

NEW FOREST NON-NATIVE PLANTS PROJECT

REPORT TO STEERING GROUP MEETING ON 28 FEBRUARY 2014

**Report covering the period
1 September 2013 – 31 December 2013**

**Catherine Chatters
New Forest Non-Native Plants Project Officer
6 January 2014**

http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/pages/living_landscap-new-forest-non-native-plants-project-1384.html

Publicity

Press releases

No press releases on behalf of The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project were issued by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust between 1 September and 31 December 2013.

Publications and websites

- The September 2013 edition of Hampshire Life magazine promoted the talk given by the Project Officer to the Gosport Area Group of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on 20 September 2013
- Southern Daily Echo website included an article titled ‘volunteers battle with invader to save wildlife’
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust’s members’ newsletter dated 12 September 2013 featured a ‘thank you’ to all the volunteers who had helped with balsam-pulling in summer 2013
- Article in Southern Daily Echo on Wednesday 25 September 2013 focussing on the training day for horticulturalists held at Exbury Gardens on 11 September 2013
- News item in the Winter 2013 edition of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust’s ‘Wildlife’ magazine to promote the RINSE event on 19 March 2014
- Natural England’s newsletter titled ‘Spotlight on SSSIs : Working towards the goals of biodiversity 2020’ Issue 3 (December 2013) has photograph of the Project Officer and Alison Barnes of New Forest NPA on page 9
- Issue 4 (December 2013) of the RINSE newsletter included an article about the awareness-raising session hosted by New Forest Non-Native Plants Project for local authority countryside management staff on 28 October 2013. It also promoted the ‘citizen science’ event to be hosted by NFNNPP on 19 March 2014. The newsletter also included a photograph of the speakers (including the New Forest non-Native Plants Officer) who gave presentations at the ‘best practice’ workshop in Norwich on 17 October 2013

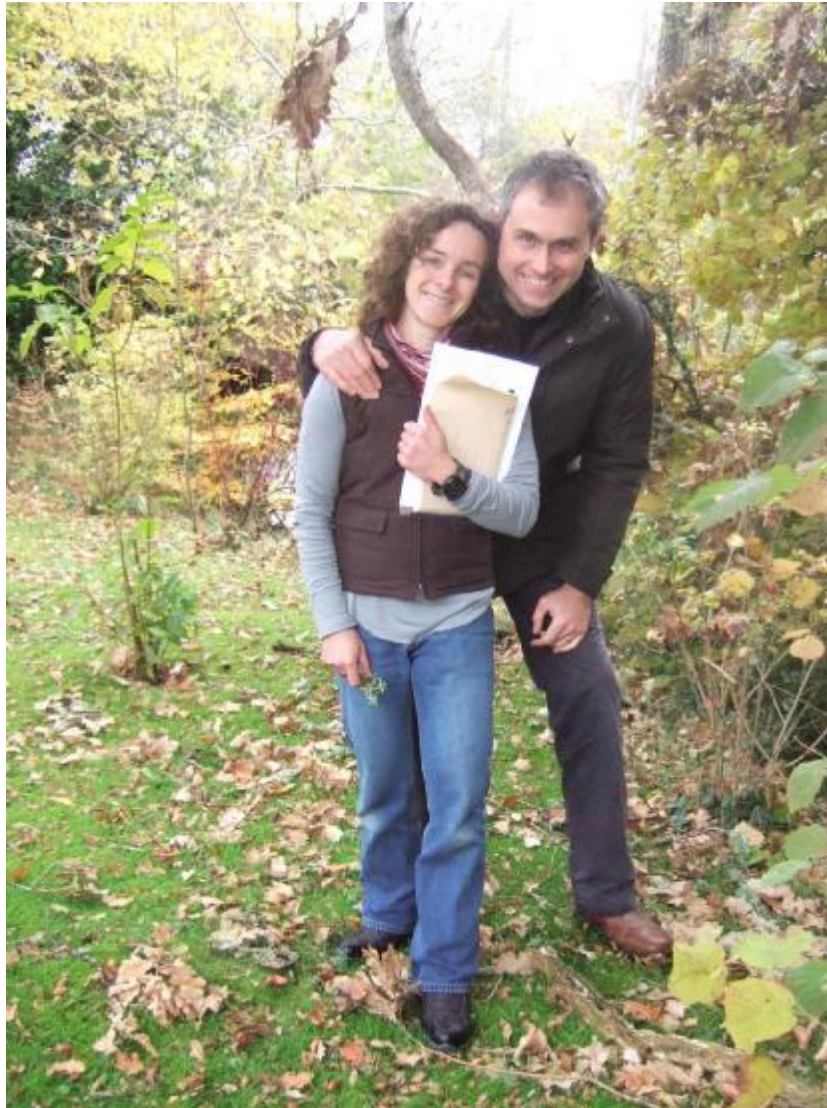


The Project Officer with other speakers who gave presentations at the RINSE (Reducing the Impact of Non-native Species in Europe) Best Practice workshop hosted by Norfolk County Council in Norwich on 17 October 2013. This photograph was included in the December 2013 edition (Issue 4) of the RINSE newsletter

