

**NEW FOREST NON-NATIVE PLANTS  
PROJECT**

**REPORT TO STEERING GROUP MEETING  
ON  
TUESDAY 17 MAY 2016**

**Report covering the period  
1 January 2016 – 30 April 2016**

**Catherine Chatters  
New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer  
1 May 2016**

## **Publicity**

### Press releases

The following press releases were issued between 1 January and 30 April 2016:-

- The New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Board recommended that a press release be issued relating to the successful control of Parrot's feather in a pond at Bartley. Catherine Chatters suggested that this could be prepared to coincide with Invasive Species Week (29 February – 4 March 2016). Matt Stroud (Interpretation and Engagement Officer for the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme) liaised with Catherine and with Olaf Booy of GB Non-Native Species Secretariat to prepare the press release which was issued to the press and published on the New Forest HLS and the New Forest National Park Authority's websites on 1 March 2016.
- HIWWT issued a press release on 19 April 2016 titled 'Volunteers marshalled for the battle against invasive plants'.

### Publications and websites

- The Environment Agency's Invasive Species Action Group Biosecurity newsletter (Winter 2016) included a note about the forthcoming control of Cotoneaster by the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project (NFNNPP). Thanks to Claire Hamilton of the Environment Agency for writing this note.
- New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme website featured the press release relating to NFNNPP's control of parrot's feather in the New Forest (published 1 March 2016 during Invasive Species Week)
- New Forest National Park Authority website featured the press release relating to NFNNPP's control of parrot's feather in the New Forest (published 1 March 2016 during Invasive Species Week)
- Wildlife and Countryside Link published a 'blog' based on the press release relating to NFNNPP's control of parrot's feather in the New Forest ('blog' published on 3 March 2016 during Invasive Species week). NFNNPP is grateful to Sheila Wren, Head of Policy & Campaigns, Wildlife and Countryside Link for preparing the 'blog'.
- During Invasive Species Week on Thursday 3 March 2016 to celebrate 'Junior Invasive Species Heroes' the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat featured the 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey Cubs pulling Himalayan balsam with NFNNPP
- Wildlife and Countryside Link published a 'blog' by Kay Haw of the Woodland Trust titled 'Prevent, eradicate and control: a 3-tiered approach to tackling INNS' which featured the work undertaken by NFNNPP to control American skunk cabbage ('blog' published on Friday 4 March 2016 during Invasive Species week)
- The Spring 2016 edition of the HIWWT 'Wildlife' magazine featured the HLF funding which has been secured for the New Forest 'Our Past, Our Future' Landscape Partnership Project to help control invasive non-native plants in the New Forest area.
- The 'What's on!' guide accompanying the Spring 2016 edition of the HIWWT 'Wildlife' magazine featured a number of Himalayan balsam pulls being organised by NFNNPP during May, June and July 2016.
- The Herald No 319 (31 March – 21 April 2016) featured the control of parrot's feather by NFNNPP in an article on page 57.
- The 9 April 2016 edition of The Lymington Times featured the work to control parrot's feather in an article on page 19

- The Herald No 320 (21 April – 12 May 2016) included an article on page 64 titled ‘Balsam Pullers Wanted’ to encourage people to volunteer with NFNNPP in 2016
- Park Life (Spring/Summer 2016) included an article about the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme which mentioned the work by NFNNPP to control invasive non-native plants on the Crown Land on the Open Forest.

### Facebook

- The press release about control of parrot’s feather which was published on the New Forest HLS website was seen by over 14,000 people via Facebook by 8 March 2016 [facebook.com/198543870160852/posts/1292572167424678](https://www.facebook.com/198543870160852/posts/1292572167424678)

### Radio

- Louisa Hannan of Radio Solent interviewed Catherine Chatters and featured the work of the NFNNPP on her programme between 6.15pm and 6.30pm on Thursday 10 March 2016. This was a result of the press release sent out by Matt Stroud regarding the control of parrot’s feather using the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship funding. In addition to highlighting the work undertaken with the HLS funding, the interview focussed on the importance of disposing of parrot’s feather carefully when it needs to be removed from garden ponds. It was also an opportunity for Catherine to encourage people to volunteer for balsam-pulling in summer 2016.



On 10 March 2016 Louisa Hannan of Radio Solent featured the work of the NFNNPP

“Dear Catherine, this is a great interview! You got all the issues across really clearly, and gave great advice on what people can do to help prevent their garden plants from becoming a problem. Thanks for mentioning Invasive Species Week too! I’ll add this to my write-up of the week, well done and glad the press release got picked up in this way. Best wishes”

Email from Lucy Cornwell, GB Non-Native Species Secretariat on 11 March 2016

“This is great, thanks Catherine. Just had a chance to listen – what a wonderful job you did! Thanks so much for going on and spreading the word”

Email from Matt Stroud, Interpretation and Engagement Officer, New Forest Higher Level Stewardship scheme on 14 March 2016

## New publicity materials

The Project Officer arranged for new banners to be created for use at the Volunteer Fair on 30 January 2016. The new banners incorporate the logos of current funders including the Heritage Lottery Fund and the New Forest 'Our Past, Our Future' Landscape Partnership Project. The banners also utilise elements of the HIWWT current branding. Two types of banner have been created – pull-up banners which are suitable for indoor use and Blizzard banners which can be used outside.

