

**NEW FOREST NON-NATIVE PLANTS
PROJECT**

**REPORT TO STEERING GROUP MEETING
ON
2 MAY 2017**

**Report covering the period
1 January 2017 – 30 April 2017**

**Catherine Chatters
New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer
1 May 2017**

Publicity

Press releases

The following press releases were issued between 1 January and 30 April 2017:-

- The New Forest National Park Authority issued a press release on 1 February 2017 titled 'New Forest Volunteer Fair hits new heights' which features NFNNPP volunteer Brian Matthews and includes a quote by Catherine Chatters.
- HIWWT issued a press release (drafted by Catherine Chatters) on 9 March 2017 relating to the awareness-raising event for fishermen organised and hosted by NFNNPP at Testwood Lakes.
- HIWWT issued a press release (drafted by Jo Gore) on 29 March 2017 to alert people to the threat of creeping water primrose.
- HIWWT issued a press release (drafted by Catherine Chatters) on 18 April 2017 to encourage people to volunteer to pull Himalayan balsam with the NFNNPP in 2017.

Publications and websites

- Brian Matthews, who volunteers with the NFNNPP, featured on the New Forest National Park Authority's Facebook to promote the Volunteer Fair on 29 January 2017. The photograph of Brian, taken by Catherine Chatters along the Avon Water on 9 June 2016, was accompanied by a link to part of a 'testimonial' provided by Brian.
- The Lymington Times (Friday 6 January 2017) quoted NFNNPP volunteer Patsy Baverstock in an article titled 'Hundreds of roles on offer at annual volunteering fair' to promote the Volunteer Fair on 29 January 2017.
- The fifth Volunteer Newsletter for 'Our Past, Our Future' covering January & February 2017 featured the NFNNPP and included a photograph of volunteer Grace Newcombe during a balsam pull along the Cadnam River in summer 2016.
- Issue 2 of 'New Forest Waternews' (the New Forest Catchment Partnership Newsletter) which was published in January 2017 included an article by Catherine titled 'The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project: effective partnership working at the catchment scale'.
- During January 2017 the Lymington & District Naturalists' Society website included an article by Jo Gore titled 'Lymington Naturalists help the New Forest Non Native Plant Project'.
- At the request of Claire Hamilton (Environment Agency) Catherine drafted an article for the Environment Agency's Biosecurity newsletter. The article titled 'The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project Update' and accompanying photograph of Golden Club *Orontium aquaticum* was included in the Autumn 2016 edition of the newsletter.
- NFNNPP volunteer Brian Matthews featured in the Lymington Times on 27 January 2017 in an article titled 'Lots on offer at volunteer fair'.
- On 27 January 2017 the New Forest National Park Authority's Facebook included a 'blog post' by Beki Mole (NFNPA Communications Assistant) about the 'Our Past, Our Future' event for volunteers held on 19 January 2017; the 'blog post' featured a photograph taken by Catherine of an elephant hawk moth caterpillar found by NFNNPP volunteer Emma Stanswood during a balsam pull along the Avon Water on 5 August 2016.
- On 1 February 2017 the New Forest National Park Authority's website featured the press release titled 'New Forest Volunteer Fair hits new heights' which refers to NFNNPP volunteer Brian Matthews and includes a quote by Catherine.
- The Lymington Times (Friday 10 February 2017) quoted Catherine in an article titled 'Record-breaking crowd at Forest volunteer fair' and featured a photograph of NFNNPP volunteer Brian Matthews, who opened the fair, standing next to Alison Barnes, Chief Executive of NFNPA and local MP Julian Lewis.

- Issue No 335 of The Herald (9 – 30 March 2017) included an article about the Volunteer Fair held in Lyndhurst on 29 January 2017; it features Brian Matthews who volunteers with NFNNPP and includes a quote by Catherine Chatters.
- The HIWWT website featured a news item titled ‘New Forest fishermen do their bit in battle against invasive species’ relating to the awareness-raising event held on 9 March 2017
- The ‘Greenwatch’ section in the Saturday Review of the Daily Echo (Saturday 11 March 2017) included an article titled “Anglers urged to ‘Check, Clean, Dry’: Campaign aims to stop spread of invasive non-native species” as a result of the press release issued by HIWWT on 9 March 2017.
- The Lymington Times (Friday 17 March 2017) included an article titled ‘Trust bids to hook anglers into biosecurity campaign’ accompanied by a photo of Jo Gore, as a result of the press release issued by HIWWT on 9 March 2017.
- Issue No 336 of The Herald (30 March to 20 April 2017) included an article titled ‘Keeping Rivers Clear’ accompanied by a photo of Jo Gore, as a result of the press release issued by HIWWT on 9 March 2017.
- The Spring 2017 edition of Hampshire & Isle of Wight’s ‘Wildlife’ magazine included an article by Jo Gore titled ‘Landowners are asked to stop the creep’ to ask people to be vigilant to the threat of creeping water primrose.
- The Lymington Times (Friday 14 April 2017) included an article titled ‘Invasive river plants warning’ as a result of the press release issued by HIWWT on 29 March 2017.
- The Lymington Times (Friday 14 April 2017) included an article titled ‘Encroachment will damage Forest warns outgoing Official Verderer’, relating to the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship AGM on 5 April 2017 and which praises the work of the NFNNPP.
- The Spring/Summer 2017 edition of the New Forest National Park Authority’s ‘Parklife’ publication includes an article titled ‘Volunteer force marches ahead to transform the National Park’ which refers to Brian Matthews who volunteers with NFNNPP.
- The HIWWT website (Tuesday 18 April 2017) featured a news item titled ‘Help needed to tackle Himalayan balsam along New Forest river banks from May’.
- Issue No 337 of The Herald (20 April – 11 May 2017) included an article titled ‘Join the Battle’ to encourage people to volunteer with the NFNNPP to pull balsam in 2017.
- The Lymington Times (Friday 21 April 2017) included an article titled ‘Helpers wanted to root our invaders’ based on the press release issued by HIWWT on 18 April 2017.

