

Meeting Actions



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

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

Date of meeting: 23rd March 2021 **Venue:** MS Teams

Time of meeting: 10.00 – 12.00

Present: **WG:** Leasa Fielding (Chair), Gemma Light, Erika Dawson
WBP: Michaela Scrivin (secretariat)
Other: Adrian L Jones (NWWT), Ben Rowson (NMW), Beverley Lewis (BBNPA), Chloe Powell-Jennings (NRW), Colin Russell (WWBIC), Dan Jones (Advanced Invasives), David Jermyn (BBNPA), Dawn Thomas (NWWT), Debbie Murphy (CEFAS), Gareth Thomas (NRW), Gemma Williams (Dwr Cymru), Kate Rodgers (Living Levels), Katie Havard-Smith (Cardiff Uni), Jennie Jones (NRW), Joanne Cable (Cardiff Uni), Laura Jones (TfW), Rhys Jones (NRW), Lauri MacLean (National Trust), Lee Oliver (GWCT), Lyn Byrne (NWWT), Niall Moore (APHA), Phil Horton (RYA), Phil Stone (Canoe Wales), Robert Smith (Public Health Wales), Sean Hathaway (Swansea CC),

Apologies: Alison Smith (WG), Anna Holmes (MoW), Bradley Welch (BIS), David Thorpe (NRW), James Millington (WG), Judith Oakley (Swansea CC), Louis Macdonald-Ames (Wye & Usk), Mark Barber (ARC), Matthew Ellis (NRW), Neville Rookes (WLGA), Olaf Booy (APHA), Rob Evans (NRW), Sophie Hocking (Advanced Invasives), Tara Daniels (WTSWW), Theresa Kudelska (NRW), Thomas King (Canal & Rivers Trust),

[WaREN Update](#)
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[Any Other Business](#)

ACTIONS OVERVIEW

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Update
WaREN Update No actions arising			
Partner updates 1. Contact Jennie Jones if you would like hard copies of Check Clean Dry literature.	All interested to email Jennie		



Action	Lead	Timeframe	Update
2. Contact Kate Rodgers if you would like hard copies of the Gwent Levels INNS guide. 3. Kate Rodgers to share INNS badge information with Gemma Light. 4. Contact Kate Rodgers if you use any providers other than Coleg Gwent for PAW/PAW6 training	All interested to email Kate Kate Rodgers to email Gemma Email Kate with any information.		
Talk – National Forest of Wales No actions arising			
Talk – Topmouth Gudgeon 5. Phil Stone, Gareth Thomas and Rhys Jones to speak about biosecurity options for TMG waterbodies. 6. Rhys Jones to email Jo Cable with NRW freshwater monitoring information.	Phil Stone, Gareth Thomas and Rhys Jones Rhys to email Jo		
Any Other Business / Next steps 7. WBP INNS Group meeting to be organised for Sept/Oct 2021	Michaela Scrivin		

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 October 2020 meeting

1. Michaela Scrivin to look into best method of collating reports of member actions for WG. Unable to be progressed due to lack of capacity. Added to WBP work programme as a WG ask for when capacity increases.
2. Jennie Jones to arrange meeting between WG, NRW, GBNNSS and WBP to discuss uses of the Priority Species for Action list. Arranged for Nov 2021.
3. Comments/amends/improvements on the document clarifying roles of WaREN and WBP INNS groups to be sent to Michaela. Done, none received.
4. Comments & suggestions re future training / field trips to be sent to Michaela. Done, none received.
5. Michaela to contact Chloe to organise a feature in January 2021 WBP INNS newsletter. Done.
6. WBP Conference to be held virtually week of 23rd November: all to consider call for content. Done
7. WBP INNS Group meeting to be organised for March 2021. Done



