

# **NEW FOREST NON-NATIVE PLANTS PROJECT**

## **REPORT TO STEERING GROUP MEETING ON 17 MAY 2013**

**Report covering the period  
1 January 2013 – 30 April 2013**

**Catherine Chatters  
New Forest Non-Native Plants Project Officer  
7 May 2013**

**[http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/pages/living\\_landscap-new-forest-non-native-plants-project-1384.html](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/pages/living_landscap-new-forest-non-native-plants-project-1384.html)**

## **Publicity**

### Press releases

HIWWT issued the following press releases on behalf of The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project between 1 January – 30 April 2013:-

- Press release dated 10 January 2013 relating to the funding for the Project provided by BT People Awards scheme. The grant application was submitted by Ian Sampson, a BT employee who volunteers for the Project, and it enabled the Project Officer to purchase a hand-held GPS device and two waterproof clipboards to be used by people volunteering for the Project.
- Press release dated 24 January 2013 relating to the workshop on 12 February 2013 jointly hosted by the NFNNPP and the Source to Sea project to raise awareness of invasive non-native plants amongst anglers, fly fishermen and river keepers.
- Press release dated 7 February 2013 relating to the announcement (in January 2013) about the forthcoming ban on sale (in April 2014) of certain invasive non-native plants

### Publications and websites

- HIWWT members' e-newsletter dated 10 January 2013 included reference to the New Zealand pygmyweed conference (20 March 2013) organised by New Forest Non-Native Plants Project
- Article in Lymington Times dated 26 January 2013 relating to the workshop jointly hosted by the NFNNPP and the Source to Sea project to raise awareness of invasive non-native plants amongst anglers, fly fishermen and river keepers.
- Article in RINSE newsletter Issue 2 January 2013 relating to the two training sessions hosted by NFNNPP during summer 2012 to raise awareness amongst staff in Hampshire County Council Highways Department and staff at Enterprise Mouchel (consultants for Highways Agency)
- News item in February 2013 edition of 'Hampshire Life' magazine relating to the New Zealand pygmyweed conference on 20 March 2013 hosted by the Project
- Article in Lymington Times on 23 February 2013 as a result of the press release issued by HIWWT relating to forthcoming ban on sale
- Article in Hampshire Chronicle on 28 February 2013 as a result of the press release issued by HIWWT relating to forthcoming ban on sale
- Article in Romsey Advertiser on 8 March 2013 as a result of the press release issued by HIWWT relating to forthcoming ban on sale
- Basingstoke Gazette website 13 March 2013 as a result of the press release issued by HIWWT relating to forthcoming ban on sale
- Daily Echo website 13 March 2013 as a result of the press release issued by HIWWT relating to forthcoming ban on sale
- Article in Hampshire Chronicle on 14 March 2013 as a result of the press release issued by HIWWT relating to forthcoming ban on sale
- The Spring 2013 edition of 'Wood Wise' (a Woodland Trust publication) focussed on invasive non-native species and included an article about American skunk cabbage control undertaken by the Project

- HIWWT members' e-newsletter dated 22 March 2013 included a request for volunteers to pull balsam in Summer 2013
- The Spring 2013 edition of the HIWWT 'Wildlife' magazine included an article about balsam-pulling and a request for volunteers to help the Project in 2013
- The Herald No 267 (7 – 28 March 2013) included an article as a result of the press release issued by HIWWT relating to forthcoming ban on sale

#### Other publicity

- Press release issued by NFNPA on 30 January 2013 regarding the Volunteer Fair at Lyndhurst on 2 March 2013 included a quote from the NFNNPP Project Officer
- During summer 2012 local resident and author Emily Laurence Baker contacted the Project Officer and explained she was writing a book on the New Forest. She asked if she could participate in a balsam pull so she could find out about the Project and include relevant information in her book. She helped out on a balsam pull along the Passford Water. The resulting book 'Slow New Forest' was published by Bradt during spring 2013 and includes a well-written piece about the Project.

#### **Web site**

During spring 2013 the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) web site was re-launched. The web page and associated links relating to the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project have been improved and up-dated.

#### **Liaison with landowners and managers**

The following landowners/managers were met between 1 January – 30 April:-

- Sara Cadbury – 6 March 2013
- Fiona Rogers – 6 March 2013
- Mark Turley – 6 March 2013
- Simon Collyer – 15 March 2013

#### **Forum meeting held on 6 March 2013**

The Forum meeting held on 6 March 2013 was attended by 16 people. The Project Officer gave an update on the activities of the New Forest Non-Native Plants project since the previous Forum meeting held in March 2012. Jo Gore (Source to Sea Field Officer) gave an up-date on the work of the Source to Sea project and Jay Doyle of the Forestry Commission gave a presentation about a workshop he had attended in France, focussing on restoration of wetland habitats.

#### **Liaison with other Projects**

During spring 2013 the Project Officer had the opportunity to liaise with other project officers during the Local Action Group meeting at Preston Montford in January 2013 and during the New Zealand pygmyweed conference at Brockenhurst on 20 March 2013.

### **Capital works undertaken between 1 January – 30 April 2013**

During March 2013 aquatic dye was applied to the trial ponds to control *Crassula helmsii*. For further details refer to information elsewhere in this report (pages 15 and 16).

