

NEW FOREST NON-NATIVE PLANTS PROJECT

REPORT TO STEERING GROUP MEETING ON 7 MAY 2019

**Report covering the period
1 January 2019 – 30 April 2019**

**Catherine Chatters
New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer
1 May 2019**

**Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Charity No. 201081
Registered Company No. 676313
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, SO32 2DP
www.hiwwt.org.uk**

Publicity

Press releases

The following press release was issued between 1 January and 30 April 2019:-

- Press release titled 'Pledge your support during Invasive Species Week' issued by HIWWT on 25 April 2019

Publications and websites

- The seventeenth 'Our Past, Our Future' Volunteer Newsletter issued in January 2019 included information about NFNNPP, illustrated by a photograph of volunteers from Ridge and Partners during a Himalayan balsam pull along the Cadnam River on 1 August 2018.
- A NFNNPP Volunteers' Newsletter was prepared by Catherine Chatters and distributed during January 2019.
- The New Forest National Park Volunteer Guide 2019 which was distributed to people attending the Volunteer Fair on 27 January 2019 included four photographs taken by Catherine Chatters of volunteers pulling Himalayan balsam with the NFNNPP and a quotation by Patsy Baverstock (volunteer).
- The website of the Lymington and District Naturalists' Society included information to encourage people to volunteer to pull Himalayan balsam with the NFNNPP during 2019.
- The Wellworthy Angling Club Newsletter (February 2019) featured information about the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project and the 'Check, Clean, Dry' campaign.
- The eighteenth 'Our Past, Our Future' Volunteer Newsletter issued in March 2019 included information about NNNPP, illustrated by a photograph of volunteers from Oil Spill Response Ltd during a Himalayan balsam pull along the Cadnam River at Southbrook Farm on 4 June 2018.
- The 'What's On' guide (April – July 2019) which accompanied the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's 'Wildlife' magazine (Spring 2019) encouraged people to participate in Himalayan balsam pulls with NFNNPP during Summer 2019
- The April/May 2019 edition of The Lymington Directory included a note to encourage people to pull Himalayan balsam with NFNNPP
- The first page of the 'Our Past, Our Future' Newsletter (April 2019) mentioned the NFNNPP's Himalayan balsam pulls.

Liaison with landowners and managers

The following landowners/managers were met between 1 January – 30 April 2019:-

- Sylvia and Barry Bereza (Cadnam River) on 21 January 2019
- Ian and Kaye Bridgett (Cadnam River) on 21 January 2019
- Katie Cook (Cadnam River) on 21 January 2019
- Lady Kara Hawks (Cadnam River) on 21 January 2019
- Sue Moore (Cadnam River) on 21 January 2019
- Chris and Julie Nairn (Cadnam River) on 21 January 2019
- Jane Penny (Cadnam River) on 21 January 2019
- Dave and Tina Turner (Cadnam River) on 21 January 2019
- Jake White, National Trust (Cadnam River) on 21 January 2019
- John and Judy Whitlock (Cadnam River) on 21 January 2019
- Sara Cadbury (Lymington River) on 6 March 2019
- Alison Bolton (Lymington River) on 6 March 2019
- Fiona Rogers (Avon Water) on 6 March 2019

On 1 February 2019 Catherine contacted relevant landowners along the Avon Water to let them know that contractors had been commissioned to undertake giant hogweed treatment on their land during 2019.

Positive responses were received from landowners including the following comments:-

- “I reckon we are almost on top of the problem now, though safer to continue than allow a relapse. We just have to continue the fight against Himalayan Balsam”.
- “Thank you Catherine – keep up the good work”.
- “Many thanks. Out of interest, how many years do you think treatment will go on before we can declare the ‘all clear’?”
- “Thanks Catherine – that is all fine. I’m delighted that HIWWT are continuing to work on the problem”.
- “Super and thanks again. We have not completely eradicated it yet but the end is in sight! We also moved some fencing nearer the river so our horses can eat the Himalayan Balsam directly, so let’s hope they do some of the work for us. We are enjoying wading along the river to gather the rest”.
- “OK, thanks Catherine. That’s good news”.
- “Catherine, Thanks for letting me know. Congratulations on this - it is proving very effective. If you have students again this year, I am more than happy for them to use this land here as part of their study.”

On 4 February Catherine wrote to the relevant landowners along the Cadnam River to let them know that contractors had been commissioned to undertake Japanese knotweed treatment on their land during 2019.

Meeting for Cadnam River landowners and land managers

Catherine hosted a meeting for riparian owners and land owners along the Cadnam River on the evening of Monday 21 January 2019; further information about this event is given on page 19 of this Steering Group report.

Newsletters for landowners

During April 2019 newsletters were sent out by Jo and Catherine to all relevant riparian owners along the Cadnam River, the Avon Water and the Lymington River and its tributaries. Copies of these newsletters are shown at Appendix A of this Steering Group report.

Steering Group meeting

The Steering Group meeting was held on 29 January 2019.

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

Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) Invasive Species Inquiry

On 4 April 2019 the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) launched a new inquiry to consider the impact and threat to biosecurity from invasive species. The inquiry will focus on the impact and management of non-native species that have a detrimental effect on native biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as public health, with threats posed by predatory behaviour, competition or by transmitting disease. The scope of the inquiry is very broad, covering many aspects of invasive non-native species including climate change, trade, Brexit, devolution, Overseas Territories.

The questions posed by the EAC are:

- How well is the UK and its overseas territories managing the impact of invasive species and controlling the risks of further invasion?
- Of those that are already in the UK, which invasive species are posing the greatest harm to:
 - a. human health;
 - b. animal health;
 - c. plant health and biodiversity.
- What are the risks of invasive non-native species migrating to the UK from future climate change?
- What actions should the UK take to mitigate the risk, or adapt to, climate migrations of invasive species?
- Where should the four nations prioritise resources to tackle invasive species?
- How can the risk of trade and future trading relationships bringing non-native invasive species to the UK be mitigated?
- How effective have the European Union's Invasive Alien Species Regulations been at addressing and tackling invasive species?
- In the event of EU exit, how should the UK establish its replacement for the European Commission's scientific forum to update the species list of concern?
- How should the UK work with the European Commission and others internationally to reduce the risk of invasive species?

Wildlife and Countryside Link's Invasive Non-Native Species Group is intending to submit oral and written evidence to the EAC Inquiry. On 15 April 2019 Zoe Davies (Policy and Campaigns Manager for Wildlife and Countryside Link) sought comments on the draft written response prepared by Sarah Hudson (RSPB) on behalf of Wildlife and Countryside Link's Invasive Non-Native Species Group for the Environment Audit Committee's Invasive Species Inquiry. Catherine responded on 16 April 2019 suggesting *inter alia* that giant hogweed could be cited as a species posing greatest harm to human health and suggesting that American skunk cabbage could be used as an example of a species threatening biodiversity based on the evidence provided by Neil Sanderson's research commissioned by NFNNPP.

