

**NEW FOREST NON-NATIVE PLANTS
PROJECT**

**REPORT TO STEERING GROUP MEETING
ON
15 MAY 2015**

**Report covering the period
1 January 2015 – 30 April 2015**

**Catherine Chatters
New Forest Non-Native Plants Project Officer
1 May 2015**

Publicity

Press releases

No press releases were issued between 1 January and 30 April 2015.

Publications and websites

- As a result of the press release issued by HIWWT on 12 December 2014 to publicise the grant aid awarded by the New Forest Trust for giant hogweed control on the Avon Water in 2015, an article appeared on the Salisbury Journal website on 29 December 2014.
- The Herald, Issue No 298, 8 – 29 January 2015 – article on page 59 titled ‘Grant to Control Invasive Plant’ which resulted from the press release issued by HIWWT on 12 December 2014 to publicise the grant aid awarded by the New Forest Trust for giant hogweed control on the Avon Water.
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust members’ e-newsletter dated January 2015 highlighted the grant awarded for control of giant hogweed along the Avon Water during 2015.
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust staff newsletter dated 15 January 2015 featured the grant awarded by The New Forest Trust towards control of giant hogweed along the Avon Water in 2015
- The Exbury Gardens website featured the control of Gaultheria undertaken by New Forest Non-native Plants Project volunteers during summer 2014 (although the article is dated 15 July 2014, the Project Officer did not ‘discover’ it until early 2015)
- Lymington and District Naturalists’ Society newsletter number 36 (August 2014 – January 2015) included an article on the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project written by Brian Matthews who is a member of the Society and a keen volunteer with the NFNNPP
- The New Forest National Park Volunteer Guide 2015 (published by the New Forest National Park Authority) features the NFNNPP and has a photograph of Project volunteers (3rd Romsey Cubs) during a balsam pull on the Cadnam River
- During the week beginning 2 March 2015 the home page of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website featured the Project Officer pulling balsam, to coincide with the national Wildlife Trusts’ ‘My Wild Life’ campaign
- The Spring 2015 edition of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust magazine featured a news item to encourage people to volunteer to pull Himalayan balsam with the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project during summer 2015. Balsam pulls were advertised to HIWWT members in the ‘What’s on’ guide inserted in this edition of the magazine.
- The back page of the Isle of Wight edition of the HIWWT magazine in Spring 2015 featured a photograph of the Project Officer to publicise the national Wildlife Trusts’ ‘My Wild Life’ campaign.

Liaison with landowners and managers

The following landowners/managers were met between 1 January – 30 April 2015:-

- 3 March 2015 – Sara Cadbury
- 3 March 2015 – Deborah and David Robinson
- 13 March 2015 – Toby Scott
- 19 March 2015 – Steve and Sue Harridge
- 20 April 2015 – Caroline Aitken
- 20 April 2015 – Shaun Clark
- 21 April 2015 – Amanda Flynn
- 22 April 2015 – Liz Rolfs and William Peach
- 22 April 2015 – Amanda Flynn
- 22 April 2015 – Angela Harmsworth

Steering Group meeting

The Steering Group meeting was held on 13 January 2015.

Forum meeting

The annual Forum meeting was held at Brockenhurst Village Hall on Tuesday 3 March 2015.

Thirty four people attended, including volunteers, landowners and representatives of local authorities and other statutory organisations.

Presentations were given by:-

- Richard Bastow, HCC Highways on management of invasive plants in road verges
- Angela Paters, New Forest Land Advice Service on the control of Himalayan balsamon the River Blackwater
- Jo Gore, Source to Sea, on the control of creeping water primrose at Breamore Marsh
- Catherine Chatters, NFNNPP, on the Project's activities since the previous Forum in March 2014

Mary Parker, Tara Dempsey and Brian Matthews kindly volunteered to help set up.

Comments received after the meeting:-

“It was a really good session - and puts the balsam pulling into a wider context, which I think is nice. I'm always impressed by the number of people and organisations we/you have contact and work with”

E-mail message from Mary Parker

“The Blackwater volunteers said to me afterwards they'd found it very interesting and eye opening, so thank you for organising and running such an informative morning”.

E-mail message from Angela Peters, Community Wildlife Plans Project Officer

“A really good morning, a diverse audience and interesting presentations, I was pleased to be able to come along. A really well organised and thought out event”.

E-mail message from Bob Chapman, HIWWT

“David and I found the forum extremely interesting and it was good to meet some of the people involved”.

E-mail message from Deborah Robinson, landowner

“I really enjoyed the non-native plants forum and it was interesting to hear about the different approaches which are being taken to tackle the issue.”

E-mail message from Chelsea Hayward, Natural England

Species Control Orders

On 12 February 2015 the Infrastructure Act received Royal Assent. The Project Officer had responded to the Law Commission's consultation in 2012 relating to the review of wildlife law and supported the proposals for Species Control Orders, particularly in those situations where no landowner can be identified. The Project Officer was therefore delighted that the Infrastructure Act includes Species Control Agreements and Species Control Orders and contacted DEFRA and the Law Commission to thank them. David Connolly, Manager of the Public Law Team at the Law Commission responded on 18 February 2015 stating:-

"Dear Catherine,

Many thanks for this very kind and interesting email, and apologies for the delayed reply.

The situation you describe is precisely the reason that a law of this sort is necessary, and we're really pleased that Government has acted on our recommendations. As a pretty new joiner I can't take any credit for it myself, of course, but I'll be delighted to pass your thanks on to Keith, his successor and the rest of the team.

You may be interested to know that the bulk of the wildlife law report, and a proposed Wildlife Bill, will be published in the Summer.

Best of luck in your efforts to secure a species control order in due course – I hope it assists you to get whichever invasive species it is under control!

Kind regards, David"

Liaison with Wildlife Link

Review of Schedule 9

A working group comprising statutory nature conservation bodies, representatives of nature conservation NGOs and of pet and horticultural trades and organisations was established to review Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The working group has reviewed and reached agreement on, the criteria for selection of species on Schedule 9. Although JNCC did not anticipate any need for changes to these criteria, they sought approval to ensure they had captured the views of all the organisations represented on the working group. Kay Haw of the Woodland Trust consulted members of the Wildlife Link Invasive Non-native Species Group and the Project Officer responded on 6 March 2015. The consultation relating to the review of Schedule 9 is anticipated to commence during mid May 2015.

