



# Newsletter

Autumn / Winter 2024

## Invasive Species



### Freshwater Invasives

LIFE WADER is working closely with the Tweed Invasives Project to tackle riverside invasive species across the Tweed catchment and North Northumberland. Invasive plants are tackled strategically, starting at the uppermost source and working steadily downstream to prevent reinfestation and towards eradication.

With WADER's help, the Tweed Invasives Project has been able to extend their catchment-wide control of Giant Hogweed, American Skunk Cabbage and Japanese Knotweed, employ

new survey technologies, such as drones, and also expand their exploration of non-chemical approaches.

Together they will publish a new online biosecurity plan for the Tweed catchment and set up a new biosecurity group to identify new threats. They are also working with stakeholders and community groups to spread awareness and give volunteers the opportunity to get involved in surveying, data gathering and direct control of the target species.

### Dune Invasives

The network of sand dunes on the Northumberland coastline is of national significance (Northumberland holds 10% of the UK's dune systems), supporting rich biodiversity and protecting the coastline from flooding and storms.





But in many areas invasive species are consuming the dunes – interrupting their natural cycle of movement and crowding out the native flora and fauna with a stabilised monoculture. Without intervention the Northumberland dunescape will become completely engulfed, endangering many native species including toads, lizards, butterflies, tiny orchids and cranesbill, which need the shifting sand and the spacious sanctuaries of the dune slacks to survive.

WADER has begun a major programme of nature recovery work across the dunes at Bamburgh, Embleton Links, Buston, Alnmouth and Warkworth, targeting invasive species, including Ivy, Sea Buckthorn, Snowberry and Blackthorn. This month we began an intensive programme of mechanical removal at Bamburgh and Warkworth where many of the invasives are so entrenched that removal by hand is impossible.

We will be working closely with the landowners, Northumberland Coast National Landscape, Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve and the National Trust to evaluate the success of this large-scale removal, create a long-term invasive removal programme and ensure a co-ordinated approach across the coastline.



## Marine Invasives

LIFE WADER is working with Newcastle University to understand the extent and distribution of marine invasive species in the North Sea and develop best practice for early detection. Together we are also developing a 'rapid response toolkit' and establishing and refining a network of stakeholders to enhance the development of biosecurity protocol across the region.

The team began field monitoring in February 2023, with SETL panels at nine locations along a 103-mile section of the coast from St Abbs Marine Station to Hartlepool Marina. The data gathered will build on previous years' to track changes, identify emerging trends and patterns, help inform management measures and locate geographic boundaries limiting INNS distribution.

## Stay connected

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