

### **Avon Invasive Weed Forum**

The Avon Invasive Weed Forum is an independent forum group which is supported by representatives from; The Environment Agency; Avon and Frome Partnership; Bristol City, South Gloucestershire, and BANES County Councils; BRERC; The Wildlife Trust; British Waterways; and Network Rail. It also has support from several local individuals and local conservation groups.

The Avon Invasive Weed Forum's main aim is to raise awareness of the issue of riparian non-native invasive weeds such as Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed, in the Bristol and Avon area. The forum is also working with other organisations to help co-ordinate their control, and also to improve our understanding of where these weeds are by co-ordinating surveys and setting up a public recording system.

### **Events for IDB 22 May.**

To celebrate International Biodiversity Day the Avon Invasive Weed Forum is holding two community events. Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May is Halt The Invasion Day! and the forum and volunteers will be clearing Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the River Frome, in Frampton Cotterell, South Gloucestershire, where the weed is in abundance. On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May the forum will be joining in The Colliters Brook Trek, a guided community walk exploring the Colliters Brook in Ashton Vale, Bristol. During the walk we will be asking the walkers to take part in an invasive non-native weed survey. This will form part of our plan to survey key watercourses in the former Avon area. Meeting at the Create Centre, Smeaton Road at 10am.

Several more volunteer events and surveys will be arranged throughout the summer. If you would like to get involved in the forum or if you would like to lend a hand in future events, please contact us on [info@aiwf.org.uk](mailto:info@aiwf.org.uk) or check out our website at [www.aiwf.org.uk](http://www.aiwf.org.uk).