Release of pets into the wild

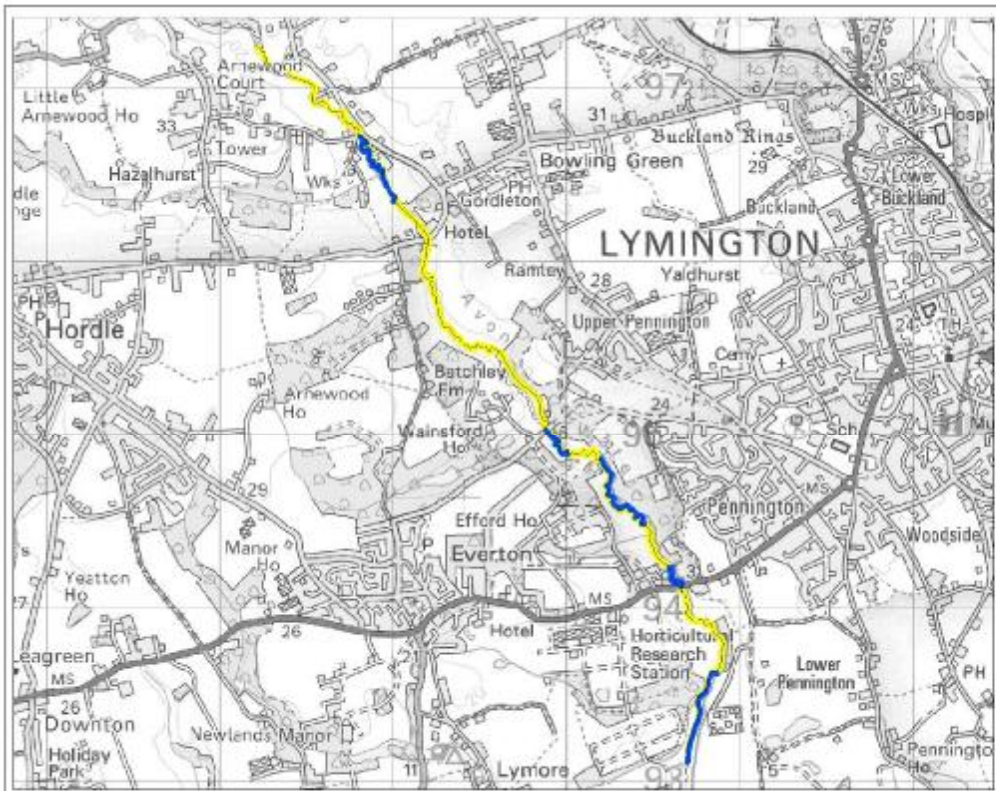
On behalf of Wildlife Link, Kay Haw of the Woodland Trust consulted relevant organisations over documents which had been sent to her by Keith Davenport of the Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association, namely a) a brochure produced by a coalition of pet trade associations on the societal good that they consider pets bring to the UK and b) a Pet Code of Practice. The Project Officer responded to Kay on 6 March 2015 supporting the relevant sections concerned with preventing release of invasive non-native pets into the wild.

Liaison with other Projects and Organisations

The Project Officer took the opportunity to meet representatives of many other projects tackling invasive non-native species during the two-day workshop held in Preston Montford during January 2015.

Maps showing location of control work undertaken during 2014

The Project Officer is grateful to the HIWWT Policy and Evidence Team for preparing the following maps to indicate the location of practical work undertaken during 2014 on behalf of the NFNNPP:-



New Forest Non-Native Plants Project Control 2014

Giant Hogweed

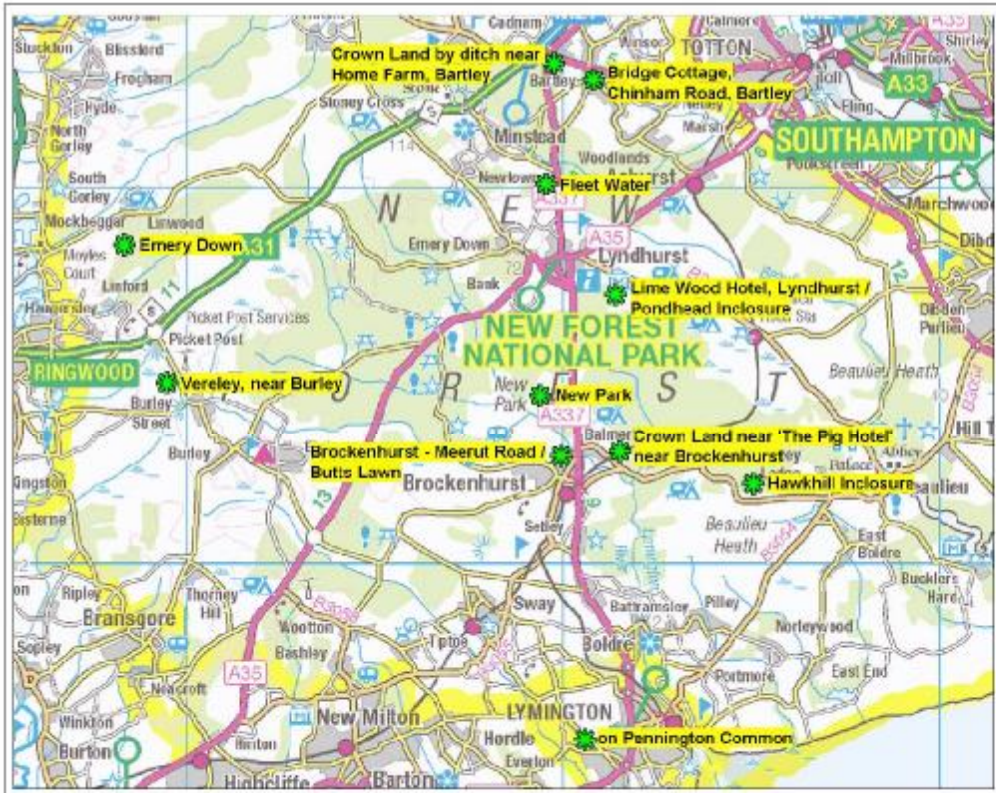


Giant Hogweed Control

- Herbicide treatment commissioned by NFRNPP
- Work undertaken by landowners

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 Produced by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on 27 February 2015 by Catherine Mearns. For further details, please contact Catherine Mearns, email: catherine@hampshirewildlife.org.uk or 01489 731425

