



# Biosecurity at paddling events

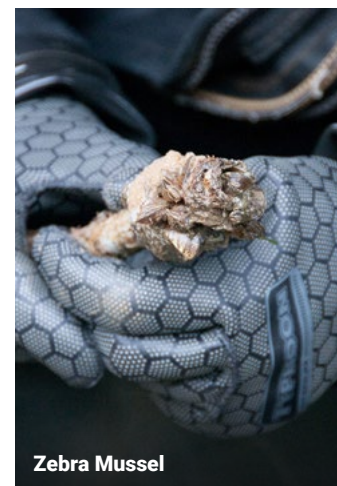
A guide to reducing the risk of spreading invasive non-native species that can harm the environment



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# A call to action



**British Canoeing is pledging to improve the health of our rivers and working to protect, preserve and enhance the natural environment.**



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**British Canoeing works with conservation and navigational organisations to control and monitor harmful invasive non-native plant and animal species which have been introduced into our waterways.**

Paddlers can play a particularly important role in keeping our waterways free of invasive non-native species.

**PADDLERS ARE KEY IN HELPING TO RECORD, STOP THE SPREAD, AND REMOVE INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES!**

**Help us to achieve our goals on your local waters by encouraging paddlers to:**

- > Check Clean Dry every time they have been out on the water (p7).
- > Become part of the growing number of citizen scientists by sighting and recording invasive species on [www.nonnativespecies.org/recording](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/recording)
- > Organise volunteer invasive non-native species clearance days. Contact [access@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:access@britishcanoeing.org.uk) for guidance.

# About this pack



## What is it for?

The aim of this pack is to help guide you through all the stages of biosecurity at your paddling events, from club level to large international events.

## How do I use it?

The pack will take you step by step through procedures that will enable you to help protect the environment against the spread of invasive non-native species without impacting paddle sport activities.

### Including:

- > Information about invasive non-native species and biosecurity
- > Step-by-step planning guide for all stages of your event
- > Useful links to ensure you can easily access all the information you need
- > Pull-out posters for clubs and organisers to use at events



### FLOATING PENNYWORT

Can grow up to 20cm a day under the right conditions and can clog entire waterways, making them difficult to navigate through. This can also easily be mistaken for solid ground, which could result in serious harm to people and animals.



# What are invasive non-native species?



**Invasive non-native species are plants and animals introduced by people to an area outside their natural range, which negatively impact both our health and that of the environment by reducing water quality.**

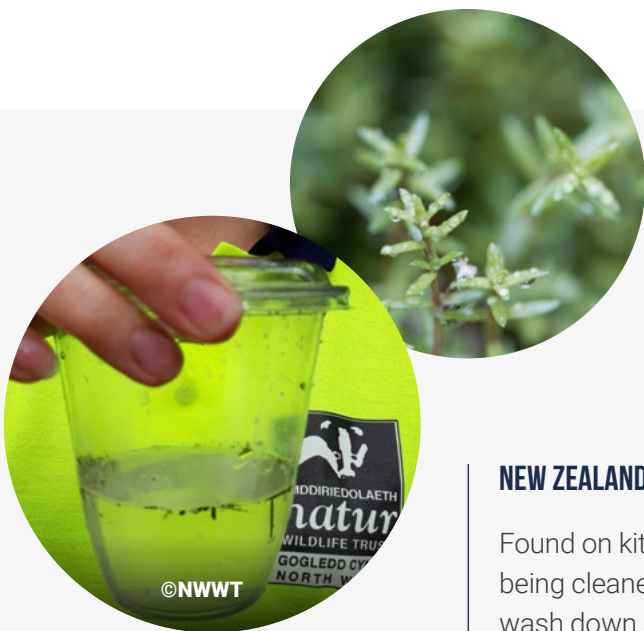
## Why should we worry?

