

High Impact Freshwater Species Action Plan

Cumbria and North Lancashire

for UKTAG High Impact Species(as identified in the Guidance for RBP Cycle 2, August 2013)

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Introduction

This High Impact Freshwater Species Action Plan has been developed by the Cumbria Freshwater Invasive Non-Native Species (CFINNS) Initiative given its responsibilities in the Cumbria Freshwater Biosecurity Plan. It takes into account advice on the species from the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat and from the UKTAG High Impact Species Summary of Actions for the second cycle of River Basin Planning under the Water Framework Directive.

It sets out the actions to be taken for a number of potentially high impact species and the lead organisations responsible for those actions. The plan contains actions to be taken in addition to biosecurity measures as outlined in the Cumbria Freshwater Biosecurity Plan. There are a number of freshwater and riparian invasive non-native species that are currently not known to be present in the area and this document covers how we seek to prevent establishment of these species. It identifies the roles and responsibilities of government agencies, non-government bodies and other key partners in achieving the plan's aims and objectives.

The species listed have been classified as UKTAG High Impact Species as stated by the Guidance for RBP Cycle 2, August 2013.

Aims and Objectives:

The aims and objectives of the plan are to protect as far as possible Cumbria and North Lancashire's freshwaters from new invasive non-native species by:

1. early detection;
2. intercepting and preventing establishment;
3. eradication of localised outbreaks - if within a limited geographical area or areas and an effective methodology available;
4. establishing long term management of the species where eradication is no longer possible due to the number and extent of outbreak, or lack of effective control methods; and,
5. providing advice including guidance on control methods and identification information.

Levels of Response:

The UK TAG Alien Species Group decided how an invasive non-native species should be categorised in relation to the potential level of adverse impacts and risk it poses to the water environment, economic considerations or other issues. The species listed below are considered to be ‘High Impact’ alien species, known to be invasive, which have caused documented harm in habitats where they have become established.

There are three levels of response:

- A priority response that will be led by national government organisations
- A local response at selected protected areas (SAC, SPA)
- Containment and slow the spread

Table 1: Response level for FINNS

Priority Response	Response at selected protected areas	Contain and slow the spread
Asian topmouth gudgeon Water primrose Floating pennywort Killer shrimp ¹ Demon shrimp ¹	New Zealand pigmyweed* ¹ Parrot’s feather ¹ Water fern Curly water-thyme ¹ American signal crayfish* ¹ Red swamp crayfish ¹ Virile crayfish ¹ Goldfish Common carp* Japanese knotweed* Himalayan balsam* Giant hogweed* Giant knotweed* American skunk cabbage ² Purple pitcher plant ² Ruff ²	Bloody red shrimp ¹ Zebra mussel* ¹

*currently known to be present in Cumbria/ North Lancashire

¹ No technically feasible method of eradication so main approach is to slow the spread by people by raising awareness of, and applying good biosecurity.

² Not listed in the UKTAG High Impact Species list in the Guidance for RBP Cycle2 but negatively impacting on local areas of high conservation importance.

Only two of the GB freshwater priority species have completed national contingency plans written for them by Defra, which will be triggered when reported. These are [Water primrose](#) and [Topmouth gudgeon](#) which both have an ‘Invasive Species Action Plan’ (ISAPs)¹. A draft ISAP is under development for [Floating pennywort](#) and can be found in the Guidance for RBP Cycle 2, August 2013 Appendix 2.

¹ <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/index.cfm?sectionid=92>

For those species listed under Priority Response, a Response Plan has been developed by stakeholders (representatives from a wide range of sectors involved with non-native species issues) and coordinated by the Non Native Species Secretariat. The response will be led by the nominated national organisation as detailed in Table 2.

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Response Plans:

1. Priority Response:

The following species are treated as a high priority, with a nationally co-ordinated response led by dedicated staff within Defra and its agencies.

Table 2: Priority Response UKTAG High Impact Species: Summary of actions in cycle 2.

Species	Actions	Current situation	Sites at risk	Lead	Partners
Asian topmouth gudgeon ²	Eradicate at known locations in accordance with the species action plan	Only known Cumbrian population believed to have been eradicated in 2006. Environment Agency continuing to eradicate known sites throughout the country.	All standing water bodies	Environment Agency National contact details: 03708 506 506	The CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
Water primrose ²	Eradicate at known locations in accordance with the species action plan	Nearest known population – Scarborough, Yorkshire. Environment Agency continuing to eradicate known sites throughout the country.	All standing water bodies	Environment Agency National contact details: 03708 506 506	The CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
Killer shrimp	Slow the spread	Nearest known populations - Norfolk, Grafham Water, Cambridgeshire & South Wales Environment Agency and partners continuing to contain known locations of the species through	Hawswater	Environment Agency National contact details: 03708 506 506	The CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders

² <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?sectionid=92>

		strict biosecurity measures.			
Demon shrimp	Slow the spread	Nearest known population – River Gowy, Cheshire. Environment Agency and partners continuing to contain known locations of the species through strict biosecurity measures.	Hawswater	Environment Agency National contact details: 03708 506 506	The CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
Floating pennywort (See floating pennywort action plan, risk assessment, Identification documents and management options)	Slow the spread; trial suppression and eradication. Develop biological control agents.	Nearest known populations – Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Yorkshire There is ongoing control at known locations. There is a recent commitment from the Environment Agency to eradicate new or small populations of this species in otherwise uninvaded catchments.	All standing water bodies, particularly eutrophic waters.	Environment Agency National contact details: 03708 506 506	Natural England, the CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders

2. Response at selected protected areas:

The Protected Areas within the plan refers to Natura Protected Areas under The Water Framework Directive, i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protected Areas (SPA).