Liaison with landowners and managers

The following landowners/managers were met between 1 January – 30 April 2017:-

- Jason Mansbridge, Grounds Manager for Fawley Parish Council (Floating Pennywort) on 11 January 2017
- Miss Wendy Reading (Japanese Knotweed at Holbury) on 11 January 2017
- Phil Hollister, grazier (Himalayan balsam) on 23 January 2017
- Sara Cadbury (Lymington River) on 1 March 2017
- Alison Bolton (Lymington River) on 1 March 2017
- Fiona Rogers (Avon Water) on 1 March 2017
- Mike Urwin, Chris Randall, Pete Frost of Brokenhurst Manor Fly Fishing Club (Lymington River) on 9 March 2017
- Toby Woolfe and Kelly Denley (Avon Water) on 21 March 2017
- Andrew Clark (co-owner on the Avon Water) on 29 March 2017
- Karen Butler (Avon Water) on 20 April 2017
- Bob Norman (Mill Pond near Minstead) on 26 April 2017

During April 2017 three Project newsletters were prepared by Jo and Catherine for landowners and land managers along a) the Lymington River, the Mill Lawn Brook and the Passford Water, b) the Cadnam River and c) the Avon Water. The newsletters were mainly distributed via email (others were sent in the post) and copies of the newsletters are appended to this report.



Eddie Holtham, leader of Holbury Manor conservation group (left) and Jason Mansbridge, Grounds Manager for Fawley Parish Council (right) checking for floating pennywort at Holbury Manor Ponds on 11 January 2017



Phil Hollister, grazier on the Avon Water, met Catherine on 23 January 2017 to plan balsam pulls

Steering Group meeting

The Steering Group meeting was held on 17 January 2017.

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

On 3 February 2017 Catherine attended a meeting of the Wildlife and Countryside Link Invasive Non-Native Species Group, in London. Presentations were given by Olaf Booy of the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat on research relating to pathway prioritisation, by Dr Dick Shaw of CABI on research relating to biological control and by Feng Tang on research to fill gaps in knowledge relating to invasive non-native species characteristic of brackish conditions. The meeting also provided an opportunity to consider a) feedback from DEFRA regarding the future of INNS legislation in the light of Brexit, b) proposals for activities during national Invasive Species Week, c) engaging with water companies' investment plans and d) DEFRA's 25 year plan for the environment.

Liaison with other Projects and Organisations

East Hampshire Catchment Partnership

On 13 January 2017 Ian Ayres of Groundwork contacted Catherine seeking information about invasive non-native species on the River Hamble. Groundwork hosts the East Hampshire Catchment Partnership. One of the Partnership's priorities is to tackle invasive non-native species on the Hamble and Ian is hoping to secure funding to tackle Himalayan balsam on this river. Catherine sent him some information via email on 16 January 2017.

South East Regional meeting

Andrea Griffiths of the Medway Countryside Project arranged a meeting for local action groups in the South East to discuss liaison with strategic stakeholders. The meeting was held in Network Rail's London office and was attended by Jo and Catherine. Speakers included Mike O'Connor of Network Rail and representatives of Southern Water and Thames Water as well as Niall Moore from GBNNSS, Sarah Thomas from CABI and Mike Sutton-Croft. It was an extremely useful meeting and highlighted the importance of co-operation between various organisations to achieve effective control at the catchment scale.



Jo and Catherine at meeting held in Network Rail's London Office overlooking the River Thames on 13 March 2017

The Broadlands Estate

Catherine was contacted by Samuel Martin who is studying for a degree in Environmental Management at Reading University and who is currently doing a one year placement with the Broadlands Estate. Samuel came to Testwood to meet Catherine on 23 March 2017 as he is hoping to organise a programme of Himalayan balsam control along the River Test through the Broadlands Estate and one of its tributaries during summer 2017 and was keen to learn from the experiences of the NFNNPP. Catherine gave him advice on practical matters such as insurance, health and safety and recruitment of volunteers and sent him the RINSE report she had prepared on utilising volunteers to control balsam.



Samuel Martin, Broadlands Estate placement student, with his poster to encourage volunteers to pull Himalayan balsam along the River Test

Planning work to be undertaken by volunteers and contractors during 2017

During January and February 2017 details of Himalayan balsam pulls planned for 2017 were sent by e-mail or post to 249 people who had expressed an interest in volunteering with the NFNNPP.