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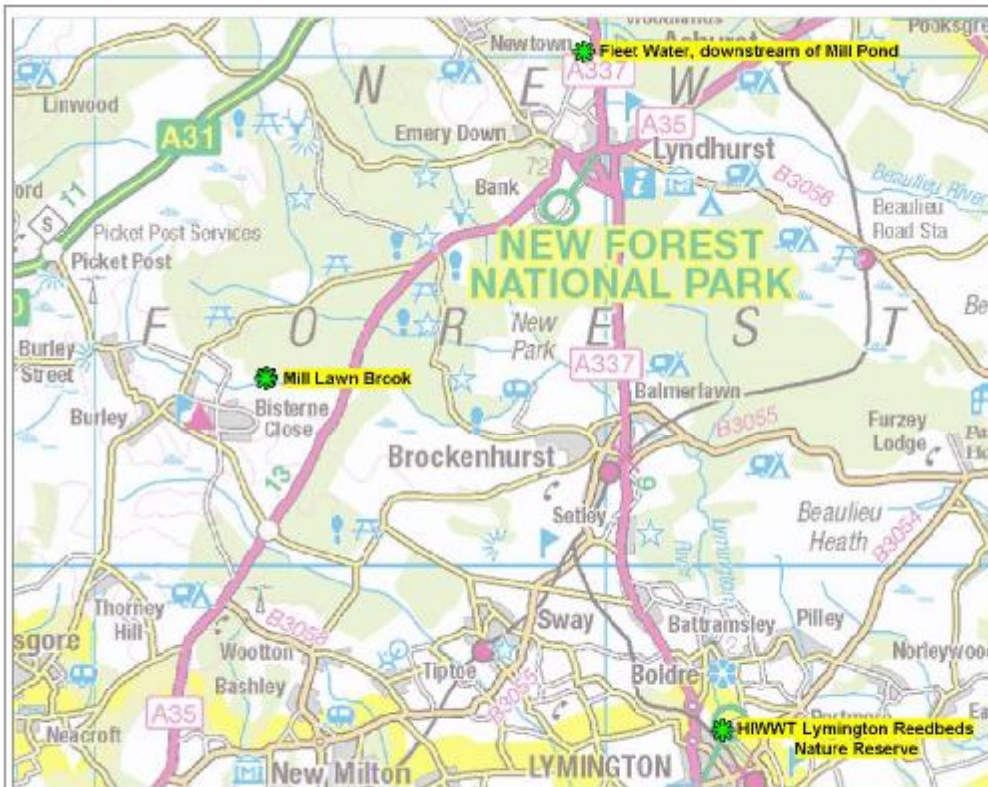
New Forest Non-Native Plants Project Control 2014

Japanese Knotweed



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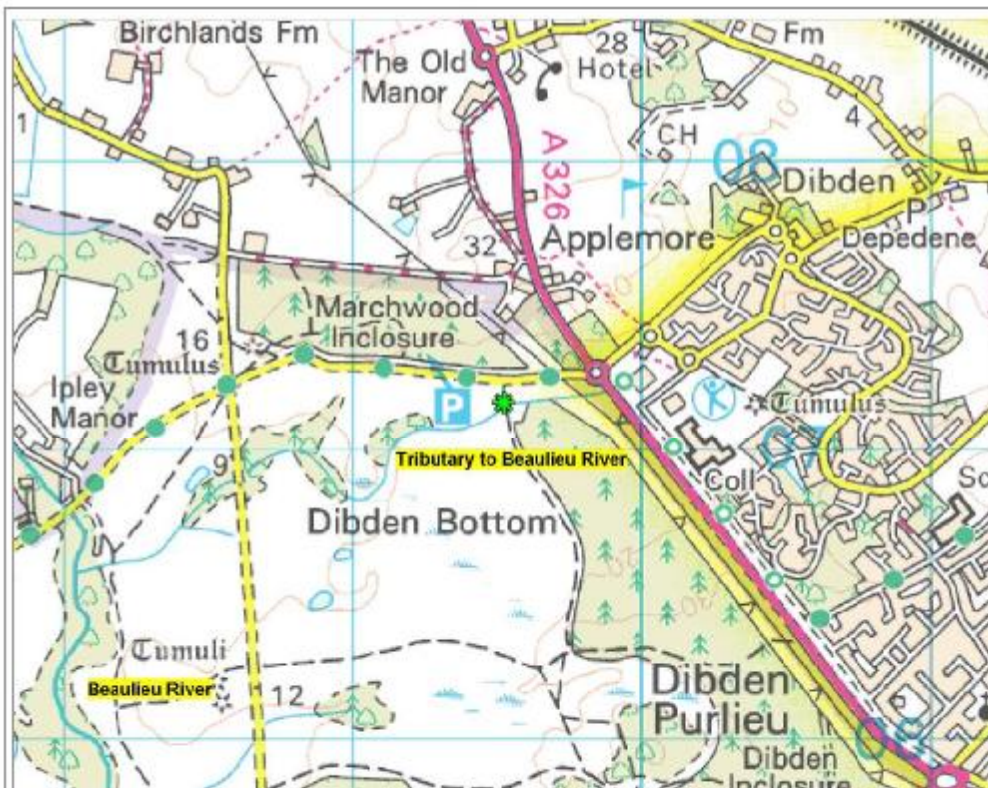


**New Forest Non-Native
Plants Project
Control 2014
American Skunk
Cabbage**



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Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
 2015
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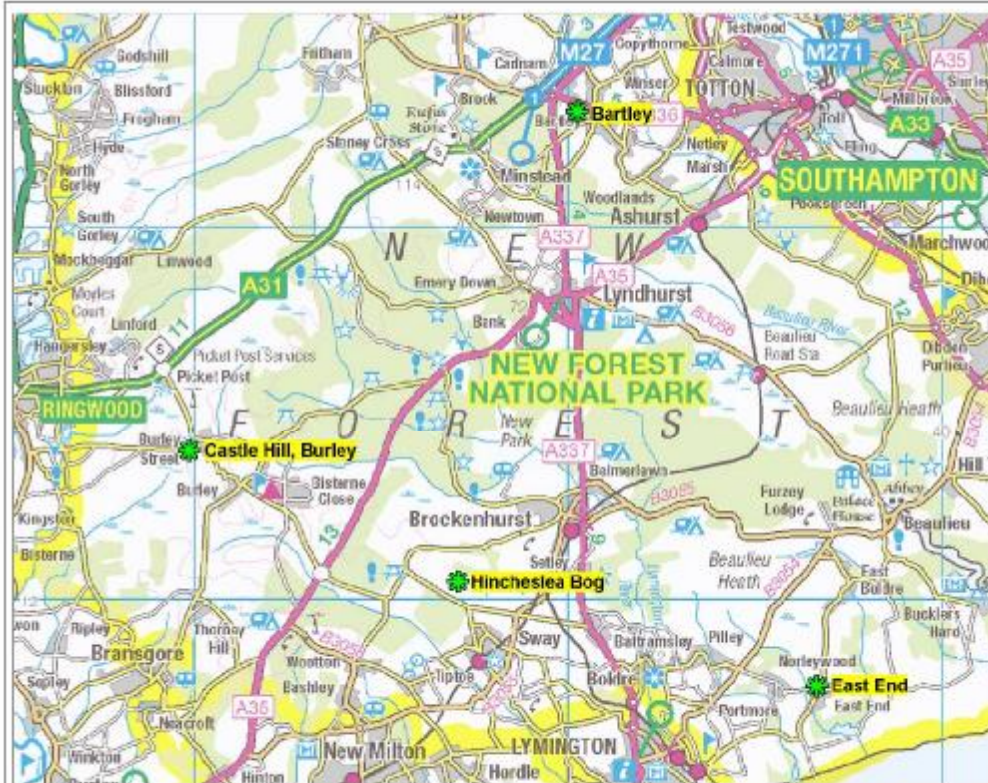


