

NEW FOREST NON-NATIVE PLANTS PROJECT

REPORT FOR STEERING GROUP MEETING ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY 12 MAY 2020

**Report covering the period
1 January 2020 – 30 April 2020**

**Catherine Chatters
New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer
1 May 2020**

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has inevitably affected the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project. By mid March 2020 Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust realised it would be necessary to cancel events and meetings and made the decision to cancel all volunteer work parties until the end of May 2020 when the situation would be reviewed. Wildlife Trust staff were instructed to work from home and Jo Gore was 'furloughed' from Monday 6 April 2020 for an undetermined period of time. Catherine Chatters was allowed to continue to work until 14 April 2020 to submit grant claims and issue purchase orders to contractors for herbicide treatment during 2020 (to be undertaken in accordance with relevant Government advice to minimise the spread of the virus). Catherine's employment situation was reviewed on 14 April 2020 when it was agreed that she could continue to work and undertake field work in accordance with advice from DEFRA (dated 9 April 2020) that has been issued to the Chartered Institute of Ecologists and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

The Himalayan balsam volunteer work parties that Jo and Catherine had planned to lead during May 2020 have had to be cancelled. The presentation that Catherine was due to give at the University of Southampton on 18 March 2020 was cancelled by the University. Catherine took the decision to cancel the meeting that she had arranged for riparian owners along the Avon Water on the evening of Thursday 19 March 2020. The Project Officers cancelled the meeting which was due to be held on 30 March 2020 with the National Trust, Natural England and Forestry England to co-ordinate balsam pulls in summer 2020. The Hythe U3A group cancelled the talk that Catherine was due to give on Monday 6 April. The monitoring of American skunk cabbage populations that Jo and Catherine were due to undertake in April 2020 (in Harcourt Wood, in the privately-owned land in Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI and in HIWWT's Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve) was undertaken by Catherine.

The HIWWT staff meeting which was due to be held at Testwood Lakes Education Centre on 25 March 2020 was held remotely via a 'Microsoft Teams' video conference.

Bridget Leyden (Natural England) and Catherine participated remotely by video-conference (via 'Zoom') in a meeting arranged by Sam Orchard of the Environment Agency on 26 March 2020 to discuss progress with the preparation of a 'project mandate' for an application for funding from the Environment Agency.

The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project Steering Group had arranged to meet on Tuesday 12 May 2020 in the Annexe at The Queen's House in Lyndhurst. Due to the restrictions aimed at reducing the spread of Coronavirus it became unclear whether the Steering Group meeting would be held on that date or whether it could be held remotely via video-conferencing facilities.

As Catherine anticipated being furloughed from 14 April she prepared an interim Steering Group report covering the period to mid April 2020 to ensure that a report was available in case the Steering Group meeting was held (remotely or otherwise) on 12 May 2020. The interim Steering Group report was distributed on 13 April 2020.

Since then the interim report has been updated and replaced by this current report which refers to the entire four month reporting period from 1 January 2020 to 30 April 2020.

On 30 April 2020 it was proposed by Martin de Retuerto of HIWWT that the Steering Group meeting would not be held on 12 May 2020 and that this report would be distributed electronically to Steering Group members.

Publicity

Press releases

The following press release was issued between 1 January and 30 April 2020:-

- Press release dated 9 March 2020 drafted by Jo Gore titled ‘New project to control non-native plants set to launch this spring’ relating to launch of the Lower Avon Non-Native Plant Project.

Publications and websites

- On 3 January 2020 Issue 384 of Hampshire Independent included an article titled ‘Helping hands in the Forest’ to promote the Volunteer Fair on 26 January 2020 and which features quotes from two people who volunteer with the NFNNPP, namely Ant Allen and Lesley Hancock.
- Issue 383 of The Herald (9 – 30 January 2020) included an article on page 13 titled ‘Helping Hands in The Forest’ to promote the Volunteer Fair on 26 January 2020 and which features quotes from two people who volunteer with the NFNNPP, namely Ant Allen and Lesley Hancock, plus a photo of Lesley.
- Issue 383 of The Herald (9 – 30 January 2020) included an article on page 56 titled ‘Thanking Volunteers for Their Help in the Balsam Battle’.
- The 23rd volunteer newsletter of the ‘Our Past, Our Future’ Landscape Partnership Scheme was published on 14 January 2020 and included information about a) the awareness-raising session for volunteers which was hosted by the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project on 6 November 2019 and b) the event held on 25 November 2019 to thank people who had volunteered with the NFNNPP during 2019.
- On 17 January 2020 the New Forest National Park Authority published a blog featuring some of the people who have volunteered with the NFNNPP, namely Patsy Baverstock, Brian Matthews, Roger Bradley, Chrissie Whiffen, John Read, Peter Hancock, Lesley Hancock, Ian Searle and Ant Allen.
- The January 2020 edition of ‘Hampshire Living’ magazine included an article titled ‘Forest Guardians’ featuring people who have volunteered with NFNNPP namely Brian Matthews (quote and photograph), Ant Allen (photograph) and Lesley Hancock (photograph).
- The Volunteer Guide produced by the New Forest National Park Authority for the Volunteer Fair on 26 January 2020 included a quote by Lesley Hancock (NFNNPP volunteer) on the back page and five photographs of other NFNNPP volunteers taken by Catherine Chatters.
- On 7 February 2020 the Hampshire Independent included an article about the Volunteer Fair at Lyndhurst on 26 January 2020 which featured the opening speech by NFNNPP volunteer Patsy Baverstock.
- The 24th volunteer newsletter of the ‘Our Past, Our Future’ Landscape Partnership Scheme was published on 10 March 2020 and included information about Patsy Baverstock who opened the Volunteer Fair.
- During March 2020 the HIWWT website featured Jo’s press release titled ‘New project to control non-native plants set to launch this spring’.
- On 20 March 2020 the Lymington Times published an article titled ‘Environment Agency cash will restart invasive plant control’ based on the press release prepared by Jo Gore.
- The Lymington Directory (April/May 2020) included a note to encourage people to volunteer with the NFNNPP to pull balsam during 2020.

Liaison with landowners and managers

The following landowners/managers were met between 1 January – 30 April 2020:-

- Alison Bolton (Lymington River) on 4 March 2020
- Sara Cadbury (Lymington River) on 4 March 2020
- Bob Norman (Mill Pond by Harcourt Wood) on 22 April 2020

Newsletter for landowners along the Avon Water

On 2 April 2020 a newsletter was sent to the landowners and land managers of 49 properties along the Avon Water to update people in the context of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and review progress with the control of Himalayan balsam and giant hogweed. A copy of this newsletter is provided at Appendix A of this report.

Catherine received replies from a number of landowners, including the following responses:

“Dear Catherine, thanks so much for the update on the latest situation on your efforts to control these invaders! How frustrating to have to put your work on hold on this, but it’s the only possible thing to do right now for sure. I’m watching the latest on the Corona Virus as I type, and it’s clear that we must all do everything to reduce the risk of needing the NHS while they manage the epidemic. I’ve even stopped riding my trusty bicycle in favour of walking as it is slightly less risky! Fingers crossed that the world becomes less crazy sooner rather than later.

All the best, Jill”

e-mail message from Jill Burry on 2 April 2020

“Thanks so much, Catherine. Enjoyable reading during the lock-down!

Meanwhile do let me know what we can do to help, other than pulling whenever and whatever we find on our property. Take care and stay well!

Fiona”

e-mail message from Fiona Rogers on 2 April 2020

“Dear Catherine, thanks for most informative update. Looks like we’re winning

Stay safe and well. Best regards, Hylton”

e-mail message from Hylton Murray-Philipson on 2 April 2020

“Dear Catherine. Thanks. Good to hear from you in these troubled times.