On 14 February 2017 Catherine hosted a meeting and a site visit to brief potential contractors to enable them to submit quotations for herbicide treatment to be undertaken with HLF funding through the New Forest 'Our Past, Our Future' Landscape Partnership Scheme during 2017:

- the control of Japanese knotweed along the Cadnam River
- the control of giant hogweed along the Avon Water;
- the control of American skunk cabbage in Harcourt Wood near Minstead.



Potential contractors during site visit to Harcourt Wood on 14 February 2017

During early March 2017 the contractors were appointed to undertake the herbicide treatment. Purchase Orders were issued by the New Forest National Park Authority and contract letters, maps and risk assessments were sent out by NFNNPP.

During April 2017 Catherine prepared 36 Purchase Orders and issued letters (and site risk assessments) to commission contractors to undertake other herbicide treatment work on behalf of the NFNNPP in 2017:-

Golden Club

- Turf Hill Purchase Order POR000079

Yellow Azalea

- West of A337, south of Lyndhurst Purchase Order POR000081

Pickerel Weed

- Pond near Hatchet Moor car park Purchase Order POR000101

Bog Arum

- Ipley Purchase Order POR000096

Montbretia

- Open Forest by Woodlands Road Purchase Order POR000168

Buddleia

- Markway Purchase Order POR000097

Himalayan knotweed, bamboo, giant hogweed

- Pennington Common Purchase Order POR000166

Parrot's Feather

- Hincleslea Bog, Castle Hill, East End (early summer) Purchase Order POR000110
- Hincleslea Bog, Castle Hill, East End (late summer) Purchase Order POR000111

American skunk cabbage

- Mill Lawn, Burley (Montbretia) Purchase Order POR000082
- HIWWT Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve Purchase Order POR000162
- Below Harcourt Wood (Montbretia & Japanese knotweed) Purchase Order POR000083

Iris laevigata

- Lyndhurst Purchase Order POR000098
- Latchmoor Pond Purchase Order POR000099
- Wootton Coppice Inclosure Purchase Order POR000100

Cotoneaster

- East Boldre former WWI airfield Purchase Order POR000102
- Beaulieu Heath former WWII airfield Purchase Order POR000105
- North side of A35 between Lyndhurst & Ashurst Purchase Order POR000103
- Road near Slufers, by A31 Purchase Order POR000106
- Burley, fence on boundary of Inclosure Purchase Order POR000104
- Eastern side of Lyndhurst Purchase Order POR000107

Japanese knotweed

- Mill Lawn Stream by Turf Croft Farm, Burley Purchase Order POR000084
- East side of Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve Purchase Order POR000163
- North West Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve Purchase Order POR000164
- Verely, near Burley Purchase Order POR000085
- Ditch near Bartley Lodge Hotel Purchase Order POR000086
- Crown Land along Woodlands Road Purchase Order POR000087
- New Park Purchase Order POR000088
- Pondhead Inclosure/Limewood Hotel Purchase Order POR000089
- Crown Land near The Pig Hotel Purchase Order POR000090
- Bridge Cottage and Open Forest, Bartley Purchase Order POR000091
- Broughton Road area, Lyndhurst (and 'Pantiles') Purchase Order POR000092
- Broughton Road area, Lyndhurst (Area 2) Purchase Order POR000093
- Emery Down Purchase Order POR000094
- Crown Land, Lyndhurst and 'Holmfield' Purchase Order POR000095
- Mill Lane, Burley Purchase Order POR000167

Monitoring the effectiveness of control work

Bog arum

On 26 March 2017 Catherine visited the stream at Ipley to monitor the bog arum *Calla palustris*. A single plant was found growing at SU 39452 07115. The contractor will be commissioned to undertake further herbicide treatment at this location during summer 2017.



Single plant of bog arum *Calla palustris* growing along stream near Ipley at grid reference SU 39452 07115 on 26 March 2017

American skunk cabbage

Jo and Catherine monitored the American skunk cabbage populations within HIWWT's Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve on 24 and 25 April 2017. The 6 quadrats installed during 2013 were located and recorded using the DOMIN scale. Locations of American skunk cabbage plants were recorded using a hand-held GPS and the results written up as a file note. Any flowers or developing seed-heads which could be reached were cut or pulled off and removed for disposal off site.



American skunk cabbage flower in Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve on 24 April 2017



Catherine cutting off flowers from American skunk cabbage plant in Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve on 24 April 2017



Jo recording American skunk cabbage in Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve on 24 April 2017

On 26 April 2017 Jo and Catherine monitored the effectiveness of the herbicide treatment undertaken during 2016 to control the American skunk cabbage in Harcourt Wood, near Minstead. Five hundred and ninety-one flowers were removed (this number was limited by the capacity of the collection bags available) and taken away for disposal off-site.



Jo Gore with flowers removed from American skunk cabbage plants in Harcourt Wood on 26 April 2017

Volunteer activity – research, survey and monitoring

There is nothing directly relevant to report during the period between January and the end of April 2017. Two placement students from Southampton University are currently being recruited to undertake research during summer 2017 to continue the annual monitoring to assess the effectiveness of herbicide treatment being undertaken through ‘Our Past, Our Future’.

Additional non-native plants targeted/encountered by NFNNPP

Winter heliotrope *Petasites fragrans* was recorded in the road verges along Barrows Lane near Sway on 29 March 2017.



Variegated yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* subsp. *argentatum* was recorded on Pennington Common on 29 March 2017 and on the edge of the Inclosure on Crown Land along Woodlands Road near Ashurst during Spring 2017.



