

# PEAK CLUSTER



## Biosecurity Protocol for Site Visits

DOC-PCL-269

Revision 1.0

Peak Cluster Limited

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## 1 Scope

- 1.1 This biosecurity protocol has been developed by Peak Cluster Limited (PCL). PCL consultant and contractor biosecurity protocols, processes and methods of work should be checked for alignment with this document.
- 1.2 This protocol is to be used in conjunction with PCL and contractor or consultant's existing procedures, in particular to be accommodated within their site specific Risk Assessments for a relevant **Site**. Such Risk Assessments must also cover any of their subcontractors or subconsultants in attendance.
- 1.2.1 For the purposes of this Biosecurity Protocol a "**Site**" is a location within single ownership which is farmland, greenfield or a watercourse. Urban sites, or where a consultant or contractor is only making a visit to a property which is on hardstanding, or accessed via a normal residential or farm entrance/access, is not included.
- 1.3 This protocol is to be reviewed at site specific level, and will be communicated to team members at pre-site access briefings.

## 2 Biosecurity – an introduction

- 2.1 Biosecurity measures are precautions to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful organisms such as pests, pathogens or invasive species (flora & fauna). This includes the spread of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS). INNS are defined as flora and fauna located outside of its native range, that spread to the detriment of wildlife and biodiversity.
- 2.2 The process of disinfecting is mandatory anytime a surveyor enters and leaves a **Site** to prevent cross-contamination and spreading of diseases between different ownerships.
- 2.3 Where visiting multiple areas within a single Site, e.g. where a larger landholding is within a single ownership, it will be good practice to disinfect when moving between those areas. This will be undertaken on a dynamic risk assessment basis. Where a landowner raises awareness of a credible biosecurity risk between different areas within a **Site**, disinfecting will also be mandatory.
- 2.4 Suitable disinfectants are typically purchased in tablet form and added to water in a spray bottle which can be then used on site in conjunction with suitable cleaning equipment (bucket, brushes etc.) to wash excess mud, debris and vegetation.
- 2.5 Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) prohibits the introduction into the wild, any animal or plant listed in Schedule 9 of the Act. Schedule 9 lists non-native species that are already established in the wild, but which continue to pose a conservation threat to native biodiversity and habitats, such that further releases should be regulated.
- 2.6 Environmental professionals have a legal duty to ensure they are not facilitating the spread of any flora listed on Schedule 9.

### 3 Biosecurity Protocol

3.1 PCL or its consultants/contractors undertaking surveys or visits to a **Site** will adhere to the following guidance which has been used in developing this Biosecurity Protocol:

- DEFRA's 'Biosecurity Guidance to Prevent the Spread of Animal Diseases': [http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/commissions/docs/training/material/Biosecurity/biosecurity\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/commissions/docs/training/material/Biosecurity/biosecurity_guidance.pdf)
- DEFRA approved list of Disinfectants Approved for use in England, Scotland and Wales: [http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/DisinfectantsExternal/Default.aspx?Module=ApprovalsList\\_Sl](http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/DisinfectantsExternal/Default.aspx?Module=ApprovalsList_Sl)
- GB Non-Native Secretariat (NNSS) Check Clean Dry, Help stop the spread of invasive plants and animals in our waters: <https://www.nonnativespecies.org/what-can-i-do/check-clean-dry>

3.2 If any consultant or contractor has any queries in relation to biosecurity, in the first instance they should contact their company Health, Safety, Environment, and Welfare/Quality (HSEW/HSEQ) or equivalent lead. For any questions relating to this protocol specifically they should contact the PCL HSEW Lead.

3.3 If you are an external party not appointed or affiliated with PCL and have questions about this protocol, please use the contact details at the base of this document.

3.4 The following Sections outline the biosecurity measures that must be implemented by all surveyors during **Site** visits in urban or rural environments and must be complied with.

