

Invasive Species

Non-native invasive species can affect marine operations, block boats' engine cooling systems, foul hulls and lead to costly repairs. They are of course also a threat to our domestic wildlife (one only has to think of the tiny populations of red squirrels left owing to the introduction of the grey squirrel and the demise of some of our native ladybirds after the introduction of the harlequin ladybird). Eradication projects are extremely expensive and so it is preferable to spot these problem species early. The AONB has been involved with an EU project on invasive species covering France, Belgium and Holland and England called SE-FINS.

It has produced a number of fact sheets, which can be viewed or downloaded here: <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/estuaries/useful-information/> If you have local knowledge you are the 'eyes and ears' of the estuaries.

Please help to spread the word and look out for these species – especially when cleaning/scrubbing boats.

Please report sightings with the 'That's Invasive' app <http://www.rinse-europe.eu/smartphone-apps> or at Suffolk Biological Records Centre <http://www.suffolkbrc.org.uk/SuffolkBRO> or if you're not able to use these methods, report sightings to me by e-mail, ideally with a photograph and clear location.

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