Event at House of Lords

Catherine has accepted an invitation to attend Wildlife and Countryside Link's event on 'Invasive Species and Brexit : Responding to Environmental Threat' at the House of Lords during Invasive Species Week on Tuesday 14 May 2019. The event will be chaired by Lord Teverson (Chair of the House of Lords EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee) and speakers include Lord Gardiner (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity with responsibility for invasive non-native species), Professor Helen Roy (Group Leader on invasive species at the NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology), Paul Walton (Chair of the Wildlife and Countryside Link Invasive Non-Native Species Working Group) and Piero Genovesi (Chair of the IUCN specialist group on invasive species).

Control to be undertaken by contractors

Purchase orders have been issued to contractors to undertake herbicide treatment at the following sites during 2019:-

Golden Club

- Turf Hill. Purchase Order POR003390

Yellow Azalea

- West of A337, south of Lyndhurst. Purchase Order POR003391 (Purchase Order subsequently cancelled as herbicide treatment undertaken previously has been successful)
- Near entrance to 'Graham Lodge', Linwood. Purchase Order POR003392 (Purchase Order subsequently cancelled as herbicide treatment undertaken previously has been successful)

Pickerel Weed

- Pond near Hatchet Moor car park. Purchase Order POR003424

Bog Arum

- Ipley. Purchase Order POR003411

Montbretia

- Open Forest by Woodlands Road. Purchase Order POR003425
- Pondhead Inclosure (Montbretia and Bamboo) Purchase Order POR003432

Variegated Yellow Archangel

- Along Inclosure fence near Woodlands Road. Purchase Order POR003425

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

- Pennington Common. Purchase Order POR003409

Parrot's Feather

- Hinchleslea Bog, Castle Hill, East End (early summer). Purchase Order POR003439
- Hinchleslea Bog, Castle Hill, East End (late summer). Purchase Order POR003440

American skunk cabbage

- HIWWT Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve herbicide treatment. Purchase Order POR003435
- Privately-owned land in Lymington Reedbeds SSSI. Purchase Order POR003492
- Mill Lawn, Burley (and Montbretia) Purchase Order POR003393
- Below Harcourt Wood (Montbretia & Japanese knotweed). Purchase Order POR003394
- Harcourt Wood (OPOF). Purchase Order 20007477 issued on 14 February 2019; contract letter and accompanying documentation issued on 14 February 2019
- Harcourt Wood (OPOF). Purchase Order 20007583 issued on 26 April 2019; contract letter and accompanying documentation issued on 26 April 2019

Iris laevigata

- Lyndhurst. Purchase Order POR003412
- Latchmoor Pond. Purchase Order POR003413

Cotoneaster

- East Boldre former WWI airfield Purchase Order POR003415
- Beaulieu Heath former WWII airfield Purchase Order POR003416
- North side of A35 between Lyndhurst & Ashurst Purchase Order POR003418
- Road near Slufers, by A31 Purchase Order POR003419
- Eastern side of Lyndhurst Purchase Order POR003420
- Crockford Purchase Order POR003421
- Greenmoor Purchase Order POR003423
- Stoney Cross former WWII airfield Purchase Order POR003417
- Thrown-open Inclosure near Acres Down Purchase Order POR003429
- Open Forest near Bramble Hill Hotel Purchase Order POR003430

Gaultheria

- South of Rhinefield Purchase Order POR003433
Purchase Order POR003434

Japanese knotweed

- Mill Lawn Brook by Turf Croft Farm, Burley Purchase Order POR003395
- East side of Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve Purchase Order POR003436
- East side of Lymington Reedbeds NR (under alders) Purchase Order POR003437
- North West Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve Purchase Order POR003438
- Ditch near Bartley Lodge Hotel Purchase Order POR003396
- Crown Land along Woodlands Road Purchase Order POR003397
- New Park Purchase Order POR003398
- Pondhead Inclosure/Limewood Hotel Purchase Order POR003399
- Crown Land near The Pig Hotel Purchase Order POR003400

- Broughton Road area, Lyndhurst (and ‘Pantiles’) Purchase Order POR003401
- Broughton Road area, Lyndhurst (Area 2) Purchase Order POR003402
- Emery Down Purchase Order POR003403
- Crown Land, Lyndhurst and ‘Holmfield’ Purchase Order POR003404
- Mill Lane, Burley Purchase Order POR003405
- Norleywood Inclosure Purchase Order POR003406
- Gravel track off Beechwood Lane, Burley Purchase Order POR003407
- Open Forest adjacent to Hillview, Linwood. Purchase Order POR003408
- Buskett’s Lawn Inclosure Purchase Order POR003431
- Pennington Common Purchase Order POR003410
- Cadnam River (OPOF)
Purchase Order 20007444 issued on 30 January 2019; contract letters and accompanying documentation issued on 31 January 2019.

Giant hogweed

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

- Treatment below Efford Bridge. Purchase Order 20007443 issued on 30 January 2019; contract letters and accompanying documentation issued on 31 January 2019.
- Treatment between Efford Bridge and Wainsford Bridge. Purchase Order 20007446 issued on 30 January 2019; contract letters and accompanying documentation issued on 31 January 2019.
- Treatment between Wainsford Bridge and Flexford Bridge. Purchase Order 20007446 issued on 30 January 2019; contract letters and accompanying documentation issued on 31 January 2019.
- Treatment upstream of Flexford Bridge. Purchase Order 20007443 issued on 30 January 2019; contract letters and accompanying documentation issued on 31 January 2019.

Treatment on Crown Land:-

- On Crown Land near entrance to Roydon Woods nature reserve Purchase Order POR003428

Control undertaken by contractors

The American skunk cabbage populations within Harcourt Wood and around the margins of the adjacent pond were treated with herbicide by contractors on Thursday 18 April 2019. This is the first treatment of 2019 and a follow-up treatment will be undertaken during the summer or early autumn.



Contractor treating American skunk cabbage with herbicide within Harcourt Wood on 18 April 2019 (photo taken by Scott Rice, Fisheries and Maintenance Manager, Kingcombe Stonbury Ltd)

Control by Project Officers

Control of Three-cornered garlic

On 1 January 2019 Catherine dug up Three-cornered garlic *Allium triquetrum* from the verge along Fletchwood Lane. A total of 17 plants were found. Catherine did another dig along Fletchwood Lane on 24 March 2019 and removed 10 more plants.