#### 3.5 Preparation for Site

1. Ensure that a site specific Risk Assessment or equivalent has been approved within your organisation, taking account of this protocol where applicable, and that all site staff have been appropriately briefed;
2. Ensure you have appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and clothing (if required) as set out in the Risk Assessment, including those needed to mix and apply a suitable disinfectant (e.g. eye protection and gloves);
3. Ensure you have the biosecurity kit (detailed below) for the environment that you are required to access by checking the DEFRA website:
  - For terrestrial surveys (such as farmland, urban, woodland) prepare a mixture of DEFRA Approved solution (Agrichlor is recommended), following the product guidelines;
  - For surveys requiring access to waterbodies (e.g. for Great Crested Newt potential) or rivers (e.g. aquatic ecology surveys or river inspections), Agrichlor cannot be used. In the aquatic environment Virkon aquatic is recommended. Note that for aquatic surveys, two separate disinfectants may be required to cover terrestrial and aquatic risks; and

4. Prepare a mixture of DEFRA Approved solution following the manufacturer's instructions, into clearly labelled spray bottles, where required, use safety labelling. Where possible and safe to do so, mix/pour on hardstanding.

### 3.6 Before Accessing Site: INNS Mapper

1. Information on the risk of encountering Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) on site can be accessed spatially using INNS Mapper (Figure 3-1). INNS Mapper is an app and website for the reporting of sightings, surveys and management of INNS in England, Wales and Scotland. However, the site/app also provides access to historic opensource data on INNS presence in the vicinity of the site in map format. This allows the user to easily check for all INNS records at a given location. This allows surveyors to identify the risk of encountering INNS presence prior to visiting site;
2. Where INNS are known to be present in advance of survey, site visits can be planned to visit uninfected 'clean' sites first (where practicable), followed by infested 'dirty' sites after to minimise the risk of introducing INNS to a site; and
3. For aquatic surveys of rivers, sites should ideally be surveyed in an upstream to downstream direction.

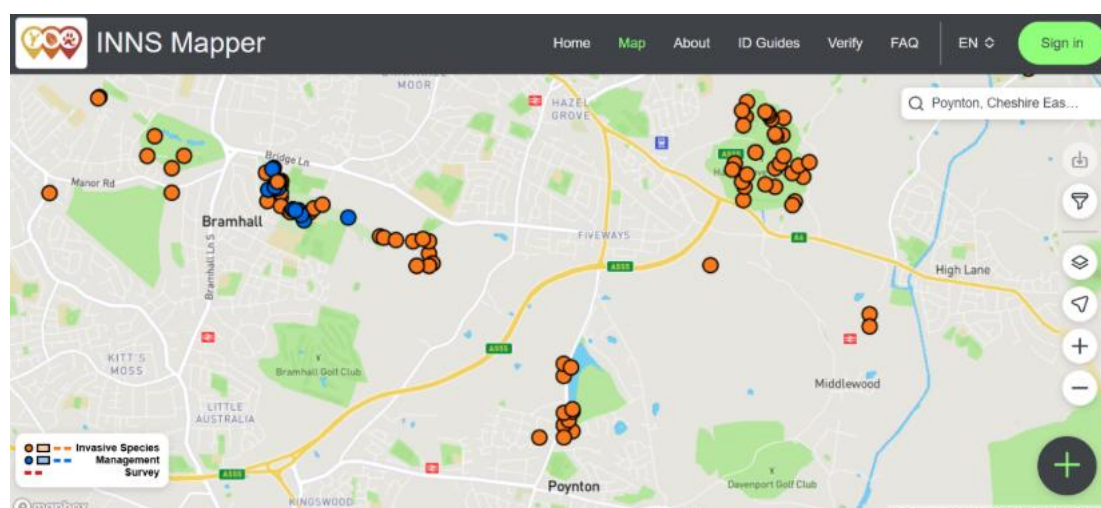


Figure 3-1 Screen shot from INNS Mapper showing all INNS records within proximity to a mapped location. Source: <https://innsmapper.org/map>

### 3.7 Before Accessing Site: Biosecurity

- 3.7.1 Best practice would involve checking, cleaning and drying equipment in advance of visiting a site in line with the GB NNSS Check, Clean Dry Policy. However, when accessing multiple sites in a day the following steps should be followed in advance of accessing a site:
  1. Clean excess organic material (e.g. mud / vegetation) from all equipment and footwear using water. When operating in aquatic environments this can sometimes be easily completed immediately before leaving the river or pond. In terrestrial environments this may require the use of buckets, brushes and hoof picks, and water source from the biosecurity kit;

2. Once excess organic material (e.g. mud / vegetation) had been removed / cleaned off, spray the disinfectant mixture directly onto all areas of footwear and equipment and leave to dry; and
3. After five minutes, rinse off with clean water. This should also be undertaken on hardstanding, where possible.

