

# Pevensey Levels Floating Pennywort Management

## Floating Pennywort:

Floating Pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* is a free-floating or rooted plant native to North America. It was released into the wild in the 1990's as a result of discarded pond plants.

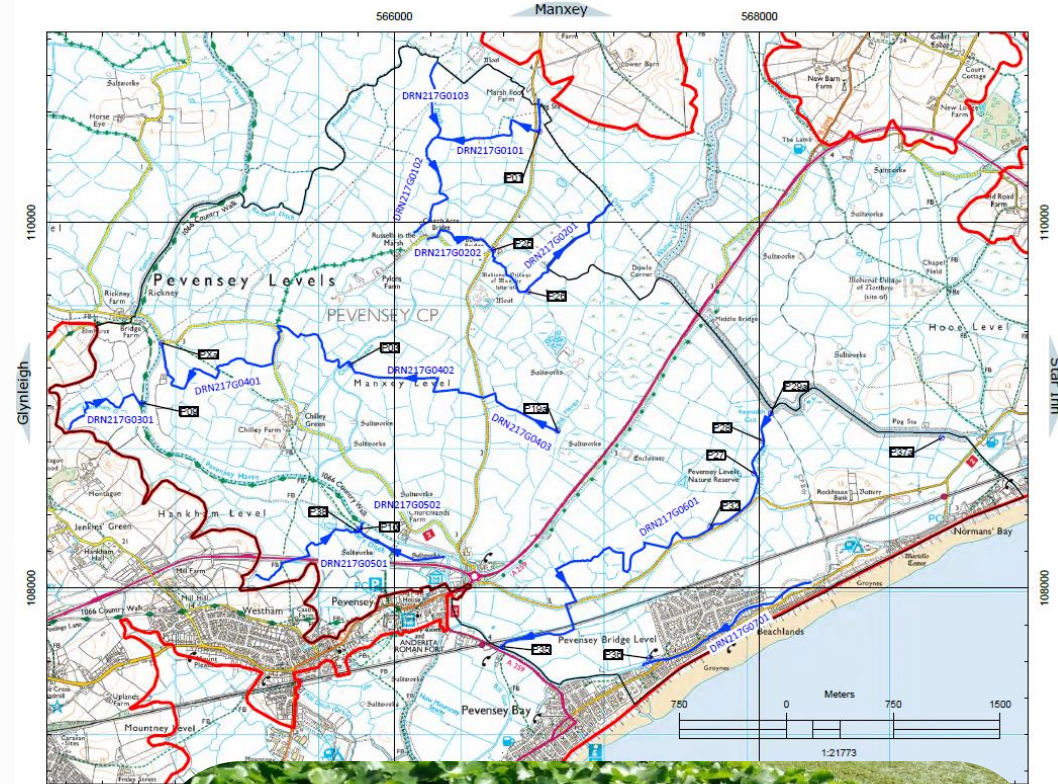
Since then this plant has become an invasive problem in the Pevensey Levels because it can grow up to 20cm per day blocking out sunlight from the fresh water systems and pushing out native species with its vigorous growing tendencies. It has also increased flood risk by causing structure blockages affecting local farming and land management practices.

The Pevensey Levels are designated under SSSI, SAC and RAMSAR and remains in unfavourable condition under the Water Framework Directive because of the spread of the floating pennywort.

This European Water Environment Grant funding will allow us to control floating pennywort annually in 15km of riparian drains in the Pevensey Levels, protecting land use and biodiversity.

## The aims of the project are:

- Control floating pennywort and help prevent it from spreading further around the Pevensey Levels SAC
- Reduce flood risk across the Pevensey Levels SAC
- Provide more space and improved habitat for native species, such as the mollusc the Lesser Ramshorn Snail, *Anisus vorticulus*.



Project Managed By



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:

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