**Invasive non-native species are a concern because they can:**

- > Reduce our ability to access and enjoy waterways for sport and recreation
- > Slow down the flow of rivers and increase flood risk
- > Negatively impact both our and the environments health by reducing water quality
- > Invasive non-native species can be small, hard to spot and can survive for two weeks in damp conditions. Unfortunately, some paddlers are unaware of this threat and pose a real risk to our natural environment and the sport we love



**EVEN THE MOST BASIC BIOSECURITY PRACTICES CAN HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES!**



### NEW ZEALAND PIGMYWEED

Found on kit after being cleaned at a wash down station



### HIMALAYAN BALSAM

Forms dense stands along the river bank preventing access

# What is the solution?

Prevention is **ALWAYS** better than cure!



**Biosecurity means a set of actions to minimise the introduction or spread of invasive non-native species and diseases.**

Effective biosecurity should always be practised every time we have been out on the water, even if there aren't any obvious signs of invasive non-native species in the area. For paddle events, these measures need to be simple, effective, have minimal impact on the delivery of events, and be easily integrated into the day.



# Remember to follow:



**CHECK** boats, equipment and clothing after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site.

**CLEAN** everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to the inside of your boat and areas that are damp and easy to access. Use hot water if you can.

**DRY** drain water from every part of your boat and dry with a sponge or towel before leaving the site. Dry everything thoroughly for as long as possible before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for two weeks in damp conditions.





# Event Biosecurity



## What can you do?

Together we can protect our natural environment as well as the sport we love. Carrying out effective biosecurity at paddling events will help to reduce the risk of the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species on site as well as anywhere participants may use their equipment afterwards.

Remember to  
**Check Clean Dry!**

**CHECK  
CLEAN  
DRY**

**HAVING EFFECTIVE  
BIOSECURITY AT YOUR  
EVENT WILL HELP TO  
CREATE A LASTING IMPACT  
ON THE WAY PARTICIPANTS  
CARRY OUT THEIR PADDLING  
ACTIVITIES IN THE FUTURE.**





# Step 1- Plan your event biosecurity



## Get to know your site:

- > Are there invasive non-native species within your catchment?
- > Speak to your asset manager or landowner about any invasive species on site and their existing biosecurity policies to make sure you align with these
- > Go to [www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org) to help you find out if there are any species in your area
- > Do you have access to clean running water?
- > Is there a risk of dirty water being washed away into the water course or sewers?
- > Do you have access to electricity?
- > Can you restrict participants to a single entry / exit point to the water?



## Get to know your discipline:

- > what are the risks of transferring invasive non-native species for this type of paddlesport?
- > What kind of facilities do you require?
- > Will participants move from one body of water to another in a single event?



## Get to know your participants:

- > How many will be participating?
- > Are they club members, regional, national, or international?
- > What kit are they likely to bring with them?



## What type of equipment do you need?

- > What budget do you have for biosecurity?
- > What facilities do you have on site already?
- > See pages 11-13 for examples of different biosecurity stations and suggested kit lists





**CHECK  
CLEAN  
DRY**

# What type of equipment do you need?

Guidance for setting up an event on a low budget with no access to running water on site, an event with access to running water, and a large event with participants from abroad.





# What type of equipment do you need?



## An event with a low budget and no access to running water on site

Participants should be encouraged to use non-powered equipment themselves to promote biosecurity practices being incorporated into their general routine.



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### Suggested equipment for a basic level biosecurity station

Item	Description	Quantity	Approx. Cost	Total
Flexible tubtrug	75L	6	£10	£60
Hose trolley		1	£30	£30
Hose pipe	50m	1	£30	£30
Outdoor threaded tap connector	3/4"	1	£3.50	£3.50
Dual tap connector		1	£8	£8
2x Aquastop connector		1	£6	£6
Total Estimated Cost of Capital				<b>£137.50</b>

**Note:** If there is no access on site to fresh water you could hire a bowser (see p13) or prefill heavy duty 25l water containers which cost approx. £30 for 4.



# What type of equipment do you need?



## An event with access to running water

Participants should be encouraged to use non-powered equipment themselves to promote biosecurity practices being incorporated into their general routine.