### 3.8 When on Site

#### 3.8.1 When accessing site:

1. Park on hardstanding where possible;
2. Avoid driving off-road;
3. Avoid, where feasible, areas of livestock (e.g. farmyards, animal sheds, etc.);
4. Avoid all contact with dead or dying site fauna and avoid approaching badger setts;
5. There should be no eating/drinking/smoking onsite unless in a specified area agreed with the site contact. Prior to eating/drinking/smoking surveyors should follow good hygiene practices – in the absence of running water and soap, antibacterial gels should be used; and
6. If you become aware of the presence of a disease whilst on site, the survey must be stopped immediately. Where diseases are identified, surveys to the affected and surrounding land will be suspended until confirmation is received that the disease is no longer present. Please immediately raise on the PCL Hazard WhatsApp and with your appropriate manager to escalate within the project as appropriate if you have any concerns about a site which you are surveying and remember that you have Stop Work Authority.

### 3.9 Before leaving Site

#### 3.9.1 Before leaving site:

1. Clean and disinfect footwear and equipment; this should include vehicle tyres where driving offroad cannot be avoided;
2. Scrub off and remove all mud, debris, plant matter, etc, using a hoof pick, hard brush and water. Water from a local source or the supply in the biosecurity kit can be used;
3. Disinfect equipment using the prepared DEFRA Approved solution and the method outlined in Step 1 (above);
4. Place all clean and disinfected footwear and equipment in plastic bags; these should be left to dry thoroughly overnight;
5. If DEFRA Approved solution requires disposal, it should be diluted further and disposed of in accordance with local authority requirements; and

6. Place any used gloves (from survey or disinfection process) in a re-sealable plastic bag. This should be disposed of as general waste.

### 3.10 At Home or Office

#### 3.10.1 When you have returned to your home or office:

1. Take any clean and disinfected footwear and equipment out of plastic bags and put somewhere to dry thoroughly overnight;
2. Wash any survey clothing on a 40°C wash cycle;
3. Update the 'Dynamic Risk Assessment' if you have recorded any invasive species or disease on site. Ensure the Dynamic Risk Assessment is disseminated to the survey team and Project Manager in line with project-specific protocols; and
4. Record the presence of INNS on INNS Mapper. This opensource record will enable others within industry, landowners, or reactional groups to access the records and be aware of the INNS presence for future surveys / activities.

## 4 Biosecurity Kit

- 4.1 A list of biosecurity kit is provided in the table below and some examples shown in Figure 4-1.

Table 4-1 Biosecurity kit

| Biosecurity Kit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic store box.</li> <li>Gloves for handling tablet or solution in a range of sizes (S, M, L) – ensure that there is at least a pair of each.</li> <li>Supply of water minimum 1.5 litres.</li> <li>DEFRA Approved disinfectant (Agrichlor is recommended for terrestrial sites and Virkon aquatic for aquatic sites).</li> <li>1.5L spray bottle filled for Agrichlor / Virkon Aquatic.</li> <li>2L bottle of water (spare).</li> <li>Boot tray/bucket.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eye protection x 2.</li> <li>Hard brush.</li> <li>Hoof pick.</li> <li>Hand sanitiser/wipes.</li> <li>Re-sealable bags.</li> <li>Bin liners x2 for containing spillages, waste or soiled kit.</li> <li>Equipment storage bags.</li> <li>PPE storage bags.</li> <li>Hand sanitiser and first aid kit should be taken to site at all times.</li> </ul> |





Figure 4-1 Example biosecurity kit

## **5 Contact Details**

### **5.1.1 For land-related enquiries:**

Email: [peakcluster@adas.co.uk](mailto:peakcluster@adas.co.uk)

Phone: 08000 129135 (freephone number)

### **5.1.2 For all other general enquiries:**

Email: [consultation@peakcluster.co.uk](mailto:consultation@peakcluster.co.uk)

Phone: 08000 129 167 (freephone number)

Freepost: FREEPOST PEAK CLUSTER