

**NEW FOREST NON-NATIVE PLANTS  
PROJECT**

**REPORT TO STEERING GROUP MEETING  
ON  
13 JANUARY 2015**

**Report covering the period  
1 September 2014 – 31 December 2014**

**Catherine Chatters  
New Forest Non-Native Plants Project Officer  
5 January 2015**

## **Publicity**

### Press releases

- A press release to publicise the grant aid secured from the New Forest Trust towards giant hogweed control in 2015 was drafted by the Project Officer, slightly amended by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation and distributed, with further changes, by HIWWT media staff on 12 December 2014.

### Publications and websites

- Southern Daily Echo Monday 1 September 2014 – article titled ‘Wildlife Trust launches autumn talks’ on page 18 to advertise talk to be given by Project Officer to Romsey Group on 20 October 2014
- The Herald, Number 294 (9 – 30 October 2014) - article titled ‘Non-Native Plant Project’ promoting the talk to be given by the Project Officer in the Crosfield Hall, Romsey on evening of Monday 20 October 2014
- The Herald, Number 295 (30 October – 20 November 2014) – article on page 56 titled ‘Be Pond Plant Wise’ promoting the ‘Be Plant Wise’ campaign and advising gardeners to take care when clearing out their garden ponds this autumn
- Romsey Advertiser Friday 7 November 2014 – article on page 8 in the ‘community news’ section titled ‘Catherine leads the battle against aliens in the Forest’
- The award of grant aid by the New Forest Trust towards the control of giant hogweed on the Avon Water during 2015 featured on the ‘grants’ section of the New Forest Trust website
- On 12 December 2014 the ‘news’ section of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust’s Trust website featured the award of grant aid by the New Forest Trust towards the control of giant hogweed on the Avon Water during 2015
- Lymington Times, Saturday 27 December 2014 – article on page 17 titled ‘Trust gives funds to stamp out hogweed’. This article resulted from the press release issued by HIWWT on 12 December 2014.
- Southern Daily Echo, Wednesday 31 December 2014 – article titled ‘Fight to repel the foreign invaders’ on page 14 of the ‘Greenwatch’ section. This article resulted from the press release issued by HIWWT on 12 December 2014.
- Article titled ‘Fight to repel the foreign invaders’ was published on the Southern Daily Echo website.  
[http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/environment/11696085.Fight\\_to\\_repel\\_the\\_foreign\\_invaders/](http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/environment/11696085.Fight_to_repel_the_foreign_invaders/) This resulted from the press release issued by HIWWT on 12 December 2014.
- The Southern Daily Echo included a photograph and article on Saturday 20 December 2014 about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey Cubs who helped with Himalayan balsam-pulling on the Cadnam River in summer 2014.
- The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project features on the website of ‘National Parks UK’ in a section focussing on biodiversity action in the New Forest

## **Liaison with landowners and managers**

The following landowners/managers were met between 1 September – 31 December 2014:-

- Sarah and Harry Green on 7 October 2014
- Mr Lawrie Smith and his gardener John Schofield on the Avon Water on 5 November 2014
- Roger Simmens, Brokenhurst Manor Fly Fishing Club on 27 November 2014



Sarah and Harry Green pulling balsam with the Project Officer in Harcourt Wood, Minstead on 7 October 2014

## **Steering Group meeting**

The Steering Group meeting was held on 16 September 2014

## **Liaison with Wildlife Link and DEFRA regarding legislative changes**

On 29 September the Project Officer and other members of Wildlife Link met Trevor Salmon of DEFRA at Nobel House in London to discuss proposals for Species Control Agreements and Species Control Orders. This was an opportunity to highlight to DEFRA:-

- the need for Species Control Orders to be applicable to invasive non-native species which are *already established*, for example Himalayan balsam;
- the possibility of *Local Action Groups* being given authority to undertake work relating to Species Control Orders on behalf of statutory organisations.

On 13 November 2014 the Project Officer participated in a Wildlife Link telephone conference to consider the working draft document titled 'Species Control Provisions: Part 2 of The Infrastructure Bill – Draft Code of Practice for England – Version 1'. This draft Code of Practice will be amended during the passage of the Infrastructure Bill and full public consultation will take place on the final draft.

## **Liaison with other Projects and Organisations**

### The Carnivorous Plant Society

During September 2014 the Project Officer was contacted by Tim Bailey, the Chairman of The Carnivorous Plant Society, who was finalising a publication about the carnivorous plants of Britain and Ireland and who requested a copy of the report prepared by Neil Sanderson titled 'Ecological importance of Holmsley Bog in relation to the exotic pitcher plant *Sarracenia purpurea*'. Tim alerted the Project Officer to another population of pitcher plants, this time at Wootton Bridge near Holmsley. He explained that, as chairman of The Carnivorous Plant Society, he is very keen to ensure people do not introduce Carnivorous plants to the wild and he explained he would be pleased to co-operate with the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project in this respect.