**New Forest Non-Native
Plants Project
Control 2014
Bog Arum
*Calla palustris***



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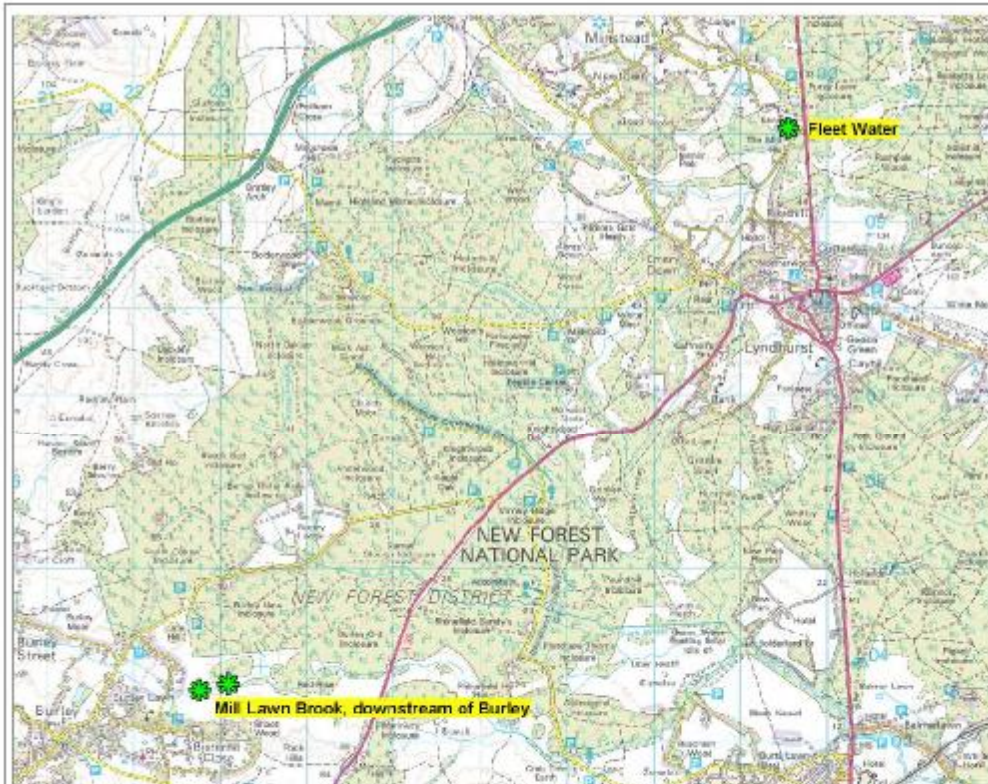


New Forest Non-Native Plants Project Control 2014
Parrot's Feather



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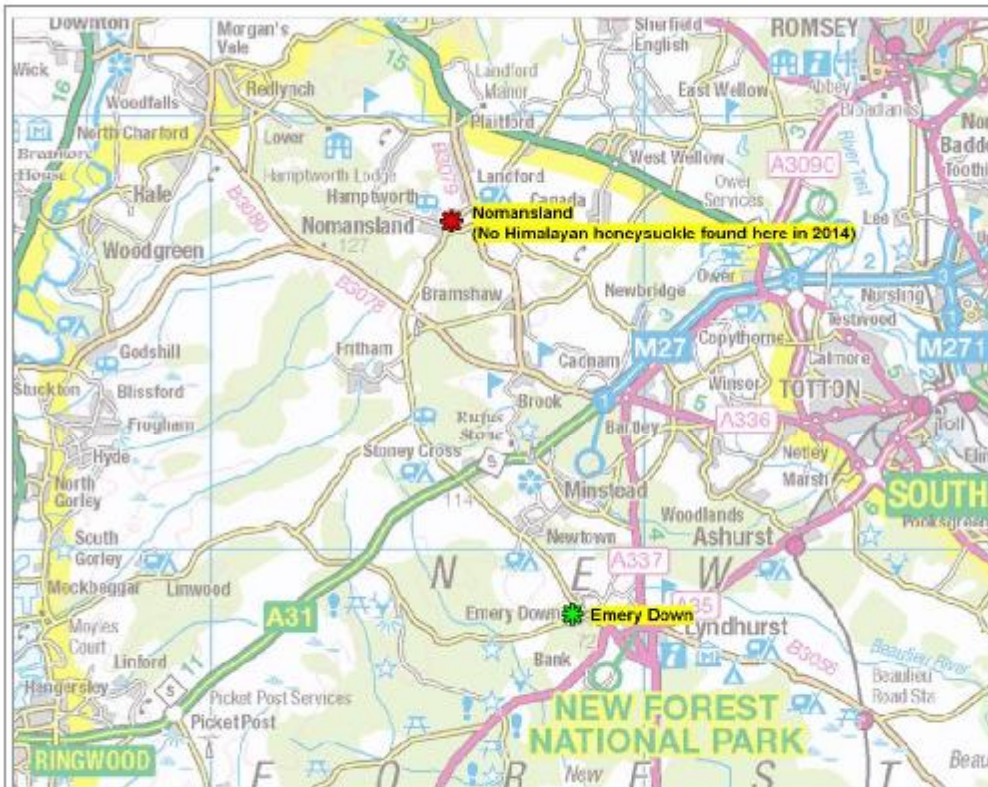


New Forest Non-Native Plants Project Control 2014
Montrebia



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**New Forest Non-Native Plants Project
Control 2014**
Himalayan Honeysuckle