Periwinkle *Vinca major* was recorded on Pennington Common on 29 March 2017.



Orange Balsam *Impatiens capensis* (left) was recorded in Harcourt Wood near Minstead, in vicinity of the Fleet Water, on 26 April 2017 and Pink Purslane *Claytonia sibirica* (right) was recorded and pulled up in Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve at SZ 32144 97032 on 25 April 2017

‘Our Past, Our Future’ Landscape Partnership Scheme

On 3 January 2017 Catherine provided Richard Austin, Volunteer, Training & Mentoring Co-ordinator, with text to be included in the OPOF Volunteer Newsletter for January and February 2017. On 27 April 2017 Catherine provided Richard with text to be included in the OPOF Volunteer Newsletter for May and June 2017.

On 19 January 2017 Jo and Catherine gave a presentation at the event organised by Richard Austin in Lyndhurst Community Centre to thank volunteers for their help with OPOF projects during the past year.

‘Hi, thank you for inviting me to the event tonight. It was an excellent combination of different presentations with a great deal to interest everyone; I learned a lot. I felt it was particularly positive about the prospect of improving the environment within the Forest. I am very proud of my certificate and badge!’

E-mail from Richard Hughes, volunteer, on 19 January 2017

On 5 April 2017, Catherine and Jo had a very useful meeting with Rachel Liley of Aberystwyth University and Rachel Gallagher of the NFNPA to discuss how to effect and monitor behaviour change as a result of work undertaken through OPOF.

The OPOF financial claim and progress report (for the period 1 January – 31 March 2017) was compiled and submitted by Catherine to Rachael Gallagher of the NFNPA on 7 April 2017.



Promotional Events and awareness-raising

Volunteer Fair on Sunday 29 January 2017

Jo and Catherine attended the annual Volunteer Fair and manned a stand to encourage people to volunteer with the NFNNPP. Over 700 people came to the event which was opened by Alison Barnes, Chief Executive of the New Forest National Park Authority and Brian Matthews who volunteers with the NFNNPP. Dr Julian Lewis, the MP for New Forest East attended the event and chatted to stall holders and visitors.



Dr Julian Lewis, MP for New Forest East, and Jo Gore during the Volunteer Fair on 29 January 2017



NFNNPP volunteer Brian Matthews (centre) was selected to officially open the 2017 Volunteer Fair with Alison Barnes, Chief Executive of the New Forest National Park Authority (right)



Totton College Work Experience and Opportunities Fair

Catherine manned a display at the Work Experience and Opportunities Fair at Totton College on Thursday 16 February 2017. After the event, details of balsam pulls were emailed to the seven tutors and one student who expressed an interest in volunteering with the NFNNPP.



Ryan Sayce and Thera Byrne (left) and Carrie Mandley and Paul Barnes (right) at the Totton College Work Experience and Opportunities Fair on 16 February 2017

“Dear Catherine, it was good to meet you and I will be sure to mention your project to any budding conservationists. At least I know what to do with my balsam this summer! Best wishes, Carrie” e-mail dated 16 February 2017 from Mrs Carrie Mandley, Student Guidance Co-ordinator, King Edward VI School, Southampton, who attended the Work Experience and Opportunities Fair at Totton College on 16 February 2017



King Edward VI School, Southampton

Seminar at Southampton University on 23 February 2017

Dr Judith Lock of the Department of Biological Sciences at Southampton University invited Catherine to give a seminar to second year students. Catherine delivered the seminar on Thursday 23 February 2017 to 17 students and focussed on a) the characteristics of invasive, non-native plants and the problems they cause, b) the GB Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy and its implementation at the local level by the NFNNPP, c) partnership working through the NFNNPP, d) research and awareness-raising by the NFNNPP, e) some relevant legislation.



Talk to Sparsholt College students on 8 March 2017

David Locke, a tutor at Sparsholt College, invited Catherine to give a talk to 16 -18 year old students on the Level 3 Countryside Management (formerly the National Diploma) course. Catherine gave the talk on the morning of Wednesday 8 March 2017. A couple of the students had already had experience of Himalayan balsam-pulling and the whole group will help Jo with balsam-pulling on the Lymington River in June 2017.



Brockenhurst College 2017 Volunteering Exhibition

On 8 March 2017 Jo attended the Volunteering Exhibition at Brockenhurst College, manned a display and gave a presentation to encourage students to volunteer to pull Himalayan balsam with the NFNNPP during 2017.

Talk to HBIC Recorders' Forum on 11 March 2017

Catherine was invited by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) to give a short presentation at the annual Recorders' Forum at Littleton near Winchester on Saturday 11 March 2017. She chose to speak about recording Cotoneaster on former war time airfields in the New Forest during 2015 and 2016, with the help of volunteers and the subsequent management work undertaken by contractors. The event was well attended with representatives from a wide range of national and local conservation organisations from across the County.



Forum meeting on 1 March 2017

The annual Forum meeting was held on the afternoon of Wednesday 1 March at Brockenhurst Village Hall. It was attended by 57 people including volunteers, botanists, landowners, representatives of the Environment Agency, Natural England, the Forestry Commission, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority and Hampshire County Council.

