

**NEW FOREST NON-NATIVE PLANTS
PROJECT**

**REPORT TO STEERING GROUP MEETING
ON
8 MAY 2018**

**Report covering the period
1 January 2018 – 30 April 2018**

**Catherine Chatters
New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer
1 May 2018**

Publicity

Press releases

The following press release was issued between 1 January and 30 April 2018:-

- Press release titled 'Pledge your support during Invasive Species Week' drafted by Catherine Chatters and sent out by HIWWT on 13 March

Publications and websites

- The OPOF Volunteer Newsletter issued on 10 January 2018 encouraged people to volunteer with the NFNNPP
- The 'blog post' titled 'Pulling the plug on space invaders', drafted by Beki Mole and amended by Catherine Chatters, was published on the New Forest National Park Authority's website on 19 January 2018
- The OPOF newsletter dated January 2018 includes a quote and photograph of volunteer Patsy Baverstock pulling Himalayan balsam at Fuzzie's Farm on the Cadnam River on page 5 and has a photograph of Jo Gore and Catherine Chatters on page 1 taken during the OPOF Project Officers' Team Day on 16 November 2017
- The brochure for the Volunteer Fair held on 28 January 2018 (organised by the New Forest National Park Authority) featured Jo Gore and NFNNPP volunteers during balsam pulls along the Lymington River and Avon Water on the front cover and Calmore Guides on a balsam pull along the Cadnam River
- The Herald Issue 352 (8 – 29 March 2018) included an article on page 55 titled 'Pledge your support during Invasive Species Week' to encourage people to volunteer to pull balsam
- The HIWWT website featured a news item titled 'Pledge your support during Invasive Species Week' dated 13 March 2018 to encourage people to volunteer with NFNNPP
- The OPOF Volunteer Newsletter issued on 16 March 2018 encouraged people to volunteer to pull balsam with the NFNNPP and included a photo of volunteer Patsy Baverstock who helped man the NFNNPP stand at the Volunteer Fair on 28 January 2018.
- The Lymington Directory (Issue 80, April/May 2018) included a note on page 25 encouraging people to volunteer to pull balsam with the NFNNPP in 2018.
- The April – July 2018 edition of the HIWWT 'What's On!' guide featured a number of Himalayan balsam pulls led by the NFNNPP during summer 2018.
- The Spring/Summer 2018 edition of the New Forest NPA's publication Park Life featured NFNNPP volunteer Patsy Baverstock on page 3 in an article titled 'Big thanks to volunteers'.
- The Invasive Non-Native Species Group of Wildlife and Countryside Link invited Catherine to write a blog for Invasive Species Week. The blog titled 'Invasive Species Week : Volunteers can make a difference' was published on Thursday 29 March 2018 on the final day of Invasive Species Week which was dedicated to the promotion of Local Action Groups. The blog highlighted the help that volunteers give to the NFNNPP and encouraged people to volunteer with their own Local Action Group
- On 27 April 2018 The Lymington Times included a report of the talk given by Jo Gore on 27 March 2018 to the Lymington and District Naturalists' Society.

Liaison with landowners and managers

The following landowners/managers were met between 1 January – 30 April 2018:-

- Sara Cadbury (Lymington River) on 10 February 2018
- Alison Bolton (Lymington River) on 7 March 2018
- Fiona Rogers (Avon Water) on 7 March 2018
- Tony Theron (Cadnam River) on 22 March 2018

- Caroline and Paul Coe (Mill Lawn Brook) on 26 March 2018
- Gwyn Evans (Mill Lawn Brook) on 26 March 2018
- Anna Lawrence (Mill Lawn Brook) on 26 March 2018
- Eric and Glenda Williams (Mill Lawn Brook) on 26 March 2018
- Emma Clitherow (Mill Lawn Brook) on 26 March 2018
- Dave Morris, Forestry Commission (Mill Lawn Brook) on 26 March 2018
- Robin Mair, Forestry Commission (Lyndhurst Allotments) on 16 April 2018
- Lyndhurst Parish Council (Lyndhurst Allotments) on 16 April 2018
- Bob Norman (Mill Pond at Harcourt Wood) on 18 April 2018

On 16 March 2018 Catherine wrote to 17 landowners along the Cadnam River to inform them that Food and Environmental Ltd has been commissioned to undertake herbicide treatment to control Japanese knotweed on their properties during late summer/early autumn 2018, using HLF funding through the New Forest ‘Our Past, Our Future’ Landscape Partnership Scheme.

