

Meeting Actions



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

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

Date of meeting: 3rd March 2023 **Venue:** MS Teams

Time of meeting: 10.00 – 12.45

Present: **WG:** Leasa Fielding (Chair), Alison Smith, ,
WBP: Michaela Scrivin (secretariat)
Other: Anna Holmes (NMW), Beverley Lewis (BBNPA), Chloe Powell-Jennings (NRW), Colin Russell (LERC Rep), Dan Forman (Swansea Uni), David Jermyn (BBNPA), Holly Peek (NRW), Iain Henderson (APHA), Jennie Jones (NRW), Jess Minett (WaREN), Kirsty Brown (NWWT), Niall Moore (GBNNSS), Theresa Kudelska (NRW), Tomos Jones (WaREN)

Apologies: Chloe White (Dwr Cymru), Dawn Thomas (NWWT), Debbie Murphy (CEFAS), Gemma Williams (Dwr Cymru), Katie Havard-Smith (Cardiff Uni), Phil Horton (RYA), Phil Stone (Canoe Wales), Simon Roberts (RSPB), Tom Warren (WG)

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ACTIONS OVERVIEW

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Update
New Zealand approach to INNS management 1. No actions arising.			
NNSI Inspectorate 2. No actions arising.			
WaREN Update 3. No actions arising.			
Marine INNS Kit 4. No actions arising.			



Action	Lead	Timeframe	Update
Partner updates 5. Anyone who hadn't managed to send a partner update to Michaela ahead of the meeting please send one by March 22nd	ALL		
Any Other Business / Next steps 6. All to send INNS Week plans to Tom Warren. 7. Michaela to organise next meeting for autumn 2023.	Tom Warren Michaela		

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 November 2022 meeting

1. Michaela to organise mid Wales field trip for June 2023. **Ongoing, venue suggestion needed.**
2. Michaela to circulate all presentations after meeting. **Done**
3. Michaela to send calendar invite for March 8 2023. **Done**

New Zealand approach to INNS management

Niall Moore from the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat gave an overview of lessons learnt from his recent trip to New Zealand, a LIFE funded trip made as part of the Biosecurity Steering Group. With 1000 offshore islands and a significant proportion of land owned by the crown, there are lessons to be learnt about biosecurity on island nations.

- Boot cleaning stations set up but not enforced
- Sniffer dogs checking bags
- For islands with the most stringent controls, all goods for shipping are stored before shipping and checked

Main Government players are the Ministry of Primary Industries, (Biosecurity NZ is part of this), Department of Conservation, and 16 regional councils. Very stringent legislation: Biosecurity Act 1993 established Biosecurity NZ, HSNO Act covers new organisms. Resourcing around £750m per annum, surveillance £3.4 p/a (about 28 times UK spend, 360x UK spend per capita). LT management £75m, Rapid response 20x UK spend.

- Predator free NZ - Aim to eradicate 7 species entirely by 2050 – possum, stoat, weasel, ferret, three rats. In 'innovation' stage at the moment.
- Wilding conifers are escaping from farms/shelterbelts, about 2 million hectares invaded. Not as much focus on comms / action around this issue

Good points:

- Action focused – at border, rapid responses, eradications



- Much greater resources
- Biosecurity very integrated
- Very prevention / rapid response focused
- Long term management very strategic for animals (mammals)

Bad points

- Long term management not strategic for plants, especially for those which are environmental threats
- Regional councils often work in uncoordinated ways

Lessons for GB/UK

- We need to 'up the ante', especially on prevention and rapid response
- Better quantification of environmental threat needed
- Better detection – decision making and recording – action to remove

NNSI Inspectorate

Iain Henderson from the Non-native Species Inspectorate gave an update on their work. As of April 2023, 10 inspectors will cover Scotland, England, and Wales. Each inspector is a generalist but can get specialist help as needed. The Inspectorate

- Enforces relevant legislation
- Educates stakeholders on the risks posed by NNS and their responsibilities to prevent release and escapes
- Investigates breaches and supports other agencies including local police, National Wildlife Crime Unit, and NRW