Catherine Supple and Charlie Dooley gave a fascinating talk about the experience of tackling invasive non-native plants on Ascension Island and St Helena. Jo Gore and Catherine Chatters gave a review of the activities of the NFNNPP since the previous Forum meeting in March 2016.



Charlie Dooley and Catherine Supple at the NFNNPP Forum meeting on 1 March 2017

‘Hi Catherine, thanks for the lovely email! We both really enjoyed it, I just hope we didn't send everyone to sleep with the length! Well done on all your hard work in the New Forest - it was great to hear all the positive stories from your project. Keep us in the loop!’
e-mail dated 2 March 2017 from Charlie Dooley, guest speaker

‘Hi Catherine, thank you for inviting us along! We both really enjoyed (after the nerves) making and doing the presentation and we are very pleased that you all seemed to enjoy it and it's always great to see the great work you guys are all doing on the Invasives project.’
e-mail dated 2 March 2017 from Catherine Supple, guest speaker

‘Thank you for a very interesting afternoon with such good speakers’
e-mail dated 2 March 2017 from Alison Bolton, botanist and landowner on the Lymington River

‘It was a good session on Wednesday with a very wide attendance’
e-mail dated 3 March 2017 from Mary Parker, volunteer

‘Dear Catherine, it was great to see the enthusiasm for the subject evident yesterday. I did try and speak before having to leave, but your many volunteers were clearly very keen to speak with you first! The enforcement information was of particular interest, not least because of the slow uptake by the various bodies of the applicable legislation. I will be finding out more from Scott Graham. Thank you for yesterday. All the best’

e-mail dated 2 March 2017 from Edward Vandyck, Senior Environmental Health Officer, NFDC

‘Catherine, I must say I was really impressed by how much you have achieved in the New Forest area.’

e-mail dated 2 March 2017 from Tony Mundell, BSBI Vice County Recorder for North Hampshire

‘What a fascinating talk about Ascension Island and St Helena followed by an as usual very informative report on the past year's activities. Thanks so much to all concerned’

e-mail dated 2 March 2017 from Fiona Rogers, landowner

‘Hi Catherine, impressive attendance and you did well to get the comprehensive minutes written up and distributed so quickly’

e-mail dated 2 March 2017 from Paul Tatham, volunteer

‘Enjoyed the afternoon. Not long and we will be out there bending our backs pulling those lovely pink flowering plants.’

e-mail dated 2 March 2017 from Roger Bradley, volunteer

‘Thanks Catherine - we enjoyed the meeting very much’

e-mail dated 2 March 2017 from Bob and Jean Annell, volunteers

‘Dear Catherine, thank you for sending me the forum minutes. I shall be thinking of you tomorrow, and hope that Network Rail keeps its promise to phone you and that you are able to achieve some concrete results. The New Forest is fortunate to have such a pleasant, dedicated and determined person as yourself to represent it. I look forward to helping with balsam pulling when it restarts in a couple of months. Best wishes’

e-mail dated 2 March 2017 from David Smart, volunteer

‘Thanks Catherine, we found the forum really enjoyable’

e-mail dated 3 March 2017 from Claire Hamilton, Fisheries, Biodiversity & Geomorphology Officer, Environment Agency

‘What excellent presentations from you all! I love the way you make sure everyone gets a thank you, it must make folks feel appreciated’

e-mail dated 3 March 2017 from Ginnie Copsey, volunteer

‘Dear Catherine, it was a real coup to have Charlie and Catherine give their presentation.

It was extremely interesting and informative - superb. I was also interested in all your additions to 'target plants'. Where will it end?’

e-mail dated 6 March 2017 from John Moore, volunteer

‘Hello Catherine, thank you very much for the invite, it was such an informative an enjoyable afternoon’

e-mail dated 8 March 2017 from Lucy Andrews, Forestry Commission

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



During the seminar to students at Southampton University on 23 February, Catherine took the opportunity to refer to the 'Be Plant Wise' campaign and to hand out 'Be Plant Wise' leaflets.



The Be Plant Wise campaign and the Check Clean Dry campaign were promoted at the awareness-raising event for anglers and fishermen held at Testwood Lakes on 9 March 2017. The photo shows Ian Hayward and Jon Morley of Bournemouth Water



Ian Hayward of Bournemouth Water with a Check, Clean, Dry sign on 9 March 2017. Bournemouth Water will install this sign at Longham Reservoirs and are keen to obtain additional signs.

‘Catherine, good to hear that the anglers’ signs were so popular and also to see the Water Company posing with one’

e-mail dated 10 March 2017 from Niall Moore, GB Non-Native Species Secretariat

‘Dear Catherine, glad to hear it went so well, really pleased the video worked! That’s fantastic work on the fixed signs, please do ask people to contact me for more.....You’ve helped us achieve 20% of our target for new signs going up during Invasive Species Week so a huge thank you from me!’

e-mail dated 10 March 2017 from Lucy Cornwell, GB Non-Native Species Secretariat

‘Hi Lucy, I have spoken with our fisheries manager. The Ringwood and District Angling Association is a large angling club with over 2000 members and is blessed with many fine fisheries, including many lakes and miles of the Hampshire Avon and Dorset Stour. The single Check, Clean, Dry sign that I obtained from Catherine Chatters last week at the non-native invasive plant workshop will be installed this week. When installed, I will send you a photo before 27 March.

