



WISP

Wye Invasive Species Project

Prosiect Rhywogaethau Goresgynnol Gwy

Nickie Moore

Lower Wye Catchments Project Officer

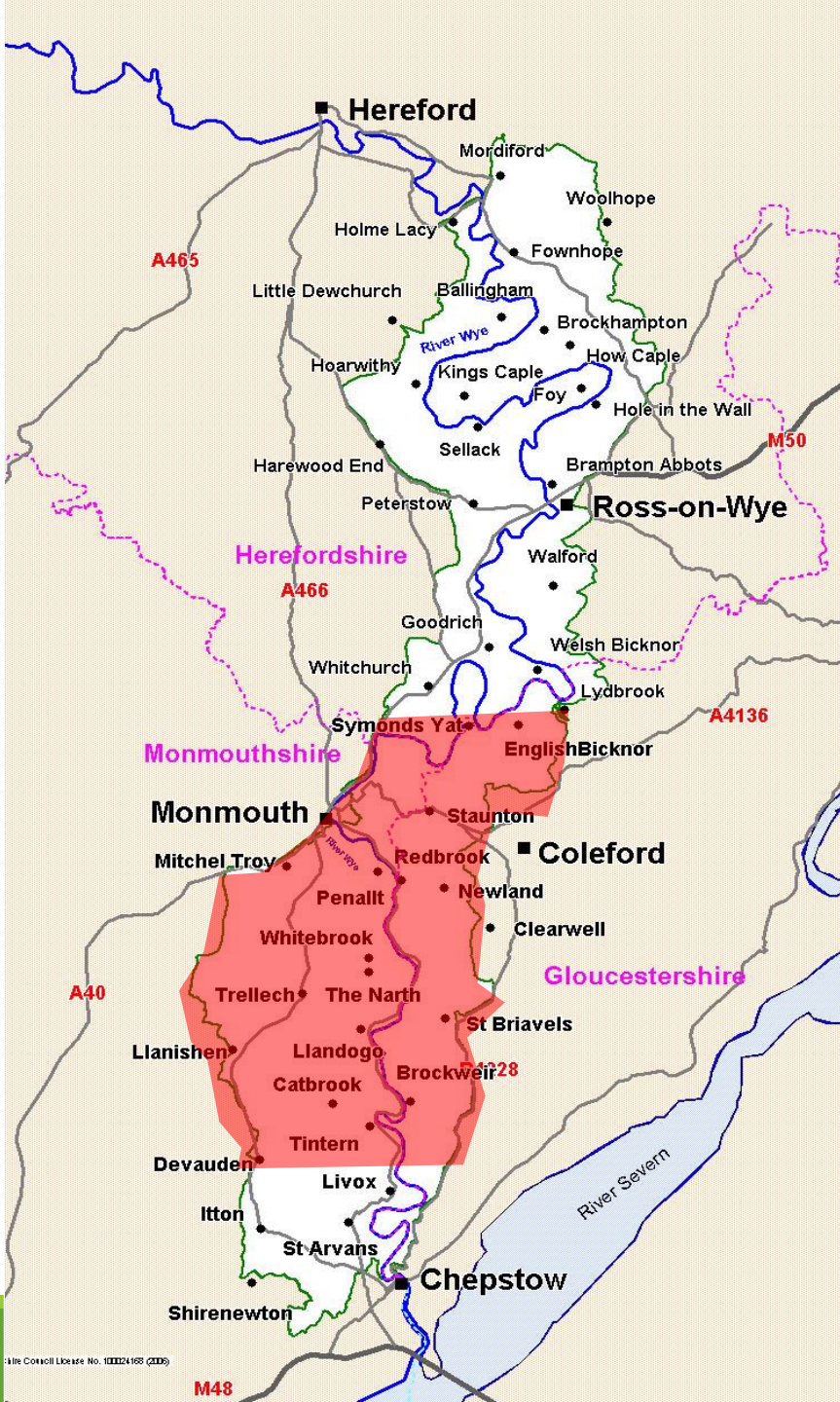
Swyddog Prosiect Dalgylchoedd Rhannau Isaf Gwy

Ellie Baggett

Lower Wye Nature Recovery Officer

Swyddog Adfer Natur Rhannau Isaf Gwy





Wye Valley AONB

Designated in 1971 as one of the finest lowland landscapes in Britain
Between Hereford and Chepstow
Nearest neighbours – Malvern Hills AONB, Brecon Beacons NP

