

**Draft Proceedings of the  
Non-native Species  
Local Action Group Workshop.**



**Preston Montford, Shrewsbury.**

**28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015.**



On 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015 the GB Non-native Species Secretariat organised the sixth Local Action Group Workshop, funded by Defra, at Preston Montford Field Centre, Shrewsbury.

There were three themes to the Workshop:

1. Alerts
2. The future of Local Action Groups
3. Biosecurity and Check Clean Dry

### **Day 1**

**11:30** Registration and refreshments  
Lunch

**13:00** Welcome (Niall Moore Non-native Species Secretariat)

**13:05** EU Regulation update and Control Orders (Niall Moore, NNSS)

**13:25** GB Strategy Review (Olaf Booy, NNSS)

**13:35** Community Protection Notices (Trevor Renals, Environment Agency)

### **WORKSHOP 1: ALERTS**

**13:45** Priority species and recording (Helen Roy, CEH)

**14:00** Identification - workshops and discussions

**15:30** Refreshments

**15:45** Summary of discussions

### **LAG PRESENTATIONS**

**16:00** Creeping water primrose (Jo Gore, Source to Sea)

**16:10** *Sarracenia purpurea* and Venus fly trap (Catherine Chatters, New Forest)

**16:20** Pevensey alien species project (Jane Birch, Environment Agency)

**16:30** Invasive flora removal within the Ravensbourne catchment in South London  
(Lawrence Beale Collins, Thames21)

**16:40** Commercial effects of invasive non-native species (Neil Huck, Ground Control)

**18.30 Evening Meal**

### **Day 2**

## **WORKSHOP 2: FUTURE OF LOCAL ACTION GROUPS**

**9:30** Findings of the local action groups review (Matt Ashton, Defra)

### **LAG PRESENTATIONS**

**09:50** The Medway catchment (and River Cray) Giant Hogweed and INN plant control project 2014 (Andrea Griffiths, Medway Valley Countryside Partnership)

**10:00** Yorkshire Invasive Species Forum (Ailsa Henderson, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust)

**10:10** Rhody's and Giant Hogweed - a tale of two fights (John Musham, Tee Rivers Trust)

**10:20** DINNS Project (Meryl Norris, North Wales Wildlife Trust)

**10:30** Refreshments

**10:45** Breakout session *How do we take LAGs forward?*

**11:45** Summary of discussions

**12:00** Lunch

## **WORKSHOP 3: BIOSECURITY AND CHECK CLEAN DRY**

**12:45** Biosecurity threats in freshwater (Trevor Renals, Environment Agency)

**13:00** Quagga mussel update (Karen Harper, London Invasive Species Initiative)

**13:15** Check Clean Dry communications update (Lucy Cornwell, NNSS)

**13:25** Biosecurity research (Anita Glover, Yorkshire Dales Environment Network)

**13:40** Refreshments

**14:00** Breakout session *How do we best implement aquatic biosecurity?*

**15:00** Summary of discussions

**15:15** General questions and answers

**15:30** Biosecurity demonstrations  
Field staff - freshwater and terrestrial  
Recreational water users

**16:00** Close

## **Workshop feedback**

### **Workshop 1: Alerts**

#### Chairs:

Trevor Renals, Catherine Chatters, Niall Moore.

#### Aim

Practical session to introduce some of the high priority invasive species that LAGs should be raising awareness of / looking out for when working in the field. The NNS and workshop participants provided specimens and identification materials. Workshop chairs, and others with any experience of these species helped to highlight their key features.

As this session was practical there is no summary of conclusions, however some key points were made:

- Many participants were keen to replicate the session for their own staff / volunteers / local organisations
- LAGs would find it useful to borrow specimens from each other / the NNS

## **Workshop 2: Future of Local Action Groups**

### Chairs:

Trevor Renals, Mike Sutton-Croft, Nicola Morris

### Aim

These sessions are provided for LAG members to share experiences, discuss issues that have come up and get ideas / inspiration from others.

### Summary of conclusions from workshop breakout sessions

- LAGs would benefit from more joined up working. A number of LAGs expressed interest in forming a group to bid for LIFE+ funding in 2016.
- LAGs highlighted the importance of a central coordinator role within each LAG to maintain volunteers and project, record work and troubleshoot problems.
- Some LAGs have managed to secure alternative funding although this is often small pots of money. LAGs noted that funding for invasive species work is often indirect, i.e. supporting work on protected species by clearing invasive species from their habitat.

### *Suggestions for useful resources*

- Link to Big Tent online forum on website.
- Draft press release template.
- More images of LAG work in the online gallery.
- Direction to potential funding sources.
- Other skills of volunteers, i.e. writing, web design etc

### *Suggestions for funding sources*

- Joint HLF / LIFE bid in 2016
- Parish councils
- Water companies
- Contractors / developers, may be keen to fund work as part of corporate responsibility. Also have plant machinery which could be utilised by LAGs.
- Natura 2000
- Lottery funding and Esme Fairburn (for education and awareness raising)
- Carrying out commercial work

### *Suggestions for attracting volunteers*

- Working with colleges / universities on student projects.
- Corporate days out

### **Workshop 3: Implementing aquatic biosecurity**

#### Chairs:

Sal Potts, Kay Haw, Anita Glover

#### Aim

These sessions are provided for LAG members to share experiences, discuss issues that have come up and get ideas / inspiration from others. Suggest starting by asking everyone to consider what they have found to be effective, issues and ways that the NNSS could support.

