

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



Preston Montford, Shrewsbury.

27th and 28th January 2016.



Programme

On 27th and 28th January 2016 the GB Non-native Species Secretariat and National LAG Co-ordinator organised the seventh Local Action Group Workshop, funded by Defra, at Preston Montford Field Studies Centre, Shrewsbury.

Day 1

11:30 Registration and Lunch

12:45 Welcome (Niall Moore, GBNNSS)

12:50 EU Regulation update (Niall Moore, GBNNSS)

13:05 Policy and Legislation Update (Craig Lee, Defra)

SESSION 1: LAG PRESENTATIONS

13:25 The Volunteer Legacy on the Wandle (Alan Martin, Wandle Trust)

13:35 Use of Community Protection Notices for INNS control (Andrea Griffiths, Medway Valley Countryside Partnership)

SESSION 2: BUILDING A STRONGER LAG NETWORK

13:45 How to build a more robust & more collaborative LAG network (Mike Sutton-Croft, APHA)

14:00 Discussion and Comments

14:20 Refreshments

14:35 Breakout session A

LAGs will be 'clustered' by region and will need to work together to deliver a joint task

15:35 Results of breakout session

SESSION 3: LAG PRESENTATIONS

15:55 Control of invasive species in the Colne catchment (Sandy Belloni, Groundwork)

16:05 Pacific oysters and their impact on the Essex estuaries (Sarah Allison, Essex Wildlife Trust)

16:15 Yorkshire Invasive Species Forum update (Ailsa Henderson, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust)

18.30 Evening Meal

Day 2

SESSION 4: AWARENESS RAISING & BIOSECURITY

09:15 Update on freshwater biosecurity threats (Trevor Renals, Environment Agency)

09:35 Communications update and plans for Invasives Week (Lucy Cornwell, NNSS)

09:50 Breakout session B

How can LAGs most effectively increase awareness of GB awareness raising campaigns and their key messages?

How can LAGs tailor GB level campaigns to be most effective in their locality?

10:45 Refreshments

10:55 Summary of discussions

SESSION 5: BEYOND BALSAM...

11:15 The biological control of invasive weeds: an update and the role of LAGs (Carol Ellison, CABI)

11:45 Developing a landscape scale, multi species INNS Initiative for Scotland (Meryl Norris, RAFTS)

12:05 Research, Response, Result: A scientific approach to Local Action (Nicola Morris, SINNG (Cornwall College))

12:15 Lunch

13:15 New species and new habitats: current INNS projects in Norfolk (Katy Owen, NNNSI)

13:35 Breakout session C

An opportunity for LAGs to discuss previous and potential future 'novel' projects, with a focus on joint working

14:20 Summary of discussions

14:40 Refreshments

SESSION 6: LAG PRESENTATIONS

14:50 The DINNS project recording database (Lyn Byrne, North Wales Wildlife Trust)

15:00 Control of Cotoneaster in the New Forest (Catherine Chatters, New Forest)

15:10 The Anglesey Invasives Project (David Thorpe, NRW)

15:20 General questions and answers

15:30 Closing comments (Niall Moore, GBNNSS)

15:40 **CLOSE**

Breakout Session Feedback

Day One 14:35, Breakout Session A – Building a stronger LAG network

Chairs:

South East Region	(Andrea Griffiths)
East Anglian Region	(Katy Owen)
South West Region	(Neil Green)
Midlands Region	(Lyn Byrne)
North Region	(Bekka Corrie Close)

Aim

To discuss which three INNS are the most problematic in your region and which three potential INNS you are most concerned about, ie not in your region.

To discuss what the perceived main pathways could be and who would be most likely to introduce/spread INNS around your area.

INNS to be considered in three separate groups:

1. Freshwater aquatic plants
2. Terrestrial plants
3. Animals

Summary of conclusions from breakout sessions

South East Region - Andrea Griffiths

Current problematic species

Himalayan balsam
Japanese knotweed
Giant hogweed

This is due to the abundance of some of these species and, in the case of Himalayan balsam, the lack of viable control options for a species so widespread.

Floating pennywort
Water primrose
Crassula

Species most worried about

With regards to the freshwater/aquatic plants we were most worried about, we again picked the 3 aforementioned species. The reason for this is that, although Water Primrose is an issue in the New Forest, it is currently not an issue but could become one in the Medway Catchment for example. As such, we broke the South East down further to highlight regional issues and worries. It was good to discuss this as a South East group and further work like this would help with Horizon Scanning.