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### Suggested equipment for a medium level biosecurity station

Item	Description	Quantity	Approx. Cost	Total
Hose trolley		2	£30	£60
Hose pipe	50m	2	£30	£60
Outdoor threaded tap connector	3/4"	1	£3.50	£3.50
Dual tap connector		1	£8	£8
2x Aquastop connector		1	£6	£6
Hose end connector		1	£8	£8
Total Estimated Cost of Capital				<b>£145.50</b>

**Note:** If there is no access on site to fresh water you could hire a bowser (see p13) or prefill heavy duty 25l water containers which cost approx. £30 for 4.



# What type of equipment do you need?



## A large event with participants from abroad

Participants should be encouraged to use non-powered equipment themselves to promote biosecurity practices being incorporated into their general routine.



Suggested equipment for a full/comprehensive biosecurity station					
Item	Description	Quantity	Approx. Cost	Total	Notes
Pressure washer	110v	2	£500	£1,000	
Transformer	110v	1	£60	£60	
Hose trolley		2	£30	£60	
Hose pipe	50m	1	£30	£60	
Outdoor threaded tap connector	3/4"	1	£3.50	£3.50	
Dual tap connector		1	£8	£8	
2x Aquastop connector		1	£6	£6	
Hose end connector		1	£8	£8	
Boat trestles	Pair	2	£40	£80	
Heavy duty rubber mat	5'x3'	8		£150	Bulk buy
Traffic cones	Yellow and Black	8	£13	£100	May need more/less site dependant
Bowser hire	250 gal	2	£160	£280	If no fresh water is available - hire charged on a weekly basis
Compact pressure washer and bowser hire	150L	3	£140	£415	If no power available - hire charged per weekend
Total Estimated Cost of Capital					<b>£2,599.50</b>
Estimated total cost plus hire equipment					<b>£3,294.50</b>



# Step 2 - Raise awareness

Through all stages of your event it is important to raise awareness of invasive non-native species and effectively communicate your planned biosecurity measures to your participants. This will help to make the day run smoothly for everybody.

## Before an event

### You could:

- > Send information to participating clubs explaining how and why biosecurity practices will be taking place at your event, and asking participants to arrive with clothing and equipment that is clean and dry. See p20 for a template
- > Promote your biosecurity on your social media channels

## During an event

### You could:

- > Display posters around the site advertising the cleaning station. Template on p22
- > Make sure marshals and other event staff are aware of your biosecurity measures so they can inform participants as they arrive
- > Promote the purpose and location of the cleaning station over the tannoy system at regular intervals
- > Post information about the cleaning station on your social media channels
- > Set up an information stand to raise awareness of biosecurity, particularly if visitors and participants will be on site some time before events begin

**Free resources**

Check Clean Dry materials  
[www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry)

**Social media**

Use your regular social media channels for promotion and add the following hashtags:

#CheckCleanDry #BritishCanoeing #INNS #biosecurity




**AN EVENT SHELTER IS USEFUL AS AN INFORMATION POINT.**

**DISPLAY A RANGE OF EYE CATCHING FEATHER FLAGS, PULL UP BANNERS, A-FRAMES AND LEAFLETS FOR PARTICIPANTS TO TAKE AWAY THE KEY MESSAGES.**



# Step 3 - Run your event



## Before an event

Consider suitable locations for the clean down station where it will be practical, safe, accessible to clean water and power (if required), and on hard standing, gravel, or grass so any INNS or contaminated water does not enter a drain. Limit entry / exit points to the water, to a single point if possible, and set up your clean down station here so it is highly visible for maximum impact.



**REMEMBER TO CHECK ALL YOUR EQUIPMENT BEFORE THE EVENT - THIS WILL HELP EVERYTHING RUN SMOOTHLY ON THE DAY.**



**TRY TO HAVE AT LEAST THREE MARSHALS RUNNING THE WASH DOWN STATION AND ENSURE THEY KNOW HOW TO USE THE EQUIPMENT SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY. SEE PAGES 16 – 17 FOR A CLEANING GUIDE.**

# Step 3 - Run your event



## During an event

Try to get set up and do a quick run through before races start. This will give you plenty of time for any troubleshooting.



