMW), Beverley Lewis (BBNPA), Dan Jones (Advanced Invasives), David Jermyn (BBNPA), Dusi Thomas (Dwr Cymru), Ian Doyle (NWWT), Katie Havard-Smith (Cardiff Uni), Lyn Byrne (NWWT), Nigel Ajax-Lewis (WWT), Robert Smith (Public Health Wales), Sophie Hocking (Advanced Invasives),

Skype: James Millington (WG), Jennie Jones (NRW), Theresa Kudelska (NRW), Tracey King (Ornamental Aquatics Trade Association)

Apologies: Alison Heal (Ceredigion CC), Alison Smith (WG), Anna Holmes (NMW), Chris Tucker (NRW), Bradley Welch, Brian Briggs (WWT), Colin Cheesman (Plantlife), David Hall (Cardiff Uni), Jo Cable (Cardiff Uni), Louis Macdonald-Ames (Wye-Usk foundation), Mike Morris (Severn Rivers Trust), Niall Moore (APHA), Nick Bialynicki-Birula (NRW), Phil Horton (RYA), Rob Evans (NRW), Thomas King (Canal & Rivers Trust),

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ACTIONS OVERVIEW

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Update
Items carried over			
1. Michaela Scrivin to look into best method of collating reports of member actions for WG	Michaela Scrivin	Ongoing	
2. Jennie Jones to arrange meeting between WG, NRW, GBNSS and WBP to discuss uses of the Priority Species for Action list	Jennie Jones	Ongoing	



Action	Lead	Timeframe	Update
3. Nigel Ajax-Lewis to circulate written WaREN update, and WaREN update to be in July INNS Newsletter	Nigel Ajax-Lewis	Ongoing	
Workshop: INNS Group Activities and Priorities			
4. Field trip & training ideas to be investigated	Michaela Scrivin		
WaREN Update			
5. Aims/objectives of WaREN 2 to be sent to Michaela by Lyn Byrne – Michaela to then circulate to the wider INNS Group	Lyn Byrne / Michaela Scrivin		
6. Adam Rowe to send information on Cofnod to Ian Doyle	Adam Rowe		
Partner updates			
No actions arising			
Talk – Invasives Research Centre			
7. Leasa Fielding to prioritise re-write of WG guidance to align to treatment protocol findings	Leasa Fielding	End of April	
Talk – Swansea Uni/Advanced Invasives			
No actions arising			
Any Other Business / Next steps			
8. WBP INNS Group meeting to be organised for Sept / Oct 2020	Michaela Scrivin	Currently booked for 7 th October	

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 last meeting

1. MS to look into best method of collating reports of member actions for WG. Ongoing, new Action 1
2. DW to check if the Area Statements profiles are publicly available and MS to share with group when available. Done: area statements were published on the NRW website here: <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/area-statements/?lang=en> on 30th March 2020.
3. JJ to arrange meeting between WG, NRW, GBNNSS and WBP to discuss uses of the Priority Species for Action list). Ongoing, new action 2
4. CO to send link to MS in November once reports of the River Restoration Project go online. MS to chase
5. CO to liaise with AR from LERC regarding the sharing of records in a compatible format. Done
6. BL to link with NAL and LB re WaREN. Done



7. GL to share NMW's Asian Clam Report from DH. Done
8. GL/JJ link SERA with NRW Kate Griffith working on Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau biosecurity plan. Done
9. LO, CO and BL to liaise via email to share info re Elwy River Project. Done?
10. NAL to provide update on work on WaREN for next WBP INNS newsletter and then produce regular report on WaREN progress for future newsletters. Update to be in July INNS newsletter. New action 3.
11. GL to circulate link to app download. Done.
12. Feedback and suggestions regarding evidence gaps to TK by CoP 8th November (All). Done
13. All to consider daily themes and put forward to Lucy Cornwell, GBNNSS. Done.
Daily themes confirmed as:
Mon 18 May – Introduction to invasive species
Tues 19 May – Freshwater and riparian species
Weds 20 May – Terrestrial species (examples being urban, woodlands, and bogs)
Thurs 21 May – Marine species and the impacts on small islands
Fri 22 - Sun 24 May – Volunteering and other actions to help prevent the spread
14. All to consider Newsletter items to send to MS i.e. events, projects and case studies. Done
15. All to send suggested agenda items for next meeting to MS. Done.