### **Practical control of other invasive non-native species by volunteers between 1 January – 30 April 2013**

During 2012 the Project Officer commissioned Neil Sanderson to prepare a report to highlight the quality of the habitats affected by invasion of pitcher plants *Sarracenia purpurea* at Holmsley Bog. Following receipt of this report, the Forestry Commission gave authority to the Project Officer to arrange for removal of the remaining mature pitcher plants at this location.

Martin Rand (BSBI Recorder for South Hampshire) volunteered to assist the Project Officer on 28 January 2013.



Volunteer Martin Rand preparing to remove the final clump of mature pitcher plants from Holmsley Bog on 28 January 2013. Although it was anticipated that a spade would be needed, it was easier to remove the majority of these pitcher plants by pulling them up by hand.





Removing the remaining mature pitcher plants on 28 January 2013



The Project Officer bagging-up the remaining mature pitcher plants at Holmsley Bog on 28 January 2013, for disposal by composting



Although the remaining mature pitcher plants were removed from Holmsley Bog on 28 January 2013 a lot of small seedlings were observed growing in the Bog. The Project Officer has arranged a further volunteer work party during winter 2013 to pull up these plants once they have had an opportunity to grow more, so their removal is less likely to cause unintentional damage to surrounding *Sphagnum* moss-dominated vegetation.

### **Promotional Talks**

During the period 1 January – 30 April 2013 the Project Officer gave promotional talks at the following events:-

- Hedge End Horticultural Society – 21 January 2013
- Local Action Group workshop at Preston Montford hosted by GB Non-Native Species Secretariat – presentation about control of skunk cabbage in the New Forest - 29 January 2013
- Equine event at Lyndhurst Community Centre hosted by the New Forest Land Advice Service – presentation on control of invasive non-native plants in horse/pony pastures - 13 February 2013
- The Robson meeting in St Ives, Cambridgeshire, hosted by Waterland Management Ltd – talk on the challenges faced by the Project during the unseasonably wet summer/autumn of 2012 - 7 March 2013
- Event hosted by Angela Peters of the New Forest National Park Authority at Plaitford Village Hall – talk on control of Himalayan balsam– 11 March 2013



The Project Officer gave a presentation on the trials to control New Zealand pygmyweed in the New Forest at the British Ecological Society conference at the University of Worcester on 25 March 2013.

- Lymington Women's Institute – general talk about the Project - 13 March 2013
- British Ecological Society conference on 'Management of Non-Native Species in UK Conservation' at University of Worcester. The Project Officer was invited by Dr John Dutton (Senior Lecturer in Ecology in Institute of Science and the Environment at University of Worcester) to give a presentation on the *Crassula helmsii* trials in the New Forest - 25 March 2013
- 'Hampshire Coarse Fish Workshop' hosted by Environment Agency and the Institute of Fisheries Management at Sparsholt College. This event was aimed at coarse fishermen and the Project Officer gave a talk on control of invasive non-native plants - Saturday 27 April 2013



Local resident Sarah Longmore looking at the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project display during event at Plaitford Village Hall hosted by the New Forest Land Advice Service on 11 March 2013. This event had been organised by Angela Peters of the New Forest National Park Authority to encourage local residents to control Himalayan balsam along the River Blackwater.



The Project Officer mounted a display and gave a presentation on 13 February 2013 at an event organised by The New Forest Land Advice Service at Lyndhurst Community Centre. The aim of the event was to advise horse and pony owners on sympathetic management of grasslands in the New Forest area.

### **Promotional Events**

The previous Steering Group report (which covered the period 1 September 2012 to 31 December 2012) failed to include reference to the two promotional events attended by the Project Officer during that reporting period. For the sake of completeness, they are mentioned below:-

#### Centenary event at Blashford on Saturday 8 September 2012

As part of the events to celebrate the centenary of 'The Wildlife Trusts' a two-day event was hosted by HIWWT at Blashford Lakes on 8 and 9 September 2012. The Project Officer manned a display on 8 September 2012 (Jo Gore, Source to Sea Field Officer manned the display on 9 September 2012).





The Project Officer manning the display at the Centenary event at Blashford Lakes on Saturday 8 September 2012

Lymington – Keyhaven Nature Reserve Open Day on Sunday 16 September 2012

The Project Officer manned a display at the event hosted by Hampshire County Council on Sunday 16 September 2012 at the Lymington-Keyhaven Nature Reserve. This was a good opportunity to speak to visitors to the reserve and raise awareness about invasive non-native plants.



The Project Officer raising awareness about invasive non-native plants at the Lymington – Keyhaven Nature Reserve Open Day on Sunday 16 September 2012

### Volunteer Fair on Saturday 2 March 2013

The Project Officer manned a display at the Volunteer Fair hosted by the New Forest National Park Authority at Lyndhurst Community Centre on Saturday 2 March 2013. This was an excellent opportunity to make contact with lots of people who were genuinely interested in volunteering to pull balsam in summer 2013, as well as generally raising awareness about the Project, the Wildlife Trust and invasive non-native plants.



The Project Officer with a potential volunteer at the Volunteer Fair on Saturday 2 March 2013



The posters promoting this event and the banner at the entrance to the Volunteer Fair incorporated photographs of people volunteering for the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project (pulling balsam and doing surveys)





Volunteers Roger Simmens and Graham Baker looking at the display during the Volunteer Fair on 2 March 2013

### Promotion of the 'Be Plant Wise' campaign and 'Check, Clean, Dry' campaigns



The New Forest Non-Native Plants project has continued to promote The 'Be Plant Wise' and 'Check, Clean, Dry' campaigns.

