

## ARC INNS Strategy 2015/16

### Prevention

- Training of partner organisation field staff in bio control methods
- Publicity of GBNNS Check Clean Dry campaign with river users
- Awareness raising of the problem of INNS (landowners and the general public) through events, landowner engagement, training and publicity (including the Arun & Western Streams website)

### Early detection, surveillance, monitoring and rapid response

- Continued surveying of extent of INNS, focusing on upper limits of species on river tributaries (including cross border Surrey and Hampshire areas), sites of high conservation importance (Arun Valley SPA/SAC (Pulborough Brooks, Amberley Wild Brooks, Waltham Brooks), Ebernoe Common SAC and the Mens SAC), South Downs National Park, BAP habitats (including chalk streams) and WFD priority areas
- Build up a network of volunteers to monitor stretches of river for INNS (and other river quality indicators) e.g. River Search
- Systematically survey for INNS in ditch networks and ponds throughout the catchment
- Training of partner organisations and volunteers in invasive species identification (rivers, ditches and ponds)
- Promote the use of Plant tracker and iRecord to record INNS throughout the catchment
- Raising awareness of INNS through public engagement events/media

### Mitigation, control and eradication

- Remove INNS from key habitats and landscapes i.e. sites of high conservation importance (Arun Valley SPA/SAC (Pulborough Brooks, Amberley Wild Brooks, Waltham Brooks), Ebernoe Common SAC and the Mens SAC), chalk streams, WFD priority areas, SDNP and Greensand Heaths project

### **HIMALAYAN BALSAM**

- Control Himalayan balsam in priority areas:
  - Hampshire Rother – working with SDNPA (Rob Nicholls) to clear all tributaries using volunteers and contractors
  - Western Rother - working with SDNPA (Angela Ward) to engage landowners and systematically target upper limits of HB on most western tributaries and chalk streams with volunteer work parties
  - River Chilt and River Stor – landowner engagement and removal of HB using local volunteers (Storrington Conservation Volunteers, RSPB volunteers (Wickford Bridge/Pulborough), corporate work parties etc)
  - Arun Valley SPA/SAC – clear protected sites and a surrounding buffer area
  - River Kird – develop a strategy (with WWLP) to remove HB from feeder streams of Ebernoe Common and the Mens (SAC)
- Encourage landowners to control HB as part of a catchment wide initiative, especially those at upper limits of infestation
- Recruit volunteers to take part in ‘balsam bashing’ work parties in priority areas
- Provide information and advice to landowners/managers of correct control methodology
- Investigate potential to participate in bio control trials in Surrey cross border area

## **JAPANESE KNOTWEED**

- Control Japanese knotweed in priority areas:
  - Hampshire Rother – working with SDNPA (Rob Nicholls) to clear all tributaries using contractors
  - Western Rother – working with SDNPA (Angela Ward) to engage landowners and systematically target upper limits on western tributaries and chalk streams
  - River Chilt and River Stor – landowner engagement and removal of JK from known sites
  - Arun Valley SPA/SAC – clear protected sites and a surrounding buffer area
  - River Kird – develop a strategy (with WWLP) to remove JK from feeder streams of Ebernoe Common and the Mens (SAC)
- Encourage landowners to control JK as part of a catchment wide initiative, especially those at upper limits of infestation
- Provide information and advice to landowners/managers of correct control methodology and legislation
- Provide training to partner organisations in correct management techniques (e.g. training of EA ops staff in JK removal/control during river bank cutting and clearance)

## **GIANT HOGWEED**

- Control Giant hogweed in priority areas:
  - Hampshire Rother – working with SDNPA (Rob Nicholls) to clear all tributaries using contractors
  - Western Rother – working with SDNPA (Angela Ward) to engage landowners and systematically target upper limits on western tributaries and chalk streams
- Systematically tackle major infestations of GH in the Upper Arun, Wey & Arun Canal and St Leonards Forest area – engage/educate landowners and use contractors to control major infestations of GHW where possible
- ‘Hold the line’ at the lower limit of infestation on the River Arun (A272)
- Control isolated infestations throughout the catchment to prevent further spread
- Encourage landowners to control GHW as part of a catchment wide initiative, especially those at upper limits of infestation
- Provide information and advice to landowners/managers of correct control methodology and legislation

## **SKUNK CABBAGE**

- Control Skunk Cabbage in priority areas:
  - Hampshire Rother – working with SDNPA (Rob Nicholls) to clear all tributaries
  - Western Rother – working with SDNPA (Angela Ward) to engage landowners and systematically target infestations on western tributaries and chalk streams
  - River Chilt and River Stor – landowner engagement and removal from known sites
  - Arun Valley SPA/SAC – clear protected sites and a surrounding buffer area
  - River Kird – develop a strategy (with WWLP) to remove from feeder streams of Ebernoe Common and the Mens (SAC)
- Produce a plan with partner organisations to tackle large infestations in the Upper Arun and St Leonards Forest area
- Remove small isolated infestations in headstreams throughout catchment and encourage landowners to control SK as part of a catchment wide initiative, especially those at upper limits of infestation
- Use volunteers to remove infestations where possible

## **CRASSULA**

- Produce plans to control Crassula in priority areas:
  - Hampshire Rother, Western Rother (western tributaries and chalk streams), River Chilt and River Stor, Arun Valley SPA/SAC, Ebernoe Common SAC and the Mens SAC
- Secure funding to implement control where viable
- Provide information and advice to landowners/managers of correct control methodology

## **WATER FERN**

- Conduct a pilot project using biocontrol (Azolla weevils) to eradicate WF at a priority site
- Provide information and advice to landowners/managers of correct control methodology and use bio control (if possible) to eradicate WF throughout the catchment

## **FLOATING PENNYWORT**

- Control/limit the spread of known FP infestations (Petworth House)
- Provide information and advice to landowners/managers of correct control methodology

## **PARROTS FEATHER**

- Produce plans to control Parrots feather in priority areas:
  - Hampshire Rother, Western Rother (western tributaries and chalk streams), River Chilt and River Stor, Arun Valley SPA/SAC, Ebernoe Common SAC and the Mens SAC
- Secure funding to implement control where viable
- Provide information and advice to landowners/managers of correct control methodology

## **AMERICAN MINK**

- Set up a catchment wide mink control initiative
- Engage landowners and deploy traps ideally at 1km intervals starting in the Hampshire Rother and Western Rother and in priority areas for water voles (Inc. Arun Valley SPA/SAC)
- Recruit and train volunteers to carry out day to day mink control activities
- Train partner staff, landowners/managers and river users in mink control techniques

### **Assessment of strategy outcomes**

- Develop a strategy to continue INNS control for the next 10 to 15 years
- Produce an updated INNS Strategy document