WaREN Update

- WaREN 1 now finished
 - ‘Gaps and Barriers’ report produced – will be shared once NRW sign off. Looking at prevalence/location of INNS, comparison with location of Local Action Groups (LAGs), assessing gaps.
 - Analysis of Wales INNS by county done – Glamorgan has highest incidence
 - Funders workshops held online in February 2021, with the aim of increasing their engagement in funding INNS projects
 - Questioned about 60 LAGs in Wales to establish their capacity to tackle most urgent INNS actions
 - Created WaREN Terms of Reference
 - Scoped pledge for LAGs to sign up to – to be delivered during next stage
 - All actions that could be delivered under Covid-19 restrictions were.
- WaREN 2 to start first week of April
 - Recruitment underway for Project Manager and North Wales Project Officer (South Wales Officer already in place)
 - Aim is to develop a cohesive strategy for Wales INNS and biosecurity
 - Secure funding, tailored to INNS
 - Integrate biosecurity goals into policies as default
 - Dusi Thomas has agreed to be independent chair for WaREN 2

Discussion points

- Beverley Lewis requested a list of funders who had attended the workshops – Lyn noted that a summary of key information will be collated from WaREN 1, will include funding information
- Beverley Lewis noted that Local Authorities have a funding gap – funders not willing to give LAs money to tackle INNS as they perceive that to be a statutory duty, but that’s not the case.

Partner Updates

Written updates circulated before the meeting. Additional points include:

- **National Museum of Wales.** ID Guide to Freshwater Snails out soon. Includes approx. 10 INNS and check clean dry information. NWM has received 15000 records even during lockdown.
- **Canoe Wales.** Washdown stations planned for Llandysul, Tryweryn White water centre, Plas y Brenin and possibly Llyn Padarn. Difficulties finding best design noted – Phil Horton suggested contacting yachting facilities. Biosecurity event toolkit being worked on for organisers e.g. slalom.
- **Cardiff University/ Severn Estuary Partnership (KHS).** Report on INNS completed a couple of years ago, since then yearly report has included INNS management measures added for data collection. Also working with Living Levels, and awareness raising via members.
- **Cardiff University (JC)** Continuing to look at aquatic pathogens particularly fish species.
- **LERCs.** Interested in talking to NRW about data going on to the Wales Environment Information Portal.



- **NRW.** INNS chapter for SoNaRR now available from website via the following link: [Natural Resources Wales / SoNaRR2020: Invasive non-native species \(INNS\)](#). Hard copies of Check Clean Dry available from NRW – contact Jennie Jones if you would like some.
- **Living Seas NWWT.** Have been working to include INNS recording in Shore search Surveys. Chloe (NRW) and Anna (NMW) have provided training to upskill ID abilities
- **NWWT.** SMS Wellbeing project extended to March 2022 due to Covid. In process of getting ENRAW funding for North Wales Resilient Ecosystems pilot projects including eDNA tools, action for anglers, conservation grazing for INNS, engaging with WaREN 2, creating biodiversity citizen army. These will run until 2023.
- **GBNNS.** Funding received from WG and Scotland. Second meeting of Horticulture and hitchhikers Pathway Action Plan group next week. LAG workshop held January. British-Irish Council have established an Asian Hornet Taskforce. Stakeholder Forum will be held online in June.
- **GWLT.** Elwy Himalayan balsam project ongoing with NWWT and fishing groups. Geom project ongoing in Aber. In-river monitoring system for geo-referencing plants being worked on with private company StemTech.
- **Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation:** workshop for stakeholders planned for early May. INNS monitoring project using eDNA underway
- **Advanced Invasives.** Sophie's Japanese Knotweed PhD submitted last week, to be circulated once published. Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed leaflets nearing completion, updated drafts going to WG this week.
- **Living Levels.** Hard copies of Gwent Levels INNS guide available – please contact Kate Rodgers if interested. INNS badge created for guides/scouts etc, will be handed to NRW when Living Levels finishes. Kate to share badge info with Gemma Light. Kate has funding for PAW/PAW6 training but is struggling to find providers to deliver training under Covid restrictions. If you have any providers other than Coleg Gwent, please let Kate know.
- **RYA.** Now part of glow fouling project via membership of European Boating Association, focus on recreational boats. Feedback will be provided.

