



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Local Action Groups in Great Britain

Ben Francis – Local Action Group Coordinator
Animal and Plant Health Agency

Ben Francis – Local Action Group Coordinator

- Worked at APHA 3+ years
- Support “Local Action Groups” in Great Britain
- Previously Environment Project Officer British Canoeing



Animal and Plant Health Agency



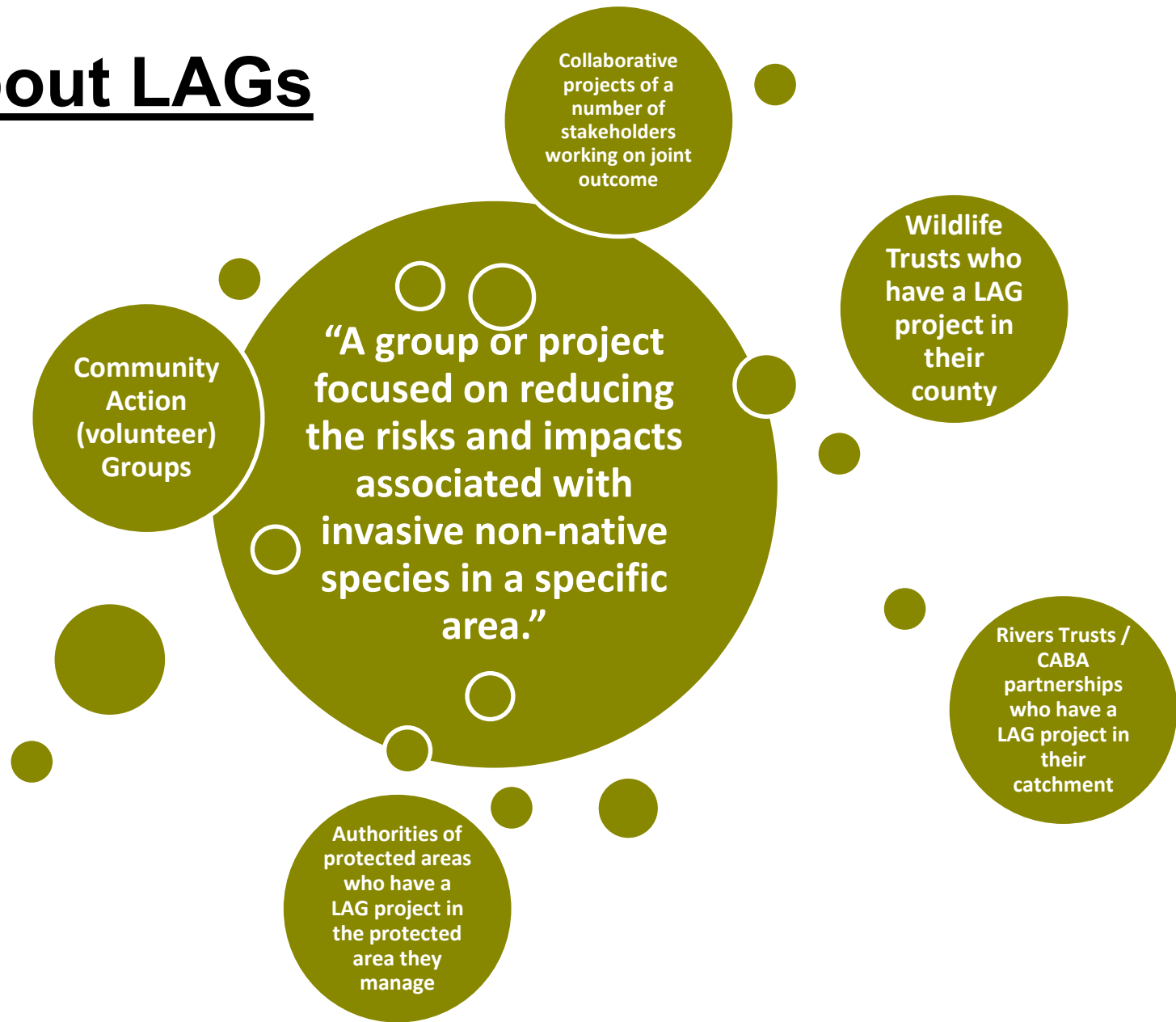
LAGs in England – previous



A	Eastleigh Biodiversity Partnership
B	Natural Enterprise
C	Avon Invasive Weed Forum
D	Cornwall College
E	Cornwall Wildlife Trust
F	Dorset Wildlife Trust
G	Lee & Lincombe Residents Association
H	Tale Valley Trust
I	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
J	Froglife
K	Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative
L	Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire
M	London Invasive Species Initiative
N	Nottingham Biodiversity Action Group
O	Peak District and Lowland Derbyshire Non-Native Species Initiative
P	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
Q	Allen Valley Angling and Conservation
R	Tees Rivers Trust
S	Tyne Catchment Local Action Group
T	Bollin Environmental Action and Conservation
U	Cumbria Freshwater Invasive Non-Native Species Initiative
V	Cheshire Region Invasive Species Initiative
W	Ribble Rivers Trust
X	Essex Biodiversity Partnership
Y	Medway Swale Estuary Partnership
Z	Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
a	Wey Valley Landscape Partnership
b	Calder & Colne Rivers Trust
c	South Yorkshire Biodiversity Research Group and Network



About LAGs



Catchment Based Approach (CABA)



