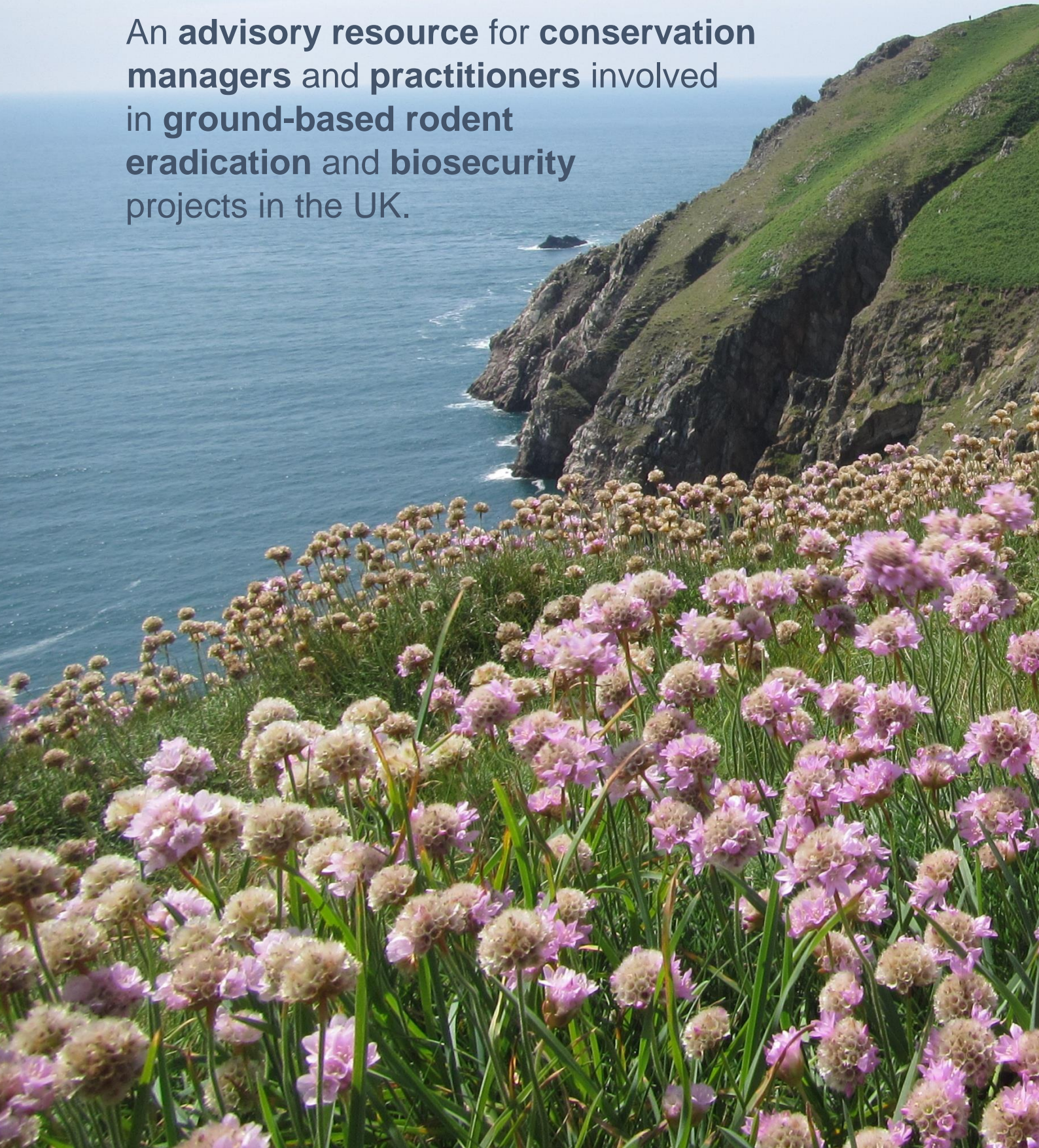


UK Rodent Eradication Best Practice Toolkit

An **advisory resource** for **conservation managers** and **practitioners** involved in **ground-based rodent eradication** and **biosecurity projects** in the UK.