AONB Area: 327km²
92km (58 miles) of the R. Wye = **37% of river**
7% of the Wye catchment of 4,285km²

2 countries: 64% England, 36% Wales
4 Local Authorities: Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Monmouthshire, Forest of Dean

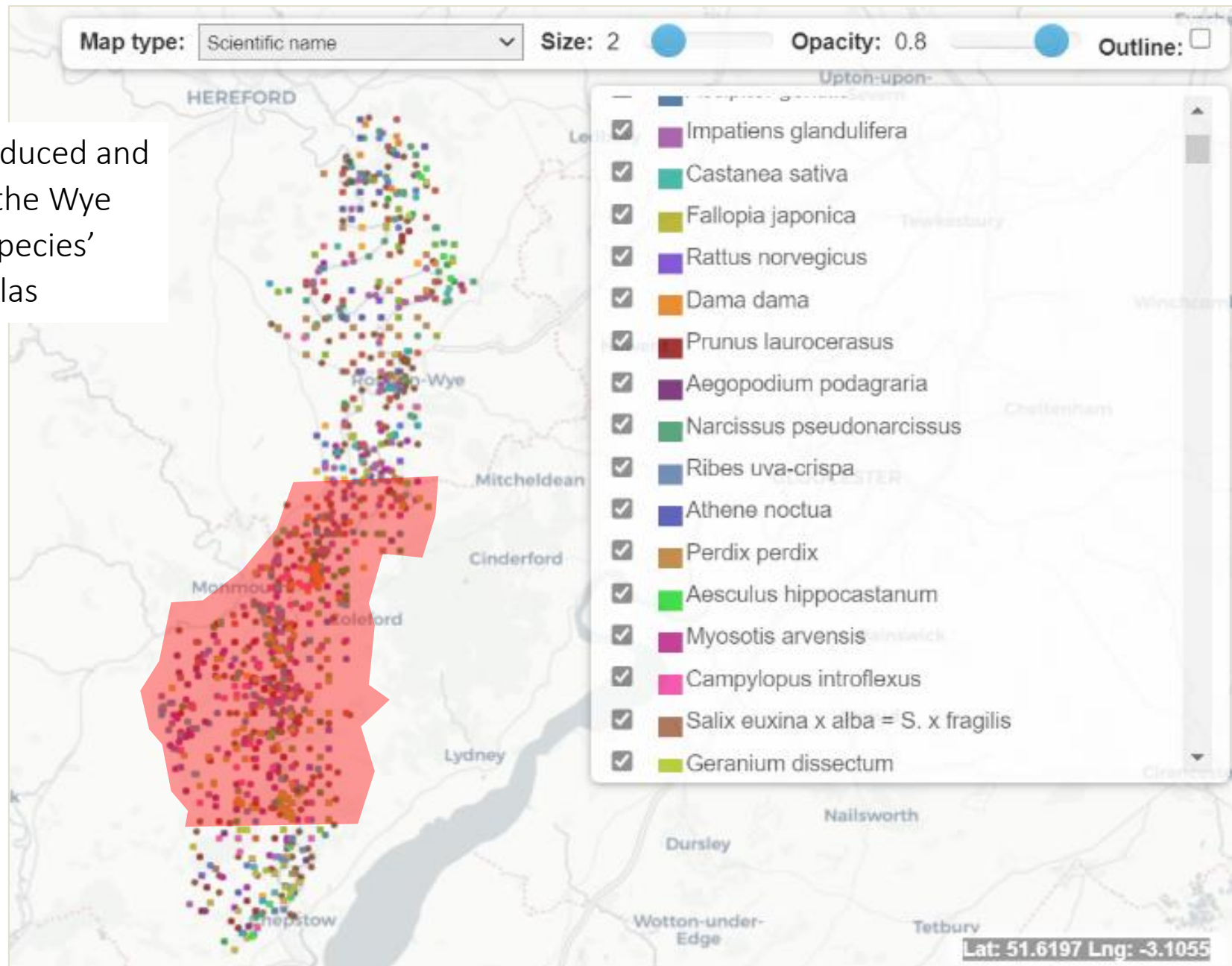
2 staff (hosted by Monmouthshire CC) – part time on INNS

2022/3 - approx. £25K external INNS funding
Currently 4 funding schemes: England: EA, Severn Trent's B4B
Wales: Welsh Govt. SLSP, Heritage Lottery