Workshop: INNS Group Activities and Priorities

Workshop session to capture activities being undertaken that contribute to activity in the work programme, and feed back. Questions to consider before the meeting:

- What activities are taking place to progress the actions/outputs already captured in the work programme?
- Are there new actions that should be included in the work programme?
- What should the Group's future priorities be and why? What criteria could we use to help prioritise the actions within the Group's work programme?

Group 1:

WaREN was seen as the 'action/delivery' group, the WBP INNS group has a valued role as a networking forum. However, there was concern raised in the group that they didn't fully understand the roles and responsibilities of WaREN, and they would like to see better/more formal definition between WaREN/WBP INNS Group, ideally in written form so that clarity could be gained.

Group 1 felt that meeting as the INNS Group twice a year was enough, and that March and September were good months as the summer was often a time to focus on field work. They liked the idea of a field trip, but felt that for it to be most useful, it would be best combined with some form of training. Training suggestions could be taken from the wider INNS Group. Other meeting could be Skype meetings, potentially with regional venues e.g. in NRW offices in Cardiff, Aberystwyth, and/or Bangor.

Group 2:

What activities are taking place to progress the actions/outputs already captured in the work programme?



- Promoting Action
 - WG involved in Pathway Action Plans (PAPs)
- Raising Awareness
 - OATA promoting ISW to their members.
- Best Practice
- Information Exchange
- Expertise
 - OATA involved in BePlantWise review. Also assessing plant passport requirements that will also help with INNS pathways. Will be reviewing EU animal health legislation next year.

Are there new actions that should be included in the work programme?

- OATA would like to be able to have better links with LAGs. JJ suggested WaREN as a tool for doing this and asked OATA to express an interest by sending an email via link on WBP INNS group page.

What should the Group's future priorities be and why? What criteria could we use to help prioritise the actions within the Group's work programme?

- Suggestion to involve industry to benefit from expertise and knowledge of species when updating the WBP Priority INNS for action in Wales list (OATA)
- Explore possibility of INNS group covering parasites and pathogens (Jo Cable, Swansea Uni)
- Updating INNS group with requirements of new legislation (Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement & Permitting) Order 2019).

Group 3:

- There needs to be 'best practise set standards' on how to manage INNS
- More visible – need to be clear on priorities with no budget (WaREN = delivery arm)
 - What are the roles and responsibilities of this group vs WaREN?
 - Actions are fine but high level – what is this group accountable for?
- Group needs to be more visible
 - Raise awareness – in schools, posters in public
- Group needs to be delivering outputs more
- INNS needs 'one stop shop' for expert accessible advice
- Website needs to be clearer to get to INNS pages
- What authority does the WBP INNS Group have? 'Expert committee'/'Stakeholder Group' – concern raised over liability providing expert advice
 - Issue of liability offering advice on managing INNS needs to be addressed as priority

WaREN Update

Nigel Ajax-Lewis gave an overview of WaREN Project, noting that all related to terrestrial/fresh water INNS, nothing marine-based due to RDP funding restrictions.

- Phase 1 analysed all INNS records in the public domain for Wales, divided into counties
 - Glamorgan (125), Monmouthshire (90), Pembrokeshire (88) highest, lowest were Anglesey and Radnorshire (both 70)



- Most information off the NBN Wales INNS Portal database
- Species divided into three categories (1-20 records, 20-100 records, 100+ records). Possible eradication of the first category? Especially if plants.
- Talked to 120 stakeholders

Ian Doyle from NWWT was then introduced as the new WaREN Project Officer in North Wales.

- Started in January 2020, compiled questionnaire for use when talking to LAGs about issues such as the age range of volunteers and funding/competition for funding
- Moving on to scoping apps, websites for reporting INNS. Many are good if you know about INNS already, but not if you don't
- WaREN Phase 1 is a 1-year project to analyse INNS records, map work done/planned, scope tools. Planned to end in March – won't have delivered on all goals due to delays in getting off the ground.
- WaREN Phase 2: SMS funding to take project forward approved at first stage, full application due end March 2020.
 - Should deliver practical framework to get work done on the ground
 - Project won't start until September
 - Ian only in post until July/August
- WaREN 2 aims to remove competition / enhance co-ordination. Meeting on Monday to finalise aims and objectives – this will help clarify what needs to be done even if project is not funded
 - **ACTION:** Aims/objectives of WaREN 2 to be sent to Michaela by Lyn Byrne – Michaela to then circulate to the wider INNS Group.
- Apps review: Rapid Life Project developed the INNS mapper app (very simple and easy to use). Plant tracker app closed.
 - Adam Rowe noted that existing tool, Cofnod, could be developed to be pan-Wales. Query as to whether it lacked the mapping element?
 - **ACTION:** Adam Rowe to send information on Cofnod to Ian Doyle.
- 15-20 different methods being used to target one species – not best practise, not effective, e.g. Japanese knotweed sprayed every 4-5 years with no interim action
- Part of WaREN 2 programme will be to sit down with funders and stakeholders to clarify expectations from/by both
- Issues arising as part of discussions so far:
 - Funding not centralised, and reliance on volunteers not sustainable
 - Paid staff needed with support from volunteers

