

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



**Preston Montford, Shrewsbury**

**31<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017**



## **Programme**

On 31<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 the GB Non-native Species Secretariat and APHA organised the seventh Local Action Group Workshop, funded by Defra, at Preston Montford Field Studies Centre, Shrewsbury.

### **Day 1**

**11:30** Registration and refreshments

**12:00** **LUNCH**

### **SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**

**13:00** Welcome (NNSS)

**13:05** Update on the EU Regulation and GB INNS Strategy (Defra & NNSS)

**13:30** A rapid response to Asian hornet in GB (Mike Brown, APHA)

### **SESSION 2: AWARENESS RAISING**

**14:00** Current priorities for awareness raising & INNS Week (Lucy Cornwell, NNSS)

**14:15** Discussion about LAG involvement in INNS Week 2017

**14:30** Past Plants, Future Flora: engaging with new audiences and using new methods to increase awareness of INNS (Andrea Griffiths, MVCP)

**14:45** **REFRESHMENTS**

### **LAG PRESENTATIONS**

**15:00** Community Protection Notice on the Cadnam River  
(Catherine Chatters, New Forest Non-native Plants Project)

**15:10** Update from Dee INNS Project (Lyn Byrne, Dee INNS Project)

**15:20** Update from Avon Invasive Weeds Forum (Neil Green, Avon Invasive Weeds Forum)

### **SESSION 3: BIOSECURITY**

**15:30** Embedding effective biosecurity within the Environment Agency: progress to date  
(Trevor Renals, Environment Agency)

**15:40** Breakout session  
Developing an agreed LAG biosecurity protocol for field work

### **LAG PRESENTATIONS**

**16:30** INNS management actions along and in the Wandle for 2016 growing season  
(Alan Martin, Wandle Trust)

**16:40** Giant hogweed and Tees Rivers Trust: David vs Goliath (John Musham, Tees Rivers Trust)

**16:50** Wiltshire and the fight against INNS, Episode 4 (Phoebe Weller, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust)

**17:00** **CLOSE**

**18.30 EVENING MEAL**

**Day 2**

**LAG PRESENTATIONS**

**09:15** Update on situation with water primrose at Round Pond Breamore  
(Joanne Gore, New Forest Non-native Plants Project)

**09:25** Continuing the work of BEACON on a shoestring (Sally Potts, BEACON)

**SESSION 4: FUNDING**

**09:35** RAPID LIFE: a regionally-based framework for INNS management  
(Mike Sutton-Croft, APHA)

**09:55** Building a more sustainable LAG funding model: experience of SINNG  
(Nicola Morris, Cornwall College)

**10:15** *Quick-fire presentations on LAG's experience with funders*

- Veolia (Neil Green)
- Tesco Bags of Help (John Musham)

**10:25** *Breakout session*  
Discussion about funding sources that have been used and future plans

**11:00** **REFRESHMENTS**

**SESSION 5: DEVELOPING AND SHARING GOOD PRACTICE**

**11:10** The biological control of invasive weeds: an update and the role of LAGs (CABI)

**11:30** The role of Conservation Evidence in ensuring good practice management approaches are shared with other practitioners (Dr Claire Wordley, University of Cambridge)

**12:00** **LUNCH**

**13:00** The potential for LAGs to support control of invasive vertebrate species  
(Simon Baker, Norfolk Mink Project)

**13:20** Using science to manage INNS more effectively at a local-level  
(Alison Dunn, University of Leeds)

**13:40** How Water Companies can work with stakeholders to better manage INNS  
(Kate Hills, South West Water)

**14:00** *Breakout session*

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

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

Discussion about methods used to manage different INNS and their efficacy

**14:50 REFRESHMENTS**

**SESSION 6: DISCUSSION & CLOSING COMMENTS**

**15:00** General questions and answers

**15:20** Closing comments (NNSS)

**15:30 CLOSE**

## **Breakout Session Feedback**

### **Day One 15:40, Breakout Session A – Developing an agreed LAG biosecurity protocol for field work**

#### Chairs:

Jo Gore  
Andrea Griffiths  
Neil Green

#### Aim

It has been highlighted that many LAGs have biosecurity processes and protocols in place to ensure that effective biosecurity measures are undertaken during field work in freshwater aquatic and riparian environments. The nature of the processes and the format in which protocols are set out vary significantly between LAGs. There is no problem with this approach, and it is not surprising given the significant differences between LAGs and the types of activity that they undertake, but to assist LAGs in ensuring that they have at least a basic biosecurity protocol in place the LAG Co-ordinator will develop a brief, generic protocol for LAGs to use. This can be adapted and expanded upon to suit their needs.