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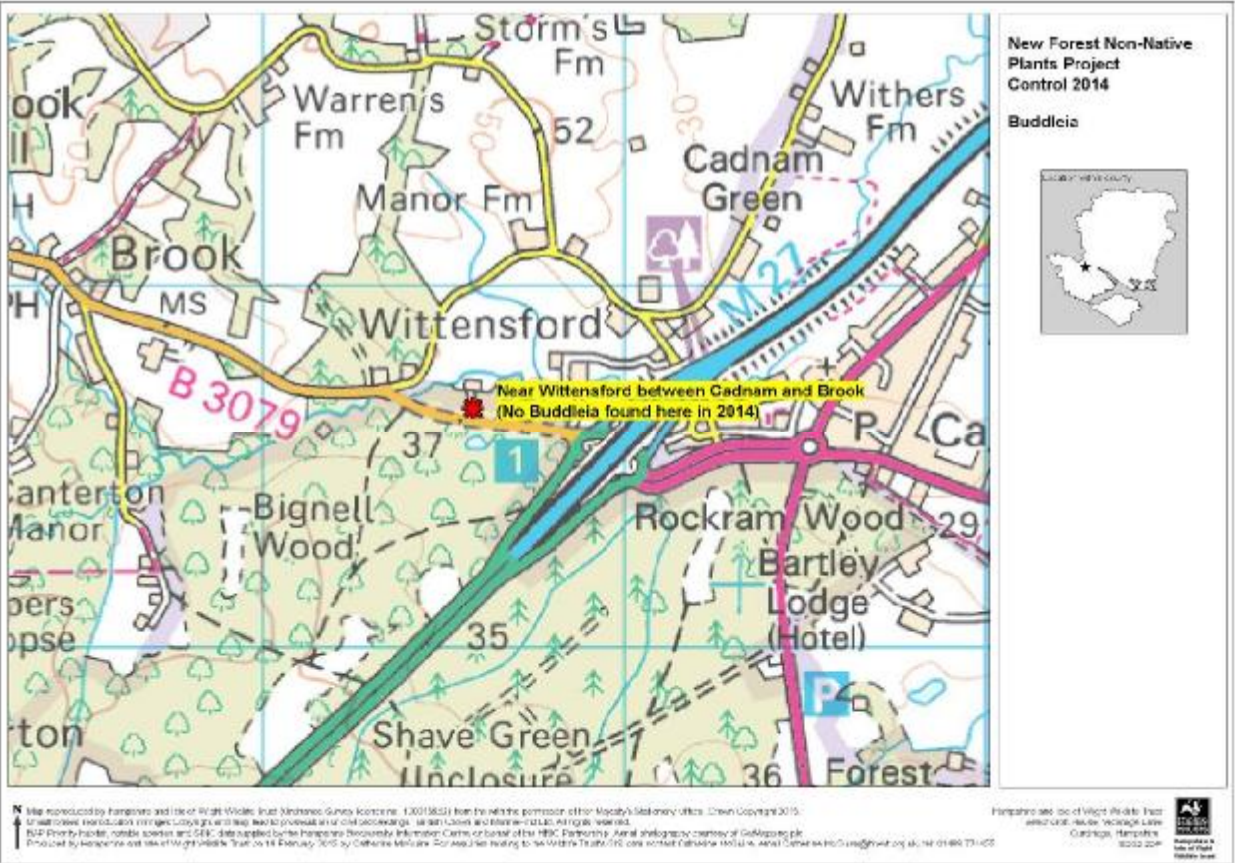
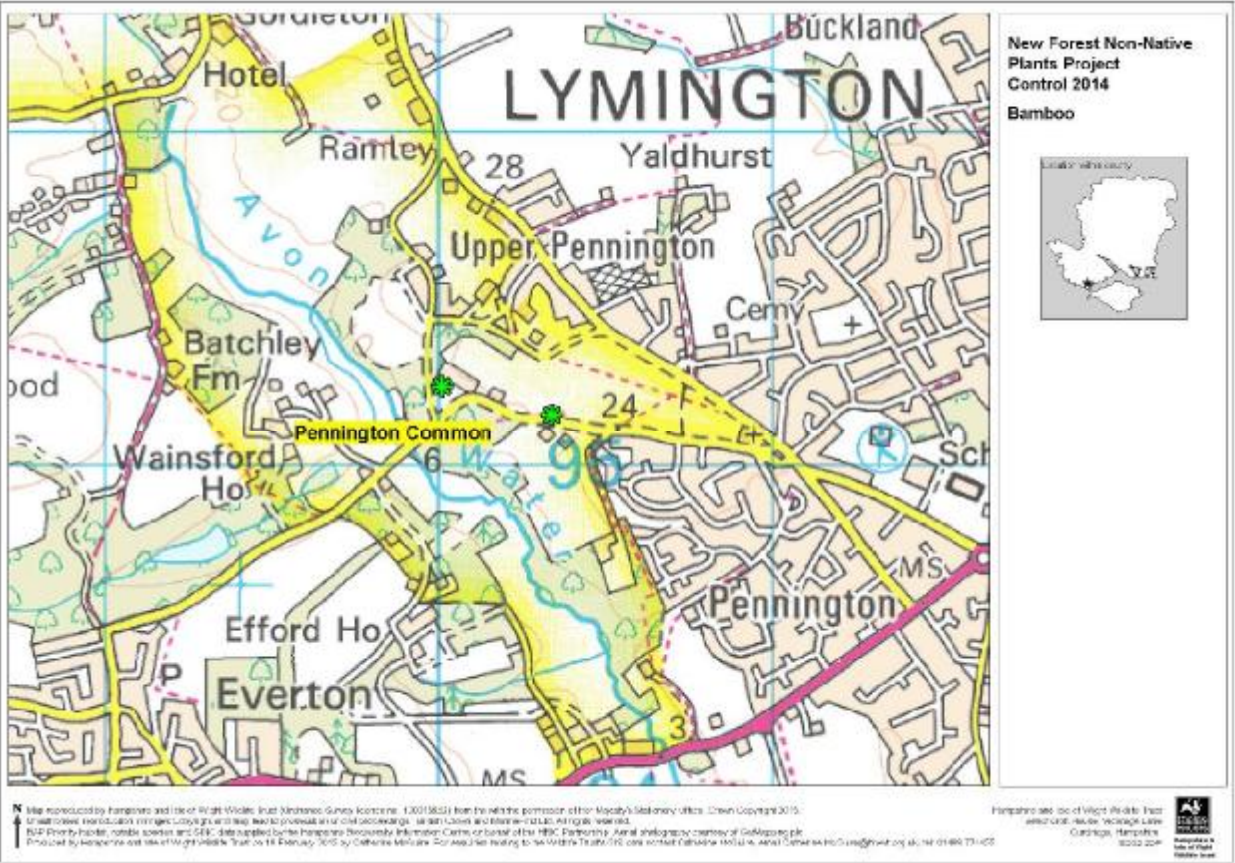


