



## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD**

### **Reports of Floating Pennywort in Broadland**

The Broads and Norfolk Rivers IDBs have recently received reports of Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*), a fast growing and highly invasive plant species in their Boards internal Drainage Districts, around the North Walsham Dilham Canal area and the River Ant.

The discovery of this plant in the catchments is a huge risk to our IDBs, both economically as well as ecologically and could seriously impact boards infrastructure if left unchecked.

The plant reproduces vegetatively, from bits splitting off from the main plant, floating downstream and establishing in the banks. It grows at a phenomenally fast rate (20cm day) and forms vast, thick mats which could have serious impacts on drainage, navigation, fisheries and ecological interests in the Broads and the Broadland Rivers. It will be found initially growing horizontally out from the bank with lobed, kidney shaped leaves (upto 7 cm) and a thick fleshy stalk from which radiates veins (please see attached NNSS ID Sheet).

Below are photographs of the plant in another WMA catchment, illustrating the problem.

Examples of a Pump and watercourses in the Pevensey Levels WLMB catchment area.



The best time to do something about this plant is now, before it spreads and moves further down the system into the Broads, into IDB networks and into other river systems. The IDBs will be working closely with the Non Native Species Initiative (NNSI), the Environment Agency, the Broads Authority, Natural England and the North Walsham/Dilham Canal Trust to establish a plan and a solution to eradicating the plant. Please do not pick the plant and throw it back into the river/dyke or try to remove the plant yourself from the watercourse, as this may cause the plant to spread. Please report the sighting to the IDB or the NNSI as described overleaf.

Please tell your friends and neighbours, spread the word on the severity of this plant and report any sightings to an IDB Environment Officer or to the Norfolk County Council's Non Native Species Initiative on the contact details below:

**Caroline Laburn**

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**Jamie Manners**

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**Helen Mandley**

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**Non Native Species Initiative**

[nnsi@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nnsi@norfolk.gov.uk)

Please be vigilant and report the sighting, with a grid reference if possible, using the following link:

<https://gridreferencefinder.com/>

The Environment Team will be informing all operational staff ID of this plant and asking them to keep an eye out and report it to the team.

The Non Native Secretariat Identification sheet for Floating Pennywort is also appended with this information to assist in Identification of the plant. Please make yourself aware of what it looks like and how it grows in the watercourse.

### **Reported locations of Floating Pennywort in Broadland**

The grid references are shown below for locations near Honing Lock, Tonnage Bridge and the bottom of the Hundred Stream on the River Ant. The likelihood is that there may be several other patches in or around the Ant river system.

