

Broadland Flood Alleviation Project: rare & scarce plants

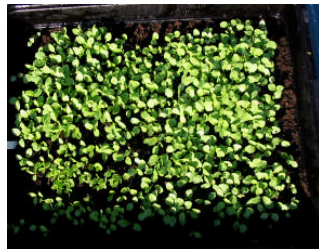
Greater Water-parsnip *Sium latifolium*



Description & distribution: A tall perennial, up to 2m, although more typically 50 - 100cm. Nationally scarce, it is present in all the Broadland river valleys, although it is very localised & is known to have been lost from some sites in recent years. The plant is typically found in tall fen, but is also present along some grazing marsh dyke margins.

Potential impacts: Flood defence works have the potential to reduce populations of the plant. Disturbance of the grazing marsh dyke habitats along the folding may destroy the plant itself, & disturb the seedbank necessary for natural regeneration.

Mitigation: Baseline surveys are used to establish the presence & distribution of Greater Water-parsnip in the works area prior to scheme initiation. Where impacts are unavoidable, the aim is to ensure that populations are subsequently restored to at least their former levels. Mitigation involves the collection of ripe seed which is then sown onto suitable areas of the site once works are complete. Additional seed is used to raise plants for translocation to the reinstated dykes upon completion of works. Such measures are used to supplement any natural regeneration from the seedbank. Monitoring is undertaken to gauge the success of natural regeneration & the need for further reseeding &/or replanting.



Ripe seed has been collected and successfully grown on for translocation back to the dyke margins

This work has also been of benefit to other wetland habitats, e.g. in the Somerset Levels, where donated seed will be used by the Avon Wildlife Trust to re-establish the plant's presence once again.