

## GB Invasive Species Week 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

A selection of news and schedule of events/activities around Wales.

(See the GBNNS Invasive Species Week [events page](#) for more resources and events).

**Monday 16th May – introduction to the week and invasive species impacts on the terrestrial environment (countryside)**

In person

- **Walk:** Join a [ramble](#) 16th May 2022 9:30 - 12 pm **Rhiwledyn, Little Orme** – highlighting Cotoneaster along the route – suitable for experienced walkers, organised by the North Wales Wildlife Trust (WaREN project).
- **Talk and walk** 'The Day of the Triffids' is here! How can gardeners protect nature?', Treborth Botanic Garden, **Bangor** 16th May 2022 6:30 - 8:00 pm organised by the North Wales Wildlife Trust (WaREN project).
- **Get involved:** join the [Balsam training/bash at Parc Slip, Bridgend](#) 16<sup>th</sup> May 10 – 2 pm organised by The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales (WaREN project).
- **Get involved:** If you enjoy being outside why not join a [Local Action Group](#) helping to manage invasive plants or get in touch with the [Wales Resilient Ecological Network \(WaREN\)](#) who are working with stakeholders and local action groups across Wales establishing a framework for tackling invasive species.
- **Look out:** for Asian hornet, a predator of honeybees which is not yet established in GB. Record your sightings of this and other [alert species](#). Read more on [Asian hornet](#) and how to report sightings, find free [ID sheets for invasive non-native species](#) and download the Asian Hornet Watch app.
- **Record: Canada geese and Greylag geese** - can you help get a better understanding of where Canada goose or Greylag geese are in Wales? Record any sightings (with a photo if possible) through the [iRecord](#) app or online or the bilingual [LERC Wales App](#) – both free to download on your phone.
- **Record:** any INNS you see when you are out (with a photo if possible) onto the [iRecord](#) app or [online](#) or the bilingual [LERC Wales App](#) – both apps free to download on your phone.



## Online

- **Read about: Invasive Non-native Species (INNS) Biocontrol Trials in Wales** - NRW have been assisting Welsh Government (WG) in their efforts to support the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International's (CABI) work to trial biocontrol species for three widely spread invasive non-native species in Wales (Parrot's feather, Himalayan balsam and New Zealand Pigmyweed). WG have funded pre-trial investigations for a number of sites to look at their susceptibility to biocontrol with the aim of releasing them on Himalayan balsam and New Zealand Pigmyweed at several sites this year.
- **Training:** Take an e-learning module on invasive species identification, recording or biosecurity. Available for free from the GBNNS free [e-learning page](#).
- **Read about: Pilot project to tackle INNS on National Nature Reserves** - A pilot project was established in 2021 with funding from WG to develop an approach to tackle Invasive Non-native Species (INNS) on a set of National Nature Reserves in south west Wales. The project will take action to tackle INNS on the ground and to implement biosecurity improvements at these sites in 2022.
- **See the blog on NRW website:** North Wales Cotoneaster control project helping to protect native limestone and acid grassland habitats.
- **See the GBNNS Invasive Species Week [webpage](#) and [events page](#)** for resources and events or follow social media: hashtags: #INNSweek or #getINNSvolved, Twitter feed: @InvasiveSp

## Tuesday 17th May – impacts on the **freshwater environment**

### In person

- **[Check Clean Dry](#):** If you go fishing, boating or paddling, remember to your boat and any clothing, footwear and equipment after leaving the water.
- **Record:** American mink can have a negative impact on our wildlife particularly native Water vole. Please record any sightings (with a photo if possible) through the [iRecord](#) app or online or the bilingual [LERC Wales App](#) – both free to download on your phone.
- **Record:** Have you seen this crab! Chinese mitten crab live in burrows in riverbanks. We know that they are in the River Dee and have been seen in the Severn Estuary. Look out for their distinctive furry claws or 'mittens' and burrows. If you see them any when you are out and about please record



your sighting with a photo (if possible) onto the [iRecord](#) app or [online](#) or the bilingual [LERC Wales App](#) – both apps free to download on your phone.

