



EVENT BIOSECURITY

Support Pack

This support pack aims to guide event organisers through freshwater biosecurity at events that you run.

Cover photo: James Kirby / Open Adventure

What is Biosecurity?

Biosecurity means taking action in order to minimise the introduction or spread of invasive non-native species and diseases.

What are Invasive Non-Native Species?

Invasive non-native species (INNS) are those that have been transported outside of their natural range and that can damage our environment, the economy, our health and the way we live. Impacts of INNS are so significant, they are considered to be one of the greatest threats to biodiversity worldwide. They threaten the survival of rare native species, damage sensitive ecosystems and habitats and cost the British economy approximately £1.7 billion every year.



The killer shrimp on a pair of waders after fishing in England clearly demonstrating why biosecurity is so important.

Why should we worry?

The freshwater resources of Scotland – its many lochs, rivers and burns – are of great ecological and economic significance. We love spending time in and on them so protecting them is something we all need to take responsibility for.

Freshwater INNS can 'hitchhike' on our equipment, footwear, clothing and boats. When we move to a new river, burn or loch, a species can be transferred and can become established, often having devastating effects.

There are a number of organised events that take advantage of our freshwaters in the country. Participants may not be aware that they could be carrying an unwanted 'hitchhiker' on their kit.

What can be done?

As an event organiser you are an **essential partner** in helping us protect Scotland. Given the devastating ecological consequences and high costs of INNS, we need to focus our efforts on preventing their introduction and spread by using biosecurity measures. Participants should be asked to arrive at the event with all their kit clean and dry. It is recommended to set up a cleaning station for those who turn up with damp or dirty kit and for use after the event.

Biosecurity measures are simple and inexpensive. Please help us to promote biosecurity in order to protect the incredible freshwaters we love to spend time in.



Photo: Rob Howard

We all need to take responsibility for protecting the waters we enjoy.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

1

Make participants aware of their personal responsibility for maintaining biosecurity through applying **CHECK, CLEAN, DRY.**

2

Fully train those organising the event in how to implement biosecurity measures.

3

Make sure you have the right equipment.

SEND OUT THE FOLLOWING ADVISORY INFORMATION IN ADVANCE ...

Through email, website blog and social media to all participants. Additional 'Check Clean Dry' posters and flyers available at www.nonnativespecies.org.uk



1

Make participants aware of their personal responsibility for maintaining biosecurity through applying **CHECK, CLEAN, DRY.**

PLEASE NOTE there may be biosecurity measures in place to remove all invasive non-native species (INNS) at this event. Impacts of INNS are so significant, they are considered to be one of the greatest threats to biodiversity worldwide. They threaten the survival of rare native species, damage sensitive ecosystems and habitats and **cost the British economy approximately £1.7 billion every year**. The event will pass through some high risk areas and you may come into contact with and potentially transfer some environmentally damaging species.

These species can be transferred through drops of water and plant fragments.

They can have huge detrimental implications if they 'hitchhike' on your equipment. They can out-compete and kill native species, block waterways for recreational use and exacerbate the risks of flooding.

The places we are going are particularly precious and it is important that we all do our bit to protect them.



It is easy to accidentally spread INNS as hitchhikers on gear and equipment



Before you arrive:



We ask that **ALL KIT** (including canoes, paddles, dinghies, sails, footwear and fishing rods) are **CLEAN** and **DRY** **BEFORE** you come to the event.

On arrival:

If you do turn up with damp or dirty kit, please allow plenty of time to visit the cleaning station before you go near the water.

After:

On completion of the event, please ensure that you either visit the cleaning station to wash down all of your kit and equipment that has been in contact with water or that you clean and dry it all out when you return home before using it elsewhere.



2

Fully train your organising crew in how to implement biosecurity measures.

Biosecurity is very simple and having fully trained staff and organising crew helping to Implement it can mean that nothing slows down your event.

Key points for your organising crew to understand:

- Please note that there will be biosecurity measures in place for invasive non-native species (INNS) at this event. The event will pass through some high risk areas and participants could accidentally transfer some environmentally damaging species.
- These species can be transferred through drops of water and plant fragments. They can have huge detrimental implications if they 'hitchhike' on equipment. They can outcompete and kill native species, block waterways for recreational use and exacerbate the risks of flooding.
- The places we are going are particularly precious and we all need to make sure we protect them.
- There may be a dedicated cleaning station set up through which all participants, staff and support crew who are to enter the water will have to pass.
- There are two parts to a cleaning station – one area to clean shoes and smaller equipment, the second for larger equipment such as canoes, boats or windsurfing boards.