The 'Be Plant Wise' and 'Check, Clean, Dry' banners were displayed at the training session for anglers and fishermen on 12 February 2013 and Dr Ben Rushbrook gave a talk on bio-security at this event during which he mentioned 'Check, Clean, Dry'. 'Be Plant Wise' leaflets and 'Check, Clean, Dry' information sheets were included in the delegates' packs at this event. The Project Officer mounted a display to promote 'Be Plant Wise' at this event.

'Be Plant Wise' leaflets and 'Check, Clean, Dry' information sheets were included in the delegates' packs at the event focussing on control of New Zealand pygmyweed on 20 March 2013.

'Be Plant Wise' leaflets and 'Check, Clean, Dry' information sheets were made available for anglers during the event hosted by the Environment Agency at Sparsholt College on Saturday 27 April 2013.

### **Training provided by the Project Officer**

Training was organised and provided by the Project Officer during Spring 2013 through the 'RINSE' project. For further information please refer to the section in this report which relates to 'Reducing the Impact of Non-native Species in Europe' (page 19 onwards).

### **Volunteer survey, research and other activity**

#### Monitoring of control of parrot's feather

Sam Hemenstall (a student at Bournemouth University) volunteered for the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project during summer and autumn 2012 by monitoring the effectiveness of herbicide treatment to control parrot's feather at four sites in The New Forest. She prepared a report dated 22 February 2013 and met the Project Officer on 22 February 2013 to deliver the report and discuss the findings.



Parrot's feather (Photo: GBNNSS, Trevor Renals)



Monitoring of American skunk cabbage on HIWWT nature reserve in Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI

On 15 April 2013 Guy Mason (volunteer) helped the Project Officer install six quadrats within the HIWWT nature reserve in Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI and undertake botanical monitoring within each quadrat. The aim of the monitoring was to assess whether control of the skunk cabbage plants results in colonisation by native vegetation or colonisation by invasive non-native plants (ie American skunk cabbage and / or Himalayan balsam). The locations of the quadrats were selected to include some American skunk cabbage plants (which had presumably germinated following herbicide treatment undertaken in previous years since 2010). The cover of the skunk cabbage plants, other plants and bare ground/leaf litter was recorded using the 'DAFOR' scale. The number and size of the American skunk cabbage plants were recorded.



Volunteer Guy Mason helped the Project Officer install quadrats and undertake botanical recording using the 'DAFOR' scale on the HIWWT nature reserve in Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI on 15 April 2013



The number and size of the American skunk cabbage plants were recorded in each of the 6 quadrats on 15 April 2013



American skunk cabbage seedlings within one of the quadrats on 15 April 2013



Guy Mason had hoped to help the Project Officer undertake further monitoring at Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI on Monday 22 April 2013 using the 'DOMIN' scale as they had decided this would probably give more useful results than the 'DAFOR' scale. However Guy had a successful interview for a job on 16 April and was unable to help the Project Officer on 22 April as he started his new job that day. In the circumstances the Project Officer's husband (Clive Chatters) volunteered to accompany her on Sunday 21 April 2013 to undertake the 'DOMIN' recording in each of the six quadrats.



The Project Officer surveying one of the six quadrats on the HIWWT nature reserve in Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI using the 'DOMIN' scale on Sunday 21 April 2013

On 21 April 2013 those American skunk cabbage plants (within the quadrats) which were small enough to be removed using a trowel were dug-up. Larger skunk cabbage plants were left *in situ* for herbicide treatment later in the year (as the Project Officer feared that attempting to dig up the larger plants might not be successful and the plants might re-grow from root material left in the ground).

The monitoring undertaken on 15 and 21 April 2013 revealed that although a few plants were in flower, the majority of the American skunk cabbage plants on the HIWWT nature reserve in Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI are very small and will not flower in 2013. The Project Officer is concerned that other vegetation will grow up and 'hide' these skunk cabbage plants when the contractor undertakes herbicide treatment in 2013. Perhaps such small plants should be dug up by hand during the spring prior to herbicide treatment of more mature plants in the summer?

### New Zealand pygmyweed conference on 20 March 2013

The Project Officer was very grateful to the volunteers who helped at the conference hosted by the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project on 20 March 2013. Volunteers Tara Dempsey and Zoe Miles welcomed delegates and made sure that they signed-in and handed them their information packs. Volunteers Julie and Dave Thomas made tea and coffee and, together with Tara and Zoe, came early to set up the room and they all stayed on after the conference to clear away at the end of the event.

Time spent by volunteers on 20 March 2013:-

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Tara Dempsey | 8am to 5pm |
| Zoe Miles    | 9am to 5pm |
| Dave Thomas  | 8am to 5pm |
| Julie Thomas | 8am to 5pm |

### **Trials relating to control of New Zealand pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii***



New Zealand pygmyweed  
(Photo: Ashley Basil)

During Spring 2013 the Project Officer, with help from Natural England, secured a commitment to funding from the New Forest HLS scheme for the trials involving herbicide and organic hot foam during 2013. The Forestry Commission have agreed to fund the trials involving aquatic dye during 2013.

