

Invasive Non Native Species Factsheet

for Guides, Leaders and Coaches

What are Invasive Non Native Species (INNS)?

For the last few hundred years since the first explorers sailed the seven seas, people have brought unusual plants and animals into this country. Many were brought in to enhance someone's land or out of idle curiosity. Today we live with the consequences of their actions. The grey squirrel was introduced and now our native red squirrel has all but disappeared. Japanese Knotweed brought in to add a different dimension to the gardens of the wealthy has become a notifiable species yet still it infests large parts of the country and it is almost impossible to destroy. These are just two examples of INNS that have been brought in to our country and have upset our natural environment.

Please click on the link below to watch a video on a few of the common INNS which may impact you...

https://youtu.be/A_-5fP3pYGo

What does this mean for coaches?

You may well think - What has it got to do with me and as a coach. Well not only does a number of these INNS detrimentally impact our native species but has a massive impact on our waterways where you may well be teaching your students. Several plant species have caused a major headache to navigation authorities who have to spend £25 million per year in clearing these plants that are able to totally block river, lake and canal systems and prevent the commercial and recreational use of these waters.

Still today people bring in to the country INNS including plants and animals without due consideration what their impact can be. Even within our country we can unwittingly transfer species from one area to another. The very nature of canoeing is that the craft is highly transportable and can go from one water course to another and one country to another.

What can I do as a paddler and/or coach to help?

As a paddler you have a vital part to play in the promotion for the need to prevent the spread of alien species by all canoeists regardless of where they are paddling.



How do we stop the spread?

Regardless of the type of canoeing you do, whether competitive or recreational, inland or coastal, the chances are that you take your canoe/kayak on to different watercourses where there is a chance you may come in contact with these harmful species. In order to help stop the spread make sure to follow these three simple steps, **Check, Clean Dry**.

1. Check you're not carrying living organisms



- Check your equipment and clothing for living organisms
- Your equipment - pay particular attention to areas that are damp and hard to inspect such as the bow and stern of the boat, under the seats and rims and behind buoyancy bags and foot rests.
- Your clothing- check folds of cagoules, buoyancy aids, spray-decks, throw-lines, and the clothes you wear under your cagoules.

2. Clean all equipment, clothing and shoes



- Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothes thoroughly
- If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them do not take them home and if they are notifiable - Report It!
- Use tap water to clean you boat. In times of drought you will have to do this by watering cans and buckets. Take water with you so plan ahead!
- If you have a supply of hot water even better.

3. Dry equipment and clothing carefully



- Dry all equipment and clothing - some species can live for many days in moist conditions. If it's a warm sunny day, leave your boat out in the sun to dry - along with your extra kit.
- Dry your kit with towels etc ... they will need to be washed after use (unless you can dry them out properly between uses). You might need to think of innovative ways of reaching inside the end of your boat but it's important to do so.
- Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

YOU need to lead by example and Check, Clean, Dry especially if you are educating:

- a competitive paddler who trains and races on different water courses
- a freestyler/river runner who enjoys visiting a variety of waterways
- a sea paddler/kayak angler who also uses inland waterways
- a recreational paddler who enjoys touring around
- a canoe polo player who uses outdoor pitches
- a canoe sail participant who visit different places

Fundamentally we ALL need to do this as we have a major part to play in protecting the waterways we enjoy and are needed for our sport.

Prevent the spread of invasive species by asking members as well as visiting participants and competitors to wash down and dry boats, plus any other equipment such as wetsuits that may have been in contact with the water. Do this every time you leave the water and before you launch in new areas.

For more information visit:

<https://nbn.org.uk/tools-and-resources/useful-websites/non-native-species/>

Where you can find details of these measures and identification guidance for over 50 non-native animal and plant species.

