

Glossary

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) are species (animals, plants, pathogens) that have been transported outside their natural range, have the ability to spread, and that damage our environment, the economy, our health and the way we live (GB NNSS).

The term Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) is equivalent to the term Invasive Alien Species (IAS) used in EU legislation.

Biosecurity means taking steps to make sure that good practices are in place to reduce and minimise the risk of spreading Invasive Non-Native Species. A good biosecurity routine is always essential, even if Invasive Non-Native Species are not always apparent.

Invasion Pathway or vector. These are the means by which a species is moved from place to place due to human activity

Introduction

Background

Non Native species are animals or plants that have been introduced outside of their natural range whether deliberately (for agriculture, cultural and economic benefits) or accidentally. Many Non Native species are harmless or beneficial. However, some of these Non Native Species are able to spread and to cause damage to our environment, the economy, or to human, animal or plant health and the way we live. These are termed Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS). INNS threaten our native species, ecosystems and habitats in many ways. They can compete with native species, or prey upon them. They may modify habitats or spread diseases. INNS are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity worldwide. INNS also interfere with human activities such as agriculture, transport, trade and recreation. The estimated cost of INNS to the British economy is £1.7 billion per year (GB Invasive Non-native Species Strategy 2015).

The Yorkshire Dales is home to wonderful nature with an amazing variety of wildlife habitats and species embedded in the working nature of the landscape - agriculture, mining, quarrying, textiles, water provision and recreation. Many of the species and habitats in the Dales are of great ecological and economic significance and are legally protected for their national, local or regional significance for wildlife. INNS have the potential to cause substantial damage to these fragile ecosystems, and so it is vital that we all take responsibility for protecting our native and fragile ecosystems. As a result of its remote nature, we are fortunate that the Yorkshire Dales is free of many INNS that threaten other parts of the UK, and it is important that we strive to prevent the introduction of new INNS to the region. Nonetheless, there are a number of INNS that are established in parts of the region, and it is important that we work together to control these species and minimise their economic and ecological impact, as well as reducing the risk that the spread to further sites within and beyond the Dales.

The Yorkshire Dales Biosecurity and Invasive Non-Native Species steering group

The Yorkshire Dales Biosecurity and Invasive Non-Native Species steering group was established in 2015 to develop a strategic and coordinated approach to biosecurity and the management of INNS in the Yorkshire Dales comprising land included in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Membership of the group is open to those organisations and individuals which have a clear interest in biosecurity and INNS in the region, are prepared to work collaboratively and constructively, and are prepared to work on behalf of the

steering group and commit time or financial and/or other resources to its development and activities (*Appendix x- list of members*).

Our vision is **to develop a strategic region-wide framework to tackle INNS in the Yorkshire Dales by:**

- **preventing their introduction and spread through good biosecurity awareness and practice;**
- **detecting and eradicating new INNS quickly through appropriate monitoring, reporting, and enactment of contingency plans;**
- **controlling specified established INNS through effective long term management plans**

The Yorkshire Dales Biosecurity and Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy

To work towards this vision, we have developed the Yorkshire Dales Biosecurity and INNS strategy for the region-wide coordination of local actions within the Yorkshire Dales. The strategy aims to promote awareness and management of INNS from promoting biosecurity to training staff and volunteers and co-ordinating appropriate management of INNS. The strategy follows the three stage approach of the GB Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy (2015) and the EU Regulation (1141/2014) on invasive alien (non-native) species of: **prevention; early detection and rapid response; and control and mitigation.**

Prevention: INNS may be deliberately or accidentally transported and released into new habitats by a range of human activities including transport, trade, agriculture, habitat management and recreation. The term pathway is used to describe the means by which a species is moved from place to place due to human activity. The costs of eradication or control and mitigation of an established INNS are often very high. Therefore, key to the strategy is reducing the risk of INNS introduction to the Yorkshire Dales as well as between sites within the Dales. Biosecurity means taking steps to make sure that good practices are in place to reduce and minimise the risk of spreading invasive non-native species. INNS can be spread through the accidental transfer of tiny propagules such as seeds or fragments of plants. Therefore a good biosecurity routine is always essential, even if INNS are not always apparent.

Early detection and rapid response: A coordinated approach to monitoring, reporting and responding to new invaders is key to the rapid detection and eradication of new INNS before they become established. This approach is important to detect and respond to INNS that may be introduced to the Yorkshire Dales region as well as to introduction of INNS to new sites within the region.