The Project Officer has commissioned two treatments of each control method (herbicide, aquatic dye, organic hot foam) during 2013:-

|                  |             |                |
|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Aquatic dye      | March 2013  | September 2013 |
| Organic hot foam | August 2013 | September 2013 |
| Herbicide        | August 2013 | September 2013 |

The organic hot foam treatments and herbicide treatments will be dependent on water levels in the trial ponds being low enough.



The Project Officer has commissioned Dr Naomi Ewald of Pond Conservation to undertake monitoring during 2013 to assess the effectiveness of the trials undertaken in 2012.

Aquatic dye

Aquatic dye treatment was undertaken by Dr Jonathan Newman of Waterland Management Ltd on Tuesday 12 March 2013.

Sachets of dye were added to the following ponds:-

Ipley

Hill Top (near the Royal Oak)

Wotton Drinking Pond

Mogshade (plus adjacent ditch)

Waterslade Farm

Abbot's Well (large pond).



Dr Jonathan Newman of Waterland Management Ltd applying aquatic dye at pond near Ipley on 12 March 2013

On 27 March 2013 the Project Officer and representatives of HIWWT, Natural England and Forestry Commission met Dr Naomi Ewald at Testwood Lakes to receive an update following Naomi's interim monitoring of the trial sites and control sites during spring 2013.

## **Organising control work for 2013**

### Himalayan balsam control by volunteers and contractor in 2013

On 2 April 2013 the Project Officer sent purchase orders to Ashley Basil (Ashley Basil Horticultural Services) to undertake balsam pulling and 'patrolling' in summer and autumn 2013 and to lead volunteer groups along the Lymington River and its tributaries the Passford Water and the Mill Lawn Brook on Wednesdays during summer 2013.

The Project Officer will lead balsam-pulling by volunteers on the following dates during 2013:-

22 May – Cadnam River  
28 May – Cadnam River  
30 May – Avon Water at Efford  
4 June – Cadnam River  
6 June – Avon Water at Efford  
7 June – Passford Water  
11 June – Mill Lawn Brook at Burley  
12 June – Cadnam River  
13 June – Cadnam River  
14 June – Passford Water  
17 June – Beaulieu River (with two FC Voluntary Rangers)  
18 June – Cadnam River  
20 June – Passford Water  
24 June – Passford Water  
25 June – Cadnam River  
27 June – Cadnam River (evening session with Cubs & Scouts from Romsey)  
1 July – Passford Water  
3 July – Cadnam River  
4 July – Avon Water  
8 July – Cadnam River  
9 July – Passford Water  
11 July – Cadnam River  
15 July - Beaulieu River (with two FC Voluntary Rangers)  
16 July – Passford Water  
17 July – Cadnam River  
18 July – Cadnam River  
22 July – Cadnam River  
23 July – Avon Water at Efford  
27 July – Cadnam River with Brockenhurst Guides whilst on camp at Foxlease  
6 August – Cadnam River  
8 August – Avon Water at Efford

The Project Officer has arranged for her colleague Craig Daters to lead balsam pulls with young people on the following dates:-

22 June – Cadnam River  
25 June – Cadnam River

Balsam pulls will also be led during summer 2013 by Graham Johnstone of Natural England (on the Beaulieu River) and by FC Voluntary Rangers with the FC's Two Trees Conservation Team.

#### Giant hogweed control along the Avon Water in 2013

On 3 April and 10 April 2013 the Project Officer met contractors on land to the west of the Avon Water to seek comparative quotations for giant hogweed control using herbicide during 2013. It is very apparent that the herbicide treatment undertaken each year since 2010 is making a discernable difference to the giant hogweed population along the banks of this river.

On 22 April 2013 purchase orders were sent to Matthew Cheetham (Southern Counties Forestry) for herbicide treatment in spring and summer 2013 on three sections of the Avon Water.

#### American skunk cabbage control in 2013

Purchase Orders have been issued for herbicide treatment of American skunk cabbage at Batchley Farm (in vicinity of the Avon Water), at Bull Hill Farm near Pilley and in wet woodland on the Open Forest downstream of Burley.

#### Japanese knotweed control in 2013

Purchase Orders have been issued for Japanese knotweed control using appropriate herbicide at:-

- on Crown Land along ditch near Home Farm at Bartley
- on Crown Land at New Park
- on HCC's land at White's Copse, Burley
- on Crown Land in Pondhead Inclosure
- on Crown Land in Hawkhill Inclosure
- in field at Weaver's Cottage, Emery Down
- at Woodside Farm, Lymington
- on Crown Land near stream at junction of Meerut Road/Butts Lawn, Brockenhurst
- on Crown Land at Emery Down

#### Himalayan honeysuckle control in 2013

Purchase Orders have been issued for Himalayan honeysuckle control using appropriate herbicide at:-

- on Crown Land at Nomansland
- on Crown Land at Emery Down

#### Bog arum control in 2013

The purchase order has been issued for control of bog arum at Ipley (on tributary of the Beaulieu River) during 2013.

