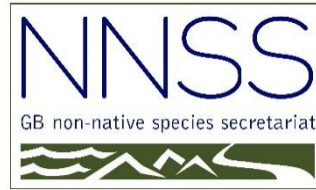


Proceedings of the Non-native Species Local Action Group Workshop



Preston Montford, Shrewsbury

5/6 February 2019



Programme

On 5th – 6th February 2019 the GB Non-native Species Secretariat organised the 10th Local Action Group Workshop, funded by Defra, at Preston Montford Field Studies Centre, Shrewsbury.

Day 1

11:30 Registration and refreshments

12:00 *Lunch*

13:00 Welcome and highlights over the past 10 years (Niall Moore, NNSS)

13:20 Defra update (Angela Taylor, Defra)

SESSION 1: PRESENTATIONS

13:40 Asian hornet update (Nigel Semmence, APHA)

14:00 RAPID Life (Alexia Fish, APHA)

14:15 Using INNS Mapper (John Cave, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust)

14:30 *Refreshments*

LAG PRESENTATIONS

14:45 Network Rail (Catherine Chatters, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust)

14:55 Sharing best practice for biosecurity (Martin Fenn, Environment Agency)

SESSION 2: BIOSECURITY AND COMMS

15:05 Introduction (Lucy Cornwell, GB NNSS)

15:20 BREAKOUT SESSION 1

17:30 Close

Day 2

SESSION 3: LAG PRESENTATIONS

09:15 Biosecurity to slow the spread of INNS (Ellen Paganini, Yorkshire Dales INNS Steering Group)

09:25 Human benefits of invasive species management
(Nicola Morris, Cornwall / South West Invasive Species Forums & CINNG)

09:35 Managing the risk of INNS within the South West region and DISI Update
(Kate Hills, South West Water)

09:50 Water supply vs INNS: the provision of water and prevention of spread
(Rachel Naden, Yorkshire Water)

SESSION 4: FUNDING AND LANDSCAPE SCALE INNS WORK

10:00 Funding ideas (Sally Potts, BEACON)

10:10 Environmental Land Management Scheme (Niall Moore, GB NNSS)

10:20 *Refreshments*

10:35 BREAKOUT SESSION 2

How could we design a LMS to tackle INNS and support LAG's

Future funding

12:00 Summary (Niall Moore, GB NNSS)

12:15 *Lunch*

SESSION 5: LAG PRESENTATIONS

13:15 The River Barle Signal Crayfish Project (Nicky Green, River Barle Signal Crayfish Project)

13:25 Update on LAG work (Sandy Belloni, Community Connection Projects CIC)

13:35 Our River Wellbeing Project Update (Lyn Byrne, NWWT)

13:45 An update on the biocontrol of *Crassula helmsii* (Sonal Varia, CABI)

13:55 *Refreshments*

CLOSING COMMENTS

General questions and closing comments (Niall Moore, GB NNSS)

14:30 Close

Breakout Session Feedback

Day One 15:30

Breakout Session 1 – (Group A) – Biosecurity at Events

A practical demonstration of how biosecurity is carried out at events was given. Thank you to Bekka Corrie-Close (CFINNS Initiative) and Lyn Byrne (NWWT) who kindly brought along various types of equipment to demonstrate.

Day One 15:30

Breakout Session 1 – (Group B) - Invasive Species Week 2019

The group discussed the following questions:

- a) *Which species do you think we should focus on in our communications to the public during Invasive Species Week to highlight the impacts on the following environments:*
 - *Freshwater*
 - *Urban*
 - *Marine*
 - *Woodland*
 - *Islands*
- b) *Do you have any images / footage that could be used in a video to be shared on social media?*
- c) *What is your LAG going to do for Invasive Species Week? (see list of suggestions if you need ideas)*
- 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?)*

Species to focus on:

Freshwater

- Amphibians – chytrid

Woodland

- Himalayan balsam (altering soil, affects erosion and flooding, see Stirling University report on biodiversity decrease as a result of this species)
- American skunk cabbage (Neil Sanderson – report on impact of ASC in wet woodland, significant decline in biodiversity – impact on marsh marigold, opposite leaf saxifrage...)
- Spanish bluebell (impact on native bluebell)
- Rhododendron
- Cherry laurel
- Giant hogweed (growing in dense woodland)

Islands

- Brown rats

Urban

- Asian hornet
- Japanese knotweed
- Pond plants – crassula
- Buddleja
- Bamboo
- Goldfish
- Terrapins
- Cotoneaster
- Crocosmia
- Winter helibore
- Fly tipping garden waste
- Montbretia
- Gunnera

Marine

- Lobster (compassionate release)
- D. vex
- Pacific oyster

Location specific examples:

