

Meeting Actions



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

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

Date of meeting: 9th April 2025

Venue: MS Teams

Time of meeting: 10.00 – 12.15

Present: **WG:** Leasa Fielding (Chair),
WBP: Michaela Scrivin (secretariat)
Other: Adam Thorogood (Plantlife), Aimee Seager (Plantlife), Anna Holmes (AC), Celyn Davies (WVNL), Chloe Powell-Jennings (NRW), Conor O'Donoghue (NNSI), David Jermyn (BBNPA), Dawn Thomas (NWWT), Gareth Bowen (Bridgend CC), Holly Peek (NRW), Ian Williams (NNSI), Jennie Jones (NRW), Laura Grant (NRW), Lucinda Lintott (APEM), Lucy Cornwell (GBNNS), Michael Austin (DC/WW), Sarah Woodcock (LERC), Theresa Kudelska (NRW), Tom Powell (DC/WW), Tomos Jones (NWWT),

Apologies: Alison Smith (WG), Ben Rowson (AC), Gail Davies-Walsh (Afonydd Cymru), Gareth Holland-Jones (WaREN), Niall Moore (GBNNS), Olaf Booy (APHA),

[Marine Protected Area Plans](#)

[Pathway Action Plan on Pets](#)

[NNS Update](#)

[WaREN update](#)

[Partner Updates](#)

[Any Other Business](#)

ACTIONS OVERVIEW

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Update
Marine Protected Area Plans 1. Chloe and Holly to get Marine Biosecurity Action Plans online and circulate links via Michaela.	Chloe Powell-Jennings , Holly Peek	June/July	
Pathway Action Plan on Pets 2. Leasa to send link to consultation site to Michaela for circulation to the group once it opens.	Leasa Fielding	Late June?	
NNS Update 3. All to contact Lucy Cornwell with any information about planned activities	ALL	Before 12 th May	



Action	Lead	Timeframe	Update
WaREN update 4. No actions arising.			
Partner updates 5. Anyone who hadn't managed to send a partner update to Michaela ahead of the meeting please send one by 15 th May	ALL	May 15 th	
Any Other Business / Next steps 6. All to send WBP newsletter articles (or suggestions for) to Michaela by June 9 th . 7. All to suggest presentations for the next meeting to Michaela . 8. Michaela to organise next meeting for 6 th November 2025.	ALL ALL Michaela	June 9 th	

KEY POINTS & ACTIONS

Leasa Fielding welcomed everyone to the meeting, and noted that Helen Clarke had been recruited to fill the INNS vacancy left by Tom Warren in the WG INNS Department, and noted apologies. The list of actions from the last meeting was reviewed:

List of actions from October 2024 meeting

1. Upper Wye Restoration project: [Phil Stone](#) to speak with [Henry Richards](#) about INNS and paddlers. **TBC**
2. Upper Wye Restoration project: [Fergus O'Brien](#) to speak with [Henry Richards](#) about other catchment INNS work. **TBC**
3. NNSI Update: [Phil Stone](#) to collect evidence around ongoing impact of 'Check Clean Dry' packs from Paddle UK as impetus for securing funding. **TBC**
4. NNSI Update: [Leasa Fielding](#) to send Phil the contact details for Ben Francis, APHA Co-ordinator for local action groups. **Done**
5. Partner updates: Any outstanding partner updates to Michaela by end October. **Done**
6. Michaela to organise next meeting for April 2025. **Done**

Marine Protected Area Plans

Lucinda Lintott gave a presentation on Marine Biosecurity Planning for Welsh Protected Areas, a project funded via the WG Nature Networks Programme which APEM worked on with NRW. The project aimed to improve the condition of protected sites and increase biodiversity for terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas. The INNS component of the project focused on reducing the introduction and spread of marine INNS in Wales, and focused on biosecurity planning for four SACs: Menai and Conwy Bay, Cardigan Bay, Pembrokeshire Marine and Carmarthen Bay and



Estuaries. SAC were visited, in person workshops were held, and both Species and Pathway Action Plans were created.

Methodology involved beginning with INNS mapping to provide a baseline, pathway analysis, and stakeholder identification. Stakeholders and pathways were primarily identified through a review of the Welsh Marine Planning Portal, NRW referrals, and searching publicly accessible mapping platforms. National scale stakeholders were also considered due to their broader influence.

Engagement activities included online questionnaires, one-to-one calls, site visits and stakeholder workshops. Stakeholders took part in three workshops, feedback from which informed amendments to outputs and recommendations to ensure they were pragmatic, proportionate, and aligned with SAC-specific needs and biosecurity gaps.

Outputs included a biosecurity framework, with a national level approach to Pathway and Species Action Plans which are designed to clearly and comprehensively inform site level Biosecurity Action Plans (BAPs). This then gives clear actions for a Biosecurity To-Do list at stakeholder level.

Lucinda then gave an overview of the specific Pathway Action Plans created, each of which details how the activity acts as a pathway for the movement of INNS. The plans then focus in on recommended actions for all stakeholders. Species Action Plans give species-specific background information and risk assessments, and then also give recommended actions for all stakeholders.

She noted that as well as BAPs being created for each SAC, there is also an overarching national BAP. They are designed to facilitate stakeholders finding both relevant actions they should undertake and the guidance to implement them.