Given the number of waters that the Club controls, can you please send me 8 (eight) more signs?’

e-mail dated 12 March 2017 from Merv Quick of Ringwood & District Angling Association to Lucy Cornwell of GBNNSS

‘Dear Catherine, our ‘Check, Clean and Dry’ sign was put up yesterday at the entrance to our lakes at Walhampton. I will forward the photo as soon as I receive it from the member who took it for me. I will be asking Lucy for another three if that is possible. Many thanks for all your help.

With kind regards’

e-mail dated 12 March 2017 from Richard Waterman, Wellworthy Angling Club

'Hi Catherine, Jerry passed the sign on and it was erected this morning at the entrance to our Carron Row Farm Fishery (PO15 5DZ). This is a very popular 5 lake venue for members and day ticket anglers. 2 pics attached. I think similar signs on 2 of our other day ticket venues at Tithe barn and Funtley would be beneficial so I copied Lucy in just in case there were any more. Thank you for the signs and sorry I couldn't make the last workshop, I really enjoyed the one I came to before. The advice has been very useful. I will send you some pictures of our balsam pull on the Hamble. Cheers, Steve'

e-mail dated 21 March 2017 from Steve Mottershead, Fishery Management Officer, Portsmouth and District Angling Society

Invasive Species Week - 27 March to 2 April 2017

During February 2017, Jo sent 40 letters and 3 emails to boating, sailing, canoe and kayak clubs in the New Forest area and on the Hampshire coast to promote the 'Check, Clean, Dry' campaign and to encourage the clubs to take action during Invasive Species Week between 27 March – 2 April 2017.

Jo arranged for the HIWWT staff newsletter on Friday 24 March 2017 to feature Invasive Species Week.

As mentioned elsewhere in this Steering Group report, a number of fishing and angling clubs who attended the training session on 9 March 2017 arranged for 'Check, Clean, Dry' signs to be installed in time for Invasive Species Week.

Catherine had a very positive and encouraging morning on 29 March 2017, visiting garden centres to promote 'Be Plant Wise' and raise awareness about species which have been banned from sale under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 and the EU Alien Species Regulation. The staff to whom Catherine spoke were already aware that certain species had been banned from sale and readily agreed to put up 'Be Plant Wise' posters. Catherine gave the staff GBNNSS identification sheets and an information sheet she had prepared giving details about which species have been banned from sale and the restrictions relating to the Species of Union Concern in connection with the EU Alien Species Regulation.



Jake Creed (left) at Romsey World of Water and Lorraine Blood (right) at Southern Aquatics and Reptiles in Cadnam on 29 March 2017

On 30 March 2017, Catherine visited New Forest Water Gardens near Everton to promote the 'Be Plant Wise' campaign and to advise staff on which species have been banned from sale. As a result of this visit the pots of American skunk cabbage on display at New Forest Water Gardens were removed from the sales area.



Andrea Lovell of New Forest Water Gardens on 30 March 2017

Catherine also visited Furzey Gardens in the New Forest on 30 March 2017 where people with learning disabilities are given the opportunity to be involved in horticulture through the Minstead Training Trust. Catherine met Pete White the Head Gardener who confirmed that he had checked the extent of the American skunk cabbage earlier that week to ensure that it was not spreading from the pond along the ditch towards the surrounding countryside. Pete agreed to display Be Plant Wise posters.



Pete White, Head Gardener, (centre) with students at Furzey Gardens on 30 March 2017

Training provided by the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project

Training for fishermen and anglers on Thursday 9 March 2017

Catherine and Jo organised a half-day awareness-raising session for anglers, fishermen and river keepers on the morning of Thursday 9 March 2017 at Testwood Lakes Education Centre. It was a very popular event, with 30 delegates attending, including three staff from Bournemouth Water. Martin de Retuerto of HIWWT also contributed to the presentations which included sessions on identification of invasive non-native plants, impacts caused by them, control methods, some relevant legislation and the importance of biosecurity. People were extremely interested and enthusiastic and feedback was very positive.



Delegates doing the identification quiz during the awareness-raising event on 9 March 2017



Jo Gore with Saska McGrath (Bournemouth Water), anglers and fishermen on 9 March 2017



Identification of invasive non-native plants on 9 March 2017

‘Hi Catherine, just a quick message to say thank you for today's course, I had to shoot away fairly sharpish at the end and didn't get to thank you and Jo. It was a very interesting and educational subject of which I learned a lot. Also my family and I would be interested in the Balsam pulling if you have any dates. Thanks again. Kind regards’

e-mail dated 9 March 2017 from Steve Brown, River Keeper on the Kimbridge Estate

‘Hi Catherine, many thanks for an enjoyable and informative session yesterday. I spoke with our Fishery Management Officer afterwards who has arranged for a Himalayan Balsam pull along our stretch of the upper Hamble.....Is there a similar educational programme for the angling community that deals with non-native invertebrates? Once again, many thanks for a most useful session and good luck with your ongoing work in the New Forest area. Best regards’

e-mail dated 10 March 2017 from Jerry Foster, Portsmouth & District Angling Society

‘Hello Catherine, really good talk yesterday, learnt a lot from it so thank you very much! Glad you had a good turn out for it also. I picked up some of the print outs on the table about the different types plant but there weren't any left on the Parrots Feather, is there somewhere I can find this or can you email me a copy of it please?! Kind regards’.