Photo on the left shows the 17 Three-cornered garlic plants dug up from Fletchwood Lane on 1 January 2019. Photo on the right shows the 10 plants dug up at the same site on 24 March 2019.

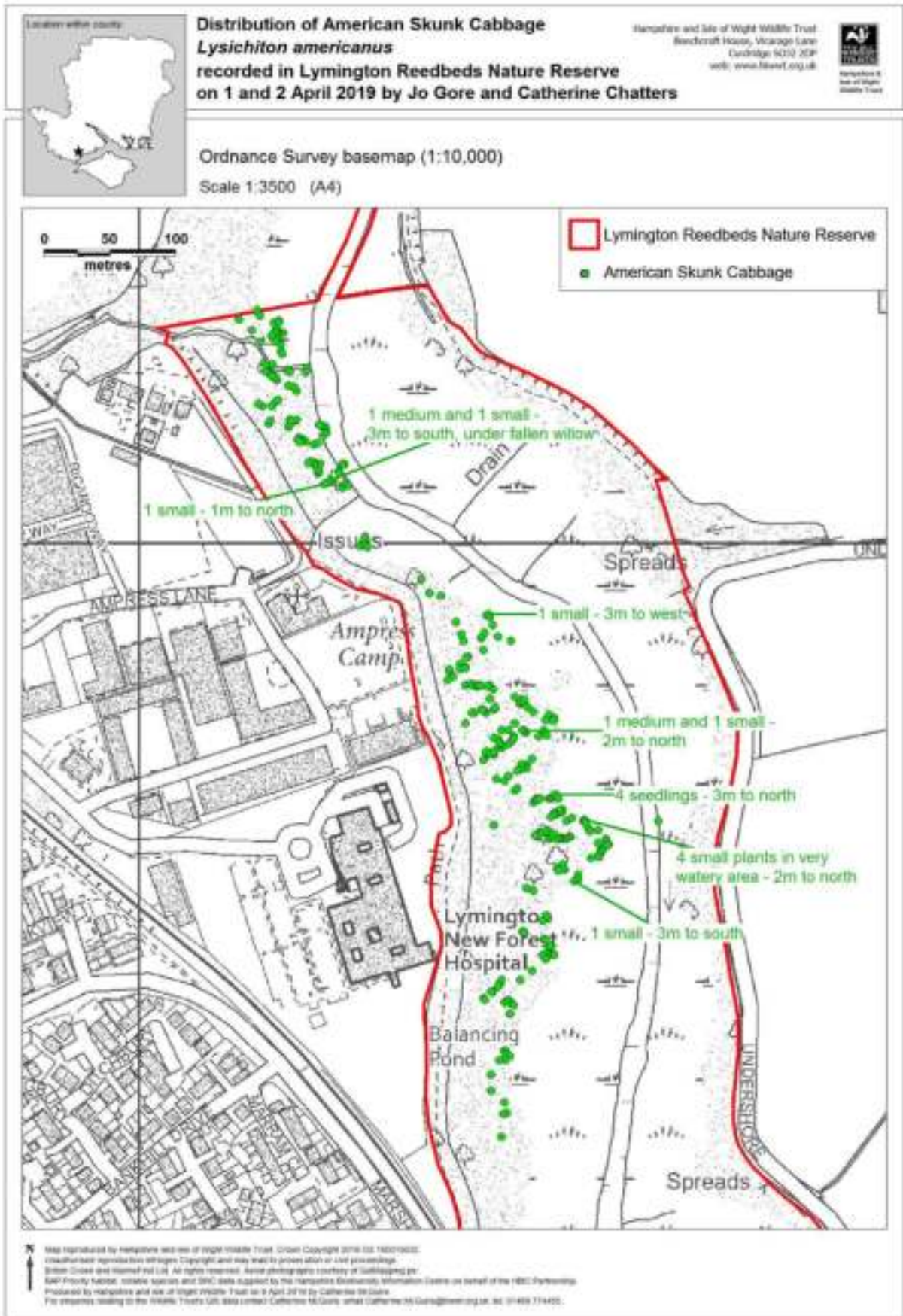
Control of American skunk cabbage

On 1 and 2 April 2019 Jo and Catherine monitored the effectiveness of herbicide treatment undertaken to control American skunk cabbage in Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve (part of Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI). Whilst recording the location of the plants, the opportunity was taken to remove flowers to prevent seed formation. A total of 34 flowers (some of which were immature) were removed during the two days.



A total of 34 flowers were removed from American skunk cabbage plants in Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve on 1 and 2 April 2019 by Jo Gore.

The two maps below indicate the decrease in the American skunk cabbage population within Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve following the herbicide treatment undertaken in 2018:-