Pathways posing largest risks include

Irresponsible discard of garden plants and pond plants

Poor biosecurity procedures

Flooding

We also thought that a lack of knowledge was an issue. Do we all really know what is in our catchments? A lack of capacity to do full area surveys could lead to an increase in a species which we are not even aware of until they take hold, for example following a flood event.

We thought the following user groups were the most likely to spread INNS in our region

Boat Owners

Gardeners

Contractors and field workers/surveyors.

We did not get to discuss the other questions or animals.

It was suggested that as a South East group we continue to communicate. This was a handy exercise to talk about issues on a regional capacity.

East Anglian Region - Katy Owen

Current problematic species

Norfolk –Crassula and Floating pennywort.

Suffolk - Floating pennywort, Parrots feather and Giant hogweed.

Essex – Floating pennywort and Cherry laurel are high priority for EWT but not for the county.

Bamboo

Rhododendron

Killer shrimp on the broads, the spread has been contained as the ecology is not right but it is spreading. It will spread into the Nene and into the canal network. Prevention and awareness are key messages from NE.

Signal Crayfish are a big problem in all rivers.

Muntjac deer is a big problem in Essex.

Mink, however the SWT have a control programme.

Chinese mitten crab.

Wedge clam which has arrived in Lincolnshire and is likely to spread.

Species most worried about

Bamboo (River Stour Trust), Killer shrimp (NE), Comb jelly is in the Wash, Slipper limpet, Pacific oyster, Carpet sea squirt, Demon shrimp, Red swamp crayfish.

Pathways posing largest risks include

Water transfer between catchments, fishing, ballast water, ports, shellfish industry, boating and angling.

Transferability throughout Europe. East Anglian pathways to the Netherlands is a big problem. Windfarms, construction, fouling on windfarm boats.

South West Region - Neil Green

Current problematic species

Aquatic plants

Parrots heather
Crassula helmsii
Lagarosiphon major

Terrestrial plants

Gunnera
Crocoshia
Hotentot fig
Variegated archangel

Animals

Alpine newt
Signal crayfish
Mink

Species most worried about

Cabomba caroliniana
Variable leafed milfoil
Egeria densa

Baccharis halimifolia
Cortaderia seloana

Parakeet
Bull frog
New Zealand Flatworm

Pathways posing largest risks include:

Aquatic - Aqua trade, garden ponds, avifauna, landowners e.g National Trust.

Terrestrial – Fly tipping, soil transfers, garden escapees, verge management.

Animals – Escapees, contaminates – New Zealand flatworm, deliberate release.

User groups likely to spread INNS are anglers, canoeists, recreational users, gardeners, land managers and large landowners.

We have a big problem of coverage in the South west... need to create links with Somerset Wildlife Trust.

Midlands Region – Lyn Byrne

Current problematic species

Aquatic plants

Crassula helmsii
Floating pennywort
Lagarosiphon major

Terrestrial plants

Himalayan balsam
Japanese knotweed
Giant hogweed

Animals

Chinese mitten crabs
Non-native deer
American mink

Species most worried about

Aquatic plants

Water primrose
Green cabomba

Terrestrial plants

American skunk cabbage

Animals

Invasive shrimp spp.
Invasive crayfish spp.
Ring-necked parakeet
Asian hornet

Pathways posing largest risks include:

Aquatic plants

Sporting events
Guidance
Ability to still buy problem plants
Unhelpful advice

Terrestrial plants

Same as aquatic plants

Animals

Ports
Pet trade
Fishing/watersports
Trade

Users groups likely to introduce and spread INNS include:

Aquatic plants

Anglers/canoeists

Terrestrial plants

Same as aquatic plants

Animals

Ill informed public

Web: www.nonnativespecies.org

Email: nnss@apha.gsi.gov.uk

Ill informed public
Gardeners
Local authority landscape architects/planners

Pet trade
International trade

North Region - Bekka Corrie-Close

Mainly work on freshwater species.