There are three simple steps to follow in order to prevent the spread or introduction of any new INNS:

CHECK


Check all equipment for living organisms. Pay particular attention to areas that are damp or hard to inspect.

CLEAN

Clean and wash all equipment with tap water. Ensure that all washings are contained and disposed of onto a surface (such as gravel / hard-standing/ grass) where it can be dried out and not able to enter any watercourse or drainage system.

DRY

Equipment and clothing needs to be dry to the touch as some species can live for many days in damp conditions.



Key actions for the organising crew to help implement:

All equipment that is to be used in the water (lanes/floats/ race boys/ matting etc) should be **CHECKED CLEANED** and **DRIED** before being used on site.

Participants who arrive with damp or dirty kit will be required to visit the cleaning stations prior to the event.

Any large equipment (such as canoes, paddles, safety boats, launching trolleys, windsurfing boards and wetsuits) should be washed using a hosepipe with spray head or power washer. The washings must be contained and disposed of on gravel, hard standing or grass. This will need to be supervised by sufficient members of staff or organising crew to ensure fluent movement through the cleaning station.

After the event, participants should either re-visit the cleaning station to wash down all kit that has been in contact with water or be advised to do this at home. It may be a good idea to provide buckets of tap water or a hosepipe to wash off the mud first before the scrubbing and rinsing stages.

Advisory notes for the cleaning station:

- Must be readily accessible for all participants and equipment.
- Must have a surface (such as gravel / hard standing / grass) where washings should be contained and not able to enter any watercourse / drainage system.
- A hosepipe or pressure washer may be useful if available/ practical, but a water/power supply will need to be available
- Must be well away from a water course and drainage into sewers prevented – you do not want to be washing the ‘hitchhikers’ straight into the water systems.
- Wash buckets in sets of three. All buckets to contain clean water. The first is for removing any mud and organic matter, the second for cleaning and the third for rinsing.
- Boat bio-fouling must be thoroughly removed well away from a water course or drainage system and allowed to dry out. Crevices on an outboard engine or any equipment or machinery need to be washed out. Engines should be flushed and drained out.



An example of a cleaning station



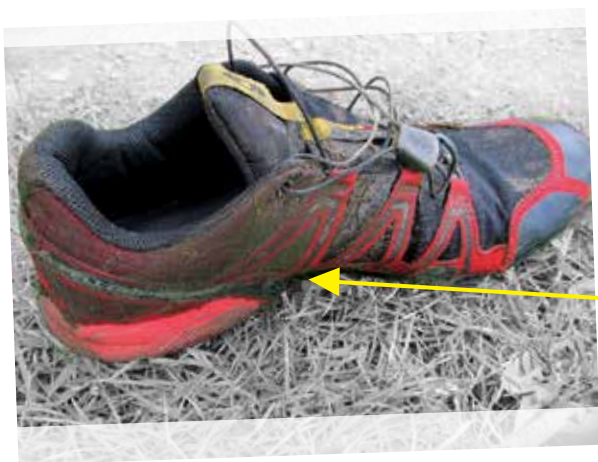
Inspect all your kit.

Pay attention to hard to reach areas and hiding places for INNS to hitchhike



Flush engines and drain water completely in a vertical position.

Use a brush to remove any hitchhikers.



Use a brush to clean boots or trainers.

Clean inside and in the nooks and crannies of boats. Drain all water from boats and bilges.



Dry out your kit thoroughly before re-using.



3

Make sure you have the right equipment.

The simple equipment required is readily available, relatively cheap and re-useable.

The following equipment is recommended to set up a cleaning station:

Item	Size	Quantity	Approximate Cost	Totals
Flexi Buckets	35 - 45L	6 (2 sets of 3)	£5 / buckets	£30
Medium strength hand brushes		1 Per bucket	£3 each	£18
Rubber gloves		1 set per bucket	£2 / pair	£12
Hosepipe with sprayhead or power washer	2 - 10L	1	£30 / £60	£30 / £60
TOTAL				£90 / £114

A range of Check Clean Dry materials are also available from www.nonnativespecies.org

The effects of INNS include outcompeting and killing native species, blocking waterways for recreational uses and exacerbating the risks of flooding.



Floating pennywort can grow up to 20cm a day and may quickly dominate a waterbody forming thick mats and impeding water flow and amenity use.

Photo: H. Brooks (DEFRA)

**// Remember, it only
takes one hitchhiker
to start an invasion //**



A joint BMF and RYA initiative