Liaison with landowners and managers

The following landowners/managers were met between 1 September – 31 December 2013:-

- Mr Taylor at Waterslade Farm on 4 October 2013
- Pete Durnell, Hampshire County Council, on 21 October 2013
- Mark Allinson and Lee Jennings at Cambian Group School near Boldre on 31 October 2013
- Graham Johnstone, Natural England, on 19 November 2013
- Dr Anna Lawrence and Chris Walter at Burley on 28 November 2013
- Roger Simmens and other members of Brokenhurst Manor Fly Fishing Club on 5 December 2013



Dr Anna Lawrence and Chris Walter who have recently purchased a property along the Mill Lawn Brook at Burley and who are keen to eradicate invasive non-native plants from their garden.

Liaison with other Projects and Organisations

The Project Officer met Zoe Cox of the Forestry Commission on 3 December 2013 to discuss insurance relating to Forestry Commission volunteers participating in balsam pulls in 2014 on behalf of the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project and the 'Source to Sea' project.

Capital works undertaken between 1 September – 31 December 2013

Japanese knotweed control

Matthew Cheetham of Southern Counties Forestry undertook herbicide treatment to control Japanese knotweed along the Cadnam River at the following locations in early autumn 2013:-

- Land belonging to Barry & Stephanie Alford
- Land belonging to Jane Hayward
- Land belonging to Lyn Thomas
- Cadnam Lodge
- Wittensford House
- Bramble Cottage
- Orchard Cottage
- St Jacques

Matthew Cheetham of Southern Counties Forestry undertook herbicide treatment to control Japanese knotweed at the following locations:-

- Weaver's Cottage, Emery Down
- Woodside Farm, Lymington
- New Park.
- Crown Land near The Pig Hotel, Brockenhurst
- Hawkhill Inclosure
- Pondhead Inclosure
- White's Copse, Burley
- Ditch near Home Farm, Bartley
- Stream bank near Bridge Cottage, Bartley
- Stream bank near Meerut Road and Butt's Lawn, Brockenhurst
- Hedge adjacent to Open Forest at Linwood
- Hedge at Newbridge
- Emery Down (with Himalayan honeysuckle)

Rupert Williams of RT Contractors undertook herbicide treatment to control Japanese knotweed at the following locations:-

- Bank of Mill Lawn Brook near Turf Croft Farm, Burley
- Land at Lymington River Reedbeds near Walhampton electricity sub-station

Himalayan honeysuckle control

Matthew Cheetham of Southern Counties Forestry undertook herbicide treatment to control Himalayan honeysuckle at the following locations:-

- Nomansland
- Emery Down (with Japanese knotweed)

Buddleia control

Matthew Cheetham of Southern Counties Forestry undertook herbicide treatment to control Buddleia at the following location:-

- Open Forest on Crown Land near Wittensford between Cadnam and Brook

Himalayan balsam control

Ashley Basil of Ashley Basil Horticultural Services patrolled the Lymington River and its tributaries the Passford Water and the Mill Lawn Brook to pull up any remaining Himalayan balsam plants during autumn 2013.

Control work undertaken by volunteers

On 4 November 2013 three volunteers helped the Project Officer map and then remove the remaining pitcher plants *Sarracenia purpurea* from Holmsley Bog. Eighty-seven *Sarracenia* seedlings and small *Sarracenia* plants were removed by hand or by using a trowel or hand-fork on 4 November 2013. In addition to these 87 plants, remains of the rootstock of the original 'mother plant' were removed. It was difficult to count how many actual 'plants' were dug up at the location of the original 'mother plant' as the roots were entwined with *Molinia* roots but it was estimated that approximately 10 plants were removed at the site of the original 'mother plant'. Therefore a total of approximately 97 *Sarracenia* plants were removed that day.



Volunteer Martin Rand standing by some of the re-topped canes used to mark the extent of the *Sarracenia purpurea* population at Holmsley Bog on 4 November 2013 before the plants were removed later that day.