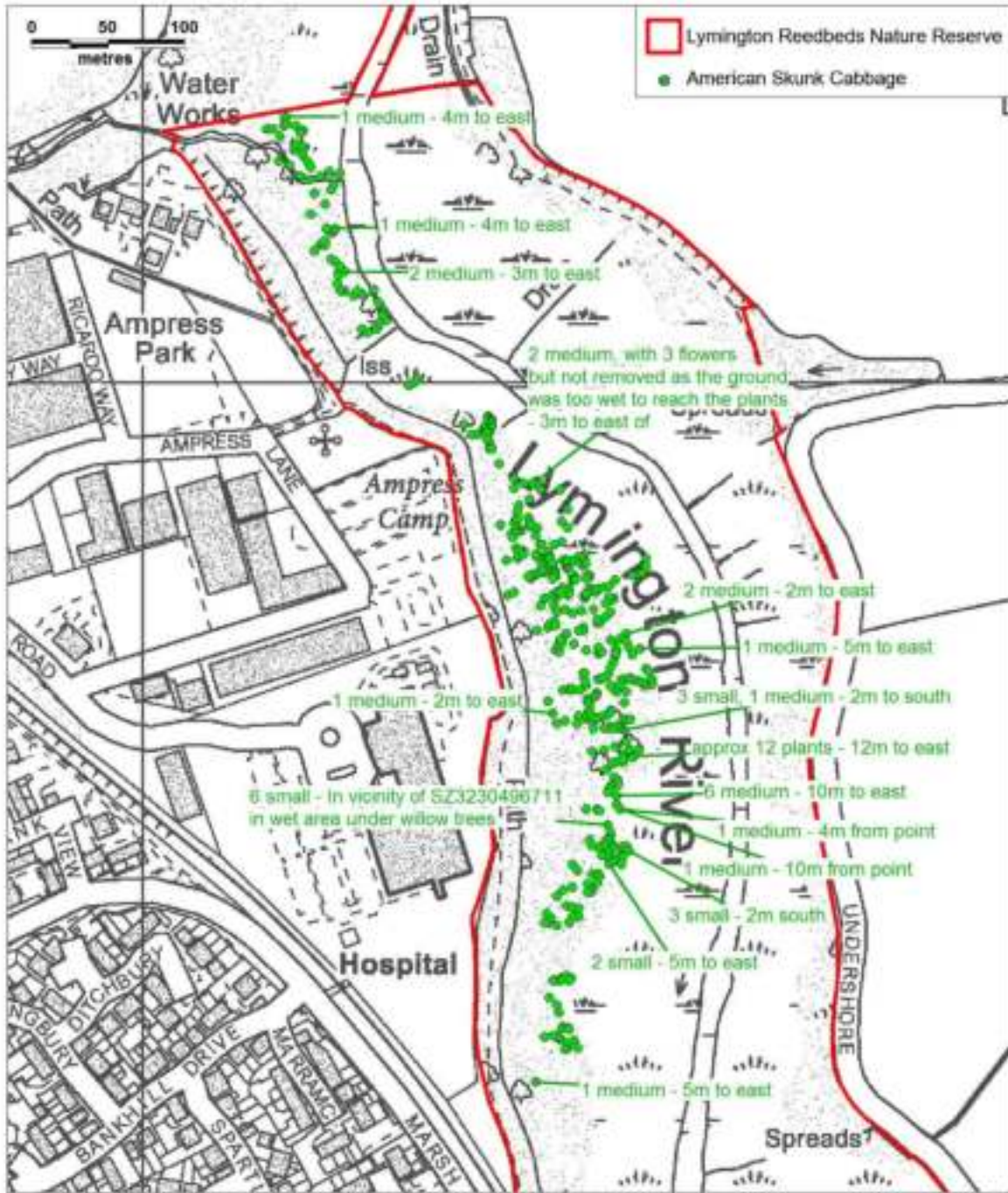


Distribution of American skunk cabbage
Lysichiton americanus
 recorded in Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve
 on 23 and 24 April 2018 by Jo Gore and Catherine Chatters

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
 Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
 Lymington, Hampshire SO41 2DP
 web: www.hiwt.org.uk



Ordnance Survey basemap (1:10,000)
 Scale 1:3500 (A4)



Map reproduced by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Crown Copyright 2018. OS 100000000.
 Ordnance Survey and other logos. Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
 British Crown and Island of Wight. All rights reserved. Aerial photography courtesy of GeoEye/Google.
 GAP Priority habitat, notable species and SNC data supplied to the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre on behalf of the H&IWT Partnership.
 Produced by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on 3 May 2018 by Catherine Chatters.
 File originates leading to the Wildlife Trust's GIS data contact: Catherine@hampshire-wildlife-trust.org.uk tel: 01495 774400.



On 24 April 2019 Jo and Catherine removed 289 flowers from American skunk cabbage plants growing on the privately-owned part of Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI, upstream of HIWWT's Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve. The photo on the left shows Jo with the 289 flowers on 24 April 2019, in comparison with the photo on the right which shows volunteer Brian Matthews standing by the pile of over 700 flowers removed from the same site on 10 May 2018.



Sixty-nine flowers were removed from American skunk cabbage plants growing within Harcourt Wood and around the margins of the adjacent pond by Catherine on 25 April 2019, following the herbicide treatment which had been undertaken by contractors the previous week using funding from the New Forest 'Our Past, Our Future' Landscape Partnership Scheme.



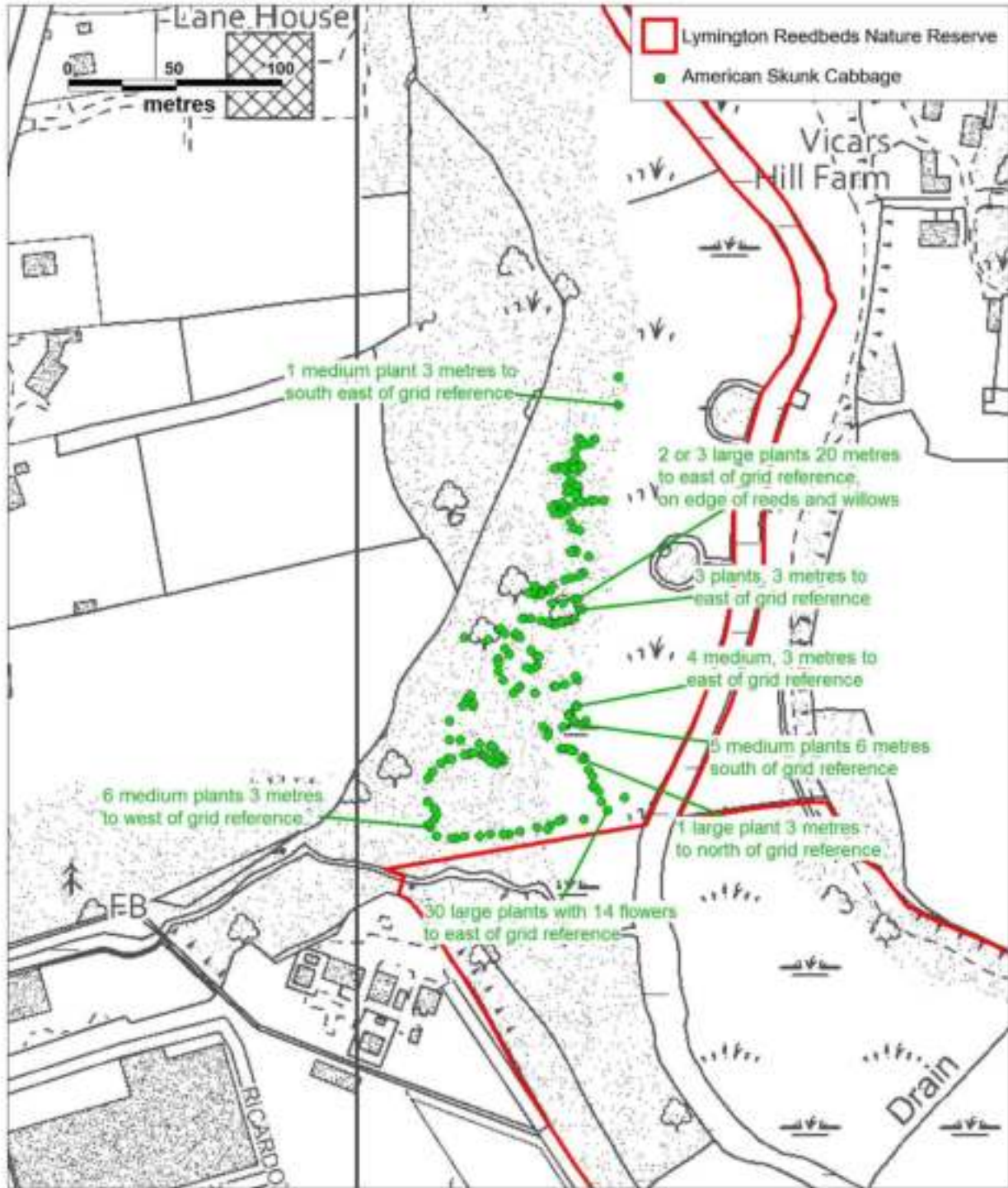
Distribution of American Skunk Cabbage
Lysichiton americanus

recorded in privately-owned land within Lymington River
Reedbeds SSSI on 24 April 2019 by Jo Gore and Catherine Chatters

