

Floating pennywort is an invasive species of aquatic plant. It can spread very quickly and cause serious problems in our rivers by outcompeting native species, preventing navigation and angling and potentially increasing flood risk.

## WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED HELP TO KEEP IT UNDER CONTROL

### What we have done to manage it

We are now in the peak growing season for floating pennywort and our essential work to control the growth and prevent the spread of the plant is ongoing.



The most common method of control we use is manual removal by meticulously hand picking the plant. This is time consuming but highly effective. Where there are large amounts of floating pennywort, we use mechanical removal. As a final measure, we use herbicides to control the plant.



In addition to our removal work we have been working with our partners and stakeholders to monitor over 200 km of the river Thames and its tributaries for any new growth of floating pennywort between Reading and Teddington.

### Current status and plans for 2019

As a result of our efforts so far this year, there has only been minimal regrowth of floating pennywort on the river Thames and we have an active surveillance and removal programme in place. High risk sites, where the plant is prevalent, continue to be targeted.

Despite the successful work to date, the Environment Agency recognises that this is a long-term issue. We need to work together with all landowners, partners and river users to tackle floating pennywort effectively across the area.

### What you can do to help

We are asking everyone to help us control this invasive plant by reporting any new growth to us. Please help us to share these important messages.

Sightings of floating pennywort in the river Thames or its tributaries should be reported to:

[enquiries\\_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk)

### How to identify floating pennywort



Look out for fleshy stalks with shiny kidney-shaped leaves up to 7cm wide

If in doubt, please report it so that we can check.

### Information for boaters

Please do not pass through clumps of the plant as it can break off and spread downstream, or you may inadvertently carry it upstream.

Please visually check your craft regularly and, if safe to do so, remove any visible weed.



Removed pennywort can be placed on the bank to decompose. Ensure it is well away from the water to prevent re-rooting.

For more information visit:

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/>