On 16 March 2018 Catherine wrote to 33 landowners along the Avon Water to inform that that Food and Environmental Ltd and Southern Counties Forestry have been commissioned to undertake herbicide treatments to control giant hogweed on their properties during summer 2018, using HLF funding through the New Forest ‘Our Past, Our Future’ Landscape Partnership Scheme.

On 26 March 2018 Jo hosted a meeting for landowners along the Mill Lawn Brook. For further details about this event please refer to the section relating to Invasive Species Week on page 18 of this report.

On 12 April 2018 Catherine sent Avon Water newsletters to 54 land owners and land managers along the Avon Water. A copy of this newsletter is appended to the Steering Group Report.

On 12 and 13 April 2018 Catherine sent Cadnam River newsletters to 58 land owners and land managers along the Cadnam River. A copy of this newsletter is appended to the Steering Group Report.

“Thanks so much, Catherine. Very informative and an attractive lay-out too, with lots of good, sunny images. Keep up the good work, and let me know if we can be helpful.
Best wishes, Fiona”

e-mail dated 12 April 2018 from Fiona Rogers in response to receiving the Avon Water newsletter

“Catherine, thank you for this newsletter. It is a great read. I wish my organisation could put together a piece like this. Informative and fun to read.
Janet”

e-mail dated 14 April 2018 from Dr Janet Allen, in response to receiving the Avon Water newsletter

“Hi Catherine, just wanted to say what a smashing newsletter about New Forest Non-Native Plants Project on the Cadnam River. Look forward to seeing you on a pull soon – that sounds wrong!
Sue”

e-mail dated 16 April 2018 from Sue Tay, who volunteers with the National Trust

“Dear Catherine, many thanks for your email. The work you do is brilliant and much appreciated”
e-mail dated 16 April 2018 from Simon Wreford in response to receiving the Cadnam River newsletter

On 25 April 2018 Jo sent Lymington River newsletters to 76 land owners and land managers along the Lymington River, the Passford Water and the Mill Lawn Brook. A copy of this newsletter is appended to the Steering Group Report.

“Joanne, thanks for the news letter, it makes for an interesting read. Looks like a lot of good work is going on. We’re still tackling Boldre & Brockenhurst, amongst the 30 or so management plans we’ve got in place.....At some sites we’ve eradicated INNS from our sites and doing monitoring. Keep up the good work! Regards, Lee”
e-mail dated 25 April 2018 from Lee Jaycocks, Project/Contract Manager for Southern Water

“Dear Jo, thank you for your email attaching your interesting newsletter. Please keep up the good work. Many thanks, Simon”
e-mail dated 25 April 2018 from Simon Barker, Agent for Longdown Management Ltd

Steering Group meeting

The Steering Group meeting was held on 24 January 2018.

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

On 21 February, Catherine participated in a telephone conference call with members of Wildlife and Countryside Link’s Invasive Non-Native Species Group. During this conference call Catherine was asked to write the blog for the final day of Invasive Species Week.

Liaison with RAPID LIFE Project

On 12 January 2018 Alexia Fish contacted Catherine and introduced herself as the officer now running the EU LIFE-funded RAPID LIFE project (Reducing and Preventing Invasive Alien Species Dispersal). Alexia requested copies of locally-produced management plans for invasive non-native species. Catherine responded on 12 January explaining that no ‘management plans’ had been prepared by NFNNPP but sent her the ‘strategies’ she had written in January 2010 for Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, American skunk cabbage and Giant hogweed. Catherine also sent Alexia a list of the other species which NFNNPP has tackled (by undertaking control work or commissioning trials).



On 12 April 2018 Alexia Fish (Non-native Species Specialist and RAPID LIFE Project Manager) emailed Catherine to say:-

“The RAPID LIFE Project team are currently working on developing best practice management guidelines for established INNS (a.k.a IAS). In order to provide you guys with the best materials possible to assist you in field activities, we need to know where you currently get your information on management on and what knowledge gaps need filling. If you could take a few minutes out of your day to fill out the survey, it would be really helpful”.

Catherine completed the survey on 17 April 2018, providing information on a) management techniques used by NFNNPP to control a range of invasive non-native plants and b) sources of advice on control techniques.