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beachcroft House, Vicarage Lane
Cambridge SO32 2DP
web: www.hiwiwt.org.uk



Ordnance Survey basemap (1:10,000)
Scale 1:2500 (A4)



Map reproduced by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Crown Copyright 2019 OS 100010000
 Unauthorised reproduction infringes copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings
 British Crown and MarineFish Ltd. All rights reserved. Aerial photography courtesy of Geotipping Ltd
 BAP Priority habitat, suitable species and SSSI data supplied by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre on behalf of the NSIC Partnership
 Produced by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on 25 April 2019 by Catherine Chatters
 For enquiries relating to the Wildlife Trusts' (2019) data contact Catherine Chatters, email Catherine.Chatters@hiwiwt.org.uk, tel: 01489 774403

Volunteer activity – practical control

Planning Himalayan balsam pulls in 2019

Jo and Catherine disseminated details of balsam pulls to existing volunteers and relevant people who have expressed an interest in helping NFNNPP with balsam pulls in 2019. A high number of corporate groups have offered help with balsam pulling during the 2019 season. Not all corporate groups could be accommodated (due to anticipated lack of balsam) so they were encouraged to contact the Blackwater Conservation Group.

Volunteer activity – research, survey and monitoring

Monitoring by Southampton University Placement Students

Interviews are scheduled for the week commencing 29 April 2019 to appoint two Southampton University students to undertake monitoring of work funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund ‘Our Past, Our Future’ New Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme to control American skunk cabbage, Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam.



Monitoring by Project Officers

Monitoring of Yellow Azalea

On 5 January 2019 Catherine visited the area near the entrance to Graham Lodge where the Yellow Azalea bushes had been treated with herbicide. The treatment appears to have been successful.



Yellow Azalea plants near the entrance to Graham Lodge at (left) SU 19362 09546 and (right) SU 19360 09541 on 5 January 2019 following herbicide treatment during 2018

On 20 April 2019 Catherine visited the woodland to the west of the A337 south of Lyndhurst where the Yellow Azalea bush and young growth had been treated with herbicide. All the Yellow Azalea plants here appeared to have been killed successfully.



Yellow Azalea bush at SU 30147 06614 to west of A337 south of Lyndhurst on 20 April 2019 following herbicide treatment during 2018. Photo on left shows the mature bush and the photo on right shows close-up of treated branches.

Monitoring of American skunk cabbage

On 1 and 2 April 2019 Jo and Catherine monitored the effectiveness of herbicide treatment undertaken to control American skunk cabbage in the HIWWT's Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve (part of Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI). The locations of American skunk cabbage plants were recorded using a hand-held GPS device and they were categorised as seedlings, small plants, medium plants or large plants. The majority of plants found were small; no large plants were found and very few seedlings were recorded. Only 34 flowers were found and these were all removed. The work undertaken by contractors is proving to be extremely effective. The vast majority of skunk cabbage plants that now occur at this site are individual scattered plants; there are no longer any areas which are dominated by American skunk cabbage.

Jo and Catherine monitored the 6 quadrats which were installed in 2013. Only one quadrat contains any American skunk cabbage plants. It was also encouraging to note that no Himalayan balsam plants were found in any of the quadrats.



Jo Gore with some of flowers removed from American skunk cabbage plants in Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve during monitoring on 1 April 2019 to assess the effectiveness of herbicide treatment undertaken to control American skunk cabbage during recent years



Whilst monitoring the American skunk cabbage in Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve on 1 April 2019 Jo and Catherine were surprised to discover a large Cordyline growing amongst the reeds

On 15 April 2019 Jo and Catherine visited Harcourt Wood and adjacent Mill Pond near Minstead to assess the effectiveness of herbicide treatment undertaken to control American skunk cabbage during 2016, 2017 and 2018. Although the skunk cabbage population had been significantly reduced in part of the site, there are still numerous plants that require treatment elsewhere. GPS readings were taken of some of the outlying plants, for example around the margins of the Mill Pond; Catherine sent these GPS readings to the contractors to help them locate then plants when they undertake the herbicide treatment which they hope to do during mid April 2019 before seed formation.



American skunk cabbage flowering in Harcourt Wood, near Minstead, during the monitoring visit on 15 April 2019

On 24 April 2019 Jo and Catherine monitored the American skunk cabbage plants growing in the privately-owned woodland within Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI upstream of the HIWWT's Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve. GPS readings were taken of the plants located.



A typical cluster of American skunk cabbage seedlings within Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI on 24 April 2019



Jo with mature, flowering American skunk cabbage plants in Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI on 24 April 2019

Monitoring of Bog Arum

On 29 April 2019 Catherine visited the stream at Ipley where Bog Arum *Calla palustris* had been controlled in previous years. It had last been recorded here by Catherine during 2017 at SU 39452 07115. No Bog Arum was found during 2018 or 2019. Treatment therefore appears to have been successful.

Monitoring of Parrot's Feather

On 30 April 2019 Catherine visited Hinchleslea Bog to assess the effectiveness of herbicide treatment undertaken since 2010 to control the Parrot's Feather.



Photograph on left was taken at Hinchleslea prior to herbicide treatment commencing. Parrot's feather is dominant over significant areas in the vicinity of the causeway.

Photograph below was taken on 30 April 2019 from SU 26982 00438 looking upstream towards the causeway. On 30 April 2019 no Parrot's Feather could be seen in the vicinity of the causeway. When herbicide treatment was undertaken during 2018 the Parrot's Feather was growing in the middle of the bog, amongst vegetation further downstream of the causeway. Further herbicide treatment will be undertaken during 2019.



‘Our Past, Our Future’ Landscape Partnership Scheme

Submission of quarterly grant claims

The OPOF grant claim relating to the period October to December 2018 was collated by Catherine and submitted to the New Forest National Park Authority on 10 January 2019.

The OPOF grant claim relating to the period January to March 2019 was collated by Catherine and submitted to the New Forest National Park Authority on 11 April 2019.