e-mail dated 10 March 2017 from Martin Noble of Noble's Fishing

‘Catherine, thank you for very informative and well presented course. We (The PSFFA) will take photos of the signs when installed and send them to you hopefully before 27 March’
e-mail dated 10 March 2017 from Stuart Leather, Portsmouth Services Fly Fishing Association

‘Hi Catherine, thanks to yourself, Jo and Martin for a very informative course. I will get the sign up next week and send you a photo. I am going to put it on the Fishing HQ, where all our visiting anglers have to sign in and disinfect boots and nets before fishing’
e-mail dated 10 March 2017 from Rob Goldsworthy, Fishing Manager, Leckford Estate

‘Catherine, thanks for an excellent morning on Thursday. Most informative. Please pass on my thanks to Jo and Martin. And also tell Jo that the cake was excellent. We have a walnut tree in the garden, so if she would like fresh walnuts next Autumn, just ask!’
e-mail dated 12 March 2017 from Mike Urwin, Brokenhurst Manor Fly Fishing Club

‘Hi Catherine, thanks for an enjoyable and informative day on Thursday.’
e-mail dated 12 March 2017 from Jim Eggleton

‘Hello Catherine, a very good morning.’
e-mailed dated 12 March 2017 from Pete Frost, Brokenhurst Manor Fly Fishing Club

‘Dear Catherine, many thanks for a very informative day last Thursday; myself and the rest of the PSSFA gang found it worth while.’
e-mail dated 12 March 2017 from Alan Hudspeth, Portsmouth Services Fly Fishing Association

‘Hi Catherine, all my keepers PSFFA (Portsmouth Services Fly Fishing Association) and HRKA (Hampshire River Keepers Association) enjoyed the training session on Thursday. The signs are being deployed as we speak; having a couple of beats affected by *Azolla* we are very aware of the need for Bio Security on our waters.’
e-mail dated 12 March 2017 from Steve Batten, Fly-Fishing Coach and Chairman of Hampshire River Keepers’ Association

‘Hi Catherine, very many thanks for the talk on Thursday – very informative and much appreciated. As requested.....the sign I took to put up on our beat on the Itchen at Brambridge is now installed – picture and map attached. Thanks once again, and best regards’
e-mail dated 12 March 2017 from Howard Boardman, River Keeper, Portsmouth Services Fly Fishing Association



Check, Clean, Dry sign installed by Howard Boardman, PSFFA Keeper on his beat on the River Itchen at Brambridge (photo sent by Howard Boardman on 12 March 2017)

‘Good morning Catherine, enjoyed Thursday, learnt some new information and you all presented the subjects in a concise and easy to understand format. Thank you’
e-mail dated 14 March 2017 from Alister Locke, River Keeper on the Kimbridge Estate

‘Hi, sign up at Hockley. Thanks for a really good course’
e-mail dated 13 March 2017 from Michael Horscroft, Keeper for Portsmouth Services Fly Fishing Association

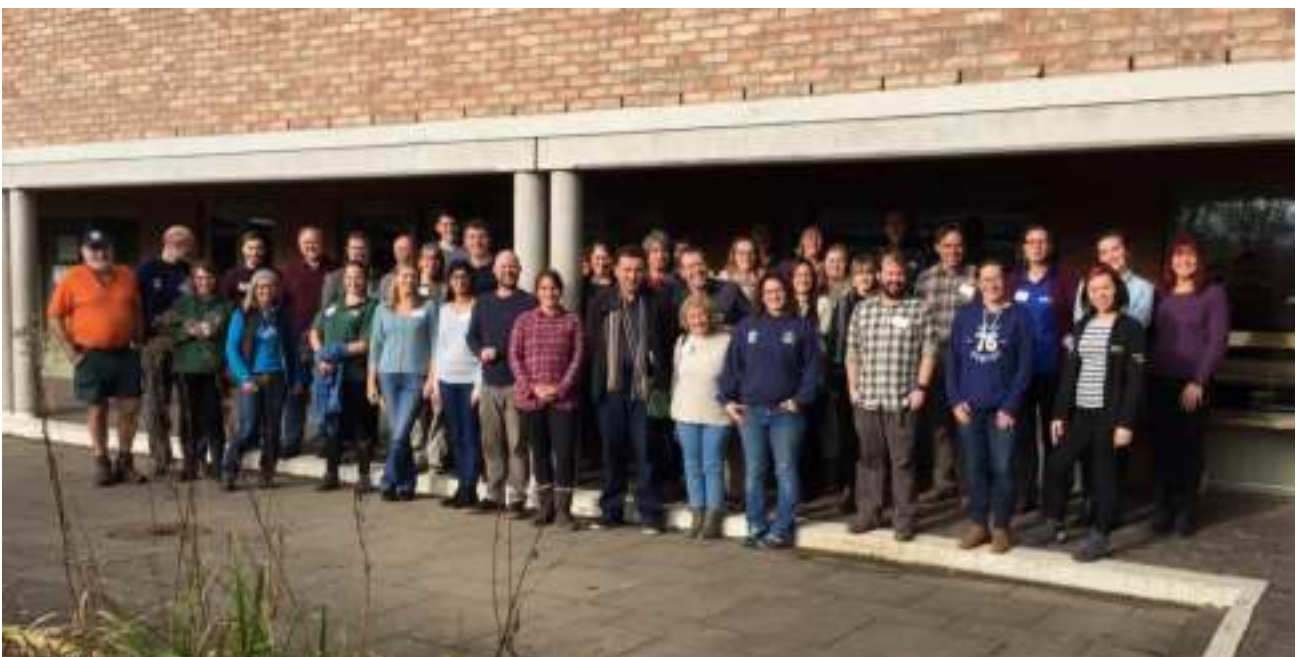


Check Clean Dry sign installed by Mike Horscroft of PSFFA at Hockley (left) and by Steve Brown on the day ticket fishery at Kimbridge (right) in March 2017