Example of small *Sarracenia purpurea* plant removed from Holmsley Bog on 4 November 2013



Close-up photograph of small *Sarracenia purpurea* plant removed from Holmsley Bog on 4 November 2013

Planning control work for 2014 and securing funding

On 19 November 2013 the Project Officer met representatives of the Forestry Commission and Natural England to plan a co-ordinated programme of Himalayan balsam pulling by volunteers during summer 2014.

On 28 November 2013 the Project Officer met Ashley Basil of Ashley Basil Horticultural Services to discuss proposals for him to lead volunteer work parties and to undertake hand-pulling and patrolling to control Himalayan balsam within the catchment of the Lymington River during summer 2014.

The Project Officer has started to contact riparian owners to seek their agreement for her to lead volunteer work parties on their land during summer 2014.

The Project Officer has spoken to Simon Curson of Natural England regarding the possibility of funding via the Higher Level Stewardship scheme for the control of American skunk cabbage on privately-owned land within the Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI during 2014.

The Project Officer has obtained quotations from contractors for control of invasive non-native plants on the Open Forest during 2014 and has included these quotations in a bid for funding from the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme. The bid was submitted on 2 December 2013 and will be considered by the HLS Board at their meeting on 8 January 2014. The bid also includes the quotation from Freshwater Habitats Trust for research by Dr Naomi Ewald in 2014 in relation to the trials to control New Zealand pygmyweed.

The Project Officer has written to all the relevant riparian owners along the Avon Water, to explain the need to secure funding for the control of giant hogweed to be undertaken by professional contractors along the Avon Water during 2014. All the landowners have been invited to a meeting in Sway Village Hall on 24 February 2014 to explore ways of securing funding. Already some landowners have offered funding, with one landowner pledging £1,000

The Project Officer has commenced discussions within HIWWT regarding the possibility of securing funding from corporate sponsors towards the cost of control work of giant hogweed to be undertaken by professional contractors along the Avon Water during 2014. If any funding can be secured this will complement funding requested from landowners.

The Project Officer will contact the Environment Agency during January 2014 to enquire whether any funding might be available for control work to be undertaken by professional contractors during 2014.

Promotional Talks

The Project Officer gave a talk about the Project to the Gosport Area Group of HIWWT on the evening of Friday 20 September 2013. The talk was well received and people in the audience asked lots of pertinent questions.

Promotional Events

Equine event on 12 September 2013

During the evening of Thursday 12 September 2013 the Project Officer put up a display and gave a presentation on control of invasive non-native plants at an event in Lyndhurst Community Centre organised by the New Forest Land Advice Service for horse and pony paddock owners to learn about the sympathetic management of their land.



Mr and Mrs Myers looking at display material during the event organised by the New Forest Land Advice Service on 12 September 2013 for horse and pony paddock owners.



Nature Reserve Open Day at Lymington on Sunday 15 September 2013

The Project Officer mounted a display at the nature reserve open day organised by Hampshire County Council and HIWWT at Lymington on Sunday 15 September 2013. A number of useful contacts were made and the Project Officer was invited to give a presentation in May 2014 for the Milford-on-Sea Gardeners' Club.



Keen balsam-pulling volunteer Brian Matthews looking at the display during the nature reserve open day event at Lymington on 15 September 2013

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



On 15 September 2013 the New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer and 'Source to Sea' officer Jo Gore promoted the 'Be Plant Wise' campaign to visitors at the nature reserve open day which was hosted by HIWWT and Hampshire County Council at Lymington.



Volunteer Brian Matthews and Source to Sea Project Officer Jo Gore with 'Be Plant Wise' banner during the nature reserve open day at Lymington on 15 September 2013

The 'Be Plant Wise' campaign and the 'Check, Clean, Dry' campaign were promoted at the following awareness-raising sessions hosted by New Forest Non-Native Plants Project:-

- Training for horticulturalists on 11 September 2013
- Training for local authority countryside management staff on 28 October 2013
- Training for Natural England staff on 11 December 2013



Natural England staff examining the Be Plant Wise display on 11 December 2013

Training provided by the Project Officer

Training for Natural England staff on Wednesday 11 December 2013

Fourteen members of Natural England staff attended a half-day awareness-raising session at Testwood Lakes on 11 December 2013 at the request of Jenny Thomas, NE's officer with responsibility for the New Forest. A general introductory talk plus presentations on identification of invasive non-native species and advice on their control were given by the Project Officer and a presentation on bio-security was given by Dr Ben Rushbrook of HIWWT. Participants were able to look at displays promoting the 'Be Plant Wise' campaign and examine tanks of New Zealand pygmyweed and parrot's feather. The event generated lots of questions and discussion and positive feedback was provided on the evaluation sheets. One participant commented "Very good, well structured event and extremely interesting".