## Online

- **Webinar: Invasive marine species** available on the [GBNNS ISW events](#) page from 10 am with Cefas. Registration not required.
- **Watch: [Chinese Mitten Crab - Eriocheir sinensis - YouTube](#)**
- **Read about: Invasive Non-Native Species and the Four Rivers for LIFE project** – Invasive Non-native Species and the Four Rivers for LIFE project – The Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Four Rivers for LIFE project aims to bring four Welsh rivers into good condition – the Teifi, Cleddau, Tywi and Usk. An estimated 500km of river will be improved and more than £9 million will be invested in this work. Part of the Four Rivers for LIFE project work will focus on invasive non-native species management (for example Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, Giant hogweed and Skunk cabbage). The project aims to control or eradicate these species in and around the rivers. The project is keen to get a better understanding of the distribution of these species on the four rivers and would encourage people to report sightings of them on the [iRecord](#) app or [online](#) or the bilingual [LERC Wales App](#). Four Rivers for LIFE will be run by NRW in partnership with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, River Restoration Trust, Coleg Sir Gâr and the Woodland Trust, with additional financial support from Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water.
- **See** the GBNNS Invasive Species Week [webpage](#) and [events page](#) for resources and events or follow social media: hashtags: #INNSweek or #getINNSvolved, Twitter feed: @InvasiveSp

## Wednesday 18th May – impacts on the **marine environment**

### In person

- **Join** a weed control demonstration 18th May 1030 – 12:00 by [RootWave](#) on Giant hogweed at **Northop Country Park**, CH7 6JW, hosted by the North Wales Wildlife Trust. To be followed by coffee and cake at The Celtic Arms from 12:00 onwards. Please confirm attendance by Thursday 12th May by email to: [gemma.rose@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:gemma.rose@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk) (Parking is located at the demo site, Grid Ref: SJ 25436 67556, What3Words: foam.novels.flinches – head towards Northop Golf Course, take the first exit at the roundabout, then an immediate left, follow the road down to the 2nd left before the cottages – contact Gemma for map. *(Please be aware that we may need to postpone the demonstration a couple of days beforehand if it is rain is forecasted due to RootWave using electricity.)*

- **Get involved:** Join the [Marine Invasive Species Day](#), New Quay Memorial Hall, 18<sup>th</sup> May 12 - 4:30pm organised by the North Wales Wildlife Trust (WaREN project) in collaboration with National Museum Wales.
- **Record:** [Slipper limpet](#) (*Crepidula fornicata*) have recently been recorded in the Menai Strait. If you see these creatures whilst out and about on the seashore, please record your sighting with a photo (if possible) onto the [iRecord](#) app or [online](#) or the bilingual [LERC Wales App](#) – both apps free to download on your phone.



### Online

- **Webinar: Tackling the spread of marine INNS in four steps** with APEM 10 am 18/05/22: Click to [Register now](#).
- **Webinar: Non-native species – what’s the problem, and what can be done?** With Dr Paul Walton, RSPB. 1 pm. Hosted by the GB NNSS. [Contact the NNSS to register](#).
- **Watch** this video about marine INNS: [Aquatic Invasive Alien Species \(also known as INNS - Invasive Non-Native Species\) - YouTube](#)
- **See** the GBNNS Invasive Species Week [webpage](#) and [events page](#) for resources and events or follow social media: hashtags: #INNSweek or #getINNSvolved, Twitter feed: @InvasiveSp

### Thursday 19th May – impacts on **people and the urban environment**

#### In person

- **Walk:** Join the ‘City Nature Challenge Wildlife Walk, Woodland Park, **Newport**, on 19<sup>th</sup> May 3:45 – 6 pm with the Ramblers Cymru Paths to Wellbeing project and the Wildlife Trusts of South and West Wales (WaREN project) Contact: [rhys.wynne-jones@ramblers.org.uk](mailto:rhys.wynne-jones@ramblers.org.uk) to attend.
- **Training:** 19<sup>th</sup> May 10 am -3 pm Invasive Non-native Species Awareness Training (Knotweed Control) Wales. [Contact the event organiser to find out more and register](#).
- **Get involved:** If you enjoy being outside why not join a [Local Action Group](#) helping to manage invasive plants or get in touch with the [Wales Resilient Ecological Network \(WaREN\)](#) who are working with stakeholders and local action groups across Wales establishing a framework for tackling invasive species.