### RSPB

On 15 October 2014 Sarah McIntyre of the RSPB visited Testwood to meet the Project Officer. Sarah is working on a Heritage Lottery Fund project titled 'Arun and Rother Connections – Linking Landscape and Community' and was keen to find out how invasive non-native plants are tackled at the catchment scale in the New Forest area. Sarah is tackling Himalayan balsam, giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed on large and complex catchments.

### SEFINS (Safeguarding the Environment From Invasive Non-Native Species)

The Project Officer was contacted by Katy Owen, Biodiversity Technician at Norfolk County Council, on 21 October 2014 to request permission to use photographs of NFNNPP volunteers undertaking surveys in a SEFINS publication. SEFINS is a cluster project which draws on the results and techniques of the RINSE, MEMO (Mnemiopsis Ecology and Modelling : Observation of an invasive comb jelly in the North Sea) and 'Invexo' Interreg projects.

### Tees River Trust

In November 2014 the Project Officer was contacted by John Musham, INNS Co-ordinator for the Tees River Trust. He is setting up an interactive map on their website to enable volunteers to upload their INNS records. John was interested in the mobile 'phone 'app' developed by the INSE project so the Project Officer put him in touch with Mike Sutton-Croft of Norfolk County Council.

### Liaison with other organisations regarding control of New Zealand pygmyweed

- Laura Baker of the National Trust contacted the Project Officer on 15 September 2014 regarding proposals to restore a pond at Bramshaw which contains *Crassula helmsii*.
- Rose Revera, People and Wildlife Officer, The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, contacted the Project Officer on 18 September 2014 to find out about the hot foam trials undertaken in 2011.
- Andrew Higham, Engineer – Environment & Asset Management, Land Drainage & Flood Risk Management, Wakefield Council, contacted the Project Officer on 24 September 2014 seeking information following the *Crassula* conference hosted by the NFNNPP in March 2013.
- Erik Speksnijder, Medewerker Ecologie en kwaliteitszorg met the Project Officer at the RINSE conference in Norwich on 23 September 2014 and sought advice on attempts to control *Crassula*.
- Nancy Ashbridge, a Landscape Architect at Nottinghamshire County Council, sought advice on 10 October 2014 regarding control of *Crassula helmsii* in 5 lagoons on an old colliery site which is to be made into a country park.
- Jack Potter, RSPB's Warden on the Dee Estuary Nature Reserve sought advice on 20 October 2014 regarding creation of a filter bed as part of a biosecurity system to prevent spread of *Crassula helmsii* during building works.



**Capital works undertaken between late summer and end of December 2014 (for which invoices were received between 1 September and 31 December 2014)**

The following control work was undertaken by contractors:-

- Late summer treatment of giant hogweed along the Avon Water
- Bamboo, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan knotweed on Pennington Common
- *Iris laevigata* at Lyndhurst
- *Iris laevigata* in Wootton Coppice Inclosure
- *Iris laevigata* at Latchmoor Pond between Brockenhurst and Sway
- Japanese knotweed on Crown Land by ditch near Bartley Lodge Hotel
- Japanese knotweed in Pondhead Inclosure
- Japanese knotweed in Hawkhill Inclosure
- Japanese knotweed Meerut Road / Butts Lawn, Brockenhurst
- Japanese knotweed control at The Pig Hotel, Brockenhurst on Crown Land
- Japanese knotweed at Verely near Burley
- Japanese knotweed on Open Forest and at Bridge Cottage, Bartley at junction of Chinham Road and Shepherds Road
- Japanese knotweed and Himalayan honeysuckle on Crown Land at Emery Down
- Japanese knotweed at New Park
- Parrot's feather control
- Himalayan balsam control by Ashley Basil Horticultural Services



Venus Fly Trap – refer to page 14 for details

## **Control work undertaken by volunteers**

### Removal of pitcher plants near Wootton Bridge

On 2 September 2014 Tim Bailey, Chairman of The Carnivorous Plant Society, alerted the Project Officer to a population of pitcher plants *Sarracenia purpurea* that he had discovered near Wootton Bridge at SZ 25253 99687. He had removed the majority of them by hand but was unable to pull up the largest clump. On 19 September the Project Officer, accompanied by volunteer John Moore, dug up the remaining clump which measured approximately 45cm x 30cm and comprised approximately 60 'pitchers'.