Potential pathways

- Border – boats, anglers, containers / contaminants
- Events – trade fairs, angling events, boating events
- Post border
 - Exotic pet owners, animal rescue centres, zoos, garden centres and nurseries
 - Butterfly farms, falconry, exotic waterfowl
 - Online sales, deliberate releases

Legal powers in Wales

- Authorised as Enforcement Officers under the IAS Order
- Covers 66 species of special concern only
- Power to seize samples and imports of listed species, power to enter premises (but not private dwelling), but both require 'reasonable grounds to believe' offence is being committed

Enforcement of legislation

- Biggest problem is ignorance of the law
- First step is to inform contact of legal obligations, this can include seizure of plants / animals.
- Zoos and animal rescues are advised of steps needed to get permit / license
- Animal rescue centres currently a grey area for non-widely spread species such as raccoons – they can safely hold surrendered animals but not move / breed / release them



Wildlife rescues and rehabilitation

- Inspectorate can contact and warn individuals / organisations suspected of releasing animals without a licence or planning to do so.
- Close liaison with NRW
- Continued breaches can be referred to police / Defra Investigation Services for investigation / prosecution.

Clear legal mandate against releasing species not ordinarily resident in GB, but there are exceptions (e.g., falconry) and license can be issued by NRW to do all these things depending on the merits of the case (e.g., catching and releasing Asian hornets so they can find and destroy the nest).

Discussion around labelling plants in garden centre – trading standards issue, but plants can be seized whether labelled or not.

WaREN Project: Phase 2 Update

Tomos Jones gave an update on INNS Mapper, Wales biosecurity strategy, WaREN newsletter

INNS Mapper launches this year, contains an occurrence records database and an integrated management action reporting tool. Partnership project with investment from a number of organisations across GB. Currently looking to start beta testing shortly.

Wales biosecurity strategy aims to achieve a proactive approach to tackling INNS in Wales by improving both the understanding of biosecurity across Wales, and the uptake of biosecurity actions across Wales. Protect Nature Now Charter main mechanisms to achieve this.

WaREN newsletter being circulated regularly, please contact Jess if you have any content for upcoming issues.

Ecosystem Invaders campaign still aiming to increase awareness and will be re-run at a reduced scale this year. WaREN funding confirmed until end of June so will be able to be involved in Invasive Species Week in May.

Local action group Invasive Species Toolkit now printed and English version available, Welsh version available soon. PDFs will be freely available online. LAG training has also been ongoing on pesticide spray training, brush cutter and strimmer management techniques, and biosecurity. LAG workshops also held in North and South Wales. Help needed with the LAG survey – please circulate to your local network for more responses.

New projects: Garden Escapers (Involving gardeners in preventing future invades), and Recording impacts of INNS through citizen science. Both being run with Coventry University.



Discussion around 'reinventing the wheel' for top trumps and toolkit – content has been recycled from existing resources and links to current best practise guides. Collating existing information, rather than replicating efforts.

Discussion around funding for next year – recent request for funding unsuccessful, so current end date for WaREN project is 31st March. Looking for alternative avenues for funding streams. Chance of mid-Wales LAG workshop? Needs population to support.

Marine INNS kit

Anna Holmes from Amgueddfa Cymru showed a Marine INNS kit. Available free of charge for workshops, contains 34 INN species e.g. sea squirts, algae etc. Some dried, others pickled for handling etc. For more information or to borrow the kit contact Anna Holmes Anna.Holmes@museumwales.ac.uk

Partner Updates

Written updates circulated before the meeting, and will be recirculated with these minutes.

Actions: Anyone who hadn't managed to send a partner update to Michaela ahead of the meeting please send one by March 22nd and this can be included with the minutes when circulated.

Any Other Business

- INNS week 15-21 May 2023, please send details of any events to Tom Warren Tom.Warren@gov.wales
- Next meeting to be organised for October 2023.

Action: All to send INNS Week plans to Tom Warren. Michaela to organise next meeting for autumn 2023.