

## PREVENT THE SPREAD AND SAVE CUMBRIA'S FRESHWATERS ...IT'S SO EASY!

We are all responsible for looking after the areas we care about. Here are three simple things you can do to help slow the spread of freshwater invasive non-native species:

### **CHECK**

Look at your items you have had in the water. Remove all fragments and put them back.

### **DRY**

After use, completely dry out all items that you have had in the water. Many species can survive in damp conditions on your equipment so you must make sure they are completely dry to the touch before use.

### **REPORT**

If you see any plant or animal you suspect of being an invasive non-native have a look on our website to check the identification and contact us to report the sighting or ask any advice.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE

- Educate and raise awareness.
- Control, manage and map established invasive species.
- Assist in the eradication and control of freshwater invasive non-native species.
- Liaise with organisations within and outside Cumbria to improve risk management strategies.
- Develop a Biosecurity plan for Cumbria.

### Cumbria Freshwater Invasive Non-Native Species Initiative

For more information please feel free to contact the Initiative Coordinator on 01539 816311 or visit our brand new WebPages:  
[www.scrt.co.uk/cfinns](http://www.scrt.co.uk/cfinns)



Cumbria Freshwater  
Invasive Non-Native  
Species Initiative



## PROTECT CUMBRIA FROM THE INVASION



### HELP TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF FRESHWATER INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES



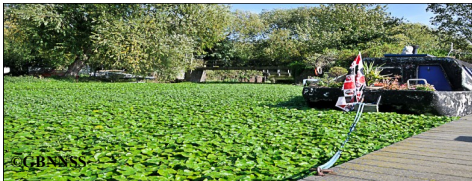
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## DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE MOVING?

Invasive non-native species are extremely harmful to the fragile freshwater rivers, streams and lakes in Cumbria. Once they have been introduced, they can grow very quickly, destroy native plants and animals and cause problems for recreational users of water.

Many problem species can spread by a single drop of water or a tiny fragment of plant. You might not even see the danger that you could be spreading!

From a tiny fragment... to a green carpet of floating pennywort



### WHAT YOU CAN DO...

- **Check** your equipment for any small pieces of plant and remove findings on site.
- **Dry** out any items including boots, bottoms of canoes, wetsuits, dry-suits or fishing rods.
- If you can not totally dry out your items before reuse, **DO NOT MOVE TO A DIFFERENT WATER BODY.**

## DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE BUYING?

Some invasive non-native species are still currently available to purchase for garden ponds. When it comes to cleaning and thinning out your pond, always dispose of your plants and pond material responsibly by **composting it.**

**DO NOT GIVE UNWANTED POND PLANTS TO FRIENDS OR NEIGHBOURS OR RELEASE INTO THE WILD.**



Read more at [www.direct.gov.uk/beplantwise](http://www.direct.gov.uk/beplantwise)

## INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES ALERT!

### North American Signal Crayfish

Introduced as food in the late 1970s the signal crayfish has escaped from breeding farms and infested many waters in Britain. This has resulted in near complete loss of the **only native white clawed crayfish** throughout the UK through spread of disease and direct competition. **The last stronghold for white clawed crayfish in the world is Cumbria.**

If introduced they will cause **irreversible damage** to the ecosystem, harming fish, eroding banks and destroying aquatic vegetation and are extremely difficult to control or eradicate.



### WHAT YOU CAN DO...

- **Identify correctly and report the sighting** by going to [www.scrt.co.uk/cfinns](http://www.scrt.co.uk/cfinns)
- **Leave** the live animal where you found it.
- **Dry out all items** that have been in contact with the water (including boots, bottoms of boats, wetsuits, dry-suits or fishing rods).