

Cornwall Invasive Species Forum

Thursday 15th December 2016 10:00 – 15:15

The Meeting Room, Environment Agency, Sir John Moore House, Victoria Square, Bodmin, PL31 1EB

This was the 1st meeting of the Cornwall Invasive Species Forum (CISF), set up in response to the first SW regional meeting (June 2016) and is a development of the Cornwall Knotweed Forum.

Some key messages from the morning presentations:

(Presentation ppts will be available – details later)

What's the problem? – Native? Non-Native? Invasive? (Nicola Morris, SINNG)



An introduction to the problem of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

SINNG – Student Invasive non-Native Group – www.sinng.org.uk

Based at Cornwall College Newquay, emphasis on training and competence of student volunteers, raising awareness and taking action, wide range of collaborations, including international.

Key definitions (from GB NNSS – www.nonnativespecies.org)

- **Native** – species colonizing GB at end of last ice age (10,000 ybp), i.e when GB became an island
- **Non-Native** – species introduced through human action to area outside of natural range (past or present)
- **Invasive non-native** – species introduced and with ability to spread causing damage to environment, economy, health and way we live

 Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) ≡ Invasive Alien Species (IAS) 
£1.8billion (annual costs) EU €12billion

4 species illustrate different issues and approaches – see presentation for detail.

Building on success for a more collaborative network (Mike Sutton-Croft, Invasive Species Specialist and Local Action Group Coordinator, Animal & Plant Health Agency)

How Cornwall's action links to the regional and national network

Working at appropriate scale – catchment level for riparian species e.g. Himalayan Balsam – means diverse interest groups involved (not local authority, not EA, maybe NGO); Local Action Groups (LAGs, 40-100 in UK depending on definition) can bring diverse groups together as partnership project. For details of what LAGs are and what they do, see [LAG tab](#) GB NNSS

As well as local action, LAGs can promote GB strategies e.g.

[Check – Clean – Dry](#), [Be PlantWise](#), [GB NNS strategy](#)

Defra funded LAGs through WFD (Water Framework Directive). Some outcomes – 75,000 hours voluntary action, 2,500 trained in INNS ID, 27 of 29 LAGs recruited individuals new to volunteering. Deemed a success – read independent review [here](#)

How do we build a more robust LAG network? Future funding (RAPID LIFE bid submitted 2016) should incentivize? Existing mechanism to enable knowledge sharing and collaboration – and the annual [LAG workshop](#)?

LAG toolkit (www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?sectionid=26)

Key message – Cornwall actions matter!

Rules and regulations (Trevor Renals, Senior Technical Advisor, Invasive Species, Environment Agency)

An overview of current GB and EU legislation concerning INNS

Misconception - “notifiable weed”. There is no such thing, although there are “injurious weeds” (these are 5 native species) defined by 1959 Weeds Act.

INNS relevant legislation:

- [WCA section 14, schedule 9](#) – animals “offence to release into the wild”; [guidance on key terms given in 2010](#); plants - [ban on sale of 5 species pond plant April 2014](#)
- EU IAS regulations 2015 – [14 plants and 23 animals designated “EU species of concern”](#)
- [Infrastructure Act 2015](#) – species control agreements, species control orders, enforcement by defra (allows access to an area for eradication).
- [Anti-social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014](#) – Community Protection Notices, HO guidance on how to apply CPNs to INNS; enforcement by LA & Police
- EPA, Fish stuff – see [legislation section of GB NNSS site](#)

Obligations relevant to INNS: International conventions – Article 8 CBD 1993, Berne Convention 1982. [GB NNS strategy](#) private possession of nuisance species (public, private, statutory nuisance). Spectre of INNS ambulance chasers?

Species of concern in Cornwall (a provisional list)

<i>Crocsmia</i> (Montbretia)	Mink
Japanese knotweed	Grey squirrel
Himalayan balsam	Crayfish (signal, Turkish)
Russian vine (<i>Fallopia</i>)	Zebra mussels
3-cornered leek	Killer shrimp
<i>Cotoneaster</i> (5 species?)	Pacific oyster
American skunk cabbage	Alpine newt
Pink purslane	INN f/w fish?
<i>Crassula</i> & other freshwater INNS water plants	Brown rat
Giant hogweed	Terrapin, red-eared
Rhododendron	Flatworms
Hottentot fig	Canada geese
Laurel	
<i>Gunnera</i>	
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	
Jap weed (<i>Sargassum</i>) nb a seaweed	
Yellow variegated archangel	
Spanish bluebell	

Species of future concern in Cornwall (a provisional list)

	f/w fish ILFA species
	Chinese mitten and other crabs
	Asian hornet
	Raccoon dog (<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>)
	Deer species
	Parakeets

What are CISF priorities? (in no particular order)

Identify species of concern relevant to Cornwall

Identify species likely to be used by trade in response to EU blacklist.
(need heat map of Ponto-Caspian species & EU blacklist)

Current INNS distribution in Cornwall

ERCCIS has info? Can make available to CISF members?

Identify action on INNS in Cornwall (for each case: location and lead)

Key to keeping CISF members informed & engaged
(M S-C to send his spreadsheet of LAGs / projects in SW?)
(ERCCIS has? or could make? map of projects in Cornwall)

How do we identify and monitor for horizon species

Identify species likely to be used by trade in response to EU blacklist.
(need heat map of Ponto-Caspian species distribution & EU blacklist)

Biosecurity

Identify the range of risk specific equipment & protocols.
Information sharing (including on sources, disposal)
(contact M S-C to get access to Dropbox documents)

[Regulators Position Statement on waste disposal](#)

How can we take CISF forward to ensure maximum impact & effectiveness?

- CISF to be an overarching support network, Cornwall-wide (to complement NNSS support nationally) - a forum for sharing information on funding, best practice, contacts, expertise(?), projects, developing INNS-related issues.
- Establish who (if anyone) we are reporting to.
- Use networks of members to add local detail on spp of concern.
- Invite Volunteer Cornwall to provide a volunteer's perspective of CISF?

Next steps (actions?)

- SINNG as secretariat (with support) {NM, PKM}
- Identify core group (about 10), with wider group (about 70) {KH, TR, NM}
- Produce simple terms of reference for CISF
- Identify subgroups – species and/or habitat based; public outreach? {all}
- List of possible CISF members {all}
- Identify volunteer opportunities (from vol. perspective) {all}
- Meeting frequency? Core group meeting in March? Same as regional / part of regional? {KH, TR, NM}
- NM persuaded to organise next regional meeting. Held in National INNS Week? Likely towards end of March. Morning session regional with key speakers, afternoon sessions split into county groups

Thanks to:

SWW for funding the meeting, EA for hosting and SINNG student volunteers (Teri Nichols & Elle Adams).