Thanks for your good wishes. We hope you and your husband keep safe and well.

Best, Gill and Barry”

e-mail message from Barry Jay on 2 April 2020

“Dear Catherine, many thanks for the news letter, most interesting. Crumbs, you have been busy. A very well done to you and your team. I have experimented with cutting the HB and as we are aware, if it is cut below the first node it won’t grow back. I have found this a much quicker and more successful approach than pulling, which often misses juvenile plants. If the tool is of the curved steel design (found in most farm and garden shops), it also reduces the need to bend and the rate of work is huge. The HB stems are so fragile that the blade doesn’t actually have to be that sharp; a stout pair of boots is protection enough. Perhaps for larger areas this might be worthy of consideration? All the very best, Mark”

e-mail message from Mark Turley on 4 April 2020

“Dear Catherine, thank you for this. Very informative. You and Jo have certainly had a busy year! It feels like a life time ago now doesn’t it -being able to go where you want when you want! I hope that you & your family are all well?”

e-mail message from Luan Dray, Project Manager for Lymington and Pennington Town Council, on 6 April 2020

Newsletter for landowners along the Cadnam River

On 2 April 2020 a newsletter was sent to the landowners and land managers of 53 properties along the Cadnam River to update people in the context of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and review progress with the control of Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed. A copy of this newsletter is provided at Appendix B of this report.

Catherine received replies from a number of landowners, including the following responses:

“Dear Catherine thanks for the information. I am sorry your balsam plans are being disrupted...it's a shame the balsam can't catch the virus! I'm continuing to pull balsam when I can but there seems to be much more this year, sadly. I do hope you keep well. Take care”

e-mail from Lois Wells on 4 April 2020

“Thanks for update Catherine. I'm sure you and your volunteers will get back on track next year. In the meantime, all our very best wishes for a safe lockdown - see you on the other side”.

e-mail from Kaye and Ian Bridgett on 11 April 2020

Newsletter for landowners along the Lymington River and its tributaries

On 9 April 2020 a newsletter (prepared by Catherine whilst Jo was furloughed) was sent to the landowners and land managers of 67 properties along the Lymington River and its tributaries the Passford Water and the Mill Lawn Brook to update people in the context of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and review progress with the control of Himalayan balsam and American skunk cabbage. A copy of this newsletter is provided at Appendix C of this report.

Catherine received replies from a number of landowners and land managers, including the following:

“Dear Catherine, many thanks for your news letter which I enjoyed reading. Let's hope matters get back to 'normal' soon. Kind regards, Simon”

e-mail message dated 9 April 2020 from Simon Barker, agent for the Longdown Estate

“Keep clear of the virus and we will sort out the balsam as soon as the lockdown is over”.

e-mail message dated 9 April 2020 from Chris Randall, Brokenhurst Manor Fly Fishing Club

“Many thanks, Catherine, for your email. Who would have thought, even in our wildest dreams, we would have all this to cope with! My best wishes to you. Take care – keep safe. Much love – Sara”

e-mail message dated 10 April 2020 from Sara Cadbury

Meeting for riparian owners along the Avon Water

A meeting for riparian owners along the Avon Water had been arranged for the evening of Thursday 19 March 2020 at Sway Jubilee Pavilion to review progress with the control of Himalayan balsam and giant hogweed. The meeting was cancelled due to concerns relating to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation.

Steering Group meeting

The Steering Group meeting was held on 21 January 2020 and the final version of the minutes was distributed on 31 January 2020.

Forum meeting

The Forum meeting was held in Brockenhurst Village Hall on 4 March 2020 and attended by 52 people including landowners and land managers, fishing clubs, volunteers, naturalists and representatives from local government, other statutory organisations and a water company. The event was an opportunity to celebrate over ten years of the NFNNPP since its launch in May 2009. Patrick Heneghan, Deputy Chairman of The New Forest National Park Authority and Chairman of the 'Our Past, Our Future' New Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme Board, gave an introductory talk. Trevor Renals (The Environment Agency's Senior Technical Adviser, Invasive Species) gave a presentation on the control of creeping water primrose, putting the work of the project into a national and international context. Jo Gore gave an update on progress with Network Rail since the previous Forum meeting and the event ended with a joint presentation by Jo and Catherine summarising the activities of the Project since 2009.



Mary Parker (volunteer and trustee of HIWWT), Trevor Renals (Environment Agency Senior Technical Adviser, Invasive Species) and Rachel Hardy (Eastleigh Borough Council) at the Forum meeting

“Dear Catherine, it was a pleasure and I welcomed the opportunity to review the excellent work that you, Jo and the team have achieved over the last ten years. It is an amazing achievement and a great legacy for The New Forest. It also provides a great case history for what a LAG can achieve with strong leadership and commitment. Kind regards, Trevor”

e-mail message dated 5 March 2020 from Trevor Renals



Pete Durnell (Hampshire County Council Countryside Service) at the Forum meeting

“Hi Catherine and Jo,
Well done for such an interesting and comprehensive review of the invasive plant problem- a good balance of information, new research sober risk assessment and quite a few chinks of optimism. I feel you are genuinely winning your battle; it only remains to convince officialdom in order to continue to fund the project in some form. If I had the money, I would do it myself. I would be cautiously optimistic that funding may materialise and I will gladly help by writing to important people if required [my MP Caroline Dinenage was very sympathetic to your cause]. Best wishes, Richard.”

e-mail message dated 4 March 2020 from Dr Richard Hughes who volunteers with the NFNNPP

“Dear Catherine, thanks to you and Jo for organising another very interesting event. We both particularly enjoyed Trevor Renals's presentation. You are very good at coming up with interesting speakers and Trevor was no exception. We must pay another visit to Breamore sometime soon, probably in the Spring when things have started to grow properly. It was also good to have Patrick Heneghan's Introduction. Since I found myself sitting directly behind him before the meeting had started, and not at that time knowing who he was, I therefore decided to speak to him and we had a good conversation about what we were all about. I suggested he might be interested in joining a balsam pull one day and he did in fact seem genuinely interested in possibly doing so. Very best wishes, John and Helen”

e-mail message dated 4 March 2020 from John and Helen Read who volunteer with the NFNNPP

“Dear Catherine, thank you very much for organising the interesting Forum meeting today and the refreshments. I particularly enjoyed Trevor's presentation. It is gratifying to know that the New Forest is the World Leader in attempting to eliminate Creeping Water Primrose, and amazing to know that the £10,000 budget, which is insufficient to even buy any new car, is on a knife edge. Best Wishes, David.”

e-mail message dated 4 March 2020 from Dr David Smart who volunteers with the NFNNPP

“Catherine, thanks for organising another fantastic forum. I really enjoyed it and met some new contacts which is always good. It's amazing to see the difference you, Jo and the project have made! See you soon and keep up the good work!! Claire”

e-mail message dated 6 March 2020 from Claire Hamilton, Fisheries, Biodiversity and Geomorphology Officer/FBG Team Leader, Environment Agency

“An amazingly quick turnaround - thanks Catherine. I really enjoyed the session. It was great to see the interest and positive engagement from such a wide range of stakeholders. These events take a lot of planning and organisation, so a big well done to Jo and yourself for making it such a success. Hope to see you again soon. Best wishes, Patrick”

email message dated 6 March 2020 from Patrick Heneghan, New Forest National Park Authority Member

“Thanks Catherine, a good forum and a fantastic reflection on just how much has been achieved. An awful lot to feel proud about. Martin:

email message dated 6 March 2020 from Martin de Retuerto, Director of Projects & Services, HIWWT

