

Broadland Flood Alleviation Project: rare & scarce plants

Sharp-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton acutifolius*



Description & distribution: A submerged plant with narrow, sharply pointed, grass-like leaves. Associated with calcareous, mesotrophic waters, it is a Red Data Book species. In the Broadland area it is confined to the dykes of the Yare valley marshes.

Potential impacts: There are no known populations of Sharp-leaved pondweed within the BFAP works area, therefore there should be no direct impact through the in-filling of dykes. There is potential for indirect impacts if there were to be a lowering of water levels or changes in water quality within the marsh dykes.

Mitigation: Baseline surveys will be undertaken to confirm whether or not the plant is present within the works area prior to scheme initiation. Where present, the aim is to ensure that populations are maintained at, or restored to, at least their former levels. For example when re-instating dyke systems during flood defence improvement works, silts containing plant rhizomes & turions are transferred from in-filled dykes to the newly instated dykes, to act as an inoculum. Individual plants may also be translocated. The marsh dyke network is always separated from the soke dyke during works to avoid affecting water levels and quality.