

**NEW FOREST NON-NATIVE PLANTS  
PROJECT**

**REPORT TO STEERING GROUP MEETING  
ON  
18 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Report covering the period  
1 May 2015 – 31 August 2015**

**Catherine Chatters  
New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer  
3 September 2015**

## **Publicity**

### Press releases

The following press releases were issued between 1 May and 31 August 2015:-

- Press release dated 29 May 2015 titled 'Netley Marsh Guides join the battle against balsam'
- Press release sent to Romsey Advertiser on 10 July 2015 relating to Himalayan balsam-pulling by 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey Beavers, Cubs and Scouts on the evening of Thursday 9 July 2015.

### Publications and websites

- Southern Daily Echo - Friday 15 May 2015 – request for volunteers in the 'News in Brief' section
- Southern Daily Echo – Wednesday 20 May 2015 – article in the 'Greenwatch' section on page 16 titled 'Volunteers vital for protection of nature' featuring the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project to celebrate National Volunteers Week in the first week of June 2015; also a request for volunteers to help with balsam-pulling in the 'dairy dates' section on page 16.
- Southern Daily Echo website – Wednesday 20 May 2015 - article titled 'Volunteers vital for protection of nature'
- Hampshire Chronicle - Thursday 21 May 2015 – article in 'Country Matters' section titled 'Trust's volunteers urged to combat Himalayan balsam'
- The Lymington Directory – Issue 62 June/July 2015 – note on page 33 promoting Himalayan balsam pulls organised by the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project.
- Southern Daily Echo – Monday 1 June 2015 – note on page 8 requesting volunteers for Himalayan balsam pull at Buckland Wood on 2 June 2015.
- The Herald – Number 305, 4 – 25 June 2015 – article on page 55 titled 'Beat the Himalayan Balsam'
- New Forest Post – Thursday 11 June 2015 – rather bizarrely page 16 of this edition of the New Forest Post advertised the Himalayan balsam pull at Buckland Wood on 2 June 2015 which had already occurred 9 days prior to publication!
- Lymington Times – Saturday 20 June 2015 – article on page 15 titled 'Guides join in wildlife trust's Himalayan battle' (this resulted from the HIWWT press release dated 29 May 2015)
- Osborne's 'STOP Think! Cascade' staff newsletter for July 2015 included an article on page 21 about the Development Day spent Himalayan balsam pulling by their staff Richard and Julie King on 24 June 2015, plus a related 'toolbox talk' about Himalayan balsam on page 22. This publication is distributed across the Osborne Infrastructure Business, their supply chain partners and those customers who wish to be included.
- The New Forester magazine Issue No 20 – article on page 11 encouraging people to volunteer with a Himalayan balsam-pulling work party.
- The Herald – Number 307, 16 July – 6 August 2015 – article on page 61 titled 'Guides Battle Balsam'
- Romsey Advertiser – Friday 24 July 2015 – article on page 69 titled 'Young teams get busy with the weed-pulling' relating to balsam pull by 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey Beavers, Cubs and Scouts on 9 July 2015
- The INNS LAG's eBulletin (the DEFRA newsletter for Local Action Groups tackling invasive non-native species) Issue 4 dated 28 July 2015 featured the Project Officer's interview on Radio Solent which was broadcast on 7 July 2015
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's 'Wildlife' magazine Summer 2015 featured the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project on page 12 and 13.

- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's 'Wildlife' magazine Summer 2015 featured Mary Parker who volunteers with the NFNNPP and included a photograph taken by the Project Officer on page 14.
- The 'What's on Guide' that accompanied the Summer 2015 edition of HIWWT 'Wildlife' magazine featured the NFNNPP Himalayan balsam pull on 13 August 2015
- Southern Daily Echo, Wednesday 5 August 2015 – article in the Greenwatch section on page 17 titled 'Scout groups help to remove damaging weed' relating to balsam pull on the evening of 9 July 2015 by 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.
- The Great Britain Invasive Non-native Species Strategy published in August 2015 by DEFRA, The Scottish Government and Welsh Government - includes two photographs on page 18 taken by the Project Officer.
- Romsey Advertiser website – article titled 'Green Scouts earn their Blue Peter Badges' - first published on 28 November 2014. The article relates to the balsam-pulling by 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at Wigley on the Cadnam River during summer 2014. This was not included in the Steering Group report relating to 1 September – 31 December 2014 as the Project Officer did not know it had been published.