“Thanks, Catherine, it was a very good meeting, especially the talk on *Ludwigia*. Best wishes, Mike”

e-mail message dated 6 March 2020 from Mike Rowe (volunteer and botanist)

“Dear Catherine, thank you very much for inviting me to the forum marking the 10th year of your project. It was very informative with some great speakers including you and Jo. How time flies, I remember coming to the launch at Carey's Manor Hotel! Many Thanks, Matt”

e-mail message dated 7 March 2020 from Matthew Cheetham, Southern Counties Forestry Ltd

“Morning Catherine, I really enjoyed this meeting and thanks go to you, Jo and all who arranged and coordinated it. The challenges you have faced and achievements recorded stand testament to your dedication to this project. I particularly enjoyed the presentation from Trevor Renals on the removal of water primrose *Ludwigia grandiflora* and the not dissimilar challenges I face with controlling *Rhododendron ponticum*! The contractors also appreciated the opportunity to attend the forum and discuss the upcoming challenges of non-native invasive species. All the best for another good year and I look forward to seeing you at a Balsam pull soon. Kind regards, Lucy”

e-mail message dated 10 March 2020 from Lucy Andrews, Forestry England

“Dear Catherine, sorry it has taken a few weeks to reply. Many thanks for sending me the minutes of the Forum. They were really informative and interesting. It is fantastic and heartening to see how much you and the Group have achieved. All my best wishes to you, Jo and the Project Group in these trying times”.

e-mail message dated 7 April 2020 from Catherine Patel, Environment Agency

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

Catherine commented on Wildlife and Countryside Link's draft response to the EA's Choices and Challenges consultation on 17 February 2020.

Catherine participated in a teleconference with members of Wildlife and Countryside Link's INNS Group on 19 February 2020. Topics discussed included the draft response to the EA's Choices and Challenges consultation; the anticipated publication of the Government's response to the Environment Audit Committee's report on its invasive species inquiry; proposals for Invasive Species Week in May 2020; a strategy for control of floating pennywort to be published during Invasive Species Week; horizon scanning research undertaken by Professor Helen Roy.

Liaison with RAPID LIFE Project



No work was undertaken by the NFNNPP in connection with the RAPID LIFE project during this reporting period.

Control to be undertaken by contractors

Purchase orders have been issued to contractors to undertake herbicide treatment on behalf of the NFNNPP at the following sites during 2020:-

Golden Club

- Turf Hill. Purchase Order POR005075

Montbretia

- Open Forest by Woodlands Road. Purchase Order POR005100
- Pondhead Inclosure (Montbretia and Bamboo) Purchase Order POR005104

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

- Pennington Common. Purchase Order POR005092

Parrot's Feather

- Hinchleslea Bog, Castle Hill, East End (early summer). Purchase Order POR005073
- Hinchleslea Bog, Castle Hill, East End (late summer). Purchase Order POR005074

American skunk cabbage

- HIWWT Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve herbicide treatment. Purchase Order POR5106
- Mill Lawn, Burley (and Montbretia) Purchase Order POR005076
- Harcourt Wood (OPOF). Purchase Order 200080116

Iris laevigata

- Pond near Hardley Bridge. Purchase Order POR005090

Cotoneaster

- East Boldre former WWI airfield Purchase Order POR005094
- Beaulieu Heath former WWII airfield Purchase Order POR005110
- Road near Slufsters, by A31 Purchase Order POR005096
- Eastern side of Lyndhurst Purchase Order POR005097
- Crockford Purchase Order POR005098
- Greenmoor Purchase Order POR005099
- Stoney Cross former WWII airfield Purchase Order POR005111
- Open Forest near Bramble Hill Hotel Purchase Order POR005102

Gaultheria

- South of Rhinefield Purchase Order POR005114
- South of Fletcher's Hill Purchase Order POR005113
- South of former Clumber Inclosure Purchase OrderPOR005112

Sheep Laurel *Kalmia angustifolia*

- Open Forest near Ashurst Lodge Purchase Order POR005105

Japanese knotweed

- Mill Lawn Brook by Turf Croft Farm, Burley Purchase Order POR005077
- East side of Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve Purchase Order POR005107
- East side of Lymington Reedbeds NR (under alders)Purchase Order POR005108
- North West Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve Purchase Order POR005109
- New Park Purchase Order POR005084
- Pondhead Inclosure/Limewood Hotel Purchase Order POR005085
- Broughton Road area, Lyndhurst (and 'Pantiles') Purchase Order POR005079
- Broughton Road area, Lyndhurst (Area 2) Purchase Order POR5078
- Emery Down Purchase Order POR005080
- Crown Land, Lyndhurst and 'Holmfield' Purchase Order POR005081

- Mill Lane, Burley Purchase Order POR005082
- Gravel track off Beechwood Lane, Burley Purchase Order POR005083
- Open Forest adjacent to Hillview, Linwood. Purchase Order POR005086
- Buskett's Lawn Inclosure Purchase Order POR005103
- Pennington Common Purchase Order POR005093

Giant hogweed

Avon Water (OPOF):-

- Treatment on west bank below Efford Bridge. Purchase Order 20008037 issued on 9 March 2020; contract letters and accompanying documentation issued on 9 March 2020.
- Treatment between Efford Bridge and Wainsford Bridge. Purchase Order 20008037 issued on 9 March 2020; contract letters and accompanying documentation issued on 9 March 2020.
- Treatment between Wainsford Bridge and Flexford Bridge. Purchase Order 20008038 issued on 9 March 2020; contract letters and accompanying documentation issued on 9 March 2020.
- Treatment upstream of Flexford Bridge. Purchase Order 20008037 issued on 9 March 2020; contract letters and accompanying documentation issued on 9 March 2002.

Giant hogweed (not OPOF):-

- On Crown Land near entrance to Roydon Woods nature reserve Purchase Order POR005101

Control by Project Officers

Control of American skunk cabbage

Catherine removed flower spikes (spadices) /seed heads from American skunk cabbage plants growing within Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI (within the Wildlife Trust's Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve and the privately-owned land further upstream) and Harcourt Wood near Minstead during April 2020 to minimise the risk of seeds being shed.



American skunk cabbage flower spikes cut off on 21 April 2020



Catherine cutting flower spikes off American skunk cabbage plants in Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve on 20 April 2020



Flower spikes cut off from a plant growing in privately-owned land within Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI on 21 April 2020



Photographs taken on 21 April 2020 in Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI

A total of 21 flower spikes/seed heads were found and cut off from American skunk cabbage plants within Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve on 20 April 2020, 28 were cut off from plants within the privately-owned land further upstream on 21 April 2020 and 31 were cut off from plants at Harcourt Wood on 22 April 2020.

The number of flower spikes/seed heads found and removed is a good indicator of the effectiveness of herbicide treatment undertaken during previous years. For example in 2018 Jo Gore and a volunteer found and removed approximately 700 skunk cabbage flower spikes from the privately-owned land in Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI, 289 were found and removed from that site by Jo and Catherine in 2019 and only 28 were found there in April 2020.



Photo on left shows volunteer Brian Matthews standing by the pile of approximately 700 skunk cabbage flower spikes found and removed from privately-owned land within Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI on 10 May 2018; photo in middle shows Jo Gore by the 289 flower spikes found and removed from that site on 24 April 2019; photo on right shows the 28 found at the same location by Catherine on 21 April 2020.

On 27 April 2020 Catherine returned to Harcourt Wood to dig up the isolated plants and clusters of plants growing upstream of the area where the contractor has been commissioned to undertake herbicide treatment in 2020. A total of 104 plants (seedlings, small plants and medium sized plants) were dug up.



