

Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring & Modelling Programme (ERAMMP)

ERAMMP Document-53: Field-Survey Handbook (Procedures) Biosecurity 2021

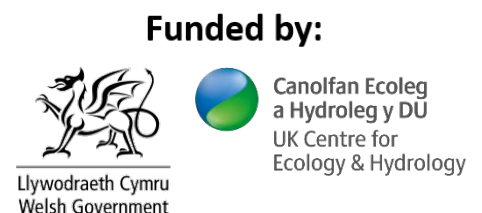
Garbutt, R.A.¹ & Jones, D.²

¹ UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, ² The Welsh Government

Client Ref: Welsh Government / Contract C210/2016/2017

Version 1.0

Date: 10-June-2021



Version History

Version	Updated By	Date	Changes
1.0	Author Team	10/6/2021	Published

Mae'r adroddiad hwn ar gael yn electronig yma / This report is available electronically at: www.erammp.wales/53

Neu trwy sganio'r cod QR a ddangosir / Or by scanning the QR code shown.



Series	Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring & Modelling Programme (ERAMMP)
Title	ERAMMP Report-53: Field-Survey Handbook (Procedures) – Biosecurity 2021
Client	Welsh Government
Client reference	C210/2016/2017
Confidentiality, copyright and reproduction	© Crown Copyright 2021. This report is licensed under the Open Government Licence 3.0.
UKCEH contact details	Bronwen Williams UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) Environment Centre Wales, Deiniol Road, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2UW 01248 374500 erammp@ceh.ac.uk
Corresponding author	Bronwen Williams, UKCEH bpu@ceh.ac.uk
Authors	Garbutt, R.A. ¹ & Jones, D. ² ¹ UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, ² The Welsh Government
Contributing authors & reviewers	Sharps, E., Pinder, A., Reinsch, S. UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
How to cite (long)	Garbutt, R.A. & Jones, D. (2021). <i>Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring & Modelling Programme (ERAMMP)</i> . ERAMMP Report-53: Field-Survey Handbook (Procedures) – Biosecurity 2021. Report to Welsh Government (Contract C210/2016/2017)(UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology Projects 06297 & 06810)
How to cite (short)	Garbutt, R.A. & Jones, D. (2021). ERAMMP Report-53: Field-Survey Handbook (Procedures) – Biosecurity 2021. Report to Welsh Government (Contract C210/2016/2017)(UKCEH 06297/06810)
Approved by	

Abbreviations Used in this Report

COSHH	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health
ERAMMP	Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring & Modelling Programme
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PRRS	Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome
UKCEH	UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	What is Biosecurity?.....	2
2.1	Why is biosecurity important?	2
2.2	Where is biosecurity relevant?	2
3	Health and Safety Considerations	3
4	Environmental Considerations	4
5	ERAMMP Biosecurity Practice.....	5
5.1	Animal disease (livestock)	5
5.1.1	Procedure for using Virkon™ LSP disinfectant	6
5.2	Tree health (forestry and woodland)	6
5.2.1	When working on Forest and Woodland sites.....	6
5.3	Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)	7

1 INTRODUCTION

This protocol is aimed at anybody undertaking field surveys for ERAMMP. This includes the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) field surveyors and any partners or sub-contractors.

Please read the entirety of this document and the relevant Health & Safety documentation before carrying out any work with disinfectants.

2 WHAT IS BIOSECURITY?

Biosecurity means taking steps to make sure that good practices are in place to reduce and minimise the risk of spreading invasive non-native species and animal or plant diseases. A biosecurity routine is essential, even when non-native species or signs of disease are not evident at a field site.

2.1 Why is biosecurity important?

Good biosecurity practice reduces the risk to farm and forestry businesses, the environment and wildlife, as well as being in the interests of wider businesses (e.g. tourism), landowners and other stakeholders. It is also essential to protect yourself, and practising good biosecurity can help reduce the risk of transmission of zoonotic diseases or infections, that can transfer to humans, and impact on human health. It also reassures the wider public by setting an example of good practice, displaying respect for local communities, and demonstrates a professional, preventative approach.