#### Summary of conclusions from workshop breakout sessions

- LAGs are already carrying out a range of biosecurity training events for staff, stakeholders and local organisations.
- LAGs have found that the effort it takes to follow biosecurity needs to be minimised to increase uptake, i.e. by providing wash down facilities etc.
- Currently it is difficult to assess whether attendees of biosecurity events are continuing to implement biosecurity measures. Follow up questionnaires several months after the event could be used to track this.

#### *Suggestions for useful resources / events:*

- List of contacts who could help to provide biosecurity training
- Biosecurity training packs containing training materials, risk assessments, scenarios etc
- Specimens in resin
- Examples of good practice, i.e. report from Grafham water (Shrimp alley)
- Washing facilities to be installed next to Check Clean Dry signs
- Biosecurity Event kits
- Biosecurity questionnaire (University of Leeds to produce this)
- Posters
  - General guidance for countryside
  - Warning posters for specific species

## **Feedback**

**Attendees:** 44 (see Annex A for participant list)

**Number of forms received:** 27

### **1. Are you directly involved in a local action project on non-native species?**

Yes: 21

No: 6

### **2. Do you think the workshop was a worthwhile exercise? If yes please state which parts were most useful and if no, please suggest improvements.**

All answered 'yes'

The breakout sessions were one of the most popular parts of the workshop. Comments from attendees included "I particularly enjoyed the ID sessions in the classrooms" and "the discussions were really engaging and encouraged lively debate".

Another key part of the workshop for many was having the chance to meet with other project officers to share knowledge and experience. Attendees described the workshop as a "great opportunity to meet people and share ideas" and one stated "I am leaving with loads more knowledge and ideas to help my project"

Participants also found the talks useful, particularly those on legislation and from other LAGs on practical examples of controlling INNS.

*Other comments:*

"Extremely informative and enjoyable sessions. Didn't realise how extensive and extreme some of the issues had become – will be spreading the word"

"As always, a great friendly, relaxed yet stimulating atmosphere"

"The sessions have enthused me to be more proactive within my organisation"

"Please keep this workshop going as it allows us to feel like a community and fosters group working"

### **3. Do you have any suggestions for improvements to the NNSS website, in particular the Local Action Groups section?**

One of the most popular requests was for downloadable resources for LAGs undertaking biosecurity workshops, i.e. model presentations, protocols and risk assessment templates.

Other ideas included:

- Updated information on potential funding sources.
- Suggestion that LAGs should update the projects database
- More images in gallery of volunteers / contractors at work

**Annex 1. List of participants:**

Matt	Ashton	Defra
Lawrence	Beale-Collins	Thames21
Jane	Birch	Environment Agency - Pevensey Alien Species Project
Olaf	Booy	GB NNSS
Alex	Brook	CABI
Lynn	Brydon	Cromarty Firth Fishery Trust
Richard	Casey	Thames21
Penelope	Chaney	River Flit Non-Native Species LAG / Wildlife Trust BCN
Catherine	Chatters	New Forest Non-Native Plants Project
Georgina	Colley	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (Source to Sea Project)
Lucy	Cornwell	GB NNSS
Bekka	Corrie-Close	CFINNS Initiative
Karin	Crofts	West Cumbria Rivers Trust
Matt	Ellis	Norty Wales & Dee Inns Forum (NRW)
Neil	Frost	Chelmer Canal Trust
Ceri	Gibson	Tyne Rivers Trust
Anita	Glover	Yorkshire Dales Environment Network
Jo	Gore	Source to Sea
Clare	Gower	Chester Zoo
Neil	Green	Avon Invasive Weed Forum
Andrea	Griffiths	Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
Karen	Harper	London Invasive Species Initiative
Kay	Haw	Wildlife and Countryside Link Invasive Non-Native Species Group and Woodland Trust
Ruth	Hawksley	Wildlife Trust / Bourn Free
Ailsa	Henderson	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust/ Yorkshire Invasive Species Forum
Matt	Holden	Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project, Stour Valley Non-Native Invasive Species LAG
Neil	Huck	Ground Control Ltd/ British Association of Landscape Industries
Andrew	Jennings-Giles	Chester Zoo
Adrian	Jowitt	Natural England
James	Macfarlane	Cormac Solutions
Ann-Marie	MacMaster	Scottish Mink Initiative (RAFTS)
Sarah	McIntyre	Arun & Rother Connections Project (RSPB)
Niall	Moore	GB NNSS
Nicola	Morris	SINNG (Cornwall College)
John	Musham	Tees Rivers Trust
Meryl	Norris	North Wales Wildlife Trust
Marie	Pagès-Gold	University of Aberdeen
Sally	Potts	BEACON
Linda	Raine	GB NNSS
Trevor	Renals	Environment Agency
Helen	Roy	Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
Glen	Skelton	Surrey Wildlife Trust
Mike	Sutton-Croft	Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative
Merlin	Unwin	Merlin Unwin Books



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