



Floating Pennywort

Hydrocotyle ranunculoides

A non-native invasive species damaging aquatic environments across the UK

WE NEED YOU HELP!

Floating Pennywort grows extremely quickly, up to 20cm a day, and covers waterways which is why we need your help! Together we can control the spread for the non-native invasive species for the benefit of the wildlife and all river users.

If you find Floating Pennywort near your boat please remove it by hand and putting it on the riverbank far away from the water to compost.

Hand-pulling is a simple and effective method to kill the aquatic plant prevent the plant from obstructing canals and instead keep open transport routes. *please make sure to remove all of the plant and roots and follow biosecurity safety measures.

If you spot any Floating Pennywort and are unable to remove it please report it to the non-native species recording app for the Colne Valley: cvfc.org.uk/nnis. This will help create a map of Floating Pennywort populations across the Colne Valley and direct action to prevent its spread.

For further information on the species take a look below at the ColneCAN for local information and the GB non-native species secretariat website for national information.

Help protect our waterways.

CLEAN

CHECK

DRY

www.colnecan.org.uk

www.nonnativespecies.org



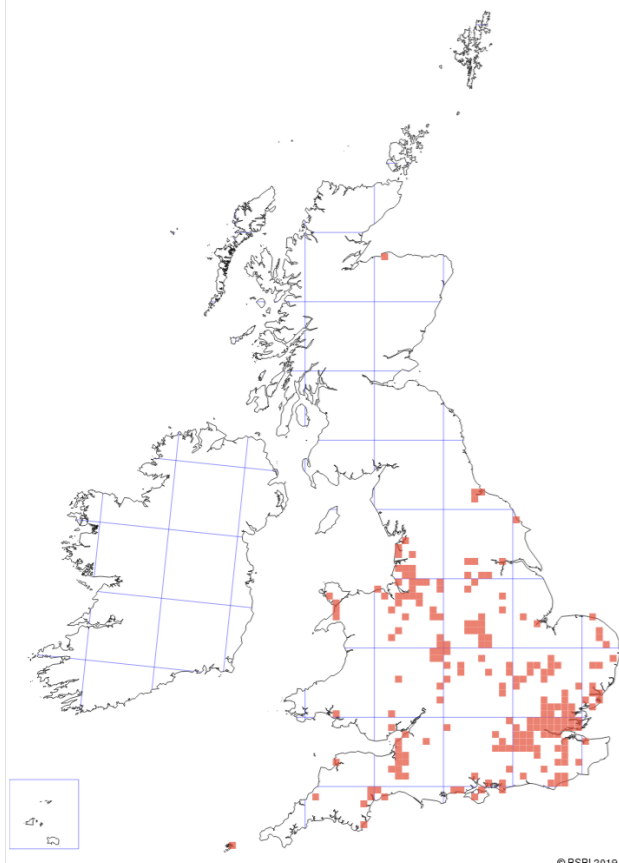
www.colnecan.org.uk

Floating Pennywort

Species Description

Floating Pennywort is a native species of North and South America. It was brought to Britain in 1980s as plant for tropical aquaria and garden ponds but escaped into the wild where it naturalised in 1990s. It spreads rapidly and is commonly found in south-east England and occasionally in north-west England and Wales. See distribution map on the left.

The species grows in shallow margins of slow flowing river systems and water bodies. It forms dense mats of entwined vegetation which suffocate the river and obstruct navigation routes across The Colne Valley. The plant spreads through natural transport pathways flowing rivers, as well as through human transportation e.g. boats and footwear.



Affect on Aquatic Environment and River Users

Floating Pennywort grows extremely quickly, up to 20cm a day, covering the canal's water surface obstructing navigation routes, preventing fishing and spoiling aesthetics. The plant collects at control structures along river system such as sluice and weirs blocking them and reducing efficiency of the control structures. Furthermore Floating Pennywort negative effects the native aquatic habitats degrading them in the following ways.

- Dense rafts of pennywort reduce light levels and take up space, which results in a reduction in the diversity of native plant species.
- Large volumes of pennywort can reduce oxygen levels, negatively affecting fish, plants and river fly species that require good water quality to survive.
- The species can also negatively effect water quality as it decomposes at the end of the growth season.
- As the growth proliferates throughout spring and summer, the river becomes choked and slow flowing, leading to increased levels of siltation in sensitive habitats, such as fish spawning areas.

Key Identification Features

BIOSECURITY

Human footfall and boats can carry floating pennywort upstream and into other watercourses spreading the invasive species. Biosecurity is extremely important to prevent cross contamination of water bodies especially as the species has the ability to regrow from a single node. Make sure to check any equipment and your boat to remove any Floating Pennywort attached and dry where possible.

CHECK → CLEAN → DRY

See a free online biosecurity training course here: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/elearning/>



Leaves

Deeply lobed leaves up to 7cm in diameter that float or stand above the water. Plant floating or rooted along the water body.



Stem

Hollow, sappy, fleshy and brittle stems. Green to red colour.



Roots

Fine white roots up to 1.2m into the water. Able to regrow from a single node.