

**GB COMMITTEE FOR NON-NATIVE SPECIES  
FIFTH MEETING**

**VIRTUAL  
24 APRIL 2023, 14:15 – 15:30**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**1. Attendance / apologies**

*Present:*

- Richard Pullen (Defra) – *Chair*
- Olaf Booy (NNS) - Secretary
- Bill MacDonald (Welsh Government)
- Chris Graham (MMO)
- Finn Eaton (Defra)
- Gavin Measures (NE)
- Hannah Tidbury (Cefas) [on behalf of Defra Marine]
- Jenny Stewart (APHA) [until 15:00]
- Jo Long (SEPA)
- Niall Moore (NNS)
- Leasa Fielding (Welsh Government)
- Mark Preston (DAERA – NI)
- Matthew Bird (Scottish Government)
- Rebecca Isted (FC)
- Richard Gray (DAERA – NI)
- Stan Whitaker (NatureScot)
- Theresa Kudelska (NRW)
- Toni Scarr (Environment Agency)
- Trevor Renals (Environment Agency)

*Apologies:*

- Colin Edwards (Scottish Forestry)
- Dave Rowlands (MMO)
- Des Thompson (NatureScot) – replaced by Stan Whitaker
- Lisa McCann (Scottish Government)
- Nicholas Greenwood (MMO)
- Nicola Spence (Defra, Plant Health)
- Peter Pollard (SEPA – replaced by Jo Long)
- Sarah Errington (MMO)
- Sarah Wood (NRW)
- Vanessa Fairbank (Defra – Marine) [Replaced by Hannah Tidbury (Cefas)]

## 2. Minutes of meeting on 4 October 2022

*Paper circulated (Cte Apr 23-02)*

The minutes were signed off with no modifications.

## 3. Actions and matters arising

*Paper circulated (Cte Apr 23-03)*

All actions had been completed.

## 4. Update on de-listing of species of special concern

*Paper circulated (Cte Apr 23-04)*

Finn introduced the paper updating on progress with de-listing. He asked the Committee to note that there is currently no parliamentary time to progress the SI for this due to the passage of the Retained EU Law Bill through parliament. Leasa queried whether this would also delay an emergency listing should one be needed.

The Committee expressed disappointment with the delay as they had agreed the species to recommend for de-listing in April 2022 but understood the constraints that Defra were under. The Committee was keen that any opportunities to move the SI forward would be exploited.

<p><b>ACTION 1: Defra</b> to keep the Committee abreast of developments with the de-listing and report on progress at the next meeting.</p>
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## 5. Listing new species

*Process leading to a vote*

*Paper circulated (Cte Apr 23-05A)*

Olaf introduced this item, detailing the process leading to a vote on new species to recommend to Ministers for listing. The paper posed two questions for the Committee: how long in advance do they need papers and how would they like to have them batched? The Committee agreed that papers should be batched according to species (i.e. all three papers related to one species should be sent at the same time) and that this should be done four weeks in advance. The Committee

also instructed the Secretariat to not be tied to the meeting schedule – sending papers as and when they are completed for individual species.

On communicating and obtaining comments from stakeholders, Olaf explained that the intention was for each administration to gather comments via their respective country working groups, as was done for the comprehensive review.

### Fiches to support Committee decision

#### *Paper circulated (Cte Apr 23-05B)*

The Committee welcomed the fiche format. Rebecca had several queries, comments and suggestions for improvements including whether it might be appropriate for the fiche to contain a recommendation for listing but the Secretariat suggested that this was not appropriate and it is for the Committee to decide based on the evidence before it. Matthew queried the accuracy of the example map, Trevor stressed the importance of climate change implications and Stan suggested that 'acceptability' needed to be re-inserted. Theresa noted that it might be difficult to gather costs for eradication, management, etc - Olaf agreed stating that the fiche would attempt to summarise whatever information is available. Gavin suggested that any evidence gaps or areas of low confidence should be highlighted.

The chair summarised that the Committee was largely content with the fiche (although noting the comments and suggestions above) and that this fiche is far more comprehensive than what the European Commission produced for the EU Committee and on which it voted on listing.

**ACTION 2: Olaf** to produce fiches for species once risk assessments and risk management assessments are complete, taking into account the Committee's comments.

### Climate modelling

Olaf introduced this item, drawing the Committee's attention to a project that Defra has funded for CEH to produce climate maps for the 15 species under consideration. These will indicate where in GB climate is potentially suitable under current conditions as well as future conditions, based on [RCP8.5](#) projections to approx. 2050 and 2100 (aligning with approximately 2 and 4 degrees of change). He noted that climate modelling can often give false precision and so can be misleading. He stated that it is being trialled for these 15 species but is not necessary to supporting listing.

**ACTION 3: Olaf** to circulate an example of climate modelling to the GB Committee for comment.

## 6. Listing of *Gunnera* species

Olaf introduced the paper – explaining that one species of giant rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*) has been listed for many years but a similar species (*G. manicata*) is widely sold. A recent paper by the RHS has concluded that the species in trade in GB is not in fact *G. manicata* but a hybrid of *G. manicata* and *G. tinctoria*. This means that it is technically banned from sale, keeping etc. under the IAS Regulation.

There followed considerable discussion on the best approach. Olaf informed the Committee that he had alerted European colleagues to this issue – they had previously been unaware. Richard suggested and the Committee agreed that Ministers should be alerted, that NNSS (using the Inspectorate) should oversee an attempt to quantify the volume in trade to feed into the Ministerial submissions and that NNSS also monitors the EU approach to the issue.

**ACTION 4: NNSS** to gather data on prevalence of *Gunnera manicata* in trade etc. including by using the NNS Inspectorate.

**ACTION 5: NNSS** to monitor the EU response to the *G. manicata* issue.

**ACTION 6: Defra** to draft a submission for Ministers on *G. manicata* and share it with Scottish and Welsh Government, using data on volumes in trade gathered by NNSS/NNSI.

## 7. AOB

Olaf informed the Committee that, following the death of Prof. John Mumford, the NNRAF Chair, he had sought to find a replacement for John and, in addition to have a stand-in for Gordon Copp due to the latter's illness. The Committee agreed to the appointment of Adrian Leach to the NNRAF and the inclusion of Phil Davison as a replacement for Gordon Copp on an ad hoc basis.

The Committee noted the substantial contribution that John made to this field, leading the NNRAF / NNRAF since its inception in 2006 and helping to develop our risk analysis processes. They highlighted his advocacy for this area and his work to help deliver the GB Strategy. His work on the NNRAF and elsewhere will be much missed.

## 8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be in October 2023 chaired by Defra.

**ACTION 7: NNSS** to seek dates in October for the next GB Committee meeting.