



Biosecurity Policy

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1. Introduction

This document sets out the Biosecurity Policy of Reedness & Swinefleet Internal Drainage Board, hereafter referred to as 'the Board'. It covers activities undertaken by the Board on a daily basis to reduce the spread and damage from invasive non-native species.

It is intended that the Board's staff and contractors will follow procedures commensurate with this Policy.

2. Policy Statement

Invasive non-native species are widespread nationally and if left uncontrolled, present a threat to our aquatic and riparian systems. It is imperative that our field operations to manage flood risk and water levels do not exacerbate the risks to the environment and economy that are posed by these species. Failure to minimise the spread of invasive non-native species, when visiting a site where an invasive non-native species is known to be present, can risk prosecution under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

Vigilance is required if we are to stop the spread of invasive non-native species, and it is imperative that we integrate basic biosecurity in our operations to prevent this spread. Much to do with biosecurity involves awareness, common sense and agreed procedures.

3. Responsibilities

The Board is responsible for reviewing and approving the content and implementation of this Policy.

The Board will ensure any new contracts let will include reference to the Policy where a risk is considered to exist arising from the works involved.

All Board Members, staff and contractors are required to comply with the Policy's requirements and share responsibility for performance in implementing the Policy in regard to the health, safety and welfare of the environment.

4. Implementation

This Policy is implemented through supporting guidance covering biosecurity procedures.

Where biosecurity risks have been identified, operational staff will be provided with training and information on identification of invasive non-native species likely to be found within the drainage district.

All operational machinery, tools and personal protection equipment (PPE) identified as at risk of cross-contamination will be subject to inspection and cleaning before moving between operations on watercourses and sites, where and when the biosecurity risk changes.

All operational staff will report sightings of invasive non-native species to the Operational & Technical Manager or the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat directly.

5. Review

This policy will be reviewed, as a minimum, every five years.