OPOF Volunteer Newsletters

On 2 January 2019 Richard Austin requested text and photographs for the next OPOF Volunteer Newsletter (January and February 2019). Catherine submitted text to Richard on 7 January 2019 and suggested he could use some of the photographs sent previously.

On 28 February 2019 Richard Austin requested text for the next OPOF Volunteer Newsletter (March and April 2019). Catherine submitted text to Richard on 1 March 2019.

On 25 April 2019 Richard Austin requested text for the next OPOF Volunteer Newsletter (May and June 2019). Catherine submitted text to Richard on 25 April 2019 and suggested he could use some of the photographs sent previously.

OPOF Legacy meeting for Cadnam River riparian owners and land managers

With help from Jo, Catherine hosted a meeting for riparian owners and land managers along the Cadnam River on the evening of Monday 21 January 2019. The meeting, which was held in The Sir John Barleycorn pub in Cadnam, aimed to remind land owners of their responsibilities, to encourage a sense of community spirit and responsibility towards their neighbours further downstream and to consider the future when OPOF funding expires. The meeting was attended by seventeen people and a number of other land owners had sent apologies.



Some of the land owners who attended the meeting on 21 January 2019

“Dear Catherine, thank you very much for the talk you gave yesterday evening, and also the complimentary drinks. Chris and I found it very informative and helpful, and enjoyable too, meeting some of the other landowners. Altogether a lovely evening. We can see that there is a lot of hard work and constant gentle persuasion from you with regards to getting funding and forever finding new volunteers. Well done you! As you know, the Esso pipeline crosses our paddock and obviously the Cadnam River, and I am wondering if you could possibly apply directly to them for any funding, bearing in mind they’re always checking the surrounding land. Just a thought. Many thanks once again. Best wishes, Julie”

e-mail from message dated 22 January 2019 from Julie Nairn who attended the meeting

OPOF Volunteer event on 5 April 2019

Richard Austin (Volunteer, Training & Mentoring Co-ordinator at New Forest NPA) arranged an event at Brockenhurst Village Hall on the afternoon of Friday 5 April 2019 to thank people who have volunteered with 'Our Past, Our Future'. On 1 March 2019 Catherine sent invitations to 97 relevant people who had volunteered with NFNNPP on OPOF-related balsam pulls in 2018 and to the two students who had undertaken monitoring during Summer 2018.



During the event on 5 April 2019 everyone enjoyed tea, cakes and scones.

Catherine and Jo gave a presentation to thank their volunteers for the contributions they had made to the OPOF Project during 2018:-

- helping with the control of Himalayan balsam;
- monitoring the effectiveness of work undertaken to control giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, American skunk cabbage and Himalayan balsam;
- helping at awareness-raising events.

The students (Ben McClay and Flora Level) who undertook the monitoring and a number of people who had helped with balsam-pulling during 2018 accepted the invitation and attended the event.

Basecamp

On 10 April 2019 Catherine added the relevant balsam pulls that she will be leading for OPOF during 2019 to Basecamp.



Promotional Events and awareness-raising

Presentation at Royal Holloway, University of London

Catherine was invited by CABI to give a presentation at a research workshop at Royal Holloway, University of London, on Wednesday 9 January 2019. The event, sponsored by NERC, was titled 'Himalayan balsam: its ecology, invasion and management'. Catherine was asked to share the experience of the NFNNPP as an example of Himalayan balsam control by a Local Action Group. Jo and Catherine both attended the event.

"Hi Catherine,

Thank you so much for coming to RHUL and giving such an excellent talk. It was lovely to meet you and I do hope you had a good journey home.

A number of people said to me how much they enjoyed your presentation and I also found it fascinating. I am sure that I recognised some of the sites in a number of your pictures from my childhood!

BW, Alan"

e-mail message dated 10 January 2019 from Professor Alan Gange



Presentation at Southampton University on Tuesday 26 February 2019

Catherine was invited back to Southampton University to give a presentation about invasive non-native plants and the work of the NFNNPP at a seminar for 2nd year students on the afternoon of Tuesday 26 February 2019.

Catherine's presentation about the work of the NFNNPP was complemented by presentations given by Ian Barker and Dr Naomi Ewald about the New Forest National Park and the importance of high quality freshwater habitats in the New Forest.

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

Volunteer Fair at Lyndhurst

The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project had a stand at the Volunteer Fair held in Lyndhurst Community Centre on Sunday 27 January 2019. Volunteer Patsy Baverstock helped Catherine to man the display and raise awareness about invasive non-native plants. Patsy was quoted in the New Forest National Park Volunteer Fair Guide 2019, saying “Volunteering to pull Himalayan Balsam gives me a great day out somewhere in the countryside, with the location constantly changing”. Thirty-nine people signed-up to receive details of dates and locations of Himalayan balsam-pulling work parties to be led by the NFNNPP during 2019.



Patsy Baverstock helped at the Volunteer Fair on 27 January 2019

“Hi Catherine, great day today.... Let’s hope we get some new volunteers!”
e-mail message dated 27 January 2019 from Patsy Baverstock



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



The Be Plant Wise campaign was promoted during the awareness-raising session for staff from Ecological Planning and Research on 11 February 2019



The Be Plant Wise campaign was promoted at the NFNNPP Forum Meeting on 6 March 2019. The photograph shows Patrick Heneghan New Forest National Park Authority member and chairman of the ‘Our Past, Our Future’ Landscape Partnership Board.



During the training session delivered by NFNNPP for Network Rail staff and their contractors on 27 March 2019 Jo gave a presentation about biosecurity and promoted the Check, Clean, Dry campaign. Leaflets about this campaign and the Be Plant Wise campaign were included in the folders of information given to each delegate.



The awareness-raising session for ‘Our Past, Our Future’ staff and project officers on 14 March 2019 was an ideal opportunity to promote the Be Plant Wise and Check, Clean, Dry campaigns. The photograph shows Zoe Cox (Forestry Commission) and Kath Walker (New Forest Heritage Centre) who attended this event.

Training provided by the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project

Training for staff from Ecological Planning and Research

On Monday 11 February 2019 Jo and Catherine hosted a half-day training session for staff from Ecological Planning and Research to raise awareness about invasive non-native plants. Twelve people attended, including Ecologists, Assistant Ecologists, Senior Ecologists and a Principal Ecological Consultant. The event had been arranged at the request of Andy Cross, Senior Ecologist. Topics covered included definition of ‘invasive non-native’ plants, identification, control methods, some relevant legislation and biosecurity.



