

Meeting Actions



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

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

Date of meeting: 6th November 2025 **Venue:** MS Teams

Time of meeting: 10.00 – 12.15

Present: **WG:** Leasa Fielding (Chair), Helen Clarke
WBP: Michaela Scrivin (secretariat)
Other: Anna Holmes (AC), Charlie Richards (NWWT), Colin Russell (West Wales Biodiversity), Conor O'Donoghue (NNSSI), David Jermyn (BBNPA), Gareth Bowen (Bridgend CC), Gemma Rose (NWWT), Holly Peek (NRW), Jennie Jones (NRW), Jennifer Heard (NWWT), Joanne Cable (Cardiff Uni), Laura Grant (NRW), Matt Tebbutt (Stitch in Time), Olaf Booy (APHA), Sean Hathaway (Swansea CC), Sophie Hocking (AC), Theresa Kudelska (NRW), Tomos Jones (NWWT),

Apologies: Adam Rowe (SEWBREC), Alison Smith (WG), Craig Shuttleworth (Bangor Uni), Daisy Blyth (Severn Estuary Partnership), Daniel Jones, Dawn Thomas (NWWT), Katie Havard Smith (Cardiff Uni), Judith Oakley (Swansea CC), Louis Macdonald Ames (Wye and Usk), Phil Stone (Canoe Wales), Simon Roberts (RSPB),

[Marine Protected Area Plans](#)
[Pathway Action Plan on Pets](#)
[NNSI Update](#)
[WaREN update](#)
[Partner Updates](#)
[Any Other Business](#)

ACTIONS OVERVIEW

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Update
Invasive mitten crabs in the Dee - a pain in the bank side 1. No actions arising			
A case of 'undesirable' Garden Escapers 2. No actions arising			
NWWT Landscape scale of INNS 3. No actions arising			



Action	Lead	Timeframe	Update
WaREN / Japanese Knotweed: Root Reset 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 20 th November	ALL		
Any Other Business / Next steps 6. All to suggest presentations / topics for the next meeting. 7. Michaela to organise next meeting for April 2026	ALL Michaela		Done – meeting on 23 April 2026

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, as well as 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**

List of actions from April 2025 meeting

4. Marine Protected Area Plans: Chloe and Holly to get Marine Biosecurity Action Plans online and circulate links via Michaela. **Ongoing**
5. Pathway Action Plan on Pets: Leasa to send link to consultation site to Michaela for circulation to the group once it opens. **Done**
6. NNSI Update: All to contact Lucy Cornwell with any information about planned activities. **Done**
7. Partner updates: Anyone who hadn't managed to send a partner update to Michaela ahead of the meeting please send one by 15th May. **Done**
8. All to send WBP newsletter articles (or suggestions for) to Michaela. **Done**
9. All to suggest presentations for the next meeting to Michaela. **Done**
10. Michaela to organise next meeting for November 2025. **Done**



Invasive mitten crabs in the Dee - a pain in the bank side

Holly Peek presented on the invasive Chinese mitten crab, detailing its identification features, life cycle, and ecological impacts. She explained that the species is spreading in the River Dee and Conwy, with increasing reports from anglers. The crabs are known to damage vegetation, prey on fish eggs, and contribute to bank erosion through burrowing.

Monitoring efforts include the use of Chester fish trap and newly designed traps developed in collaboration with Oscar Jones from Aberystwyth University. Holly described the trap installation process and plans for mark-recapture studies. She also mentioned potential use of conservation detection dogs and ongoing stomach content analysis with Liverpool John Moores University.

A case of 'undesirable' Garden Escapers

Tomos Jones introduced the Garden Escapers project, which aims to prevent ornamental plants from escaping gardens and becoming invasive. The project includes public engagement through art exhibitions, workshops, and citizen science via Plant Alert. He highlighted Himalayan honeysuckle as a case study and discussed the development of invasive species risk scores to prioritise sites for management.

Tomos also described the creation of a gardeners' toolkit and educational videos, which will be hosted online. Species distribution modelling is being used to assess climate suitability for potential invaders.

NWWT Landscape scale of INNS

Gemma Rose outlined four case studies under the Welsh Government-funded landscape scale INNS project. These include rhododendron control in Bala, Japanese knotweed management in the Afon Iwrch catchment, south east Wales, rhododendron removal in Pembrokeshire, and cherry laurel control in the Wye Valley. Each case study involves collaboration with landowners and national parks, with a focus on developing management plans and supporting long-term biodiversity gains.

Challenges include limited time due to funding cycles and staffing gaps in mid-Wales.

WaREN / Japanese Knotweed: Root Reset

Jennifer Heard provided an update on the WaREN project, which includes community engagement, balsam bashes, and knotweed control.

Charlie Richards provided a presentation on a trial of Root Reset, a non-chemical method for controlling Japanese knotweed using anaerobic soil treatment. The process involves rotavating the soil, applying a microbial fertiliser, and covering the area with an oxygen-impermeable membrane.



The trial is being monitored for effectiveness, with comparisons to glyphosate treatment. Concerns were raised about cost, scalability, and environmental impacts such as microplastics and soil disturbance.

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 reported on a trial using the 'Eco Weedkiller Pro 10' machine to control *Crassula helmsii* with boiling water. Early results are promising, and further demonstrations are planned.

North Wales Wildlife Trust: Gemma Rose noted NWWT has acquired a Foamstream machine for non-chemical control and is exploring options for loaning it out.

Welsh Government: Leasa Fielding shared updates including the upcoming publication of the Pathway Action Plan consultation summary and the upcoming publication of the Welsh Seabird Conservation Strategy.

NRW: Theresa Kudelska discussed drone-based multispectral mapping for INNS detection and monitoring, with results expected next year.

Laura Grant confirmed progress on marine biosecurity planning and the development of a second INNS kit.

Stitch in Time project: Matthew Tebbutt reported on knotweed treatment and raised questions about crab disposal and biosecurity protocols.

Museum Wales: Anna Holmes described INNS Week engagement activities and plans for a smaller marine INNS kit.

GBNNS: Olaf Booy invited contributions to a GB-wide database of INNS impacts on native species, funded by Defra.

Actions: Anyone who hadn't managed to send a partner update to Michaela ahead of the meeting please send one by 20th November, and this can be included with the minutes when circulated.

Any Other Business

- Leasa announced a pesticide training event on 11 November in Newtown, covering best practice and equipment testing. Michaela shared the registration details in the chat.
- Sean Hathaway raised concerns about potential restrictions on pesticide use for INNS control. Leasa confirmed that Welsh Government supports targeted use where necessary.
- Attendees were encouraged to suggest topics and speakers for the next meeting, proposed for April 2026.

Actions: All to suggest presentations / topics for the next meeting. Michaela to organise next meeting for April 2026.