

## **Plant Removal Policy**

### **1. Purpose**

This policy outlines the commitment and procedures for identifying, managing, and removing invasive non-native (alien) plant species that are restricted by law according to UK government regulations. The policy also covers our approach to native plants agriculturally classified as injurious.

The charity's aim is to protect native biodiversity, prevent ecological damage, safeguard pollinators, and comply with legal requirements.

### **2. Scope**

This policy applies to all properties and areas managed by Heal Rewilding. It is relevant to all staff, contractors, and volunteers involved in land management, horticulture, and related activities.

### **3. Legal Framework**

This policy is in accordance with the following legislation and guidelines:

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019
- Guidelines provided by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)\*

### **4. Definitions**

- **Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS):** Plants that have been introduced to an area outside their native range and that pose a threat to native biodiversity, economy, or human health.
- **Restricted Species:** Plant species listed under UK law that are subject to control or removal due to their invasive nature.
- **Injurious weeds:** These are identified by the UK government and are native to the UK. They contribute to biodiversity however some injurious weeds are poisonous to animals or can damage crops if they spread.

### **5. Policy Statement**

Heal Rewilding is committed to:

- Operating within the existing legal and regulatory frameworks as outlined by UK law.



- Identifying and recording occurrences of invasive non-native plant species on its sites.
- Removing and appropriately disposing of restricted non-native plant species as mandated by UK law.
- Responding swiftly and effectively to any injurious weed enforcement action that is brought against them by Defra.
- Plants that are not listed in the UK government policies as above will not be removed in line with the charity's purpose to support nature.

## 6. Responsibilities

- Director: Oversees the implementation of this policy, ensures compliance with legal requirements, and coordinates training and awareness.
- Rewilding Rangers: Conducts regular surveys, identifies restricted species, and carries out removal and disposal operations where needed.
- All Staff and Volunteers: Report sightings of invasive non-native species and support removal efforts where appropriate.

## 7. Procedures

### 7.1 Identification and Recording

- Conduct regular site surveys to identify invasive non-native plant species.
- Maintain a detailed log of identified species, including location, extent, and date of identification.

### 7.2 Removal and Disposal

- Follow Defra guidelines for safe removal and disposal.
- Use appropriate methods to ensure effective removal without harming the environment.
- Ensure all removed plant material is disposed of in accordance with local waste management regulations to prevent re-establishment.

## 8. Training and Awareness

- Provide training sessions for staff and volunteers on the identification of invasive non-native plant species.
- Distribute informational materials and updates on legal requirements and best practices.



## 9. Monitoring and Review

- Regularly review and update this policy to reflect changes in legislation and best practices.

## 10. Contact Information

For further information or to report an invasive non-native plant species, please contact:

Daniel Hill, Rewilding Ranger

T: 01749 684 757

E: [land@healrewilding.org.uk](mailto:land@healrewilding.org.uk)

Approval and Implementation:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J Stannard".

Signature:

Approved by: Jan Stannard \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 13/06/2024 \_\_\_\_\_

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Effective Date: 30/05/2024

Policy Owner: Sarah Winchester, Director

Approved By: Jan Stannard, Acting CEO, Co-Founder and Trustee

Next Review Date: 30/05/2025

This policy ensures Heal Rewilding aligns with UK government regulations, protecting native ecosystems and promoting biodiversity through responsible management of invasive non-native plant species.

\* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/invasive-non-native-alien-plant-species-rules-in-england-and-wales>