Jo Gore ready to give advice whilst staff from Ecological Planning and Research attempt the identification quiz during the awareness-raising session on 11 February 2019



People enjoyed Jo's home-made cakes and locally-sourced produce during the lunchtime buffet

Training for OPOF staff

On Thursday 14 March 2019 Jo and Catherine hosted an event for staff and project officers involved in the 'Our Past, Our Future' New Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme. The event was attended by 16 people including Patrick Heneghan (New Forest National Park Authority Member and Chairman of the OPOF Board) and Claire Thirlwall (National Lottery Heritage Fund Monitor). The event had been arranged at the request of Rachael Gallagher, Manager of the OPOF Landscape Partnership Scheme. Other participants included the OPOF Volunteer, Training & Mentoring Co-ordinator, a New Forest NPA Ranger, two Apprentice Rangers and representatives from Natural England, the Forestry Commission, the National Trust and the New Forest Heritage Centre.

The event was well received with positive comments on the evaluation forms, including the following comment from Patrick Heneghan - "Excellent material and delivery by knowledgeable, enthusiastic and engaging people. Really helpful and enjoyable. Thanks!"

"Hi Catherine, just wanted to thank you for the non-natives course last week. Both Hayden and I really enjoyed the course and are looking forward to using this knowledge going forward in our apprenticeship. Thanks again and I'm sure I'll see you soon."

e-mail message dated 18 March 2019 from Jake Barnes, Apprentice Ranger

"Hi Catherine and Jo, this is my first day back at the desk since your team day last week. I wanted to drop you a line to say thanks again for such an enjoyable and informative session; I certainly learned a lot. With all good wishes, Kath"

e-mail message dated 20 March 2019 from Dr Katharine Walker, Ecademy Project Officer – 'New Forest Knowledge', New Forest Heritage Centre



Participants doing the identification quiz during the awareness-raising session on 14 March 2019



Jo with some of her delicious home-made cakes for the event on 14 March 2019

Training for Network Rail staff

On Wednesday 27 March 2019 Jo and Catherine delivered a half-day training session for Network Rail staff and their contractors to raise awareness about invasive non-native plants and encourage them to undertake effective control of Himalayan balsam and other relevant species in the vicinity of the Lymington River and its tributary the Passford Water.

The event was held at Network Rail's facilities in Eastleigh and the Project Officers re grateful to Sam Rooney of Network Rail who offered to host the event when Jo and Catherine met him at the meeting arranged by Natural England during November 2018.

The training session was attended by 14 people included administrative and planning staff from Network Rail, lineside inspectors and contractors.

At Catherine's request, Neil Strong, Network Rail's Environment Manager, had provided photographs of Buddleia affecting railway infrastructure which Jo and Catherine used in their presentation.



Jo helping Network Rail staff and their contractors during the identification quiz at the awareness-raising event in Eastleigh on 27 March 2019



Network Rail staff: left to right - Sam Rooney (Section Manager Off Track), Ian Croft (Lineside Inspector), Tracey Culver (Section Planner Off Track), Chad Marshall (Lineside Inspector) and Damon Green (Maintenance Protection Coordinator) during the training session on 27 March 2019



Network Rail staff and contractors doing the identification quiz on 27 March 2019

The evaluation forms demonstrated that people had found the event beneficial. Sam Rooney stated on his evaluation form that he would like to hold a similar event in ‘maybe 24 months to refresh and engage new team members’.

On 29 March 2019 Catherine sent Sam Rooney the report she had prepared following the training event. Sam replied by e-mail that day to say:-

Hi Catherine, thank you very much for preparing this report in a timely manner... very informative and useful session all round I thought. I have already shared this with our upper management and they are very impressed with our engagement and future workings together that are already diarised. We look forward to continuing this way forward and if you have any other colleagues within the New Forest or further afield you think would benefit from a meeting then please pass over their details. Speak soon.

Kind Regards

Sam Rooney Section Manager Off Track, Wessex Outer Delivery Unit

Training attended by the Project Officers

Local Action Groups’ workshop

Catherine attended the Local Action Groups’ workshop held at Preston Montford in Shropshire on 5 and 6 February 2019 and gave a presentation about NFNNPP’s work to encourage Network Rail to undertake effective control of Himalayan balsam on railway embankments in the vicinity of the Lymington River and the Passford Water. The workshop was an excellent opportunity to meet other Project Officers and staff from DEFRA, GB Non-Native Species Secretariat, Animal and Plant Health Agency, CABI, and the statutory organisations. Useful updates were provided on progress regarding sanctions relating to the European Invasive Alien Species Regulation and work being undertaken in connection with invasive non-native species in the context of Brexit.

“Catherine, it was great to see you as always and I really enjoyed your talk on persistence – it made me smile as I can be dogged like that myself. Looking forward to seeing you again soon – maybe this summer I will finally manage a trip to the New Forest to do some real work – killing some invasive plants. Best regards, Niall.”

e-mail message dated 13 February 2019 from Dr Niall Moore, GBNNSS



During the Local Action Groups’ workshop at Preston Montford in February 2019 Catherine noticed that the new banner produced by the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat included her photograph of Ruth Kernohan who volunteered with the NFNNPP to survey American skunk cabbage in Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI



Participants at the LAGs’ workshop in February 2019 (Photo: GBNNSS)

Forum Meeting

The NFNNPP annual Forum meeting was held on Wednesday 6 March 2019 and was attended by 37 people (plus the NFNNPP Project Officers) including volunteers, local landowners, naturalists and representatives of the New Forest National Park Authority, Forestry Commission, Natural England, the Environment Agency, New Forest District Council and Eastleigh Borough Council. Guest speaker Jessica Taylor, Marine Lead Adviser in Natural England’s Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Team, gave a presentation on marine invasive non-native species.

Jessica e-mailed after the event to say “I have a bit of a phobia of public speaking but there was a really nice atmosphere in the room it made it a nice presentation to give. All the best, Jess”

Jo and Catherine reviewed the work of the NFNNPP since the previous Forum meeting in March 2018 including work to control Creeping Water Primrose at Breamore Marsh and liaison with Network Rail to control Himalayan balsam.



Jessica Taylor, Natural England (left) and Claire Sherwood, New Forest NPA (right) at the NFNNPP Forum meeting on 6 March 2019

“Catherine, thoroughly enjoyed today’s forum. Regards, Jon”

e-mail message dated 6 March 2019 from Jon Hurst, volunteer with the Blackwater Conservation Group

“Thanks Catherine, sorry we had to leave early yesterday and miss the end. The new time will probably work much better for us as we start work at 7.30am and finish at 3.30pm-4pm. In the future would you consider getting someone in to talk about non-native trees (maybe Nik Gruber from The National Park)? Also another issue we come across regularly whilst out surveying our trees is fly tipping of green waste over back fences. This often leads to non-natives such as Bamboo, Crocosmia and other garden plants within our woodlands, do you know anyone who would talk about/deal with these issues?