<p><b>The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project</b></p> 	<p><b>The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project</b></p> 	<p><b>The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project</b></p> 
   <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stopping the spread of invasive non-native plants</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.hiwwt.org.uk">www.hiwwt.org.uk</a>    Protecting wildlife, inspiring people</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Help stop the spread of invasive garden pond plants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid buying invasive non-native plants for your pond</li> <li>• Dispose of surplus invasive pond plants responsibly</li> <li>• Never dump garden pond plants in the wild</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stopping the spread of invasive non-native plants</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.hiwwt.org.uk">www.hiwwt.org.uk</a>    Protecting wildlife, inspiring people</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Would you like to get involved? Join a volunteer work party</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stopping the spread of invasive non-native plants</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.hiwwt.org.uk">www.hiwwt.org.uk</a>    Protecting wildlife, inspiring people</p>

## **Liaison with landowners and managers**

The following landowners/managers were met between 1 January – 30 April 2016:-

- Sue and Paul Davies (Cadnam River) on 26 February 2016
- Alison Bolton (Lymington River) on 2 March 2016
- Sara Cadbury (Lymington River) on 2 March 2016
- Sarah Houston (Avon Water) on 2 March 2016
- Deborah and David Robinson (Avon Water) on 2 March 2016
- Fiona Rogers (Avon Water) on 2 March 2016
- James Bradley (Avon Water) on 8 March 2016
- Sean Marsh, Estates Officer, Forestry Commission on 12 April 2016
- Rachel Pearson, Resident Agent, Beaulieu Estate on 14 April 2016

During April 58 Project newsletters were sent out to landowners along the Cadnam River, 50 newsletters were sent to landowners along the Avon Water and 78 newsletters were sent to landowners in the Lymington River catchment.

Copies of these three newsletters which had been written by Catherine Chatters are appended to this Steering Group report.

Below are e-mail messages received from three recipients of the newsletters:-

“Nice to hear from you Catherine and good to hear about the funding. Although we are up off the river now, we are always interested to hear what progress is being made. You are doing a great job. Kind Regards, Robin”

e-mail dated 22 April 2016 from Robin Haddow, former landowner along the Avon Water

“Dear Catherine, many thanks for the news letter, great news about the hefty funding enabling the project to keep momentum through to 2020. Using some of those resources to get more people trained and aware is clearly a sensible approach. I think off my own bat I will go and get trained/certificated for spraying in any case. I'm not around as much as before but will obviously keep my own land clear of undesirables and keep an eye on things within the immediate area (Efford mill to Wainsford bridge). Do you think cutting (below the first node), rather than pulling HB does the job? I've found it difficult to retrace my steps and see the results in the past but was going to do an experiment this year and more closely monitor the 'cut' patches for regrowth? Please keep in touch and good hunting! All the best, Mark”

e-mail dated 28 April from Mark Turley, landowner along the Avon Water

“Hi Catherine, thank you for your newsletter and I do hope that I can offer you and your volunteers another afternoon of tea and cake this summer! Kind regards, Julie”

e-mail dated 29 April 2016 from Julie Nairn, landowner along the Cadnam River

### **Steering Group meeting**

The Steering Group meeting was held on 14 January 2016.

### **Forum meeting**

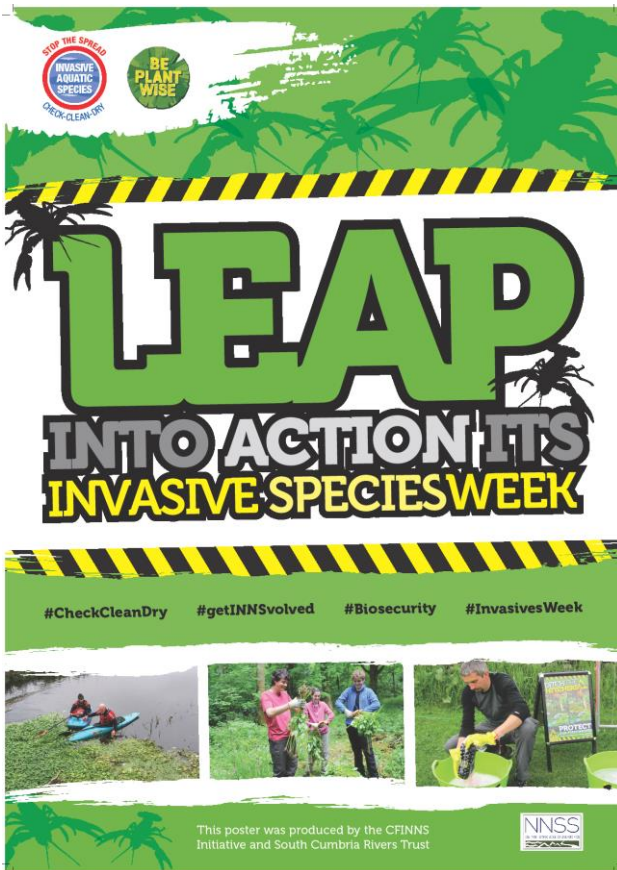
The NFNNPP Forum meeting was held on Wednesday 2 March 2016. This coincided with Invasive Species Week (29 February – 4 March 2016) promoted by GB Non-Native Species Secretariat to raise awareness about the problems caused by invasive non-native species. Forty-nine people attended the Forum which attracted a range of people including landowners, volunteers and representatives of statutory organisations.

Kate Pollard of CABI gave a presentation about the current research into biological control and Catherine Chatters and Jo Gore gave a summary of the NFNNPP activities over the past twelve months.

“Catherine. Enjoyed this afternoon. I wanted to learn more about the plants we do not want and I did. Thanks” email from Roger Bradley on 2 March 2016

“Hi Catherine, thank you for organising today.....and well done for all your hard work last year” email from Claire Hamilton, Environment Agency on 2 March 2016.