Control to be undertaken by contractors

Purchase orders have been issued for the following herbicide treatments to be undertaken during 2018:-

Golden Club

- Turf Hill Purchase Order POR001563

Yellow Azalea

- West of A337, south of Lyndhurst Purchase Order POR001564
- Near entrance to 'Graham Lodge', Linwood Purchase Order POR001565

Pickerel Weed

- Pond near Hatchet Moor car park Purchase Order POR001566

Bog Arum

- Ipley Purchase Order POR001568

Montbretia

- Open Forest by Woodlands Road Purchase Order POR001590

Variiegated Yellow Archangel

- Along Inclosure fence near Woodlands Road Purchase Order POR001590

Buddleia

- Markway Purchase Order POR001569

Bamboo, giant hogweed, variegated yellow archangel, golden rod and Spiraea

- Pennington Common Purchase Order POR001593

Parrot's Feather

- Hinchleslea Bog, Castle Hill, East End (early summer) Purchase Order POR001615
- Hinchleslea Bog, Castle Hill, East End (late summer) Purchase Order POR001616

American skunk cabbage

- HIWWT Lyminster Reedbeds Nature Reserve herbicide treatment. Purchase Order POR001617
- Mill Lawn, Burley (and Montbretia) Purchase Order POR001597
- Below Harcourt Wood (Montbretia & Japanese knotweed) Purchase Order POR001603
- Harcourt Wood (OPOF) Purchase Order 20006928

Iris laevigata

- Lyndhurst Purchase Order POR001570
- Latchmoor Pond Purchase Order POR001571
- Wootton Coppice Inclosure Purchase Order POR001572

Cotoneaster

- East Boldre former WWI airfield Purchase Order POR001604
- Beaulieu Heath former WWII airfield Purchase Order POR001607
- North side of A35 between Lyndhurst & Ashurst Purchase Order POR001608
- Road near Slufsters, by A31 Purchase Order POR001609
- Burley, fence on boundary of Inclosure Purchase Order POR001610
- Eastern side of Lyndhurst Purchase Order POR001611
- Crockford Purchase Order POR001612
- Greenmoor Purchase Order POR001614

Japanese knotweed

- Mill Lawn Brook by Turf Croft Farm, Burley Purchase Order POR001567
- East side of Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve Purchase Order POR001618
- East side of Lymington Reedbeds NR (under alders)Purchase Order POR001619
- North West Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve Purchase Order POR001620
- Verely, near Burley Purchase Order POR001576
- Ditch near Bartley Lodge Hotel Purchase Order POR001577
- Crown Land along Woodlands Road Purchase Order POR001578
- New Park Purchase Order POR001579
- Pondhead Inclosure/Limewood Hotel Purchase Order POR001580
- Crown Land near The Pig Hotel Purchase Order POR001581
- Bridge Cottage and Open Forest, Bartley Purchase Order POR001582
- Broughton Road area, Lyndhurst (and 'Pantiles') Purchase Order POR001585
- Broughton Road area, Lyndhurst (Area 2) Purchase Order POR001586
- Emery Down Purchase Order POR001587
- Crown Land, Lyndhurst and 'Holmfield' Purchase Order POR001588

- Mill Lane, Burley Purchase Order POR001574
- Norleywood Inclosure Purchase Order POR001573
- Gravel track off Beechwood Lane, Burley Purchase Order POR001575
- Open Forest adjacent to Hillview, Linwood. Purchase Order POR001595
- Cadnam River (OPOF) Purchase Order 20007004

Giant hogweed

Avon Water (OPOF) early summer and late summer treatments:-

- Treatment below Efford Bridge. Purchase Order 20007009
- Treatment between Efford Bridge and Wainsford Bridge. Purchase Order 20007009
- Treatment between Wainsford Bridge and Flexford Bridge. Purchase Order 20007008
- Treatment upstream of Flexford Bridge. Purchase Order 20007009



Ben Dickinson and Marc Parry of Kingcombe Stonbury treating American skunk cabbage with herbicide in Harcourt Wood on Thursday 19 April 2018

Control by Project Officers

Control of Three-cornered garlic

On 10 January 2018 Catherine dug up the Three-cornered garlic *Allium triquetrum* in the road verge along Fletchwood Lane. Only 39 plants were found, all of which were dug up.



Three-cornered garlic *Allium triquetrum* plants were dug up along Fletchwood Lane on 10 January 2018 between SU 33437 11275 and SU 33424 11265. Only 39 plants were found after a thorough search.