LAGs in Great Britain

**NSS LAG
Workshop**

**Regional
Groups**

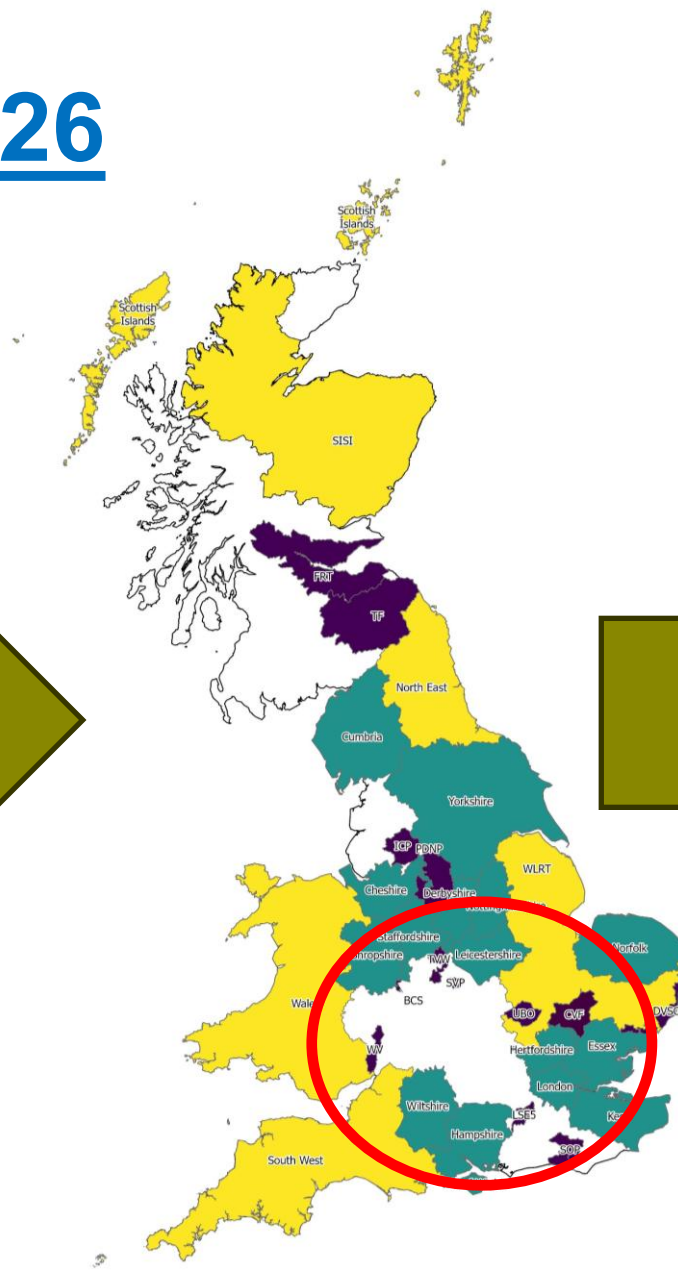
**“Local Action
Groups”**

**Community Action
Groups**

Volunteers



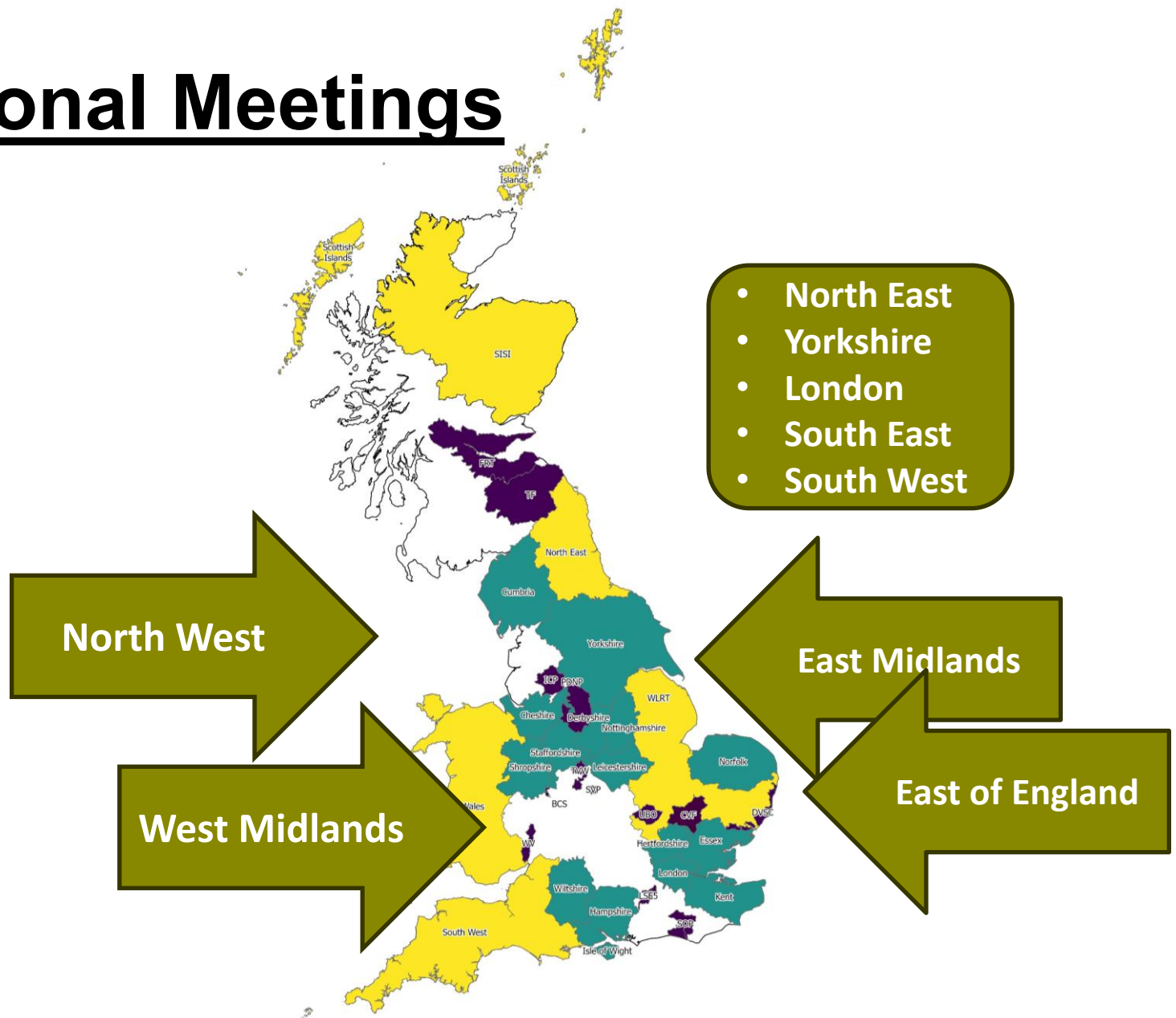
LAGs in 2026



NNSS > List of LAGs

**2026
Publish Web Map**

Regional Meetings



Scotland and Wales



Scotland

SISI

Tweed Forum

Fisheries Trusts, Rivers Trusts and others

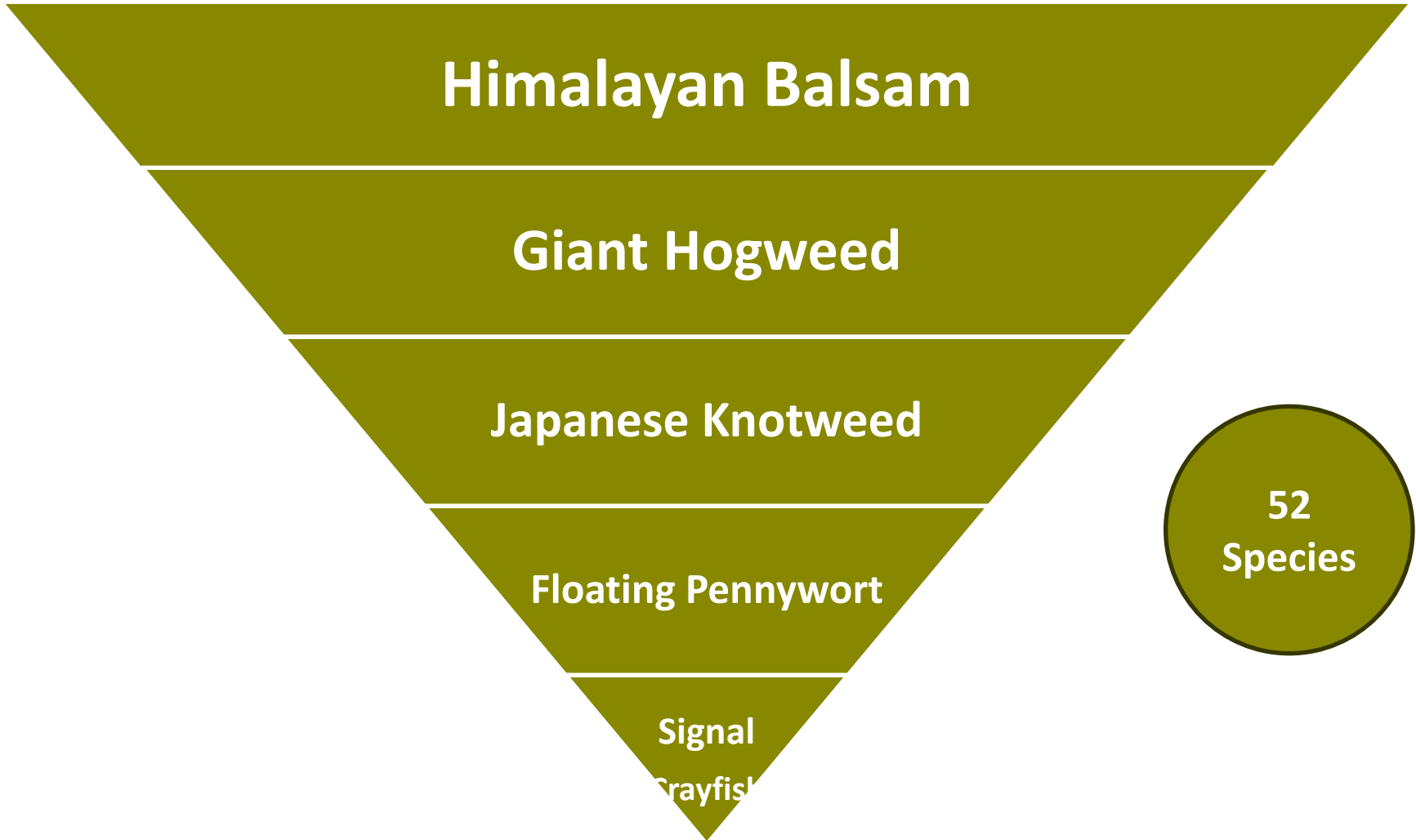
Wales

WaREN

Local Action Group

Rivers Trusts, National Parks and others

Species managed by LAGs



Local Action Groups Impact

100+
LAGs work in Britain, covering over
75%
of the land area.

LAGs work across all major habitats:

- Terrestrial
- Freshwater
- Marine

2 in 3
work in protected sites helping to look after important habitats and rare plants and wildlife



Local Action Groups (LAGs)
play a key role in reducing the impacts of invasive non-native species

Their work includes:

- managing invasive non-native species
- awareness raising, education, and training
- providing biosecurity support
- coordinating local action
- providing volunteering opportunities for the community



52 non-native species are managed by LAGs

Top 5 species managed:

- Himalayan balsam
- Japanese knotweed
- Giant hogweed
- Floating pennywort
- Signal crayfish

880+ km
of riverbank managed by LAGs in 2024

25,000+
volunteering hours were recorded by LAGs in 2024



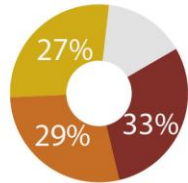
Learn more at:
nonnativespecies.org/local-action-groups

Images: Leicestershire Invasive Non-native Species Initiative, New Forest Non-native Plants Project, North York Moors National Park Authority, Tweed Forum, Wye Valley National Landscape

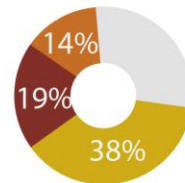


Challenges for LAGs

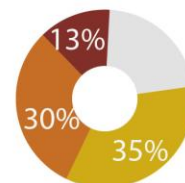
CHALLENGES IMPORTANT TO LOCAL ACTION GROUPS



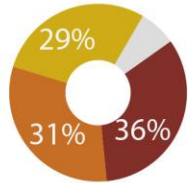
Sharing of good practice



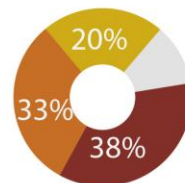
Information on new species