Kate Pollard of CABI at the Forum meeting on 2 March 2016

“Dear Catherine, thank you for the invite and I hope the presentation was ok (it was my first presentation of that length)... I was very interested to be able to hear about the work that you and your volunteers do in controlling invasives, it certainly sounds like you do a lot! Thanks again”  
email from Kate Pollard, CABI on 3 March 2016

“Great to see everyone yesterday and as usual it was a very informative afternoon”  
email from Claire Sherwood, Ranger, New Forest National Park Authority on 3 March 2016

“Dear Catherine, I very much enjoyed the talks, and I am hoping to be able to attend some of your balsam clearance days later this summer”  
email from David Smart, potential volunteer on 3 March 2016

“Thanks Catherine, I was just about to send you a message of thanks for the excellent forum meeting this week. The talk was fascinating. Well done everyone concerned, and keep up the good work too. Kind regards”  
email from Fiona Rogers, landowner on 4 March 2016

“Dear Catherine, thanks for the comprehensive minutes on what I thought was a very interesting forum. Kate Pollard was good. It will be interesting if a significant result will be achieved by their work; a long term project I think. Good news about the mystery field at Cadnam; I look forward to pulling there! Best wishes”  
email from John Moore, volunteer on 4 March 2016

“Catherine, I had intended to send you an email to congratulate you on yet another EXCELLENT meeting. Everyone I spoke to agreed with the above too. Excellent presentations from everyone, including YOU. Well organised, good timing, good microphones etc., etc. So well attended too. You should be very pleased with yourself – and deserve a medal. The project couldn’t have a better person ‘in charge’”

email from Sara, Cadbury, landowner on 7 March 2016



Siôn Graham and Jan Ratcliffe at the Forum meeting on 2 March 2016

“Hi all, a huge thank you for all your support throughout Invasive Species Week, it was fantastic to see such a range of organisations getting involved in so many different ways! We’re still sorting through all the outputs but a few of the highlights so far:

- Over 1220 posts on Twitter under #invasivesweek (this doesn’t include posts without the #, or the many retweets)
- Over 160 organisations involved!
- Invasive Species Week infographic posted / retweeted by 126 people, reaching at least 24,400 feeds
- “12 tiny things” Flickr album of INNS and their impacts shared 100 times
- Lord Gardiner visited Thames Water Walthamstow Reservoirs to see their excellent work on biosecurity

In addition to helping us take over Twitter, you produced brilliant awareness raising materials, put on talks and events, wrote blogs, press releases and articles, went out and carried out management despite the awful weather, held training courses, and much more! You’re all Invasive Species Heroes and hopefully you’ve inspired many more people to get involved”

Email from Lucy Cornwell, GB Non-Native Species Secretariat, sent on 8 March 2016 to people involved in Invasive Species Week



# Invasive Species Week 2016!

From 29 February to 6 March 2016, organisations across Britain came together to raise awareness of invasive non-native species and inspire people to #getINNSvolved and stop the spread... This is what they achieved

**1** visit to Thames Water by Lord Gardiner, Minister for Biosecurity, to see biosecurity in action

**43** tweets from the @CheckCleanDry account reached over

**1,220** posts on Twitter under #InvasivesWeek

**2,140** retweets

**118,500**  
Twitter feeds



**21** events held including talks, workshops and training sessions

**1,000** people on Facebook talking about #InvasivesWeek

**8,500** visitors to the RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show where the Stop the Spread! stand helped to raise awareness of invasive non-native species and Check, Clean, Dry

more than **160** organisations involved

**30** organisations posted biosecurity pledges and tweets celebrating the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Check, Clean, Dry

Biosecurity pledges also made by

**4** members of the British Sailing Team

**10** sailing clubs



**11** blogs / articles posted

**1** radio interview

**8** articles in the press on Invasive Species Week and biosecurity

A big thank you to everyone involved!

Find out more about invasive non-native species at [www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org)

Follow @CheckCleanDryGB for biosecurity tips



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

### Species Control Provisions – draft Code of Practice

On 15 January 2016 Catherine Chatters participated in a teleconference organised by Wildlife and Countryside Link's Invasive Non-Native Species Group to discuss DEFRA's draft Code of Practice relating to the Species Control Provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015.

As the Royal Society for Wildlife Trusts will sign the Wildlife and Countryside Link response to DEFRA, Catherine Chatters prepared a separate response on behalf of NFNNPP and submitted this to DEFRA on 18 February 2016.

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

### Student Invasive Non-Native Group

During February 2016 Nicola Morris, co-ordinator of the Student Invasive Non-Native Group at Cornwall College, sought advice on the availability of guidance for planners as Philip Maund, one of her former students, had secured a post as a trainee ranger with Hart District Council and had been asked to put together guidance on invasive non-native species. Catherine sent Nicola the guidance that NFNNPP had produced through RINSE for the New Forest National Park Authority.

### Environment Agency in Lincolnshire

On 19 February 2016 Matt Parr of the Environment Agency in Lincolnshire contacted Catherine Chatters to ask about the costs involved in pulling Himalayan balsam as he is keen to set up a balsam control project through the Rivers Trust on the River Witham and its tributary The Cringle Book.

### Environment Agency in Devon

On 31 March 2016 Andrew Haigh of the Environment Agency's Environmental Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Team in Exeter contacted Catherine Chatters seeking information about the control of American skunk cabbage as he 'would like to recommend the benefit of (our) experience to Dartmoor National Park who are setting up a control project'. Catherine e-mailed him relevant information on 4 April 2016.

### Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group

On 5 April 2016 Jane Reeve (FLOW Project Manager, Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands) of the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group e-mailed Catherine (on the advice of James Parkin of The Chichester Harbour Conservancy) to seek advice on control of water fern *Azolla filiculoides*. Catherine replied on 6 April and gave Jane contact details for CABI, suppliers of the larvae of the Azolla weevil *Stenopelmus rufinasus* for biological control of water fern.



### Maxfield Nature Conservation Trust

On 11 March 2016 Philip Newton of the Maxfield Nature Conservation Trust in East Sussex contacted Catherine to seek advice about the control of parrot's feather. He had been given Catherine's contact details by Ralph Hobbs who is a Trustee of the Maxfield Nature Conservation Trust. Ralph had also attended the Rother and Romney Catchment Partnership Stakeholder Workshop (at which Catherine gave a presentation on 24 February 2016) and was a former colleague of Catherine at Natural England.

### Tees Rivers Trust

John Musham, INNS Co-ordinator for the Tees Rivers Trust, contacted Catherine Chatters on 7 April 2016 for help with identification of a plant which she confirmed as water forget-me-not.



### Planlife - BBC Countryfile Diaries

On 25 April 2016 Trevor Dines of Planlife contacted Catherine Chatters to explain that BBC Countryside Diaries are filming an item on removing American skunk cabbage from a site in Dartmoor and that Matt Smith of the BBC would like to use the photograph that Catherine took of volunteer Alexander Bridges standing amongst large American skunk cabbage plants in Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI during 2011. Catherine signed the form giving permission for the BBC to use the image. Matt explained that the BBC does not give on screen credits for photographs but he could ask his producer if Catherine can be mentioned in the roller credits at the end under 'Archive'.



Matt Smith of the BBC sought consent to use this photograph taken by Catherine Chatters for use as a still in a piece by BBC Countryfile Diaries focussing on control of American skunk cabbage to be broadcast at 9.15am on Thursday 19 May 2016

## Planning practical work for 2016

During January 2016 the Project Officers submitted details of relevant Himalayan balsam pulls in May, June and July 2016 to be publicised via the HIWWT website and in the 'What's On' guide which was issued to HIWWT members in March 2016 with the Trust's magazine.

The list of balsam pulls arranged for Summer 2016 was e-mailed to 98 potential volunteers.

During April 2016 Catherine Chatters drafted letters to commission contractors to undertake herbicide treatment work during 2016 on Pennington Common using Higher Level Stewardship funds and on Crown Land using funds provided by the Forestry Commission and the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme:-

<b>Pennington Common (HLS scheme)</b>	Bamboo and Himalayan knotweed
<b>Crown Land (FC funding)</b>	Buddleia at Markway
	<i>Iris laevigata</i> in Wootton Coppice Inclosure
	Japanese knotweed at Broughton Road, Lyndhurst Area 1
	Japanese knotweed at Broughton Road, Lyndhurst Area 2
	Japanese knotweed on Crown Land near The Pig Hotel
	Japanese knotweed at New Park
	Japanese knotweed in Pondhead Inclosure
	Japanese knotweed along ditch, Woodlands Road
<b>Crown Land on Open Forest (NF HLS scheme)</b>	Bog arum at Ipley
	Cotoneaster at Beaulieu Heath
	Cotoneaster at East Boldre
	<i>Iris laevigata</i> in ditches at Lyndhurst
	<i>Iris laevigata</i> at Latchmoor Pond
	American skunk cabbage & Montbretia, Mill Lawn Brook
	American skunk cabbage, Montbretia and Japanese knotweed at Minstead
	Japanese knotweed at Emery Down
	Japanese knotweed at Vereley Hill
	Parrot's feather at Hinchleslea
	Parrot's feather at Castle Hill, Burley
	Parrot's feather at East End

During April 2016 Catherine Chatters drafted letters to commission contractors to undertake herbicide treatment work during 2016 using funding provided by the 'Our Past, Our Future' HLF Landscape Partnership Project:-

<b>Giant hogweed</b>	Avon Water
<b>American skunk cabbage</b>	Lymington Reedbeds nature reserve
	Harcourt Wood, Minstead
<b>Japanese knotweed</b>	Cadnam River
	Walhampton substation at Lymington Reedbeds

On 7 April 2016 Catherine Chatters met Scott Rice (Maintenance and Fisheries Manager) and Tom Bunce of Kingcombe Aquacare Ltd to re-visit Harcourt Wood near Minstead and discuss plans for the control of the American skunk cabbage.





American skunk cabbage in Harcourt Wood on 7 April 2016 (photo: Scott Rice)

The purchase order was issued by NFNPA on behalf of HIWWT to Kingcombe Aquacare Ltd on 29 April 2016 for the control of American skunk cabbage in Harcourt Wood and Catherine Chatters issued the contract letter on the same day.

### **Monitoring effectiveness of control work**

On 18 and 26 April 2016 Jo Gore and Catherine Chatters monitored the effectiveness of work undertaken to control American skunk cabbage in HIWWT's Lymington Reedbeds nature reserve. GPS readings were taken to record the grid references of American skunk cabbage plants (or clusters of plants) which will need herbicide treatment in 2016. The six quadrats installed during April 2013 were found and the plant species present were recorded using the DOMIN scale.



Very small American skunk cabbage plant in Lymington Reedbeds nature reserve on 18 April 2016





Jo Gore by large American skunk cabbage plant growing on edge of reeds at Lymington Reedbeds nature reserve on 26 April 2016

## **Volunteer activity to control invasive non-native plants between 1 January and 30 April 2016**

Nothing relevant to report during this period.