Volunteer activity – practical control

Planning Himalayan balsam pulls for 2018

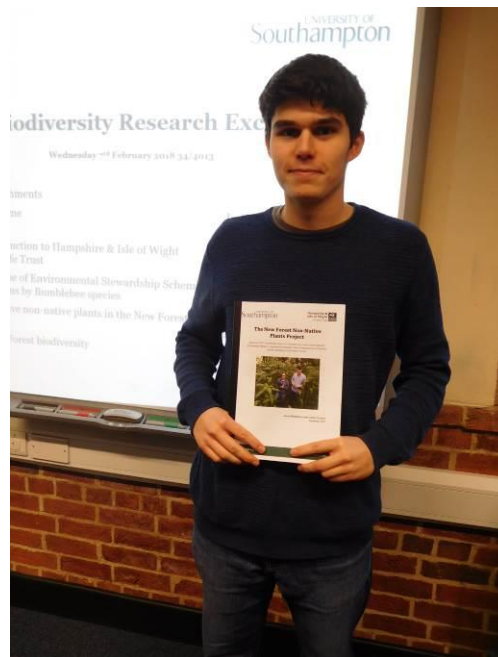
The programme of volunteer work parties to pull Himalayan balsam during 2018 was compiled during the winter by Jo and Catherine. Details of events up to the end of July 2018 were submitted by the deadline of 12 January 2018 for inclusion on the HIWWT website. During January 2018 the list of balsam pulls in 2018 was sent to 107 people who volunteered to pull balsam with NFNNPP last year.

Volunteer activity – research, survey and monitoring

Monitoring by Southampton University Placement Students

Isobel Tickner and Jacob Middleton of Southampton University prepared a powerpoint presentation summarising the findings of their monitoring undertaken during 2017 to assess the Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam and American skunk cabbage at the ten sample sites

where work has been undertaken through the OPOF project using HLF funding. Jacob presented the powerpoint presentation to Catherine and others at a meeting held at Southampton University on 7 February 2018; unfortunately Isobel was unable to attend due to work commitments.



Jacob Middleton at Southampton University on 7 February 2018, holding a copy of the final report relating to the monitoring he undertook with Isobel Tickner during summer 2017.

Flora Level and Benjamin McClay from Southampton University were interviewed by Sarah Jackson of HIWWT and selected during April 2018 to undertake placements with the NFNNPP during summer 2018. Catherine has arranged to meet Flora and Benjamin on 1 June 2018 to brief them on the survey methodology and to show them the research sites.



Amy Shepherd, student at Harpur Adams University

On 31 January 2018 Amy Shepherd, a student at Harpur Adams University, sent e-mails to Catherine requesting survey information relating to invasive non-native plants in the Beaulieu Catchment. Catherine sent information on Himalayan balsam and Bog Arum to Amy on 2 February 2018.



Monitoring by Project Officers

Monitoring of American skunk cabbage

On 18 April 2018 Jo and Catherine visited Harcourt Wood to monitor the effectiveness of the herbicide treatments undertaken in 2017 to control American skunk cabbage. A substantial decrease in the density of American skunk cabbage plants was observed in the 'open' part of the site beneath the overhead wires, as indicated in the photographs below:-



Photograph on left taken on 26 April 2017; photograph on right taken on 18 April 2018

On 23 and 24 April 2018 Jo and Catherine monitored the American skunk cabbage population within Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve and took the opportunity to remove any flowers from plants which could be reached. The majority of plants occur as individual, isolated plants or are growing in very small clumps. The majority of the plants are small or medium; very few are large plants. Relatively few plants were flowering. A total of 96 flowers were removed, some of which were immature. Three other flowers were noted but could not be removed as they were growing in very wet conditions and were inaccessible.



Jo Gore monitoring the American skunk cabbage population within Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve on 23 April 2018

‘Our Past, Our Future’ Landscape Partnership Scheme

Submission of quarterly grant claims

The OPOF grant claim relating to the period October to December 2017 was collated by Catherine and submitted to the New Forest National Park Authority on 5 January 2018.

The OPOF grant claim relating to the period January to March 2018 was collated by Catherine and submitted to the New Forest National Park Authority on 11 April 2018.

OPOF Volunteer Newsletters

On 2 January 2018 Richard Austin requested information for the next OPOF volunteer newsletter. Catherine responded on 2 January and provided relevant text.

On 2 March 2018 Richard Austin requested information for the next OPOF volunteer newsletter. Catherine responded on 2 March and provided relevant text.

On 25 April 2018 Richard Austin requested information for the next OPOF volunteer newsletter. Catherine responded on 26 April and provided relevant text.

OPOF Blog

On 15 January 2018 Catherine provided comments to Beki Mole of NFNPA on the ‘blog’ she had drafted to promote the control of invasive non-native plants and encourage people to participate in volunteer work parties to pull Himalayan balsam.

OPOF Volunteer ‘thank you’ Event on 28 February 2018

Richard Austin (Volunteer, Training and Mentoring Co-ordinator) of the New Forest NPA arranged a ‘thank you’ event for OPOF volunteers on the afternoon of Wednesday 28 February 2018. On 26 January 2018 Catherine sent out invitations to 103 of the ‘regular’ volunteers who had pulled Himalayan balsam with the NFNPP on OPOF balsam pulls. Jo and Catherine gave a 10 minute presentation at the event summarising the activities of volunteers who helped with Himalayan balsam pulls during 2017.

