Project Objectives & Area

• Raise public awareness of INNS
• Identify priority species and areas and for strategic management Coordinate local groups and landowners
• Train volunteers to identify and control INNS
• Carrying out control work with volunteer groups and contractors
Target Species

• Targeting aquatic and Riparian Species
  • Japanese Knotweed
  • Giant Hogweed
  • Himalayan Balsam
  • Floating Pennywort
  • Water Fern
  • Parrots Feather
  • New Zealand Pigmyweed
Development of Web-tool

- The YISF develop an online interactive tool to record stretches of river surveyed
  - Allows areas surveyed and clear to be identified
  - Reduced duplicated effort
  - Records available to all to view

www.ywt-data.org/inns-mapper/

Blue lines – surveyed
Red lines – not surveyed
## Volunteer Survey and Treatment Hours

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YISF Volunteer Hours</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>1374</td>
<td>1405</td>
<td>1449</td>
<td>4596</td>
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<td>Economic Value</td>
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<td>15,762</td>
<td>19,080</td>
<td>27,168</td>
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Using the HLF guidance of ‘Costing the value of Voluntary input’

*mix of skilled and unskilled volunteers*
Raising Public Awareness

• Community Engagement
  • Harrogate Flower Shower
  • Great Yorkshire Show
  • Local Shows

• Media
  • YWT Magazine – goes out to over 40,000 members
  • Press release
  • Interviews with Look North, Local Radio
Taking over a HABITAT near you!

When some species do too well in places they shouldn’t be, it can cause problems. Alisa Henderson, Trust Project Officer, explains.

Some species are considered invasive when they thrive outside of their native area, as they have no natural predators or barriers. These so-called invasive non-native species (INNS) can threaten our native biodiversity by outcompeting it and spreading disease, and they may have negative impacts on the environment, the economy and the human population. Depending on the species and its requirements, invasive species are found in a wide range of habitats including rivers, streams, ponds, back gardens and woodlands.

Problem plants

It is difficult to predict the impact that a non-native species will have due to the delicate and complicated nature of all the relationships within an ecosystem. There may be several unseen effects. For example, river banks are usually filled with native plant species, which provide bank stability and corridors for wildlife to move through; however, the presence of INNS can disrupt this natural balance and lead to possible erosion, flooding and barriers to wildlife.

An invasive plant that impacts both the environment and human health is giant hogweed. Introduced into the country as an ornamental plant in the 19th century, this species is now widespread throughout Great Britain. It is very distinctive plant due to its sheer size, growing up to four or five feet tall, with an umbrellalike crown of flowers and broad leaves. It can cause severe damage to skin, eyes, and respiratory systems. It is extremely abundant in lowland areas and streams where it thrives in mud, fertile soils, and competes vigorously with native plants.

“INNS can threaten our native wildlife by outcompeting it and spreading disease”

How we help

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust’s (YWT) project dedicated to tackling invasive species called the Yorkshire Invasive Species Forum (YSISF). The main objective is to strategically tackle the INNS problem in South and West Yorkshire focusing on the Ouse and Calder, and the Don and Rother catchments.

The project aims to raise public awareness of the problem, identify priority areas and develop strategic management plans and coordinates local groups and private landowners to control INNS. We’re achieving these sites by hosting seminars, workshops and events, carrying out extensive surveys and developing partnerships.

The project has been highly successful so far. Yorkshire has the highest number of records in the country using the Plant Tracker app, which aims to help people monitor and control INNS. We’re currently developing a new mobile tool, which anyone will be able to use to record invasive species information, as well as to monitor the distribution in their local area. Check this space for news on when this tool will be available.

Invasive non-native species (INNS) – there are also species from the animal kingdom. The zebra mussel is an invasive mollusc species which causes economic problems by clogging up pipes in waterways and rendering water undrinkable. This leaf mincer, with a distinctive zigzag pattern, can also have invasive impacts on freshwater habitats. This filter feeder, which forms dense populations, is able to completely alter the natural balance of nutrients in the water and severely reduce the amount of oxygen available to native filter feeding species.

We always welcome volunteers who want to get involved and help us tackle INNS. Contact Alisa Henderson on invasive@ywt.org.uk or follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/YWT Timelines or find out more on our website www.ywt.org.uk/invasives.

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Alisa Henderson

My role as Project Officer involves coordinating invasive species surveys and control work, using social media and the INNS Forum as well as offering professional advice. It is important to note that the Plant Tracker app is the main tool to raise public awareness of the issue, as it means sharing knowledge and information with other organisations in a quick and extensive fashion.

Invasive non-native species (INNS) is a Japanese flowering plant that has only recently been introduced to the UK as an ornamental garden plant. It has become widespread throughout Great Britain, as it escapes through drainage systems and garden waste. Listed as an invasive because it negatively impacts on both the economy and development, it can grow through gaps in concrete, footpaths and buildings, and established in both gardens and on building sites. Due to the legislation around the correct disposal of Japanese flowering, it can be a very expensive process to eradicate it. It is not just plants that can affect the environment, economic, and human activities – there are also species from the animal kingdom. The zebra mussel is an invasive mollusc species which causes economic problems by clogging up pipes in waterways and rendering water undrinkable. This leaf mincer, with a distinctive zigzag pattern, can also have invasive impacts on freshwater habitats. This filter feeder, which forms dense populations, is able to completely alter the natural balance of nutrients in the water and severely reduce the amount of oxygen available to native filter feeding species.

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Treatment of Japanese knotweed

- River Dearne
- River Colne
- River Holme
- Tributaries of the River Calder
  - Hebble Brook
  - Spen Beck
  - Ryburn
River Colne & Holme

- River Holme
  - Local action group – River 2015
  - Trained up some volunteers
  - Ran volunteer days

- River Colne
  - High density of JKW
  - Worked with large landowners – CRT, LA, Business
River Dearne

- River Dearne
  - High confidence levels of surveying
  - Treated tributaries
  - Worked with LA on the main stem of the river
Volunteer Treatment Team
Volunteer Treatment Team

• Group of trained up volunteers
• Pool of equipment for use by local groups
• 24 volunteer treatment days in 2015

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of trained volunteers</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>44</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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Developing Sustainable INNS Management

Identify Priority Areas
• Linked to survey results
• Headwaters Down Approach

Identify Land Owner

Engage With Landowner

Offer Advice
• Promote stewardship
• Offer forum services
• Offer advice on appointing contractors

Develop the best way to manage the site long term
Next Steps

• Establish relationships within the Rother and Doe Lea to fill knowledge gaps
• Continue to engage with landowners
• Expand on treatment work
• Developing a project linked to engaging with river users and biosecurity
• Develop relationships with local authorities – running a LA workshop