

Stakeholder management

Biosecurity involves the efforts of every stakeholder of the island (boat operators, tourists, businesses on island or delivering good to the island, community members)

It is important that the Biosecurity Plan is able to minimise the risk of invasive species being transported, whilst still allowing the site to function as a home, place of work, conservation area or site of tourist interest. Compliance from all island users is required for biosecurity to be successful. Expectations need to be sensitively managed and it's important not give the impression that it's going to be all gain and no pain. The key message should be that "it's worth it".

In order to complete the Biosecurity Plan, consult with other island users, for example, fishermen, graziers, and boat/ferry operators, as well as with island residents and landowners. You will get a better understanding of the risks, real and perceived, and produce a better plan as a result as these stakeholders may think of risks and pathways that do not occur to outsiders.

You will also need to talk with harbour operators on the mainland. If tourists visit the island, you will need to find a way to disseminate information about simple steps they should take to adhere to the biosecurity requirements.

Some elements of international best practice for biosecurity cannot be deployed in the UK at present. Other elements, such as the building of quarantine rooms for storing and checking all island-bound goods/equipment, may be considered impractical, but should still be installed wherever possible. Proposed biosecurity plans should be appropriate to the island and the level of risk, but plan managers should be aware of the increased risks where best practice is not implemented. In general, it is likely to be cheaper to plan and implement thorough biosecurity measures than it is to respond to incursions. The cost of good biosecurity is the insurance premium paid to protect the conservation value of the island.

N.B. Whilst these guidelines have been tailored for UK use, they remain generic guidelines and the lists of risk species, pathways and surveillance options are not exhaustive. In each case you should consider the unique circumstances and characteristics of your island.