OPOF Workshop on 7 February 2018

On 7 February 2018 Jo attended the workshop run by Resources for Change on behalf of OPOF. Resources for Change presented the main findings from interviews and other work they had undertaken over the past few months and presented their initial analysis and draft recommendations focussing on four key themes ie volunteering, audiences, behaviour change and legacy (at various levels ie landscape, partnership and projects).

Schedule of balsam pulls on Basecamp

On 27 February 2018 Catherine updated Basecamp with the schedule of OPOF volunteer work parties to pull Himalayan balsam during 2018.



Promotional Events and awareness-raising

Volunteer Fair on Sunday 28 January 2018

Catherine, Jo and volunteer Patsy Baverstock manned a stall at the Volunteer fair in Lyndhurst Community Centre to encourage people to participate in Himalayan balsam pulls during 2018. Fifty people signed-up to receive details of the balsam pulls and other people expressed a desire to volunteer on HIWWT nature reserves.



Jo Gore and Patsy Baverstock at the Volunteer Fair



Volunteer Patsy Baverstock talking to Linda and Dave Ryan who visited the Volunteer Fair

Hatchet Pond event on Saturday 10 February 2018

To guide Natural England and the Forestry Commission in formulating proposals for the restoration of Hatchet Pond in the New Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest, they hosted a public open day in East Boldre on Saturday 10 February 2018. Catherine was invited by Natural England to man a display at the event from 11am to 3pm. The open day was very well supported by the public, local residents, parish councillors, naturalists and fishermen.



Cllr Samantha Blastock of Beaulieu Parish Council at the Hatchet Pond event on 10 February 2018

“Dear Catherine, I wanted to express my heartfelt thanks for your help at the Hatchet Pond drop in event, especially as you delayed your holiday to come. I was pleased that the event was very well attended and the local community seemed very keen to look after the lake and support some of the necessary changes. The final restoration plan is being drawn up and I’m very hopeful that we will soon be able to start to reverse the decline in quality of the lake.

Best wishes, Jenny”

E-mail dated 26 March 2018 from Jenny Thomas, Lead Adviser, New Forest (Natural England)

Seminar at Southampton University on 14 March 2018

On Wednesday 14 March Catherine gave a seminar to second year undergraduate students at Southampton University. The 40 minute seminar focussed on invasive non-native plants, the work of the NFNNPP and some legislation relating to invasive non-native plants. The students asked relevant questions afterwards.

Talk to Lymington and District Naturalists' Society on 27 March 2018

On the evening of Tuesday 27 March 2018 Jo gave a talk to the Lymington and District Naturalists' Society. The talk was attended by about 50 people and was very well received.

“Dear Jo, A big thank you on behalf of the large audience who enjoyed your talk on Tuesday evening. You gave us a lot of information in a very clear and entertaining way about the very important work you are doing to control and eventually eradicate the unwanted alien species; you also are very successful in inspiring others to get involved and it is all very impressive. Thank you very much.

Adrian”

e-mail dated 29 March 2018 from Adrian Butterworth of Lymington and District Naturalists' Society

Display at New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme Open Day on 25 April 2018

Catherine manned a display at the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Open Day in the gardens of Queen's House in Lyndhurst on the afternoon of Wednesday 25 April. The display highlighted the work undertaken by the NFNNPP to control invasive non-native plants on Crown Land on the Open Forest.

The event was followed by the New Forest HLS Annual General Meeting when Lord Manners, the Official Verderer, gave a speech and handed certificates to volunteers as a sign of appreciation for all their hard work.



Julie Melin-Stubbs of the New Forest Land Advice Service (left) and Sammy Read and Mary Andrew of Natural England (right) by the NFNNPP display during the HLS event on 25 April 2018

The event at Queen's House was a useful opportunity for Catherine to talk to Forestry Commission Keepers, New Forest Verderers, and staff from the New Forest National Park Authority and other organisations.

Following the HLS event on 25 April, Catherine was contacted by a recently-widowed lady who is keen to get involved in voluntary work. Her daughter had attended the HLS event and had given her information from the NFNNPP stand about Himalayan balsam-pulling.