- **Be Plant Wise** and don't let your garden, pond, or aquarium plants enter the wild. The INNS team have hardcopies of BPW posters and leaflets, see what's available [here](#). Contact [us](#) to place your order.
- **Take care** of your pets, never release them or allow them to escape into the wild. It's cruel and could harm other wildlife.

## Online

- **Take a look** at the North Wales Wildlife Trust: [How can gardeners stop the spread of invasive species?](#) webpage and interview with Tomos Jones, WaREN project recorded for S4C 'Garddio a Mwy'.
- **Join the webinar:** Tips on gardening without invasive plants, hosted by the GBNSS. [Available](#) through the GBNSS ISW events page from 10 am. Registration not required.
- **See** the updated 'Guide to gardening without invasive plants' (to be released during ISW – see the GBNSS ISW [webpage](#)).
- **Webinar:** Spotlight on Island Restoration Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 10.00-12.00 RSPB. Reporting on projects in Shiant Isles, Orkneys, Scilly Isles, Rathlin. All of these projects have been part funded by EU LIFE. This spotlight is part of the celebrations for [EU LIFE at 30](#) and [Invasive Species Awareness Week 2022](#). Please register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpcOCsrDitGtOznUBds4kXKLPyOPYaR4mu>
- **Training:** Take an e-learning module on invasive species identification, recording or biosecurity. Available for free from the GBNSS free [e-learning page](#).
- **Record:** Share your images, videos and stories of grey squirrel tree damage through bark stripping to contribute to a [UK Squirrel Accord](#) campaign via social media using [#barkstripping](#) or email them to [info@squirrelaccord.uk](mailto:info@squirrelaccord.uk). Grey squirrels bark strip young broadleaf trees from April to August each year and is a serious issue for young trees, causing stress and death. Damage impacts biodiversity, carbon sequestration and timber production, and costs at least £37 million a year.
- **Watch a video** on the damage caused by grey squirrels.
- **See** the GBNSS Invasive Species Week [webpage](#) and [events page](#) for resources and events or follow social media: hashtags: #INNSweek or #getINNSvolved, Twitter feed: @InvasiveSp

**Friday 20th May – biosecurity** (what does this mean, and what can individuals / organisations do to improve [their](#) biosecurity)

## In person

- **Clean** your boots, dog paws and equipment – [Check Clean Dry!](#)

- **Training:** Take an e-learning module on invasive species identification, recording or biosecurity. Available for free from the GBNNSS free [e-learning page](#).

## Online

- **Read about:** Welsh Government [Wales plant health sentinel site network | GOV.WALES](#): the network is a group of parks and gardens across Wales. Each site is located in one of the 22 Local Authority regions and receives two visits per year from APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspectors. The network aims to act as an early warning system for plant pests and diseases (with an eye on INNS) as well as providing opportunities for stakeholder engagement and training events for volunteers and staff.
- **Webinar:** Biosecurity in the UK Overseas Territories, hosted by the GBNNSS. [Available](#) through the GBNNSS ISW events page from 10 am. Registration not required.
- **See** the GBNNS Invasive Species Week [webpage](#) and [events page](#) for resources and events or follow social media: hashtags: #INNSweek or #getINNSvolved, Twitter feed: @InvasiveSp



**Saturday 20th May and Sunday 21st May – events / activities that people can take part in** (e.g., volunteering, visiting a display / exhibition, identification and recording, preventing the spread of INNS from a garden, improving biosecurity at a watersports club etc)

## In person

- **Talk and Launch of the WaREN project national invasive species campaign ‘Ymledwyr Ecosystem Invaders’** at the National Botanic Garden of Wales Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 10 – 6 pm (Talk at 11 am ‘The Day of the Triffids is here! How can gardeners protect nature?’ with Tomos Jones, WaREN project free with botanic garden admission).

## Online

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## Saturday 28th May

### In person

- **Training:** [Wye Valley Balsam Training Day in Llandogo](#), Millennium Hall, 28th May 11 – 4 pm with the WaREN project and the Wye Valley AONB team.