### Clean participants equipment

**ONLY USE FRESH CLEAN WATER. WASHINGS MUST BE CONTAINED ON EITHER GRAVEL, HARD STANDING, OR GRASS - DON'T ALLOW ANY DIRTY WATER TO ENTER THE WATER COURSE OR SEWERS!**

**PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO HARD TO REACH AREAS.**

**ALL EQUIPMENT INCLUDING CLOTHING, PADDLES, PFD'S, SPRAY SKIRTS, AND HELMETS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO HIDE INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES. CLEAN THEM ALL!**

To help participants understand how and why they should build cleaning into their normal routine, encourage them to use any non-powered equipment at the wash down station themselves and explain the importance of cleaning.

**ENSURE PARTICIPANTS ARE AWARE THAT KIT NEEDS TO BE THOROUGHLY DRIED BEFORE NEXT USE. SOME SPECIES CAN LIVE IN DAMP CONDITIONS FOR UP TO 2 WEEKS!**



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# Step 3 - Run your event

## During an event (continued)

Remember to follow:



**CHECK** boats, equipment and clothing after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site.

**CLEAN** everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to the inside of your boat and areas that are damp and easy to access. Use hot water if you can.

**DRY** every part of your boat, draining off any excess water, and dry with a sponge or towel before leaving the site.



# Step 4 - Follow up



## Reflection

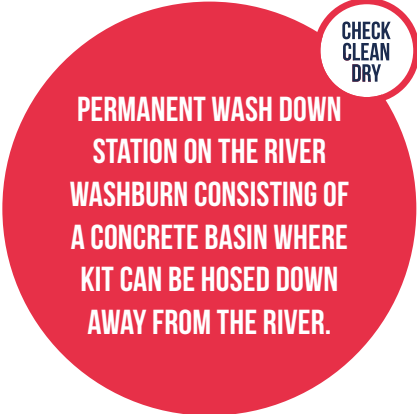
It is a good idea to have a team meeting to discuss what went right and what could be improved upon next time.

## Feedback

Input from participants can bring about improvements that you may not have considered. This can be achieved by either asking participants to take part in a short survey on the day or sending out forms after.

## Considering a permanent biosecurity solution?

Depending on the level of funding, it is worth considering installing a permanent biosecurity station. Having the facilities readily available will help to encourage paddlers to incorporate biosecurity practices into their general routine.





# Step 4 - Follow up



## Important points

It is your responsibility to ensure that all health and safety protocols are being followed and that both marshals and participants are kept safe while using the station.

## Health and safety

Incorporate an assessment of all identified risks into your event risk assessment.

## PPE for Marshalls

- > Hi-Viz jackets
- > Safety goggles
- > Good sturdy waterproof footwear
- > Gloves if working in colder weather or with disinfectants

## Working with noise/vibration

- > Ear protection
- > Anti-vibe gloves

## Trip/slip hazards

- > Wires and hose pipes should be covered to avoid slips/trips
- > Non-slip outdoor mats should be used

## Equipment

All equipment should be checked over for damage and tested before use using the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)

## Risk assessment links:

COSHH - [www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/basics/assessment.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/basics/assessment.htm)

HAVs - [www.hse.gov.uk/vibration/hav/advicetoemployers/controlrisks.htm#how](http://www.hse.gov.uk/vibration/hav/advicetoemployers/controlrisks.htm#how)

PUWER - [www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/puwer.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/puwer.htm)

# Pull out - Pre-event information



You could send out the below information to participants before the event so they have a greater understanding of the aim of the wash-down station and the importance of their involvement. A memorandum of understanding could also be added as part of registration process.

**PLEASE NOTE:** there will be a biosecurity wash-down station in place at this event. The purpose of the station is to remove invasive non-native species from your equipment to help **STOP THE SPREAD.**

During the event you may come into contact with and potentially transport environmentally damaging species that can hitchhike on your kit and clothes. The impact of invasive non-native species are so significant that they are considered one of the biggest threats to our precious waters. This damage can cause substantial losses to our native species, increase the risk of flooding, block waterways, and impact on your health!