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



The Volunteer Fair at Lyndhurst on 28 January 2018 was a good opportunity to promote the Be Plant Wise campaign



The event on 10 February 2018 focussing on the restoration of Hatchet Pond was a good opportunity to promote the Be Plant Wise campaign and the Check, Clean, Dry campaign to local residents, naturalists and fishermen

Invasive Species Week 2018

Friday 23 March – Thursday 29 March 2018 was designated by DEFRA as Invasive Species Week to raise awareness about invasive non-native species and the problems they cause and to inspire people to get involved to stop their spread.



Lord Gardiner (fifth from left) at the launch of Invasive Species Week on 23 March 2018 in Dublin where he chaired the British-Irish Council (BIC) and hosted a discussion about invasive non-native species with the Irish Environment Minister and representatives from the devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and representatives of the Isle of man, Jersey and Guernsey. The British-Irish Council aims to promote further cooperation across the British Isles on tackling invasive non-native species and other important environmental concerns.

“Catherine,

Just to let you know that Lord Gardiner mentioned his day volunteering with you at the BIC Ministers Environment meeting today in Dublin and at the subsequent press conference.

You clearly made a lasting impression.

Niall.”

e-mail dated 23 March 2018 from Niall Moore of GB Non-Native Species Secretariat on the launch of Invasive Species Week

Catherine submitted an article about Invasive Species Week and the NFNNPP to The Herald; the article and accompanying photos was published in Issue 352 (8 – 29 March 2018).

A press release drafted by Catherine to promote Invasive Species Week and to encourage people to volunteer with the NFNNPP was sent out by HIWWT on Tuesday 13 March 2018.

The press release, accompanied by a photo of Calmore Guides pulling balsam along the Cadnam River, featured as a news item on the HIWWT website from 13 March 2018.

“Hi Catherine, many thanks for forwarding this and the other article, they are great! I love the photo. Hopefully they’ll generate lots of interest in the project and new volunteers!

Best wishes, Lucy”

e-mail message dated 15 March 2018 from Lucy Cornwell, GB Non-Native Species Secretariat

On Friday 23 March 2018 Catherine visited local garden centres to promote Invasive Species Week, hand out Be Plant Wise promotional materials and remind people about the ban on sale of certain species under the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.



Rachel Lane of Southern Aquatics at Cadnam – note the sign in the background stating ‘Due to EU laws *Elodea* and Water Hyacinth are no longer available’





Molly Hunter of World of Water at Romsey with a Be Plant Wise lanyard and poster



Mr A E Swaap of Everton Water Gardens, where a Be Plant Wise sticker was already displayed on the office window before Catherine's visit on 23 March 2018

Catherine prepared a report following the garden centre visits and sent it to Lucy Cornwell of GBNNSS on 23 March 2018.

On Monday 26 March Jo hosted a meeting for riparian owners / land managers along the Mill Lawn Brook to encourage landowners / land managers to take responsibility for controlling Himalayan balsam, particularly when HLF funding expires at the end of March 2020. The meeting, held at The White Buck Hotel in Burley, attracted eight landowners / land managers including Dave Morris of the Forestry Commission. Claire Sherwood of the New Forest National Park Authority also attended and offered her support. Tony Boyle and John Hurst from the Blackwater Conservation Group came to inspire others by sharing their experience of setting up a community action group to control balsam and undertake activities such as water quality monitoring.



Claire Sherwood (NFNPA), Dave Morris (Forestry Commission) and riparian owners at the meeting in The White Buck, Burley on 26 March 2018



Tony Boyle of the Blackwater Conservation Group giving his presentation to inspire landowners along the Mill Lawn Brook at the meeting in Burley on 26 March 2018

Catherine and Jo convened a meeting with Forestry Commission, Natural England and the National Trust on Tuesday 27 March to co-ordinate volunteer work parties to pull Himalayan balsam during summer 2018.



The photo above shows Kerry Trueman (FC), Adam Wells (Natural England), Jo Gore (NFNNPP) and Jake White (National Trust) holding Invasive Species Week cards during the Himalayan balsam pull coordination meeting on 27 March 2018.

On the evening of Tuesday 27 March Jo gave a talk to the Lymington and District Naturalists' Society about invasive non-native plants and the work of the NFNNPP. This was an ideal opportunity to hand out Invasive Species Week cards.

The Invasive Non-Native Species Group of Wildlife and Countryside Link invited Catherine to write a blog for Invasive Species Week. The blog, titled 'Invasive Species Week: Volunteers can make a difference', was published on Thursday 29 March 2018 on the final day of Invasive Species Week which was dedicated to the promotion of Local Action Groups. The blog highlighted the help that volunteers give to the NFNNPP and encouraged people to volunteer with their own Local Action Group.