Following the presentations Natural England provided a Christmas buffet and joined the nature reserve staff in a practical conservation task to trim trees overhanging Testwood Lake.



Charlotte Rose of Natural England examining the Be Plant Wise display during the awareness-raising session on 11 December 2013



Simon Curson, Kathy Stearn and Charlotte Rose of Natural England during the awareness-raising session at Testwood on 11 December 2013

Training for Forestry Commission staff during February 2014

The Project Officer has been invited to organise a training session for Forestry Commission staff on identification and control of invasive non-native species during 2014. Dr Ben Rushbrook of HIWWT will also give a presentation on bio-security. The event will be held on 11 February 2014.

Volunteer survey, research and other activity

Jennifer Harrington

On 6 September 2013 the Project Officer met Jennifer Harrington, a third year student at Southampton University, with volunteer Ruth Kernohan, to discuss linking Jennifer's research on current land-use along the Avon Water with Ruth's research on the historic land-use.

Marija Nilova and Louise Cooke

Marija and Louise have completed their field work relating to distribution of giant hogweed along the Avon Water. On 25 November 2013 the Project Officer met Marija and Louise to discuss progress with preparation of their report. Louise has completed her section of the draft report. Marija has secured a temporary job with Natural England so has had less time to prepare her section of the report. Marija and Louise aim to have the draft report completed by end of 2013.

Freddie Sutton

On 29 November 2013 the Project Officer met Freddie Sutton, a Zoology graduate, who has offered to volunteer with the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project. Freddie is keen to undertake some mapping work to show location of invasive non-native plants controlled on behalf of the Project during 2013.



Zoology graduate Freddie Sutton, who has volunteered to help the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project. Freddie is keen to gain experience of botanical-related nature conservation.

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



New Zealand pygmyweed
(Photo: Ashley Basil)

Trials involving organic hot foam during September 2013

Since the Purchase Orders were issued to Richard Pearson during spring 2013, Mr Pearson had decided to return to agricultural contracting and is no longer involved in hot foam treatment. In the circumstances Fraser Higson of 'Weedingtech' arranged for other contractors to take on responsibility for the hot foam trials during August and September 2013.

Will Iliffe and Bryn Stephens of Ecological Weedings Techniques undertook hot foam treatment with at the 5 trial sites between Monday 16 September and Friday 20 September 2013.

The sites selected for hot foam treatment were:-

- Blackwell Common
- Ponds to west of the road across Beaulieu Heath
- Large pond at Abbot's Well
- Pond at Hill Top near the Royal Oak
- Small pond at Mogshade



Will Iliffe used an adapted Toyota 'Dyna' to mount his hot foam application equipment including diesel burners, water tanks and petrol generator



Bryn Stephens and Will Iliffe treating New Zealand pygmyweed with hot foam on Beaulieu Heath on 16 September 2013



Will Iliffe treating the pond at Hill Top with hot foam on 20 September 2013

Trials involving herbicide treatment during September 2013

On 24 September 2013 herbicide treatment was undertaken using Roundup Pro-Biactive at five trial sites by Scott Rice and George Hyde of Kingcombe Aquacare Ltd. The herbicide trials were undertaken at:-

- ditch and ponds east of the road across Beaulieu Heath
- pond to the east of the road at East End
- pond to the west of the road at East End
- Wootton Woodland Pond
- Canadian War Memorial Pond.

Trials involving aquatic dye during October and December 2013

On 4 October 2013 Dr Jonathan Newman of Waterland Management Ltd undertook aquatic dye treatment at the following trial sites:-

- Wootton Drinking Pond
- Wootton Woodland Pond
- Mogshade Pond
- Waterslade Farm.



Sachet of aquatic dye dissolving amongst *Crassula helmsii* at Waterslade Farm on 4 October 2013



Dr Jonathan Newman and his colleague Manuel Dueñas by the large pond at Abbot's Well on 4 October 2013



'DyoFix C' was used to treat the ponds on 4 October 2013

However on 4 October 2013 Ipley Pond was completely dry so he was unable to undertake dye treatment at this pond. The pond at Hill Top near the Royal Oak was also too dry for aquatic dye treatment during October so the treatment of these two ponds was delayed until 17 December 2013.