## **Volunteer surveys, research and other related activities**

Excel Southampton Excel Internship Programme – research in 2015

Rebecca Wilson and Dominika Muriénova undertook baseline research on behalf of NFNNPP in Summer 2015 to inform future monitoring of the control of invasive non-native plants in connection with the New Forest ‘Our Past, Our Future’ Heritage Lottery Fund landscape partnership project.

Catherine met Debbie Whitfield of HIWWT on 21 January 2016 to complete the formatting of Dominika and Rebecca’s final draft report.

“Dear Catherine, thank you very much for the final version of our report. We have very much enjoyed the placement and it has been our pleasure to work with HIWWT throughout the summer. We are also looking forward seeing you at the presentations in early February. Best wishes, Dominika” – email from Dominika Muriénova dated 22 January 2016

On Wednesday 3 February Catherine attended a meeting hosted by Dr Judith Lock at the University of Southampton during which Dominika and Rebecca (and four other students) gave presentations summarising the results of their research. Dr Lock emphasised how useful these placements are for the students to gain relevant experience.



Dominika Muriénova and Rebecca Wilson at the University of Southampton on 3 February 2016

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Southampton**



Excel Southampton Excel Internship Programme – research in 2016

On 5 February 2016 Catherine drafted proposals for research to be undertaken in 2016 by students from University of Southampton to monitor the effectiveness of treatment work against the baseline prepared by Dominika and Rebecca last year. The placements were advertised to students between 7 – 30 March 2016 by Kayleigh Fagence (Customer Services Adviser in the University’s Careers and Employability Service) through the Excel Southampton Internship programme.

Filipa Soares, PhD student at University of Oxford

Filipa Soares, who is studying for a PhD in Geography and the Environment at Hertford College, Oxford, interviewed Catherine Chatters at Testwood on Friday 19 February 2016 to explore issues relating to re-wilding and disturbance in the role of control of invasive non-native plants.



Hertford  
College



Filipa Soares, PhD student at Hertford College, Oxford during interview with Catherine Chatters on 19 February 2016

### Sparsholt College Placement

On 30 November 2015 Chris Worstencroft, a second year Portsmouth University Ecology and Conservation student based at Sparsholt College contacted HIWWT seeking a placement with NFNNPP during 2016. Catherine has arranged to meet him on 20 May 2016 and Chris will help the NFNNPP with Himalayan balsam pulls for a three week period during the summer.



### Joshua O'Shaughnessy, student at Keble College, University of Oxford

During 2014, whilst studying for a BA in Geography at Keble College, Oxford, Joshua O'Shaughnessy decided to focus his dissertation on invasive non-native plants in the New Forest area. In addition to undertaking field work to map the distribution on invasive non-native plants, he devised a questionnaire to find out what motivates people to volunteer to pull Himalayan balsam. He joined NFNNPP volunteers on a number of balsam pulls during summer 2014 and took the opportunity to ask them questions. Joshua submitted his dissertation titled 'A Multi-Scale Analysis of the Controls on the Distribution of an Invasive Plant: *Impatiens glandulifera*'.

On 20 January 2016 Joshua sent Catherine a report he had prepared titled 'Understanding the Distribution of Himalayan Balsam in the New Forest' dated January 2016 which is based on the research he undertook for his dissertation.

He also sent Catherine a report he had written titled 'Understanding the motivations, attitudes and values of conservation volunteers with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust' dated January 2016. This report included some helpful recommendations, particularly the importance of letting volunteers know about the successful results of their efforts, to help keep them motivated.



## Securing funding

### 'Our Past, Our Future' Landscape Partnership Scheme

On 20 and 22 January 2016 Catherine sent letters to 71 landowners asking them to sign and return forms to confirm their agreement to the requirements of the Memoranda of Understanding which were sent out during Autumn 2014.



On 8 February 2016 Richard Grogan and Robert Chapman interviewed Jo Gore and Catherine Chatters for the 'Our Past, Our Future' invasive non-native plant posts.

During February 2016 Catherine prepared three Memoranda of Understanding for landowners on the Avon Water and the Cadnam River. Two of these Memoranda of Understanding related to people who had purchased their land since the original Memoranda of Understanding were issued in Autumn 2014.

On 12 February 2016 Catherine attended a meeting at NFNPA offices to learn about the monitoring toolkit prepared by 'Resources for Change' consultants. The monitoring will be carried out by the project officers and will inform the evaluation exercise to be undertaken by Resources for Change.

On 17 February 2016 Catherine prepared forms for each relevant watercourse to facilitate recording of information which will be needed by the OPOF Development Manager in relation to State Aid.

On 18 February 2016, Catherine sent Richard Austin ('Our Past, Our Future' Volunteer, Training and Mentoring Co-ordinator) the report on motivation of volunteers which had been prepared by Joshua O'Shaughnessy (Keble College, Oxford) following his research with NFNNPP in summer 2014. Richard responded on 19 February stating

"Thank you for your email and for sending through this report. It was very interesting to read through the findings and I think a lot of it reiterates the importance of regular and positive communication between an organisation and its volunteers. I think the report is a positive reflection of this scheme"

Richard Austin

Volunteer, Training and Mentoring Co-ordinator

Our Past, Our Future





## Promotional Events and awareness-raising

### Hampshire Flora Group event on Saturday 9 January 2016

Hampshire Flora Group hosted a talk on carnivorous plants by the botanist, explorer and author Stewart McPherson at the University of Winchester on the evening of Saturday 9 January 2016.