Photographs taken on 27 April 2020 in Harcourt Wood near Minstead (medium sized plant on left; seedlings and small plants in right)

Control of Three-cornered garlic

On 27 March 2020 Catherine took the opportunity to dig up a single plant of three-cornered garlic *Allium triquetrum* from the road verge along Fletchwood Lane during her permitted walk for daily exercise. The work undertaken by the NFNPP here has been extremely successful. Regular monitoring of this site is undertaken each time Catherine walks past on her permitted daily walk during the Coronavirus crisis.



The single plant of three-cornered garlic dug up from the verge along Fletchwood Lane (at SU 33422 11257) on 27 March 2020

Another population of three-cornered garlic was noticed by Catherine growing in the verge along Fletchwood Lane near the house called 'Dovecote'. Catherine dug up 68 bulbs here (SU 33024 11077) on 26 April 2020.



68 *Allium triquetrum* bulbs dug up from verge along Fletchwood Lane near 'Dovecote' on 26 April 2020

Whilst walking to the verge near 'Dovecote' on 26 April 2020, Catherine noticed three-cornered garlic growing in the verge on the southern side of Fletchwood Lane (ie on the opposite side of the lane from where three-cornered garlic has been dug up previously) and dug up 14 bulbs from this location at SU 33435 11260.



14 three-cornered garlic bulbs dug up from the verge along the southern side of Fletchwood Lane at SU 33435 11260 on 26 April 2020

Monitoring by Project Officers

Monitoring of American skunk cabbage

On 20 and 21 April 2020 Catherine monitored the American skunk cabbage population within the Wildlife Trust's Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve. GPS readings were taken of individual plants or groups of plants, their relative size (seedlings, small plants, medium sized plants or large plants) was recorded and a note was made of how many plants were flowering. A map was prepared by Catherine McGuire to show the distribution of the skunk cabbage plants and has been sent to the contractor to facilitate the herbicide treatment to be undertaken during 2020.

On 21 April Catherine monitored the skunk cabbage population in the privately-owned land upstream of Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve. The size and location of plants was recorded, a note was made of flowering plants and a map was produced to indicate the distribution of the population.

On 22 April 2020 Catherine visited Harcourt Wood and the adjacent Mill Pond near Minstead to monitor the American skunk cabbage population. GPS readings were taken of particular, isolated plants and the relative density and ease of access to certain parts of the site was noted. A map has been created and sent to the contractor who will be undertaking herbicide treatment in 2020, together with grid references for individual, key plants.



Photograph on left shows occasional American skunk cabbage plants and clusters of plants growing beneath the overhead wires in Harcourt Wood during visit to monitor the extent of the current population on 22 April 2020 following herbicide treatment in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. Photo on right (by Scott Rice) shows this area on 9 June 2016 during the first herbicide treatment



Large American skunk cabbage plant within Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve on 20 April 2020



Scattered, small American skunk cabbage plants growing in privately-owned land within Lymington River Reedbeds SSSI on 21 April 2020

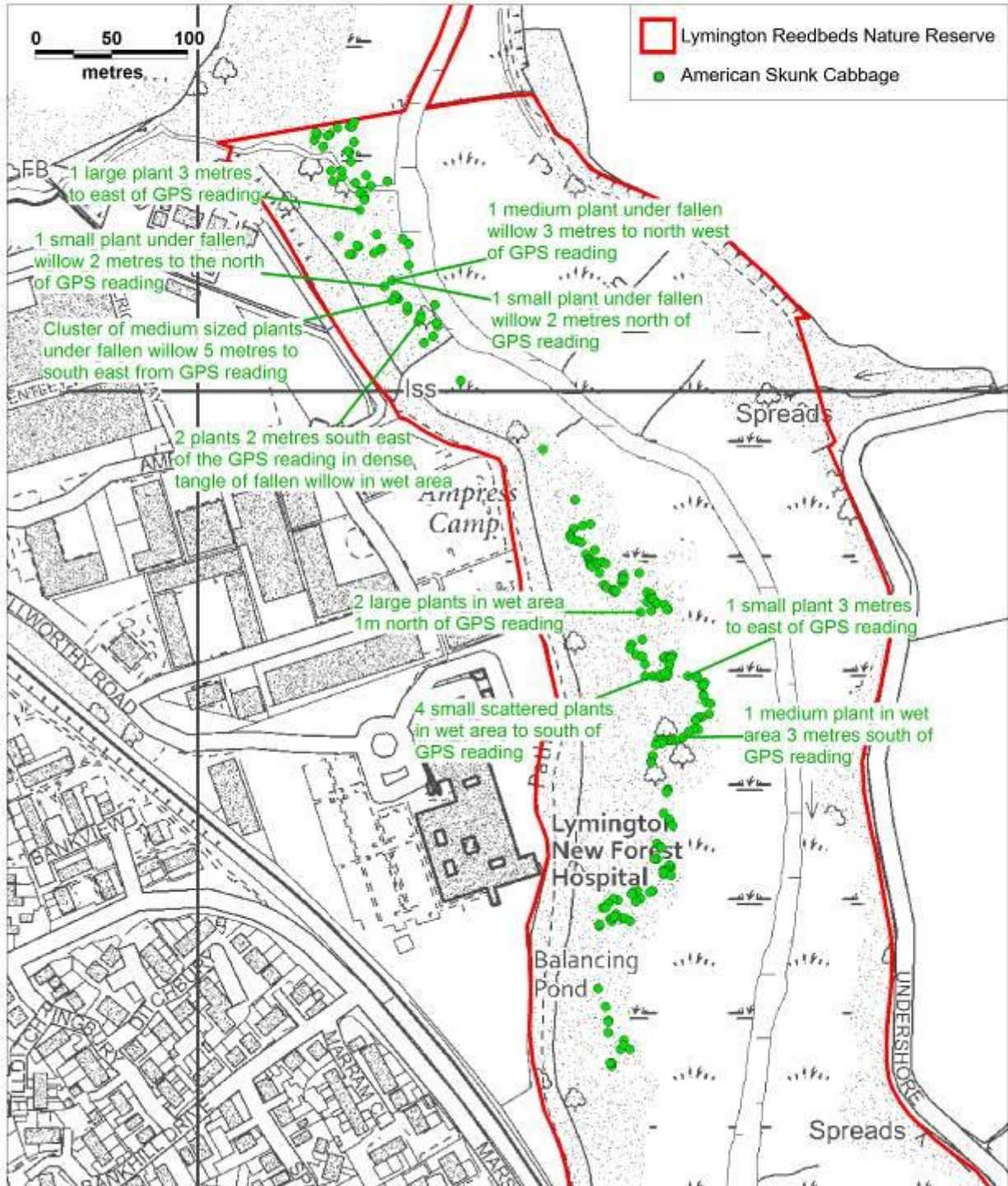


Distribution of American Skunk Cabbage
Lysichiton americanus
 recorded in Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve
 on 20 and 21 April 2020 by Catherine Chatters

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
 Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
 Curdridge SO32 2DP
 web: www.hiwwt.org.uk



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



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 BAP Priority habitat, notable species and SNC data supplied by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre on behalf of the HBC Partnership.
 Produced by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on 22 April 2020 by Catherine McGuire.
 For enquiries relating to the Wildlife Trust's GIS data contact Catherine McGuire, email Catherine.McGuire@hiwwt.org.uk, tel: 01469 774455.