Training provided by the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project

Training for Parish and Town Councils on 1 March 2018

Jo and Catherine organised and hosted a half-day training session for representatives of parish and town councils at Testwood Education Centre on the morning of Thursday 1 March 2018. The event proved to be popular with 28 people booking a place but on the day snowy weather and difficult driving conditions meant that 13 people were unable to attend. The fifteen people who did attend represented a range of councils from across the New Forest area and included Parish Councillors, Groundsmen for parish and town councils and a Lengthsman who is responsible for a large number of different parishes.



Some of the participants identifying invasive non-native plants during the awareness-raising session for Parish Councils and Town Councils on 1 March 2018

Jo welcomed people to the event and Catherine gave a brief explanation about invasive non-native species, the national strategy regarding invasive non-native species and the role of the NFNNPP.

To provide variety and give people a chance to interact, the participants were split into four groups to identify photographs of invasive non-native plants and this was followed by a presentation by Jo on identification.

Catherine gave a presentation on the impacts caused by invasive non-native plants and referred to the 'Be Plant Wise' campaign and emphasised the need for responsible disposal of garden pond plants. Jo then gave examples of various control methods. After a session by Catherine on some of the relevant legislation, Jo highlighted the importance of biosecurity and referred to the 'Check, Clean, Dry' campaign.



Jo giving one of the presentations during the awareness-raising session on 1 March 2018

On 2 March 2018, Cllr Stephen Tarling of Sway Parish Council sent the Project Officers an e-mail message to say:-

“Dear Catherine and Jo, thank you for the inspiring session on New Forest Invasive Non-Native Plants. Thank you for pressing ahead despite the weather, and more significantly thank you for such an informative, thorough, responsive, interesting, interactive, well-timed and knowledgeable presentation. Your double-act and well defined sub-sections helped me learn about the subjects you would want me to take away. A dedicated session means I can concentrate on the matter at hand so much more effectively than if I start reading something more general on the internet and then I wander off or get disturbed. So far I have not even found an internet site that can answer specific questions anywhere near as helpfully as you did in this session....

I think that was probably excellent use of the OPOF funding to address the aim of raising awareness of New Forest Invasive Non-Native Plants – many congratulations on a good session – obviously a lot of thought and preparation had gone into it

Kind regards, Stephen”

Dr Stephen E Tarling, Sway Parish Councillor and Chair of the Planning and Transport Committee

In his e-mail message Cllr Tarling asked for a list of volunteer work parties to pull up Himalayan balsam during Summer 2018 as he would like to offer practical help to the New Forest non-Native Plants Project in the Sway area.

Cllr Tarling also offered to raise awareness about invasive non-native plants in the Sway area by drafting text for a) the Sway Parish Council website and b) Sway News, the independent monthly village newsletter.

He suggested preparing text to be put on the Parish Council website during Invasive Species Week (23 – 29 March 2018) and suggested that the article for Sway News could be prepared for the edition due to be published in May 2018 which would be perfectly timed to encourage people to participate in Himalayan balsam pulls.

Forum meeting

The annual NFNNPP Forum meeting was held at Brockenhurst Village Hall on the afternoon of Wednesday 7 March 2018 and was attended by 42 people including landowners, volunteers, fishing clubs, and staff from Environment Agency, Natural England, Hampshire County Council and New Forest District Council. Jane Birch of the Environment Agency gave a presentation about Floating Pennywort, control methods and its impact on native aquatic flora. The Project Officers gave an update on the activities of the NFNNPP since the previous Forum meeting in March 2017.

“Dear Catherine, I very much enjoyed today's meeting, the presentation on Floating Pennywort and updates on the other invasive plants. It was also pleasing to renew acquaintance with the other Balsam Volunteers who attended today. You mentioned that you would like potential Cotoneaster Volunteers to make themselves known at this stage. I very much enjoyed the 2017 Surveys and would like to similarly participate in 2018 and compare the results with last year, unless you feel someone else should be given a turn instead. I look forward to seeing you again in May when the Balsam Season opens- though Jo told me you have already spotted seedlings sprouting, so perhaps the uprooting has already begun!

Best Wishes, David”

e-mail message dated 7 March 2018 from Dr David Smart who attended the Forum meeting



Volunteer Julie Thomas helped at the Forum meeting on 7 March 2018.

“Dear Catherine, thank you for all you and Jo do for the Trust and another interesting and well run NFNNPP update.

Best wishes, Alison”

e-mail message dated 8 March 2018 from Alison Bolton, local landowner who attended the Forum

“A good meeting yesterday as always.

Cheers Pete”

e-mail message dated 8 March 2018 from Pete Durnell, Hampshire County Council

“Thanks Catherine. Excellent and fascinating forum meeting yesterday, as ever.