The Project Officer took the opportunity to mount a display to promote the work undertaken by NFNNPP to control the carnivorous Pitcher Plants at Holmsley Bog.



Gareth Knass by the display promoting the NFNNPP's work to control Pitcher Plants during the Hampshire Flora Group event at University of Winchester on 9 January 2016

Volunteer Fair at Lyndhurst Community Centre on Saturday 30 January 2016

Jo and Catherine attended the Volunteer Fair organised by the New Forest National Park Authority and manned a display to encourage people to volunteer with the NFNNPP in Summer 2016. The event was very well attended and a lot of people expressed a desire to help with the Project.



Brian Matthews and Jo Gore at the Volunteer Fair on Saturday 30 January 2016

The Volunteer Guide, handed out to everyone who visited the Volunteer Fair, encouraged people to volunteer with the NFNNPP and included two photographs of children volunteering to pull balsam with the NFNNPP as shown below:-



## Presentation to Rother and Romney Catchment Partnership Stakeholder Workshop on 24 February 2016

Catherine gave a presentation about the NFNNPP at this event organised by the High Weald AONB unit at Sedlescombe near Battle in East Sussex. Other speakers included representatives of the Environment Agency, The Wild Trout Trust and The High Weald AONB and it attracted a range of participants including landowners and land managers.



## Brookhurst College Volunteering and Gap Year Fair on Wednesday 9 March 2016

Catherine Chatters manned a display and gave a presentation at the Volunteering and Gap Year Fair at Brookhurst College on the afternoon of 9 March 2016. The College is encouraging students to get involved with volunteering, particularly during the week beginning 13 June 2016. Tutor Rachel Hughes is keen to bring a group of students to pull balsam at Bridge Farm on the Lymington River during that week.



Brookhurst College

## Volunteering and Gap Year Fair

**Wednesday 9th March from 1.30 – 4.00 in the Main Hall and Foyer**



Come along and meet a range of employers and organisations who offer long and short term opportunities for volunteering or work experience. A great chance to find opportunities for your **work experience and volunteering week in June**.

Work Experience and Volunteering are fantastic ways to improve your UCAS applications, CVs and gain valuable experience to enhance your progression or employment prospects—some University courses and employers require this experience as part of your application; so take the opportunity NOW .....







Megan Davies, a student at Brockenhurst College, at the Volunteering and Gap Year Fair on 9 March 2016

“From our point of view the event was a great success, tutor and student feedback has been excellent and over 300 students attended the event - and this despite the dreadful weather!” email from Jacque Maguire, Employability Development Officer, Brockenhurst College on 11 March 2016

Presentation at New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme AGM on Wednesday 13 April 2016

On the evening of 13 April 2016 Catherine Chatters gave a presentation in The Verderers’ Court at Lyndhurst summarising the NFNNPP’s work on the Open Forest during 2015 which had been funded by the New Forest HLS scheme. Certificates were awarded to the volunteers who had helped the NFNNPP with survey work and practical control of invasive non-native plants on the Crown Land during 2015/16 (Pam Reading, Cynthia Swann, Martin Rand, Mike Rowe, Eric Clement, John Moore, Barry Lockyer, John Norton, Trevor Bumfrey).

**Organising awareness-raising event at Exbury Gardens on 27 September 2016**

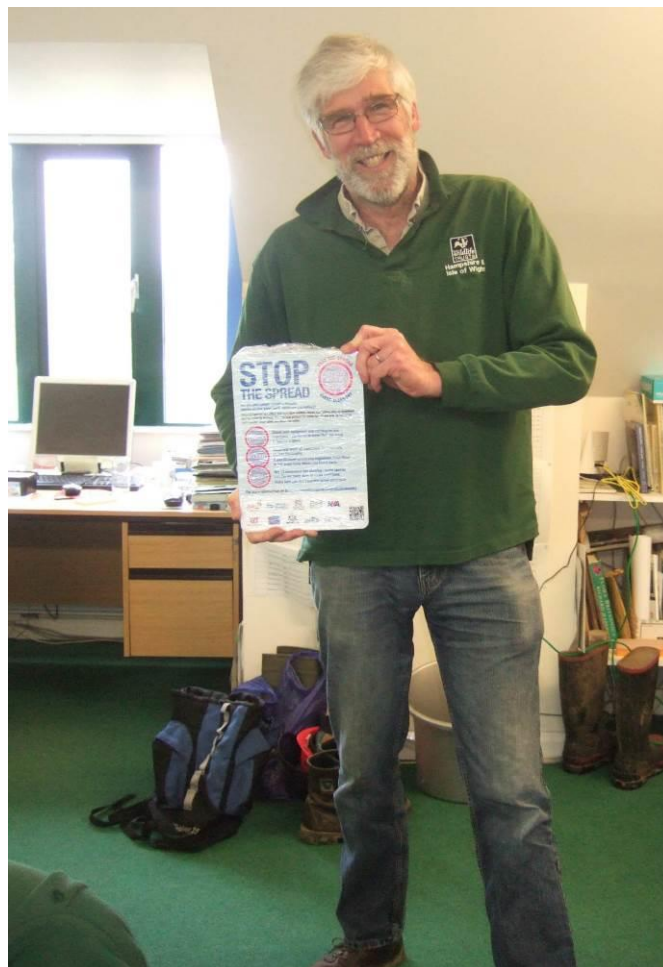
John Anderson, Head Gardener at Exbury Gardens, spoke to Catherine Chatters at the Volunteer Fair at Lyndhurst in January 2016 and kindly offered to lead an awareness-raising session for gardeners and horticulturists. The event will be held on the morning of Tuesday 27 September 2016 at Exbury Gardens. The costs will be met through the ‘Our Past, Our Future’ Landscape Partnership Project funded by the HLF and Catherine arranged for purchase orders to be issued by the New Forest NPA during April 2016. Places are limited and will be allocated on a strictly first-come-first-served basis. On 21 April Catherine sent invitations to thirteen gardening clubs in the New Forest area.