Current problematic species

Crassula, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, Giant hogweed, Floating pennywort (low occurrence, big problem in small ponds –currently well contained), Mink, Grey squirrel

Tree health – ash dieback and phytophthora

Species most worried about

Invasive crayfish (big native crayfish population in the North)

Floating pennywort

Pontocaspien sp. (most likely to arrive in the South – however we have lots of visitors up in the North)

Pathways posing largest risks include:

Contaminated water sports equipment (anglers, canoes, boats etc)

Contractors (hired machinery for in-river works, movement of top soils, sands etc)

Habitat restoration projects

Aggregate companies

Ecological surveyors (equipment)

Us!

Events (training all over the county and bringing in wet gear)

Day Two 09:50, Breakout Session B - Awareness Raising and Biosecurity

Chairs:

Trevor Renals

Lucy Cornwell

Mike Sutton-Croft

Aim

To discuss how LAGs can support *Invasive Species Week* and longer term communications including the awareness raising campaigns *Be Plant Wise* and *Check Clean Dry*.

Summary of conclusions from breakout sessions

LAG activities during Invasive Species Week

- New Forest Non-native Plants Project
Annual Forum meeting
- Brockenhurst
Biocontrol research update.
Campaign promotions and press release on success of Parrot's Feather management.
CCD signage will be installed at Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve.

- Wildlife and Countryside Link
MP briefing paper to be published.
New blog entry.
- Essex Wildlife Trust
Potential bioblitz (have 300 river and coastal wardens).
Blogging / social media activity.
- Natural Resources Wales
Promote e-learning.
- CFINNS
“Train the trainer” events for British Canoeing coaches. BC hoping to develop a more formal element of INNS training.
- SINNG
Check Clean Dry day at Crealy Adventure Park
NM / CL suggested future visit from George Eustice.
- East Anglia
Check Clean Dry day at Flatford Mill field centre (targeting recreational water users).
- Community Connection Projects CIC / Groundwork South / Friends of Oxhey Park.
Will target fish tackle shops with CCD leaflets.
- Oxford
Be Plant Wise leaflet drops with septic tank leaflets.
Evening talks.
- Cabi
Promote biocontrol work.
Blog and link to Twitter.
- MVCP
Litter pick [with biosecurity advice].
Workshop.
- Environment Agency (JB)
Every Ops officer.
Solent team.

Suggestions for other NNSS communications activities:

Competition

Hashtag frame for blog, pinterest

Review BPW literature [out of date since changes to legislation]

Update NNSS gallery with photos of impacts, management and biosecurity

Promote biosecurity videos

What Invasive Species are you? Online Quiz

Paid promotion on FaceBook and Twitter

Contact CJS online – free advertising on their website

Web: www.nonnativespecies.org

Email: nss@apha.gsi.gov.uk

Scout conservation badge

D of E

Engage Bear Grylls – Chief Scout

Invasive Species Week 2017 - Pip Ahoy cartoon

Suggestions for how NNSS can help LAGs to prepare for Invasive Species Week

Provide slides for presentations

Press release [Defra Comm's]

Quotes for local press releases

Suggested biosecurity pledges

Suggestions for long term communications work on Check Clean Dry and Be Plant

Key audiences to engage

Water companies - Yorkshire Wildlife Trust working with Yorkshire Water – interested in improving biosecurity

Local Authorities

Swimmers

Schools - Produce a youth friendly leaflet [SINNG]

Divers - Marine CCD materials needed. Role in surveillance? Engage Paul Rose (celebrity diver)?

Wildlife Trusts - Living Landscape Initiative. NNSS to revisit FSC information note. Springwatch. Countryfile.

Surfers - CCD stand at competitions. Surfing specific material [SINNG to produce?] Engage with Surfers against sewage [SINNG to produce?].

Materials to produce/ provide

Additional signage - CCD / BPW combined for use on community notice boards, at nature reserves etc

Species specific signs, including impacts of spreading them, locally relevant

Targeted messaging (e.g. flooding, hogweed damage)

Check Clean Dry tshirts

Other activities for LAGS

Revisit garden centres to reinforce BPW

Day Two 13:35, Breakout Session C – Beyond Balsam ...

Chairs:

Katy Owen
Lyn Byrne
Nicola Morris

Aim

An opportunity for LAGs to discuss previous and potential future projects that could be considered novel (ie. different from the 'traditional' activities of LAGs, such as long term management and eradication of riparian and aquatic vegetation)

Opportunities for future collaborative projects between LAGs should also be identified.