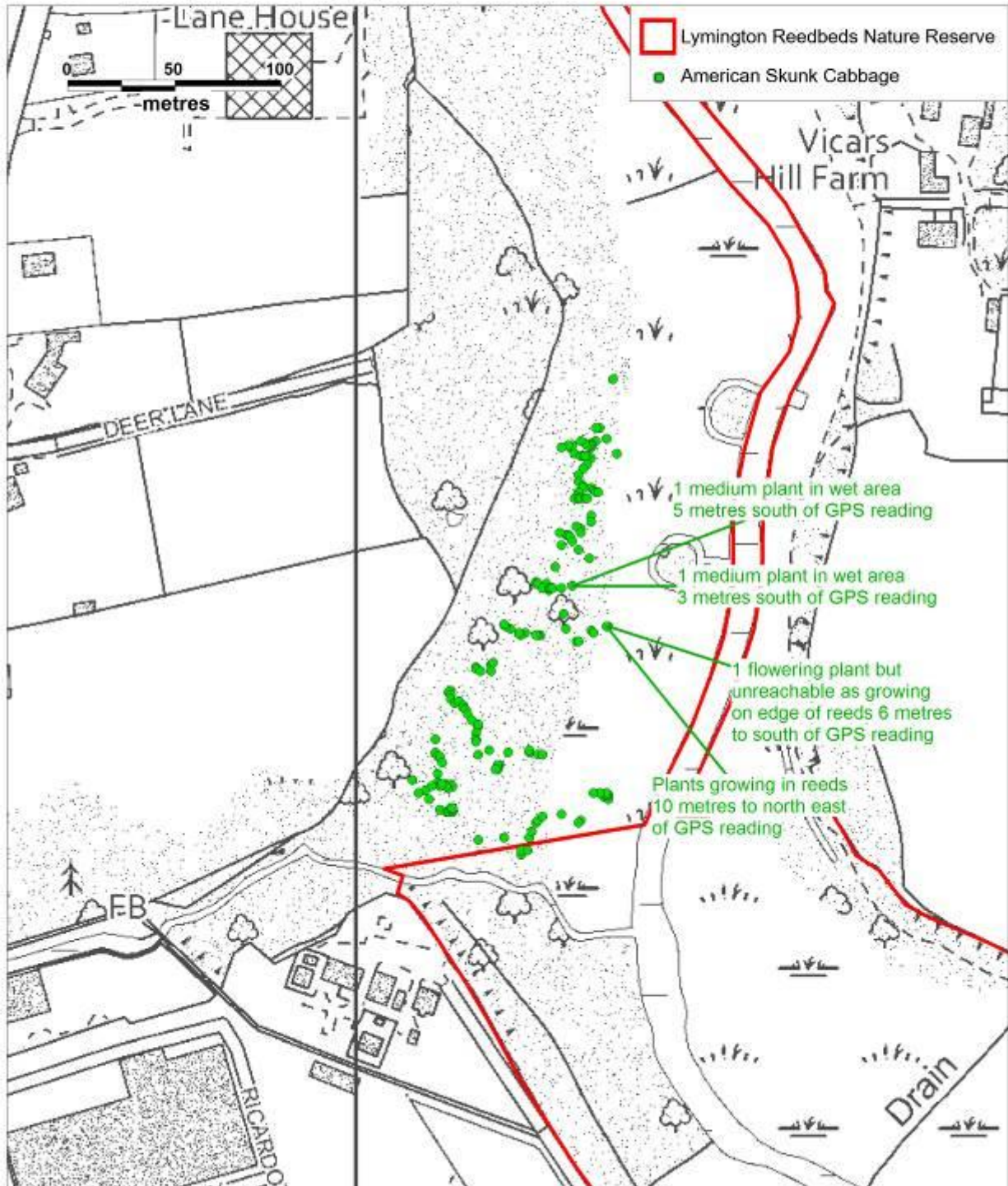


Distribution of American Skunk Cabbage
Lysichiton americanus
 recorded in privately-owned land within Lymington River
 Reedbeds SSSI on 21 April 2020 by Catherine Chatters

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
 Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
 Curridge SO32 2DP
 web: www.hwwt.org.uk



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



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 BAP Priority habitat, notable species and SPAC data supplied by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre on behalf of the HSDC Partnership.
 Produced by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on 22 April 2020 by Catherine McGuire.
 For enquiries relating to the Wildlife Trust's GIS data contact Catherine McGuire, email Catherine.McGuire@hwwt.org.uk, tel: 01489 774455.

Monitoring of Japanese knotweed

On 11 April 2020, during her daily permitted walk for exercise, Catherine monitored the area adjacent to Woodlands Road where the NFNNPP had commissioned herbicide treatment in previous years to control Japanese knotweed. She checked the locations where Japanese knotweed had been recorded during May 2016 (SU 32672 10965, SU 32672 10966, SU 32672 10966) and during September 2017 (SU 32671 10970) and was satisfied that the Japanese knotweed has been eradicated from this site.

Monitoring of Montbretia

On 11 April 2020, during her daily permitted walk for exercise, Catherine monitored the area of Open Forest adjacent to Woodlands Road where the NFNNPP has commissioned herbicide treatment of Montbretia within the patch of hollies. Two small shoots of Montbretia were found within the hollies at SU 32609 10994. This GPS reading has been sent to the contractor to help him locate the Montbretia when he undertakes the herbicide treatment during 2020.



The two shoots of Montbretia growing within the clump of hollies on Open Forest near Woodlands Road. Photographed on 11 April 2020 at SU 32609 10994.

Discovery of invasive non-native plants

Variegated yellow archangel and snowberry

On 11 April 2020 whilst monitoring the site where Japanese knotweed has been successfully controlled on Crown Land adjacent to Woodlands Road, Catherine discovered variegated yellow archangel and snowberry. The establishment of these plants is presumably the result of dumping of garden waste by local residents, despite the joint work by the NFNNPP and the Forestry Commission to tackle the problem here.



Variegated yellow archangel (SU 32707 10945) and snowberry (SU 32702 10949) discovered growing on Crown Land near Woodlands Road on 11 April 2020

Report of American skunk cabbage

During March 2020 Catherine received a report from a local resident of a mature, flowering American skunk cabbage plant growing in the Bartley Water on the Open Forest upstream of Woodlands Road near Ashurst. Catherine alerted Forestry England on 30 March 2020. The plant has been dug up.



American skunk cabbage photographed on 27 March 2020
in the Bartley Water on Crown Land on the Open Forest at SU 32583 10870

Volunteer activity – practical control

Himalayan balsam control

A programme of volunteer work parties to pull Himalayan balsam between May and September 2020 had been planned by the Project Officers. In the light of Government advice regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust cancelled all volunteer work parties until 31 May 2020. The situation is due to be reviewed at the end of May.

On 19 March 2020 Catherine sent emails to 86 people who had pulled balsam in the past couple of years to let them know that balsam pulls had been cancelled.

On 9 April 2020 Catherine sent a volunteer newsletter to the 86 people who had pulled balsam in the past couple of years to update them about the Project in the light of the Coronavirus situation. A copy of this newsletter is provided at Appendix D of this report.

