

# Intrepid scouts help with the fight against balsam

INTREPID scouts have been helping the Carmarthen Fisherman's Federation with the eradication of a non-native invasive plant species.

The Himalayan balsam plant blocks access to rivers, overwhelms the native plants of the county, damages fisheries and affects the ecology of the water.

The plant is recognised as a particular concern to farmers on the Towy, according to recent surveys conducted by Natural Resources Wales and anglers who see it as a significant threat affecting our river habitat.

The Merlin Explorer Scouts completed the mapping on the major northern tributary, the Sawdde, an area amounting to more than eight miles.

It was such an important location to tackle the plants, because seeds produced by the plant are dispersed and colonised downstream.

A free mobile phone application called Plant Tracker is available to track invasive plant species, for those who would like to help tackle the problem.



Merlin Explorer Scouts at work.