- Cairngorms
 - issues with mink
 - tree diseases spread by rhododendron (poisonous honey)
- IOW
 - don't have mink so water vole population thriving
- Anglesey
 - Removed grey squirrel so red squirrel population increased over last 20 years, now spreading into the mainland

Images / footage

- New Forest
- Footage of alpine newt (Alexia)
- Underwater footage of *Didemnum vexillum* off kent coast
- MVCP – footage of tadpoles
- Use introductory question in biosecurity e-learning (you wouldn't do this)

LAG events

- New Forest Non-native Plants Project – have a talk arranged with a local garden centre
- Nature Conservation Services – planning an article in local paper
- Isle of Wight LAG – running an INNS control session during the walking festival
- Medway Valley Countryside Partnership – arranged a series of plays in local schools throughout the week (reaching ~700 children). Family fun day.
- BEACON - planning something again with Manchester Museum
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust – balsam bashing with British Canoeing, will be running biosecurity with volunteers

Web: www.nonnativespecies.org

Email: nss@apha.gov.uk

- Defra – looking for a volunteer day between Bristol and London. Suggested contacts:
 - Thames 21
 - Wandle Trust
 - Lee Valley
 - Natural England
 - National Trust
- Gardener's Question Time - TR

Suggestions for other events:

- Invasive species trails at museums:
 - NHM
 - Bristol Zoo
 - Kew Gardens
 - RHS gardens

Day One 15:30

Breakout Session 1 – (Group B) - Be Plant Wise

The group discussed the following questions

- a) *Do you have any recommendations for the type of materials that should be produced in the update (which have worked well in your own awareness raising work)?*
- b) *Are there any issues which regularly come up when you talk to people about their garden plants that are not currently covered by the campaign?*
- c) *Do you have any other recommendations for updates to existing materials?*

Useful materials

- Leaflets
- Posters
- Alternatives booklets / suggestions
- Lily pads (used by LAGs in photographs with garden centres that have signed up to the campaign)

Issues and potential ways to address these:

Disposal:

- Need to highlight consequences of fly tipping or dumping garden waste on a hedge or boundary
- Guidance needs to be sensible – grass cuttings / chippings unlikely to cause an issue
- Include positive advice on composting / mulch – retailers / trade could also benefit from this by promoting composting equipment
- Mindful gardening – be self contained
 - Be considerate of the species you plant and how you will dispose of them
- Include guidance on wildlife gardening (e.g. native plants to use for this)
- If someone is having to remove a plant from their garden because it is a problem, imagine what the impact would be in the wild

Suggestions for updates to material:

- Three step approach good
- Reduce text in leaflets
- Include QR codes
- Include examples of INNS to demonstrate their impact
- Front of the leaflet needs to be clearer on what the campaign is about

Materials / guidance wanted for the following groups:

- LAGs
- Businesses
- Landscapers
- Contractors

Day Two 10:35

Breakout Session 2 – How could we design a LMS to tackle INNS and support LAG's

70% of the UK land area (17.4 million hectares) is agricultural land and the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has provided the majority of farm incomes (currently 50-60% in the UK) for many decades. CAP is agreed at an EU level in 7 year tranches – the current one from 2014 to 2020. The UK allocation for CAP for this tranche totals £24.6 Billion (£3.5 Billion per annum). CAP support is composed of 2 types of payment – (i) Direct payments (called Pillar 1) which make up over 90% of the total and (ii) Payments for rural development and the environment (Pillar 2) which total £2.3 billion over the 7 years (around £328 Million per annum). The proportion devoted to Pillar 2 varies across GB – 15% (the maximum allowed under CAP rules) in Wales, 12% in England and 9.5% in Scotland.

The vast majority of CAP payments are still based on the land area but, as we leave the EU, we will have the opportunity to drastically change our approach. The UK Government has stated that it wants to move away from direct payments by land area and towards 'providing public money for public goods' with most of the emphasis on the environment – including building natural capital thinking into our approach to land use management. This change in approach will be phased in over several years but probably not fully in place until 2024.

This workshop aims to explore ways in which we could use the new Environment Land Management Schemes (that will be piloted over the coming years) to contribute to achieving the aims of the GB INNS Strategy.

