

## **Inaugural Local Action Group Workshop March 2026**

### **Focused Breakout Session Summary**

#### **FORUM WORKSHOP SUMMARY IDENTIFYING LOCATIONS OF BIOSECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOCATIONS THAT REQUIRE BIOSECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE.**

Being the inaugural LAG Workshop this exercise was used to gather knowledge help identify existing Local Action Groups and locations that have biosecurity infrastructure and measures in place. The exercise was led by the National Biodiversity Data Centre and the outcome of the workshop was to identify:

- Identifying areas across the island that have in place biosecurity measures such as signage, wash-down stations.
- Identifying Local Action Groups which are managing and removing invasive species.
- Key areas that need development with biosecurity measures and infrastructure. These may be areas of high-risk or busy locations with a lot of movement.

#### **Gap 1: Areas with existing biosecurity measures and infrastructure**

- Nore Vision- funding pending for wash stations and awareness raising materials
- RSPB Rathlin- biosecurity policy for island visitors
- Camlough
- Lough Carra- biosecurity signage at Loughside
- Sligo Rowing Club- developing their own Check Clean Dry (feasibility study for washdown)
- Lough Arrow Fish Preservation Association- pre-competition boat washing and raising awareness of Check Clean Dry
- Inishowen River Trust- raising awareness during events
- Bunrana Anglers Association
- Deelee Community Angling Association
- IFI Lough Corrib- ongoing management

#### **Gap 2: Identifying Local Action Groups**

- Nore Vision, Kilkenny- invasive species monitoring
- Farming for Water EIP, Tipperary- giant hogweed removal and drone mapping
- Kerry County Council – Himalayan balsam removal
- Wicklow Uplands Council- deer management, rhododendron removal pilot, water quality monitoring, awareness raising of Sitka spruce and cherry laurel advocacy
- National Trust, Strangford Lough- rat monitoring and mapping spartina removal (
- National Trust, Lighthouse Island - rat monitoring and mapping spartina removal (
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Oxford Island - Himalayan balsam control

- RSPB and National Trust Sheep Island - rat monitoring and control
- RSPB, Ballycastle and Rathlin - ferret and rat eradication and biosecurity
- NIEA- >900 Widely Spread Species enforcement cases in Northern Ireland
- Lough Erne Wildfowlers - American mink control
- Lough Melvin- Quagga mussel prevention work
- Ulster Folk Museum- large scale cherry laurel removal
- Ulster Transport Museum- large scale cherry laurel removal
- Hillsborough Forest park- rhododendron removal and control
- Termon River- Japanese knotweed control
- UCD, Ballymore Eustace- Himalayan balsam removal
- South Donegal Living River Services- rhododendron removal
- Sligo Invasives Action Group- Himalayan balsam and American skunk cabbage recording and removal
- Mulranny CARE Group, Mayo- organising community involvement in Himalayan balsam removal
- Mayo County Council- applied for funding to remove Himalayan balsam in Mulranny and Achill Island
  - Invasive species management plan for Inishbofin, Clare Island and Inishturk
  - Invasive species app in development
- LEADER Cavan- Cavan communities training for the prevention of invasive species (target 50 individuals)
- ACRES Donegal- monitoring
- Inishowen River Trust- Japanese knotweed organic removal
- Lough Carra Catchment Association
- ACRES West Connacht- pilot gunnera control
- Achill Island- removal of rhododendron and gunnera
- Atlantic West Community Group, Mayo- rhododendron control and training group for contracting to work on removal from Ballycroy, Lough Gall and Bangar
- Castle Leslie, Monaghan- rhododendron and cherry laurel removal
- Our Native Glens, Leitrim- Himalayan balsam, rhododendron and cherry laurel removal
- South Donegal Living Rivers Services- rhododendron removal and mapping
- Miltown Feeder, Kildare- New Zealand pygmy weed removal

### **Gap 3: Areas in need of developing biosecurity measures and infrastructure**

- Shannon-Erne waterway
- Increase biosecurity around aquaculture
- Blackwater Canoe Trail
- Increase security on formal plants and horticulture
- Lough Arrow, Sligo and Leitrim
- River Unshin, Sligo
- Lough Gall, Mayo
- Galway and Mayo offshore islands

24/03/2026



- Sandunes around Sligo and Donegal due to number of invasives present- Japanese skeleton shrimp, wireweed, seabuckthorn, pacific oysters, carpet sea squirt, slippery limpet
- Grand Canal, Dublin