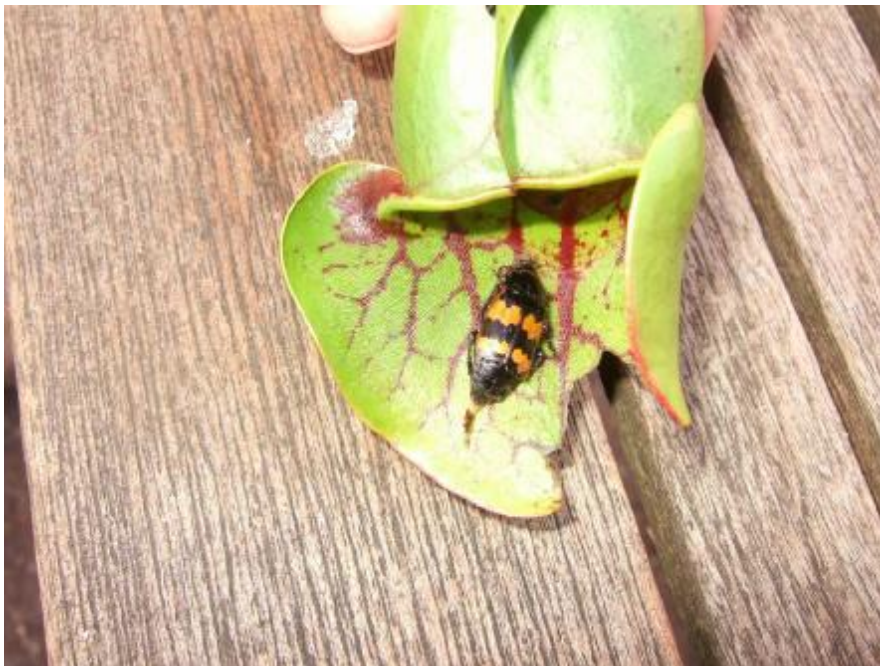


John Moore volunteered to help the Project Officer dig up the remaining clump of pitcher plants near Wootton Bridge on 19 September 2014





The dead invertebrates (many of which are Sexton beetles) were collected from the 'pitchers', preserved in alcohol in an old coffee jar and delivered to entomologist Paul Brock on 2 October for expert identification.



One of the two species of Sexton beetles collected from the pitcher plants which had been dug up near Matley on 13 August 2014. Paul Brock had identified these as *Nicrophorus investigator* and *Nicrophorus vespilloides*



Removal of pitcher plants from Holmsley Bog

John Moore, Martin Rand and Tony Mundell volunteered to help the Project Officer remove remaining pitcher plants from Holmsley Bog on Monday 3 November 2014. The pitcher plants were marked with red-topped canes and GPS readings were taken. A total of 108 small pitcher plants and seedlings were dug up with hand trowels. Further work will need to be arranged for November 2015.



John Moore digging up remaining pitcher plants at Holmsley Bog on 3 November 2014



## Planning future work and securing funding

### 'Our Past, Our Future' Heritage Lottery Fund bid

On 12 September 2014 Richard Grogan and the Project Officer attended an all-day seminar at Beaulieu with the New Forest National Park Authority, representatives of the various 'Our Past, Our Future' projects and two Heritage Lottery Fund representatives. Richard gave a presentation about the proposals relating to control of invasive non-native plants.



During September 2014 the Project Officer held site visits with potential contractors to obtain quotes relating to control of American skunk cabbage and giant hogweed.

During October 2014 the Project Officer prepared 97 Memoranda of Understanding for landowners along the Cadnam River (32), Avon Water (34), Lymington River (14), Mill Lawn Brook (7), the Passford Water (8) and Fleet Water (2). Funding was kindly provided by the New Forest NPA towards the cost of preparing maps to accompany each Memorandum of Understanding.

A considerable amount of time was spent on discussions and meetings with owners who are unwilling to sign a Memorandum of Understanding or who have requested changes to their MoU.

On Wednesday 10 December 2014 the Project Officer and Bob Chapman attended the HLF stakeholder 'drop-in' session organised by the New Forest National Park Authority to let people know about opportunities for volunteering. Two useful contacts were made with local residents who are keen to help pull Himalayan balsam in summer 2015.



Volunteer Bev Cross, who attended the HLF 'drop-in' session on 10 December 2014, standing in front of the display panel promoting opportunities for balsam-pulling in the New Forest

The Project Officer has continued to liaise with James Brown of the New Forest NPA and with colleagues at HIWWT over the drafting of the Landscape Partnership Strategic Volunteer Framework and the '3<sup>rd</sup> Party Agreement' covering volunteering within the 'Our Past ,Our Future' Landscape Partnership Scheme'.