The following messages are a selection of the e-mails received in response to the newsletter:

“Dear Catherine, thank you for the newsletter and updates. Coincidentally we crossed over Avon Water at Wainsford Bridge on our daily walk yesterday and remarked on how long ago that balsam pull seemed and what a pity it is that everything is currently on hold. We are so lucky to have such beautiful nature on our doorstep, especially now. Best regards to both you and Jo. Stay safe, keep washing those hands, and hopefully it won't be too late in the year when normal activities can start again. Sue and Nik”
e-mail message dated 10 April 2020 from Sue and Nik Mundy

“Dear Catherine, thank you very much for this update. The word "furlough" is sadly undergoing a resurgence, and I understand you will soon be going incommunicado. Let's hope for better times later this Summer. Best Wishes, David”
e-mail message dated 10 April 2020 from David Smart

“Thanks Catherine. Such very strange times. So hope you and Jo can get out pulling balsam at some time this year. Take care, Mary”
e-mail message dated 10 April 2020 from Mary Macmillan

“Dear Catherine, thanks for this. What strange times we live in, but I just keeping telling myself how privileged we are living where we do, owning a house and garden, being healthy and financially stable. My heart goes out to those city dwellers who live in flats and then get castigated as soon as they try to feel the grass under their feet. Although it is trivial compared with the current global situation, I hope that the time spent away from the balsam sites doesn't allow the previous years' work to all be undone. That would be a shame. Keep healthy and kind regards, Paul”
e-mail message dated 10 April 2020 from Paul Tatham

“Catherine, once we start pulling again there will not be much bending as the Balsam will be so tall. I dread to think what this wonderful April is doing to the growth. Keep well, Roger”
e-mail message dated 10 April 2020 from Roger Bradley

“Tx Catherine. Fingers crossed we can get going sometime soon; I guess a small group like Jo's could safely operate once the law permits. All the best, Ant”
e-mail message dated 10 April 2020 from Ant Allen

“Hi Catherine – thank you for your email and update – I noticed that you and Jo are being furloughed, which must be so frustrating for you when the season's just getting going, but understandable in the circumstances. I'll be hoping to join you on a working party later in the summer – there clearly won't be a shortage of balsam to pick! – and hope you're able to enjoy your garden and other activities during the next few weeks. With all good wishes, Cathy”
e-mail message dated 10 April 2020 from Cathy Benyon

“Dear Catherine, how lovely to hear from you and receive the update attachment. We enjoyed reading it and seeing the photos. Obviously we are very sorry to hear Jo has been furloughed and that you might be as well. Once these unprecedented times are over and things are back to normal, we would very much like to help you on the Balsam pulling volunteer days. Looking forward to seeing you again and as you said, stay safe and keep well. Best wishes, Marlene and Mike”
e-mail message dated 9 April 2020 from Marlene and Mike Delauney

“Dear Catherine, many thanks for your message and updating. It would certainly be good if we are all able to get back to the Balsam, no doubt now growing with renewed vigour during our absence. We look forward to hearing again from you as and when.... We trust you will continue well, and we'll hopefully be able to see you and others again later in the year. Best wishes, John and Helen”
e-mail message dated 9 April 2020 from John and Helen Read

“Dear Catherine, Wishing you and Jo a speedy resumption of your work. Take care.

Best wishes Tracy”

e-mail message dated 9 April 2020 from Tracy Welsh

“Thanks Catherine. I’m itching to get out there. But as luck would have it I am in the process of starting a meadow on a small piece of private land attached to the road I live in. I am the sole worker on it! I will scatter the seed hopefully on the day before we have rain. I have made a scarecrow as well. Will put that in then. Hopefully it will work but I am doing the minimum to just get it started, really to feel I’m in the Forest working. Keep well and I am so looking forward to seeing you at the end of the summer. 7 days a week balsaming!!! We are so very lucky to have gardens and fresh veg 🍄😊

xx Clare”

e-mail message dated 9 April 2020 from Clare Heather

“Hi Catherine, sorry to hear that you will both be furloughed due to Coronavirus - hopefully it won’t be for too long, then we can all get out and pull some balsam. It’s a difficult time for everyone, but make the most of your time at home. Best wishes to you both and see you in the summer (we hope)”

e-mail message dated 9 April 2020 from Lesley and Peter Hancock

“Dear Catherine, thank you for the update. These are indeed strange and worrying times. We can but hope that we can get back to normal before high summer and quickly pick up where we left off.

Best wishes to you and Jo - and I hope furlough is short. Ian”

e-mail message dated 11 April 2020 from Ian Sampson

“Thank you Catherine. We live in a very strange time at present & like many of your other volunteers, we are having to keep away & self isolate. At least we are lucky to live in a wonderful part of the world with good walks from our home & plenty of gardening to do. Let's hope the Himalayan Balsam behaves & doesn't spread too much whilst we are all on this lock down. Kind regards, Christina & Keith”

e-mail message dated 11 April 2020 from Christina and Keith Egginton

Volunteer activity – research, survey and monitoring

Surveying Gaultheria



On 6 February 2020 Catherine Chatters and volunteer Clive Chatters surveyed the population of Gaultheria south of the former Clumber Inclosure (in the vicinity of SU 2680 0331) which had been reported to the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project by Lucy Andrews (Forest Enterprise) on 16 January 2020. GPS readings were taken and a map created so a quote could be obtained from contractor to undertake control work in 2020.

Photo on left shows Clive Chatters (volunteer) surveying Gaultheria to the south of the former Clumber Inclosure on 6 February 2020

Location within county



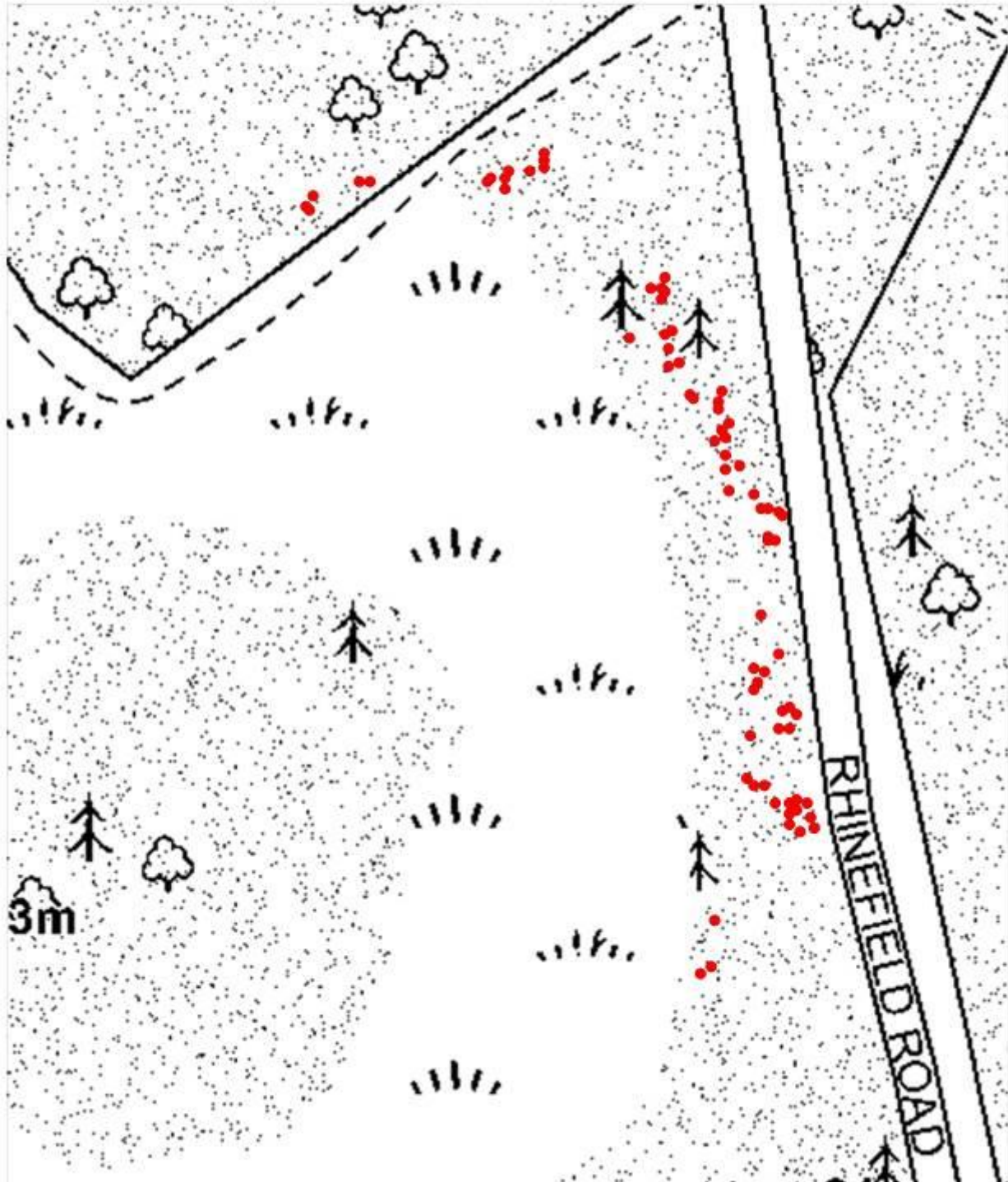
Location of *Gaultheria shallon* recorded by Catherine Chatters and volunteer Clive Chatters on 6 February 2020 on Open Forest including earth bank south of the former Clumber Inclosure