Invasive non-native species can easily be transferred through drops of water and plant fragments stuck to your kit. Some of these species can even live up to 2 weeks in damp conditions.

**Please do your bit to protect our precious waterways, it's simple, just remember:**



## **Before you arrive:**

Make sure you use the Check, Clean, and Dry method (explained on the attached poster) on all equipment you will be using BEFORE you come to the event, especially if you have used it abroad.

**It is very important that if you turn up with damp or dirty kit to allow for extra time before competing to visit the wash down station.**

## **Before you leave:**

On completing all your events, please use the wash-down station on all equipment and clothing used during the event. Once you are at home, dry out your equipment for up to 48 hours (sunlight is the best way to kill most invasive non-native species).



# STOP THE SPREAD

**Invasive plants and animals harm the environment and other wildlife, block waterways and make paddling difficult. They can be small and hard to spot so are easily spread on damp equipment and clothing.**

Protect the environment you love by keeping your kit free of invasive plants and animals.

**Don't forget these places**



**Check** boats, equipment and clothing after leaving the water for mud, live animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site, don't put anything down the drain.

**Clean** everything thoroughly as soon as you can, pay particular attention to areas that are damp and hard to access. Use hot water if you can.

**Dry** - drain water from every part of your boat and dry with a towel before leaving the site. Dry everything thoroughly for as long as possible before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can live for over two weeks in damp conditions.

Watch out for:



KILLER SHRIMP



QUAGGA MUSSEL



FLOATING PENNYWORT





# ATTENTION COMPETITORS

**THERE ARE INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES ON SITE!**

It is very important that all boats and equipment are brought to the biosecurity wash down station located \_\_\_\_\_ once you have finished competing. Invasive non-native species can hitchhike and live in damp conditions on your kit for up to 2 weeks. If you do not apply the **Check Clean Dry** method you could unknowingly transfer them to other waterways. Help us to **Stop the Spread!**



**CHECK** boats, equipment and clothing after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site.

**CLEAN** everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to the inside of your boat and areas that are damp and easy to access. Use hot water if you can.

**DRY** every part of your boat, draining off any excess water, and dry with a sponge or towel before leaving the site.



# About us



We have been around since 1936 as the British Canoe Union. In 2000 we federalised to become the umbrella organisation for the home nation associations in Scotland (Scottish Canoe Association), Wales (Canoe Wales) and Northern Ireland (Canoe Association Northern Ireland). We are still the membership body for England and are responsible for developing the sport within England. Today British Canoeing is responsible for leading and setting the overall framework for all the National Associations and includes areas such as coaching, competition and representing paddling interests at a UK level.



Find out more about invasive non-native species and how you can help to stop the spread on the GB Non-native Species Secretariat website [www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org)



We're the national governing body for paddlesport in Wales.

We're here to support our members, advocate for canoeing and kayaking in Wales and help paddlers at every step of their paddlesport career - whether they're recreational paddlers just looking to enjoy our gorgeous lakes and rivers or competitive paddlers on their way to an Olympic or Paralympic podium.



We are a local organisation dedicated to conserving all habitats and species across North Wales for the enjoyment of people and the benefit of wildlife. Our members, staff, and volunteers help us to improve places for wildlife and strengthen the relationship between people and the natural environment of North Wales. Our ultimate aim is to protect and create resilient ecosystems on land and in the sea. To find out more go to: [www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/](http://www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/)

## Aquatic Biosecurity Partnership

This guide was developed with funding from eight water companies that have contributed to the Aquatic Biosecurity Partnership: Affinity Water, Anglian Water, Northumbrian Water, Severn Trent Water, South East Water, South West Water, Wessex Water, Yorkshire Water.



[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk)

[www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org)

This guide was developed with funding from the Aquatic Biosecurity Partnership