

Environmental Standard Operating Procedure 16

Floating Pennywort Eradication

The Broads waterways contain unique and important water plant communities. Working practices aim to prevent the spread of invasive plant species and minimise their impact on native species and waterways users' enjoyment.

Aim

Eradication of all infestations of Floating Pennywort.

Environmental Risks

Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation
Spreading fragments within site	High	No works during high flow, use nets to stop fragments
Removal of native plant species	Medium	Training and issue plant ID cards.
Disturbance of water vole habitat	Medium	Pre-works survey



Delivery Method

- Surveying possible all year round.
- Removal all year round through hand-pulling or mechanical excavation.
- Early growth can be sprayed with Glyphosate (round-Up bioactive) and TopFilm, following EA approval (See ESOP 15).

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Standard Procedure

- During hand-pulling, the whole plant is to be removed – leaves, stems AND root;
- No roots to be left in the bank. If resistance is felt when gently pulling – STOP. Feel down the stem until the roots can be gently teased out of the bank or freed from the obstruction;
- Avoid fragments floating away by using hand-held nets or netting the whole channel downstream;
- Mechanical excavators to dig down into the bank material to remove fixed roots;
- Do not leave removed material on the bankside if there is a risk of flooding. Preferably dig a pit and completely bury the material;
- Ensure that all equipment and PPE is cleaned to avoid spreading between sites.

Consultation Required

- **External** – Environment Agency or IDB when working on or near watercourses.

Further Information

<http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/nonnativespecies/floatingpennywort.aspx>

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