



**Defra / Environment Agency
Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management
R&D Programme**



R&D Technical Summary W5G-010

**CEH – Centre for Aquatic Plant Management Programme
Scoping phase (CAPM)**

Background to R&D project

Aquatic plant management is a continuous maintenance operation in UK rivers and watercourses. The EA has responsibilities for management of about 45,000km of channel. Effective plan management prevents flooding, enhances aquatic habitats for fisheries and recreation and allows navigation. Aquatic and riparian vegetation is managed to varying degrees over the whole length of the Agency watercourses with some £15 million spent annually on aquatic weed control by the Agency, British Waterways and Internal Drainage Boards. While Flood Defence is the main function of the EA that benefits from effective plant management, the EA's conservation, fisheries and WFD activities also benefit from the management activity.

Objectives of the R&D project

1. To provide relevant advice and information and to ensure delivery of best practice to the end user.
2. To provide published reference material to control and manage alien and invasive plant species.
3. To develop alternative non-chemical methods for the control of aquatic vegetation.
4. To investigate interactions of aquatic and riparian vegetation with flow to optimise vegetation management in relation to channel capacity.
5. To develop and reinforce methods of vegetation control in environmentally sensitive areas, SSSIs and SACs.
6. To provide assessments of the effects of climate change on aquatic plant populations in the UK.

R&D Outputs and their Use

The main output of the scoping phase is the CEH – CAPM website. To access it please copy and paste this address into your web browser:

www.capm.org.uk

This R&D Technical Summary relates to R&D Project W5G-010 *CEH – Centre for Aquatic Plant Management Programme Scoping phase (CAPM)* and the website R&D output.

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