Current INNS control area
– sub-catchments and main river, Lydbrook to Tintern

Global Register of Introduced and
Invasive Species for the Wye
Valley AONB – ‘all species’

Source: NBN Atlas



Target Species



Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*



American Skunk cabbage *Lysichiton Americanus*



Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens Glandulifera*



Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*

WISP's Objectives

- ✓ Focus - lower Wye Valley ➡ Influence catchment-wide
- ✓ Establish a **full understanding of the distribution & extent** of INNS
- ✓ **Share that knowledge** with partners and LERCs
- ✓ **Build positive relations** with property/land owners, contractors, communities
- ✓ Prevention focus - **awareness raising**
- ✓ **Treatment of known JK and ASC** to support landowners
- ✓ **Community HB control** – support and engage communities
- ✓ Produce the AONB's first **INNS Action Plan**

Our Approach

Development of:

- Online forms - 'Report it' and 'Landowner Consent'
- Data & Info sharing
- **Balsam Action Toolkit**
- *Draft AONB INNS Strategy*

- Empowering through info.
- Empowering through training
- Support 6 community groups
- 3 inside, 3 outside AONB
- Community Training events
- Providing support for local groups
e.g maps, advice, support with consents, making connections

Knowledge and
resource
development

Practical INNS
control and
monitoring

Local
community
empowerment

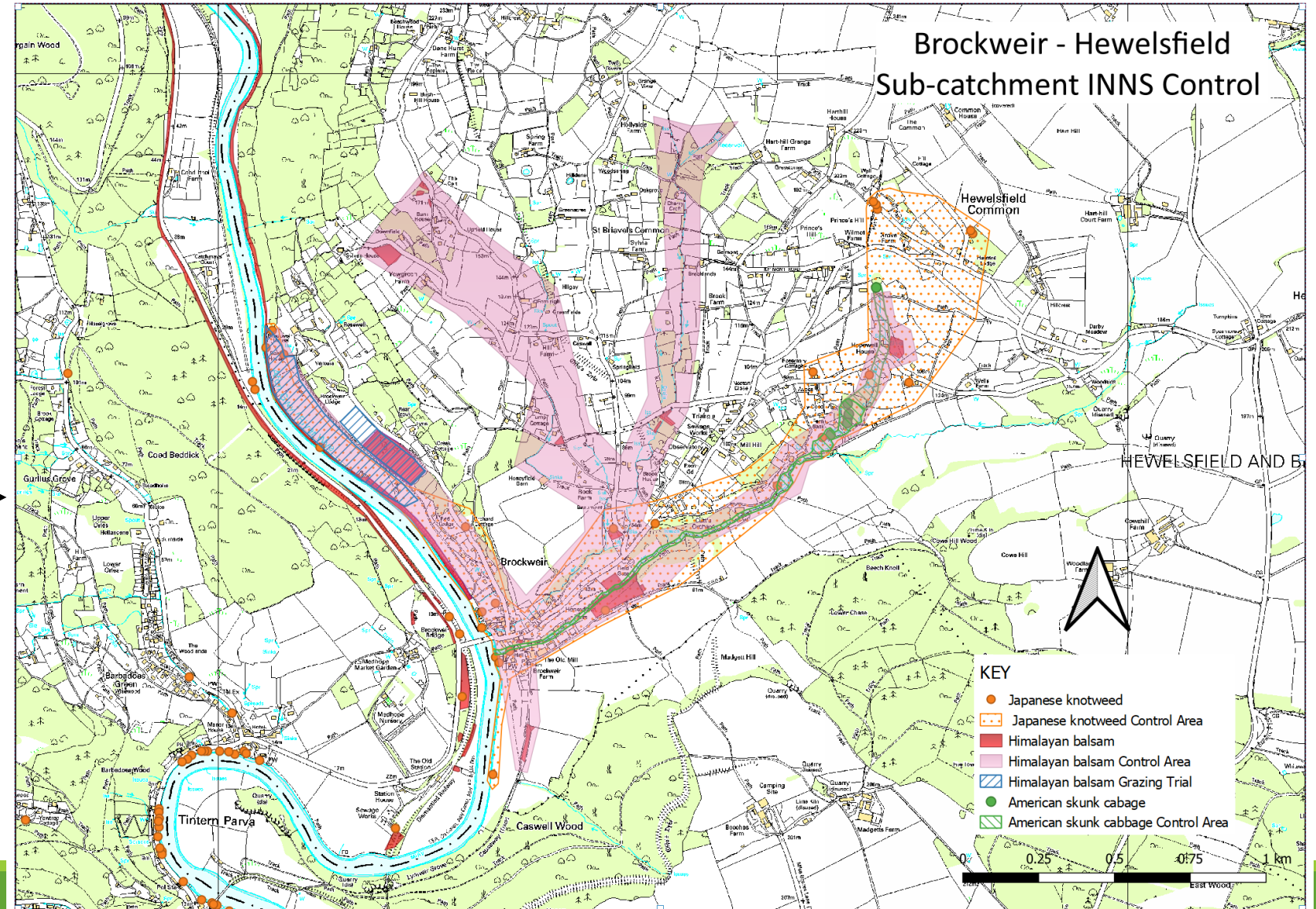
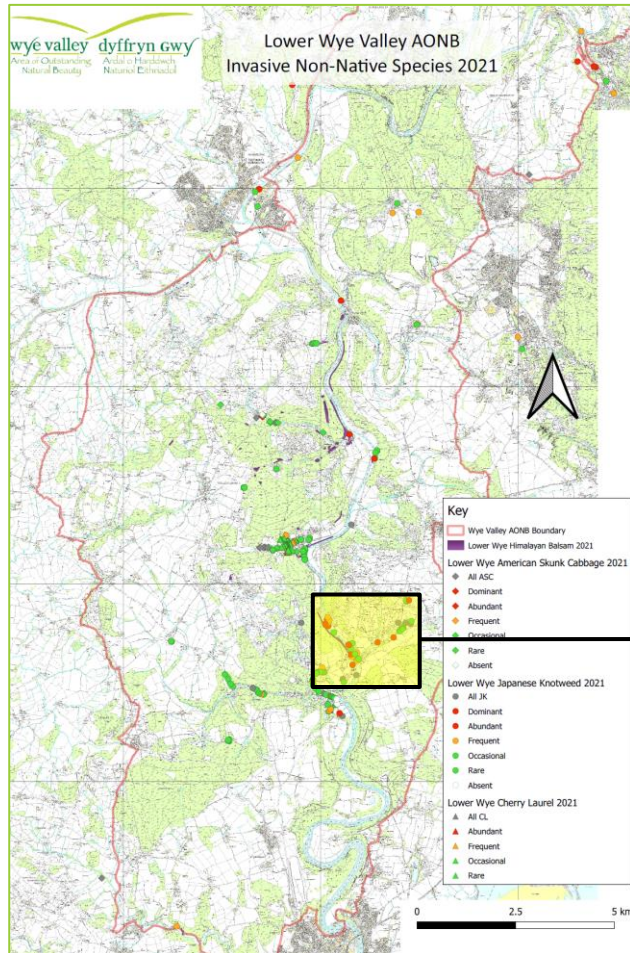
INNS
Prevention
Awareness
Raising