#### Radio interview

On 2 July 2015 Sophia Seth of BBC Radio Solent came to the Himalayan balsam pull at Paultons Park to record interviews with the Project Officer and volunteers. This was broadcast during the programme presented by Julian Clegg on Radio Solent during the morning of Tuesday 7 July 2015.

#### TV interview

On 21 July 2015 the Project Officer was contacted by Juliette Fletcher, a reporter with ITV plc, to organise an interview with the Project Officer for incorporation in a news item by ITV Meridian on the 'dangers of giant hogweed across the region'. The Project Officer was filmed and interviewed by freelance cameraman Mick Hopley during the morning of Wednesday 22 July and an extract from the interview was used in the news item broadcast at 6pm that evening, together with footage of Andrea Griffiths from the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership.



Mick Hopley filming on behalf of ITV Meridian on 22 July 2015

## **Liaison with landowners and managers**

The following landowners/managers were met between 1 May – 31 August 2015:-

Toby Scott (Cadnam River) on 13 May 2015, 12 June 2015 and 30 July 2015

Pat Ramsey, Paultons Park (Cadnam River) on 14 May 2015

James Mancey, Paultons Park (Cadnam River) on 14 May 2015

Liz Rolfs (Avon Water) on 1 June 2015

Bill Peach (Avon Water) on 1 June 2015

Janet James (Passford Water) on 2 June 2015

Stephen Wright (Passford Water) on 8 June 2015

John and Judy Whitlock (Cadnam River) on 11 June 2015

June Tonkyn (Cadnam River) on 19 June 2015

The Project Officer prepared newsletters for relevant landowners along the Cadnam River and the Lymington River (and its tributaries) during summer 2015. These were sent to relevant land owners and land managers on 18 May 2015. Copies of the newsletters are appended to this report.

## **Steering Group meeting**

The Steering Group meeting was held on 15 May 2015.

## **Liaison with Wildlife and Countryside Link Invasive Non-Native Species Group**

### Review of Schedule 9

The Project Officer liaised with members of Wildlife and Countryside Link during July 2015 whilst preparing evidence for submission to JNCC in connection with the Fourth Schedule 9 Review. The Project Officer completed proformae relating to:-

- American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*
- Pitcher plant *Sarracenia purpurea*

These were submitted to Dr Ant Maddock of JNCC on 31 July 2015. The submission relating to American skunk cabbage was endorsed by Kay Haw of the Woodland Trust. The submission relating to pitcher plant was endorsed by Camilla Keane of Plantlife and Hannah Freeman of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

The research commissioned by the NFNNPP from Neil Sanderson proved extremely useful during the preparation of these submissions:-

Sanderson, N.A (2013). New Forest Non-Native Plants Project Research on the Impact of Skunk Cabbage *Lysichiton americanus* on Native Vegetation

Sanderson, N. A (December 2012). Ecological Importance of Homsley Bog in Relation to the Exotic Pitcherplant *Sarracenia purpurea*

### Species Control Provisions – draft Code of Practice

On 6 May 2015 the Project Officer submitted comments to Wildlife and Countryside Link on the current draft Code of Practice (Version 4) relating to the Species Control Provisions under Part 4 of the Infrastructure Act 2015. These comments were forwarded (together with those from other relevant conservation organisations) by Wildlife and Countryside Link to Craig Lee of DEFRA.

## **Liaison with other Projects and Organisations**

### Liaison with HCC Highways

On 11 May 2015 the Project Officer met Richard Bastow of HCC Highways to discuss the need to control invasive non-native plants growing in road verges in the New Forest area. Mr Bastow agreed to check that HCC's contractors have been commissioned to treat Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed. Mr Bastow agreed to check that HCC's contractors will control Himalayan balsam where it grows in verges adjacent to main roads. Where Himalayan balsam is growing in the verges adjacent to minor roads, he agreed that the Project Officer could lead small groups of volunteers to pull the balsam, on condition that they adhere to certain safety measures.

On 1 June 2015 the Project Officer e-mailed Richard Bastow to alert him to giant hogweed plants in road verges that still require herbicide treatment and to let him know about 'new' sightings of giant hogweed growing in road verges for which HCC is responsible.

### Liaison with University of Cambridge

On 9 June 2015 Dr David Aldridge of the University of Cambridge contacted the Project Officer to seek her opinion on a review of techniques to control American skunk cabbage that he had drafted for Natural England. The Project Officer responded on 10 June, provided comments regarding the trials undertaken by the NFNNPP in 2010 and drew Dr Aldridge's attention to the report by Neil Sanderson commissioned by the NFNNPP to highlight the impact of American skunk cabbage at two sites in the New Forest area.