#### Control of invasive non-native plants on Pennington Common in 2013

Purchase Orders have been issued for control of the following species on Pennington Common in 2013:-

- Himalayan knotweed *Persicaria wallichii*
- Japanese knotweed
- Bamboo



Contractor Kevin Ackerman on west bank of the Avon Water on 3 April 2013 assessing cost of giant hogweed control during 2013

### **Training attended by the Project Officer**

#### Local Action Group workshop at Preston Montford on 29 and 30 January 2013

The Project Officer attended the Local Action Group (LAG) workshop hosted by the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat on 29 and 30 January 2013. She gave a brief presentation on the control of American skunk cabbage in the New Forest area.

#### Robson Meeting on 7 and 8 March 2013

The Project Officer attended the Robson Meeting at St Ives in Cambridgeshire on 7 and 8 March 2013. She gave a presentation on the challenges faced by the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project in 2012 due to the unseasonably wet weather and high water levels in ponds that year.

### **Reducing the Impact of Non-native Species in Europe (RINSE)**



During spring 2013 the Project Officer has focussed on two ‘work packages’ of the Interreg-funded RINSE project:-

WP2 – training and awareness-raising

WP3 – trials and demonstrations



## **WP 2 – training and awareness-raising**

### Training for anglers and fly fishermen on 12 February 2013

The Project Officer, jointly with Jo Gore (Source to Sea Field Officer) organised and hosted a half-day training session for anglers, fly fishermen and river keepers. The event was held at Blashford Lakes education centre and aimed to raise awareness about invasive non-native species. Jo and Catherine gave presentations on identification and control of invasive non-native plants. Dr Ben Rushbrook of HIWWT gave a presentation on bio-security and emphasised the ‘check, clean, dry’ campaign.



One of the delegates at the training session held on 12 February 2013

The training attracted 23 delegates from a wide range of fishing clubs in Hampshire and Dorset and was well-received with positive comments on the 19 completed feedback forms. The following are a selection of some of the comments:-

*An excellent training day*

*Nicely done event, thank you!*

*Very useful course, information and aimed at the right level. Thank you*

*Thanks to all involved. Very useful. Continue spreading the word!*

*Very worthwhile course*

### Meeting with planning staff at New Forest National Park Authority on 13 March 2013

The Project Officer met seven planning staff from New Forest National Park Authority, including development control staff and enforcement officers, to highlight the opportunities through the planning system to stop the spread of invasive non-native plants and to discuss ways in which the Project Officer might be able to provide relevant information / guidance.

'New Zealand Pygmyweed : Tackling the Challenge' one-day conference on 20 March 2013

The Project Officer hosted a one-day conference focussing on control of New Zealand pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii* at Brockenhurst Village Hall on 20 March 2013. The event was attended by 68 delegates attended from a variety of organisations including statutory organisations, wildlife charities, environmental consultancies, local authorities, local naturalists and land owners. 70 delegates had planned to attend (but two were ill on the day) and there was a waiting list of people who hoped to secure a place, so it was a very popular event.

Speakers included a number of representatives of RINSE partner organisations including:-

- Catherine Chatters of HIWWT (New Zealand pygmyweed in the New Forest)
- Dr Naomi Ewald on behalf of HIWWT
- Sonal Varia of CABI (biological control research)
- Michael Sutton-Croft of Norfolk County Council
- Johan van Valkenburg from The Netherlands Plant Protection Service
- Luc Denys from INBO (Flanders, Belgium)

Other speakers included Pete Durnell (Hampshire County Council), Dr Jonathan Newman (Waterland Management Ltd) and Sarah Clarke (ECUS, an environmental consultancy).

The event was very well received. A total of 40 feed-back forms were completed in addition to a number of complimentary e-mails received by the Project Officer following the event.



Representatives of RINSE project partners who gave presentations at the conference on 20 March 2013



The Project Officer shows some of the delegates a tank of *Crassula helmsii* at the conference on 20 March 2013



Delegates Neil Sanderson and Pete Durnell discussing control of *Crassula helmsii* on 20 March 2013





Some of the delegates during the lunch break at the conference on 20 March 2013



Discussion during the lunch break at the conference on 20 March 2013





Mike Sutton-Croft from Norfolk County Council giving his presentation at the conference on 20 March 2013

### Planning future training events in 2013

During Spring 2013 the Project Officer has progressed arrangements for two further training and awareness raising sessions to be held under WP2 of 'RINSE:-

- Training for horticultural sector at Exbury Gardens on 11 September 2013. The Project Officer met John Anderson, the Head Gardener at Exbury Gardens on 24 April 2013 to discuss arrangements for this event.
- Training for local authority countryside management staff on 28 October 2013. The Project Officer has liaised with Rachel Hardy of Eastleigh Borough Council over arrangements for this event which will be held at West End Parish Hall.

### **WP 3 – trials and demonstrations**

#### Draft reports

During Spring 2013 the Project Officer finalised drafts of the three ‘demonstration’ reports:-

- Mobilising volunteers to control Himalayan balsam across river catchments
- Control of giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* along the Avon Water in The New Forest, Hampshire, UK : A case study in controlling an invasive non-native plant in a landscape characterised by fragmented land ownership
- Control of creeping water primrose *Ludwigia grandiflora* at Breamore Marsh, in New Forest District, Hampshire, UK : A case study

The draft reports have been submitted to Dr Rob Britton of Bournemouth University (a partner in the RINSE project) for his comments. The draft reports will be modified as necessary and translated into French and Dutch in due course.

