



Proceedings of the Thirteenth Stakeholder Forum on Non-native Species

The Royal York Hotel, York

8 July 2016



Introduction

The GB Non-native Species Stakeholder Forum was established in 2004 to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to help shape policy and also to hear about key developments in policy and delivery. It is also used as an opportunity to facilitate networking with colleagues working on non-native species issues across GB. The Forum has been held annually since 2004 and is seen as a key element of the GB approach to non-native species. Since 2008 it has been used to facilitate the active involvement of stakeholders in taking forward the GB Strategy.

The morning sessions consisted of talks to update everyone on developments in the past year. The afternoon workshop sessions provided the opportunity for stakeholders to have a wide range of discussions.

Overall, 66 attendees from a broad spectrum of organisations attended the Forum. A list of attendees can be found at the end of these Proceedings.



NOTE: The views summarised in the workshop reports represent the views as they were expressed by our Stakeholders.

PROGRAMME

Theme: Achieving better biosecurity across the spectrum

- 09:30 Registration and coffee
- 10:00 Welcome address - Lord Gardiner (Defra)
- 10:15 Update on progress since 2015 Forum - Niall Moore (GB NNSS)

Setting the scene presentations

- 10:30 Contingency Planning in Great Britain - Olaf Booy (GB NNSS)
- 10:45 Some practical considerations of Contingency Planning - Adrian Jowitt (Natural England)
- 11:00 Pathway Action Planning - Niall Moore (GB NNSS)
- 11:15 Refreshment break
- 11:30 Biosecurity and communications - Lucy Cornwell (GB NNSS)
- 11:45 Spread the word, not the shrimp - Chris Gerrard (Anglian Water)
- 12:00 Influencing the biosecurity behaviour of anglers - Mark Owen (Angling Trust)
- 12:15 Introduction to workshop sessions
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 **Workshop session:**
 - **Workshop 1: GB Regional Co-ordination**
Chair: Mike Sutton-Croft (APHA)
 - **Workshop 2: Media and Comms Strategic Plan**
Chair: AngelaTaylor (Defra)
 - **Workshop 3: Future Monitoring and Surveillance Needs**
Chairs: Megan Ellershaw (Natural England) and
Phil Boon (Scottish Natural Heritage)
- 15:00 Refreshment break
- 15:20 Open session
- 15:50 Closing remarks/next steps
- 16:00 Close

Workshop Reports

Workshop 1: GB Regional Co-ordination

Chair: Mike Sutton-Croft (APHA)

The following issues were raised at this Workshop Session:

- Overview of regional INNS forums already taken place
 - SW INNS Forum. Included broad range of stakeholders.
 - SE INNS Forum. Focus on LAG's.
 - All agreed these forums are a good idea.
 - promote knowledge exchange.
 - opportunity to gain others perspectives.
 - provide increased collaboration and funding opportunities.
 - Increase data sharing.
 - Some participants at SE forum felt there might be competition for funds between LAG's but generally agreed at Stakeholder forum that benefits outweigh negatives.
- LIFE bid overview provided.
- Target Check, Clean Dry, campaign more effectively at regional level to assist those working at catchment level.
- Not all stakeholders are aware of each other. This could be improved by adopting the regional approach. Definition of Local Action Group was provided with examples.
- Marine INNS are being overlooked. Requests for more work involving marine and coastal INNS.
- Regional plans should include digital platforms for records and management.
- Plans should identify preferred management outcomes and species actions.
- Plans could inform priorities for regional management plans.
- Generic plans for GB for reporting, prioritising, management and plans for mobile species to ensure successful eradications.
- Local approach preferred for non-mobile species.
- Potential should be there to scale up local plans (e.g. reporting) up to regional level and also scale down national schemes to regional or local level.
- Accountability was suggested as a way to keep momentum at regional level.
- Regional groups should have sustainability built in from the outset to help maintain momentum and longevity.
- The collaborative voice at regional level combined with regional management plans could encourage compliance. Could also provide a conduit for large companies to fund priority species plans.
- Total catchment area design could provide framework for regional activity.
- Regions will follow EA catchment outlines.