Control and management: Although the Yorkshire Dales remains free of many harmful INNS, nonetheless there are several species that are established in the region. Often a population of an invasive species may affect habitats that are owned and managed by several organisations or individuals. Coordinating our efforts is key to maximising the effectiveness of control. A coordinated approach to control or eradication where feasible is important to reduce the damage as well as to reduce the risk of spread to new areas.

The Yorkshire Dales Biosecurity and Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy provides a framework for the development of strategic region-wide framework to tackle INNS in the Yorkshire Dales. Through implementing this strategy, the biodiversity, quality of life and economic interests of the Yorkshire Dales will be better protected against the adverse impacts of INNS

References

GB Non Native Species Strategy 2015

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/455526/gb-non-native-species-strategy-pb14324.pdf

EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation (EC 1143/2014) <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1417443504720&uri=CELEX:32014R1143>

The Strategy

This Biosecurity Strategy addresses freshwater, riparian and terrestrial invasive non-native species, parasites and wildlife diseases (INNS) in the Yorkshire Dales comprising land included in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Steering Group will work closely with the Cumbrian initiative where appropriate due to close boundaries.



The Strategy describes biosecurity issues in the region and presents actions for:

- preventing the introduction and spread of INNS
- early detection and rapid eradication of newly introduced INNS
- long term management of established INNS

The Yorkshire Dales Biosecurity Strategy has been developed for the region-wide coordination of local actions. Our vision in this strategy is:

To develop a strategic region-wide framework to tackle INNS in the Yorkshire Dales: by preventing their introduction and spread through good biosecurity awareness and practise; by detecting and eradicating new INNS quickly through appropriate monitoring, reporting, and enactment of contingency plans; and by controlling specified established INNS through effective long term management plans.

The Steering group agree to support the Strategy and the objectives laid out in this strategy will be achieved through a partnership approach to implement the agreed actions, coordinated by the Yorkshire Dales Biosecurity and INNS Steering Group.

These objectives are in accordance with the *Invasive Non Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain* which was published in 2008 and reviewed in 2015 which aims to address the issues highlighted in the EU Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species which came into force 1 January 2015. Table 1 presents the local actions required to realise these objectives. Time frames for implementation are resource dependent and therefore still to be determined, but actions that are high priority for delivery in the short term have been identified.

Objective 1: Reduce the risk of the introduction and spread of INNS (and specified wildlife diseases) to/within the Yorkshire Dales

Outcome 1.1 All partners and specific high risk groups aware of the ecological and socio-economic impacts of INNS, means of introduction and spread, and preventative measures to take

Action 1.1 Identify key invasion pathways and associated stakeholder network - to enable focused engagement with 'high risk groups'

Action 1.2 Establish good biosecurity practise/protocols for a range of activities

Action 1.3 Develop a biosecurity risk assessment process for events/projects/sites/activities

Action 1.4 Develop the evidence base for the effectiveness of biosecurity protocols (in collaboration with the University of Leeds, Cefas and Environment Agency)

Action 1.5 Promote and disseminate training materials on biosecurity (and liaise with University of Leeds to monitor uptake and effectiveness)

Objective 2: Early detection of, and rapid response to, new incidences of INNS (including specified wildlife diseases) within the Yorkshire Dales

Outcome 2.1 Potential threats are identified in advance by use of horizon scanning

Action 2.1 Determine where this information comes from and how it is disseminated

Action 2.2 Identify and share suitable protocols for active surveillance and identify training needs in response to new INNS threats

Objective 3: Long term control, or eradication where feasible, of identified priority INNS

Outcome 3.1 The Steering Group is coordinating the application of appropriate eradication techniques and monitoring their effectiveness. Habitat restoration programmes are being established

Action 3.1 Audit of current INNS distribution within the region

Action 3.2 Undertake a risk analysis (based on scale of impact, and effectiveness of control) in order to prioritise species/habitats/sites

Action 3.3 Develop locally relevant species action plans (adapt national species action plans); identify resources required to act on these contingency plans (trained staff, funding, monitoring of treatment)

Action 3.4 Establish database to manage and monitor control work - work with Yorkshire Invasive Species Forum to extend INNS Mapper project to encompass Yorkshire Dales (?)

Action 3.5 Coordinate a strategic programme of control - identify suitable protocols for control and habitat restoration

Action 3.6 Build capacity for control programme - volunteer Local Action Groups, funding for capital works e.g habitat restoration following control