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



'Be Plant Wise' leaflets were available to people who attended the Volunteer Fair at Lyndhurst Community Centre on Saturday 30 January 2016.

Catherine collected 'Check, Clean, Dry' signs from GBNNSS whilst at the workshop in Preston Montford in January 2016 for Bob Chapman to use in the Avon Valley. Bob will use the signs to inform fishermen and sailors at Blashford Lakes and water-skiers at Ellingham Lake. He will also ask for one to be put up to inform fishermen at Rockford Lake and will ask two other fishing clubs in the Avon Valley to display signs. Clare Bishop, Reserves Officer at HIWWT, has arranged for the Sea Scouts to display a 'Check, Clean, Dry' sign at Testwood Lakes.



Bob Chapman will display signs to promote the 'Check, Clean, Dry' campaign in the Avon Valley



## Training provided by the Project Officer

Seminar at University of Southampton on Thursday 10 March 2016

Dr Judith Lock invited Catherine Chatters to give a seminar to second and third year Biology, Ecology and Zoology undergraduates on Thursday 10 March 2016. The students did some preparatory research at Catherine's request and made a positive contribution to the seminar.

## Training attended by the Project Officer

Workshop at Preston Montford on 27 and 28 January 2016

Catherine participated in the two-day workshop organised by the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat in January 2016 and gave a presentation about the work undertaken towards control of Cotoneaster. The NFNNPP display about Cotoneaster in the New Forest attracted interest from a number of delegates and Catherine gained some useful information from people who had experience of controlling Cotoneaster, plus an offer from Alan Martin of free visits to trial two control techniques during 2016.

The workshop was a useful opportunity to hear how Andrea Griffiths of the Medway Countryside Partnership had successfully invoked the Community Protection Notice provisions of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to persuade a landowner to co-operate with the giant hogweed control programme.

The workshop was also a very good opportunity to discuss the draft Code of Practice relating to Species Control Orders with Craig Lee of DEFRA.



Anita Glover of Leeds University during the GBNNSS workshop standing by the NFNNPP display about control of Cotoneaster in the New Forest





Participants at the GBNNSS workshop in January 2016 (Photo credit: Heidi Streitberger)

### **Capital works undertaken between 1 January – 30 April 2016**

Nothing relevant to report in this period.

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



The payment relating to the final financial claim (submitted to RINSE Lead Partner in January 2015) was made on 2 February 2016. This was lower than anticipated due to unfavourable exchange rates.

### **Other work**

#### Community Protection Notice served on land adjacent to the Cadnam River

For the past few years Catherine Chatters has been trying to discover the current owner of land adjacent to the Cadnam River which is infested with Himalayan balsam and where Japanese knotweed occurs on the river bank. Craig Lee of DEFRA was aware that Catherine had been trying to find a solution to this problem site and helpfully explained that Community Protection Notices (CPNs) can be served on land for which no current owner can be identified. CPNs can be issued by local authorities and the Police. Catherine contacted New Forest National Park Authority but their enforcement staff are only able to take enforcement in accordance with town and country planning legislation. Catherine then intended to approach New Forest District Council but, in the meantime, Julie Melin-Stubbs of the New Forest Land Advice Service put her in touch with PC Scott Graham.

Catherine held a very useful meeting with PC Scott Graham on 23 February 2016 and following the meeting he prepared the CPN. Thanks to Julie Melin-Stubbs of New Forest Land Advice Service for setting up this meeting.

PC Scott Graham served the notice on the land on the afternoon of Thursday 25 February 2016. One copy of the CPN was placed by the footpath at the north-eastern part of the site and one copy of the CPN was placed by the footpath at the south-western part of the site.



Catherine Chatters standing by the Community Protection Notice served on land adjacent to the Cadnam River on 25 February 2016

“Catherine, thanks for keeping me informed. That’s excellent news and another case study we can use to encourage others. Regards, Craig”

e-mail dated 25 February 2016 from Craig Lee, Senior Policy Adviser, Non-native Species Team DEFRA

“Catherine, that is really great to see – at last! Thanks for letting us know and also the photos which are great too. Defra INNS team are very pleased too!”

e-mail dated 26 February 2016 from Dr Niall Moore, Head of the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat

### Living Record

On 26 January 2016 Catherine Chatters received confirmation that the New Forest HLS Board had agreed to part of the New Forest HLS allocation in 2016/17 being used to set up ‘Living Record’ as a tool to record invasive non-native plants in the New Forest area.

On 12 April 2016 Catherine prepared purchase orders for Adrian Bicker to a) create a Living Record system, tailored to invasive non-native plants in the New Forest area, b) lead a training day on 9 May 2016 on the use of Living Record, c) provide on-going support and advice during 2016/17.

### Liaison with Highways England

Catherine e-mailed Ruth Frith (EM Highways) on 15 January 2016 regarding Himalayan balsam growing along embankments of the M27 in the vicinity of the Cadnam River. Ruth and her colleague Martin Osman agreed to meet Catherine to have a site visit on 4 May 2016 and discuss the need for this balsam to be controlled.