Heavy rain fell on 15 and 16 December so by 17 December Ipley Pond was completely full and there was sufficient water in Hill Top pond to enable both ponds to be treated with aquatic dye.



Dr Jonathan Newman throwing a sachet of dye into Ipley Pond on 17 December 2013



Dr Jonathan Newman (right) with Manuel Dueñas at Hill Top pond on 17 December 2013

Research by Dr Naomi Ewald

During autumn 2013 Dr Naomi Ewald of Freshwater Habitats Trust submitted the report summarising the results of the research she had undertaken during 2013 relating to the New Zealand pygmyweed control trials undertaken in 2011 and 2012. Dr Ewald met the Project Officer and representatives of the Forestry Commission, Natural England and Hampshire County Council on 21 October 2013 to disseminate the results of her research.

The results of the hot foam, aquatic dye and herbicide trials undertaken during 2013 will be monitored by Dr Naomi Ewald during 2014 and a final report prepared, if funding can be secured..

Training attended by the Project Officer

On 13 September 2013 the Project Officer received GIS training from Catherine McGuire of HIWWT to enable her to record parcels of land where advice had been given to landowners and managers during 2013.

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



WP 2 – training and awareness-raising

Training for horticultural sector at Exbury Gardens on 11 September 2013

To highlight the problems which can be caused by invasive non-native garden plants, the Project Officer organised an awareness-raising session for thirty-six professional horticulturalists, garden centre managers and keen amateur gardeners at Exbury Gardens on 11 September 2013. Head Gardener John Anderson led the group on a tour of the Gardens to emphasise the need to be careful when choosing plants for our gardens or disposing of garden waste.

John warned of the need to be vigilant and keep an eye on potentially invasive plants such as American skunk cabbage to ensure they do not spread beyond a garden's boundaries. As Japanese knotweed is notorious for its ability to grow through buildings and cause structural damage and John emphasised the need to be extremely careful when controlling or disposing of Japanese knotweed. He warned that flailing it is unwise, as fragments can break off and start a new colony.

Exbury Gardens contain a number of ornamental lakes and John stressed the need to take care so gardeners don't unwittingly allow invasive non-native pond plants such as New Zealand pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii* to 'escape' and cause havoc in the wild.



Head Gardener John Anderson leading the group of professional horticulturalists, garden centre managers and keen amateur gardeners on a tour of Exbury Gardens on 11 September 2013



The Project Officer describing the problems caused by American skunk cabbage during the RINSE awareness-raising session at Exbury Gardens in September 2013



The Project Officer with Head Gardener John Anderson on 11 September 2013

Training for local authority countryside management staff on 28 October 2013

With help from Rachel Hardy (Biodiversity Officer at Eastleigh Borough Council) the Project Officer organised an awareness-raising event for forty-seven local authority countryside management staff at West End Parish Hall on Monday 28 October 2013. More people were booked to attend the event but due to a storm the previous evening a number of people were unable to attend as they were required to cut up and clear fallen trees on their nature reserves and country parks. Delegates included representatives of Hampshire County Council as well as Borough and District Councils and parish councils.



Delegates at the awareness-raising session for local authority countryside management staff looking at the display on 28 October 2013

Delegates heard presentations given by the Project Officer focussing on identification and control of invasive non-native plants. Dr Ben Rushbrook of HIWWT highlighted the importance of bio-security to prevent the spread of invasive non-native weeds, pests and diseases.

People attending the event were able to examine samples of New Zealand pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii*, parrot's feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum* and creeping water primrose *Ludwigia grandiflora* and improve their identification skills.

Folders containing advisory booklets and identification sheets were handed out to each delegate and people were able to discuss problems involving invasive non-native plants on their sites during the question and answer sessions.



Ben Rushbrook of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust meets Mike Hardy of Hampshire County Council



The display at the awareness-raising event for local authority countryside management staff on 28 October 2013



The Project Officer with Martin Healey of East Hampshire District Council on 28 October 2013



Rachel Hardy, Biodiversity Officer at Eastleigh Borough Council (left) who helped the Project Officer organise the RINSE event on 28 October

Conference focusing on the role of volunteers on 19 March 2014

The Project Officer has booked the venue and speakers for the RINSE event to be held on 19 March 2014 which will focus on the role of volunteers in the control of invasive non-native plants. Speakers include:-

