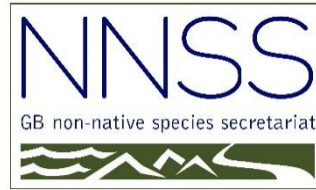


# Proceedings of the Non-native Species Local Action Group Workshop



**Preston Montford, Shrewsbury**

**28-29 January 2020**



## **Programme**

On 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 the GB Non-native Species Secretariat organised the 11th Local Action Group Workshop, funded by Defra, at Preston Montford Field Studies Centre, Shrewsbury.

### **Day 1**

Registration

**13:00** Welcome (Niall Moore, NNSS)

**13:20** Defra update (Joe Payne, Defra)

### **SESSION 1: ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT COMMITTEE (EAC) AND HORIZON SCANNING**

**13:40** Introduction (Niall Moore, GB NNSS)

**13:55** The work Angling Trust does to engage anglers and its volunteers in invasive species (Emily Smith, Angling Trust)

**14:10** Paddlers in Partnership with CRT (Richard Atkinson, British Canoeing)



### **BREAKOUT SESSION A**

**14:45** How do we raise the “biosecurity citizens army” of 1.3 million recommended in the Environmental Audit Committee report to help identify invasive species and respond to biosecurity outbreaks?

**15:30** How can LAGs best input into horizon scanning species (detection, response and control)?

**16:15** Feedback



### **SESSION 2: LAG UPDATES**

**16:25** Overview of what the local community red squirrel groups do in Cumbria (Julie Bailey, Northern Red Squirrels)

**16:35** Himalayan balsam management programme (Steven Bent, Bewdley Civic Society)

**16:45** Update on work with Network Rail (Jo Gore, New Forest Non-Native Plants Project)

**16:55** RAPID Life (Alexia Fish, APHA)

**17:15** Close

## **Day 2**

### **SESSION 3: BIOSECURITY AND AQUATIC / RIPARIAN CONTROL**

**09:15** SE RIMP / Rapid Life Priority Species Workshops / Floating pennywort work in 2019  
(Andrea Griffiths, Medway Valley Countryside Partnership)

**09:25** Mink free East Anglia eradication trial  
(Tony Martin, Mink Free East Anglia Project)

**09:45** A small community group tackling a big problem - Himalayan balsam in Dyffryn Ogwen (Tamsin Fretwell, Tregarth Balsam Bashers)



**09:55** Operation Giant hogweed (John Musham and Jennifer Gant, Tees RiversTrust)

**10:05** Signal Crayfish Management at Prior Park Landscape Garden – National Trust in Bath  
(John Walton, National Trust)



**10:15** Refreshments

**10:30** Biocontrol research (Djami Djeddour, CABI)

**10:40** An update on Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed biocontrol trials in the Midlands  
(Tarik Bodasing, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust)

**10:50** Engaging stakeholders in biosecurity - AQUA Biosecurity Accreditation Pilot Scheme. Local action with regional impact – an update on CINNG over the last year (Nicola Morris, SWLT / CINNG)

### **SESSION 4: INVASIVE SPECIES WEEK**

**11:10** Introduction – Lucy Cornwell, GB NNSS

#### **BREAKOUT SESSION B**

**11:25** LAG plans for Invasive Species Week 2020

**12:25** Summary (Lucy Cornwell, GB NNSS)

**12:30** Lunch

### **SESSION 5: LAG UPDATES**

**13:30** New licensing arrangements under the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019 (Gavin Measures, Natural England)

**13:40** Exmoor Non-Native Invasive Species Project  
(Holly Moser and Charlotte Thomas, Exmoor National Park Authority)

**13:50** Aims and approach of the Yorkshire Dales Biosecurity and INNS steering group  
(Ellie Paganini, Yorkshire Dales Invasive Non-Native Species Steering Group)

**14:00** New 5 year plan and priorities (Kate Hills, South West Water and Rachel Naden, Yorkshire Water)

**14:10** Closing Comments

**14:30** Close



## **Breakout Session Feedback**

**Day One: 14:45**

### **Breakout Session A – Environmental Audit Committee and Horizon Scanning**

The group discussed the following questions:

How do we raise the “biosecurity citizens army” of 1.3 million recommended in the Environmental Audit Committee report to help invasive species and respond to biosecurity outbreaks?

- a) What could volunteers do (e.g. recording, practical management, etc)?
- b) How do we attract and retain 1.3 million volunteers?
- c) How do we coordinate volunteers?

How can LAGs best input into horizon scanning species (detection, response and control)?

- a) Which species are appropriate for LAGs to input on:
  - i. Detection
  - ii. Response
  - iii. Control

How can we best have control at the appropriate scale for INNS under the new Environmental Land Management schemes?

- a) Which species could be controlled?
- b) How do we coordinate this?