- To engage with more stakeholders and link with more networks one delegate highlighted that LAGS should link to local Nature Partnerships....
- ...another suggestion was better connection and links with local recording centres. This was further supported by examples such as East of England Records Centre and GIGL.
-another suggestion for engagement and increased links was the Coastal Partnership Network Forum.
- With reference to Regional Management Plans people highlighted.....
 - Identifying sensitive areas should be included in a plan. Both sites of ecological value and areas at risk of INNS colonisation / pathways.
 - Management plans should be live, dynamic documents which can be updated and amended / a dynamic process rather than a static document.
 - Regional Management Plans should be cross referenced across regions to highlights gaps, issues and as a horizon scanning / biosecurity exercise.
 - Platform for regional linkages – perhaps a live website rather than a document.
 - A dynamic plan with the inclusion of GIS maps could also include costs of control and help with species prioritization.
 - A live plan could help to highlight funding opportunities.
 - Management plans should start by identifying the LAGS and stakeholders.
 - The requirement for more research – should this be included in the Regional Plans?
 - Regional plans must include marine and other habitats both for greater understanding but also to ensure potential contacts and stakeholders are not excluded.
- With reference to partnership engagement and volunteers....
 - It was mentioned that volunteers do not always get involved in rapid responses but generally engage with activities that were 'not so important' such as balsam bashing.
 - That landowners and volunteers like to feel part of the bigger picture so LAGS being linked regionally might provide that additional benefit.
 - Regional groups should be branded and have a specific identity – this will help to motivate individuals and stakeholders but....
 - Due to catchment connections and successes etc, LAGs should keep their own individuality and responsibilities under the umbrella of a Regional Group.
 - LAGS should be practical about what they can achieve.....making connections and keeping them is a full time job – capacity.
 - Use of volunteers such as River Wardens increases LAG capacity.

- Research – it was highlighted that Universities and students should be utilised more to carry out research that LAGs do not have the capacity for.

Workshop 2: Media and Comms Strategic Plan

Chair: Angela Taylor (Defra)

The following issues were raised at this Workshop Session:

Communicating with stakeholders

- All agreed the updates on EU & Strategy etc in the morning session of Stakeholder Forum were very useful, asked whether the NNSS could provide a (brief) quarterly update / newsletter
- Forum is a very useful event for recognising stakeholder work and forming / maintaining links within the INNS community, all agreed this should continue

Evaluation

- All agreed that a repeat of the baseline survey of awareness would be extremely useful for stakeholders in demonstrating the impact of their work (including use in funding bids)
- This should be focussed on key groups rather than a general survey of public awareness
 - These could be linked to PAPs, could assess the impact of the zoos PAP
- Could use a combination of Survey Monkey and focus groups – LAGs could help to carry out surveys
- NNSS could also attempt to build INNS questions into existing surveys

Logos

- NNSS logo should continue to be used as an overarching visual identity / endorsement of awareness-raising materials etc
- All stakeholders to use #GBINNS to link social media posts

European engagement

- A general Biosecurity logo should be produced for use across Europe
- HTA to see whether they can push INNS issues in EU
- Protect campaign & INNS should be built into Government 25 Year Plan and Agriculture Plan
- Support for a broad UK biosecurity campaign for all environments, with continued use of specific campaigns targeting high risk user groups.

Engagement of new audiences

- All agreed that working with existing citizen science initiatives would be a useful way of engaging wider groups
- Suggested groups to work with
 - OPAL
 - BTO
- Stakeholders to suggest other citizen science initiatives to NNSS

Media engagement

- NNSS / Stakeholders could try to engage specialist publications read by corporate shareholders e.g. article in FT which could act as a lever on water companies
- Success stories should be promoted to media
 - Local media more likely to be interested in these kinds of stories
 - Role for LAGs and stakeholders in working proactively with media
 - EA media officers are required to promote community stories through local media
- NNSS to produce a PR toolkit for stakeholders (particularly LAGs) to use
 - Include press release templates
- Support for a media training session at next LAG Forum

Recognising stakeholder work

- All agreed this helps to encourage new and existing stakeholders. Suggestions for ways to do this include:
 - Awards at the Stakeholder Forum and LAG Workshop
 - An annual accreditation scheme recognising high biosecurity standards
 - Encouragement to share good practice e.g. incentives for case studies

