



Issue 6
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www.qub.ac.uk/cirb

Success for the 2013 control season

The warm and dry summer months boosted the 2013 control efforts as spraying was not halted by the wet weather that plagued the 2012 season.

Himalayan Balsam control was completed during July and August in project catchments. Balsam bashing events were again held in many areas in Scotland with great support from local volunteers.

Japanese Knotweed treatment commenced in

catchments during late summer and continued into October as scheduled. The use of an ATV in several catchments has also proved very beneficial to the treatment of large stands of Japanese knotweed.

Help from local volunteer groups has once again greatly aided the continued effort to tackle invasive species on project catchments, and will be invaluable in years to come.



Above: Himalayan balsam flowers

Below: Treatment of Japanese knotweed



Arran Island Awareness Weekend

The Ayrshire Rivers Trust held an awareness weekend on the island of Arran on the 17th-18th August. Three project staff along with the CIRB project manager attended the weekend and presented talks to locals on invasive species. In addition, demonstrations were held on surveying and recording sightings on the website.



The weekend was a great success and locals have already started recording sightings. Since the event, training in pesticide spraying has been organised for a number of volunteers on the island, who will be ready to carry out control in key areas in 2014.

CIRB Awareness & Education Events

July to September 2013

- Awareness weekend including talks and demonstrations on Arran Island
- Attendance of the IUCN workshop on invasive species in Geneva, Switzerland
- Awareness and training day for North Ayrshire Council staff



- Presentation of a workshop on the identification of invasive species in conjunction with IT Sligo and the National Biodiversity Data Centre
- Presentation to An Taisce on invasive species and biosecurity
- Presentation on Biosecurity to participants in the World Youth Fly Fishing Championships
- Presentation and Q&A session at the Stranraer Courthouse for the Wigtownshire Faculty for local legal professionals.
- Attendance at the Galloway Country Fair, Wigtown Show, Scottish Game Fair, the Border Union Agricultural Show, the Black Isle Show, the Peebles Agricultural Show the Glendale Show and the Yarrow Agricultural Show.



- Project meeting with CABI
- Demonstration of Japanese knotweed stem injection techniques to Ballina Town Council
- Presentation on INNS to the Foyle Biodiversity Partnership

For future events, log on to the website

www.qub.ac.uk/cirb

CIRB Project Signs

Catchment-specific signage is currently being erected across all project catchments. These signs list key invasive species information, identification keys and contact details to report sightings. They will also be crucial in raising awareness and understanding of the threat of invasive species in project areas.



CIRB Work Experience



Two students from Thornhill College, Londonderry, spent a week's work experience with the CIRB project team during September 2013. The students gained valuable experience and insight into the project both in the field and also during time spent in Queen's University, Belfast.

Tweed Giant Hogweed Control: 10 years on...

As part of a 10 year programme of on-going giant hogweed control on the Tweed, independent monitoring work undertaken during July and August 2013 has shown how effective the control programme has been.



Above left: Lower Tweed giant hogweed site prior to treatment in 2003

Above right: Same site in summer 2013



Above left: Ettrick Water Japanese knotweed site prior to treatment in 2003

Above right: Same site in summer 2013



Aerial view of the site taken from a drone in July 2013, showing eradication of giant hogweed and re-colonisation with native species

Monitoring at six sites which were badly infected has shown that both giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed have been virtually eradicated. A diligent team of dedicated Tweed Forum contractors is ensuring that there is on-going effective treatment. Encouragingly, a broad range of native plant species is recolonizing the treated areas.

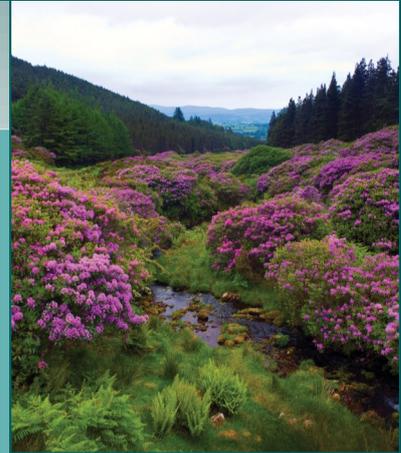
CIRB WEBSITE

The CIRB website has had a continual stream of visitors since it went live in 2011. Hits have increased steadily and it now attracts over 400 visits and 5000 hits per month. It is constantly updated with new information and news from the project, and is a vital outreach tool to raise awareness of invasive species.

www.qub.ac.uk/cirb

Want more information....?

As part of the CIRB project, we hope to reach as many people as possible to spread the word of the threats of invasive species and the work being carried out by the project. If you would like further information on invasive species, control, presentations and demonstrations, please contact the Project Manager, Dr Catherine McGavigan: c.mcgavigan@qub.ac.uk



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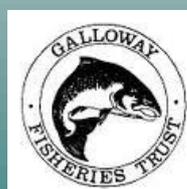
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ARGYLL FISHERIES TRUST



Ayrshire
Rivers Trust



TWEED
FORUM

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