

# Floating Pennywort

## Key Identification Features



### Roots

Fine, white roots up to 1.2mm in the water. Able to regrow from a single node.

### Stem

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

### Leaves

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

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Floating Pennywort is wreaking havoc on our native habitats and species. Together we can control the spread of this non-native invasive species for the benefit of the wildlife and all river users. Help us keep our rivers blue and not green with Floating Pennywort by volunteering with a local group or reporting sightings of this pesky species.

**Find your local volunteer group and help conserve wildlife on fun volunteer sessions on your doorstep.**

**Report any sightings of Floating Pennywort to a free online recording application for Colne Valley and help map the spread of the species.**

[cvfc.org.uk/nnis](http://cvfc.org.uk/nnis)

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.

[www.colnecan.org.uk](http://www.colnecan.org.uk)

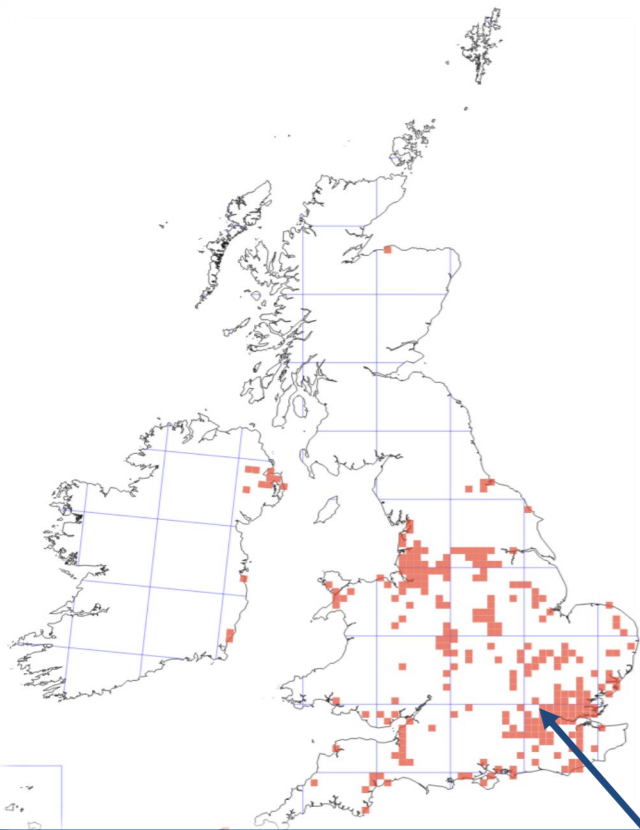
[www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org)



*A non-native invasive species*

*choking rivers near you!*

## National Distribution



## Species Description

**Origin:** North and South America.

**Latin:** *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*

**Introduction:** Brought to the UK in the 1980s for garden ponds, but escaped into the wild in the 1990s.

**Habitat:** Slow moving river systems or water bodies.

**Reproduction:** Vegetative reproduction - fragments of the plant can develop into new growth.

**Appearance:** Forms dense mats that suffocate the river. Deeply lobed leaves up to 7cm in diameter.

**Distribution:** Common in the waterways of Colne Valley. Established in the Midlands and south of England.

## Impact on Environment



Floating Pennywort grows rapidly at a rate of 20cm per day in optimal conditions choking river channels. The plant is listed under Schedule 9 in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, deeming it an offence to plant, spread or cause this species to grow in the wild. Impacts include:

- Large mats outcompete native aquatic plants by preventing light penetration into the water
- The mats slow the water current and limit the amount of dissolved oxygen available. Limited oxygen impacts water quality, affecting fish and aquatic invertebrates.
- Reduced current also results in higher siltation which negatively affects fish spawning areas.
- The mats can clog the waterways, restricting the movement of animals and boats.

## Control Measures



Floating pennywort can survive along the river margins during winter and begins to grow rapidly as soon as temperature and sunlight increase. Therefore an annual control programme is crucial for managing and controlling floating pennywort in the Colne Valley. Current control methods include:

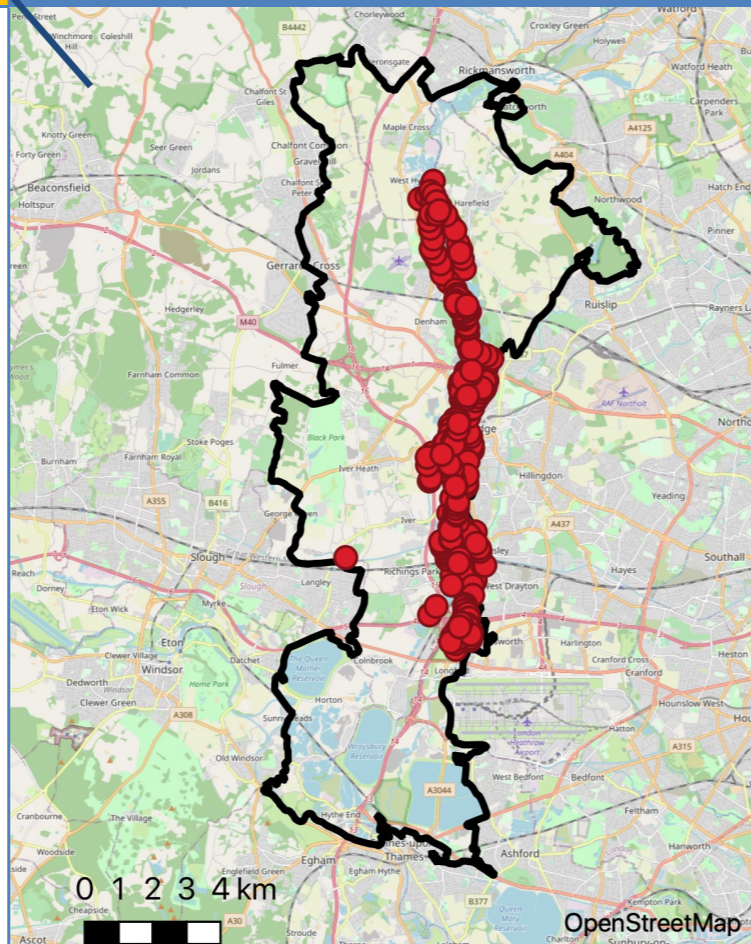
**Mechanical Controls** - Such as weed cutting boats, truxors, or long reach excavators.

**Hand Pulling** - Is effective for small populations or in protected areas. This method is very labour intensive.

**Herbicides Treatments** - Glyphosate can be applied via foliar spraying. You need a Aqherb01 licence and an agreement from the local Environment Agency before application.

**Biological Control** - The Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) is investigating the use of the South American weevil as a potential biological control for Floating Pennywort. No decision has been made for this introduction.

## Local Distribution



## BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity is extremely important to prevent the spread of the species. Floating Pennywort can spread through human transportation routes and watercourses as a fragment can initiate new populations.



Make sure to **check** your clothes, footwear and any equipment to remove any Floating Pennywort before leaving the site. **Clean** the items, then **dry** to prevent the spread.

Photos sourced from GBNNSS

CHECK

CLEAN

DRY

STOP THE SPREAD