Let me know what I can do to help, if anything. I might be able to get some of my Airbnb guests to help some time!

All the best, Fiona”

e-mail message dated 8 March from Fiona Rogers, local landowner who attended the Forum

“Dear Catherine, it was a really interesting meeting as usual. Let’s hope your perseverance pays off with Network Rail. Also, please let me know if I can help at all with any of the legacy work that you and Jo were talking about at the meeting. I would be more than willing to get involved with this as some of the areas where you have been working are on my ‘patch’, eg Mill Lawn at Burley.

Best wishes, Claire”

e-mail message dated 9 March 2018 from Claire Sherwood, Ranger, NFNPA

“Hi Catherine, I really enjoyed the meeting. Please let me know if you need any other survey help, I really enjoyed it.”

e-mail message from Lisa Malter, volunteer, on 12 March 2018

Training attended by the Project Officers

Local Action Groups workshop

On 30 and 31 January 2018 Jo and Catherine attended the Local Action Groups workshop which is arranged annually by the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat. The event, held at Preston Montford in Shropshire, was an excellent opportunity to hear up-dates from DEFRA on EU legislation and the national strategy as well as learning from other project officers tackling invasive non-native species around Great Britain. Jo gave a presentation on her continuing work to control Creeping Water Primrose at Breamore Marsh SSSI and Catherine chaired a discussion group relating to the forthcoming national Invasive Species Week in March 2018.

Other work

DEFRA consultation relating to the proposed release of a non-native biological control agent for *Crassula helmsii*

During April 2018 Julie Melin-Stubbs and Ian Barker (of the New Forest NPA) and Zoe Davies of Wildlife and Countryside Link's Invasive Non-Native Species Group alerted Catherine to DEFRA's consultation relating to the proposed release of a non-native mite as a biological control agent for *Crassula helmsii*. Catherine obtained the Pest Risk Assessment and responded to DEFRA on behalf of the NFNNPP on 20 April 2018.

CABI – request for sample of Creeping Water Primrose

During January 2018 Corin Pratt of CABI contacted Jo and requested a sample of Creeping Water Primrose in connection with their research into biological control. CABI had obtained the necessary permit from the Animal and Plant Health Agency in accordance with the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation to allow this plant to be transported and Corin provided Jo with a copy of the permit.

Property Care Association – Chelsea Flower Show

On 5 February 2018 Jon Barton contacted Catherine to request a sample of American skunk cabbage for the Property Care Association's awareness-raising display about invasive non-native species at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2018. Catherine replied on 5 February, advising Jon that as American skunk cabbage is a Species of Union Concern it would be unlawful under the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation to keep or transport this species for educational purposes. Catherine advised Jon to check the legal status of other species that the PCA were hoping to include in their display.

Advice on control of American skunk cabbage

On 16 April Alex Foy, a Ranger in Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service, e-mailed Catherine to seek advice on control of American skunk cabbage at a site in Warsash where he had tried to control it by digging it up with volunteers. Catherine telephoned Alex on 16 April and explained that NFNNPP had successfully controlled it at sites in the New Forest by commissioning contractors to undertake herbicide treatment.

Liaison with Copythorne Parish Council

The Clerk to Copythorne Parish Council invited the NFNNPP to give a presentation at the Parish Annual Meeting on the evening of Tuesday 27 March 2018. As neither Project Officer were available that evening the Clerk asked Catherine to provide a written report. Catherine sent the report to the Clerk on 5 February 2018 together with PDFs of information sheets relating to Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed.

Liaison with Wellow Parish Council

At the invitation of Wellow Parish Council, Jo manned a display to promote the NFNNPP at the Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting on the evening of Wednesday 25 April 2018.

HIWWT staff meeting

Catherine and Jo were due to attend the staff meeting scheduled for 21 March 2018 but it was cancelled.

HIWWT Sub-Team meeting

Catherine and Jo attended the Sub-Team meetings on 23 January 2018, 20 March and 17 April 2018 (the meeting scheduled for 20 February was cancelled).

Non-native terrapin

On 19 April Julie and Dave Thomas who volunteer at Testwood Lakes Nature Reserve found a non-native terrapin on the bank of one of the lakes whilst they were doing their butterfly transect.. Catherine transported it to Martin Noble who agreed to take it to someone at Brockenhurst who would be happy to re-home it.



Non-native terrapin found at Testwood Lakes on 19 April 2018

Press releases – see attached

Media coverage – see attached

Newsletters sent to landowners and land managers - see attached

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

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