



What is a Biosecurity Plan?

Biosecurity planning is a way of managing and lowering the risk associated with Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS). The key action in a biosecurity plan is for the water body site manager to identify the risks (e.g. activities which could introduce INNS) and come up with mitigating actions. There are almost always sensible steps that can be taken to reduce the risk of moving species from one place to another and to reduce the likelihood of the species becoming established. The GB Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy has a three-tier approach:

- **Prevention:** making sure new species do not enter the country. This is the most effective and least environmentally damaging, but also can be quite difficult.
- **Rapid Response:** early detection and surveillance. If a species is not established yet, there is the potential for eradication if action is taken swiftly enough.
- **Control & Containment:** where the INNS is widespread and eradication is not feasible, control of the population and mitigation against negative impacts such as spreading to other areas is critical.

The document on the RAPID LIFE website, [Freshwater Good Practice Guidance for Users and Site Managers](#), gives practical advice on measures that can be taken to lower the risk of introducing or spreading non-native species.

Small Scale Operators - I want to find out about - Biosecurity Planning

Biosecurity planning sound daunting, but it doesn't need to be. There is plenty of useful guidance – see the end of this page for useful links to biosecurity planning examples and guides.

Creating a biosecurity plan can be a relatively simple process, below are the steps for outlining a full biosecurity plan. Focus on aspects which are of most use to the specific site or activity.

Section 1 – Scene Setting

Set the scene for a biosecurity plan - what the major concerns are for the organisation, club or event. For example, this may be effects on the environment or legal or reputational impacts. Identify what geographical area or activity is to be covered by the plan, who has responsibility for the Plan and how and when it will be reviewed and

updated. It is useful to have a designated Biosecurity Officer who is responsible for monitoring and updating the plan. List key contacts such local organisations, e.g. Environmental Forums, River Trusts, company contacts, e.g. water companies, fisheries, local clubs e.g. boating or angling clubs, and local land owners and managers.

Section 2 - Environmental Information

In this section, detail the key environmental characteristics of the area that will affect biosecurity. Document the type of area, water sources feeding in and out, types of sediment, points of access, structures on the site such as weirs, slipways or moorings and information about any existing management arrangements, e.g. is the area a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)? Information is available online and searches of the relevant planning portals will provide useful background information (see list at the end of this document).

Section 3 - Use of the Area and Potential for Introduction of INNS

List the major types of activity e.g. tourism, recreation, water extraction, etc. for the area. Include available information about the amount of use and potential one-off events, e.g. angling competitions, triathalons, as well as routine recreation. A rough estimate of the use by different sectors, key users and partners is usually sufficient. List the main ways INNS could arrive in the area (pathways) and be spread around – for example, the different types of boats or equipment brought in by users, especially if they will arrive after having been at other water bodies.

Section 4 - Biosecurity Actions / Control measures

In this section, outline a plan for mitigating each of the identified risks. The document on the RAPID LIFE website, [Freshwater Good Practice Guidance for Users and Site Managers](#), gives practical advice on measures that can be taken to lower the risk of introducing or spreading non-native species.

The most effective means of preventing spread from one water body to another is to advise all users to follow the [Clean, Check, Dry](#) protocol. Information for different users are available for download at the link provided.

Section 5 - New sightings of INNS

Even with good biosecurity procedures in place there is potential for new INNS to arrive in the area. It is important that the response to such an event is rapid and proportionate to the threat posed.

If a new or unusual plant or animal is sighted, obtain a photograph, if possible, and record the location.

Submit the report to **iRecord** where an expert will review the record, <https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/>

Section 6 – Monitoring

This section is designed to help keep track of what INNS are in your area and the effects of any actions taken. There may be monitoring activities already happening in the area such as volunteer or statutory body biological surveys – find out what is already recorded by talking to organisations such as The Rivers Trust or the Environment Agency.

After establishing what monitoring is happening around the area, if significant gaps remain, plan ways to address them. This could be working with a local volunteer biological recording group to do a [bio-blitz](#) survey or a monthly or quarterly walk around a designated area recording any unusual growth or animals or reduction of problem species noted earlier.

Section 7 - Evaluation and Review

Identify aspects of Section 4 which can be monitored and assessed for evaluation of effectiveness. Set a target for implementation and a date for review.

Useful documents

A number of documents including biosecurity information for anglers and boaters and guides to minimise risk of moving non-native organisms are available [here](#).

Advice on practical measures is available on the RAPID LIFE website: [Freshwater Good Practice Guidance for Users and Site Managers](#)

Examples of Freshwater Biosecurity Plans

Cumbria Freshwater Non-Native Species Initiative [Biosecurity Plan](#)

Firth of Clyde [Biosecurity Plan](#) (includes some marine biosecurity planning)

The [River and Fisheries Trust for Scotland](#) (RAFTS) have a comprehensive set of riverine biosecurity plans for their 20 members.