

INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES & THEIR CONQUEST OF CORNWALL

Trevor Renals, Environment Agency

Cornwall College, Newquay 3pm 22nd May 2009



Over the last century, global trade and travel has introduced plants and animals to new habitats. Some have become invasive. These invasive non-native species threaten biodiversity - with only habitat loss having a greater adverse impact. Invasives cost Britain £2 billion in 2007 and the annual global cost is US\$1.4 trillion. Cornwall too has suffered and climate change will make things worse. But Cornwall is fighting back. Two invasive non-native plants, floating pennywort and orange balsam, have been eradicated from the wild and Japanese knotweed has been significantly reduced. Through a good network of ecologists, land managers, volunteer groups and a sense of community, Cornwall has the potential to become an international centre of excellence for invasive non-native species management, creating models that are adopted by communities across the world.

Trevor Renals - born, bred and living in North Cornwall - will set out the issues and potential solutions involving invasive non-native species. He is Environment Agency advisor for invasive non-native species, co-founder of the ground-breaking Cornwall Knotweed Forum and a participant in Defra's review of non-native species policy.

This lecture is part of the activities of International Day for Biodiversity 2009
– this year's theme is invasive non-native species.



Attendance is free, but places are limited.

To reserve your place email peter.mcgregor@cornwall.ac.uk