Lessons learnt included:

- Difficult to encourage widespread engagement with the planning process
- Perceived lack of budget and support to enable actions to be taken
- General lack of understanding of INNNS and biosecurity among the wider public
- Perception that available information is not user friendly – need for single user-friendly source with tools and templates
- Some advocate for statutory requirements and clearer policy
- SAC scale might be too large for effective BAP management
- Challenging to resolve differing views and needs from diverse stakeholders
- Difficult to present guidance and actions to ensure ease of accessibility

Actions:

- Chloe and Holly to get Action plans online and circulate links via Michaela.

Pathway Action Plan on Pets

Leasa Feilding from Welsh Government spoke about the recently released Pathway Action Plan for Pets. The overall aim of the PAP is to protect the environment



through a series of measures to reduce the risk of introduction, spread and impact in the wild of non-native animals kept as pets that are, or may become, invasive.

Animals make up approximately 60% of the invasive species in GB and are proportionately far more likely to cause negative impacts than plants. Some of these, such as alpine newt, ring necked parakeet and monk parakeet, have established because of release or escape from a domestic setting. Five of the top 30 horizon scanning species that pose a threat to GB could also be introduced in this way: raccoon dog, raccoon, alexandrine parakeet, marbled crayfish and the Siberian chipmunk. It is therefore critical that the pet pathway is addressed by developing and implementing a pathway action plan.

Specific objectives for the Pathway Action Plans for Pets are to:

- Ensure that animals which are listed as species of special concern are not kept, sold, exchanged, bred, etc. by all routes, including online.
- Raise awareness among the pet trade and pet owners of the law regarding the keeping, sale, exchange, transport, breeding, release, and escape of non-native animals.
- Help identify high-risk species in the pet trade that require specific guidance and/or attention and provide guidance on these.
- Raise awareness among pet owners of the need to:
 - know what they are buying and ensure pets can be kept for their entire life
 - ensure animals, waste materials, eggs, and live pet food are never released or allowed to escape
 - carry out other responsible keeping practices, including micro-chipping and neutering of animals, where appropriate.
- Provide guidance for pet owners about what to do with pets they can no longer look after and encourage the reporting and recapture, by owners, of escaped pets, as well as wider reporting of non-native pets detected in the wild.

Further information can be found on the Non-Native Species Secretariat website here: <https://www.nonnativespecies.org/biosecurity/pathway-action-plans/pet-pap>.

A public consultation will shortly be launched asking for feedback on the PAPs, after which PAPs will be revised to be as comprehensive as possible then published in their final version.

Actions:

- Leasa to send link to consultation site to Michaela for circulation to the group once it opens.

NNSS Update

Lucy Cornwell from GBNNSS gave an update on Invasive Species week, which will be from May 12-18 this year. There are daily themes planned, which are:

- Monday 12 May: Introduction to invasive non-native species
- Tuesday 13 May: 'Check Clean Dry' campaign
- Wednesday 14 May: 'Be Plantwise' campaign
- Thursday 15 May: Non-native animals



- Friday 16 May: Recording and volunteering

Information on what people can do can be found here:

<https://www.nonnativespecies.org/what-can-i-do/invasive-species-week>.

Actions:

- All to contact Lucy (lucy.cornwell@apha.gov.uk) with any information about planned activities

WaREN Update

Gareth Holland-Jones was not able to attend this meeting but provided a written update for the 'Partner Updates' document.

Q&A on partner updates from members

Leasa went through the partner updates circulated before the meeting. In-meeting updates were also provided by the following:

Brecon Beacons National Park / Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog: David Jermyn noted a battery-powered weeding machine had been purchased for visitor centres to reduce pesticide use

Bridgend CC: Gareth Bowen noted buddleia and cherry laurel had been cut back in the Ogmere Valley with further treatment planned for the coming months

NNSSI: Conor O'Donoghue noted workload was picking up but looking to be involved. Ian Williams noted cross-border work and upcoming engagement event in Pwllhelli

NRW: INNS training to be provided to Ffermio Bro advisors

Plantlife: Adam Thorogood noted that "Resilient Welsh Rainforest" project involves INNS management especially with *Rhododendron ponticum*. 'State of Wales Rainforest' report as published November 2024 looks at the impact of INNS on rainforest condition, advocacy working group aiming to promote and increase management of INNS in temperate rainforest across Wales.

Actions: Anyone who hadn't managed to send a partner update to Michaela ahead of the meeting please send one by 15th May, and this can be included with the minutes when circulated.

Any Other Business

- WBP conference is planned for October 16-17th 2025, it will be a face-to-face Conference in Aberystwyth. Information can be found here: <https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Conference>
- Final changes to WBP Newsletter format to be made by end of April, first newsletter aiming to be circulated in June 2025 – please send content to Michaela
- Suggestions for presentations for the next meeting to be sent to Michaela.
 - Gethin on Celtic Rainforest project? Adam Thorogood suggested, Tom Powell happy to help



- Leasa asked if anyone had registered for the Rural Support DPS
- Next WBP INNS meeting to be organised for 6th November 2025 so as not to conflict with the WBP Conference.

Action: All to send newsletter articles (or suggestions for articles) to Michaela. All to suggest presentations for the next meeting. Michaela to organise next meeting for 6th November 2025.