Summary of conclusions from breakout sessions

Group 1

1) What activities does your LAG carry out that you consider to be 'novel'?

The New Forest Non-native Plants project has used a range of novel methods to tackle NZ pygmyweed, such as aquatic dye and hot foam. The results of these trials are available from Catherine Chatters.

On the Colne a boom has been used to prevent Himalayan balsam stems from being washed downstream.

The Cornwall Knotweed Forum has trialled a range of different techniques to control Japanese knotweed that has informed best practice guidance.

The Avon Invasive Weeds Forum have utilised corporate funding and volunteers to deliver projects. They have also had success in using a coracle to assist in the treatment of floating pennywort in inaccessible areas.

The Environment Agency have used a new tool called the 'stealth bomber' to efficiently cut submerged macrophytes. Trevor Renals can provide more information on this tool.

2) How do you think new technology can be utilised to enhance the way your LAG works? Are there examples of your LAG using technology to work more efficiently and effectively (ie. recording Apps, cloud databases etc)

New technologies and methods that this group thought could enhance the working of LAGs include drones, Apps, further biocontrol agents, enhanced online recording facilities, the use of new control methods (such as jute matting) and eDNA sampling technologies.

3) What areas of INNS management, other than long term control and eradication, do you think LAGs are well placed to deliver?

LAGs are well placed to deliver rapid responses to novel INNS, deliver post eradication monitoring and rehabilitation as well as researching the impact of INNS and effective control methods.

4) *Do you have any ideas for joint projects on a common issue that could involve a number of LAGs?*

Group 1 felt that there was scope for LAGs to carry out joint projects around education and research as well as species specific projects focussed on tackling a single INNS (such as skunk cabbage). There was also scope for LAGs to share equipment. LAGs could form clusters to submit joint funding bids.

Group 2

1) *What activities does your LAG carry out that you consider to be 'novel'?*

In Scotland the surveyors are separate from the contractors managing the INNS, so the checks on removal are more independent.

CFINNS have worked with utility and engineering companies working in and around water to highlight risks and produce risk assessments and plans.

Other LAGs have utilised payment for services from landowners.

2) *How do you think new technology can be utilised to enhance the way your LAG works? Are there examples of your LAG using technology to work more efficiently and effectively (ie. recording Apps, cloud databases etc)*

The Group perceived there to be a need for better recording apps and mapping. The Yorkshire Invasive Species Forum's INNS Mapper was identified as a good platform that could be used more widely. Online games to increase awareness of INNS and biosecurity were also highlighted as a potential good use for technology.

3) *What areas of INNS management, other than long term control and eradication, do you think LAGs are well placed to deliver?*

LAGs are well placed to deliver awareness raising and outreach work.

4) *Do you have any ideas for joint projects on a common issue that could involve a number of LAGs?*

Potential joint projects for LAGs could include expanding the Yorkshire Invasive Species Forum's INNS Mapper for use by other LAGs. An exchange programme for LAG volunteers would also be a good joint project. The need for an online document repository was also raised.

Other potential projects include further production of SINNG's education packs and 'training for trainers' materials aimed at local authorities.

Group 3

1) *What activities does your LAG carry out that you consider to be 'novel'?*

The LAGs in this group conducted a range of activities to reward volunteers, including provision of free accommodation from an Estate and BBQs. The Dee LAG had also utilised rafts on loan for free from a local business to assist in surveys. Another LAG worked with British canoeing to survey river banks. In Aberdeenshire sheep have been used to graze giant hogweed, with monitoring being carried out by the University of Aberdeen.

2) *How do you think new technology can be utilised to enhance the way your LAG works? Are there examples of your LAG using technology to work more efficiently and effectively (ie. recording Apps, cloud databases etc*

Drones are being considered by a number of LAGs – LAGs think that there is potential for them to be used for surveying and even for the application of herbicides. LAGs did report that drones have issues with overgrown vegetation/trees and securing landowner permission can be problematic.

Remote sensing could be used to keep track of Japanese knotweed.

The Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative has been using an online cloud database to improve the collection and storage of data relating to the county's mink control projects. Although there was significant cost associated with setting up the database it is proving to be very useful.

Google My Maps could also be a useful tool for LAGs. It allows users to create maps and add photos for free. Making it a cheap and easy way to share data.