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
Curdridge SO32 2DP
web: www.hiwwt.org.uk



Ordnance Survey basemap (1:10,000)

Scale 1:1500



N Map reproduced by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Crown Copyright 2020 OS 100016632.
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British Crown and MarineFish Ltd. All rights reserved. Aerial photography courtesy of GetMapping plc.
BAP Priority habitat, notable species and SINCG data supplied by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre on behalf of the HBC Partnership.
Produced by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on 10 February 2020 by Aggie Thompson.
For enquiries relating to the Wildlife Trusts' GIS data contact Catherine McGuire, email Catherine.McGuire@hiwwt.org.uk, tel: 01489 774455.

‘Our Past, Our Future’ Landscape Partnership Scheme

Submission of quarterly grant claims

The OPOF grant claim relating to the period October to December 2019 was collated by Catherine and submitted to the New Forest National Park Authority on 8 January 2020.

The OPOF grant claim relating to the period January to March 2020 was collated by Catherine and submitted to the New Forest National Park Authority on 1 April (Progress Report and supporting documents) and 8 April 2020 (Financial Claim Form and supporting documents and HIWWT grant claim).

OPOF Volunteer Newsletters

On 2 January 2020 Richard Austin requested text for the next OPOF Volunteer Newsletter (January and February 2020). Catherine sent text and a few photographs to Richard on 3 January.

On 24 February 2020 Richard requested text for the OPOF Volunteer Newsletter for March and April 2020. Catherine sent text and a photograph to Richard on 24 February.

OPOF Newsletter

On 17 April 2020 Morten Watkins, Communications Administrator at the New Forest National Park Authority, asked Catherine for a photograph of ‘regular’ volunteers during balsam pulls, for inclusion in the next OPOF Newsletter. Catherine sent Morten a couple of photos showing groups of volunteers during balsam pulls along the Avon Water during summer 2020. Morten replied on 17 April saying “Hi Catherine, This is great, thank you very much for taking the time to send these to me. These are really lovely photos.”

OPOF Celebration Event

Catherine and Jo had intended to participate in a major event arranged by the New Forest National Park Authority at Foxbury on Wednesday 29 April 2020 to celebrate the OPOF Landscape Partnership Scheme but this had to be cancelled in the light of Government advice regarding the Coronavirus situation.

OPOF Final Evaluation

Resources for Change had been commissioned by the New Forest National Park Authority to undertake telephone interviews with selected people as part of the OPOF final evaluation process. Mike King of Resources for Change conducted a telephone interview with Catherine on 9 April 2020. The interview lasted for approximately 1 ¼ hours and considered whether the invasive non-native plants project had been successful; whether it had contributed to the OPOF Scheme’s intended outcomes for heritage, people and communities; how well the project had engaged with OPOF target audiences; whether anything unexpected had arisen during the project’s work; what key lessons had been learned; what, if anything, would be done differently; whether the ‘legacy’ has been or can be achieved.

Our Past, Our Future
Working together for the New Forest



Promotional events and awareness-raising

Volunteer Fair on Sunday 26 January 2020

Patsy Baverstock volunteered to help Jo and Catherine on the NFNNPP stand at the tenth annual Volunteer Fair at Lyndhurst Community Centre. The event attracted a record number of visitors and 36 people signed up to receive details of Himalayan balsam pulls arranged by NFNNPP in summer 2020.

The New Forest National Park Authority asked Patsy to give a speech to officially open the Volunteer Fair, following the speech given by Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre, Chairman of the New Forest NPA. In her speech Patsy referred to the help she has given to the NFNNPP by pulling Himalayan balsam during the past few years and highlighted the benefits of being a volunteer.



Patsy Baverstock by the NFNNPP stand at the Volunteer Fair on 26 January 2020





Patsy Baverstock by the NFNNPP display (Photo: New Forest National Park Authority)

Talk to Stockbridge U3A

On 20 February 2020 Catherine gave a talk at Stockbridge Town Hall to the Stockbridge U3A Gardening Group. Afterwards she was invited to write an article for the Stockbridge Parish magazine (covering Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford) to raise awareness about invasive non-native plants, which she submitted on 22 February 2020.

“Dear Catherine, just a short note to thank you for your excellent talk on Thursday. Non-native invasive plants are a subject of which we are all aware, but to have the issues on our own doorstep set out with such clarity was something of an eye-opener. I went away with a lot more information and understanding than I usually manage to retain. Thank you once again.”

e-mail message dated 23 February 2020 from Kim Candler, Chairman of Stockbridge U3A Gardening Group

Presentation to University of Southampton

On the afternoon of 27 February 2020 Catherine gave a presentation to second year students at Southampton University, together with representatives of the RSPB and the Freshwater Habitats Trust. This was an opportunity to highlight the positive partnership between NFNNPP and the University since 2009 and to summarise the monitoring undertaken by the 10 students in connection with ‘Our Past, Our Future’ since the baseline survey was undertaken in 2015.

“Dear Catherine, it was lovely to meet you yesterday. Thank you so much for presenting in our symposium yesterday and spending the afternoon with us, it was a fascinating insight into issues of INNS in the New Forest and practical examples of the work that you are involved in. I think it is really great for the students to hear about on-the-ground work that goes on, and it was great that you were able to highlight some of the partnerships between students and the INNS work. Many thanks once again.”

e-mail dated 28 February 2020 from Dr Emma Underwood who organised the event

Lunchtime presentation at University of Southampton

Catherine had been invited by Dr Magda Steele to give a lunchtime presentation on 18 March 2020 at the University of Southampton but this had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation.

Presentation to Hythe U3A

Catherine had been asked to give a presentation to the Hythe U3A group on Monday 6 April but this had to be cancelled in the light of Government advice regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19).

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



During the training event for highways staff on 11 March 2020, Check Clean Dry and Be Plant Wise banners were displayed. Information about the ‘Check, Clean, Dry’ campaign was provided in the information packs give to each participant.



Jonathan Bambridge and Tristan Meekins of HCC Highways on 11 March 2020



Paula Edwards of HCC Highways at the training event on 11 March 2020

Training provided by the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project

Training for Highways staff

On 11 March 2020 Catherine and Jo hosted a half-day training session at Testwood Lakes Education Centre to raise awareness about invasive non-native plants growing on highways land. The event was attended by five members of staff from Hampshire County Council (HCC) Highways and six members of staff from Kier Services Ltd who manage land on behalf of Highways England. Nick Saville, a placement volunteer with HIWWT at Testwood Lakes, took the opportunity to attend.

Jo and Catherine gave presentations relating to the definition of invasive non-native species, identification of invasive non-native plants (particularly species likely to be found growing in road verges), problems caused by invasive non-native plants, control methods, legislation and biosecurity.

