

# Environmental Standard Operating Procedure

<b>ESOP Name</b>	Parrot's feather control
<b>ESOP Number</b>	18
<b>Revision Date</b>	22/02/2024
<b>Related ESOPs</b>	<a href="#">2 Biosecurity</a> <a href="#">15 Herbicide application</a>



## Aim

The waterways of the Broads have unique and important water plant communities. Working practices aim to prevent the spread of non-native invasive plant species and minimise their impact on native species and the river systems.

The standard procedure aims to control and eliminate current areas of parrot's feather and to prevent the spread of this plant in the undertaking of bankside operations.

## Standard Methodology

- If new small outbreaks occur in priority areas, it should be eliminated immediately, treat with herbicide (See ESOP 16 *Herbicide Application*), or, if small pockets are located, they may be hand pulled and doubled bagged.
- Avoid fragments floating away by using hand-held nets to collect pieces or net across the whole channel downstream in high flow areas.

- Ensure that all equipment and PPE is cleaned, checked and dried to avoid spreading between sites.

## Procedure

### Pre-works

- Survey and monitoring to be undertaken and location information for any new clumps of parrot's feather must be logged and passed on the responsible Ecologist for collation.
- Ecologist to develop a method for the most appropriate control measure – usually manual extraction (hand pulling) and/or spraying with mechanical removal as the least favoured option.
- Establish if water voles are using areas to be cleared. If so, methods of working will need to be assessed and designed by an Ecologist to ensure works do not damage/disturb water voles and their habitat.

### Operational

- Hand-pull all individual plants in an area ensuring whole plant, including the root system, is removed.
- No roots to be left in the bank. If resistance is felt when gently pulling stop and feel down the stem until the rather brittle roots can be removed
- Pulled material either removed from site in bags to be burned in a controlled environment, or placed on impermeable membrane on site, allowed to dry out and burnt
- Ensure identification training is provided to ensure only Parrot's Feather is removed.
- Ensure that all equipment and PPE is cleaned in line with the 'Check, Clean, Dry' biosecurity protocol to avoid spreading between sites
- Foliar spray each plant with glyphosate mix (RoundupProActive 360) to ensure no native plants and/or animals are affected by the herbicide.

## Consultation

- The Ecologist responsible for invasive species management in the Broads must be made aware of any new patches of parrot's feather found so these can be logged and shared with the Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative – records to be sent to [liam.smith2@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:liam.smith2@norfolk.gov.uk) as of December 2021.
- Landowner permission must be sought and obtained before work can commence on land not belonging to the BA.

- Environment Agency consent must be obtained via an AquaHerb01 Agreement before herbicide may be used to treat the plants. If herbicide is to be applied in or near a protected site (SAC, SPA, SSSI) Natural England Protected Sites Consent must be obtained.

## Risk Assessment

Hazard	Initial Risk			Controls / Safeguards / Precautions	Revised Risk		
	S	L	R		S	L	R
Spreading fragments within the site	4	4	C	No works to be undertaken in high flow or flood events, use nets to prevent fragments spreading.	4	2	B
Existing stands outcompeting native plants	4	5	C	Control existing stands.	4	2	B
Disturbance of water voles	4	2	B	Pre-works survey & works assessment	4	1	B

Matrix

		LIKELIHOOD					RISK
		Very unlikely	Unlikely	Moderately likely	Likely	Very likely	
SEVERITY		1	2	3	4	5	
<b>Low</b> (minimal, short-term disturbance levels and negligible damage to native habitats.)	1	A	A	A	A	A	A OK. Work to provisions in risk assessment
<b>Medium</b> (moderate, short-term disturbance levels, some damage to native habitats/species. Regenerates quickly.)	2	A	A	A	B	B	B Proceed with caution. Dynamically review risks.
<b>High</b> (high disturbance levels over a longer period and displacement of species. Damage to native habitats. Significant time to regenerate)	3	A	B	B	C	C	C Cancel task. Approach project in a different way.
<b>Very High</b> (Long-term disturbance with displacement/death of species. Significant damage to native habitats that takes a significant time to regenerate.)	4	B	B	C	C	C	