- Good stakeholder management is key
- JK spraying, stem injection, Rootwave
- ASC trials
- Balsam manual control
- Balsam grazing control
- Cherry Laurel stem boring
- QGIS monitoring - DAFOR

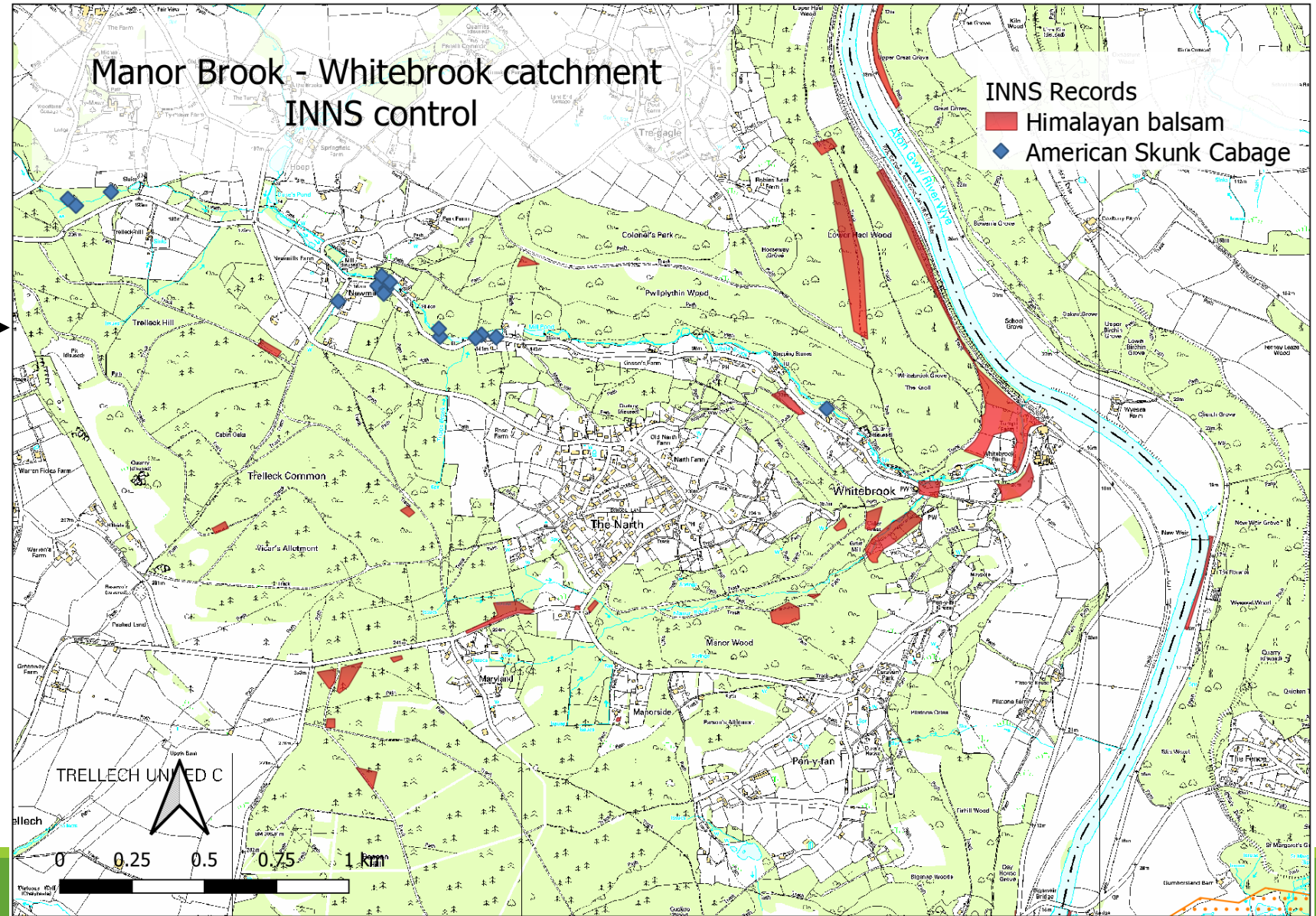
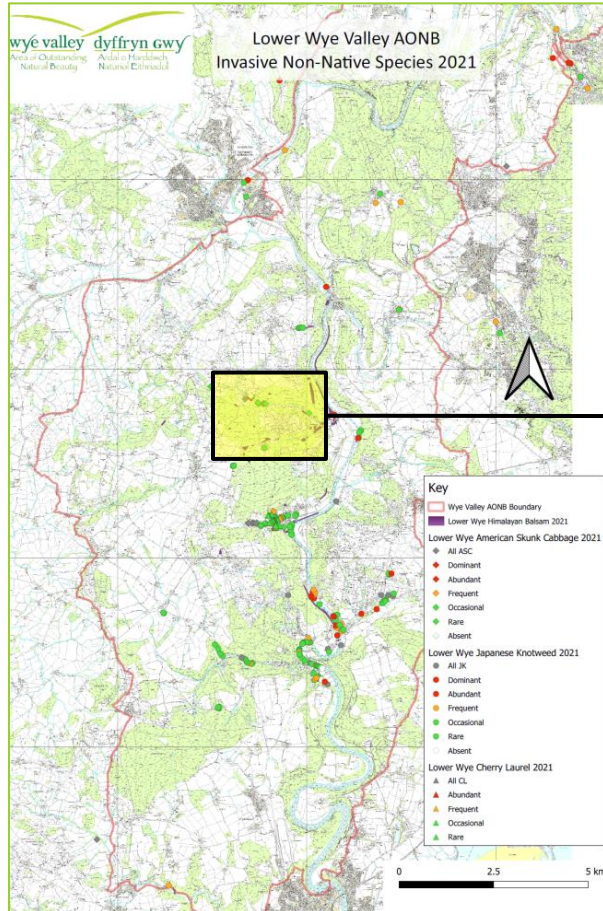
- Social media content
- INNS Week campaign
- Balsam Action Toolkit promo
- Presentations
- Film production
- Corporate events
- NRW public 'get pulling' signs