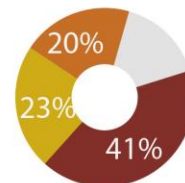
Latest research



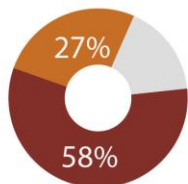
Education and public awareness



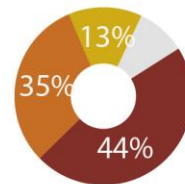
Collaboration with other stakeholders



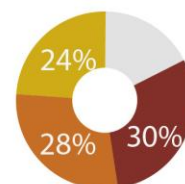
Landowners



Future funding



Volunteers



Equipment



Supporting LAGs

LAG
Workshop

LAG Toolkit

Resources
developed by
LAGs

Campaign
Materials

Connections
to other
organisations

Funding?

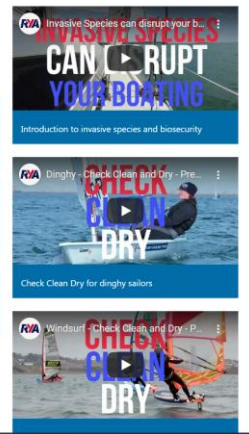
Check Clean Dry

Recreational water users

Over 40 bespoke materials for different user groups



Video guides
View handy video guides from the RYA (external link) and the Green Blue.



