POST VISIT WEED CONTROL REPORT

Stanley Common

2020 - 2021 season

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Creeping thistles, old dump site, Stanley, before spraying February 2021

Report Author(s)	Ken Passfield, Sally Poncet
Report date	18/05/21
Site(s) visited	Stanley Common and Stanley town
Landowner	Falkland Islands Government
Date(s) of visit	31 October 2020 to 15 May 2021
Operator(s)	Ken Passfield and Sally Poncet
Access	By ILC vehicle from Stanley
Accommodation	n/a - day visits only
Biosecurity	All gear cleaned between sites
Main funder	Falkland Islands Government (Environmental Studies Budget)
Co-funding/in-kind assistance	nil
Target species	Gorse, heather, spear thistles, creeping thistles, calafate, European eyebright
Weed cover (gorse)	6,400 square metres (includes gorse that will not be sprayed eg at Gypsy Cove)
Area controlled (gorse)	2,681 square metres

Weed cover (heather)	2.1 square metres
Area controlled (heather)	2.1 square metres
Weed cover (spear thistle)	None found
Area controlled (spear thistle)	None found
Weed cover (creeping thistle)	4,571 square metres
Area controlled (creeping thistle)	4,571 square metres
Weed cover (calafate)	None found
Area controlled (calafate)	None found
Weed cover (eyebright)	Unknown
Area controlled (eyebright)	nil
Overall search area	>100 square km
Hours of work on sites	80
Hours travel to sites	Not recorded as all sites were a short distance from Stanley
No. of days invoiced	10
Control method	Foliar application of herbicide using knapsack sprayers
Herbicide mix used	Mix 1 (used on gorse and creeping thistles): Meturon @ 0.5g/litre + organosilicone @ 1ml/litre + red dye @ 8ml/litre Mix 2 (used on heather): Grazon 90 @ 6ml/litre + organosilicone @ 1ml/litre + red dye @ 8ml/litre
Litres of mix used	Gorse: 459.5 litres of mix 1 Creeping thistle: 168.5 litres of mix 1 Heather: 2.5 litres of mix 2
Data recorded	Plant co-ordinates, amount of cover and spray quantities recorded in the field on mobile phones using the Weed App developed by Kelvin Floyd, Indigena Ltd, New Zealand. This data synced to weed database daily. Database archived with Island LandCare, Stanley.
Weather conditions	Work was only carried out in ideal conditions i.e. dry with not too much wind
Comments	**Gorse:** Gorse was controlled at 23 separate sites around the Common (see map below). The control that had been carried out the year before was very effective. Smaller bushes were generally all dead, and we continued to work our way into the heart of the largest bushes. All gorse found on the Common was sprayed with the aim of total elimination except for: a) Gypsy Cove, where the intention is to prevent further spread of the visible gorse at the Cove itself by a mixture of spraying and manually controlling the edges of the gorse, and planting tussac tillers to 'fence off' the gorse and give a barrier beyond which it will not be allowed to spread. Spraying here was done with a light touch so large scale changes should not be apparent. Once the methodology has proved itself we will deal with the large bush by the viewing platform closest to the toilets. b) Two Sisters Farm, the large spreading bush is next to stone ruins at the site and is of historic significance. About 75% of this 400 square metre bush was sprayed with the intention of leaving the remaining part of the bush alive.. c) Furze Bush Pass, there is approximately 1,560 square metres of gorse at this site and it appears to be spreading downstream. It is suggested that next season we control the outlying bushes and the margins only of the main patch. No gorse was sprayed there this year as at the time of visiting the river level was high and the bases of the outlying bushes were underwater. Spraying would be far more effective at times of low water level.