### Liaison with Canterbury Christ Church University

On 12 June Tim Smith of the Ecology Research Group at Canterbury Christ Church University contacted the Project Officer to ask for photographs for his thesis. He requested photographs of the blue dye used in the trials undertaken between 2011 and 2013 to control New Zealand pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii*. The Project Officer sent him a selection of photographs on 13 June 2015.

### Liaison with Medway Valley Countryside Partnership, Kent County Council

Andrea Griffiths, the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership Officer, contacted the Project Officer on 27 August 2015 and invited her to give a presentation at the conference she is organising at Headcorn on 15 December 2015. The presentation will relate to the origin of invasive non-native riparian and aquatic plants, identification, problems they cause and methods of control.





## Volunteer activity during 1 May – 31 August 2015

### Control of Himalayan balsam in road verges

Following the meeting with Richard Bastow of HCC Highways on 11 May 2015, the Project Officer arranged a volunteer work party with local residents on Monday 1 June 2015 to tackle the Himalayan balsam growing in road verges along South Sway Lane and Flexford Lane in the vicinity of the Avon Water.

On 22 June 2015 volunteer John Moore helped the Project Officer to pull Himalayan balsam in the road verge and adjacent ditch along Winsor Road, near the junction of Winsor Lane.



Local residents Liz Rolfs and Bill Peach volunteered to help the Project Officer to pull Himalayan balsam in road verges on 1 June 2015.

### Control of Himalayan balsam along River Valleys

The 2015 programme of NFNNPP Himalayan balsam pulls commenced on Thursday 21 May along the Cadnam River. Volunteer work parties during the summer were led by Catherine Chatters and Jo Gore (Project Officers) and Ashley Basil (volunteer).

During this period:-

- A total of **66** work parties were led on behalf of the NFNNPP
- A total of **234** individual volunteers kindly gave their time to pull balsam with NFNNPP
- A total of **2,122** hours were donated by volunteers during work parties led by NFNNPP.

In addition to people who had volunteered to pull balsam in previous years, a number of new volunteers helped this year and volunteers were drawn from a wide range of organisations including:-

- Netley Marsh Guides
- 1<sup>st</sup> Colbury Guides
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
- Copythorne Explorer Scouts
- National Trust volunteer group
- Staff from SSE (from Portsmouth)
- Staff from HSBC (two separate groups)
- Staff from Ramboll (an environmental consultancy based in Netley Marsh)
- Staff from Osbornes
- Staff from BDO LLP (an accountancy firm based in Southampton)
- A member of staff from Mott MacDonald
- Group of home-educated children
- Forestry Commission Voluntary Rangers
- Staff from the New Forest National Park Authority

In addition to the work parties organised by the NFNNPP, other volunteer work parties in the New Forest area were led by Natural England and the Forestry Commission. Also, Angela Peters of the New Forest Land Advice Service organised a programme of volunteer work parties to pull balsam along the River Blackwater.



Helen and John Read pulling small Himalayan balsam plants at the first balsam pull of the season along the Cadnam River on 21 May 2015



Nine Netley Marsh Guides and their leaders joined other volunteers to pull balsam at Paultons Park on 28 May 2015 as shown in the photographs on this page.







2015 was the first year of balsam-pulling at Paultons Park where a substantial population of Himalayan balsam grows in the vicinity of the Cadnam River



Pulling Himalayan balsam at Paultons Park on 10 June 2015





Himalayan balsam-pulling work party at Paultons Park on 10 June 2015





Home-educated children helped to pull balsam at Fuzzie's Farm on the Cadnam River on 19 June 2015

“Really enjoyed the Balsam pulling and would definitely do it again! Best wishes and thank you for having us” - Ursula Gooding and SEEDS Home Education Group

“I wanted to write in order to thank you so much for meeting with us on Friday and for the patience and enthusiasm you showed our group. It was such an interesting and productive day. Both of my girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it was a fantastic learning opportunity that has fuelled their interest in conservation and wildlife. We will definitely be looking into the links that you sent us for further information and project work!” - Aisha Chader (mother of home-educated children at balsam pull at Fuzzie's Farm on 19 June 2015)





Claire Sherwood of the New Forest National Park Authority pulling balsam near the Passford Water on 23 June 2015



Volunteers near the Passford Water on 23 June 2015





1<sup>st</sup> Colbury Guides pulled balsam at Fuzzie's Farm along the Cadnam River on the evening of 24 June 2015







Pam Reading Forestry Commission Voluntary Ranger (left) and Gemma Stride (right) of the Forestry Commission pulled balsam along the Beaulieu River on 25 June 2015