NNSS Website

What can I do? » NNSS

https://www.nonnativespecies.org/what-can-i-do

Managed Links SOP Portal - Home NNSS website iPayview - Home APHA - Home England | Catchmen... Training record INNS Mapper STaR Admin Support

NNSS
GB non-native species secretariat

[Home](#) [About](#) [Non-native species](#) [What can I do?](#) [Legislation](#) [Biosecurity and pathways](#)

[Local Action Groups](#) [Resources and projects](#) [Overseas Territories](#) [International](#)

[What can I do? \(home\)](#) [Awareness raising materials](#) [Check Clean Dry](#) [Be Plant Wise](#) [Invasive Species Week](#)

[Training](#)

What can I do?

What can I do?

Invasive non-native species are one of the top causes of biodiversity loss, harm wildlife and the environment, cost the economy almost £2 billion and threaten our health and way of life.

Get involved

[Check Clean Dry](#)

[Invasive species to look out for](#)

[Anglers](#)

[Paddlers](#)

[SUPs](#)

[Boaters](#)

[Rowers](#)

[Field workers](#)

[Clubs and managers of water bodies](#)

[Event organisers](#)

7°C Mostly cloudy

Search

15:33 28/01/2026

Videos

Paddle
UK
YouTube

Angling
Trust
YouTube



Supporting LAGs – Network Rail Example

2025



Connected LAGs to Network Rail staff

2026



Quicker connection to correct staff members – more staff contacts now



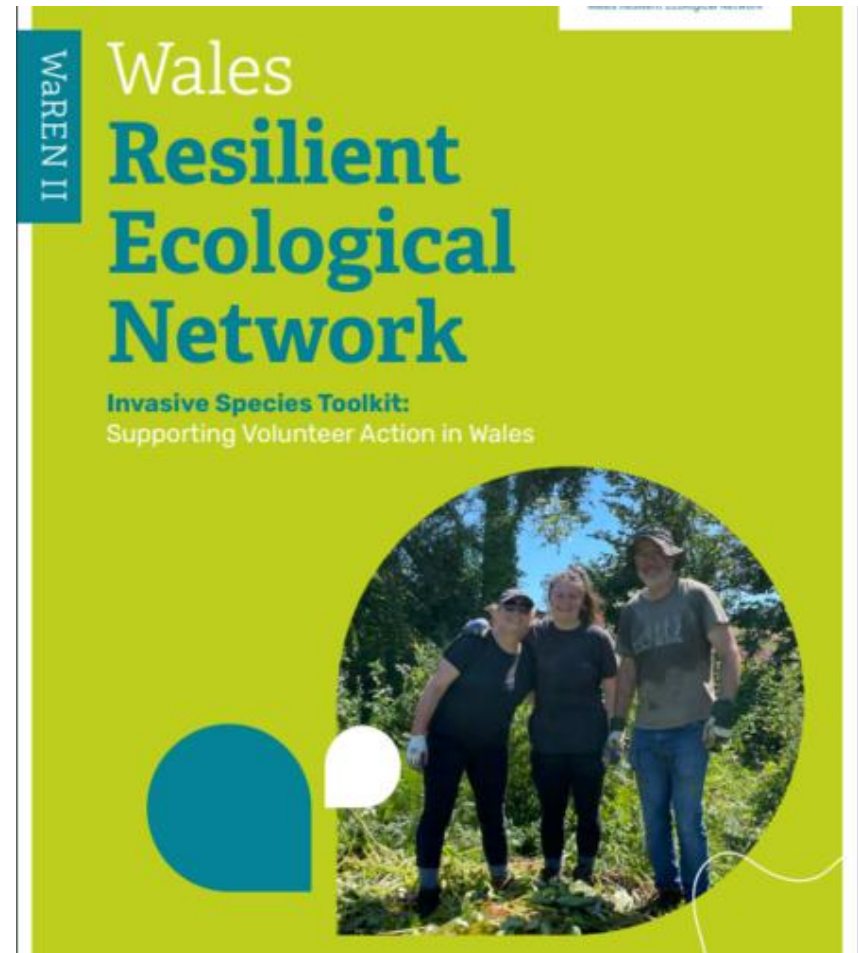
Network Rail to join LAGs or CABA partnerships



