Sharing best practice for biosecurity

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Senior Environmental Monitoring Officer
5th February 2019
What the Environment Agency does
We protect and improve the environment

We help people and wildlife adapt to climate change and reduce its impacts.

We improve the quality of our water, land and air by tackling pollution.

We work as part of the Defra group to create a better place for people and wildlife.
Biosecurity isn’t an optional extra
It’s fundamental to how we do our job professionally
Our approach

• **Inform** staff of the risks and potential consequences;

• encourage them to **innovate**, suggesting ways they can adapt the way they work to reduce the risk of spread;

• **enthuse** staff to share and adopt their ideas.
How we do this

• Nationally
  • ISAG
  • ISBN
  • Newsletters
  • Yammer

• Locally
  • Biosecurity Working Groups
  • Area Biosecurity Action Plans
  • Area Biosecurity Risk Assessments
• Invasive Species Action Group (ISAG)

• Comprises of:
  • National Staff
  • Area staff

• Sub groups
  • Knowledge and Innovation
  • Communications
  • Invasive Species Management
  • Biosecurity

Task and Finish Group set up to look at biosecurity kit
National

- Invasive Species and Biosecurity Network (ISBN)
  - Area champions

Spread the word not the problem

Biosecurity

people make the difference
New Biosecurity Facilities – Rockingham Depot has opened in South and West Yorkshire situated at Jct 36 of the M1 at Barnsley. This state of the art, depot includes a full suite of bio security facilities including a hot jet-wash, boot wash, drying room and showers, this gives our operational teams the ability to respond to incidents around the country while ensuring they have somewhere to ‘Check, Clean and Dry’ all of their equipment from 4x4’s to wellies. To embed this further we are having a ‘Clean in, Clean out’ policy so no dirty clothing, PPE or Equipment will be bought into the depot without having it washed and cleaned down.
National

- Yammer

Fenn, Martin – November 14, 2018 at 09:26 AM
Trials going on in West Midlands on using these Worx portable pressure washers for cleaning certain pieces of equipment
Local

• Biosecurity Working Groups
What is Biosecurity about?

Biosecurity is about reducing the risk of introducing or spreading Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS), and other potentially harmful organisms, such as disease.

What can we do about it?

**Plan** – look at the order of sites you are visiting, the equipment you take and information you have

**Avoid** – areas with known disease outbreaks, or at times of year when spreading INNS and diseases most likely

**Check** – clothing and equipment before leaving site

**Dry** – thoroughly and where not practical, take spare dry equipment

Let’s start by looking at our boots...

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STOP THE SPREAD
INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES
CHECK-CLEAN-DRY

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Why do your boots matter?

Your muddy boots could be more than an untidy sight. Let’s look at what they could be harbouring...

Just a few of the stowaways that could be on your boots include:

1. Disease i.e. Bovine TB
2. Floating Pennywort
3. Creeping Water Primrose
4. Invasive bivalves (i.e. Zebra mussels)

By not cleaning your boots you could be spreading INNS or diseases to new areas causing untold environmental damage and a potential economic cost

(***Remember**: Spread the word, not the problem.)

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Who do I speak to for more information on biosecurity or cleaning stations?

There is a dedicated person in each office committed to enhancing our biosecurity, they can help you with any biosecurity concerns, not just your boots.

**Sentinel House (Lichfield):** Bruce Goodenough

**Sapphire (Solihull):** Alex Hale

**Riversmeet House (Tewkesbury):** Sally Richardson

**Mance House (Kidderminster):** Simon Barnbrook

**Hafren House (Shrewsbury):** Martin Fenn & Ash Marlow

**Uttoxeter Depot:** Peter Froggatt

**Lea Marston Depot:** Tom Astley

**Henley in Arden Depot:** Peter Froggatt

**Gloucester depot:** Paul Milan

**Eign depot:** Lynn Bulbeck

**Stafford depot:** TBC, any volunteers?
**Biosecurity Action Plan**

- Every area produces one

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Area actions from the National Plan</th>
<th>Example Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. We need all staff to be aware of biosecurity and committed to it</td>
<td>3.1 Produce and/or share materials to support the work of ISBN members</td>
<td>Produce toolbox talks for area teams and share with ISBN members. FBG to lead on toolbox talks to ops delivery teams, A&amp;R to lead on overall biosecurity materials and messages to share</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.2 Ensure that biosecurity communications provide clear, simple and consistent messages</td>
<td>Share ISAG/ISBM material with Biosecurity Working Group</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3.3 Provide leadership within the Area for biosecurity issues</td>
<td>Ensure that contractors adhere to an appropriate level of biosecurity for the task they are performing</td>
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<td>3.4 Raise awareness of biosecurity around West Midlands</td>
<td>Ensure biosecurity is a regular discussion topic during team meetings.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3.5 Ensure staff know what facilities are available at each office/depot</td>
<td>Work with Comms and Engagement team on best way to promote biosecurity and the work of the Biosecurity Working Group</td>
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<td>3.6 Complete and deliver an Area Biosecurity Risk Assessment which identifies the priority pathways of spread and actions to remediate them.</td>
<td>Produce document with facilities available and proper signage for biosecurity areas at each office/depot</td>
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<td>Prioritise and risk assess tasks performed in the Area that have a medium to high risk of spreading damaging organisms and ensure that risk-reduction measures are undertaken</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Teams</td>
<td>Equipment</td>
</tr>
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<td>---------------</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric fishing</td>
<td>A&amp;R, S&amp;C, FBG</td>
<td>vehicle, boat and trailer, electric fishing equipment, hand nets, stop nets, tubs for holding fish and ppe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Asset requirement list

## Area asset requirement list for: West Midlands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Will this involve changes to premises?</th>
<th>How many staff will use the equipment or facility?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Top track drying system</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Extras

• PhD student, University of Leeds
  • Steam pressure washers

• Disinfectant experiment

• Hazard perception

• E-learning

Better biosecurity

This e-learning course is for anyone who:

• Works in the field in any role
• Manages staff who work in the field
• Manages sites or contractors working in the field

It will also be of interest to anyone who spends their spare time in or near water (angling, boating, etc).

The course provides guidance on why good biosecurity is important and how to apply Check, Clean, Dry to stop the spread of invasive non-native species and disease.
• Invasive Species Week
Extras

- Guidance

Biosecurity in schemes including Natural Flood Management interventions.

Bio-security Standards and Controls at Offices and Depots.

Bio-Security Check List

Supporting document 44_02_SD02

Issued 23/03/2018
The Future?

• Work in progress
• Governments 25 year plan
• Research

25 Year Environment Plan

Our 25-year goals

By adopting this Plan we will achieve:

1. Clean air.
2. Clean and plentiful water.
3. Thriving plants and wildlife.
4. A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought.
5. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently.
6. Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

In addition, we will manage pressures on the environment by:

7. Mitigating and adapting to climate change.
8. Minimising waste.
10. Enhancing biosecurity.
Questions?