

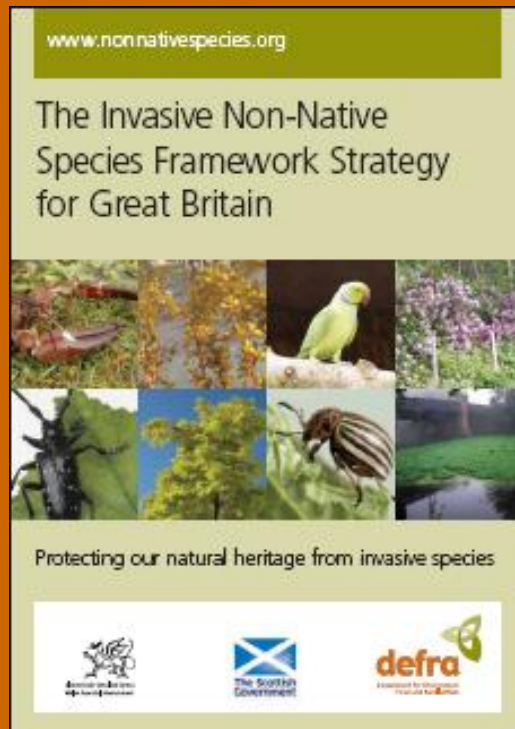
# Local Action Groups, the GB Strategy and the 'Big Society'

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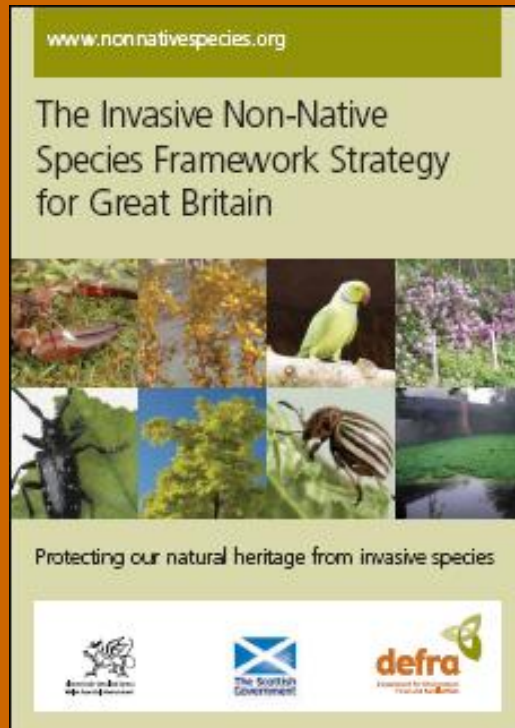
# Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain



## *What is it?*

- *A strategy document covering a huge multi-faceted subject...*
- *Cross-cutting and widely relevant...*
- *An enabling / direction-pointing framework...*
- *More Forward-facing than Backward-facing...*
- *A brave first attempt?!*
- *Up for review in 2013?*

# Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain



## *What is it NOT?*

- *A pure Govt product!*
- *An imposition of top-down targets...*
- *A shopping list for eradicating established INNS...*
- *Exclusive to Govts...much is applicable at national, regional and even local level...*
- *Perfect!!*

# So what is “Big Society”?



# So what is “Big Society”?

**THE TIMES**

Monday January 24 2011 | [thetimes.co.uk](http://thetimes.co.uk) | No 70164

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## Big Society in crisis as economy weakens

**Cuts endangering project, Cameron aides warn**

**Sam Coates** Deputy Political Editor

David Cameron's closest advisers have raised the alarm over the direction of the much-vaunted Big Society initiative amid concerns that the label is

do is to see where the problems are purely from an intellectual basis, not from their own history," he said.

The impact of impending cuts will be measured tomorrow with the publication of growth figures from the end

**IN THE NEWS**

### Adoption couples are barred on race grounds

Thousands of families seeking to adopt a child are being turned away at their first inquiry, with hundreds told that they are the wrong race. One family in four was turned down and 13 per cent told it was because their ethnicity did not match the children. The shoddy treatment of prospective adopters comes as the number of children finding new families has reached a ten-year low. **News, page 3**

### Yeates family's 'relief'

Joanna Yeates's father spoke of his relief that a suspect was charged with the murder of his daughter. He said that the family could now plan her funeral. **News, page 5**

### School music threat

Fees for learning a musical instrument at school could rise and youth orchestras and choirs may have to disband as music services are restructured. **News, page 11**

MARK THOMPSON / GETTY IMAGES

# What is the “Big Society”?

*“The Big Society is about a huge culture change, where people...don’t always turn to officials or Government for answers to the problems they face, but instead feel both free and powerful enough to help themselves and their own communities.”*

*David Cameron*

## It's about:

- Shifting to a smaller State structure
- Greater involvement of civil society in policy-making
- More partnership with civil society in delivery
- More empowerment and responsibility within civil society – devolving power
- Less resort to regulatory approaches

## “Big Society” thinking means:

- Looking differently at those problems Govt can't solve alone – Q: is it even for Govt to solve?

### Where Govt...

- Removes barriers...
- Decentralises power...
- Provides toolkits, evidence, facilitation, powers and funding....



# What's it going to take?

- Time & learning for all...
- Working in an uneven landscape...
- Govt frameworks/steering where some degree of national cohesion is necessary – e.g. INNS!
- Recognition that it can't be extended fully for everything, e.g. to implement EU Directives etc

# Local Action Groups, the GB INNS Strategy & a “Big Society” approach...

- Happy coincidence?
- Why could Big Society work in the INNS field?

# Who's problem is the INNS issue?

- Land owners & managers, land-use businesses...
- Statutory bodies & authorities...
- Government (public interest)...
- Plant and animal trade and user interests...
- Various business sectors, e.g. transport, shipping etc
- ***Society as a whole - it's everybody's problem!***



# The vision in the Strategy is?:

- Widespread awareness and understanding...
- A stronger sense of shared responsibility...
- A framework for national, regional and local action...

# Core thrust of the Strategy?:

INNS



- Prevention measures
  - Early detection and rapid response
  - Longer-term control
- 
- 

Govt emphasis

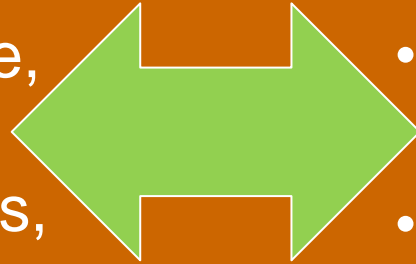


Civil society /  
affected interests  
emphasis

# Govt/LAG partnership approach benefits...

## Government side...

- National policy framework & priorities...
- Support – knowledge, materials, guidance, networking, initiatives, funding...etc?
- Regulatory back-up



## Local action groups...

- Local management & partnerships
- Deeper awareness raising in society
- Change at grass roots level
- Support for surveillance, reporting and national priorities

# The Government/Society Partnership vision?

A greater role for the “Big Society”?...

- “Communities, businesses, civil society organisations and local authorities should have much bigger roles in protecting and enhancing the natural environment...”

Natural Environment White Paper Discussion Document Summary

# Challenges ahead?

- How to enhance involvement of civil society stakeholders in INNS policy making?
- How to maximise the value of LAGs as examples of a “Big Society” approach?
- How to support LAGs to achieve at the greatest strategic scale their context allows?



- Thank you.