The Project Officer has asked Dr Naomi Ewald (Pond Conservation) to provide a quotation for preparing the RINSE report on the *Crassula helmsii* ‘trial’.

#### WP 3 workshops on 17 and 18 April 2013

The Project Officer attended WP 3 workshops on 17 and 18 April 2013 hosted by CABI at Egham. On 17 April CABI gave a tour of their bio-control facilities and Jo Gore (Source to Sea) attended this workshop.



Jo Gore (Source to Sea Field Officer) joined the New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer on 17 April 2013 during the RINSE WP 3 workshop hosted by CABI at Egham. The photo above shows one of the tanks where CABI breed the weevil *Stenopelmus rufinasus* which is used as a biological control agent for the invasive non-native aquatic fern *Azolla filiculoides*.

WP3 visit to Breamore Marsh to discuss control of creeping water primrose  
Johan van Valkenburg (The Netherlands Plant Protection Service) agreed to stay in the UK for an additional day following the RINSE New Zealand pygmyweed conference in March 2013 to give advice on the control of creeping water primrose at Breamore Marsh Site of Special Scientific Interest. Although the control of this invasive non-native plant at Breamore Marsh is being tackled by Jo Gore through the Source to Sea Project, Catherine Chatters accompanied Johan and transported him to the site.



Johan van Valkenburg considering control of Creeping water primrose *Ludwigia grandiflora* at Breamore Marsh on 21 March 2013



Jo Gore, Source to Sea Field Officer, explaining work undertaken to control creeping water primrose at Breamore Marsh on 21 March 2013



## **Other work**

### Research by Neil Sanderson relating to the impact of American skunk cabbage on native vegetation

During 2012 the Project Officer commissioned Neil Sanderson (Neil Sanderson Botanical Survey and Assessment) to undertake research at two sites which had been invaded by American skunk cabbage, to assess the impact on native vegetation. The report is dated January 2013 and the Project Officer has sent a copy to the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat for dissemination via their website ([www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org)).

Olaf Booy of GBNNSS forwarded a copy of the report to Dr Jonathan Newman who, in the light of this information, has now fundamentally revised his thinking about this species and is revising the documentation that he is preparing on behalf of GBNNSS.

The report will be made available on the HIWWT website.

### Research by Neil Sanderson on the quality of habitats invaded by Himalayan balsam

During 2012 the Project Officer commissioned Neil Sanderson (Neil Sanderson Botanical Survey and Assessment) to undertake research along the Lymington River and the Beaulieu River, to assess the habitat quality of a sample of sites invaded by Himalayan balsam. The report is dated January 2013 and will be made available on the HIWWT website and GBNNSS website.

### Questionnaire survey of volunteers

During January 2013 the Project Officer devised a questionnaire and sent it to 50 volunteers to find out what prompted them and what motivated them to participate in balsam-pulls. The questionnaire also asked what people most enjoyed about balsam-pulling and what they least enjoyed. This was done to inform the 'RINSE' demonstration report which focuses on mobilising volunteers to control Himalayan balsam at the catchment scale. Completed questionnaires were returned by 29 people (nearly 60%) and the results have been incorporated into the draft 'RINSE' report.

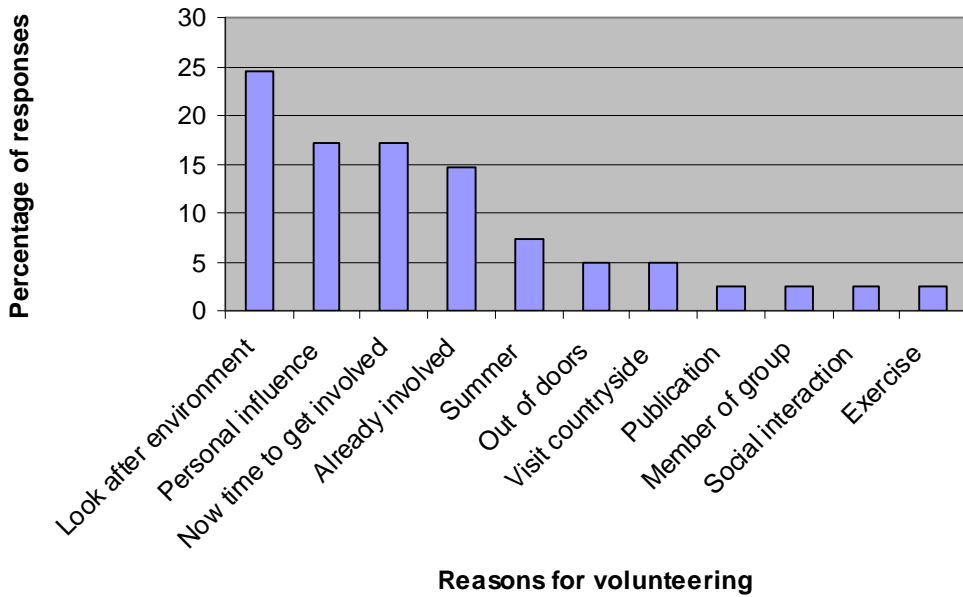
The information has also been used in a 'stand-alone' report prepared by the Project Officer, to capture the results gleaned from this questionnaire.

