

**Highland Invasive Species sub-group
Planning and Development Meeting Room
20/5/09**

1. Attending

Ian Collier	Forestry Commission Scotland - Chair
Llinos Davis	Cairngorms National Park Authority
Steve North	SNH
Jonathan Willet	Highland Council
Julie Bowen	Scotland TransServ
Rob Dewar	NTS
Ian Milne	SEPA
Barbara Souter	NTS

2. Apologies

John Parrott	Scottish Native Woods
David Glass	Chair of the Caithness Biodiversity Group
David O'Brien	Highland Biological Recording Group

3. Action Points from the 3rd March

AP1. JW to contact the Scottish IS Group to see if they have information on invasive species that are likely to be a future problem in Highland. **No answer, discharged.**

AP2. JW and RD to meet and develop draft leaflets. **Discharged.**

AP3. JW to contact RAFTS and SEPA regarding funding. **SEPA contacted not RAFTS.**

AP4. JW to send in a SNH grant application in ASAP. **Discharged.**

AP5. JW to draft a letter to IC asking FCS for a funding contribution. **Discharged.**

AP6. JW to find out how many hits the Invasive Species pages have had. **Discharged.**

AP7. JW to contact the Nairn Access Group about current G Hogweed control. **Discharged.**

AP8. JW to contract Bob Laughton regarding last year's RAFTS proposal for Invasive Species Control and see if we can use their idea. **Ongoing.**

AP9. IC to contact the SRBPA regarding their involvement in this project. **Ongoing.**

AP10. JW to draft an SNH bid and submit this ASAP. **Discharged.**

AP11. Once the IS mapping has been completed look to start drafting the Rhododendron Control Strategy. **Ongoing.**

AP12. SN/ IC to circulate the SNH/ FCS EPS best practice guidelines when they are finalised. **Ongoing.**

AP13. JW and RS to liaise about this text and send it to the designer. **Discharged.**

New Action Points.

AP1. JW to contract Bob Laughton regarding last year's RAFTS proposal for Invasive Species Control and see if we can use their idea.

AP2. IC to contact the SRBPA regarding their involvement in this project.

AP3. Once the IS mapping has been completed look to start drafting the Rhododendron Control Strategy.

AP4. SN/ IC to circulate the SNH/ FCS EPS best practice guidelines when they are finalised.

4. Project 1 - Mapping Invasive species in Highland

SEPA don't have funding to contribute to this as they are not a grant giving body but they do have two pots of grant. The Habitat Enhancement Initiative, for small site based projects and the River Restoration Fund. Upto £1 million to be used to manage rivers failing to meet the Water Framework Directive Standards. But only in key areas and this is still to be mapped.

AP5. JW to contact RAFTS, Chris Horrel, to inform him of the Invasive Species mapping project.

It was suggested that the contractor should contact the BSBI VC recorders and Plantlife for suitable IS records.

The area of search should be limited to the Highlands outwith the CNP as they are developing their own plans.

Potential contractors; Tim Clifford, John Parrot, Neil MacKenzie, Ro Scott, others?

AP6. All to send ideas of other contractors.

AP7. SNH, SEPA, FCS. To contact their technical departments and find out what format they want the IS data in.

The management group will consist of the representatives of the funders or other interested parties. SEPA, SNH, NTS and JW.

5. Project 2 – Giant Hogweed Control

Funding has been secured (21/5/09). And a contractor will be appointed by July.

A site at Kishorn was identified as having a small stand of Giant Hogweed. Also a couple of plants, highest point of Rosemarkie to Cromarty road.

AP8. JW to circulate GH contractor spec.

6. Future projects

Giant Hogweed.

Jason White, now of SNH, ex-Env Agency, has had a lot of experience of publicising the issues surrounding Giant Hogweed to the public when he worked in Yorkshire; this entailed publishing a leaflet and using local radio to encourage the public to phone in with sightings of it. He also gave advice on how the general public could deal with it if they had it in their gardens etc. Could be a useful contact.

Rhododendron.

We need to have a good project proposal developed by October. SNH are interested in the idea of a project officer. FC in Highland seem to be developing an interest in this too. Hence the need for a good proposal before the cut-off date for large grant applications to the organisations.

AP9. SN and IC to draft a proposal in September.

There was general agreement that the Lever and Mulch technique needs to be used on more sites to see how it works outwith Morven. JW has contacted the Community Woodlands Association to see if there were possibilities for their members to use it.

AP10. JW to contact the Conon and District Salmon Fishery Board to see if they could use this technique in their control programme.

AP11. LD to invite Lois Canham, the new North Highland Mink Control Officer to the next meeting.

Llinos thought that Lois would be a more appropriate representative on the sub-group than herself. The chair thanked Llinos for her contribution to the group.

7. Leaflet update

The leaflets are just about complete. Minor edits were suggested at the meeting and via email.

8. AOCB

The Rum Community are interested in starting some invasive species control
AP12. IC to contact the community regarding any work they could undertake.

Attadale Gardens has Skunk Cabbage as does Tournaig Farm near Poolewe and close to the Mossford Power Station at Loch Luichart. This species is fairly widespread though scattered but could be a problem in the future.

9. DONM

Tuesday 18th of August. 10am. Venue Highland Council, room TBC.

Summary of Action Points.

AP1. JW to contract Bob Laughton regarding last year's RAFTS proposal for Invasive Species Control and see if we can use their idea.

AP2. IC to contact the SRBPA regarding their involvement in this project.

AP3. Once the IS mapping has been completed look to start drafting the Rhododendron Control Strategy.

AP4. SN/ IC to circulate the SNH/ FCS EPS best practice guidelines when they are finalised.

AP5. JW to contact RAFTS, Chris Horrel, to inform him of the Invasive Species mapping project.

AP6. All to send ideas of other contractors.

AP7. SNH, SEPA, FCS. To contact their technical departments and find out what format they want the IS data in.

AP8. JW to circulate GH contractor spec.

AP9. SN and IC to draft a proposal on Rhododendron Control in September.

AP10. JW to contact the Conon and District Salmon Fishery Board to see if they could use Lever and Mulch in there is control programme.

AP11. LD to invite Lois Canham, the new North Highland Mink Control Officer to the next meeting.

The Rum Community are interested in starting some invasive species control
AP12. IC to contact the community regarding any work they could undertake.