Representatives of HCC Highways and Kier Services led discussion sessions to address questions relating to the control of invasive non-native plants by their respective organisations.

The event ended with a buffet lunch.



Staff from Kier Services Ltd during the training for highways staff on 11 March 2020

Liaison with Network Rail

Jo arranged a meeting with Sam Rooney of Network Rail to review the work undertaken to control Himalayan balsam on the railway lines and to discuss proposals for 2020. The meeting was held on the afternoon of Wednesday 5 February 2020 at Network Rail’s office in Eastleigh and attended by Jo and Catherine, Sam and at least twelve others, some of whom were Sam’s colleagues from Network Rail (including two Lineside Inspectors) and some of whom were Network Rail’s contractors.

Jo gave a presentation summarising the work undertaken during 2019 and agreed dates for joint working in 2020.

Sam mentioned that the information packs provided by NFNNPP at the training session in March 2019 had proved to be very useful and he requested additional information packs for his other colleagues.



Training attended by Project Officers

Local Action Groups' workshop

On 28 and 29 January 2020 Jo and Catherine participated in the annual Local Action Groups' workshop held at Preston Montford in Shropshire. The workshop was arranged by the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat and provided an ideal opportunity to meet other Project Officers and staff from Natural England, DEFRA and the Environment Agency and hear updates on research, practical control and legislation. Jo gave a presentation relating to the progress made by NFNNPP with Network Rail during 2019 and Catherine created a display to complement Jo's talk.



Jo at Preston Montford on 29 January 2020 standing by the display highlighting the progress made by NFNNPP with Network Rail during 2019

First Aid training

Jo attended an outdoor first aid course on 24 and 25 February 2020.

Preparation of reports

Report relating to control of creeping water primrose

Catherine and Jo collated a report to summarise the work undertaken to control creeping water primrose at Breamore Marsh SSSI between 2009 and 2019. The report is titled 'Control of the Invasive Non-Native Creeping Water Primrose at Breamore Marsh, Hampshire: Report relating to the first ten years 2009 - 2019'.

Catherine sent a copy to Trevor Renals, the Environment Agency's Senior Technical Adviser on Invasive Species during January 2020.

Trevor responded on 14 January 2020 saying 'Your report is an excellent record. Well done. It's important that we capture many of the lessons Breamore has taught us and record for posterity what a tough job it's proved to eradicate this plant'.

Report relating to control of pitcher plants

During February 2020 Catherine prepared a report to summarise the work undertaken by the NFNNPP relating to the control of pitcher plants at five sites in the New Forest.

“Hi Catherine,

Many thanks for sending through. It’s a great summary of all the work you and the volunteers have been doing over the years. It’s reassuring that numbers of plants being found is (sic) going down year on year. All the best, Gavin”

e-mail message dated 17 February 2020 from Gavin Measures, Senior Advisor Invasive Non-native Species and Biosecurity in Natural England’s Species Conservation and Licensing Team

Report relating to the effectiveness of control work undertaken by NFNNPP

During February 2020 Catherine finalised a report titled ‘The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project. Making a difference: examples of the effectiveness of work undertaken to control invasive non-native plants.’

Examples chosen were:

- control of Himalayan balsam along the Beaulieu River;
- control of Himalayan balsam along the Cadnam River;
- control of American skunk cabbage in Lymington Reedbeds Nature Reserve;
- control of American skunk cabbage in Harcourt Wood;
- control of pitcher plants at Holmsley Bog;
- control of creeping water primrose at Breamore Marsh;
- control of floating pennywort in the Cadnam River;
- control of giant hogweed along the Avon Water;
- control of parrot’s feather at four sites on the Open Forest.

These case studies were selected as they demonstrate:

- successful co-ordinated control of invasive non-native plants at the catchment scale;
- the need to respond rapidly to new invasions;
- the need for long-term control and monitoring;
- colonisation of native vegetation following control of invasive non-native plants.

The report considers the future of the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project. It emphasises that further work is needed to complete co-ordinated control programmes and to monitor sites in order to be confident that eradication has been achieved. The report highlights the need to secure funding to enable this work to continue.

Report relating to the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project 2009 – 2019

Catherine has drafted a report summarising the activities of the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project since its launch in May 2009. This report had been drafted to up-date the previous report which summarised the activities of the first six years of the NFNNPP from 2009 to 2015. Jo had started to proof-read the draft report when HIWWT staff were instructed to work from home and travel restrictions were imposed due to the Coronavirus situation. Since then Jo has been furloughed. The report therefore remains in draft form.

It is hoped that Jo will be able to finish proof-reading the report when her furlough period has finished so the final version of the report can be made available on the HIWWT website.

Securing additional funding

New Forest Higher Level Stewardship

During February 2020 Catherine secured an additional £2k from the New Forest HLS. This will be deferred for use by the NFNNPP towards contractor costs to control areas of Gaultheria on the Open Forest a) south of Fletcher's Hill near Rhinefield and b) south of the former Clumber Inclosure near Rhinefield during 2020/21.

Forestry England

During February 2020 Catherine secured an additional £2k for the NFNNPP from Forestry England. This will be deferred for use by the NFNNPP during 2020/21.

New Forest Higher Level Stewardship

Catherine submitted a request for additional funding from the New Forest HLS scheme. The request was considered favourably by the HLS Board in April 2020 and will fund two additional days per week of Project Officer time for work on the Open Forest for 6 months between October 2020 and March 2021.

Potential source of additional funding

Environment Agency

During Spring 2020 Catherine has continued to liaise with Sam Orchard of the Environment Agency (with help from Bridget Leyden of Natural England) regarding the preparation of a 'project mandate' for a 6 year funding bid from 2021/22 – 2026/27.

Launch of the Lower Avon Non-Native Plant Project

Following confirmation that the Environment Agency (Wessex) had secured funding, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust issued a press release in March 2020 to launch The Lower Avon Non-Native Plant Project. The funding enables Jo to resume the work she had undertaken in previous years along the tributaries of the River Avon.

Other work

NFNNPP Volunteers' newsletter

On 31 January 2020 Catherine prepared a newsletter for NFNNPP volunteers involved in Himalayan balsam pulling. A copy of this newsletter is appended to this report at Appendix E.

Meeting to co-ordinate Himalayan balsam control in 2020

The NFNNPP had arranged to meet representatives of the National Trust, Natural England and Forestry England on Monday 30 March 2020 to co-ordinate the control of Himalayan balsam during Summer 2020 but the meeting had to be cancelled in the light of Government advice regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19).

HIWWT staff appraisals

The Project Officers were due to have their end of year staff appraisals on 17 March 2020 but these had to be postponed.

HIWWT staff meeting

The HIWWT staff meeting scheduled for 25 March 2020 was held via a 'Microsoft Teams' video conference due to the restrictions relating to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation.

Enquiry regarding American skunk cabbage on bank of River Test at Chilbolton

On 31 March 2020 Catherine received a report from a local resident regarding American skunk cabbage flowering on the bank of the River Test at Chilbolton. Catherine provided information regarding relevant legislation and suggested Gavin Measures at Natural England as a source of advice.

Press release - see attached
Media coverage – see attached

- Appendix A – Avon Water Newsletter dated April 2020**
- Appendix B – Cadnam River Newsletter dated April 2020**
- Appendix C – Lymington River newsletter dated April 2020**
- Appendix D – Volunteers’ newsletter dated April 2020**
- Appendix E - Volunteers’ newsletter dated January 2020**

Report compiled 1 May 2020 by Catherine Chatters
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Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.**
The Project is grateful for support provided by a partnership of organisations:-