It is interesting to note that a desire to look after the environment (expressed in various ways) was the main reason for getting involved in balsam-pulling but the 'social interaction' and 'job satisfaction' were the main things that people enjoyed about balsam-pulling. Not surprisingly, given the wet weather in 2012, the least enjoyable aspects of balsam-pulling were the rain and getting stuck in the mud!

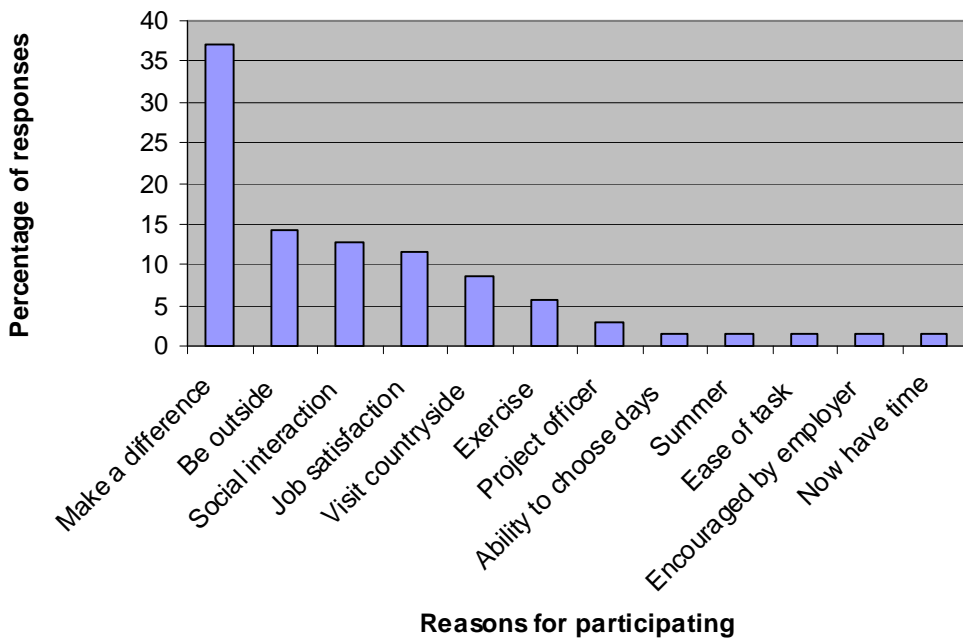
The questionnaire also asked for a) suggestions about how the Project Officer could 'advertise' balsam pulls to a wider range of potential volunteers and b) suggestions to help the Project Officer improve the way balsam pulls are organised and led in the future.

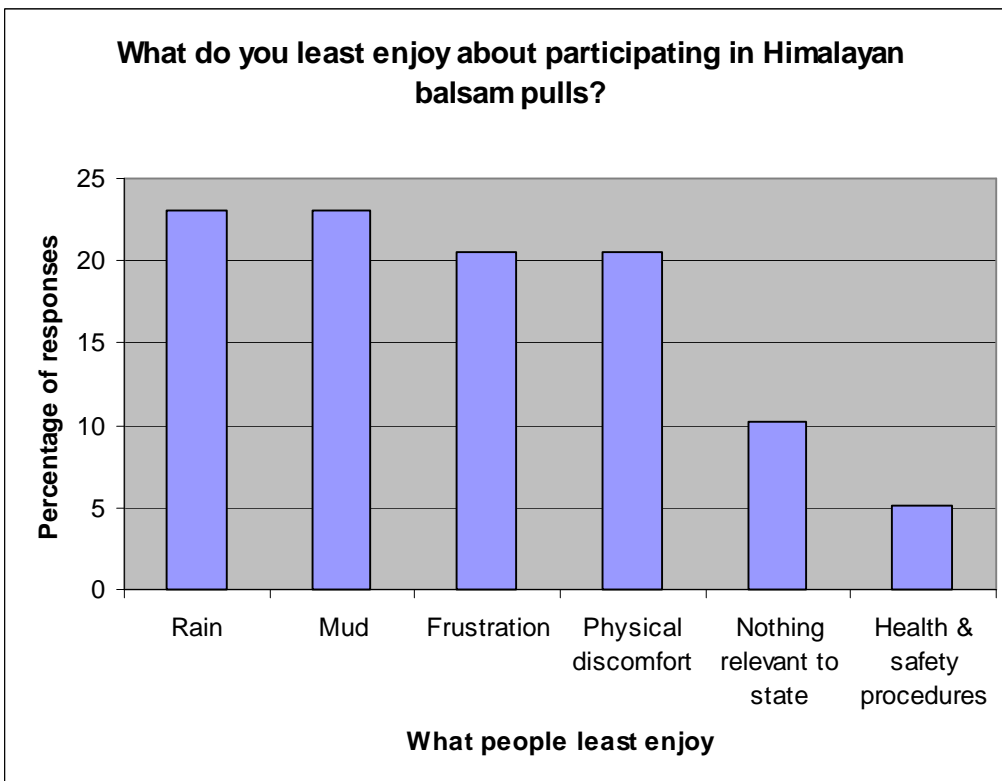
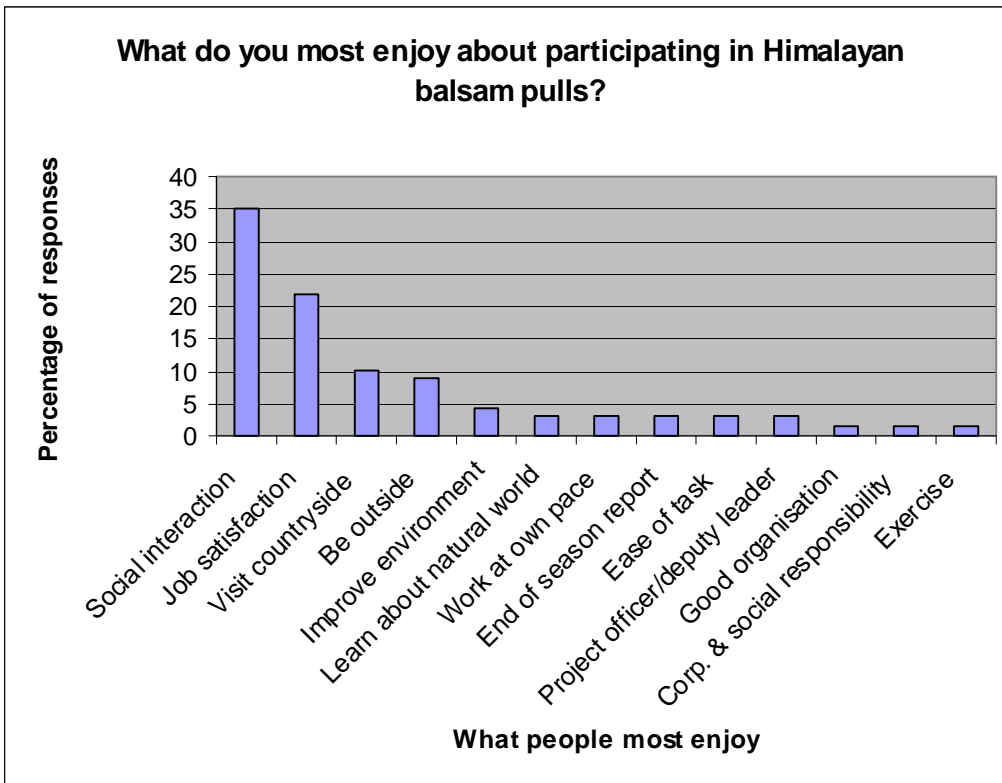