3) *What areas of INNS management, other than long term control and eradication, do you think LAGs are well placed to deliver?*

The Group felt that LAGs are well placed to deliver awareness raising work – making national issues local. They are also key in acting as a central contact point in a locality, connecting and co-ordinating the activities of other partners.

4) *Do you have any ideas for joint projects on a common issue that could involve a number of LAGs?*

The idea of annual regional LAG meetings was suggested. Something similar already happens in North Wales to prioritise issues there

LAGs could work together to produce case studies to illustrate the impacts of INNS, such as economic impacts. These case studies could be useful support funding bids from LAGs in the network. This could be part of a wider push by LAGs to research INNS and build an evidence base of impacts.

Interreg programmes offer an opportunity for LAGs to meet different partner organisations within the UK and from elsewhere in Europe. This could help LAGs meet partners to support them in research and sharing novel management methods.

It was highlighted that LAGs could benefit simply from making contact with local research centres and academic institutions, as they may be able to provide support in research and producing funding bids.

The Peoples Postcode Lottery could be a source of funding for LAGs. They are keen promote themselves, so funding is on the condition that they are provided with sufficient positive PR.

Opportunities for LAGs to work more effectively with local decision makers ie. LA's, operations colleagues in NE, EA, NRW, SEPA etc. to help them with:

1. Writing local Supplementary Guidance for local authorities.
2. Writing INNS and biosecurity conditions for local authorities and agency staff. Conditions in this case include S28 consents, derogation licences and planning conditions.
3. Where to go for guidance re CPN's (eg home office)

What about a project matching (ie. dating) site?

4. Any other comments

"A very worthwhile and interesting event".

"Great few days, many thanks for a well organised and useful event".

"A regional workshop would be a good addition to the calendar".

"I think social media training might be useful. Quite a lot seemed confused about Twitter etc".

"A first time for me, I really enjoyed it. I understand so much more about LAGs too".

"Another excellent two days, the best two days of the year for me".

"Excellent variety of talks and discussion sessions".

"Great to meet up with everyone".

"Extremely well run and very informative, I personally learnt a lot".

"Great opportunity to share and learn".

"I am looking forward to getting involved more in the future".

"The National LAG co-ordinator needs to be kept in post if the LAGs are to continue to develop".

Annex 1. List of participants

Name		Organisation
Jen	Aldous	South Cumbria Rivers Trust
Sarah	Allison	Essex Wildlife Trust
Sandy	Belloni	Community Connection Projects CIC/Groundwork South/Friends of Oxhey Park
Jane	Birch	Environment Agency
Catherine	Burton	Surrey Wildlife Trust
Lyn	Byrne	NWWT / DINNS Project
Catherine	Chatters	New Forest Non-Native Plants Project
Lucy	Cornwall	GB NNSS
Rebecca	Corrie-Close	CFINNS Initiative
Karin	Crofts	Derwent (West Cumbria)
Matthew	Ellis	Natural Resources Wales
Carol	Ellison	CABI
Carol	Flux	Plant Positive: IW LAG
Neil	Frost	Chelmer Canal Trust
Anita	Glover	University of Leeds
Emily	Godfrey	Essex Wildlife Trust
Pablo	Gonzalez-Moreno	CABI
Lauren	Goring	Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB/Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Project
Neil	Green	Avon Invasive Weed Forum
Andrea	Griffiths	Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
Kay	Haw	Woodland Trust / Wildlife & Countryside LINK
Ailsa	Henderson	Yorkshire Invasive Species Forum
Emma	Houghton	Bollin Valley Partnership
Mark	Hudson	NWWT / DINNS Project
Craig	Lee	Defra
Alan	Martin	Wandle Trust
Gavin	Measures	Natural England
Niall	Moore	GB NNSS
Alex	Moore da Luz	Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Project
Nicola	Morris	SINNG (Cornwall College Newquay)
John	Musham	Tees Rivers Trust
Meryl	Norris	Rivers and Fisheries Trust of Scotland
Katy	Owen	Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative (NNNSI)
Linda	Raine	GB NNSS
Trevor	Renals	Environment Agency
Glen	Skelton	Surrey Wildlife Trust
Heidi	Streitberger	Nature Conservation Services
Mike	Sutton-Croft	APHA
Dave	Thorpe	NRW (Anglesey INNS project/ Dee INNS project)