



Site description and risk species

Here you need to identify and describe characteristics of the island that will affect biosecurity measures. This can be achieved by describing the island, its wildlife interest and its uses, and by creating annotated maps of the island.

Some key considerations are:

- Where is the island?
 - Distances and orientation to neighbouring islands/mainland
 - Directions and strengths of currents/prevaling wind
 - Proximity to a river mouth/estuary
 - Jurisdiction
 - How large is the island?
 - How easy is it to get to the island/how often can it be visited?

Are parts of the island inaccessible / have restricted access? (e.g. sheer or unstable cliffs, private property, important archaeological features, protected species or sites, impossible to land in winter/ during seal pup nursing/ sea eagle breeding locations)
 - What is on the island? (infrastructure (particularly boat landings or quays) and buildings.
Who owns, manages and accesses the island?
Who lives on the island? e.g.:
 - People (how many, are they residents or employees)
 - Livestock and pets (which species)
 - Protected species and habitats
 - Species at risk from rodenticide poison or small mammal traps (e.g. raptors, voles)
 - Species at risk from the arrival of invasive species
 - What happens on the island? e.g.:
 - Permanent/seasonal residence
 - Farming (provide details e.g. livestock / arable / organic)
 - Tourism (is it seasonal?)
 - What is brought to the island, from where and how?
 - People (how many, how often, residents or visitors)
 - Goods & equipment (food, agricultural feed/seeds, fleece bags)
 - Boat (describe types) / air / road causeway
 - What and where are the natural and manmade access points?
 -
- Consult widely with the local community as they will have great knowledge on all the possible risks.

Risk species:

- Brown (Norway) rats *Rattus norvegicus* or Black (ship/roof) rats *R. rattus* (these are rare in the UK but, as their name suggests, are often found on ships and in ports and so the level of risk may be higher than assumed)
- Feral cat *Felis catus*
- American mink *Neovison vison*
- Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* (where not native)
- Feral ferret *Mustela furo*
- Stoat *M. ermina* / weasel *M. nivalis* / polecat *M. putorius* (where not native)
- House mice *Mus musculus/domesticus*
- Grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*
- Deer (all species where not native)
- Goat *Capra* spp.
- Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*