#### Securing funding towards control of giant hogweed in 2015

On 7 October 2014 the Project Officer submitted an 'expression of interest' for consideration by the New Forest Trust for funding from the 'Love the Forest' grant scheme towards herbicide treatment of giant hogweed during 2015. The New Forest Trust considered the 'expression of interest' on 11 November 2014 and invited HIWWT to complete a grant application form. The Project Officer submitted the application form on 18 November and was delighted to learn from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation on 3 December that the New Forest Trust had agreed to award £4,950. The grant will be paid in two instalments; the first instalment of £2,475 was paid in December 2014 and the second instalment will be paid in September 2015.



On 7 October 2014 the Project Officer contacted all the relevant riparian owners and asked whether they would be willing to contribute financially towards the cost of the herbicide treatment. Within a few hours a number of landowners had responded positively and, to date, £1,450 has been received from landowners.

The Project Officer now needs to secure the remaining £1,513.25 from landowners to enable two herbicide treatments to be undertaken in 2015.



Giant hogweed along the Avon Water in 2009 prior to start of the herbicide treatment

## Promotional Events

### Lymington – Keyhaven Nature Reserve Open Day

On 14 September 2014 the Project Officer manned a display at the Lymington – Keyhaven Nature Reserve Open Day. Some very useful contacts were made with local residents and potential volunteers.



The Project Officer with local residents and keen naturalists Mike and Mary Mawdsley at the Lymington – Keyhaven Nature Reserve Open Day on 14 September 2014

## Awareness-raising

### Presentation to Fordingbridge and District Horticultural Society

The Project Officer gave a presentation about the Project and the problems caused by invasive garden plants to Fordingbridge and District Horticultural Society on the evening on Monday 29 September 2014.

### Presentation to Forestry Commission Ecologists

On 9 October 2014 the Project Officer gave a presentation to Forestry Commission Ecologists from South East England during their meeting at Queen's House in Lyndhurst. The talk outlined the work undertaken to control a range of invasive non-native plants on Crown Land and focussed on the trials to control New Zealand pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii*.

### Presentation to Romsey Area Group of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

On the evening of Monday 20 October 2014 the Project Officer gave an illustrated talk to the local Romsey group of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.



#### Presentation to Fareham Area Group of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

On the evening of Monday 10 November 2014 the Project Officer gave an illustrated talk to the local Fareham group of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

#### Presentation to Havant Area Group of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

On the evening of Wednesday 26 November 2014 the Project Officer gave an illustrated talk to the local Havant group of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

#### Presentation to Brokenhurst Manor Fly Fishing Club

Roger Simmens, Secretary to Brokenhurst Manor Fly Fishing Club, invited the Project Officer to give a talk at the Club's annual social event on the evening of Thursday 27 November 2014. The presentation focussed on the successful control of Himalayan balsam along the Lymington River and was an opportunity to thank the Fishing Club members for their help and co-operation.

#### Presentation to Sherfield English Gardening Club

The Project Officer gave a presentation about the Project and the problems caused by invasive garden plants to Sherfield English Gardening Club on the evening on Tuesday 9 December 2014.

### **Promotion of the 'Be Plant Wise' campaign and 'Check, Clean, Dry' campaigns**



The 'Be Plant Wise' and 'Check, Clean, Dry' campaigns were promoted at the Lymington – Keyhaven Nature Reserve Open Day on 14 September 2014.

'Be Plant Wise' leaflets were handed out to people at the following presentations given by the Project Officer:-

- Fordingbridge & District Horticultural Society on 29 September 2014
- HIWWT Romsey Local Group on 20 October 2014
- HIWWT Fareham Local Group on 10 November 2014
- HIWWT Havant Local Group on 26 November 2014
- Sherfield English Gardening Club on 9 December 2014

On 3 October 2014 the Project Officer visited Southern Aquatics at Cadnam to meet staff and ensure that they are aware of the ban on sale of the five species subject to the 'Be Plant Wise' campaign. Sam Dalley checked the plants for sale and realised that the red-stemmed parrot's feather *Myriophyllum brasiliense* was on sale so he threw the plant into the skip.



Sam Dalley of Southern Aquatics met the Project Officer on 3 October 2014

### **Volunteer survey, research and other activity**

Joshua O'Shaughnessy, student at Keble College, University of Oxford

Joshua O'Shaughnessy is studying Geography at Keble College and chose invasive non-native plants in the New Forest as the theme for his dissertation. Having completed his field work and questionnaires, he met the Project Officer on 10 September 2014 to return the GPS device and safety equipment.