Trevor Bumfrey and Pam Reading (Forestry Commission Voluntary Rangers) pulled balsam along the Beaulieu River on 7 July 2015





Richard and Julie King work for Osborne and chose to spend their 'development day' participating in a balsam pull along the Cadnam River on 24 June 2015

"Thank you and we enjoyed the event very much; I think if we were honest we would have been happy doing another couple of hours at it! I will include some details of the experience on our own Osborne STOP Think! publication and try to muster up some further development day volunteers!"  
Richard King, Osborne

"Who would have thought that Balsam pulling could be such fun – and so very addictive! We had a great time. Thank you for having us. When I manage to cut down my own working hours I really do hope to join you much more. In the meantime I really do hope you get the funding to carry on until 2020 and keep up the great work. Lovely to have met you".  
Julie King, Osborne

"I come along for the peace and quiet and exercise!" – Lesley Hancock (balsam puller)

"A good day all round. Such a privilege to be in such a 'wild' habitat" – Mary Macmillan (balsam puller)

"I really did enjoy the day and it's great to know all your (and all your helpers') work is showing results. Thanks for the dates and the photos - sat in my office it's a nice reminder of my day outdoors :)" – Jo Butcher (balsam puller)





Nine staff from SSE pulled balsam at Paultons Park on 26 June 2015

“Hi Catherine, thanks for taking us out and for sending the pictures over. Everyone enjoyed the day and got something from the experience (other than insect bites). It was good for us all to get away from the office for a day and get some fresh air. We’d all love to keep up the support of the work HIWWT does, so we’ll keep an eye on the website. Many Thanks” - James Veal, SSE







Nine staff from SSE pulled balsam at Paultons Park on 26 June 2015





12 staff from HSBC and 12 staff from Ramboll Environ pulled Himalayan balsam at Paultons Park on Thursday 2 July. With such a large group, and the addition of 4 other volunteers, a huge amount of balsam was pulled and people found it very satisfying.



Staff from Ramboll and HSBC pulling balsam at Paultons Park on 2 July 2015





“Everyone has come back with nothing but praise for the day so thank you” – Chris Hodzman, Senior Ecologist, Ramboll Environ



28 volunteers including 12 staff from HSBC and 12 staff from Ramboll pulled balsam at Paultons Park on 2 July 2015





Gill Moody (left) pulling balsam at Southbrook Farm at Newbridge on 29 July 2015 and Ros Bentley (right) at Four Jays Farm along the Cadnam River on 11 August 2015



Volunteers at Four Jays Farm along the Cadnam River on 11 August 2015



During the evening of Thursday 9 July 2015, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, plus their leaders and some parents helped to pull balsam along the Cadnam River at Wigley Barn, near Ower.



Members of 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey Cubs pulling balsam at Wigley Barn, Ower, during the evening of 9 July 2015





Members of 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey Cubs pulling balsam at Wigley Barn, Ower, during the evening of 9 July 2015





Members of 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey Cubs pulling balsam at Wigley Barn, Ower, during the evening of 9 July 2015





3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey Scouts pulling Himalayan balsam along the Cadnam River during the evening of 9 July







19 members of HSBC staff from London and Southampton joined 7 'regular' volunteers to pull balsam along the Cadnam River at Ower on 4 August 2015.

“Everyone really enjoyed yesterday, so thank you for accommodating us” – Richard Kell, FCII Chartered Insurer, Senior Distribution Support Relationship Manager (RBWM & Private Bank), Insurance UK, HSBC, Level 32, 8 Canada Square, London



Staff from the HIWWT administrative team joined other volunteers to pull balsam in the HIWWT's Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve on 5 August 2015







‘We all had a brilliant day and I think it did us good to get away from the emails for a bit’ - Nina Woodman, HR & Volunteering Officer, HIWWT

‘We had an enjoyable day out and it was good to see that we can have a bit of an impact on the troublesome balsam plants! Thanks for having us on the day’ – Cecilia Jaques, Human Resources Manager, HIWWT







On 10 July 2015 Vicky Inglis and Kathy Troke-Thomas, Seasonal Assistant Rangers with the New Forest National Park Authority helped to pull balsam along the Avon Water

“Hi Catherine - It was lovely to meet you and I had a really interesting day. Thanks for having us along and hopefully we will see you again during our time here. I am pleased to hear that so much was achieved that day, it was a lovely spot and very satisfying getting rid of all the balsam!” - Kathy Troke-Thomas, Seasonal Assistant Ranger, New Forest National Park Authority



Anne Gosney (left) pulled balsam at Paultons Park on 18 August 2015

“Dear Catherine, thank you. I thoroughly enjoyed the day, an excellent introduction to volunteering with HIWWT. It was good to meet you” – e-mail from Anne Gosney

“Oh my! What a transformation. Lovely to see so many different species of wildflower and butterfly now, after the Balsam monoculture” - email from Cathy Benyon after balsam pull at Fuzzie’s Farm along the Cadnam River in June 2015





Four leaders from Copythorne Explorer Scouts pulled balsam along the Cadnam River during the evening of 12 August 2015 and enhanced the event by brewing tea and cooking burgers!



