

STANLEY COMMON

POST VISIT WEED CONTROL REPORT

2021 - 2022 season



Followup gorse control at Gypsy Cove May 2022

Report date: 20 May 2022

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Site(s) visited	Stanley Common, Stanley Town and Fairy Cove. Stanley Town and Fairy Cove are not included in the contract but because calafate control has been done here in the past and there is potential for it to spread, calafate followup was also done in these areas. See Map 1 for locations.
Landowner(s)	Falkland Islands Government and Falkland Islands Company (Fairy Cove)
Date(s) of visits	28 March 2022 to 20 May 2022
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 Department)
Co-funding	nil
Target species	Gorse heather, spear thistles, creeping thistles, calafate
Weed cover (gorse)	4,500 square metres (includes gorse that will not be sprayed eg at Gypsy Cove)
Area controlled (gorse)	890 square metres
Weed cover (heather)	1.3 square metres
Area controlled (heather)	1.3 square metres
Weed cover (spear thistle)	None found
Area controlled (spear thistle)	None found
Weed cover (creeping thistle)	60.5 square metres
Area controlled (creeping thistle)	60.5 square metres
Weed cover (calafate)	5.5 square metres
Area controlled (calafate)	5.5 square metres
Overall search area	>100 square km
Hours of work	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 and calafate): Eliminate @ 6ml/litre + Meturon @ 0.5g/litre + organosilicone @ 1ml/litre + red dye @ 8ml/litre
Litres of mix used	Gorse: 218 litres of mix 1 Creeping thistle: 13.5 litres of mix 1 Heather: 4.2 litres of mix 2 Calafate: 3.8 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 ILC's database manager, 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

<p>Comments</p>	<p>Gorse: Gorse was controlled at 25 separate sites around the Common (see map below). A new site was found at the spoil tip near Yorke Bay Pond. The control that has been carried out over the last two years has been very effective. Smaller bushes were generally all dead, larger bushes have been sprayed in stages from the outside in, waiting for the outer leaves and branches to die back first which allows easy access to the heart of the bush. All gorse on the Common was sprayed with the aim of total elimination except for:</p> <p>a) Gypsy Cove: the intention here is to prevent further spread of the visible gorse above the Cove itself through a mixture of spraying and manually controlling the edges of the gorse, and by planting tussac tillers to 'fence off' the gorse and create a barrier beyond which gorse will not be allowed to spread. The work carried out here last season was successful and spraying was again done with a light touch so large scale changes should not be apparent.</p> <p>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 in 2021 with the intention of leaving the remaining part of the bush alive.</p> <p>c) Furze Bush Pass: there is approximately 1,560 square metres of gorse at this site and it is spreading downstream. 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 and this will be carried out in summer 2022/23. The intention here is to control all outliers but leave the main patch alive, as it is of cultural significance..</p> <p>Heather: Three small patches at sites on the Cape Pembroke peninsula were checked, and a small amount of regrowth was found at two of them. One small patch at Moody Brook, reported by Denise Blake in 2021, was located and sprayed.</p> <p>Spear thistles: None were found.</p> <p>Creeping thistles: 40 square metres was controlled at Mary Hill dump as were single plants at the Beckside turn-off and the High-Level water tanks on Sapper's Hill. A new site was found at the Yorke Bay Pond spoil heap. Creeping thistles in the paddocks to seaward of the old butchery site at the west end of Stanley Harbour were not controlled this year as they are not within Stanley Common.</p> <p>Calafate: No new sites were found, previously controlled sites were checked and plants were controlled. One new bush was found on the Camber, there was some regrowth on a few bushes that had been sprayed in previous years, and a few small new seedlings.</p> <p>European eyebright: No work as carried out on this species as it was agreed with Denise Blake, Environmental Officer, last year that control was not feasible.</p> <p>Yorke Bay Pond Spoil Heap: 48 small gorse seedlings were found in the same area as a patch of creeping thistle, about 100 metres south of the pond. This area will need to be monitored for weeds for the foreseeable future. Common dock is also widespread at this site, including along the pond margin. Subject to agreement, this species can be controlled next season within the scope of the current 5 year Stanley Common weed control programme.</p>
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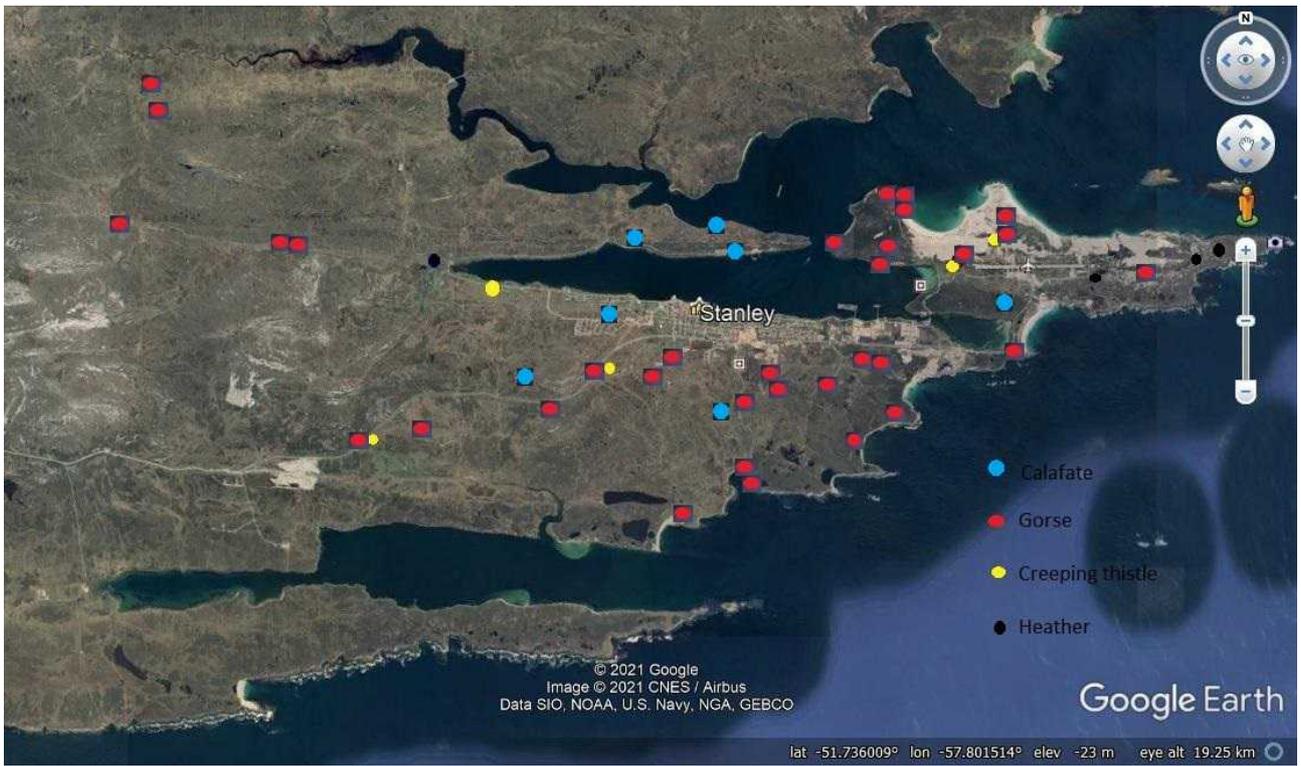


Fig 1: Weed locations on Stanley Common