

Cheshire region Invasive Non-native Species Initiative

Terms of Reference

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the Initiative is to promote the co-ordinated and strategic approach to the management of invasive non-native species across the Cheshire region by working in partnership.

Specifically the Initiative will engage in the following activities:

1. To raise awareness of the impacts of non-native plant and animal species throughout the Cheshire region.
2. To raise awareness, promote and develop best practice management and control of non-native species.
3. To encourage the recording, reporting and dissemination of information in respect of non-native species, including survey information and best practice management.
4. To encourage, facilitate and where necessary co-ordinate the implementation of strategic and integrated management action in respect of non-native species, including the provision of advice in respect of resources.
5. To contribute information and advice to UK and country non-native advisory groups.
6. To implement national and where necessary agreed local protocols which ensure the effective interchange of views and information between all relevant stakeholders.
7. To encourage the application of bio-security and other behavioural changes as an essential component of countryside management, including field surveys, in both urban and rural areas.

Membership

The membership of the Initiative will include the Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission, local authorities, North of England Zoological Society, rECORd and voluntary sector wildlife and countryside organisations.

Representation at meetings will generally be limited to one individual from each of the Initiative's members. Each of the Initiatives member groups will provide a 'key contact' and a named 'second'. Key contacts and seconds should be the person (s) within the member group most closely involved in addressing non-native species issues for that member group although representation at a more senior level may be required and requested by the Initiative should issues such as funding commitments need to be addressed.

Area

The area covered by the Initiative is that of the following Local Authorities: Wirral Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Cheshire East Council, Halton Borough Council and Warrington Borough Council.

Schedule

The Initiative will hold two meetings per annum. Additional meetings to be held as necessary.