

# Recording Invasive Species Counts (RISC project)



## Background

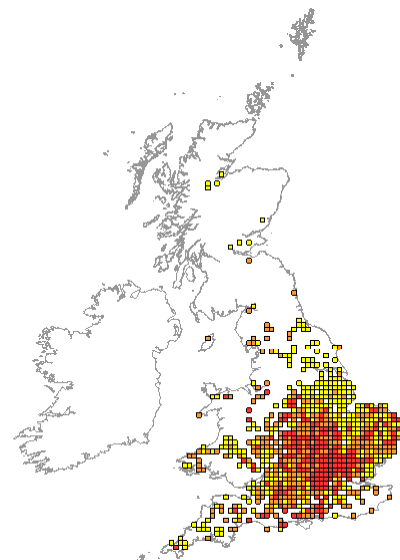
Funded by Defra, the aims of the RISC project are to encourage interest in invasive non-native species, and to involve the public in recording some of them.

- Useful data on distributions and ecology of the chosen species will be generated.
- This web-based project with online recording launched on 22 March 2010.
- RISC is being run by the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, National Biodiversity Network, Anglia Ruskin University and GB Non-native Species Secretariat.
- Ten animal and plant species have been chosen, and RISC will run in association with the national recording schemes for the species. Recorders will be asked to upload a photo of their sighting, and these will be checked and verified by the recording schemes.
- The species were selected based on criteria such as invasiveness, ease of identification and usefulness of data to the recording scheme.

**RISC website – [www.nonnativespecies.org/recording](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/recording)**

The following information is available on the website –

- 🔍 Information and images for the ten species – including species fact sheets
- 🔍 Online recording forms
- 🔍 Links to many other surveys for non-native species



**Centre for  
Ecology & Hydrology**

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



**Anglia Ruskin  
University**

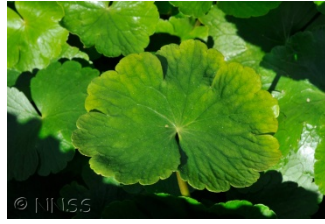




**Muntjac deer *Muntiacus reevesi***

**Habitat:** Woodland, scrub, gardens.

**Impacts:** Feeds on plant shoots and ground flora.



**Floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides***

**Habitat:** Ponds, ditches, canals.

**Impacts:** Out-competes native species. Forms dense cover on water surface, blocking out light and causing deoxygenation. Impedes water flow and amenity use.



**Zebra mussel *Dreissena polymorpha***

**Habitat:** Rivers, canals, lakes.

**Impacts:** Alters ecosystems & outcompetes native species, including mussels. Colonies can block water pipes & affect lock gates.



**Water fern *Azolla filiculoides***

**Habitat:** Ponds, ditches, canals.

**Impacts:** Out-competes native species. Forms dense cover on water surface, blocking out light and causing deoxygenation.



**Chinese mitten crab *Eriocheir sinensis***

**Habitat:** Tidal streams, rivers, estuaries.

**Impacts:** Effects native species including crayfish. Damage to riverbanks by burrowing.



**Creeping water-primrose *Ludwigia peploides***

**Habitat:** Still or slow-flowing water.

**Impacts:** Outcompetes native species. Clogs up waterways.



**Citrus longhorn beetle *Anoplophora chinensis***

**Habitat:** Deciduous trees and shrubs, especially maples.

**Impacts:** Extremely damaging to a wide range of broadleaved trees and shrubs. A serious threat to horticulture, forestry and native trees.



**American skunk-cabbage *Lysichiton americanus***

**Habitat:** Wet woodland, streambanks, pond margins.

**Impacts:** Can be invasive, but impacts unknown.



**American bullfrog *Lithobates catesbeianus***

**Habitat:** Ponds and lakes.

**Impacts:** Voracious predator of a wide range of species. Negative impact on native amphibians. Can be a vector for the chytrid fungus which causes serious disease in some amphibians.



**Tree-of-heaven *Ailanthus altissima***

**Habitat:** Roadsides, disturbed ground.

**Impacts:** Outcompetes native species.

people's trust for  
**endangered  
species**



**amphibian and reptile  
conservation**



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

Images used with the kind permission of Anastasija Zaiko (Zebra mussel), Stephan Gollasch (Mitten crab), Pavlos Andriopoulos (Tree-of-heaven) and NNSS (all other images)