**New Forest Non-Native Plants Project
Control 2014**
**Himalayan Knotweed
*Persicaria waltchii***



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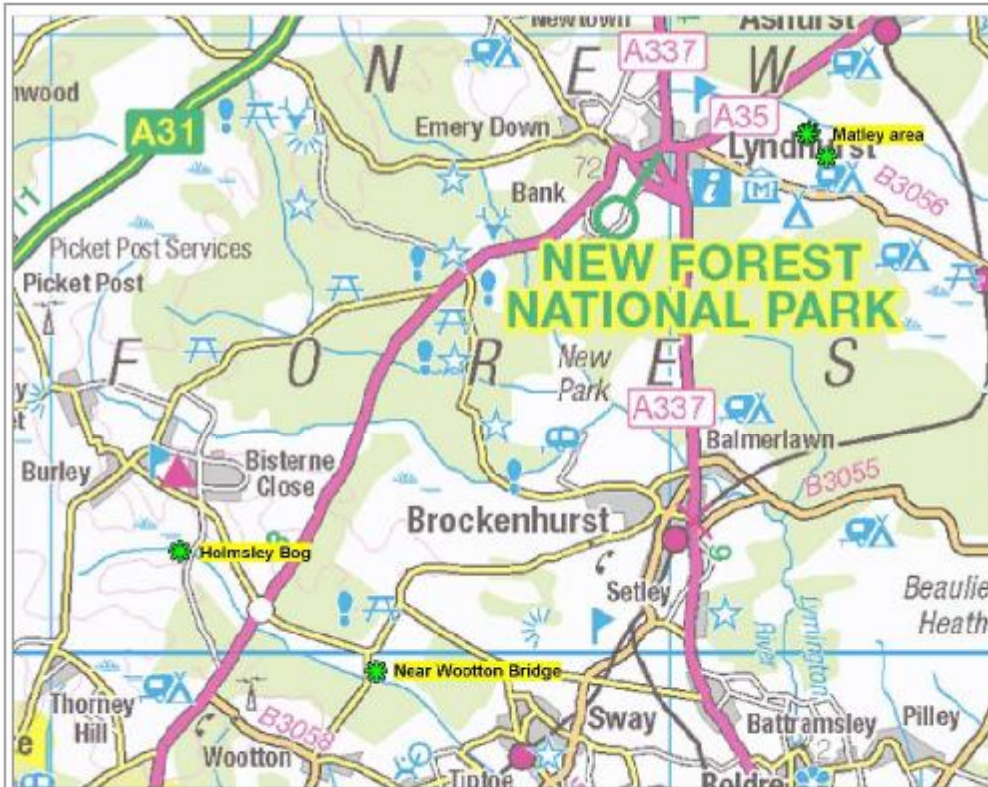
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Iris laevigata



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New Forest Non-Native Plants Project Control 2014

Pitcher Plant
Sarracenia purpurea

Removed by hand
 by volunteers



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 2015



**New Forest Non-Native
Plants Project
Control 2014**

Pitcher Plant
Sarracenia purpurea

Removed by hand
by volunteers on
3 November 2014

Scale: 1:800 (A4)



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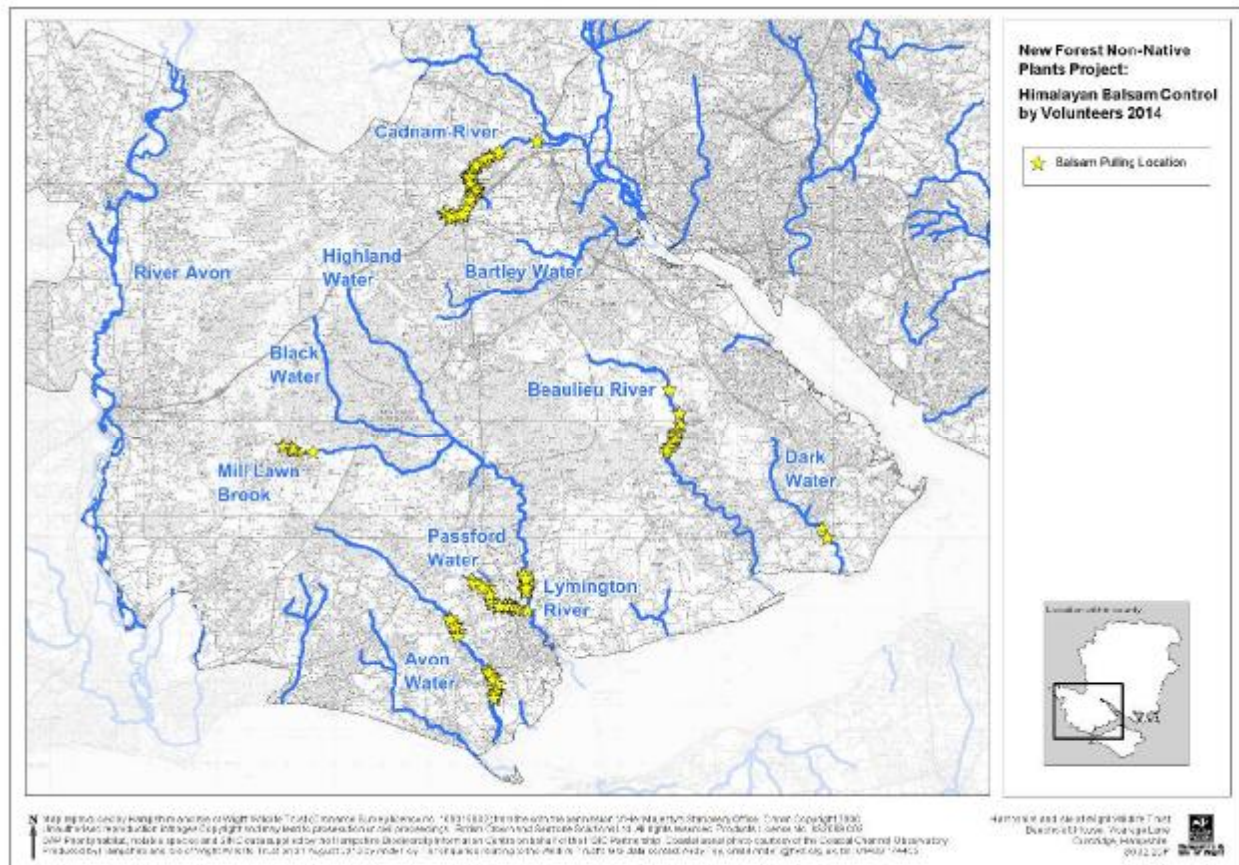
**New Forest Non-Native
Plants Project
Control 2014**

Venus Fly Trap



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In addition to the work shown on the above map (which indicates where Himalayan balsam was controlled by volunteers) a contractor, Ashley Basil, was commissioned to patrol the Lymington River, Passford Water and Mill Lawn Brook to hand-pull Himalayan balsam.

Capital works undertaken between 1 January – 30 April 2015

No control work has been undertaken by contractors or volunteers on behalf of the NFNNPP during this period.

Planning future work and securing funding

‘Our Past, Our Future’ Heritage Lottery Fund bid

On 5 March 2015 the Project Officer attended a Volunteer Forum meeting to discuss matters relating to the HLF bid. The meeting was organised by the New Forest National Park Authority and also attended by representatives from The Forestry Commission and the National Trust.