### **Training provided by the Project Officer**

Nothing relevant to report during this period.

### **Training attended by the Project Officer**

On 2 December 2014 the Project Officer attended an internal training day focussing on the HIWWT financial procedures and the introduction of a new Performance and Development Review assessment system.

### **Trials relating to control of New Zealand pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii***



New Zealand pygmyweed (Photo: Ashley Basil)

During summer 2014, Dr Naomi Ewald of Freshwater Habitats Trust undertook surveys of the sites where control work had been undertaken between 2011 and 2013 to assess the effectiveness of the trials involving herbicide, hot foam and aquatic dye. The final report was received in early October 2014.

### **Reducing the Impact of Non-native Species in Europe (RINSE)**



On 22 September 2014 the Project Officer attended the final RINSE Steering Group meeting in Norwich. This was followed the next day by the RINSE closing conference at which the Project Officer gave a presentation about awareness raising activities undertaken by the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project.

During November and December 2014, the Project Officer, with significant help from John Durnell, prepared the relevant information ready for the First Level Controller (Paul Wright of Sheen Stickland) to audit the final financial claim and undertake an 'on-the-spot check' on 11 December 2014.



## **Additional target species and additional locations of invasive non-native plants**

### Venus Fly Trap *Dionaea muscipula*

During August 2014 the Project Officer had been alerted to a population of Venus Fly Trap *Dionaea muscipula* which had been planted in a bog near Burley. Consent was obtained from Natural England in accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for it to be dug up and the plants were removed on 30 September 2014.



Venus Fly Trap plants were dug up from a bog near Burley at SU 19292 03892 on 30 September 2014

## Other work

### Balsam-pullers' social event in October

Twenty volunteers and the Project Officer met in Brockenhurst Village Hall for a social get-together on the evening of Thursday 2 October 2014. They enjoyed a bring-and-share supper and the opportunity to meet other balsam-pullers. The Project Officer gave a presentation to review the season's success at stopping the spread of balsam in the New Forest area and thanked everyone for all their help during the summer.



Ashley Basil, who has led volunteer work parties and patrolled the Lymington River and its tributaries, was presented with balsam-themed gifts during the volunteers' event on 2 October 2014.

### HIWWT staff meeting

The Project Officer attended the HIWWT staff meetings on 24 September and 10 December 2014.

### HIWWT Land Advisers' Cross-Cutting Meeting

The Project Officer attended the HIWWT Land Advisers' meeting on 20 November 2014.

### HIWWT New Forest and Avon Valley Living Landscape Team Meeting

The Project Officer attended the Team Meetings on 30 September, 19 November and 16 December 2014.

### Day spent with HIWWT Strategic Head of Conservation and Education

On 29 October 2014 the Project Officer spent the day with David Rumble, HIWWT Strategic Head of Conservation and Education, to discuss matters relevant to the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project and to visit some of the sites where work has been undertaken on behalf of the Project.



### Submission of grant claims

On 8 October 2014 the Project Officer submitted the claim for the New Forest National Park Authority Sustainable Development Fund contribution towards the control of giant hogweed along the Avon Water during 2014.

On 22 October 2014 the Project Officer submitted the grant claim to Lymington and Pennington Town Council relating to work commissioned by the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project to control invasive non-native species on Pennington Common.

On 30 October 2014 the Project Officer submitted the grant claim to Lymington and Pennington Town Council relating to the contribution towards control of giant hogweed in 2015.

On 20 November 2014 the Project Officer submitted The New Forest HLS grant claim for 2014/15.

The final RINSE financial claim was prepared by the Project Officer with significant help from John Durnell, checked by the First Level Controller on 11 December 2014 and then submitted to Norfolk County Council.

### HIWWT Christmas celebration

Following the Staff Meeting on 10 December 2014, HIWWT staff enjoyed a quarter of a Shetland cow (which had formerly grazed nature reserves in the Winchester area) cooked on a spit by former colleague Jamie Corry outside Testwood Lakes Education Centre.



**Press releases – see attached sheets**

**Media coverage – see attached sheets**

Report compiled by Catherine Chatters  
New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer  
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust  
[Catherine.Chatters@hiwwt.org.uk](mailto:Catherine.Chatters@hiwwt.org.uk)  
Telephone 023 8042 4205  
Mobile 07770 923315

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The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project is hosted by  
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

The Project is grateful for support provided by a partnership of organisations:-



Hampshire & Isle of Wight  
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*Protecting wildlife. Inspiring people.*



**RINSE**  
Reducing the impact of non-native species in Europe