Paul Stubbington, leader of Copythorne Explorer Scouts, pulling balsam near the Cadnam River at Wigley on 12 August 2015

“We all had a great evening and at least made a small dent in the balsam population! Hopefully we will be able to come back next year and make a bigger difference” - e-mail from Paul Stubbington, leader of Copythorne Explorer Scouts





Copythorne Explorer Scout leader George Stephens with impressively tall Himalayan balsam at Wigley Barn along the Cadnam River on 12 August 2015





Paultons Park on 18 August 2015 – at the start of the balsam pull



Paultons Park on 18 August 2015 – at the end of the balsam pull



## Securing funding

### 'Our Past, Our Future' Heritage Lottery Fund bid

The Project Officer checked the final draft of the 'proforma' which will be included in the second stage of the bid to the HLF.

On 25 June 2015 the Project Officer checked the 'Project Change Statement' relating to the invasive non-native species proposals.



### Grant aid from The New Forest Trust

During August 2015 the Project Officer completed the 'interim monitoring form' as required by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation, to secure the second instalment of grant aid towards the control of giant hogweed along the Avon Water in 2015. This included responses from three 'service users' to illustrate what difference the grant aid had made to them:-

Dr Janet Allen, e-mailed on 10 August 2015 stating 'I moved into my property in 2009.....The previous owners had been meticulous in clearing the giant hogweed from the land so I was unaware of the problem. As such, I noticed the repopulation of the riverbank with giant hogweed from seeds carried down the river from plants upstream with concern.....The programme to eliminate giant hogweed for all properties with land on the river has been excellent. The number of new plants reduces every year....The whole programme has been run expertly and efficiently. I have been so impressed in the way this whole programme has been run and organised. Treating the whole river bank was/is an excellent approach'.

Cindy Milburn e-mailed on 10 August 2015 stating 'I want to thank you very much indeed for all your assistance with organising the treatment of giant hogweed on my land on the bank of the Avon Water. I was not aware of the seriousness of the problem nor the treatment required to tackle it. It is a great relief to know that this was treated with herbicide earlier this year and I am grateful to you and to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation for making this possible'.

Liz Rolfs e-mailed on 13 August 2015 stating 'The extent of the giant hogweed was so widespread that we would never have been able to control it without the help from the New Forest Trust'.





## Promotional Events and awareness-raising

### Wood Fair at Roydon Woods on Sunday 7 June 2015

The Project Officer manned a display at the Wood Fair hosted by HIWWT and the New Forest National Park Authority. Some very useful contacts were made including keen potential balsam-pulling volunteers and people who offered space for volunteers to park cars during balsam pulls.



Catherine Chatters (left) and Rebecca Long (right) at the Wood Fair on 7 June 2015

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



The 'Be Plant Wise' and 'Check, Clean, Dry' campaigns were promoted at the Wood Fair on 7 June 2015.

The Project Officer attended a meeting of the Totton and District Gardeners' Society on the evening of 8 July 2015 to hear a talk by horticulturalist Martin Perry titled 'What Not to Plant in Your Garden' and took the opportunity to hand out copies of the 'Be Plant Wise' leaflet to the audience.



## Capital works undertaken between 1 May – 31 August 2015

Invoices were received for the following capital works were undertaken on behalf of the NFNNPP between 1 May and 31 August 2015:-

- control of giant hogweed along the Avon Water (early summer treatment);
- control of American skunk cabbage in HIWWT Lymington Reedbeds nature reserve;
- control of American skunk cabbage and Montbretia at Mill Lawn, Burley;
- control of bog arum at Ipley;

## Volunteer survey, research and other activity

### Excel Southampton Excel Placement Programme

Dr Ben Rushbrook (Acting Senior Ecologist, HIWWT) 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 and Rebecca Wilson and Dominika Muriénova were appointed. The cost will be met by the Excel Southampton Placement Programme. The Project Officer met Dominika and Rebecca on 9 June 2010 to discuss the proposed research and visit all ten of the survey sites.