An outbreak can impact significantly on your own work and that of the project if, for example, your movement into the countryside is restricted, your fieldwork is stopped, or you are required to do extra work to respond to a crisis. Prevention of disease spread and risk should always be the priority, and it is always better and easier to take the necessary preventative steps, than dealing with a disease or infection occurrence.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you take proportionate measures to minimise the risk of transmitting disease or pests onto or off any site you are visiting, and to protect your own health. When undertaking the field survey activities you are the public face of ERAMMP and you should strive at all times to represent the project in a professional manner including in respect of biosecurity. You are required to undertake biosecurity measures that are significantly more stringent than those required of the general public when for example they use rights of way.

2.2 Where is biosecurity relevant?

The guidance cannot cover every eventuality and in some situations, complying with any specific requirements will be difficult in practice. If you are in any doubt how to proceed you should first contact the ERAMMP Field Survey Manager.

If, during a site visit, the presence of any disease or pest not previously known to be there is suspected, the field survey manager must be informed at the earliest opportunity. The field survey manager will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate reporting and investigation are implemented without delay and that temporary precautions are put in place until the outcome is known. The risk assessment undertaken at the outset of the visit must be reviewed and biosecurity measures amended accordingly. This applies regardless of ownership of the land concerned.

3 HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

When following this guidance you should be aware of the Health & Safety requirements for handling and using disinfectants and disposal of potentially contaminated clothing or equipment.

You will be supplied with COSHH and information forms of any disinfectant we require you to use.

When using these disinfectants you must use the PPE provided: nitrile gloves and safety glasses.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

To avoid any potentially contaminated run off entering water courses or other drainage systems, cleaning of footwear should be carried out at least 10 m away from drains and water courses etc.

Where there is a risk of spreading pests from a site known to be infected, particular care will be needed to ensure that water courses and drains are not contaminated by either the pest itself, the disinfectant, or other agents harmful to the environment such as traffic grime, brake dust, oil, etc. - collectively referred to in the government's Environmental Regulations as 'waste effluent'.

Special provisions may be required to comply with the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations and advice may be needed from Natural Resources Wales. The field survey manager will provide you with further advice if higher-level biosecurity measures are required.

5 ERAMMP BIOSECURITY PRACTICE

All landowners who have been identified for survey in ERAMMP are asked whether they have any biosecurity procedures in place on their land, or if they know of any potential biosecurity threats. The field survey team at UKCEH Bangor will make surveyors aware of any additional measures that are required prior to visiting the land in question.

ERAMMP takes a precautionary approach to biosecurity and assumes that just because a biosecurity threat has not been identified at a site it does not mean one does not exist. There could be the potential to spread disease from any site visited and ERAMMP takes extra precautions to ensure the risk is minimised.

5.1 Animal disease (livestock)

ERAMMP uses Virkon™ LSP disinfectant. Virkon™ LSP is fully UK DEFRA approved and independently proven highly effective against a wide range of viral, bacterial and fungal disease-causing pathogens, which affect poultry, swine, cattle, sheep and other livestock. Diseases which Virkon™ LSP is effective against includes avian influenza, swine influenza H1N, foot & mouth disease, PRRS, salmonella, campylobacter, tuberculosis, and swine vesicular disease.