Workshop 3: Future Monitoring and Surveillance Needs

Chairs: Megan Ellershaw (Natural England) and Phil Boon (Scottish Natural Heritage)

The following issues were raised at this Workshop Session:

Non-native species portal

- Need for clarity over what's part of the portal and what is the GBNNSS website. Many unclear that these are two separate things
- Information available on portal not felt to be different from that contained elsewhere eg Wikipedia.
- Lack of information or links to how to manage species is felt to be a gap.
- Suggestion to include a filter to enable you show just the alert species.
- Need for clarification round alert species – what are they, how are they selected and what are people expected/required to do. If there are

particular species which are relevant to particular stakeholder groups to make sure they are aware.

GB NNS website

- Website is a valuable resource that should be retained but room for improvement. Including:
 - Need for a reorganisation and decluttering of information
 - Make navigation more intuitive and accessible to all/well informed user. Feeling that you have to be well educated on INNS to use.

Monitoring

- Target monitoring and surveillance
 - using prioritisation of pathways by risk
 - Using habitats that will be impacted
- Make use of people already going out monitoring for other reasons (eg FC tree health people) and ask them to include information on NNS. Need to identify what species to look out for a collect info on.
- Look at ongoing and long-term monitoring (eg Farmland birds) to see if there are opportunities to include something on NNS

Reporting

- Need for separation of widespread v's alert species and clear communication on what the species are and the easy reporting step that is required.
- Make use of people a
- Ability to record null returns
- To encourage greater uptake (particularly for citizen science) suggest using/promoting systems that enable instantaneous feedback eg iRecord.

Opportunities

- Potential to use information on user profiles from systems such as iRecord to benefit/help eg utilising people who regularly record aquatic macrophytes to help survey
- Use universities more to collaborate on research
- Potential to use NGOs and others more to undertake emergency/specialist surveys. Would require availability of funding
- Make use of people already going out monitoring for other reasons (eg FC tree health people) and ask them to include information on NNS. Need to identify what species to look out for a collect info on.
- Look at which sectors of society/stakeholder groups are good at providing data and target. Eg shooting groups

Risks

- Open policy on data being led by Defra and reduction in support of LRCs is a significant risk. Access to data is an issue.

Feedback from attendees

66 delegates attended the Forum and 22 feedback forms were returned. All 22 agreed that holding an annual Forum was very worthwhile activity.

Comments about the Forum which worked well:

- 'Great variety of presentations and information about forthcoming issues.'
- 'Extremely helpful and positive updates.'
- 'I think it would be good to have at least one presentation on different habitats, eg terrestrial, freshwater, marine. This would perhaps encourage more marine stakeholders to attend.'
- 'Good to have a Minister present, he should be invited again.'
- 'Very encouraging to hear positive engagement by Lord Gardiner.'
- 'Great to have water companies on board and to hear what Anglian Water are doing.'
- 'The discussion group was extremely interesting and beneficial, but more time required.'
- 'Networking opportunities very beneficial.'

Comments about the Forum which didn't work well:

- 'Lots of focus on aquatic – a variety would be welcomed.'
- 'Workshop sessions not very interesting.'
- 'Workshops could do with being broken into smaller groups or a different format because not everyone joined in the conversation.'
- 'Scrap the workshops and allow greater time for discussions around presentations and also networking.'

All agreed the Royal York Hotel was an excellent venue for the Forum, especially so close to the train station. Both the meeting rooms and catering facilities were excellent and having a sit down lunch was particularly welcome.

Locations suggested for the 2017 Forum were:

- York (Royal York Hotel again)
- Wales (to encourage contribution)
- South, ie London
- Birmingham
- Edinburgh

Secretariat Website

Comments on the GB NNSS website included:

- 'Slightly messy, perhaps change the layout / colour scheme.'
- 'It looks like a technical intranet – fine but only accessible to professionals.'
- 'Could do with a general overhaul.'
- 'Simplify it, especially for non-experts.'
- 'Risk assessments very informative.'
- 'NNSIP layout rather confusing.'
- 'Needs updating.'
- 'A bit dated.'
- 'Good, however some errors need addressing.'
- 'Easier access to priority species other than alert species.'