	Heather: One 2 square metre patch of heather sprayed last year on Cape Pembroke was found to have a few green leaves remaining so the entire plant was manually removed and burnt. One new patch also 2 square metres in area was reported and this was sprayed too. **Spear thistles:** None were found. **Creeping thistles:** This species is easy to kill with herbicides as the plants are all joined by a network of rhizomes which transport herbicides between plants. After a single light spray the area of creeping thistles at Mary Hill was reduced from 525 sq.m in 2019/20 to 20 sq m this year. At the request of Denise Blake, creeping thistles at the old dump site were controlled; total area sprayed here was 4,550 sq m. A new site 1 sq m in area was found at the high level water tanks on Sappers Hill; and a single plant by the Beckside turn off from the MPA road; these were both sprayed. **Calafate:** No new sites were found, previously controlled sites were checked if passing and no new growth was found on any of them. **European eyebright:** We surveyed the extent of European eyebright and agree with previous reports that control of this species is not possible as it is impossible to distinguish from native eyebright.
Followup work	**Gorse/heather/creeping thistles:** followup visits to all sites in the 2021/22 season. **Calafate:** followup visits to all known sites in the 2023/24 season
Fieldwork log	31/10/20: 4 hours gorse followup 19/02/21: 8 hours gorse followup 22/02/21: 8 hours gorse followup 24/02/21: 8 hours gorse followup 25/02/21: 8 hours creeping thistle control 02/03/21: 8 hours creeping thistle control 13/05/21: 8 hours gorse control and survey 13/05/21: 4 hours heather control and search 14/05/21: 16 hours gorse control and tussac planting 15/05/21: 8 hours gorse control and tussac planting

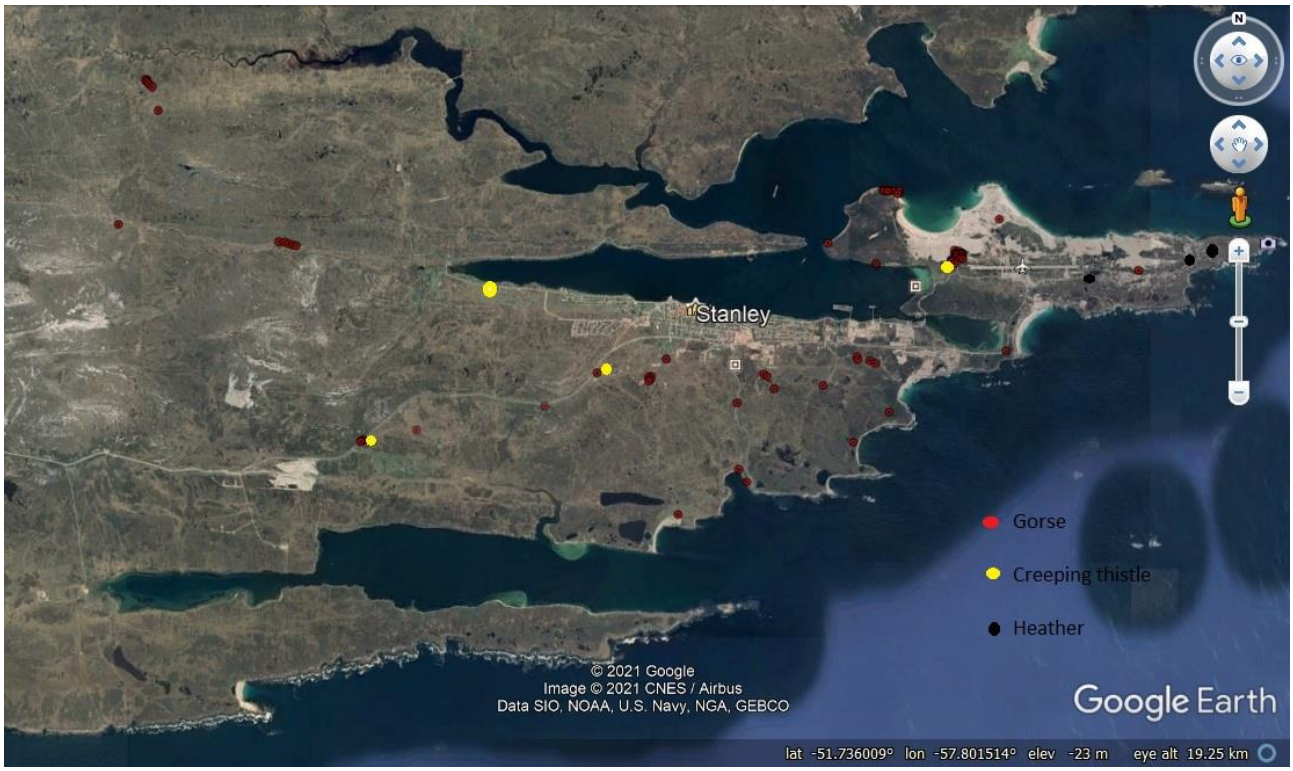

Fig 1: Weed locations around Stanley common