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Southampton**



Dominika Muriénova (left) and Rebecca Wilson (right) visiting a Himalayan balsam survey site along the Cadnam River on 9 June 2015



### Bournemouth University Placement

Owen Stephenson, a first year Geography student at Bournemouth University, contacted the Project Officer on 26 May 2015 offering to volunteer with the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project and participated in Himalayan balsam pulls on ten days between 28 May and 23 June.



Owen Stephenson (left), Placement student from Bournemouth University, pulling Himalayan balsam at Paultons Park on 28 May 2015 and Ellen Wilson (right), a student from Portsmouth University, pulling Himalayan balsam at Paultons Park on 10 June 2015

### Portsmouth University

On 1 May 2015 Ellen Wilson, an environmental science student from Portsmouth University contacted the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project seeking information relating to invasive non-native plants in the Avon Valley. Although Ellen chose to research *Rhododendron ponticum* she helped the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project on a number of balsam pulls this summer.



### Work experience

Having enjoyed a week of work experience which included balsam-pulling with the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project during 2014, Zoë Wilson returned during Summer 2015 and helped to pull balsam at Paultons Park on 2 July 2015. Zoë will be starting a Foundation Degree course in British Wildlife Conservation at the Royal Agricultural University at Cirencester during autumn 2015 and appreciates the experience she has gained with HIWWT and other organisations in the New Forest area.



Zoë Wilson on work experience with the NFNNPP on 2 July 2015

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

No training was provided during this reporting period.

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

No training was attended during this reporting period.



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

On 25 June 2015 the Project Officer responded to a query from RINSE lead partner Norfolk County Council regarding the number of temporary jobs created as a result of the RINSE project.



### **Other work**

#### Enquiry regarding use of 'Foamstream'

During June 2015 HIWWT was contacted by Karen Saunders of the Fitzwilliam Malton Estate regarding the use of 'Foamstream'. The Project Officer replied on 25 June 2015 and provided the monitoring reports relating to the trials to control New Zealand pygmyweed which involved the use of hot foam.



**FITZWILLIAM  
MALTON ESTATE**  
*Working for Malton since 1713*

#### Enquiry regarding control of New Zealand pygmyweed

On 17 July 2015 the Project Officer was contacted by John Shaw of Chiltern Rangers Community Interest Company (a social enterprise engaging with local communities, volunteers and businesses to deliver practical management and advice) to seek advice on control of New Zealand pygmyweed. The Project Officer sent John the results of the trials undertaken in the New Forest between 2011 and 2013.

#### Survey about Local Action Group funding

On 30 June 2015 the Project Officer completed the questionnaire compiled by Mike Sutton-Croft, DEFRA's National LAG Co-ordinator, to gauge the funding situation relating to Local Action Groups.

#### HIWWT staff meeting

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

#### HIWWT New Forest and Avon Valley Living Landscape Team Meetings

The Project Officer attended the Team Meetings on 19 May and 21 July.

#### Report on the first six years of the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project

The report prepared by the Project Officer to summarise activities undertaken between May 2009 and April 2015 is now available via a link from the Project webpage on the HIWWT website.

Gemma Stride of the Forestry Commission e-mailed the Project Officer on 25 June 2015 saying "I have just scan read your report – I love all the photos.....what is so inspiring is that most of them involve people and it just shows that people really do care".



**Annual leave**

The Project Officer took one week of annual leave in July 2015 and one week of annual leave during August 2015.

**Appendix 1 – Himalayan balsam-pulling volunteer work parties led by the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project during 2015****Appendix 2 – newsletters sent to relevant landowners and land managers on 18 May 2015**

**Press releases - see attached**

**Media coverage – see attached sheets**

Report compiled by Catherine Chatters  
New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer  
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust  
[Catherine.Chatters@hiwwt.org.uk](mailto:Catherine.Chatters@hiwwt.org.uk)  
Telephone 023 8042 4205  
Mobile 07770 923315

3 September 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:-





## **Appendix 1**

Balsam pulls were led by the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project on the following dates during Summer 2015:-

Thursday 21 May – Four Jays Farm, Cadnam River

Leader Catherine Chatters

17 volunteers x 5 hours = 85 hours

Friday 22 May – downstream of Efford Bridge, Avon Water

Leader: Catherine Chatters

4 volunteers x 5 hours = 20 hours

Wednesday 27 May – New Forest Koi and Stud Farm, Avon Water

Leader: Catherine Chatters

2 volunteers x 5 hours = 10 hours

Thursday 28 May – Paultons Park, Cadnam River (with Netley Marsh Guides)

