



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Defra update on Local Action Groups in England

Joe Payne- Policy advisor in the Invasive
Non-Native Species team.

A selection of success stories



The Tweed Invasives Project, set up in 2002 to manage Giant hogweed, now manages three other invasive plants and is one of the largest of its kind in the UK, covering the entire 5,000 km² catchment

The New Forest Non-Native Plants project has managed cotoneaster, purple pitcher plant and creeping water primrose, among others.

More recently LAGs have been working in partnership with the EA and recreational water users on the GB Floating Pennywort Strategy

In 2021 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Yorkshire Water launched a new biosecurity project to prevent the spread of INNS amongst high-risk users. The project will promote biosecurity best practice in South and West Yorkshire until April 2025



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The 2019 EAC Review & The 2022 GB Strategy refresh

The 2019 EAC INNS inquiry

- Exerts from the EAC INNS inquiry document relevant to LAGs



The Good

“We welcome the valuable contribution made by volunteers in Local Action Groups”

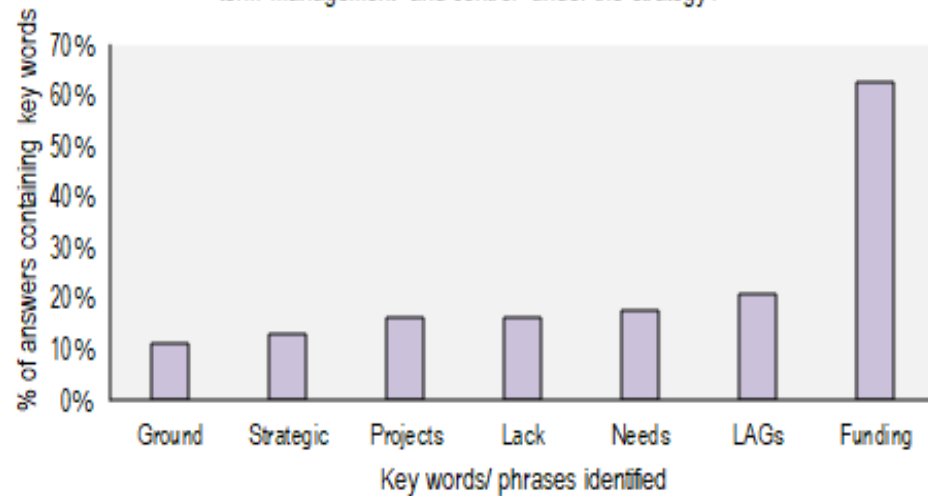
*“a good model akin to the New Zealand model”
(more on this later)*

The not-so-good

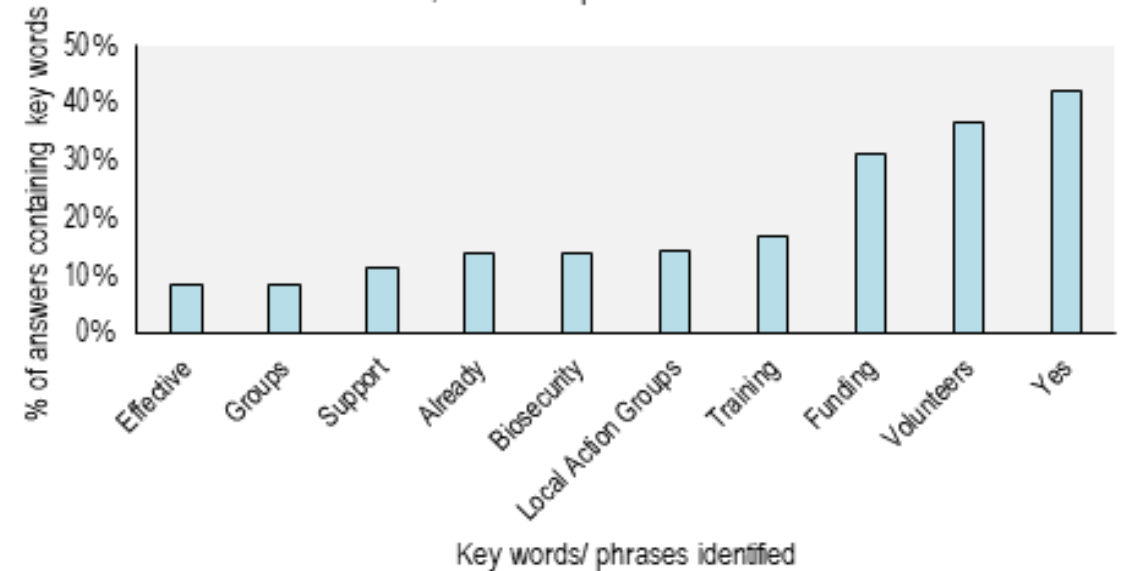
“the Government should take a more strategic, coordinated and resourced approach (to LAGS)”

GB INNS Strategy refresh- questionnaire results.

A) Where do you think the least progress has been made in relation to 'Long-term management and control' under the strategy?



Do you think that a 'biosecurity citizens army', similar to the initiative being established in New Zealand, could be implementable and effective in the UK?





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A new funding option for LAGs in England

Aims of the fund

The fund will prioritise projects that...

Manage species that can be shown to be local priorities

Eradicate a local population of invasive species

Are situated on or near (within 10km) a protected site.

That improve biosecurity

Facilitate other projects

Other aspects that will be looked upon favourably are...

Any local eradication that would, in effect, be a national eradication

Projects that engage the public and the local community in a meaningful way; above and beyond social media posts or a website

Projects that improve access to public spaces or natural amenities

Projects that contribute to the INNS management evidence base

Projects that manage multiple species

Projects that have secured partnership funding from organisations other than Defra or its agencies (e.g. Environment Agency or Natural England)



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Your views

We want your views!

Where we need your help.

One of the steps involved in releasing the funding is taking the view of stakeholders

At the end of this presentation, I will pass around some forms for you to fill out

Please score the aims in terms of how worthwhile they are. From 1-5

Primary Aim	Score
Manage species that can be shown to be local priorities	
Eradicate a local population of invasive species.	
Are situated on or near (within 10km) a protected site.	
That improve biosecurity	
Facilitate other projects.	

We want your views!

Your views will be taken into consideration and used to refine the parameters of the fund

A summary of the views expressed will be used to either justify the existing aims or explain any change to the aims.

This form will also be put on the Secretariat website for people not in attendance today to complete.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS). At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Non-native species, What can I do?, Legislation, and Biosecurity and pathways. Below the navigation is a search bar and a section titled "Find the information you need" with a search input field. To the right of the search bar are "Popular searches" including Asian hornet, Water Primrose, ID sheets, Invasive Species Week, Local Action Groups (LAGs), Floating pennywort, Be Plant Wise, and Recording. The main content area features three featured articles: "What are non-native species?", "Species alerts!", and "Record non-native species". A "News and Events feed" is also present, listing items like "Training package on invasive weeds" and "Questionnaire for boaters". At the bottom, there is a section titled "Is this the first time you've visited our new website?" and a "What's new?" section. A large infographic for "Invasive Species Week 2022" is displayed, showing statistics such as 60,000 photos from 61 countries, 92 events held, and 260 organisations involved.



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Thank you

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