Training attended by the Project Officers

GBNNSS workshop in Preston Montford

Jo and Catherine attended the two-day workshop organised by Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat at Preston Montford in Shropshire on 31 January and 1 February 2017. Jo gave an update on the control of creeping water primrose at Breamore Marsh and led a discussion group on biosecurity. Catherine gave a presentation on the use of a Community Protection Notice adjacent to the Cadnam River under Section 45 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and led a discussion group on sources of funding.



Local Action Group project officers (including Jo and Catherine) and GBNNSS staff at Preston Montford during the two-day workshop in 2017



Katy Owen of the Norfolk Invasive Species Initiative looking at the display about the Community Protection Notice that Catherine prepared for the GBNNSS workshop in Preston Montford.

Other work

Advice

On 3 January 2017 Craig Lee, Senior Policy Adviser at DEFRA, e-mailed Catherine to find out about the NFNNPP's experience of using hot foam in the trials to control *Crassula helmsii*, to inform discussions that DEFRA are due to hold regarding the efficacy of hot foam. Catherine sent Craig the final report relating to the trials.

On 11 January 2017 Catherine met Miss Wendy Reading to discuss control of Japanese knotweed in the fields she leases at Holbury close to the Open Forest. Catherine sent her the Environment Agency advisory booklet and GBNNSS identification sheets.

On 11 January 2017 Catherine met Jason Mansbridge, Grounds Manager for Fawley Parish Council, and Eddie Holtham (leader of the conservation group at Holbury Manor) to discuss control of floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* in Holbury Manor Ponds. Careful manual control will continue to be undertaken here by Holbury Manor volunteers and Parish Council staff.



Floating pennywort at Holbury Manor Ponds (SU 42785 03750) on 11 January 2017

On 13 January 2017 Jason Mansbridge emailed Catherine to say “the ground staff have been down to the Manor today and removed the small amount of floating pennywort that was pointed out on Wednesday. All the ground staff now know what to look out for and will remove if spotted.”



On 21 April 2017 a resident of Lyndhurst contacted Catherine to seek advice about this Japanese knotweed encroaching into his garden from a nearby field.

Catherine provided information on the telephone and via e-mail and provided advisory booklets.

Control of three-cornered leek

On 13 January 2017 Catherine dug up the three-cornered leek *Allium triquetrum* plants from the verge belonging to Winchester College along Fletchwood Lane, near Totton.

Control work at this location started during summer 2016 and although all plants found were removed in 2016, a surprising number of plants appeared in 2017, many of which were growing from very small bulbs.

All plants found were removed on 13 January 2017.



Three-cornered leek *Allium triquetrum* dug up from verge along Fletchwood Lane between SU 33421 11260 and SU 33437 11272 on 13 January 2017

New Zealand pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii*

On 21 January 2017 Sir Chris Powell of Fritham Lodge contacted Catherine to ask if a solution has yet been found to the *Crassula helmsii* problem in the New Forest as his pond is still infested. Catherine replied on 23 January and sent the final report and annex report relating to the three years of *Crassula* trials and also sent the report by Paul Sims relating to the successful control of this species at Mile Cross Marsh in Norfolk.

On 27 April 2017 Catherine responded to a query from Dr Barry Yates, Manager of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve for Sussex Wildlife Trust, regarding the trials commissioned by NFNNPP using hot foam to control New Zealand pygmyweed.

Living Record

On 7 February 2017 Adrian Bicker met Jo and Catherine at Testwood to provide on-going support and advice on the use of Living Record.

Provision of advice to the Environment Agency

On 22 March 2017 Catherine Patel, Senior Planning Officer at the Environment Agency, contacted the NFNNPP to explain that each year the EA is asked to report to DEFRA the kilometres of water-related improvements undertaken by the EA and/or Partners. Catherine Chatters provided relevant information to the EA on 22 March.

HIWWT staff meeting

At the staff meeting on 22 March 2017, at the request of Debbie Tann (Chief Executive of HIWWT), Jo and Catherine gave a 20 minute presentation to colleagues about the work of the NFNNPP.

Annual leave

Jo and Catherine took some annual leave during April 2017. Whilst on holiday in Monmouthshire, Catherine observed Himalayan balsam (in road verges and in vast quantities along the banks of the River Wye downstream of Monmouth), some Japanese knotweed in road verges and along the banks of the River Wye and American skunk cabbage in a pond on a road verge at Penallt.



Another 'busman's holiday'?

Discovering Himalayan balsam in road verge near Penallt, Monmouthshire on 11 April 2017

Project newsletters – see attached

Press releases – see attached

Media coverage – see attached

Report compiled by Catherine Chatters
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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:-



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