Actions: Contact Jennie Jones if you would like hard copies of Check Clean Dry literature. Emailed translated versions are also available from WG. Contact Kate Rodgers if you would like hard copies of the Gwent Levels INNS guide. Kate Rodgers to share INNS badge information with Gemma Light. Contact Kate Rodgers if you use any providers other than Coleg Gwent for PAW/PAW6 training. Anyone who hadn't managed to send a partner update to Michaela ahead of the meeting please feel free to send one before 9 April and this can be included with the minutes when circulated

National Forest for Wales

Erika Dawson and James Biott spoke about this scheme, launched a year ago to create a network of woodland running the length and breadth of Wales. Focus both on more trees and better quality trees.

- 14 exemplar sites currently – all managed by NRW, provide multiple opportunities and benefits. Other (non NRW) sites can be recommended later this year.



- Three different spatial approaches currently under consideration for how NF is organised.
 - North → South / South → North: taking in ancient woodland (like Coastal Path)
 - Circuit approach (includes some marine areas)
 - Hub and Spoke approach.
- Community Woodland Grant Scheme until March 2022
- Pilot projects currently underway include Usk Arboretum – removal of INNS, planting replacement trees, and Craig Gwladys – INNS removal
- INNS removal integral to scheme – enhancing woodlands, bringing them back into better condition
- Biosecurity measures to be built into schemes from beginning, e.g. information boards, foot baths etc.
- Email nationalforestwales@gov.wales to be added to contact list – regular information re events etc will be sent out
- Lots of comms / engagement will be happening re consultation to be held in Winter 2021
- LAs and NGOs can apply to community fund – best criteria to look at currently is the Heritage Lottery Fund
- National Forest of Wales page is on the web: <https://gov.wales/national-forest-wales>

Topmouth Gudgeon

Gareth Thomas and Rhys Jones gave a presentation focusing on monitoring programme underway albeit with covid-19 restrictions – 20 out of 23 possible sites able to be accessed / monitoring done. Topmouth gudgeon (TMG) found in 4 sites – no TMG found on any sites where previous eradication programmes had been done. Next steps will be to complete monitoring as restrictions ease, work with stakeholders to promote biosecurity at sites and develop management plan, continue monitoring to QA results, and develop operational plan for next steps.

Discussion points

- Niall Moore noted it was good to see priority species being tackled and asked about the validity of eDNA data. Rhys Jones replied that they were confident eradication was successful but eDNA markers can't be guaranteed – could for instance be decaying bodies.
- Niall Moore asked when eradication would take place. Leasa Fielding replied that funding had been received for continuing monitoring and developing interim feasibility study. Funding will then be sought to treat – but it will be high cost so no guarantee.
- Phil Stone noted that some of the reservoirs opening for use have TMG. How can paddlers/ anglers ensure they don't transport? Leasa noted there is a lot of opportunity for biosecurity messaging with newly opened reservoirs. Rhys Jones noted that transportation is normally via fish but there is a risk with eggs between late April/May and December. Eggs primarily in marginal areas, need to ensure all kit including clothes and PFD/Buoyancy aids etc are washed down. Phil Stone and NRW to speak about options.



- Jo Cable asked whether there will be routine monitoring of freshwater bodies in future? Leasa noted that wasn't likely to happen with current pressures. Jo felt this was something the WBP INNS should advocate for as a group. Rhys noted NRW monitored freshwater bodies on their nature reserves and woodland, Rhys to email Jo with that information.

Actions: Phil Stone, Gareth Thomas and Rhys Jones to speak about biosecurity options for TMG waterbodies. Rhys Jones to email Jo Cable with NRW freshwater monitoring information.

Any Other Business

- Bird and Butterfly releases – circulated briefing paper from APSE discussed. Swansea are preparing a brief position statement which they hope to share via the WLGA
- Concerns raised around INNS FoI/data requests for insurance claim purposes rather than for tackling the INNS.
- Next meeting to be organised for Sep/Oct 2021.