Where invasive non-native species is a reason for a Natura Protected Area failing its conservation objectives, then measures will be included within the Site Improvement Plan. The Site Improvement Plan will be included in the River Basin Management Plan as part of management required to bring the Natura Protected Area into favourable condition.

Natural England will also include control requirements for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) where these are failing their Biodiversity 202 requirements due to invasive non-native species.

Table 3: Response at selected protected areas summary of actions:

Species	Actions	Current situation	Lead	Partners
New Zealand pigmyweed	Slow the spread and control at selected protected areas. Develop biological control agents.	Present in: Derwent, South West Cumbria, Kent, Leven and Crake catchments	Natural England	Environment Agency, the CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
Parrot's feather	Slow the spread and control at selected protected areas.	Present in South West Cumbria	Natural England	Environment Agency, the CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
Water fern	Release <i>Azolla</i> weevil as required.	Present in Lancashire	CFINNS Initiative	Local stakeholders
Curly water-thyme	Slow the spread and control at selected protected areas.	Not known to be present in Cumbria	Natural England	Environment Agency, the CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
American signal crayfish	Slow the spread and control at selected protected areas. Trial novel control methods in national trials.	Present in: Leven, Derwent and Eden catchments	Natural England and Environment Agency	The CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
Red swamp crayfish	Slow the spread and control at selected protected areas. Trial novel control methods in national trials.	Not known to be present in Cumbria	Natural England and Environment Agency	The CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
Virile crayfish	Slow the spread and control at selected protected areas. Trial novel control methods in national trials.	Not known to be present in Cumbria	Natural England and Environment Agency	The CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
Goldfish	Control at selected protected areas.	Widespread	Natural England and Environment Agency	The CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders

Common carp	Control at selected protected areas.	Widespread	Natural England and Environment Agency	The CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
Japanese knotweed	Slow the spread and control at selected protected areas. Test efficacy of biological control agents.	Widespread	Natural England and Environment Agency	The CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
Himalayan balsam	Slow the spread and control at selected protected areas. Develop biological control agents.	Widespread	Natural England and Environment Agency	The CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
Giant hogweed	Slow the spread and control at selected protected areas. Develop biological control agents.	Widespread	Natural England and Environment Agency	The CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
Giant knotweed	Slow the spread and control at selected protected areas. Develop biological control agents.	Widespread	Natural England and Environment Agency	The CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
American skunk cabbage	Slow the spread and control at selected protected areas.	Present in South West Cumbria, Derwent, Eden and Leven catchments	Natural England	Environment Agency, the CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
Purple pitcher plant	Slow the spread and control at selected protected areas.	Present in Leven catchment	Natural England	The CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
Ruffe	Develop a Research and Development to investigate control or removal from selected protected sites	Likely to be present in South West Cumbria, Derwent and Leven catchment.	Natural England	Environment Agency, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Bloody red shrimp	Contain and slow the spread		Natural England and Environment Agency	Environment Agency, the CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
Zebra mussel	Contain and slow the spread		Natural England and Environment Agency	Environment Agency, the CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders
Quagga mussel	Contain and slow the spread		Natural England and Environment Agency	Environment Agency, the CFINNS Initiative and local stakeholders

Detection:

To improve the likelihood of early detection the CFINNS Initiative and Forum partners will continue to raise public and other stakeholder awareness of invasive non-native species. This will be carried out through the production and dissemination of a range of materials (such as posters, leaflets, interpretation boards), through presentations and press releases.

The 'eyes' of the early warning system are trained members of the public, partner organisations, canoeists, anglers and walkers. Identification, biosecurity and control workshops are to be continued in order to train staff and volunteers from partner organisations regularly out in the field and whom may come across these species.

When a freshwater INNS is sighted or suspected, reports should be sent with the following information:

- Reporters name and contact details
- The date seen
- The species
- The location described
- The size of the infestation if possible
- The coordinates

Reported sightings at all levels of response should be sent to:

Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre Tullie House Museum, Castle Street, Carlisle. CA3 8TP E: recordingofficer@cbdc.org.uk T: 01228 618717	Lancashire Environment Record Network Lancashire County Council, Guild House, Cross Street, Preston. PR1 8RD E: lern@lancashire.gov.uk T: 01772 533896
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As the spread of freshwater INNS is not isolated to the area, this plan will also facilitate communication with neighbouring counties. A list of neighbouring biological recording centres can be found in Appendix 1.

Monitoring and Review:

To ensure the effective implementation of this plan, it is vital that the outcomes and outputs of the actions are monitored and reviewed to ensure that the objectives are being met.

The second round of River Basin Management Planning runs up to 2021. This Action Plan will be under constant revision and additional species may need to be added according to the UK TAG list and local knowledge.

Appendix 1

Contact details:

National Environment Agency	03708 506 506	enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
National Natural England	0845 600 3078	enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk
Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre (Tullie House)	01228 618717	recordingofficer@cbdc.org.uk
Lancaster Environment Record Network	01772 533896	lern@lancashire.gov.uk
North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre	01904 641 631	INFO@NEYEDC.CO.UK
Wildlife Information Centre for the Lothians and Borders	01875 825968	graeme@wildlifeinformation.co.uk
Environmental Records Information Centre North East	Tel: 0191 222 5158	katherine.pinnock@twmuseums.org.uk
Dumfries and Galloway Environmental Record Centre	01387 760274	mpollitt@dgerc.org.uk
Merseyside BioBank	Tel. 01517 374155	ben.deed@merseysidebiobank.org.uk