This session was for LAGs to have a general discussion about biosecurity and also provide information to assist the LAG Co-ordinator in developing the generic protocol. The following questions were used to guide discussions:

- What kind of fieldwork does your group carry out in and around waterbodies which could present a biosecurity risk?
- What restricts your ability to undertake good biosecurity whilst carrying out fieldwork?
- If you are hosted within a larger organisation (i.e. Wildlife Trust, Local Authority etc.) does this organisation already have a generic biosecurity protocol in place for fieldwork?
- Has your LAG already developed a biosecurity protocol? Is this generic for all fieldwork or do you have a different protocol for each activity?
- What needs to be included in a biosecurity protocol?
- Examples of biosecurity protocols and a biosecurity risk assessment template have been provided by some LAGs. What aspects of these examples would you like to see in the generic protocol?
- How would you like a generic biosecurity protocol to be presented?
- The HIWWT & SEARS biosecurity guidance uses an approach with different levels of biosecurity for different situations. Is this useful or too complicated?

#### Summary of conclusions from breakout sessions

##### **Group 1 – Jo Gore**

What kind of fieldwork does your group carry out in and around waterbodies which could present a biosecurity risk?

- Riparian bank work (balsam bashing, weed pulling, river restoration)

- Surveys
- Other risks: employ contractors and use plant machinery

What restricts your ability to undertake good biosecurity whilst carrying out fieldwork?

- Using own car – no room for additional kit, working far from the vehicle so would need to carry kit to field site
- Time
- Awareness of volunteers

If you are hosted within a larger organisation (i.e. Wildlife Trust, Local Authority etc.) does this organisation already have a generic biosecurity protocol in place for fieldwork? Has your LAG already developed a biosecurity protocol? Is this generic for all fieldwork or do you have a different protocol for each activity?

- Overall response was no, but some members were trying to work on this
- Hampshire WT – biosecurity protocol developed but not shared with all staff (their biosecurity protocol was submitted by another attendee as an example, but the member in this group had not seen it before)
- Some organisations feel biosecurity protocol / measures are prohibitively expensive
- Planners / bid writers are key to developing / integrating biosecurity protocol as they can build this into bids
- Adding an extra hour to contractor time allows for biosecurity

What needs to be included in a biosecurity protocol?

- Risk assessment template
- Flowchart
- Simple introduction – what is biosecurity, why does it apply to me etc
- Should be tailored to the audience level
- A line on recording INNS (where to send records)
- Generic biosecurity advice
- Use a holistic approach – cover plant and animal disease and INNS, assessment of the degree of risk, ways to reduce risk, good working methods

Examples of biosecurity protocols and a biosecurity risk assessment template have been provided by some LAGs.

What aspects of these examples would you like to see in the generic protocol?

- A flowchart

How would you like a generic biosecurity protocol to be presented?

- Short / simple (one sheet of A4)



- Include an adaptable box for individual LAGs to add own details, contact numbers, logos etc
- Make it scalable so large posters could be printed for the office, and mini versions for the field

The HIWWT & SEARS biosecurity guidance uses an approach with different levels of biosecurity for different situations. Is this useful or too complicated?

- Main protocol needs to be simple but it would also be useful to have a more comprehensive document that can be referred to
- Alternative versions will be required for different environments e.g. marine

Other notes on improving biosecurity:

- Build biosecurity into the “review session” at the end of the day to better utilise time
- Educate volunteers on the importance of biosecurity
- Work to increase awareness across the whole organisation not just your specific area
- Embed biosecurity into any training involving fieldwork or new staff training
- Include biosecurity in the tender process

## **Group 2 – Andrea Griffiths**

What kind of fieldwork does your group carry out in and around waterbodies which could present a biosecurity risk?

- River restoration work – including installing woody materials. Lots of catchments.
- Woodland work
- Work which involves lots of volunteers
- Riverfly monitoring
- University trips – including international trips

What restricts your ability to undertake good biosecurity whilst carrying out fieldwork?