Leader: Catherine Chatters

27 volunteers x 5 hours = 135 hours

Monday 1 June – road verges near Sway in vicinity of Avon Water

Leader: Catherine Chatters

2 volunteers x 2.5 hours = 5 hours

Tuesday 2 June – Buckland Wood, Passford Water & Lymington Reedbeds

Leaders: Catherine Chatters and Jo Gore

4 volunteers x 5 hours = 20 hours

Wednesday 3 June – Paultons Park, Cadnam River (with National Trust volunteers)

Leader: Catherine Chatters

22 volunteers x 5 hours = 110 hours

Wednesday 3 June – Lymington River

Leader: Jo Gore

2 volunteers x 5 hours = 10 hours

Thursday 4 June – Southbrook Farm, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

13 volunteers x 5 hours = 65 hours

Thursday 4 June – Robinsbrook Farm, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

1 volunteer x 2 hours = 2 hours

Monday 8 June – Rushcroft, Passford Water

Leader: Catherine Chatters and Jo Gore

6 volunteers x 5 hours = 30 hours



Wednesday 10 June – Paultons Park, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

7 volunteers x 5 hours = 35 hours

Wednesday 10 June – Lymington River

Leader: Jo Gore

3 volunteers x 5.5 hours = 16.5 hours

Thursday 11 June – Keeper's Cottage and Four Jays Farm, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

7 volunteers x 5 hours = 35 hours

Friday 12 June – Golden Larch Fencing, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

7 volunteers x 5 hours = 35 hours

Monday 15 June – Paultons Park, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

6 volunteers x 5 hours = 30 hours

Tuesday 16 June – 'Sheepwash', Passford Water and Stile Pool, Lymington River

Leaders: Catherine Chatters and Jo Gore

1 volunteer x 5 hours = 5 hours

Wednesday 17 June – Warren Farm, Lymington River

Leader: Ashley Basil (volunteer)

2 other volunteers x 5.5 hours = total volunteer time = 16.5 hours

Friday 19 June – Fuzzie's Farm, Cadnam River (with group of home-educated children & parents)

Leader: Catherine Chatters

8 volunteers x 5 hours = 40 hours

17 volunteers x 4 hours = 68 hours

Monday 22 June – road verge at Winsor and bank of Cadnam River at 'The Old Barn', Newbridge

Leader: Catherine Chatters

1 volunteer x 3 hours = 3 hours

Tuesday 23 June – lakes near Passford Water

Leaders: Catherine Chatters and Jo Gore

10 volunteers x 5 hours = 50 hours

Wednesday 24 June – Lymington River

Leader: Jo Gore

3 volunteers x 5 hours = 15 hours

Wednesday 24 June – Paultons Park, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

12 volunteers x 5 hours = 60 hours

Wednesday 24 June (evening) – Fuzzie's Farm, Cadnam River (with 1<sup>st</sup> Colbury Guides)

Leader: Catherine Chatters

12 volunteers x 2 hours = 24 hours



Thursday 25 June – Beaulieu River, from Northgate (with FC Voluntary Rangers)

Leader: Catherine Chatters

2 volunteers x 4 hours = 8 hours

Friday 16 June – Paultons Park, Cadnam River (with SSE staff)

Leader: Catherine Chatters

12 volunteers x 5 hours = 60 hours

Monday 29 June – Fuzzie's Farm, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

8 volunteers x 5 hours = 40 hours

Tuesday 30 June – Bridge Farm, Lymington River

Leader: Jo Gore

2 volunteers x 5 hours = 10 hours

Wednesday 1 July – Cadnam Lodge etc, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

2 volunteers x 5 hours = 10 hours

Wednesday 1 July – Lymington River

Leader: Jo Gore

6 volunteers x 4.5 hours = 27 hours

Thursday 2 July – Paultons Park, Cadnam River (with staff from HSBC and Ramboll)

Leader: Catherine Chatters

28 volunteers x 5 hours = 140 hours

Friday 3 July – Avon Water

Leader: Catherine Chatters

3 volunteers x 5 hours = 15 hours

Monday 6 July – Four Jays Farm, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

9 volunteers x 5 hours = 45 hours

Monday 6 July – Mill Lawn Brook

Leader: Jo Gore

1 volunteer x 5 hours = 5 hours

Tuesday 7 July – Beaulieu River, from King's Hat (with FC Voluntary Rangers)