The group discussed the following questions:

- *How could we design the payments for optimal landscape-scale control?*
 - *Who should receive the payments – land owners, land managers, others? Could we pay co-ordinators?*
 - *What species should we be looking to control as a priority?*
 - *Aquatic plants*
 - *Terrestrial plants*
 - *Riparian plants*
 - *Animals.*
- *As well as management of INNS on the ground could we also get land management support to assist with:*
 - *Prevention*

- *Surveillance and rapid response*
- *Restoration?*
- *Could we get the money to assist with capital spending – putting in place structures to assist with biosecurity?*
- *Are there relevant connections to the replacement of WFD?*
- *Could we have for instance ‘mink-sensitive areas’ like there were ‘nitrate-sensitive areas’ in the past? [this would concentrate effort in particular areas].*

LMS:

- *When would it start? Current scheme ongoing till 2020 then trials, so 2024 will kick in properly*
- *Could be a potential way of funding delivery of ISAPs (top down strategic approach, obligation under IAS Reg)*
- *Could use RIMPs to guide this*
- *One attraction will be multiple benefits – link to nutrient issue (on aquatic side in particular)*
- *A great outcome would be long term projects being funded (not needing to reinvent projects to get more funding).*

Issues to address

- *Need to favour early intervention and avoid landowners waiting to apply till INNS are a big issue*
- *Could take Natural Capital Approach, need to be clear what the impact of INNS are on this – Defra are commissioning some research to look at this*
- *Surveillance is important, avoid duplication of databases of INNS*
- *Need to convince treasury of benefit of leveraging volunteers (huge return)*
- *Need monitoring and enforcement to ensure money not wasted. Lots of farmers aren’t carrying out other actions in scheme (this is not an INNS specific issue, lack of enforcement across scheme overall)*
 - *Create a regime where farmers benefit from having good quality habitat, LAGs are an ideal means to administer this scheme (farmers to be grateful to LAGs for doing this)*
 - *LAGs could be eyes and ears to tip off enforcement issues. In past the scheme was enforced by MAFF, then NE (too small to do this and not much background in enforcement) not an ideal agency that this should sit with now*
 - *Doesn’t work having the same agency providing encouragement and enforcement*
 - *LAGs, Wildlife Trusts etc can work across boundaries*
 - *Enforcement – do we have examples of EA taking action for landowners breaching terms of funding*
 - *Only if in breach of legislation they enforce (EP act) don’t enforce agricultural policy*
 - *RPA do this*

Barriers to funding experienced by LAGs:

- *Finding out which landowner given the cash – data protection issues. Sal worked with NE to use their mailing lists to send out LAG info to them. *Under LMS other organisations (not just farmers) could apply for funding anymore so could remove that issue**
- *Delays in funding are an issue*

- Funding often needed to do the work to prepare management plans (revenue funding). This could be small pots of money
- Smaller funding schemes sometimes won't fund similar projects

LAG advice on funding

- Be creative – don't think in terms of funding for INNS project, add in INNS management as a consequence of what you're doing
 - E.g. look at water quality
- Avoid shoehorning your project into applications, better to have a management plan developed and apply for appropriate funding (RIMPS will help with this)

Other funding schemes and experiences with these:

SR19

- SR19 has an element for LAG coordination which could be sooner than LMS
- Current applicants have been told that they won't be disadvantaged under the new scheme when this comes along if they've already won funding

Heritage Lottery Funding

- Money thrown away, not tackling upstream or joint approach etc. *(If LAGs can apply for LMS funding plans for control could be made more strategic, link funding to what the whole catchment is doing)*
- Livingston Pennington Council own Pennington common (SSSI) and won a contract to manage woody INNS. HIWWT LAG have been given part of this funding to control various species
- MVCP LAG have found that the three year HLF funding cycle is not long enough, trying to get HLF to change this
- Landowner received HLF funding for American skunk cabbage control upstream but wouldn't do it, NE were ineffective in enforcing this

MSFD

- Behind other areas
- Not sure what will happen post EU Exit

WFD

- Business as usual post EU Exit (domestically funded)

Community Infrastructure Legislation

- If LA wanted to use money to improve a school – can only do this 5 times
- When planning authorities look back at whether this has been used in past – get round this by specifying individual projects (so not picked up) need management plan in place to do this
- Make plan as spatial as possible

Structural funds and Local Economic Partnerships

Are there replacement funding sources for these?

- EA looking at natural capital – LAGs need to get in and talk to them to influence this
- Could they fund biosecurity infrastructure? Farmers would like this (foot & mouth pressure washers etc)

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Wales (Glastier?)

- People policing agreements and agreeing funding are not aware what INNS are – need to increase their knowledge, so that they look at catchment scale when processing agreement
- Farmers being told if they cut balsam before bird breeding season they will be penalised
- 150 m² minimum area for balsam coverage before bid considered

NNSS website recommends so many apps that are out of date and do not work, please update.
Links on LAG's pages need updating.

Some availability of case studies of successful or even failed control attempts for lessons learned.
More id guides please.

The text and layout of the website feels harsh - could be more inviting using softer text and colours.
More specific best practise guidance, eg giant hogweed.

Great source and content, maybe a refresh / colour change to match CCD?

More case histories and occasional profiles, eg Sally Potts.

Make it easier to use, less old fashioned.

Make it easier for LAGs to find contracts.