### Advice

On 13 January 2016 Dr Ben Rushbrook (Ecologist at HIWWT) sought advice about a site in Dorset that he had visited with a colleague from the Bristol Zoological Society. The site is a former quarry to be developed as a holiday home village and contains a number of inter-connected lakes, some of which are infested with New Zealand pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii*. Ben sought advice about the possibility of infilling the infested lakes and creating new water bodies. The Project Officer responded on 14 January and put him in touch with Mike Sutton-Croft who had experience of this type of work aimed at controlling *Crassula helmsii* at Mile Cross Marsh in Norfolk.

On 12 February 2016 Catherine Chatters visited a local resident at Emery Down to discuss control of cherry laurel and Himalayan balsam in the vicinity of Boulton Cottages.

On 27 April 2016 a HIWWT member sought advice about American skunk cabbage which had appeared on his land near the River Rother, presumably as a result of seed being washed down from further upstream. Catherine provided advice via email to her colleague Melanie Day on 28 April.

On 28 April a resident of Hythe Road, Marchwood contacted Catherine by telephone to seek advice about Japanese knotweed growing in her garden and adjacent properties. Catherine sent a guidance note and booklets for her to give to her neighbours to encourage them to take a co-ordinated approach to controlling the knotweed.

### Avon Water river restoration proposals

On 22 February 2016 Catherine attended the Forestry Commission's drop-in session at Bashley to find out about the proposals to restore the Avon Water on the Open Forest.

### Request for information to assist Local Authorities

On 18 April Dr Max Wade contacted Catherine Chatters as he was due to run a workshop for Yorkshire Local Authorities 'on invasive species to raise awareness and help them in their roles'. Max requested information to help 'in exhorting and aiding local authorities in their desire to do battle with INNS'. Catherine sent Max the guidance note she had prepared for New Forest National Park Authority planning staff and the Japanese knotweed guidance note for householders that she had prepared for New Forest District Council.

### Site visits relating to control of invasive non-native plants

On 12 April 2016 Catherine Chatters met Sean Marsh, Estates Officer at the Forestry Commission, to discuss the control of Japanese knotweed growing on Crown Land and an adjacent property along Southampton Road in Lyndhurst.

On 14 April 2016 Catherine Chatters met Rachel Pearson, Resident Agent, to discuss control of Japanese knotweed near the ice house on the Beaulieu Estate.

### Garden waste dumping

Catherine discovered a number of clumps of *Arum italicum* subsp. *italicum* var. *pictum* growing in an area approximately 7m x 1m on land owned by the National Trust near Newbridge in March 2016. The Arum was growing near trunks and roots of trees/shrubs, concrete etc so it is clear that the Arum has become established here as a result of garden waste dumping. Identification of the Arum was confirmed by Martin Rand (BSBI Recorder for South Hampshire) who commented 'although not the stuff of nightmares, it will establish and spread, and is hardly appropriate to the setting'. Catherine Chatters contacted Catherine Supple (Area Ranger for the National Trust) who agreed to take action to remove the plants.



Photographs show *Arum italicum* subsp. *italicum* var. *pictum* resulting from dumping of garden waste on land owned by the National Trust at SU 29450 15283 near Newbridge, reported by NFNNPP to the National Trust in March 2016



Catherine Supple e-mailed Catherine Chatters on 9 March 2016 to say “Thank you for informing us about the Arum and the garden dumping on Cadnam. I have dug up as much as I could find and will continue to monitor it.”

#### Research relating to biological control of Himalayan balsam

On 19 April Catherine Chatters and Jo Gore met Suzy Wood and Norbert Maczey of CABI with Dr Amanda Currie, a postdoctoral research based at Royal Holloway to assess the potential suitability of Lymington Reedbeds nature reserve for research relating to the use of *Puccinia komarovii* var. *glanduliferae* (a rust fungus) for biological control of Himalayan balsam. CABI considered the site to be suitable for their research.

A paper on the scientific aspects of CABI’s proposed research was prepared by HIWWT Company Secretary for consideration by the HIWWT Conservation and Science Committee at their meeting to be held on 3 May 2016. The HIWWT management team considered the operational aspects of the proposed research.







Jo Gore, Suzy Wood (CABI), Norbert Maczey (CABI) and Dr Amanda Currie at Lymington Reedbeds nature reserve on 19 April 2016 to assess the potential suitability of the site for research into biological control of Himalayan balsam

HIWWT Landowner Liaison meeting

No HIWWT Landowner Liaison Cross-Cutting Team Meetings were held between January and April 2016. The meeting scheduled for 8 March was cancelled.

HIWWT Evidence Cross-Cutting Team meeting

No HIWWT Evidence Cross-Cutting Team Meeting was held between January and April 2016; the meeting expected to be held in March has been re-scheduled for 12 May 2016.

HIWWT staff meeting

The Project Officers attended the HIWWT staff meeting on 12 March 2016.

HIWWT New Forest and Avon Valley Living Landscape Team Meetings

The Project Officers attended the Team Meetings on 11 January, 26 February and 21 March 2016. The meeting scheduled for 25 April 2016 was cancelled.

HIWWT PDR appraisal

On 25 January 2016 Catherine held her end of year 2015/16 Staff Performance and Development Review (PDR) appraisal with Bob Chapman.

**Project newsletters – see attached**

**Press releases – see attached sheets**

**Media coverage – see attached sheets**

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

1 May 2016



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:-



**Our Past, Our Future**  
*Working together for the New Forest*



Supported by  
**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