### What prompted you to volunteer to help The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project?



### What motivates you to participate in balsam pulls?





#### Research with Southampton Solent University

On 4 April 2013 the Project Officer and Rachel Hardy (Eastleigh Borough Council) met Dr Steve Jackson of Southampton Solent University to discuss proposals for a larger-scale questionnaire survey to be undertaken by him. The primary purpose of the survey is to help inform decisions by Eastleigh Borough Council regarding future volunteer involvement on the Monks Brook invasive non-native plants project. However the survey will involve people who volunteer for the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project and it is recognised that the results of the survey will be of relevance beyond the Monks Brook. The Project Officer has suggested that Dr Jackson could present the results of his research at the conference focussing on volunteer involvement which the Project will host at Brockenhurst Village Hall on 19 March 2014.

#### Research undertaken on behalf of FERA by University of York

On 1 March 2013 the Project Officer was contacted by Dr Rachel Pateman, Research Administrator, at Stockholm Environment Institute at the University of York. She is undertaking research on behalf of the Food and Environment Research Agency to establish what lessons can be learnt from INNS Local Action Groups for 'wider bio-security issues, in particular tree health'. The GBNNSS had recommended the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project to her to use as a case study. The Project Officer was interviewed on the telephone and provided information for this study.

#### Site visit to view American skunk cabbage on 21 March 2013

When Johan van Valkenburg (The Netherlands Plant Protection Service) visited the New Forest in March 2013 the Project Officer asked whether there was anything he would particularly like to see. Johan expressed an interest in visiting a site where American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus* had invaded but had not yet been controlled. The Project Officer arranged for Johan to visit Harcourt Wood at Minstead. Dr Jonathan Newman (Waterland Management Ltd), his colleague Manuel Dueñas and Dr Megan Ellershaw from Natural England joined Johan and the Project Officer on this visit.



Site visit to view American skunk cabbage on 21 March 2013  
L-R Dr Manuel Dueñas, Dr Johan van Valkenburg, Dr Jonathan Newman





Johan van Valkenburg (The Netherlands Plant Protection Service) collected herbarium specimens of American skunk cabbage flowers during a site visit arranged by the Project Officer on 21 March 2013

#### Meeting and site visits with Graham Dodsworth, Network Rail

On 15 March 2013 the Project Officer met Graham Dodsworth of Network Rail to discuss the need for control of Himalayan balsam on the embankment where the railway crosses the Lymington River and along the railway line adjacent to the Passford Water. The Project Officer arranged for a local landowner to join them to emphasise the need for Network Rail to control the balsam on their land to prevent it spreading. Graham has assured the Project Officer that he will arrange for balsam control to be undertaken on Network Rail's land during 2013.

#### **Annual leave**

At the end of a very busy four months the Project Officer had a week's annual leave in late April and stayed in Glenridding in the Lake District where, as a child during the late 1960s and early 1970s, she had first encountered Himalayan balsam growing along 'Rattlebeck', the stream that flows into Ullswater.

#### **Press releases– see attached sheets**

#### **Media coverage – see attached sheets**

Report compiled by Catherine Chatters  
New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer  
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust  
7 May 2013

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