Partner updates

Robert Smith (NHS)

Understandably, coronavirus dominating immediate work programme and will be for several months. UK infections trajectory running two weeks behind Italy's, forecasted to continue well into summer. All issues likely to escalate.

- Guidelines being developed with WG/APHA regarding pets (possibly carrying virus particles on their fur)
- Information re ticks/Lyme disease postponed due to coronavirus. Working to distribute via LAs but timing not clear due to current crisis
- Code of Public Access Practice being refined and ready shortly on HSE website
 - Open farms, zoo's, agri shows etc



Ben Rowson (National Museum of Wales)

- Project on rafting and flotsam
- Fresh water molluscs – Chinese Mystery Snail in east of England, assessment done for GBNNSS
- Promoting use of i-Record
 - DNA barcoding
 - Training for up to 50 citizen scientists
- Ghost slug sighted in North Wales

Bev Lewis (Brecon Beacons National Park)

- Focus on Rhododendron control over winter, now looking for funding to continue with programme (current project ends June, so Phase 2 funding needed)
- Successful projects recently include Crassulae mite, intensive Japanese Knotweed work
- Training inhouse on LERC Wales
- Encouraging BIS (Biosecurity Information Service). 24 events over next 2 years, all to have focus on biosecurity even for non-related courses (e.g. on spring flowers)

Lyn Byrne (NWWT)

- Working with GB secretariat to write paddlesports biosecurity guide
- Finished eDNA projects – inconclusive
- HB trials finished – inconclusive
- Lyn and Ian attended GBNNSS LAG Forum in Shrewsbury

Leasa Fielding (WG)

- IAS Order in place from 1st Dec 2019. Defra and WG writing FAQ, taking longer than expected but due in next month or so
- Summary of consultation responses on the management measures for widely-spread INNS consultation to be published soon
- BIC INNS conference attended Jan 2020. Focus on collaboration and information sharing. BIC Ministers due to be meeting in May (this meeting has since been postponed due to the Covid 19 epidemic)
- Bringing in Brexit legislation but have to amend due to NIP position (working as part of EU)
- Raccoon dogs still on the loose
- New report of Crepidula on the in Menai Straits, NRW assessing
- Leasa gave information about IAS week in May – please note, this week has since been postponed due to the Covid-19 epidemic. More information will be circulated once it is re-arranged

Dusi Thomas (Dwr Cymru)

- Waiting for confirmation of budget for next 5 years. NRW have supported application
- Looking to deliver options for biosecurity measures working with WaREN and other partners



- Project on pathways and risk hopefully starting this year

Nigel Ajax-Lewis (WWT)

- Planning activities for IS week, particularly Thursday due to island focus
- Containers lost from ship – focus on removing debris, poisoning rats etc

Katie Havard Smith (Cardiff University)

- Student looking to assess pathways in the Severn

Theresa Kudelska (NRW, via email)