When working on farms or other sites which may have livestock present surveyors should:

- Arrive at each site with clean footwear and vehicle, visibly free from soil and debris;
- Clean and disinfect footwear using Virkon™ LSP on entering each land holding and also before leaving, ensuring dirt and physical contamination has been removed first, as the effects of disinfectant may be neutralised or diminished by the presence of organic/inorganic material;
- Clean and disinfect footwear if you are moving between land holdings on foot;
- Avoid contact with livestock and areas of known plant disease. Contact with livestock requires full protective clothing to be worn, which must be suitably disinfected ahead of the visit and disinfected or disposed of afterwards;
- Ensure your vehicle is kept clean and, in particular, remove any accumulated mud, especially from wheels and wheel arches;
- Clean and disinfect car wheels and wheel arches using Virkon™ LSP before entering each land holding and also disinfect on the edge of the premises when leaving (e.g. at the bottom of the farm drive just before going onto the public road);
- Ensure disinfectant provided is within use-by-date and at the correct dilution;
- Keep vehicular access to a minimum: do not enter areas unnecessarily, keep to established tracks and park on hard standing;
- To adhere to arrangements for the safe disposal of disinfectant, waste Virkon™ LSP solution, unused diluted disinfectant or powder will be removed from the site and once off-site disposed of as hazardous chemical waste at the local UKCEH site or with a member of UKCEH during Quality Assurance work;
- Respect any notices or instructions, including the owners own biosecurity requirements (for example some premises may require surveyors/visitors use protective clothing they provide, or there may be a number of days for which visitors must not have had contact with specified farmed livestock prior to visiting a particular site).

5.1.1 Procedure for using Virkon™ LSP disinfectant

Before beginning work with this substance, please review the COSHH safety sheet, manufacturer's instructions and the document "procedure for using Virkon LSP disinfectant" included in the disinfectant box.

All work using this disinfectant should be done outside in the open air. Before handling any of the disinfectant application equipment, users should apply the PPE supplied:

- Disposable nitrile gloves
- Safety spectacles

Carefully follow the instructions given in the "procedure for using Virkon LSP disinfectant" document.

5.2 Tree health (forestry and woodland)

Trees and plants in Britain are now vulnerable to a range of new pests and diseases as a result of the increased movement of goods around the world and climate change. ERAMMP takes biosecurity in woodland and forests seriously to avoid the risk of harm both from invasive or non-native species, and from pests and diseases.

Invasive non-native species include rhododendron, American skunk cabbage, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam. Pests could be certain insects, and diseases include bacteria, fungi and viruses. Outbreaks can result in economic losses for the forestry industry and for related industries, such as tourism.

High risk sites, such as those with known pests and diseases will have been highlighted during the landowner permissions process. ERAMMP surveyors should not visit these sites.

5.2.1 When working on Forest and Woodland sites

In Wales surveyors should follow NRW biosecurity guidelines for low-risk activities.

<https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/forestry/tree-health-and-biosecurity/how-to-practise-biosecurity-in-woodlands-keep-it-clean/?lang=en>

Procedures involve:

- Wear footwear and outerwear that can easily be kept clean;
- Clean footwear and outerwear when entering each site. Ensure they are visually free from soil and organic debris;
- Clean vehicles before and after each site visit. Do not let mud and organic debris accumulate on tyres, wheels or under wheel arches;
- Restrict the equipment taken onto a site – take only what you need for the task;
- Ensure all tools and equipment are clean, serviceable and free from organic debris.

5.3 Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

ERAMMP surveyors should be aware of INNS and the risk that they pose. **A good biosecurity routine is always essential, even if invasive non-native species are not always apparent.**

The GB non-native species secretariat provide free online training in biosecurity (www.nonnativespecies.org/elearning).

Before undertaking fieldwork all ERAMMP surveyors should undertake Module 1, *Introduction to Invasive Non-native Species*, and Module 3a.

Take the test and download a certificate once passed. Once completed, the certificates should be emailed to erammp@ceh.ac.uk.

Time will be allocated during the ERAMMP field survey training course to complete these modules.

This page intentionally blank.

ERAMMP Programme Office
UKCEH Bangor
Environment Centre Wales
Deiniol Road
Bangor, Gwynedd
LL57 2UW
+ 44 (0)1248 374500
erammp@ceh.ac.uk

www.erammp.cymru

www.erammp.wales