Kind regards, Bernice”

e-mail message dated 7 March 2019 from Bernice McGrail, Corporate Tree Officer, Open Spaces, New Forest District Council

“Thanks, Catherine. Yesterday's meeting was very useful - and what a saga with the rail people!”

e-mail message dated 7 March 2019 from Mike Rowe, volunteer

“Thanks so much Catherine. Congratulations for organising another super event. Loved hearing about marine invasives! All the best, Gill”

e-mail message dated 7 March 2019 from Gill Hickman, local resident

“Dear Catherine, thank you very much for organizing yesterday’s Forum and circulating the minutes so promptly. It’s kind of you to give me a special mention under the heading of Cotoneaster. It would be interesting if I could be involved again this coming autumn please. I look forward to seeing you in April. Best Wishes, David”

e-mail message dated 7 March 2019 from David Smart, volunteer

“Morning Catherine, thank you again for inviting me along to the forum. It made for a very interesting afternoon and it is great to see all the partners working on so many of the non-native invasive plants across the forest. I look forward to seeing you at one of the Balsam pulls, Kind regards, Lucy”
e-mail message dated 8 March 2019 from Lucy Andrews, Forestry Commission

“Dear Catherine, many thanks for sending the minutes of the recent Forum Meeting. So quickly produced and so comprehensive - and particularly appreciated because of that, especially since we were unable to stay right to the end of the gathering this time.

I always enjoy contributions by our visiting speakers by the way, and I found Jessica Taylor's talk particularly interesting in that it introduced new dimension to the subject of what we are now asked to refer to, at least in the marine environment, as "Invasive Alien Species". Thanks for arranging for Jessica to come and speak to us.

I personally continue to be interested in the possibility of biological control measures for non-native invasive plants, especially our special friend Himalayan Balsam (of course!), and also control measures in general for species like the *Crassula helmsii* at Breamore.

Date, time and place for the next meeting duly noted - nothing like being well ahead of the game there! “
e-mail message dated 10 March 2019 from John Read, volunteer

“Hi Catherine, many thanks for sending through the minutes and for organising and hosting such a positive and enjoyable event. It was brilliant to hear about all of the positive work that the NFNNPP is delivering and with such enthusiasm and energy – thank you!
e-mail message dated 11 March 2019 from Helen Spring, Natural England

“Catherine, I thought the Forum went very well. I found the talk on IAS in the marine environment particularly interesting”
e-mail message dated 11 March 2019 from Brian Matthews, volunteer

Liaison with Network Rail

For details of the training event delivered by Jo and Catherine for Network Rail staff and their contractors on 27 March 2019, please refer to pages 28, 29 and 30 of this Steering Group report.



Other work

Queen's Guide Award assessment

On Friday 25 January 2019 Catherine had a meeting with Elizabeth Marsden to assess the research element of a project she undertook towards her Queen's Guide Award. Elizabeth had chosen to research invasive non-native species.

Checking reports of invasive non-native plants

Jenny Thomas of Natural England alerted Catherine to a possible infestation of Gaultheria on an island in a pond on Broomy Plain. Catherine visited the site on 2 February 2019 and confirmed identification. Invasive non-native water lilies were also discovered growing in the pond that day. The pond was constructed in recent decades in the spring heads at the top of a valley on the Open Forest.



On 2 February 2019 Catherine visited the pond on Broomy Plain to check report of Gaultheria growing on the island

Advice to Wessex Chalk Streams and Rivers Trust

During February 2019 Andy Blincow, Test & Itchen Catchment Officer with the Wessex Chalk Stream & Rivers Trust e-mailed Catherine wanting to know locations of aquatic plants in the Test, Itchen and Avon catchments which he could collect and use for training purposes. Catherine responded on 18 February and advised him that in accordance with the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation it would be unlawful for him to collect, keep and transport certain species for educational purposes. Andy was unaware of the Regulation but confirmed that he would ensure volunteers were advised about up-to-date legislation during the training session.

Advice to Watercress and Winterbournes Project

On 11 April 2019 Maxine Holden, the Environment Agency's Catchment Co-ordinator (Solent and South Downs Area) e-mailed Catherine seeking information relating to control of invasive non-native plants and availability of awareness-raising materials and educational materials for children. Catherine responded on 12 April. Maxine responded via email on 15 April 2019 to say 'Huge thanks Catherine for your fantastically comprehensive and very helpful response. I will chat this over with Maggie, and between the two of us, work out which ideas to take forward'.

Liaison with Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

On 4 March 2019 Catherine responded to a request via the Invasive Non-Native Species Facebook Group from Beverley Lewis, Invasive Non-native Species Co-ordinator at Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. Beverley needed a photograph of giant hogweed taken in the winter, for a powerpoint presentation that she was preparing, so Catherine provided photographs taken along the Avon Water during late 2009.





On 7 March 2019 Lucy Cornwell of the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat e-mailed Local Action Groups to alert people to Volunteers' Week during June 2019.

Lucy wanted to take this opportunity to update the GBNNSS website by including some more information on the benefits of volunteering and some short case studies from volunteers ie their reasons for volunteering and what they enjoy about it. Lucy asked Local Action Groups whether they have any volunteers who would be willing to put together a few sentences for the website and provide photographs of them in action. Catherine responded on 7 March and sent Lucy photographs and quotes from Patsy Baverstock and from Bob and Jean Annell.

CPRE Countryside Awards 2019

After reading about the CPRE Countryside Awards in the Lymington Times, Catherine submitted a completed application form and accompanying photographs (for the 'Community and Voluntary' category) on behalf of the NFNNPP on 25 March 2019.

Park Protector Award 2019

A blog by Lord Gardiner, which focussed on the 70th anniversary of National Parks, encouraged people to apply for the Park Protector Award 2019 which is being promoted by the Campaign for National Parks. The blog inspired Catherine to submit a completed application form and supporting photographs on behalf of the NFNNPP on 16 April 2019.

HIWWT staff meetings

Jo and Catherine attended the staff meeting on 13 March 2019.

HIWWT Sub-Team meetings

The Sub-Team meeting was attended on 22 January 2019 (the meetings scheduled for February and March 2019 were cancelled).

Appendix A – newsletters sent out during April 2019 to relevant riparian owners along the Cadnam River, the Avon Water and the Lymington River and its tributaries

Press release – see attached

Media coverage – 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

1 May 2019

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

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



Appendix A – newsletters sent out during April 2019 to relevant riparian owners along the Cadnam River, the Avon Water and the Lymington River and its tributaries