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

Preston Montford, Shrewsbury.
28th and 29th January 2015.

Programme
On 28th and 29th 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**
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 NNSS 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 NNSS
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:

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