- Catherine Chatters on the role of volunteers in the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project
- Dr Steve Jackson of Southampton Solent University on the results of the volunteer motivation survey
- Derek Tippetts (Voluntary Ranger with the Forestry Commission) giving a volunteer's perspective
- Representative of OPAL (Open Air Laboratories) from Imperial College, London (speaker's name to be confirmed following appointment of successor to Dr Linda Davies)
- Mike Sutton-Croft, Norfolk Invasive Species Initiative on the role of volunteers in Norfolk and the RINSE mobile 'phone 'app' for species identification
- Martin Rand of Botanical Society of the British Isles on the role of volunteers in recording invasive non-native plants
- Sam Stork, 'Source to Sea' Project Manager on Living Records
- Dr Helen Roy of Centre for Ecology and Hydrology on citizen science surveys

The event has now been 'advertised' in the Wildlife Trust's events diary and the Project Officer has provided details so it can be promoted on the RINSE website, on the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat website and on the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) website.

The event is already proving to be popular and RINSE representatives from Northern France and Belgium have already booked their places.

WP 3 – trials and demonstrations

The following three draft reports had already been submitted to Dr Rob Britten of Bournemouth University and the Project Officer was awaiting comments on the drafts before expecting to modify them, as necessary, and arrange for them to be translated into French and Dutch:-

- 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

However, the RINSE Steering Group has decided that the reports need to be prepared to a standard format. The translations will now be organised by Norfolk County Council (lead RINSE partner).

The Project Officer contacted Dr Naomi Ewald of Freshwater Habitats Trust in autumn 2013 to ensure that she will prepare the report on the New Zealand pygmyweed trials in accordance with the standard format agreed by Dr Rob Britten and Norfolk County Council.

Best Practice workshop in Norwich on 17 and 18 October 2013

The Project Officer attended the Best Practice workshop organised by RINSE Lead Partner Norfolk County Council and gave a presentation on control of American skunk cabbage in the New Forest on 17 October 2013. The second day included a boat trip on the River Yare with opportunities to view a number of invasive non-native plant species and to see contractors undertaking herbicide treatment to control a stand of giant knotweed.



The Project Officer giving presentation on control of American skunk cabbage in the New Forest at the RINSE Best Practice workshop held in Norwich on 17 October 2013



Céline Fontaine of RINSE partner organisation CPIE Val d'Authie (right) on the boat trip on 18 October 2013



Koen van Roeyen and Karel van Moer from Flanders in Belgium enjoying the boat trip on the River Yare on 18 October 2013 during the RINSE Best Practice workshop in the Norfolk Broads

Other work

Research with Southampton Solent University

On 19 December 2013 the Project Officer met Dr Steve Jackson of Southampton Solent University and Katy Roberts of The Conservation Volunteers to discuss the results of the survey devised by Dr Jackson with input from NFNNPP and Rachel Hardy of Eastleigh Borough Council to find out what motivates people who volunteer to pull balsam.

Dr Jackson has agreed to 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.

Meeting with Environment Agency to discuss preparation of revised guidance

On 5 September 2013 the Project Officer attended a meeting hosted by the Environment Agency (attended by representatives of JBA Consulting *et al*) at Mary Sumner House in London to discuss preparation of revised guidance relating to the control of aquatic and riparian plants.

Lymington River Sub-catchment project

The Project Officer was asked to contact landowners and land managers along the Lymington River and its tributaries to ask them whether they were happy for their contact details to be passed to the officer working on the Lymington River Sub-catchment project. The Project Officer e-mailed or wrote to sixty-one people who own and / or manage land along the Lymington River, the Passford Water and the Mill Lawn Brook to seek their consent. Contact details (for those people who did not object to their details being passed on) were provided to the officer on 20 November 2013 so he can contact them and canvass their views on issues affecting these watercourses.

'Thank you' party for volunteers on 3 October 2013

The Project Officer organised a party at Brockenhurst Village Hall for volunteers who had helped with Himalayan balsam pulling during 2013. Everyone brought contributions towards a buffet supper and participated in a quiz devised by the Project Officer to test their knowledge of invasive non-native plants. The Project Officer gave a powerpoint presentation to summarise the work undertaken during 2013 to control Himalayan balsam in the New Forest area and to report on progress.

Annual leave

The Project Officer took six days of annual leave during October 2013 and eight days of annual leave during November, in addition to time off between Christmas and New Year.

(Press releases – not relevant to this report)

Media coverage – see attached sheets

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The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project is hosted by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.
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Hampshire & Isle of Wight
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Protecting wildlife. Inspiring people.



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RINSE
Reducing the impact of non-native species in Europe

