

Inaugural Local Action Group Workshop

Shared Island Initiative- 24th-25th March 2026

Waterways Ireland Headquarters, 2 Sligo Rd, Enniskillen BT74 7JY

PROGRAMME

Day 1

10.30-11.00: Registration, tea/coffee and networking opportunity

Part 1- 11.00-11.30: Welcome and opening

- 11.00: Opening plenary (Eamonn Horgan, Waterways Ireland)
- 11.15: "Local Action Group's and their role in reducing the impact of invasives in GB" (Ben Francis, Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA))

Part 2- 11.30-12.40: Updates

- 11.30: "A Tale of Two Species: Community action against cherry laurel and Nuttall's waterweed" (Eoghan Connaughton, Gaelic Woodland Project)
- 11.40: "An introduction into the CALM Project and Engagement" (Jack Porter, Loughs Agency)
- 11.50: "Natural Extractives from Invasive Species: A citizen science approach" (Via Narasimhan, Atlantic Technological University, Sligo)
- 12.00: "An introduction to the AQUA Scheme" (Ben Francis, APHA)
- 12.10: "Invasive species prevention and management work with anglers and wildfowlers"- Michael Stinson (Rossinver Fishery & Lough Erne Wildfowlers)
- 12.20: "Developing a classification system for our long standing and large-scale invasive plant control programmes" (Callum Sinclair, Nature Scot)

Part 3- 12.40-13.15: Focused Workshop

Assessing stakeholder needs for invasive species management

13.15- 14.15 Networking and Lunch

Part 4- 14.15-15.15: Breakout sessions

Each group will have the opportunity to attend two of the workshops on rotation.

- 1) Rhododendron control (Kate Moore)
- 2) Managing widely spread species- The Pros and Cons (Rose Muir and Rachel Hamill)
- 3) Key components of invasive species timeline management (Callum Sinclair and John Kelly)

15.15-15.25 Group photo

Part 5- 15.25-16.25: Updates

- 15.25: “Shoreline and Islands Team” (Peter Kearns, Lough Neagh Partnership)
- 15.35: “Actions Against Invasives” (Trish Murphy, Inishowen Rivers Trust)
- 15.45: “Removal on invasive cord grass around the Strangford Lough” (Tomasz Ciesielski, National Trust)
- 15.55: “How community led grey squirrel control works in NI – what works, what doesn’t” (Dr Jon Lees, Northern Ireland Squirrel Group)
- 16.10: “Incorporating landscape action into a national agri-environment scheme: Lessons from ACRES” (Julien Carlier, ACRES)
- 16.20 “Northern Ireland’s agri-environment scheme” (Rose Muir, Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA))

Part 6- 16.25-17.00: Q&A and Close

- 16.25: Questions for guest speakers and open discussion
- 16:50: Introduction of the Local Action Group Toolkit and close of day one (Rose Muir, NIEA)

Day 2

Part 1- 09.30-09.45: Updates

- 09.30- “The Midlands Mink Eradication Programme” (Owen Murphy, Breeding Waders EIP)
- 09.45- “Leave No Trace Introduction” (Aoibhín Ryan, Leave No Trace)

Part 2- 10.00-11.00: Practical field sessions and workshops

1) Predator control: Trap setting and placement with an introduction to Conservation Detection Dog’s (Owen Murphy, Breeding Waders EIP)

2) Empowering communities through volunteering & behavioural change in responsible recreation (Aoibhín Ryan, Leave No Trace)

Part 3- 11.00-11.45: Exhibits

- 1) Citizen Science: Recording invasives and how sightings assist with monitoring, managing and tracking (Kate Moore, NBDC and Amy Laird, National Museum NI)
- 2) Biosecurity: Biosecurity kits, made simple and accessible (Chantel Carr, NBDC)
- 3) Island Biosecurity and Eradication: Prints and poo (Charlotte Bosanquet, RSPB)
- 4) LAWPRO (Luke Kenny, LAWPRO)
- 5) Grey squirrel control (Dr Jon Lees NIEA)

Part 4- 11.45-12.30: Close

- 11.45: Questions for guest speakers
- 12.00: Feedback forms
- 12.15: Closing remarks for the Inaugural Shared Island Local Action Group workshop (Chantel Carr, NBDC)
- 12.30: Departure



Thank you to the funders of the Shared Island Local Action Group workshop.



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



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