During March 2015 the Project Officer spent time contacting those landowners/managers who had not yet signed and returned their Memorandum of Understanding to confirm that they are willing for their land to be included in the second stage of the application to the HLF.

During April 2015 the Project Officer provided the ‘Our Past, Our Future’ Development Manager with electronic (scanned) copies of the 72 Memoranda of Understanding that had been signed and returned by the landowners/managers.

Our Past, Our Future

Working together for the New Forest



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]

through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Securing funding towards control of giant hogweed in 2015

During January 2015 the Project Officer prepared a newsletter for landowners along the Avon Water, with the aim of encouraging people to contribute financially towards the giant hogweed control in 2015. Paper copies of the newsletter were sent in the post on 27 January 2015 to relevant landowners who had not yet contributed; landowners who had already contributed received their newsletter via e-mail on 26 January. During February 2015, further contact was made with landowners via e-mail, telephone and letters to reiterate requests for financial contributions. By early March 2015 sufficient funding had been secured from landowners to complement the grant aid offered by The New Forest Trust and administered by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation.



The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation asked the Project Officer to evaluate the work funded by The New Forest Trust. The Project Officer selected three sample sites where the giant hogweed treatment can be monitored during 2015. The Project Officer visited these three sites during April 2015 to take photographs of the giant hogweed plants growing at 10 locations at each site.



Giant hogweed plant on east bank of Avon Water downstream of Wainsford Bridge photographed on 24 April 2015

Organising control work to be undertaken by contractors during 2015

On 16 April 2015 the Project Officer issued the Purchase Orders, letters and risk assessments for the capital works to be undertaken by contractors during 2015, as follows:-

Species	Location	Funding	Purchase Order(s)
American skunk cabbage	Lymington Reedbeds nature reserve	Donation 'in memoriam'	12899
American skunk cabbage and Montbretia	Mill Lawn Brook	New Forest HLS	12901
American skunk cabbage, Montbretia and Japanese knotweed	Downstream of Mill Pond, near Harcourt Wood	FC	12902
Giant hogweed	Avon Water	Landowner donations and grant aid from The New Forest Trust	12903 12904
Giant hogweed	Avon Water	Landowner donations and grant aid from The New Forest Trust	12905 12906 12907 12908 12909 12910
Japanese knotweed	Vereley, near Burley	New Forest HLS	12920
Japanese knotweed	New Park	FC	12935
Japanese knotweed	Pondhead Inclosure	FC	12921
Japanese knotweed	Hawkhill Inclosure	FC	12923
Japanese knotweed	Brockenhusrt (Meerut Road/Butts Lawn)	FC	12924
Japanese knotweed	Crown Land near The Pig Hotel	FC	12929
Japanese knotweed	Bartley (near junction of Chinham Road and Shepherd's Road)	New Forest HLS	12933
Japanese knotweed and Himalayan honeysuckle	Crown Land near Emery Down	New Forest HLS	12932
Parrot's feather	Hincheslea Bog Castle Hill, Burley East End Bartley	New Forest HLS	12913 12914
Himalayan knotweed Bamboo	Pennington Common	HLS agreement with Lymington & Pennington Town Council	12912
Bog arum	Stream near Ipley	New Forest HLS	12911
<i>Iris laevigata</i>	Lyndhurst	New Forest HLS	12915
<i>Iris laevigata</i>	Latchmoor Pond	New Forest HLS	12916
<i>Iris laevigata</i>	Wootton Coppice Inclosure	New Forest HLS	12917

Himalayan balsam pulls during Summer 2015

The main programme of balsam pulls for summer 2015 was prepared by the end of January 2015 for dissemination on the HIWWT website. During February 2015, the summer programme was sent to people who had volunteered in previous years or who had expressed an interest in volunteering during 2015.

During April 2015 the Project Officer contacted landowners on the upper section of the Avon Water and undertook site visits to ascertain the source of Himalayan balsam and arrange additional volunteer work parties to pull the balsam.

Planning Himalayan balsam control on the Lymington River catchment

On 3 February 2015 the Project Officer and Jo Gore met Ashley Basil (who had worked as a contractor on behalf of the NFNNPP in previous years) to plan balsam control on the Lymington River and its tributaries the Mill Lawn Brook and the Passford Water.

Promotional Events

Totton College Volunteering and Work Experience Fair

On 8 January 2015 the Project Officer attended an event organised by Totton College to promote volunteering and work experience opportunities to the students.



A level students Bradley Lewis and Jasmine Carr looking at the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project display at the volunteering and work experience event at Totton College on 8 January 2015



Amanda Cron (right) is currently studying at Sparsholt College. Amanda is doing work experience with HIWWT and joined colleagues from Testwood Lakes at the Totton College Volunteering and Work Experience Fair

Volunteer Fair

On Saturday 31 January 2015 the Project Officer manned a display at the annual Volunteer Fair, organised by the New Forest National Park Authority, held at Lyndhurst Community Centre. It was, once again, an extremely useful event, with lots of contacts made with potential volunteers.



Lesley Harridge looking at the NFNNPP display during the Volunteer Fair on 31 January 2015

Awareness-raising

Presentation to the Royal Southampton Horticultural Society

The Project Officer gave a talk to the Royal Southampton Horticultural Society (aka Southampton Gardening Club) on the evening of Friday 30 January 2015. The talk focussed on the role played by gardeners in stopping the spread of invasive non-native plants.

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



Be Plant Wise leaflets were given to:-

- all audience members during the talk to the Royal Southampton Horticultural Society on the evening of Friday 30 January 2015;
- visitors to the Volunteer Fair at Lyndhurst on 31 January 2015

Volunteer survey, research and other activity

Excel Southampton Excel Placement Programme

Dr Ben Rushbrook (Acting Senior Ecologist, HIWWT) has liaised with the Project Officer to arrange for two Southampton University students to undertake vegetation surveys during summer/early autumn 2015 to provide a baseline for the monitoring which will be required if the New Forest ‘Our Past, Our Future’ Heritage Lottery Fund bid is successful. The placements were advertised to students on 2 April 2015 for a three week period. The cost will be met by the Excel Southampton Placement Programme.



Training provided by the Project Officer

Nothing relevant to report during this period.

Training attended by the Project Officer

GNNSS workshop on 28 and 29 January 2015

The Project Officer attended the excellent two day workshop organised by Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat at Preston Montford Field Studies Centre in Shropshire. She put up a display about the control of pitcher plant *Sarracenia purpurea* in the New Forest and gave a presentation on control of pitcher plants and Venus Fly Traps in the New Forest which generated a lot of interest from GBNSS staff and other Local Action Groups.