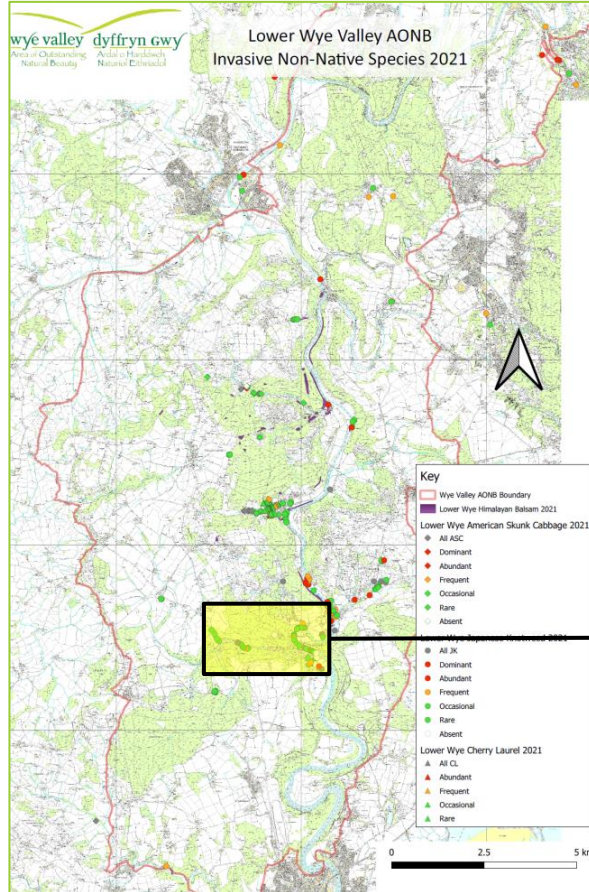
Case-study 1



Case study 2



Case study 3



Tintern's Japanese knotweed



2018



2019



2022





American skunk cabbage treatment







Balsam Action Toolkit for community action groups

Wye Valley AONB Unit has produced a series of downloadable guidance and working documents to support community groups in getting active to tackle Himalayan balsam

www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk



A few lessons learnt

- Log lessons learnt!
- Invest time in building good relations with contractors
- Invest time in planning comms and stakeholder engagement
- Multiple small funds – too admin heavy
- Invest time with local groups, partners & partnerships
- Improving monitoring system and data sharing
- Look after your own mental health



Looking at 2023/4

- Review how we can better consolidate our INNS funding
- Increase our partnership work, inc. endorsement for our INNS Strategy & Action Plan
- Continue to offer ASC and JK treatment & monitoring
- RootWave trial in Tintern
- Get the *Balsam Action Toolkit* launched and promoted Wye catchment-wide
- Keep up the comms and get even more creative



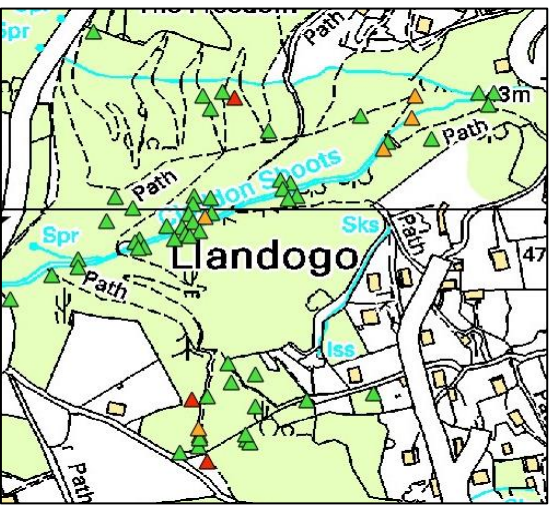


Diolch
Thank you

www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk



Cherry laurel



Action in 2022/3

- Focus on 1 SSSI & CA village where laurel is prevalent
- Mapping (with NRW colleague) & QGIS
- Management of 1 grant - Heritage Lottery Fund
- Awareness raising
 - letter dropping, incl. grant available
 - targeted social media
 - presentation at village hall