- Embedded the IAS Order within NRW processes so that NRW can issue licences and enforce aspects of the Order.
- Provided training in relation to the IAS Order and SCP to North Wales Police and plan to undertake further work with mid and south Wales Police in the near future.
- Continued to support WG and Defra with the development with the FAQ document which is due to be published shortly and will be key to the interpretation of the Order.
- Supporting national campaigns by inputting in to the Be Plant Wise renewal and produced more bilingual CCD materials, and distributed them to key stakeholders (angling and canoeing). If anyone needs any bilingual check clean dry material, please let NRW know.
- Recruited an internal NRW biosecurity officer (November 2020) and have secured additional funding for them to be in place till the end of the 20/21 FY. They are involved in undertaking risk assessments for all depots and offices, establishing a task and finish group to develop an overarching biosecurity policy emending plan and to purchase and distribute equipment identified in the risk assessments to improve biosecurity. This coming year they are likely to be working on developing advice and bespoke biosecurity resources for different functions within NRW and may be involved in some more outward facing biosecurity work.
- Work is ongoing on SoNaRR, much of the data has now been coded and analysed and the INNS chapter is currently being drafted.
- Recruited a Fisheries INNS management advisor in November 2020 till the end of the FY to review the previous TMG monitoring and develop a costed monitoring programme to establish the presence and absence of TMG in Wales. They are also drafting a feasibility study for the eradication of TMG with the information available currently. It is hoped that the work will continue in the next FY subject to funding to undertake monitoring to establish the actual extent of TMG in Wales and to refine the feasibility study.
- The raccoon dog response had been ongoing. We had a positive confirmation of their presence on a farm in close proximity to the release point in Carmarthenshire (several sightings) and so the site was baited and camera traps were put out (following procedures used in Europe to trap raccoon dogs) however while we continued to get regular reports of sightings on the farm till December we did not get them to come to the bait station. Monitoring has continued although no further sightings have been received. The trail cameras will be checked again this week and if there is no further footage or sightings, we are likely to stand down monitoring until we get further sightings.



- Supported the WaREN project by providing funding and also inputting to the project through the board as well as promoting the project.
- Joint NRW and EA eel stocking and biosecurity position statement has been agreed and adopted to enable biosecurity to be improved within the eel industry.
- RD58 for disposal of INNS waste has been developed and sent to the internal NRW waste panel for sign off.
- First record of signal crayfish on the Elwy near St Asaph (individual washed up following floods).
- Slipper limpet was recorded on the Menai Strait, this is significant because of the extensive aquaculture industry on the Strait. An internal NRW response group was established to confirm the report and to help to establish extent, NRW have been working with the industry and other stakeholders to raise awareness, to encourage reporting and to enable biosecurity measure to be put in place. Drop down and intertidal surveys are being planned for later this year.

No update from Andrew Lucas (JNCC). Time ran out for other partner updates, but please send them to me for inclusion in the final minutes.

Talk – Dan Jones, Invasives Research Centre

Dan gave an overview of Japanese Knotweed (JK) field trial research conducted at the Taffs Well site. He noted that flailing etc is not effective due to spreading, and that the economic cost of JK was more than all the other invasive plants combined. He has found that Invasives require parsimony:

- Right treatment, right time
- Doing more with less

Treatment methods that didn't work: Cultural/preventative (physical), and integrated physiochemical. The only effective control was seasonal glyphosate application:

- Biannual foliar spray
- Stem injection (requires 15x the dose of glyphosate)
- Annual foliar spray

No treatment achieved total kill (eradication) but good data now available to manage JK. **ACTION:** WG guidance is not aligned to these findings. Currently being re-assessed, Leasa Fielding to prioritise re-write of guidance. Please note LF has since arranged for update of the two Japanese knotweed leaflets for publication (hopefully in April). Himalayan Balsam and Giant hogweed will be updated in due course.

This means that councils etc may have legal liability if correct methods not used. Control measures must be both effective and cost effective, otherwise damaging from a financial and practical perspective. Opportunity for Wales to lead in information exchange.

Biological controls discussed – no indication of effectiveness. No success with overwintering, nothing published from findings.

If glyphosate banned, then what? 4% of use = non=farming, invasive species control a small proportion of that 4%. Exemption possibilities?



Talk – Sophie Hocking, Swansea Uni

Sophie gave an overview of how ecological restoration and Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) research fits into the field trial research. Removing INNS ≠ original habitat. Continued control leads to degraded land, which can lead to secondary invasion e.g. Himalayan Balsam.

Restoration = assisted recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed. Sophie used 81 of the best performing 9m² JK eradication plots to assess methods. Results: still analysing, likely to be released in 18 more months.

Environmental impacts of herbicide use only monitor 'use' phase. Holy grail combines control efficacy, public health and perception, and environmental sustainability. Sophie doing Life Cycle Assessments of impacts JK control methods, focusing on production, use and effectiveness. Iterative process. Results published in 18 months.

Next steps:

- Refining life cycle assessment process
- Long term monitoring
- Investigating soil micro-biome

Any Other Business

- No other business noted
- Next meeting to be held Sept/Oct 2020. **ACTION:** Michaela to organise