20 of the 22 delegates who returned their feedback forms had visited the Secretariat website. The table below shows the frequency of delegate visits to the website reported on the feedback forms.

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Rarely	2	4		2		3
Once per month	10	10	5	6	2	11
Once per week	5	6		4	8	8
Several times per week	3	7	2	2	8	2

The most useful parts of the website included:

- Species Information
- Species Alerts
- Biosecurity and Prevention

The least used parts of the website included:

- Local Action Group pages
- Projects pages
- GB Co-ordination pages

Suggested improvements to the website included:

- 'Make it function on phones / tablets.'
- 'Two-way flow of information via e-mail and social media.'
- 'Perhaps a link to e-mails when new events are added.'
- 'Simplify the navigation.'
- 'NNSIP needs to be less busy.'
- 'The website is very good and keeping it up to date so that users are confident is really important.'
- 'Suggest getting someone external and specialist to review the website.'
- 'Better promotion of recording apps.'
- 'Good to put management plans on as they occur.'

Suggested information to be added to the website included:

- 'Greater interactivity.'
- 'Horizon scanning.'
- 'Links to other relevant sites.'

- 'Recommended action following discovery of a suspected INNS.'
- 'Clear information on what the different sections are for, eg Alerts – what are these, how are they identified / generated and what do you want people to do about them.'

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all our speakers and workshop chairs for their invaluable contributions and Defra for providing the funding for this event. Thanks also to the staff at the Royal York Hotel for their professional service and hospitality.

List of attendees

First Name	Last Name	Organisation
Chris	Addy	Environment Agency
John	Adlam	Horticultural Trades Association
Ben	Aston	Yorkshire Water
Christopher	Bell	SongBird Survival
Phil	Boon	Scottish Natural Heritage
Olaf	Booy	GB NNSS
Emma	Boyd	Defra
Matt	Brazier	Environment Agency
Peter	Brown	Anglia Ruskin University
Lyn	Byrne	NWWT / DINNS Project
Bob	Chaffer	Scottish Natural Heritage
Jess	Chappell	RSPB
Emily	Clark	Defra
Gordon H	Copp	CEFAS
Lucy	Cornwell	GB NNSS
Rebecca	Corrie-Close	Cumbria Freshwater INNS Initiative
Keith	Cowieson	SongBird Survival
Ian	Danby	BASC
Gareth	Davies	Environment Agency
Phil	Davison	Cefas
Emma	Deighton	Defra
Robert	Dewar	National Trust for Scotland
Justin	Dixon	Defra
Megan	Ellershaw	Natural England
Hannah	Freeman	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
Lord	Gardiner	Defra
Chris	Gerrard	Anglian Water Services
Andrea	Griffiths	Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
Kay	Haw	Woodland Trust
Joanna	Heisse	Environment Agency
Ailsa	Henderson	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Graham	Holyoak	Tyne Rivers Trust
Adrian	Jowitt	Natural England
Craig	Lee	Defra
Jo	Long	SEPA
Jan	MacLennan	Natural England
Alan	Martin	Wandle Trust
Rosa	Mato Amboage	University of York
Gordon	Mellor	The Hawk Board
Niall	Moore	GB NNSS
Stuart	Morris	Japanese Knotweed Solution Ltd
Nicola	Morris	SINNG
Camilla	Morrison-Bell	British Ecological Society
John	Mumford	Imperial College London

David	Noble	British Trust for Ornithology
Mark	Owen	Angling Trust
Simon	Owens	Teesdale Community Network
Margaret	Palmer	Buglife
Jenny	Park	Scottish Natural Heritage
Rachel	Parks	Cefas
Jennifer	Pollitt	RSPB
Simone	Price	Tyne Rivers Trust
Richard	Pullen	Defra
Linda	Raine	GB NNSS
Trevor	Renals	Environment Agency
Neil	Riddle	Forestry Commission
Peter	Robertson	APHA
Paul	Rose	JNCC
Cat	Shannon	University of Leeds
Lorna	Shaw	Essex Wildlife Trust
Martin	Sims	National Wildlife Crime Unit
Alan	Simson	Landscape Institute / Leeds Beckett University
Mike	Sutton-Croft	APHA
Angela	Taylor	Defra
Sonal	Varia	CABI
Max	Winpenny	Imperial College London