- Practicality of drying kit. Etc. kit gets broken
- No access to hot water.
- Some groups don't even have storage.

If you are hosted within a larger organisation (i.e. Wildlife Trust, Local Authority etc.) does this organisation already have a generic biosecurity protocol in place for fieldwork? Has your LAG already developed a biosecurity protocol? Is this generic for all fieldwork or do you have a different protocol for each activity?

- For LAGs hosted by Councils, try to get them built into contracts.

- CCD approach, with emphasis on 'Clean'.
- Keep alpine newt site equipment separate (for *B. sal*). Biosecurity buckets on all vehicles. All new students trained. Everything goes in to bucket with Virkon.
- Try to time activity to avoid Balsam with seed.
- Yes, many have a biosecurity protocol or section of training. Often generic. Some done by species.

What needs to be included in a biosecurity protocol?

- Be aware of species adapted to your environmental conditions.
- Simple eg. bullets, laminated on each bucket, photos and logo.
- Sometimes crossing farmland, forestry – discussed biosecurity on way in and out.
- Dirty vehicles. RA and consider walking kit in from hard standing or going to local car wash afterwards.
- Plan order of visits according to what is present.
- Also group by type of equipment.

Examples of biosecurity protocols and a biosecurity risk assessment template have been provided by some LAGs.

What aspects of these examples would you like to see in the generic protocol?

- RA more specific to species and environment than protocol.
- Focus on INNS biosecurity but say to consider other biosecurity too.

How would you like a generic biosecurity protocol to be presented?

- Single sheet A4.
- Group by type of equipment?
- Bullet points. Has to be simple – easy to digest, not overwhelming or off-putting.
- Assume each site is highly contaminated. Clean in, clean out.
- Info about any suitable chemicals and what they tackle – discussion of pathogens but this makes it more complex.
- **Group 2 – Andrea Griffiths**

### **Group 3 – Neil Green**

What kind of fieldwork does your group carry out in and around waterbodies which could present a biosecurity risk?

- Mink traps in and around water.
- Balsam pulling.
- White-clawed crayfish and invertebrate testing.



- Zebra mussel collector plates that could be moved.
- Canoes and coracles.
- Chest waders and thigh waders in waterbodies.
- Livestock movement.
- Plant (i.e. machinery) moving.

What restricts your ability to undertake good biosecurity whilst carrying out fieldwork?

- Cash for equipment.
- Time.
- New time management software in the EA that means a member of staff could visit seven catchments in one day!
- Logistics.
- Design of equipment. The ease of cleaning should be taken in to account when equipment is purchase (i.e. for boats, mink rafts etc.)
- Buy in.
- Contractors -do we trust that they are actually doing it?
- Others aren't doing it so it's not worth me doing it.
- Knowledge.

If you are hosted within a larger organisation (i.e. Wildlife Trust, Local Authority etc.) does this organisation already have a generic biosecurity protocol in place for fieldwork? Has your LAG already developed a biosecurity protocol? Is this generic for all fieldwork or do you have a different protocol for each activity?

- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust will have a generic protocol.
- EA – Not only for staff.
- Smaller organisations, such as the Norfolk Mink Project, have a problem as they are too small to have a generic biosecurity protocol.
- SINNG has biosecurity protocols in place for all field work, including that on invasive species.

What needs to be included in a biosecurity protocol?

- Planning, risk assessments. Including order of sites, equipment etc.
- Get behavioural changes then review.
- Kit – Check, Clean, Dry - refer to this to dictate equipment.

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

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

- Why? Make it relevant to them.
- Get to know the people – build relationships.
- Detail of what to do.

Examples of biosecurity protocols and a biosecurity risk assessment template have been provided by some LAGs.

What aspects of these examples would you like to see in the generic protocol?

- RA more specific to species and environment than protocol.
- Focus on INNS biosecurity but say to consider other biosecurity too.

How would you like a generic biosecurity protocol to be presented?

The HIWWT & SEARS biosecurity guidance uses an approach with different levels of biosecurity for different situations. Is this useful or too complicated?

- The group thought that this could be a useful approach, but that there should be no more than 2 options.



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 (cf 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".

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

"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)