

Invasive Non-Native Species Report to the Chorley Liaison 21 July 2021.

I would note my thanks to Lindsay Blackstock for my invitation to the Douglas Catchment Meeting and acknowledge her success in obtaining funding to support an INNS coordinator.

I have provided an update on the main areas where Knotweed is a potential threat to the Yarrow River retention walls and to the infrastructure in Croston. I would note that I have heard that at least one property in Croston has been refused a mortgage because of knotweed.

The problem knotweed spread by flail mowing must urgently be addressed before the “no win-no fee brigade” start draining public funds from other more essential purposes.

The Shevington Causeway bank above the river retaining wall was almost clear of knotweed. I saw only one small clump (Fig 1). This should be reasonably easy to treat with herbicide. I can probably find a volunteer.



Fig 1

Round the corner, beside Carvers Brow, the knotweed is more widespread but mainly in smallish clumps between the road and the river retaining wall (Fig 2). There is at least one clump on the opposite bank (Fig 3). This area is also overrun with Himalayan Balsam.



Fig 2



Fig 3

Further upstream on the Yarrow between the Town Bridge and the Old School Bridge, above the river retaining wall there are several well established clumps of knotweed on the bank opposite the Old School (Figs 4&5). Previous volunteer herbicide applications have almost eliminated the knotweed in the area just downstream from the Old School Bridge.



Fig 4



Fig 5

Further upstream on the Yarrow no Knotweed has been reported as far as the inflow from Syd Brook but there are major infestations of Himalayan Balsam. It is worth noting that the recent landscaping of the Croston Hall Estate has removed huge areas of Balsam.

The knotweed has spread further along Syd Brook between the stream and the highway and is well established on the other side of the stream (Fig 6). It is also clear that the knotweed has been shredded by flail mowing the hedges and verges (Fig 7). This will have aided the further spread of Knotweed.



Fig 6



Fig 7

On Tinklers Lane, on the LHS, heading towards Ecclestone from the Robin Hood, the knotweed has spread much further along the verge and has now appeared on the opposite side of the road. Most of the new outbreaks are single canes which strongly indicates flail mowing as the cause (Figs 8,9&10). These could probably best be dealt with by herbicide injection or brush/sponge application to minimise damage to adjacent vegetation.



Fig 8



Fig 9



Fig 10

It is really important to stop this criminal spreading of knotweed. Since, I understand that CBC undertake the verge mowing for LCC., there is a good opportunity to sort this out, at least for this area.

Cllr Peter Fenemore
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