Connection to other organisations e.g. highways or National Trust

LAG Toolkit

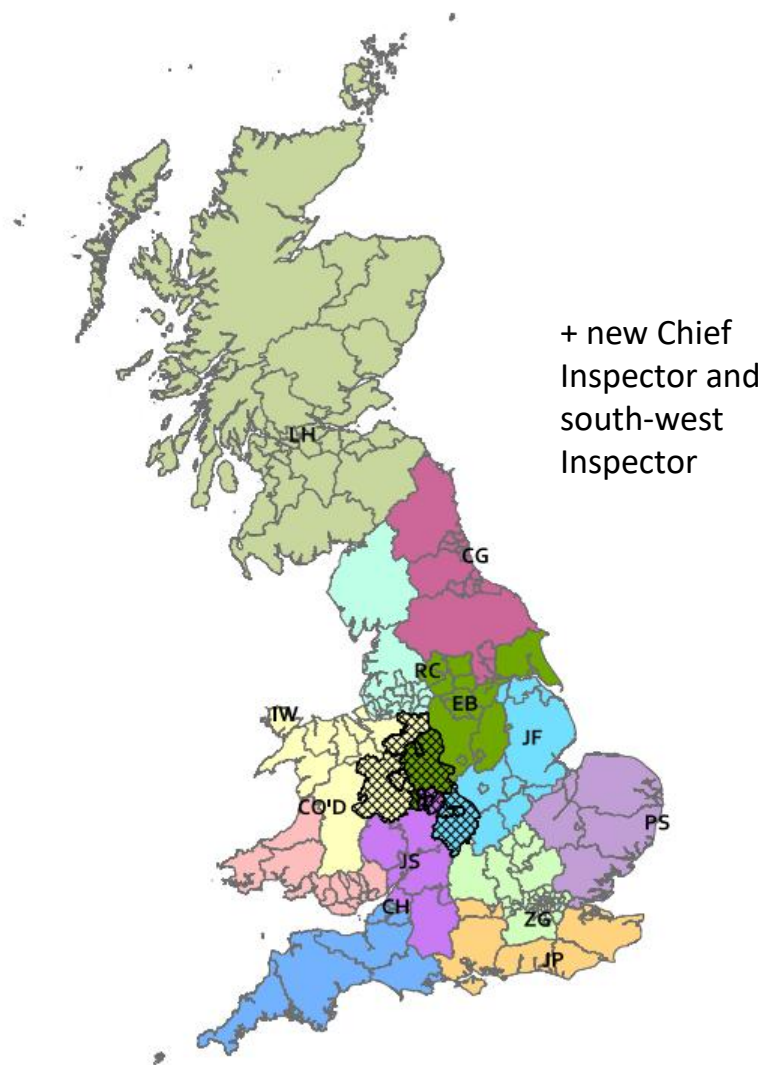
- Working with:
 - National Biodiversity Centre Ireland
 - Nature Scot
 - North Wales Wildlife Trust
- Using WaREN toolkit to create a template for each nation
- Audience – New LAGs



About us

Enforcement Officers under the Invasive Alien Species Order 2019 & **Inspectors** under The Wildlife And Countryside Act 1981.

- Inspections / site visits
 - Enforcement (where necessary)
- Engagement / awareness raising
- Rapid response & eradication (e.g. Yellow legged hornet, sarracenia)



Thank you

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