

# POST VISIT WEED CONTROL REPORT

## Stanley common weeds March to June 2020

### Island LandCare

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Gorse near Gypsy Cove, June 2020. Photo Ken Passfield

Report Author(s)	Ken Passfield, Sally Poncet
Report date	22/06/20
Site visited	Stanley Common, Stanley Town, Fairy Cove. Although Stanley Town and Fairy Cove are not a part of the contract, calafate spraying has been carried out here in the past and there is the potential for calafate to spread to adjacent areas of the Common so one day was spent on followup in these areas.
Access permission	Not required for Common or Town, granted by FIC for Fairy Cove
Date(s) of visit	31 March to 20 June dates overall
Operator(s)	Ken Passfield and Sally Poncet
Access	By vehicle from Stanley
Accommodation	Day visits only
Biosecurity	All gear cleaned between sites, vehicle checked when appropriate
Main funder	Falkland Islands Government
Co-funding/in-kind assistance	nil
Target species	Gorse, Heather, Spear Thistles, Creeping thistles, Calafate, European eyebright

Weed cover (Gorse)	7,488 sq m
Area controlled (Gorse)	3,488 sq m
Weed cover (Heather)	1 sq m
Area controlled (Heather)	1 sq m
Weed cover (Spear thistle)	None found
Area controlled (Spear thistle)	Nil
Weed cover (Creeping thistle)	525 sq m
Area controlled (Creeping thistle)	525 sq m
Weed cover (Calafate)	11 sq m
Area controlled (Calafate)	11 sq m
Weed cover (Eyebright)	Unknown
Area controlled (Eyebright)	nil
Overall search area	> 100 sq km
Hours of work on sites	76 hours work on site, 4 hours remote searching for Gorse (using Google Earth)
Hours travel to sites	Not recorded as all sites were a short drive by vehicle from Stanley
No. of days invoiced	10 person days
Control method	Foliar application of herbicides using knapsack sprayers
Herbicide mix used	a) Meturon @ 0.5g/litre, organosilicone @ 1ml/litre, red dye @ 8ml/litre b) Meturon @ 0.5g/litre, Eliminate @ 6ml/litre, organosilicone @ 1ml/litre, red dye @ 8ml/litre c) Meturon @ 0.5g/litre, Vantor @ 6ml/litre, organosilicone @ 1ml/litre, red dye @ 8ml/litre  Meturon: active ingredient metsulfuron 600g/kg Eliminate: active ingredients picloram 100g/litre and triclopyr 300g/litre Vantor: active ingredient picloram 280g/litre
Litres of mix used	a) 256 litres, b) 60 litres, c) 100 litres
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 ie, dry with not too much wind
Comments	<b>Gorse:</b> See attached map for gorse locations. There may be gorse in other locations which we have not found yet. All known sites were sprayed except sites that are of cultural or historic significance namely 2,500sq m at Gypsy Cove, 500 sq m at Two Sisters gate, 1,000 sq m at Furze Bush Pass (estimated). It is suggested that these three sites are managed to decrease the cover of gorse without eradicating it altogether. Most of the gorse sites were sprayed with meturon only (mix a) which takes weeks or months to kill the plants completely. The centres of some of the larger bushes were inaccessible so will be sprayed during followup. Some gorse was sprayed with Eliminate (mix b) and Vantor (mix c) to compare efficacy with Meturon only. Controlling all gorse on Stanley Common is felt to be feasible within the lifespan of the project using currently

	<p>allocated resources (10 person days per year).</p> <p><b>Heather:</b> One site to the SE of Stanley airport was controlled.</p> <p><b>Spear thistles:</b> None were found in the area.</p> <p><b>Creeping thistles:</b> 525 sq m were sprayed in the vicinity of Mary Hill dump site. There is a large population of creeping thistles in the old dump site west of the Mink Park. These were not sprayed as they are not within the Stanley Common area, however they are spreading and need attention.</p> <p><b>Calafate:</b> All known sites were visited and a small amount of followup was required of seedlings only. Most of the 11 sq m of calafate sprayed was a single 10 sq m bush reported by Dan Fowler to the west of the Eliza Cove access road. This was a new site. Annual followup of calafate is not recommended as searching for small seedlings is very time consuming, so it is better to search every 3 or 4 years when plants are more visible.</p> <p><b>European eyebright:</b> None was visible at this time of year. After reading previous reports it appears unlikely that control of this species is possible as it is hard to find and hard to distinguish from the native eyebright, however we will map the extent of its distribution in summer 2020/21 and make an informed decision then as to whether control is possible.</p> <p><b>Other species:</b> Two common dock plants were hand-pulled at Yorke Bay pond</p>
Followup work	<p><b>Gorse/heather/creeping thistles/spear thistles:</b> followup visits to all sites in 2020/21 season</p> <p><b>Calafate:</b> followup visits to all known sites in 2023/24 season.</p>
Acknowledgements	<p>With thanks to Denise Blake, FIG Environmental Officer, for her support for this programme.</p>