### **How to raise a “Biosecurity citizens army” of 1.3 million volunteers to help report invasive species and respond to biosecurity outbreaks**

Activities for volunteers

- Recording alert species
- Potential role in control for some but this requires training and should be coordinated (e.g. as part of a LAG)
- Different activities will attract different volunteer bases (e.g. evening / weekend tasks for younger people or anyone working full time)
- Utilise skill sets of volunteers

## Attracting and retaining volunteers

- Review and harness existing volunteer bases (recreational sport, NGOs, landowners etc) and initiatives (recording schemes etc)
- Provide continuous feedback / reward / communication to volunteers to continue engagement (could also include tasks such as post control restoration)
- Annual INNS army forum and awards
- Include INNS in the curriculum / provide resources for schools
- Provide training / resources (e.g. central toolbox with training on funding, approaching landowners etc)
- Better media coverage of INNS, their impacts, and legal requirements. Link to climate change and other conservation issues

## Coordination

- Need strategic coordination (a strategy?) and communication
- Fund regional coordinators (LAGs)

## **LAG input into horizon scanning species**

### Potential role of LAGs

- Training / awareness raising amongst the local community (including councils)
- Central point in cascade of information from government to public
- Point of contact for public to report INNS
- Detecting / monitoring and reporting of horizon scanning species

### Species appropriate for LAGs to input on

- Detection / response – LAGs could record / report any HS species
- Control – may be a supporting role. Training on species and pathways would be useful

### Needs / issues

- Clarification over where to report to ensure correct response triggered
- NNS could provide information on reporting (which species and where) in a single place for easy access

## **Control at the appropriate scale for INNS under the new Environmental Land Management schemes**

### Species to control

- Dependent on local issues

### Coordination

- LAGs to act as coordinators of “cluster farms”, encouraging landowners to work together to treat at a catchment level and ensure management carried out correctly
- Could also be coordinated through catchment partnerships
- Landowners could apply for funding to pay LAGs to carry out management
- Presence / absence data needed to monitor results

## Issues / needs

- Enforcement to ensure landowners carry out their responsibilities. Local police / authorities etc
- Pay for results not process
- Case studies would be useful for coordinators (e.g. CPNs)
- Long term funding to ensure management carried out in full (otherwise money wasted)
- Not all land is farmland. What / who covers the gaps?
- Need riverbank access
- Raise awareness amongst young farmers.

## Day Two: 11:25

### **Breakout Session B – Invasive Species Week**

The group discussed the following questions:

- a) What is your LAG going to do for Invasive Species Week (see list of suggestions if you need ideas?)
- b) Do you have any suggestions for how we could improve the LAG section of the NNSS website to make this more useful to you, and people interested in volunteering?
- c) Do you have any images / footage that could be used on social media?
- d) How can the NNSS help you to prepare for Invasive Species Week (i.e. do you need copies of awareness raising materials, do you need help with messaging or a press release)?

### **LAG event ideas**

- School drawing competitions (this could be a national event)
- Yorkshire Invasive Species Forum producing video clips of management of different INNS
- Biosecurity workshops with environment minister
- Tees RT - announcements at Middlesbrough football match
- Angling Trust – focusing on horizon scanning species most relevant to them
- Manchester museum event

### **LAG webpages**

- Streamline
- Link from the NNSS homepage
- Need more information on the benefits of volunteering (including quotes from volunteers etc)
- Include templates for biosecurity plans
- Highlight this section in NNSS newsletter
- Develop map of the website to make it easier for people to find what they need

Web: [www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org)

Email: [nss@apha.gov.uk](mailto:nss@apha.gov.uk)

### **Images / footage**

- Timelapse images / gifs / stopmotion

### **NNSS support / resources**

- Advice on posting on social media (e.g. best times, what to post)
- Focus one day on volunteering
- Editable templates (e.g. for social media, posters etc)
- Develop map / calendar of events, available before ISW
- Good images of horizon scanning species needed
- Links to information on STEM ambassadors

## **Feedback**

**Attendees:** 48

**Number of forms received:** 30

**Are you directly involved in a local action project on non-native species?** Yes: 27 No: 3

**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 workshop was a worthwhile exercise with the following comments.

- Invaluable opportunity to share experiences, ideas, contacts and best practice.
- Excellent breakout sessions, useful hear experiences from others.
- Inspiring hearing about the different projects going on.
- Networking invaluable and always such a friendly, positive atmosphere.
- I found the section on legislation (Gavin Measures) extremely useful.
- Good mix of talks, discussion groups and formal sessions.
- Mink, biocontrol and crayfish presentations were very informative.
- Great to hear updates on projects that show new ways of working.
- Catching up with the latest research and activity across the country was fascinating.
- The breakout sessions need a stronger chair and definitive questions as groups do vary in success.
- A talk on CPNs?
- The accommodation was a bit sub-standard this year and also the food wasn't quite as good.
- Would have liked tree pathogen information.
- We need to have CCD materials relevant to walkers / bikers.
- As a first timer I found this a great workshop. I have learned a lot over the past 2 days.
- Great organisation and ideal venue.
- Keep it going!

**Do you have any suggestions for improvements to the NNS website, in particular the Local Action Groups section?**

- Should be made mobile friendly.
- A clearer explanation of what LAGs are and how to get involved/create one. This would be good for pointing people towards, ie volunteers, councillors and people wanting to do more in their areas.
- A section on volunteering with an interface so the volunteers can engage with LAGs easily.
- Increased visibility and links to events/volunteer groups/activities in an area, maybe include a map?
- Create more e-learning content we can use and share.
- Needs streamlining as the valuable information gets lost amongst outdated information.
- More squirrels please!
- Keep the projects pages up to date.