Leader: Catherine Chatters

2 volunteers x 4 hours = 8 hours

Tuesday 7 July – Warren Farm, Lymington River

Leader: Jo Gore

3 volunteers x 5 hours = 15 hours

Wednesday 8 July – Wilverley Farm, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

8 volunteers x 5 hours = 40 hours



Wednesday 8 July – Lymington River

Leader: Jo Gore

4 volunteers x 5 hours = 20 hours

Thursday 9 July (evening) - Wigley Barn, Cadnam River (with 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey Beavers, Cubs and Scouts)

Leader: Catherine Chatters

Beavers and Cubs 23 volunteers x 1.5 hours = 34.5 hours

Scouts 18 volunteers x 1.5 hours = 27 hours

Friday 10 July – Avon Water

Leader: Catherine Chatters

2 volunteers x 3.5 hours = 7 hours

2 volunteers x 5 hours = 10 hours

Monday 13 July – Lymington River

Leader: Jo Gore

1 volunteer x 5 hours = 5 hours

Tuesday 14 July – Lymington River

Leader: Jo Gore

1 volunteer x 5.5 hours = 5.5 hours

Wednesday 15 July – Lymington River

Leader: Jo Gore

6 volunteers x 5 hours = 30 hours

Wednesday 22 July – Lymington River

Leader: Jo Gore

4 volunteers x 5 hours = 20 hours

Thursday 23 July – Avon Water

Leader: Catherine Chatters

5 volunteers x 5 hours = 25 hours

Friday 24 July – Paultons Park, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

6 volunteers x 5 hours = 30 hours

Monday 27 July – Fuzzie's Farm, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

8 volunteers x 5 hours = 40 hours

Tuesday 28 July – Avon Water

Leader: Catherine Chatters

1 volunteer x 5 hours = 5 hours

Wednesday 29 July – South Brook Farm, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

8 volunteers x 4.5 hours = 36 hours



Wednesday 29 July – Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

2 volunteers x 1.5 hours = 3 hours

Saturday 1 August – Avon Water

Leader: Catherine Chatters

1 volunteer x 3 hours = 3 hours

Tuesday 4 August – Cadnam River at Ower (with HSBC staff)

Leader: Catherine Chatters

26 volunteers x 5 hours = 130 hours

Wednesday 5 August – Lymington River (with HIWWT administrative staff)

Leader: Catherine Chatters

5 volunteers x 5 hours = 25 hours

1 volunteer x 2 hours = 2 hours

1 volunteer x 3 hours = 3 hours

5 volunteers x 4 hours = 20 hours

Thursday 6 August – Withers Farm, Marsh Farm etc, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

4 volunteers x 5 hours = 20 hours

Friday 7 August – Avon Water

Leader: Catherine Chatters

1 volunteer x 6 hours = 6 hours

Monday 10 August – Paultons Park, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

7 volunteers x 5 hours = 35 hours

Tuesday 11 August – Four Jays Farm, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

8 volunteers x 5 hours = 40 hours

Wednesday 12 August – The Shallows and Pitt-Pitts' land, Lymington River

Leader: Ashley Basil (volunteer)

4 other volunteers x 5 hours = total volunteer time 25 hours

Wednesday 12 August (evening) – Wigley Barn, Cadnam River (with Copythorne Explorer Scout leaders)

Leader: Catherine Chatters

4 volunteers x 2.5 hours = 10 hours

Thursday 13 August – Fuzzie's Farm, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

4 volunteers x 5 hours = 20 hours

Tuesday 18 August – Paultons Park, Cadnam River

Leader: Catherine Chatters

16 volunteers x 5 hours = 80 hours

Wednesday 19 August – Lymington River

Leader: Jo Gore

4 volunteers x 5 hours = 20 hours

Monday 24 August – Passford Water

Leader: Jo Gore

2 volunteers x 3.5 hours = 7 hours

Tuesday 25 August – Passford Water

Leader: Jo Gore

2 volunteers x 4 hours = 8 hours

Wednesday 26 August – Lymington River

Leader: Jo Gore

3 volunteers x 2.5 hours = 7.5 hours

Tuesday 1 September 2015 – Passford Water and Lymington River

Leader: Jo Gore

1 volunteer x 4.5 hours = 4.5 hours

Wednesday 2 September – Lymington River

Leader: Jo Gore

4 volunteers x 5 hours = 20 hours

**TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS = 2,122 hours**



**Appendix 2 – newsletters sent to relevant landowners and land managers along the Cadnam River and along the Lymington River and its tributaries (the Passford Water and the Mill Lawn Brook) on 18 May 2015**