

Background to the 'Biosecurity for LIFE' Project & Biosecurity definitions

The 'Biosecurity for LIFE' project team know what it is like to start biosecurity planning. It can be daunting to know where to begin so our resources are designed to help you.



The origins of the 'Biosecurity for LIFE' project dates back to 2015 on the 'Shiant Isles Recovery Project'. Whilst the team were in the process of eradicating black rats from the Shiants, they were looking ahead to preventing rodents getting back.

The questions the team asked were 'what are all the other important seabird islands doing to stop invasive predators from reaching their shores?'

To answer this question a biosecurity audit was conducted across the 42 seabird island SPAs in the UK. Surprisingly the results showed that only a small proportion of our most important islands had any form of biosecurity in place!

These tended to be islands that had already undertaken eradication work and were therefore protecting their investment. Even where biosecurity was put in place, it could still be improved.

The message was clear, apart from very few exceptions, the UK was relying on historical luck to keep our seabird islands predator free. Now is the time for change – together we can safeguard seabird islands.

BIOSECURITY DEFINITIONS

Biosecurity planning involves the identification of risk species and 'pathways' (routes to the island).

Barriers can then be placed along those pathways to obstruct the movement of invasive species.

There are then three areas of biosecurity implementation – prevention, surveillance, and incursion response.

Prevention measures are devised, installed and continuously applied in order to reduce the chance of invasive species moving from one area to another.

Surveillance procedures are put in place to search for any sign that an invasive species has slipped through the preventative measures, and to raise the alarm quickly if quarantine has been breached.

Incursion response plans are required so people are ready to quickly and efficiently remove any invasive predators that make it past the barriers.

If you have questions or want further advice head to the 'Need expert guidance?' section of the website.

biosecurityforlife.org.uk

Thank you