Version	Date	Status	Revision due
4.0	June 2017	Final Toolkit produced	2018 or as new guidance becomes available
3.0	Oct 2015	Reviewed by IEAG	2016 or as new guidance becomes available
2.0	June 2015	Draft – for review by IEAG	2016 or as new guidance becomes available
1.0	Dec 2014	Draft – for review by stakeholders	2015 or as new guidance becomes available

This resource can be cited in references as:

Thomas, S., Varnham, K. & Havery, S. 2017: *UK Rodent Eradication Best Practice Toolkit* (Version 4.0). <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=613> Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Sandy, Bedfordshire.

Executive summary

The spread of invasive non-native species presents one of the greatest threats to biodiversity globally: invasive species are the primary driver of biodiversity loss on islands and the second largest everywhere else ([Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005](#)). Many of the UK's island ecosystems have been damaged by the arrival and establishment of invasive non-native species. Introduced predators have caused particularly catastrophic damage to many species of waders and seabirds, undoubtedly causing numerous extirpations as well as contributing to ongoing declines (Stanbury et al. 2017). Removing invasive vertebrates from islands is an important conservation tool to protect and restore island ecosystems and to prevent further declines and losses of native species.

The UK Rodent Eradication Best Practice Toolkit is intended as an advisory resource, providing a systematic approach for planning and implementing rodent eradications and biosecurity in the UK. It provides technical advice on specific methods to be used in the UK, as well as an eradication project management framework which is applicable to projects everywhere.

This toolkit has been compiled, and contributed to, by several UK governmental and non-governmental organisations involved in island restoration, these being: **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)**, **Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)**, **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)**, **GB Non-Native Species Secretariat (GB NNS)**, **Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)**, **National Trust**, **National Trust for Scotland**, **Natural England**, **Natural Resources Wales (NRW)**, **Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)**, **Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)** and the **Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust**. The Toolkit has also received input from **Wildlife Management International Ltd (WMIL)**, and draws heavily from the documentation produced by WMIL for various rat eradication projects undertaken in the UK.

The use of the UK Rodent Eradication Best Practice Toolkit aims to give UK organisations and practitioners the ability to embark on invasive rodent management projects with greater confidence of achieving the desired island restoration goals.

For more information or to provide feedback on this resource, please contact Sophie Thomas Sophie.Thomas@rspb.org.uk

Acknowledgements

The toolkit is based on the New Zealand Department of Conservation's *Best Practice for rat eradication – bait station* (Broome et al. 2011) and the Pacific Invasives Initiative Resource Kits (<http://pacificinvasivesinitiative.org/rce/>), and has been adapted for use in the UK. The Island Eradication Advisory Group (IEAG), of New Zealand Department for Conservation, provided invaluable feedback on this resource. The Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) <http://www.thinkwildlife.org/crru-code/> reviewed and provided feedback on Annex 5 of the guidance documents. We are extremely grateful to these organisations for their input and for allowing us to adapt their resources to the UK context.

Contents

The UK Rodent Eradication Best Practice Toolkit consists of (1) guidance documents for all stages of the project process plus (2) templates for key project development documents. The toolkit provides guidance on eradication and biosecurity for invasive non-native rodents, but not actions to further promote wider island restoration or ecosystem recovery. It currently does not provide advice on eradication/ biosecurity for other invasive non-native vertebrates aside from invasive rodent species.

The toolkit has been developed specifically for the UK context; however this can be adapted for other projects across Europe and outside Europe.

1. Guidance documents

The guidance documents providing technical advice for each stage of the project process:

OVERVIEW OF UK BEST PRACTICE FOR RODENT ERADICATIONS

ANNEX 1 ERADICATION TECHNIQUES IN THE UK

ANNEX 2 RAT TRAPPING AND DNA SAMPLING

ANNEX 3 RODENT SURVEILLANCE AND IDENTIFICATION

ANNEX 4 BIOSECURITY PLANNING AND INCURSION RESPONSE

ANNEX 5 RODENTICIDES

ANNEX 6 LOGISTICS AND EQUIPMENT

2. Project development templates and worked examples

The templates and worked examples for nine important documents providing a starting point and cover all the vital information required at that stage of the project development:

FEASIBILITY STUDY

PROJECT PLAN

OPERATIONAL PLAN

BIOSECURITY PLAN

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

ERADICATION READINESS CHECK

OPERATIONAL REVIEW

BIOSECURITY CHECKLIST

UK LEGISLATION CHECKLIST