The workshop was an ideal opportunity to hear updates on policy and legislation as well as hearing about the activities of other Local Action Groups, sharing ideas and finding solutions to problems.



Project officers Ruth Hawksley and Penelope Chaney looking at the display on the control of pitcher plant *Sarracenia purpurea* during the GBNSS workshop at Preston Montford

On 30 January 2015 Olaf Booy of GBNSS e-mailed the Project Officer to say “Thanks again for all your input - your presentation on the Pitcher Plant was really compelling (excellent photos) and I’m keen to see if we can / should be doing more about it at a GB level (it seems like the time is right to me) ... it was also really good to have you on hand for your botanising skills in the ID workshop!”

On 4 February 2015 Trevor Renals of the Environment Agency e-mailed the Project Officer to say “The carnivorous plant issue is a really nice example of the important role LAGs have in highlighting new threats. It often worries me that we select risk species on chance conversations at conferences, and other exchanges, rather than good field observations. We don’t get out enough!”

On 4 February 2015, Niall Moore of GBNNSS e-mailed the Project Officer to say “I am glad you felt the workshop was useful – it certainly always raises my spirits seeing just how much is going on and also the great enthusiasm for the work. I really enjoyed your talk on the Venus fly trap and *Sarracenia* – this really shows the huge value of LAGs, particularly ones who proactively look for (and tackle!) the next problem species. From the reply by Kevin Walker it looks as if you may single-handedly have eradicated a species from the wild in GB – now that would be amazing and worth highlighting! I will see what Kevin comes back with. I have asked him to make enquiries to see if there are any other reports of persisting fly traps and I will let you know.”



Delegates at the GBNNSS workshop in January 2015

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



On Monday 5 January 2015 the Project Officer submitted the final financial claim to Norfolk County Council, the RINSE lead partner. It is anticipated that the funding relating to this financial claim will be received by HIWWT during the 2015/16 financial year.

Other work

Natural England’s draft IPENS ‘Invasive Species Theme Plan’

Dr Julie Erian, Natural England’s Senior Adviser on the IPENS (Improvement Programme for England’s Natura 2000 Sites) project, consulted the Project Officer on the draft Invasive Species Theme Plan. The Project Officer submitted comments to Julie on 27 January 2015.

Liaison with Bournemouth University

Gitte Kragh, a PhD student in the Department of Life and Environmental Sciences (Faculty of Science and Technology) at Bournemouth University, corresponded with the Project Officer during spring 2015 regarding her research into the motivation of volunteers. The Project Officer sent her the report titled ‘Volunteer Survey 2015 : Responses Report’ prepared in February 2015 by Debbie Dawkins of HIWWT.

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

A few photographs taken by the Project Officer have been included in the Environment Agency's Technical Guide titled 'Aquatic and riparian plant management: controls for vegetation in watercourses' dated July 2014 (ISBN: 978-1-84911-326-7). The photographs feature the trials undertaken by NFNNPP involving hot foam and aquatic dye.

The Project Officer was contacted by Alisdair Mason, Development Director of LanGuard Ltd on 13 March 2015 as he had been asked to advise Surrey Wildlife Trust on the potential to control New Zealand pygmyweed using hot foam. The Project Officer sent him the final report and accompanying annex report prepared by Dr Naomi Ewald in autumn 2014. Alisdair responded in an e-mail as follows:-

"Catherine,

Thanks very much for forwarding the reports, though it does not highlight Hot Foam or Herbicide as the key to control or eradication, it is good to know what advice to give clients. I am afraid I often quote you as having done research work in this area, so hopefully you do not get too many calls as a result. Sadly it seems the search for the solution to *Crassula* goes on but it is handy to be able to give people the best available advice. It was great to work with you on this project.

Best Regards, Al"



New Zealand pygmyweed (Photo: Ashley Basil)

HIWWT staff meeting

The Project Officer attended the HIWWT staff meeting on 17 March 2015.

HIWWT Land Advisers' Cross-Cutting Meeting

The Project Officer attended the HIWWT Land Advisers' meeting on 10 March 2015.

HIWWT Evidence Cross-Cutting Meeting

The Project Officer attended the HIWWT Evidence Cross-Cutting meeting on 24 March 2015.

HIWWT New Forest and Avon Valley Living Landscape Team Meetings

The Project Officer attended the Team Meetings on 21 January, 24 February, 18 March and 24 April 2015.

New Forest Higher Level Stewardship AGM

The Project Officer attended the first part of the New Forest HLS Annual General Meeting on the evening of 21 April 2015 and was pleased that volunteers who had helped to control pitcher plant and Himalayan balsam on the Open Forest were recognised through presentation of certificates.

Field Guide to Invasive Plants & Animals in Britain

This new field guide, written by Olaf Booy, Max Wade and Helen Roy, was published by Bloomsbury in early 2015 and includes two photographs taken by the Project Officer.

One photograph, taken on 20 April 2011, shows volunteer Alexander Bridges amongst American skunk cabbage in Lymington River Reedbeds Site of Special Scientific Interest. This photograph is used in the introductory section of the field guide on page 9 to illustrate the impact of invasive non-native plants. The caption reads ‘American Skunk-cabbage *Lysichiton americanus* in the New Forest, smothering important wet woodland habitat and displacing important native species’.

The other photograph, taken by the Project Officer during a volunteer work party at Holmsley Bog on 4 November 2013, is used on page 76 of the field guide to illustrate pitcher plant *Sarracenia purpurea*.



Preparation of article for inclusion in Summer edition of HIWWT magazine

At the request of the Wildlife Trust's Strategic Head of Conservation and Education, the Project Officer prepared text and selected photographs for an article to highlight the first six years of the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project. Since then, the Editorial Board decided on a different approach so, although the resulting article will not focus on the first six years of the Project, it will highlight the problems caused by invasive non-native plants and the efforts being made to tackle them in the New Forest area. The work organised by Jo Gore recently at Breamore Marsh Site of Special Scientific Interest to control creeping water primrose will feature as a case study.

Preparation of report on the first six years of the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project

At the request of the Wildlife Trust's Strategic Head of Conservation and Education, the Project Officer drafted a report during Spring 2015 to summarise the activities of the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project from May 2009 – April 2015.

Annual leave

The Project Officer took annual leave in late March/early April 2015 to travel to Scotland and was pleased to see that the 'Check, Clean, Dry' campaign is being promoted on the River Carron in Sutherland, as shown in the photograph below.



'Check, Clean, Dry' campaign along the River Carron, Scotland on 5 April 2015

Press releases

No press releases issued during this reporting period

Media coverage – see attached sheets

Report compiled by Catherine Chatters
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1 May 2015

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

The Project is grateful for support provided by a partnership of organisations:-

