



**RINSE**  
Reducing the Impact of non-native species in Europe



<http://www.rinse-europe.eu>

## €2.5 million project to tackle alien invaders!

A new European project will bring tremendous gains to the region by helping to stem the rise of invasive plants and animals. The RINSE project (Reducing the Impact of Non-native Species in Europe), which has a total budget of over 2.5 million Euros, will look at ways of managing invasive non-native species (INS) across a large project area, spanning much of southern England, northern France, Belgium and the Netherlands. RINSE has been supported by funding through the European Union's Interreg Two Seas Programme, and has a total of nine partners, all with a keen interest and significant experience in the control and eradication of INS.

Invasive non-native species (often referred to as 'aliens') pose a tremendous threat to native biodiversity, causing ecological and economic damage. Globally they are thought to cost £1.4 trillion per year.

The project is being led by Norfolk County Council, (NCC) which already does much work locally in promoting the control of INS, playing host to the Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative (NNNSI).

Biodiversity and Countryside Manager at NCC, Heidi Thompson said: "In Norfolk we have a heritage of active management of invasive species going back as far as the ambitious and successful project to eradicate coypu in the 1980s. We are delighted to be lead partner for the RINSE project, which will share techniques and experience across a network of partners in northern Europe, and bring some £200,000 worth of European money to the county."

Amongst other activities, RINSE will audit the distribution of INS as well as making predictions about species that could become a threat in the future. It will also carry out field trials of new methods to control some of the most concerning INS found in the area.

The project will develop new methods to record INS, including an "App", which will allow anyone with a Smartphone to record invasive species. Results from field trials will be made widely available to help with future control efforts.

NNNSI has delivered many control and eradication projects in the Norfolk, under the direction of Mike Sutton-Croft. A particularly important project is the ongoing removal of floating pennywort from the River Waveney, which is on track to achieve eradication within the next two years. Without the intervention of NNNSI this plant looked likely to have spread out of control, threatening biodiversity and recreational interests in the Broads (the plant can grow so thickly that boats are unable to push through).

Mike has worked closely with local communities to enable them to take direct steps to control invasive species on their doorstep, for example by running Himalayan balsam

pulling events. NNNSI will also be at the forefront of efforts in Norfolk to tackle “killer shrimp” which has just been discovered Barton Broad.

Mike said: “We are delighted to have the opportunity to share our expertise with colleagues across the south of England and further afield. The RINSE project is set to leave an impressive legacy through its programme of training, outreach and practical ‘on the ground’ removal work. With the recent arrival of killer shrimp in the Broads, the need to raise awareness of these species and how to prevent their spread is more important than ever. RINSE means that we should have the resources available to make this happen in Norfolk.”

Notes for editors

1. RINSE (Reducing the Impacts of Non-native Species in Europe) has been funded by the European Union’s Interreg 4a Two Seas programme ([www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/programme/key-information/en](http://www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/programme/key-information/en)) and has a total of nine partners from France, England, Belgium and the Netherlands:

Norfolk County Council  
Bournemouth University  
CAB International (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International)  
CPIE Authie Valley (Centre Permanent d’Initiatives pour l’Environnement (CPIE) Val D’Authie)  
Dutch Plant Protection Service (Nederlandse Voedsel- en Warenautoriteit, Divisie Landbouw & Natuur)  
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust  
INBO (Instituut voor Natuur – en Bosonderzoek)  
Inagro (Onderzoek and Advies in Land - & Tuinbouw)  
RATO (Rattenbestrijding Oost-Vlaaderen vzw)

2. This document reflects the author’s views. The Interreg IVA 2 Seas Programme Authorities are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.
3. Read more about RINSE at our temporary website : <http://www.rinse-europe.eu>
4. For images on INS, please go to the gallery at the GB non-native species secretariat website: [www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org). Instructions on use of the images is provided.
5. More information about INS mentioned in this release

**Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)**

A tall annual herb with pink-purple flowers, fleshy stem and explosive seed heads. Out competes native species in ecologically sensitive areas, particularly river banks. Where it grows in dense stands along river banks, it can impede flow at time of high rainfall, increasing likelihood of flooding. Read more here:

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/downloadDocument.cfm?id=33>

**Killer Shrimp *Dikerogammarus villosus*.**

Voracious predator, killing invertebrates and small fish. Often larger than native freshwater shrimp species growing to 30mm from tip of tail to tip of head and with a striped appearance. Read more here:

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/index.cfm?sectionid=47>

**Coypu *Myocastor coypus***

Large semi-aquatic rat-like rodent usually 2 – 4kg in weight found across northern Europe. Selective feeding causes reduction in reedswamp areas with elimination of Rumex species and Nuphar lutea. Burrowing activities disrupt riverbanks and drainage systems. Read more here: <http://www.europe-aliens.org/speciesFactsheet.do?speciesId=52881>

**Floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides***

Aquatic floating plant with characteristic, kidney-shaped leaves which can be free-floating or emergent. It has fleshy stems and fine, white roots. With a peak growth rate of 20cm per day, it can rapidly dominate a waterbody forming thick mats and impeding water flow and amenity use. May out-compete native species by blocking out light causing deoxygenation, obstructing air-breathing insects from reaching the water surface and reducing water temperatures. Read more here: <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/downloadDocument.cfm?id=31>

6. For further information about this press release please contact Michael Sutton-Croft on 01603 228977 or 07881 847837



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